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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Backup Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13786  
**Folder ID Number:** 13786-010

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**Folder Title:**  
Christmas in Washington 12/15/91 [OA 8332]

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST  
TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: ROBERT SIMON *RS*

SUBJECT: "CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON" PROGRAM

COPIES HAS SEEN  
12/12/91

31 DEC 11 P6:32

*OK*

*Good*

*CB*

I. SUMMARY

On Sunday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m., you will attend the performance of "Christmas in Washington" at the Pension Building and give brief remarks on stage at the end of the program.

II. DISCUSSION

This year's show is similar to the one you attended in 1989. Mrs. Bush pinch hit for you last year due to your illness.

The remarks (2 minutes) describe the true meaning of Christmas. In addition to your regular speech cards, you will also be able to use a large-screen teleprompter in the back of the room.

Simon  
Dec. 9, 1991  
Draft 2 (XMAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: "CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON"  
PENSION BUILDING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1991  
6:00 P.M.

To all the performers -- Anne and Vince, Anita and Johnny,  
✓ and these two wonderful choirs: What a magnificent performance!  
From the Bush family -- and for all the families watching --  
thank you for filling our hearts with song, and lifting our  
spirits with the joys of Christmas. \\  
\\

About a hundred years ago, there was a little girl who was  
afraid there wouldn't be any Christmas that year. You see, her  
friends had told her that Santa Claus wasn't real. So to find  
the truth, she wrote to the newspaper for the answer.

"Virginia," came the famous reply, "your little friends are  
wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical  
age.... Santa Claus exists as certainly as love \ and generosity  
\ and devotion exist, giving life its highest beauty and joy."  
What would the world be like without Santa? About "as dreary as  
if there were no Virginias."

Christmas is a time to enter that child-like world of dreams  
and wishes, to rediscover what makes life worth living in a world  
that too often forgets. You won't find the meaning of Christmas  
beneath a tree, or swaddled in gift-wrap. For it matters less  
what's under your tree than what's in your heart. Find a way to  
give of yourself. Help a stranger as a point of light; make sure  
that every child knows that someone loves them. The only

Christmas gift that ever really mattered was given that very first Christmas: the gift of God's love \ born here on Earth.

These next few days, families will reunite \ food will be prepared \ warm fires lit \ and warm embraces shared. As Christmas arrives each year, we Americans recall with humble awe how blessed we are among nations. May God continue to watch over us, and grant us peace. From all of us \ to all of you: Merry Christmas!

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

rehearsal 2:15 - 3:30

airs 12/18

(Lange/Simon)  
December 6, 1989  
1:00 p.m.  
[PEACE.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: "CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON" PROGRAM  
THE PENSION BUILDING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1989  
[TIME]

Thank you, Olivia. (( You know, Barbara and I don't often see this many stars together all at once. Finally -- somebody understood what I meant by a "thousand points of light"... ))

Barbara and I have been thrilled by tonight's program -- the musical inspiration, the wonder, the excitement. It has given our holidays a magnificent beginning.

For all of the kids and the families that are here; for the Bush family; and for many watching across the country, this will be a very special Christmas.

It is a time when we think about giving more of ourselves. We understand that the value of our lives is not measured by our possessions, but by the good we do for others. Each of us can be a point of light in someone's life -- making this holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

Christmas is always a time for reaching across the table, joining hands, and raising voices. It is a time to celebrate the birth of God's love on earth.

But this year, Christmas has a powerful new meaning. For people around the world, Christmas in 1989 will be a moment to be remembered. A moment of new faith in freedom. New hope for peace.

Since the end of World War II, the world has waited. For

forty years the world has known only a grim and joyless peace -- as hard and cold as a long winter night.

But now, everywhere, we see signs of a warmer, more hopeful peace, like a candle that flickers in a distant window. It beckons, encourages, casts a bright glow in the world's darkest corners.

Change comes, and challenges us. Freedom comes, and lights a candle that can never be put out.

Voices are raised -- some in songs of joy, some in cries for freedom -- but all are heard on God's earth. We speak of a "peace the world cannot give" -- but we know God can give us the strength to find it.

Glasses are raised, hearts are lifted, to toast the dawn of a new Europe. New religious freedoms. New possibilities for prosperity, around the world. A new peace -- within our reach -- within this century.

In corners still shrouded in oppression and darkness, the yearning for freedom still burns brightly within. May all who dare to hope for it, find it.

Let every candle we light, every hand we offer, symbolize the hope of a new century, the hope of mankind: That there will be peace on earth -- good will -- and the blessings of freedom, for all the peoples of the world.

Thank you. And may God bless you this Christmas.

# # #

Simon  
Dec. 9, 1991  
Draft 2 (XMAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: "CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON"  
PENSION BUILDING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1991  
6:00 P.M.

Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_. To all the performers -- Anne and Vince, Anita and Johnny, and these two wonderful choirs: What a magnificent performance! From the Bush family -- and for all the families watching -- thank you for filling our hearts with song, and lifting our spirits with the joys of Christmas. \\

About a hundred years ago, there was a little girl who was afraid there wouldn't be any Christmas that year. You see, her friends had told her that Santa Claus wasn't real. So to find the truth, she wrote to the newspaper for the answer.

"Virginia," came the famous reply, "your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age.... Santa Claus exists as certainly as love \ and generosity \ and devotion exist, giving life its highest beauty and joy." What would the world be like without Santa? About "as dreary as if there were no Virginias."

Christmas is a time to enter that child-like world of dreams and wishes, to rediscover what makes life worth living in a world that too often forgets. You won't find the meaning of Christmas beneath a tree, or swaddled in gift-wrap. For it matters less what's under your tree than what's in your heart. Find a way to give of yourself. Help a stranger; make sure that every child knows that someone loves them. The only Christmas gift that ever

really mattered was given that very first Christmas: the gift of God's love \ born here on Earth -- love that never ends, soothing mercy, poured out without measure.

These next few days, families will reunite. Together, they will enjoy special meals, sit around crackling fires, share warm memories and loving embraces. As Christmas arrives each year, we Americans recall with humble awe how blessed we are among nations. May God continue to watch over us, and grant us peace. From all of us \ to all of you: Merry Christmas!

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
December 4, 1989

Chris,

Mr. George Stevens, <sup>spee-</sup> producer for the "Christmas in Washington" program at the Pension Building on Sunday, December 10th, forwarded the attached poem as a suggestion for the President's remarks.

It is traditional for the President and First Lady to come on stage at the end of the show and for the President to give a Christmas greeting.

The show is taped and aired on NBC nationally on Monday, Dec. 18th at 10:00 p.m. (one hour)

Mr. Stevens can be contacted at 416-7960 if you have any questions.

Thanks,

347-9065

Sondra Haley

readings Russian story  
The Snow Leopard x7136

her Christmas 1. Mrs. Bush reads

2. ONJ intro

Simon  
Dec. 9, 1991  
Draft 2 (XMAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: "CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON"  
PENSION BUILDING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1991  
6:00 P.M.

~~First of all~~  
Thank you, ~~...~~ To all the performers -- Anne and Vince, Anita and Johnny, and these two wonderful choirs: What a magnificent performance! From the Bush family -- and for all the families watching -- thank you for filling our hearts with song, and lifting our spirits with the joys of Christmas. \\

About a hundred years ago, there was a little girl who was afraid there wouldn't be any Christmas that year. You see, her friends had told her that Santa Claus wasn't real. So to find the truth, she wrote to the newspaper for the answer.

"Virginia," came the famous reply, "your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age.... Santa Claus exists as certainly as love \ and generosity \ and devotion exist, giving life its highest beauty and joy." What would the world be like without Santa? About "as dreary as if there were no Virginias."

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New  
York  
Sun  
editorial  
12-14-1897

see  
file

really mattered was given that very first Christmas: the gift of  
God's love \ born here on Earth -- ~~love that never ends, soothing  
mercy, poured out without measure.~~

These next few days, families will reunite. ~~Together, they  
will enjoy special meals, sit around crackling fires, share warm  
memories and loving embraces.~~ *\ meals will be prepared  
\ warm fires lit and warm embraces shared.* As Christmas arrives each year, we  
Americans recall with humble awe how blessed we are among  
nations. May God continue to watch over us, and grant us peace.  
From all of us \ to all of you: Merry Christmas!

# # #

# THIS WEEK'S PICKS



# The Sun

DECEMBER 24, 1897.--COPYRIGHT, 1897, BY THE SUN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

## Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below; expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun.

Dear Editor, I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hardan.

115 West Ninety-fifth Street  
Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The external light which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they do not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus.

The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor man can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn?

Of course not, but that's not proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart a baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest men, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart.

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else as real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever!

A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

a Santa Claus. The response, written by Frank P. Church, has become one of the most famous editorials ever published. In this two-hour dramatization, Richard Thomas plays Virginia's father, an unemployed Irish immigrant who must explain to his children why Christmas will be bleak. Katharine Isobel is Virginia, Ed Asner plays publisher Edward P. Mitchell, and Charles Bronson is Church, who writes the reply to Virginia's question.

she decides to produce her own story hour on public access TV. But an ad executive (Stephanie Zimbalist) and her boss (Ed Begley Jr.) who see the show want to transform her into "Granny Goodheart" and put her on a nationally televised program. Charles Durning plays a night court judge.

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- ..... 6
- ..... 7
- ..... 48



Event: Christmas in WashingtonDate: 12/10/91

**OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVANCE  
IN-TOWN EVENT CONTACT SHEET**

Name	Office	Phone Number
Presidential Advance Office		456-7565
Presidential Advance Fax Number		456-2820
Tim SIMONSON	WH ADVANCE	456-7565
Kris Goodwin	" "	" "
Bob Simon	WH Speechwriting	456-7750
Al. ARMSTRONG	F.P.S	472-2123
Frank Williams	USSS MAG	634-2230
Leonard M. McDonald	F.P.S (	472-2123
Kevin Smith	OFF ICI	431-7540
Capt E. Grollman	FPS Police	(202) 755-3371
Keith A. Cumberland	GSA Buildings Manager	202-376-7077
MARK MCKINNEY	USSS TSD	202 395 6074
PELE CADDIGAN	USSS/INTELLIGENCE	202-435-5100
SECKY EDIGER	USSS/WFO	202-435-6700
Jan MURPHY	USSS/PPD	202-395-4011
MARIE SULLIVAN	USSS/PPD	202 395-4011
MICHAEL B. SELIGMAN	Assoc Producer	202 347 9091
ROSEMARY O'BRIEN	NBC	212/664-3502
TERRY MAHONY	NBC	202/637-4533
DONNA BONDIC	NBC	202-637-4532
William Homan	Design Cuisine Catering	703-979-9400
Kate Keegan	Design Cuisine	703 979 9400
B.C. MAY	NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM	200-272-3555
DALE ELLENBARGER	WHCA	202-395-4056
TOM JOYCE	USSS/WFO	202 435-5100

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Anita Baker

Anne Murray

Johnny Mathis

Vivice Gill

Naval Glee Club

Easter High School

Hark, the Herald  
Angels Sing

Simon  
Dec. 9, 1991  
Draft 1 (XMAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: "CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON"  
PENSION BUILDING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1991  
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Christmas is a time to enter that child-like world of dreams and wishes, to rediscover what makes life worth living \ in a world that too often forgets. Christmas isn't about receiving presents, or even giving them. For it matters less what's under your tree than what's in your heart. Find a way to give of yourself; help a stranger; make sure that every child knows that someone loves them. The only Christmas gift that ever really

mattered was given that very first Christmas: the gift of God's love \ born here on Earth. His love is never-ending, His mercy without measure.

These next few days, families will reunite -- food will be prepared \ warm fires lit \ and warm embraces shared. As Christmas descends upon America, we recall with humble awe how blessed we are among nations. May God continue to watch over us, and grant us peace. From all of us \ to all of you: Merry Christmas!

# # #

**CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON PROGRAM / THE PENSION BUILDING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1990**

**THANK YOU, JOHN. I'M SORRY THE PRESIDENT CAN'T BE WITH US TONIGHT -- BUT HE'S AT HOME WITH A TOUCH OF THE FLU. HE ASKED ME TO WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND TO PASS ALONG HIS THOUGHTS ON THIS VERY SPECIAL EVENING. FIRST, TO ALL THE PERFORMERS: WHAT A WONDERFUL PROGRAM! WE ALL ENJOYED THE MAGNIFICENT SINGING, THE GLORIOUS MUSIC, AND THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT THAT HAS FILLED THIS FABULOUS HALL.**

*Delivered by Mrs. Bush at the  
last minute because GB had the flu.*

*Mark Lange rewrote Mary Kate's  
original version on the road in S.  
America.*

*Mary Kate then modified it  
for Mrs. Bush.*

IN MANY WAYS, THIS SEASON IN THE MIDST OF WINTER IS THE WORLD'S WARMEST. ACROSS THE SEAS AND SANDS, AROUND THE WORLD IN CHURCHES, TEMPLES AND MOSQUES, THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE IS FELT AND CELEBRATED EVERYWHERE -- AND NEVER MORE THAN NOW.

AND IN THE PERSIAN GULF, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN STANDING STRONG FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE. THEY ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS EVERY DAY -- AND THEIR SAFE RETURN IS IN OUR PRAYERS EVERY NIGHT.

HUMANITY'S ENDURING HOPE -- THE WISH OF 2000 YEARS -- IS FOR PEACE ON EARTH. SOME MAY LOOK BACK, AND MOURN THE "PEACE THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE." BUT THE REAL QUESTION THOSE CENTURIES ASK, IS WHETHER WE CAN SUMMON IN OURSELVES THE STRENGTH TO LOOK FORWARD -- AND FIND THE WILL TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER.

SO IF THE LIGHT OF THAT STAR OVER BETHLEHEM SHINES AS BRIGHTLY NOW AS IT EVER HAS, LET US ENTER THIS SEASON OF JOY RESOLVED TO HEAR OUR BETTER ANGELS.

- 4 -

TO DENY COMPLACENCY AND DESPAIR. AND TO REMEMBER THAT WITH THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM, SO DEARLY EARNED AND EARNESTLY DEFENDED, COMES THE RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER ONE ANOTHER.

THERE NEED BE NO DARK CORNERS ON THIS EARTH GOD GAVE US -- NO SOULS FORGOTTEN, NO WOUND THAT CANNOT HEAL, NO ONE THAT CAN'T BE HELPED, OR CANNOT HELP. ALL OF US HAVE GIFTS TO GIVE -- AND IN THE GIVING, WORSHIP GOD.

- 5 -

MAY THIS CHRISTMAS, AND THE COMING YEAR, BE THE BEST EVER FOR ALL OF US.

THANK YOU ALL FOR SUCH A WONDERFUL EVENING! FROM THE BUSH FAMILY TO YOUR FAMILY, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS -- AND THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH.

# # #