

**The original documents are located in Box 26, folder “June 24, 1973 - St. Joseph's Academy Commencement Speech” of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

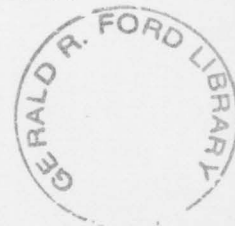
### **Copyright Notice**

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HOLD FOR RELEASE 2:00 P. M., SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 1973

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY  
COMMENCEMENT SPEECH  
ALBANY, NEW YORK

BY:  
STANLEY S. SCOTT  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS WITH THE GRADUATES OF ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY AND THOSE PROUD PARENTS, TEACHERS AND OTHERS HERE TODAY.

GRADUATION IS ALWAYS A SOLEMN OCCASION, BECAUSE IT MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN OUR LIVES. THIS YEAR, THE 31 GRADUATES RECEIVING DIPLOMAS FROM ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY HAVE BEEN PLACED IN A VERY SPECIAL CATEGORY. AS THE LAST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF THIS HISTORICAL INSTITUTION, YOU WILL ALWAYS HOLD AN EXTRA SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF THE TEACHERS, CHURCH LEADERS AND COMMUNITY FOLK AS WELL AS YOUR FAMILIES WHO WATCHED YOU GROW FROM UNCERTAIN CHILDHOOD TO PROUD YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

THE HIGH STANDARDS YOU HAVE SET FOR YOURSELVES TESTIFY TO THE WILLINGNESS OF YOUNG AMERICANS TO BE CHALLENGED INTELLECTUALLY AND TO CONTRIBUTE PERSONALLY TO THE BETTER AMERICA WE SEEK FOR EVERY CITIZEN. I COMMEND YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED, AND I KNOW THAT YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH MUCH MORE IN THE

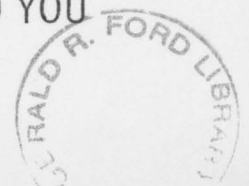


2.

YEARS TO COME.

DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS OF STUDY, YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT MANY SUBJECTS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT STAY WITH YOU THROUGH LIFE. THE SUBJECT I WANT TO DWELL ON FOR A MOMENT IS ONE THAT I KNOW WILL SERVE TO GUIDE YOU WHEN THE GOING GETS ROUGH. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MOVING INTO THE MAIN-STREAM. BEFORE I LEAVE YOU TODAY, I WANT EACH OF YOU TO MAKE A PROMISE WITHIN YOURSELVES THAT YOU WILL BECOME A PART OF SOCIETY. DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT. DON'T BE SATISFIED TO BE A SPECTATOR WHILE OTHERS AROUND YOU ARE INVOLVED.

MOVING INTO THE MAINSTREAM VERY OFTEN MEANS MOVING INTO ROADBLOCKS, DISAPPOINTMENTS, FAILURES, MALICIOUS RUMORS, SPITE, ENVY AND YES, SOMETIMES HATE. BUT NEVER STOOP TO HATE. HATE DOES SOMETHING TO AN INDIVIDUAL. HATE SAPS YOUR ENERGY AND TEARS YOU APART. FURTHERMORE, IF YOU SPEND ALL OF YOUR TIME HATING, WHAT TIME DO YOU



3.

HAVE FOR THE GREAT THINGS IN A PERSON'S LIFE -- THOSE THINGS BEING LOVE, HOPE, FAITH AND CHARITY?

YOU AND I BOTH KNOW PEOPLE WHO WANDER THROUGH THE STREETS WITHOUT HOPE. SOME ARE OUR COUSINS, OUR SISTERS, OUR BROTHERS. THESE PEOPLE EXTEND FROM THE WEALTHY TREE-LINED STREETS TO THE SHATTERED GHETTOES OF OUR AREAS. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE FAILED TO FACE UP TO LIFE'S DEMANDING WAYS. LIFE IS NOT A BOWL OF CHERRIES AND THE SOONER WE FACE UP TO THAT STARK REALITY THE BETTER OUR CHANCES FOR COPING IN ROUGH TIMES.

ONE OF THE THINGS YOU HAVE GOING FOR YOU, HERE IN ALBANY, I AM TOLD, IS A COMMUNITY WILLING TO PULL TOGETHER. FOR IT IS THE DISORGANIZATION OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, THE EVIDENCE ON ALL SIDES THAT THEIR PARENTS ARE UNABLE TO CONTROL THEIR OWN BEHAVIOR, UNABLE TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON PEOPLE WHO THREATEN THE COMMUNITY'S



4.

WELL BEING -- THAT PERSUADES THE YOUNG THAT THE CARDS ARE STACKED AGAINST THEM.

MOVING INTO THE MAINSTREAM MEANS PAYING A HIGH PRICE NO MATTER WHAT THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN MIGHT BE. IF YOU ARE BLACK, HOWEVER, THE PRICE IS OFTEN HIGHER. STILL, WE MUST NOT BE OVERWHELMED OR DISCOURAGED BY THE MAGNITUDE OF THE SACRIFICES NOR THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH WE FACE. IN OUR STRUGGLE TO GET AHEAD, LET US NOT BE SELFISH. REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEBODY'S HAND.

IN BRINGING THE DISADVANTAGED BLACKS, THE POOR WHITES, MEXICAN-AMERICANS, PUERTO RICANS AND ANY OTHER GROUPS INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN LIFE, MOST OF YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER YOURSELVES AS DRUM MAJORS -- THE KIND OF DRUM MAJOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SAID HE WANTED TO BE IN HIS LAST SERMON, AND I QUOTE HIM HERE:



5.

"I WANT TO SAY THAT DAY THAT I TRIED TO BE RIGHT AND TO WALK WITH THEM. I WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT DAY THAT I DID TRY TO FEED THE HUNGRY. I WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT DAY THAT I DID TRY IN MY LIFE TO CLOTHE THE NAKED. I WANT YOU TO SAY ON THAT DAY THAT I DID TRY IN MY LIFE TO VISIT THOSE WHO WERE IN PRISON. AND I WANT YOU TO SAY THAT I TRIED TO LOVE AND SERVE HUMANITY.

"YES, IF YOU WANT TO, SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR. SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE. SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR PEACE. I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

"AND ALL OF THE OTHER SHALLOW THINGS WILL NOT MATTER. I WON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO LEAVE BEHIND. BUT I JUST WANT TO LEAVE A COMMITTED LIFE BEHIND.

"AND THAT IS ALL I WANT TO SAY. IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY AS I PASS ALONG, IF I CAN CHEER SOMEBODY WITH A



6.

WELL SONG, IF I CAN SHOW SOMEBODY HE'S TRAVELING WRONG,  
THEN MY LIVING WILL NOT BE IN VAIN.

"IF I CAN DO MY DUTY AS A CHRISTIAN OUGHT. IF I  
CAN BRING SALVATION TO A WORLD ONCE WROUGHT.

"IF I CAN SPREAD THE MESSAGE AS THE MASTER TAUGHT.  
THEN MY LIVING WILL NOT BE IN VAIN."

AS I LOOK INTO THE AUDIENCE THIS AFTERNOON, I AM  
REMINDED THAT COMMENCEMENT SPEECHES TRADITIONALLY RELATE  
TO ONE OF TWO MAJOR THEMES -- EITHER THE WORLD IS GOOD  
AND YOU CAN MAKE IT EVEN BETTER, OR THE WORLD IS EVIL  
BUT YOU CAN CHANGE ALL THAT. BOTH THEMES ARE WIDELY  
ACCEPTED AS "INSPIRATIONAL" TO YOUNG PEOPLE, LIKE YOU,  
ABOUT TO BEGIN THE MOST PRODUCTIVE YEARS OF LIFE.

WHILE THERE ARE MANY THINGS I WANT TO SAY TO YOU,  
YOU WILL MAKE YOUR OWN JUDGMENTS AS TO THE CONDITION  
OF THE WORLD. AND YOU WILL PROBABLY ALTER THOSE  
JUDGMENTS MORE THAN ONCE IN THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE.





7.

SINCE SOME OF YOU WILL BE COLLEGE BOUND, YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OF MIXED CONFIDENCE AND UNCERTAINTY, MIXED JOY AND DEPRESSION OVER THE STATE OF HUMANKIND.

WHETHER YOU GO ON TO EARN A COLLEGE DEGREE, OR TAKE A JOB RIGHT AFTER TODAY'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY, THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BUILD A SOLID RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT.

IT IS ALWAYS A GOOD HABIT TO PUT A LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT IN WHAT YOU ARE DOING. IF YOU ARE TEMPTED TO STOP WORK BECAUSE NEARLY EVERYONE ELSE IS QUITTING, REMEMBER THAT THAT LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT COULD CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.

ONE OF THE WORK HABITS I HAVE FOUND USEFUL, IS ALWAYS TO TACKLE THE HARDEST TASK FIRST. NEVER PUT IT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE PILE. ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO CURE THE BLUES WHICH WE ALL GET SOMETIMES, IS TO GET THE HARDEST JOB DONE FIRST. EVEN IF IT IS SOMETHING AS



8.

DISTASTEFUL AS GOING TO THE DENTIST OR CLEANING YOUR ROOM. IT'S BETTER NOT TO PUT IT OFF. ONCE THIS IS DONE, THE OTHER TASKS WILL SEEM EASIER.

I PROMISE YOU THAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE MORE REWARDING IF YOU LEARN THIS LESSON EARLY. IT IS THE STUDENT WHO SKIPS AN HOUR OF FUN TO TURN IN THE EXTRA ASSIGNMENT WHO HAS INVESTED PROFITABLY IN MORE HOURS OF FUN LATER. AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, ENJOYS THE INNER SATISFACTION OF DISCIPLINED ACHIEVEMENT. IT IS THE TECHNICIAN WHO VOLUNTARILY RUNS THE EXTRA TESTS, THE TEACHER WHO TAKES THE TIME TO MAKE THE SUBJECT INTERESTING, THE CAR DEALER WHO GIVES THE EXTRA SERVICE, THE SCIENTIST WHO RETURNS TO HIS LABORATORY IN THE EVENING -- THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE. AND BY DOING SO, BY RUNNING THAT EXTRA MILE, ENHANCE THEIR OWN LIVES.

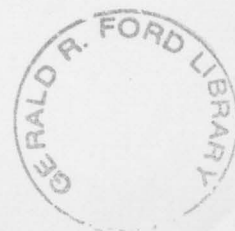


9.

YOU ARE COMING TO MATURITY IN A PERIOD MARKED BY CHANGE AND CONTROVERSY AT HOME AND ABROAD. YOU BRING FRESH PERSPECTIVES TO MANY ISSUES THAT NOW ENGAGE THE ATTENTION OF WORLD LEADERS.

MANY OF YOU ARE ALREADY IN SERVICE TO YOUR FELLOW MAN. SOME OF YOU FOR EXAMPLE MAY VOLUNTEER SEVERAL AFTERNOONS A WEEK TO TUTOR YOUNG CHILDREN. SOME OF YOU PROBABLY SERVE AS AIDES. MOST OF YOU ARE ACTIVE IN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE EXTENDED FAMILY CONCEPT.

EVEN THOUGH MANY OF YOU ALREADY KNOW WHERE YOU ARE HEADED, IN OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES WE ARE LOSING THE GREAT POTENTIAL OF MANY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, BECAUSE AT SOME POINT IN THEIR SCHOOL YEARS, THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE VITAL CAREER ORIENTATION AND PREPARATION THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE THEIR PERSONAL HOPES AND DREAMS.

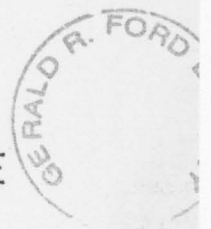


10.

I AM CONVINCED THAT MUCH OF THE FRUSTRATION AND ALIENATION AMONG AMERICAN YOUTH STEMS FROM SUCH CAUSES. I AM CONVINCED THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE -- AND ADULTS -- IN DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION CENTERS AND ON WELFARE AND UNEMPLOYMENT ROLLS, WOULD NOT BE THERE IF SOCIETY HAD BETTER SERVED THEM ALONG THE WAY.

FOR ALL ITS FAULTS, TRENDS IN SOCIETY ARE CHANGING. YOU REPRESENT THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN OUR SCHOOLS AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND YOU ARE THE ONES WHO CAN HELP SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT AS FORTUNATE AS YOU TO FIND THEIR WAY INTO OCCUPATIONS. YOU CAN HELP THEM MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR TALENTS AND APTITUDES AND GUIDE THEM IN A WAY THAT WILL BE BOTH CHALLENGING AND REWARDING.

WITH THE LIMITED DEMAND FOR UNSKILLED LABOR, A YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO DOES NOT DECIDE WHERE HE IS GOING IN LIFE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO ACQUIRE PROFESSIONAL, SEMI-PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, WILL FACE A BLEAK



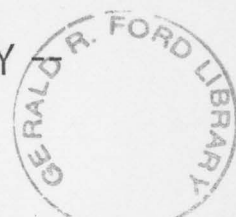
11.

FUTURE FILLED WITH INEVITABLE FRUSTRATION AND DESPAIR.

I MENTION THESE CHANGING DEMANDS IN OUR ECONOMIC LIFE NOT TO FRIGHTEN YOU BUT TO AWAKEN YOU TO THE NECESSITY OF ADEQUATELY APPLYING YOURSELVES IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY GET THE MOST FROM YOUR PRESENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, AND TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION BEYOND YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

WHILE I WANT TO URGE EACH OF YOU TO THINK HARD IN TERMS OF GOING TO COLLEGE TO EARN A DEGREE, I DO NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PURSUIT OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO COPE WITH ECONOMIC DEMANDS OF OUR SOCIETY OR TO ACHIEVE A WHOLESOME, MEANINGFUL LIFE.

THE GREAT PRESTIGE WHICH COLLEGE EDUCATION HAS ACHIEVED IN OUR SOCIETY LEADS MANY TO ASSUME -- QUITE FALSELY THAT IT IS THE ONLY FORM OF CONTINUED LEARNING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. MANY FALSELY ASSUME THAT ONE IS RESTRICTED TO THE ALTERNATIVES OF EITHER GOING TO COLLEGE AND CONTINUING TO LEARN, OR GOING TO WORK AND CEASING TO LEARN.



12.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF LEARNING AND WORKING THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE COLLEGE. SHOULD YOU ELECT NOT TO PURSUE A COLLEGE CAREER, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE GROWTH AND LEARNING. IF YOU DO NOT, YOU WILL MAKE A DREADFUL MISTAKE.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER, THE COURSE THESE OPPORTUNITIES WILL TAKE, AND THE NATURE OF YOUR GROWTH AND LEARNING, WILL DEPEND UPON YOUR INDIVIDUAL INCENTIVE AND CAPACITY.

TRAINING PROGRAMS WITHIN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATIONS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING EXPANDED AND PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL LEARNING. APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEMS OF THE VARIOUS SKILLED CRAFT AND TRADE UNIONS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, BUT A FEW OF THESE PROGRAMS PRESENTLY HAVE RESTRICTIONS THAT LIMIT MINORITY GROUPS.



13.

EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TOWARD ELIMINATING THESE BARRIERS OF ENTRY INTO THESE CRAFTS AND TRADES.

VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFER JOBS TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHICH INVOLVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHILE WORKING. THE ARMED SERVICES OFFER TRAINING IN A GREAT MANY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALITIES.

NIGHT CLASSES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE BREAKING ALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS AND OFFER A VARIETY OF COURSES FOR SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED DEVELOPMENT.

THERE ALSO EXIST, ON AN INCREASINGLY LARGE SCALE, A NUMBER OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS -- ART SCHOOLS, MUSIC SCHOOLS, NURSING SCHOOLS, SCHOOLS FOR DATA PROCESSING, X-RAY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND MANY OTHERS.

IN ADDITION, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN JOURNALISM, RADIO AND TELEVISION CONTINUE TO EXPAND, OPENING UP A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS, REPORTERS, ANNOUNCERS AND TECHNICIANS.

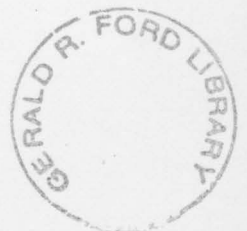


14.

I HAVE CITED THESE AREAS TO SUGGEST WAYS TO CONTINUE LEARNING AND GROWING EVEN THOUGH YOU DO NOT CHOOSE TO PURSUE A COLLEGE EDUCATION.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO THINK HARD ABOUT ABILITIES AND INTEREST NOW, AND LOOK AT THE VARIOUS AVAILABLE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF DEVELOPMENT, YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO YEARS OF LEARNING AND GROWTH WITHOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE.

ONE OF THE MOST DISMAYING FACTORS WE ARE EXPERIENCING AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL IS THE LACK OF INTEREST AND DESIRE ON THE PART OF MANY YOUNG AND ADULT PERSONS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NUMEROUS LEARNING AND SKILL BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE WIDE RANGE OF BLUE AND WHITE COLLAR JOBS WAITING TO BE FILLED.





15.

I URGE YOU TO DECIDE NOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING IN LIFE AND DIRECT YOUR EFFORTS TOWARD ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS. THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU TO BE WHATEVER YOU YOURSELVES DETERMINE THAT YOU WANT TO BE. START PREPARING YOURSELVES NOW FOR THE DIFFICULT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JOURNEY AHEAD. REMEMBER, A PERSON OUT OF SCHOOL, OUT OF SKILLS AND OUT OF A JOB IN TODAY'S SOCIETY IS UNLIKELY TO BE A HAPPY PERSON OR A CONSTRUCTIVE CITIZEN.

NOTHING MATTERS MORE TO THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION THAN ENSURING THAT OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN LEARN TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AND BELIEVE IN THEIR DREAMS, AND THAT THEY DEVELOP THIS CAPACITY - THAT YOU DEVELOP THIS CAPACITY, SO THAT YOU KEEP IT WITH YOU ALL OF YOUR LIFE.

EDUCATION IS OUR MOST POWERFUL INSTRUMENT, IF WE ARE TO HAVE AN AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT, WE MUST QUESTION EVERYTHING IN OUR SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND ENLIGHTENMENT.



16.

A COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER IS AWARE OF THE TRANSITION ABOUT TO BE MADE AS HE STANDS BEFORE A GRADUATING CLASS. HE CAN FEEL THE ANXIETY RISING IN THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN AS THE TIME GROWS CLOSER WHEN THEY WILL SPRING FORWARD INTO ADULTHOOD.

BUT BEFORE YOU SPRING FORTH, TO WHATEVER FUTURE AWAITS YOU, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A PUBLIC MAN'S IMPRESSION OF WHAT KIND OF WORLD YOU GRADUATES FACE AS YOU LEAVE ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY.

ACTUALLY, THINGS AREN'T SO BAD. WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME FREE FROM WAR NOW THAT THE VIETNAM WAR HAS BEEN RESOLVED, AND YOUNG MEN SUCH AS YOU ARE NO LONGER BEING DRAFTED TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES.

RACE RIOTS ARE HOPEFULLY A THING OF THE PAST; THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT IS RUNNING FULL STEAM AHEAD, AND FAMILIES ARE SPENDING MORE LEISURE TIME



TOGETHER THAN EVER BEFORE. OUR CHURCHES ARE ALIVE AND WELL AND EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO CLEAN UP POLLUTION IN OUR COUNTRY.

EVEN SO, NEVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY HAS YOUR HELP BEEN NEEDED AS BADLY AS IT IS TODAY, TO HELP RESTORE A SENSE OF REASON AND GOODWILL AMONG THE PEOPLE.

I ASK YOU TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD ADVOCATE BIGOTRY AND THOSE WHO FAN THE FIRES OF RACIAL DISCORD AND STRIFE; TO CONDEMN THOSE WHO WOULD SANCTION VIOLENCE FOR ANY CAUSE; TO JOIN WITH THOSE PERSONS WHO STRIVE TO KEEP OPEN THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE YOUNG AND THE OLDER GENERATIONS, AND TO DENOUNCE THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY OUR SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO SATISFY THEIR OWN VANITY OR EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES.



18.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, NOT ALL OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND COLLEGE, NOR WILL MANY OF YOU BECOME GREAT PUBLIC FIGURES. BUT THERE IS NONE AMONG YOU WHO WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO LEARN, TO GROW AND TO STRIVE FOR A WHOLESOME AND BETTER LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR STATION IN LIFE WILL BE, EACH OF YOU HAS A SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SHAPING YOUR DESTINY AND YOUR COUNTRY'S DESTINY. YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH DIGNITY AND ALWAYS SHOW CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF OTHERS. BE PROUD OF YOURSELF AND MAKE YOUR DAILY CONDUCT SUCH THAT NO MAN CAN SPEAK EVIL OF YOU.

FINALLY, I WANT TO URGE YOU TO DEDICATE YOURSELVES TO THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO BE OR WHATEVER ACTIVITY YOU UNDERTAKE. BE THE BEST OF WHATEVER YOU ARE. POET DOUGLAS MALLOCH ONCE WROTE:



19.

"IF YOU CAN'T BE A PINE ON THE TOP OF THE HILL,  
BE A SCRUB IN THE VALLEY -  
BUT BE THE BEST LITTLE SCRUB BY THE SIDE OF THE HILL:  
BE A BUSH IF YOU CAN'T BE A TREE. "

"IF YOU CAN'T BE A HIGHWAY THEN JUST BE A TRAIL,  
IF YOU CAN'T BE THE SUN, BE A STAR:  
IT ISN'T BY SIZE THAT YOU WIN OR FAIL -  
BE THE BEST OF WHATEVER YOU ARE!"

I THANK YOU.



I ALWAYS ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, AND PARTICULARLY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE POSSESSING THE ENTHUSIASM AND AMBITION YOU APPEAR TO HAVE.

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THE HIGH STANDARDS YOU HAVE SET FOR YOURSELVES TESTIFY TO THE WILLINGNESS OF YOUNG AMERICANS TO BE CHALLENGED INTELLECTUALLY AND TO CONTRIBUTE PERSONALLY TO THE BETTER AMERICA WE SEEK FOR EVERY CITIZEN. I COMMEND YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED, AND I KNOW THAT YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH MUCH MORE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS OF STUDY, YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT MANY SUBJECTS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT STAY WITH YOU THROUGH LIFE. THE SUBJECT I WANT TO DWELL ON FOR A MOMENT IS ONE THAT I KNOW WILL SERVE TO GUIDE YOU WHEN THE GOING GETS ROUGH. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MOVING INTO THE MAINSTREAM.



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SINCE SOME OF YOU WILL BE COLLEGE BOUND, YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OF MIXED CONFIDENCE AND UNCERTAINTY, MIXED JOY AND DEPRESSION OVER THE STATE OF HUMANSKIND.

WHETHER YOU GO ON TO EARN A COLLEGE DEGREE, OR TAKE A JOB RIGHT AFTER TODAY'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY, THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BUILD A SOLID RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT.

IT IS ALWAYS A GOOD HABIT TO PUT A LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT IN WHAT YOU ARE DOING. IF YOU ARE TEMPTED TO STOP WORK BECAUSE NEARLY EVERYONE ELSE IS QUITTING, REMEMBER THAT THAT LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT COULD CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.

ONE OF THE WORK HABITS I HAVE FOUND USEFUL, IS ALWAYS TO TACKLE THE HARDEST TASK FIRST. NEVER PUT IT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE PILE. ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO CURE THE BLUES WHICH WE ALL GET SOMETIMES, IS TO GET THE HARDEST JOB DONE FIRST. EVEN IF IT IS SOMETHING AS DISTASTEFUL AS GOING TO THE DENTIST OR CLEANING YOUR ROOM, IT'S BETTER NOT TO PUT IT OFF. ONCE THIS IS DONE, THE OTHER TASKS WILL SEEM EASIER.

I PROMISE YOU THAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE MORE REWARDING IF YOU LEARN THIS LESSON EARLY. IT IS THE STUDENT WHO SKIPS AN HOUR OF FUN TO TURN IN THE EXTRA ASSIGNMENT WHO HAS INVESTED PROFITABLY IN MORE HOURS OF FUN LATER. AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, ENJOYS THE INNER SATISFACTION OF DISCIPLINED ACHIEVEMENT. IT IS THE TECHNICIAN WHO VOLUNTARILY



RUNS THE EXTRA TESTS, THE TEACHER WHO TAKES THE TIME TO MAKE THE SUBJECT INTERESTING, THE CAR DEALER WHO GIVES THE EXTRA SERVICE, THE SCIENTIST WHO RETURNS TO HIS LABORATORY IN THE EVENING -- THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE. AND BY DOING SO, BY RUNNING THAT EXTRA MILE, ENHANCE THEIR OWN LIVES.

YOU ARE COMING TO MATURITY IN A PERIOD MARKED BY CHANGE AND CONTROVERSY AT HOME AND ABROAD. YOU BRING FRESH PERSPECTIVES TO MANY ISSUES THAT NOW ENGAGE THE ATTENTION OF WORLD LEADERS.

MANY OF YOU ARE ALREADY IN SERVICE TO YOUR FELLOW MAN. SOME OF YOU FOR EXAMPLE MAY VOLUNTEER SEVERAL AFTERNOONS A WEEK TO TUTOR YOUNG CHILDREN. SOME OF YOU PROBABLY SERVE AS AIDES. MOST OF YOU ARE ACTIVE IN CHURCH AND GROUPS COMMUNITY ~~XXXXXX~~ THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE EXTENDED FAMILY CONCEPT.

EVEN THOUGH MANY OF YOU ALREADY KNOW WHERE YOU ARE HEADED, IN OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES WE ARE LOSING THE GREAT POTENTIAL OF MANY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, BECAUSE AT SOME POINT IN THEIR SCHOOL YEARS, THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE VITAL CAREER ORIENTATION AND PREPARATION THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE THEIR PERSONAL HOPES AND DREAMS.

I AM CONVINCED THAT MUCH OF THE FRUSTRATION AND ALIENATION AMONG AMERICAN YOUTH STEMS FROM SUCH CAUSES.

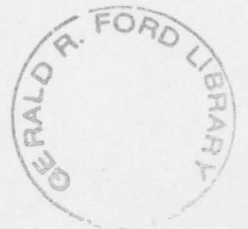


I AM CONVINCED THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE -- AND ADULTS --  
IN DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION CENTERS AND ON  
~~WELFARE~~ WELFARE AND UNEMPLOYMENT ROLLS, WOULD NOT BE  
THERE IF SOCIETY HAD BETTER SERVED THEM ALONG THE WAY.

FOR ALL ITS FAULTS, TRENDS IN SOCIETY ARE CHANGING.  
YOU REPRESENT THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN OUR SCHOOLS AND IN  
OUR COMMUNITIES AND YOU ARE THE ONES WHO CAN HELP SOME  
OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT AS FORTUNATE AS YOU TO  
FIND THEIR WAY INTO OCCUPATIONS. YOU CAN HELP THEM  
MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR TALENTS AND APTITUDES AND GUIDE  
THEM IN A WAY THAT WILL BE BOTH CHALLENGING AND  
REWARDING.

WITH THE LIMITED DEMAND FOR UNSKILLED LABOR,  
A YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO DOES NOT DECIDE WHERE  
HE IS GOING IN LIFE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO ACQUIRE PROFESSIONAL, SEMI-  
PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, WILL FACE A BLEAK  
FUTURE FILLED WITH INEVITABLE FRUSTRATION AND DESPAIR.

I MENTION THESE CHANGING DEMANDS IN OUR ECONOMIC LIFE  
NOT TO FRIGHTEN YOU BUT TO AWAKEN YOU TO THE NECESSITY  
OF ADEQUATELY APPLYING YOURSELVES IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY  
GET THE MOST FROM YOUR PRESENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, AND  
TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION BEYOND YOUR  
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA..



WHILE I WANT TO URGE EACH OF YOU TO THINK HARD IN TERMS OF GOING TO COLLEGE TO EARN A DEGREE, I DO NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PURSUIT OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO COPE WITH ECONOMIC DEMANDS OF OUR SOCIETY OR TO ACHIEVE A WHOLESOME, MEANINGFUL LIFE.

THE GREAT PRESTIGE WHICH COLLEGE EDUCATION HAS ACHIEVED IN OUR SOCIETY LEADS MANY TO ASSUME -- QUITE FALSELY -- THAT IT IS THE ONLY FORM OF CONTINUED LEARNING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. MANY FALSELY ASSUME THAT ONE IS RESTRICTED TO THE ALTERNATIVES OF EITHER GOING TO COLLEGE AND CONTINUING TO LEARN, OR GOING TO WORK AND CEASING TO LEARN.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF LEARNING AND WORKING THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE COLLEGE. SHOULD YOU ELECT NOT TO PURSUE A COLLEGE CAREER, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE GROWTH AND LEARNING. IF YOU DO NOT, YOU WILL MAKE A BREADFUL MISTAKE.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER, THE COURSE THESE OPPORTUNITIES WILL TAKE, AND THE NATURE OF YOUR ~~EXX~~ GROWTH AND LEARNING, WILL DEPEND UPON YOUR INDIVIDUAL INCENTIVE AND CAPACITY.

TRAINING PROGRAMS WITHIN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATIONS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING EXPANDED AND PROVIDE A GOOD



OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL LEARNING. APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEMS OF THE VARIOUS SKILLED CRAFT AND TRADE UNIONS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, BUT A FEW OF THESE PROGRAMS PRESENTLY HAVE RESTRICTIONS THAT LIMIT MINORITY GROUPS. EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TOWARD ELIMINATING THESE BARRIERS OF ENTRY INTO THESE CRAFTS AND TRADES.

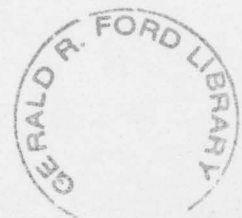
VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFER JOBS TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHICH INVOLVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHILE WORKING. THE ARMED SERVICES OFFER TRAINING IN A GREAT MANY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALITIES.

NIGHT CLASSES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE BREAKING ALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS AND OFFER A VARIETY OF COURSES FOR SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED DEVELOPMENT.

THERE ALSO EXIST, ON AN INCREASINGLY LARGE SCALE, A NUMBER OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS -- ART SCHOOLS, MUSIC SCHOOLS, NURSING SCHOOLS, SCHOOLS FOR DATA PROCESSING, X-RAY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND MANY OTHERS.

IN ADDITION, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN JOURNALISM, RADIO AND TELEVISION CONTINUE TO EXPAND, OPENING UP A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS, REPORTERS, ANNOUNCERS AND TECHNICIANS.

I HAVE CITED THESE AREAS TO SUGGEST WAYS TO CONTINUE LEARNING AND GROWING EVEN THOUGH YOU DO NOT CHOOSE TO PURSUE A COLLEGE EDUCATION.



IF YOU ARE WILLING TO THINK HARD ABOUT ABILITIES AND INTEREST NOW, AND LOOK AT THE VARIOUS AVAILABLE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF DEVELOPMENT, YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO YEARS OF LEARNING AND GROWTH WITHOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE.

ONE OF THE MOST DISMAYING FACTORS WE ARE EXPERIENCING AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL IS THE LACK OF INTEREST AND DESIRE ON THE PART OF MANY YOUNG AND ADULT PERSONS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NUMEROUS LEARNING AND SKILL ~~EXHIBITION~~ BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE WIDE RANGE OF BLUE AND WHITE COLLAR JOBS WAITING TO BE FILLED.

I URGE YOU TO DECIDE NOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING IN LIFE AND DIRECT YOUR EFFORTS TOWARD ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS. THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU TO BE WHATEVER YOU YOURSELVES DETERMINE THAT YOU WANT TO BE. START PREPARING YOURSELVES NOW FOR THE DIFFICULT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JOURNEY AHEAD. REMEMBER, A PERSON OUT OF SCHOOL, OUT OF SKILLS AND OUT OF A JOB IN TODAY'S SOCIETY IS UNLIKELY TO BE A HAPPY PERSON OR A CONSTRUCTIVE CITIZEN.

NOTHING MATTERS MORE TO THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION THAN ENSURING THAT OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN LEARN TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AND BELIEVE IN THEIR DREAMS, AND THAT THEY DEVELOP THIS CAPACITY -- THAT YOU DEVELOP THIS CAPACITY, SO THAT YOU KEEP IT WITH YOU ALL OF YOUR LIFE.



EDUCATION IS OUR MOST POWERFUL INSTRUMENT. IF WE ARE TO HAVE AN AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT, WE MUST QUESTION EVERYTHING IN OUR SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND ENLIGHTENMENT.

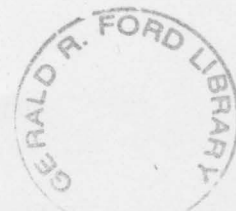
A COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER IS AWARE OF THE TRANSITION ABOUT TO BE MADE AS HE STANDS BEFORE A GRADUATING CLASS. HE CAN FEEL THE ANXIETY RISING <sup>IN THE</sup> AS YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN AS THE TIME GROWS CLOSER WHEN THEY WILL SPRING FORWARD INTO ADULTHOOD.

BUT BEFORE YOU SPRING FORTH, TO WHATEVER FUTURE AWAITS YOU, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A PUBLIC MAN'S IMPRESSION OF WHAT KIND OF WORLD YOU GRADUATES FACE AS YOU LEAVE ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY.

ACTUALLY, THINGS AREN'T SO BAD. WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME FREE FROM WAR NOW THAT THE VIETNAM WAR HAS BEEN RESOLVED, AND YOUNG MEN SUCH AS YOU ARE NO LONGER BEING DRAFTED TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES.

RACE RIOTS ARE PRACTICALLY A THING OF THE PAST, THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT IS RUNNING FULL STEAM AHEAD, AND FAMILIES ARE SPENDING MORE LEISURE TIME TOGETHER THAN EVER BEFORE. OUR CHURCHES ARE ALIVE AND WELL AND EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO CLEAN UP POLLUTION IN OUR COUNTRY.

EVEN SO, NEVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY HAS YOUR HELP BEEN NEEDED AS BADLY AS IT IS TODAY,





TO HELP RESTORE A SENSE OF REASON AND GOODWILL AMONG THE PEOPLE.

I ASK YOU TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD ADVOCATE BIGOTRY AND THOSE WHO FAN THE FIRES OF RACIAL DISCORD AND STRIFE; TO CONDEMN THOSE WHO WOULD SANCTION VIOLENCE FOR ANY CAUSE; TO JOIN WITH THOSE PERSONS WHO STRIVE TO KEEP OPEN THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE YOUNG AND THE OLDER GENERATIONS, AND TO DENOUNCE THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY OUR SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO SATISFY THEIR OWN VANITY OR EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, NOT ALL OF YOU WILL BE ABLE OF TO ATTEND COLLEGE, NOR WILL MANY/YOU BECOME GREAT PUBLIC FIGURES. BUT THERE IS NONE AMONG YOU WHO WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO LEARN, TO GROW AND TO STRIVE FOR A WHOLESOME AND BETTER LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR STATION IN LIFE WILL BE, EACH OF YOU HAS A SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SHAPING YOUR DESTINY AND YOUR COUNTRY'S DESTINY. YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH DIGNITY AND ALWAYS SHOW CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF OTHERS. BE PROUD OF YOURSELF AND MAKE YOUR DAILY CONDUCT SUCH THAT NO MAN CAN SPEAK EVIL OF YOU.

FINALLY, I WANT TO URGE YOU TO DEDICATE YOURSELVES TO THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE



TO BE OR WHATEVER ACTIVITY YOU UNDERTAKE. BE THE  
BEST OF WHATEVER YOU ARE. POET DOUGLAS MALLOCH  
ONCE WROTE:

"IF YOU CAN'T BE A PINE ON THE TOP OF THE HILL,  
BE A SCRUB IN THE VALLEY -  
BUT BE THE BEST LITTLE SCRUB BY THE SIDE OF THE HILL:  
BE A BUSH IF YOU CAN'T BE A TREE."

"IF YOU CAN'T BE A HIGHWAY THEN JUST BE A TRAIL,  
IF YOU CAN'T BE THE SUN, BE A STAR:  
IT ISN'T BY SIZE THAT YOU WIN OR FAIL-  
BE THE BEST OF WHATEVER YOU ARE!"

I THANK YOU.



FOR RELEASE PMS  
JUNE 23, 1973

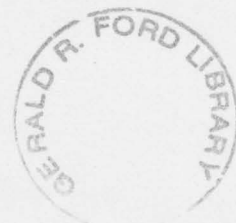
SCOTT GIVES COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS  
AT NEW YORK SCHOOL

ALBANY, N.Y.--Stanley S. Scott, Special Assistant to the President, closed out a chapter of history at St. Joseph's Academy here today. Scott's address was made before the last group of high school students to graduate from the institution. Although St. Joseph's provides education from grades kindergarten through twelve, the high school is being phased out. ~~for lack of funds~~

The commencement speaker had the highest praise for the graduates, noting: "The high standards you have set for yourselves testify to the willingness of young Americans to be challenged intellectually and to contribute personally to the better America we seek for every citizen."

Scott said, "I commend you for what you have already achieved, and I know that you will accomplish much more in the years to come."

St. Joseph's was chartered in 1892 in a flourishing parish of Irish immigrants. Today, the community is absorbing a growing black constituency. The school has



been actively involved in community affairs with the nuns, priest and lay people from the black community working together as an extended family.

Scott, a former communications aide in the White House and now Special Assistant to the President, tried to impress upon the graduates that even though pursuing a college education was highly desirable, it was not the only form of continued learning after high school.

He cited training programs in industrial corporations, apprenticeships in craft and trade unions, and government as possible options. Also, he noted the growing number of special schools where continued education could be pursued.

A former newsman, Scott plugged the field of communications as a possible career.

"The educational opportunities in journalism, radio and television continue to expand, opening up a wide range of opportunities for writers, reporters, announcers and technicians," he said.

He told the graduates, "No matter what your station in life will be, each of you has a share in the responsibility of shaping your destiny and your country's destiny."

