

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):  
S; 1999-0285-F

FOIA Number:  
S

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**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

---

**OA/ID Number:** 13805  
**Folder ID Number:** 13805-002

---

**Folder Title:**  
Coalition for the Restoration of the Black Family 3/26/92 [OA 7570]

---

---

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

---

FACT CHECK COPY

(Crouse/Nix)  
March 26, 1992  
Draft Seven  
blk-fam7

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COALITION FOR THE RESTORATION  
OF THE BLACK FAMILY IN SOCIETY  
ROOM 450 EVENT  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

Thank you for that wonderful welcome. Meeting with you is always a memorable event. The kinship we feel grows out of the common values we share. As President, I've made it my mission to preserve three significant legacies: peace in the world, productive jobs for all Americans -- and strong families. I think Barbara said it best. "What goes on at the White House is not nearly as important as what goes on in your house."

I don't have to remind this group of deeply committed leaders of the disturbing trends we are bucking -- your hearts have already been stirred by the tragic forces which are overwhelming the family in American society. Let me put it this way -- if our government had set out determined to destroy the family, it couldn't have done greater damage than what we see today. Unwittingly, our welfare programs -- which were meant to provide temporary support -- have, instead, undermined responsibility, eroded dignity and robbed people of control.

No group in America is more aware of the necessity for character-based solutions and community-wide efforts than this Coalition. I want to assure you of my commitment to those same guiding principles. I want to assure you of my confidence in our partnership and my support of your leadership on the front-lines of this battle for our nation's families.

When we look to the forces for change -- the family, community and church -- we can't forget our schools. We've got to create new incentives for excellence -- like school choice. We have got to give parents the power to choose which schools serve their children best -- public, private or religious.

We have shown that when we work together we can get the job done. Together, we placed Clarence Thomas on the Supreme Court. Together, we have seen major walls come tumbling down because we yearn for what is just and we are determined to do what is right.

Now I want your help on another issue of vital importance to us all. Last week, Congress tried to push through a massive tax increase -- the kind that would have stopped our economic recovery dead in its tracks. I told Congress I'd veto that bill -- and I did. Yesterday, House Democrats tried to over-ride my veto. You may not have seen much coverage of this, but what was meant to be a show of strength simply put a spotlight on disarray. The Democratic leadership couldn't muster enough votes for simple majority. The veto stands. That is almost unheard of -- that has happened only twice in the last 60 years. And I want to thank every member of Congress -- from both parties -- who had the courage of their convictions to say no to more taxes on the American family.

Mr. Jim Rouse

That's a beginning -- but it's not enough. If Congress really wants to get this economy moving, create jobs and revive hope, then I say: pass my plan -- put America back to work.

But we know we can't wait for Congress to see the light. So I've asked Republican leaders -- beginning today -- I've asked Senator John McCain and Representative Harris Fawell to formally introduce our requests for rescissions: 68 federal projects we don't need, and I can't ask the American taxpayer to pay for.

Jim Rouse  
Leg. Affairs  
12/23/00

That gives the Congress 25 days, to uphold the cuts I want to make -- or to vote in broad daylight to forget about the deficit and keep the pork. This week the leaders who control Capitol Hill did something else: they began a new effort to remove the only defense the taxpayer has against excessive government spending. We will see Congress resort to all sorts of parliamentary gimmicks, but we owe it to every American family -- everyone who works hard, and struggles to make ends meet -- to hold the line on government spending. And we will.

What we're seeing today is the beginning of the battle -- between those who want to change things, and those who want to stick with the status quo. Let the defenders of the status quo be warned: I stand for change.

America will be restored -- not through government interference, empty slogans and symbolic gestures -- but by strong, clear voices of reason and consistent acts of responsibility. America will be restored -- not by outsiders coming in with a so-called "better idea" -- but by people who are passionate about reclaiming their streets and rescuing their children from the forces that would destroy them. America will be restored -- not by political rhetoric -- but by people like you -- teachers and pastors, neighbors and friends who say, "I will answer the crying needs around me. I will do whatever it takes. I will pay the price of sacrifice and pain."

Today, I want you to know that your President is here as a full partner with you in caring and concern. Your President is committed to complete restoration of family -- until once again our families -- all our American families -- are vital and strong havens for those who will follow after us. May God bless our partnership and our endeavors.

*Latest draft*

(Crouse/Nix)  
March 26, 1992  
blk-fam8

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COALITION FOR THE RESTORATION  
OF THE BLACK FAMILY IN SOCIETY  
ROOM 450  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

Thank you for that wonderful welcome. Meeting with you is always a memorable event. The kinship we feel grows out of the common values we share. As President, I've made it my mission to preserve three significant legacies: peace in the world, productive jobs for all Americans -- and strong families. When it comes to family, I think Barbara said it best: "What goes on at the White House is not nearly as important as what goes on in your house."

I don't have to remind this group of deeply committed leaders of the disturbing trends we are bucking -- your hearts have already been stirred by forces that threaten the family in American society. Let me put it this way -- in too many cases, if our government had set out determined to destroy the family, it couldn't have done greater damage than what we see today. Too often, our welfare programs -- which were meant to provide temporary support -- have undermined responsibility, robbed people of control, and destroyed their dignity. *no hold*

No group in America is more aware of the necessity for character-based solutions and community-wide efforts than this Coalition. I want to assure you of my commitment to those same guiding principles. I want to assure you of my confidence in our partnership and my support of your leadership on the front-lines of this battle for our nation's families.

When we look to the forces for change -- the family, community and church -- we can't forget our schools. We've got to create new incentives for excellence -- like school choice. We have got to give

all parents -- not just the wealthy -- the power to choose which schools serve their children best -- public, private or religious.

We have shown that when we work together we can get the job done. Together, we placed Clarence Thomas on the Supreme Court. Together, we will continue to bring down the walls of intolerance and prejudice -- because we yearn for what is just and we are determined to do what is right.

Right now, I need your help on another issue -- an issue that points <sup>out</sup> up the urgent need for economic revival and government reform. Last week, Congress tried to push through a massive tax increase -- the kind that would have stopped our economic recovery dead in its tracks. I told Congress I'd veto that bill -- and I did. Yesterday, House Democrats tried to over-ride my veto. You may not have seen much coverage of this, but what was meant to be a show of strength simply put a spotlight on disarray. Not only did the Democrats fail to muster enough votes to override my veto -- they failed to sustain the simple majority that passed the bill last Friday. // That is almost unheard of -- it has happened only twice in the last 60 years. And I want to thank every member of Congress -- from both parties -- who had the courage of their convictions to say no to more taxes on the American family.

That's a beginning -- but it's not enough. If Congress really wants to get this economy moving, create jobs and revive hope, then I say: pass my plan -- put America back to work.

But we know we can't wait for Congress to see the light. So beginning today, I've asked Senator John McCain and Representative Harris Fawell to formally introduce our requests for rescissions: 68 federal projects we don't need, and I can't ask the American taxpayer to pay for.

That gives the Congress 25 days, to uphold the cuts I want to make -- or to vote in broad daylight to forget about the deficit and keep the pork. This week the leaders who control Capitol Hill did something else: they began a new effort to remove the only defense the taxpayer has against excessive government spending. We may see Congress resort to all sorts of parliamentary gimmicks, but we owe it to every American family -- everyone who works hard, and struggles to make ends meet -- to hold the line on government spending. And we will.

What we're seeing today is the beginning of the battle -- between those who want to change things, and those who want to stick with the status quo. Let the defenders of the status quo be warned: I stand for change.

America will be restored -- not through government meddling, empty slogans and symbolic gestures -- but by strong, clear voices of reason and consistent acts of responsibility. America will be restored -- not by outsiders coming in with a so-called "better idea" -- but by people who are passionate about reclaiming their streets and rescuing their children from the forces that would destroy them. America will be restored -- not by political rhetoric -- but by people like you -- teachers and pastors, neighbors and friends.

Today, I want you to know that your President is here as a full partner with you in caring and concern. Your President is committed to complete restoration of family -- until once again our families -- all our American families -- are vital and strong havens for those who will follow after us. May God bless our partnership and our endeavors.

## TALKING POINTS

- We've had an interesting, but disappointing year in Congress. When I delivered my State of the Union address in January, I hoped we could work with Congress to get a good economic growth package that would create jobs. A strong economy with good jobs and good opportunities is an essential foundation for strong families.
- Well, we didn't get a good growth package, I'm sorry to say. What we got from the Democrats was business as usual -- a huge tax increase. A Democratic tax increase that would have killed jobs, not created them.
- So I had to veto the Democrats' tax increase. And now let me tell you something about that veto that you probably didn't hear on the news. The Democratic leadership brought my veto up for a vote yesterday, but something remarkable happened.
- Not only did we get the one-third of the votes we needed to sustain my veto, we got a majority of the votes against a tax increase. That is almost unheard of -- there have been only two times in the last 60 years that the House couldn't muster a simple majority to override a veto.
- I think that vote signals that at least some Democrats realize that business as usual won't work anymore. The American people don't want to be taxed anymore. They don't want the federal government to spend anymore.
- And I'll promise you something. We are going to force a change in attitude and a change in habit. We've also been fighting with the Congressional Democratic leadership about the best tool for fiscal discipline we have -- the so-called "caps" on discretionary spending in the budget law.
- The Democratic leadership wants to kill those caps so Congress can spend more of taxpayer's dollars on more federally run programs. I say ... NO WAY!
- You see, we just can't stand for the status quo. I have sent up a batch of line item rescissions -- spending cuts on pork barrel programs -- for Congress to act on. More will be coming.
- And that battle has been joined as of today. My cuts have been introduced as legislation and we're going to try to get votes on each and every one.

-2-

- That might sound easy. It won't be. It seems pretty clear already that there are some Democrats in Congress who want to block these initiatives. To do so, they're going to resort to parliamentary gimmicks.
- If that's the case, we will fight them. We are going to make a change in attitude about federal spending. And even if they win the votes now, they won't win the long-term battle because the public understands what's going on here.

(Crouse/Nix)  
March 26, 1992  
Draft Seven  
blk-fam7

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COALITION FOR THE RESTORATION  
OF THE BLACK FAMILY IN SOCIETY  
ROOM 450 EVENT  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

Thank you for that wonderful welcome. Meeting with you is always a memorable event. The kinship we feel grows out of the common values we share. As President, I've made it my mission to preserve three significant legacies: peace in the world, productive jobs for all Americans -- and strong families. I think Barbara said it best. "What goes on at the White House is not nearly as important as what goes on in your house."

I don't have to remind this group of deeply committed leaders of the disturbing trends we are bucking -- your hearts have already been stirred by the tragic forces which are overwhelming the family in American society. Let me put it this way -- if our government had set out determined to destroy the family, it couldn't have done greater damage than what we see today. Unwittingly, our welfare programs -- which were meant to provide temporary support -- have, instead, undermined responsibility, eroded dignity and robbed people of control.

No group in America is more aware of the necessity for character-based solutions and community-wide efforts than this Coalition. I want to assure you of my commitment to those same guiding principles. I want to assure you of my confidence in our partnership and my support of your leadership on the front-lines of this battle for our nation's families.

When we look to the forces for change -- the family, community and church -- we can't forget our schools. We've got to create new incentives for excellence -- like school choice. We have got to give parents the power to choose which schools serve their children best -- public, private or religious.

We have shown that when we work together we can get the job done. Together, we placed Clarence Thomas on the Supreme Court. Together, we have seen major walls come tumbling down because we yearn for what is just and we are determined to do what is right.

Now I want your help on another issue of vital importance to us all. Last week, Congress tried to push through a massive tax increase -- the kind that would have stopped our economic recovery dead in its tracks. I told Congress I'd veto that bill -- and I did. Yesterday, House Democrats tried to over-ride my veto. You may not have seen much coverage of this, but what was meant to be a show of strength simply put a spotlight on disarray. The Democratic leadership couldn't muster enough votes for simple majority. The veto stands. That is almost unheard of -- that has happened only twice in the last 60 years. And I want to thank every member of Congress -- from both parties -- who had the courage of their convictions to say no to more taxes on the American family.

That's a beginning -- but it's not enough. If Congress really wants to get this economy moving, create jobs and revive hope, then I say: pass my plan -- put America back to work.

But we know we can't wait for Congress to see the light. So I've asked Republican leaders -- beginning today -- I've asked Senator John McCain and Representative Harris Fawell to formally introduce our requests for rescissions: 68 federal projects we don't need, and I can't ask the American taxpayer to pay for.

That gives the Congress 25 days, to uphold the cuts I want to make -- or to vote in broad daylight to forget about the deficit and keep the pork. This week the leaders who control Capitol Hill did something else: they began a new effort to remove the only defense the taxpayer has against excessive government spending. We will see Congress resort to all sorts of parliamentary gimmicks, but we owe it to every American family -- everyone who works hard, and struggles to make ends meet -- to hold the line on government spending. And we will.

What we're seeing today is the beginning of the battle -- between those who want to change things, and those who want to stick with the status quo. Let the defenders of the status quo be warned: I stand for change.

America will be restored -- not through government interference, empty slogans and symbolic gestures -- but by strong, clear voices of reason and consistent acts of responsibility. America will be restored -- not by outsiders coming in with a so-called "better idea" -- but by people who are passionate about reclaiming their streets and rescuing their children from the forces that would destroy them. America will be restored -- not by political rhetoric -- but by people like you -- teachers and pastors, neighbors and friends who say, "I will answer the crying needs around me. I will do whatever it takes. I will pay the price of sacrifice and pain."

Today, I want you to know that your President is here as a full partner with you in caring and concern. Your President is committed to complete restoration of family -- until once again our families -- all our American families -- are vital and strong havens for those who will follow after us. May God bless our partnership and our endeavors.

fighting against crime by trying to get some reasonable crime bill passed, winning the fight against drugs where we've made a good start. There are so many issues, but they're all obscured by the noise of the campaign. But that will be in focus in the fall; you watch.

*Note: The President spoke at 7:58 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.*

### Remarks to the National League of Cities

March 9, 1992

Thank you very much. Glenda, thank you so much for that kind introduction. And to all of you—and may I salute the Members of Congress that have been with us here. Let me say good morning to them, and please do us right up on Capitol Hill. My greetings to all the special guests here at the head table; to Don Borut and Wallace Stickney, who is with us.

Let me just say that I'm very pleased to join you today. I enjoyed, Glenda referred to it, I enjoyed speaking to you over the television hookup in December. It's much better face to face. And I hear that you have had a very energetic, very well attended series of meetings. And I salute your leadership, present leadership; and then, of course, an old former colleague of mine, or put it this way, a still young but former colleague of mine in the House of Representatives who will be your leader—what, starting next November, is it—Don Fraser.

In January, as Glenda said, I had a follow-up meeting with 10 of your members. And like your organization as a whole, they represented a broad cross section of urban America's leadership, Republicans and Democrats, liberals, conservatives, officials from large and small and midsized cities.

And of course, we're all concerned, all of us here, about the big issues: jobs and family and world peace. And even so, I was struck at this meeting by the unanimity of the message that your members wanted to deliver. It can't be repeated often enough in Wash-

ington or any State capitol or any city hall. Your message was simply this: The enormous problems facing cities today, from infant mortality to high dropout rates to runaway crime, are partly, at least, symptoms of one larger problem, the deterioration of the American family.

Now, I understand the breadth of the issues that you deal with daily, poverty to pot-holes to property taxes. And in addressing myself to this one subject, I don't want you to think that we are less concerned about these enormous problems you face every day. But this morning, I would like to discuss that same serious issue that you all raised with me, the family. The restoration of the American family is at the heart of much of what we have done these last 3 years. Leaving aside for a moment the enormous costs, the wasted human resources or the billions spent to repair the damage of broken homes, family breakdown ultimately endangers our position in a world increasingly driven by economic competition.

Certainly, the integrity of the family is critical on its own merit. As Barbara Bush, my favorite philosopher, says, "What goes on at the White House is not nearly as important as what goes on in your house." And there's a lot of truth in that. But particularly at a time when our efforts must focus on economic growth, the family's disintegration endangers, for all of us, our ability to create and to preserve jobs, and to create an economy open to participation by all our citizens.

So we must start with a clear-eyed look at what is really happening to the family in American communities today, not just in poor urban neighborhoods but all across America. And then we've got to look inside ourselves, to establish the principles that will shape our approach. And then we must act.

The urgency is clear. We all know the statistics, perhaps you know them better than most Americans, the dreary drumbeat that tells of family breakdown. Today, one out of every four American children is born out of wedlock; in some areas the illegitimacy rate tops 80 percent. A quarter of our children grow up in households headed by a single parent. More than 2 million are called latch-key kids, who come home from school each afternoon to an empty house. And a large

*Administration of George Bush, 1992 / Mar. 9*

number of our children grow up without the love of parents at all, with nobody knowing their name.

We know from experience the consequences of family decline. Neglected children are more susceptible to the lure of crime and drugs; they're more likely to have poor health, drop out of school early, more likely to lead a life without hope. Each of you is in a position to know the human costs that these statistics can only dimly sketch. You know, as I do, that for every blip on a chart or dot on a graph, there is a human story to tell, and too often the story is a tragedy.

About 10 days ago, I was in Bexar County, Texas, in San Antonio, meeting with Latin American leaders to intensify our war on drugs. And while there, I saw a front-page story in the San Antonio Light. A cabdriver had been murdered last September, another act of random, selfless violence, and his murderer had just been found guilty. But what was truly horrifying, what would horrify any American, was this: The murderer was a 12-year-old boy. And as the deputies took the boy from the courtroom, according to the newspaper story, they had trouble fitting him with shackles and handcuffs, so slender were his wrists. This youngster was four feet tall, not yet a teenager but now a convicted murderer.

The drumbeat continues: two teenagers shot dead in a New York public school, an LSD ring busted up in an affluent northern Virginia suburb, or the harrowing stories of runaway kids and the horrors that befall them.

I know that almost all of you could tell stories equally distressing, stories from your neighborhoods in your cities where the unthinkable has become the commonplace. I am sure that many of you here took office with high confidence in the power to solve these problems, only to discover, sooner rather than later, I suspect, that they were far more stubborn than we could imagine. Let's not forget that the trials our citizens face each and every day were generations in the making. We can't expect change overnight. But make no mistake: Change will come because change simply must come.

Let's face it. We can only change things if we work in common purpose. We must call a cease-fire in the war of words that too often consumes us. Casting blame brings no solutions, nor will questioning each other's motives. We have got to focus every ounce of our energy to turn back this assault upon the American family and act as one nation to defend and strengthen it. As public servants, we must never forget that the best Department of HHS, of Health and Human Services, is, indeed, the family. In restoring the family, we restore to coming generations the values, the sense of right and wrong, the will and confidence to succeed that only a family can provide a child. And in doing this, we will reinvigorate our cities and our communities as well.

We needn't look far for principles to guide us. They are old home truths: Rely on what works; discard what doesn't. Never be afraid to innovate. Remember that Government closest to the people responds best to the needs of the people. And let's not forget this as a guiding principle: If people are to be responsible, they must be given responsibility.

The Government's first duty is like that of the physician: Do no harm. But the fact is, with the best of intentions, many past Government policies have worked against the institution of the family, undermined young people's desire to marry and stay married, to provide for their children, to plan for their future. As a practical matter, doing no harm means in part that we ensure parents retain the authority to make the big decisions for their families. This doesn't absolve parents of responsibility; it's just the opposite.

For example, even if we're able to reform our education system—and I am determined that the Federal Government assist all of you in every way in revolutionizing the education system—but even if we are, parents must still read to their children. The point is that Government harms the family when it restricts its autonomy or usurps the authority of responsible parents.

Let me give you another example. Those of us in Government can never plausibly claim to fight for families if we insist that Government, not parents, must choose who cares for their children. So 2 years ago our

George Bush, 1992

or any city hall  
is: The enormous  
day, from infant  
rates to runaway  
symptoms of one  
rioration of the

breadth of the is-  
ly, poverty to pot-  
and in addressing

I don't want you  
concerned about  
you face every day.  
like to discuss that  
ou all raised with  
ation of the Amer-

of much of what  
3 years. Leaving  
normous costs, the  
or the billions spent  
oken homes, family  
angers our position  
riven by economic

of the family is crit-  
Barbara Bush, my  
s, "What goes on at  
nearly as important  
house." And there's  
ut particularly at a  
must focus on eco-  
s disintegration en-  
ur ability to create

l to create an econ-  
n by all our citizens.  
a clear-eyed look-  
ing to the family in  
today, not just in  
oods but all across

we got to look inside  
e principles that will  
d then we must act.  
We all know the sta-  
w them better than  
reary drumbeat that  
n. Today, one out of

ildren is born out of  
the illegitimacy rate  
arter of our children  
headed by a single  
llion are called latch-  
me from school each  
house. And a large

administration waged a fight in Congress over this very issue, and we won. We kept choice of child care out of the hands of Government and put it where it belongs, in the hands of parents.

And now we're engaged in a similar fight over whether parents should have the right to choose their children's schools. We know the benefits of competition; it is the linchpin of American prosperity. And competition among schools will be the linchpin of education excellence, too. From Minnesota to Milwaukee to east Harlem, school choice works.

But you see, it's important for other reasons: It restores authority and responsibility to parents. And just as it makes our schools accountable, it also makes parents accountable for the decisions they make. Not only in child care and school choice but in other areas as well, a key to healing the American family will be restoring parental authority and accountability.

Another example, the initiative that we call HOPE, H-O-P-E. It took more than a year to get that program through Congress and another year to get even partial funding for it. But HOPE will be crucial to our success by offering low-income families a greater opportunity to own their own homes. HOPE is based on a simple principle: To survive, people need the intangible values of dignity and self-respect. Government can't provide those, but homeownership can, an education can, a job can, and being part of a family can.

The Federal Government has a positive role in preserving the family, and we welcome that role. It's guided the decisions that we make every single day. Since 1989, for example, we have more than doubled the funding for the program that I bet everybody in this room supports, Head Start, a program that brings children and parents into the classroom, strengthens family ties and reinforces parental responsibility. For the first time in the program's history, we can support now Head Start for all eligible 4-year-old children whose parents choose to have them participate.

There are many other examples. We've increased the earned income tax credit for low-income families. And since '89, we've in-

creased the funding for WIC, the supplementary food program for women, infants, and children, by 47 percent to \$2.8 billion next year. We've increased other nutritional programs by similar percentages. And this year Federal support for childhood immunization grants will top \$340 million, an increase of 18 percent over last year's level. So all told, funding for children's programs, from nutrition and education to foster care and child immunization, has increased 66 percent since we took office.

But look, we will never measure, and I think you all would be the first to agree with this, we would never measure our compassion simply in dollars spent. We will measure it by results. The test will be the health and happiness of our children and, most important of all, the sense of well-being and self-reliance instilled by our families. Our administration has targeted funding to programs that efficiently fulfill Government's role in supporting families and keeping them together, programs that work for the family.

Yet, at the same time, we must face another fact. Government can sometimes be a burden as well as a boon. Over the past 40 years, the child tax exemption has lagged far behind the soaring costs of childrearing. And I have asked Congress to increase the exemption by \$500 per child. For a family with four children that's an increase of \$2000. And it's a crucial first step toward redressing the imbalance, and it's what we can afford to do right now.

And now I come to perhaps the most crucial matter of all. One that concerns you all. We must reform our Nation's welfare system. Americans are the most generous people on Earth, but they want to see, and they are entitled to see some relationship between welfare and work. Welfare must never be what Franklin Delano Roosevelt warned it might become, "a subtle destroyer of the spirit." It is not meant to be a way of life or a family legacy passed from one generation to the next. Welfare can eat away at the ties that bind a family together.

And State and local governments are undertaking the brave work of reform: Learnfare in Wisconsin; REACH, Realizing Economic Achievement in New Jersey; Washington State's FIP, Family Independ-

George Bush, 1992

WIC, the supplement for women, infants, and children, is up to \$2.8 billion and other nutritional programs. And this year's child immunization is up 40 million, an increase over last year's level. Children's programs, such as foster care, have increased 66 percent.

As a measure, and I am the first to agree with you, to assure our compassion. We will measure the health and well-being and self-reliance of our children. Our administration is committed to programs that keep the government's role in keeping them together for the family. We must face an uncertain future sometimes be a challenge. Over the past 40 years, childrearing has lagged far behind. And we must increase the exemption for a family with four children of \$2000. And it's addressing the imbalance we can afford to do

perhaps the most crucial concerns you all. The welfare system. Generous people on the ground, and they are the relationship between we must never be. Roosevelt warned it is a destroyer of the way of life from one generation to the next.

Governments are unworkable. The work of reform: EACH, Realizing the American Family Independent-

ence Program. These are all demonstration projects that we support. And my administration is committed to reform, and we are acting now on waivers, to loosen up on waivers, to waive unnecessary redtape that impedes reform.

There's no hidden agenda here. This administration, the mayors, the State leaders who press for drastic reform of welfare aren't modern-day Scrooges chiseling one more dime out of some poor family. Democrat or Republican, California, New Jersey, Federal or State: In our heart of hearts, we really believe reforming the welfare system is the best way to serve people. Break this sorry cycle of despair. Give people real hope. And we're going to keep on trying to do just that because every single American deserves to believe in the American dream.

Today with family as the center I've highlighted the role of government, both positive and negative, because we're men and women of government. But let's never forget the work of private Americans dedicating themselves to the voluntary service of others, who create an environment where families can flourish. Each is a Point of Light, offering service with no thought of reward, though the reward will be reaped by every single American.

And let me be very clear. When I talk about Points of Light, they are not a substitute for the good that government can do, but it's more this: We will simply not solve our most pressing problems without the dedication of those Points of Light, of those volunteers. And I urge all of you, when you return to your cities, to do all in your power to encourage these caring men and women, to make yours a community of light.

In my State of the Union Address, I announced that we would soon institute a Commission on America's Urban Families. Your executive board or directors or whatever group it was—I've never been sure with whom I was dealing, but they were all big shots, believe me—[laughter]—came together. And their work will be one result of my meetings in January with some of your leaders.

And I have asked Governor Ashcroft of Missouri, a very caring man, Annette Strauss, the former mayor of Dallas, a very able

woman who also cares deeply, to lead the Commission and fulfill its mandate: To identify those government programs, at all levels, that weaken or strengthen urban families; to analyze ways to improve private efforts to strengthen urban families; and to recommend new policies to help families in our cities.

I am convinced that we can correct our mistakes, that we can learn from our failures and build on our successes. I do not exaggerate when I say that the future of America depends on our efforts. The family is the irreducible unit of comfort and love. And from families radiate neighborhoods, from neighborhoods come towns and cities, and their health determines the health of our country, for better or for worse. And like you, I am committed to making our health whole and to ensuring that our cities, as Theodore Parker said, "remain the fireplaces of America, radiating warmth and light against the darkness."

Thank you all very much for giving me this opportunity to visit with you today. And may God bless our great country. Thank you so much.

*Note: The President spoke at 11:36 a.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Glenda E. Hood, president, and Donald J. Borut, executive director of the National League of Cities; and Wallace E. Stickney, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

### Letter to Congressional Leaders on Nuclear Cooperation With EURATOM

March 9, 1992

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

The United States has been engaged in nuclear cooperation with the European Community for many years. This cooperation was initiated under agreements that were concluded over 3 decades ago between the United States and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and that extend until December 31, 1995. Since the inception of this cooperation, the Community has

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 26, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE COALITION FOR THE RESTORATION  
OF THE BLACK FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Old Executive Office Building

3:11 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome, everybody. Please be seated now and relax here. First, let me just say how pleased I am -- and I know you'll be to hear from Lamar Alexander -- but pleased I am that he's here. And you talk about something important for our nation -- what he is doing in working for a program that I'll just touch on today, but that I feel -- think about every single day, our program America 2000 is a chance to revolutionize, literally revolutionize American schools to give these kids a break, make them competitive in the future is just wonderful. So I know you're going to enjoy hearing from this former Governor who is now working so hard as a Cabinet member to do something for the kids, and also, I might say for the teachers -- those of you who teach. And so he's here and you'll be hearing from him.

This, for me, is a very wonderful occasion. I'm looking forward to it. It's not just that I passed my physical a few minutes ago with flying colors, but -- (applause.) You always wonder about those things, you know, when you go out to get all this probing and checking, et cetera. But in any event, I feel blessed in that sense.

And let me just -- a few serious comments. I have tried as President to preserve and strengthen three significant legacies: world peace, productive jobs for all here in this country, and then strong families. And when it comes to family, I think maybe Barbara said it the best. She said, "What goes on at the White House is not nearly as important as what goes on in your house." And what she was saying was emphasizing the importance of family, the importance of parents reading to kids, families staying together in these troubled times.

And I don't have to remind this group of committed leaders of the disturbing trends that we are bucking. You're fighting them in your neighborhoods, in your churches, and in your communities every single day -- with broken hearts. And your hearts have already been stirred by the forces that threaten the American family and society.

And so let me put it this way: In too many cases, if our government had set out determined to destroy the family, it couldn't have done greater damage than some of what we see today. Too often these programs, well-intentioned -- welfare programs, for example, which were meant to provide for temporary support have undermined responsibility. They've robbed people of control of their lives; destroyed their dignity; in some cases -- and we've tried hard to change this -- encouraged people, man and wife, to live apart because they might just get a little bit more to put in their pockets.

We've got to do better. (Applause.) No group -- I know we've got a lot of reverends here and I know I'm preaching to the

MORE

choir -- (laughter) -- but let me just say this: No group is more aware of the necessity for character-based solutions in community-wide efforts than this coalition. And I want to assure you of our commitment to those same guiding principles, the principles that you try to inculcate into your parishes, into your schools, into your neighborhoods. No one cares more about it than we do. And I just want you to know we are committed.

And I want to assure you of my confidence in this partnership, my support for your leadership out there, as I say, on the front lines of the battle for our nation's families. I have appointed a commission -- you sometimes hear, oh, there he goes, one more commission. But when -- the mayors came to see me from the League of Cities -- large cities like Los Angeles; small cities like a small community out in North Carolina; Plano, Texas -- a wide variety of mayors. And they said, the one thing that we think really gets to the fundamentals of the deterioration in the cities is the deterioration of the American family.

So we put together this commission to take a hard look at how do you strengthen the family; what legislation do you take away that may be dividing families; what legislation can we encourage to help the families and those that are trying to educate their kids and keep things together. And that commission I look forward to hearing from. The chairman of it is Governor Ashcroft out there in Missouri. Mayor Strauss, Annette Strauss, former Mayor of Dallas is co-chair. And we've got a good commission who share your vies on family. I think the commission will help a lot.

We've got to create new incentives for excellence. And Lamar will talk to you about that as how it fits into our education program. One incentive -- school choice. (Applause.) We have to give all parents, not just the wealthy, the power to choose. And the schools that aren't chosen, as Lamar will explain, then improve themselves. There's a great record of that.

And so we need your help there -- the power to choose which schools serve the kids the best. And that means public; it means private; it means religious. And I don't believe that's against the Constitution. (Applause.) We have shown that when we work together we can get the job done. And I want to thank everybody here that helped on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. He will be an outstanding justice. (Applause.)

I know you can't do it alone, and I can't do it alone. But I want you to know I am going to continue to do what I can to bring down the walls of intolerance and prejudice in this country. I spoke out about it, will continue to speak out about.

I got a great joy in standing on the steps of the Mississippi capitol and saying in front of -- whatever it was -- 5,000-10,000 people, that there is no place for anti-Semitism or for racial bigotry or prejudice in this country. (Applause.) It is not regional. This is a national thing. And there's just as much tolerance or intolerance in states in the north or south or east or west. This is a national problem. And we've got to do what we can to make things better, to make things a little less ugly.

When economic conditions are tough, then we find people resorting to prejudice. We find neighbor looking at neighbor suspiciously. And we've got to try to change this. And so I will -- I just wanted you all to know not only am I aware of the problem, but I want to do my level best to be a constructive influence for change.

One thing that's vital to the family is a strong economy. And we've working to improve it. And I need your help on

another issue, an issue that points out the urgent need for economic revival and government reform.

Last week the Congress tried to put through a massive tax increase, the kind that would have stopped -- in my view -- stopped our economic recovery that's starting dead in the tracks. And I told Congress I'd veto that bill, and I did it. And yesterday the House leadership -- Democrats -- tried to override my veto. You may not have seen much on this, but what was meant to be a show of strength simply put a spotlight on disarray up there. Not only did the Democrats fail to muster enough votes to override that veto, but they failed to sustain the simple majority that passed the bill last Friday in the first place. And that is almost unheard of. I'm told this is the third time that's happened this century, first time since 1972 -- twice in the last 60 years.

So I want to thank those members of Congress from both parties who had the courage of their convictions to say no to more taxes on the American family. (Applause.)

That is a beginning. It is not enough. And if Congress really wants to help get this economy moving now, now that we've gotten this underbrush out of the way, to help me create jobs and revive hope, then I say pass this incentive plan that I have up there and to put America back to work.

We know we can't wait for Congress to see the light. And so, beginning today, I've asked a couple of congressmen -- Senator McCain of Arizona, Congressman Harris Fawell of Illinois -- to formally introduce our request for rescissions. There are 68 federal projects that we don't need. They are not related to jobs, and we simply cannot ask the taxpayers, given the needs that you all are aware of, to pay for things that aren't necessary in these troubled times.

So under the rules, what I've proposed now gives Congress 25 days to act, to uphold the cuts that we want to make, or they have to then stand up in broad daylight in front of you, their constituents, to go ahead with a vote, up or down, on spending that we simply don't need. We may see Congress resort to a lot of political gimmickry to get away from having to cast such a vote in the sunlight, but I think we owe it to the American family and everyone who works hard and struggles to make ends meet, to hold the line on spending that is unnecessary; and we're going to keep doing that.

Also this week, the leaders who control Capitol Hill did something else: They began a new effort to remove the spending caps. That's the only protection the taxpayer has, the only defense he has against the excesses of government spending -- these enormous deficits that add to the mortgage on the future of my grandchildren and your children -- you're all younger. (Laughter.) So the Democratic leadership wants to kill those caps so Congress can then go ahead and spend more. And we simply cannot let that happen.

What we're seeing today is the beginning of a battle between those who want to change things up there and those who want to stick with the status quo. And I say, let the status quo people be warned: We are going to be making these changes, taking the case to the American people. (Applause.)

You see, I am very confident about this country. I know we've been through an awful lot. But America will be restored not just through government, not government meddling -- empty slogans, symbolic gestures -- but by strong, clear voices of reason, and then consistent acts of responsibility. And we are going to be restored not by outsiders coming in with a better idea, but by people who are passionate about -- and this is where you all fit in -- passionate

about reclaiming your streets, rescuing the kids from the forces that literally would destroy them. And we will be restored. We've got to see our drug program succeed. We've got to see Lamar's program and mine, America 2000, be a success. And there's the challenge.

I thank you for what you've done -- teachers, pastors, neighbors, friends. We are not about to give up on the United States. And, you know, we've got a lot of blessings out there. Your kids and mine go to sleep at night with a little less fear of nuclear war. That's good. That's a good thing.

Now, let's take what we did to change the world and use it working with you all to constructively change America. Thank you very, very much for what you're doing. Good luck. (Applause.)

END

3:30 P.M. EST