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Folder Title:
Ed Derwinski, 3/15/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	19	2	6	2

IF HERE, ONE LIVES
2 OR 3 \$ ON STAFF
IF AT VETS -
HERE OR VET -
DON'T KNOW IF
- DECIDE -
NOW -

ASAP - NO LATER MARCH 8

vote today

swearing-in
March 15

DERWINSKI

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SHIRLEY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

POSTAL CLERK - NOT A HERO -

Filmclip BUSH announcing
DERW.

Redest sport coat morning
he got the call from G.B.
Pushes home, resp. suit/

FIRST TIME CONCEDE COAT -

- GIST: BUSH: ED - TALENT -
NEVER PUT TOGETHER. BUSH,
RW/ ED. OW HUSTING - ~~ETA~~
ETHNIC

ED WORD "CRONIES" - DEEP
INTO CONG. DIPLOMACY,

TIES RUN FOR long. long
time - STYLES LAID - BACK,
HANDS ON." FRIENDS + COLLEAGUES !!

Davis/Simon
March 8, 9:30 p.m.

DERWINSKI SWEARING-IN
2:15 P.M., MARCH 15, 1989
IWO JIMA MONUMENT

Good afternoon, Ed, Bonnie, Maureen and Michael. Good to see you Tony. (Bill Mauldin -- "Willie and Joe")

(Ed, you should know that if you had worn your gold-and-black checkered jacket with your tomato red beret -- the White House camera crew would have gone on strike.)

From where we are standing, we can see most of the landmarks of this town. Across the river, Abraham Lincoln reposes majestically in his chair of stone. Thomas Jefferson commands our respect as a bronzed giant underneath a dome of marble. And the Washington Monument rises above the level surface of the Mall -- much as our first President dominated his time.

We glorify our greatest leaders. But we do not build these ^{marble} ivory temples to honor them alone. We honor the enduring principles for which they stood. And we honor the millions of men and women who have been ready throughout the history of our nation to defend those principles.

There have been three calls to arms in the living memory of most Americans or their parents. Behind me, a fleeting moment of victory, first captured in a ~~Life Magazine~~ ^{Associated Press} photograph, is now cast for the ages in bronze. No one who lived through that war will ever forget that picture, or what it meant to us . . . certainly not this former pilot of an Avenger torpedo bomber. Over to our ^{left} (direction) is yet another monument to America's World War Two veteran -- the Netherlands Carillon (Care-ah-lawn).?

✓ [>] We have yet to honor the veterans of the Korean War in such a way, ^{although I'm glad to see planning more forward.} But three weeks ago I saw the best monument to these brave Americans there could possibly be -- the nation of South Korea itself, a new-born democracy rescued by American sacrifice, protected by American strength.

Across the river, just below the horizon, are the chiseled names of the Vietnam Memorial; a somber salute to those who fell, and all who answered the call to duty. May we never cease to honor them, in name and deed.

Finally, let us never forget those men and women in the Armed Forces who, even in peacetime, risk their lives in a hardship post or a dangerous assignment. ^{whether it's standing on station on a carrier off the Persian Gulf, or an anti-terrorist unit, waiting endlessly for the call we hope never comes.}

Gettysburg

The meaning of a monument, as Lincoln said of the battlefield at Gettysburg, is "far above our poor power to add or detract." *The words of that speech are carved in stone in his memorial behind me.* Speeches and stone are inadequate repayment for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

But that doesn't free us of obligation. If you go to the front entrance of the Veteran's Affairs Department, you will see another quote from Abraham Lincoln, etched in stone, calling on us: "to care for him who shall *have* borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." *2nd Inaugural*

This is the mission of the new Department of Veterans Affairs, which today officially assumes the duties of the Veterans Administration. I consider the new department to have a vital mission. In fact, it is so vital, that there is only one place for the veterans of America -- in the Cabinet Room, at the right-hand side of the President of the United States of America . . .

As the first Secretary of this new Department, Ed Derwinski will set a precedent. He is uniquely suited for this role, having served with distinction in both the legislative and the executive branches of government.

My friendship with Ed goes back to my days as a freshman Congressman from Houston. And I know that for Ed, the House of Representatives is still a second home inhabited by many friends. No former colleague of Ed's can forget his unfailing good humor. Nor will veterans forget his good work -- Ed's cheerful handling of a heavy burden of casework, cutting red-tape so that thousands of veterans could receive their pensions, medical benefits and military honors.

At the State Department, Ed packed the achievements of a whole career into a few years. He worked with Congress, conducted special international negotiations with Canada, Iceland and Pacific nations, acted as a senior official for refugee policy and programs, and prevented the diversion of sensitive U.S. technology to unfriendly nations.

In short, Ed Derwinski has the skill of a seasoned legislator, the patience of a practiced administrator, the finesse of a diplomat -- and the heart of a man who knows what it means to start his government career as a private in the U.S. Army.

This is a unique combination of experience and skills. And make no mistake, the job requires someone with Ed Derwinski's background and talents.

This new department must match vast resources to vast needs. Almost one out of every three U.S. citizens is a potential V.A. beneficiary. Count among them 27 million veterans and 53 million dependents and survivors.

Ed will oversee a department with almost a quarter of a million employees -- the second largest civilian task force in the government -- administering a budget of more than \$28.29 billion.

VA
fact
sheet

FY 90
Budget
OMB

The Department of Veterans Affairs will provide compensation to service-disabled veterans, pensions for low-income veterans and survivors, educational assistance and vocational rehabilitation. It guarantees the home loans for 12 million families, and operates the fifth largest insurance industry in America.

It also runs the nation's largest medical system, with 172 hospitals, and hundreds of outpatient clinics and nursing homes.

But the best resource of the new Department is its people -- men and women who live up to the highest ideal of public service every day. They have my sincerest gratitude for a job well done.

It is only appropriate, given this setting, to note one other task assigned to the Veterans Affairs Department -- to tend and care for 112 national cemeteries across America. There is no power or glamour in such a job. But there is caring and respect -- for those who are gone, and for those who grieve.

VA
fact
sheet

Behind us is one such garden of stone, Arlington National Cemetery, the one national cemetery under the care of the U.S. Army. Here sleep the heroes of every service, Marine, soldier, sailor, Air Force; lost youth that can only be measured in centuries.

475-08
56
695-3175
Cemetery

A President could have no more poignant a reminder that he is charged with a great trust. It is my duty, as President of ~~the United States~~, to see to it that our armed forces are so strong, and our diplomacy so wise, that we need never again to erect another monument to ~~American war dead.~~

Commander-in-Chief

the casualties of war.

A free America in a world at peace. Together, we have achieved that goal. Together, we can preserve it. And if we do, then surely that peace will be the truest monument to our veterans . . .

Ed, congratulations, and thanks for all that you have already done. We've got a big job ahead. I look forward to working closely with you in the years to come.

#

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AP-DERWINSKI CONFIRMATION

BY GUY DARST

WASHINGTON (AP) -- EDWARD J. DERWINSKI, PRESIDENT BUSH'S NOMINEE TO HEAD THE NEW VETERANS DEPARTMENT, TOLD SENATORS WEDNESDAY HE DOESN'T BELIEVE HE PUT ANYONE IN DANGER WITH AN UNTHINKING WARNING TO THE KOREAN EMBASSY THAT ONE OF ITS AGENTS WAS ABOUT TO DEFECT.

HE CALLED HIS REMARK, IN 1977, A "RATHER STUPID THING TO DO."

"WITH THE LUXURY OF HINDSIGHT, IT WAS A COMMENT THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE," DERWINSKI SAID IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS OF THE SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING.

"IT CERTAINLY WAS NOT GOOD JUDGMENT. .. I OBVIOUSLY WISH I HADN'T DONE IT."

DERWINSKI WAS THE RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF A HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE "KOREAGATE" SCANDAL IN SEPTEMBER 1977 WHEN HE WAS TOLD BY THE COMMITTEE STAFF THAT A KOREAN OFFICIAL WAS GOING TO DEFECT TO THE COMMITTEE.

IN WRITTEN ANSWERS TO VETERANS COMMITTEE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED EARLIER AND RELEASED WEDNESDAY, DERWINSKI SAID HE ENCOUNTERED A KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL THAT DAY ON THE STEPS OF, OR NEAR, THE LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING.

"IN THE PROCESS OF THE CONVERSATION, AND WITHOUT GIVING THE MATTER ANY SERIOUS THOUGHT, I CASUALLY OBSERVED SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE NEXT PROBLEM THEY WOULD HAVE WITH OUR COMMITTEE WAS ONE OF THEIR OFFICIALS AS A WITNESS."

HE ADDED WEDNESDAY, "I HONESTLY DO NOT BELIEVE I EVER ENDANGERED ANYONE."

THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS EXAMINED THE KOREAN AGENT QUESTION TWICE BEFORE. HOWEVER, DERWINSKI'S 1983 AND 1987 CONFIRMATIONS FOR STATE DEPARTMENT POSTS ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION.

DERWINSKI HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO HEAD THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WHEN THE VA BECOMES A CABINET DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 15.

IN INITIAL QUESTIONING, NO SENATOR CRITICIZED HIS ACTION IN THE KOREAN MATTER, BUT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALAN CRANSTON, D-CALIF., SAID, "I DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE A POSITION UNTIL THE VOTE TOMORROW."

THE COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM A GRAND JURY THAT INVESTIGATED THE 1977 INCIDENT. DERWINSKI, UNDER QUESTIONING BY CRANSTON, SAID THAT ON THE ADVICE OF HIS ATTORNEY HE HAD DECLINED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS BY THE GRAND JURY, CITING "THE SPEECH AND DEBATE CLAUSE" OF THE CONSTITUTION ON GROUNDS OF "POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH INTO MY DUTIES" AS A CONGRESSMAN.

AP-WX-03-01-89 1951EST

VETERANS BUDGET
BY GUY BARSZ

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE NOMINEE TO HEAD THE NEW CABINET-LEVEL VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO WIN ADMINISTRATION APPROVAL TO SEEK EXTRA MONEY FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

EDWARD J. DERWINSKI TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE \$520 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR WHICH HE IS SEEKING APPROVAL FROM THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WOULD BE AN ADD-ON TO THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S PLANNED SPENDING FOR THE 1990 FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCT. 1.

"IF THERE IS AN '89 SUPPLEMENTAL, WHICH I DOUBT, WE'LL HAVE A SHOT THERE," DERWINSKI SAID AFTER A SPEECH TO AN AMERICAN LEGION MEETING.

DERWINSKI HAS PREVIOUSLY ADMITTED FAILURE SO FAR TO WIN OMB APPROVAL FOR A REQUEST FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR MEDICAL CARE THIS YEAR, THE 1989 FISCAL YEAR.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE SAID SINCE LAST FALL THEIR \$10.8 BILLION MEDICAL CARE BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WOULD BE ABOUT \$600 MILLION TO \$1 BILLION SHORT OF WHAT THE 130-HOSPITAL SYSTEM NEEDS.

OVERALL VETERANS SPENDING IS BUDGETED AT \$29.77 BILLION IN THE CURRENT YEAR, BUSH PROPOSED \$23.96 BILLION FOR 1990, OF WHICH \$10.99 BILLION WOULD BE FOR MEDICAL CARE.

LAST WEEK, THE HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE ADDITIONAL SPENDING THIS YEAR OF \$520 MILLION, 99 PERCENT OF IT FOR MEDICAL CARE, AND \$1.3 BILLION MORE FOR NEXT YEAR, 95 PERCENT OF IT FOR MEDICAL CARE.

IN HIS SPEECH, DERWINSKI CAUTIONED SEVERAL TIMES AGAINST ASSUMING THAT THE NEW CABINET STATUS TO TAKE EFFECT NEXT MONTH WOULD AUTOMATICALLY MEAN MORE MONEY.

"I'M GOING TO WIN SOME BATTLES! I'M GOING TO LOSE SOME BATTLES, BUT WE'LL GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY," HE SAID.

AP-WX-02-27-89 115855T

AP, 3/2/89

Derwinski Gets Unanimously OK

WASHINGTON (AP) | The Senate voted 94-0 confirmation Thursday night of Edward J. Derwinski as the first secretary of veterans affairs, despite a statement by one key senator that "significant ethical questions" were raised by Derwinski's 1977 tip to South Korea that one of its agents was about to defect.

"Mr. Derwinski made significant mistakes in 1977 in making the disclosure and since then on a number of occasions in dissembling as to what he had done," said Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

"I find that these actions and statements raise significant ethical questions," Cranston said at a committee session on the nomination a few hours before the floor vote. The dissembling, he told reporters later, continued "into 1989."

Despite Cranston's comments, the panel voted 10-0 to recommend confirmation by the full Senate. Hours later, the Senate went along.

In the final tally, those not voting were Sens. David Boren, D-Okla.; David Durenberger, R-Minn.; Al Gore, Jr., D-Tenn.; Bob Packwood, R-Ore.; Paul Simon, D-Ill.; and Timothy Wirth, D-Colo.,

Derwinski in 1977 was the senior Republican on a House committee investigating bribery of members of Congress by the Korean government.

He told the Veterans Affairs Committee on Wednesday he inadvertently mentioned in a conversation with a Korean diplomat on or near the steps of a House office building that a Korean official was going to testify before the committee.

Derwinski, 62, denied being the source of the tip until confirmation hearings for a State Department post in 1983 after 12 terms in the House as an Illinois Republican. The hearings and his admission attracted practically no public attention at the time.

Cranston said he was unable to lay out the reasons for his conclusions because they were based on secret information, in some cases information the White House declined to release to Derwinski but did allow senators to inspect.

When weighed against Derwinski's 30 years of service in Congress and the State Department, "I do not find his indiscretions as to this one incident to be disqualifying," Cranston said. "I am optimistic about Mr. Derwinski's potential to rise above this unattractive episode, to put it behind him once and for all."

Derwinski himself did not attend the session and in a statement read by aide Don Smith ignored Cranston's criticisms: "I appreciate the unanimous endorsement of the committee and will now focus my efforts to work for America's veterans."

Senators of both parties praised Cranston for thoroughness and fairness. The senior Republican, Frank Murkowski of Alaska, said he found that Derwinski had answered all questions "adequately to the issue" even though hampered by lack of access to secret information.

Asked if he agreed with Cranston's comments, Murkowski said, "I stand on my statement."

AP-NY-03-02-89 2108EST

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14⁹

17⁶

15²

10⁸

12⁹

10¹⁰

14⁼

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Bill Mauldin - "Willie + Joe"
ENLISTED MAN'S TOUCH -
TOLD THE TRUTH OF THE WAR.

DENNIS BOXX - WILL BE
HERE IN BILL ANDERSON'S
ABSENCE.

EDWARD J. DERWINSKI

Hill Veteran's Friendships Cross Party Lines

THE WASHINGTON POST

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1988

By David S. Broder
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former representative Edward J. Derwinski, the person President-elect George Bush named yesterday as the first head of the new Department of Veterans Affairs, is a crew-cut giant with the build of an overage defensive tackle and a bipartisan host of friends on Capitol Hill who can help protect him from the political pressures sure to be generated in his new job.

Derwinski, 62, served 24 years in the House from a blue-collar district at the south end of Cook County, Ill., and his style makes him more at home in the bars of Chicago Heights than in the paneled conference rooms of the State Department, where he has been a high-level trouble-shooter on foreign aid and other matters for the past six years.

He is a conservative Republican, but he numbers many Democrats among his boosters. Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wis.), the liberal Democrat who heads the Appropriations subcommittee that handles foreign aid, described Derwinski yesterday as "one of the nicest people on this Earth."

Derwinski, Obey added, "was always in a neck-and-neck contest with [Massachusetts Rep.] Sil Conte to see who could wear the worst sports coats in the world. Black and gold checks are his favorite."

As a senior Republican on the Foreign Affairs and the Post Office and Civil Service committees, Derwinski played a key role in engineering passage of legislation for presidents of both parties. "He carried the ball for [President Richard M.] Nixon on the creation of a new postal corporation," recalled Chairman William D. Ford (D-Mich.) of the Post Office committee, "and he was vital to the passage of the Civil Service reform in the Carter years."

House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel (R-Ill.), who said he urged Bush to find a place for Derwinski in his administration, said, "Eddie will do a hell of a job" in the

"He knows the Hill well, and he's made enough speeches about 'bureaucracies' that he'll keep the department lean and mean and make sure the benefits get to the veterans," Michel said.

Derwinski's House career ended in 1982 when redistricting forced him to run in the GOP primary against a Republican colleague and close friend, the late George O'Brien. He lost the primary by 2,000 votes, but their friendship remained intact.

In 1983, Derwinski was named State Department counselor and now holds the position of undersecretary for security assistance, science and technology.

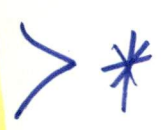
In Foggy Bottom, Derwinski's political background and loud clothes (he showed up at last week's State Department Correspondents dinner in a tomato-red beret) raised eyebrows, but he proved his usefulness in handling problems on foreign aid, the Los Angeles and Seoul Olympics, and he served as an informal liaison to domestic constituencies with strong interests in foreign affairs.

In the last two years, Derwinski appeared to have been overshadowed in congressional relations by Deputy Secretary John C. Whitehead and indicated his readiness to leave the State Department.

His administrative skills are untested on anything remotely resembling the scale of the Veterans Department, which takes over a \$26 billion budget and 250,000 employees from the familiar Veterans Administration. But Derwinski, a World War II combat veteran, drew praise from Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (D-Miss.), the chairman of the House Veterans Committee, as a man who will be "a strong spokesman" for the nation's veterans.

Few Cabinet members will enjoy a closer relationship with Bush, as Derwinski signaled with his joshing comments about recognizing the president-elect's future potential when Bush arrived in the House as "a young, innocent freshman from

TEXAS."



SPORTS JACKET W/
BLACK-AND-GOLD CHECKS,
AND A TOMATO-RED
BERET - YOU MIGHT
SAY HE WAS OUT OF
UNIFORM.

new Cabinet department.

Edward Joseph Derwinski

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

By ROBERT PEAR

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 — Edward J. Derwinski, the man chosen by President-elect Bush to head the new Department of Veterans Affairs, moved from the right wing toward the political center of the Republican Party in the course of a 24-year career in Congress representing a suburban Chicago district.

He was not deeply involved in legislation affecting veterans, although he is a World War II veteran, having served as an Army infantryman in the Pacific theater. He has been a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Catholic War Veterans and the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

When he arrived in Congress in 1959, at the age of 32, he was an aggressive anti-Communist, denouncing State Department officials as "a gang of fuzzy-headed idiots." But he has worked at the State Department for almost six years. First, as counselor, he was a general troubleshooter and adviser to Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

Push for Arms Sales

Since March 1987, he has been the Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology. In that position, he has used his contacts on Capitol Hill to win support for arms sales to friendly countries. He has supervised efforts to restrict the export of advanced technology to Soviet bloc countries and was in charge of Operation Staunch, the American program to prevent arms sales to Iran.

He has also coordinated United States Government activities related to international sports events like the Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, this year. A big, bluff, friendly man with a crew cut, Mr. Derwinski is an avid sports fan. A teddy bear dressed like a Chicago Bear sits atop the television in his office, one wall of which is lined with pennants of the Chicago White Sox, the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago Blackhawks.

Representative G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, the Mississippi Democrat who heads the Committee on Veterans Affairs, said Mr. Derwinski had not been prominent in House debates on legislation affecting veterans. But he said Mr. Derwinski was "a good choice" to run the veterans agency, which has an annual budget of \$28 billion and 245,000 employees.

The new department will inherit the work of the Veterans Administration, which manages 172 hospitals and 112 cemeteries around the country. By giving the department Cabinet status, Mr. Montgomery said, "We hoped to improve care for veterans." The Secretary should be "a strong spokesman for veterans," and one of his first jobs will be to defend veterans programs from the knife of White House budget cutters, Mr. Montgomery said.

When he left Congress, squeezed out by redistricting in Illinois, Mr. Derwinski was the ranking Republican on the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. He played a large role in passing legislation to overhaul the Civil Service in 1978. He resisted the Carter Administration's effort to curtail the advantages in hiring and promotion given to Federal employees who had served in the armed forces.

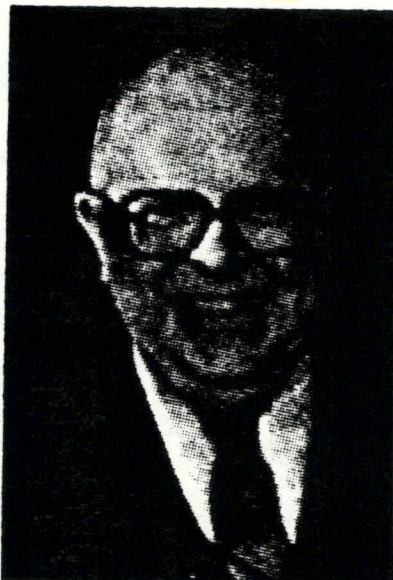
An Upset Victory

Edward Joseph Derwinski was born in Chicago on Sept. 15, 1926, the son of Casimir Ignatius and Sophia Derwinski. He received a bachelor's degree in history from Loyola University in Chicago and was on his way to a career as a savings and loan executive when he ran for the Illinois State House of Representatives and won an upset victory. He served there in 1957 and 1958, when he ran for Congress. In 1964, he was the Illinois state chairman in Barry Goldwater's unsuccessful campaign for the Presidency.

Mr. Derwinski's wife, Bonita, is deputy director of Congressional and public affairs at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Mr. Derwinski has two children from a previous marriage that ended in divorce: Maureen Sue and Michael Stephen.

If he is confirmed by the Senate and becomes the first Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Derwinski will have more opportunity to work with Congress, an institution for which he has often expressed nostalgic affection.

"I miss it, I miss it all," he said of Congress. "I even miss the irritating things, the nasty letters."



The New York Times

Former Representative Edwin J. Derwinski, the choice to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Bill ANDERSON
9:30 A.M.
3/8/89

Davis/Simon
March 7, 6 p.m.

DERWINSKI SWEARING-IN
2:15 P.M., MARCH 15, 1989
IWO JIMA MONUMENT

Good afternoon, Ed, ^{Bonnie} ~~Bonita~~, Maureen and Michael.

"Willie + Joe"

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A President could have no more poignant a reminder that he is charged with a great trust. It is my duty, as President of the United States, to see to it that our armed forces are so strong, and our diplomacy so wise, that we need never again to erect another monument to American war dead.

A free America in a world at peace. Together, we have achieved that goal. Together, we can preserve it. And if we do, then surely that peace will be the truest monument to our veterans . . .

Ed, congratulations, and thanks for all that you have already done. We've got a big job ahead. I look forward to working closely with you in the years to come.

#

DEBUINSKI!

March 15
2:15
Two Lima Memorial
Steve Studdert

BATES - CABINET Sec. is Project Officer
Steve Studdert Advocate

First Larry?

Sculture - sport coats / his family
Known 3D - took me under his wing.

Review of all monuments

Big job - UT PEOPLE GREAT / ELEVATION

Lincoln quote

Lincoln memo

AND ONE MORE DUTY - It is solemn -
Cemeteries - Carillon of the Road. PEACE

Doug Andair

AT OTHER SURREINING-INS
10-12

Steve Studdert - 456-2421

DAVIS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 15, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF
SECRETARY OF VETERAN AFFAIRS EDWARD DERWINSKI

The South Lawn

1:00 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Mr. Vice President and members of the President's Cabinet that are here, distinguished members of the Senate and the House, and service secretaries and I see at least one member of the Joint Chiefs, General Vuono there, and distinguished guests over here, including Bill Mauldin. I'm just delighted to be here to salute Ed Derwinski, be with his family, Bonnie, Maureen, and Michael. I heard Maureen and Michael -- I thought maybe President Reagan was back. (Laughter.) But, no, this is the Derwinski clan.

And, Ed, I want to thank you for not wearing that gold and black-checked jacket with that tomato-red beret. (Laughter.) I'm reliably informed that the White House camera crew would have gone on instant strike. We don't need another strike. (Laughter.)

From where we're standing, most of the landmarks of this town are almost a stone's throw away. That's one of the beautiful things that Barbara and I have rediscovered, but discovered principally from living in the quarters above here. Just to the west of us, Abraham Lincoln reposes majestically in his chair of stone. Straight ahead, Thomas Jefferson commands our respect -- a bronze giant underneath a dome of marble. And the Washington Monument rises above the level of the surface of the Mall, much as our first President dominated his time.

We glorify our greatest leaders. But we do not build these ivory temples to honor them alone. We honor the enduring principles for which they stood. And we honor the millions of men and women who have been ready throughout the history of our nation to defend those principles.

There have been four calls to arms in the living memory of most Americans or their parents. From the South Lawn of the White House, one can see a flaming sword, a tribute to the courage of the soldiers of the Army's 2nd Division who fought so bravely in World War I. At the Iwo Jima Memorial just across the river, a fleeting moment of victory, first captured in an Associated Press photograph, is now cast for the ages in bronze. No one who lived through that war will ever forget that picture or what it meant to us.

And we have yet to honor the veterans of the Korean War in such a way, although I'm glad to see that planning for a memorial is moving forward. But three weeks ago I saw a living monument to these brave Americans -- the Republic of Korea itself, a newborn democracy aided by American sacrifice, protected by American strength. Just below the horizon, to our right, are the simple lines and chiseled names of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; a somber salute to those who fell and to all who answered the call to duty. May we never cease to honor them, in name and deed.

And let us never forget those men and women in the Armed Forces who, even in peacetime, risk their lives in a hardship post or a dangerous assignment, whether it's standing on the deck of a

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carrier off the Persian Gulf, or an antiterrorist unit, waiting for a call that we hope never comes.

The meaning of a monument, as Lincoln said of the Battlefield at Gettysburg, is "far above our poor power to add or detract." These words are carved in stone in the Lincoln Memorial. But Lincoln himself acknowledged that speeches and statuary are inadequate -- they're inadequate repayment for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. And our obligation is also for the living.

If you go to the front entrance of the Veterans Affairs Department, you'll see another quote from Abraham Lincoln, cast in a plate of steel, calling on us -- here's the quote -- "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

This is the mission of the new Department of Veterans Affairs, which today officially assumes the duties of the Veterans Administration. I consider the new Department to have a vital mission. In fact, it is so vital that there's only one place for the veterans of America -- in the Cabinet Room, at the table with the President of the United States of America. (Applause.)

And as the first Secretary of this new Department, Ed Derwinski will set a precedent. He is uniquely suited for this role, having served with distinction in both the Legislative and the Executive Branches of government.

My friendship with Ed goes back to my days as a freshman Congressman from Houston, Texas. Ed, a Congressman from Illinois then, was already a veteran of some tough congressional battles. And I know that for Ed, the House of Representatives is still a second home with many, many friends. No former colleagues of Ed can ever forget his unfailing good humor and his concern for people. Nor will veterans forget his good work -- Ed's handling of a heavy burden of casework, cutting red tape so that thousands of veterans could receive their pensions, medical benefits, deserved military honors.

At the State Department, Ed packed the achievements of a whole career into a few years. He worked with Congress; conducted special international negotiations with Canada, Iceland, the Pacific nations; acted as a senior official for refugee policy and programs; and prevented the diversion of the sensitive technology that belongs to the United States to unfriendly nations.

In short, Ed Derwinski has the skill of a seasoned legislator, the patience of a practiced administrator, the finesse of a diplomat -- and the heart of a man who knows what it means to start his government career as a private in the United States Army. This is a unique combination of experience and skills. And make no mistake, the job, this new job requires someone with Ed Derwinski's backgrounds and talents.

This new Department must manage its vast resources to meet vast needs. Almost one out of every three U.S. citizens is a potential VA beneficiary. Count among them 27 million veterans and 53 million dependents and survivors. Ed will oversee a Department with almost a quarter of a million employees -- the second largest civilian task force in the government -- administering a budget of more than \$29 billion.

And the Department of VA provides compensation to service-disabled veterans, pensions for low-income, disabled veterans and survivors, educational assistance and vocational rehab. It guarantees the home loans for 12 million families, and operates the fifth largest life insurance program in America. It also runs the nation's largest medical system, with 172 hospitals and hundreds of outpatient clinics and nursing homes.

But the best resource of the new Department is its people -- men and women who live up to the highest ideal of public service every day. And they have my sincerest gratitude for a job well-done.

It is only appropriate to note one other task assigned to the Veterans Affairs Department -- to tend and care for 112 national cemeteries across America. There's no power, no glamour in such a job. But there is caring and respect -- for those who are gone and for those who grieve. In those "gardens of stone" sleep the heroes -- men and women of every service, Marine, soldier, sailor, airman -- lost youth that can only be measured in centuries. A president could have no more poignant a reminder that he is charged with a great trust.

It is my duty, as the Commander-In-Chief, to see to it that our Armed Forces are so strong and our diplomacy so wise that we will never again need to erect another monument to the casualties of war. (Applause.)

A free America in a world at peace. Together we have achieved that goal. Together we can preserve it. And if we do, then surely that peace will be the truest monument to our veterans.

Ed, congratulations. Thanks for all that you have already done. And we've got a big job ahead. And I look forward to working closely with you in the years to come.

Thank you all. And God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

1:36 P.M. EST

ED DERWINSKI SWEARING-IN

SOUTH LAWN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

**GOOD AFTERNOON, ED, BONNIE, MAUREEN AND MICHAEL.
GOOD TO SEE YOU TONY.**

- 2 -

**((Ed, I WANT TO COMPLIMENT YOU ON YOUR FINE
SUIT. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IF YOU HAD WORN YOUR GOLD-
AND-BLACK CHECKERED JACKET WITH YOUR TOMATO RED BERET -
- THE WHITE HOUSE CAMERA CREW WOULD HAVE GONE ON
STRIKE.))**

**FROM WHERE WE ARE STANDING, MOST OF THE LANDMARKS
OF THIS TOWN ARE ALMOST A STONE'S THROW AWAY. JUST TO
THE WEST OF US, ABRAHAM LINCOLN REPOSES MAJESTICALLY IN
HIS CHAIR OF STONE.**

- 3 -

STRAIGHT AHEAD OF US, THOMAS JEFFERSON COMMANDS OUR RESPECT: A BRONZE GIANT UNDERNEATH A DOME OF MARBLE. AND THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT RISES ABOVE THE LEVEL SURFACE OF THE MALL -- MUCH AS OUR FIRST PRESIDENT DOMINATED HIS TIME.

WE GLORIFY OUR GREATEST LEADERS. BUT WE DO NOT BUILD THESE IVORY TEMPLES TO HONOR THEM ALONE.

- 4 -

WE HONOR THE ENDURING PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THEY STOOD. AND WE HONOR THE MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN READY THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION TO DEFEND THOSE PRINCIPLES.

THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR CALLS TO ARMS IN THE LIVING MEMORY OF MOST AMERICANS OR THEIR PARENTS.

FROM THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE, ONE CAN SEE A FLAMING SWORD, A TRIBUTE TO THE COURAGE OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY'S 2ND DIVISION, WHO FOUGHT SO BRAVELY IN WORLD WAR ONE. AT THE IWO JIMA MEMORIAL, JUST ACROSS THE RIVER, A FLEETING MOMENT OF VICTORY, FIRST CAPTURED IN AN ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPH, IS NOW CAST FOR THE AGES IN BRONZE. NO ONE WHO LIVED THROUGH THAT WAR WILL EVER FORGET THAT PICTURE, OR WHAT IT MEANT TO US ...

((CERTAINLY NOT THIS FORMER PILOT.))

WE HAVE YET TO HONOR THE VETERANS OF THE KOREAN WAR IN SUCH A WAY, ALTHOUGH I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT PLANNING FOR A MEMORIAL IS MOVING FORWARD. BUT THREE WEEKS AGO I SAW A LIVING MONUMENT TO THESE BRAVE AMERICANS -- THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ITSELF, A NEW-BORN DEMOCRACY AIDED BY AMERICAN SACRIFICE, PROTECTED BY AMERICAN STRENGTH.

- 7 -

JUST BELOW THE HORIZON, TO OUR RIGHT, ARE THE SIMPLE LINES AND CHISELED NAMES OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL; A SOMBER SALUTE TO THOSE WHO FELL, AND TO ALL WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO DUTY. MAY WE NEVER CEASE TO HONOR THEM, IN NAME AND DEED.

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FINALLY, LET US NEVER FORGET THOSE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES WHO, EVEN IN PEACETIME, RISK THEIR LIVES IN A HARDSHIP POST OR A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT, WHETHER IT'S STANDING ON THE DECK OF A CARRIER OFF THE PERSIAN GULF, OR AN ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, WAITING FOR A CALL WE HOPE NEVER COMES.

THE MEANING OF A MONUMENT, AS LINCOLN SAID OF THE BATTLEFIELD AT GETTYSBURG, IS "FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT."

THESE WORDS ARE CARVED IN STONE IN THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. BUT LINCOLN HIMSELF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SPEECHES AND STATUARY ARE INADEQUATE REPAYMENT FOR THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

OUR OBLIGATION IS ALSO TO THE LIVING.

IF YOU GO TO THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, YOU WILL SEE ANOTHER QUOTE FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN, CAST IN A PLATE OF STEEL, CALLING ON US: "TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE AND FOR HIS WIDOW, AND HIS ORPHAN."

THIS IS THE MISSION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, WHICH TODAY OFFICIALLY ASSUMES THE DUTIES OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION. I CONSIDER THE NEW DEPARTMENT TO HAVE A VITAL MISSION.

- 11 -

IN FACT, IT IS SO VITAL, THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE FOR THE VETERANS OF AMERICA -- IN THE CABINET ROOM, AT THE TABLE WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA....

AS THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THIS NEW DEPARTMENT, ED DERWINSKI WILL SET A PRECEDENT. HE IS UNIQUELY SUITED FOR THIS ROLE, HAVING SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT.

- 12 -

MY FRIENDSHIP WITH ED GOES BACK TO MY DAYS AS A FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN FROM HOUSTON. ED, A CONGRESSMAN FROM ILLINOIS, WAS ALREADY A VETERAN OF SOME TOUGH CONGRESSIONAL BATTLES. AND I KNOW THAT FOR ED, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS STILL A SECOND HOME WITH MANY FRIENDS. NO FORMER COLLEAGUE OF ED'S CAN FORGET HIS UNFAILING GOOD HUMOR.

- 13 -

NOR WILL VETERANS FORGET HIS GOOD WORK -- ED'S HANDLING OF A HEAVY BURDEN OF CASEWORK, CUTTING RED-TAPE SO THAT THOUSANDS OF VETERANS COULD RECEIVE THEIR PENSIONS, MEDICAL BENEFITS AND MILITARY HONORS.

AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ED PACKED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF A WHOLE CAREER INTO A FEW YEARS.

- 14 -

HE WORKED WITH CONGRESS, CONDUCTED SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA, ICELAND AND PACIFIC NATIONS, ACTED AS A SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR REFUGEE POLICY AND PROGRAMS, AND PREVENTED THE DIVERSION OF SENSITIVE U.S. TECHNOLOGY TO UNFRIENDLY NATIONS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDES COMPENSATION TO SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS, PENSIONS FOR LOW-INCOME, DISABLED VETERANS AND SURVIVORS, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION. IT GUARANTEES THE HOME LOANS FOR 12 MILLION FAMILIES, AND OPERATES THE FIFTH LARGEST LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM IN AMERICA.

IT ALSO RUNS THE NATION'S LARGEST MEDICAL SYSTEM, WITH 172 HOSPITALS, AND HUNDREDS OF OUTPATIENT CLINICS AND NURSING HOMES.

BUT THE BEST RESOURCE OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT IS ITS PEOPLE --MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIVE UP TO THE HIGHEST IDEAL OF PUBLIC SERVICE EVERY DAY. THEY HAVE MY SINCEREST GRATITUDE FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

- 19 -

IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE TO NOTE ONE OTHER TASK ASSIGNED TO THE VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT -- TO TEND AND CARE FOR 112 NATIONAL CEMETERIES ACROSS AMERICA. THERE IS NO POWER OR GLAMOUR IN SUCH A JOB. BUT THERE IS CARING AND RESPECT -- FOR THOSE WHO ARE GONE, AND FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE.

- 20 -

IN THESE "GARDENS OF STONE" SLEEP THE HEROES -- MEN AND WOMEN -- OF EVERY SERVICE, MARINE, SOLDIER, SAILOR, AIRMAN; LOST YOUTH THAT CAN ONLY BE MEASURED IN CENTURIES.

A PRESIDENT COULD HAVE NO MORE POIGNANT A REMINDER THAT HE IS CHARGED WITH A GREAT TRUST.

- 21 -

IT IS MY DUTY, AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, TO SEE TO IT THAT OUR ARMED FORCES ARE SO STRONG, AND OUR DIPLOMACY SO WISE, THAT WE WILL NEVER AGAIN NEED TO ERECT ANOTHER MONUMENT TO THE CASUALTIES OF WAR.

A FREE AMERICA IN A WORLD AT PEACE. TOGETHER, WE HAVE ACHIEVED THAT GOAL. TOGETHER, WE CAN PRESERVE IT. AND IF WE DO, THEN SURELY THAT PEACE WILL BE THE TRUEST MONUMENT TO OUR VETERANS....

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ED, CONGRATULATIONS, AND THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE. WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB AHEAD. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU IN THE YEARS TO COME.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

3/13/89

(Davis/Simon)
March 10, 1989
7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

DERWINSKI SWEARING-IN
SOUTH LAWN
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

OK
GB
3-13

Good afternoon, Ed, Bonnie, Maureen and Michael. Good to see you Tony.

((Ed, I want to compliment you on your fine suit. You should know that if you had worn your gold-and-black checkered jacket with your tomato red beret -- the White House camera crew would have gone on strike.))

From where we are standing, most of the landmarks of this town are almost a stone's throw away. Just to the West of us, Abraham Lincoln reposes majestically in his chair of stone. Straight ahead of us, Thomas Jefferson commands our respect: a bronze giant underneath a dome of marble. And the Washington Monument rises above the level surface of the Mall -- much as our first President dominated his time.

We glorify our greatest leaders. But we do not build these ivory temples to honor them alone. We honor the enduring principles for which they stood. And we honor the millions of men and women who have been ready throughout the history of our nation to defend those principles.

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was already a veteran of some tough Congressional battles.*

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A President could have no more poignant a reminder that he is charged with a great trust. It is my duty, as Commander-in-Chief, to see to it that our armed forces are so strong, and our diplomacy so wise, that we will never again need to erect another monument to the casualties of war.

A free America in a world at peace. Together, we have achieved that goal. Together, we can preserve it. And if we do, then surely that peace will be the truest monument to our veterans . . .

Ed, congratulations, and thanks for all that you have already done. We've got a big job ahead. I look forward to working closely with you in the years to come.

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Davis/Dooley
March 11, 1989
1:00 p.m.

REMARKS: INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF AMERICA
ANNUAL NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
MARCH 14, 1989

Thank you.

It is truly an honor to appear before this group. In this city, the currency of status is measured in titles and honorifics -- Senator, Ambassador, Secretary. But in my book, you hold one of the most impressive titles of all -- that of entrepreneur.

I know the hunger you feel to own a firm of your own, to start from scratch, to build it and watch it grow. I know the satisfaction of matching resources to needs, of meeting deadlines and meeting payrolls.

A few years after World War Two, I started my own business. It was a small firm at first, but not too small to teach me the facts of economic life. I got my start by taking a risk; and I got my business education by making that company grow.

Our company was a high-risk venture. There was a new technology, unproven, full of half-starts and failures, called

off-shore drilling. We took a gamble; we invested in that technology; and we succeeded in pioneering a new way to find America's energy. It wasn't always easy, even in the years we did well. I recall our despair when a hurricane hit our brand new rig on its first location -- and it disappeared.

But I learned some very important lessons. When that rig went down, people lost their jobs. When we rebuilt, people went back to work. I saw the strain on the faces of family breadwinners, and I saw the joy.

So Washington may not always appreciate the role of small business in creating jobs and keeping America competitive. But rest assured, there is at least one person in Washington who does, and he is your President . . .

I also appreciate your industry's role in society. Without insurance, the loss of a spouse could mean the loss of a home. Without insurance, the loss of a parent could keep a child from attending college. We cannot offer protection against fate. But we can prevent the compounding of a tragedy, so that a death or an illness doesn't leave a bitter legacy of poverty and despair for a whole family.

You prevent that kind of double tragedy. You add a little bit of comfort to the grieving, and predictability for those who are victims of the unpredictable.

This is your service to society. It is as crucial a service as that of any social welfare agency. And you cannot continue to perform it if your industry is hamstrung by excessive regulation.

That's why we worked to remove excessive regulations, to free the creative energies of small firms. By ordering a review of more than 100 government regulations, the Task Force on Regulatory Relief, which I chaired as Vice President, saved the private sector more than 600 million man hours of paperwork and billions of dollars in government compliance cost. I will continue to work to keep you free from excessive regulation.

And when it comes to necessary regulation of your business, I am committed to letting the states take the lead -- not the federal government. Reducing the regulatory burden is important, but we must take action on other fronts as well if we are to keep American small business strong.

This is why I have also proposed a cut in the capital gains tax rate. Most of our major trading partners do not tax long-term capital gains. They understand that a high capital gains tax unnecessarily hurts our competitive position by drying up the

formation of capital, businesses and jobs. In 1978, when Congress cut the maximum tax rate on capital gains, the result was an explosion of new companies and new revenues.

Small businesses with less than 500 employees employ more than half of U.S. workers. So any onerous new burden on small business will also throw workers out of their jobs.

It is for this reason that I oppose the movement toward mandated employee benefits . . . In an era of tight budgets, there is always the temptation to drop the burden of social programs on the backs of employers. But these policies, born of the best intentions, can have unintended and counterproductive consequences.

It is up to business and labor to negotiate their differences. And make no mistake, I support the right of labor to negotiate as an equal. But burdensome mandated benefits serve neither business nor labor. We have seen what happens in other countries where mandated benefit programs create obstacles to productivity and growth. We cannot build a better America if we weigh down our production sector with new burdens.

And let me address one other area that concerns your business -- tort reform. Of course, there are many litigants who deserve a jury's sympathy. But when local governments cannot

install playgrounds, when businesses are bankrupted, when mothers struggle to find an obstetrician, when volunteer organizations have to pull back, then it is time to consider limiting damages. Tort reform is critical to the health of businesses and volunteer organizations alike.

All of my policies are directed toward a single goal: building a better America. To achieve this goal, my plan has four broad objectives -- attention to urgent priorities, an attack on the deficit, no new taxes, and an investment in the future.

Without a strong private sector, our nation would be mired in the past, doomed to fail. The entrepreneur is the man or the woman who is not only ready for change, but who relishes the thought of it. And this thought leads me to speak to you in more general terms, about my presidency, the challenges I hope to meet, the accomplishments I hope to make.

I am a man of this century. I fought in this century's greatest war, and raised a family and built a business during the mid-century of American greatness.

But I want to be a President who is remembered for preparing America for the next century. This is my entrepreneurial

definition of leadership, to see the shape of things to come, and to prepare for that 21st Century world -- only eleven years away.

By the year 2000, we will have experienced change as swift and fast as a torrent. Change in the American family, and in our work habits. Change in technology. Change in the world economy. Change in the rate of change itself.

The makeup of our remarkable nation has been evolving constantly. But the qualities on which it was founded are timeless and true. One of those constants is that we are an entrepreneurial people, at our best when we are challenged, and when we boldly face the future.

So my agenda is this: to confront the emerging problems of the future, today. A complacent society is doomed to comfortable decline. A dynamic society is one that keeps pace with the times. So call it that, if you will -- a Dynamic America. But recognize in the restless drive and vision of the American entrepreneur our best qualities as a nation.

A complacent nation would take comfort that America is free and the world is at peace. But world events are moving too swiftly for us to relax in set ways, to cling to smug assumptions. The question we must answer is: Will American

foreign policy be flexible enough to meet the emerging, and potentially dramatic, new world developments?

With this question in mind, I have asked all the appropriate agencies to reassess our foreign policy and defense strategy. This comprehensive review will set the basis of my future actions, and guide America into the next decade, and toward the next century.

On economic policy, I have submitted to the Congress a budget that is fiscally responsible. This budget does four things: it substantially reduces the deficit, it includes no new taxes, it addresses key priorities, and it still provides for important investments which will help make us more competitive in the future. My speech to Congress was accompanied by 193 pages of specific recommendations for the budget. Looking back in the history books, we found that no other President in recent history had presented quite so much information to Congress at such an early date.

I have also submitted a proposal to solve a festering problem that threatens our future prosperity -- a plan to restore the integrity of our nation's Savings and Loan institutions. I have asked the Congress to take action within 45 days. This problem is too important to delay.

The changing nature of American society -- to more working parents -- is putting pressure on our most basic social institution -- the family. How will we respond to this change? We simply cannot afford to create another entitlement program. That is why I am proposing a child-care plan that combines tax credits and private-sector resources to offer parents a choice. I want to empower parents, not government, to seek the best and the safest environment for their children.

There are many other areas of change. Homelessness affects a small proportion of Americans, but concerns all of us. But when I look out a White House window and see the ragged pathetic figures huddled over the steam grates of the Ellipse, I also see an affront to the American Dream. We must seek the root causes of, and devise the most practical solutions for, homelessness.

The environment -- once the concern of a farsighted few, is now a top priority of my Administration at home and abroad. We must devise a global approach to the problems of ozone depletion and global warming. We intend to make rapid progress on acid rain and see that a new clean air bill is produced. And we have already broken ground in joining with other nations to call for the elimination of CFCs and in adopting a tough new policy on the export of hazardous waste.

Finally, I want to single out one area which, in so many ways, is pre-eminently important to our nation. I am sure it is of particular importance to your family. We must protect, and strengthen, our schools.

You and I know that education is our most enduring legacy. You and I know that education is nothing less than the very heart and soul of our civilization.

As we face a new decade and a new century beyond, we also face a new challenge -- to revitalize and restore the system our forebears bequeathed to us; to ensure American education is second to none.

I have made a number of proposals to work toward this goal. Among them is my request to reward those schools whose students show measurable progress in educational achievement, while maintaining a safe and drug-free environment.

I have also asked for an annual fund of \$100 million in new appropriations to help create magnet schools to broaden the educational choices of parents and students. And I have made many other proposals, including programs to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and to reward our best teachers.

I appeal to you to get active in your schools, to share your knowledge, expertise and resources where it is most needed.

I've laid out my agenda for building a better America. True, it is an ambitious one. But it is no less ambitious, no less dynamic, than the American people. As businessmen and women, you can help me to fulfill this agenda, to meet the challenges that face our country. By working together, we can achieve anything.

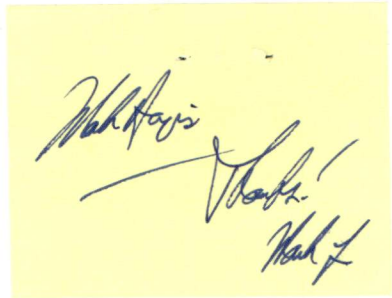
Thank you.

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ED DERWINSKI SWEARING-IN
SOUTH LAWN
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989



GOOD AFTERNOON, ED, BONNIE, MAUREEN AND MICHAEL.
GOOD TO SEE YOU TONY.

- 2 -

((ED, I WANT TO COMPLIMENT YOU ON YOUR FINE
SUIT. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IF YOU HAD WORN YOUR GOLD-
AND-BLACK CHECKERED JACKET WITH YOUR TOMATO RED BERET -
- THE WHITE HOUSE CAMERA CREW WOULD HAVE GONE ON
STRIKE.))

FROM WHERE WE ARE STANDING, MOST OF THE LANDMARKS
OF THIS TOWN ARE ALMOST A STONE'S THROW AWAY. JUST TO
THE WEST OF US, ABRAHAM LINCOLN REPOSES MAJESTICALLY IN
HIS CHAIR OF STONE.

- 3 -

STRAIGHT AHEAD OF US, THOMAS JEFFERSON COMMANDS OUR RESPECT: A BRONZE GIANT UNDERNEATH A DOME OF MARBLE. AND THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT RISES ABOVE THE LEVEL SURFACE OF THE MALL -- MUCH AS OUR FIRST PRESIDENT DOMINATED HIS TIME.

WE GLORIFY OUR GREATEST LEADERS. BUT WE DO NOT BUILD THESE IVORY TEMPLES TO HONOR THEM ALONE.

- 4 -

WE HONOR THE ENDURING PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THEY STOOD. AND WE HONOR THE MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN READY THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION TO DEFEND THOSE PRINCIPLES.

THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR CALLS TO ARMS IN THE LIVING MEMORY OF MOST AMERICANS OR THEIR PARENTS.

FROM THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE, ONE CAN SEE A FLAMING SWORD, A TRIBUTE TO THE COURAGE OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY'S 2ND DIVISION, WHO FOUGHT SO BRAVELY IN WORLD WAR ONE. AT THE IWO JIMA MEMORIAL, JUST ACROSS THE RIVER, A FLEETING MOMENT OF VICTORY, FIRST CAPTURED IN AN ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPH, IS NOW CAST FOR THE AGES IN BRONZE. NO ONE WHO LIVED THROUGH THAT WAR WILL EVER FORGET THAT PICTURE, OR WHAT IT MEANT TO US ... ((CERTAINLY NOT THIS FORMER PILOT.))

WE HAVE YET TO HONOR THE VETERANS OF THE KOREAN WAR IN SUCH A WAY, ALTHOUGH I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT PLANNING FOR A MEMORIAL IS MOVING FORWARD. BUT THREE WEEKS AGO I SAW A LIVING MONUMENT TO THESE BRAVE AMERICANS -- THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ITSELF, A NEW-BORN DEMOCRACY AIDED BY AMERICAN SACRIFICE, PROTECTED BY AMERICAN STRENGTH.

- 7 -

JUST BELOW THE HORIZON, TO OUR RIGHT, ARE THE SIMPLE LINES AND CHISELED NAMES OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL; A SOMBER SALUTE TO THOSE WHO FELL, AND TO ALL WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO DUTY. MAY WE NEVER CEASE TO HONOR THEM, IN NAME AND DEED.

- 8 -

FINALLY, LET US NEVER FORGET THOSE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES WHO, EVEN IN PEACETIME, RISK THEIR LIVES IN A HARDSHIP POST OR A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT, WHETHER IT'S STANDING ON THE DECK OF A CARRIER OFF THE PERSIAN GULF, OR AN ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, WAITING FOR A CALL WE HOPE NEVER COMES.

THE MEANING OF A MONUMENT, AS LINCOLN SAID OF THE BATTLEFIELD AT GETTYSBURG, IS "FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT."

- 9 -

THESE WORDS ARE CARVED IN STONE IN THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. BUT LINCOLN HIMSELF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SPEECHES AND STATUARY ARE INADEQUATE REPAYMENT FOR THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

OUR OBLIGATION IS ALSO TO THE LIVING.

- 10 -

IF YOU GO TO THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, YOU WILL SEE ANOTHER QUOTE FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN, CAST IN A PLATE OF STEEL, CALLING ON US: "TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE AND FOR HIS WIDOW, AND HIS ORPHAN."

THIS IS THE MISSION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, WHICH TODAY OFFICIALLY ASSUMES THE DUTIES OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION. I CONSIDER THE NEW DEPARTMENT TO HAVE A VITAL MISSION.

- 11 -

IN FACT, IT IS SO VITAL, THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE FOR THE VETERANS OF AMERICA -- IN THE CABINET ROOM, AT THE TABLE WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA....

AS THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THIS NEW DEPARTMENT, ED DERWINSKI WILL SET A PRECEDENT. HE IS UNIQUELY SUITED FOR THIS ROLE, HAVING SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT.

- 12 -

MY FRIENDSHIP WITH ED GOES BACK TO MY DAYS AS A FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN FROM HOUSTON. ED, A CONGRESSMAN FROM ILLINOIS, WAS ALREADY A VETERAN OF SOME TOUGH CONGRESSIONAL BATTLES. AND I KNOW THAT FOR ED, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS STILL A SECOND HOME WITH MANY FRIENDS. NO FORMER COLLEAGUE OF ED'S CAN FORGET HIS UNFAILING GOOD HUMOR.

- 13 -

NOR WILL VETERANS FORGET HIS GOOD WORK -- ED'S HANDLING OF A HEAVY BURDEN OF CASEWORK, CUTTING RED-TAPE SO THAT THOUSANDS OF VETERANS COULD RECEIVE THEIR PENSIONS, MEDICAL BENEFITS AND MILITARY HONORS.

AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ED PACKED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF A WHOLE CAREER INTO A FEW YEARS.

- 14 -

HE WORKED WITH CONGRESS, CONDUCTED SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA, ICELAND AND PACIFIC NATIONS, ACTED AS A SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR REFUGEE POLICY AND PROGRAMS, AND PREVENTED THE DIVERSION OF SENSITIVE U.S. TECHNOLOGY TO UNFRIENDLY NATIONS.

IN SHORT, ED DERWINSKI HAS THE SKILL OF A SEASONED LEGISLATOR, THE PATIENCE OF A PRACTICED ADMINISTRATOR, THE FINESSE OF A DIPLOMAT -- AND THE HEART OF A MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO START HIS GOVERNMENT CAREER AS A PRIVATE IN THE U.S. ARMY.

THIS IS A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS. AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE JOB REQUIRES SOMEONE WITH ED DERWINSKI'S BACKGROUND AND TALENTS.

THIS NEW DEPARTMENT MUST MANAGE ITS VAST RESOURCES TO MEET VAST NEEDS. ALMOST ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE U.S. CITIZENS IS A POTENTIAL V.A. BENEFICIARY. COUNT AMONG THEM 27 MILLION VETERANS AND 53 MILLION DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS.

ED WILL OVERSEE A DEPARTMENT WITH ALMOST A QUARTER OF A MILLION EMPLOYEES -- THE SECOND LARGEST CIVILIAN TASK FORCE IN THE GOVERNMENT -- ADMINISTERING A BUDGET OF MORE THAN \$29 BILLION.

- 17 -

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDES COMPENSATION TO SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS, PENSIONS FOR LOW-INCOME, DISABLED VETERANS AND SURVIVORS, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION. IT GUARANTEES THE HOME LOANS FOR 12 MILLION FAMILIES, AND OPERATES THE FIFTH LARGEST LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM IN AMERICA.

- 18 -

IT ALSO RUNS THE NATION'S LARGEST MEDICAL SYSTEM, WITH 172 HOSPITALS, AND HUNDREDS OF OUTPATIENT CLINICS AND NURSING HOMES.

BUT THE BEST RESOURCE OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT IS ITS PEOPLE --MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIVE UP TO THE HIGHEST IDEAL OF PUBLIC SERVICE EVERY DAY. THEY HAVE MY SINCEREST GRATITUDE FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

- 19 -

IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE TO NOTE ONE OTHER TASK ASSIGNED TO THE VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT -- TO TEND AND CARE FOR 112 NATIONAL CEMETERIES ACROSS AMERICA. THERE IS NO POWER OR GLAMOUR IN SUCH A JOB. BUT THERE IS CARING AND RESPECT -- FOR THOSE WHO ARE GONE, AND FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE.

- 20 -

IN THESE "GARDENS OF STONE" SLEEP THE HEROES -- MEN AND WOMEN -- OF EVERY SERVICE, MARINE, SOLDIER, SAILOR, AIRMAN; LOST YOUTH THAT CAN ONLY BE MEASURED IN CENTURIES.

A PRESIDENT COULD HAVE NO MORE POIGNANT A REMINDER THAT HE IS CHARGED WITH A GREAT TRUST.

- 21 -

IT IS MY DUTY, AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, TO SEE TO IT THAT OUR ARMED FORCES ARE SO STRONG, AND OUR DIPLOMACY SO WISE, THAT WE WILL NEVER AGAIN NEED TO ERECT ANOTHER MONUMENT TO THE CASUALTIES OF WAR.

A FREE AMERICA IN A WORLD AT PEACE. TOGETHER, WE HAVE ACHIEVED THAT GOAL. TOGETHER, WE CAN PRESERVE IT. AND IF WE DO, THEN SURELY THAT PEACE WILL BE THE TRUEST MONUMENT TO OUR VETERANS....

- 22 -

ED, CONGRATULATIONS, AND THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE. WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB AHEAD. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU IN THE YEARS TO COME.

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