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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
TEXAS A. & M. COMMENCEMENT
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS
MAY 11, 1974

THIS IS THE THIRD COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS I HAVE MADE IN THE
CURRENT SEASON, AND ^{seventy} I HOPE THE THIRD TIME IS A CHARM INSTEAD OF A
STRIKE-OUT. JUST A WEEK AGO TODAY, I RETURNED AFTER 39 YEARS TO
MY ALMA MATER, THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, WHERE JUST A FEW OF THE
CAPPED AND GOWNED STREAKERS BOOED ME. I'VE BEEN BOOED BEFORE AT
ANN ARBOR, WHEN I GOT OFF A BAD PASS AS ^a CENTER. ^{On the graduation} THIS TIME I DECIDED
THEY JUST WEREN'T LISTENING TO MY SPEECH.

Pres. Jack Williams
honored graduates
faculty / parents
guests
Sen. Tower
Cong. Teague
Coln. Thompson



THE NEXT DAY I READ THAT THE BOOING WAS BECAUSE I WAS DEFENDING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR EXERCISING HIS RIGHT TO TAKE HIS CASE TO THE PEOPLE.

DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY I WENT TO EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY NEAR CHICAGO AND I TALKED ABOUT CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAPPENS IN ^{ILL.} COOK COUNTY AS WELL AS WASHINGTON, AND HOW COLLEGE STUDENTS NOW ARMED WITH THE VOTE OUGHT TO PITCH IN AND CLEAN UP OUR POLITICAL PROCESSES BY PARTICIPATING IN THEM. THEY CLAPPED AND THEY CHEERED -- AND I THOUGHT MAYBE THEY WEREN'T LISTENING TO MY SPEECH EITHER.



BUT THE NEXT DAY THE NEWS STORIES SAID I WAS MAKING MY SHARPEST ATTACK TO DATE ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND TRYING TO LINE MYSELF UP WITH THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO JUMP OFF HIS SHIP OF STATE WITHOUT EXACTLY SAYING SO.

WELL, I HAD A LONG TALK WITH PRESIDENT NIXON ^{YESTERDAY} ~~THIS~~ MORNING.

I TOLD HIM THAT I'VE BEEN TELLING AS MANY MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1974 AS I CAN REACH THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON ISN'T ABOUT TO SINK, THAT IT IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ABOUT AS GOOD AS CONCERNED AND CONSCIENTIOUS CITIZENS MAKE IT, THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES ARE WORKING AS THE FOUNDING FATHERS INTENDED, ^{most importantly} WITHOUT RIOT OR REPRESSION, WITHOUT AS YET SERIOUSLY WEAKENING OUR STRENGTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.



I ALSO TOLD THE PRESIDENT / I WAS GOING TO TRY AGAIN TODAY
AT TEXAS A & M, WHERE THERE ARE MORE DOERS THAN BOOERS.

I HAVE ALSO TAKEN AN EXTRA PRECAUTION FOR MY THIRD
COMMENCEMENT SPEECH TODAY BY BRINGING TWO DISTINGUISHED AGGIES
BACK TO COLLEGE STATION WITH ME, / COMMISSIONER MAYO THOMPSON OF
THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AND THE HONORABLE OLIN TEAGUE, MY
OLD AND DEAR COLLEAGUE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
MAN WHO MADE TEXAS A. & M. A HOUSEHOLD WORD IN WASHINGTON.



of the U.S.

TIGER TEAGUE AND THE PRESIDENT WERE ALREADY CONGRESSMEN
WHEN I ARRIVED AS A GREEN AND EAGER FRESHMAN. BOTH OF THEM TOOK
PITY ON ME AND HELPED ME, ONE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE OF THE
AISLE AND THE OTHER ON MY OWN SIDE. I CAN'T THINK OF ANY TWO
AMERICANS WHO HAVE DONE MORE IN MY LIFETIME TO FURTHER THE
BIPARTISAN, OR RATHER NONPARTISAN SPIRIT OF SUSTAINING AMERICA'S
POSITION OF STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP IN THE FREE WORLD, WHETHER
THE WHITE HOUSE OR THE CONGRESS WAS REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC,
AND FROM WHATEVER QUARTER THE THREATS APPEARED. I HOPE AND PRAY
THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN THAT KIND OF DEVOTION TO THE
NATIONAL INTEREST THROUGH ANY POLITICAL STORMS AND STRUGGLES
THAT MAY LIE AHEAD.



TEXANS HAVE ALWAYS DONE THAT, AS I WELL REMEMBER, WHETHER
IT WAS MR. SAM RAYBURN AND SENATOR LYNDON JOHNSON WITH PRESIDENT
EISENHOWER ~~OR~~ MY GOOD FRIEND CHAIRMAN GEORGE MAHON OF THE COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS OF THE HOUSE WITH WHOM I HAD THE HONOR OF SERVING
AS RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR MANY
YEARS OR WITH SENATOR JOHN TOWER IN THE KENNEDY-JOHNSON YEARS.



EVEN AMONG TEXANS, TEXAS AGGIES TAKE SECOND PLACE TO NONE
IN THEIR PATRIOTIC CONTRIBUTIONS IN PEACE OR WAR. I AM TOLD THAT
THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY CONTRIBUTED MORE OFFICERS IN THE TWO WORLD
WARS THAN WEST POINT AND ANNAPOLIS PUT TOGETHER, THAT 80 A. & M.
ALUMNI GAVE THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM AND 14 ARE STILL LISTED AS
MISSING IN ACTION. I AM DEEPLY GLAD THAT THE SERVICE ALL OF YOU
MAY BE EXPECTED TO RENDER YOUR COUNTRY CAN TODAY BE VOLUNTARY,
CONSTRUCTIVE AND IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE. BUT I KNOW YOU CAN ALL
BE COUNTED ON TO STAND UP FOR AMERICA. EACH OF YOU IS THE 12TH
MAN IN THIS GAME. ALL OF US MUST BE 12TH MEN.



IN THE PRESENT MOOD OF THE CONGRESS, THERE IS GREAT
PRESSURE TO TRIM THE DEFENSE BUDGET IN ORDER TO FIND FUNDS FOR
OTHER PURPOSES. MANY OF THESE PURPOSES ARE WORTHY AND MUCH NEEDED.
IT IS TEMPTING TO VOTE FOR THEM IN AN ELECTION YEAR. AS FOR DEFENSE,
THE VIETNAM WAR IS OVER FOR AMERICANS, ~~ISN'T IT?~~ WE ARE MOVING
TOWARD MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA,
~~AREN'T WE?~~

The argument goes this way



THIS BEING SO, WHY WORRY ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY?

WHO NEEDS \$86 BILLION DOLLARS FOR DEFENSE? WE DO. FREEDOM AND SECURITY FOR OURS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN ONLY BE WON FROM A NEGOTIATING POSITION OF KNOWN STRENGTH AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERIORITY.

JUST LAST WEEK I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE MY FIRST CHANCE TO VOTE IN THE SENATE TO BREAK A TIE ON AN AMENDMENT TO CUT OUT FUNDS FOR MILITARY AID WE PROMISED TO SOUTH VIETNAM. UNFORTUNATELY, IT WASN'T THAT CLOSE. SO THIS CONGRESS BY MAJORITIES IN BOTH HOUSES HAS FORCED OUR COUNTRY TO LET DOWN A SMALL, BRAVE ALLY, FIGHTING ALONE NOW FOR SURVIVAL.



THIS IS ONLY A SINGLE STRAW IN THE WIND, IT DOES NOT YET
CUT INTO OUR OWN MILITARY STRENGTH OR FUTURE TECHNOLOGICAL
CAPABILITY. BUT I AM FEARFUL IT IS A SIGN OF THE TIMES. IN THE
~~LATE~~ ^{EARLY} 1930s WHEN TIGER TEAGUE WAS WORKING HIS WAY THROUGH SCHOOL
HERE AND I WAS WAITING ON TABLES AT MICHIGAN, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
GREAT DEPRESSION, CONGRESS ^{HAD} ~~LET~~ OUR DEFENSES DWINDLE AND DECAY,
AND WE PAID FOR THAT AT PEARL HARBOR, AT CORREGIDOR, OMAHA BEACH
AND IWO JIMA.



GERMANY AND JAPAN ARE TODAY OUR PROSPERING AND PEACEFUL FRIENDS, THOUGH BOTH ARE TROUBLED LIKE OTHER FREE NATIONS WITH POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES AND RAVAGING INFLATION. BUT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BECOME A VASTLY MORE COMPETENT AND SOPHISTICATED COMPETITOR AND CHALLENGER FOR WORLD LEADERSHIP, WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA -- A NATION GROWING AT THE RATE OF TWO NEW YORK CITIES PER YEAR -- INCHING ITS WAY TOWARD FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE NUCLEAR-ARMED INDUSTRIAL CLUB OF MAJOR POWERS.



TWO SUMMERS AGO I WAS ONE OF THE FIRST OFFICIAL AMERICAN VISITORS TO THE MAINLAND OF CHINA IN A GENERATION. IT WAS A FASCINATING AND IN SOME WAYS A FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE. THE THING THAT STRUCK ME AND OTHER AMERICANS IMMEDIATELY WAS THE INTENSITY OF DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION WHICH THE CHINESE EXHIBITED TOWARD THE GOALS SET BY THEIR LEADERS -- INCLUDING MILITARY POWER. THIS APPEARED TO BE MAINLY INSPIRED BY CONCERN OVER THE INTENTIONS OF THEIR RUSSIAN NEIGHBOR, BUT WE HAVE LEARNED IN OUR LIFETIME THAT ENEMIES AND ALLIES CHANGE RAPIDLY IN THIS UNCERTAIN WORLD.



WHEN I WAS IN MY JUNIOR YEAR AT MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN MAO WAS LEADING THE FAMOUS "LONG MARCH" OF HIS COMRADES TO THE INTERIOR OF CHINA. WHEN WE STUDIED CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS IN THE 1930'S, WE WERE ALMOST OBLIVIOUS TO THEM, BELIEVING THAT THE WESTERN-STYLE DEMOCRACY OF DR. SUN YAT SEN WAS BRINGING CHINA OUT OF HER LONG ISOLATION AND DIVISION.

I THOUGHT OF THIS WHILE SPENDING ALMOST A WHOLE NIGHT IN ANIMATED CONVERSATION WITH PREMIER CHOU EN LAI, A VETERAN OF THE LONG MARCH AND AS GRACIOUS A HOST AS HE IS A TOUGH DEBATER. PROBABLY THE PREMIER THOUGHT OF CONGRESSMAN HALE BOGGS AND ME AS MERE BOYS, FOR HE AND CHAIRMAN MAO HAVE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME.



BUT ALMOST THE ONLY CHINESE WE SAW WHO WERE OLDER THAN OURSELVES WERE CHINA'S TOP ECHELON OF LEADERS. THE OVERWHELMING IMPRESSION ONE BRINGS AWAY FROM A VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IS THAT IT IS A COUNTRY OF YOUNG PEOPLE. PERHAPS MOST OF MY GENERATION OF CHINESE PERISHED IN THE LONG WAR WITH JAPAN AND THE REVOLUTION THAT FOLLOWED. I DO NOT KNOW, BUT WE SELDOM SAW THEM. WE DID SEE AND TALK TO LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF DEDICATED AND DISCIPLINED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO GREW UP AFTER WORLD WAR II AND WHO LIVE BY THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN MAO.



WHEREVER WE WENT, TO RURAL COMMUNE OR FACTORY OR SCHOOL, WE WERE STRUCK BY THE DESIRE OF TODAY'S YOUNG CHINESE TO REFORM THEIR SOCIETY THROUGH THEIR OWN RESOURCES AND BY THEIR OWN HARD WORK, AND BY THEIR APPARENTLY TOTAL BELIEF IN AND DEVOTION TO THEIR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE AMONG STUDENTS, ALTHOUGH WE SAW ONLY ONE UNIVERSITY, AND IT WAS ALMOST DESERTED. DURING THE SO-CALLED GREAT CULTURAL REVOLUTION, CHAIRMAN MAO DECIDED THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE GETTING TOO BIG FOR THEIR BRITCHES, TOO FAR REMOVED FROM THE REALITY OF THE WORKERS' AND PEASANTS' HARD STRUGGLE FOR SUBSISTENCE.



SO CHAIRMAN MAO, WITHOUT WAITING FOR ANY ACT OF CONGRESS OR COURT ORDER OR NATIONAL ELECTION, SIMPLY CLOSED UP ALL THE UNIVERSITIES AND SENT THE STUDENTS, PROFESSORS, ADMINISTRATORS AND ALL BACK TO THE FARMS AND THE FACTORIES AND THE ARMY -- THE LUCKY ONES GOT THE ARMY -- FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS TO LEARN ABOUT LIFE AS IT REALLY IS.

WEIGHING ALL THAT I SAW AND LEARNED IN THOSE WEEKS, I RETURNED TO MY OWN COUNTRY WITH RENEWED FAITH IN OUR UNIQUELY AMERICAN EMPHASIS ON INDIVIDUALITY AND FREEDOM. WE ARE A NEW NATION BY CHINESE RECKONING EVEN AS WE NEAR OUR BICENTENNIAL, AND OUR CIVILIZATION IS AN AMALGAM OF MANY OLDER ONES, MOST OF THEM YOUNG COMPARED TO CHINA'S.



YET WE CAN LEARN FROM ONE OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S PRECEPTS -- AND INDEED THE ROMANS WERE STRUGGLING WITH IT WHEN THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA WAS BUILT -- THAT FREEDOM AND DISCIPLINE ARE THE CONTRADICTORY OPPOSITES OF A SINGLE ENTITY. NEITHER OR THEM SHOULD BE OVEREMPHASIZED -- BOTH OF THEM ARE ESSENTIAL IN ANY SOCIETY.

FROM THE EARLIEST RECORDS OF ORGANIZED COMMUNITIES TO TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER OR TELEVISION TALK SHOW, HUMAN BEINGS HAVE MADE A CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO FIND THE PERFECT MIX OF THESE ELEMENTS -- DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION ON THE ONE HAND; INDIVIDUALITY AND FREEDOM ON THE OTHER.



THE SEARCH FOR PROPER PROPORTION GOES ON NOT ONLY IN GOVERNMENT BUT IN ORGANIZED GROUPS OF ALL SIZES, IN THE FAMILY, AND IN OUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES.

AMONG THE ANCIENT GREEKS, THE ATHENIANS WERE LONG ON FREEDOM AND THE SPARTANS ON DISCIPLINE. THE SPARTANS WON THE WARS BUT THE ATHENIANS STILL CAPTURE OUR MINDS. ROMAN LEGIONS CONQUERED THEIR WORLD WITH DISCIPLINE, DEDICATION AND IRON SWORDS WHILE THE FREE AND LAWLESS MOBS OF ROME CARRIED THE REPUBLIC FIRST TO CHAOS, THEN INTO DICTATORSHIP.

THEREAFTER, THE ROMAN WORLD WAS A MODEL OF LAW AND ORDER BUT BEREFT OF CREATIVITY AND FATAL FOR FREE THINKERS. THE RENAISSANCE WORLD WAS ALMOST THE REVERSE.



WHENEVER A SOCIETY GOES TOO FAR IN ONE DIRECTION OR ANOTHER IT IS IN TROUBLE. TOO MUCH DISCIPLINE BEGETS DESPOTISM, EVEN THE BEST OF WHICH CORRODES THE HUMAN SPIRIT. TOO MUCH INDIVIDUALITY AND FREEDOM BRINGS DISORDER AND ANARCHY IN WHICH NOT MANY CAN LIVE IN SAFETY, LET ALONE CREATE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

YOU HAVE SEEN THESE CONTRADICTORY FORCES CLASH IN OUR OWN LIVES. YOUTH CRIES FOR INDIVIDUALITY AND FREEDOM; PARENTS AND PREACHERS AND PROFESSORS -- YES, AND MOST POLITICIANS TOO -- COME DOWN HARD FOR DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION.



WITHOUT A CONTINUOUS READJUSTMENT OF THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN DISCIPLINE AND FREEDOM, BETWEEN DEDICATION AND INDIVIDUALITY, YOU CANNOT HAVE EITHER A HAPPY LIFE OR A GOOD SOCIETY.

I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE TRADITIONS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE GROWN UP UNDER IT ARE MUCH BETTER ABLE TO MAINTAIN THIS BALANCE THAN THOSE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, OR OF MOST OTHER COUNTRIES.

BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT AMERICA CAN USE A LITTLE EXTRA MEASURE OF DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION TODAY -- NOT TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OR POLITICAL PARTY -- BUT TO THE ENDURING IDEALS OF OUR COUNTRY WHICH ABRAHAM LINCOLN CALLED "THE LAST BEST HOPE ON EARTH."



YOU AT TEXAS A. & M. WILL CELEBRATE YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY
AT THE SAME TIME THE UNITED STATES CELEBRATES ITS TWO HUNDREDTH,
WHERE ONCE THERE WAS ONLY ENDLESS PRAIRIE, YOU AND THOSE WHO WERE
HERE BEFORE YOU HAVE BUILT THIS IMPRESSIVE EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT --
NOT ALONE IMPRESSIVE IN BUILDINGS OR IN ENROLLMENT OR ON THE FOOTBALL
SCOREBOARD BUT IN YOUR BROADENING INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES AND
ACHIEVEMENTS, YOUR INSPIRING SPIRIT AND TRADITIONS.

I THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME AND HONORING ME WITH YOUR
ATTENTION -- FOR BEING DOERS INSTEAD OF BOOERS IN THE FINEST
AGGIE TRADITION -- AND I LEAVE YOU WITH THE WORDS OF A WELL-KNOWN
CONGRESSMAN WHO LEFT WASHINGTON AND CAME TO TEXAS A LONG TIME AGO.



"BE SURE YOU'RE RIGHT," SAID DAVY CROCKETT, "AND THEN GO AHEAD."

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK I'LL TAKE DAVY CROCKETT'S WORDS WITH ME BACK TO WASHINGTON: "BE SURE YOU'RE RIGHT, AND THEN GO AHEAD."

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU.



Remarks by Vice President Gerald R. Ford
Texas A.M. Commencement
College Station, Tex.
May 11, 1974.

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY AT 9:25 A.M. SATURDAY

This is the third commencement address I have made in the current season, and I hope the third time is a charm instead of a strike-out. Just a week ago today, I returned after 39 years to my alma mater, the University of Michigan, where ^{just a few} ~~some~~ of the ~~intellectual~~ ^{capped and gowned} streakers booed me. I've been booed before at Ann Arbor, when I got off a bad pass as center. This time I decided they just weren't listening to my speech.

The next day I read that the booing was because I was defending the President of the United States for exercising his right to take his case to the people.

Day before yesterday I went to Eastern Illinois University near Chicago and I talked about corruption in government, which happens in Cook County as well as Washington, and how college students now armed with the vote ought to pitch in and clean up our political processes by participating in them. They clapped and they cheered -- and I thought maybe they weren't listening to my speech either.

But the next day the news stories said I was making my sharpest attack to date on the President of the United States and trying to line myself up with those who are trying to jump off his Ship of State without exactly saying so.

Well, I had a long talk with President Nixon this morning.

I told him that I've been telling as many members of the Class of 1974 as I can reach that the government in Washington



isn't about to sink, that it is and will continue to be about as good as concerned and conscientious citizens make it, that the Constitutional processes are working as the Founding Fathers intended, without riot or repression, without as yet seriously weakening our strength at home and abroad.

I also told the President I was going to try again today at Texas A & M, where there are more doers than boosers.

I have also taken an extra precaution for my third commencement speech today by bringing two distinguished Aggies back to College Station with me, Commissioner Mayo Thompson of the Federal Trade Commission and the Honorable ^{John} ~~Tiger~~ Teague, my old and dear colleague in the House of Representatives and the man who made Texas A & M a household word in Washington.

^{Teague} Tiger and the President were ^{already} ~~sophomore~~ Congressmen when I arrived as a green and eager freshman, ~~and~~ Both of them took pity on me and helped me, one from the Democratic side of the aisle and the other on my own side. I can't think of any two Americans who have done more in my lifetime to further the bipartisan, or rather nonpartisan spirit of sustaining America's position of strength and leadership in the free world, whether the White House or the Congress was Republican or Democratic, and from whatever quarter the threats appeared. I hope and pray that we can continue to sustain that kind of devotion to the national interest through any political storms and struggles that may lie ahead.





Texans have always done that, as I well remember, whether it was Mr. Sam Rayburn and Senator Lyndon Johnson with President Eisenhower or my good friend Chairman George Mahon of the Committee on Appropriations of the House with whom I had the honor of serving as ranking minority member of the Defense subcommittee for many years *or with Sen. John Tower in the Kennedy-Johnson years.*

Even among Texans, Texas Aggies take second place to none in their patriotic contributions in peace or war. I am told that this great university contributed more officers in the two World Wars than West Point and Annapolis put together, that 80 A&M alumni gave their lives in Vietnam and 14 are still listed as missing in action. I am deeply glad that the service all of you may be expected to render your country can today be voluntary, constructive and in the cause of peace. But I know you can all be counted on to stand up for America.

Each of you is the 12th Man in this game
~~All of us must~~ *be 12th men*
~~We are all going to have to do that~~

In the present mood of the Congress, there is great pressure to trim the defense budget in order to find funds for other purposes. Many of these purposes are worthy and much needed. It is tempting to vote for them in an election year. ~~As~~ *As* for defense, ~~and~~ the Vietnam war is over for Americans, isn't it? We are moving toward more normal ~~and stable~~ relationships with the Soviet Union and China, aren't we?

So, why worry about national security?

Who needs \$86 billion dollars for defense?

We do. Freedom and security for ours and future generations can only be won from a negotiating position of known strength and *Scientific* technological superiority.

Just last week I thought I might have my first chance to vote in the Senate to break a tie on an amendment ~~by Sen. Kennedy~~ to cut out funds for military aid we promised to South Vietnam. Unfortunately, it wasn't that close. So ^{This} Congress by majorities in both houses has forced our country to ~~break faith with~~ ^{let down a small} brave ally, fighting alone now for survival.

This is ^{single} only a small straw in the wind. It does not yet cut into our own military strength or future technological capability. But I am fearful it is a sign of the times. In the late 1930s when Tiger Teague was working his way through school here and I was waiting on tables at Michigan, in the middle of the great depression, Congress let our defenses dwindle and decay. And we paid for that at Pearl Harbor, at Corregidor, Omaha Beach and Iwo Jima.

Germany and Japan are ^{today our} ~~now~~ prospering and peaceful ^{friends,} though both are troubled like other free nations with political uncertainties and ravaging inflation. But the Soviet Union has become a vastly more competent and sophisticated competitor and challenger for world leadership, with the People's Republic of China -- a nation growing at the rate of two New York Cities per year -- inching its way toward full membership in the nuclear-armed industrial club of major powers.

Two summers ago I was one of the first official American visitors to the mainland of China in a generation. It was a fascinating and in some ways a frightening experience. The thing



that struck me and other Americans immediately was the intensity of determination and dedication which the Chinese exhibited toward the goals set by their leaders -- including military power. This appeared to be mainly inspired by concern over the intentions of their Russian neighbor, but we have learned ^{*in our lifetimes*} that enemies and allies ^{*rapidly*} change in this uncertain world.

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When I was in my junior year at Michigan, Chairman Mao was leading the famous "Long March" of his comrades to the interior of China. When we studied current world affairs in the 1930s, we were almost oblivious to them, believing that the Western-style democracy of Dr. Sun Yat Sen was bringing China out of her long isolation and division.

I thought of this while spending almost a whole night in animated conversation with Premier Chou En Lai, a veteran of the Long March and as gracious a host as he is a tough debater. Probably the Premier thought of Congressman Hale Boggs and me as mere boys, for he and Chairman Mao have been around a long time.

But almost the only Chinese we saw who were older than ourselves were China's top echelon of leaders. The overwhelming impression one brings away from a visit to the People's Republic is that it is a country of young people. Perhaps most of my generation of Chinese perished in the long war with Japan and the Revolution that followed. I do not know, but we seldom saw them. We did see and talk to literally hundreds of dedicated and disciplined young men and women who grew up after World War II and who live by the Thoughts of Chairman Mao.

Wherever we went, to rural commune or factory or school, we were struck by the desire of today's young Chinese to reform their society through their own resources and by their own hard work, and by their apparently total belief in and devotion to their system of government.



This was particularly true among students, although we saw only one university, and it was almost deserted. During the so-called Great Cultural Revolution, Chairman Mao decided that university students were getting too big for their britches, too far removed from the reality of the workers' and peasants' hard struggle for subsistence.

So Chairman Mao, without waiting for any act of Congress or court order or national election, simply closed up all the universities and sent the students, professors, administrators and all back to the farms and the factories and the army -- the lucky ones got the army -- for three or four years to learn about life as it really is.

Weighing all that I saw and learned in those weeks, I returned to my own country with renewed faith in our uniquely American emphasis on individuality and freedom. We are a new nation by Chinese reckoning even as we near our Bicentennial, and our civilization is an amalgam of many older ones, most of them young compared to China's.

Yet we can learn from one of Chairman Mao's precepts -- and indeed the Romans were struggling with it when the Great Wall of China was built -- that freedom and discipline are the contradictory opposites of a single entity. Neither of them should be overemphasized -- both of them are essential in any society.

From the earliest records of organized communities to tomorrow's newspaper or television talk show, human beings have



made a continuous effort to find the perfect mix of these elements -- discipline and dedication on the one hand; individuality and freedom on the other.

The search for proper proportion goes on not only in government but in organized groups of all sizes, in the family, and in our individual lives.

Among the ancient Greeks, the Athenians were long on freedom and the Spartans on discipline. ^TThe Spartans won the wars but the Athenians still capture our minds. Roman legions conquered their world with discipline, dedication and iron swords while the free and lawless mobs of Rome carried the Republic first to chaos, then into dictatorship.

Thereafter, the Roman world was a model of law and order but bereft of creativity and fatal for free thinkers. The Renaissance world was almost the reverse.

Whenever a society goes too far in one direction or another it is in trouble. ^TToo much discipline begets despotism, even the best of which corrodes the human spirit. Too much individuality and freedom brings disorder and anarchy in which not many can live in safety, let alone create for the common good.

You have seen these contradictory forces clash in our own lives. Youth cries for individuality and freedom; parents and preachers and professors -- yes, and most politicians too -- come down hard for discipline and dedication.



Without a continuous readjustment of the delicate balance between discipline and freedom, between dedication and individuality, you cannot have either a happy life or a good society.

I strongly believe that our Constitution and the traditions and institutions that have grown up under it are much better able to maintain this balance than those of the People's Republic, or of most other countries.

But I also believe that America can use a little extra measure of discipline and dedication today -- not to any individual or political party -- but to the enduring ideals of our country which Abraham Lincoln called "the last best hope on earth."



You at Texas A & M will celebrate your 100th anniversary at the same time the United States celebrates its ~~bicentennial~~ *two hundredth*. Where once there was only endless prairie, you and those who were here before you have built this impressive educational establishment -- not alone impressive in buildings or in ~~the great increase in~~ enrollment or on the football scoreboard but in your broadening intellectual challenges and achievements, your inspiring spirit and traditions.

I thank you for inviting me and honoring me with your attention -- for being doers instead of boosers in the finest Aggie tradition -- and I leave you with the words of a well-known Congressman who left Washington and came to Texas a long time ago.

"Be sure you're right," said Davy Crockett, *and* then go ahead."

As a matter of fact, I think I'll take Davy Crockett's words with me back to Washington: "Be sure you're right, and then go ahead."

Thank you, and God bless you.

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1974 as I can reach that the government in Washington isn't about to sink, that it is and will continue to be about as good as concerned and conscientious citizens make it, that the Constitutional processes are working as the Founding Fathers intended, without riot or repression, without as yet seriously weakening our strength at home and abroad.

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This being so, why worry about national security? Who needs \$86 billion dollars for defense? We do. Freedom and security for ours and future generations can only be won from a negotiating position of known strength and scientific superiority.

Just last week I thought I might have my first chance to vote in the Senate to break a tie on an amendment to cut out funds for military aid we promised to South Vietnam. Unfortunately, it wasn't that close. So this Congress by majorities in both houses has forced our country to let down a small, brave ally, fighting alone now for survival.

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Weighing all that I saw and learned in those weeks, I returned to my own country with renewed faith in our uniquely American emphasis on individuality and freedom. We are a new nation by Chinese reckoning even as we near our Bicentennial, and our civilization is an amalgam of many older ones, most of them young compared to China's.

Yet we can learn from one of Chairman Mao's precepts -- and indeed the Romans were struggling with it when the Great Wall of China was built -- that freedom and discipline are the contradictory opposites of a single entity. Neither of them should be overemphasized -- both of them are essential in any society.

From the earliest records of organized communities to tomorrow's newspaper or television talk show, human beings have made a continuous effort to find the perfect mix of these elements -- discipline and dedication on the one hand; individuality and freedom on the other.

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Thank you, and God bless you.

*Sevan
A + M
speech
Sat, May 11, 1974*



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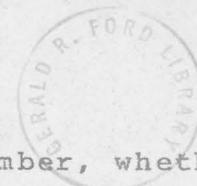


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Thank you, and God bless you.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

APR. 8, 1974

To: Chief of Staff
From: Milt Friedman
Subject: Texas A+M

Following is
from Tom DeFrank
of NEWSWEEK
who attended
Texas A+M.

— Milt

May 7, 1974

MEMO FOR MILT FRIEDMAN



Milt, I hope this will help with the A&M speech.

1. Texas A&M is the Michigan State of Texas--the state's landgrant college. Established in 1876, it's the oldest state supported college in Texas and current enrollment is around 18,000. It's very strong in the sciences, engineering and vet medicine.
2. For most of its history, A&M was a formal military college, on a par with the military academies, the Citadel and VMI. You couldn't go to school there without being in the Corps of Cadets. It was also an all-male college. Things began changing in 1960, when the federal courts ordered the school to admit women. In 1965 membership in the Corps of Cadets was made noncompulsory. ~~But the Corps~~ But the Corps--which lives together in units, wears the uniform at all times, just as at the military academies--is still the dominant force on campus, even though numerically it's far outranked by the civilians.
3. A&M is the avis of Texas. The university of Texas is the dominant school, of course, but A&M graduates think otherwise. The rivalry between the two is quite intense and often bitter. A&M students refer to the U.T. students as "teasips"
4. A&M is a conservative school, and even though the influx of women and civilians has moderated this to an extent, A&M is still a rather conservative institution (ideologically) in a very conservative part of Texas. As an example, ~~we~~ even in the years when Vietnam was falling apart as an issue of national unity, A&M was collecting thousands of petitioners signatures supporting the president (LBJ) over Vietnam policy.
5. As a further example of the military influence, A&M produced more officers in World Wars I and II than the two service academies combined. Moreover, there ~~four~~ were ~~four~~ 4 A&M men who returned from Hanoi last year, and 4 Aggies were or still are listed as MIA'S. 80 were KIA.
6. The most prominent A&M graduate today is Congressman Tiger Teague. I also understand FTC commissioner Maye Thompson is ~~also~~ an alumnus, as was General George Moore, in command when Coregidor Gell in World War II.
7. The man who put A&M where it is today is Majer General J. Earl Rudder, who led a Ranger battalion in the first assault on Omaha Beach and later was state land commisiener (cleaning out scandals there). He was A&M president about eight years and died about three years ago. The new ~~new~~ campus skyscraper where the VP spoke a couple of years ago is named after him.
8. Back to the conservatism--up until a few years ago the university wouldn't ~~we~~ permit political clubs to meet on campus. As editor of the newspaper I got into all kinds of trouble for saying this was ridiculous--in fact it helped me get fired. But times have changed--political clubs are permitted on campus and the VP tells me he spoke to the YRs a year or so ago, so the place has changed a bit.
9. I won't tell you any Aggie jokes, which are a carbon copy of Polish jokes.

Regards, Jim DeFrank



Milt - nearly forgot two items of local color:
 (1) The students stand during every football game to signify their resolve to go down on the field & suit up if necessary. (Called the 12th Man)

(2) The students are allowed - encouraged - to kiss their dates every time the football team scores.

Milt, I hope this will help with the A&M speech.

1. Texas A&M is a conservative school. It was founded in 1876, established in 1890, and moved to its present location in 1909. It is a land-grant college, and its primary focus is on agriculture, engineering, and other practical fields. It is a public university, and its motto is "The Old Red Headed Boy".

2. For most of its history, A&M was a formal military college, on a par with the other military academies in the United States. It was founded as a military school, and its original purpose was to train officers for the Texas Army. It was a military school, and its original purpose was to train officers for the Texas Army. It was a military school, and its original purpose was to train officers for the Texas Army.

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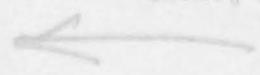
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Prepared by Jim DeMark



ADDRESS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
TAXAS A&M COMMENCEMENT
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1974, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY 9:30 AM

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I told him that I've been telling as many members of the Class of 1974 as I can reach that the government in Washington isn't about to sink, that it is and will continue to be about as good as concerned and conscientious citizens make it, that the Constitutional processes are working as the Founding Fathers intended, without riot or repression, without as yet seriously weakening our strength at home and abroad.

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I thought of this while spending almost a whole night in animated conversation with Premier Chou En Lai, a veteran of the Long March and as gracious a host as he is a tough debater. Probably the Premier thought of Congressman Hale Boggs and me as mere boys, for he and Chairman Mao have been around a long time.

But almost the only Chinese we saw who were older than ourselves were China's top echelon of leaders. The overwhelming impression one brings away from a visit to the People's Republic is that it is a country of young people. Perhaps most of my generation of Chinese perished in the long war with Japan and the Revolution that followed -- I do not know, but we seldom saw them. We did see and talk to literally hundreds of dedicated and disciplined young men and women who grew up after World War II and who live by the Thoughts of Chairman Mao.

Wherever we went, to rural Commune or factory or school, we were struck by the desire of today's young Chinese to reform their society through their own resources and by their own hard work, and by their apparently total belief in and devotion to their system of government.

This was particularly true among students, although we saw only one university, and it was almost deserted. During the so-called Great Cultural Revolution, Chairman Mao decided that

university students were getting too big for their britches, too far removed from the reality of the workers' and peasants' hard struggle for subsistence.

So Chairman Mao, without waiting for any act of Congress or court order or national election, simply closed up all the universities and sent the students, professors, administrators and all back to the farms and the factories and the army -- the lucky ones got the army -- for three or four years to learn about life as it really is.

Weighing all that I saw and learned in those weeks, I returned to my own country with renewed faith in our uniquely American emphasis on individuality and freedom. We are a new nation by Chinese reckoning even as we near our Bicentennial, and our civilization is an amalgam of many older ones, most of them young compared to China's.

Yet we can learn from one of Chairman Mao's precepts -- and indeed the Romans were struggling with it when the Great Wall of China was built -- that freedom and discipline are the contradictory opposites of a single entity. Neither of them should be overemphasized -- both of them are essential in any society.

From the earliest records of organized communities to tomorrow's newspaper or television talk show, human beings have made a continuous effort to find the perfect mix of these elements -- discipline and dedication on the one hand; individuality and freedom on the other.

The search for proper proportion goes on not only in government but in organized groups of all sizes, in the family, and in our individual lives.

Among the ancient Greeks, the Athenians were long on freedom and the Spartans on discipline; the Spartans won the wars but the Athenians still capture our minds. Roman legions conquered their world with discipline, dedication and iron swords while the free and lawless mobs of Rome carried the Republic first to chaos, then into dictatorship.

Thereafter, the Roman world was a model of law and order but bereft of creativity and fatal for free thinkers. The Renaissance world was almost the reverse.

Whenever a society goes too far in one direction or another it is in trouble; too much discipline begets depotism, even the best of which corrodes the human spirit. Too much individuality and freedom brings disorder and anarchy in which no man can live in safety, let alone create for the common good.

You have seen these contradictory forces clash in our own lives. Youth cries for individuality and freedom; parents and preachers and professors -- yes, and most politicians too -- come down hard for discipline and dedication.

Without a continuous readjustment of the delicate balance between discipline and freedom, between dedication and individuality, you cannot have either a happy life or a good society.

I strongly believe that our Constitution and the traditions and institutions that have grown up under it are much better able to maintain this balance than those of the People's Republic, or of most other countries.

But I also believe that America can use a little extra measure of discipline and dedication today -- not to any individual or political party -- but to the enduring ideals of our country which Abraham Lincoln called "the last best hope on earth".

You at Texas A & M will celebrate your 100th anniversary at the same time the United States celebrates its two hundredth. Where once there was only endless prairie you and those who were here before you have built this impressive educational establishment -- not alone impressive in buildings or in enrollment or on the football scoreboard but in your broadening intellectual challenges and achievements, your inspiring spirit and traditions.

I thank you for inviting me and honoring me with your attention -- for being doers instead of boosers in the finest Aggie tradition -- and I leave you with the words of a well-known Congressman who left Washington and came to Texas a long time ago.

"Be sure you're right," said Davy Crockett, "and then go ahead."

As a matter of fact, I think I'll take Davy Crockett's words with me back to Washington: "Be sure you're right, and then go ahead."

Thank you, and God bless you.

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