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# FOIA MARKER

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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:** 13478  
**Folder ID Number:** 13478-012

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**Folder Title:**  
United Negro College Fund, 3/9/89 [1]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

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## THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(New York, New York)

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For Immediate Release

March 9, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

Imperial Ballroom  
Sheraton Center Hotel  
New York, New York

7:51 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Michael Jordan, for that introduction. Barbara and I are delighted to be with you, speaking before the olives, the celery, the raw carrots. (Laughter.) But we've got to get back to Washington -- fast. (Laughter and applause.) The Senate is still in session and our dog is pregnant. (Laughter.)

I want to just add my voice of congratulations to Gus Hawkins and Larry Rawl and Paul Simon. You honor three good people. And I want to thank Hugh Cullman, who gives so much of himself to the United Negro College Fund, and, of course, salute Chris Edley, a friend of long-standing.

You know, Paul Simon once wrote a song called simply, "Old Friends." And I'm delighted to see my old friends, Bill and Vi Trent, here with us tonight.

You know, as Michael said -- (applause) -- my association with the UNCF got started there at Yale University in '48, and Bill Trent came up to New Haven and talked to a lot of young idealistic people about his vision for higher education, and he did a superb job. And so today, when he and Vi flew up with me on Air Force One, I had this great feeling of nostalgia. And he is -- his 79th birthday I think is tomorrow, but in any event, it's great to be with this old friend way down on the end of the line. (Applause.)

Also with us on Air Force One was another Executive Director of the UNCF, Art Fletcher, who's here somewhere. But we have good representation. And you talk about the hard sell, they're still doing it. (Laughter.)

Tonight, flanked by old friends and, in a real sense, family, because my brother, John, is active in this crusade, and I consider many of you here family -- I am grateful for your company.

During my student days at Yale I first met the

But most of all, you really have shown how the conscience and education can fulfill the promise of America -- to right wrong, to love freedom, to demand equality for all.

And for that, I congratulate you -- and yet, I challenge you, too. Black and white, together -- we know that America will not be a good place for any of us to live until it is a good place for all of us to live. (Applause.)

Most Americans, I'm convinced, believe that government can be an instrument of healing. There are times when government must step in where others fear to tread.

My friends, I share those beliefs, and as President, I will act on them.

I'm delighted that my Secretary of Education, our distinguished Secretary of Education Larry Cavazos is with us here tonight, sitting over here. (Applause.)

For America, it seems to me, means pride -- individually, culturally, racially. And America means, in the words of Dr. King, that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." (Applause.) And it does mean opportunity for those who need jobs and who dream of owning homes. And it means the hope that tomorrow will be brighter than today. How can we best inspire that hope and secure the promise of America? I do believe that the answer is in education. Education knows no barriers, accepts no limits. Education is a ladder; it embodies self-respect, not dependency. Education can give minorities a greater voice, and then make sure that that voice is heard.

Since 1944, when Dr. Patterson founded the UNCF, your voice has resounded from colleges like Tuskegee and Morehouse and Spellman and Fisk. And I'm going to hurt a lot of feelings tonight because I was in a receiving line, and I was so impressed with the names that came flowing back as I met the presidents of these distinguished universities. Black colleges have enobled such Americans as Leontyne Price, Frank Yerby, Azie Taylor Morton, and our next Secretary of Health and Human Services, my dear friend, Dr. Lou Sullivan, who is here with us tonight. (Applause.)

It is said that the woman who Time calls "the silver fox" -- (laughter and applause) -- was responsible for Lou Sullivan's being appointed to this Cabinet, and I'll give her some credit. (Laughter and applause.) I want to gun down the rumor though that I appointed Lou Sullivan to be Secretary because when as President of Morehouse Medical School he was working my wife to death as a board member. And it's rumored I just wanted him to get out of there to let up on her. Not true. (Laughter.)

As you know, in September 1981, President Reagan signed that Executive Order 12320, committing the federal government to

Horsemen of the American Night -- illiteracy and inequality, indigence and fear.

Great beginnings -- crawling before we walk and then run. Great beginnings. And now let's build on them. And we have done much, but there remains so much more left to do.

My friends, eight weeks ago I think it was, there in the White House complex, I met with the presidents of many of the colleges represented here tonight to probe exactly where we are going and how. And we discussed faculty development and merit scholarships, community college grants and institutional planning.

And from that meeting, and others like it, came six new initiatives which will help do, nationally, what you have done, historically: Enrich education, so that education can enrich our lives.

And after listening to your presidents, I proposed that Congress fund \$60 million over four years in endowment matching grants. We put our money on the table. And now, I want to challenge the private sector. It's a beginning. We need the help of the private sector. The time has come.

And secondly, if excellence breeds achievement, that excellence should be rewarded -- in grade schools, in high school, and at our colleges and university. And so I want Congress to create a \$500 million program to reward America's "merit schools" -- the schools which improve the most.

And thirdly, I want it to create special presidential awards for the best teachers in every state.

And next, I want to see the expanded use of magnet schools -- to give parents and students the freedom of choice.

And I've also proposed a new program to encourage "alternative certification" -- to allow talented Americans from every field to teach in America's classrooms -- school classrooms. Consider that today, in many areas, a John Updike or an Alex Haley could not qualify to teach high school creative writing. There is something wrong and we've got to change that system. (Applause.) My point is that when rules are so inflexible that creativity and talent and imagination aren't welcome in our schools, it's time to change those rules.

And finally, through a new program of National Science Scholars, I seek to give America's youth a special incentive to excel in science and math. The National Science Foundation predicts a shortage of 400,000 scientists by the year 2000. Through excellence in education, we must and will reverse that trend. And I see the historical black colleges as an enormous resource to do just exactly that. (Applause.)

And yet, I recognize that these proposals -- all of this isn't enough. It never is. As Americans, we never are satisfied. We know that when a dream comes true, it gives rise to even bigger

MASTER II

Document No. 014059

### WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 03/07/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND-NEW YORK, NY  
(03/07 8:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

1989 MAR -7 PM 8:46

(Smith)  
March 7, 1989  
8:00 pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: United Negro College Fund  
New York, NY  
Thursday, March 9, 1989

Congressman Hawkins, Mr. Rawl, Mr. Simon, ladies and gentlemen, my fellow citizens.

Thank you for that introduction, and for the warmth of your reception. Paul Simon once wrote a song titled, simply, "Old Friends." I am delighted to see my old friends Bill and Vi Trent with us tonight.

My association with UNCF got started back in 1948 when Bill Trent, as the first Executive Director of the College Fund, came to Yale and got me involved in the UNCF campaign. A decade later, he asked me to chair the UNCF Texas campaign. Yesterday, I understand, was his 79th birthday. Happy birthday, Bill.

Tonight, flanked by old friends and, in a real sense, family, I am grateful for your company.

During my student days at Yale, I first saw the Fund invest in higher education, and in America. Then, as now, it insisted that excellence become a way of life, and higher learning a bequest.

As an undergraduate, I came to grasp what Churchill meant when he said, "Personally, I am always ready to learn, though I do not always enjoy being taught." Well, for nearly

half-a-century, this Fund has taught, so that America could learn, the gentler impulses of mankind.

You have helped society's disadvantaged cast off despair and poverty. And through such friends as Bill Trent and Frederick D. Patterson -- and, yes, how we miss him -- you have endorsed liberty, opportunity, and the dignity of work.

But most of all, you have shown how conscience and education can fulfill the promise of America: to right wrong, love freedom, and demand equality for all.

For that, I congratulate you -- and yet, I challenge you, too.

Black and white, together -- we know that America will not be a good place for any of us to live until it is a good place for all of us to live. Yes, let us reach beyond government, as you have, to shape our Nation's character. But let us not ignore government -- for it can nurture the decency which makes human progress possible.

Most Americans, I'm convinced, believe that government can be an instrument of healing. And they believe that there are times when government must step in where others fear to tread.

My friends, I share those beliefs, and as President, I will act on them.

For America, it seems to me, means pride -- individually, culturally and racially. America means, in the words of Dr. King, that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It means opportunity for those who need jobs and

who dream of owning homes. And it means the hope that tomorrow will be brighter than today.

Think of America as a congregation and its members as kindness, courage, service, enterprise. What can best inspire them, and secure the promise of America? I say the answer is education.

Education knows no barriers, accepts no limits. Education is a ladder; it embodies self-respect, not dependency. Education can give minorities a greater voice -- and make sure that voice is heard.

Since 1944, when Dr. Patterson founded the UNCF, your voice has resounded from colleges like Tuskegee, Morehouse, Spellman, and Fisk. And its lyrics have ennobled such Americans as Leontyne Price, Frank Yerby, Azie Taylor Morton, and our next Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Louis Sullivan.

Well, I'm pleased to tell you: Under our Administration, your voice will ring yet louder.

As you know, in September 1981, President Reagan signed Executive Order 12320, committing the Federal government to increase its support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Our goal was to identify, and eliminate, unfair barriers to your participation in Federally-sponsored programs. Our means was to involve the private sector, and to motivate the 27 Federal agencies which provide nearly all the Federal funding.

Did it work? Did it ever.

In Fiscal Year 1981, HBCUs received \$545 million in Federal assistance. In Fiscal Year 1987, that sum totaled \$684 million. Moreover, research and development, which includes funds for non-scientific institutional development, comprised nearly half of all funding. Our White House Science and Technology Committee fostered science, mathematics, and engineering programs and curricula. And our larger HBCU work attacked the Four Horsemen of the American Night -- illiteracy and inequality, indigence and fear.

Great beginnings, yes. Now, let us build upon them. We have done much. But there remains so much more left to do.

That is why, six weeks ago, I met with 26 Presidents of HBCUs to probe where we are going, and how. We discussed faculty development and merit scholarships, community college grants and institutional planning. In each case, we explored Federal government support of public/private partnerships, task forces, conferences, technical assistance, and the use of Federal research and development funds.

From that meeting, and others like it, came six new initiatives which will help do, nationally, what you have done, historically: Enrich education, so that education can enrich our lives.

After listening to your Presidents, I proposed that Congress fund \$60 million over four years in endowment matching grants for HBCUs. We have put our money on the table. Now, I challenge the private sector: The time has come for yours.

Secondly, if excellence breeds achievement, that excellence should be rewarded -- in grade school, in high school, and at our colleges and universities. Accordingly, I want Congress to create a \$500 million program to reward America's "merit schools" -- the schools which improve the most.

Thirdly, I want it to create special Presidential awards for the best teachers in every State.

And next, I want to see the expanded use of magnet schools -- to give parents and students the freedom of choice.

I have also proposed a new program to encourage "alternative certification" -- to allow talented Americans from every field to teach in America's classrooms. Consider that today, in many areas, a John Updike, an Alex Haley, couldn't qualify to teach high-school creative writing. When rules are so inflexible that creativity, talent, and imagination aren't welcome in our schools, it's time to change the rules.

And finally, through a new program of National Science Scholars, I seek to give America's youth a special incentive to excel in science and mathematics. The National Science Foundation predicts a shortage of 400,000 scientists by the year 2000. Through excellence in education, we must, and will, reverse that trend.

And, yet, all of this is not enough. It never is. As Americans, we are never satisfied. We know that when a dream comes true, it gives rise to even bigger and better dreams.

Let us work, then, to build a better America. And let us begin by ending drug abuse.

My friends, drug abuse is America's Twentieth-Century version of human slavery. It chains the spirit, and imperils the ability to learn. To combat drugs, we must mobilize our resources -- fiscal, moral, spiritual, economic -- and wage unconditional war. And we must fight on every front: education, treatment, interdiction, enforcement.

Last month, I asked Congress for an increase of almost \$1 billion in budget outlays to escalate our war. This is a war we must and will win. The future of our nation and the lives of our children depend on it.

Earlier, I mentioned the promise of America: hope, pride, opportunity, justice. A drug-free America fulfills that promise. So, too, do Enterprise Zones.

Enterprise Zones are a pioneering initiative to establish a number of Federally-designated zones -- or areas -- in economically distressed communities. By providing tax breaks and relief from regulation, they foster a climate where new businesses can be created, and existing businesses expanded. These businesses will create new jobs in these targeted communities, especially for disadvantaged workers.

Already, 37 States have developed Enterprise Zone programs. It's time we put them to work at the Federal level. Local communities will benefit. But, more importantly, those who need a helping hand -- the unemployed, the dispossessed -- will gain new hope and opportunity: Not across town, but in their own back yards.

Enterprise Zones can serve the most vulnerable among us. Well, so, too, will child care, fair housing, and minority business development. They build long-term opportunity -- the kind of equality that lasts. In short, they will enrich the quality of life for all Americans.

As part of our new child-care initiative, targeted at low-income families, I have asked for \$250 million more for the Head Start program. This Federal program must, and will, serve increasing numbers of four-year-olds.

For working parents with children under four, we've proposed a new tax credit to make child care more affordable. And we want to make the existing child care credit refundable to families who don't pay taxes. My proposal puts money in the hands of low-income parents, limits Federal intervention, and increases options -- a church can help; or grandparents; or professional nursery. In short, we say: Let the parents decide.

To us, child care means options. Well, that is also true of the inalienable right of every American to live where he chooses, when he chooses, for as long as he chooses, within his means. It's as simple as it sounds -- a simple matter of what's right, and what's wrong. Under this Administration, you have my pledge: We will vigorously enforce the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Finally, four days ago, the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, renamed the Minority Business Development Agency, marked its 20th birthday. We will expand its involvement in the free enterprise system. And we'll promote other programs which spur housing, investment, jobs, and training. The Job Training

Partnership Act, for instance. The Small Business Administration.

Yes, hope, pride, opportunity, justice. I thought of those qualities when I received a letter, recently, from a mother in New Orleans. She is 48 years old, and widowed. She has four sons, and her family is in debt. But they are proud and unafraid, because education is their ally.

The mother is pursuing a Masters Degree in Social Work; last year, her eldest son graduated from the University of Chicago. And the three other kids are college students -- including, she wrote, "the baby of the family: a 6-foot-6, 240-pound freshman at Grambling State University."

"I implore you," the mother asked, "to think about ... people such as myself and my sons." And then she added: "P.S. We're black but optimistic that we can be a part of the American Dream."

My friends, I want an America where this dedicated mother does not have to choose between "black" and "optimistic." The words are not mutually exclusive -- not a contradiction in terms. And I want our policies to serve and encourage this family, and millions like it everywhere. Because they reflect the promise of America ... and we must help make that promise a reality.

The promise of America says that by assuring equality, we can enhance greater opportunity. It says that our destiny is not divisible, and that we are children of the same humane and loving God.

The promise of America demands that we aid our communities and assist our neighbors. It rests less on promises and politicians than on the primacy of the heart.

The promise of America knows neither race, creed, sex, or color. It is collective and individual, and as boundless as our history. The promise of America says that government is but a custodian of America's future -- but that you -- the people -- you are her architects.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays once observed, "It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life does not lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach."

My fellow citizens, to open wide the door of opportunity and equality to all Americans -- this is our goal, and the true promise of America. Let us achieve it, together, as Americans and as friends.

Thank you for inviting me, God bless you all, and God bless the United States of America.

# # #

TO PRESIDENT

(Smith)  
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8:00 pm

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# # #

MASTER I

Document No. \_\_\_\_\_

014059 SS

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 3/7/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/7/89 2:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN <i>No comment</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PORTER</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DARMAN</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>STUDDERT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BATES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN <i>No comment</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DEMAREST</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GRAY</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, by 2:00 PM TODAY, March 7, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE: \_\_\_\_\_

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

1989 MAR - 0 21 9 10

(Smith)  
March 6, 1989  
9:00 pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: United Negro College Fund  
New York, NY  
Thursday, March 9, 1989

Congressman Hawkins, Mr. Rawl, Mr. Simon, ladies and gentlemen, my fellow citizens.

Thank you for that introduction, and for the warmth of your reception. Paul Simon once wrote a song titled, simply, "Old Friends." Tonight, flanked by old friends and, in a real sense, family, I am grateful for your company.

Our paths first crossed many years ago, when I was an organizer for the United Negro College Fund during my student days at Yale. It was there that I first saw the Fund invest in higher education, and in America. Then, as now, it insisted that excellence become a way of life, and higher learning a bequest.

As an undergraduate, I came to grasp what Churchill meant when he said, "Personally, I am always ready to learn, though I do not always enjoy being taught." Well, for nearly half-a-century, this Fund has taught, so that America could learn, the gentler impulses of mankind.

You have helped society's disadvantaged cast off despair and poverty. And through such friends as Bill Trent and Frederick D. Patterson -- and, yes, how we miss him -- you have endorsed liberty, opportunity, and the dignity of work.

But most of all, you have shown how conscience and education can fulfill the promise of America: to right wrong, love freedom, and demand equality for all.

For that, I congratulate you -- and yet, I challenge you, too.

Black and white, together -- ~~we want an America of affirmative action, and affirmative lives.~~ <sup>we know that</sup> But America will not be a good place for any of us to live ~~in~~ until it is a good place for all of us to live ~~in~~. Yes, let us reach beyond government, as you have, to shape our Nation's character. But let us not ignore government -- for it can nurture the decency which makes human progress possible.

Most Americans, I'm convinced, believe that government can be an instrument of healing. And they believe that, <sup>there are</sup> at times, <sup>when</sup> government must step in where others fear to tread. (Down)

My friends, I share those beliefs; <sup>and,</sup> As President, I will act <sup>(Rope)</sup> on <sup>them.</sup> their behalf.

For America, it seems to me, means pride -- <sup>entirely</sup> individually and <sup>It means</sup> racially. <sup>(Danner)</sup> And opportunity for those who need jobs and who dream of owning homes. <sup>(</sup> America means, in the words of Dr. King, that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." <sup>it means</sup> And hope: the hope that tomorrow will be brighter than today. <sup>)</sup>

Think of America as a congregation, <sup>and its</sup> ~~Now, think of its~~ members as kindness, courage, service, enterprise. What agenda can best inspire them, and secure the promise of America? You <sup>I say</sup> ~~know the answer, for I've pledged to be the Education President.~~ <sup>the answer is education.</sup> ~~And I'll let you in on a secret: I mean exactly what I say.~~

Education knows no barriers, accepts no limits. Education is a ladder; it embodies self-respect, not dependency. Education can give minorities a greater voice -- and make sure that voice is heard.

Since 1944, when Dr. Patterson founded the UNCF, your voice has resounded from colleges like Tuskegee, Morehouse, Spellman, and Fisk. And its lyrics have ennobled such Americans as Leontyne Price, <sup>Louis Sullivan</sup> ~~Andrew Young~~, Frank Yerby, and Azie Taylor Morton.

Well, I'm pleased to tell you: Under our Administration, your voice will ring yet louder.

As you know, in September 1981, President Reagan signed Executive Order 12320, committing the Federal government to increase its support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Our goal was to identify, and eliminate, unfair barriers to your participation in Federally-sponsored programs. Our means was to involve the private sector, and to motivate the 27 Federal agencies which provide nearly all the Federal funding.

Did it work? Did it ever.

*(Bates)*  
 In Fiscal Year 1982, HBCUs received \$545 million in Federal ~~assistance~~ <sup>moreover, in Fiscal Year 1987</sup> ~~last year~~ <sup>and Research and</sup> that sum totaled \$684 million. ~~Scientific~~ <sup>development, which includes funds for non-scientific institutional development,</sup> ~~research leaped by 38 per cent, and by FY '87 research and~~

~~development~~ comprised nearly half of all funding. Our White House Science and Technology Committee fostered science, mathematics, and engineering programs and curricula. And our larger HBCU work attacked the Four Horsemen of the American Night -- illiteracy and inequality, indigence and fear.

Great beginnings, yes. Now, let us build upon them. We have done much. But there remains ~~is will always be~~ so much more left to do.

That is why, six weeks ago, I met with 26 Presidents of HBCUs to probe where we are going, and how. We discussed faculty development and merit scholarships, community college grants and institutional planning. In each case, we explored Federal government support of public/private partnerships, task forces, conferences, technical assistance, and the use of Federal research and development funds.

*(Paper)* From that meeting, and others like it, came ~~steps which I am proud to announce tonight, and which will help do, nationally, what you have done, historically: Enrich education, so that education can enrich our lives.~~ *(a new initiative)*

~~I refer to a new Executive Order which I will sign next week, replacing Executive Order 12320, and which will be effective immediately.~~

~~Specifically:~~

~~o This Order will create a President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities to reside within the Department of Education.~~

~~Our board will be composed of representatives of HBCUs, other institutions of higher learning, of business, finance, private foundations, and of secondary education. It will review the annual report of Federal aid to HBCUs. And it will increase technical assistance and business and foundation support.~~

o Secondly, more than ever, this Executive Order will link HBCUs to the private sector. How? Through your presence on the Board of Advisors. And through placing HBCUs on the agenda of the newly created Office of National Service, which will lead my Administration's community and national-service programs.

~~We should work together; under this Executive Order, we will. For example, after listening to your Presidents, I proposed that Congress fund \$60 million over four years in endowment matching grants for HBCUs. We have put our money on the table. Now, I challenge the private sector: The time has come for yours. Our Executive Order will facilitate this approach, and spur non-Federal involvement in technical assistance and funding.~~

o This Executive Order will also bring more of your students into Federal internship programs. Our effort will be headed by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management. And I've asked that Office to also approach Congress about increasing its number of HBCU interns. With both the executive branch and the Congress joining hands to increase opportunities, we can give minority students a special experience today that will enrich their lives tomorrow.

o Fourthly, our Board of Advisors will find ways to support the long-term faculty endowment plans of each HBCU. For the pursuit of excellence--student, faculty, and administrative--is central to America.

*Secondly*  
My friends, if excellence breeds achievement, that excellence should be rewarded--in grade school, in high school, and at our colleges and universities.

*Stet*

(stand.)

Accordingly, I want Congress to create a \$500-million program to reward America's "merit schools"--the schools which improve the most. ~~I~~ <sup>shudders</sup> want it to ~~found~~ <sup>create</sup> special Presidential awards for the best teachers in every State. And ~~I~~ <sup>to see</sup> want the expanded use of magnet schools -- ~~giving~~ <sup>to give</sup> parents and students the freedom of choice.

~~Moreover,~~ <sup>have a look</sup> I ~~propose~~ <sup>to</sup> a new program to encourage "alternative certification" -- allowing talented Americans from every field to teach in America's classrooms. Consider that today, in many areas, a John Updike, an Alex Haley, couldn't qualify to teach high-school creative writing. When rules are so inflexible that creativity, talent, and imagination aren't welcome in our schools, it's time to change the rules.

And <sup>finally</sup> through a new program of National Science Scholars, I seek to give America's youth a special incentive to excel in science and mathematics. The National Science Foundation predicts a shortage of 400,000 scientists by the year 2000. Through excellence in education, we must, and will, reverse that trend.

And, yet, <sup>all of this is</sup> it's not enough. It never is. As Americans, we are never satisfied. We know that when a dream comes true, it gives rise to even bigger and better dreams. Perhaps the former Dean of Howard University, John Mercer Langston, put it best. He wrote, simply, "Want makes us all work."

Let us work, then, <sup>would a better</sup> to ~~make~~ America ~~a better place to live,~~ ~~dream, invest, and build.~~ And let us begin by ending drug abuse.

My friends, drug abuse is America's Twentieth-Century version of human slavery. It chains the spirit, and imperils the



and her family is in debt. But they are proud and unafraid, because education is their ally.

The mother is pursuing a Masters Degree in Social Work; last year, her eldest son graduated from the University of Chicago. And the three other kids are college students -- including, she wrote, "the baby of the family: a 6-foot-6, 240-pound freshman at Grambling State University."

"I implore you," the mother asked, "to think about ... people such as myself and my sons." And then she added: "P.S. We're black but optimistic that we can be a part of the American Dream."

My friends, I want an America where this dedicated mother does not have to choose between "black" and "optimistic." The words are not mutually exclusive -- not a contradiction in terms. And I want our policies to serve and encourage this family, and millions like it everywhere. Because they reflect the promise of America...and we must help make ~~it~~ <sup>that promise</sup> a reality.

The promise of America says that by assuring equality, we can enhance greater opportunity. It says that our destiny is not divisible, and that we are children of the same humane and loving God.

The promise of America demands that we aid our communities and assist our neighbors. It rests less on promises and politicians than on the primacy of the heart.

The promise of America knows neither race, creed, sex, or color. It is collective and individual, and as boundless as our history. The promise of America says that government is but a

custodian of America's future -- but that you -- the people -- you are her architects.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays once observed, "It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life does not lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach."

My fellow citizens, to open wide the door of opportunity and equality to all Americans -- this is our goal, and the true promise of America. Let us achieve it, together, as Americans and as friends.

Thank you for inviting me, God bless you all, and God bless the United States of America.

# # #

~~the~~ ~~Project~~ Head Start ~~program~~. This Federal program must, and will, serve increasing numbers of four-year-olds.

~~working~~ For ~~my~~ parents with children under four, we've proposed a new tax credit to make child care more affordable. And we want to make the existing child care credits refundable to families who don't pay taxes. Our proposal puts money in the hands of low-income parents, limits Federal intervention, and increases options -- a church can help; or grandparents; or professional nursery. In short, we say: Let the parents decide.

To us, child care means options. Well, ~~so does the privilege~~ *that is also true of (Gray)* ~~the inalienable right~~ ~~of every American to live where he chooses, when he chooses, for as long as he chooses, and can afford to do so.~~ *within his means* It's as simple as it sounds -- a simple matter of what's right, and what's wrong. Under this Administration, you have my pledge: We will ~~enforce the letter and the spirit of the~~ *vigorously* Federal Fair Housing Act. *Roper*

Finally, four days ago, the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, renamed the Minority Business Development Agency, marked its 20th birthday. We will expand its involvement in the free enterprise system. And we'll promote other programs which spur housing, investment, jobs, and training. The Jobs Training Partnership Act, for instance. ~~The Minority Youth Training Initiative.~~ *Small Business Administration.*

Yes, hope, pride, opportunity, justice. I thought of those qualities when I received a letter, recently, from a mother in New Orleans. She is 48 years old, and widowed. She has four sons,

**REMARKS: UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND  
NEW YORK, NY  
THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1989**

**CONGRESSMAN HAWKINS, MR. RAWL, MR. SIMON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY FELLOW CITIZENS.**

**THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, AND FOR THE WARMTH OF YOUR RECEPTION. PAUL SIMON ONCE WROTE A SONG TITLED, SIMPLY, "OLD FRIENDS." I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE MY OLD FRIENDS BILL AND VI TRENT WITH US TONIGHT.**

**2**

**MY ASSOCIATION WITH UNCF GOT STARTED BACK IN 1948 WHEN BILL TRENT, AS THE FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COLLEGE FUND, CAME TO YALE AND GOT ME INVOLVED IN THE UNCF CAMPAIGN. A DECADE LATER, HE ASKED ME TO CHAIR THE UNCF TEXAS CAMPAIGN. YESTERDAY, I UNDERSTAND, WAS HIS 79TH BIRTHDAY. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BILL.**

**TONIGHT, FLANKED BY OLD FRIENDS AND, IN A REAL SENSE, FAMILY, I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMPANY.**

**DURING MY STUDENT DAYS AT YALE, I FIRST SAW THE FUND INVEST IN HIGHER EDUCATION, AND IN AMERICA.**

THEN, AS NOW, IT INSISTED THAT EXCELLENCE BECOME A WAY OF LIFE, AND HIGHER LEARNING A BEQUEST.

AS AN UNDERGRADUATE, I CAME TO GRASP WHAT CHURCHILL MEANT WHEN HE SAID, "PERSONALLY, I AM ALWAYS READY TO LEARN, THOUGH I DO NOT ALWAYS ENJOY BEING TAUGHT." WELL, FOR NEARLY HALF-A-CENTURY, THIS FUND HAS TAUGHT, SO THAT AMERICA COULD LEARN, THE GENTLER IMPULSES OF MANKIND.

YOU HAVE HELPED SOCIETY'S DISADVANTAGED CAST OFF DESPAIR AND POVERTY.

AND THROUGH SUCH FRIENDS AS BILL TRENT AND FREDERICK D. PATTERSON -- AND, YES, HOW WE MISS HIM -- YOU HAVE ENDORSED LIBERTY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE DIGNITY OF WORK.

BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU HAVE SHOWN HOW CONSCIENCE AND EDUCATION CAN FULFILL THE PROMISE OF AMERICA: TO RIGHT WRONG, LOVE FREEDOM, AND DEMAND EQUALITY FOR ALL.

FOR THAT, I CONGRATULATE YOU -- AND YET, I CHALLENGE YOU, TOO.

5

BLACK AND WHITE, TOGETHER -- WE KNOW THAT AMERICA WILL NOT BE A GOOD PLACE FOR ANY OF US TO LIVE UNTIL IT IS A GOOD PLACE FOR ALL OF US TO LIVE. ((PAUSE))

MOST AMERICANS, I'M CONVINCED, BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN BE AN INSTRUMENT OF HEALING. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN GOVERNMENT MUST STEP IN WHERE OTHERS FEAR TO TREAD.

MY FRIENDS, I SHARE THOSE BELIEFS, AND AS PRESIDENT, I WILL ACT ON THEM.

6

FOR AMERICA, IT SEEMS TO ME, MEANS PRIDE -- INDIVIDUALLY, CULTURALLY AND RACIALLY. AMERICA MEANS, IN THE WORDS OF DR. KING, THAT "INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE." IT MEANS OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO NEED JOBS AND WHO DREAM OF OWNING HOMES. AND IT MEANS THE HOPE THAT TOMORROW WILL BE BRIGHTER THAN TODAY.

HOW CAN WE BEST INSPIRE THAT HOPE, AND SECURE THE PROMISE OF AMERICA? I SAY THE ANSWER IS EDUCATION.

**EDUCATION KNOWS NO BARRIERS, ACCEPTS NO LIMITS. EDUCATION IS A LADDER; IT EMBODIES SELF-RESPECT, NOT DEPENDENCY. EDUCATION CAN GIVE MINORITIES A GREATER VOICE -- AND MAKE SURE THAT VOICE IS HEARD.**

**SINCE 1944, WHEN DR. PATTERSON FOUNDED THE UNCF, YOUR VOICE HAS RESOUNDED FROM COLLEGES LIKE TUSKEGEE, MOREHOUSE, SPELLMAN, AND FISK. BLACK COLLEGES HAVE ENNOBLED SUCH AMERICANS AS LEONTYNE PRICE, FRANK YERBY, AZIE ((AZZ-EE)) TAYLOR MORTON, AND OUR NEXT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DR. LOUIS SULLIVAN.**

**((LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT LEW SULLIVAN. BARBARA SERVED ON THE BOARD OF MOREHOUSE MEDICAL COLLEGE. LEW WAS PRESIDENT OF THAT COLLEGE. IT WAS SAID I APPOINTED LEW BECAUSE OF BARBARA'S FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SULLIVANS. WRONG -- I KNEW LEW FIRST. I APPOINTED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITY. AND YES, I CONFESS, BECAUSE HE IS SO DEDICATED TO MOREHOUSE AND IS SUCH A HARD CHARGING LEADER THAT MY WIFE WAS SPENDING MORE TIME ON MOREHOUSE MATTERS THAN SHE WAS ON FAMILY AND LITERACY PUT TOGETHER.))**

**AS YOU KNOW, IN SEPTEMBER 1981, PRESIDENT REAGAN SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDER 12320, COMMITTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE ITS SUPPORT OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

**OUR GOAL WAS TO IDENTIFY, AND ELIMINATE, UNFAIR BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN FEDERALLY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS. OUR MEANS WAS TO INVOLVE THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND TO MOTIVATE THE 27 FEDERAL AGENCIES WHICH PROVIDE NEARLY ALL THE FEDERAL FUNDING.**

**DID IT WORK? DID IT EVER.**

**IN FISCAL YEAR 1981, HBCUS RECEIVED \$545 MILLION IN FEDERAL ASSISTANCE. IN FISCAL YEAR 1987, THAT SUM TOTALED \$684 MILLION. MOREOVER, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, WHICH INCLUDES FUNDS FOR NON-SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COMPRISED NEARLY HALF OF ALL FUNDING FOR HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES. OUR WHITE HOUSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOSTERED SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING PROGRAMS AND CURRICULA.**

**THIS COMPREHENSIVE HBCU EFFORT HAS ATTACKED THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE AMERICAN NIGHT -- ILLITERACY AND INEQUALITY, INDIGENCE AND FEAR.**

**GREAT BEGINNINGS, YES. NOW, LET US BUILD UPON THEM. WE HAVE DONE MUCH. BUT THERE REMAINS SO MUCH MORE LEFT TO DO.**

**((YOU KNOW, THERE'S AN OLD NEW ENGLAND STORY ABOUT A MAN, STUCK IN THE MUD WITH HIS CAR, WHO WAS ASKED BY A PASSING MOTORIST WHETHER HE WAS REALLY STUCK. "WELL, YOU COULD SAY I WAS STUCK," THE FELLOW SAID, "IF I WAS REALLY GOING ANYWHERE."))**

**WELL, MY FRIENDS, 8 WEEKS AGO, I MET WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES TO PROBE EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE GOING, AND HOW. WE DISCUSSED FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANTS AND INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING.**

**IN EACH CASE, WE EXPLORED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, TASK FORCES, CONFERENCES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND THE USE OF FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.**

**FROM THAT MEETING, AND OTHERS LIKE IT, CAME SIX NEW INITIATIVES WHICH WILL HELP DO, NATIONALLY, WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, HISTORICALLY: ENRICH EDUCATION, SO THAT EDUCATION CAN ENRICH OUR LIVES.**

**AFTER LISTENING TO YOUR PRESIDENTS, I PROPOSED THAT CONGRESS FUND \$60 MILLION OVER FOUR YEARS IN ENDOWMENT MATCHING GRANTS FOR HBCUs. WE HAVE PUT OUR MONEY ON THE TABLE. NOW, I CHALLENGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR: THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOURS.**

**SECONDLY, IF EXCELLENCE BREEDS ACHIEVEMENT, THAT EXCELLENCE SHOULD BE REWARDED -- IN GRADE SCHOOL, IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND AT OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES..**

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ACCORDINGLY, I WANT CONGRESS TO CREATE A \$500 MILLION PROGRAM TO REWARD AMERICA'S "MERIT SCHOOLS" -- THE SCHOOLS WHICH IMPROVE THE MOST.

THIRDLY, I WANT IT TO CREATE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR THE BEST TEACHERS IN EVERY STATE.

AND NEXT, I WANT TO SEE THE EXPANDED USE OF MAGNET SCHOOLS -- TO GIVE PARENTS AND STUDENTS THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

16

I HAVE ALSO PROPOSED A NEW PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE "ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION" -- TO ALLOW TALENTED AMERICANS FROM EVERY FIELD TO TEACH IN AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS. CONSIDER THAT TODAY, IN MANY AREAS, A JOHN UPDIKE, AN ALEX HALEY, COULDN'T QUALIFY TO TEACH HIGH SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING.

((IN FACT, I REMEMBER GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE IN 1948 AND MOVING OUT TO WEST TEXAS. I'LL NEVER FORGET WANTING TO DO SOME TEACHING AND BEING TOLD THAT MY BRAND NEW PHI BETA KAPPA DEGREE FROM YALE WASN'T ENOUGH.

AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU, I'M JUST NOW GETTING OVER THE SCARS ... OF COURSE, LAST NOVEMBER HELPED ...))

BUT MY POINT IS, WHEN RULES ARE SO INFLEXIBLE THAT CREATIVITY, TALENT, AND IMAGINATION AREN'T WELCOME IN OUR SCHOOLS, IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES.

AND FINALLY, THROUGH A NEW PROGRAM OF NATIONAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS, I SEEK TO GIVE AMERICA'S YOUTH A SPECIAL INCENTIVE TO EXCEL IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS. THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION PREDICTS A SHORTAGE OF 400,000 SCIENTISTS BY THE YEAR 2000.

THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, WE MUST, AND WILL, REVERSE THAT TREND.

AND, YET, ALL OF THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. IT NEVER IS. AS AMERICANS, WE ARE NEVER SATISFIED. WE KNOW THAT WHEN A DREAM COMES TRUE, IT GIVES RISE TO EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER DREAMS.

LET US WORK, THEN, TO BUILD A BETTER AMERICA. AND LET US BEGIN BY ENDING DRUG ABUSE.

MY FRIENDS, DRUG ABUSE IS AMERICA'S TWENTIETH-CENTURY VERSION OF HUMAN SLAVERY.

**IT CHAINS THE SPIRIT, AND IMPERILS THE ABILITY TO LEARN. TO COMBAT DRUGS, WE MUST MOBILIZE OUR RESOURCES -- FISCAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL, ECONOMIC -- AND WAGE UNCONDITIONAL WAR. AND WE MUST FIGHT ON EVERY FRONT: EDUCATION, TREATMENT, INTERDICTION, ENFORCEMENT.**

**LAST MONTH, I ASKED CONGRESS FOR AN INCREASE OF ALMOST \$1 BILLION IN BUDGET OUTLAYS TO ESCALATE OUR WAR. THIS IS A WAR WE MUST AND WILL WIN. THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION AND THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN DEPEND ON IT.**

**EARLIER, I MENTIONED THE PROMISE OF AMERICA: HOPE, PRIDE, OPPORTUNITY, JUSTICE. A DRUG-FREE AMERICA FULFILLS THAT PROMISE. SO, TOO, DO ENTERPRISE ZONES.**

**ENTERPRISE ZONES ARE A PIONEERING INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH A NUMBER OF FEDERALLY-DESIGNATED ZONES -- OR AREAS -- IN ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES. BY PROVIDING TAX BREAKS AND RELIEF FROM REGULATION, THEY FOSTER A CLIMATE WHERE NEW BUSINESSES CAN BE CREATED, AND EXISTING BUSINESSES EXPANDED.**

**THESE BUSINESSES WILL CREATE NEW JOBS IN THESE TARGETED COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR DISADVANTAGED WORKERS.**

**ALREADY, 37 STATES HAVE DEVELOPED ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAMS. IT'S TIME WE PUT THEM TO WORK AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. LOCAL COMMUNITIES WILL BENEFIT. BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THOSE WHO NEED A HELPING HAND -- THE UNEMPLOYED, THE DISPOSSESSED -- WILL GAIN NEW HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY: NOT ACROSS TOWN, BUT IN THEIR OWN BACK YARDS.**

**ENTERPRISE ZONES CAN SERVE THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US. WELL, SO, TOO, WILL CHILD CARE, FAIR HOUSING, AND MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. THEY BUILD LONG-TERM OPPORTUNITY -- THE KIND OF EQUALITY THAT LASTS. THEY WILL ENRICH THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.**

**AS PART OF OUR NEW CHILD-CARE INITIATIVE, TARGETED AT LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, I HAVE ASKED FOR \$250 MILLION MORE FOR THE HEAD START PROGRAM. THIS FEDERAL PROGRAM MUST, AND WILL, SERVE INCREASING NUMBERS OF FOUR-YEAR-OLDS.**

**FOR WORKING PARENTS WITH CHILDREN UNDER FOUR, WE'VE PROPOSED A NEW TAX CREDIT TO MAKE CHILD CARE MORE AFFORDABLE. AND WE WANT TO MAKE THE EXISTING CHILD CARE CREDIT REFUNDABLE TO FAMILIES WHO DON'T PAY TAXES. MY PROPOSAL PUTS MONEY IN THE HANDS OF LOW-INCOME PARENTS, LIMITS FEDERAL INTERVENTION, AND INCREASES OPTIONS -- A CHURCH CAN HELP; OR GRANDPARENTS; OR PROFESSIONAL NURSERY. IN SHORT, WE SAY: LET THE PARENTS DECIDE.**

**TO US, CHILD CARE MEANS OPTIONS. WELL, THAT IS ALSO TRUE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO LIVE WHERE HE CHOOSES, WHEN HE CHOOSES, FOR AS LONG AS HE CHOOSES, WITHIN HIS MEANS. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS IT SOUNDS -- A SIMPLE MATTER OF WHAT'S RIGHT, AND WHAT'S WRONG. UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION, YOU HAVE MY PLEDGE: WE WILL VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING ACT.**

**FINALLY, FOUR DAYS AGO, THE OFFICE OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, RENAMED THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, MARKED ITS 20TH BIRTHDAY.**

**WE WILL EXPAND ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. AND WE'LL PROMOTE OTHER PROGRAMS WHICH SPUR HOUSING, INVESTMENT, JOBS, AND TRAINING. THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT, FOR INSTANCE. THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.**

**YES, HOPE, PRIDE, OPPORTUNITY, JUSTICE. I THOUGHT OF THOSE QUALITIES WHEN I RECEIVED A LETTER, RECENTLY, FROM A MOTHER IN NEW ORLEANS. SHE IS 48 YEARS OLD, AND WIDOWED. SHE HAS FOUR SONS, AND HER FAMILY IS IN DEBT. BUT THEY ARE PROUD AND UNAFRAID, BECAUSE EDUCATION IS THEIR ALLY.**

**THE MOTHER IS PURSUING A MASTERS DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK; LAST YEAR, HER ELDEST SON GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. AND THE THREE OTHER KIDS ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS -- INCLUDING, SHE WROTE, "THE BABY OF THE FAMILY: A 6-FOOT-6, 240-POUND FRESHMAN AT GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY."**

**"I IMPLORE YOU," THE MOTHER ASKED, "TO THINK ABOUT ... PEOPLE SUCH AS MYSELF AND MY SONS." AND THEN SHE ADDED: "P.S. WE'RE BLACK BUT OPTIMISTIC THAT WE CAN BE A PART OF THE AMERICAN DREAM."**

**MY FRIENDS, I WANT AN AMERICA WHERE THIS DEDICATED MOTHER DOES NOT HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN "BLACK" AND "OPTIMISTIC." THE WORDS ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE -- NOT A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS. AND I WANT OUR POLICIES TO SERVE AND ENCOURAGE THIS FAMILY, AND MILLIONS LIKE IT EVERYWHERE. BECAUSE THEY REFLECT THE PROMISE OF AMERICA ... AND WE MUST HELP MAKE THAT PROMISE A REALITY.**

**THE PROMISE OF AMERICA SAYS THAT BY ASSURING EQUALITY, WE CAN ENHANCE GREATER OPPORTUNITY.**

**IT SAYS THAT OUR DESTINY IS NOT DIVISIBLE, AND THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE SAME HUMANE AND LOVING GOD.**

**THE PROMISE OF AMERICA DEMANDS THAT WE AID OUR COMMUNITIES AND ASSIST OUR NEIGHBORS. IT RESTS LESS ON PROMISES AND POLITICIANS THAN ON THE PRIMACY OF THE HEART.**

**THE PROMISE OF AMERICA KNOWS NEITHER RACE, CREED, SEX, OR COLOR. IT IS COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL, AND AS BOUNDLESS AS OUR HISTORY. THE PROMISE OF AMERICA SAYS THAT GOVERNMENT IS BUT A CUSTODIAN OF AMERICA'S FUTURE -- BUT THAT YOU -- THE PEOPLE -- YOU ARE HER ARCHITECTS.**

**DR. BENJAMIN E. MAYS ONCE OBSERVED, "IT MUST BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE TRAGEDY OF LIFE DOES NOT LIE IN NOT REACHING YOUR GOAL. THE TRAGEDY LIES IN HAVING NO GOAL TO REACH."**

**MY FELLOW CITIZENS, TO OPEN WIDE THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY TO ALL AMERICANS -- THIS IS OUR GOAL, AND THE TRUE PROMISE OF AMERICA. LET US ACHIEVE IT, TOGETHER, AS AMERICANS AND AS FRIENDS.**

**THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME, GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**