

*File
Speeches*

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS

ADDRESS - FREEDOM SHRINE, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

SEPTEMBER 9, 1976

ON THIS MEMORABLE OCCASION, MY THOUGHTS TURN BACK TO THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF THE "STAR SPANGLED BANNER"... "OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT."

YES, AMERICA, CAN YOU SEE THE IMMORTAL FOREFATHERS WHO ETCHED THEIR VISIONS INTO THE PAGES OF HISTORY. THE FREEDOM SHRINE CAPTURES THE ELOQUENCE OF THESE MOMENTS....

THE DRUM ROLL OF THE HUMAN HEART BEATS THE MESSAGE OF THE PAST TO STIR THE FIRES OF OUR YOUTH.

WE, WHO MAKE THE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE, CAN LOOK BACK ON THESE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS AS A LAMP TO THE FUTURE.

CAN YOU SEE, THROUGH THE SHROUDY MIST OF TIME, THE YOUTH OF OUR NATION...FROM VALLEY FORGE TO THE STEAMING JUNGLE OF VIET NAM....

OH! CAN YOU SEE, FROM THE HALLS OF CONGRESS TO THE ANTI-WAR PROTESTS IN THE STREETS....

AMERICA, CAN YOU SEE, FROM THE GRAND CANYON'S SPLENDOR TO
THE WAVING FIELDS OF GRAIN...FROM MOUNTAIN PEAKS WHICH
PIERCE THE SKY TO THE BLUE BLEND OF OUR MIGHTY OCEANS....

THE CYNIC QUESTIONS?...THE BELIEVER WONDERS...AMERICA WHERE
ARE YOU GOING?

MY REPLY ECHOES THE RESPONSE OF OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE, "FOUR
SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO...ONE NATION UNDER GOD...LIBERTY
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!!!"

YES, I CAN SEE AMERICA...AS THE MUSKET BALLS WHIZZED PASSED
AT EUTAWVILLE...THE WATERS RAN AS RED AS THE AMERICAN FLAG.

WHAT PRICE WE MUST PAY FOR THE DREAM WE CALL FREEDOM!!!

WHEN OUR HERITAGE BECAME HAZY...IN A MAZE OF FRUSTRATED
BATTLES...FALTERING CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS...WHERE ARE OUR
MISSING IN ACTION....

GOD!...CAN YOU SEE BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHTS!!!

YES, AMERICA...WE SEE...NOT ALL THE HATRED...NOT ALL THE
DEAD FALLEN IN VAIN...NOT ALL OF OUR LEADERS FALTERING...

YES WE SEE BEYOND THE PERIMETER...WE SEE THE GREATEST NATION
EVER DEvised BY MORTAL MAN...WE SEE A NATION SPREADING FORTH
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF FREEDOM! WE
SEE A NATION WITH CONCERN AND COMPASSION!

WE SEE A NATION THAT'S TRULY COME OF AGE...AND WE SEE MORE,
WE SEE THE FACES...PAST AND PRESENT. WE SEE THEIR TEARS AND
THEIR SMILES, BUT MOST OF ALL WE SEE THEIR NOD OF APPROVAL.
THOUGH THE FOOT MAY SLIP FROM THE ROCK OUR HERITAGE IS ONE
OF PERSEVERANCE.

YES AMERICA...WE SEE YOU IN THE LULLING MORNING HOURS...WE
SEE YOU THROUGH THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF EACH DAY...WE SEE
YOU IN THE EVENING HOURS AS THE SUN SETS TO THE TRANQUIL
CALL OF THE BOBWHITE...

HISTORY, PAST AND PRESENT, AWAITS YOU IN THE FREEDOM SHRINE.
USE IT WELL MY FELLOW SOUTH CAROLINIANS...USE IT WELL.