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DECEMBER 17, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
-----THE WHITE HOUSETEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT
THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT OF PEACE
THE ELLIPSE

I am delighted to join this happy celebration tonight -- to light and share with you all the Nation's Christmas tree.

As a former forest ranger concerned with conservation, I am pleased to know that this magnificent tree from the State of Pennsylvania is alive and growing -- and will be the National Community Christmas Tree for many years to come.

And as a President vitally concerned with the saving of energy, I also want you to know that the electricity consumed by the lighting of this tree, is a considerable reduction of what has been used in previous years. And that is the way it should be. The glow of Christmas should come from a power source we will never run short of -- our abiding faith and the love of God.

The true spirit of this season can best be seen in our faces. The children here tonight, like millions of children around the world, reflect the wonder and excitement of anticipation. Those of us who are older look forward to the warmth of reunions with family and friends.

Traditions, treasured memories and shared hopes, are the ties that bind families and nations together. The tree before us is part of our national tradition and, as such, it has seen both triumphs and tragedies.

Christmas and the New Year has always been a time to reflect on the past -- and then look ahead to the future. I firmly believe that 1975 will be a brighter year for America. But it must also be a brighter year for the entire world if we, as a nation, are to prosper.

And so, I would like to share with you my personal list of Christmas wishes: At the top of my list are peace, economic well-being for all, and a caring climate that will permit everyone to achieve the fullest potential of their human gifts. I wish this nation a strong future out of a proud past. And I wish every one of us the realization of love and belonging.

Billions of words have been written, sung and spoken about the true meaning of Christmas. None have ever said it more eloquently than: "Peace on Earth -- Good Will toward all Men!" And that is my final Christmas wish for us all.

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