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Firefighters Video Script 7/20/92 [OA 7577]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

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*very nice.*

(Walters)  
July 20, 1992  
Draft Two  
FIRE

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FIREFIGHTERS

Good morning. I wish I could be with you today in Vancouver. Instead I send my best wishes from the District of Columbia to all of you in British Columbia at the 41st Biennial Convention of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

I speak for our entire Nation when I thank you for your hard work, determination, and courage. Whether it's saving a child from a burning building, responding to an emergency, or fighting fires in a crowded city, you are the first line of defense in so many life-threatening situations.

Few people have a tougher commute to the job or a harder day in the office than firefighters. Your valor in the line of duty means saved lives and second chances. (And at the end of the day, when your muscles are aching, your bodies are scarred, and your faces are blackened with soot, you can rest assured that your bravery and tenacity are appreciated.) Some of us owe you our lives, and the rest of us owe you our gratitude.

The IAFF and your president, Al Whitehead, also deserve special thanks for work in fire and safety programs, hazardous materials training programs, and for generous support of the Burn Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. You are our nation's -- and Canada's -- finest. Keep up the good work, and may God bless you all.

# # #

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July 20, 1992  
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# # #

(Walters)  
July 20, 1992  
Draft One  
FIRE

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Good morning. I wish I could be with you today in Vancouver. Instead I send my best wishes from the District of Columbia to all of you in British Columbia at the 41st Biennial Convention of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

I speak for our entire Nation when I thank you for your work, determination, and courage. Whether it's saving a child from a burning building, responding to an emergency, or fighting fires in a crowded city, you are the first line of defense in so many life-threatening situations. For an often thankless job -- you have my sincere appreciation.

? dangerous, yes.  
but thankless?

This year our nation watched as Los Angeles fire fighters worked relentlessly to contain a blazing city. And when some of your brothers and sisters were shot at by rioters, all Americans were outraged. We owe them and all of you a great debt of gratitude.

*will this work?*

*We saw that — on trial(?) in Los Angeles.*

The IAFF and your president, Al Whitehead, deserve special credit for work in fire and safety programs, hazardous materials training programs, and <sup>for your generous</sup> support of the Burn Foundation and Muscular Dystrophy. You are our nation's -- and our world's -- finest. Keep up the good work, and may God Bless you all.

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**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS  
FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET**

TO: Ed Walters

ORGANIZATION: The White House

FAX NUMBER: 456-6218

DATE: 7/21/92 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

FROM: George Burke, Dir. of Communications

PHONE NUMBER: (202) 737-8484

FAX NUMBER: (202) 737-8418

NOTES/COMMENTS: Background info. - IAFF  
Convention

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 4

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS  
1750 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-5395**



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

ALFRED K. WHITEHEAD  
President

VINCENT J. BOLLON  
Secretary-Treasurer

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed Walters, The White House

FROM: George Burke, IAFF Director of PR & Communications

RE: Background and Potential Talking Points for The President's  
Videotaped Remarks to the IAFF Convention in Vancouver, B.C.

DATE: July 21, 1992

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Per your conversation today with Harold Schaitberger, I am providing you with a memo on background and talking points on the IAFF. If you want further information, don't hesitate to call me at 737-8484.

### BACKGROUND:

The 41st Biennial Convention of the International Association of Fire Fighters will be held at the Vancouver Convention Center August 3 to 7. More than 2,000 delegates, alternates, and guests from across the United States and Canada will gather for the event.

The two Principal Officers of the IAFF are: President Alfred K. Whitehead and Secretary-Treasurer Vincent J. Bollon.

The IAFF represents 195,000 career (professional) fire fighters and emergency medical service personnel. The IAFF, founded in 1918, is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The Preamble to the IAFF Constitution and By-Laws, written in 1918, reads:

*The International Association of Fire Fighters was formed to achieve the following objectives: To organize all fire fighters; to secure just compensation for their services and equitable settlement of their grievances; to promote the establishment of just and reasonable working conditions; to place the members of the Association on a higher plane of skill and efficiency; to promote harmonious relations between fire fighters and their employers; to encourage the formation of local unions, state and provincial associations, and joint councils; to encourage the formation of sick and death benefit funds; to encourage the establishment of schools of instruction for imparting knowledge of modern*

*and improved methods of fire fighting and prevention; and to cultivate friendship and fellowship among its members."*

To this day, the concepts embodied by the Preamble still hold true for the IAFF.

The IAFF is a member of the AFL-CIO in the U.S, as well as the Canadian Labour Congress in Canada. The IAFF has local affiliates in every state of the Union and represents fire fighters in every Canadian province except Quebec.

Each year the IAFF holds National Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C., and Ottawa, ONT. Fire fighters converge on the U.S. and Canadian capitals to review the issues affecting the IAFF and the fire service, and to meet with members of Congress to discuss those issues. We have received a great many favorable comments from Capitol Hill and Parliament Hill concerning the quality of presentations made by IAFF members to MCs and MPs.

Fire fighting is one of the most dangerous jobs in North America. One out of every three fire fighters is injured in the line of duty each year. Too many fire fighters are killed in the line of duty each year. Needless to say, the IAFF devotes a lot of attention to matters affecting the health and safety of fire fighters. Many of the advances in health and safety over the last 70 years are the result of IAFF actions. The IAFF holds a major symposium, every two years, known as the "Redmond Symposium" which deals with the latest matters involving occupational health and safety as it affects the fire service. It attracts doctors, government officials, and fire service professionals.

The IAFF has been developing a comprehensive hazardous materials training program for fire fighters and other workers who must handle hazardous materials under a multi-year federal grant from the National Institute for Environmental Health Services. The hazardous materials training program, which drew praise from President Bush in his video address to the 1990 IAFF Convention in St. Louis, has been adopted by many fire departments and some states as their official haz-mat training program.

The IAFF has worked very closely over the years with NIOSH and NTSB on fire fighter health and safety matters and safety matters involving fire apparatus.

#### SOME RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS:

Besides issuing greetings and best wishes, the message should be upbeat and provide praise for the fire fighters and the fire fighting and emergency medical services professions. (Many of our members are "cross-trained, dual role fire fighter/EMS personnel). Remember, these are professional career fire fighters, not volunteers.

Here are some suggested points to ponder:

✓ There are many heroes among you -- not just the few who get heralded in the media -- but the rest of you who are the unsung heroes who risk your lives to protect the lives and property of others.

✓ Fire fighters are called upon to make tremendous sacrifices. You often work in a hostile and uncontrollable environment. You are always expected to control the unexpected.

✓ Fire fighters and emergency medical service personnel are two of the most admired professions in North America -- and for good reason.

✓ When fire fighters speak, government listens. Because of your professional expertise and your willingness to make your case before the federal government, the IAFF is respected and has credibility in Washington.

✓ The Convention Slogan is "A Proud Profession. A Bold Union. A Brighter Future." You may want to relate to this slogan.

✓ Fire fighters are givers. The IAFF membership is the largest sponsor of the Muscular Dystrophy Assn. In 1991, the IAFF, through its membership, raised more than \$8 million for MDA. Over the last 35 years, the IAFF has raised more than \$100 million for MDA. As Labor Day, when the Telethon is held, draws near, fire fighters across the U.S. and Canada can be found on street corners asking the public to help "Fill the Boot" for MDA.

✓ Fire fighters know they are role models and they perform many activities that benefit the public outside of their normal jobs. Look at any community in North America and you will find fire fighters involved in activities ranging from bicycle inspections and smoke detector giveaways to social programs to keep kids off the streets and drugs or help them to better themselves.

✓ The non-profit IAFF Burn Foundation is the largest funder of burn research and education after the federal government. As a member of the Combined Federal Campaign, the IAFF Burn Foundation receives donations from federal employees as well as fire fighters. The Burn Foundation is devoted to improving the quality of life for all burn victims. More senior citizens and children are burned than any other group.

✓ The IAFF has been the driving force behind many of the federal and state laws that safeguard the health and safety of fire fighters.

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Draft Video Greeting Remarks for President Bush  
IAFF Convention -- Aug.3

*Firefighter Convention*

Good morning. Although I can't be with you today in beautiful Vancouver, I would like to take this opportunity to send my greetings to the 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

I want to tell you how deeply impressed I am with your tremendous work, determination and courage. Whether it's saving a child from a burning building, responding to a 911 emergency or fighting fires in a crowded city, fire fighters are the first line of defense for so many life-threatening situations.

This year the nation watched as Los Angeles fire fighters worked relentlessly to contain a blazing city. And when some of your brothers and sisters were shot at by rioters, all Americans were outraged.

The theme of your Convention, "A Proud Profession, A Bold Union, and a Brighter Future," certainly captures the spirit of fire fighters everywhere.

The IAFF and your President, Al Whitehead, deserve special credit for your work on behalf of fire and safety programs and for your excellent hazardous materials training programs.

And, your Union puts no limits on its willingness to give back to society, as evidenced by your dedicated work in support of the Burn Foundation and Muscular Dystrophy.

Keep up the good work, and may God Bless you.

*Kris Phillip*  
223-8700



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

ALFRED K. WHITEHEAD  
President

VINCENT J. BOLLON  
Secretary-Treasurer

*6/3 - Sent  
to Linda DeMart -*

April 22, 1992

*check w/  
Mara Monday -*

Mr. Barry Tron  
Director of Public Events & Initiatives  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Tron:

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) will host its general convention in Vancouver, Canada, August 3 - 7, 1992. We extended an invitation to the President to address our delegates at the convention, but were informed that he will be unable to attend.

While my fellow fire fighters would have been honored by and truly enjoyed an address from the President, we would also greatly appreciate a taped video greeting from him. The greeting need only be a minute or two.

This greeting would be shown to all delegates, alternates, guests and the press in attendance, numbering over 3,000. *America*

The IAFF stands ready to provide you with any information or assistance necessary to prepare and tape a greeting from the President. Chris Phillip, our representative at the Kamber Group, will contact you shortly regarding this matter.

The President's consideration of this request and your attention to it are both tremendously appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Newsletter - 200,000  
publi members...*

Sincerely,

*Harold A. Schaitberger*

Harold A. Schaitberger  
Executive Assistant to the President

*very well  
received -  
inclusion  
by president*

HAS:clh



