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MAY 17, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT A RECEPTION  
IN HONOR OF SENATOR HUGH SCOTT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MARRIOTT MOTOR HOTEL  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

We are blessed in countless ways in this country--not the least of which is the quality and character of the men and women who give life to this nation. The leadership of a great people in a democracy makes special demands on a public official. He must have the desire to know what is on people's minds, the wisdom to know what is in their hearts, and the courage to do what he knows is right.

All of these qualities are possessed in abundance by the man you honor today. I have known Hugh Scott for more than twenty-five years. I have valued his personal friendship. I have admired his professional integrity. There are few public servants who have so successfully combined the serious duties of statesmanship with the good humor and grace which are Hugh Scott's trademark.

You honor him today for the staunch support he has given the state of Israel since its creation twenty-seven years ago. It is an honor he richly deserves. I know he will cherish it. The rest of the nation continues to honor him as a man of conviction with a talent for compromise; a man of experience who looks to the future; a man of integrity with a twinkle in his eye, a man of intellect who can do battle with the best of them.

This is the Hugh Scott I know, the Hugh Scott the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania loves--the man to whom you pay high tribute today. The library center you dedicate in Israel in his name, and that of his lovely wife, Marian, is a fitting honor, signifying as it does the wealth of knowledge which man has gathered through the ages and the use of that knowledge in constructive pursuits.

Nothing could better characterize Hugh's own life nor reflect more accurately the philosophy of your movement. You are committed to preserving the deep and abiding faith of the Jewish tradition for the young and succeeding generations. Your devotion has won the respect and appreciation of thousands, in this country and around the world. One reason is the leadership of Rabbi Schneerson who is observing his twenty-fifth anniversary this year as head of this movement.

My wish for you tonight was best said by one of my predecessors in the White House--and I quote: "May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants. . . . May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way, everlastingly happily."

The President who wrote these words was George Washington. The year was 1790. The spirit of what he said is as alive today as it was then. My congratulations again to Senator and Mrs. Scott. And my thanks to you for letting me join you in this tribute. May God bless you all.

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