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**THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .**

**TALKING POINTS - MEDAL OF SCIENCE AWARDS**

**CEREMONY**

**THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 18, 1975**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**DR. STEVER**

**DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

THE WORLD WAS LATE IN RECOGNIZING THAT THE MEN AND  
WOMEN OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE THE TRUE MOVERS AND  
SHAKERS OF HUMAN EVENTS. OUR FOUNDING FATHERS DREW UP  
A CONSTITUTION THAT GAVE THE CONGRESS THE POWER TO PROMOTE  
THE "PROGRESS OF SCIENCE AND THE USEFUL ARTS."

ALTHOUGH A GREAT DEAL OF FEDERAL SUPPORT FLOWED FROM THAT  
MANDATE, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1959 THAT THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE  
WAS CREATED TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES  
IN THIS FIELD.

SINCE 1962, 89 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS  
HAVE BEEN AWARDED THIS MEDAL. IT IS OUR PROUD AND  
HONORED PRIVILEGE TODAY TO HONOR 13 MORE OUTSTANDING MEN  
OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WITH THIS DISTINGUISHED AWARD.

THESE AWARDS -- THE NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR TO ITS MEN  
AND WOMEN OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING -- ARE OF PARTICULAR  
SIGNIFICANCE AS WE APPROACH THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR. AS WE  
LOOK BACK OVER 200 YEARS OF THE NATION'S HISTORY WE SEE THE  
PROFOUND INFLUENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE HAD ON

OUR DEVELOPMENT. WE OWE A GREAT DEBT TO SCIENCE AND TO ALL  
THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE CARRIED ON THE SCIENTIFIC  
ENTERPRISE OF THIS COUNTRY.

BEYOND THIS, THE WHOLE SPIRIT OF SCIENCE -- ONE  
THAT URGES US TO INNOVATE, TO EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN,  
TO ANSWER THE UNANSWERED -- IS THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA.



TODAY MORE THAN EVER WE NEED TO MAINTAIN AND NOURISH THAT SPIRIT, AND TO DO IT IN EVERY FACET OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

THE 13 MEN WHOM WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HONOR TODAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SPECTRUM OF SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES IN MANY WAYS.

THEIR WORK IN THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND IN  
MATHEMATICS AND ENGINEERING HAS TOUCHED AND ENRICHED THE  
LIVES OF ALL OF US.

WIDE-RANGING FEDERAL SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
AND TECHNOLOGY BECAME A NATIONAL POLICY AFTER WORLD WAR TWO.

SINCE THEN, SUPPORT HAS GROWN, BOTH IN DOLLARS AND IN THE PERCENTAGE OF THE NATION'S TOTAL EFFORT. IN THE COMING YEAR, THIS AMOUNT AND PERCENTAGE WILL ONCE AGAIN GROW: TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CIVILIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WILL RISE TO 7.3 BILLION DOLLARS -- AN INCREASE OF 12 PERCENT OVER 1975.

THROUGHOUT ALL THE YEARS OF FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH,

THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUED DEBATE OVER THE ISSUE OF WHAT FIELDS OF

INQUIRY SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY. AS THE NATION'S NEEDS HAVE

CHANGED, THE PRIORITIES HAVE CHANGED -- WHICH IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

IN RECENT YEARS, FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
SUPPORT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY RESPONSIVE IN THE FIELDS OF ENERGY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. FROM 1969 TO 1976, ENERGY  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT HAS GROWN AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF  
MORE THAN 21 PERCENT.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT HAS GROWN AT A RATE OF 17 PERCENT.

NONETHELESS, THE NATION'S COMMITMENT TO THAT MOST  
FUNDAMENTAL OF ALL INQUIRIES -- BASIC RESEARCH -- HAS NOT  
DIMINISHED. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS SUCH RESEARCH THAT  
FORMS THE BASE UPON WHICH ALL UNDERSTANDING AND ALL FIELDS OF  
HUMAN INQUIRY MUST BUILD.

THAT IS WHY WE WILL INCREASE BASIC RESEARCH FUNDING IN 1976  
BY 11 PERCENT.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MEASURE ACCURATELY THE BENEFITS OF  
OUR RESEARCH EFFORTS TO THE NATION AND TO THE WORLD.

WE DO KNOW THAT OUR ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE FAR-REACHING AND  
PROFOUND. WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT NEW PRODUCTS AND  
IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY WILL FLOW FROM THEM.



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OUR NATION'S FUTURE AND THAT OF THE WORLD DEPENDS

ON THE CREATIVITY AND GENIUS OF MEN AND WOMEN SUCH AS THESE

WE HONOR TODAY.

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FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, GENTLEMEN -- FOR WHAT YOU  
HAVE GIVEN TO YOUR COUNTRY, TO SCIENCE AND TO HUMANITY  
WE THANK YOU. WE ARE GRATEFUL AND PROUD TO HONOR YOU TODAY.

END OF TEXT

IT'S NOW MY PLEASURE TO CALL ON DR. GUY STEVER, DIRECTOR  
OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, TO READ THE CITATIONS  
FOR EACH AWARDEE.