

The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/16/76 - Remarks to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Group” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE
JAN 10 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE YOUTH GROUP

- SECRETARY BUTZ

MR. DOLLINGER (President, National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association)

MR. MITCHELL (Youth Coordinator)

STUDENTS AND GUESTS

I AM HAPPY TO WELCOME THE 900 WINNERS OF THE
TWELFTH ANNUAL "GOVERNMENT IN ACTION YOUTH TOUR TO
WASHINGTON." YOUR SELECTION FROM AMONG 20,000 HIGH
SCHOOL SENIORS AND JUNIORS INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE WON
OVER SOME PRETTY STIFF COMPETITION.

I AM DELIGHTED ALSO TO GREET THE ONE HUNDRED

ADULT REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL RURAL ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION

COOPERATIVES. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE WORK YOU HAVE

DONE, AND THE WORK DONE BY THOSE YOU HAVE SPONSORED.

FINALLY, LET ME WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE THE EXCHANGE

STUDENTS FROM EIGHT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES THAT ARE YOUR GUESTS.

I HAVE WATCHED WITH ENTHUSIASM THE RAPID GROWTH
OF THE PROGRAM YOU REPRESENT. IT EXISTED IN ONLY TWO
STATES IN 1957. BY 1964 IT GAINED THE SPONSORSHIP OF
THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

AS VICE PRESIDENT, I REMEMBER GREETING YOUR

DELEGATION FROM KANSAS UP ON CAPITOL HILL.

LAST JUNE, I WELCOMED LAST YEAR'S WINNERS AND THEIR

SPONSORS IN THE ROSE GARDEN.

THIS YEAR I CONGRATULATE THE PROGRAM FOR

INVOLVING STUDENTS FROM 23 STATES.

THE ESSAYS YOU WROTE ON POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY

INVOLVEMENT INDICATE YOUR SINCERE CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE

OF THIS COUNTRY. FOR FOUR DECADES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

HAVE BROUGHT POWER TO RURAL AREAS. PERHAPS NO GROUP

BETTER UNDERSTANDS THE ESSENTIALS OF CONSERVATION AND

CAREFUL PLANNING IN ENERGY USE THAN THIS ONE.

OUR ENERGY RESOURCES AND OUR ENERGY PRODUCTION

ARE LIMITED•

WE ARE IMPORTING MORE AND MORE OIL

THAN WE TAKE FROM OUR OWN FIELDS•

IT IS A PROBLEM WE MUST FIND AN ANSWER TO

AND WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY•

WE MUST INCREASE PRODUCTION

AND UTILIZATION OF COAL•

WE MUST EXPAND AND INCREASE

THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY•

MARKETPLACE INCENTIVES NEED TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE GAS

AND OIL INDUSTRY. THE GOVERNMENT MUST WORK WITH PRIVATE

INDUSTRY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE FORMS OF ENERGY

SUCH AS SOLAR, GEOTHERMAL AND WIND POWER.

A COORDINATED EFFORT IN THESE AREAS, CAN AND WILL MAKE

AMERICA SELF-SUFFICIENT.

IN YOUR VISITS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS,

I HOPE YOU WILL EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN FOR AMERICA'S

ELECTRICAL NEEDS.

AS YOU VISIT VARIOUS HISTORICAL SITES, REALIZE

THAT THEY REPRESENT A HERITAGE OF SACRIFICE, DISCOVERY,

FREEDOM AND ACHIEVEMENT UNPARALLELED IN THE HISTORY OF

MANKIND. TO MAINTAIN THAT LEVEL OF ACCOMPLISHMENT,

WE MUST FOSTER THE KIND OF INVOLVEMENT IN CRUCIAL ISSUES YOU

HAVE DEMONSTRATED BY YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM.

AS YOU VISIT DEPARTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH,

STUDY HOW THEY OPERATE TO SERVE YOU / AND HOW YOU CAN

WORK WITH THEM.

THIS AFTERNOON AS YOU TOURED THE WHITE HOUSE,

I HOPE YOU FELT A SPECIAL SENSE OF INVOLVEMENT IN AMERICA'S

ADVENTURE. AS LEADERS, YOU ARE DYNAMIC PARTICIPANTS

IN THAT ADVENTURE.

TONIGHT, THE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

WILL CHOOSE A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE NEW

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD. THE CANDIDATES COME FROM

TEXAS, ILLINOIS, IOWA, MISSOURI, TENNESSEE, FLORIDA

AND SOUTH CAROLINA. I WISH THE BEST OF LUCK TO THEM ALL.

SINCE THEY COME FROM THIS GROUP, THEY WILL BE AMONG

THE BEST YOUR GENERATION HAS TO OFFER.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO SEE US AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

~~AND~~ I WISH YOU ALL A MOST ENJOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT

TO YOUR NATION'S CAPITAL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT