

The original documents are located in Box 37, “7/27/76 - Recorded Message for the Higher Education Convention of the Seventh Day Adventist Church” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

HIGHER EDUCATION CONVENTION OF THE

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

JULY 27, 1976

VIDEO TAPE MESSAGE

I AM HONORED TO BE A PART OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION
CONVENTION OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS.

I WANTED YOU TO KNOW IN A PERSONAL WAY THAT I HAVE
A VERY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR YOUR GENEROUS GOOD WORKS.

THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

IS WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT AMERICA AND THE WORLD. YOUR

MESSAGE OF FAITH AND YOUR DEVOTION TO RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, REGARDLESS

OF THEIR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION.

YOUR MANY EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVORS AND HEALTH

SERVICES REFLECT YOUR BELIEF IN MINISTERING TO THE TOTAL

NEEDS OF MANKIND: HEALING FOR THE BODY, TRAINING FOR

THE MIND, AND SUSTENANCE FOR THE SPIRIT.

THE HIGH STANDARDS YOU SET FOR PERSONAL CONDUCT,

THE IMPORTANCE YOU PLACE ON A CLOSE FAMILY LIFE THESE

ARE GOOD EXAMPLES FOR ALL AMERICANS.

THEY STAND IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE ABUSES OF
HONESTY AND DECENCY WITH WHICH AMERICANS HAVE BECOME
TOO WELL ACQUAINTED IN RECENT YEARS.

THESE ABUSES NOT ONLY TRANSGRESS THE LAWS OF GOD
AND MAN; THEY BETRAY THE BEST TRADITIONS OF OUR COUNTRY.

THIS NATION DECLARED ITS DEPENDENCE ON GOD EVEN WHILE
DECLARING ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION.

I BELIEVE IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT WE HAVE SINCE BECOME
THE MOST RICHLY BLESSED NATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR IN A GROWING
SPIRIT OF HOPE AND CONFIDENCE, I AM GLAD TO SEE A
REKINDLING OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTION, A NEW APPRECIATION
FOR BIBLICAL TEACHING IN AMERICA.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS GIVE US HOPE THAT AMERICA'S
THIRD CENTURY WILL MAKE OUR SOCIETY NOT ONLY PROGRESSIVE
BUT CONSTRUCTIVE, NOT ONLY PROSPEROUS BUT NOBLE.

THESE HAVE BEEN THE GOALS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

FOR WELL OVER A CENTURY -- SEEKING TO MAKE LIFE BETTER

ON THIS EARTH EVEN WHILE SETTING YOUR SIGHTS ON THE GATES

OF HEAVEN.

FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PAST, AND FOR YOUR

STRENGTH AND PURPOSE TODAY, I HAVE THE HIGHEST RESPECT

AND THE DEEPEST ADMIRATION. I APPRECIATE THIS

OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THESE THOUGHTS WITH YOU, AND I WISH

YOU ALL A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION.

END OF TEXT