

**The original documents are located in Box 36, “7/14/76 - Filmed Message for the Annual All-Star Football Luncheon” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

**THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .**

**TAPING: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO ALL-STAR FOOTBALL  
LUNCHEON, JULY 20, 1976**

I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU AT THE  
1976 ALL STAR FOOTBALL LUNCHEON -- EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ON FILM.

I WISH I COULD BE THERE IN PERSON. I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER  
THAN TO SWAP A FEW FOOTBALL STORIES AND ENJOY YOUR GOOD  
COMPANY.

LET ME CONGRATULATE THE PLAYERS SELECTED FOR THE  
1976 ALL STAR GAME. I KNOW THE COMPETITION TODAY IS A LOT  
TOUGHER THAN WHEN I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO MAKE THE TEAM.  
IN 1935, WE PLAYED THE CHICAGO BEARS. THEY TAUGHT US WHAT  
REALLY TOUGH COMPETITION WAS LIKE. THE FINAL OUTCOME  
SOUNDED LIKE A BASEBALL SCORE: THE BEARS WON FIVE TO NOTHING.  
I HAVE A FEELING THE SCORE WILL BE A LOT HIGHER IN YOUR GAME.

SINCE COACH PARSEGHIAN (PAR-SĒĒ-JIN) IS QUITE  
A TASK MASTER, YOU SHOULD BE IN REAL FIGHTING SHAPE FOR THE  
GAME WITH THE STEELERS. BUT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, YOU  
CAN TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT YOUR EFFORTS THIS FRIDAY NIGHT  
WILL HELP TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED LOCAL  
CHARITIES.

THE CHICAGO JAYCEES WITH THEIR WARM HOSPITALITY,  
AND THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE WITH ITS FINE ORGANIZATION, MAKE THIS  
ANNUAL GAME AN EXCITING OCCASION AND ONE OF THE MOST  
SUCCESSFUL CHARITY BENEFITS IN THE NATION.

ALL OF YOU DESERVE A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR WHAT  
YOU ARE DOING FOR THE POOR, THE SICK AND THE HUNGRY.

YOU HAVE MY ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR THIS  
ANNUAL EVENT, AND MY BEST WISHES FOR YOUR FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK.

END OF TEXT