

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 16, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF THE TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE DINNER
IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. WALTER SCHEEL
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Mr. President, Mrs. Scheel, Ladies and gentlemen, on your first visit to Washington as President of the Federal Republic of Germany, we extend our heartiest welcome.

Your first year on the job has shown that you have brought to the highest office of your land the same energy and dedication that you have displayed throughout your career of service to the Federal Republic.

You certainly are no stranger to our city or to American officials. You served with great distinction as Foreign Minister. You have shown a remarkable breadth of vision and expertise in economics as well as in politics. You have a firm grasp of the problems of the third world as well as those of the industrial countries.

We have also noted, Mr. President, your rise to stardom in another important field -- popular music. I refer to the song you recently recorded that became a smash hit throughout the Federal Republic.

Your musical success contributes to your overall accomplishments, as you seek harmony at home and in concert with Germany's neighbors, both East and West. Your contribution to detente has been significant. At the same time, you have dedicated yourself to the cause of Atlantic unity, and I know that this goal is vital to you and to your country.

Recent experience has demonstrated that there can be no domestic stability and prosperity in any country without cooperation with other countries. My administration has been proud to work closely with the Federal Republic on the important international problems facing us today.

Your country has made an important contribution to international peace, Mr. President, not only through its steadfast cooperation with its friends and allies, but also in the example set by your government and your people in meeting the new challenges of the modern world.

The Federal Republic today is in many ways a model of the development of the modern industrial state -- thriving in freedom and democracy, earning its role of leadership by the hard work of its people, and finding its successes in common endeavors with its allies.

This is the real challenge before the leaders of the west. I am inspired, Mr. President, by the determination that I sense in the Federal Republic and its leaders not to let our Democratic way of life be undermined.

I continue to be impressed by your nation's ability to meet the tasks of today's world -- whether in the fields of economics and trade, energy, national defense, or east-west relations -- through effective democratic government and creative diplomacy.

(MORE)

This tradition, Mr. President, is the most encouraging aspect of our friendship today. We cooperate closely on the practical problems facing us, sharing the conviction that these solutions will mean nothing if our political and social institutions are not simultaneously preserved. A confident role in the world depends on confidence in ourselves.

Mr. President, earlier today it was a pleasure to participate with you in the ceremony creating the John J. McCloy Fund -- a fund established through a very generous contribution from the Federal Republic to our Bicentennial celebration, a fund which will be used to further German-American exchanges, conferences and contacts across the broad spectrum of our relations. This fund symbolizes anew the close friendship between our peoples.

In this spirit, Mr. President, I raise my glass and welcome you to our country.

#