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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 Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13474  
**Folder ID Number:** 13474-004

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**Folder Title:**  
Alfalfa Dinner, 1/28/89

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

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**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR THE ALFALFA DINNER  
CAPITOL HILTON  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1989**

**THIS IS A NIGHT FOR NOSTALGIA. IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY THAT A GROUP OF YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THIS CLUB ... ALL OF THEM WERE UNDER SEVENTY AS I RECALL ... ASKED ME TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT ON THE ALFALFA TICKET.**

**I WAS A YOUNG BUSINESSMAN ... ABOUT TO MAKE MY FIRST KILLING ... INVESTING IN A COMPANY THAT BOTTLED BOSTON HARBOR MINERAL WATER. OBVIOUSLY, I WAS ALFALFA MATERIAL.**

**2**

**AND THIS YEAR, IN JUDGE HOWELL HEFLIN, YOU HAVE PERHAPS THE QUINTESSENTIAL ALFALFA CANDIDATE. A MAN WHO CARES NEITHER ABOUT COMPETENCE NOR IDEOLOGY. HOWELL, I'M FRANKLY SURPRISED YOU WOULD SAY THOSE DIGS ABOUT ME. HAVE YOU BEEN SNACKING ON FERMENTED GRITS?**

**AS A CANDIDATE, HOWELL HAS AT LEAST ONE THING GOING IN HIS FAVOR. HE CANNOT FIT INTO A TANK. HOWELL'S CAMPAIGN SLOGAN WILL BE "READ MY HIPS." ENOUGH ABOUT OUR**

**SORRY TICKET, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I'M DOING OVER AT THE WHITE HOUSE.**

**I CHOSE AS CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN SUNUNU. I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHOSE NAME RHYMED WITH DEEP DOO DOO.**

**I HAVE A BRAND NEW LIMO ... TWENTY-TWO FOOT LONG LINCOLN ... IN HOUSTON CALL THAT A MOSBACHER MAZDA.**

**SOMETIMES WE FORGET ... TO TAKE CHEAP SHOTS AT OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT.**

**LLOYD AND ALAN PROVIDE AN INTERESTING CONTRAST. BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S VERSUS DINNER AT DENNY'S.**

**SENATOR SIMPSON DOES REMIND YOU OF A LINCOLNESQUE FIGURE. THAT IS, IF THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR HAD BEEN ON A THREE DAY TOOT.**

ALAN IS KIND OF A SEEDY ROY ROGERS. HIS BODY LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING RUBE GOLDBERG WOULD DREAM ABOUT AFTER RUBE SCARFED UP A BOWL OF PORK RINDS.

WE'RE ALL STILL WINDING DOWN FROM LAST SATURDAY'S INAUGURAL FESTIVITIES. I ATTENDED MAYBE THE WILDEST EVENT OF INAUGURAL WEEK ... THE RHYTHM AND BLUES CONCERT. WHEN I CLIMBED UP ON STAGE WITH A GUITAR, MAKING DUCK-BILL FACES, MY KIDS WERE MORTIFIED. THEY SAID,

"DAD, WHY CAN'T YOU BE A SENSIBLE PRESIDENT ... LIKE SAY GRANT? ... HE ONLY DRANK."

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AS THE LAST SPEECH AT THE END OF A MARVELOUSLY ENTERTAINING, BUT FAIRLY LENGTHY ALFALFA EVENING, I TOLD MY DAD'S ADVICE: "GEORGE, IF YOU EVER RISE SO HIGH OR SINK SO LOW AS TO END AN ALFALFA EVENING, SIMPLY SAY THANK YOU AND SIT DOWN."

**BUT JUST A WORD MORE ... HAVING FAILED AS YOUR CANDIDATE, SOMEHOW, WITH THE HELP OF MANY RIGHT HERE IN THIS ROOM, I GOT TO BE PRESIDENT ANYWAY.**

**WE'RE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS WITH DIFFERENT APPROACHES ... BUT REALLY THE SAME GOALS. WE SALUTE THE SAME FLAG ... SACRIFICE TO GAIN A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR KIDS AND COMFORT FOR OUR AGING PARENTS.**

**WE SEEM TO KNOW THAT KINDNESS IS NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, BUT RATHER STRENGTH. IT'S TRUE OF INDIVIDUALS AND OF NATIONS ... YOU DON'T HAVE TO SWAGGER TO BE STRONG.**

**AMERICANS' HEARTS ARE WARM AND ALSO BIG. AMERICANS FEEL DEEPLY AND ACT ON THOSE FEELINGS. WHETHER IT'S RESCUING STRANDED WHALES IN ALASKA, TENS OF THOUSANDS BURIED UNDER THE RUBBLE IN ARMENIA, OR ONE LITTLE GIRL STUCK DOWN IN A WELL IN MIDLAND, TEXAS.**

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IF THIS CONTINUES ... WHO KNOWS ... THE NEXT TIME THEY PLAY "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" PRESIDENT HEFLIN MIGHT WALK IN.

# # #

Siller  
1-27-89  
6:00 pm

Proposed Presidential Remarks: For the Alfalfa Dinner  
Saturday, January 28, 1989

This is a night for nostalgia. It seems like only yesterday that a group of younger members of this club . . . all of them were under seventy as I recall . . . asked me to run for President on the Alfalfa ticket.

I was a young businessman . . . about to make my first killing . . . investing in a company that <sup>Boston Harbor</sup> ~~bottles~~ mineral water, ~~from Boston Harbor~~. Obviously, I was Alfalfa material. And this year, in Judge Howell Heflin, you have perhaps the quintessential Alfalfa candidate. A man who cares neither about competence nor ideology. Howell, I'm frankly surprised you would say those digs about me. Have you been snacking on fermented grits?

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off

As a candidate, Howell ~~has at least one thing going in his favor.~~ <sup>with a void as a pitfall that will ~~another~~</sup> He cannot fit into a tank. Howell's campaign slogan will be "Read my Hips" Enough about our sorry ticket, let me tell you what I'm doing over at the White House.

I chose as Chief of Staff John Sununu. I was looking for someone whose name rhymed with deep doo doo.

I have a brand new limo . . . twenty-two feet long Lincoln .  
. . . in Houston call that a Mosbacher Mazda.

~~Twenty-two feet long. You can park it in over three zip  
codes.~~

~~Our dog is pregnant. Now she's experiencing morning  
sickness. I know the feeling. I read "Doonesbury". It's always  
easy to take cheap shots at the nominee. But Sometimes we forget  
. . . to take cheap shots at our outgoing president and our  
incoming president.~~

Lloyd and Alan provide an interesting contrast. Breakfast  
at Tiffany's versus Dinner at Denny's. (~~Dem Perignon versus  
Frank Bartles.~~)

Then there's <sup>Senator</sup> Alan Simpson <sup>Does</sup> who especially reminds you  
of a Lincolnesque figure. That is, if the Great Emancipator had  
been on a three day toot. [~~Alan's from Wyoming, where he spent  
his formative years working on a ranch as a cowpunch. He claims  
the cows had insulted his sister.~~]

Alan is kind of a seedy Roy Rogers. His body looks like  
something Rube Goldberg would dream about after Rube scarfed up a  
bowl of pork rinds.

We're all still winding down from last Saturday's Inaugural Festivities. I attended maybe the wildest event of Inaugural Week . . . the Rhythm and Blues Concert. When I climbed up on stage with guitar, making duck-bill faces, my kids were mortified. They said, "Dad, why can't you be a sensible President . . . like say Grant? . . . He only drank." 3

Several years ago, as the last speech at the end of a marvelously entertaining, but fairly lengthy Alfalfa evening, I told my Dad's advice: <sup>"George,</sup> "If you ever rise so high or sink so low as to end an Alfalfa evening, simply say thank you and sit down".

But just a word more . . . Having failed as your candidate, somehow, with the help of many right here in this room, I got to be President anyway.

~~I've been in the job a week and I have marvelled how the American people are willing to give a new President a chance.~~

We're Democrats and Republicans with different approaches . . .but really the same goals. We salute the same flag . . . sacrifice to gain a better life for our kids and comfort for our aging parents.

We seem to know that kindness is not a sign of weakness, but rather strength. It's true of individuals and of nations. You don't have to swagger to be strong.

Americans' hearts are warm and also big. Americans feel deeply and act on those feelings. Whether it's rescuing stranded whales in Alaska, tens of thousands buried under the rubble in Armenia, or one little girl stuck down a well in Midland, Texas.

~~This kindness spills over into politics at Inauguration time.~~

~~With all respect to our able candidate Howell Heflin, we Alfalfans may never know whether America's generosity and goodness of spirit would extend to someone who runs on Alfalfa's ticket and wins. But~~ I can say it's been quite a week for Barbara and me. And it doesn't hurt our country either to have those generous spirits out there . . . at least awhile . . . the American people giving the new guy a chance.

If this continues . . . who knows . . . the next time they *play* "Hail to the Chief" President Heflin might walk in.

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CAPITOL HILTON  
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SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AS THE LAST SPEECH AT THE END OF A MARVELOUSLY ENTERTAINING, BUT FAIRLY LENGTHY ALFALFA EVENING, I

Draft 15:35pm

DRAFT

Sillez  
1-27-89  
4:30 pm

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As a candidate, Howell has at least one thing going in his favor. He cannot fit into a tank. Howell's campaign slogan will be "Read my Hips" Enough about our sorry ticket, let me tell you <sup>what</sup> I'm doing over at the White House.

I chose as Chief of Staff John Sununu. I was looking for someone whose name rhymed with deep doo doo.

I have a brand new limo . . . twenty-two feet long Lincoln . . . in Houston <sup>SC</sup> ~~we~~<sup>call</sup> that a Mosbacher Mazda.

Twenty-two feet long. You can park it in over three zip codes.

Our dog is pregnant. Now she's experiencing morning sickness. I know the feeling. I read "Doonesbury". It's always easy to take cheap shots at the nominee. But sometimes we forget . . . to take cheap shots at our outgoing president and our incoming president.

Lloyd Bentsen was this year's Democratic vice-presidential nominee. Wise career move, Lloyd. You also opened a Waterford Crystal showroom located adjacent to the Libyan perfume factory.

Then there's Alan Simpson . . . who especially reminds you of a Lincolnesque figure. That is, if the Great Emancipator had been on a three day toot. Alan's from Wyoming, where he spent his formative years working on a ranch as a cowpunch. He claims the cows had insulted his sister.

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**AMERICANS' HEARTS ARE WARM AND ALSO BIG. AMERICANS FEEL DEEPLY AND ACT ON THOSE FEELINGS. WHETHER IT'S RESCUING STRANDED WHALES IN ALASKA, TENS OF THOUSANDS BURIED UNDER THE RUBBLE IN ARMENIA, OR ONE LITTLE GIRL STUCK DOWN IN A WELL IN MIDLAND, TEXAS.**

I CAN SAY IT'S BEEN QUITE A WEEK FOR BARBARA AND ME. AND IT DOESN'T HURT OUR COUNTRY EITHER TO HAVE THOSE GENEROUS SPIRITS OUT THERE ... AT LEAST AWHILE ... THE AMERICAN PEOPLE GIVING THE NEW GUY A CHANCE.

IF THIS CONTINUES ... WHO KNOWS ... THE NEXT TIME THEY PLAY "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" PRESIDENT HEFLIN MIGHT WALK IN.

# # #

From: Roy Siler

Proposed remarks by the President  
for the Alfalfa Dinner  
Saturday, date

This is a night for nostalgia.  
It seems like only yesterday  
that a group of young  
members of this club... all  
of them were under 70 as I  
recall... asked me to run  
for President of the Alfalfa  
ticket.

I was a young ~~successful~~  
businessman... fresh from  
making a fortune ~~about~~  
~~the world was about to be~~  
~~my oyster.~~ You see, I had just  
~~made my entry~~

about to make my first  
killing... investing in a  
company that bottled mineral  
water from Boston Harbor.

Obviously, I was Alfalfa  
material. And ~~so~~ <sup>this is in</sup> Judge  
Howell Heflin you have perhaps  
the quintessential Alfalfa candidate.  
A man who cares neither about  
competence nor ideology.

~~Howell is not a~~

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Howell, I'm frankly surprised  
you would say those things  
about me. Have you been  
<sup>SNACKING ON</sup>  
~~snacking on~~ fermented gurgits?

As a candidate, Howell has at  
least one thing going in his  
favor. He cannot get into a  
tank. | Howell's campaign slogan  
will be "Read my lips".

Enough about our sorry ticket.  
Let me tell you what I'm  
doing over at the White House.

I chose as Chief of Staff  
John Sweeney. I was looking  
for someone whose name rhymed  
with deep doo doo.

I have a brand new limo...  
22 foot long. Sweeney... in  
Houston we call that a  
Nostacher Maagda.

22 feet long. You can park  
it in over 3 zip codes.

Our dog is pregnant. Now  
she's experiencing morning  
sickness. I know the feeling.  
I read "Doo-doo-doo."



Alan is kind of a seedy  
Roy Rogers. His body looks like  
something Duke Godberg would dream about  
after he scarfed up a bowl of pork nids.

David + Alan ~~with a good~~  
provide an interesting contrast.  
~~with~~ breakfast at Tiffany's  
versus ~~the~~ trainer at Jerry's.  
(Tom Reigiver versus Frank  
Bartles)

We're all still coming down from the  
~~inaugural week~~ Festsivities.

Last SATURDAY ~~Last week~~ I attended ~~the~~  
maybe the wildest ~~inaugural~~  
event of Inaugural Week...  
The Rhythm + Blues Concert.  
When I <sup>CLIMBED</sup> got up on stage with  
the guitar, making duck-bill  
faces, my kids were  
mortified. They said, "Dad,  
why can't you be a  
senator President... like  
say Grant? ... He only drank".

Several years ago, as the  
last speech at the end of a  
marvelously entertaining, but  
fairly lengthy fulfilling evening  
I told my Dad's advice: "It

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Alfalfa evening, singly say  
Thank you & sit down.

But just a word more...  
Having failed as your candidate  
somehow, with the help of many  
right here in this room, I  
got to be President anyway.

I've been in the job a week  
& I have marvelled how the  
American people are willing  
to give a new President a  
Chance.

We're Democrats & Republicans  
with different approaches... but  
really the same goals. We salute  
the same flag... sacrifice  
to gain a better life for our  
kids & comfort for our ageing  
parents. ~~And~~

We seem to know that  
kindness is not a sign  
of weakness, but <sup>rather</sup> strength.  
It's true of individuals  
& of nations. You don't have  
to swear to be strong.

possible  
cut

& Americans' hearts are warm  
~~to~~ ~~big~~ & also big.  
 Americans feel deeply & act  
 on those feelings. Whether  
 it's rescuing stranded whales  
 in Alaska, ~~to~~ tens of thousands  
 buried under the rubble in  
 America, or one little girl  
 stuck down a well in Midland,  
 Texas.

This kindness spills over  
 into politics at Inauguration  
 time.

With all respect to our  
 able ~~exec~~.

~~Cathy: I just want to endorse a  
 candidate~~

candidate Howell Heflin, we  
 Alfalfa may never know  
 whether America's generosity  
 & goodness of spirit would  
 extend to someone who  
 runs on Alfalfa's ticket  
 & wins.

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But, I can say it's been quite a week for Barbara & me. And it doesn't hurt our country either to have those generous spirits out there... at least for awhile... the American people giving the new guy a chance.

If this continues "who knows... the next time they play "Hail to the Chief" President Befflein might walk in.

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