

PLANTING MODERN-DAY TREES OF LIBERTY

WHEN THOMAS JEFFERSON SPOKE OF OUR NATION'S STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, HE SPOKE OF "REFRESHING THE TREE OF LIBERTY." IT IS INDEED APPROPRIATE THAT WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO PLANT A TREE SYMBOLIC OF THE ATTAINMENTS OF LIBERTY IN AMERICA OVER THE SPAN OF TWO CENTURYS.

TREES MEANT SURVIVAL TO OUR FIRST SETTLERS, AND THEIR VALUE IS JUST AS GREAT TODAY AS WE BEGIN CELEBRATING OUR BICENTENNIAL. TREES STILL PROVIDE THE PRODUCTS NEEDED FOR THE LIFE AND COMFORT OF A NATION OF MORE THAN 200 MILLION PEOPLE. IN THE FUTURE, TREES WILL CONTINUE TO ^{PROVIDE} ~~BE~~ ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST VITAL INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS.

BUT TREES SERVE FAR MORE THAN ^{OUR} ~~THE~~ MATERIAL NEEDS OF ~~MAN~~. ~~THEY~~ REVITALIZE HIS SPIRIT AND CREATE FOR HIM TRANQUIL ISLANDS AMID THE TURMOIL OF ~~HECTIC CITIES~~.

THE TREE SEEDLING BEING PLANTED HERE TODAY REPRESENTS A UNION OF NATURE'S GIFT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE--THE ABUNDANT TREES AND RICH RESOURCES OF THIS LAND, WITH MAN'S OWN GIFT TO HIS FELLOWMAN AND HIS UNBORN DESCENDANTS--THE WONDERS OF A TECHNOLOGY THAT HAS SENT MAN TO THE MOON AND BACK.

FOR THIS TREE IS FROM A SEED WHICH WAS CARRIED TO THE MOON WITH
^{STUART}
ASTRONAUT ROOSA, BRINGING REALITY TO A DREAM AS OLD AS MAN'S EXISTENCE
ON EARTH.

THIS TREE IS DEDICATED TO "HONORING EARTH'S GREEN WORLD OF TREES."

IN MY MIND, IT IS THE LIVING LINK BETWEEN OUR NATION'S BIRTH AND OUR
NATION'S FUTURE. WHEN THE PILGRIMS BRAVED A VAST OCEAN TO REACH AN UNKNOWN
LAND, THEY CAME IN SHIPS MADE OF WOOD. WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THEY USED WOOD
FOR SHELTER AND FOR BOATS AND WAGONS TO MAKE NEW JOURNEYS. IN 1971, WOOD
HELPED MAKE POSSIBLE THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 14 TO THE MOON. [PRODUCTS SUCH
AS ROSIN-CORE SOLDERING FLUX FOR THE THOUSANDS OF ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS
ON A SPACE VEHICLE, CORK FOR THE HEAT PROTECTIVE COVER, AND SOLID ROCKET
PROPELLANTS, ALL COME FROM TREES. AND, IN THE FUTURE, WHAT NEW ADVANCES
DO TREES PROMISE? THEY MAY EVEN HELP POWER THE NATION'S AUTOMOBILES AS
A MEANS TO CONSERVE OUR FINITE SUPPLIES OF ENERGY FUELS. UNLIKE THE LIMITED
SUPPLIES OF OIL, TREES CONSTITUTE A RENEWABLE RESOURCE WHICH CAN BE
PERPETUATED FOREVER.]

FROM ITS POSITION ON WASHINGTON SQUARE, ~~(FACING INDEPENDENCE HALL)~~, THE
TREE WE PLANT TODAY CAN STAND FOR GENERATIONS TO REMIND THE PEOPLE OF
PHILADELPHIA, AND VISITORS FROM ACROSS THE NATION AND AROUND THE WORLD, OF
THE DEBT WE OWE TO NATURE AND THE GRATITUDE WE FEEL TOWARD OUR FOREFATHERS
WHO LEARNED TO USE NATURE'S GIFTS SO WELL.

WE ARE ALSO INDEBTED TO THE PEOPLE OF PHILADELPHIA, THE WASHINGTON SQUARE ASSOCIATION, NASA, AND ESPECIALLY TO COLONEL ROOSA AND THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR HELPING MAKE THIS PLANTING POSSIBLE.

WE'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SHARE THIS OCCASION WITH ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, THOSE WHO WILL REMAIN IN THEIR OWN HOME STATES, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WILL TRAVEL TO PHILADELPHIA FOR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. FOR THE SEED FROM WHICH THIS SEEDLING GREW WAS NOT ALONE ON ITS MOON JOURNEY. SEVERAL HUNDRED SEEDS FROM LOBLOLLY PINE, SYCAMORE, DOUGLAS FIR, AND REDWOOD TREES ALSO ACCOMPANIED APOLLO 14 TO THE MOON. TODAY, WE WILL BEGIN OFFERING ^{SELECTED} THESE SEEDLINGS TO ALL STATE FORESTERS FROM STATES WHICH ARE HAVING APPROPRIATE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS AND WHICH HAVE SUITABLE GROWING

CONDITIONS FOR THESE SPECIES. *Let us hope that this action by America's state FORESTERS SERVES TO GENERATE A GREAT NATIONWIDE REVIVAL OF ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING.*

THIS TREE, WHICH WE PLANT HERE TODAY, CAN BE A LIVING, GROWING SYMBOL OF OUR PAST, A TRIBUTE TO THE PRESENT, AND A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE. FOR THIS TREE, WHICH HAS BEEN TO THE MOON AND BACK, INDEED REPRESENTS OUR HERITAGE, OUR PRESENT, AND THE HORIZONS WE CAN LOOK TOWARD DURING 1976, THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF OUR NATION.

AND, THIS VERY TREE CAN STILL BE STANDING HERE AS A SENTRY OF LIBERTY, A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, WHEN AMERICANS COME TOGETHER AGAIN TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF A GREAT NATION.

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