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are the values of Scouting and these are the values of America.

What you have learned in Scouting will see you through life. In good times and difficult ones, the Scout motto will always help you: "Be prepared." And whatever you do, the Scout oath will always guide you: On your honor, do your best.

I thank every Scout and Scoutmaster for being a part of this great organization and for being a part of this successful jamboree. May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the Map Room for later transmission to the jamboree in Bowling Green, VA. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Receiving the Report of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform

July 31, 2001

Thank you, all. Please be seated. After the last election, two former Presidents and a panel of distinguished Americans—from both political parties, I might add—gathered to consider ways to improve America's election system. And they have produced an impressive report. Today I accept their report and recommend the key principles drawn from the report as guidelines for meaningful reform.

I want to welcome President Jimmy Carter back to the Rose Garden and to the Oval Office. President Gerald Ford could not be with us today, but he is well represented by House Minority Leader Bob Michel. Thank you for being here, Mr. Leader.

I want to thank Phil Zelikow for being the executive director of the Commission. I want to thank all the Commission members who are here, and I appreciate the Attorney General for being here, as well. Thanks for coming, John.

Our American democracy is really an inspiration to the world. Yet, the work of improving it is never finished. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford—two men who took part in another close election, I might add, and who went on to have a close friendship—have come together to produce recommendations for modernizing the electoral system.

I want to thank the University of Virginia's Miller Center and the Century Foundation, as well. Mr. Carter and Mr. Ford recruited a Commission of 20 distinguished Americans from both parties and every region of the country. I respect the members so much that I appointed one of them to become the Ambassador to Japan, Howard Baker.

The others continued to take testimony. They held hearings in four States, listened to dozens of witnesses, and consulted widely with State and local officials. They identified some important concerns. For example, the overeagerness of the media to report the outcome of the elections. [*Laughter*]

Some voting methods have much higher error rates than others. And citizens with disabilities or limited proficiency in English can encounter obstacles to the exercise of their democratic rights.

The Commissioners brought a broad diversity of personal experience to bear. Seven Commissioners, in addition to President Ford and President Carter, have been elected to office, themselves, and have seen Americans' voting procedures up close and personal. Other members have had experience enforcing our Nation's civil rights and voting rights laws. Others are experts in constitutional law and the mechanics of government. This Commission's idealism is reinforced by deep practical experience.

The Commissioners offer many recommendations to strengthen our electoral system. Those recommendations are grounded in four fundamental principles, which I heartily endorse and recommend to the Congress.

First, our Nation must continue to respect the primary role of State, county, and local governments in elections. In 2000 more than 100 million Americans cast votes in more than 190,000 polling places under the supervision of 1.4 million pollworkers. Our Nation is vast and diverse, and our elections should not be run out of Washington, DC.

Second, the Federal Government can have a limited but responsible role in assisting States and localities to solve their problems

with election administration so that our voting technology and practices respect the value of every eligible vote.

Third, we must actively and vigorously enforce the laws that protect the voting rights of ethnic and racial minorities, of citizens who do not speak English fluently, and of the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Let me say, by the way, how pleased I am that the Commission occasionally cited the great State of Texas for its good work.

Fourth and finally, we must act to uphold the voting rights of members of the armed services and of Americans living abroad. We must safeguard absentee ballots against abuse, and we must ensure that those Americans who risked their lives to defend American democracy are never prevented from participating in American democracy.

These are some of the core principles underlying the Commission's report, and they are principles that should guide us all. I commend the Commissioners for their statesmen-like work. They have risen above partisan emotions, put forth practical suggestions for improving democracy, and the United States Congress should listen to them and follow their lead.

It is now my honor to call back to the podium a man who has been here quite often in the past, the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Representative Robert H. Michel.

Remarks on Signing an Executive Order on Energy Efficiency and an Exchange With Reporters

July 31, 2001

The President. Thank you all for coming. Mr. Secretary, Larry Lindsey, thank you for being here today. I'm signing an Executive order fulfilling a promise that I made that our Federal agencies must lead the way for energy conservation.

One of the ways that our Nation wastes energy is through what they call vampire devices. These will be a battery charger, cell phone chargers, computer systems that we—we really think we're not using energy when plugged in but, in fact, are. And so we've set what we call a 1-watt standard throughout the Federal Government, that we expect our agencies to be ridding themselves of the vampires and using energy conservation devices.

The Secretary of Energy has agreed to lead this project, and I'm so thankful for it. The Federal Government can be good stewards of our resources, and we fully intend to be.

There's an energy bill working its way through Congress which will encourage new technologies that will help save energy, that will call for research and development to make sure that we're wise about how we use the scarce resources we have in America. But it's also a bill that recognizes that, while on the one hand we must conserve, we also must find additional sources of energy, such as natural gas. And that's why I think it is very important for Congress to pass a balanced energy plan, one that includes the capacity to drill for, explore for, and find natural gas throughout our entire country, including Alaska. And I'm confident we can do so in an environmentally friendly way.

I urge the Members of the House of Representatives to support the energy bill that will include allowing for there to be a small amount of exploration in ANWR, that will yield a lot of energy on behalf of the people of America.

And so it's now my honor to sign this Executive order and look forward to working with the Secretary, to show the Nation—to show the Nation how best to use technologies to conserve energy.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

[*At this point, the President signed the Executive order.*]

I'd be glad to answer a few questions. Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News], you look like you have something on your mind. [*Laughter*]

Patients' Bill of Rights

Q. Mr. President, do you have a deal on a Patients' Bill of Rights bill now with Congressman Norwood? Can you tell us what the outlines of that might be?

The President. Well, Congressman Norwood came into my office and he said, "Mr.