

The original documents are located in Box 67, folder “Fort McHenry - "Our Country" Bicentennial Festivities, Baltimore, MD, 7/4/75 (3)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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DRAFT/FORT McHENRY/JOMarsh/6-25-75

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Fort McHenry is a symbol of our past. Although the event for which we remember this place is from the War of 1812, the construction of Fort McHenry under a different name occurred in the American Revolution. ~~The strategic importance of the Baltimore Harbor was apparent in both wars then as it is today.~~

Francis Scott Key would ^eins^dhrine ^{those} forever ~~the~~ events ~~that~~ took ~~place here~~ in 1814. The patriotism and national pride surrounding our flag, our country and their defense that ^{night} ~~day~~ are our heritage in song and verse. The Star Spangled Banner is an expression of love of country.

We must not become so sophisticated, or so blase, that we ignore these simple ^{really} but eloquent lessons from our past. We need to remind ourselves [^] that America is truly "the land of the free and the home of the brave."



The hallmark of our first century was the establishment of our government. In the face of great odds, 13 disparate colonies were to become a fledging nation. Its future was insecure. In the first 100 years, the Western Movement accelerated -- vast territories were acquired, states joined the Union, Constitutional issues were raised. Wars were fought, none more devastating than the one that turned American against American. Yet from that terrible holocaust, it was resolved this Nation would not exist half slave - half free. ^{The} ~~Lincoln's~~ Union was preserved.

By our Centennial in 1876, the American Republic had been *securely* established. Of this, there was no doubt, either at home or abroad.

Our Second Century has been marked by the growth of American



industrial and economic power. The pioneer spirit which carried us west, turned to new ^{frontiers.} ~~challenges.~~

Railroads spanned the continent and became a web of steel, linking city to city, region to region, town to town.

The automobile and Henry Ford's assembly line changed forever transportation and the manufacturing process.

The Wrights mastered powered flight at Kitty Hawk. The age of flight was born. "The Eagle Has Landed" is a symbolic cry that describes the leadership of this Nation in a thousand endeavors that have benefited mankind.

The telegram, the telephone, radio, television - all are part of the communications revolution of our Second Century.

Science, medicine, agricultural production, marketing, these have been just a few of the modern frontiers since 1876.



The Third Century, I believe, will be one that challenges individualism. Man today finds himself in a modern world, confronted by mass. Government's grown too large and bureaucratic ~~to~~ pit the individual against a frustrating statism. In America our sovereign is the citizen. Government^s exist~~s~~ to serve people. *The* ^{is} ~~The~~ states ~~are~~ the creatures of the populace. These are fundamental propositions to remember as we observe the Bicentennial.

Today in the 199th year of our Independence we stand at the threshold of a great American experience.

Let us make the coming year a great year on America's agenda of achievement ~~to~~

As we move to the Bicentennial of American Independence,

* ~~Let us~~ engage



let us think of where we will be and what we can achieve by the

next July 4th, by the next decade, by the 200th Anniversary of our

Constitution, and ~~finally~~ by the Year 2000.

By these yardsticks, let us measure our progress on the course we set for ourselves and our Nation.

Let us resolve that this shall be an era of hope rather than despair. Let us resolve that it shall be an era of achievement rather than of apathy. Let us resolve that it shall be a time of promise rather than of regret.

The countdown to Independence 200 has begun. For each of us, each day ^{from today} should be a step forward to Achievement-USA. ~~*~~

The Bicentennial Year for each of us should be a year of self-examination and individual accomplishment. ~~Quality and~~

~~* let us pursue programs~~



permanence should be the hallmarks of everything we do.*

To form a more perfect union, we need to learn more of our country and its people. Americans need to understand other Americans and appreciate the diversity of our land. Boundaries of regionalism and urbanization must give way to an understanding of one nation and one people.

In the coming year, we must be certain the Bicentennial is a nationwide event. The American Revolution and its legacy belong to each of the states and our far flung territories.

The ideas that were forged and fought for in the 13 colonies crossed the Appalachias, they followed the Conestoga wagons and rode with the Pony Express. They crossed the Mississippi and the Missouri, spanned the plains and the deserts. They belong as

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American Clipper ships took the story to the far corners of the *earth.*
~~globe.~~ American jet liners carry it everyday across the skies of distant lands. Indeed, this event does not belong ~~to~~ just *to* Americans.

The appreciation of our past is essential to understanding the present and charting a course for the future. Every American can enrich the quality of the Bicentennial by looking at the past.

our Country
The saga of ~~America~~ is an inspiring one. It has been told not only by historians, but in poetry, prose and song. Let us read again the writings of our great poets and authors who recount the life and times of these last 200 years. The Buckskin Tales, the world of Washington Irving, ⁵ ~~the~~ Bret Harte story of the American



West, Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass and the immortal Tom

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Sawyer of Mark Twain. [↑] ~~These~~ are part of a rich literary heritage

we share and can enjoy.

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There are ~~literally~~ thousands of communities located in ^{all the} ~~every~~ state^s engaged in some form of Bicentennial project. These projects cover a broad range from civic improvements to pageants. I would make the following appeal^s to every American at this time.

First, ^{whether} ~~that~~ you make inquiry to see [↑] ~~that~~ your community, or county, does have a Bicentennial program.

Second, if it does, seek to participate.

Third, if it does not, take steps ^{now} [↑] to start one. If you need ^{direct} ~~simply~~ address your inquiry to me at the White House.

I would urge that every community seek to make its program



It is my hope that ~~across~~ the
 nation at every school where the
 American flag flies there shall
 be in the coming year a concentrated
 effort, ^{in the classroom} to study, discuss and portray
 the this 200 years of the American
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as meaningful as possible to as many as possible. It should stress the American Experience including the history, culture, achievements and values we associate with our way of life.

The best criteria is a program which when viewed in a year, a decade, a century hence continues to have meaning to the community and is identified with the event that inspired it. ~~It~~

hence
The Year 2000 - a quarter of a century₁ - is not simply the end of a century, it is the close of an age. The end of one millennium, the beginning of a new.

It marks a 1000 years of human history that began in the depths of the Dark Ages. The American Revolution is the greatest progression in Western Man's march to freedom and the opportunity for individual achievement. The Declaration of

* ~~In short It should improve the~~
quality of our lives.



Independence is a benchmark along man's road as he has sought to pursue happiness.

Although those few years from Concord Bridge to Yorktown are hardly the wink of an eye when we view the total age, they are of profound influence. The shot fired at Concord Bridge has been heard around the world.

The Young Republic is today a great and strong nation. It does reflect the values of its Declaration, its Constitution, its Bill of Rights. It has influenced the destiny of millions beyond our shores. It still remains the greatest hope for mankind.

I am convinced when historians view the sweep of a thousand years of history, they will view this nation's experience and conclude that from Revolution there came a Renaissance, in human

freedom and individual opportunity. This renaissance shall be called American.

Let us begin ^{now} ~~today~~ to ~~give~~
~~meaning~~ ~~commemorate~~ ~~this~~ in a
way that shall ~~endure~~ ^{endure (?)} to
our posterity ~~this~~ ~~meaning~~ ~~prisoner~~ legacy
with ~~and~~ its blessings of liberty for
~~us~~ all.



Peace has its victims, but it takes
brave men to win them.



We meet here at twilight's last
gleaming. The shadows of the ^{evening} ~~past~~

have fallen upon the ~~casements~~

of the ~~historic old Fort Fort McHenry~~ -
and ~~the minds only in our~~
and ~~remembrance bring to this~~

symbol of ~~our past~~ recall the
events (symbol of ~~our nation's past~~) ~~of~~
^{put from American's}

The casement walls and silent
corners ~~are made sacred~~ ^{of} ~~us~~ ~~a~~ ~~of~~
^{of greatness}
moments in our history as we assemble
here in this place ~~that has become~~
an honored symbol of our past.

~~to~~ ~~we~~ ~~a~~ bear quiet testimony to ~~insight~~
of another night a nation ~~tried~~ in travail
another age on another night in
another age.

A great monument from
America's past.



We meet here at twilight's last gleaming.

The casement walls and silent cannon of Fort McHenry bear quiet testimony to a nation's travail on another night in another age.

Francis Scott Key enshrined forever those events in 1814.

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We must not become so sophisticated, or so blase, that we ignore these simple but eloquent lessons from our past. We need to remind ourselves that America really is "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

The Third Century shall be
an era for Individualism. Mass
production as a challenge

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at *

The mass approach of the modern
world ~~also~~ places a premium on
individual creativity and ~~individuality~~
individuality. ~~But~~ The need Mass
production, mass education, mass
population must ^{not} ~~not~~ ~~not~~ ~~not~~ lead
to a ~~complete~~ conformity for a ~~conscience~~



~~where sameness blurs blurs blurs~~
~~out~~ personality, ^{smothers} ~~subdues~~ individual expression,
or individual or ^{suppresses} ~~denies~~ individual views
~~and~~ Conformity for ~~conscience~~ conscience
~~essential for manufacturing and services~~

The sameness of society where
Individualism is a safeguard against the
sameness of society

I welcome these towns.

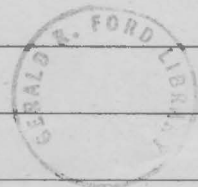
Earlier this evening

~~To those who earlier this~~

* We are honored by those who
United States citizens
earlier this evening became ^a citizen
~~of this land.~~ ^{of this land.} ~~By your action to you~~
~~you chose they chose selected~~
~~by choice that earlier we often~~
~~take for granted.~~

^{have}
They [^] chosen what we

often take for granted.



The Third Century, I believe, will be one that challenges individualism. Man today finds himself in a modern world, confronted by mass. Dwarfed by bigness, lone in a sea of people the anthill existence must not be the price of a modern age.

Government's grown too large and bureaucratic, pit the individual against a frustrating statism. In America our sovereign is the citizen. Governments exist to serve people. The state is the creature of the populace. These are fundamental propositions to remember as we observe the Bicentennial.

Today in the 199th year of our Independence, we stand at the threshold of a great American Experience.

Let us make the coming year a great year on America's agenda of achievement.

As we move to the Bicentennial of American Independence,



The Third Century, I believe, will be an era for Individualism. ~~Man~~
~~today finds himself in a modern world, confronted by mass~~. The mass
approach of the modern world places a premium on creativity and
individuality. Mass production, mass education, mass population,
must not smother individual expression, or limit individual opportunity.
Individualism is a safeguard against the sameness of society.

Government's grown too large and bureaucratic, can pit the
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permanence should be the hallmarks of everything we do. Let us pursue programs that shall enhance the quality of our lives.

To form a more perfect union, we need to learn more of our country and its people. Americans need to understand other Americans and appreciate the diversity of our land. Boundaries of regionalism and urbanization must give way to an understanding of one nation and one people.

In the coming year, we must be certain the Bicentennial is a nationwide event. The American Revolution and its legacy belong to each of the states and our far flung territories.

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much to the West Coast as they do to the East. Wherever the American flag went, also went the concepts of this great Republic. American Clipper ships took the story to the far corners of the earth. American jet liners carry it everyday across the skies of distant lands. Indeed, this event does not belong just to Americans.

The appreciation of our past is essential to understanding the present and charting a course for the future. Every American can enrich the quality of the Bicentennial by looking at the past. The saga of our Country is an inspiring one. It has been told not only by historians, but in poetry, prose and song. Let us read again the writings of our great poets and authors who recount the life and times of these last 200 years. The Buckskin Tales, the world of Washington Irving, Bret Harte's story of the American

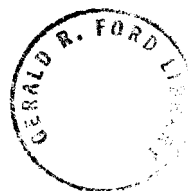


West, Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass and the immortal Tom Sawyer of Mark Twain - these are only a small part of a rich literary heritage we share and can enjoy.

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Rights. It has influenced the destiny of millions beyond our shores. It still remains the greatest hope for mankind.

I am convinced when historians view the sweep of a thousand years of history, they will view this nation's experience and conclude that from Revolution there came a Renaissance in human freedom and individual opportunity. This Renaissance shall be called American.

Let us begin now to commemorate in a way that shall endure to our posterity this legacy with its blessings of Liberty for all.



We meet here at twilight's last gleaming.

The casement walls and silent cannon of Fort McHenry bear
quiet testimony to a nation's travail on another night in another
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Francis Scott Key enshrined forever those events in 1814.

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By our Centennial in 1876, the American Republic had been *securely* established. Of this, there was no doubt, either at home or abroad.

Our Second Century has been marked by the growth of American



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Railroads spanned the continent and became a web of steel, linking city to city, region to region, town to town.

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The Third Century, I believe, will be ~~one that challenges~~ *an era for*

Individualism. Man today finds himself in a modern world, confronted by mass. *** Dwarfed by bigness, lone in a sea of people the anthill existence must not be the price of a modern age. *]*

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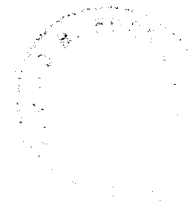
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In the coming year, we must be certain the Bicentennial is a nationwide event. The American Revolution and its legacy belong to each of the states and our far flung territories.

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~~the~~ *Leatherstocking Tales of Cooper,* the life and times of these last 200 years. The ~~Buckskin Tales~~, the *stories* world of Washington Irving, Bret Harte's ~~story~~ of the American



Tales of Cooper

* insert

→ Let us sing anew the songs of this ~~great~~ Republic.



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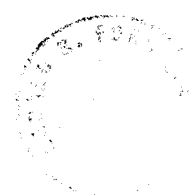
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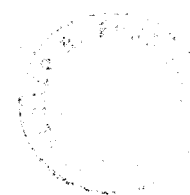
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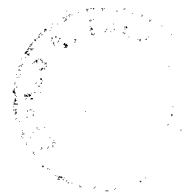


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West, Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass and the immortal Tom Sawyer of Mark Twain - these are only a small part of a rich literary heritage we share and can enjoy.

It is my hope that at every school where the American flag flies, there shall be in the coming year a concentrated effort in the classroom to study, discuss and portray these 200 years of the American Experience.

There are thousands of communities located in all the states engaged in some form of Bicentennial project. These projects cover a broad range -- from civic improvements to pageants. I would make the following appeal to every American at this time.

First, make inquiry to see whether your community, or county, does have a Bicentennial program.

Second, if it does, seek to participate.

Third, if it does not, take steps now to start one. If you need information, direct your inquiry to me at the White House.

I would urge that every community seek to make its program as meaningful as possible to as many as possible. It should stress the American Experience including the history, culture, achievements and values we associate with our way of life.

The best criteria is a program which when viewed in a year, a decade, a century hence continues to have meaning to the community and is identified with the event that inspired it.

The Year 200 - a quarter of a century hence - is not simply the end of a century, it is the close of an age. The end of one millennium, the beginning of a new.

It marks a 1000 years of human history that began in the depths of the Dark Ages. The American Revolution is the greatest progression in Western Man's march to freedom and the opportunity for individual achievement. The Declaration of Independence is a benchmark along man's road as he has sought to pursue happiness.

Although those few years from Concord Bridge to Yorktown are hardly the wink of an eye when we view the total age, they are of profound influence. The shot fired at Concord Bridge has been heard around the world.

The Young Republic is today a great and strong nation. It does reflect the values of its Declaration, its Constitution, its Bill of

Rights. It has influenced the destiny of millions beyond our shores. It still remains the greatest hope for mankind.

I am convinced when historians view the sweep of a thousand years of history, they will view this nation's experience and conclude that from Revolution there came a Renaissance in human freedom and individual opportunity. This Renaissance shall be called American.

Let us begin now to commemorate in a way that shall endure to our posterity this legacy with its blessings of Liberty for all.



June 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS

FROM: JACK MARSH

Attached are two drafts of the President's proposed Fort McHenry speech. Draft Number Two represents a substantial editing of the three points beginning on page 2 of the original version.

JOM/dl



We meet here at twilight's last gleaming.

The casement walls and silent cannon of Fort McHenry bear
quiet testimony to a nation's travail on another night in another
age.

Francis Scott Key enshrined forever those events in 1814.

The patriotism and national pride surrounding our flag, our
country and their defense that night are our heritage in song
and verse. The Star Spangled Banner is an expression of love
of country.

We must not become so sophisticated, or so blase, that we
ignore these simple but eloquent lessons from our past. We need
to remind ourselves that America really is "the land of the free and
the home of the brave."



The hallmark of our first century was the establishment of our government.

By our Centennial in 1876, the American Republic had been established. Of this, there was no doubt, either at home or abroad.

Our Second Century has been marked by the growth of American industrial and economic power. The pioneer spirit which carried us west, turned to new frontiers.

The Third Century, I believe, will be one that challenges individualism.

Today in the 199th year of our Independence, we stand at the threshold of a great American Experience.

Let us make the coming year a great year on America's agenda of achievement.

As we move to the Bicentennial of American Independence,



let us think of where we will be and what we can achieve by the next July 4th -- by the next decade -- by the 200th Anniversary of our Constitution -- and by the Year 2000.

By these yardsticks, let us measure our progress on the course we set for ourselves and our Nation.

Let us resolve that this shall be an era of hope rather than despair. Let us resolve that it shall be an era of achievement rather than of apathy. Let us resolve that it shall be a time of promise rather than of regret.

The countdown to Independence 200 has begun. For each of us, each day from today should be a step forward to Achievement-USA.

The Bicentennial Year for each of us should be a year of self-examination and individual accomplishment. Quality and

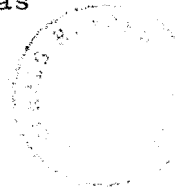


permanence should be the hallmarks of everything we do. Let us pursue programs that shall enhance the quality of our lives.

To form a more perfect union, we need to learn more of our country and its people. Americans need to understand other Americans and appreciate the diversity of our land. Boundaries of regionalism and urbanization must give way to an understanding of one nation and one people.

In the coming year, we must be certain the Bicentennial is a nationwide event. The American Revolution and its legacy belong to each of the states and our far flung territories.

The ideas that were forged and fought for in the 13 colonies crossed the Appalachias, they followed the Conestoga wagons and rode with the Pony Express. They crossed the Mississippi and Missouri, spanned the plains and the deserts. They belong as



much to the West Coast as they do to the East. Wherever the American flag went, also went the concepts of this great Republic. American Clipper ships took the story to the far corners of the earth. American jet liners carry it everyday across the skies of distant lands. Indeed, this event does not belong just to Americans.

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