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The American people understand there are no snap answers, that the only solutions that succeed are ones consistent with these core values. And for all the noise and the clatter of contemporary culture, that's cause for optimism. The calendar offers each of us convenient launch points for a fresh start. Sometimes it's a new day, a new year—now, a brand-new decade. And the beginning of the nineties invites America to clearly put its signature on the 20th century, to write the next chapter in a book of spectacular achievements in freedom, economics, human advancement, world leadership. I welcome the nineties with a genuine sense of optimism. It's an ideal time to renew our vows and our values, time to look beyond the next paycheck and the next personal problem, time instead to look to the next generation.

And so, I am optimistic about our future for one compelling reason: To succeed, we do not have to acquire any new qualities. The courage, ingenuity, and compassion that made us the leader of the free world is still in every one of us. And we simply have to remember that the American adventure isn't over: it's just begun.

Thank you all very much. God bless you and the Spectator, and God bless the United States of America. And thank you for letting Barbara and me come by.

Note: The President spoke at 7:25 p.m. in the ballroom at the Willard Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Lord Henry Plumb, former President of the European Parliament, and R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr., editor of the American Spectator, a monthly magazine.

Message on the Observance of National Afro-American (Black) History Month, February 1990

January 22, 1990

Each February, we observe National Black History Month in recognition of the remarkable achievements of Black Americans and the many contributions they have made to our nation's heritage.

In 1926, the respected historian, Carter G. Woodson, initiated "Negro History Week" in order to increase public appreciation for the important role Black Americans have played in shaping American history. This year, during Black History Month, we once again pay tribute to those courageous men and women who have triumphed over the bitter legacy of slavery and discrimination and become full partners in America's great experiment in self-government.

Throughout our nation's history, Black Americans have continued to demonstrate the strength of their beliefs and the wealth of their abilities. The career of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, the first physician to perform successful open-heart surgery, and the beloved poetry of Langston Hughes and Sterling Brown provide powerful examples of the honor Black Americans have earned in virtually every field of endeavor. This month, we also celebrate the lasting influence of courageous individuals like Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who led the way in the struggle against bigotry and segregation. Their efforts helped open the doors of opportunity for millions of their fellow Americans.

Standing on the threshold of a new decade, we look to the future with high hopes, confident that it will be marked by ever greater achievements among Black Americans and by continued progress in our efforts to promote equal opportunity and racial harmony in the United States.

Today, I encourage all Americans to join me in saluting the tremendous achievements of Black Americans. They strengthen and enrich our entire nation.

George Bush

Remarks to Members of the Law Enforcement Community in Kansas City, Missouri

January 23, 1990

Thank you, Mayor Berkley. Thank you very, very much, all of you. Thank you very much. But how did you know that our dog, Millie, was the most popular person in the Bush family? [Laughter] I'm delighted to be

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introduced by my friend, Dick Berkley, and thank you for that warm introduction. As he confessed, we go back a long, long time, and I'm grateful to him for his friendship and his leadership. I also want to thank and pay my respects to two that flew out here with me on Air Force One: our distinguished Attorney General, Dick Thornburgh; and our Drug Policy Czar—why we use the word in the United States, I do not know—but our able Drug Policy Director, Bill Bennett. Both here with me today, and both doing a superb job for our country.

It's always good to see the Governors, and be with them, of these two great States, both friends—John Ashcroft, from Missouri, and of course my friend, Mike Hayden, from just across the line—I think it's just across the line—but both of them, side by side with us, recognizing that the States must have considerable influence, must take a lot of action, if we're going to solve the problems that I wanted to talk to you about today.

And of course, we also had some other travelers with me, friends of good standing flying out, your two able Missouri Senators, Jack Danforth and Kit Bond. Both—whoops, they're here—here's one. Where's Kit? Over here. And of course, Congressman Ike Skelton, my friend, and also Tom Coleman. And let me just say about this group of Representatives, Senate and House: All of them, all four, are taking leadership roles in this fight against crime. And I know that your Congressman from the district I just visited, Alan Wheat, wanted to be here. He is attending to duties in Washington. I hope he's doing the right thing back there, as Congress just reconvened. And of course, so many law enforcement and community leaders—the police chief has been at my side, and the respect with which he's held by people in the communities is very clear and obvious—Commissioner Ray Price.

And of course, I had a wonderful meeting with the Ad Hoc Group. I've known the leader of the group because he is serving on one of our most prestigious antinarcotics task forces in Washington, Presidentially appointed, working closely with Bill Bennett and me. Al, we're just delighted that you are willing to not only do what you are doing here but take the time to be a part of

that. Al Brooks—an outstanding leader for this community.

Then I had a list, not to read off, necessarily, but I would be remiss if I didn't say how pleased I was with the briefing I received out here—the Ad Hoc Group. Inspiring presentations—and I won't mention them all, but Dr. Stacey Daniels, Dr. Mark Mitchell, one a Ph.D. psychologist, the other an M.D.; Cliff Sargeon, who just hitchhiked a ride with us somewhere along the line—I don't know where he is out there—And of course, Ron Finley and Vic, Majeeda, Aasim—so many others that just made this whole program come alive.

And now, before I get to my words, let me also salute the Army and thank the band from Fort Riley for that wonderful music. Outstanding, as always.

And I can tell you—and mean it—that it is great to be in the heartland, great to be back in Kansas City. And you know, Kansas City has so much of which to be proud. You've heard the tally: grassier than Ireland; built on more hills than ancient Rome; more water, more fountains than Paris. But you also know what really sets Kansas City apart. It is not your parks. It's your people. They call it the Kansas City Spirit—restless, idealistic, determined. It's the kind of spirit that pushed back frontiers and brought the railroads west, rebuilt a burned-down convention hall in 90 days, and survived three floods this century. And, yes, it's a community spirit, a spirit that emphasizes the value of collective well-being. Norman Rockwell captured in a painting called just that, the "Kansas City Spirit." It pictures a brawny, sun-burned man, feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes on the distant horizon. And one hand clutches a blueprint, and the other's rolling up his sleeves.

And thank God, it's a spirit that is very much alive today, because in recent years, it's not the convention hall that's caught fire but the streets themselves, burning with a new form of pain called crack and crackling with a burst of gunfire not heard in Kansas City since the outlaw days of the Old West.

But people in this town refused to surrender to the drug plague. You took back what's yours: took back your kids, and took back your streets. It began like the spirit of

Captain Call, moments before arresting his old friend. "But there he is. He put himself in it." McMurtry's saga, like the lives of the real-life pioneers who inspired it, reveals some simple truths. Most Americans believe each of us faces the innate temptation to succumb to evil and yet always has the freedom instead to choose to do good.

Today too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes, and we really have to change that. We have got to change it. The wrong people are behind bars. Go to the community I came from. Talk to the lady and her husband in a Christian home, a cross and the Bible inside, locked in for fear of what's on the outside.

The first line of defense will always be our local law enforcement. But as in the days of legendary U.S. Marshals like Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok, places like Kansas City again need the support of top-notch Federal lawmen. Congress deserves our thanks for providing the new Federal troops that we asked for—new agents, new prosecutors, new prisons to catch, convict, and contain those who prey on our cities.

But it's time for Congress, reconvening this very day, to finish the job, because it does no good to send the troops into battle wearing handcuffs. Shortly after taking office, I sent a comprehensive package to Congress to combat violent crime, to back up our new lawmen with new laws—laws that are fair, fast and final. Fair—an exclusionary rule designed to protect the truth and punish the guilty and not good cops who have acted in faith. Fast—habeas corpus reforms to stop the frivolous appeals that are choking our courts. And finally—fair, constitutionally sound death penalty provisions—because for any drug dealer who kills a cop, no penalty, in my view, is too tough.

Major portions of our crime bill still await congressional action. But today there's another bill, a Trojan Horse, standing at the gates of Congress. It's called S. 1970. It looks like a real crime bill. It sounds like a real crime bill. But look at it. Take a look at it. Go to the library and get it. In actuality it will be tougher on law enforcement than on criminals. And its so-called reforms of the exclusionary rule, habeas corpus, the

death penalty, and the Justice Department itself will only entrench and extend the legal loopholes and the redtape that disrupt honest law enforcement and have angered the American people for far too long. It must be defeated. America needs a crime bill with teeth, yes, but this is a sheep in wolf's clothing.

We don't question anyone's motives. One of the things I don't like about politics, maybe I should expect it, get into the arena, as Teddy Roosevelt called it. It seems to be a charge and countercharge. I propose one agenda and somebody else another. We don't have to question the other person's motives or integrity in making the proposal. But it is time to debate these differences openly. We can't accept anything, and I will not, that rolls back the clock on our ability to fight crime and punish wrongdoers. And good legislation shouldn't have to wait until the final weeks of an election year, as happened in 1984, 1986, and 1988, just by coincidence. And America wants it done right. And America wants it done responsibly. And America wants it done now.

You in Kansas and Missouri, right here, have set a personal example of courage in grappling with tough choices. In this city, you fought back and you got involved and you refused to look the other way. And you have my thanks and the gratitude of an admiring nation. In the Norman Rockwell painting that I mentioned earlier, the man with the blueprints is looking sharply to one side. They say a young boy saw the picture in a book, and asked his father, "Dad, Kansas City is in the center of America. Which way is the man facing—west or east?"

The father's answer was pure Midwest: "Well, son, it sort of depends on which way you hold the book." [Laughter]

Of course, the truth is, it doesn't matter how you hold that picture. Because no matter how you look at it, the Kansas City Spirit, the real "Kansas City Spirit," always faces the same way, forward to a brighter tomorrow, forward to the future ahead.

Thank you for an inspiring day. Thank you for this warm greeting on this January day. God bless you all as we begin a new

school. Thus we are performing one of the duties of citizenship in a free nation. Thus we symbolize our continuing faith in man's ability, under God, to govern himself intelligently. Thus we hope to assure the future strength and the eternal freedom of America.

My friends, to each of you who has come out this morning and has done me the courtesy of listening to the thoughts I have expressed, my warm thanks. I am grateful to you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m.

216 ¶ Address at the Annual Convention of the
Future Farmers of America, Kansas City, Missouri.

October 15, 1953

Mr. President, Governor Donnelly, other distinguished guests, my young friends:

There has just been conferred upon me, as I came up here, an honorary degree of Farmer of America. I hope you will allow me to say that not only am I very proud of this distinction, but I shall expect to profit from it. Now I believe it is my privilege to call upon the county agent, and even for some Department of Agriculture pamphlets. And with my farm in Pennsylvania, I need them.

Now, my young friends, I want to visit with you tonight about our country, and also about an important part of it—agriculture—to which you are devoting your lives.

But first, I want to extend my warm congratulations on the Silver Anniversary of your organization.

I wish we could have had similar organizations when I worked on the farm during my boyhood in Abilene, some 160 miles west of here.

Mastery of good farming is, of course, your immediate concern as Future Farmers of America. But for his well-being today, the farmer must look not merely to his own skills and his own fertile

acres; he must look to the far corners of this broad land and on beyond to such far-off regions as Malaya and the Belgian Congo.

The interests of you young men and women cannot be limited, isolated, or described by any single term such as "agriculture." Your study in the coming years must range beyond your immediate problems and your home communities. Your vision must encompass the entire globe. Certainly, for you and your parents, the activities of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense are as important as those of the Secretary of Agriculture. Your fortunes are and will be as directly and intimately affected by the foreign policies of the United States as they will be by any farm policy of the government.

By the same token, our agriculture has a far deeper meaning for the entire American people than is represented only in the abundant products of the soil. Our great cities, our mighty industries, our business and professional accomplishments, our educational institutions, our high living standards—are possible because of the efficiency and productivity of the American farm.

In some countries, roughly nine-tenths of the population must work on the land, in order to provide a living for themselves and to release one man for other types of duty. In our country that ratio is more than reversed. So that we have a great preponderant portion of our population free to go into other forms of activity that redound to the comfort and improved standards of living of all of us. In the same fashion your own agricultural interests and income are inseparably tied up with the health and prosperity of working men and women and the industries in our towns and cities. One element of our Nation can scarcely exist—and certainly cannot prosper—independently of the others.

This truth is applicable within agriculture itself. There is, for instance, the problem created by the desire of the cattle raiser for cheap feed, while the producer of that feed seeks a good market and high prices. The simple fact is that we must seek methods of increasing stability and prosperity in all elements of agriculture. Such an agriculture is imperative to the well-being of all Americans.

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Because our national interest is so deeply involved, I think it will be well for us to take stock of where we are today and where we are headed for in agriculture. I am going to talk about this, my young friends, without apology, because I think you have as much interest in the matter as do your parents. I know you have a far greater understanding of the factors at work than did young people during my own youth.

Let us talk first about some disagreeable facts. There are difficult problems today in our agriculture—problems deeply rooted in our recent past. By last January, farm prices, farm income, and our agricultural exports had all gone into full retreat, while the cost of the things farmers bought were on the increase.

This economic grinding machine hurt many of our farm people, but especially young farmers just starting out—including many thousands of GI's who had turned to farming or returned to their farms, after the war. I understand and am deeply concerned with their problems.

Now, this developing cost-price squeeze found the Nation's cattlemen in especial difficulty early this year. It even forced many of them to liquidate all or part of their herds.

One of the first official acts of this Administration dealt with this problem. Price controls were promptly removed, as was the compulsory grading that had been obstructing the market. Secretary of Agriculture Benson then vigorously attacked the problem from the merchandising standpoint. He obtained the wholehearted cooperation of cattlemen's associations—meat packers—wholesale and retail outlets. These efforts helped increase beef sales by 26 percent during the first 8 months of 1953 as compared to one year before.

Trying and difficult as was this situation, a disaster of nature's making came to aggravate the trouble. A drought of devastating intensity blistered the great Southwest. Economic misfortune confronted hundreds of thousands of Americans on ranches and farms. The cattle forced upon the market from the stricken areas further depressed prices.

Clearly, here was a case for action by a government that was concerned with the welfare of all our people.

Emergency government programs were quickly set up to provide low cost feed in the disaster areas. Emergency credit, reduced freight rates, increased government purchases of beef were swiftly arranged. Incidentally, I was just informed today by the Secretary that the reduced freight rates are to be continued by the railways. In this crisis, the Congress, responding to the national interest, provided 150 million dollars for emergency loans and low-cost feed and seed.

Now, that was during June and July. Since then the drought has grown more serious, especially here in Missouri. I assure you young people, your families, and Americans generally, that the Federal government is continuing, and will continue as long as necessary, to assist in meeting the misfortunes of our people in the drought areas. Only a few days ago, an additional ten million dollars were allocated from emergency funds to help pay the cost of transporting midwestern hay to drought-stricken livestock farmers.

Today, to develop additional plans to meet this situation, Secretary Benson and Director Peterson of the Federal Civil Defense Administration met here in Kansas City with the Governors of the States most seriously affected by the widening drought. Tomorrow morning, I shall meet with the Governors to receive their suggestions on the cooperation of their States with the Federal government in this important effort.

My own conviction is that the principle of partnership between the Federal government and the State governments should govern our approach to such emergency problems. Only in this way can we gain the dual advantages of local knowledge, efficiency and incentive on the one hand, and of the wider Federal resources on the other.

And yet there are many problems relating to agriculture that are predominantly Federal in character. There is evidence of this fact in the many constructive legislative steps taken thus far

by the 83rd Congressional quota limitations Pakistan—provide commodities for relief and fifty million commodities—in flood control program of Agricultural Adjustments Act and crop policy. These are significant contributions to the welfare of American people.

Now, before people can enjoy the fruits of our culture, it is important to take action today.

This trouble, an expanded agricultural program to meet market demand.

Why, then, you insistently trouble.

I think, again, I

It was World War II, when our agricultural exports, financial crisis, burst of inflation, and economic emergencies, threatened the critical situation of the past decade. It was a problem and a defeat.

I grew up among people who believed in future prosperity. No one can hate a farmer. Instead, to be orderly, for the best brains are especially the country people.

by the 83rd Congress—such legislation as raising the minimum quota limitations on the 1954 wheat crop—authorizing wheat for Pakistan—providing one hundred million dollars of farm commodities for relief to friendly nations—authorizing two hundred and fifty million dollars for foreign currencies to expend for farm commodities—inaugurating a new upstream conservation-type flood control program—authorizing reorganization of the Department of Agriculture—extending the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act and creating a commission to study foreign economic policy. These and other actions by the Congress have been a significant contribution both to the present and to the future welfare of American farmers.

Now, before plans can be laid for the future of American agriculture, it is important for us to understand the major problem today.

This trouble, aside from the drought, is simply stated: our war-expanded agriculture produces more than enough, in some lines to meet market demands and reserve requirements at present prices.

Why, then, you may ask, hasn't this problem become more insistently troublesome before now?

I think, again, the reason is plain.

It was World War II inflation; then huge American agricultural exports, financed by American billions; then still another burst of inflation caused by the Korean War: it was these emergencies, these calamities, this rampant inflation, that provided the critical margin for high agricultural prices during the past decade. It was this series of events that blurred the basic problem and deferred its solution to later years.

I grew up among farmers. I know they do not want their future prosperity contingent upon crises of one sort or another. No one can hate war, inflation and crisis more than does the farmer. Instead the farmer wants farm programs that affect him to be orderly, long-lived, soundly-based and carefully devised by the best brains and experience in agriculture. This, I am sure, is especially the conviction of you young people. You have long

lives still before you, and must think in terms of sound and lasting farm programs fitted to your future.

It is for such reasons as these that we have established an 18-member commission to help devise programs for the farmers' future—a commission—and please note this well—a commission with 12 active, practical farmers as members, to insure that practical men help form a sound national agricultural policy.

To secure this kind of practical help is why the Department of Agriculture has been working closely with the national farm organizations and through them, directly with active farmers to develop its own recommendations for a farm program that will solidly advance the whole Nation's interest.

That is why special commodity committees and the agricultural colleges are hard at work with the Department of Agriculture on the more technical problems.

It is why the Senate Committee on Agriculture has commenced studies of conservation and development of our land and water resources.

This is also why the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture is now holding hearings right at the grass roots, taking testimony directly from active farmers and their leaders, to find out what the experienced farmer believes is necessary for a sound farm program.

Now, these are the most thorough probings into the fundamentals of American agriculture in many years. They have been actively under way for some time. While they have not yet been completed, I want to say now these three things about these broad efforts:

First, I intend to weigh carefully the many recommendations developed by these groups of men experienced in all these phases of agriculture. Based on those views, I will submit my recommendations to the Congress early next year on the kind of program I believe to be in the Nation's best interest.

And may I say, in connection with that, I look upon the formulation of a sound farm policy as a bi-partisan undertaking. The

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welfare of our farm families knows no politics and I assure you there shall be none in the approach to that problem by this Administration.

Second, just a word about price supports.

Now, these price support laws expire in December 1954. This means that in the next session of Congress, the one meeting this coming January, various plans will necessarily be considered and weighed and resolved. These alternatives are: first to extend present laws exactly as now written; second, to extend them with certain improvements; and third, to revise them radically in favor of an entirely new program. As all people in agriculture know, there is great diversity of opinion as to what should be done about these expiring laws.

We must—and we will—continue faithfully to administer present price support laws now on the statute books. Further, all of us know that the price support principle must be a part of any future farm program.

All of us likewise know that these are extremely complex issues. They are now being analyzed and worked at as hard as thoughtful people can do, with expert judgment being brought to bear from practical farmers themselves. I have kept in close personal touch with the progress of these studies. The goal is a solidly-based, comprehensive farm program that will remedy present difficulties in existing laws—a program that will build markets, safeguard farm income, and protect consumers.

The farmers need such a program in their own interest. Consumers need one in their own interest. But keep this clearly in mind: no program is going to be proposed by this Administration, nor, I am sure, would a program be passed by the Congress, that fails to provide solidly for the national interest by continuing prosperity in American agriculture.

Third, I think we are now ready to start hammering out this solidly-based program for the future.

Within ten days, on October 24th to be exact, I am calling together, to meet with me in the Cabinet Room at the White House,

the National Agricultural Advisory Commission. That commission will give to us the conclusions it has arrived at in its months of study.

Later, as your farm organizations and the Committees of Congress complete their essential studies, the Secretary and I will confer with the ranking members of these Committees and with your farm leaders to obtain the results of their grassroots studies now nearing completion.

Thus, in this fashion, we will firm up the needed program and we will have that program ready for the consideration of the Congress early next year. After that, of course, begin the exhaustive Committee hearings and debate in the Congress. The end result will be as sound and as carefully thought out a farm program as practical experience, expert knowledge, and good judgment can devise.

Now, my friends, I trust that this sketchy outline of the developing farm program has some interest for you because of your immediate economic and professional concerns. But, for just a moment, let us look at your wider interests as Americans and as citizens of the world—and at the kind of world in which you may spend your years. And let us not forget that the demands of those wider interests must always be met satisfactorily before specific programs affecting any profession or calling can have validity.

In the past half century our Nation's population has almost doubled. In the next six years our population will grow by the equivalent of the total present population of our great neighbor Canada. The promise that this rapid growth of our country holds out to all our people, and especially our farmers, is tremendous. It represents 7,000 more breakfasts, 7,000 more dinners, 7,000 more suppers each day than on the day before.

Combined with this rapidly growing market is the amazing progress in science and invention which daily opens startling new vistas for all of our people.

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Nation in the next few decades. In my lifetime have come the automobile, television, electronics, home freezers, widespread use of the telephone and electricity on our farms, good roads, power machinery, vastly improved fertilizer and insecticides—and not the least, civilian and military aircraft some flying beyond the speed of sound, some with a range of 10,000 miles.

With such startling developments in our recent past, who can foretell the promise of the future ahead of you young people?

In this developing society in which you are speedily to take a leading part, you must never permit your government to indulge in the fanciful notion that work for the individual is a thing of the past. My friends, this is true because if ever this should become a fact, if work were a thing of the past, all fun and joy in living would be gone. Your own property, your own security, your own opportunity, your own liberties, they must be earned—they cannot be bestowed upon you. It is government's function to preserve your possession of these rights and opportunities and privileges, and to protect you against every disaster which is of such a kind that the individual alone cannot conquer it. But in the necessity of constantly adjusting the processes of government so as always to provide for needed protection to its citizens, while at the same time insuring perpetuation of their economic, political and intellectual freedoms, here is where we find the great challenge of America.

So, what is promised you is opportunity to get ahead, to make of yourselves what you can. What is promised you, too, is a chance to keep a free government free—a government carrying forward in keeping with the Nation's ideals—a government of limited powers, preserving your freedom, responding to your will, and insuring that the Nation is secure.

I foresee no limits to your future. It is truly boundless. Anyone my age who truly believes in America sincerely congratulates you as you start the exciting and challenging journey through life, even though he cannot see and experience what you are going to see and experience. But he does know that the whole adventure

will be more fascinating, more spectacular, more stimulating and more rewarding than were the events my generation has witnessed.

As I say good night to you, I deeply wish that I could be given the words to express the boundless confidence I have in the ability and character and the stamina of America's young people. I have lived with them and gained inspiration from them in peace and in war in many corners of the earth. To them, America is indebted for every military victory she has won, for wars are always fought and won by the young people.

Now, we know as you know, that keeping our Nation secure and the world at peace will remain the predominant, overshadowing problem until an equitable method of easing the world's tensions has been found, until we have devised a way to turn man's major effort from his own destruction to his own betterment and salvation. Beyond all doubt the aspiration of America is peace; to achieve it your government in all its branches is laboring earnestly and persistently, and in doing so seeks the understanding support of every single one of our citizens in this quest for peace.

In this question, as in all others of major import, the fortunes of you young people are more definitely at stake than are those of older groups. This world is yours to live in; you must help shape it to your desires and aspirations. I believe—and I deeply believe—that the energy, the courage, the imagination, the readiness to sacrifice, of American youth when united behind this purpose, will constitute such a force that obstacles will fall and victory finally emerge.

As you till your farms, go to school, plan your futures, raise your families, remember that only he can deserve America who stands forever ready to give America all he has.

To live for America as devotedly, as nobly as so many thousands have died for her is the greatest ambition any of her children can have. Fortified and strengthened by this one truth, there is no problem you will not solve. May God truly bless you all.

Good night.

NOTE: The President was in the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. In

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NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. he referred to James Dillon, National President of the Future Farmers of America.
in the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. In his opening words

217 ¶ Statement by the President on Eric Johnston's Mission to the Near East.

October 16, 1953

THE GOVERNMENT of the United States believes that the interests of world peace call for every possible effort to create conditions of greater calm and stability in the Near East.

The Administration has continuously undertaken to relieve tensions in this sensitive and important area of the Free World.

Last spring, the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, made a first-hand survey of the area.

In furtherance of this policy, I am now sending Mr. Eric Johnston to the Near East as my personal representative with the rank of Ambassador to explore with the governments of the countries of that region certain steps which might be expected to contribute to an improvement of the general situation in the region. In so doing, I have assured Mr. Johnston that he will have my full support and enjoy the widest possible latitude in dealing with all questions relevant to his mission.

One of the major causes of disquiet in the Near East is the fact that some hundreds of thousands of Arab refugees are living without adequate means of support in the Arab states. The material wants of these people have been cared for through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. The Congress of the United States, over a period of four years, has appropriated a total of \$153,513,000 to aid these refugees. It has been evident from the start, however, that every effort must be made by the countries concerned, with the help of the international community, to find a means of giving these unfortunate people an opportunity to regain personal self-sufficiency.

and in seeking reductions in conventional arsenals in the negotiations on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR). These and other important arms control initiatives of my Administration are reviewed in my address of June 17, 1982, to the United Nations' Special Session on Disarmament, provided for your further information in an annex to the attached annual report.

Rather than seeking upper limits in arms control treaties, we seek to bring about real arms control through negotiated reductions. We are dedicated to reducing the threat of nuclear war by gradually reducing nuclear arsenals so that only those weapons which can reasonably guarantee mutual deterrence remain.

I am firmly convinced that the road we are following is both rational and realistic. We have analyzed the Soviet approach to military strategy and the threat posed by Soviet forces. We have concluded that arms control must play a vital role in the conduct of our foreign policy and as a complement to our policy of deterrence.

We are committed to deterrence. We

shall stand by our Allies and friends, and we shall consult with them regularly as we go about the business of reestablishing our conventional and nuclear deterrent forces. Deterrence has worked in Europe for more than 35 years.

As you read through this 1981 Annual Report, I hope you will find, as I did, that the measured and considered approach to arms control, made possible by an exhaustive review and analysis, has, for the first time, resulted in a well considered program to reverse the trends of the past and bring about lasting peace.

We intend to pursue arms control and disarmament through agreements that are understandable, verifiable, and equitable. I am certain that I shall be able to call your attention to similar progress in future annual reports.

RONALD REAGAN

The White House,
July 26, 1982.

Note: The report is entitled "ACDA 1981 Annual Report."

Appointment of Four Members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts July 27, 1982

The President today announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Smithsonian Institution:

Leota Hays is a general partner of Franklin Investment. She has two children and resides in Jackson, Miss.

Thomas D. Higgins is a computer systems manager for Union Carbide. He is married, has four children, and resides in Charleston, W. Va.

Peggy Mallick is a political, civic, and cultural contributor in the community. She is married, has one child, and resides in Casper, Wyo.

Lindsay J. Morgenthau is active in civic and cultural affairs in the community. She is married, has four children, and resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

Remarks to Representatives of the Future Farmers of America July 27, 1982

The President. Thank you, and welcome. You know, there's always a temptation to

try and tell a story having some connection with the group that you're talking to, and I

yield to that temptation.

There was a rural couple that on a couple of days off went to an art exhibit. It was an exhibit of modern abstract art. And the husband, he walked up to that first picture, and he took a look at it. And then he looked from another angle, and then—well, he tried it from every angle and finally turned to his wife and says, "I want to buy it." She says, "You what? You want to buy it?" And he says, "Yes." He said, "It's the best darn picture of the farm situation I ever saw." [Laughter] He says, "No matter which way you look at it, it doesn't make sense." [Laughter] Well, sometimes I know that all of you must think that.

Just a few years ago we had a Congressman from a very large city who knew very little about rural life and found himself appointed to the agricultural committee. That kind of makes sense in government, doesn't it? One of his first efforts was to get the committee to declare that food was a natural resource and therefore should be equally distributed among all people. Well, I know some people that have been working at producing that natural resource that would differ with him.

I don't know whether you know the story about the old boy that had taken over some land down in a creek bottom—and it was covered with rocks and brush, and it was pretty scrabbly—and he went to work on it. And he worked and worked, and finally he had a garden that was his pride and joy. And one Sunday morning after the Sunday services he asked the minister if he wouldn't like to come out and see his garden. Well, the minister arrived and he looked. And he looked at melons, and he said, "Oh, the Lord has certainly blessed this land." And he looked at some corn—he said the tallest he'd ever seen. He said, "The Lord has blessed this land." He said, "My, what the Lord and you have managed to accomplish here." And he went on that way for about 10 minutes. And the old boy finally said, "Reverend, I wish you could have seen this when the Lord was doing it by Himself." [Laughter]

I want you to know that in this administration, we're trying our hardest to bring more common sense at least from govern-

ment's angle to the farm situation. In fact, one of your own members is our Secretary of Agriculture, Jack Block.

Jack became a Green Hand in the Knoxville, Illinois, chapter of FFA back in 1949, and my bet is that he can still get into his blue jacket. I think he really misses farming. Earlier this spring we had a little tussle with him. He wanted to plow up the grounds here and plant soybeans. [Laughter]

But the FFA [FFA] is known for developing leaders like Jack Block. And your Building Our American Communities program, which recognizes thousands of youth who take the lead in improving their communities, is just such an example.

The FFA embodies the best of the volunteer spirit. And there are so many instances that I could cite here. Flagler County, Florida: An FFA chapter set out to reduce beach erosion in a dune area by planting vegetation. The result was an estimated 95-percent reduction in erosion. In Glen Gardner, New Jersey, a chapter landscaped a newly renovated library. In Howells, Nebraska, the FFA constructed a basketball court and scoreboard and repaired picnic tables and benches in a local park. In Elma, Washington, the FFA chapter built nearly 8 miles of fire trails and planted over 219,000 seedlings.

I could go on with these kind of stories—I love them—and I'd only be citing FFA examples. But on behalf of all Americans, I want to thank you, the members of FFA, for what you're doing for our country. America needs your kind of leadership. America also needs your contributions to farming and agribusiness.

Through the Vocational Agricultural program—and I know Secretary Bell is interested in this—the FFA has prepared millions of young people for their careers. And I use the word "career" advisedly. Few occupations go back further in history than this one. As a matter of fact, in ancient Rome, Cicero had this to say about the occupation that you will some day pursue: "Of all occupations from which gain is secured, there is none better than agriculture, nothing more productive, nothing sweeter,

nothing more worth

Well, you of the And as you go along want you to know my genuine respect millions of your heartfelt best wishes

God bless you, for being here.

Scott Neasham means a lot to us a have visited with our motto is, "Live says, "The greatest servant of all." And recognize a great We as young people

Message to the July 28, 1982

To the Congress of

In accordance Control Act of 197 new proposal to million in budget vided to the Congress the fossil energy the Department of The details of the

Nomination of of State July 28, 1982

The President tion to nominate be an Assistant Secretary Economic and Budget Robert D. H

Since 1981 Mr consultant for the Department Department at abroad. From 19 legislative assistant

nothing more worthy of a free man."

Well, you of the FFA fulfill that ideal. And as you go along in your careers, I just want you to know that you carry not only my genuine respect and that of millions and millions of your fellow citizens but our heartfelt best wishes and appreciation.

God bless you, and thank you very much for being here.

Scott Neasham. President Reagan, it means a lot to us as young people that you have visited with us today. The last line of our motto is, "Living to serve." The Bible says, "The greatest among you shall be the servant of all." And we are here today to recognize a great servant of our country.

We as young people look to you for coun-

sel and guidance, and we respect you very much. And it is because of this great respect that we have for you that we have elected you to the highest degree that the FFA can present upon anyone, and that is the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

The President. Thank you all. Thank you very much. I'm greatly honored.

If I could just say to your national president here and to all of you, that line in your motto—a very wise man once said, "Life begins when you begin to serve." So, your lives have begun earlier than most.

Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Message to the Congress Reporting a Budget Rescission July 28, 1982

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one new proposal to rescind a total of \$83.5 million in budget authority previously provided to the Congress. The rescission affects the fossil energy construction program in the Department of Energy.

The details of the proposed rescission are

contained in the attached report.

RONALD REAGAN

The White House,
July 28, 1982.

Note: The attachment detailing the proposed rescission is printed in the Federal Register of August 3, 1982.

Nomination of Richard T. McCormack To Be an Assistant Secretary of State July 28, 1982

The President today announced his intention to nominate Richard T. McCormack to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs). He will succeed Robert D. Hormats.

Since 1981 Mr. McCormack has been a consultant for international economics at the Department of State, representing the Department at a number of functions abroad. From 1979 to 1981, he served as a legislative assistant to Senator Jesse Helms.

McCormack was at the American Enterprise Institute from 1975 to 1977.

In 1974 McCormack served as Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Economic Affairs. Following his tenure at the Treasury Department, McCormack was a consultant to the White House Office of the Special Trade Representative, where he analyzed potential international commodity agreements.

From 1969 to 1971, McCormack served

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Since 1982 he has been managing direc-
tor of Dean Witter Reynolds Capital Mar-
kets and manager of its corporate finance
department. Previously he was manager,
Project Finance Group, at Dean Witter in
1975-1982; vice president of finance at In-
strumentation Engineering, Inc., in 1971-
1975; and managing partner of Camargo,

Associates in 1967-1971.

Mr. Healey graduated from Georgetown
University (A.B., 1964) and received his
master of business administration from Har-
vard University in 1966. He is married, has
two children, and resides in Chatham, N.J.
He was born September 14, 1942, in Balti-
more, Md.

Nomination of Richard L. McElheny To Be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce

July 29, 1983

The President today announced his inten-
tion to nominate Richard L. McElheny to
be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce
(Trade Development). He would succeed
William H. Morris, Jr.

Since 1982 Mr. McElheny has been Di-
rector General of the Commercial Services,
International Trade Administration, Depart-
ment of Commerce. Previously he was Di-
rector General of the Foreign Commercial
Service of the International Trade Adminis-
tration in 1981-1982; president and chief
executive officer of Econo Therm Energy
Systems in 1979-1981; senior vice presi-
dent/corporate development, Victorio Co.,
Phoenix, in 1978-1979; and vice president

of marketing, then executive vice president
and chief operating officer and president,
beginning in 1971, of Farmhand, Inc., Hop-
kins, Minn. (1969-1978).

In 1977 he served as chairman of the
Minnesota Association of Commerce and In-
dustry and as president of the National
Farm Industry Association. He was a
member of the District Export Council, U.S.
Department of Commerce, in 1974-1977.

Mr. McElheny graduated from Stanford
University (B.S. 1958; M.B.A., 1960). He is
married, has two children, and resides in
Washington, D.C. He was born May 24,
1936.

Remarks to Representatives of the Future Farmers of America July 29, 1983

The President. Thank you very much, and
good afternoon. I understand that we've got
youth leaders with us from every State and
also from Puerto Rico, Canada, and the
United Kingdom. Well, welcome to the
White House. And I know it's a little warm,
isn't it—[laughter]—so, I'd better get on
with it and let you get toward the shade.

I'd like to take this opportunity, however,
to offer special congratulations to Jan
Eberly from my home State of California—
the first woman to be national president of

your organization.

Ms. Eberly. Thank you.

The President. I always get a kick out of
meeting with the Future Farmers of Amer-
ica. And I think my ties go back quite a
long way. Many of my friends when I was
growing up back in Illinois were Future
Farmers. And I wasn't too far away from
them, because I lived in the kind of a town
that even in the center of town, you
weren't too far from plowed ground.
[Laughter]

July 29 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1983

But what was then true then is still true today. And that was the Future Farmers of America does more than give a good start to some fine young people. By cultivating leadership skills and patriotism, it ensures the strength and vitality of our country.

This generation of American farmers has astounded the world with its productivity. Farm output since 1950 has jumped 89 percent, with agricultural productivity rising more than four times faster than industrial productivity per hour worked. Last year, with less than three-tenths of 1 percent of the world's farmworkers, our country produced 65 percent of the world's soybeans, 48 percent of the corn, 33 percent of the sorghum, 25 percent of the oranges, 32 percent of the poultry, 26 percent of the beef. And the list goes on and on.

Today, one of our farmworkers produces enough food to feed himself plus 50 other Americans and 20 people in other countries in the world. So, it doesn't take a Harvard-trained economist to see what this means to our economy and the well-being of our people.

American agriculture has been so efficient that we often tend to take the abundance of food for granted. We can be very proud that we live in one of the few countries of the world that will not tolerate hunger and that your profession could take a lion's share of the credit for our ability to live up to that goal.

Agricultural productivity has permitted us to develop human values and to put those values into practice. And this just didn't happen by accident. Our abundance is a product of the hard work of our farmers, the skill and technological know-how that we put into agriculture and, most important, the freedom of which we're so proud here in America.

By the way, you might be interested to know that in some of the efforts to help the Third World, the developing countries—and when we met in Cancún, Mexico, the industrial nations on this subject, I spoke to them of some of the things that we could do other than just handing out grants-in-aid and told them what it could be like if we could send teams of agriculturalists, of farmers from our country to some of those countries to help them become more self-

sustaining in their food. And you might be happy to know that we have called a number of times already, and every time American farmers have volunteered and sent task forces to these undeveloped countries to tell them how they can better feed themselves.

There's another country with resources just every bit as much as our own, a major power. Its citizens are decent, hard-working people, but they have no freedom. And that lack of freedom is matched by a lack of productivity. There's no better proof that freedom and material progress can only survive together. And a story that I like to tell about that—as a matter of fact, it's a story these people in that country tell about their own country. I'm kind of making a collection of jokes that the Russian people tell about their own country. [Laughter]

And this is one in which the commissar went out to one of their collective farms, stopped one of the workers there, and asked him how things were, any complaints. "Oh, no, sir," he said. "I've never heard anyone around here complain about anything." "Well," he said, "what about the crops?" "Oh," he said, "the crops, just greater than ever." He said, "And the potato harvest?" He said, "If we piled all the potatoes we've harvested up in one pile, they'd reach the foot of God." And the commissar said, "This is the Soviet Union. There is no God." He said, "That's all right. There aren't any potatoes either." [Laughter]

Well, I know that the Future Farmers of America is doing its part to build character and to keep our country in the forefront of the production of food and fiber. I'd like to congratulate you for FFA's theme this year, which I understand is "Keeping America on the Grow." You're now just emerging from some hard times that have been a long time in the making. I know things have been rough and still are for many farmers. But I hope when you go back to your homes, you'll tell your families and your friends of our confidence that things are getting better. And while you're at it, tell them that a White House source—[laughter]—told you personally that America's farmers are not going to be left out of the good times that

lie ahead.

I hope all of you and learning a lot w Nation's Capital. An eral—we owe Gene for sponsoring this and making it possib ened support from tl well of American bu

And let me leave When you go home sights you've seen shrines of American

Remarks at a W
Elementary Scho
Secondary Schoo
July 29, 1983

Well, thank you all you all to the White H

You know, I've bee little over 50 years nc ous around so many And I don't know wh story except that it I and I know that—and also that it's very dar tell stories to people c their profession. But anyway.

It was the teacher t press on her students, had come along and th And she was trying t the need to avoid ca she told a very heart- said was about her o And she said that—t that—or the class th brother and that he v boy, and he went out stayed out too long, And that was pneum later he was dead. And with the tale, the way just dead silence in thought she had really then a voice in the ba sled?" [Laughter]

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I hope all of you are enjoying yourselves and learning a lot while you're here in the Nation's Capital. And I think that one general—we owe General Motors a thank-you for sponsoring this leadership conference and making it possible. This kind of enlightened support from the private sector speaks well of American business.

And let me leave you with this thought: When you go home and remember all the sights you've seen in Washington, the shrines of American liberty, remember that

back at the time the ideals of our nation emerged, it was composed overwhelmingly of men and women who made their living from the land. Today, we rely on you to maintain our ties to the land and to live up to our ideals. And I know you won't let us down.

Thank you for coming over here to visit, and God bless you all.

Note: The President spoke at 12:58 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks at a White House Reception for the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals

July 29, 1983

Well, thank you all, and let me welcome you all to the White House.

You know, I've been out of school for a little over 50 years now, but I still get nervous around so many principals. [Laughter] And I don't know why I should think of this story except that it has to do with school, and I know that—and teachers, and I know also that it's very dangerous to ever try to tell stories to people of one profession about their profession. But I'll take a chance anyway.

It was the teacher that was trying to impress on her students, the children—winter had come along and the cold season and all. And she was trying to tell them how to—the need to avoid catching colds. And so, she told a very heart-rending tale which she said was about her one-time little brother. And she said that—told her little brother that—or the class that she had this little brother and that he was a fun-loving little boy, and he went out with his sled. And he stayed out too long, and he caught cold. And that was pneumonia, and three days later he was dead. And when she'd finished with the tale, the way she told it, there was just dead silence in the room. And she thought she had really gotten to them. And then a voice in the back said, "Where's his sled?" [Laughter]

Well, that isn't the attitude that I wanted our Committee on Excellence in Education to take, but I did want them to approach their task with some hard-eyed realism. And you're, by now, well acquainted with the Commission's findings.

Two of our Commission members are school principals, because we wanted the important perspective that you here represent. You know the problems that our educational system faces. So many things have changed in our society from the structure of family life to drug abuse among our young that, over time, it's begun affecting education. The principals and the teachers alone cannot correct these social ills any more than any single level of government can, by itself, improve the schools. But we can and we must build a new consensus among parents, teachers, and students, principals, and elected officials to bring about a renaissance in American education.

Most of the attention is focused on the need to reward excellence. Now, I can't imagine anything more discouraging for young teachers than to see a rigid salary scale laid out for the rest of their lives that ignores their efforts no matter how good they might be.

I saw something interesting in the Washington Post several weeks ago. It was a

July 24 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1984

Remarks to National and State Officers of the Future Farmers of America

July 24, 1984

It was too hot to keep you waiting out here. I'm sorry that I'm a few minutes late.

I thank you for that warm farm welcome, and I'm delighted to be with those of you who represent America's bedrock industry. Agriculture is a driving force in our nation's economy, and the Future Farmers of America are working hard to keep it that way.

I know that you'll be meeting with our Secretary of Agriculture, Jack Block—or have you done that already and am I way behind? He'll probably spin a few of his stories. And Jack was a Greenhand of the Knoxville, Illinois, chapter of FFA. But we both like to put on a blue denim jacket whenever we get the chance, and I remember some—once, years ago, having an experience.

Now, I'm a rancher—I've got a ranch. But I had an experience that taught me how little a great many people know about farming. You know, most people just think that you put something in the ground, stand back, and wait for it to grow up—it's that easy. And I guess maybe I was guilty of some of that, even with a ranch, because with all that space and everything, I got the idea that why shouldn't we have our own eggs for breakfast. So, I put in a battery of chickens and everything, and it was just great. We did have our own eggs. And they only cost me \$1.65 apiece. [Laughter]

But all of us, I think, know that God has blessed America with a vast and a fertile land. But it's ingenuity and muscle and sweat that have made our farms the envy of the world. And the last thing our farmers need is government getting in the way and making the job even tougher.

You know, there's a story about a young fellow who was—well, he was a city fellow, but he hired out to work on a farm during the harvest season. And the first morning, everyone was up before dawn, and the new hired hand and the farmer made their way out toward the—in the dark—toward the oat field. Neither one of them said a word on the way out, and finally the city fellow

asked what kind of oats they were going to cut, wild oats or tame oats. And the farmer was a little surprised, and he said, "Well, tame oats, of course." And the kid said, "Well, why are we sneaking up on them in the dark?" [Laughter]

Well, that's about as much, as I say, as some people know about what past policy mistakes and economic difficulties meant to our farm community.

Our record of agricultural productivity is unmatched anywhere in the world. And it didn't come about thanks to double-digit inflation. In the 3 years before 1981, farm costs jumped an outrageous 45 percent, and that was nearly \$40 billion, the largest 3-year increase in our history. And today we've knocked the wind out of inflation. For the last 3 months, it's been running at 3.3 percent.

Our farmers and our ranchers don't produce the most wholesome and varied foodstuffs known anywhere as a result of 21½-percent interest rates. When we took office, that's where the prime rate stood. I know that some of our critics have very short memories, but you and I know that a 21½-percent interest rate is a devastating blow to an industry that spends a fifth of its cash outlays on interest expenses. Well, we've cut them by 40 percent. But don't get me wrong, they're still too high, and we're not going to stop until we get them lower. And one of these days—and I hope it's very soon—some people will wake up and realize that not only is inflation firmly under control, but we intend to keep it that way.

And with signs of future price trends pointing to low rates of inflation as far as we can see, I can't help believing that there's no excuse for interest rates being where they are. We can all understand why, if there is inflation, you have to get back in interest if you've loaned money, you have to get back the loss of the value of that money over the period of the loan due to inflation, plus your earnings on it. But

the interest rates today are high, and they cannot have inflation for their being at that level.

In 1982 nearly one-fifth of our agricultural products was lost to American ports. That did thanks to grain embargoes against us. The grain embargo was a blow, and it was terribly unfair why one of my first actions was to lift that embargo. And here, our farmers will never be the scapegoats for a foreign policy of indecision.

What we're doing and will do is move in a positive direction to new export markets and work to remove export barriers. Our trade team is continuously on the go in new markets. Jack Block has been knocking doors all over the world, and keep on knocking.

His efforts are paying off. We've opened new import quotas with Japan, led to near doubling of beef imports, a 54-percent increase in citrus imports in the next 4 years.

On another front, we've demonstrated our determination to aggressively pursue our exports, including a strong challenge to the European Community's export program. As a result, the Community has joined us in negotiations in an effort to solve some of the problems caused by their subsidized exports.

Now that we've regained our status as a reliable supplier, we mean to maintain that reliability and that image at home, we're hard at work on the farm bill. The Department of Agriculture will continue to solicit farm input on this important bill. So far, the bill has hundreds of pages of written comments and held listening sessions in every country. The latest session was last week in Dallas.

Now, you know, I don't get enough to the farm community. You represent the best in our farmers and ranchers have always lived by the values and traditions that make America great: faith, hard work, helping neighbors, hard

Future Farmers of

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to lift that embargo. And as long as I'm
here, our farmers will never again be made
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ness and indecision.

What we're doing and will continue to do
is move in a positive direction, pursuing
new export markets and working to remove
export barriers. Our trade teams have been
continuously on the go in search of new
markets. Jack Block has been knocking on
doors all over the world, and he's going to
keep on knocking.

His efforts are paying off. We've negotiat-
ed new import quotas with Japan that will
lead to near doubling of beef exports and a
54-percent increase in citrus exports over
the next 4 years.

On another front, we've demonstrated
our determination to aggressively maintain
exports, including a strong American chal-
lenge to the European Community's subsi-
dy program. As a result, the European
Community has joined us in serious discus-
sions in an effort to solve some of the prob-
lems caused by their subsidized exports.

Now that we've regained our reputation
as a reliable supplier, we mean to maintain
that reliability and that image. And today,
at home, we're hard at work on the 1985
farm bill. The Department of Agriculture
will continue to solicit farmers' views on
this important bill. So far, they've accepted
hundreds of pages of written recommenda-
tions and held listening sessions around the
country. The latest session was held just last
week in Dallas.

Now, you know, I don't get a chance to
talk enough to the farm community to suit
me. You represent the best in America. Our
farmers and ranchers have always honored
and lived by the values and traditions that
make America great: faith, family, neigh-
bors helping neighbors, hard work, free en-

terprise, and independence. We can touch
the spirit of America in our farm communi-
ties. And, again, much is owed to the
Future Farmers of America.

FFA is giving more than a fine start to
young people like yourselves. By cultivating
traditional values, leadership skills, and pa-
triotism, the Future Farmers of America
ensure the strength and vitality of our
country.

Before I close, I want to say a few words
about the thousands of volunteers and pri-
vate industry sponsors who are reaching out
to America's future. FFA has some 14,000
adult teachers and State advisers—good,
caring Americans who are offering a gift
that'll last a lifetime: the gift of opportunity.
That's all made possible because of the ge-
nerosity of the private sector. This year busi-
ness and industry are expected to give over
\$2 million to provide incentive awards to
FFA members. In fact, your State Presi-
dents Conference in Washington wouldn't
have been possible without the support of
the Chevrolet Motor Division of General
Motors. And I'm sure that Bob Burger, gen-
eral manager of Chevrolet, who is with us
today, is very proud of what his organiza-
tion is doing.

You all deserve to be very proud. With
your help, our young people will be ready
to meet the challenges before them and
turn them into opportunities for their fami-
lies, their community, and for America.

I have to tell you just one more farm
story before I quit. [Laughter] Maybe you
know this one about the old boy that had
taken over some creek bottom land. And it
was rocky and covered with brush. Cleaned
the brush; he got rid of all the rocks and
hauled them away, and then he planted.
And he really had a beautiful garden there.
And one day at church he asked the minis-
ter to come back with him after the sermon
and take a look at what he'd accomplished.

Well, the reverend arrived, and he
looked, and he said, "Those melons, oh my,
God has certainly blessed this land. I've
never seen anything so wonderful. And look
at the corn. I've never seen anything as tall
as that. God certainly has been good to this
place." And he went on that way, until fi-

July 24 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1984

nally the old man, who was beginning to shuffle a little bit, said, "Reverend, I wish you could have seen it when the Lord was doing it by Himself." [Laughter]

Well, I know you won't be caught in that

The President's News Conference July 24, 1984

Legislative Priorities

The President. I have a brief statement here.

The Congress is back this week for a session that's lasting only until August 10th, but that's enough time for the House of Representatives to approve legislation that would benefit all Americans.

Among the many important issues now facing the Congress is legislation that will help reduce deficits, reward work and thrift, make our cities and neighborhoods safer, and increase personal liberties throughout our land. Legislation that could do these things is already before the Congress. It's been bottled up in the House for months, and in some instances, even years. But something can be done.

I have talked with the House Republican leadership. They have pledged to try again to bring six key measures to the floor for a vote.

First, a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. And we must balance it, not by raising the tax rates of hard-working Americans, but by insisting that government spend no more than it takes in.

Second, a proposal granting spouses working in the home the same individual retirement rights, IRA's, as spouses working outside the home. Each spouse could save and deduct from taxation up to \$2,000 a year. The House had a chance to enact this initiative in a bill I signed just days ago, but they dropped it.

Third, a proposal offering incentives for investment in 75 enterprise zones to create jobs, independence, and hope for people in inner cities and other economically distressed areas.

Fourth, a bill allowing tuition tax credits for low- and middle-income parents who

kind of a spot. But thank you all very much for being here. God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 1:31 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

pay to send their children to parochial or independent schools while also paying their full share of taxes to support public schools.

Fifth, a comprehensive anticrime package to crack down on criminals through restrictions on bail, tougher sentencing, and stricter enforcement of drug trafficking laws.

And sixth, an equal-access bill permitting religious student groups the same freedom to meet in public high schools during non-school hours as right now other student groups are allowed to do.

These reforms are long overdue, and they would benefit all the people. It's time to test the new realism and to see if the Democratic leadership will move from words to action.

Now, Maureen [Maureen Santini, Associated Press].

Federal Tax Increase

Q. Mr. President, your advisers have publicly disagreed with Walter Mondale's assertion that a tax increase will be necessary next year in order to help cut the enormous Federal deficit. While your advisers say you don't want a tax increase next year, they have refused to flatly rule out the possibility. Will you now flatly rule out the possibility of seeking a tax increase next year if you're reelected?

The President. Yes. I have no plans for a tax increase. I believe it would be counterproductive with regard to the present recovery, or expansion. Indeed, I believe that the tax cut that we had is largely responsible for the recovery that we're having.

Maybe they left that for me to say. I know that for Mr. Mondale, he has repeatedly and over the years supported tax increases on any number of occasions. He was opposed to our indexing, which is a provi-

sion that would benefit the middle-income people almost because they would be taxed could—without indexing—come up into higher tax brackets. Those who are already in brackets can't be moved up ready there.

But I have one thing to say: an increase with regard to our only way that I could see is that the government is taking a percentage of the national product that is higher than the percentage that it takes in revenues now from that same national product. Now, if, after all the efforts, if we have gotten government down to the point at which it cannot go any lower and government meet its responsibilities and services that are required of it still then above the percentage of taxes, then you would have to change the tax structure in order to bring it meet that minimum level of expenditures.

But I think we're a long way from point with regard to bringing government down to where it could be brought. We're looking right now—and we have a task force working on 2,478 recommendations made by the Grace Commission in which government can be more economical and more efficient simply turning to modern business in all of these different ways, sticking with some oldtime practices that are way behind.

And I believe that to raise taxes is waiting for what I had just said, to do that would simply open up more spending. That's been the pattern of the past, and it is a pattern of fact, Vice President Mondale stated that his own belief in it. He publicly stated on a television show that he had voted time after time to raise his own constituents. So, he believes in increases, and I believe that our burden is to, wherever possible, reduce the burden for our people.

We are—let me just say, we are not demanding, or asked the Treasury Department to come in before the end of the

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that, and I'm sure here, too.

Free and Fair Trade

Q. Yes, Mr. President, just returning to trade specifically for a minute. Members of Congress who support the so-called Textile and Apparel Protection Act claim that the U.S. adherence to free trade and our allies' adherence to unfair trade practices has not only cost the jobs of 300,000 workers since 1980 but forced companies here to close down even the newest, most efficient plants in the world. Now, if the shoe were on the other foot, Mr. President, and you represented a textile apparel producing State, how would you explain the President's reluctance to support a bill that seems to be the last, best hope for those industries and also for the 2 million remaining workers in those industries?

The President. Well, again, protectionism is a two-way street. And there is no way that you can try to protect and shield one industry that seems to be having these competitive problems without exposing others. No one ever looks over their shoulder to see who lost their job because of protectionism. We do know the history of the Smoot-Hawley tariff and what it did. There were over a thousand economists that sought the President out at the time and begged him to veto that bill. But in this one with a single industry, if there is an unfairness—and we've already made that plain and made it evident—we are going to, if they're taking advantage in some way in another country, competing unfairly with us—we're going to take action on those items. For almost 2 years now, I have been begging our allies and trading partners in the GATT, the general tariff program, to join with us in another round of trade talks to

again eliminate whatever holdovers there are of discrimination against someone else's products getting into their country or subsidizing sale at less than production cost in other countries. These things we'll do and we'll do vigorously.

But just plain protectionism—let me point out another problem that no one has considered. You take one product—that kind—and you look at the list of countries, and then you find out we're the biggest exporter in the world. Then you find out that in some of these countries, if we punish them for that one product, we happen to have a trade surplus in that country. How can they stand by on the one thing they're exporting successfully and then say, "But we're buying more from you than we're selling to you in your country." So, there just is no excuse for protectionism that is simply based on legitimate competition and curbing that competition.

Q. May I follow up, Mr. President? If the current bills which are on the Hill now seeking sweeping trade protectionism were enacted, do you foresee somewhat of a, might say, reenactment of Smoot-Hawley which led to the Depression or certainly deepened it? Do you feel there is a cause and effect there?

The President. I don't know. I think there are probably some individuals that haven't learned the lesson or haven't lived long enough to have been around when the Great Depression was on. That's one of the advantages of being a kid my age.

Ms. Thomas. Thank you, Mr. President.

Note: The President's 32d news conference began at 8 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. It was broadcast live on nationwide radio and television.

Remarks at a White House Reception for Members of the Future Farmers of America September 18, 1985

The President. Well, and already I've met someone from my hometown, Dixon, Illinois. Thank all of you. It is wonderful to

have you visit here in the Rose Garden, where you can still see a little of the summer's crop is left.

I have been very interested in the Future Farmers of America, you know, in seeing our American community. I commend all of you individuals for the wonderful work in helping your country. It's gratifying to see people like yourselves taking the time to keep these traditions alive. And everything you've done for your country. ERATION: Care and concern with local churches and other private sector in order to be able to the future of our country.

I want you to know that I'm very interested in the problem of the farm in the past few years. In fact, in this big house, I'm very concerned about the challenges facing the farmers during these difficult times for our farming nation. We also know that the American farmer not only feeds the world but also that is 238 million farmers that feed the world. And in these times, we are contemplating the problems facing these days, we are dealing with a problem that is the heart of how America is.

A while back I received a letter from a daughter of a farmer who wrote of how she remembered up at last light, no time to milk the cows, get the dogs. She spoke of a farmer's day something and her father would then he would hit the ground and the earth tiller, because "a farmer is a worker." But she ended by saying "I addressed to all: "Do to say thanks to the stick your feet under the Well, those are won't shine with truth. I am a farmer. And when I tell your parents how

We've been trying to get a farm bill that will ensure that you have a making American competitive. We want to see the industry on a firm a

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Mr. President? If the
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2d news conference
East Room at the
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I have been very interested in the Future
Farmers of America, your program of build-
ing our American communities. And I com-
mend all of you individually for your won-
derful work in helping our rural communi-
ties. It's gratifying to me to see young
people like yourselves volunteering your
time to keep these communities strong.
And everything you've done, including OP-
ERATION: Care and Share and working
with local churches and various groups and
other private sector initiatives, is indispen-
sable to the future of our farm communi-
ties.

I want you to know that I've been think-
ing about the problems of the farm these
past few years. In fact, we're, all of us here
in this big house, constantly concerned
about the challenges faced by American
farmers during these difficult days. We're a
farming nation. We always have been. The
American farmer not only feeds this coun-
try that is 238 million strong, the American
farmer feeds the world. And so when we
contemplate the problems farmers are
facing these days, we realize that we are
dealing with a problem that speaks to the
heart of how America lives and what Amer-
ica is.

A while back I received a letter from a
daughter of a farmer in Louisiana. She
wrote of how she remembered her father—
up at last light, no time for breakfast, out
milking the cows, gathering eggs, feeding
the dogs. She spoke of how always in a
farmer's day something will break down,
and her father would have to fix it. And
then he would hit the fields with the tractor
and the earth tiller, and he wouldn't mind
because "a farmer is part of the ground he
works." But she ended it with these words
addressed to all: "Don't you think it is time
to say thanks to the farmer? After all, you
stick your feet under his table every day."
Well, those are wonderful words, and they
shine with truth. But we do thank the
farmer. And when you go home, will you
tell your parents how we feel?

We've been trying to encourage a nation-
al farm bill that will help the farmer and
ensure that you have a future in farming by
making American agriculture more com-
petitive. We want to put the agriculture
industry on a firm and sound basis once and

for all so that by the time you're ready to
own and work a farm, you can count on
being part of a strong and vibrant industry.
And my great hope for you, for those of you
who do aspire to farm for a living, is that
you will be as wonderful as your parents
are—those people who are feeding a great
nation and the world. They are the main-
stay, the backbone of a great country. And
I've got a little special place in my heart
that's devoted to them alone.

It's been wonderful to have you here, and
I thank you all for coming. I'd like to just
add something here. You know, about 135
years ago a Frenchman came to this coun-
try because this country had already
become the great economic powerhouse
that it has continued to be. His name was
Alexis de Tocqueville, and he toured all
over this country, as he said, looking for the
secret of our greatness. And he told some
wonderful things. We are pretty unique in
all the world with things like you, your-
selves, are doing—volunteer programs
where people set out to help others, to help
their neighbors. It's pretty traditionally
American. And he described it as how, he
said, a man would see a problem, and he
wouldn't call the Government. He'd cross
the street and talk to a friend, and pretty
soon a committee would be formed. And,
he said, they would solve the problem. And
then in his book to his own countrymen in
France, he said, and you won't believe this,
but there wouldn't be a bureaucracy in-
volved at any time in solving that problem.
But he found the secret of America, and he
also put this in his book. He said he had
looked in the busy harbors; he'd looked in
our industrial cities; he'd looked all over for
the secret of our greatness. And then he
said he looked in our churches, and he
heard our pulpits aflame with righteousness.
And he said America is great because
America is good. And if America ever
ceases to be good, America will cease to be
great.

Well, I've taken more than my time here
because I've got to get in Marine One out
there on the South Lawn in just a few min-
utes and head off for New Hampshire with
some of our people and talk to the people
up there. And you are all invited to go on

over there and—you girls, it will kind of blow your hairdos a little bit when we take off. [Laughter] We'll shortly be taking off in Marine One, as it's called, out to get on Air Force One.

So, again, thank you all for being here. God bless all of you.

Mr. Meredith. Mr. President, you have long been recognized as having a tremendous desire to serve both education and agriculture, a desire reflected by the appointment of Secretaries Bennett and Block to serve this nation. As young people preparing for careers in the agriculture industry, and as part of a vocational education program in agriculture, we're excited about our futures. In particular, we are pleased to have you as a part of this national FFA conference on community development and would like to present you with this special gift from the Future Farmers of America and R.J. Reynolds Industries, Incorporated,

and invite you to attend the 58th National FFA Convention, with over 22,000 members in attendance, November 14 through the 16th, in Kansas City, Missouri. Thank you.

[At this point, the President was presented with a clock.]

The President. Well, thank you all very much. I am very proud and pleased to have this. I have to tell you that there have been times when I hear a ticking I worry a little bit. [Laughter] In this case I figure it must be all right. But thank you all very much, and this will see that I get on the helicopter on time, as well as everywhere else. Thank you all.

Note: The President spoke at 9:14 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. Paul Kidd Meredith was assistant director of the Future Farmers of America.

Remarks to Citizens in Concord, New Hampshire September 18, 1985

The President. Governor Sununu, Senators Humphrey and Rudman, Mayor Coeyman, and you have two fine Congressmen—Smith and Gregg—whose wives are representing them here. But instead of coming here, they had to stay on the floor of the House of Representatives and defend yours and my interests, which they are now doing. And all of you ladies and gentlemen. You know, I was told that some time ago Lafayette spoke here. And I wasn't around at the time—[laughter]—but they said that his crowd was bigger than the crowd today. I don't know about that, but I'll bet he wasn't any happier than I am today.

It's a great pleasure to be with so many old friends. New Hampshire has a special place in my heart. I came here, as the Governor told you, in 1980 asking for your help. I know that many of you were active in that campaign, and together we started something that has changed the face of the Nation. And I'm going to continue trying to keep that change going until the Federal

Government looks a little bit more like New Hampshire. Let me just take this opportunity to express to you my heartfelt appreciation. Thank you, New Hampshire.

A lot of political pros come up here to test the waters. And I don't know why—I'm going to let that remind me of a story. I heard about one who was driving on a back road up here. And he looked out and noticed that there was a chicken running alongside the car, and he couldn't believe what he was seeing. So, he stepped on the gas, and the chicken kept up with him. Then he spurted ahead to about 70 miles an hour, and all of a sudden the chicken went by him and turned down a side road. Well, now he was really intrigued because he thought the chicken looked like it had three legs. So, he turned down the side road and found himself in a farmer's barnyard, and the farmer was standing there. And he pulled up, and he said, "Pardon me, but did you see a chicken go by here?" And he says, "Yep. It's one of mine." Well, he said, "I

don't know whether I'm c
tell me, it looked like it
And the farmer says, "Ye
that way." He says, "You
way. Why?" "Well," he s
drumstick; Ma likes the dri
we got Junior, and he likes
just got tired of fightin
[Laughter] And the fellow
did it taste?" He says, "I
haven't been able to
[Laughter]

Well, I hope that, unlik
American people are be
the fruits of what we set
was a monster loose in
1980; inflation was runnin
for 2 years in a row. It v
economic well-being of o
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Have we made a differ
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Our economy was in
today we've enjoyed 33
economic growth. Reta
sonal income is up; ov
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Already, the future is beginning to look up. Interest rates are down, easing the terms that farmers have to pay to get in the spring planting or purchase new livestock

I've always liked that joke because it makes a good point: God did give us this great and good land, but it's up to us to

But here we later, with the standard of living in the thirties or even the twenties by these 50 years, risen by tens of income per person.

farmers of

the tax reform now the Congress, we'll those who make use to take advantage of it as a tax break. I'll be giving farm-while times may be American farmers—bright.

enjoy more than a one of the great here is that I get to [ter] Now, first I ck, you're from

his takes place in was an old Kansas piece of creekbot- been developed at d brush and all in on it, clearing hauling away the e soil there. And everything from it really became s pretty proud of unday morning in he asked the top by to have a

ed. And he took , this is wonder- he biggest toma- the Lord." And uns, that squash, The Lord really nd look at the said, "God has he old boy was he was getting I finally he blurt- you could have doing it by him-

joke because it did give us this it's up to us to

make it flourish and to preserve its freedom, to see it grow, and to keep it a nation of greatness. Soon my generation will pass that task on to you, and I wondered for awhile about what I might say to you as you prepare to become America's leaders. Then it occurred to me that there could be no better way to give you hope for the future than to speak to you for a moment about the past. In particular, the part of the American story that I've witnessed in my own lifetime.

When I was about your age, if you can take your minds back that far—[laughter]—America was in the midst of a Great Depression. And really—that Great Depression—you had to experience it to know how unusual, how unique it was. Things we've called recessions in recent years were booming prosperity compared to that particular thing that happened in our country. In fact, the unemployment rate had risen to just about a quarter of the work force—a fourth of all Americans were out of work.

I was—about that time—was working my way through college. I had a summer job every summer as a lifeguard. And there wasn't any complaining about working conditions. I was the only lifeguard at that particular beach—a beach on a river, and I worked 7 days a week. And you worked from morning until whenever the swimmers got tired of swimming at night. And I had not one thought about complaining—I had a job. But one of the better jobs I had was during the school year on the campus. I washed dishes in the girls dormitory. [Laughter] But, I was very lucky because all around me, friends and their parents were out of work. If there ever was a time to believe America's future was grim, it was then. Believe it or not, the Government had radio announcements—no television at that time—on the air regularly, telling people: "Don't leave home looking for work. There are no jobs."

But here we are just a half a century later, with the American people enjoying a standard of living undreamed of during the thirties or even during the boom years of the twenties before the Great Crash. In these 50 years, employment in America has risen by tens of millions; real, disposable income per person has gone up by over 200

percent; and life expectancy has increased by more than 14 years. You know, I've already lived some 20 years longer than my life expectancy when I was born, and that's been a source of annoyance to a number of people. [Laughter]

And just think of all we take for granted today that we didn't even use to—well, it didn't even use to exist—things like television and computers and space flights. You may not believe it, but you're looking at a fellow who can actually remember what a thrill it was listening and waiting for the word to hear that Charles Lindbergh had landed safely in France—the first individual to ever fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Now, that same fellow also happens to remember what it was like to gather around the television a little later and watch the first Americans walk on the Moon. Imagine it—in a single lifetime—from Charles Lindbergh in that solo flight across the Atlantic to Moon landings. And they wonder why I'm an optimist.

Well, what about your generation? I'm convinced that you're on the verge of a new age. Today freedom is on the march throughout the world. Just a decade ago, for example, there were very few democracies in Latin America. Now 90 percent of the people in Latin America live in democracies or countries that are moving swiftly into that situation. Peace itself is moving to a surer footing, especially with the research on our Strategic Defense Initiative, SDI, as it's referred to. Washington is very big on initials. A defense system, SDI is, that may soon be able to protect our nation and our allies from ballistic missiles, just as a roof protects us from the rain. And our economy is growing as America leads the world in a technological revolution—a revolution ranging from tiny microchips to voyages through the outer reaches of the solar system, from home computers to agricultural breakthroughs like new disease-resistant crops. And all of this awaits you. Of course you'll face challenges; so must each generation as it comes of age. But you need only be true to the values that made this nation great, and they were very simple—faith and family, hard work, and freedom—and you, too, will know greatness.

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Well, it's time for me to do what the little girl who wrote me a letter after I got this job told me to do. She told me all the problems that I had solved, and she had them down pretty good to what they were. And then she wound up with a P.S. that said, "Now get back to the Oval Office and get to work." [Laughter] So, if you have any suggestions for next year's farm joke, let me know. [Laughter] I try not to repeat. But in

the meantime, again, it's great to have all of you here.

Thank you all, and God bless you all.

Note: The President spoke at 11:34 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his opening remarks, he referred to John Kelley, marketing manager, Chevrolet Truck Division, General Motors Corp.

Nomination of James Edward Nolan, Jr., To Be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions With the Rank of Ambassador

July 22, 1986

The President today announced his intention to nominate James Edward Nolan, Jr., to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, Department of State, with the rank of Ambassador. This is a new position.

Since 1983 Mr. Nolan has been serving in the position of Director of the Office of Foreign Missions. He was with the Federal Bureau of Investigation where he served as Deputy Assistant Director (Operations), In-

telligence Division, 1980-1983; Chief of operational section for counterintelligence activities, 1978-1980; special assistant to Assistant Director, Intelligence Division, 1977; and prior to 1977, he held many positions in the area of Soviet counterintelligence.

Mr. Nolan graduated from Catholic University (B.A., 1955). He is single, resides in Bethesda, MD, and he was born December 2, 1931, in Washington, DC.

Nomination of Thomas R. Blank To Be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development

July 22, 1986

The President today announced his intention to nominate Thomas R. Blank to be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development (External Affairs). He would succeed Cathryn C. Semerad.

Since December 1983 Mr. Blank has been director of external affairs, Rollins Environmental Services, Inc. Previously, he was Associate Director of Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, July-December 1983; Acting Director of

Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation, January-July 1983; special assistant to the Director of Public Affairs, staff of U.S. Secretary of Transportation, 1981-1983; and administrative assistant to U.S. Representative Robert S. Walker (R-PA), 1979-1981.

Mr. Blank graduated from Wake Forest University (B.A., 1974). He is married, has two children, and resides in New Castle, DE. Mr. Blank was born June 20, 1952, in Lancaster, PA.

Appointments of Directors of July 22, 1986

The President today announced his intention to appoint a new member of the Federal National Council on the Arts, term ending on the next meeting of the Council. A reappointment of Mr. Cardenas was also announced.

Mr. Cardenas is a member of the firm of Broad and

Nomination of Council on the Arts July 22, 1986

The President today announced his intention to nominate a new member of the Federal National Council on the Arts, term ending on the next meeting of the Council. A reappointment of Mr. Cardenas was also announced.

Mr. Cardenas is a member of the firm of Broad and

Appointments of Commissioners July 22, 1986

The President today announced his intention to appoint a new member of the White House Fellows.

Since January 1983, Mr. Cardenas has been serving as Deputy Assistant Director of the Executive

July 28 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1988

Remarks to Representatives of the Future Farmers of America July 28, 1988

The President. I'm delighted to have all of you here this afternoon, and I want to assure you all that this is a nonpartisan event. [Laughter] Though I hope I can tell one little story that has to do with both farming and politics.

It seems that there was a Republican candidate out campaigning for public office in an old Democratic section of the rural South, and he stopped by this one farm. And the farmer who met him said, "Now, you just stay right here. I've got to go and run and get mom. She's never seen a Republican before." [Laughter] So, he went in and got mom. And they came back, and he says, "Well, why don't you do your campaign speech here for us." And he looked around for a podium, and the only thing there was a pile of—well, some stuff that had been taken out of the barn. [Laughter] So, he got up on that, and he made his speech. And when he finished they said, "Well, we've never heard a Republican speech before." And he said, "Well, that kind of makes us even. I've never spoken from a Democratic platform before." [Laughter]

Well, as I say, this is a nonpartisan event, and I hope nobody takes offense. [Laughter] In fact, if any of you from Democratic families get asked by your folks when you came home what the President talked to you about, okay, you can tell them that story with my permission to switch the party affiliations around—but just once. [Laughter]

Seriously though, just a few weeks ago, I was out in Illinois and Iowa, and I saw some of the devastation that's been caused by the drought there. What I saw wasn't a pretty sight—stunted corn, sparse bean fields, withered plants starved for water, struggling to push their way up. Secretary Lyng has just returned from an extensive tour of the entire Midwest, and he tells me that, despite some rain, the damage to our crops is extensive and, in some cases, irreversible. We're determined to get aid just as quickly as we can to those farmers who need help, and I'm calling on Congress to act on com-

prehensive drought relief so I can sign some legislation to that end very soon.

But you know, in going back to Iowa and talking to many of the farmers there and businessmen and government leaders, I heard a great deal said about changes in American agriculture during the last few years. In many ways, these changes are reflected in your own organization's emphasis on broadening the public perception of what FFA is all about, because you're not only an organization for farmers but an organization for all those looking for opportunities in agricultural marketing, management, production, engineering, research, communications, government, and other areas. And this emphasis on the diversity of the agricultural field and broadening the economic base of our farming regions reflects the power, might, and maturity of American agriculture. Your 400,000 members in 7,800 chapters are testimony to a number of young lives that FFA influences in all these wide areas. And believe me, having traveled the world as I have during these past 8 years, I can tell you how important this work is to the hopes of so many millions for a better world and a better future.

You know, "amazement" is the word for how most of the rest of the world views American agriculture. We grow more grain, we plant more soybeans, we raise more cattle and export more produce than any combination of countries in the world. American agriculture is one of the great success stories of our time. As recently as 1940, a single American farmer could feed 19 people for a year. Today a single American farmer feeds 120 people for a year. American products are shipped around the world.

Through all these decades, despite drought and misfortune, American agriculture continues to succeed. And there's a secret to it. It's one that's been emphasized to all of you because it's part of FFA philosophy. It's the secret of letting the consumer or the marketplace, not government plan-

ners, make the what is on the s or in the ships ucts across the s

When I first President, especic summits, I sugaid or developi States could giv study in free ent to say the least. But when Ameri over and as we months 17 millic the idea of fost couraging the en hold—even to the sis on agricultura sanct in other nat summits to ideas free enterprise. creasing awarenes cans have known most dangerous v guage are, "Hi, I and I'm here to h

Well, of course can help and shou like the drought, f to look to a futur more, governmen that philosophy th ity and growth th why we've propc total phaseout by cies that distort I'm speaking of v reflects one of my it's a belief that y the world agricul government out of compete.

And you know, thing, as I did the When people get t economic expansi peacetime history times ask: What is all this happen f truth is, we just g did it; we didn't you're doing now, essential to what v for the rest of the

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ners, make the ultimate decision about what is on the shelves of our grocery stores or in the ships that carry American products across the seas.

When I first started traveling abroad as President, especially to our annual economic summits, I suggested that the best foreign aid or development program the United States could give the world was a crash study in free enterprise. And this idea was, to say the least, greeted with skepticism. But when America's economic miracle took over and as we created during the past 67 months 17 million new jobs, I noticed that the idea of fostering growth through encouraging the entrepreneur began to take hold—even to the point where the emphasis on agricultural subsidies, once so sacrosanct in other nations, is giving way at these summits to ideas on how to develop more free enterprise. There seems to be an increasing awareness of something we Americans have known for some time: that the 10 most dangerous words in the English language are, "Hi, I'm from the Government, and I'm here to help." [Laughter]

Well, of course, sometimes government can help and should help—natural disasters like the drought, for example—but we need to look to a future where there's less, not more, government in our daily lives. It's that philosophy that brought us the prosperity and growth that we see today. That's why we've proposed nothing less than a total phaseout by the year 2000 of all policies that distort trade in agriculture, and I'm speaking of worldwide. This proposal reflects one of my abiding beliefs—I think it's a belief that you share: The solution to the world agricultural problem is to get government out of the way and let farmers compete.

And you know, I'd like to point out something, as I did the week before last in Iowa. When people get to flattering me about this economic expansion, the longest in the peacetime history of our nation, I sometimes ask: What is it we really did to make all this happen for Americans? And the truth is, we just got out of your way. You did it; we didn't. That's why the work you're doing now, and will do as adults, is essential to what we as Americans can do for the rest of the world. We need to help

so many in the underdeveloped world, especially in the agricultural area, and your example and your assistance and your commitment to the concept of economic freedom can be crucial to that endeavor.

Well, as always, it's wonderful to see all of you here. "When tillage begins," Daniel Webster once said, "other arts follow. The farmers therefore are the founders of human civilization." The work of FFA, its broadening horizons, are testimony just to that point. So, I want to congratulate each of you on your achievements with FFA. Your family and friends and your President are all very proud of you. Have a wonderful stay here while you're in the Nation's Capital.

I can't go without just telling another little thing—maybe it's a little unkind of me—about government, but what planted some of these thoughts in my mind a long time ago—I was in the military. And I remember a case arose in World War II for a warehouse that was full of filing cabinets, and the filing cabinets were all full of papers. But research revealed that none of these records were of any value whatsoever or served any purpose in the Government. They were outmoded papers and so forth. They had no historical value. And so, up through the channels went a request to destroy those papers and empty the file cabinets so they could be used now for the great need—or then, at that time—of the papers that were current and so forth. And back down through the channels from the top came the answer to that request: Permission granted to destroy all of those records, provided copies were made of each one. [Laughter]

If I have a hobby anymore, it's throwing paper away. [Laughter] But I won't take any more of your time. Just thank you all, and God bless you. It's good to see you here again.

Ms. Evans. Mr. President, it is an honor for the six of us, as national officers in the national FFA organization, to meet with you again. But today we come to you with kind and sincere regards to share with you over 100 young people from every State in this nation who have come to answer the calling and the challenge that you set

July 28 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1988

before all Americans in your second Inaugural Address when you said, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Our country has an old tradition. The oldest tradition supposedly is that of its youth, and we as young people who represent over 416,000 other FFA members want to thank you and salute you for your unselfish service these past 8 years to our country. In fact, on a more personal note, we wanted you to know that those qualities, those special and unique ones that you possess—that of communication ability; that of your gentleness; and also of your love mostly for your God, for your country, and for your mankind—are those same qualities that we try to instill in our FFA members.

We thank you, Mr. President. And it is with optimism that we hope you and Mrs. Reagan will be able to join us at the world's largest youth convention. Over 24,000 FFA members gather in Kansas City every November, and we would love to hear from you and your remarks. On a more personal note, though, we want to also remind you that in the good book of Matthew, book 22, verse 14, it says: "For many are called, but few are chosen." To be chosen is a rare honor, and in this case, we feel that the rarity was well done.

Announcement of the Recipients of the National Medal of Arts July 28, 1988

The President and Mrs. Reagan will present the National Medal of Arts to 12 Americans who have made a major contribution to the cultural life of the Nation. The awards ceremony will take place during a White House luncheon honoring the recipients on August 9th.

The 1988 National Medal of Arts will be awarded to writer Saul Bellow, actress Helen Hayes, photographer/film director Gordon Parks, architect I.M. Pei, dancer/choreographer Jerome Robbins, pianist Rudolf Serkin, composer/conductor Virgil Thomson, art historian/curator Sydney J. Freedberg, arts administrator Roger L. Ste-

There is a riddle that asks about the American dream. What is the difference between the American dream and everyone else's dream? Well, Mr. President, you know what the difference is. Everyone else's dream is to be an American.

Thank you for your service to our country and to our young people, for your commitment and for your ability to change and to touch our lives. We would like to present you with this plaque which says: "In tribute to President Ronald Reagan, in sincere appreciation for your outstanding leadership to our world and belief in over 416,000 FFA members as the future leaders of this great nation. July 28, 1988, The White House." Thank you.

The President. Thank you very much. I just want to say one thing. Madam President—[laughter]—I hope you're going to be around a little longer than I am. [Laughter] And thank you for those very kind words.

Ms. Evans. You're welcome.

The President. And since we're both presidents, we can use first names, Kelli. [Laughter] Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. Kelli Evans was the national president of the Future Farmers of America.

vens, arts patron Brooke (Mrs. Vincent) Astor, music patron Francis Goelet, and arts patron Obert C. Tanner. This will be the fourth annual presentation of the National Medal of Arts, which unlike other arts awards is not limited to a single field or area of endeavor. The medal is designed to honor those who have encouraged the arts in this country and offered inspiration to others either through distinguished achievement, support, or patronage.

Proposed by President Reagan, the National Medal of Arts was approved by Congress and enacted into law in 1984. It specifically authorizes the President to award

no more than 12 individuals or groups. Judgment are determined by reason of contributions to the arts and availability in the States." Sculptor of the National Medal of Arts silver medal and the words "bas-relief on the medal bears the

Remarks at the POW/MIA I July 29, 1988

George Brooks, members of the board, me there's no going to the National League to be here to speak at the meeting. You are has bonded to family that is l sionate. Some of bers are missing fate, and we ye. And we will c return.

It's a wound passing of time was listed as m. After Operation there remained counted for, and time has been the Governme the facts, to co bring our men.

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PRE-ADVANCE/WALK-THRU QUESTIONNAIRE

EVENT: Future Farmers of America

DATE: November 13

TIME: Pres speaks at 2:05

LOCATION: Kansas City, MO / Municipal Auditorium
(GIVE DETAILS)

EXPECTED AUDIENCE:
(NUMBER AND COMPOSITION) • 18,000 people (realistically 15,000)
• 17-18 y. old FFA members
• alumni

PRESS COVERAGE: Open

On stage:
DIAS PARTICIPANTS: • Larry Case, chairman of the Board of FFA
• Tony Hoyt, National FFA ^{organization} ~~exec. director~~ program specialist
• Six National Officers of FFA

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF
CABINET/CONGRESSIONAL/ADMINISTRATION: possible See Madigan

POTUS INTRODUCTION: National president Mark Timm

PERTINENT SPEECH TOPICS: Desert Storm mention, some FFA members and
ag. teachers served in Gulf, one lost life

REASON FOR EVENT:

Reach to rural America, Ag constituency

PLEASE ATTACH PRE-ADVANCE/WALK-THRU CALL SHEET

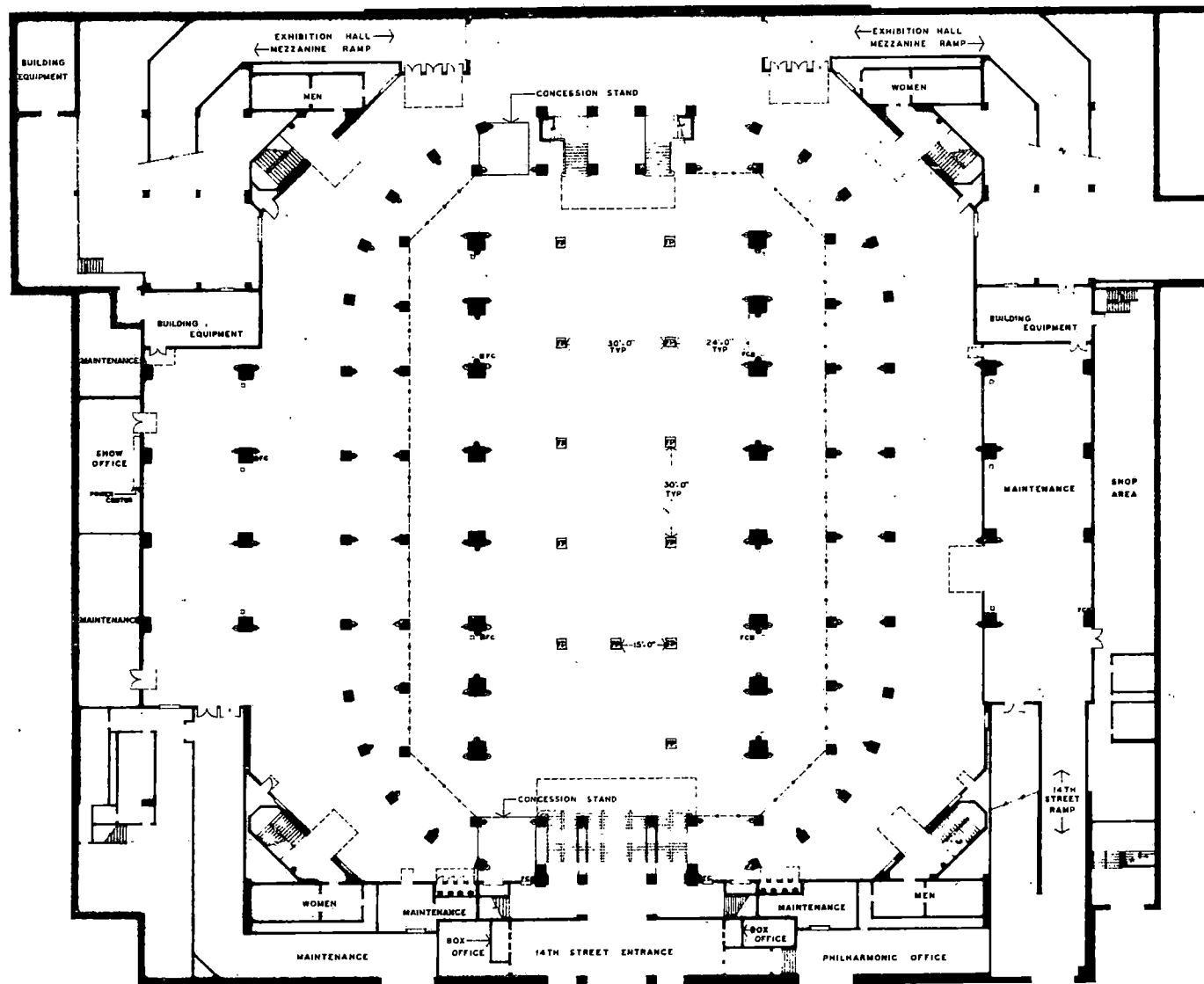
Revisions



NORTH

SCALE
1/16" = 1' - 0"

Municipal Auditorium

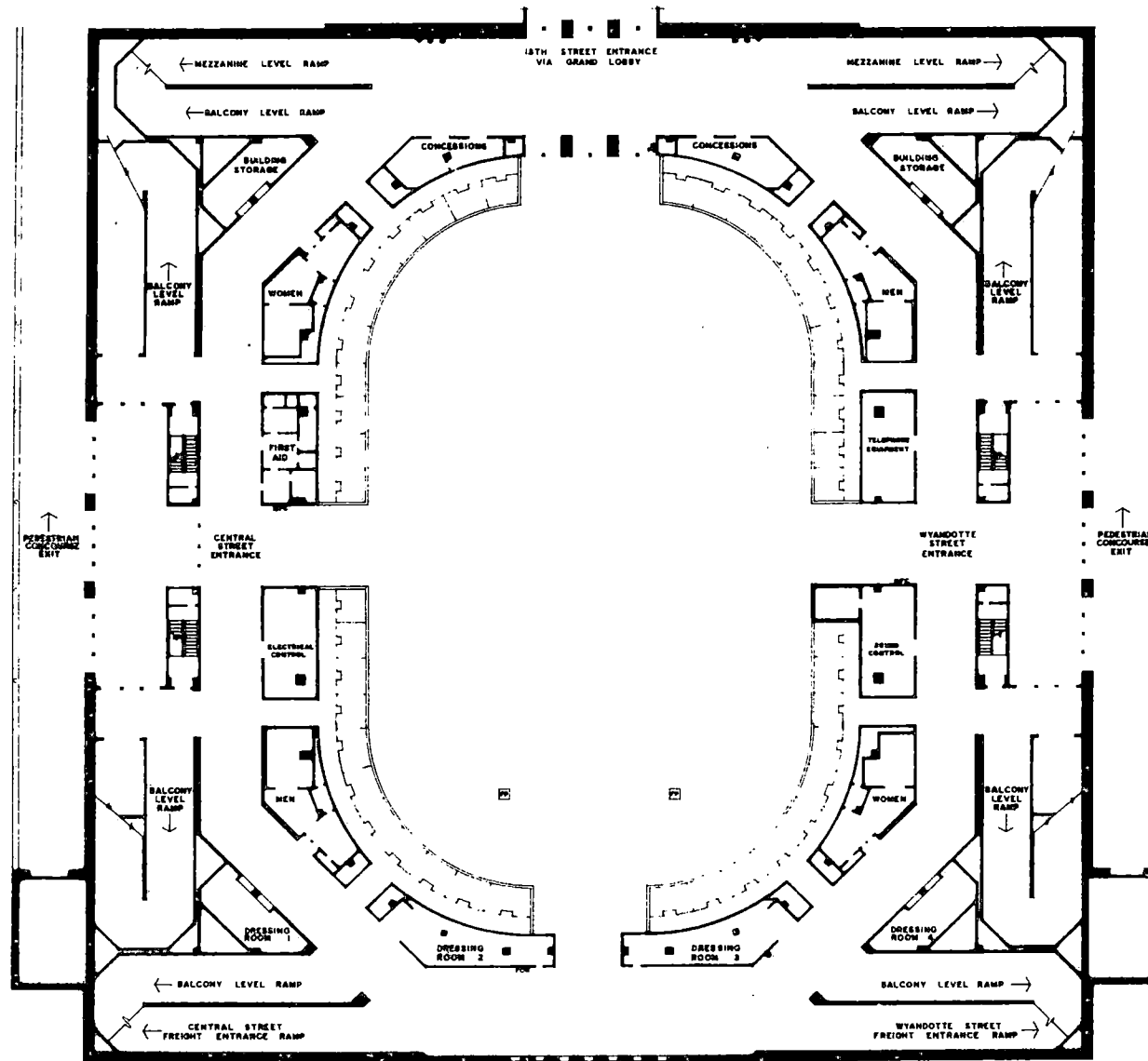


DIMENSIONAL DATA	
GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE	54,800 S.F.
CEILING HEIGHT UNDER MEZZANINE	11'-0"
CEILING HEIGHT CENTER OF FLOOR	24'-0"

SYMBOLS	
⊕	ELECTRICAL RECEPTACLE 110V
⊙	AIR SUPPLY 100PSI
⊗	TELEPHONE
□	FLOOR DRAIN
⊞	FLOOR PORT 208 V - 3 PHASE 110 V 100 AMP
----	FIRE LANE
---	LINE OF MEZZANINE ABOVE
■	FIRE HOSE CABINET

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM EXHIBITION HALL - MAIN LEVEL	
KANSAS CITY CONVENTION CENTER	
SCALE	
NORTH	1/16" = 1' - 0"

Municipal Auditorium

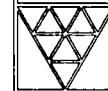


DIMENSIONAL DATA	
GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE	24,000 S.F.
CEILING HEIGHT	92'-4"
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SEATING CAPACITY	PERMANENT BOXES 333
	PORTABLE FLOOR 2414
DRESSING ROOMS	4
RESTROOMS	4
PERMANENT CONCESSIONS	2
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	1877 SOUND SYSTEM
	8 PERMANENT SPOTS

SYMBOLS

- ⊙ TELEPHONE
- FIRE HOSE CABINET
- FLOOR PORT 3PHASE 400 AMPS PER LEG
3 LEGS PER SIDE
1200 AMPS PER SIDE

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
EXHIBITION HALL - ARENA LEVEL



KANSAS CITY
CONVENTION CENTER

SCALE

NORTH

1/16" = 1'-0"

City of Kansas City, Missouri
Public Works Department
Engineering Division
City Engineer
City Auditor
City Clerk

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FFA

Allen Brooks
DPOC

all employees take quality upon
couple hundred themselves

160 employees

started
in 73

Commitment to Quality Pledge
Ray Marlow intro POTUS

Voyage to World Class + Beyond
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10,000 + 5-10,000 in overflow
11-12-87



City/State: Kansas City, MO
Event: Address FFA
Date: NOV. 13, 1991

2:06 pm

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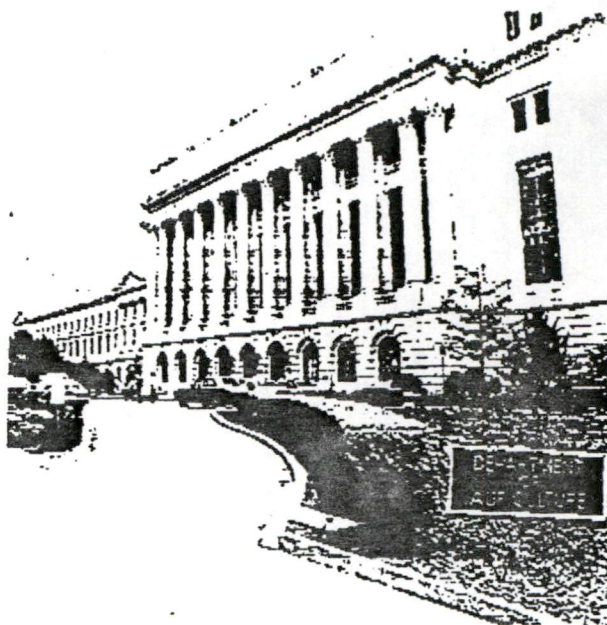
OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVANCE

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→ KIP GODWIN	NATIONAL FFA	703/360-3600 703/360-0461
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Lori Colodney	WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS TRIP OFFICER	(202) 757-5000 x5635

Bill Stag

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON



FAX TRANSMISSION REPORT:

DATE: 12-6

TO: Joe Duggan FAX# 456-6218

FROM: Doug Adair

SUBJECT: Kansas City Clippings

Joe-

Note particularly the David Goldstein piece.
These things don't just happen by accident. Well done!!

This transmission consists of 9 pages, including cover sheet.

If there is a problem with the information you have received, please contact the Office of Public Liaison at (202) 720-2798. Our FAX numbers are (202) 690-3590 or (202) 690-2164.

About 50 AIDS and abortion-rights activists were met Wednesday
by 200 disapproving FFA members outside Municipal Auditorium,

where President Bush was speaking. Oregon FFA member
Jennifer Kjerulf (left) traded verbal jabs with demonstrators.

Confrontation and inspiration

FFA members tear up protest signs,
aunt demonstrators outside hall...

...while inside, 18,000 respond
with awed devotion to 'our leader'

AMY SNIDER
Staff Writer

FFA members threw pennies,
knocked down posters and
torn down banners Wednesday as
they confronted demonstrators
protesting Bush administration
policies outside Municipal Audi-
torium.

"I think we ought to kill them
all," said FFA member Matt
Wyatt of Leesburg, Ohio.
They're a disgrace."

"I think a farmer voting for
George Bush is like a Jew voting
for Hitler," protester Buster
Osborn told a group gathered
near his AIDS banner.

"I love Hitler," an FFA
member shouted back.

For more than two hours
Wednesday afternoon, the group
of about 50 protesters and 200
FFA members shouted,
screamed, argued and cursed.

Despite the intense emotions,
police reported no injuries or
arrests.

The protesters, billing them-
selves as representing Bush's
"1,000 Points of Blight," carried
signs protesting everything from
Bush's education policies, abor-
tion laws and AIDS research to
the condition of the environ-
ment.

FFA member Michael Lancas-
ter shouted, "Is this a national
faggot convention?"

He and two friends, fists in the
air, chanted, "George Bush,
George Bush, George Bush!"

"I'm from Oregon," a 16-year-
old FFA member explained as
she snapped pictures. "And I
live in a real small town where
this never happens."

For more details, see
★ PROTEST/A-21

By DAVID GOLDSTEIN
Staff Writer

For 30 minutes Wednesday,
President Bush basked in the
kind of adulation politicians can
usually only dream about.

He could say no wrong. All of
his jokes worked. All of his
applause lines scored direct hits.

Miss America was with Bush
on the podium, and the FFA
Band and National Chorus were
flanking him. With a virtual sea
of 18,000 fresh-faced, blue-
jacketed FFA members before
him, it was easy to see the
president was in very friendly
company.

Some of the youths, though,
may have been a little unclear
about the facts of Bush's back-
ground.

"I think he used to work on a
farm when he was little," said a
17-year-old Iowa youth. "He
knows what it's like out there."

A group of FFA members
from Chapman, Kan., looked to
the president to help out the
country's farmers. Mark Stalder,
18, didn't question that he
wouldn't make good on his
promise.

"He's our leader," Stalder
said.

It was an easy crowd for Bush
to win over, starry-eyed as it
was. One can only imagine what
would have happened if Arnold
Schwarzenegger, who also had
been invited, had also been on
the stage.

The president joked that he
might star next year in his own
"abbreviated sequel" of Schwar-
zenegger's film "Terminator 2."
Bush called it "Term 2."

The cheering bounced off the
walls.

For more details, see
★ PRESIDENT/A-21

Kansas City Star
Page 1
11/14/91

Bush's appearance resembles patriotic pep

By DAVID GOLDSTEIN
and DIANE STAFFORD
Staff Writers

Moments before President Bush arrived, the scene inside the Municipal Auditorium seemed to elevate politics to an almost devotional moment.

The song "God Bless the U.S.A." filled the auditorium, and a giant screen blazed with the kind of quick, colorful images that have become the staple of political campaigns and McDonald's ads: a returning soldier kissing an air-

★ PRESIDENT

port tarmac; healthy, attractive families at play; the Statue of Liberty; the flag fluttering in an azure sky.

Then when the president took the stage, flanked by the FFA band and its National Chorus, the atmosphere became more like a pep rally before a big game.

"American farmers can compete with anybody anywhere in the world," Bush said feistily during his speech, and the hall roared back its approval.

He spoke about education and agriculture and peace. But the president was also inspirational.

"We're looking to you for fresh ideas and energy," he said "We're counting on you to become the Schwarzeneggers of a tough, global marketplace. Is that a tall order? Well, sure it is. But looking at you, I know that you'll achieve everything we expect of you and more."

The message was not unexpected.

"I figure he'll go motivational," David Potts, a 19-year-old from Kentucky, told his friend, Van Pittman, before the speech.

"Yeah, motivational," Van, 17, agreed. "Young people stuff."

But neither was being cynical.

"I've seen Terry Bradshaw and Lee Iacocca," Potts said. "I tell you, I'm more excited about this. Not everybody gets to see the president."

Dissonant notes were hard to find amid the seemingly universal chorus of approval. Even 17-year-old Tammy White of Iowa, who was not completely enthralled with the president's policies, particularly on women's issues, said: "He's an authority, and I respect him for that. We've got to agree with him because he's running the show right now."

Tammy said she wanted to run for president when she's old enough but worries that her gender will be a handicap.

About an hour earlier, two minutes before its scheduled 1:45 p.m. arrival, the blue and white Air Force One touched down smoothly on the Downtown Airport runway.

The massive Boeing 747 churned up clouds of dust as it taxied the length of the 7,000-foot runway before turning twice to stop on the airfield.

Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver, former Kansas City Mayor Richard L. Berkley, Clay County Presiding Commissioner



President Bush directs a member of his staff as "Daily Points of Light" on a tour Wednesday to take 12 Kansas Citizens designated One at the Downtown Airport.

Peggy Shull and Republican National Committeewoman Roberta Moore greeted Bush at the base of the stairs.

"He asked me what it was like

being out of office," said Berkley, who served on the Republican National Committee when Bush was chairman. "I said, 'Wonderful.'"

Missing was Je Executive Marsha members said her for her to preside Blue Valley Sewer

rally for U.S.



AIG SANDS/The Star
our of Air Force

Jackson County
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le over a Little
or District meet-

ing at the same time.

The greeting party and spectators were whipped by a 22-mph wind that sent thousands of tiny tumbleweeds racing across the airfield throughout the welcoming ceremony.

The president's coattails flapped in the wind as he turned at the base of the stairs to shake hands with a dozen "Daily Point of Light" representatives who lined up under the Air Force One fuselage.

The 12 persons represented six agencies or volunteer groups, five in the Kansas City area and one in Topeka, that have received presidential recognitions for helping cure America's social ills.

First in line was Lanair Perry, a junior at Westport High School and president of the Project Choice council. The council is a group of all-metro area students who are participating in Ewing Kauffman's program to finance college education for drug-free high school graduates.

Lanair and the others had been briefed ahead of time by White House staffers: Do not step out of order, do not hand the president anything, and do not take photographs while Bush is talking to them. But they got a surprise when Bush invited them to tour Air Force One after his motorcade left for Downtown.

"That's not a plane," said Clifford Sargeon, a member of the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime. "It's a flying hotel."

★ Thursday

BUSH IN KANSAS CITY

Protest stirs rage, antagonism among I

By AMY SNIDER
Staff Writer

At first, the sights and sounds of Kansas City's sundry protesters were nothing more than a curiosity to hundreds of FFA members gathered near Municipal Auditorium.

"Oh, the gay people got here," one FFA teen-ager said as she walked by a group of AIDS activists.

"Look at them," another said, pointing. But as President Bush began to speak inside, violence and antagonism swelled

★ PROTEST

on the sidewalks.

"Hit her! Do it," an FFA member yelled as a group of teen-agers surrounded an advocate of abortion rights.

"Hit her! Hit her, man," he yelled as the group ripped the woman's sign and knocked it to the ground.

The protester, Ti Spencer, trembled as FFA member Shannon Taylor of Leesberg, Ohio, hit the sign. Taylor then took a soft drink can and shook it up, threatening to open it and spray her face.

"We're facing hate and violence," said Mark Chaney, an ACT-UP protester, who said that at least two FFA members had pocketknives. "I think they're going to go home and hate more."

Most of the FFA members interviewed said they wanted the protesters to leave.

"There are kids here trying to have a good time, and they're trying to ruin it," said Chris Hendrix, 16, of Paducah, Ken. "I don't think they should be here."

Other protesters said they were glad to have a chance to talk to the members, to expose them to other opinions.

"At least we're having conversation," Ernie Lock said. "That's great."

One FFA member stepped away from her friends and sided with the protesters amid jeers and shouts.

"I'm brave enough to go against my friends," said Courtney Ari 17, of Perrysburg, Ohio, as she spoke about AIDS and other issues.

"Everyone here is afraid of what their friends think," she said later. "You're supposed to learn leadership from them. They're all followers, afraid."

Exy, November 14, 1991 The Kansas City Star A-21

FFA youths

rsations," Courtney said she was embarrassed by some members' behavior, including vulgar language and sign-ripping. Adult FFA advisers also said the organization didn't advocate such behavior.

inst all of At the same time, "a lot of the kids have strong feelings," said Rosco Vaughn, a member of the FFA national board of directors.

hat their Justin Lamb, an adviser from Pekin, Iowa, agreed. "In FFA lowa, agreed. "They're kids," he said. "Some of them have never been out of their counties, much less their own states."

A-22 The Kansas City Star Thursday, November 14, 1991

BUSH IN KANSAS CITY

President challenges FFA to help meet national goals

Excerpts of President Bush's speech Wednesday in Kansas City:

... Your FFA experience is giving you powerful skills and drive to help this country compete in the decades ahead. And as you follow your dreams and lead others, as I know you're destined to do, I'd like your special help in pursuing two national goals, goals to help America be all that it should be. First, I'd like you to work for excellence in American education. If you attend school in a rural community, and many of you do, there's a good chance your school enjoys the strong involvement of parents, strong involvement of your community, and places a high value on responsibility and achievement.

There are success stories of course, across the range of our communities, even in the tougher, poorer inner-city neighborhoods. And some are public schools, others are private or parochial schools. But each has in common the intense involvement of parents, a commitment to discipline, a commitment to values, a rigorous curriculum and a large degree of freedom from bureaucratic control.

Our America 2000 strategy shows communities how to develop schools that work. And we want our schools held to high standards, world-class standards. We want parents to have real financial opportunity to choose schools, including parochial or private schools. We're inviting parents and educators and businessmen and civic leaders to reinvent, literally reinvent American schools, to replace institutions that fail — fail to work, fail to get the job done — with new schools empowered with freedom and flexibility and innovative strategies.

... And I've put forward a strategy for reforming our schools.

President Bush's Speech

★ TOUCH 1142

Call 816/889-STAR and enter 1142 to hear an excerpt from President Bush's speech Wednesday in Kansas City.

dug-in interest groups. ...

... The second goal I'd like you to pursue is keeping America competitive ... Your country is counting on you and I am counting on you to find new uses for traditional and non-traditional crops, your field, things you know something about. We want you to outfox our competitors with your marketing skills. ...

... We have got to keep opportunity alive in this country. Federal income tax rates are lower, flatter and fairer than they were a decade ago, but they still seem to reward debt and punish saving and investment, and that's why we're long overdue for a capital gains tax cut, something I have asked Congress for every year since I became president. But Congress isn't getting the message.

In the farming, ranching and agriculture business: In those communities, I am sure you can appreciate how a capital gains tax cut would improve property values. But more than that, it would boost investment in jobs in every sector and every industry in this nation and I wish you'd help me get that message to the United States Congress. ...

... You know, we need to take the shackles off our banks and financial services companies. I have sent to Congress a comprehensive banking reform package. But again, Congress isn't getting that message. ...

... As many of you know, I met face-to-face just last Saturday with the European Community leaders.

where in the world! ...

... Let me say something else about my efforts to promote our exports. I am not going to apologize for a single moment that I devote to promoting America's interests abroad. Some of my critics act as if the global marketplace is off somewhere in Asia or in Europe, but you and I know it is right here in Kansas City and in Birmingham and Bakersfield and the Silicon Valley. Every additional billion dollars in new exports — listen to this one — every one means 20,000 new American jobs. And when I fight for free and fair trade in Latin America or East Asia or Europe, some will carp and claim that I'm pursuing foreign instead of domestic policy. Well, to borrow a word you all understand, that — and I'll clean it up for you — that is hogwash! The whole line of argument is misleading. ...

... As all of you know, there have been some recent developments on the peace front that I think are terribly important to all of you. As we convened an historic conference in Madrid to get those talks started on a Middle East peace, and when I work with President Gorbachev, and President Yeltsin, or the leaders of Eastern Europe as they struggle to build societies founded upon freedom and the rule of law, or when we move to repel a brutal dictator's invasion of Kuwait — in all of these ways we are assuring a more peaceful world for your generation and the next. And so let the isolationists turn their backs on the historic opportunities that are before us. I cannot give up on the quest for peace on Earth. I owe it to your generation and the next generation, to continue to lead, to use America's moral leadership towards that end. And I will not change my ways. I'll continue to work for world peace, and that's good for

strategy for reforming our schools. And I hope to see as much as possible accomplished during my presidency. But before this vision can become a full reality, I foresee years of political trench warfare, pitting the reformers against

the European Community. That was in the Netherlands last week. And I made it plain that American agriculture and American agribusiness stand for free and fair trade. . . . American farmers can compete with anybody any-

Extended Page 5.1
everybody in this room and all across the United States.

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

November 14, 1991

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Bush defends foreign trips

Opportunities ahead, president tells FFA

By RICH HOOD
Political Correspondent

A pugnacious President Bush blistered his "isolationist" critics Wednesday and sought to shore up his support in farm country during a 20-minute speech to the FFA Convention in Kansas City.

"Let the isolationists turn their backs on the historic opportunities that are before us," the president said. "I cannot give up on the quest for peace on earth. I owe it to your generation and the next generation, to continue to lead, to use America's moral leadership toward that end."

Bush stressed his efforts to increase American exports, including agricultural products. "I am not going to apologize for a single moment that I devote to promoting America's interests abroad. Some of my critics act as if the global marketplace is off somewhere in Asia or in Europe, but you and I know it is right here in Kansas City and in Birmingham and Bakersfield and the Silicon Valley."

Responding to criticism that he has spent too much time out of the country, the president insisted that his overseas work for world peace has been

See BUSH, A-20, Col. 1



JOE LEDFORD/The Star

President Bush became the third person in 64 years to receive an Outstanding American Award from the FFA during his appearance Wednesday.



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Bush uses FFA speech to lash out at critics

Continued from A-1

"good for everybody in this room and all across the United States."

Bush, who traveled to St. Louis later Wednesday to attend a fund-raiser for Sen. Kit Bond and the Missouri Republican Party, didn't get out of the state before he received another round of criticism.

Gene Bushmann, Missouri Democratic chairman, issued news releases attacking the president for visiting Missouri only three times since 1989 while concentrating on jettisoning around the world.

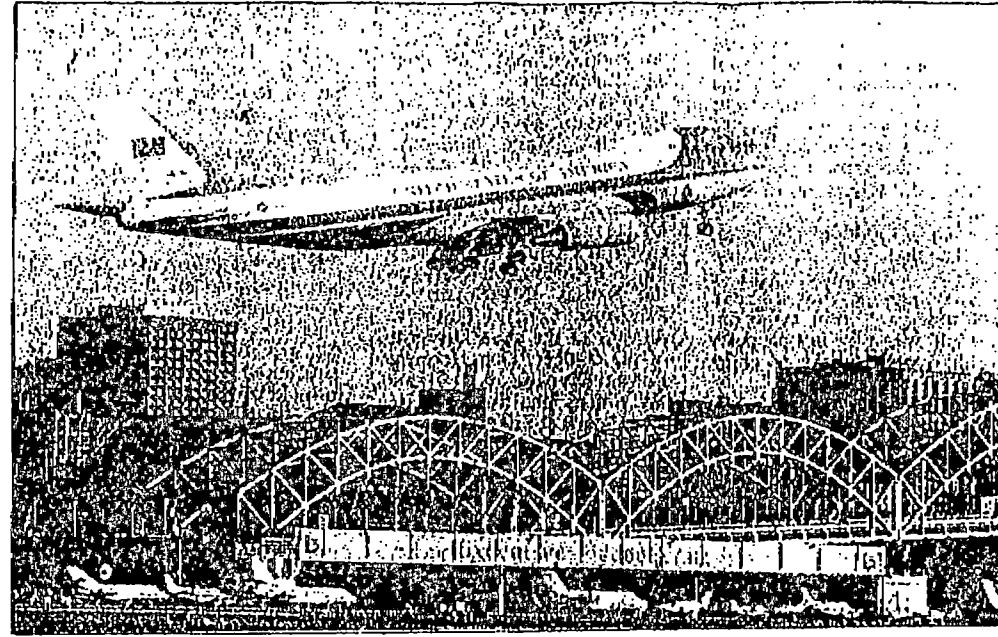
"It's high time for President Bush to stay home and stay on the job," Bushmann said. "In case he hasn't heard, Missouri's unemployment is rising and our costly recession is dragging on. Today's visit to Missouri would give our president a much-needed dose of the real world, where people are facing the economic mess left by the Reagan-Bush supply-side policies, if he would take the time to talk to working Missourians."

Bush insisted that for every additional \$1 billion in exports 20,000 American jobs are created. "When I fight for free and fair trade in Latin America or East Asia or Europe, some will carp and claim that I'm pursuing foreign instead of domestic policy... that is hogwash."

FFA conventioners, nearly 18,000 strong, greeted the president with a standing ovation and interrupted his speech 15 times with applause. The applause following his remarks was sustained and almost deafening.

The president's Kansas City visit was billed as an official event, but he referred twice to his re-election bid next year and made it clear he was trying out campaign themes to counter recently intensified Democratic criticism as the president's favorability rating has sagged.

Bush pleaded with his listeners



Air Force One, carrying President Bush and members of his staff, leaves Downtown Airport on

Wednesday after Bush's address to the National FFA Convention at Municipal Auditorium.

KEITH MYERS/The Star

to help him reform education in the United States. "The challenge of reforming American education will take plenty of patience and grit and determination — exactly the types of virtues that FFA represents," he said.

He also asked for his listeners to work to make America competitive in a global marketplace.

"Your country is counting on you, and I am counting on you to find new uses for traditional and non-traditional crops, things you know something about. We want you to outfox our competitors with your marketing skills."

There had been speculation the president might use the Kansas City speech to announce his new aid package to the Soviet Union. He made repeated references to

the Soviet Union or Soviet leaders but did not give specifics on assistance he will recommend.

At one point the president used the agricultural problems in the Soviet Union as a way to praise the conventioners. "I really believe that if the Soviet Union had been blessed with an organization like the FFA, that their problems in agriculture wouldn't be nearly as big, nearly as horrible as they are today. You are involved in an important work."

That reference and others prais-

ing the FFA organization and rural America were an obvious attempt to court farmers who have been increasingly critical of

the Bush administration. Earlier this year Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, a national expert on farm policy, warned the White House that Bush could be vulnerable on agricultural policies during the 1992 election campaign.

Bush attempted to respond to Dole's warning and Democratic criticism by repeatedly linking his overseas trips with improvements he insisted have come at home. He said he met last week with European leaders and made it clear that the United States will insist on a tariff agreement that opens more markets for American exports.

"American farmers can compete with anybody anywhere in the world," the president declared. The crowd cheered.

Criticism of Congress, a staple in many recent Bush speeches and an expected element in the 1992 campaign, also was part of the speech. He praised Missouri's two Republican senators, Bond and Jack Danforth, who were on the platform with him. But he said many members of Congress don't listen to White House pleas. He urged FFA members to contact congressional members to urge passage of the Bush capital gains tax decrease, a measure he said would be a major boost to farmers.

THE SOURCE

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(St. Louis, Missouri)

For Immediate Release

November 13, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN FUNDRAISER FOR SENATOR KIT BOND

Riverport Amphitheater
St. Louis, Missouri

6:38 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. And, Kit, thank you. You're setting the tone. Thank all of you out there in this audience for supporting a great United States Senator, and for supporting this party -- 1992's a critical year. And what a tremendous sendoff this is.

May I salute Senator Danforth. And thank you for being a tower of strength. (Applause.) May I salute all our statewide officers that are here. I'm also told that Hall of Famers Bobby Bell and Buck Buchanan are here. The great Gatlin Brothers, great friends of Kit's and mine that we'll from in a little bit.

And I'm just delighted all of you could be here. My brother, I would like to single him out, my brother, Buck, finance chairman. You're tired of hearing from him, I know, but nevertheless I'm glad to see him. (Applause.) Talk about all in the family.

Governor Ashcroft, whom I forgive for declaring broccoli the state vegetable. (Laughter and applause.) I can't tell you how closely we work with this Governor and how much respect I have for his judgment. And most of all, though, we're to salute our now and future Senator Kit Bond and, of course, his lovely wife Carolyn. (Applause.) And it is nice to have a chance to spend a little time in this city where my own mother was born and raised. (Applause.) My favorite mystic, St. Louis's, also New York's, Yogi Berra, once said of a restaurant, "Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded." (Laughter.) Get it? Nope. Okay. (Laughter.)

Well, I'm pleased to see this capacity crowd. There's not a nobody in the room. And I know we have other entertainment, including, as I mentioned, one of our Bush family favorites, the Gatlin Brothers, who've been up with us at Camp David. And I really enjoy coming here, though, to honor this bright star of Missouri, a bright star of the Senate. And, of course, I mean Kit.

We first met in 1968. He came over to our house for hamburgers. The next year, he became Assistant Attorney General for the Consumer Protection Division. (Disruption.)

That's all right. This happens every place you go. They have their say here, and they'll be escorted quietly out. (Applause.) But let me just say something while they're taken care of. The federal government is doing a first-class job on research for AIDS. And we are going to keep on doing it until we can bring a compassionate end to this American tragedy. (Applause.) And I have no problem at all with their speaking their mind.

I don't want to get off the beaten text here. But I just thought Magic Johnson was fantastic the other day when he faced up to this -- (applause) -- and I believe speaking out with compassion, doing what we're doing on research is the answer to this

MORE

terrible problem that plagues not just the United States but many others. So I have no anger in my heart when I hear people that are expressing their concerns.

I was talking about Kit -- right after he had hamburgers with us, he became the Assistant Attorney General for the Consumer Protection Division. No relationship between the two events, I don't believe. (Laughter.) But then he went on -- was elected State Auditor; at 33, your Governor -- the youngest in Missouri history; and finally, Junior Senator. And he impressed us all so much that we knew we had to have him to be the campaign chairman for Bush-Quayle in '88.

And there's an old saying, that what goes around, comes around. And in 1986, Kit Bond was elected to the United States Senate. And the time has now come to send him back. And he deserves it. He's earned the support of the people in Missouri. (Applause.) And he has a record to build on -- not empty rhetoric to run around. We hear a lot of political demagoguery from the other party, but it won't sell in Missouri. The motto here is Show Me -- not Snow Me. And that's why I believe he's going to win this race. (Applause.)

Kit and Jack Danforth and your great Governor, Governor Ashcroft and I have fundamental differences with the liberal Democrats who control both Houses of the United States Congress. Let me just try tonight to define some of these differences. They want mandates. This means they want to pass more and more bills dictating to the states how to solve problems -- education programs, crime programs, health programs. Some subcommittee chairman that's been for 30 years telling the people of Missouri how they ought to solve the great social problems. And we want federalism. We want the power to be in the hands of the governors and in the hands of the local authorities and, bless them, in the hands of the families of the United States by providing choice when it comes to education and child care. (Applause.)

The national governors, and I'm talking Democrats and Republicans, tell me that the major problem they have is being saddled with more and more mandates by some of these empowered committee chairmen in Washington that pass legislation after legislation or attempt to pass it that just tells the states how to do everything. And we've got to stand up against that.

And the liberals just don't understand that federal money, as they call it, is your money. It is the taxpayers' money. And I am determined to protect your interests. (Applause.)

We all saw Jack Danforth's, I'd say not just heroic, but -- try to say this right -- wonderful example of his character as he stood beside Clarence Thomas. (Applause.) And here's a little something that irked me -- plenty did out of all of that. But did you know that will all the pious talk by some of those Democrats about sexual harassment, which is a concern and which we should do something about, but all the pious talk about sexual harassment, the Senate as the debate went on had exempted itself from the same sexual harassment laws that everyone else in the land has to live by. And I don't think that's right. And if we had different leaders up in the United States Senate, that would be changed. (Applause.)

You see, we believe that it's time that people felt they had more control over their own lives when it comes to these federal programs. And we want to enlarge personal dignity -- push back this concept of impersonal government.

People matter to Kit. He cares deeply about them, just as they do to all of us here. And that's why we want to do more than complain about this economy that concerns us all. We want to give it

a good boost. And as Senator, Kit has backed our growth initiatives: a cut in the capital gains tax; banking reform; personal savings incentives like IRAs to stimulate home buying; an R&D, a research and development tax credit; more investment in science and technology and infrastructure. We need a new transportation bill that he's working hard on that will give Americans jobs and do it soon. (Applause.) We need our America 2000 education program that all three up here are helping us on.

And I mentioned yesterday that credit card interest rates, in my view, should come down. This isn't a government decision. But I believe those rates should come down. And I'm pleased to say that some banks yesterday lowered their rates, and then one of the large credit card companies today lowered its rates. And I believe that's right. And I think that's good for the American economy. Give it a kick. Let's get this thing moving. (Applause.)

Kit supports our Council on Competitiveness, headed by our Vice President, who I think is doing a superb job. You talk about unfair criticism. The way this man holds up to it, he's doing just fine, thank you. (Applause.) And what he's trying to do, and we've got to redouble our effort, is to free workers and businesses from red tape, regulations and, again, these mandates. And people have better things to do than fill out plenty of reports all the time, reporting, reporting to Uncle Sam. And I might add the Council is doing a good job trying to get a recalcitrant Democratic leadership to move on much needed tort reform -- liability reform -- these outrageous damage settlements are finishing off a lot of the small businesses in this country. (Applause.) We need to place caps on some of these outrageous claims.

So we've got a growth program. It's there. It is a sound agenda. But while the people seek action, the liberals in Congress go out and hold a lot of press conferences, sell their funny little t-shirts, and sabotage the initiatives that the American people want. And I'm getting sick and tired of it. (Applause.)

They even refused to permit a vote on our capital gains cut tax to propel the economy when we had majorities in both the House and the Senate for this a couple of years ago. Couldn't even get it to the floor by some fancy parliamentary procedure out there.

They talk about fairness, and what they're really talking about these days -- you listen to the proposals and listen to the load they're putting on me -- they're talking about class warfare. And American grew out of that years ago. We're all in this together. And we cannot be divided by Democratic demagoguery. (Applause.)

We've got a good agenda, and they've got an agenda. Their agenda is to block our agenda. And so far I regret to report they're having some success because they've got our good troops here outnumbered. And worse, they try to lay the blame at my door. And I don't like that. And at yours -- and I'm sure you don't like that either. Well, I think it's time to reject their propaganda and their excuses and demand some action. And, frankly, and I think the American people see this -- these guys that write these stories think I live and die by the polls. Well, I don't. I certainly don't want to die by them. (Laughter.) But I see these polls out there. And I've got to confess every once in a while, I look at it. And the American people aren't dumb. You know who they blame for the dilemma that we're in today that we're trying to fight our way out of? They blame the United States Congress and that means the one-party control -- the Democratic leadership in the United States Congress. (Applause.)

You want to talk a little domestic agenda? You want to talk a little more domestic agenda? Okay. On March 20th, I

submitted a banking reform legislation to the Congress. That was 238 days ago. No legislation. And our banks should be able to compete with these domineering foreign banks. And they can't do it if we don't change the law. No action -- 238 days. On March 11th, I sent Congress a crime bill. That was 247 days, and our policemen are out there and they need our support on the streets. And we need a crime bill that says we care a little more about the law enforcement and a little less about those who commit the crimes. (Applause.)

Domestic agenda? Okay. On March 4th, I sent energy legislation. We need a national energy strategy. It is my view we are too dependent on foreign oil. And the war over there ought to have taught us that. That was 254 days ago -- no bill. On February 13th, up went our transportation legislation. That was 273 days ago -- and you guessed it, no bill on my desk. And on May 22nd, I sent Congress a national education strategy legislation. And 175 days later, surprise, surprise -- no bill.

Look, I think the American people understand that from the very first day I took office I held out my hand to the Congress. And some of the Republican Party thought maybe I did it a little too much. Some thought that I was a little too willing to negotiate, to compromise. I tried. I have held out my hands to those leaders. I have caught their javelins. I have absorbed their blows because I've been trying to get something done for the good of the American people. And I've tried to work with that Democratic leadership. And I owe it to the American people to continue to try, because I do believe that our kids need a good chance at a good education, not just some dozen years of babysitting.

We've got a great education program. And I'm going to keep on trying. But I'll tell you this: When this election rolls around, if I decided to become a candidate -- I'm getting warmed up here -- (laughter) -- but if I do, I'm going to take this case to the American people and say give me more men like Kit Bond. Give me some good women on our side like Nancy Kassebaum. Give me more senators like Jack Danforth, and you watch this country move ahead. (Applause.)

Oh, there's so much to do. I mentioned America 2000, our education program. It's good. We've got a great man, a great friend of John Ashcroft's, Lamar Alexander is our Secretary, bringing this revolutionary new approach to the parents and the families, saying we've got to do better for our kids. Trying to restore peace in our streets, give people an opportunity to live free of fear. And we've got to have a new crime bill. The Senate passed a good crime bill, and I credit these senators right here. But the Democrats in the House tried to undo much of it.

One area where we have gotten bipartisan cooperation -- and this is important to every family, transcends party lines -- is on our National Drug Strategy. And we launched a strategy to combat drugs; it is producing real results. Casual use of heroin in this country and cocaine, these things are going down. We're making progress. We have a long way to go, but at least there's some good signs out there for the American family on that front.

I believe we need this job-creating transportation legislation. Kit knows the condition of Missouri roads and bridges. And he told me he was surprised I could drive to this event and glad I don't have to cross the bridge to St. Charles to get here. (Laughter.) Help me elect a Congress that knows that if we want to keep America on the rise, we've got to keep it on the move.

And let me just mention, before closing, some international aspects to this. International leadership, worldwide economic competition. Some in Congress -- including some from Missouri -- pretend that trade and security and international

cooperation don't help the working men and women of this country. Well, just tell that to the more than 40 million Americans working in jobs that involve importing or exporting. Today, an estimated 75,000 to 100,000 Missouri jobs depend on exports. You know that military, economic, and political issues cross continents, and they cross borders. For instance, checking foreign protectionism means more American exports and more American jobs.

But some Democratic leaders in Congress just don't get it. They seem to be sounding again -- and, yes, people are hurting -- they seem to be sounding again the siren call of protectionism. The worst thing we can do is to pull back into some protectionist cocoon. The job loss would be staggering. There are one or two of you old guys out here, old enough like I am to remember what happened when we went the protection route right there around the time of the Great Depression, and the whole world market shrunk. And I am not going to be the President that shirks my responsibilities to expand our markets abroad. (Applause.)

There's a lot of change in the world and we are the leaders -- not just of the free world, but of the emerging democracies around the world. And progress demands we accept that role and accept it eagerly, as a great people should. And we are a great nation, a great people. And when a dictator threatened American lives, yes, we helped the Panamanian people validate their own free elections by kicking him out, seeing that he's brought to trial.

When a brutal tyrant invaded Kuwait -- we helped roll back aggression and liberate a land. Was that victory foreign, was that domestic; what was it? I think it was in the fundamental national interest of the United States that we led the world to say one country's not going to brutalize its neighbor. It's good for your kids and mine and it's good for the entire world. (Applause.)

And as communism crumbled, we made it clear -- typical American spirit, we made it clear that we will support those who promote democracy and free enterprise -- and thank God we did. Is democracy, is that foreign or is that domestic? Is it right to work with Gorbachev and Yeltsin for exciting peaceful change? Can you imagine if all this new democracy and freedom and market economy works in the Soviet Union, what that means in terms of our own trade? Certainly I know what it means in terms of peace for generations to come. Is that neglecting my job to pay attention to these major problems of change that face the world?

Is it historic and wonderful, as I believe, to bring the warring parties together to talk peace in the Middle East as we did at Madrid, or am I neglecting something? I wish every one of you could have been in the room with me and felt the wonder of that moment when ancient enemies came under the same roof. We've a long way to go before we can say peace, but I am going to keep on working for peace around the world. It benefits your kids, again, and it benefits mine. (Applause.)

Today, we need more leaders like these two Senators up here and this Governor. They know what I'm talking about. Missouri is linked to trade in Singapore. Kit understands this. He helped draft the 1990 Farm bill, which has made America more competitive overseas. Someone asked Kit how he got 23 provisions in the bill. "Simple," he said, "Missourians gave me the best ideas." He listens to the people and makes something happen in Washington, D.C.

He understands that military aircraft built in St. Louis can help keep the peace. He led the successful fight to make the F- and A-18 the Navy's carrier-based aircraft for the next decade. And he believes in exports that work, whether it is corn or soybeans or the sunshine of democracy. And so do I. And last year, I was in

Cartagena, Colombia. Why? To help work with them to keep drugs out of our cities and out of our schools and away from our families. Was that foreign or was that domestic?

Last week, I was in Rome and the Hague. Why? To work for peace at home and abroad, and to promote the cause of free and fair trade, and to say to every farmer in the state of Missouri, we are going to keep hammering away on these GATT talks until the Europeans open their markets to the agricultural product of the Untied States of America. (Applause.) And it is in our interest that I do that, and I'm going to keep on doing it. I don't care what your Congressman from Missouri says about it. (Applause.)

As we approach the 21st century, let's remember, isolationism makes no sense; never did. It represents an old ignorance that was scorned by my predecessors Roosevelt, Truman, and Kennedy, and that all Presidents and the American people since have looked upon with disdain. I speak of the ignorance that inspires people to hide from the rest of the world, wishing our problems away instead of creating solutions. It urges them to blame others rather than to call forth the best in ourselves.

I want to do better. I will continue to work my heart out to see that this economy gets on the move. I just wish I had more members of Congress to implement this program I've outlined for you here tonight. More members like Kit and Jack, we could be moving sooner. But we're going to keep on. And I'm going to keep that hand of friendship and cooperation extended to the Congress of the United States. I think I owe that to the American people. But I am not going to do it their way. The only way you can make -- when you don't have a majority -- make something good happen, is to veto bad legislation. And I'm going to keep right on vetoing it until we can make something good happen for this country. (Applause.)

Kit Bond's work embodies his motto -- I think there's some of the things I've talked about tonight -- "Values we believe in, experience we trust." So my plea tonight is let's make the most of those values. And let's use them to celebrate America. Let's use them to reelect Kit Bond to senator from the great State of Missouri. Let's use them to enhance the standing of the United States of America at home and abroad. We are lucky to be Americans and God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

7:05 P.M. CST