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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Davis, Mark, Files
Subseries: Subject File, 1989-1991

OA/ID Number: 13874
Folder ID Number: 13874-002

Folder Title:
President's Dinner, 6/14/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	19	2	6	7

Davis/Martin
June 13, 1989/4 p.m.
Title: Pdinner
Draft: Four

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: PRESIDENT'S DINNER, WASH. CONVENTION CTR.
June 14, 1989/9:20 p.m.

Thank you, Senator Nickles for that introduction and the great job you're doing as head of the Senate campaign committee. Mrs. Quayle, Marilyn, it's a delight to be with you on this excellent evening. Welcome back Dan, from Central America, and thank you once again for taking our message of democracy and hope to our important friends and neighbors. David Murdock, thank you for your dedication in making this event possible. Guy Vander Jagt, able chair of the House campaign committee, it's great to see you.

As you have heard, this room is divided into four quadrants, depicting the regions of the United States -- North, South, East and West. ((Does this mean if I move down a few chairs I'll be standing in Texas?))

It was at the last President's Dinner that the fortieth President of the United States stood before us and formally declared his support for a successor. Since then, Ronald Reagan has returned to his beloved California. And you and I have

fought shoulder to shoulder, battling our way from 17 points behind to a **40-state win on Election Day.** ((PAUSE))

But we didn't fight the battle we fought, we didn't put ourselves and our families through the turmoil of a campaign, just to win an election. We fought because we believed in certain ideas and certain ideals. We fought because we believed **that together we can build a better America.**

The American people defined our mission. And in the five months since the Inaugural, without fanfare or partisan furor, we have worked together to quietly follow our assigned mission, to achieve what was considered to be outlandishly impossible.

*** The American people want action on the deficit. And we reached an agreement with Congress to reduce the deficit **by a whopping \$65 billion.** ((PAUSE)) And we aim to achieve this without raising taxes. ((PAUSE))

*** The American people want action on a festering problem -- the hemorrhage of the Savings and Loan System. Our reform plan will restore stability, eliminate unsafe and extravagant practices, and punish those who abuse the trust of depositors. The American people will have to pay billions of dollars to clean up this mess, and we must make sure it **never** happens again. The

Senate approved our plan 91 to 8. I call on the House to follow suit.

*** The American people want action on ethics. Clearly, it is time for an even-handed ethics approach across all branches of government. This is the goal of our ethics proposal I sent to the Congress in April. We must all be equal before the law.

As President, I will strive for a constructive working relationship with Speaker Foley, Senator Mitchell and the rest of the Democratic leadership. While we are in competition with each other, there are rules of decency and fair play that transcend party labels. I will not stand for any violation of these rules.

We will hit hard -- on the issues -- fighting for what we believe in, for we Republicans are bound together in a common purpose; to wage a vigorous debate on the important issues that unite us. We are confident that in taking our message of peace and prosperity to the American people in an open, honest and direct manner, we will become the majority party in America.

*** The American people want action on the environment. Yesterday, surrounded by the natural jewels of the Grand Tetons, enjoying the crisp, pristine mountain air, I called on Congress to join me in a quest for cleaner air, an end to acid rain, ozone

depletion and other harmful emissions. **You shouldn't have to become a mountain man just to breathe good, clean air.**

*** The American people want action on crime. This Administration will not rest until we have lifted the shadow of fear from the homes, shops and streets of America. That is why I called last month for tough new laws, and more law enforcers and prosecutors to back them up. **This Administration is going to lead the charge to take back the streets, take them back from the criminals** who threaten our neighborhoods -- not just in the cities, but all across our country.

*** The American people want action on foreign policy -- a sensible, yet bold plan to deal with the changes sweeping the Communist world. Our Bipartisan Agreement with Congress on Central America allows the United States to speak with one clear voice with one clear message -- **let freedom ring in Managua. Let freedom ring throughout the Communist world, from Beijing to Budapest to Warsaw.**

In Brussels, I said that we face an historic opportunity to move beyond containment of the Soviet Union. I said that the world has waited long enough -- that Europe can be whole and free; that we can move beyond armed camps divided by suspicion and fear. We asked the Soviets to join us in a peace of trust

over a peace of tension. We offered our vision for a future of peace and freedom -- The Spirit of Brussels.

But this, the first five months of my Administration, is just a start. We must work together to protect what is already the longest peacetime expansion in our history -- to keep America competitive and on the job. We must fight drug abuse on every front, to redeem thousands of children, to return promise to their lives. And we must revitalize our schools, so that **a solid education is once again the birthright of every American.**

To make this kind of progress will require more than a government program or another grand initiative. Republicans believe that it will take the active involvement of parents, students and teachers; business and local government; churches and schools. This is what we mean by a thousand points of light. As powerful and resourceful as government is, government alone cannot come close to overcoming these problems. Next week, I will announce a major initiative to challenge our young people to serve their communities. From now on, **the definition of the good life in America must include service to others.**

But as you know, achieving our highest goals depends, to a large extent, on winning elections in Congress. We must take our case to the American people, precinct by precinct, block by block.

I believe it's no coincidence that our party slipped to minority status in the House as we became a minority in the state legislatures. Today, Democrats now have a redistricting advantage in states that compose about 90 percent of the seats in Congress.

That is why we Republicans must make solid gains at the state level. Critical gubernatorial and legislative races in the eight largest states alone will determine whether Republicans will be treated fairly in the drafting of 209 Congressional Districts. **From Springfield to Sacramento, from Austin to Albany, we must win the fight for fair competition.**

A majority, or even a large minority, of Republicans in state legislatures can join with Republican governors to sustain the veto of outrageous gerrymander schemes, strengthening our numbers in the U.S. House. Bob Michel, our able leader in the House, is outgunned. Let us help him by picking up more House seats.

Strong state parties can help us to win back the U.S. Senate -- one of our most critical goals. Bob Dole is doing a superb job as Republican leader in the Senate, but he needs more troops. **Let us win back the Senate. Let us again make it a Republican Senate.**

In the next election, we have a good shot at making big gains. Of course, the party that controls the White House is supposed to do poorly in mid-term elections. But there are no iron-clad rules in politics. ((After all, if there were, I would never have become the only living member of the Martin Van Buren Society . . .)) With your support and leadership -- the leadership of great Republicans like Carl Lindner of Ohio -- **we can again defy the precedents. We can again make history.**

In order to win, we must work together as a team, not as an association of acronyms. The RNC, the NRCC, the RGA, the NRSC -- these are top-notch, well-managed organizations staffed by the best people in politics today.

But our Republican Party must be greater than the sum of its parts; we must be inspired by a common purpose. We must bring opportunity to new constituencies, and campaign in their neighborhoods, in the inner cities and barrios, once considered to be the exclusive domain of the opposition.

To win, we must also recruit the very best men and women to represent our party, as candidates and as officeholders.

These are my strategies for victory. But strategies are useless without a great purpose . . . We have such a purpose, to build a better America, for today and for the new century ahead.

We have shed a lot of blood, sweat and tears to rebuild the Republican Party since the early seventies. The best way to keep our party growing is to win more elections in 1990, from the courthouse, to the statehouse, to Capitol Hill. And with your help, let's prove to the Democrats that the successes of the 1980s are not a fluke; that they, in fact, **spell the beginning of the end of Democratic dominance in Congress.** ((PAUSE))

Thank you, good night and God bless you all.