

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO THE 1970 GRADUATING CLASS
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

You graduate at a time when established institutions and ideas are being questioned as they have never been questioned before in our history. Much of this questioning is being done by the members of your generation, and it is your generation which ultimately will have to provide most of the answers to those questions.

I hope that as you look for those answers, you will remember the obligation of every educated man and woman to draw careful distinctions between those ideas which must be readjusted and those which should be preserved. The fact that many accepted ways of thinking seem artificial and unjust does not warrant the rejection of all established standards. Nor should our proper respect for the past and our legitimate desire for stability lead us to defend thoughtlessly that which is outmoded and obsolete.

Your challenge will be that of reconciling continuity and change, of giving new applications and fresh expressions to our traditional values -- especially our concern for the dignity and integrity of every individual. By meeting that challenge you can make this time of rapid change a time of substantial growth and fulfillment -- for yourselves, for your community and for your nation.

As I extend to you my personal congratulations and best wishes, I look to the future with greater confidence because I know of the exceptional qualifications you bring to the exceptional demands of our time.

