

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
DOWNS HIGH SCHOOL
DOWNS, KANSAS
MAY 23, 1974

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY AND TO JOIN IN CELEBRATING YOUR GRADUATION. THIS IS A GREAT SEASON OF THE YEAR, WITH THE SPRING STILL HANGING IN THE KANSAS AIR AND THE PROMISE OF SUMMER NOT FAR AWAY. THE FIELDS ARE GREEN, AND THE CROPS ARE GROWING TOWARD THE FULLNESS OF THEIR SUMMER BOUNTY. ALL IS FRESH AND YOUNG IN NATURE'S CYCLE AS THE EARTH RENEWS AND REFRESHES ITSELF.

THIS IS ALSO A GREAT SEASON IN YOUR LIVES--WITH THE LAST CHAPTER CLOSING ON YOUR YOUTH AND THE FIRST PAGE BEING TURNED IN YOUR YOUNG ADULthood. FOR THESE CEREMONIES, YOU WILL WALK OUT INTO THE WORLD, NO LONGER AS CHILDREN CONCERNED WITH CHILDREN'S GAMES AND PASTIMES.

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BUT AS FULL MEMBERS OF A COMPLEX AND RAPIDLY CHANGING SOCIETY WHICH EXPECTS MUCH OF YOU.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

PERHAPS NO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS IS EVER QUITE FULLY PREPARED FOR THE EXPECTATIONS SOCIETY HOLDS FOR IT. EACH YEAR NEW DEMANDS ARE PLACED UPON THE YOUNGER GENERATION, AND EACH YEAR THE PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACING OUR WHOLE SOCIETY BECOME MORE COMPLEX, MORE TRYING AND LESS VULNERABLE TO QUICK AND EASY ANSWERS. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS AND OTHERS WHO ARE IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS OF "EDUCATING" YOUNG PEOPLE TO EVER PREPARE THEM FOR ALL THAT IS IN STORE. IN MANY WAYS THEY CANNOT EVEN PREPARE THEMSELVES TO PASS SOME OF THIS WISDOM ALONG TO YOU--JUST AS THEIR TEACHERS AND OTHER ELDERS WERE UNABLE TO DO SO TWENTY OR THIRTY OR MORE YEARS AGO.

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AFTER ALL WHO TWENTY YEARS AGO IN 1954 COULD HAVE FORESEEN POCKET CALCULATORS, FIVE-HOUR COAST-TO-COAST JET FLIGHTS, HEART TRANSPLANTS OR THE ELIMINATION OF POLIO AS A MASS KILLER AND CRIPPLER OF OUR PEOPLE? AND JUST FIVE YEARS AGO WHO COULD HAVE PREDICTED AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO CHINA, A WORLDWIDE ENERGY CRISIS OR WHEAT PRICED AT THREE, FOUR OR EVEN FIVE DOLLARS?

CERTAINLY, MOST OF YOUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS HAD NO SUCH FORESIGHT; I KNOW I DID NOT. BUT THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT YOUNG PEOPLE--AND OLDER ONES TOO--DID NOT HAVE TO REACT AND RESPOND TO THESE STRANGE EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS. AND IN THE SAME WAY, SOCIETY WILL EXPECT YOU TO REACT TO AND DEAL WITH ALL THE UNEXPECTED, FANTASTIC, TRAGIC AND OTHERWISE UNPREDICTABLE THINGS THAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU ENTER THIS SO-CALLED ADULT WORLD.

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MEANING AND PERSPECTIVE

BUT WHERE DOES ALL THIS LEAVE YOU--AND US. SURELY, I DID NOT TRAVEL HALF THE DISTANCE ACROSS OUR COUNTRY FROM WASHINGTON, D.C., TO TELL YOU SOMETHING THAT IS REALLY FAIRLY OBVIOUS--THAT YOU CAN EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED IN THE DAYS AND YEARS AHEAD.

SURELY, THERE IS MORE IN THIS AGE OF VASTLY EXPANDED TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE AND ENLARGED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THAT CAN BE PASSED ALONG FROM MY GENERATION TO YOURS. AND I BELIEVE THERE IS.

IT IS REALLY AN OLD MESSAGE AND AN OLD STORY. BUT AT A TIME WHEN MOST PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN OUR BASIC INSTITUTIONS--AND ESPECIALLY OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS EXECUTIVE OR LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, THIS IS A MESSAGE WHICH BEARS REPEATING. AND IT REQUIRES RETELLING HERE IN DOWNS AND IN OTHER KANSAS TOWNS AND CITIES AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

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AMERICA IS THE MESSAGE

THAT MESSAGE IS AMERICA--ITS PAST, ITS TRIUMPHS AND ITS PROMISE
FOR THE FUTURE.

AS WE APPROACH THE OBSERVANCE OF THE UNITED STATES' 200th
ANNIVERSARY--OUR BICENTENNIAL--WE COULD TAKE A LONG LOOK BACK AT THE
MANY PROBLEMS WHICH AROSE IN THOSE YEARS AND AT THE MANY SOLUTIONS--
SOME ALMOST MIRACULOUS--WHICH WERE BROUGHT ABOUT.

THE ORIGINAL STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE NATIONHOOD, THE BURNING OF
WASHINGTON BY THE BRITISH, THE STRUGGLE TO PUSH BACK THE FRONTIER AND
THE WRENCHING HEARTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR WERE ALL PART OF OUR FIRST
100 YEARS. RECONSTRUCTION, CHILD LABOR, THE GREAT DEPRESSION, TWO
WORLD WARS AND KOREA MARKED THE FIRST TWO-THIRDS OF THE SECOND CENTURY.
AND THE SHADOWS OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION, WATERGATE AND THE ENERGY

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CRISIS THREATEN TO MAN THE CELEBRATIONS WHICH ARE PLANNED FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR OF OBSERVANCES SET TO BEGIN ONLY SOME EIGHTEEN MONTHS FROM NOW.

RECENT PROGRESS

BUT RATHER THAN FOCUS ON DISTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR THE PRESSING DIFFICULTIES OF THE MOMENT, LET US CONSIDER A SHARPER PERSPECTIVE AND LOOK AT SOME OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN ONLY THE PAST 15 OR FEWER YEARS AS AN INDICATION OF WHAT AMERICA IS, WHAT IT HAS ACHIEVED AND HOW THIS APPLIES TO THE FUTURE.

TO BEGIN WITH, LET US CONSIDER WHAT THIS PERIOD ENTAILS. BASICALLY, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE 1960's AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE 70's. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE AMERICA SINCE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER LEFT OFFICE, SINCE MOST OF YOU BEGAN TO TO TO PRE-SCHOOL AND SINCE I ENTERED THE CONGRESS AS A FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE FROM KANSAS' FIRST DISTRICT.



IMPROVED HEALTH CARE

TO TAKE A MOST IMPORTANT EXAMPLE, CONSIDER THE SUBJECT OF HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA.

TODAY, THERE IS GREAT CONCERN OVER THE ACCESS TO, COST AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA. AND I BELIEVE THIS CONCERN IS APPROPRIATE. THERE ARE VERY REAL AND COMPELLING PROBLEMS--PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF CONTROLLING THE RISE IN PRICES FOR MEDICAL SERVICES, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES AND PROVIDING AMPLE PROTECTION TO THE AVERAGE FAMILY AGAINST THE IMPACT OF MAJOR MEDICAL CATASTROPHES SUCH AS STROKE, CANCER AND SERIOUS INJURY. BUT MOST OF THE HEALTH PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY ARE DEFECTS AND SHORTCOMINGS IN A BASICALLY GOOD SYSTEM. AND IT IS A SYSTEM WHICH OVER THIS RECENT PERIOD HAS SHOWN A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT.

A BASICALLY SOUND SYSTEM

NOW, THE FACT THAT PER CAPITA ANNUAL HEALTH COSTS IN AMERICA WENT FROM \$141 IN 1959-60 TO MORE THAN \$441 IN 1972-73 IS CERTAINLY CAUSE FOR CONCERN BORDERING ON ALARM. BUT THIS INCREASE MUST ALSO BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THESE DOLLARS WERE PAID OUT FOR MORE SERVICES MADE AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICARE AND MEDICAID; AND THIS MONEY WENT FOR NEWLY DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS HEART-LUNG MACHINES, KIDNEY DIALYSIS, HEART PACEMAKERS, AND THE WHOLE RANGE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO WHAT WE KNOW AS TODAY'S MEDICINE. WE ARE PAYING MORE IN 1974, BUT WE ARE ALSO GETTING MORE THAN WE DID IN 1960 FOR OUR HEALTH DOLLARS.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

ANOTHER POINT SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED WHEN LISTENING TO THE

GREAT CRITICS AND THOSE WHO WOULD THROW OUT OUR PRESENT HEALTH SYSTEM AND REPLACE IT WITH SOCIALIZED MEDICINE OR SOMETHING WORSE. AND THAT POINT CENTERS AROUND THE QUESTION OF JUST WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS OF THE DAY. IS IT THE DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS?

OR IS IT THE PEOPLE WHO CREATE THE PROBLEMS IN THE FIRST PLACE WHEN THEY EAT TOO MUCH FOR THEIR OWN GOOD; WHO ABUSE THEIR BODIES WITH DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TABACCO; WHO DRIVE TOO FAST AND RECKLESSLY; AND WHO FAIL TO FOLLOW THE BASIC GUIDELINES FOR EATING HEALTHY FOODS, GETTING THE PROPER AMOUNT OF EXERCISE AND PRACTICING A FEW MEASURES OF BASIC COMMON SENSE IN THEIR LIVES.

IN A WAY IT IS SOMEWHAT LIKE A DRIVER COMPLAINING ABOUT HIS MECHANIC'S BILLS AND SKILLS AFTER DRIVING HIS CARE WITH THE WRONG GRADE

OF GASOLINE, FAILING TO CHANGE THE OIL REGULARLY AND LETTING HIS RADIATOR RUN DRY,--JUST WHO HAS A RIGHT TO COMPLAIN?

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

BUT THESE POINTS ASIDE, WITHOUT QUESTION THERE HAS BEEN GREAT PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA OVER THE PAST DECADE AND ONE-HALF, JUST LOOK AT ~~SOME~~ OF THE STATISTICS.

INFANT MORTALITY HAS DECLINED FROM 26 DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS IN 1960 TO ONLY 18.5 IN 1972. THIS IS COMMENDABLE PROGRESS; ALTHOUGH, WE HAVE NOT DONE AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS REGARD.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CHILDBEARING EQUATION, MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES HAVE DECLINED NEARLY BY HALF, FROM 37.1 DEATHS PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS IN 1960 TO 20.5 IN 1971.

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AND IN TERMS OF AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY, IT WENT FROM 69.5 YEARS IN 1957 TO 71.1 YEARS IN 1971.

WHAT DO THESE FIGURES MEAN TO OUR COUNTRY? IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY. AN ADDED YEAR-AND-A-HALF TO THE AVERAGE PERSON'S LIFE, MORE HEALTHY NEW BABIES, FEWER MOTHERS LOST AS THEIR CHILDREN ARE DELIVERED-- WHO CAN CALCULATE THE VALUE TO AN INDIVIDUAL, TO A FAMILY OR TO THE ENTIRE COUNTRY?

MAJOR FACTORS

BUT RATHER THAN PUZZLE OVER THESE DEEPLY AND BASICALLY PERSONAL QUESTIONS, LET US LOOK AT SOME OF THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROGRESS WE HAVE WITNESSED.

FOR ONE THING, THERE ARE MORE DOCTORS. AT THE START OF THE 1960'S WE HAD ABOUT 260,000 PHYSICIANS, BUT BY 1972 THE TOTAL HAD RISEN TO

356,000. OF COURSE, THESE RAW FIGURES MEAN LITTLE WITHOUT AN INDICATION OF THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE THEY SERVE, BUT IN THIS AREA TOO THERE HAS BEEN IMPROVEMENT AS THE NATIONAL DOCTOR/PATIENT RATIO FELL FROM ONE DOCTOR PER 712 AMERICANS TO ONE FOR EACH 699. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IMPROVEMENT HAS NOT BEEN EVENLY DISTRIBUTED, AND MANY RURAL AREAS HERE IN KANSAS AND ELSEWHERE HAVE SHOWN AN OPPOSITE TREND TOWARD HIGHER DOCTOR/PATIENT RATIOS. AND OF COURSE THIS IS AN AREA THAT REQUIRES TOP PRIORITY ACTION TO CORRECT.

BUT OVER THE SAME PERIOD THE NUMBER OF HOSPITALS HAS INCREASED FROM 6,876 IN 1960 TO 7,061 IN 1972. AND EVEN DISCOUNTING THOSE AREAS WHERE SOME UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION AND LESS THAN PERFECT PLANNING HAVE OCCURRED, THIS FIGURE SPEAKS WELL FOR THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT OF OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THIS PERIOD.

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AS FAR AS INSURANCE COVERAGE IS CONCERNED, WE REALIZE THAT TODAY FAR TOO FEW AMERICANS HAVE ADEQUATE OR EVEN PARTIAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION. AND JUST THIS WEEK THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE STARTED HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION TO CREATE A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM. PART OF THE REASON THESE HEARINGS HAVE SUCH A HIGH PRIORITY IS THE WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S HEALTH INSURANCE SHORTCOMINGS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE LAST TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS HAVE SEEN PROGRESS HERE TOO. COVERAGE HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE 1962, ENROLLMENT FOR VISITS TO DOCTOR'S OFFICES AND HOME CALLS WENT UP 75 PERCENT, AND DENTAL CARE COVERAGE INCREASED BY AN ASTOUNDING 1,800 PERCENT. AND SINCE 1960 INCREASED COVERAGE, SINCE 1960, THE AVERAGE PORTION OF A PATIENT'S MEDICAL BILL WHICH HE, PERSONALLY, HAS TO PAY DECLINED BY TWENTY POINTS-- TO ABOUT 35 PERCENT. MUCH, OF COURSE, REMAINS TO BE DONE IN IMPROVING

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK WILL HOPEFULLY GO A LONG WAY TOWARD FILLING SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GAPS IN THIS FIELD.

FEDERAL INITIATIVES

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROGRESS. PASSAGE OF THE 1963 HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE INCREASE IN DOCTORS, DENTISTS, NURSES AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS THROUGH ITS MEDICAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND LOAN PROGRAMS. ITS EXPANSION IN 1964 TO COVER NURSING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND IN 1966 TO SUPPORT INSTRUCTION OF PARAMEDICAL PERSONNEL FURTHER INCREASED ITS VALUE AND IMPORTANCE. TEACHING FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION / FUNDS TOTALLING \$791 MILLION WENT TO SOME 164 SCHOOLS THROUGH 1971, AND IN THE 6 YEARS BEFORE THAT DATE MORE THAN 143,000 LOANS AND SOME 64,000 SCHOLARSHIPS WERE PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM.

FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL, OSTEOPATHIC AND OPTOMETRIC STUDENTS.

IN ADDITION THE HILL-BURTON PROGRAM--PARTICULARLY IN ITS EARLY EMPHASIS ON RURAL AREAS--HAS HAD A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VITALLY-NEEDED HOSPITAL BEDS IN THE COUNTRY. THE CANCER ACT IN 1971 LAUNCHED A MASSIVE ATTACK AGAINST THIS MOST DREAD FAMILY OF ILLNESSES BY ESTABLISHING 15 SPECIALIZED NEW CLINICAL CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. AND BACK IN 1963 NEW EMPHASIS ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE MENTALLY ILL AND THE MENTALLY RETARDED AND THEIR TREATMENT IN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES HAS OPENED A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF DEALING WITH AFFLICTED INDIVIDUALS IN NON-INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS.

STRENGTHENED PROGRAMS IN THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH HAVE ALSO GREATLY EXPANDED OUR RESEARCH CAPABILITIES, PARTICULARLY WITH THE

1970 COMPREHENSIVE ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION ACT, AND THE 1972 NATIONAL HEART, BLOOD VESSEL, LUNG AND BLOOD ACT.

SOUND RECORD

THE LIST OF FEDERAL INITIATIVES IN THE HEALTH AREA COULD GO ON AND ON. BUT I BELIEVE THIS BRIEF SUMMARY PROVIDES A GOOD INDICATION THAT OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS WORKING--AND EFFECTIVELY--TO MEET THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND PERSONAL NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE.

THIS IS NOT AN EXAMPLE OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS LOST TOUCH WITH

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THE PEOPLE OR FAILED TO RESPOND TO THEIR CONCERNS. TO THE CONTRARY, THIS SHOWS A DEGREE OF RESPONSIVENESS THAT IS UNEQUALED IN ANY OTHER FREE COUNTRY.

PERHAPS IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT THESE HEALTH PROBLEMS SHOULD NEVER HAVE DEVELOPED IN THE FIRST PLACE. BUT, THAT ASPECT OF THE MATTER ASIDE, I WOULD SUBMIT THAT THE JOB OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS OF MAKING MORE PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HEALTH FOR OUR PEOPLE THAN HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE WHOLE PREVIOUS HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY CAN BE SAID TO BE THE HALLMARK OF A HEALTHY, VIGOROUS AND ENTIRELY VIABLE SYSTEM. AND I CHALLENGE ANY OTHER NATION TO EVEN COME CLOSE TO MATCHING THIS RECORD.

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CONCLUSION

WE INDEED HAVE MANY PROBLEMS STILL REMAINING. BUT THE GREAT
THING ABOUT THIS COUNTRY IS THAT THEY CAN ALL BE SOLVED. WE ARE THE
FIRST COUNTRY OF THE WORLD MILITARILY, DIPLOMATICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY,
AND WE HAVE DONE IT IN JUST 200 YEARS. WE HAVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES;
WE HAVE THE HUMAN RESOURCES; WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY. NOW ALL WE NEED
IS THE WILL TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS. THAT IS SOMETHING AN AWARENESS OF
THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE CAN HELP GIVE TO US--A REGENERATION OF THE
SPIRIT OF '76.

THE SPIRIT OF '76

WHAT WAS THAT SPIRIT--AND INDEED WHAT IS THAT SPIRIT?

IT IS A SPIRIT OF LIBERTY COURSING THROUGH OUR NATIONAL VIEWS.
IT IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ONE MAN'S FREEDOM, ONE WOMAN'S FREEDOM IS
MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON EARTH.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE--OF SHARING BURDENS AND CONFLICTS.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM--OF KNOWING THAT WE CAN ALWAYS MAKE
THINGS BETTER IF ONLY WE WOULDN'T SPEND SO MUCH TIME BEMOANING HOW THEY
COULD BE WORSE.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE FRONTIER--OF NOT FEARING TO GO WHERE MAN
HAS NOT REACHED.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF CONFIDENCE--OF NOT BEING CONSTRAINED BY EARTHLY
BOUNDARIES AND OF THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT MAN CAN MASTER HIS FATE.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF DIVERSITY--ALLOWING EVERYONE HIS OWN VIEW AND
HIS DISTINCTIVE WAYS, AND WELCOMING THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR SOCIETY.

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INDEED, THE "SPIRIT OF '76" WAS, AND IS, MANY THINGS, EACH OF WHICH HAS BEEN A BUILDING BLOCK OF OUR NATIONAL GREATNESS. OUR COUNTRY GREW ON THAT SPIRIT AND PROSPERED ON THAT SPIRIT.

THE WAY IN WHICH WE CELEBRATE AND COMMEMORATE AMERICA'S 200th BIRTHDAY WILL HAVE A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THE MANNER AND SPIRIT IN WHICH WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY AS A NATION. THE BICENTENNIAL OFFERS US A CHANCE TO REKINDLE THE SPIRIT THAT IN 200 YEARS BUILT THIRTEEN SMALL DEPENDENT COLONIES INTO THE STRONGEST NATION IN THE WORLD.

GOOD REASON TO CELEBRATE

AND THAT IS WHAT THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IS REALLY ALL ABOUT-- A REBIRTH, AS WELL AS A BIRTHDAY--A REDISCOVERY OF OUR SPIRIT, AS WELL AS A REDISCOVERY OF OUR STRENGTH AND POTENTIAL AS A FREE PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER. IT WILL BE A BANNER UNDER WHICH ALL AMERICANS CAN MARCH, HOWEVER, DISPARATE THEIR VIEWS. IT WILL CROSS STATE BOUNDARIES AND PARTISAN LINES. IT CAN BUILD BRIDGES ACROSS MINORITY AND ETHNIC

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DIVISIONS AND ACROSS GENERATION GAPS. IT OFFERS US A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER OUR PAST, TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO THE
PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED, AND TO GIVE NEW
MEANING TO THOSE GOALS OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

AND IF THERE WERE EVER GOOD CAUSE TO CELEBRATE--FOR THE CLASS
OF '74 OR ANY OTHER YEAR--AMERICA IS THAT CAUSE, AND THE TIME IS NOW.

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