

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AND  
DR. HAROLD ENARSON  
PRESIDENT OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
ON PRESENTATION OF THE DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE  
TO PRESIDENT FORD

ST. JOHN ARENA

10:33 A.M. EDT

DR. ENARSON: Gerald Rudolph Ford, plain spoken man from Michigan, effective leader for your party in the Congress, skilled conciliator of conflict, you have accepted the responsibility and the opportunities, the joys and the burdens of the Presidency.

We honor you for exalting in your person those distinctive virtues of an earlier America -- directness in speech and conduct, tolerance and compassion, honesty and integrity in matters large and small.

We honor you above all, in our season of renewed hope, for the first steps in restoring to the people of these United States confidence in leadership, hope in the political process, and the promise that once again all of us can begin to believe.

You have revived that which is most basic to a free society -- a belief in the value of belief itself.

In the name of the Ohio State University and by the authority of its Board of Trustees, I hereby confer upon you the degree Doctor of Laws honoris causa and in testimony thereof (interrupted by applause).

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. President, who honored each of us in ways which I doubt you can fully imagine by your presence with us here today:

I am sure we all realize the awesome demands on the time of the Nation's busiest man and I am sure I speak for every graduate and for every person in the audience in thanking you for sharing your thoughts and your time with us.

Mr. President, before you and your associates leave, I remind you that Ohio State can always be counted on for a trick play, and I would remind you, sir, that in addition to being a Wolverine, you are now an Ohio Buckeye, certified.

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And I note in the newspapers that you have been offered invitations to the Michigan-Ohio State University game on November 23 by a lot of people, some of whom do not have tickets themselves.

I just want to say, Mr. President, that since the President of the United States is by definition the servant of all the people, I would like to present to you two tickets for you to take home to Mrs. Ford, and I will be writing Mrs. Ford separately.

THE PRESIDENT: President Enarson, obviously I am deeply grateful and most indebted to you. I won't tell this audience who I will be rooting for. I don't want to go from the White House to the dog house so quickly.

Somehow I learned indirectly, and I don't know the source, that I might be the beneficiary of Ohio State's generosity this morning, and this information came to me late, late yesterday afternoon, just as Henry Kissinger and I were breaking up a meeting talking about some foreign policy matter, and I told Secretary Kissinger that I was coming out to Columbus for this game. And I could see a light sort of get in his eye and I said, "Well, Henry, would you and Nancy like to join us?"

And I'll tell you the answer came very quickly.

I told that to President Enarson this morning and he said he would try to scrounge up a couple of extra tickets. But you know there might be an extra dividend. Having Henry here on November 23 might give a very unique opportunity. If Henry Kissinger can successfully negotiate the long-standing disputes between the Israelis and the Arab nations, he might have an opportunity to do it between Woody Hayes and Bo Schembechler.

Thank you.

END (10:37 A.M. EDT)