

The original documents are located in Box 24, “3/4/76 - Remarks at Meeting with Broward Minutemen of Fort Lauderdale” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH

BROWARD MINUTEMEN OF FORT LAUDERDALE

MARCH 4, 1976

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IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU ALL HERE TODAY FROM
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA. LET ME EXTEND A VERY WARM
WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING
AS YOU BEGIN YOUR BICENTENNIAL TOUR.

AS YOU KNOW, I RECEIVED A WONDERFUL,
WARM WELCOME IN FLORIDA ON MY TWO RECENT TRIPS THERE●

EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS A LITTLE DEW IN THE AIR

IN FORT LAUDERDALE LAST WEEKEND, THE WARMTH OF THE WELCOME

I RECEIVED JUST SEEMED TO MELT THE CLOUDS AWAY●

SO I AM ESPECIALLY GLAD TO GREET YOU HERE TODAY●

WHILE IT'S A LITTLE OVERCAST HERE THIS MORNING,
THE WEATHERMAN HAS PROMISED US SOME BRIGHT, FLORIDA
SUNSHINE TO WARM US ALL THIS AFTERNOON●

LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO CONGRATULATE YOU
ON THIS FINE BICENTENNIAL PROJECT. I UNDERSTAND FROM HERE
YOU WILL BE GOING ON TO PHILADELPHIA AND VALLEY FORGE.

AS YOU VISIT THE SHRINES AND MEMORIALS

OF OUR NATION'S BEGINNINGS, I'M SURE YOU WILL RECALL

THE PRINCIPLES THAT INSPIRED OUR EARLY PATRIOTS●

THE SPIRITUAL VALUES UPON WHICH THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED

HAVE HELPED US GROW INTO THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH●

THESE VALUES HAVE UNIFIED THE NATION AND HELPED

OUR COMMUNITIES PROSPER.●

IT WAS PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WHO REMINDED

US THAT "AMERICA IS NOT GOOD BECAUSE IT IS GREAT ...

AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE IT IS GOOD."

AS YOU VISIT THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE CAPITOL --
AND INDEPENDENCE HALL AND VALLEY FORGE -- YOU CAN BEST
COMMEMORATE OUR BICENTENNIAL BY REDEDICATING YOURSELVES
TO THE VALUES THAT MADE THIS NATION GREAT AND GOOD●

AS WE REMAIN TRUE TO OUR CONSTITUTION

AND TO OUR IDEALS -- TRUSTING IN GOD -- THEN WE CAN

KNOW THAT OUR FUTURE WILL BE BETTER THAN THE PAST.●

I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED BY THE PROCLAMATION

YOU ARE PRESENTING HERE THIS MORNING●

IT IS INSPIRING TO SEE THAT THE BROWARD MINUTEMEN, THEIR
FAMILIES AND GUESTS HAVE ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE OF OUR
BICENTENNIAL -- AS POSED IN MY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS●
THAT CHALLENGE WAS TO ENGRAVE IN EACH OF OUR HEARTS OUR
NATIONAL MOTTO, "IN GOD WE TRUST●"

AS WE ALL DO THIS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE
THIS COUNTRY MOVE FORWARD TOWARD A MORE PERFECT UNION
WHERE THE GOVERNMENT SERVES AND THE PEOPLE RULE●

END OF TEXT

ACKNOWLEDGE

- MR. Gene Whiddon (CHAIRMAN OF GROUP)
- Rev. HINSON (PROJECT SPOUSOR)

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH BROWARD MINUTEMEN
OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, IN THE ROSE GARDEN,
THE WHITE HOUSE, MARCH 4, 1976, 11:35 A.M.

It's good to see you all here today from Broward County,
Florida. Let me extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the
White House this morning as you begin your bicentennial tour.

As you know, I received a wonderful, warm welcome in
Florida on my two recent trips there. Even though there was a
little dew in the air in Fort Lauderdale last weekend, the warmth
just
of the welcome I received/seemed to melt the clouds away. So
I am especially glad to greet you here today.

While it's a little overcast here this morning, the
weatherman has promised us some bright, Florida sunshine
to warm us all this afternoon.

Let me take a moment to congratulate you on this fine
bicentennial project. I understand from here you will be going on
to Philadelphia and Valley Forge.

As you visit the shrines and memorials of our Nation's beginnings, I'm sure you will recall the principles that inspired our early patriots. The spiritual values upon which this Nation was founded have helped us grow into the greatest Nation on earth.

These values have unified the Nation and helped our communities prosper.

It was President Eisenhower who reminded us that "America is not good because it is great ... America is great because it is good."

As you visit the White House and the Capitol -- and Independence Hall and Valley Forge -- you can best commemorate our bicentennial by rededicating yourselves to the values that made this Nation great and good.

As we remain true to our Constitution and to our ideals -- trusting in God -- then we can know that our future will be better than the past.

[AFTER YOUR OPENING GREETING, MR. WHIDDON
WILL INTRODUCE REV. HINSON WHO WILL PRESENT
A BICENTENNIAL PROCLAMATION.]

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[AFTER THE PRESENTATION:]

I am especially pleased by the proclamation you are presenting here this morning. It is inspiring to see that the Broward Minutemen, their families and guests have accepted the challenge of our bicentennial -- as posed in my State of the Union address. That challenge was to engrave in each of our hearts our national motto, "In God We Trust."

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As we all do this, we will/see this country move forward toward a more perfect Union where the Government serves and the people rule.

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Pls. GIVE MY BEST to MAYOR CLAY SHAW (R)
(FT LAUDERDALE) . He WANTED
TO COME BUT COULDN'T MAKE IT.

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DEERFIELD BEACH , HILLSBORO BEACH AND
CORAL SPRINGS WERE THE BROWARD COUNTY STOPS
ON LAST SATURDAY'S MOTORCADE.