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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

OA/ID Number: 13813
Folder ID Number: 13813-004

Folder Title:
Mount Zion Church--Los Angeles 5/7/92 [OA 7573]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

May 7, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Angeles, California

9:10 A.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Reverend Hill. Let me just say to his parishioners and to his fellow members of the clergy that we Bushes have great respect for your pastor, respect for what he stands for, respect for his leadership and respect for his emphasis on family values.

I listened to prayers with wonder, admiration. I think we got a pretty good start, don't you, with Miss Elmore singing -- (applause) -- but I heard what His Eminence, Colonel Mahoney said about racial tension; we must address that. What Bishop McMurray and Dr. Billy Ingram said about healing; we've got to address that. What Dr. Massey said about the importance of the church. And as you look at the chaos and turmoil in this country, not just in the wake of the riots of Los Angeles, but all the problems we face in the country, the problems we face internationally, I keep coming back to my own thinking: to the importance of the church, the importance of our faith.

And then Reverend Massey talked about this is no time for blame. And he's right about that. This is not a time for blame. And I am not here in the mode of politics, I am not here in the mode of partisanship, I am not here in the mode of blame. I'm here to learn from the community, and at this moment to tell you of the values that I strongly believe in.

When Reverend Hill and other national leaders came last Friday to the White House, I reminded the group of what Mayor Tom Bradley and other mayors -- urban mayors, rural mayors -- had to tell me not so many months ago. They told me of their concerns for their cities, their municipalities. But they came together on one key point: They told me that their major concern about the problems in the cities was the decline of the American family, the fact that the family is weaker today. I think that we have simply got to find ways to help strengthen the American family. This church does that for the immediate family; all of your churches do that for the families of your parishioners. But we've got to broaden it out.

This church brings the generations -- grandparents, great-grandparents and grandkids -- here to work within this church. That strengthens the American family. And to give the kids not only indoctrination into faith and into the teachings of the Lord, but the church helps kids understand the larger family. We are one nation under God. We must remember that. We must advocate that. We must continue to state that we are one nation under God.

And we are our brother's keeper. Not to keep him back. Not to keep him down. But to keep him well and to keep him safe, and to give him a shot at the American dream. Family values, that means respect for one another, and it does mean honor thy mother and thy father.

MORE

I talked to Barbara this morning and told her a little bit -- I didn't know it fully -- about what Reverend E.V. Hill had in store for all of us today, but particularly for me. He had failed to point out that he had the distinguished leaders of various denominations here and that I would be flanked behind me by people who are active pastors in the wonderful churches of this area. And she told me, she said, you've got your nerve -- you've got a lot of nerve to stand up in front of all those people and tell them what you think about values. (Laughter.) But I'm going to try anyway. (Laughter.)

I do want to single out Reverend Jones and Mrs. Jones for what they do -- reaching across the states, bringing help to others. That's family. That's God's family. Family values means the church must continue to teach the kids right from wrong.

I was over at a supermarket, and the guy with tears in his eyes was telling me, one of my own employees came in and took stuff out of this store. And he couldn't understand it. We've got to teach right from wrong. Government cannot do that. We can try, those of us in public life, to set reasonably good examples of family and faith. But the values have to be taught, and the church has a tremendously important role on that.

I think that when Barbara reads to kids that she is emphasizing not just the importance of education that we all believe in -- so many of you working with children -- but she's emphasizing the importance of the role of grandparents; even more, the importance of love.

To struggle against hard times, to overcome the devastation of poverty, of racism or of riots, we need our family. We need our own family, we need our church family, and we must find ways to strengthen America as a family. Back to what the Cardinal said: We are embarrassed by interracial violence and prejudice. We're ashamed. We should take nothing but sorrow out of all of that and do our level best to see that it's eliminated from the American dream. A family that respects the law, a family that can lift others up. We need a family that is truly committed to faith; for, again, we are one nation under God -- a family that says "I'm my brother's keeper." But it's here -- it was here in the ugliest moments of the rioting, the brother's keeper aspect. I saw it in a police station just now. And God bless the honest policemen that are defending the families of the neighborhood -- all of them. (Applause.)

But the message they got to me this morning was a little different than the one that I see in that first two minutes on the evening news. This was a message of forgiving and healing. How neighbors had called in and said, here's where you can go and pick up some looted goods, or brought them to the police station so that they could be returned to their owners. We don't hear enough of that kind of family action or that kind of fellowship.

Another pastor, Reverend Bennie Newton, laid his life on the line for his brother. He saw a man literally beaten into the ground. And he waded through the fray and he laid his body on top of the victim until the beating stopped. And here's what he said. He said, "My heart was crying," but the bottom line is, he saved that man's life. He was his brother's keeper. These are the stories that I think America needs to know about. We saw the violence. We've seen the hatred. And we've got to heal, to see the love.

Los Angeles is going to recover. This is a great city. (Applause.) And I have pledged to the Governor, to the Mayor the full support of the federal government. And if I might take one mention of personal pride here to say that I'm very pleased the way these departments in the federal government have responded. Not to preempt, not to get credit -- again, not to assign blame, but to supplement the work in the communities, the work of the Mayor, the

- 3 -

work of the Council and the work of the Governor. And I'm proud that Lou Sullivan, our Secretary of NHS; and Jack Kemp, our Secretary of HUD are here today. And many others wanted to be with me, but somebody had to mind the store back there. (Laughter.)

Now, Los Angeles will recover. I believe it is well on its way to recovery, thanks to what the local government and the state government and the federal presence are doing. And as Los Angeles comes back to its glory, all of us must ask ourselves: What can we do to help?

This is no time to outline federal programs. This is a National Day of Prayer. This is a day to give our thanks. But we will do what we can to help and to assist and to lead in this reconciliation. To truly help, we've got to understand the agony of the depressed. You can't solve the problem if you don't feel its heartbeat. You've got to understand the hopelessness of those who literally have had no opportunity.

Trucks bringing food and bricks and mortar are rolling into Los Angeles. And this city will be rebuilt. And I am confident that new opportunities will arise. But all across this nation, we've got to renew our fight to strengthen the American family. It isn't a burnt-out area in Los Angeles. It isn't California. It is the entire country. That's where everyone in this room, everyone in this hallowed sanctuary comes in. We've got to find ways to do that. We've got to fight against discrimination. We've got to continue to speak out against bigotry. We've got to fight for justice and equality. And on this National Day of Prayer it is fitting that we pray to God to help us.

Abraham Lincoln was right -- you can't do it alone. If we asked him what he did in times of turmoil -- you think of the problems he faced -- he said, I spent a lot of my time on my knees. We have to understand that that faith is still terribly important to leaders, terribly important to citizens that lead these communities.

So I pray to God that he will give us the strength and the wisdom to bring the family together -- the American family. Barbara and I prayed that our personal family and your personal families will be engulfed in God's love, and that every kid will have someone who knows his name and really cares about him.

One little four-year-old girl -- maybe you heard the story -- Ryan Bennett -- prayed special prayers as she saw her neighborhood riddled with bullets, her candy store destroyed. And Ryan said, "I asked God if he could make it so it's not dark anymore." Let this nation vow to help that it won't be dark. (Applause.)

END

9:30 A.M. PDT

African Nat'l History Month
Folder for MLK
quotes and "Lift up
your voice and sing"

Acknowledgements

Mayor

clergy leadership

cardinal, bishops (general expression)

Celeste King (sp?) NAME

12 people in holding room
including Mayor, Mr. King

RNC 863-8500

California Republican Party

(818) 841-5210

→ Celes King III

Member of state CRP

central committee

Helen Shell ⇒ contact person at
CRP

(Grossman)
May 5, 1992
Draft One
CHURCH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MOUNT ZION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1992

will he intro POTUS? Other acknowledgements?
Mt. Zion
213/235-2103

2/11/12
speech

Rev. Hill, thank you for that introduction. Over the years I've turned to the good reverend for advice. His guidance has always echoed the words of another Baptist minister, a man from Atlanta, Georgia. \ It was Martin Luther King who taught us that "the time is always ripe to do right." That's why we're here.

I've come to Mount Zion on this National Day of Prayer, as a man who cares about his family. Not just the one I share with my wife and my children -- but the one I share with you. For better or for worse, in sickness or in health, America is one family -- One Nation Under God. You see, I believe that we are our brother's keeper. Not to keep him back. Not to keep him down. But to keep him warm and safe. To keep him in our hearts and in our counsel.

I've been keeping quite a bit of that counsel these past few days. From the advice of Rev. Hill \ to the guidance of civil rights leaders \ to the letters of thousands of Americans just like you. The cynics can paint it any which way they like -- that won't change what I know to be right, and how I've fought to do right. In ways small and large, I have spent a good part of my life working on something we want to give to our grandchildren: an America where they can work and play -- freely \ safely \ and together. I've said it before and I'll say it

again: we must not and will not tolerate racism, bigotry, or anti-semitism in America.

I believe we've made progress. We killed Jim Crow. We leveled the legal walls that divided us. Most recently, we took another step: last November I was proud to sign ground-breaking civil rights legislation -- not because it was the easy thing to do \ not because it was the political thing to do \ but because it was the right thing to do.

Nov. 21 / 1991
Pres Documents

But law alone won't solve our problems. No law can reach what we have in our hearts or change what we have on our conscience. Government can abolish "back of the bus" rules -- but it can't make people share a seat. It can punish cruel acts -- but it can't silence cruel words. Government can make good laws -- but it can't make men good.

I heard a story about one good man. Another man of the cloth, Rev. Bennie Newton, laid his life -- literally -- on the line because he believed he was his brother's keeper. During the riots he saw a man being beaten to the ground. Despite the threats and the blows, Bennie walked into the fray and laid his body over the bloody man until the beating stopped. "My heart was crying," said the pastor. He saved the man's life.

Mayor
Bradley's
Office
Press Sec'y
Val
Bunting
213/485-
311

A terrible thing happened to the family we call America, a dark hour that left many wondering what to do. But it's people like Rev. Newton that carried part of the answer within them all along. While some lit fires of hatred, others lit candles of prayer. While some shut their eyes, others opened their

Mount Zion or
Bradley's Office:
can they give us a specific
example of a church that stayed open &
active during riots?

churches. The Bible tells us, "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" *Micah 7:8*

These are words to remember on this National Day of Prayer. All across our land, thousands of houses of worship are filled with the prayers of our citizens. Prayers, like the words of the great spiritual anthem, "full of the faith that the dark past has taught us and the hope that the present has brought us." If we "lift every voice," I believe we will be heard.

Black Nat'l Anthem except in Wash Times

I heard about the prayers of one little girl, 4-year-old Ryan Bennett -- about the age of my granddaughter Ashley. During the nights of rioting, Ryan's neighborhood was sprayed with bullets, her candy store was looted, her nightmares were real. "I'm saying special prayers," she said, "I asked [God] if He could make it so that it's not dark anymore." Let's make a promise to Ryan and to all the children like her: never again will we let it become that dark again. Never again as dark as the darkest nights of that young life.

Wash Post 5/4/92

We've made a start. As I speak the trucks are arriving -- 18 truckloads of food from Oklahoma City, from Albuquerque, from Tuscon and Biloxi. A convoy of caring organized by Feed the Children International, a non-profit church group. Churches throughout the southland are collecting money, food, and clothing -- reaching out to the community. That's the America we know. The America we're praying for. Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

A Riot's Scar: One Small Witness Prays for God to 'Stop the Fire'

By Avis Thomas-Lester
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, May 3—Four-year-old Ryan Bennett has been trying to strike a bargain with God: She'll be an extra-good girl if God will just make it possible for it never to be dark again.

Nighttime is when the vandals and rioters came out, spraying her neighborhood with gunfire and looting the 7-Eleven store where she and her twin sister, Morgan, used to buy candy.

Ife Mohammed, age 9, can't sleep. Klarissa Valenzuela, 4, wants to know if Disneyland is going to burn down. And 5-year-old David Reyes wants to join the National Guard so he can help protect his community, near Koreatown, where he has been awakened four nights straight by shots and sirens.

These are the littlest victims of the violence that has ravaged Los Angeles since angry protesters took to the streets Wednesday after the not-guilty verdicts in the trial of four white police officers charged with beating black motorist Rodney G. King.

"I'm saying special prayers asking God to stop the fire because I know God can stop the fire," said Ryan. For the moment, she has suspended the ordinary pastimes of childhood to look at newspaper pictures and television broadcasts of the riots. "I kept asking Him to stop the fire, but He didn't answer that prayer, so I said another prayer. I asked Him if he could make it so that it's not dark anymore. When it's dark that's when the bad people come out."

From San Pedro to Santa Monica, Los Angeles area children are struggling to cope with the events that rocked their world last week. And their parents secretly worry that the devastation will leave a legacy of intolerance.

The city will try to return to some semblance of normalcy today when people return to work and children to school.

When doors open Monday morning, special crisis management teams will be on hand in Los Angeles schools to help children "understand and deal with their feelings," said school board member Leticia Quezada.

Parents describe their children as tearful and troubled by nightmares. Two of the more than 25 parents interviewed said their children have asked to sleep with them out of fear. Several said their children



Twins Ryan, left, and Morgan Bennett, 4, wait for a bus near burned-out store.

have been depressed by the turn of events.

Unlike adults, parents and experts said, children don't have the reasoning mechanisms to help them understand.

"All they want to know is why is this happening, and there are no answers," said Nancy Timmons, 34, of the upscale suburb Woodland Hills, who took her son Jack, 7, on a tour of burned-out Crenshaw Boulevard Saturday afternoon before dropping off food at a disaster relief shelter.

She took him there, she said, because her son demanded to see the devastation firsthand. "Maybe he thought if he could see it, he could understand it better, but he didn't. I have no answers. How do you explain despair to a 7-year-old? How do you explain intolerance or injustice?"

But Brock Cardwell, 11, of Inglewood, a predominantly minority, middle-class enclave in the city, thinks children do understand. To him, the riots and vandalism are nothing more than "acting out" by people who are "overdoing it." Brock attended services today at Brookins Community African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"I think it started by a lot of people just getting mad at what happened with Rodney King's case," Brock said. "But now they are overdoing it. They are setting stuff on fire. That won't help, even little children know that."

Like Brock, several children blamed "bad people" for the problems. "There are bad people taking advantage of the riot," said Randall Kiev, 10. "They were mostly adults, but there were some little kids, too."

Several children also lashed out

at police and some said they now fear police.

"I am afraid of police because they have guns and they shoot people," said Morgan Bennett, who said the sounds of guns and helicopters and sirens that now permeate her community after dark remind her of a "war movie."

When a helicopter flew overhead, the child leaped into the air on white plastic sandals to see where the cop-ter was headed. "Uh-oh! Uhhh-ohhhhhh! Maybe they're coming!"

Parents said that just like adults, children have been drawn to televised images of looting and beatings. Some parents said they are planning to save newspapers as mementos for their children, who will undoubtedly study the riots in classes someday.

Yolanda Valenzuela, 25, of West Los Angeles, fears her daughter Klarissa never will forget. Her daughter "shook like a leaf" Thursday when their building was evacuated because of a fire nearby. "She was so frightened. I've never seen her like that. I don't know how to help her forget."

Klarissa wanted to go to Chuck E. Cheese's pizza restaurant on Friday to make sure it did not burn down along with the building on her street.

"A whole bunch of people have been burning the buildings and looting so they could get stuff free," Ife Mohammed said.

"There are old people who live near my house who used to go to stores where they looted. Now they have to go far, real far. Some of them don't have cars and the buses aren't running. What are they supposed to do?"

part of original

127/21



THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

DATE: May 5 '92

TO: Carol Blymire

COMPANY: _____

MESSAGE: More clips

Multiple horizontal lines for message content.

FROM: Carolynn PHONE: 415/703-2218

PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 3

RODNEY KING CASE THE

Donations to L.A.

San Jose church gives \$50,000 of its building fund

By Gregory Lewis
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

The humanitarian effort to restore rebellion-torn Los Angeles may be hampered by the controversial nature of the disaster, at least one relief organization fears.

"It's a unique situation," said Pamela Corante, spokeswoman for the American Red Cross in Los Angeles. "Because the disaster was a result of civil unrest and not a natural disaster, people may be a little hesitant to contribute because of the controversy."

Corante said Monday that the organization's Disaster Relief Fund, which raises money for disasters throughout the world, was asking that donors give in the form of checks and money orders. However, the fund has received few donations earmarked for the Los Angeles emergency.

"Donations are trickling in," she said. "There hasn't been an overwhelming response, but we haven't issued a plea for responses. People are still getting over the initial shock, attending to their immediate needs and getting their lives back in order."

But some churches and organizations already have rushed to the aid of victims of the violence.

Dick Bernal, senior pastor of the Jubilee Christian Center in San Jose, said he would travel to Los Angeles Wednesday to deliver a \$50,000 check to Mayor Tom Bradley or Peter Ueberroth, who has been commissioned by Bradley to lead reconstruction efforts.

The church — made up of multi-racial parishioners including African Americans, Korean Americans, whites and Latinos — is donating money previously earmarked for its building fund.

"It seemed that half of our congregation knew somebody affected — either friends or relatives — in the Los Angeles area," Bernal said. "It hit us hard emotionally."

He said he hoped his donation to Los Angeles prompted other churches to contribute money.

"Sixty million people go to church in this country," he said.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

AFTERMATH

'trickling in'

"So what if every church took up a collection next Sunday for Mayor Bradley or the city of Los Angeles?"

Some churches took up collections during services Sunday. Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland is working with a Los Angeles Baptist church to raise money for those in need, said Madeline

White, a clerical supervisor at the Oakland church.

However, money is not the only donation needed in Los Angeles; humanitarian efforts include requests for food, clothing, furniture, baby food, diapers, nonperishable canned goods and volunteers.

"There's been a tremendous effort from Caucasian, Filipino and

N ★ Tuesday, May 5, 1992 A-11

black churches," said Mary Fambro of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Inglewood, Los Angeles County. "Donations are coming in. People are making out checks and bringing fresh milk. We've been able to give families nice boxes of food they can use even if they don't have any (electrical) power."

Fambro said volunteers from all over the greater Los Angeles area had shown up to do such things as help clean the streets of debris.

Catholic Charities, the social agency of the Los Angeles Archdio-

cese, announced Monday it would launch a comprehensive range of services to help victims of the rebellion.

Cardinal Roger Mahony said the \$1 million-plus effort would include such services as food and transportation for frail, homebound elderly and temporary financial help to victims who lost their jobs because of the rebellion.

The funds will come from an annual collection taken in all Catholic parishes in Los Angeles during May.

San Francisco
EXAMINER

May 5, 1992

P-A-11

Quiet Los Angeles Ends Curfew Today

Schools, Electricity, Buses to Resume

By Paul Taylor and Lou Cannon
Washington Post Staff Writers

LOS ANGELES, May 3—After three days of terror and a weekend of eerie quiet, the City of Angels anticipated a dose of normalcy Monday when schools are to reopen, a dusk-to-dawn curfew is to be lifted and bus service, most electricity and freeway access are expected to be restored in areas most savaged by the deadliest civil disorder in the nation's modern history.

A massive riot-control force of 22,000 people—police, highway patrol, National Guard, Army, Marines and riot-trained FBI, Border Patrol and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents—is expected to remain in place at least through midweek, Mayor Tom Bradley announced today.

For the first time, Marines left staging areas Saturday night and today and began to take up positions in Compton, Long Beach and the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. The 2,500 Army troops deployed to this area remained in a staging area in El Monte northeast of here.

Five slayings today increased the death toll to at least 51 since violence began Wednesday, according to the county coroner. It was not immediately clear whether some of the most recent deaths—including three in unrelated shooting incidents and one in an arson brush fire—were the product of rioting or the normal violence endemic to large cities.

Tonight, at least two National Guard soldiers fired eight shots, fatally wounding a Hispanic man driving a car who tried to run them down after curfew in south-central Los Angeles, police said. It was the first reported use of deadly force by Guard troops on patrol here.

Earlier, Angelenos of all races and creeds flocked to churches in large numbers to pray for a resto-

ration of order, a spirit of forgiveness and a rebuilding of a city in which unofficial damage estimates approach \$1 billion.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Roger Mahony, celebrating Mass in four churches in hard-hit south-central Los Angeles, made an unusual invitation to looters: Return stolen goods to any area church, no questions asked. There was no immediate indication that he had any takers.

On one of the warmest, muggiest weekends of the year, with temperatures around 80 degrees, the most vivid casualty of the riots was the famous Southern California sense of mobility and personal freedom.

City beaches were closed, parks were nearly empty, Cinco de Mayo festivals were postponed, and all professional sporting events were canceled or diverted to other cities. Virtually all restaurants and night spots were dark throughout the weekend because of a curfew that remained in effect here and in 25 nearby communities through Sunday night and added to the riot's economic toll.

Gov. Pete Wilson (R), supportive of Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl F. Gates in the past, today cautiously criticized the police department's performance during the first hours of the disturbances.

Appearing on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley," Wilson sidestepped direct criticism of the embattled chief but said there was "a basic misassumption on the part of local law enforcement as to the magnitude of the response that would be required" if four white Los Angeles officers were not found guilty in the beating of black motorist Rodney G. King.

Gates, interviewed separately on CBS's "Face the Nation," defended his actions on the night that violence erupted. "We were as shocked as everyone" by the verdict and the reaction to it and were "in the first stages of this, overwhelmed," he acknowledged.

Were he able to relive last Wednesday, Gates said, he would not have attended a political fund-raiser two hours after the disturbances began. He spoke there against a June 2 initiative that would revamp police organization.

But he dismissed his appearance as having had no effect on the department's response to the unrest. "We were not engaged in a full-scale riot at this time," he said.

The tedious process of arraigning more than 9,000 people arrested since Wednesday continued during an unusual Sunday court session today as authorities in the district attorney's office had trouble matching arrest records with individuals who were charged. The state Supreme Court has authorized doubling the normal arraignment period for suspects arrested during the riot to 96 hours.

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By 4 p.m., Pacific time, the Los Angeles Times reported, the number of inmates in Los Angeles County jails had passed 25,000 and approached the system's legal capacity of 25,488, set by a federal judge in response to complaints of overcrowding in 1988.

Anticipating the influx, sheriff's officials hurriedly shipped out before today 1,073 inmates sentenced and awaiting transfer, the Times said.

The Criminal Courts building downtown was heavily protected by National Guard troops and attracted a stream of friends and family members of suspects in custody. One spectator, Kevin Heard, 18, who said he is a gang member from the Hawthorne area, arrived in a shirt that he said he had taken during looting in his neighborhood. "I was like a street sweeper," he explained. "I was pick-

ing up everything people [looters] were dropping."

At the court session, District Attorney Ira Reiner promised no leniency for looters. "The essential crime is one of disorder," he said, "and any act of looting encouraged others in the mob to come storming in behind them."

Not only were churches popular gathering places for Sunday services and spiritual guidance, but they also continued to serve as command posts in cleanup and food-relief efforts.

"People need the church right now," the Rev. T. Larry Kirkland told the congregation at the Brookins Community African Methodist Episcopal Church. "People need to know God is in charge. The Bible said, 'I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly.' But some people are feeling, where is life when four men can beat a black man and get off scot-free? People need to be reassured that God is still in charge, not white people."

At the gymnasium-sized Maranatha Church in the hard-hit Crenshaw district, usher DeWayne

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insist that the Bush administration establish an urban policy.

Although the day generally was quiet, some churchgoers were not immune to reminders of the terror of the last week. As parishioners at Greater Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in south-central Los Angeles were about to leave the building, shots were fired at a passing police car. No injuries were reported.

Deputy District Attorney Terry White, chief prosecutor in the King beating case, said today on "Face the Nation" that his boss, Reiner, had not decided whether Officer Laurence M. Powell, who struck most of 56 baton blows against King, should be retried on the one count that ended in a mistrial. Jurors split 8 to 4 for acquittal on a charge that he committed assault under color of authority.

A hearing to determine whether Powell should be retried is scheduled here May 15 before Superior Court Judge Stanley M. Weisberg, who presided at the trial of the officers in suburban Simi Valley in Ventura County.

As insurance adjusters began fanning out all over the city this weekend, officials said losses from the riot could approach \$1 billion, almost double the city's current estimate of \$550 million. "Undercoverage will be a major problem," Bill Rake, president of a local adjusting company, told the Los Angeles Times.

City officials said they have no way of knowing the long-term impact on tourism, second only to the entertainment industry as the county's largest. Many tour operators, including the Japan Travel Bureau, the largest inbound operator from Japan, have temporarily suspended tours.

The disturbance continued to be grist for the national political mill.

Bill Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, mentioned the riots in speeches at two black churches and a labor rally in Washington before flying here. "There's some chance, if we come out with an agenda, the current administration will adopt it," he said. "There's some precedent for that in this election. Maybe by just going there and just coming up with some things to do, we'll be able to alter this in a nonpartisan way."

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," potential presidential candidate Ross Perot said that, if he were president, he would have gone to the scene of the riots to get a "hands-on" feel for the situation.

The campaign of Democrat Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown Jr. took a different hands-on approach as more than 100 staff members and volunteers from the former California governor's Santa Monica headquarters drove to south-central Los Angeles and participated in the cleanup.

Staff writers Donna Britt, Lynne Duke, Carlos Sanchez and Avis Thomas-Lester contributed to this report.

Frelow preached positivism while pastor Billy Ingram prayed with 1,000 parishioners.

"L.A. stands for living alive," said Frelow, a gospel rap singer also known as MC Doc. "Some people may have died, but L.A. is alive."

In Koreatown, where rioters targeted businesses, the Rev. Jang Kyun of the Central Evangelical Church told his congregation: "We cannot escape this kind of difficulty, this kind of danger. . . . but we have to forgive those who have been violent and pray for them."

On Saturday, an estimated 30,000 Korean Americans, many wearing white headbands, had marched downtown for peace. Today, community leaders met with Jesse L. Jackson, the District's shadow U.S. senator, to seek ways to improve tense relations with blacks.

"We must go from pain to partnership, not pain to polarization," Jackson said. In an interview, he said he planned to try to convene a meeting of national black leaders to

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Chairman

May 5, 1992

- Ellen Latham
Bob Wittek

The Honorable
Samuel K. Skinner
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Chief:

As the President departs now for the west coast to address the challenges and relief efforts urgently needed in Los Angeles, I know how critical it will be to communicate his message of concern.

I also recognize staff is knee-deep in advance preparations and scheduling, therefore, I felt it important to make you aware of information that may be instrumental as a humanitarian backdrop to his visit.

Last Friday, I'm told reliably, President Bush met here with several Los Angeles leaders including the Reverend Dr. E.V. Hill, a prominent clergyman and community figure. Dr. Hill specifically has requested the intervention and support of our client, Larry Jones, the founder and president of FEED THE CHILDREN (a nonprofit, volunteer-driven hunger relief organization based in Oklahoma), to provide immediate food supplies to the hard-hit neighborhoods of Los Angeles. As he has done following the havoc from the San Francisco earthquake, Hurricane Hugo, or when similar calamities strike other spots on the globe, Larry Jones quickly set things in motion.

Six massive trailer-trucks are heading to the city now from Oklahoma, providing 200,000 pounds of food and 40,000 pounds of clothing. We expect the FEED THE CHILDREN donations [supported by voluntary corporate and individual contributions] will arrive at their destination on Thursday, May 7. I understand NBC network television is following the progress of the convoy and we expect a healthy degree of media attention for this singular contribution, along with many other private relief efforts.

HILL AND KNOWLTON

The Honorable
Samuel K. Skinner
May 5, 1992
Page Two

While I do not know what plans are now in place, I know the Reverend Dr. Hill and Mr. Jones will be pleased to work with your team to offer a suitable camera opportunity for this welcome donation and visit for President Bush's arrival to encourage the community recovery efforts. The publicity generated by this effort invariably promotes a high measure of public generosity and added contributions, and such a gesture will be deeply welcomed by the community organizers and by the families they serve. [The organizers are not looking for Presidential thanks, but to help spread the word that contributions and volunteers are at work and more is needed.]

I leave to you and your colleagues this decision, of course, however, I can reassure you we will assist in any way appropriate or necessary to accommodate the White House schedule and logistics.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 944-5100 and I will do whatever I can to assist.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bar".

HILL AND KNOWLTON

Hill and Knowlton
 Public Affairs Worldwide Co.
 Washington Harbour
 901 31st Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20007-3838
 202-333-7400
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Memorandum

Memo to: Lessandra Machamer, NBC Today Show
 From: Ellen Lathem, ^{EL}Hill and Knowlton
 Subject: **LOS ANGELES RIOTS/HUNGER RELIEF EFFORTS**
 Date: May 5, 1992
 Copies:

Now that the massive rebuilding efforts have just begun in downtown Los Angeles, the immediate need to supply food to families in the inner city is even more critical. **Larry Jones**, president and founder of the international hunger relief organization, **FEED THE CHILDREN**, is planning a major food shipment immediately to Los Angeles -- a community he and his volunteer organization have served for over the past decade.

FEED THE CHILDREN now offers free pick-up and transportation to any corporation or food company that wishes to send aid to the people of Los Angeles. They will accept phone calls from anywhere in the United States throughout the next week from those wishing to help: 405-942-0228, or by writing P.O. Box 36, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101.

Three years ago, Willard Scott and the **NBC TODAY SHOW** came to the rescue of Americans devastated by Hurricane Hugo and its aftermath -- in part, by announcing **FEED THE CHILDREN**'s food relief program for the people of the shore communities in the Carolinas and encouraging corporations to call with supplies in response to **FEED THE CHILDREN**'S offer to truck them for free.

We would like to request Willard Scott, once more, back these humanitarian food relief efforts by announcing this offer made by **FEED THE CHILDREN** and by stating the phone number on air during one of his breaks. We also will present him with a 28-inch replica of the massive **FEED THE CHILDREN** trailer-truck that displays the organization's logo, that he may use during his stand-up. Trucks like these will arrive in Los Angeles quickly to distribute the food donated.

STATUS REPORT: At 1 PM Central Time, Tuesday, May 5, 1992, six tractor-trailers left Oklahoma City bound for Los Angeles. They are loaded with 200,000 pounds of food and 40,000 pounds of clothing. The Oklahoma City NBC Affiliate (Channel 4) is accompanying the **FEED THE CHILDREN** trucks, and will feed stories and live remotes along the way. Estimated day of arrival in Los Angeles is Thursday, May 7, 1992.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, and follow-up, please contact Ellen Lathem in Washington at 202-944-5101 or Bob Witeck at 202-944-5130.

HILL AND KNOWLTON

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TELECOPY TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Please deliver immediately upon receipt

Number of pages (including cover sheet) 4

Date: May 6, 1992

Time: 11 am

To: PEGGY HAZELRIGG

White House Advance

From: Bob Witeck *Bob*
Hill and Knowlton/Washington, D.C.

Message: *Thanks -*
Here's the scoop on Larry's involvement with Dr. E.V. Hill this week. And Larry Jones will be there tomorrow at 8 AM when the President visits Hill's church and sees the massive food donations - Hope this is helpful to the speech writers.

If you have trouble receiving this transmission or you did not receive the specified number of pages shown above, please call Rajini Wycliffe at (202) 944-5174.

(Grossman)
May 5, 1992
Draft One
CHURCH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MOUNT ZION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1992

Rev. Hill, thank you for that introduction. Over the years I've turned to the good reverend for advice. His guidance has always echoed the words of another Baptist minister, a man from Atlanta, Georgia. \ It was Martin Luther King who taught us that "the time is always ripe to do right." That's why we're here.

I've come to Mount Zion on this National Day of Prayer, as a man who cares about his family. Not just the one I share with my wife and my children -- but the one I share with you. For better or for worse, in sickness or in health, America is one family -- One Nation Under God. You see, I believe that we are our brother's keeper. Not to keep him back. Not to keep him down. But to keep him warm and safe. To keep him in our hearts and in our counsel.

I've been keeping quite a bit of that counsel these past few days. From the advice of Rev. Hill \ to the guidance of civil rights leaders \ to the letters of thousands of Americans just like you. The cynics can paint it any which way they like -- that won't change what I know to be right, and how I've fought to do right. In ways small and large, I have spent a good part of my life working on something we want to give to our grandchildren: an America where they can work and play -- freely \ safely \ and together. I've said it before and I'll say it

again: we must not and will not tolerate racism, bigotry, or anti-semitism in America.

I believe we've made progress. We killed Jim Crow. We leveled the legal walls that divided us. Most recently, we took another step: last November I was proud to sign ground-breaking civil rights legislation -- not because it was the easy thing to do \ not because it was the political thing to do \ but because it was the right thing to do.

But law alone won't solve our problems. No law can reach what we have in our hearts or change what we have on our conscience. Government can abolish "back of the bus" rules -- but it can't make people share a seat. It can punish cruel acts -- but it can't silence cruel words. Government can make good laws -- but it can't make men good.

I heard a story about one good man. Another man of the cloth, Rev. Bennie Newton, laid his life -- literally -- on the line because he believed he was his brother's keeper. During the riots he saw a man being beaten to the ground. Despite the threats and the blows, Bennie walked into the fray and laid his body over the bloody man until the beating stopped. "My heart was crying," said the pastor. He saved the man's life.

A terrible thing happened to the family we call America, a dark hour that left many wondering what to do. But it's people like Rev. Newton that carried part of the answer within them all along. While some lit fires of hatred, others lit candles of prayer. While some shut their eyes, others opened their

churches. The Bible tells us, "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

These are words to remember on this National Day of Prayer. All across our land, thousands of houses of worship are filled with the prayers of our citizens. Prayers, like the words of the great spiritual anthem, "full of the faith that the dark past has taught us and the hope that the present has brought us." If we "lift every voice," I believe we will be heard.

I heard about the prayers of one little girl, 4-year-old Ryan Bennett -- about the age of my granddaughter Ashley. During the nights of rioting, Ryan's neighborhood was sprayed with bullets, her candy store was looted, her nightmares were real. "I'm saying special prayers," she said, "I asked [God] if He could make it so that it's not dark anymore." Let's make a promise to Ryan and to all the children like her: never again will we let it become that dark again. Never again as dark as the darkest nights of that young life.

We've made a start. As I speak the trucks are arriving -- 18 truckloads of food from Oklahoma City, from Albuquerque, from Tuscon and Biloxi. A convoy of caring organized by Feed the Children International, a non-profit church group. Churches throughout the southland are collecting money, food, and clothing -- reaching out to the community. That's the America we know. The America we're praying for. Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Nov 21

- Dr. Phelan, Ashley?

Govt can X but it can't Y

- Government can abolish ^{base of sin - bus lines} ~~on buses~~, but it can't make people share a seat. Government can punish cruel acts, but it can't silence cruel words. Government can deregulate the schools, but it can't make students get along. Government can make good laws -- but it can't make men a good.

Govt branches vs. people's roots

In the end -- no number of government branches can take the place of common's roots.
 - can't give men courage
 - make men strong

Government can do many things, but it cannot ^{teach values} ~~teach~~ values.

Marshall

Ryan Barnett, 4 years old --

? = Does Bush have a 3-5 yr old grandchild?

E.V.NOT

--"full of the faith that the dark past has taught us and the hope that the present has brought us."

--another man of the cloth...a man who prayed for justice and ___...told us "that the time is always ripe to do right." *bring it back out*

--Moses proclaimed the Ten Commandments "...out of the midst of *the* fire, of the clouds, and of the thick darkness." *que end*

--E.E. Hale: "To look up and not down. To look forward and not back. To look out and not in, and to lend a hand."

--MLK: "Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude"

--MLK: "Every man is somebody because he is a child of God." *) how at the begin*

--MLK: "Our destinies are tied together."

--Another pastor, Reverend Bennie Newton, believed that he was his brother's keeper and laid his life on the line for this belief. During the rioting he walked into what he called "a street storm" of violence and saw a man being beaten to the ground. Despite the threats, despite the blows, the reverend walked into the fray, and laid his body over the bloody man. When the beating stopped, Reverend Newton drove the man to safety.

--I believe that I am and we are our brother's keeper. Not to keep him back. Not to keep him down. But to keep him safe, to keep him warm, and to keep him in our hearts.

--I heard a story about a little girl, four-year-old Ryan Bennett, who tried to strike a bargain with God. Her neighborhood was sprayed with bullets; her candy store, gutted, looted. "I'm saying special prayers," said Ryan, "I asked Him if he could make it so that it's not dark anymore. When it's dark that's when the bad people come out." Let's make a promise to Ryan, and to all the little girls and boys like her: We must never again let it become that dark between us. *in people* Never again as dark as the darkest nights of that young life.

--A verse in the Old Testament tells us: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

--There is a song written almost a century ago called "Lift Every Voice and Sing." We know it well. It asks this: "God of weary years, God of our silent tears; Though who has brought us thus far on the way; Thou who has by Thy might, led us into the light, Keep us forever in Thy path, we pray."

--Pastor Hills has been a POTUS friend for years.

--DAY OF PRAYER: thousands of churches and synagogues all across our land are filled with the prayers of our citizens. People are praying in their offices, in their shops, in their homes. Could so many voices not be heard?

--America is great because America is good.

E.V.OUT

I. Convey a sense of POTUS's standing in the civil rights community...his meetings with civil rights leaders last week...not as a white man...why he's there, why he cares.

II. How we're going to deal with discrimination...we've removed the legal barriers...signed landmark civil rights legislation...we've made great progress...but there's more to do...must keep us the vigilance

III. But the solution is more than legal obstacles: law can't reach what we have in our hearts....the need to build a culture of character...

--the civil rights movement of the 1960's killed Jim Crow...but divisions and suspicions still live.

--quiet acts of violence: when people cross the street to avoid walking too near to a person of violence they commit quiet violence. When a clerk treats someone as a color rather than as a customer, he commits quiet violence. When any of us listens to racist talk without speaking out, we commit quiet violence. And we must stop.

--some say racism is on the rise. I pray that it is not. Some say police brutality is all to prevalent. I pray ____.

CLOSE: "One nation under God"...what does he see when he looks down on us?

The church is the center of community. It is our conscience.

as a man who comes about his family -- not only the one I share with you but the one I share w/ you

CHAPTER 7

NOW when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.

3 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

4 ¶ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.

5 And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

6 And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of music of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

7 Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD: for there he offered burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the brasen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat.

8 ¶ Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.

9 And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

10 And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto

David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.

12 ¶ And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;

18 Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel.

19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

20 Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations.

21 And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?

22 And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

May 7, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN MEETING WITH BLACK COMMUNITY LEADERS

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Los Angeles, California

9:15 A.M. PDT

REVEREND E.V. HILL: May I give the ground rules, please. The persons who are seated in this assembly have been selected across from young people to business people to leaders. The President wanted to meet just a few. He will not have an opportunity to hear a long question, but if you can make short your statement, the President of the United States would like to hear you.

Mr. President, we are honored again to have you.

THE PRESIDENT: Reverend Hill, let me -- I would never, ever correct E.V. Hill, especially in his own church in its centennial year, but rather than questions -- and I will be glad to answer them -- what I really would like to get is the heartbeat of the community, hear from you all as to what you think can best help, where matters stand.

It's hard on a short visit to get all this. I will assure you -- and I hope that Pete, sitting here, and Tom Bradley would agree -- that we have tried to bring federal resources to bear in a timely fashion. It's been done pretty low-key in the sense that the federal officers out here have been not seeking a limelight. But under David Kearns they've put together a good task force, and I've been very gratified that the leaders, both from City Council and the Mayor's Office, as well as the Governor's Office, feel the federal government is responding -- whether it's from FEMA, or whether it's from Jack Kemp's HUD, or whether it's from Lou Sullivan's MHS, or the Department of Education. Leading the fray was Pat Saiki out here very early for the SBA -- small business loans.

So I don't want to go into all these programs, although I'd be glad to have our experts respond to any questions on them at all. But what I'd like to do is, first, to say thank you; second, to let you know that justice will prevail, that we will follow through with my responsibilities under the law, and the Department of Justice is following through on the justice side of the equation to see that -- to examine to see if civil rights of anybody have been violated -- King or anybody, Rodney King or anyone else -- that there be fair play and equity there.

But having said all that, let me tell you something. And you know it better than I. There is no way, really, I guess, that the President can come here in an every four-year situation and not have it be accused by some of being political. I don't want it to be political. I want to get by this. We've got plenty of time later on in the year for the politics. I want to hear from you, just all the bark off as to what you think we can do. And please speak frankly about it.

If your comments have a political ring it will not offend because, as I say, it's a hard year to stay out of it. But we're here to help and we're here to learn. And that's it.

MR. JOHN MACK: Mr. President -- and obviously, this is not a political situation, even though I handled your campaign in South Central -- (laughter) -- a few years ago, and I may do it again. But it's under consideration, depending on a few things.

Let's get to the bottom line on this situation. There are going to be many resources that are brought into the Los Angeles area. We have, time and time again, seen resources come in and they not adequately benefit the community. I serve on a committee here that was put together by the federal government. It's called the Century Freeway Affirmative Action Committee.

What we do is we examine the dollars that come in to see to that at least a portion of that money, it goes to people who live in this corridor that are involved. It is important to understand that merely allocating resources, sending them in does not mean that we will not be excluded from the process of being able to help rebuild this community.

I encourage you to take a look at the Century Freeway Action program. It's been in existence now 10 years. It's a federal decree. And we will see to it that the dollar allocation is fair. We will not allow people from outside of the community to economically sweep all this money away.

That goes for you, too, Pete. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: That's a good opening comment.

MR. ROD DAVIS: Good morning, Mr. President. My name is Rod Davis. I'm a small-businessman in the community and I have come here today not representing any organization, not looking for any political office, but asking for help. I spent nine years building a small business in South Central Los Angeles. My family and I gave it everything we had. We are now totally burned out. I don't know what resources I have to rebuild.

So I'm just here today thanking you for coming and asking that the help will come forward. We would like to stay in South Central Los Angeles. We have an investment in the community. But now it's time that someone has to come to my aid. I've never had a small business loan. I've never had to come to the government for anything. But now I don't know where to turn because I do not have the resources to put my business back together, put my family back together. And we appreciate you coming out.

THE PRESIDENT: May I make a comment on that, Reverend?

REVEREND HILL: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Because there are a lot of others like you and you're not here as a special pleader. But I -- the federal government can in a situation like this be of real assistance. It is largely through SBA, but perhaps other facilities, agencies can help, too.

Certainly this is one, this type of experience is one where the federal government has resources available, pumping them in now -- I outlined the programs last night; I won't go through them here, although Pat Saiki is here now. And to others like you, whose life has gone up in smoke, we can get assistance, no strings attached to it, largely through SBA, but not only SBA.

And so we can get, in your case obviously, somebody in touch with you. But others like you, the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies can help. I know that

Pete or Tom Bradley can speak for the city. But this is clearly one where we have the resources.

DR. CLYDE ODEN: Mr. President, I'm Dr. Clyde Oden, President of the Watts Health Foundation. We operate a community health center in the community. We operate a number of programs in the community.

One thing we would like to just impress upon you and the rest of the leaders, that in the building of Los Angeles there has to be ownership by the residents. Existing institutions need to see the resources come their way. The savings and loans, the banks -- we need not have Bank of America or any of the other -- Wells Fargo Bank -- see the federal monies come through their sources. They ought to come through local resources.

Local community people want to own in their community. They find that the walls are there. The walls need to be removed so that we can have ownership in our community, we can build our own jobs, and we can build our community back. We want to do it. And if you look and see the community, you'll see that by and large people want to protect what is theirs. When they have an investment in it they will make sure that it works and that it grows.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me comment on that one. I strongly agree with that concept and we will, again, push for the concept at the federal level. But I am told by city officials that you are absolutely correct, that where ownership has been involved, there has been much more respect for property. And certainly this concept of ownership in the community -- the businesses -- is something I strongly endorse. And we will find ways to implement that at the federal level, I promise you.

MS. LOIS HILL: My name is Lois Hill, and I'm a resident of South Central Los Angeles. I don't have a political axe to grind, but I do live in the heart of South Central Los Angeles. And in the rebuilding of Los Angeles I would like to be a part of -- I would like to see the number of unfavorable elements limited in my neighborhood.

I worked on the board of education; I am not a teacher, I'm a little person. Right now we need \$6 million or \$10 million to keep our after-school program together. Our children -- the safest place for the children in the community is in the after-school program. That's being cut. I work with the child development division -- one of the places that provide child care for children. Part of their program is being cut. The biggest component -- we have a feeding program where you are fed as a family-style feeding. It's being cut because there is no money to fund it.

We have got to lay aside politics, get to the root of the matter and come together and heal our community. I live in South Central Los Angeles. I don't want to move out of South Central Los Angeles. And I don't want the people living on the outskirts of South Central Los Angeles telling me what's necessary in South Central Los Angeles.

I live on 89th and Avalon. I cannot go to the park at -- because it's too dangerous. My grandkids come over to my house and say, can I go to the park? No, you can't. But the people from outside the community are going to tell me how my community is supposed to be run. I need to know what you're going to do for my community?

MR. JIM FLOURNOY: One of the things that I think is sorely needed is there are a lot of funds available, but the trouble is who knows where they are. We don't know where they

are. I think that it's critical that there be a communication network that will let -- like this man said -- I don't know where to go. There should be someplace where the people like that will know where to go to take advantage of those kinds of funds.

THE PRESIDENT: The things were trying to work out for the federal government is that kind of, like a what you call a one-stop shopping approach. And David Kearns, who is our number two in the Department of Education -- some may remember him through his work with the Urban League and others when he was the Chairman of Xerox, a very large company, but a great manager -- is working that problem right now. And it would include not just the kind of services that this lady talked about, but all of it, including what the private sector can do to help.

I know Peter Ueberroth's getting involved in that, and we have a national office on that. But I think that the plea here is a very good one for letting people know what's out there.

MR. WARREN VALDRY: Mr. President, my name is Warren Valdry, the President of the One Hundred Black Men of Los Angeles. Again, we're very pleased that you have taken the time to come here to validate the involvement of the federal government. Yet, on the other hand, we, the One Hundred Black Men, lost its building. And as you know, we have been working with the very model program called the Young Black Scholars --

THE PRESIDENT: I know it.

MR. VALDRY: -- putting kids in college and universities all around the country. Governor Wilson has been very supportive of that concept. And one of the things that we'd like to see, as these resources come forward that it begins to build a relationship, build a partnership whereby the community is empowered to become stakeholders in that process. The One Hundred Black Men building was burned to the ground. We spent seven years getting that building together. It was a mini-city hall for the community people -- the elderly, the young folk -- to come in there. There was a model room where they could come in and watch City Hall in action. It was bringing City Hall to the community.

The organization is ready to go again. We want to rebuild. And the organization stands ready to be a part of that collective group that you want to put together. And we just say thanks, again, for being here. We want to work. We want to mend the relationship of this community. We want to be part of it.

THE PRESIDENT: May I ask you a question before you sit down? And it may be an impossible one to answer. But here's One Hundred Black Men, a respected organization that has no enemies. Why would someone target -- no matter what the rage, why would somebody target that building? We've seen this -- gentlemen -- what's your name again?

MR. DEREKE CARR: Dereke.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Dereke. He was telling me this morning about -- he was the one I was referring to about who saw one of his own employees taking stuff out of the store. We went around and talked about the different -- the ownership and the different facilities there. One was a dentist's office. The dentist and his wife stood out there with a dog trying to keep people from coming in and taking --

Where is he -- Dr. Faulkner right here. An amazing story. But why -- maybe that one is messed up because it was next door to a supermarket where people can go and get food. But why the Hundred Black Men? Why would somebody destroy that building? Can you --

MR. VALDRY: The only thing that I think that it might have had, the city was leasing the building. It might have had the city emblem up there, I don't know. But I want to just conclude with the fact that, the Young Black Scholars, a model program that is really being modeled by the state now with Senate bill 1114; and it also reflects the Education 2000 vision that you are really pushing forward.

DR. LARRY KIRKLAND: I simply want to thank the President for coming and we're privileged that you've come. But to answer your question that you asked a minute ago, when people have been neglected and when people have been pressed down for so long, they do not think rationally. And that's why that building was burned. And that's a question I really wanted to encourage you to raise.

We need economic empowerment and we need educational opportunities. I'm sure the resources will be released that will restore this community. I know a lot of members who lost their businesses, and I'm sure that will be restored. But we need to more long-range planning. We're living in a postindustrial period and we are educating our people to deal with a bygone era. We need to look at how we train our people so that they can have the educational advantages, so that they can deal with the contemporary generation.

And that's what we need to look at today, Mr. President. I encourage you, hopefully, that we could look at training lab technicians. We can look at training physician assistants. We can look at training people for this contemporary society so they can meet the needs of that --

MR. BAXTER SINCLAIR: I'm Baxter Sinclair, owner of a pipeline company and we've come to hear you. And you're here to get some answers, how can you help? I think that's what you want.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have been hearing about infrastructure. I think that the infrastructure, the sewer lines and the water lines are badly depleted. And this state just don't have the money. Pete just does not have the money. The federal government needs to place some money in there quickly. And along with that is that we devise some plans to see that the community works on these projects. What has happened here before has not been that way mounted the frustration.

Last question, you always said a kinder, gentler nation, okay? The people that have been arrested, it's wrong what they did, but if I were you, Governor, I'd put every one of them out there to clean the mess up that they did. It cost too much to keep them in prison. We cannot afford it no more. Just my suggestion, sir. Work, employment is the answer now, you see. The money in infrastructure certainly, surely would help. And I know the government can handle that.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, sir.

MR. CELES KING: Mr. President, fortunately, we had an opportunity to talk earlier. I won't repeat a number of things we already said. But I would like to just reiterate a couple of points that I think are absolutely essential; one has been touched upon by several people. As we go through this rebuilding process it's absolutely essential that additional ways and new and different kinds of ways be found to put more African Americans into business. There are problems of lack of access to capital, discrimination, and other kinds of problems -- but that's an important thing.

The question about why would people strike at their own --

THE PRESIDENT: A friendly building -- yes.

MR. KING: That's a good question -- one of the black men, Paul Hudson -- a savings and loan, an outstanding institution in our city, an outstanding man in our city. And I think that may be a reflection of the class problem we have here. One of the tragedies of this riot was that it was integration at its worst. Even though there's been an image that it was mainly African Americans, but across the board -- Latinos, whites. I think these were people who were alienated, disaffected. They had no stake in the process, in the system. They had no faith.

So we've got to provide training. We've got to provide jobs for these youth. And we have to have ownership and we have to develop some hope and some confidence. And I believe if we do that, we may be on our way.

REVEREND ALBERT NICHOLSON: Mr. President, I'm Pastor Albert Nicholson, St. Peter's Baptist Church of L.A. -- and we understand that there are at least 25 churches in the city that were also burned. And one of my churches was burned. We also understand that there will be low-interest rates coming through because of the \$600 million that you allocated from the federal government for small businesses. Will this also apply for the churches?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the answer would be yes, but do you know the answer to that, Pat, whether SBA can apply to the reconstruction of churches?

ADMINISTRATOR SAIKI: We'll look into it, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: She doesn't know offhand, but it ought to and we ought -- there's a place, if we need change, there's something we ought to change.

MR. LEON WATKINS: My name is Leon Watkins, and I'm with the Family Help-Line. The Help-Line is a counseling service that helps families in the inner city. We've been doing this for the past several years as a volunteer group.

I was in Washington with a HUD summit for youth in February. I'd like to commend Secretary Kemp for having the vision to understand that we've got to invest in our youth and public housing -- I know we're talking about rebuilding the buildings, but we've got to begin to rebuild our young people, the ones who have slipped through the cracks.

Right now, today, there are thousands of people who have just gotten out of jail. We talk about the Crips and the Bloods, but we have got to invest in these people. God loves these people. But we don't know how to deal with them. We've got to put out positive programs. I don't expect you to do it, but to enforce the Governor and the Mayor.

And the last thing I'd like to say that the Crips and the Bloods had a peace treaty yesterday. We need to take advantage of that and try to go to them and try to reach out to them and give them some kind of hope that we are capable of dealing with their problems.

DR. THELMA EATON: Mr. President, I'm Dr. Thelma Eaton, and I'm President of the Coalition of 100 Black Women. Three points: One, I think we need to take a comprehensive approach to these problems; that is a bio-psycho-social approach, because when one quantity or body is damaged and you don't have service to the other parts, that part cannot heal properly. So we need to have a comprehensive approach -- housing, health, economics empowerment, et cetera. So we have to deal with these needs from a very comprehensive perspective.

Second point: We need to approach these needs from a preventive -- this is long-term preventive -- rather than residual because what we do is we have a Band-Aid approach. We wait for it to happen then we go in and we try to fix it.

Third comment: The Coalition has a mentoring program and the Governor is promoting a comprehensive mentoring program. And I think that kind of effort also, in addition to what has been said, can be very helpful. The one-to-one, one-to-one kind of effort, along with the wider institution, can be meaningful to meet these needs.

REVEREND HILL: I'd like to point out, Mr. President, the first Afro-American queen of USC.

MS. CHERYL WALKER: Good morning, my name is Cheryl Walker, and I'm a marketing representative from the Quiet Storm radio station. And my comment is that throughout the pages of history we see disenfranchisement on both sides, when there have been Democrats in power and also when there have been Republicans. The Democrats have poured in a lot of programs that make -- continue to make blacks to be dependent, while Republicans say pull yourselves up by your boot straps -- and then we say we have no boot straps.

My challenge to you today is that instead of having partisan politics that we have people politics. With a program like welfare, rather than making people dependent and constantly just giving them money, if there was a set limit of time, say three years in which they would receive monies while they're going to school or while they're training so that they could be dependent upon themselves and that they would be progressing and be able to use the resources that we have. And that's my challenge to you this morning. And I thank you for being here.

MR. WALTER GOODMAN: My name is Walter Goodman. I think I'm one of the few who is an unemployed construction worker that has worked in the metrorail. And us men, we take a lot of pride in what we do. And I would like for you, Mr. President, to understand that we -- I don't think you know of the discrimination that has been done to us in that department, because there are very few blacks that are able to get into that kind of work, and we'd like to see if somebody can help us get that taken care of. Because there's a lot of work there.

I've been out of work for over a year. I know I'm qualified. I've tried to get a job on the freeway, and it just won't happen. I think we need to look at that.

MR. LESLIE SMALL: Mr. President, my name is Leslie Small, and I grew up on the streets of Los Angeles. I was in a program when I was in high school that took me off the streets of Los Angeles. It was a program that allowed me to go to college in 10th grade and to experience college life as a youth, and then paid us \$400 every two months in order to stay in college. And this program has given me the foresight and the ability to look past the dregs of Los Angeles and try to build a solid foundation.

And I would appeal to the government, instead of putting together programs for survival in the black community, we need programs of development -- the kind of development that allows us as black youths and young people looking for a positive future to see a brighter light at the end of the tunnel. And the program that I came up under in high school is no longer there. And I would see if those kinds of programs could be instituted that allows us not only -- we're not saying give us a handout, not a handout, but give us the opportunity to develop -- not just to survive, but to develop educationally and economically

MS. META CHAMBERLAIN: I'm Meta Chamberlain, National Council of Negro Women. And I would like to comment, Mr. President, on family strength, because there's an old saying that money is the root of all evil, but fairly, it is the destruction of the future. So what I would like to suggest is that we need programs where the family is educating the child. We need change in attitudes. We have a goal in this town, we have a program, Education 2000. And what we say, Family Education 2000, because the family comes along with the child. And you would be surprised, it will develop better rapport with family and child.

It also -- sometimes you hear kids say, mother, they're not doing it that way anymore. They're really are not because we're in a changing world. But if the child -- the family goes on with the child and mentors come in, you'd be surprised at the change in the relationship.

MR. ALLEN STINSON: Yes, Mr. President, my name is Allen Stinson. I'm a mortgage banker in the area. And I'd like to assist some of the businessmen like the gentlemen here that was devastated with his building being burned down through the SBA. Will we be able to work with the SBA and acquire some loans for these people in an expeditious manner? Is it going to be a long, drawn-out process that it normally is with the SBA? Or are we going to be able to work with them a little faster?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we can get instructions to Pat Saiki, who is here, to speed this process up. Now, I hope we're successful. We will keep on it to see that we are. You might ask her just on this one specific -- right behind you -- because that is the underlying as to what we're trying to do here and it is very, very important in the reconstruction.

REVEREND HILL: All have not spoken and I think you'll understand. We are honored to have the Governor and I would like for him to be the last speaker.

GOVERNOR WILSON: Thank you, Reverend Hill.

Mr. President, I think you've heard that this is a community that cherishes not only its roots, but the future of this entire city. What you heard today are people who want to be part of the solution. They believe, as Jack Kemp believes, that ownership is part of that future. They believe that not just educational opportunity, but real opportunity in an economic way has to be an underpinning.

I think that Dr. Thelma and Warren have spoken to another kind of rebuilding that has to occur, and that is we have to see to it that young men can no longer casually father children and walk away. We have to see to it that the family does give the kind of support and kind of values that would prevent someone from pulling out of the cab of a truck and beating them senseless.

I think Reverend Hill has provided us with a forum that is remarkable in many respects. What you've seen is infinite goodwill, infinite desire to see a future for this community in which white, black are disregarded as anything but individuals who should be valued upon what they do, upon who they are.

I think, Reverend Hill, that this is a beginning. It may be the centennial for Mt. Zion, but I think it is a new beginning for Los Angeles.

REVEREND KIRKLAND: I think Dr. Hill is owed a rising vote of thanks. (Applause.)

REVEREND HILL: Let me just say, Mr. President, again, we'd like to be of help to you. One of my strong

recommendations was and is -- and I think these people here will back it -- that if the drug situation in this country demanded a czar and a commission to find a solution, to flush out where it is, to punish those; if every other major crisis in this world you appoint a czar, a commission to find the solution and to bring it to you; race relations in the United States today is potentially more dangerous than drugs. (Applause.)

And I urge you as I did last week, to appoint a top blue ribbon committee. Our people, if they knew where all of this was that's available, would use it. We don't know. And I'll give you a joke and I'm through. There was a Negro down in Alabama who had never used a telephone before. And she picked it up and she said, "Number, please." He said, "What do you mean, number?" She said, "What number do you want?" He said, "Don't get smart with me. What numbers do you have?" (Laughter.)

Throughout this nation we have the equipment to find the problem and support what's already on the books. Some of it's no new money, we just don't know it's there. Some of it is no new laws, they just need to be enforced.

For instance, for civil rights, if somebody had explained thoroughly two weeks ago that there's another step, that if this court situation didn't go over, we still can go through the civil rights bill -- the streets didn't have that knowledge. They felt that they had hit a blank wall and nothing else could happen.

We need a blue ribbon committee to help you to point out -- and we have the minds throughout this country -- to point out what does Jack Kemp have. They think he has just trillions of dollars and he's sitting on and won't let go. They think Sullivan has a total gold mine and won't let the lever up. And that creates tension. We need a top nonpolitical blue ribbon committee to address -- the number one issue, besides salvation, in this nation right now is race relations. And I don't see it getting better until something gigantic speaks to it and show that we probably have enough laws, we probably have enough money, we probably have enough of this, but we've got to see that it's there and get it out.

And I just reiterate that again. And thank you for coming to Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. (Applause.)

END

9:45 A.M. PDT

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6 they shall rule the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nim'rod with the drawn sword;ⁿ and they^o shall deliver us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land and treads within our border.

7 Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers upon the grass, which tarry not for men nor wait for the sons of men.

8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among the flocks of sheep, which, when it goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver.

9 Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries, and all your enemies shall be cut off.

10 And in that day, says the LORD, I will cut off your horses from among you and will destroy your chariots;

11 and I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds;

12 and I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more soothsayers;

13 and I will cut off your images and your pillars from among you, and you shall bow down no more to the work of your hands;

14 and I will root out your A-shē'rim from among you and destroy your cities.

15 And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance upon the nations that did not obey.

6 Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains,

ⁿ Heb * Cn Compare Gk: Heb obscure ^l Ch 5.1 in Heb
^o Heb he

and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember what Bā'lak king of Mō'ab devised, and what Balaam the son of Bē'or answered him, and what happened from Shit'tim to Gil'gal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

6 "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8 He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,^p and to walk humbly with your God?

9 The voice of the LORD cries to the city— and it is sound wisdom to fear thy name: "Hear, O tribe and assembly of the city!"

10 Can I forget^r the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed?

11 Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights?

12 Your^s rich men are full of violence; your^s inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

13 Therefore I have begun^t to smite you, making you desolate because of your sins.

14 You shall eat, but not be satisfied, and there shall be hunger in your inward parts; you shall put away, but not save, and what you save I will give to the sword.

15 You shall sow, but not reap; you shall tread olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.

16 For you have kept the statutes of Om'ri,^u and all the works of the house of A'hab; and you have walked in their counsels; that I may make you a desolation, and your^v inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of the peoples."^w

7 Woe is me! For I have become as when the summer fruit has been gathered, as when the vintage has been gleaned: there is no cluster to eat, no first-ripe fig which my soul desires.

2 The godly man has perished from the earth, and there is none upright among men; they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts his brother with a net.

3 Their hands are upon what is evil, to do it diligently; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe,

^r Or steadfast love ^s Cn Compare Gk: Heb and who has appointed it yet ^t Cn: Heb uncertain
^u Heb whose ^v Gk Syr Vg: Heb have made sick ^w Gk Syr Vg Tg: Heb the statutes of Omri are kept
^x Heb its ^y Gk: Heb my people

(Grossman)
May 5, 1992
Draft One
CHURCH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MOUNT ZION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1992

[Acknowledgements]. Thank you Rev. Hill for those words of guidance and of hope. They remind me of the words of another Baptist minister, a man from Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. Martin Luther King told us that "the time is always ripe to do right." That's why we're here.

I've come to Mount Zion on this National Day of Prayer, as a man who cares about his family. Not just the one I share with my wife and my children -- but the one I share with you. For better or for worse, in sickness or in health, America is one family -- One Nation Under God. You see, I believe that we are our brother's keeper. Not to keep him back. Not to keep him down. But to keep him warm and safe. To keep him in our hearts and in our counsel.

I've been keeping quite a bit of that counsel these past few days. From the advice of Rev. Hill \ to the guidance of civil rights leaders \ to the letters of thousands of Americans just like you. The cynics can paint it any which way they like. That won't change what I feel, and that can't change what I've done. In ways small and large, I have spent a good part of my life working on something we want to give to our grandchildren: an America where they can work and play -- freely \ safely \ and together.

I believe we've made progress. We killed Jim Crow. We leveled the legal walls that divided us. Most recently, we took another step: on [date] I was proud to sign ground-breaking civil rights legislation -- not because it was the easy thing to do \ not because it was the political thing to do \ but because it was the right thing to do. *next gen v. next elec*

too technical { But the real solution is more than tearing down bad laws -- it is building up good will. No law can reach what we have in our hearts -- no code can change what we have in our conscience. Government can abolish "back of the bus" rules -- but it can't make people share a seat. It can punish cruel acts -- but it can't silence cruel words. Government can make good laws -- but it can't make men good.

I heard a story about one good man. Another man of the cloth, Rev. Bennie Newton, laid his life -- literally -- on the line because he believed he was his brother's keeper. During the riots he saw a man being beaten to his knees, beaten to the ground. Despite the threats and the blows, Bennie walked into the fray and laid his body over the bloody man until the beating stopped. "My heart was crying," said the pastor. He saved the man's life.

May 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVE
DAN

FROM: JAG

SUBJECT: TV INTERVIEWS WITH GOOD SAMARITANS

Culled from the tube: two interviews with two samaritans (black) who aided two victims of mob violence.

CBS This Morning, Paula Zahn

Bennie Newton, an African-American pastor, arrived home Wednesday night and watched with horror the violence on the evening news. He and other preachers had been trying to come up with answers. Bennie decided to become one. "I felt I had to go down to do what I could," he recalled, "and I'm glad I did."

He walked downtown into the heart of the violence, "a street storm," he called it. He saw a man being beaten by a crowd of about 20. He moved to defend the man, saying, "Please stop, let's bring some sense into this." They pushed him aside, and were it not for his collar, would have probably beaten him too.

The beating continued, culminating when someone picked up a speaker and threw it down on the victim's head. At this point, the Reverend covered the man's body with his own -- shielding it from the mob. When he got a chance, he dragged the man to a gutted van and hid him there. Then he went to get his own car, and drove him to the hospital. Later, when he saw the reaction of the victim's family, he said "my heart was crying." The man, Mr. Lopez, is in stable condition.

Today Show, Bryant Gumbel

Greg Alan-Williams, an African-American actor and writer, was driving by a violent intersection and saw a mob of angry men swarming over a stalled car. The crowd was smashing and crawling through the windows of the vehicle, beating its driver in the face with beer bottles, and dragging him out of the car.

Our hero (sigh) got a hold of the man and started pulling him across the street. The bleeding man could hardly stand, but Williams told him: "You have to walk or you're going to die." They struggled through the jeering crowd, trying to find safety. Williams pulled him along the street, seeking shelter -- but no one would take them in, no one would help (shades of the Seven Stations). Finally, another good samaritan offered his van, and they took the man to the hospital.

Mr. Williams said that he and his family stand ready to help heal the victim and his family.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

May 7, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Angeles, California

9:10 A.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Reverend Hill. Let me just say to his parishioners and to his fellow members of the clergy that we Bushes have great respect for your pastor, respect for what he stands for, respect for his leadership and respect for his emphasis on family values.

I listened to prayers with wonder, admiration. I think we got a pretty good start, don't you, with Miss Elmore singing -- (applause) -- but I heard what His Eminence, Colonel Mahoney said about racial tension; we must address that. What Bishop McMurray and Dr. Billy Ingram said about healing; we've got to address that. What Dr. Massey said about the importance of the church. And as you look at the chaos and turmoil in this country, not just in the wake of the riots of Los Angeles, but all the problems we face in the country, the problems we face internationally, I keep coming back to my own thinking: to the importance of the church, the importance of our faith.

And then Reverend Massey talked about this is no time for blame. And he's right about that. This is not a time for blame. And I am not here in the mode of politics, I am not here in the mode of partisanship, I am not here in the mode of blame. I'm here to learn from the community, and at this moment to tell you of the values that I strongly believe in.

When Reverend Hill and other national leaders came last Friday to the White House, I reminded the group of what Mayor Tom Bradley and other mayors -- urban mayors, rural mayors -- had to tell me not so many months ago. They told me of their concerns for their cities, their municipalities. But they came together on one key point: They told me that their major concern about the problems in the cities was the decline of the American family, the fact that the family is weaker today. I think that we have simply got to find ways to help strengthen the American family. This church does that for the immediate family; all of your churches do that for the families of your parishioners. But we've got to broaden it out.

This church brings the generations -- grandparents, great-grandparents and grandkids -- here to work within this church. That strengthens the American family. And to give the kids not only indoctrination into faith and into the teachings of the Lord, but the church helps kids understand the larger family. We are one nation under God. We must remember that. We must advocate that. We must continue to state that we are one nation under God.

And we are our brother's keeper. Not to keep him back. Not to keep him down. But to keep him well and to keep him safe, and to give him a shot at the American dream. Family values, that means respect for one another, and it does mean honor thy mother and thy father.

MORE

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I talked to Barbara this morning and told her a little bit -- I didn't know it fully -- about what Reverend E.V. Hill had in store for all of us today, but particularly for me. He had failed to point out that he had the distinguished leaders of various denominations here and that I would be flanked behind me by people who are active pastors in the wonderful churches of this area. And she told me, she said, you've got your nerve -- you've got a lot of nerve to stand up in front of all those people and tell them what you think about values. (Laughter.) But I'm going to try anyway. (Laughter.)

I do want to single out Reverend Jones and Mrs. Jones for what they do -- reaching across the states, bringing help to others. That's family. That's God's family. Family values means the church must continue to teach the kids right from wrong.

I was over at a supermarket, and the guy with tears in his eyes was telling me, one of my own employees came in and took stuff out of this store. And he couldn't understand it. We've got to teach right from wrong. Government cannot do that. We can try, those of us in public life, to set reasonably good examples of family and faith. But the values have to be taught, and the church has a tremendously important role on that.

I think that when Barbara reads to kids that she is emphasizing not just the importance of education that we all believe in -- so many of you working with children -- but she's emphasizing the importance of the role of grandparents; even more, the importance of love.

To struggle against hard times, to overcome the devastation of poverty, of racism or of riots, we need our family. We need our own family, we need our church family, and we must find ways to strengthen America as a family. Back to what the Cardinal said: We are embarrassed by interracial violence and prejudice. We're ashamed. We should take nothing but sorrow out of all of that and do our level best to see that it's eliminated from the American dream. A family that respects the law, a family that can lift others up. We need a family that is truly committed to faith; for, again, we are one nation under God -- a family that says "I'm my brother's keeper." But it's here -- it was here in the ugliest moments of the rioting, the brother's keeper aspect. I saw it in a police station just now. And God bless the honest policemen that are defending the families of the neighborhood -- all of them. (Applause.)

But the message they got to me this morning was a little different than the one that I see in that first two minutes on the evening news. This was a message of forgiving and healing. How neighbors had called in and said, here's where you can go and pick up some looted goods, or brought them to the police station so that they could be returned to their owners. We don't hear enough of that kind of family action or that kind of fellowship.

Another pastor, Reverend Bennie Newton, laid his life on the line for his brother. He saw a man literally beaten into the ground. And he waded through the fray and he laid his body on top of the victim until the beating stopped. And here's what he said. He said, "My heart was crying," but the bottom line is, he saved that man's life. He was his brother's keeper. These are the stories that I think America needs to know about. We saw the violence. We've seen the hatred. And we've got to heal, to see the love.

Los Angeles is going to recover. This is a great city. (Applause.) And I have pledged to the Governor, to the Mayor the full support of the federal government. And if I might take one mention of personal pride here to say that I'm very pleased the way these departments in the federal government have responded. Not to preempt, not to get credit -- again, not to assign blame, but to supplement the work in the communities, the work of the Mayor, the

MORE

- 3 -

work of the Council and the work of the Governor. And I'm proud that Lou Sullivan, our Secretary of HHS; and Jack Kemp, our Secretary of HUD are here today. And many others wanted to be with me, but somebody had to mind the store back there. (Laughter.)

Now, Los Angeles will recover. I believe it is well on its way to recovery, thanks to what the local government and the state government and the federal presence are doing. And as Los Angeles comes back to its glory, all of us must ask ourselves: What can we do to help?

This is no time to outline federal programs. This is a National Day of Prayer. This is a day to give our thanks. But we will do what we can to help and to assist and to lead in this reconciliation. To truly help, we've got to understand the agony of the depressed. You can't solve the problem if you don't feel its heartbeat. You've got to understand the hopelessness of those who literally have had no opportunity.

Trucks bringing food and bricks and mortar are rolling into Los Angeles. And this city will be rebuilt. And I am confident that new opportunities will arise. But all across this nation, we've got to renew our fight to strengthen the American family. It isn't a burnt-out area in Los Angeles. It isn't California. It is the entire country. That's where everyone in this room, everyone in this hallowed sanctuary comes in. We've got to find ways to do that. We've got to fight against discrimination. We've got to continue to speak out against bigotry. We've got to fight for justice and equality. And on this National Day of Prayer it is fitting that we pray to God to help us.

Abraham Lincoln was right -- you can't do it alone. If we asked him what he did in times of turmoil -- you think of the problems he faced -- he said, I spent a lot of my time on my knees. We have to understand that that faith is still terribly important to leaders, terribly important to citizens that lead these communities.

So I pray to God that he will give us the strength and the wisdom to bring the family together -- the American family. Barbara and I prayed that our personal family and your personal families will be engulfed in God's love, and that every kid will have someone who knows his name and really cares about him.

One little four-year-old girl -- maybe you heard the story -- Ryan Bennett -- prayed special prayers as she saw her neighborhood riddled with bullets, her candy store destroyed. And Ryan said, "I asked God if he could make it so it's not dark anymore." Let this nation vow to help that it won't be dark. (Applause.)

END

9:30 A.M. PDT