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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Lincoln's Birthday, 1976

Greetings on this one hundred and sixty-seventh anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The goals and values of Abraham Lincoln continue to be our inspiration.

Abraham Lincoln was devoted to equal justice for all and the freedom of the individual -- goals for which Americans have worked and fought since the founding of our Nation.

Abraham Lincoln sought a proper balance between the rights of the individual and the powers of the government -- a quest which we have continued to this hour.

Abraham Lincoln suffered and shared the agony of a nation then divided. Today we recognize the need for unity in diversity -- unity of national purpose and unity of national ideals.

It is fitting that we rededicate ourselves in this historic Bicentennial year to the moral and spiritual values that guided President Lincoln. Today, as before, our great Republic moves toward a more perfect union where government serves and the people rule. Like the Americans of Lincoln's day, we continue to seek "a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Gerald R. Ford

