

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
PRESENTATION OF FINAL REPORT
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JUNE 30, 1977

ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, I ACCEPT
WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION THIS IMPRESSIVE
DOCUMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION, THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL BOARD, AND THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL. WORKING
TOGETHER, THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE DONE A REMARKABLE
JOB IN COORDINATING, ENCOURAGING, AND GUIDING THE
CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY FROM ONE
END OF THIS NATION TO THE OTHER.

AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, WHICH GAVE THESE GROUPS
THEIR MANDATE, AND AS A MEMBER OF THE JOINT CONGRES-
SIONAL COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF
THE CONGRESS IN THIS GIGANTIC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION,
I HAVE BEEN VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE EVENTS AND PROJECTS
WHICH HAVE HELPED THE BICENTENNIAL REALIZE THE HIGH
EXPECTATIONS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

I CONGRATULATE EACH OF YOU WHO HAS PLAYED A
ROLE IN THE EXCITING, EXHILARATING, AND EDUCATIONAL
ADVENTURE WHICH TODAY, OFFICIALLY, DRAWS TO A CLOSE.

I ACKNOWLEDGE WITH AWE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ARBA, WHICH HAS NOT ONLY FULFILLED ITS MISSION IN ADMIRABLE FASHION--BUT HAS ALSO DEFIED BUREAUCRATIC PRECEDENT. I AM SURE THERE MUST BE A PARKINSON LAW WHICH IS BEING BROKEN BY AN OFFICIAL AGENCY WHICH GOES OUT OF BUSINESS RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, AND WHICH RETURNS PART OF ITS OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE U. S. TREASURY AS SURPLUS.

MOST IMPORTANT, THOUGH, IS YOUR REMARKABLY EFFECTIVE DIRECTION OF A FESTIVAL WHICH INVOLVED 65,000 DIFFERENT PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND EVENTS IN 12,500 COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE U. S. AND ITS TERRITORIES.

THESE EVENTS HAVE IMMEASURABLY DEEPENED THE
UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR OUR HISTORY, OUR VALUES,
AND OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND VIGOR. THEY HAVE
EMPHASIZED AND RENEWED THE RELEVANCE OF THIS HERITAGE
TO OUR PUBLIC POLICIES AND OUR NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS.

EACH OF YOU IS TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR THE
COMPETENCE, DEDICATION AND VISION YOU HAVE BROUGHT
TO THIS TASK. AND YOU--ALL OF US--ARE FORTUNATE
THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC RESPONDED TO THIS CHALLENGE
WITH JOY, ENTHUSIASM AND IMAGINATION.

THERE WERE MANY OUTSTANDING CEREMONIAL AND FESTIVE
EVENTS. BUT FOR ME, THE YEAR IS BEST TYPIFIED BY
THE MUCH MALIGNED TOURIST: AN AMERICAN FAMILY,
STICKY CHILDREN IN TOW, STANDING IN LONG LINES AT
EXHIBITS, MOVIES AND MONUMENTS, AND PATIENTLY
EXPLAINING TO THEIR YOUNGSTERS THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING
OF THIS COUNTRY'S HERITAGE, AND ITS FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

IF THE EYES OF CHILDREN MAGNIFY THE HEROES AND
OVERSIMPLIFY THE VALUES, THEY STILL CAPTURE THE
ESSENTIAL TRUTH. AND IT IS THIS VISION THAT RENEWS
AND STRENGTHENS OUR BONDS OF COMMUNITY AND THE
INTEGRITY OF OUR POLITICAL LIFE.

AS A COMPENDIUM OF THIS GREAT AMERICAN ADVENTURE,
YOUR REPORTS WILL REMAIN DOCUMENTS OF VITAL INTEREST
AND CONTINUING RELEVANCE, AN ELOQUENT TESTIMONIAL
OF A GREAT NATION'S LEGACY.

THANK YOU.

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