

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 9, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE
BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
BY THE
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

THE OVAL OFFICE

12:34 P.M. EST

Let me thank you, Dr. Wise and Jim Harris for the Bicentennial Commemorative Plaque which we will appropriately put in one of my little study rooms in the back; it is very beautiful and it is very greatly appreciated by me.

I was thinking this morning about the NEA. I have had a lot of contact with the NEA in Michigan, of course, and it is a very fine organization. I do urge strongly that we are fortunate in this country--some 200 years of having adopted almost from the very outset a universal education and we are the beneficiaries, you and myself, along with millions of others of that concept. I think it is something we have to maintain and expand. I believe it is good for the students; I think it is good for the teachers, I think it is good for the country.

I might just switch a bit on the Bicentennial. I can imagine teachers have a real inspiration in the Bicentennial year to talk about 200 years of history, but at the same time to talk about the next century and what it can do to make that next 100 years an even more fruitful experience for 215-plus million people. We have a lot to talk about, both in the past as well as in the future, and I should think that teachers should have an exciting year in 1976.

Thank you.

END (AT 12:39 P.M. EST)