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HUD AWARDS CEREMONY

OCTOBER 10, 1975

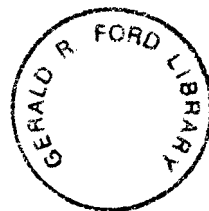
ALL TOO OFTEN AT VITAL CEREMONIES OF THIS KIND -- INVOLVING THOSE WHO SHOULDER THE WHEEL IN A COMMON ENDEAVOR -- THE DESIGNATED SPEAKER GETS UP AND WAXES ELOQUENT OVER TOGETHERNESS.

I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THAT.

NOT ONLY DO I THINK THAT "TOGETHER, WE CAN" WITH THE TOUGH PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY AT HUD -- I THINK "TOGETHER, WE MUST".

BECAUSE -- ALTHOUGH IT HAS BECOME A CLASSIC CLICHE -- BEN FRANKLIN'S OLD WARNING STILL APPLIES: "WE MUST ALL HANG TOGETHER -- OR ASSUREDLY, WE SHALL ALL HANG SEPARATELY."

BUT THE PROBLEM WITH TOO MUCH "TOGETHERNESS" IS THAT IT CAN LEAD TO "TOGETHERNESS OF THINKING" -- OR "GROUP-THINK" AS MODERN BEHAVIORISTS CALL IT -- WHICH PUTS A HIGHER VALUE ON "CONFORMING" THAN IT DOES "PERFORMING".



THE SIGNIFICANT THING ABOUT THIS ANNUAL EVENT IN THE LIFE OF HUD, IS THAT WE GATHER HERE TO HONOR -- NOT SO MUCH THE TOGETHERNESS OF OUR MISSION WHICH ADMITTEDLY IS GRAND, BUT THE INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVERS WHO HAVE ELEVATED THE SIGHTS OF OUR MISSION BY THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE.

AND, WE HONOR THEM, NOT ONLY AS PERSONS WHO HAVE ADVANCED OUR COMMON GOALS HERE AT THE DEPARTMENT, BUT AS INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PROVED -- AND KEEP ON PROVING -- BY THEIR DAILY EXAMPLE, THAT OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WORKS. IT WORKS BECAUSE THEY -- AND YOU -- MAKE IT WORK.

YOU WHO SERVE OUR NATION -- IN THIS ROOM -- AND INDEED THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT -- CAN SEE IN THE AWARDS WE PRESENT TODAY, A FIRM AND POSITIVE ANSWER TO THE UNWARRANTED CHARGES TOO OFTEN LEVELED AT THE SO-CALLED "BUREAUCRATS" IN GOVERNMENT.

"GOVERNMENT" ISN'T JUST A LIBRARY OF STATUTES -- IT IS PEOPLE -- DEDICATED PEOPLE -- LIKE THOSE WE HONOR HERE -- AND IT'S THE MARVELOUS DEDICATION OF THESE PEOPLE THAT MAKE HUD A DEPARTMENT OF WHICH WE CAN BE SO PROUD.



IT ISN'T A "TIME CLOCK" THAT KEEPS OUR PARKING SPACES FILLED WELL BEFORE AND WELL AFTER NORMAL WORKING HOURS AND ALL DAY SATURDAYS. IT IS INDUSTRY, DEVOTION, AND COMPASSION.

IN THAT CONTEXT, THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS -- ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUALLY HONORED -- HONOR ALL OF US. FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT IS OUR ACHIEVEMENT BECAUSE TOGETHER WE SEEK THE SAME NOBLE GOALS -- TO HOUSE OUR POOR, TO HEAL OUR CITIES, AND TO EXPAND FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

AT THE SAME TIME THEIR SUCCESS IS THE SUCCESS OF A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THAT RUNS ON INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE.

THE NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS WAS LONG AND DIFFICULT, PROVING THAT THESE FINE ACHIEVERS HAVE MUCH COMPETITIVE COMPANY AT HUD.

I AM, AND I KNOW YOU ARE, VERY PROUD OF THEM.

THEY REPRESENT A KIND OF "TOGETHERNESS" WE CAN ALL ESPOUSE.

