

Mrs. Ford's Remarks

October 2, 1976 at the

M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute Dedication

I came today with a very simple message to all who worked to create and expand this fine Institute. I want to thank each and every one of you for a job well done.

As one of thousands of former cancer patients in this country, I know without the progress made at Institutes like this one I would not be alive.

In thirty-two years of outstanding patient care and research, the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute has compiled an amazing list of accomplishments. Breakthroughs in drug development, therapy, detection techniques, and treatment advances make the University of Texas System Cancer Center one of the best in the country.

Today this Institute doubles its capacity for research and patient care, and this expansion offers even more potential for advancement against cancer.

Last Sunday I celebrated a special anniversary which gives today an extra personal significance for me. September 26th was the second anniversary of my surgery for breast cancer. I celebrated, because I am happy, healthy and grateful for the checkup that found cancer in time. In a few weeks, I will complete chemotherapy treatments, and that will be another milestone for me.

Since that first year, I have not talked much about my experience with cancer. At that time my mastectomy and discussion about it prompted a number of women to get checkups. It made my recuperation easier to know I was helping others. I make this progress report to help cheer up those who may have just had an operation for cancer and to encourage them to keep up their spirits.

Part of the battle against cancer is to fight the fear that accompanies the disease. This Institute is making great medical strides to find causes and cures for the physical ills of cancer. But all of us can help fight the emotional side effects of cancer.

We can all love and support our friends who have cancer. At last we can speak openly about the disease. We can welcome back to work and to active lives those who have had treatment.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks Cont'd  
October 2, 1976

We can also work to support fine facilities like those we dedicate today. Only by the concern and compassion of the people of Texas has such a large portion of this expansion been financed here. Under the leadership of Dr. R. Lee Clark, this center is certainly one of which the people of this great state can be proud.

The M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute is a leader in the medical fight against cancer. It is also a leader in compassion through care to the indigent, special concern for young patients, and understanding of the importance of communication with patients.

This Institute is people---the nurses and doctors, researchers and administrators---and of course the supporters. All of you have a great "heart" and that means great "hope" for all you help.

Let today be the beginning of even greater achievements in this march toward a triumph over cancer.

# # #