The original documents are located in Box 22, "1/29/76 - Recorded Remarks for Addressing the U.S. Chamber of Commerce" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

VIDEOTAPED STATEMENT:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JANUARY 29, 1976

AS WE OBSERVE OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR AND PREPARE TO ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE, WE ARE FORTUNATE TO LIVE IN ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING AND CHALLENGING PERIODS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

WE FACE FUNDAMENTAL CHOICES NOW THAT WILL AFFECT THE
COURSE OF OUR LIVES AND OUR NATION FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

AMONG THESE CHOICES IS THE ROLE WHICH THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE WILL ASSIGN TO GOVERNMENT IN HELPING TO MEET OUR PRESENT

NEEDS AND FUTURE GOALS.

WHATEVER THAT ROLE MAY BE, ITS SUCCESS DEPENDS ON INVOLVED AND WELL-INFORMED CITIZENS WHO ARE PREPARED TO OFFER THEIR OPINIONS, THEIR ADVICE, THEIR VOTES, OR EVEN THEIR OWN SERVICE TO THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT.

IN A NATION COMMITTED TO SELF-GOVERNMENT, IT IS

ESSENTIAL THAT EVERY POINT OF VIEW BE EXPRESSED AND EVERY

INTEREST FULLY REPRESENTED. THIS HOLDS TRUE FOR THE BUSINESS

COMMUNITY, AS IT DOES FOR ANY OTHER SEGMENT OF OUR SOCIETY.

YOU FACE UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TODAY.

GOVERNMENT CAN HELP YOU MEET THOSE CHALLENGES AND REALIZE THOSE

OPPORTUNITIES, OR IT CAN BE AN OBSTRUCTION IN YOUR PATH.

THE CHOICE LIES, AT LEAST IN PART, IN THE MEASURE OF YOUR OWN

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT.

ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS IN THIS OFFICE WAS QUOTED AS

SAYING THAT 'THE BUSINESS OF AMERICA IS BUSINESS.''

I WOULD SAY

THAT THE BUSINESS OF BUSINESS IS AMERICA, FOR IF WE ALL WORK TO

MAKE THIS A BETTER COUNTRY, WE ALL PROFIT.

I COMMEND YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM

AND I ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN THE AFFAIRS

OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE FUTURE OF YOUR COUNTRY.

END OF TEXT