

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
BARTON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GREAT BEND, KANSAS
MAY 17, 1974

2,653-
9,177

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TO JOIN WITH 1974'S GRADUATES IN MARKING THIS OCCASION. GRADUATION IS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN THE LIFE OF EVERY STUDENT. AND IT CARRIES DIFFERENT MEASURES OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO EXPERIENCES IT.

IN A SENSE, GRADUATION MARKS A TERMINAL POINT IN YOUR EXPERIENCE. A CHAPTER IN YOUR EDUCATION AND YOUR LIFE IS BROUGHT TO A CLOSE. BUT IN ANOTHER SENSE THIS DAY REALLY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE IN YOUR LIVES. FOR SOME, THIS BEGINNING WILL BE IN A JOB AND CAREER. FOR OTHERS, THIS BEGINNING WILL BE IN A NEW SCHOOL AS YOU PURSUE FURTHER STUDIES AND INTERESTS. AND FOR OTHERS, STILL, THIS BEGINNING WILL BE AS A HOMEMAKER AND PARENT.

OCCASION FOR CELEBRATION

BUT REGARDLESS OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL GOALS AND PATHS, TODAY AND THESE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES ARE A WATERSHED IN YOUR LIVES AND AN OCCASION FOR TAKING STOCK OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PAST AND GOALS FOR THE FUTURE. AND IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME A SUGGESTION, A BIT OF CELEBRATION IS IN ORDER.

AND NOT JUST A BRIEF CHEER AS THE LAST MEMBER OF THE CLASS RECEIVES HIS OR HER DIPLOMA. RATHER, THE CELEBRATION THAT IS CALLED FOR IS ONE WHICH LOOKS BEYOND TODAY, BACKWARD AND FORWARD, AND BEYOND BARTON COUNTY AND THE STATE OF KANSAS. NEITHER SHOULD IT LAST JUST ONE EVENING OR ONLY A COUPLE OF WEEKS. NO, THIS IS A CELEBRATION WHICH SHOULD BE MEASURED IN YEARS, NOT DAYS, AND WHICH REFLECTS NOT ONLY YOUR JOY AS GRADUATES BUT OUR GREATNESS, STRENGTH AND PRIDE AS A PEOPLE. FOR, MORE THAN ANY OTHER INHABITANTS OF THIS GLOBE, THOSE OF US LIVING TODAY--AND ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE--HAVE MORE TO CELEBRATE AND BE THANKFUL FOR IN THIS COUNTRY THAN EVER BEFORE. AND AS WE

APPROACH THE 200th BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA--OUR BICENTENNIAL --WE HAVE THE BEST REASONS FOR CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING EVER GIVEN TO ANY PEOPLE. AND THIS INCLUDES THE ROMANS OF CEASAR'S TIME, THE FRENCH OF NAPOLEAN'S ERA, THE ENGLISH WHOM QUEEN VICTORIA RULED OR ANY OTHERS WHO HAVE REACHED THE HEIGHTS AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN HISTORY.

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO CELEBRATE?

OF COURSE, SOME MIGHT SAY, BUT HOW CAN YOU TALK THIS WAY ABOUT THE AMERICA OF 1974? WITH ALL THE TERRIBLE PROBLEMS FACING US TODAY, WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO CELEBRATE?

INDEED, VIRTUALLY EVERY AMERICAN INSTITUTION IS UNDER ATTACK. OUR NATIONAL DEBATE HAS GROWN BITTER AND RANCOROUS. AFTER SETTING BACK OUR THERMOSTATS THIS WINTER TO CONSERVE HEATING OIL, WE WORRY ABOUT FINDING GASOLINE THIS SPRING. OUR CARS ARE TOO BIG AND OUR PAYCHECKS ARE TOO SMALL. OUR FOOD COSTS MORE AND OUR HOMES COST MORE. OUR PROBLEMS SEEM OVERWHELMING.

BUT PROBLEMS HAVE SEEMED OVERWHELMING IN THE PAST, AND AMERICANS HAVE MASTERED THEM.

PROBLEMS AS A NEW NATION

LET ME TAKE OURSELVES BACK TO THE TIME OF OUR REVOLUTION. THERE WERE 13 DEPENDENT COLONIES DISUNITED BY TIME AND DISTANCE, SOME OF THEM NOT EVEN VERY SYMPATHETIC TO A DESIRE TO BREAK THE TIES WITH ENGLAND. WE WERE A SMALL, POOR COUNTRY DEPENDENT ON OTHERS FOR MANY THINGS. WE WERE A NATION OF FARMERS AND ARTISANS LACKING ANY SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY TO MOVE FORWARD.

YET THERE WAS A BOND WHICH EXISTED AMONG THOSE COLONIES WHICH HAS CARRIED AMERICA THROUGH ITS GREAT HISTORY. THAT BOND IS KNOWN BY US ALL AS "THE SPIRIT OF '76."

IT SUSTAINED THOSE 13 WEAK COLONIES AND MOVED AMERICA FORWARD. AND IN OUR FIRST 100 YEARS WE EMERGED AS A MIGHTY INDUSTRIAL NATION.

LET'S LOOK BACK TO OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR A SNAPSHOT OF AMERICA AFTER THOSE FIRST 100 YEARS.

SITUATION IN 1876

OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WAS HELD IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1876. GROWTH, EXPANSION, PROGRESS, WERE THE STANDARDS OF THAT CELEBRATION. NO LONGER WERE WE WORRIED ABOUT OUR VERY EXISTENCE. THE 1876 CELEBRATION WAS AMERICA'S FIRST WORLD'S FAIR. THE TOP ATTRACTIONS WERE THE MANY NEW INVENTIONS WHICH GAVE OUR CITIZENS A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE.

THERE WAS ALEXANDER BELL'S FUNNY TALKING BOX--A STRANGE AND INGENIOUS DEVICE WHICH DEFIED NATURE BY CARRYING ONE'S VOICE BEYOND ANY SENSIBLE DISTANCE.

THERE WAS THE CORLISS STEAM LOCOMOTIVE, AN ENGINE FORTHY FEET HIGH, AND CERTAINLY THE SPACESHIP OF ITS DAY.

THERE WAS A NEW, FANCY CARBONATED DRINK BEING PEDDLED BY A FELLOW NAMED CHARLES HIRES, AND IT WAS CALLED, OF ALL THINGS, "ROOT BEER."

THERE WERE MR. SINGER'S SEWING MACHINE AND THE PULLMAN BERTHS. AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY WAS THE ENVY OF FOREIGN VISITORS. WHAT AMAZING PROGRESS IN TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS.

BUT THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS AS WELL FOR THAT FIRST CENTENNIAL. THE UNION HAD BEEN SAVED, BUT THE COUNTRY WAS GOING THROUGH A DIVISIVE PERIOD OF SHOCK. IT WAS THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA. IT WAS A TIME WHEN AMERICA WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HEALING ITS WOUNDS, BUT THE WOUNDS FESTERED AS WE STRUGGLED TO ACHIEVE THAT VERY GOAL. FOR TOO MANY, THE CIVIL WAR HAD NEVER ENDED.

THEN TOO THERE HAD BEEN AN ECONOMIC PANIC IN 1873, AND THE UNITED STATES WAS SUFFERING A DEPRESSION IN THE CELEBRATION YEAR OF 1876. MANY CHILDREN WERE AT WORK IN FACTORIES AND SWEATSHOPS.

THESE AND OTHER PROBLEMS FACED AMERICA IN ITS CENTENNIAL YEARS

GREAT SECOND HUNDRED YEARS

BUT WHAT A REMARKABLE PEOPLE WE ARE. IN 1876, AMERICANS WEREN'T WILLING TO FOLD UP THEIR TENTS AND SKULK AWAY FROM THE TROUBLES THAT FACED US. INSTEAD, WE REACHED BACK INTO THE SPIRIT OF A HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, AND WE CONTINUED ON.

IN THE NEXT 100 YEARS, AMERICA BECAME THE NUMBER ONE POWER IN THE WORLD. WE SURVIVED OUR CIVIL WAR, AND WORLD WARS, AND A GREAT DEPRESSION. WE FACED NEW PROBLEMS AND WE REACHED TO NEW HOPES.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LAST FIVE YEARS

LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN JUST THE LAST HALF DECADE. ONE YEAR AGO A PROLONGED AND DISPIRITING WAR WAS BROUGHT TO AN END FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN A WAY IN WHICH PEACE HAD A CHANCE. TWO YEARS AGO DOORS WERE OPENED WITH THE LARGEST NATION IN THE WORLD, DOORS TO CHINA WHICH WERE BARRED SO LONG. NEGOTIATIONS AND DETENTE REPLACED AMERICA'S 20th CENTURY CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY HAS BEEN BROUGHT NEARER, AND THE BOMBINGS AND ARSON AND MASS RIOTING OF THE 60'S HAVE BEEN ALMOST NONEXISTENT OF LATE. NEW FEDERALISM HAS BEGUN A BASIC CHANGE IN THE THRUST OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, AWAY FROM CENTRALIZATION IN WASHINGTON, BACK TO THE PEOPLE IN THEIR STATES AND CITIES. WE CAN BE THANKFUL FOR ALL THESE THINGS.

LOOKING AHEAD, THERE REMAINS A FULL AGENDA WHICH SPEAKS ELOQUENTLY OF OUR NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO NEVER BE SATISFIED.

STRUCTURE OF PEACE

ABOVE ALL, WE MUST STRENGTHEN THE STRUCTURE OF PEACE. AS SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER PUT IT SO WELL, "WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT OUR FOREIGN POLICY, YOU SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH IT IN TERMS OF INDIVIDUAL DRAMATIC EVENTS, BUT IN TERMS OF AN OVERALL DESIGN THAT BEGAN IN 1969, AND THAT WILL NOT BE FULLY COMPLETED BY 1976, BUT ITS BASIC STRUCTURE WILL BE OUTLINED BY 1976."

WITHIN THAT OVERALL DESIGN, WE NOW HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE TOWARD A SOCIETY IN WHICH PEACE WILL BE THE NORM, IN WHICH MEN AND WOMEN CAN PLAN ON PEACE. THEY WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO PLAN TO HAVE THE GOVERNMENT TAKE TWO YEARS OUT OF THEIR LIVES FOR MILITARY SERVICE. AND THE GREAT ENERGIES AND TALENTS OF THIS NATION CAN BE FOCUSED ON CONSTRUCTIVE, NOT DESTRUCTIVE, EFFORTS.

SAFETY FROM CRIME

BUT WE MUST HAVE PEACE AT HOME AS WELL AS ABROAD. A PEOPLE WHO LIVE BEHIND DOUBLE LOCKED DOORS, AFRAID TO VENTURE OUT AT NIGHT INTO AMERICA'S GREAT CITIES, CANNOT BE SAID TO BE A FREE PEOPLE. VIOLENT CRIME MUST NOT MAKE AMERICA INTO A STATE WHERE THE WHOLE STYLE AND MOVEMENT OF LIFE IS CRAMPED AND MADE FEARFUL BY THE ACTIONS OF A FEW DESPERATE PEOPLE.

WE HAVE ALREADY MADE A START IN THE EFFORT TO CLEANSE AMERICA OF VIOLENT CRIME AND BRING PEACE TO OUR STREETS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 17 YEARS, THE RATE OF SERIOUS CRIME HAS STARTED TO DECLINE. MORE MUST AND WILL BE DONE.

STANDARDS OF HEALTH

IF PEOPLE ARE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY, THEY SHOULD AND MUST HAVE PERSONAL, PHYSICAL WELL BEING. WE HAVE BEEN BUILDING A HEALTH SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES MAGNIFICENT MEDICAL CARE, BUT OFTEN AT A HEARTBREAKING PRICE.

WE HAVE MADE A START IN THE RESEARCH BATTLES AGAINST THE MAJOR KILLER DISEASES OF OUR TIME. AND WE HAVE HELPED TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF DOCTORS. BY 1985, THE SUPPLY OF DOCTORS WILL BE AN ESTIMATED 50 PERCENT GREATER THAN IT WAS IN 1970.

NOW WE MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF ANOTHER STEP. WITH THE PROPOSALS NOW BEFORE THE CONGRESS IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FASHION A PROGRAM OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE WHICH, BY THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR, WILL END THE DAY WHEN FAMILIES NEED TO FEAR FINANCIAL RUIN IN ORDER TO GET WELL. AND THIS CAN BE DONE IN A WAY THAT KEEPS DOCTORS WORKING FOR THEIR PATIENTS, RATHER THAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION, WE MUST CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO REDEEM THE UNFULFILLED PLEDGES OF OUR FOREFATHERS FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN, FOR MINORITIES, FOR THE POOR - IN EDUCATION, IN CIVIL RIGHTS, IN THE REFORM OF AN OUT-MODED WELFARE SYSTEM WHICH IS BOTH WASTEFUL AND DEGRADING.

GOAL OF PROSPERITY

AND SECOND ONLY IN IMPORTANCE TO THE GOAL OF PEACE - IS THE GOAL OF PROSPERITY. IN AN AMERICA WHICH IS PROSPEROUS, WE KNOW OUR OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE BOUNDLESS.

BUT IN AN AMERICA PLAGUED BY JOBLESSNESS AND INFLATION, THOSE OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE STIFLED.

AT PRESENT, WE HAVE THE WORST OF TWO WORLDS--WITH JOBLESSNESS HIGH AND INFLATION GOING UP AT A RAPID RATE. IN THIS VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT WE MUST MAINTAIN OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM FROM THE STRUCTURES OF CONTROLS IN ORDER TO GIVE IT MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS AND FLEXIBILITY.

A LONG AND PAINFUL EXPERIMENT WITH WAGE-PRICE CONTROLS HAS JUST ENDED. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THESE CONTROLS DID NOT CONTAIN EITHER WAGES OR PRICES. BUT THEY DID PRODUCE BEEF SHORTAGES, STEEL SHORTAGES, LUMBER SHORTAGES AND A WHOLE RANGE OF ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS WHICH COULD NOT BE AVOIDED BY A BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM--EVEN ONE EQUIPPED WITH COMPUTERS.

BUT NOW THOSE CONTROLS HAVE EXPIRED, AND THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM CAN RETURN TO DOING THE JOB IT DOES BEST--MAKING THE ECONOMIC DECISIONS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND WHICH HAVE BUILT AND SUSTAINED OUR NATION FOR THESE TWO CENTURIES OF GROWTH AND GREATNESS.

ENERGY CONCERNS

ALSO ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, IT IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL THAT WE ACT IMMEDIATELY ON THE PROPOSALS TO INCREASE OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY SUPPLY. SO FAR CONGRESS HAS DONE ALMOST NOTHING TO INCREASE ENERGY, ALTHOUGH IT HAS IMPOSED WINTER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME AND A 55 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT. THERE IS WIDE RECOGNITION THAT THE ENERGY SHORTAGE IS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR CURRENT ECONOMIC STRESS. YOU PROBABLY KNOW, BETTER THAN I, THAT THE RECENT SHARP PRICE RISES FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR CAUSE OF THE RECENT RISE IN INFLATION. BUT ONCE THESE RISES ARE ABSORBED, THEY WILL NOT REOCCUR, AND THEY WILL NOT KEEP THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MOVING UP FOREVER.

WHEN THE GASOLINE SITUATION HAS BEEN CLARIFIED, MOREOVER, MUCH OF THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH POTENTIAL CAR BUYERS FACE WILL BE RESOLVED, AND IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR THE ENTIRE ECONOMY, INCLUDING THE KEY AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, WILL BE PICKING UP. THERE ARE STRONG SIGNALS THAT IT WILL.

FOOD PRICES

THE OTHER MAJOR COMPONENT OF INFLATION--FOOD PRICES--WILL BE COMING INTO LINE BY THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR. AND THERE IS GOOD REASON TO TAKE PRIDE IN THE BASIC CHANGES WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IN OUR AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. IN THIS BRIEF PERIOD, WE HAVE TURNED THOSE POLICIES FROM PLANNED SCARCITY, SUBSIDIES, AND MANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE FARMER'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE TO THOSE WHICH ENCOURAGE MAXIMUM FREE MARKET PRODUCTION. AND THAT PRODUCTION, AS WE HAVE SEEN, IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE, NOT ONLY TO KANSAS AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION, BUT TO OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WITH OTHER NATIONS AS WELL.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT, LATER THIS YEAR, AMERICA'S ECONOMY WILL BE ON A STRONG UPWARD TREND, WITH LESS INFLATION THAN WE ARE NOW SEEING.

AND, BY THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR, WE BELIEVE THAT A STRONG ECONOMY WITHOUT INFLATION AND WITHOUT WAR WILL HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. OUR PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED.

THE LONGER VIEW

OF COURSE, AS WE APPROACH OUR BICENTENNIAL IT IS GOOD TO HAVE A PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON OUR RECENT AND DISTANT PAST. AND WHILE WE WILL BE TAKING A LONG LOOK BACKWARD, IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE A LONG LOOK FORWARD, THAT WE HAVE A REJUVENATION OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT, THAT WE FULFILL THE PROMISES OF OUR FOREFATHERS THAT ARE, AS YET UNFULFILLED.

AND ON THIS POINT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PERTINENT QUESTIONS WE SHOULD ASK-- HOW WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB IN THE "PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS," AS JEFFERSON CALLED IT, AND WHAT MIGHT BE TRANSLATED TODAY AS THE "QUALITY OF LIFE." HOW CAN WE FINALLY REALIZE THE UNFULFILLED PROMISE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN THIS COUNTRY?

AMERICANS HAVE A TENDENCY TO THINK IN SHORT SPANS--A DAY, A MONTH, A YEAR. WE OFTEN LACK PERSPECTIVE. EUROPEANS HAVE A LONG HISTORY, AND THEY THINK IN LONG RANGE TERMS--25 YEARS, 100 YEARS, AND MORE. AND YOUNGER NATIONS, BASED ON ANCIENT CULTURES, SUCH AS CHINA, ALSO THINK IN LONG-RANGE TERMS. THE REASON WE MADE THE OPENING TO THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN 1972 WAS NOT FOR WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO THIS COUNTRY NOW, OR IN FIVE YEARS, BUT IN 25 YEARS, PERHAPS 15. AND SO, ANOTHER IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE BICENTENNIAL HELPS AMERICANS THINK IN LONG-RANGE TERMS. WHILE WE LOOK BACK 200 YEARS, THERE IS EVEN MORE REASON TO LOOK AHEAD 200 YEARS.

WE HAVE SO MANY PROBLEMS, 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 THE BICENTENNIAL 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.

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

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BUILD BRIDES ACROSS MINORITY AND ETHNIC 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--IN 1974 OR ANY OTHER
YEAR--AMERICA IS THAT CAUSE, AND THE TIME IS NOW.

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UNITED BRIDES AGAINST MINORITY AND ETHNIC DIVISIONS AND ACROSS GENERATION
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