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DRAFT

[NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION OR QUOTATION. -- M.F.]

(Lange/Martin)
April 14, 1989
10:30 a.m.
[BUILDERS.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
AFL-CIO -- LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1989
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
11:00 A.M.

10:13 - 10:28

Patty x7565
Advance

(Bob, since the election's over, I think the story can now be told. A small and stately story, about all the great help you gave me during the election. All of the money you contributed -- your help with speech coaching -- the way you helped me get out the vote -- and all of those long nights in Iowa! It really made a difference.

I just want to say publicly, Bob, I owe you a debt of gratitude for single-handedly helping me win this election. I can't thank you enough. You know, because he's so humble, Bob probably hasn't taken any of the credit. And I'm still not sure why he wouldn't sit next to me at the Inaugural parade...]

Seriously, Bob, I'm honored you invited me here today. I'm also honored by the presence of many friends here -- that includes Congressman Tom Ridge; Teamster's President Billy McCarthy; Buddy Ruel and John Bowden of the Ironworkers; Bill Dugan and John Bertrand from the Operating Engineers; Ed Brubeck from the Indianapolis building trades -- and so many others, that to thank them all might wear out my welcome.

Jay Palmer
x7565

Greeters

Steve Broadbent
546-5847

Mr. Bob Maloney
347-1461

-3rd time
\$800,000 '88
one million
year '89
pass the hat
on the street

Dollars Against
4 Diabetes

But I do have one very special word of thanks. Your "DAD's Day" event is a shining example of volunteerism in action. And it's a reminder of how we in America must learn to measure success: not by the sum of our possessions, but by the good we do for others. On Father's Day, the Building Trades will be winning a victory for humanity, large and small.

We hold elections in this country; and then we move on. Leadership assumes office; it exerts its influence; but it must never presume that it does anything more than speak and act for the people. We've had honest differences. But we agree on goals. And what matters is that we make progress, on issues of shared concern.

Leo Zafforetti
AFL-CIO
347-1461

Your theme for this conference is "Building for the Future." Today, I want to share just a few thoughts, on Building a Better America.

We are prosperous, and we are at peace. You've heard the numbers. 75 months of record-breaking economic growth. A growth rate that outstrips the nations of Europe, and is equal to the pace in Japan. Over 19 million new jobs. Unemployment at a 15 year low. Real family income at an all time high. Output of goods and services up over 27 percent since 1982.

Steve Lardlefeld
x 5084
CEA

lowest since 12-'73

True, but can only be confirmed thru '87. Checking Jap '87 \$5, okay to use if no problems in staffing

But we have to remember what's driving this economic growth: the enterprise and energy of people like you. You build a better America, every day.

((Anyone who forgets that working men and women drive this economy, ought to take a lesson from the guy with the circular saw, who runs over his own power cord. The guy may think he's headed in the right direction -- but then, he may be in for a shock.))

Yes, our economy is healthy. But to keep the momentum going, and to keep the building trades strong, we must keep inflation and interest rates down. We need to re-establish the differential in the capital gains tax rate to encourage more investment, more job creation, and more new construction.

And we need to bring the deficit down. I'm pleased to announce that we've reached a budget agreement with Congress. And I'd add that this is the first such agreement, reached ahead of schedule -- and not framed in the context of crisis.

Many of you devote your lives to building and maintaining what the policy experts call "infrastructure" -- roads, bridges, buildings, facilities of every kind. Maybe you saw a recent news piece, where a man put his fist through a rusting girder on a

Press Conference
4-12-89
Missy Compton
x2100
Press

Dee Dee
Spitz
x3080
OMB

domestic

bridge? That bridge had rusted through, for lack of paint and simple maintenance. I'm no economist. But that's bad economics.

Everything of value needs tending to. Whether we're talking about bridges, or tools, or skills -- or relations between labor and management: how much easier it is, to maintain something, than to ignore, or neglect it -- and have to try to replace it later.

Sometimes losses can't be helped. I remember when we lost a rig off the coast of Texas. Hurricane came up; wiped it right out. I went out there in a plane to look for it -- couldn't find it anywhere. Told them back at the office it was all gone.

((Maybe they thought I was a few bricks short of a load. Or as you carpenters might say, "a bubble and a half off plumb."))

But sometimes, what's lost can't be replaced. Construction-related jobs are among the most hazardous jobs in America. They pose serious risks. And we are serious about keeping the people who hold those jobs as safe as we possibly can. As one step, a new Construction Support Office in OSHA was just established, to work more closely with the private sector and the construction trades -- for both accident investigation, and prevention.

An area where many of your people are right on the front line, and deserve our best support, is in the Superfund project.

George Bush
A Biography
by Nicholas
King
p. 50-51

Dr. Culver
523-9644
Office of Eng.
Support Office

1988
Office of Engineering Support or Construction, Maritime - Health Engineering Support

You've got a session tomorrow devoted to hazards in the workplace. Well, those workers who clean up our environment, they're devoting themselves to preserving the infrastructure that only God could bless us with. They are patriots for the modern age. And we must keep them safe.

Along with keeping workers safe, a productive economy demands that workers are skilled. We need to ease some of the shortages of talent that are already developing in your trades, and many others. So we're looking to the only long-term solution: comprehensive education and training.

The construction trades have a history of outstanding training and development efforts. And at the federal level, Secretary Dole is a champion of strategies for economic growth. She is working on new solutions to help those who aren't yet prepared for the jobs of the future -- because of a skills gap, family pressures, or a lack of supportive policies. And let me say, she has my full support.

You know, back when Barbara and I were starting from scratch in Midland, I learned something about building a business, and meeting a payroll. Lived a few of the lessons you're supposed to get out of books -- about supply and demand, risk and reward, profit and loss.

But I also learned something about the trust that must exist between workers and managers. Our working men and women face real challenges. And in meeting them, our spirit must be one of cooperation; our motivation, for the common good.

That's always been the basis for the National Labor Relations Board. So let me assure you that the individuals I'm going to nominate are of the highest integrity. They understand the delicate balance which defines the role of the NLRB.

The American system of labor-management relations is the envy of the world. On Monday, I saluted the members and leaders of the American labor movement for hanging tough with Solidarity through the darkest days. Brighter days are dawning there. And here at home, we are all served well when the NLRB operates in a spirit of neutrality.

Now, you may figure that politicians come and go. But the kind of people that are essential to a free, prosperous society -- with a robust economy -- are people like you. You can't be replaced.

This government can, and will, promote policies for meaningful, safe, and rewarding employment -- for everyone who wants a job. My door is wide open. I will continue to work with

you; to advocate; to negotiate; and to count on you as neighbors -- and as friends.

You see, I'm an optimist. You know, somebody once asked Yogi Berra if he was a fatalist. He answered, "No, I never collected postage stamps."

After seeing a group like this one, I know America has no need for fatalism, in the face of such good fortune. Like every American, I'm thankful for the roads I drive down; the bridges I cross; and yes, the roof over my head. I'm grateful for all of the blessings that the builders of America have built, as monuments to our industry, and our freedom.

So let me thank you all. God bless you. And God bless America.

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AFL-CIO

Policy

Looking Forward

pp. 59-61

PEGGY DOOLEY

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See OMB comments

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Policy

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Policy

Mark. D

Policy

Mark Davis Detroit speech 4/17/89

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Policy

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-- and as friends.

Curt/Mark P. You see, I'm an optimist. You know, somebody once asked
Yogi Berra if he was a fatalist. He answered, "No, I never
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monuments to our industry, and our freedom.

So let me thank you all. God bless you. And God bless
America.

~~✱~~

6:00
12/6/60

GEORGE
BUSH

A BIOGRAPHY

Nicholas King

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY
NEW YORK

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drilling in difficult conditions and it
of the industry.

have had a fight on your hands if you even
to one of the rig hands that there was a better
company than Zapata," says an engineer who had

led for Zapata:

In August 1958, Zapata Petroleum sold its remaining
interest in Zapata Offshore, which then became independ-
ent, and its stock was listed on the American Stock Ex-
change in New York that September when Bush moved
company headquarters to Houston. After five years, the
firm had a fleet of four rigs, 195 employees, and 2,200
stockholders.

At the beginning of the 1960s drilling prospects in the
gulf continued uncertainly, and Zapata concentrated its
efforts in foreign waters, in the Caribbean and off South
America. It attempted to diversify, somewhat unsuccess-
fully, by acquiring properties like a plastics company and
a gas pipeline company. But by 1963 offshore drilling
presented a rosier picture and the future again looked
promising. An innovative outrigger-type floating rig
began operating for the company, and construction pro-
ceeded on the *Maverick*, a new LeTourneau jack-up which
cost \$5.7 million and inaugurated a new generation of
such rigs. It was the biggest rig in the world and could drill
in waters 250 feet deep. Zapata Offshore reported a record
\$1,189,000 net income for 1964, meaning that Bush was
getting richer.

The next year looked good too. The big rigs were earn-
ing full time and there was talk of a merger with another
offshore driller which would have doubled the size of the
fleet. However, there was a severe temporary setback
when Hurricane Betsy swept along the Gulf Coast in
September 1965 and swept the *Maverick* completely away
without a trace. Fortunately, there were no lives lost.
Bush personally went on a series of exhausting search

flights but returned only with tales of the destruction he
had seen done to the houses and fishing communities
along the Louisiana coast.

By this time, Zapata Offshore had been functioning for
a decade and its assets totaled \$15.8 million. The offshore
drilling business had come a long way since its birth and
had played a critical part in supplying oil to an industrial
society. This had been George Bush's real success. But he
also knew the strain and risk of offshore oil operations
and was thinking increasingly of public life: He had been
a Republican precinct worker in west Texas during the
1956 Eisenhower campaign and had become Houston
County chairman. He was not to sever his ties with the
oil business until 1966, but in 1964 he decided to take a
leave of absence.

He never forgot or undervalued what he had learned in
the oil fields. "The experience of dealing with people
helped me enormously [in later public life]," he reflects.
"I learned a great deal about leadership, and I learned a lot
about the economic system. I had studied in college about
supply and demand, risk and reward, profit and loss, the
importance of labor and morale. But I didn't realize how
all those things work together until I was making deci-
sions that involved life and death, and survival of the
business. That training under fire, under economic adver-
sity, was a fantastic experience."

"But I think I learned the most about people. The oil
field doesn't get credit for the fiber of its people. In those
days, most of the oil field workers didn't have much edu-
cation. They came from an entirely different background
than I. But the way they devoted their lives to their work,
their fierce loyalty, competitiveness and spirit were an
inspiration. It made a lasting impression on me."

REMARKS: BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
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TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1989
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((BOB, SINCE THE ELECTION'S OVER, I THINK THE STORY
CAN NOW BE TOLD. A PROUD STORY, ABOUT ALL THE GREAT
HELP YOU GAVE ME DURING THE CAMPAIGN. BUT I
UNDERSTOOD.

- 2 -

IN 1984, BOB SAYS, "GEORGE, YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND. YOU
SEE, GERALDINE FERRARO IS ITALIAN." I UNDERSTOOD.
THEN, IN 1988, I SEE BOB AGAIN. I'M RUNNING AGAINST
MIKE DUKAKIS. BOB SAYS, "YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND." I
LOOK AT HIS NAME TAG. IT SAYS "BOB GEORGOPOLIS"!))
WELL, I DO UNDERSTAND. AND I RESPECT THIS GUY.

- 3 -

AND MY DOOR WILL BE OPEN TO HIM -- AND TO YOU WHO HE REPRESENTS SO WELL. BESIDES, HE'S MY WIFE'S FRIEND, TOO -- AND I DON'T WANT TO GET CROSSWISE WITH THE SILVER FOX.

BOB, I'M HONORED YOU INVITED ME TO BE HERE.

- 4 -

I'M ALSO HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF MANY FRIENDS -- CONGRESSMAN TOM RIDGE; ELIZABETH DOLE, LABOR SECRETARY; TEAMSTER'S PRESIDENT BILLY MCCARTHY; BUDDY RUEL AND JOHN BOWDEN OF THE IRONWORKERS; BILL DUGAN AND JOHN BERTRAND FROM THE OPERATING ENGINEERS; ED BRUBECK FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS BUILDING TRADES -- AND SO MANY OTHERS, THAT TO THANK THEM ALL, MIGHT WEAR OUT MY WELCOME.

- 5 -

WE HOLD ELECTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY; AND THEN WE MOVE ON. LEADERSHIP ASSUMES OFFICE; IT EXERTS ITS INFLUENCE; BUT IT MUST NEVER PRESUME THAT IT DOES ANYTHING MORE THAN SPEAK, AND ACT, FOR THE PEOPLE. WE'VE HAD HONEST DIFFERENCES. BUT WE AGREE ON GOALS. AND WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE MAKE PROGRESS, ON ISSUES OF SHARED CONCERN.

- 6 -

SO I BEGIN WITH A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS. YOUR "DAD'S DAY" EVENT IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF VOLUNTEERISM IN ACTION. IT'S A REMINDER OF HOW WE IN AMERICA MUST LEARN TO MEASURE SUCCESS. NOT BY THE SUM OF OUR POSSESSIONS, BUT BY THE GOOD WE DO FOR OTHERS. ON FATHER'S DAY, THE BUILDING TRADES WILL BE WINNING A VICTORY FOR HUMANITY, LARGE AND SMALL.

- 7 -

YOUR THEME FOR THIS CONFERENCE IS "BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE." SO TODAY, I WANT TO SHARE JUST A FEW THOUGHTS, ON HOW WE CAN BUILD A BETTER AMERICA.

WE ARE PROSPEROUS. AND WE ARE AT PEACE. YOU'VE HEARD THE NUMBERS. 76 MONTHS OF RECORD-BREAKING ECONOMIC GROWTH. A GROWTH RATE THAT OUTSTRIPS THE NATIONS OF EUROPE, EXCEEDING ALL EXPECTATIONS. NEARLY 20 MILLION NEW JOBS. UNEMPLOYMENT AT A 15 YEAR LOW. REAL FAMILY INCOME AT AN ALL TIME HIGH.

- 8 -

OUTPUT OF GOODS AND SERVICES UP OVER 27 PERCENT SINCE THE END OF 1982.

BUT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER WHAT'S DRIVING THIS ECONOMIC GROWTH: THE ENTERPRISE AND ENERGY OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU. YOU BUILD A BETTER AMERICA, EVERY DAY.

((ANYONE WHO FORGETS THAT WORKING MEN AND WOMEN DRIVE THIS ECONOMY, OUGHT TO TAKE A LESSON FROM THE GUY WITH THE CIRCULAR SAW, WHO RUNS OVER HIS OWN POWER CORD.

THE GUY MAY THINK HE'S HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION -- BUT HE MAY BE IN FOR A SHOCK.))

YES, OUR ECONOMY IS HEALTHY. BUT TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING, TO KEEP AMERICA COMPETITIVE, AND TO KEEP THE BUILDING TRADES STRONG, WE MUST KEEP INFLATION AND INTEREST RATES DOWN. MOREOVER, WE MUST BRING THEM DOWN FURTHER. THE WAY TO DO THAT, IS TO BRING THE BUDGET DEFICIT DOWN.

I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT WE'VE REACHED A BUDGET AGREEMENT WITH CONGRESS. AND I'D ADD THAT THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH AGREEMENT REACHED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE -- AND NOT FRAMED IN THE CONTEXT OF CRISIS. THIS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP -- BUT IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP.

THIS BUDGET AGREEMENT MEETS OUR FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY, AND SUPPORT THE NEEDY. IT PROVIDES FUNDS TO ADVANCE HIGH-PRIORITY INITIATIVES.

- 11 -

BUT IT ALSO RESTRAINS THE OVERALL GROWTH OF FEDERAL SPENDING -- SO THAT WE CAN MEET THE GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS DEFICIT TARGET ON TIME.

NEXT YEAR ALONE, FEDERAL REVENUES WILL RISE BY MORE THAN \$80 BILLION -- WITH NO TAX INCREASE. THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD BRING THE BUDGET DEFICIT FOR 1990 DOWN TO \$99.4 BILLION -- A \$64 BILLION REDUCTION. AND LET ME SAY THIS: I KEPT MY PROMISE. WE HAVE NOT RAISED TAXES ON THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS COUNTRY.

- 12 -

WHAT THIS BUDGET DOES DO, IS PUT OUR PRIORITIES IN THE RIGHT PLACE. IT PUTS THE FOCUS ON THE KIND OF INVESTMENT WE NEED TO BUILD ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND STIMULATE COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE. AND THAT MEANS RESTORING THE CAPITAL GAINS DIFFERENTIAL, TO 15 PERCENT ON LONG-HELD ASSETS.

- 13 -

WHATEVER ELSE YOU'VE HEARD, THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX CUT WILL MAKE US MORE COMPETITIVE WITH OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS -- WHO TAX CAPITAL GAINS LIGHTLY, IF AT ALL. IT WILL BRING \$4.8 BILLION MORE IN TAX REVENUES IN 1990, ACCORDING TO THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT. IT WILL HELP AMERICAN ENTERPRISE GROW. AND IT WILL CREATE MORE NEW JOBS.

- 14 -

COMPETITIVENESS; OPPORTUNITY AND GROWTH; SAVING AND INVESTING FOR THE LONG-TERM; AND MORE NEW JOBS -- THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL FIGHTING FOR.

CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOBS ARE VITAL TO A STRONG ECONOMY. BUT AS WE WORK TO CREATE THOSE JOBS, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY PERSON WHO TAKES A CONSTRUCTION JOB IS AS SAFE AS WE CAN MAKE THEM.

AS ONE STEP, WE'VE ESTABLISHED A NEW OFFICE OF ENGINEERING SUPPORT IN OSHA, TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH YOU FOR BETTER ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION -- AND PREVENTION.

ALONG WITH KEEPING WORKERS SAFE, BUILDING A BETTER, MORE COMPETITIVE AMERICA DEMANDS THAT WORKERS ARE SKILLED. WE NEED TO EASE SOME OF THE SHORTAGES OF TALENT, ALREADY DEVELOPING IN YOUR TRADES, AND MANY OTHERS.

SO WE'RE LOOKING TO THE ONLY LONG-TERM SOLUTION -- COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING. OVER 50 MILLION AMERICANS WILL NEED SOME KIND OF TRAINING OR RETRAINING BEFORE THIS CENTURY ENDS. MEETING THAT NEED WILL DEMAND REAL PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS -- AND BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY.

THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES HAVE A HISTORY OF OUTSTANDING TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

JOB CORPS, AND THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT, HAVE ALSO HAD OUTSTANDING RESULTS. AND I WILL BE LOOKING TO SECRETARY DOLE, AS SHE FIND NEW SOLUTIONS TO HELP THOSE WHO AREN'T YET PREPARED FOR THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE -- BECAUSE OF A SKILLS GAP, FAMILY PRESSURES, OR A LACK OF SUPPORTIVE POLICIES. LET ME SAY, SHE HAS MY FULL SUPPORT.

YOU KNOW, BACK WHEN BARBARA AND I WERE STARTING FROM SCRATCH IN MIDLAND, I LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT BUILDING A BUSINESS, AND MEETING A PAYROLL. LIVED A FEW OF THE LESSONS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GET OUT OF BOOKS -- ABOUT SUPPLY AND DEMAND, RISK AND REWARD, PROFIT AND LOSS.

BUT I ALSO LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT THE TRUST THAT MUST EXIST BETWEEN WORKERS AND MANAGERS. OUR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN FACE REAL CHALLENGES NOW.

TO MEET THEM, OUR SPIRIT MUST BE ONE OF COOPERATION;
OUR MOTIVATION, FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

THERE WILL BE HONEST DIFFERENCES. THAT'S WHY WE
NEED A NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD OF KNOWLEDGEABLE
INDIVIDUALS -- WHOSE NEUTRALITY AND INTEGRITY ARE ABOVE
REPROACH. LET ME ASSURE YOU, THE PEOPLE I AM GOING TO
NOMINATE MEET THESE STANDARDS. MY APPOINTMENTS WILL
NOT BE "ANTI-LABOR," OR "ANTI-BUSINESS" -- THEY WILL BE
BASED ON "FAIR PLAY."

((WE MUST KEEP THE BALL IN PLAY. LIKE MARK TWAIN
SAID, "IT'S NOT GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP TO PICK UP LOST GOLF
BALLS WHILE THEY ARE STILL ROLLING."))

ON MONDAY, I SALUTED THE MEMBERS AND LEADERS OF THE
AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT, FOR HANGING TOUGH WITH LECH
WALESA IN SOLIDARITY THROUGH THE DARKEST DAYS.
DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN POLAND HAVE ASKED FOR THE SUPPORT
OF THE WEST. AND THE WEST WILL RESPOND.

- 21 -

THE CONGRESS, THE POLISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT, OUR ALLIES AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER IF POLISH DEMOCRACY IS TO TAKE ROOT, AND ENDURE.

BRIGHTER DAYS MAY BE DAWNING IN EASTERN EUROPE. IN POLAND, IN CENTRAL AMERICA -- WHEREVER THE FREE TRADE MOVEMENT IS THREATENED -- SO, TOO, IS DEMOCRACY. AND FREEDOM ITSELF.

- 22 -

YOU UNDERSTAND FREEDOM. ONE OF THE THINGS I MOST ADMIRE, WHEN I TALK WITH MEMBERS OF THE BUILDING TRADES, IS THEIR SENSE OF PATRIOTISM. AMONG YOU HERE TODAY ARE MANY VETERANS -- WORLD WAR II, KOREA, VIETNAM. YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT FREEDOM? NO ONE -- NO ONE -- APPRECIATES THIS COUNTRY, THIS FREEDOM, AS MUCH AS SOMEONE WHO HAS PUT LIFE AND LIMB AT RISK IN ITS DEFENSE.

- 23 -

NOW, YOU MAY FIGURE THAT POLITICIANS COME AND GO. BUT THE KIND OF PEOPLE THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO A FREE, PROSPEROUS SOCIETY -- WITH A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY -- ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU. YOU BEAR THE TOOLS, THE SKILLS, AND THE WILL TO BUILD A BETTER AMERICA --AND TO KEEP THIS GREAT NATION FREE. MY DOOR IS WIDE OPEN. I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU. TO ADVOCATE. TO NEGOTIATE. AND TO COUNT ON YOU AS NEIGHBORS -- AND AS FRIENDS.

- 24 -

((YOU KNOW, SOMEBODY ONCE ASKED YOGI BERRA IF HE WAS A FATALIST. HE ANSWERED, "NO, I NEVER COLLECTED POSTAGE STAMPS.")) WE HAVE NO TIME FOR FATALISM, IN THE FACE OF SUCH GOOD FORTUNE. LIKE EVERY AMERICAN, I'M GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE BLESSINGS THAT THE BUILDERS OF AMERICA HAVE BUILT, AS MONUMENTS TO OUR LABOR, AND OUR FREEDOM. THANK YOU ALL. GOD BLESS YOU. AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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American Society of
Newspapers Editors

Elise Brose

John Sargent Miller (out-of-town)

Newspaper Publisher

Carolyn Ebel Chandler

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Formed '88

Joined Dec '88

Construction Maritime
& Health Engineering
Support

Const Safety team
(3) teams

provide Eng. Support
across agency

Major Disaster
Investigation

2 Day to Day regional
standards direct
Engineering question

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~eg~~ Caudillo Dam (Construct
in H₂O) RI

eg Lam^{ance} Plaza
~~Ridge~~ Port

Lift Slab construction
revised standard
provide OSHA +
outline of safety
Cambridge, MIT

str

7 people 1 leader
6 others

Construction
100 yrs practical
experience
Bechtel, private, Corp

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Structural, mech, soils,
material, tunneling,
explosive

Maritime 2/3 complete
shipbuilding +
long shoring
23 east general

Health Response
10 yrs
6 indio prof.
SLC

And Instructional
Hygiene
operational highly qual. bc

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Available for support
to ~~the~~ state planned
states (24)

Labor + mgmt in ^{private} sector
Management building
Vocal pts. Trades
address questions

Word beginnings to get
around

Reported starting to
Come

Regional people
2 Advisory Board
Statutone

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Flaxel Communications
Standard

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mon. Georgine
Lane Kirkland
Spur Wright
M.L. Mitchell

Workshops
Coal slurry legal issues
pension
safety
wage

Tues. Pres.
↑ Sec. Dole
Sen. Monahan
Infrastructure
info. ↑

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tues: Hill → homestate

Wed: Dole
Congressmen

Workshops

Thurs: workshop

National Conf. of the Bidg +
Construction Trade Department

AT THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AFL-CIO 3000-4000
Attendees

10:00 Am
Washington Hilton

Kennedy 15 NH + INTL
Johnson 5 million

Ford
Carter Bidg for the Future

Reagan

Robert A. George
Pres.

"guts of old AFL-CIO"

1
2 no substance

3 expand on importance of deficit agreement
4 what it does - numbers

5 remove infrastructure

6 designed to maintain growth
7 puts money into

8 capital gains expansion

9 expand education and training

10 better segue on patriotism
11 part tense

**REMARKS: BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
AFL-CIO -- LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1989
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
10:00 A.M.**

**((BOB, SINCE THE ELECTION'S OVER, I THINK THE STORY
CAN NOW BE TOLD. A PROUD STORY, ABOUT ALL THE GREAT
HELP YOU GAVE ME DURING THE CAMPAIGN. BUT I
UNDERSTOOD.**

- 2 -

**IN 1984, BOB SAYS, "GEORGE, YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND. YOU
SEE, GERALDINE FERRARO IS ITALIAN." I UNDERSTOOD.
THEN, IN 1988, I SEE BOB AGAIN. I'M RUNNING AGAINST
MIKE DUKAKIS. BOB SAYS, "YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND." I
LOOK AT HIS NAME TAG. IT SAYS "BOB GEORGOPOLIS"!))
WELL, I DO UNDERSTAND. AND I RESPECT THIS GUY.**

- 3 -

AND MY DOOR WILL BE OPEN TO HIM -- AND TO YOU WHO HE REPRESENTS SO WELL. BESIDES, HE'S MY WIFE'S FRIEND, TOO -- AND I DON'T WANT TO GET CROSSWISE WITH THE SILVER FOX.

BOB, I'M HONORED YOU INVITED ME TO BE HERE.

- 4 -

I'M ALSO HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF MANY FRIENDS -- CONGRESSMAN TOM RIDGE; ELIZABETH DOLE, LABOR SECRETARY; TEAMSTER'S PRESIDENT BILLY MCCARTHY; BUDDY RUEL AND JOHN BOWDEN OF THE IRONWORKERS; BILL DUGAN AND JOHN BERTRAND FROM THE OPERATING ENGINEERS; ED BRUBECK FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS BUILDING TRADES -- AND SO MANY OTHERS, THAT TO THANK THEM ALL, MIGHT WEAR OUT MY WELCOME.

- 5 -

WE HOLD ELECTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY; AND THEN WE MOVE ON. LEADERSHIP ASSUMES OFFICE; IT EXERTS ITS INFLUENCE; BUT IT MUST NEVER PRESUME THAT IT DOES ANYTHING MORE THAN SPEAK, AND ACT, FOR THE PEOPLE. WE'VE HAD HONEST DIFFERENCES. BUT WE AGREE ON GOALS. AND WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE MAKE PROGRESS, ON ISSUES OF SHARED CONCERN.

- 6 -

SO I BEGIN WITH A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS. YOUR "DAD'S DAY" EVENT IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF VOLUNTEERISM IN ACTION. IT'S A REMINDER OF HOW WE IN AMERICA MUST LEARN TO MEASURE SUCCESS. NOT BY THE SUM OF OUR POSSESSIONS, BUT BY THE GOOD WE DO FOR OTHERS. ON FATHER'S DAY, THE BUILDING TRADES WILL BE WINNING A VICTORY FOR HUMANITY, LARGE AND SMALL.

YOUR THEME FOR THIS CONFERENCE IS "BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE." SO TODAY, I WANT TO SHARE JUST A FEW THOUGHTS, ON HOW WE CAN BUILD A BETTER AMERICA.

WE ARE PROSPEROUS. AND WE ARE AT PEACE. YOU'VE HEARD THE NUMBERS. 76 MONTHS OF RECORD-BREAKING ECONOMIC GROWTH. A GROWTH RATE THAT OUTSTRIPS THE NATIONS OF EUROPE, EXCEEDING ALL EXPECTATIONS. NEARLY 20 MILLION NEW JOBS. UNEMPLOYMENT AT A 15 YEAR LOW. REAL FAMILY INCOME AT AN ALL TIME HIGH.

OUTPUT OF GOODS AND SERVICES UP OVER 27 PERCENT SINCE THE END OF 1982.

BUT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER WHAT'S DRIVING THIS ECONOMIC GROWTH: THE ENTERPRISE AND ENERGY OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU. YOU BUILD A BETTER AMERICA, EVERY DAY.

((ANYONE WHO FORGETS THAT WORKING MEN AND WOMEN DRIVE THIS ECONOMY, OUGHT TO TAKE A LESSON FROM THE GUY WITH THE CIRCULAR SAW, WHO RUNS OVER HIS OWN POWER CORD.

THE GUY MAY THINK HE'S HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION -- BUT HE MAY BE IN FOR A SHOCK.))

YES, OUR ECONOMY IS HEALTHY. BUT TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING, TO KEEP AMERICA COMPETITIVE, AND TO KEEP THE BUILDING TRADES STRONG, WE MUST KEEP INFLATION AND INTEREST RATES DOWN. MOREOVER, WE MUST BRING THEM DOWN FURTHER. THE WAY TO DO THAT, IS TO BRING THE BUDGET DEFICIT DOWN.

I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT WE'VE REACHED A BUDGET AGREEMENT WITH CONGRESS. AND I'D ADD THAT THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH AGREEMENT REACHED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE -- AND NOT FRAMED IN THE CONTEXT OF CRISIS. THIS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP -- BUT IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP.

THIS BUDGET AGREEMENT MEETS OUR FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY, AND SUPPORT THE NEEDY. IT PROVIDES FUNDS TO ADVANCE HIGH-PRIORITY INITIATIVES.

BUT IT ALSO RESTRAINS THE OVERALL GROWTH OF FEDERAL SPENDING -- SO THAT WE CAN MEET THE GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS DEFICIT TARGET ON TIME.

NEXT YEAR ALONE, FEDERAL REVENUES WILL RISE BY MORE THAN \$80 BILLION -- WITH NO TAX INCREASE. THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD BRING THE BUDGET DEFICIT FOR 1990 DOWN TO \$99.4 BILLION -- A \$64 BILLION REDUCTION. AND LET ME SAY THIS: I KEPT MY PROMISE. WE HAVE NOT RAISED TAXES ON THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS COUNTRY.

WHAT THIS BUDGET DOES DO, IS PUT OUR PRIORITIES IN THE RIGHT PLACE. IT PUTS THE FOCUS ON THE KIND OF INVESTMENT WE NEED TO BUILD ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND STIMULATE COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE. AND THAT MEANS RESTORING THE CAPITAL GAINS DIFFERENTIAL, TO 15 PERCENT ON LONG-HELD ASSETS.

WHATEVER ELSE YOU'VE HEARD, THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX CUT WILL MAKE US MORE COMPETITIVE WITH OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS -- WHO TAX CAPITAL GAINS LIGHTLY, IF AT ALL. IT WILL BRING \$4.8 BILLION MORE IN TAX REVENUES IN 1990, ACCORDING TO THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT. IT WILL HELP AMERICAN ENTERPRISE GROW. AND IT WILL CREATE MORE NEW JOBS.

COMPETITIVENESS; OPPORTUNITY AND GROWTH; SAVING AND INVESTING FOR THE LONG-TERM; AND MORE NEW JOBS -- THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL FIGHTING FOR.

CONSTRUCTION-RELATED JOBS ARE VITAL TO A STRONG ECONOMY. BUT AS WE WORK TO CREATE THOSE JOBS, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY PERSON WHO TAKES A CONSTRUCTION JOB IS AS SAFE AS WE CAN MAKE THEM.

AS ONE STEP, WE'VE ESTABLISHED A NEW OFFICE OF ENGINEERING SUPPORT IN OSHA, TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH YOU FOR BETTER ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION -- AND PREVENTION.

ALONG WITH KEEPING WORKERS SAFE, BUILDING A BETTER, MORE COMPETITIVE AMERICA DEMANDS THAT WORKERS ARE SKILLED. WE NEED TO EASE SOME OF THE SHORTAGES OF TALENT, ALREADY DEVELOPING IN YOUR TRADES, AND MANY OTHERS.

SO WE'RE LOOKING TO THE ONLY LONG-TERM SOLUTION -- COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING. OVER 50 MILLION AMERICANS WILL NEED SOME KIND OF TRAINING OR RETRAINING BEFORE THIS CENTURY ENDS. MEETING THAT NEED WILL DEMAND REAL PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS -- AND BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY.

THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES HAVE A HISTORY OF OUTSTANDING TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

JOB CORPS, AND THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT, HAVE ALSO HAD OUTSTANDING RESULTS. AND I WILL BE LOOKING TO SECRETARY DOLE, AS SHE FIND NEW SOLUTIONS TO HELP THOSE WHO AREN'T YET PREPARED FOR THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE -- BECAUSE OF A SKILLS GAP, FAMILY PRESSURES, OR A LACK OF SUPPORTIVE POLICIES. LET ME SAY, SHE HAS MY FULL SUPPORT.

YOU KNOW, BACK WHEN BARBARA AND I WERE STARTING FROM SCRATCH IN MIDLAND, I LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT BUILDING A BUSINESS, AND MEETING A PAYROLL. LIVED A FEW OF THE LESSONS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GET OUT OF BOOKS -- ABOUT SUPPLY AND DEMAND, RISK AND REWARD, PROFIT AND LOSS.

BUT I ALSO LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT THE TRUST THAT MUST EXIST BETWEEN WORKERS AND MANAGERS. OUR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN FACE REAL CHALLENGES NOW.

**TO MEET THEM, OUR SPIRIT MUST BE ONE OF COOPERATION;
OUR MOTIVATION, FOR THE COMMON GOOD.**

**THERE WILL BE HONEST DIFFERENCES. THAT'S WHY WE
NEED A NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD OF KNOWLEDGEABLE
INDIVIDUALS -- WHOSE NEUTRALITY AND INTEGRITY ARE ABOVE
REPROACH. LET ME ASSURE YOU, THE PEOPLE I AM GOING TO
NOMINATE MEET THESE STANDARDS. MY APPOINTMENTS WILL
NOT BE "ANTI-LABOR," OR "ANTI-BUSINESS" -- THEY WILL BE
BASED ON "FAIR PLAY."**

**((WE MUST KEEP THE BALL IN PLAY. LIKE MARK TWAIN
SAID, "IT'S NOT GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP TO PICK UP LOST GOLF
BALLS WHILE THEY ARE STILL ROLLING."))**

**ON MONDAY, I SALUTED THE MEMBERS AND LEADERS OF THE
AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT, FOR HANGING TOUGH WITH LECH
WALESA IN SOLIDARITY THROUGH THE DARKEST DAYS.
DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN POLAND HAVE ASKED FOR THE SUPPORT
OF THE WEST. AND THE WEST WILL RESPOND.**

THE CONGRESS, THE POLISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT, OUR ALLIES AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER IF POLISH DEMOCRACY IS TO TAKE ROOT, AND ENDURE.

BRIGHTER DAYS MAY BE DAWNING IN EASTERN EUROPE. IN POLAND, IN CENTRAL AMERICA -- WHEREVER THE FREE TRADE MOVEMENT IS THREATENED -- SO, TOO, IS DEMOCRACY. AND FREEDOM ITSELF.

YOU UNDERSTAND FREEDOM. ONE OF THE THINGS I MOST ADMIRE, WHEN I TALK WITH MEMBERS OF THE BUILDING TRADES, IS THEIR SENSE OF PATRIOTISM. AMONG YOU HERE TODAY ARE MANY VETERANS -- WORLD WAR II, KOREA, VIETNAM. YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT FREEDOM? NO ONE -- NO ONE -- APPRECIATES THIS COUNTRY, THIS FREEDOM, AS MUCH AS SOMEONE WHO HAS PUT LIFE AND LIMB AT RISK IN ITS DEFENSE.

- 23 -

Now, YOU MAY FIGURE THAT POLITICIANS COME AND GO. BUT THE KIND OF PEOPLE THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO A FREE, PROSPEROUS SOCIETY -- WITH A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY -- ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU. YOU BEAR THE TOOLS, THE SKILLS, AND THE WILL TO BUILD A BETTER AMERICA --AND TO KEEP THIS GREAT NATION FREE. MY DOOR IS WIDE OPEN. I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU. TO ADVOCATE. TO NEGOTIATE. AND TO COUNT ON YOU AS NEIGHBORS -- AND AS FRIENDS.

- 24 -

((YOU KNOW, SOMEBODY ONCE ASKED YOGI BERRA IF HE WAS A FATALIST. HE ANSWERED, "NO, I NEVER COLLECTED POSTAGE STAMPS.")) WE HAVE NO TIME FOR FATALISM, IN THE FACE OF SUCH GOOD FORTUNE. LIKE EVERY AMERICAN, I'M GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE BLESSINGS THAT THE BUILDERS OF AMERICA HAVE BUILT, AS MONUMENTS TO OUR LABOR, AND OUR FREEDOM. THANK YOU ALL. GOD BLESS YOU. AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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(Lange/Martin)
April 17, 1989
10:30 a.m.
[BUILDERS.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
AFL-CIO -- LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1989
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
10:00 A.M.

((Bob, since the election's over, I think the story can now be told. A proud story, about all the great help you gave me during the campaign. But I understood. In 1984, Bob says, "George, you gotta understand. You see, Geraldine Ferraro is Italian." I understood. Then, in 1988, I see Bob again. I'm running against Mike Dukakis. Bob says, "You gotta understand." I look at his name tag. It says "Bob Georgopolis"!

Well, I do understand. And I respect this guy. And my door will be open to him -- and to you he represents so well. Besides, he's my wife's friend, too -- and I don't want to get crosswise with the Silver Fox.

Bob, I'm honored you invited me to be here. I'm also honored by the presence of many friends -- Congressman Tom Ridge; Elizabeth Dole, Labor Secretary; Teamster's President Billy McCarthy; Buddy Ruel and John Bowden of the Ironworkers; Bill Dugan and John Bertrand from the Operating Engineers; Ed Brubeck from the Indianapolis building trades -- and so many others, that to thank them all, might wear out my welcome.

We hold elections in this country; and then we move on. Leadership assumes office; it exerts its influence; but it must never presume that it does anything more than speak, and act, for the people. We've had honest differences. But we agree on goals. And what matters is that we make progress, on issues of shared concern.

So I begin with a special word of thanks. Your "DAD's Day" event is a shining example of volunteerism in action. It's a reminder of how we in America must learn to measure success. Not by the sum of our possessions, but by the good we do for others. On Father's Day, the Building Trades will be winning a victory for humanity, large and small.

Your theme for this conference is "Building for the Future." So today, I want to share just a few thoughts, on how we can Build a Better America.

We are prosperous. And we are at peace. You've heard the numbers. 76 months of record-breaking economic growth. A growth rate that outstrips the nations of Europe, exceeding all expectations. Nearly 20 million new jobs. Unemployment at a 15 year low. Real family income at an all time high. Output of goods and services up over 27 percent since the end of 1982.

But we have to remember what's driving this economic growth: the enterprise and energy of people like you. You build a better America, every day.

((Anyone who forgets that working men and women drive this economy, ought to take a lesson from the guy with the circular saw, who runs over his own power cord. The guy may think he's headed in the right direction -- but he may be in for a shock.))

Yes, our economy is healthy. But to keep the momentum going, to keep America competitive, and to keep the building trades strong, we must keep inflation and interest rates down. Moreover, we must bring them down further. The way to do that, is to bring the budget deficit down.

I'm pleased to say that we've reached a budget agreement with Congress. And I'd add that this is the first such agreement reached ahead of schedule -- and not framed in the context of crisis. This is only a first step -- but it is a very important step.

This budget agreement meets our fundamental obligations to protect national security, and support the needy. It provides funds to advance high-priority initiatives. But it also restrains the overall growth of federal spending -- so that we can meet the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit target on time.

Next year alone, federal revenues will rise by more than \$80 billion -- with no tax increase. This budget should bring the budget deficit for 1990 down to \$99.4 billion -- a \$64 billion reduction, (relative to estimates for the fiscal 1989 deficit.) And this agreement does not call for raising taxes on the working men and women of this country. I kept my promise. To anyone who suggests a tax increase is somehow inevitable, let me quote a great Irish folk song: "No. Nay. Never!"

What this budget does do, is put our priorities in the right place. It puts the focus on the kind of investment we need to build on growth -- and stimulate competitive enterprise. And that means restoring the capital gains differential, to 15 percent on long-held assets.

Whatever else you've heard, the capital gains tax cut will make us more competitive with our trading partners -- who tax capital gains lightly, if at all. It will bring \$4.8 billion more in tax revenues in 1990, according to the Treasury Department. It will help American enterprise grow. And it will create more new jobs.

Competitiveness; opportunity and growth; saving and investing for the long-term; and more new jobs -- that's what we're all fighting for.

Construction-related jobs are vital to a strong economy. But as we work to create those jobs, we need to make sure that every person who takes a construction job is as safe as we can make them. As one step, we've established a new Office of Engineering Support in OSHA, to work more closely with the you for better accident investigation -- and prevention. ~~Red~~

Many of your people are right on the front line, in the Superfund project. Well, those workers who clean up our environment, they're devoted to preserving the infrastructure that only God could provide. They are patriots for the modern age. And we must keep them safe.] e.?

Along with keeping workers safe, building a better, more competitive America demands that workers are skilled. We need to ease some of the shortages of talent, already developing in your trades, and many others. So we're looking to the only long-term solution -- comprehensive education and training. It's an effort that will demand real partnerships between employers and workers -- and between government and industry.

The construction trades have a history of outstanding training and development efforts. Job Corps, and the Job Training Partnership Act, have also had outstanding results. And I will be looking to Secretary Dole, as she find new solutions to

help those who aren't yet prepared for the jobs of the future -- because of a skills gap, family pressures, or a lack of supportive policies. Let me say, she has my full support.

You know, back when Barbara and I were starting from scratch in Midland, I learned something about building a business, and meeting a payroll. Lived a few of the lessons you're supposed to get out of books -- about supply and demand, risk and reward, profit and loss.

But I also learned something about the trust that must exist between workers and managers. Our working men and women face real challenges now. To meet them, our spirit must be one of cooperation; our motivation, for the common good.

There will be honest differences. That's why we need a National Labor Relations Board of knowledgeable individuals -- whose neutrality and integrity are above reproach. Let me assure you, the people I am going to nominate meet these standards. My appointments will not be "anti-labor," or "anti-business" -- they will be based on "fair play." ((Like Mark Twain said, "It's not good sportsmanship to pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling."))

On Monday, I saluted the members and leaders of the American labor movement, for hanging tough with Lech Walesa in Solidarity

through the darkest days. Democratic forces in Poland have asked for the support of the West. And the West will respond. The Congress, the Polish-American community, the American labor movement, our allies and international financial institutions -- all must work together if Polish democracy is to take root, and endure.

Brighter days may be dawning in Eastern Europe. In Poland, in Central America -- wherever the free trade movement is threatened -- so, too, is democracy. And freedom itself.

You understand freedom. One of the things I most admire, when I talk with members of the building trades, is their sense of patriotism. Among you here today are many Veterans -- World War II, Korea, Vietnam. You want to talk about freedom? No one -- no one -- appreciates this country, this freedom, as much as someone who has put life and limb at risk in its defense.

Now, you may figure that politicians come and go. But the kind of people that are essential to a free, prosperous society -- with a competitive economy -- are people like you. You bear the tools, the skills, and the will to Build a Better America -- and to keep this great nation free.

My door is wide open. I want to work with you. To advocate. To negotiate. And to count on you as neighbors -- and

as friends. ((You know, somebody once asked Yogi Berra if he was a fatalist. He answered, "No, I never collected postage stamps."))

We have no time for fatalism, in the face of such good fortune. Like every American, I'm grateful for all of the blessings that the builders of America have built, as monuments to our labor, and our freedom. Thank you all. God bless you. And God bless America.

DRAFT

[NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION OR QUOTATION.]

-- M.F.

(Lange/Martin)
April 14, 1989
10:30 a.m.
[BUILDERS.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
AFL-CIO -- LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1989
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
11:00 A.M.

[Bob, since the election's over, I think the story can now be told. A small and stately story, about all the great help you gave me during the election. All of the money you contributed -- your help with speech coaching -- the way you helped me get out the vote -- and all of those long nights in Iowa! It really made a difference.

I just want to say publicly, Bob, I owe you a debt of gratitude for single-handedly helping me win this election. I can't thank you enough. You know, because he's so humble, Bob probably hasn't taken any of the credit. And I'm still not sure why he wouldn't sit next to me at the Inaugural parade...]

Seriously, Bob, I'm honored you invited me here today. I'm also honored by the presence of many friends here -- that includes Congressman Tom Ridge; Teamster's President Billy McCarthy; Buddy Ruel and John Bowden of the Ironworkers; Bill Dugan and John Bertrand from the Operating Engineers; Ed Brubeck from the Indianapolis building trades -- and so many others, that to thank them all might wear out my welcome.

But I do have one very special word of thanks. Your "DAD's Day" event is a shining example of volunteerism in action. And it's a reminder of how we in America must learn to measure success: not by the sum of our possessions, but by the good we do for others. On Father's Day, the Building Trades will be winning a victory for humanity, large and small.

We hold elections in this country; and then we move on. Leadership assumes office; it exerts its influence; but it must never presume that it does anything more than speak and act for the people. We've had honest differences. But we agree on goals. And what matters is that we make progress, on issues of shared concern.

Your theme for this conference is "Building for the Future." Today, I want to share just a few thoughts, on Building a Better America.

We are prosperous, and we are at peace. You've heard the numbers. 75 months of record-breaking economic growth. A growth rate that outstrips the nations of Europe, and is equal to the pace in Japan. Over 19 million new jobs. Unemployment at a 15 year low. Real family income at an all time high. Output of goods and services up over 27 percent since 1982.

But we have to remember what's driving this economic growth: the enterprise and energy of people like you. You build a better America, every day.

Anyone who forgets that working men and women drive this economy, ought to take a lesson from the guy with the circular saw, who runs over his own power cord. The guy may think he's headed in the right direction -- but then, he may be in for a shock.

Yes, our economy is healthy. But to keep the momentum going, and to keep the building trades strong, we must keep inflation and interest rates down. We need to re-establish the differential in the capital gains tax rate to encourage more investment, more job creation, and more new construction.

And we need to bring the deficit down. I'm pleased to announce that we've reached a budget agreement with Congress. And I'd add that this is the first such agreement reached ahead of schedule -- and not framed in the context of crisis.

Many of you devote your lives to building and maintaining what the policy experts call "infrastructure" -- roads, bridges, buildings, facilities of every kind. Maybe you saw a recent news piece, where a man put his fist through a rusting girder on a

bridge? That bridge had rusted through, for lack of paint and simple maintenance. I'm no economist. But that's bad economics.

Everything of value needs tending to. Whether we're talking about bridges, or tools, or skills -- or relations between labor and management: how much easier it is, to maintain something, than to ignore, or neglect it -- and have to try to replace it later.

Sometimes losses can't be helped. I remember when we lost a rig off the coast of Texas. Hurricane came up; wiped it right out. I went out there in a plane to look for it -- couldn't find it anywhere. Told them back at the office it was all gone. Maybe they thought I was a few bricks short of a load. Or as you carpenters might say, "a bubble and a half off plumb."

But sometimes, what's lost can't be replaced. Construction-related jobs are among the most hazardous jobs in America. They pose serious risks. And we are serious about keeping the people who hold those jobs as safe as we possibly can. As one step, a new Construction Support Office in OSHA was just established, to work more closely with the private sector and the construction trades -- for both accident investigation, and prevention.

An area where many of your people are right on the front line, and deserve our best support, is in the Superfund project.

You've got a session tomorrow devoted to hazards in the workplace. Well, those workers who clean up our environment, they're devoting themselves to preserving the infrastructure that only God could bless us with. They are patriots for the modern age. And we must keep them safe.

Along with keeping workers safe, a productive economy demands that workers are skilled. We need to ease some of the shortages of talent that are already developing in your trades, and many others. So we're looking to the only long-term solution: comprehensive education and training.

The construction trades have a history of outstanding training and development efforts. And at the federal level, Secretary Dole is a champion of strategies for economic growth. She is working on new solutions to help those who aren't yet prepared for the jobs of the future -- because of a skills gap, family pressures, or a lack of supportive policies. And let me say, she has my full support.

You know, back when Barbara and I were starting from scratch in Midland, I learned something about building a business, and meeting a payroll. Lived a few of the lessons you're supposed to get out of books -- about supply and demand, risk and reward, profit and loss.

But I also learned something about the trust that must exist between workers and managers. Our working men and women face real challenges. And in meeting them, our spirit must be one of cooperation; our motivation, for the common good.

That's always been the basis for the National Labor Relations Board. So let me assure you that the individuals I'm going to nominate are of the highest integrity. They understand the delicate balance which defines the role of the NLRB.

The American system of labor-management relations is the envy of the world. On Monday, I saluted the members and leaders of the American labor movement for hanging tough with Solidarity through the darkest days. Brighter days are dawning there. And here at home, we are all served well when the NLRB operates in a spirit of neutrality.

Now, you may figure that politicians come and go. But the kind of people that are essential to a free, prosperous society -- with a robust economy -- are people like you. You can't be replaced.

This government can, and will, promote policies for meaningful, safe, and rewarding employment -- for everyone who wants a job. My door is wide open. I will continue to work with

you; to advocate; to negotiate; and to count on you as neighbors -- and as friends.

You see, I'm an optimist. You know, somebody once asked Yogi Berra if he was a fatalist. He answered, "No, I never collected postage stamps."

After seeing a group like this one, I know America has no need for fatalism, in the face of such good fortune. Like every American, I'm thankful for the roads I drive down; the bridges I cross; and yes, the roof over my head. I'm grateful for all of the blessings that the builders of America have built, as monuments to our industry, and our freedom.

So let me thank you all. God bless you. And God bless America.