

The original documents are located in Box 134, folder “June 8, 1974 - Speech, Utah State University Commencement, Logan, UT” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

JUNE 8, 1974

*President Taggart
Distinguished Honorees
Honored Graduates
Faculty
Parents / friends / guests*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

THIS IS THE FIFTH COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS I HAVE MADE THIS SEASON

TO UNIVERSITY SENIORS. A YEAR AGO I HARDLY GOT THAT MANY INVITATIONS

local
FROM HIGH SCHOOLS. *in my former Congressional District.*



I DON'T THINK I HAVE CHANGED MUCH THESE PAST 12 MONTHS, NOR
HAVE THE THOUGHTS I TRY TO SHARE WITH GRADUATING STUDENTS. BUT I HAVE
BECOME THE FIRST "INSTANT VICE PRESIDENT" UNDER THE 25TH AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION. AND YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN HEARING A LITTLE ABOUT
OCTOBER 12, 1973, THE DAY THAT CHANGED THE LIFE OF THE FORD FAMILY AS
MUCH AS THIS DAY WILL CHANGE YOURS.

(TELEPHONE STORY)



in Oct

THAT VERY WEEKEND I HAD PLANNED TO KEEP A LONGSTANDING PROMISE
 TO VISIT OUR SON JACK HERE AT UTAH STATE ON MY WAY TO A SPEAKING DATE IN
 PORTLAND, OREGON. I THINK JACK WANTED ME TO SEE HIS CAMPUS PAD BEFORE HIS
 MOTHER DID. A LOT OF PEOPLE URGED ME TO CANCEL THE TRIP AND REMAIN IN
WASHINGTON SO THEY COULD BRIEF ME ON HOW TO BE A VICE PRESIDENT. BUT
 PRESIDENT NIXON SAID, "GO ^{Ahead} ~~HEAD~~" AND I DID. ^{On the way west} I HAD A SHORT BUT HAPPY
^{saw you fine campuses for 1st time + met}
 REUNION WITH JACK AND A FEW OF YOU.



I promised to come back

~~BUT JACK STILL HAS A FEW MONTHS TO GO AND THIS TIME THE~~

PURPOSE OF MY VISIT IS TO CONGRATULATE AND TALK WITH YOU MEMBERS OF

THE CLASS OF 1974, YOUR PARENTS, FAMILIES, FACULTY AND FRIENDS OF

THE UNIVERSITY



YOU HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE PROUD OF REACHING THIS ACADEMIC
MILESTONE AND OF THE SPLENDID INSTITUTION WHICH HONORS YOU WITH ITS DEGREE,
IN LESS THAN 90 YEARS UTAH STATE, ALONG WITH OTHER BENEFICIARIES OF THE
FARSIGHTED LAND GRAND ACT OF 1862, HAS BECOME ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST
ADVANCED AND DIVERSIFIED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND HAS CONTRIBUTED
IN COUNTLESS WAYS TO THE BETTERMENT OF OUR SOCIETY AND THE WORLD. YOUR
EXCEPTIONAL CHILD CENTER IS A MODEL FOR SUCH ENLIGHTENED ENDEAVORS. AND
YOUR POSSESSION OF THE BEEHIVE BOOT HAS EARNED YOU CONSIDERABLE RENOWN ON
THE SPORTS PAGES.



I HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN THIS YEAR WITH THE GRADUATES OF MY OWN ALMA
MATER, THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, AND OF EASTERN ILLINOIS, TEXAS A&M, AND
THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY. THESE ARE ALL GREAT SCHOOLS, AND THEY ARE ALL
DIFFERENT, JUST AS UTAH STATE IS DIFFERENT. DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION IS ONE OF
THE BASIC STRENGTHS OF AMERICA. ONE OF THE DIFFERENCES I SENSE ABOUT UTAH
STATE IS THAT HERE YOU CAN STILL FEEL THE EXCITING CHALLENGE OF THE AMERICAN
WEST, THE MAGNIFICENT HARMONY BETWEEN GOD AND MAN, BETWEEN NATURE AND
CIVILIZATION, WHICH EXISTS AMID YOUR RUGGED MOUNTAINS AND FERTILE VALLEYS
AND BETWEEN YOUR BUSTLING CITIES AND YOUR SILENT SKIES.



WHEN I FIRST SAW THIS WONDERFUL PART OF OUR COUNTRY I WAS ABOUT YOUR
AGE. WHENEVER I RETURN -- AS OFTEN AS I CAN -- I AM REMINDED THAT IT WAS
A BIRTHRIGHT MEMBER OF THE EASTERN ESTABLISHMENT, HORACE GREELEY, WHO
POPULARIZED THE PHRASE "GO WEST, YOUNG MAN." BUT IT WAS BRIGHAM YOUNG
WHO KNEW WHERE TO STOP.



I SUPPOSE THAT IS A ROUNDABOUT WAY OF TELLING YOU THAT YOU
WILL GET A LOT OF ADVICE ABOUT HOW TO RUN YOUR LIVES FROM A LOT OF WELL-
MEANING PEOPLE, AND IT IS WELL TO LISTEN TO IT POLITELY AND EVEN TAKE
SOME OF IT SO LONG AS YOU KEEP YOUR OWN EYES AND EARS AND MINDS OPEN AND
DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT.



AS A MATTER OF FACT, I HAVE BEEN GETTING QUITE A BIT OF FREE

ADVICE MYSELF LATELY, SO I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

THE PEOPLE WHO OFFER ME ADVICE ARE MOSTLY MY FRIENDS, WHETHER WE HAVE MET FORMALLY OR NOT. SOME OF THEM WHISPER TO ME AT RECEPTIONS, OR SHOUT IN HOTEL LOBBIES. SOME WRITE ME LONG, EARNEST LETTERS OR WIRE OR TELEPHONE ME LATE AT NIGHT. SOME SHARE THEIR CONCERNS WITH MILLIONS ON TELEVISION OR RADIO OR PRINT THEM IN EDITORIALS OR COLUMNS.



WHATEVER MEANS THEY USE I'M SURE THEY WISH ME WELL AND I AM
GRATEFUL FOR THEIR COUNSEL. NOBODY IN PUBLIC OFFICE CAN HAVE TOO MANY
CONSCIENTIOUS CRITICS AND CANDID COUNSELORS.

AFTER SIX MONTHS IN MY NEW JOB, THE KIND OF ADVICE I GET RUNS
ALONG TWO MAIN LINES. FIRST, WHY DON'T I STOP FLYING AROUND THE COUNTRY
MEETING PEOPLE AND MAKING SPEECHES AND STAY IN WASHINGTON DOING MY JOB?



AND SECOND, IF I MUST MAKE SPEECHES AND PERMIT PRESS QUESTIONS WHEREVER

I GO, WHY DO I UPHOLD THE PRESIDENT ONE DAY AND THE NEXT DAY SIDE WITH

THE CONGRESS WHICH IS DELIBERATING HIS IMPEACHMENT?

IN SHORT, WHY DON'T I SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP LIKE A GOOD VICE

PRESIDENT SHOULD.



AS I SAY, I REALLY DO APPRECIATE THESE WELL-MEANING WARNINGS BY
MY FRIENDS -- I EVEN GET THEM FROM MY FAMILY, BUT I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT
WHAT I AM DOING IS MY JOB, THAT IT FLOWS DIRECTLY FROM THE SOLEMN OATH I
TOOK TO SUPPORT AS WELL AS TO DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES,
AND THAT IT IS BOTH NECESSARY AND RIGHT AT THIS TIME IN OUR NATION'S
HISTORY. AS FOR WHAT I SAY, IT IS WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE TRUE.



I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED AND BENEFITED FROM VISITING VARIOUS PARTS OF THIS GREAT LAND OF OURS AND TALKING WITH, AS WELL AS TO, AMERICANS OF ALL KINDS AND OF ALL SHADES OF OPINION. I LIKE TO LISTEN TO AMERICANS -- AND HOPE TO IN EVERY ONE OF OUR 50 STATES. I CATEGORICALLY REJECT THE DEMAND THAT I LISTEN ONLY TO THE STRIDENT VOICES ON THE BANKS OF THE POTOMAC. I AM NOT GOING TO BARRICADE MYSELF IN WASHINGTON JUST BECAUSE I SUDDENLY FIND MYSELF BEARING HEAVIER BURDENS OF OFFICIAL DUTIES AND POTENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.



ON THE CONTRARY, I AM SIMPLY GOING TO WORK A LITTLE HARDER, A FEW
MORE HOURS EVERY DAY, AND DO BOTH. I HAPPEN TO LIKE WORK, AND THAT IS NOT
SO UNUSUAL AS SOME CYNICS THINK. I ALSO LIKE PEOPLE, AND I LIKE TO LISTEN
TO THEIR PROBLEMS -- OR I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR 25 YEARS. SO I'M
GOING RIGHT ON MEETING MY FELLOW CITIZENS AROUND THE COUNTRY AS I HAVE
ALREADY DONE IN 34 OF THE 50 STATES.



IT IS NOT SO MUCH WHAT I AM TELLING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT
MATTERS, BUT WHAT THEY ARE TELLING ME. AFTER 13 ELECTIONS I CAN MODESTLY
CLAIM A FAIRLY GOOD EAR FOR THE SO-CALLED VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. AND WHAT
I HEAR FROM HAWAII TO NEW HAMPSHIRE AND FROM UTAH TO GEORGIA AND FROM
MICHIGAN TO OKLAHOMA -- YES, EVEN IN MASSACHUSETTS -- IS A LOT DIFFERENT
FROM WHAT I HEAR IN WASHINGTON, D. C. AND I LIKE IT A LOT BETTER.



AMERICANS ARE TELLING ME THAT OURS IS A GREAT AND GOOD COUNTRY,

BUT ONE THAT CAN BECOME GREATER AND BETTER IF WE ALL WORK HARD AT IT.

OUR PEOPLE ARE STOUT OF HEART AND DECENT IN Demeanor, OUR INSTITUTIONS

ARE STRONG AND SOUND AND THEY ARE NOT CRUMBLING DOWN OR CRASHING AROUND US --

RATHER THEY ARE DEALING DAILY WITH GREAT FIRMNESS OF PURPOSE WITH BOTH

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN DIFFICULTIES.



LIKE OUR ANCESTORS WHO CROSSED UNKNOWN OCEANS AND DESERTS IN
SEARCH OF PEACE AND FREEDOM, LIKE YOUR FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS AND LIKE
SOME OF YOU WHO RECROSSED THE SEAS TO FIGHT FOR PEACE AND THE FREEDOM OF
OTHERS, WE ARE NOT TODAY WITHOUT FEARS AND FAILURES, WE HAVE OUR SHARE
OF DISCOURAGEMENT AND TRAGEDY, AS HAVE AMERICANS BEFORE US.



BUT WE ALSO HAVE FAITH -- FAITH NOT ONLY IN OUR RELIGIOUS
TRADITIONS AND THE BASIC MORAL VALUES COMMON TO ALL OF THEM -- BUT
FAITH ALSO IN OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE UNIQUE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
SYSTEM IT SUSTAINS.



WE HAVE FAITH IN A HERITAGE OF LAW AND EQUAL JUSTICE WHICH

HOLDS EVERY PERSON INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT, BUT

PLACES NONE ABOVE THE LAW. WE HAVE FAITH THAT DETERMINATION AND SHARED

PURPOSE CAN UNITE US AS A PEOPLE MORE THAN DIFFERENCES OF RACE, RELIGION,

POLITICS OR PARTISANSHIP CAN EVER DIVIDE US.



HOW WELL OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM WORKS WAS DEMONSTRATED DURING THE PAST YEAR WHEN AFTER A SADDENING SERIES OF EVENTS I WAS PICKED BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE VICE PRESIDENCY UNDER A NEW UNTRIED PROCEDURE, AFTER EXHAUSTIVE INQUIRY THE CONGRESS, WITH ONLY A FEW DISSENTING VOTES, CONFIRMED MY NOMINATION. AT THAT TIME I PLEDGED MY BEST EFFORTS TO BE "A READY CONCILIATOR AND CALM COMMUNICATOR BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND CAPITOL HILL," BETWEEN THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT AND THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS, IN THE CONTROVERSIAL CLIMATE OF WASHINGTON.



SO I ASK MY FRIENDS AND COUNSELORS, WHY IS IT SO SURPRISING
THAT I SOMETIMES VOICE THE VIEWPOINT OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF WHICH
I WAS A PART FOR A QUARTER-CENTURY, AND AT OTHER TIMES SEE THINGS MUCH
THE SAME WAY AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHO CHOSE ME, MY FRIEND FOR THE
SAME SPAN OF YEARS?



IN ALL THOSE YEARS I HAVE NEVER SEEN A CONTROVERSY IN WHICH
ONE SIDE WAS ALL WRONG AND THE OTHER 100 PERCENT RIGHT; NOR HAVE I SEEN
A HUMAN BEING WHO WAS TOTALLY GOOD OR ALTOGETHER BAD, TRUTH IS THE GLUE
THAT HOLDS GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER, AND COMPROMISE THE OIL THAT MAKES GOVERNMENT
GO.



OUR THREE SEPARATE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT WERE DESIGNED TO CHECK AND
BALANCE EACH OTHER'S ABUSES AND EXCESSES, BUT NOT TO PRODUCE STALEMATE
AND PARALYSIS. SO I CONSIDER IT MY DUTY TO TRY AND HEAD OFF DEADLOCK
AND SEEK A REASONABLE AND PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE NAGGING WATERGATE
ISSUE THAT IS SAPPING THE VALUABLE TIME OF OUR ELECTED LEADERS, AND
POLITICAL STRENGTH OF OUR NATION.



SO LONG AS I HAVE THE PHYSICAL CAPABILITY AND SO LONG AS I CAN
CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLIMATE OF REASON AND TRUTH IN THIS COUNTRY, I WILL REMAIN
MY OWN MAN, FLY MY OWN COURSE, AND SPEAK MY OWN CONVICTIONS. PUT YOURSELF
IN MY BOOTS -- WHAT WOULD YOU DO? I KNOW YOU WOULD BE FAIR, CANDID AND
CONSTRUCTIVE. THAT IS MY OBJECTIVE.



HAVING CONFIDED TO YOU SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES I HAVE IN TAKING THE
BEST-INTENTIONED ADVICE, AND HAVING USED UP MOST OF MY TIME DOING IT, LET ME
LEAVE YOU WITH A FINAL COUNSEL, NOTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED IN YOUR COLLEGE
YEARS IS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE FIRST STEPS PRESIDENT NIXON AND
SECRETARY KISSINGER HAVE MADE TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE. THE SHADOW OF
WAR HAS HUNG OVER EACH OF YOU SINCE YOU WERE BORN. IN MY OWN LIFETIME AND I
DON'T FEEL TOO ANCIENT -- MORE THAN 600,000 AMERICANS HAVE DIED IN FOUR WARS.



THE PRESIDENT LEAVES DAY AFTER TOMORROW (MONDAY) ON A MISSION OF
PEACE TO NAIL DOWN THE TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HIS SECRETARY OF STATE IN
BRINGING ABOUT A CEASE FIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. EVERYBODY THOUGHT THIS
IMPOSSIBLE, JUST AS A FEW YEARS AGO EVERYBODY THOUGHT IT IMPOSSIBLE TO END
THE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM, BOTH OF THESE GIANT STEPS ON THE LONG
ROAD TO PERMANENT PEACE MAKE THIS COMMENCEMENT DAY OF YOURS AN EXTRA JOYOUS
OCCASION.



ALL AMERICANS ARE PROUD OF THE DIPLOMATIC SKILL AND SUCCESS OF OUR GREAT
SECRETARY OF STATE, HENRY KISSINGER, BUT I TRUST, IN ALL FAIRNESS, THAT WE
RECOGNIZE THE GUIDING ROLE OF PRESIDENT NIXON. WE PRAY FOR OUR PRESIDENT'S
SAFETY AND SUCCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO MOSCOW.
JUST AS NEITHER LINCOLN NOR GRANT COULD HAVE WON THE CIVIL WAR WITHOUT THE
OTHER, WE CANNOT DIVIDE THE PEACEMAKING ACHIEVEMENTS OF RICHARD NIXON AND
HENRY KISSINGER THAT BEGAN WITH THE HISTORIC INITIATIVE TO REOPEN
COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHINA'S MAINLAND.



BUILDING A NEW STRUCTURE OF PEACE IN THIS NUCLEAR-ARMED
WORLD ON REALISTIC TERMS IS GOING TO BE A LONG AND DIFFICULT TASK THAT WILL
DEMAND THE BEST EFFORTS OF YOUR GENERATION AND OF MINE. I BELIEVE YOU HAVE
THE DETERMINATION, THE PATIENCE AND THE UNDERSTANDING TO COMPLETE THE WORK
WE HAVE BEGUN. YOU ARE STARTING THAT GREATEST OF EARTHLY ADVENTURES -- AN
ADULT LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF GOD AND YOUR FELLOW MAN. MAY YOU ALSO KNOW
THE GREATEST BLESSING -- A LIFE OF PEACE.



June 8, 1974

DRAFT OF COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS FOR UTAH STATE



Acknowledgements.

This is the fifth Commencement address I have made this season to university seniors. A year ago I hardly got that many invitations from high schools.

I don't think I have changed much these past 12 months, nor have the thoughts I try to share with graduating students. But I have become the first "instant Vice President" under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. And you may be interested in hearing a little about October 12, 1973, the day that changed the life of the Ford family as much as this day will change yours.

(Telephone story.)

That very weekend I had planned to keep a longstanding promise to visit our son Jack here at Utah State on my way to a speaking date in Portland, Oregon. I think Jack wanted me to see his campus pad before his Mother did. A lot of people urged me to cancel the trip and remain in Washington so they could brief me on how to be a Vice President. But President Nixon said, "Go ahead" and I did. I had a short but happy reunion with Jack and a few of you.

But Jack still has a year to go and this time the purpose of my visit is to congratulate and talk with you members of the Class of 1974, your parents, families, faculty and friends of the University.

(MORE)



You have every reason to be proud of reaching this academic milestone and of the splendid institution which honors you with its degree. In less than 90 years Utah State, along with other beneficiaries of the farsighted Land Grant Act of 1862, has become one of the nation's most advanced and diversified institutions of higher learning and has contributed in countless ways to the betterment of our society and the world. Your Exceptional Child Center is a model for such enlightened endeavors. And your possession of the Beehive Boot has earned you considerable renown on the sports pages.

I have already spoken this year with the graduates of my own Alma Mater, the University of Michigan, and of Eastern Illinois, Texas A & M, and the Air Force Academy. These are all great schools, and they are all different, just as Utah State is different. Diversity in education is one of the basic strengths of America. One of the differences I sense about Utah State is that here you can still feel the exciting challenge of the American West, the magnificent harmony between God and Man, between Nature and Civilization, which exists amid your rugged mountains and fertile valleys and between your bustling cities and your silent skies.

When I first saw this wonderful part of our country I was about your age. Whenever I return -- as often as I can -- I am reminded that it was a birthright member of the Eastern

Establishment, Horace Greeley, who popularized the phrase "Go West, Young Man." But it was Brigham Young who knew where to stop.

I suppose that is a roundabout way of telling you that you will get a lot of advice about how to run your lives from a lot of well-meaning people, and it is well to listen to it politely and even take some of it so long as you keep your own eyes and ears and minds open and do what you think is right.

As a matter of fact, I have been getting quite a bit of free advice myself lately, so I know how you feel.

The people who offer me advice are mostly my friends, whether we have met formally or not. Some of them whisper to me at receptions, or shout in hotel lobbies. Some write me long, earnest letters or wire or telephone me late at night. Some share their concerns with millions on television or radio or print them in editorials or columns.

Whatever means they use I'm sure they wish me well and I am grateful for their counsels. Nobody in public office can have too many conscientious critics and candid counselors.

After six months in my new job, the kind of advice I get runs along two main lines. First, why don't I stop flying around the country meeting people and making speeches and stay in Washington doing my job? And second, if I must make speeches



and permit press questions wherever I go, why do I uphold the President one day and the next day side with the Congress which is deliberating his impeachment?

In short, why don't I sit down and shut up like a good Vice President should.

As I say, I really do appreciate these well-meaning warnings by my friends -- I even get them from my family. But I happen to think that what I am doing is my job, that it flows directly from the solemn oath I took to support as well as to defend the Constitution of the United States, and that it is both necessary and right at this time in our nation's history. As for what I say, it is what I believe to be true.

I have always enjoyed and benefitted from visiting various parts of this great land of ours and talking with, as well as to, Americans of all kinds and of all shades of opinion. I like to listen to Americans -- and would hope to ^{do so} in every one of our 50 States. I categorically reject the demand that I listen only to the strident words on the banks of the Potomac. I am not going to barricade myself in Washington just because I suddenly find myself bearing heavier burdens of official duties and potential responsibilities.

On the contrary, I am simply going to work a little harder -- a few more hours every day and do both. I happen to like work, and that is not so unusual as some cynics think. I also like people, and I like to listen to their problems -- or I wouldn't have been doing it for 25 years. So I'm going right on meeting my fellow citizens around the country as I have already done in 34 of the 50 States.



It is not so much what I am telling the American people that matters, but what they are telling me. After 13 elections I can modestly claim a fairly good ear for the so-called voice of the people. And what I hear from Hawaii to New Hampshire and from Utah to Georgia and from Michigan to Oklahoma -- yes, even in Massachusetts -- is a lot different from what I hear in Washington, D.C. And I like it a lot better.

Americans are telling me that ours is a great and good country, but one that can become greater and better if we all work hard at it. Our people are stout of heart and decent in demeanor. Our institutions are strong and sound and they are not crumbling down or crashing around us -- rather they are dealing daily with great firmness of purpose with both domestic and foreign difficulties.

This is only change
Like our ancestors who crossed unknown oceans and deserts in search of peace and freedom, like your fathers and grandfathers and like some of you who recrossed the seas to fight ~~in jungles and deserts~~ for peace and the freedom of others, we are not today without fears and failures. We have our share of discouragement and tragedy, as have Americans before us.

But we also have faith -- faith not only in our religious traditions and the basic moral values common to all of them -- but faith also in our Constitution and the unique political and economic system it sustains.

(MORE)



We have faith in a heritage of law and equal justice which holds every person innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt, but places none above the law. We have faith that determination and shared purpose can unite us as a people more than differences of race, religion, politics or partisanship can ever divide us.

How well our Constitutional system works was demonstrated during the past year when after a ~~sudden and saddening~~ ^{series of} ~~scandal~~ ^{events} I was picked by President Nixon to fill a vacancy in the Vice Presidency under a new, untried procedure. After exhaustive inquiry the Congress, with only a few dissenting votes, confirmed my nomination. At that time I pledged my best efforts to be "a ready conciliator and calm communicator between the White House and Capitol Hill," between the Republican President and the Democratic Congress, in the controversial climate of Washington.

So I ask my friends and counselors, why is it so surprising that I sometimes voice the viewpoint of the Legislative Branch of which I was a part for a quarter-century, and at other times see things much the same way as the Chief Executive who chose me, my friend for the same span of years?

In all those years I have never seen a controversy in which one side was all wrong and the other 100 percent right; nor have I seen a human being who was totally good or altogether bad. Truth is the glue that holds government together, and compromise

This was added



the oil that makes government go. Our three separate branches of government were designed to check and balance each other's abuses and excesses, but not to produce stalemate and paralysis. So I consider it my duty to try and head off deadlock and seek a reasonable and prompt resolution of the nagging Watergate issue that is sapping the valuable time of our elected leaders and the political strength of our nation.

So long as I have the physical capability and so long as I can contribute to the climate of reason and truth in this country, I will remain my own man and fly my own course and speak my own convictions. Put yourself in my boots -- what would you do? I know you would be fair, candid and constructive. That is my objective.

Having confided to you some of the difficulties I have in taking the best-intentioned advice, and having used up most of my time doing it, let me leave you with a final counsel. Nothing that has happened in your college years is more significant than the first steps President Nixon and Secretary Kissinger have made toward a just and durable peace. The shadow of war has hung over each of you since you were borne In my own lifetime -- and I don't feel too ancient -- more than 600,000 Americans have died in four wars.

The President leaves ~~my own boots~~ Monday on a mission of peace to nail down the tremendous accomplishment of his Secretary of State in bringing about a cease fire in the Middle East. Everybody thought this impossible, just as a few years ago everybody thought it impossible to end the American involvement in Vietnam. Both of these giant steps on the long

Changed

road to permanent peace make this Commencement Day of yours an extra joyous occasion. All Americans are proud of the diplomatic skill and success of our great Secretary of State Henry Kissinger but I trust, in all fairness, that we recognize the guiding role of President Nixon. We pray for our President's safety and success in the Middle East and on his forthcoming trip to Moscow. Just as neither Lincoln nor Grant could have won the Civil War without the other, we cannot divide the peacemaking achievements of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger that began with the historic initiative to reopen communications with China's mainland.

Added

Building a new structure of peace in this nuclear-armed world on realistic terms is going to be a long and difficult task that will demand the best efforts of your generation and of mine. But I believe you have the determination, the patience and the understanding to complete the work we have begun. You are starting the greatest of earthly adventures -- an adult life in the service of God and your fellow man. May you also know the greatest blessing -- a life of peace.

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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT
LOGAN, UTAH
JUNE 8, 1974

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY AT 9:25 A.M. SATURDAY, UTAH TIME

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(more)

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(more)

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But we also have faith -- faith not only in our religious traditions and the basic moral values common to all of them -- but faith also in our Constitution and the unique political and economic system it sustains.

We have faith in a heritage of law and equal justice which holds every person innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt, but places none above the law. We have faith that determination and shared purpose can unite us as a people more than differences of race, religion, politics or partisanship can ever divide us.

How well our Constitutional system works was demonstrated during the past year when after a saddening series of events I was picked by President Nixon to fill a vacancy in the Vice Presidency under a new, untried procedure. After exhaustive inquiry the Congress, with only a few dissenting votes, confirmed my nomination. At that time I pledged my best efforts to be "a ready conciliator and calm communicator between the White House and Capitol Hill," between the Republican President and the Democratic Congress, in the controversial climate of Washington.

So I ask my friends and counselors, why is it so surprising that I sometimes voice the viewpoint of the Legislative Branch of which I was a part for a quarter-century, and at other times see things much the same way as the Chief Executive who chose me, my friend for the same span of years?

In all those years I have never seen a controversy in which one side was all wrong and the other 100 percent right; nor have I seen a human being who was totally good or altogether bad. Truth is the glue that holds government together, and compromise the oil that makes government go. Our three separate branches of government were designed to check and balance each other's abuses and excesses, but not to produce stalemate and paralysis. So I consider it my duty to try and head off deadlock and seek a reasonable and prompt resolution of the nagging Watergate issue that is sapping the valuable time of our elected leaders and the political strength of our nation.

So long as I have the physical capability and so long as I can contribute to the climate of reason and truth in this country, I will remain my own man and fly my own course and speak my own convictions. Put yourself in my boots -- what would you do? I know you would be fair, candid and constructive. That is my objective.

(more)

Having confided to you some of the difficulties I have in taking the best-intentioned advice, and having used up most of my time doing it, let me leave you with a final counsel. Nothing that has happened in your college years is more significant than the first steps President Nixon and Secretary Kissinger have made toward a just and durable peace. The shadow of war has hung over each of you since you were born. In my own lifetime -- and I don't feel too ancient -- more than 600,000 Americans have died in four wars.

The President leaves Monday on a mission of peace to nail down the tremendous accomplishment of his Secretary of State in bringing about a cease fire in the Middle East. Everybody thought this impossible, just as a few years ago everybody thought it impossible to end the American involvement in Vietnam. Both of these giant steps on the long road to permanent peace make this Commencement Day of yours an extra joyous occasion.

All Americans are proud of the diplomatic skill and success of our great Secretary of State Henry Kissinger but I trust, in all fairness, that we recognize the guiding role of President Nixon. We pray for our President's safety and success in the Middle East and on his forthcoming trip to Moscow. Just as neither Lincoln nor Grant could have won the Civil War without the other, we cannot divide the peacemaking achievements of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger that began with the historic initiative to reopen communications with China's mainland.

Building a new structure of peace in this nuclear-armed world on realistic terms is going to be a long and difficult task that will demand the best efforts of your generation, and of mine. But I believe you have the determination, the patience and the understanding to complete the work we have begun. You are starting the greatest of earthly adventures -- an adult life in the service of God and your fellow man. May you also know the greatest blessing -- a life of peace.

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