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Suggested Remarks  
 For President Bush  
 George Washington University  
 February 17, 1989

Chancellor Danforth, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends. Thank you for that gracious introduction. And let me thank all of you for the privilege of sharing this occasion.

That noted Missourian, Mark Twain, once wrote: "In Boston, they ask, 'How much does he know?' In Philadelphia, 'Who were his parents?' In New York, 'How much is he worth?'" Well, from my perspective, you couldn't put a price tag on this morning. Believe me, it is priceless, and my gratitude is boundless.

~~Second,~~ <sup>Second,</sup> ~~also~~ let me say how pleased I am to be in one of America's most illustrious States:

--The home of tourism, aerospace, and rhythm 'n' blues;

--The site whose native sons include Omar Bradley and George Washington Carver and that master linguist, Lawrence Peter (Yogi) Berra;

--The State, moreover, whose citizens embody the best of America, and who know that the heart of America is good: working, hoping, dreaming, helping people help themselves.

You know, ever since childhood I've been an avid baseball fan, and even now, I recall how the Cardinals' late, great Dizzy Dean said of his exploits as a pitcher: "Podner, it ain't braggin' if you can back it up."

My friends, we meet today at a college--George Washington University of St. Louis--which has, indeed, "backed it up."

Together, this community has built a pioneering school in science and mathematics. Your teaching and research are rivaled only by your basketball. And soaring admission applications tell a story of academic excellence. Surely, no one would claim of GW what Yogi Berra did of a popular Manhattan restaurant. Observed the Hall of Famer: "Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded."

As students and faculty, administrators and alumni, you have shown how volunteerism can enrich education, and now education can enrich America: I refer, of course, to such projects as the Special Olympics.

Together, you have shown that what matters--matters in the end--is not money gained, or professions conquered: Instead, I

refer to what really counts--the basic, the simple things--things like civility, kindness, self-sacrifice, compassion.

And, yes, together, you have echoed the lyrics of that noted GW alumnus, Broadway's David Merrick. To those left behind, you haven't said, "Stop the World--I Want to Get Off." Instead, you have vowed, "I Do, I Do," to the disabled and the indigent. Your deeds have been heroic deeds, for you have sought a richer life of soul and spirit: To right wrong, to love justice, and to serve the gentler impulses of mankind.

Eight days ago, in a joint session before both houses of Congress, I proposed a budget to achieve these aims: To create a Nation where equality and opportunity co-exist, and where freedom can prevail.

Our budget seeks to curb the growth of Federal spending, even as we provide more generously for the most vulnerable among us. It links social concern with fiscal sanity, even as we show that government can feel in its heart what it knows in its head.

Our budget is responsive and responsible, and will ensure a strong and stable economy. It seeks to arrest government's maze of mindless regulations, and to return power to the people. Our goal is as open as the Midwest sky: Prosperity without inflation and prosperity without war. To reach it, let us chart priorities,

reduce the deficit, and keep our financial house in order. Above all, let us repeat the pledge: No New Taxes.

Under the Bush budget, Federal tax revenues will rise because of economic growth--by our projections, an estimated \$80 billion. There are some who want to spend this money on Barnum & Bailey circuses. I say no. I say: Let us use those revenues to reduce the Federal deficit by \$76 billion.

Yes, we can afford to increase spending--but only modestly, selectively, and after the hardest of choices. And, yes, we must spend enough to protect our national security--at home, we must spend enough to do the job--but without resorting to a tax increase. For the flagrant creed dubbed "Tax and Spend" has gone the way of the silent movies. And we have surpassed--long surpassed--the limits of what government alone can do.

That is why our budget features a flexible freeze: Those programs that work, we will protect funding; those that don't, we will discard funding. Our budget is fair to recipients, fair to tax-payers, and fair-minded in its strategy. It embodies two qualities which, like baseball, are ~~forever~~ <sup>perpetual</sup> in season: ~~forever~~ <sup>always</sup> The common sense that Justice Hand termed "the eventual supremacy of reason," and America's capacity to care.

Will most Americans support this freeze? Cynics say no, but I say yes.

Most Americans, I'm convinced, believe that in the America of the 1990s, our challenges must be met by government and people together--or they cannot be met at all. But they also believe, as Bernard Baruch reminded us, that "Government is not a substitute for people, but simply the instrument through which they act."

Yes, most Americans believe that we must reach beyond government, caring about our communities and assisting our neighbors. But they also believe that government can be a catalyst--healing, not scarring, and preserving the true promise of America.

Accordingly: My budget does more, for instance, for the environment, more for the Space Program, and invests almost \$2.2 billion for the National Science Foundation to promote basic research. It increases funding for the Head Start Program, and allocates \$1 billion in outlays to stop the deadly scourge of drugs.

To Minority America, especially historically Black colleges, this budget says: "Our means is affirmative action. Our goal is affirmative lives." To the homeless, this budget targets \$1 billion, saying: "Our Nation must leave no one out." To the elderly, this budget vows: "Your final years can be your finest years." And to our Nation's youth, this budget says: "The promise of tomorrow lies in the children of today."

Consider: We have proposed a new child care initiative, targeted at low-income families. We have restored and doubled the tax deduction for adopting special needs children. Even more, we have made education the Gateway Arch of the Bush Administration. For a decent education is the first civil right of every American. Our pursuit of excellence is central to the future of America. And if excellence breeds achievement, then excellence must be rewarded--in grade-school, in high-school, and, yes, at the universities of America.

Last Thursday, I asked Congress to create a \$500-million program to reward America's best schools--"merit schools"--and to found special Presidential awards for the best teachers in every State.

~~They, as now,~~ I urged expanded use of magnet schools--giving families and students the freedom of choice, ~~and a~~ <sup>pledged</sup> ~~new~~ <sup>And I proposed a</sup> program to encourage "alternative certification"--allowing learned Americans from every field to teach in America's classrooms.

<sup>This morning,</sup> ~~Today,~~ repeating those ~~proposals,~~ <sup>proposals,</sup> I ask for your support. And <sup>I ask you</sup> ~~I ask you~~ <sup>to endorse</sup> ~~to endorse~~ <sup>whereby we</sup> ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup>

~~And through~~ <sup>my</sup> new program of National Science Scholars, ~~I~~ <sup>let us</sup> seek to inspire America's ministry of talent, and ~~to~~ give America's youth a special incentive to excell in science and mathematics. In short, ~~we~~ <sup>let us</sup> achieve, nationally, what this university has done, historically--to make excellence a way of life, and higher learning a bequest.

Education can ennoble the American Story. So can the budget I unveiled last week. Each embraces honesty and speaks from conscience. Each asks that, individually, we make this a better, more selfless, more tolerant world.

You know what I'm getting at. You know what I'm asking for, today. It's termed volunteerism, or partnerships between all levels of government, private enterprise, and voluntary organizations. It's called lending a hand, mending a wound, and helping the less fortunate. Voluntary service can be as universal as self-respect, and as honorable as education. It can also make America both great and good: At home, to aid those who only ask for dignity; abroad, to summon God's help--and your's--not merely for peace in our time, but for peace among men, deep down, inside, with regard for others' sensibilities.

Volunteerism can be government's helpmate. ~~Each, alone, is potent but inadequate; both, combined, exceed the universe of their parts.~~ <sup>they</sup> Together, ~~the public and private sectors~~ can join hands for the good of America, and <sup>a</sup> help overcome the ~~curse~~ <sup>nightmare</sup> of poverty and despair. It is a dream--my dream; I ask that it be yours--based more on human talent than Federal largess; more on local initiative than on the Federal bureaucracy; resting less on promises and politicians than on our most enduring treasure: The inalienable power of the human heart.

My friends, the definition of a successful life must include serving others--in the day-care center, a Masonic Lodge, at Little League, in church.

That is why I have opened the Office of National Service, which will lead my Administration's community and national service programs. It is why I will build upon the Private Sector Initiatives begun by President Reagan, and why I salute your efforts, reflecting that spirit, which bespeak what Pope Pius XII called "America's genius for great and generous deeds." But most of all, it is why ~~because volunteerism works~~ that I will foster, as chairman and as evangelist, the YES--or Youth Entering Service--to America Foundation which I proposed last fall. Why?

Because Volunteerism Works.

Here, through YES to America, Americans of junior- and senior-high-school age can, personally, give of, not to, themselves. Here, they can combat such problems as illiteracy and drug abuse. Here, they can make a difference--not merely in their lives, but also in their Nation's. Here, they can have a voice--and make sure that voice is heard.

I urge you to uphold that voice--to say "Yes" to this new program. I ask you to create a more just society for all. At home, let us build bridges of trust and harmony. And, abroad, let us build bridges of peace.

My friends, next week Barbara and I begin a journey for peace--a journey that will carry us to the far reaches of the Pacific Basin. We go to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito; to consult many of America's most abiding allies; and to visit a country I served as our Ambassador: A land of myth, romance, and lyric poetry--the People's Republic of China.

Several days ago, preparing for that trip, I came across these words of two old Chinese proverbs.

The first proverb said, "When you drink from the stream, remember the spring." My ~~friend~~<sup>friends,</sup> ~~citizens,~~ let the stream be your lives, doing good things on behalf of others. And let the spring be education, exalting America's quality of life.

The second proverb observed that "One generation plants the seeds...another gets the shade." ~~My friends,~~ <sup>then,</sup> think of voluntary service as America's seeds. It can lift hearts, change lives, and shape the 1990s.

Let us understand that government is but a custodian of America's future--but that you--the people--you are her trustees.

Let us observe that we are all children of the same humane and loving God, and that our destiny is not divisible.

And as we chart that destiny--together, united, and goaded always by a desire to do better--let us proclaim our true calling as a Nation:

"To anticipate charity by preventing poverty; assist the reduced fellowman...so that he can earn an honest livelihood. This," said the 12th-Century Jewish philosopher Moses Ben Maimon, or Maimonides (My-MON-i-deez), "is the highest step and the summit of charity's golden ladder."

My friends, is that a tall order? You bet it is--what Doubting Thomases might term Mission Impossible. But, then, let me remind you: We are Americans--pilgrims from every corner of the globe. And ours is the greatest, fairest, and tallest of Nations--the acknowledged Master of Missions Fulfilled.

Thank you for your many kindnesses, and for the warmth of this reception. Thank you for inviting me, good luck to each of you, Godspeed to this university, and may God bless the United States of America.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: February 16, 1989

*Our big concern  
is that we can't do more.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO: Jim Cicconi

I think we need a strong sentence somewhere -  
maybe near the end to point out yes, in some  
areas I wish we had more money to spend -  
drugs, education. Ours is not the total  
answer, but we have made a good beginning.

In other words, recognize the fact we can't  
spend all we'd like to in some key areas.

Add some mention of anti-drugs.

*Bates - Washington*  
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HE WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT YOU COULDN'T PUT A PRICE TAG ON THIS MORNING. BELIEVE ME, I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IN MISSOURI:

--THE HOME OF RAGTIME, AEROSPACE, AND AGRICULTURE;

--THE STATE WHOSE NATIVE SONS INCLUDE OMAR BRADLEY AND HARRY TRUMAN AND THAT MASTER LINGUIST, YOGI BERRA;

--THE STATE, MOREOVER, WHOSE CITIZENS EMBODY THE BEST OF AMERICA, AND WHO KNOW THAT THE HEART OF AMERICA IS GOOD: WORKING, SERVING OTHERS, HOPING, AND DREAMING.

FOR 136 YEARS THIS UNIVERSITY HAS PLAYED A PART IN THAT EFFORT. YOUR COMMUNITY HAS BUILT A PIONEERING EFFORT IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS. YOUR TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND SOARING ADMISSION APPLICATIONS TELL A STORY OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

BUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HAS ANOTHER STORY TO TELL -- A STORY FROM WHICH ALL AMERICA CAN LEARN.




IT'S A STORY ABOUT INVESTING IN AMERICA'S FUTURE: HOW AS STUDENTS AND FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS AND ALUMNI, YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM CAN ENRICH EDUCATION AND ENRICH AMERICA.

YOUR WORK WITH SUNDAY'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS IS BUT ONE CHAPTER IN THAT STORY. AROUND THE NATION, OTHER CHAPTERS ARE BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY. AND WE'RE WRITING ANOTHER CHAPTER BY OPENING THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE, WHICH WILL LEAD MY ADMINISTRATION'S COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS.

**OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE: MORE AMERICANS HELPING OTHERS BY EFFECTIVELY SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION.**

**MY FRIENDS, FROM NOW ON IN AMERICA ANY DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE MUST INCLUDE SERVING OTHERS -- IN A CHILD-CARE CENTER, IN THE CORPORATE BOARDROOM, AT THE ROTARY, AT LITTLE LEAGUE, OR A TUTORING PROGRAM, AND IN A CHURCH OR SYNAGOGUE.**

**OUR NEW INITIATIVE WILL REFLECT THAT SPIRIT, ONCE CALLED "AMERICA'S GENIUS FOR GREAT AND GENEROUS DEEDS."**



**AND I TAKE SPECIAL PRIDE IN THE YES PROGRAM -- OR YOUTH ENTERING SERVICE -- WHICH I PROPOSED LAST FALL TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN YOUTH TO GIVE OF THEMSELVES TO OTHERS IN NEED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CAN HELP ALLEVIATE MANY NATIONAL PROBLEMS BY SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG AMERICANS IN VOLUNTARY SERVICE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YES FOUNDATION WILL HELP LEAD THAT EFFORT.**

**TOGETHER, WE CAN SHOW THAT WHAT MATTERS -- IN THE END -- ARE NOT POSSESSIONS:**

WHAT MATTERS IS ENGAGING IN THE HIGH MORAL PRINCIPLE OF SERVING ONE ANOTHER. THAT'S THE STORY OF AMERICA THAT WE CAN WRITE THROUGH VOLUNTARY SERVICE.

EIGHT DAYS AGO, IN A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS, I PROPOSED A BUDGET TO COMPLEMENT VOLUNTARY EFFORTS TO HELP SERVE THE GENTLER IMPULSES OF MANKIND.


I LISTED FOUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES: TO BRING THE DEFICIT DOWN; TO INVEST IN AMERICA'S FUTURE; TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO AN URGENT SET OF PRIORITIES; AND NO NEW TAXES.

OUR BUDGET CURBS THE GROWTH OF FEDERAL SPENDING WHILE PROVIDING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US. IT IS RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE, AND IT WILL ENSURE A STRONG AND STABLE ECONOMY. OUR BUDGET BALANCES SOCIAL CONCERN WITH FISCAL SANITY AND LEAVES POWER IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE. IT SHOWS THAT WE CAN HAVE A GOVERNMENT WITH A HEART AS WELL AS A HEAD.

WHEN IT COMES TO REDUCING THE DEFICIT, SOME PEOPLE SAY IT CAN'T BE DONE WITHOUT NEGLECTING OUR URGENT SOCIAL NEEDS. IT CAN BE DONE, BUT NOT WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL.

**NEXT YEAR ALONE, THANKS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH, FEDERAL TAX REVENUES WILL RISE BY MORE THAN \$80 BILLION. THAT'S RIGHT -- MORE THAN \$80 BILLION IN NEW REVENUES. OUR JOB IS TO ALLOCATE NEW RESOURCES WISELY: TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT BY MORE THAN 40 PERCENT, WITH NO NEW TAXES, AND INVEST IN KEY PRIORITIES.**

**BUDGET CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS ARE UNDERWAY AND WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. YESTERDAY, I INVITED CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF BUDGET TALKS NEXT TUESDAY MORNING.**



**I AM COMMITTED TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH MY FRIENDS ON THE HILL TO HELP THEM MEET THE TARGET DATE SET BY THE GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS LAW FOR AN APRIL 15TH BUDGET RESOLUTION.**

**TOGETHER, WE MUST MAKE THE BUDGET PROCESS WORK.**

**THERE ARE CERTAIN PRIORITIES THAT DEMAND ATTENTION. YES, WE CAN AFFORD TO INCREASE SPENDING -- MODESTLY, SELECTIVELY, AND ONLY AFTER TOUGH CHOICES ARE MADE. AND WE MUST SPEND ENOUGH TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY -- A CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PRESIDENT.**

AND CERTAINLY WE MUST NOT FALL BACK TO THE "TAX AND SPEND" POLICIES OF THE PAST.

BUT PROGRAMS THAT WORK CAN BE PROTECTED AND IN SOME CASES, FUNDING INCREASED. OUR BUDGET IS FAIR TO RECIPIENTS, FAIR TO TAXPAYERS, AND FAIR-MINDED IN ITS STRATEGY. IT EMBODIES TWO QUALITIES WHICH ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON: THE COMMON SENSE THAT JUDGE LEARNED HAND TERMED "THE EVENTUAL SUPREMACY OF REASON," AND AMERICA'S CAPACITY TO CARE.


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MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT IN THE AMERICA OF THE 1990s, OUR CHALLENGES MUST BE MET IN SEVERAL WAYS -- BY GOVERNMENT, BY THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WORKING TOGETHER -- OR THEY WILL NOT BE MET AT ALL. THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION IS CRITICAL BUT BY ITSELF IS INSUFFICIENT TO SOLVE ALL OF OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS.

YES, MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS MUST REACH BEYOND GOVERNMENT, TO CARE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITIES AND TO ASSIST OUR NEIGHBORS.

**BUT THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN BE AN IMPORTANT CATALYST IN THAT PROCESS OF HELPING INDIVIDUALS, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR NATION.**

**ACCORDINGLY, OUR BUDGET DOES MORE, FOR INSTANCE, FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MORE FOR THE SPACE PROGRAM, AND INVESTS ALMOST \$2.2 BILLION FOR THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE BASIC RESEARCH. IT INCREASES FUNDING FOR THE HEAD START PROGRAM, AND ALLOCATES \$1 BILLION IN ADDITIONAL OUTLAYS TO STOP THE DEADLY SCOURGE OF DRUGS.**



**THAT'S WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SPEAK OF INVESTING IN THE FUTURE.**

**TO MINORITY AMERICANS, THIS BUDGET SAYS: "EDUCATION MEANS OPPORTUNITY, AND BIGOTRY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED."**

**TO THE HOMELESS, THIS BUDGET TARGETS \$1 BILLION, SAYING: "OUR NATION MUST LEAVE NO ONE OUT." TO THE ELDERLY, THIS BUDGET VOWS: "YOUR DIGNITY AND CONCERNS WILL BE RESPECTED." AND TO THE NATION'S YOUTH, THIS BUDGET SAYS: "THE PROMISE OF TOMORROW LIES IN THE CHILDREN OF TODAY."**

**CONSIDER THIS: WE HAVE PROPOSED A NEW CHILD CARE INITIATIVE, TARGETED AT LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. WE HAVE RESTORED AND DOUBLED THE TAX DEDUCTION FOR ADOPTING SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN.**

**EVEN MORE, WE HAVE MADE EDUCATION THE GATEWAY ARCH OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION. FOR OUR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IS CENTRAL TO THE FUTURE OF AMERICA. AND IF EXCELLENCE BREEDS ACHIEVEMENT, THEN EXCELLENCE MUST BE REWARDED -- IN GRADE SCHOOL, IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND IN THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF AMERICA.**

**LAST THURSDAY, I ASKED CONGRESS TO BEGIN A \$500 MILLION PROGRAM TO REWARD AMERICA'S BEST SCHOOLS -- "MERIT SCHOOLS" -- AND TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR THE BEST TEACHERS IN EVERY STATE. I URGED EXPANDED USE OF MAGNET SCHOOLS -- GIVING FAMILIES AND STUDENTS A CHOICE IN EDUCATION. AND I PROPOSED A NEW PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE "ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION" -- ALLOWING QUALIFIED AND TALENTED AMERICANS FROM EVERY FIELD TO TEACH IN AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS.**

WE MUST BRING MORE OF OUR BEST MINDS BACK TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION. AND THROUGH A NEW PROGRAM OF NATIONAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS, WE CAN INSPIRE THEIR STUDENTS, TOO -- GIVING AMERICA'S YOUTH A SPECIAL INCENTIVE TO EXCEL IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS. IN SHORT, I WISH TO ACHIEVE, NATIONALLY, WHAT THIS UNIVERSITY HAS DONE, HISTORICALLY -- TO MAKE EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING A NATIONAL WAY OF LIFE.

EDUCATION CAN ENNOBLE THE AMERICAN STORY.




IT IS THE BEST WAY TO INVEST IN OUR FUTURE AND TO MAKE THIS A BETTER, MORE SELFLESS, MORE TOLERANT WORLD.

WE HAVE SET THE RIGHT PRIORITIES IN THE BUDGET. NOW, WE HAVE WORK TO DO. THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE SOLVED IN AMERICA TODAY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE NATION CAN SOLVE THEM, BUT AMERICA MUST GO FAR BEYOND THE FEDERAL BUDGET TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS.

**WE MUST FORGE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESS CORPORATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS -- TO LEND A HAND, MEND A WOUND, AND HELP THE LESS FORTUNATE.**

**MY FRIENDS, NEXT WEEK BARBARA AND I WILL TAKE A JOURNEY TO PURSUE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP -- A JOURNEY THAT WILL CARRY US ACROSS THE PACIFIC TO JAPAN, CHINA AND KOREA.**



**WE GO TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE EMPEROR AND TO CONSULT WITH THE LEADERS OF MANY OF AMERICA'S ALLIES AND FRIENDS. MY VISIT TO CHINA IS A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY TO A COUNTRY WHERE I SERVED AS AMERICA'S REPRESENTATIVE.**

**SEVERAL DAYS AGO, PREPARING FOR OUR TRIP, I CAME ACROSS THESE WORDS OF AN OLD CHINESE PROVERB: "ONE GENERATION PLANTS THE SEEDS ... ANOTHER GETS THE SHADE."**

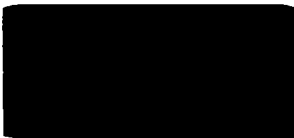
**THINK OF THE INVESTMENTS WE MAKE IN OUR FUTURE AS AMERICA'S SEEDS. WE CAN LIFT HEARTS, CHANGE LIVES, AND SHAPE THE 1990s.**



**THAT'S A TALL ORDER. BUT IT HAS BEEN THE AMERICAN  
STORY FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS. LET'S WRITE IT  
TOGETHER.**

**THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.**

**# # #**



FINAL

REMARKS TO WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
FEBRUARY 17, 1989

1989 FEB 12 PM 11:00

CHANCELLOR DANFORTH, HONORED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS. THANK YOU FOR THAT GRACIOUS INTRODUCTION. AND LET ME THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING THIS OCCASION.

MARK TWAIN, ONCE WROTE: "IN BOSTON, THEY ASK, 'HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?' IN PHILADELPHIA, 'WHO WERE HIS PARENTS?' IN NEW YORK, 'HOW MUCH IS HE WORTH?'"

BUT MARK TWAIN WAS A MISSOURIAN.



HE WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT YOU COULDN'T PUT A PRICE TAG ON THIS MORNING. BELIEVE ME, I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IN MISSOURI:

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**WHEN IT COMES TO REDUCING THE DEFICIT, SOME PEOPLE SAY IT CAN'T BE DONE WITHOUT NEGLECTING OUR URGENT SOCIAL NEEDS. IT CAN BE DONE, BUT NOT WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL.**

**NEXT YEAR ALONE, THANKS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH, FEDERAL TAX REVENUES WILL RISE BY MORE THAN \$80 BILLION. THAT'S RIGHT -- MORE THAN \$80 BILLION IN NEW REVENUES. OUR JOB IS TO ALLOCATE NEW RESOURCES WISELY: TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT BY MORE THAN 40 PERCENT, WITH NO NEW TAXES, AND INVEST IN KEY PRIORITIES.**

**BUDGET CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS ARE UNDERWAY AND WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. YESTERDAY, I INVITED CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF BUDGET TALKS NEXT TUESDAY MORNING.**



**I AM COMMITTED TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH MY FRIENDS ON THE HILL TO HELP THEM MEET THE TARGET DATE SET BY THE GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS LAW FOR AN APRIL 15TH BUDGET RESOLUTION.**

**TOGETHER, WE MUST MAKE THE BUDGET PROCESS WORK.**

**THERE ARE CERTAIN PRIORITIES THAT DEMAND ATTENTION. YES, WE CAN AFFORD TO INCREASE SPENDING -- MODESTLY, SELECTIVELY, AND ONLY AFTER TOUGH CHOICES ARE MADE. AND WE MUST SPEND ENOUGH TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY -- A CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PRESIDENT.**

**AND CERTAINLY WE MUST NOT FALL BACK TO THE "TAX AND SPEND" POLICIES OF THE PAST.**

**BUT PROGRAMS THAT WORK CAN BE PROTECTED AND IN SOME CASES, FUNDING INCREASED. OUR BUDGET IS FAIR TO RECIPIENTS, FAIR TO TAXPAYERS, AND FAIR-MINDED IN ITS STRATEGY. IT EMBODIES TWO QUALITIES WHICH ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON: THE COMMON SENSE THAT JUDGE LEARNED HAND TERMED "THE EVENTUAL SUPREMACY OF REASON," AND AMERICA'S CAPACITY TO CARE.**

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**MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT IN THE AMERICA OF THE 1990s, OUR CHALLENGES MUST BE MET IN SEVERAL WAYS -- BY GOVERNMENT, BY THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WORKING TOGETHER -- OR THEY WILL NOT BE MET AT ALL. THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION IS CRITICAL BUT BY ITSELF IS INSUFFICIENT TO SOLVE ALL OF OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS.**

**YES, MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS MUST REACH BEYOND GOVERNMENT, TO CARE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITIES AND TO ASSIST OUR NEIGHBORS.**


**BUT THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN BE AN IMPORTANT CATALYST IN THAT PROCESS OF HELPING INDIVIDUALS, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR NATION.**

**ACCORDINGLY, OUR BUDGET DOES MORE, FOR INSTANCE, FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MORE FOR THE SPACE PROGRAM, AND INVESTS ALMOST \$2.2 BILLION FOR THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE BASIC RESEARCH. IT INCREASES FUNDING FOR THE HEAD START PROGRAM, AND ALLOCATES \$1 BILLION IN ADDITIONAL OUTLAYS TO STOP THE DEADLY SCOURGE OF DRUGS.**

**WE WILL FIGHT DRUGS ON TWO FRONTS -- SUPPLY AND DEMAND -- TO RECLAIM THE LIVES OF ADDICTS WHO WANT HELP, EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS, AND ENFORCE OUR LAWS.**

**ALL THIS IS WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SPEAK OF INVESTING IN THE FUTURE.**

**TO MINORITY AMERICANS, THIS BUDGET SAYS, "EDUCATION MEANS OPPORTUNITY, AND BIGOTRY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED." TO THE HOMELESS, THIS BUDGET TARGETS \$1 BILLION, SAYING, "OUR NATION MUST LEAVE NO ONE OUT." TO THE ELDERLY, THIS BUDGET VOWS, "YOUR DIGNITY AND CONCERNS WILL BE**




**RESPECTED." AND TO THE NATION'S YOUTH, THIS BUDGET SAYS: "THE PROMISE OF TOMORROW LIES IN THE CHILDREN OF TODAY."**

**CONSIDER THIS: WE HAVE PROPOSED A NEW CHILD CARE INITIATIVE, TARGETED AT LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. WE HAVE RESTORED AND DOUBLED THE TAX DEDUCTION FOR ADOPTING SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN.**

**EVEN MORE, WE HAVE MADE EDUCATION THE GATEWAY ARCH OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION. FOR OUR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IS CENTRAL TO THE FUTURE OF AMERICA. AND IF EXCELLENCE BREEDS ACHIEVEMENT, THEN EXCELLENCE MUST BE REWARDED -- IN**

**GRADE SCHOOL, IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND IN THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF AMERICA.**

**LAST THURSDAY, I ASKED CONGRESS TO BEGIN A \$500 MILLION PROGRAM TO REWARD AMERICA'S BEST SCHOOLS -- "MERIT SCHOOLS" -- AND TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR THE BEST TEACHERS IN EVERY STATE. I URGED EXPANDED USE OF MAGNET SCHOOLS -- GIVING FAMILIES AND STUDENTS A CHOICE IN EDUCATION. AND I PROPOSED A NEW PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE "ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION" -- ALLOWING**



**QUALIFIED AND TALENTED AMERICANS FROM EVERY FIELD TO TEACH IN AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS.**

**WE MUST BRING MORE OF OUR BEST MINDS BACK TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION. AND THROUGH A NEW PROGRAM OF NATIONAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS, WE CAN INSPIRE THEIR STUDENTS, TOO -- GIVING AMERICA'S YOUTH A SPECIAL INCENTIVE TO EXCEL IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS. IN SHORT, I WISH TO ACHIEVE, NATIONALLY, WHAT THIS UNIVERSITY HAS DONE, HISTORICALLY, TO MAKE EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING A NATIONAL WAY OF LIFE.**

**EDUCATION CAN ENNOBLE THE AMERICAN STORY. IT IS THE BEST WAY TO INVEST IN OUR FUTURE AND TO MAKE THIS A BETTER, MORE SELFLESS, MORE TOLERANT WORLD.**

**YES, IN SOME AREAS I WISH WE DID HAVE MORE MONEY TO SPEND -- FOR INSTANCE IN KEY AREAS LIKE DRUGS AND EDUCATION. BUT WE HAVE SET THE RIGHT PRIORITIES IN THIS BUDGET. OURS IS NOT THE TOTAL ANSWER, BUT IN THIS BUDGET WE HAVE MADE A GOOD BEGINNING.**

**NOW, WE HAVE WORK TO DO. THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE SOLVED IN AMERICA TODAY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT**

**THE NATION CAN SOLVE THEM, BUT AMERICA MUST GO FAR BEYOND THE FEDERAL BUDGET TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS.**

**WE MUST FORGE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESS CORPORATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS -- TO LEND A HAND, MEND A WOUND, AND HELP THE LESS FORTUNATE.**

**MY FRIENDS, NEXT WEEK BARBARA AND I WILL TAKE A JOURNEY TO PURSUE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP -- A JOURNEY THAT WILL CARRY US ACROSS THE PACIFIC TO JAPAN, CHINA, AND KOREA.**

**WE GO TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE EMPEROR AND TO CONSULT WITH THE LEADERS OF MANY OF AMERICA'S ALLIES AND FRIENDS. MY VISIT TO CHINA IS A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY TO A COUNTRY WHERE I SERVED AS AMERICA'S REPRESENTATIVE.**

**SEVERAL DAYS AGO, PREPARING FOR OUR TRIP, I CAME ACROSS THESE WORDS OF AN OLD CHINESE PROVERB: "ONE GENERATION PLANTS THE SEEDS . . . ANOTHER GETS THE SHADE."**

**THINK OF THE INVESTMENTS WE MAKE IN OUR FUTURE AS AMERICA'S SEEDS. WE CAN LIFT HEARTS, CHANGE LIVES, AND SHAPE THE 1990s.**

**THAT'S A TALL ORDER. BUT IT HAS BEEN THE AMERICAN STORY FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS. LET'S WRITE IT TOGETHER.**

**THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.**

**# # #**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(St. Louis, Missouri)

For Immediate Release

February 17, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO STUDENTS OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Field House  
Washington University  
St. Louis, Missouri

10:33 A.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very, very much. Thank you, Chancellor Danforth; Chairman Lieberman; our distinguished Governor, John Ashcroft; and Senator Bond; Congressman Buechner here; and to your Student Body President, Cynthia Homan; and other student leaders that have given me this warm reception. I really am pleased to be here and I've looked forward to sharing this occasion with you.

Mark Twain once wrote, "In Boston, they ask, 'How much does he know?' In Philadelphia, 'Who were his parents?' In New York, 'How much is he worth?'" (Laughter.) But Mark Twain was a Missourian. He would agree with me that you couldn't put a price tag on this morning. Believe me, I'm delighted to be here, back in St. Louis and back at this university of excellence -- the home of -- (applause) -- the state of Missouri, the home of ragtime, and aerospace, agriculture; the state whose native sons include Omar Bradley and Harry Truman and that master linguist, Yogi Berra -- (laughter and applause) -- the state -- oh, I love to quote Yogi. Do you remember when he said, "Let's pair 'em off in three's"? (Laughter.) And nevertheless, this state whose citizens embody the best of America, and know that the heart of America is good -- working, serving others, hoping and dreaming.

For 136 years your excellent university has played a part in that effort. Your community has built a pioneering effort in science and math. Your teaching, research and soaring admission applications tell a story summed up best by two words -- academic excellence. (Applause.)

But there's another side of it, another side of the story that Washington University has to tell -- a story from which all America can learn. It's a story about investing in America's future -- how as students and faculty, administrators and alumni, you have shown that service and volunteerism can enrich education and enrich America.

You work with the Special Olympics -- Sunday's Special Olympics is but one chapter in that wonderful story. And around the nation, other chapters are being written every day. And we're

life must include serving others -- in a child care center, the corporate boardroom, in the Rotary, or Little League, or a tutoring program, or a church or a synagogue.

Our new initiative will reflect that spirit, once called "America's genius for great and generous deeds." And I take special pride in our Y-E-S, our YES Program -- Youth Entering Service -- which I proposed last fall to encourage American youth to give of themselves to help others in need. And I'm convinced that we can help alleviate many national problems by substantially increasing the involvement of young Americans in voluntary service. And the establishment of the YES Foundation will help lead that effort.

Together, we can show that what matters in the end are not possessions. What matters is engaging in high moral principle of serving one another. And that's the story of America that we can write through voluntary service.

Eight days ago, in a joint session of Congress, I proposed a budget to complement voluntary efforts to help serve the gentler impulses of mankind. I listed four national objectives -- to bring the deficit down, to invest in America's future, to find solutions to an urgent set of national priorities, and no new taxes.

And our budget curbs the growth of federal spending while providing for the most vulnerable among us. It is responsive and responsible, and it will ensure a strong and stable economy. Our budget balances social concern with fiscal sanity and leaves power in the hands of the people. It shows that we can have a government with a heart as well as a head.

And when it comes to reducing the deficit, some people say it can't be done without neglecting our urgent social needs. It can be done, but it can't be done with business as usual.

Next year alone, thanks to economic growth, -- it's essential we keep the economic growth going in this country -- but thanks to economic growth next year alone federal tax revenues under existing law will rise by more than \$80 billion. More than \$80 billion in new revenues under existing law in one year alone. And our job is to allocate these new resources wisely -- to reduce the federal deficit by more than 40 percent, with no new taxes, and yet investing in key priorities.

Budget consultations with the Congress, as some of you may have read, are already underway and we are making progress. And yesterday, I called the five congressional leaders and invited them to come to the White House for another round of budget talks next Tuesday morning. I am committed to working closely with my friends on the Hill to help them meet the target date set by Gramm-Rudman-Hollings for an April 15th budget resolution.

And together, we've got to make the process work.

There are certain priorities that demand attention. And, yes, we can afford to increase spending -- modestly, selectively, but only after tough choices are made. And we must spend enough to protect our national security -- and that is a chief responsibility.

thousand upon thousands of other institutions, and by the people themselves working together -- or they won't be met at all. The government's contribution is critical, but by itself is insufficient to solve all of our national problems.

And yet most Americans believe that our efforts must reach beyond government, to care about our communities and to assist our neighbors. I called it in a speech earlier on a "thousand points of light," and some of the columnists have had fun with that, interpreting it as a thousand pints of light. I thought -- surprised you didn't get that one here in Missouri -- but I think people are beginning to understand what I mean by a thousand points of light. And if they'd look at these signs and talk to some of you responsible for them, I think they'd understand it without contradiction. I believe that government can be an important catalyst in that process of helping individuals, helping our communities, helping our nation.

And, our budget does more, for instance, for environment, more for the space program, invests almost \$2.2 billion for the National Science Foundation -- a lot of that going to universities to help basic research. (Applause.) It increases funding for the Head Start Program, -- (applause) -- and allocates \$1 billion more in additional outlays to stop the deadly scourge of drugs. We have got to fight -- (applause) -- we've got to fight the drug fight on two fronts, supply and demand; to reclaim the lives of addicts who want help, educate young people about the dangers of drugs, and then enforce our laws. All this is what I mean when I speak of investing in the future.

To minority Americans, this budget says: Education means opportunity, and bigotry will not be tolerated anywhere in the United States of America. (Applause.) To the homeless, this budget targets \$1 billion, saying: Our nation must leave no one out. To the elderly, this budget vows: Your dignity and concerns will be respected. And to the nation's youth, the budget says: The promise of tomorrow lies in the children of today.

Consider this: We've proposed a new child care initiative, targeted -- it's not going to take care of everybody -- it's targeted at low-income families. We've restored and doubled the tax deduction for adopting special needs children. We want those kids in families of love. (Applause.) And even more, we've made education the Gateway Arch of the Bush administration. For our pursuit of excellence is the central to the future of America. And if excellence breeds achievement, then excellence must be rewarded -- in grade school, in high school, and in the colleges and universities of America.

Last Thursday, I asked Congress to begin a \$500 million program to reward America's best schools -- "merit schools" -- and to establish special presidential award for the best teachers in every state. (Applause.) I urged expanded use of what are known as magnet schools -- giving families and students a choice in education. (Applause.) And I proposed a new program to encourage what we call "alternative certification" -- it is wrong, if one of your guys who graduate from this school of excellence, one of you wants to go and give of yourselves to teach in some urban area in a public school, it is wrong to have this excellence go to waste because

more tolerant world.

And yes, in some areas, I've got to confess, I wish we did have more money to spend -- key areas like drugs and education, I will candidly admit that the federal government could use more resources to bring to bear on these problems. But we've had to set priorities. We've had to make the tough choices. And I believe we have set the right priorities in this budget. Ours isn't the total answer, but in this budget, we've made a good beginning. And now I've asked the congressmen to come -- the leaders to come meet with me, and in a spirit of bipartisanship, get on with the nation's business of getting a quick and early resolution to this budget crisis. (Applause.) And now, we have work to do. There are many problems that must be solved in America today. And I am confident, I remain confident that our nation can solve them. But America must go far beyond the federal budget to achieve its goals.

We've got to forge strong partnerships between all levels of government and voluntary organizations, and business corporations, and individuals -- to lend a hand and mend a wound, and help the less fortunate.

Next week, Barbara and I are going to embark on a long journey. We're going to be trying to pursue peace and friendship -- a journey that's going to take us across the Pacific to Japan and China and to Korea. And we go to attend the funeral of the late Emperor and to consult with the leaders of many of America's allies and friends there in Tokyo who will be attending those ceremonies. And my visit to China is a bit of a sentimental journey to a country where I served as America's equivalent then of ambassador 14 or 15 years ago.

And several days ago, preparing for our trip, I came across these words of an old Chinese proverb: "One generation plants the seed -- another gets the shade."

Think of the investments that we make in our future as America's seeds. And we can lift hearts, we can change lives, and we can shape the 1990s -- just one decade before a whole new century.

It's a tall order. But it has been the American story for over two hundred years. And let's write it together. And let me say in conclusion, just being here, just seeing these symbols of volunteerism, make me absolutely convinced that if we take this spirit evident in this gym here today and then multiply it by those thousands, we can do the job. Let's write the next chapter together.

Thank you all for this wonderful welcome, and God bless you all. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

10:57 A.M. CST