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Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13479
Folder ID Number: 13479-004

Folder Title:
Anti-Defamation League, 3/14/89

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 14, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE ANTIDEFAMATION LEAGUERoom 450
Old Executive Office Building

9:50 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much. This is what they call a cameo appearance. (Laughter.) I'm here very briefly before rushing off to the Hilton Hotel, but I just can't tell you how pleased I am to be with you. I told Abe Foxman here, why, we're practically going steady -- (laughter) -- because he was down here at a -- just last -- was it Thursday of last week with the head of a lot of these most prominent organizations. And I'm delighted to be here with all of you today. I don't want to speak too long because Bobbie Kilberg, I think, is next, and she'll kill me. (Laughter.)

But I might say she is doing an outstanding job -- a friend of long-standing and now in an outreach capacity here, high level at the White House, and performing with the expertise that we have come to expect of her. I understand that Secretary Kemp is coming, or maybe -- has he been, or coming over -- and Dick Thornburgh, I think, and our Chief of Staff. So you'll have a full program.

But I'm pleased to be here. I look at these briefing sessions as a two-way street. I hope that you'll have a chance to exchange views -- get questions and answers with some, but in any event, an opinion at a forum for sharing of information and ideas. Certainly, the meeting that we had with Abe and those from the organization of presidents was that kind of meeting. And, as I look around the room, I see many familiar faces and am delighted to be here.

For three quarters of a century, the Antidefamation League has played a central role in preserving and protecting that sacred right of religious freedom. And there is no single greater contribution that one organization can make to the nation, and for that you have earned our gratitude, certainly my respect.

From the time the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the principle of religious freedom and the notion of America as a haven for those who seek to exercise that freedom has been deeply rooted in the American heritage. But the ADL knows well that however well-established religious freedom may be, it can never be taken for granted. And our national conscience must take note whenever that freedom is violated and all Americans then must rush in to the defense of that freedom.

pluralism, and a healthy respect for the rights of all minorities.

And I know many of you -- and we've worked together in various common causes many times over the years -- and I hope you know how deeply I cherish the principle of religious freedom. And I know how hard you've fought, not only for your own beliefs, but to protect the principle that recognizes the rights of all men and women to worship as they believe right. So we must continue to work together as we have in the past to protect these rights -- zealously protect these rights for all Americans. Rest assured that my administration will work to uphold this principle as the very cornerstone of our freedom.

And sometimes they question the power of the President. And I understand that. But they should never question the President's willingness to use "the bully pulpit of the White House," as Teddy Roosevelt called it, to speak out for what is just and right.

I've concentrated today here on just these brief remarks on antidiscrimination or other subjects of enormous concern. I wish you could have been there yesterday in the Oval Office to hear a representative of the Ethiopian Jews -- a man who's living in Israel now -- make this plea from the heart to continue the flow of the people there who are still not able to join their families in Israel. There's that subject. We had a fascinating meeting with Mr. Arens yesterday where I reassured him of the United States' commitment to Israel as a strategic ally and, of course, a lasting friend. And I think he understands that. I hope that when the Prime Minister of Israel comes here that we can move forward in some way for the peace that -- toward the peace that everybody here really aspires for -- hopes that Israel and its neighbors will achieve.

So we're moving. Thank you for letting me drop in in this cameo appearance. And keep up your commitment, keep up that commitment to fight against bigotry wherever it may surface.

Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

END

9:55 A.M. EST

MASTER I

Document No. 015269SS

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/9/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/10/89 10:00 AM

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

SUBJECT: _____

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REMARKS:

Please forward any comments to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 AM, Friday, March 10, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

TO BOARD

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

1989 MAR -9 PM 3:00

(McGroarty/Simon)
March 9, 1989
2:30 pm
(antidef)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 14, 1989

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to meet with all of you
this morning. I see ^a ~~this~~ briefing session ^{like this - with my ~~senior~~ ~~advisors~~} as a two-way street. ^{Top member of my Admin-}
We can both benefit from this exchange of views, and an open
sharing of information and ideas.

As I look around the room, I see many familiar faces. Let
me welcome Abe Foxman and ^(Burton Levinson) ~~Burton Levinson~~....

For three-quarters of a century, the Anti-Defamation League
has played a central role in preserving and protecting the sacred
right of religious freedom. There is no single greater
contribution you could make to this nation -- and for that you've
earned our gratitude.

From the time the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the
principle of religious freedom -- and the notion of America as a
haven for those who seek to exercise that freedom -- has been
deeply rooted in the American heritage.

But the ADL knows well that however well-established
religious freedom may be, it can never be taken for granted. Our
national conscience must take note whenever this freedom is
violated -- and all Americans must rush to its defense.

^{one of our forefathers}
As ~~George Washington~~ wrote nearly two hundred years ago:
"The government of the United States ... gives to bigotry no

sanction, to persecution no assistance.... May the children of the Stock of Abraham ... sit in safety under his own vine and fig-tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

I know that the Anti-Defamation League recently issued its annual report detailing rising incidents of anti-Semitism in 1988.

We must condemn all attacks on the Jewish religion and the Jewish heritage -- clearly, unequivocally, and without exception.

This nation ~~cannot~~ -- and I ~~will not~~ -- tolerate ~~intolerance.~~ *must stand for tolerance, pluralism, and a healthy respect for the rights of all minorities.*

I know many of you well. We've worked together in common cause many times over the years. You know how deeply I cherish the principles~~x~~ of religious freedom -- and I know how hard you've fought, not only for your own beliefs, but to protect the principle that recognizes the right of all men and women to worship as they believe right.

We must continue to work together as we have in the past, to protect these rights for all Americans. Rest assured that my Administration will work to uphold these^{is} principles~~x~~ as the very cornerstone of our freedom.

Thank you.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Darman

Anti-def.

league.

no comments

MASTER II

Document No. 015269

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/11/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUBJECT: TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1989

(3/10 - 6:00 p.m. draft)

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| 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 type="checkbox"/> |
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REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

CARDS

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

(McGroarty/Simon)
March 10, 1989
6:00 pm
(antidef)

1989 MAR 12 6:34

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1989

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to meet with all of you this morning. I see a briefing session like this -- with top members of my Administration -- as a two-way street. We can both benefit from this exchange of views, and an open sharing of information and ideas.

As I look around the room, I see many familiar faces. Let me welcome Burt Levinson and Abe Foxman.

For three-quarters of a century, the Anti-Defamation League has played a central role in preserving and protecting the sacred right of religious freedom. There is no single greater contribution you could make to this nation -- and for that you've earned our gratitude.

From the time the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the principle of religious freedom -- and the notion of America as a haven for those who seek to exercise that freedom -- has been deeply rooted in the American heritage.

But the ADL knows well that however well-established religious freedom may be, it can never be taken for granted. Our national conscience must take note whenever this freedom is violated -- and all Americans must rush to its defense.

As one of our forefathers wrote nearly two hundred years ago: "The government of the United States ... gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.... May the children of the Stock of Abraham ... sit in safety under his own vine and fig-tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

I know that the Anti-Defamation League recently issued its annual report detailing rising incidents of anti-Semitism in 1988.

We must condemn all attacks on the Jewish religion and the Jewish heritage -- clearly, unequivocally, and without exception.

This nation must stand for tolerance, pluralism, and a healthy respect for the rights of all minorities.

I know many of you well. We've worked together in common cause many times over the years. You know how deeply I cherish the principle of religious freedom -- and I know how hard you've fought, not only for your own beliefs, but to protect the principle that recognizes the right of all men and women to worship as they believe right.

We must continue to work together as we have in the past, to protect these rights for all Americans. Rest assured that my Administration will work to uphold this principle as the very cornerstone of our freedom.

Thank you.

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ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

OEOB, ROOM 450

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1989

I'M PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ALL OF YOU THIS MORNING. I SEE A BRIEFING SESSION LIKE THIS -- WITH TOP MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION -- AS A TWO-WAY STREET. WE CAN BOTH BENEFIT FROM THIS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, AND AN OPEN SHARING OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS.

AS I LOOK AROUND THE ROOM, I SEE MANY FAMILIAR FACES. LET ME WELCOME BURT LEVINSON AND ABE FOXMAN.

2

FOR THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY, THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE HAS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE SACRED RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. THERE IS NO SINGLE GREATER CONTRIBUTION YOU COULD MAKE TO THIS NATION -- AND FOR THAT YOU'VE EARNED OUR GRATITUDE.

FROM THE TIME THE PILGRIMS LANDED AT PLYMOUTH ROCK, THE PRINCIPLE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM -- AND THE NOTION OF AMERICA AS A HAVEN FOR THOSE WHO SEEK TO EXERCISE THAT FREEDOM -- HAS BEEN DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE AMERICAN HERITAGE.

BUT THE ADL KNOWS WELL THAT HOWEVER WELL-ESTABLISHED RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MAY BE, IT CAN NEVER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. OUR NATIONAL CONSCIENCE MUST TAKE NOTE WHENEVER THIS FREEDOM IS VIOLATED -- AND ALL AMERICANS MUST RUSH TO ITS DEFENSE.

AS ONE OF OUR FOREFATHERS WROTE NEARLY TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO: "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ... GIVES TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE.... MAY THE CHILDREN OF THE STOCK OF ABRAHAM ... SIT IN SAFETY

UNDER HIS OWN VINE AND FIG-TREE, AND THERE SHALL BE NONE TO MAKE HIM AFRAID."

I KNOW THAT THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE RECENTLY ISSUED ITS ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING RISING INCIDENTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN 1988.

WE MUST CONDEMN ALL ATTACKS ON THE JEWISH RELIGION AND THE JEWISH HERITAGE -- CLEARLY, UNEQUIVOCALLY, AND WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

5

THIS NATION MUST STAND FOR TOLERANCE, PLURALISM, AND A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL MINORITIES.

I KNOW MANY OF YOU WELL. WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER IN COMMON CAUSE MANY TIMES OVER THE YEARS. YOU KNOW HOW DEEPLY I CHERISH THE PRINCIPLE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM -- AND I KNOW HOW HARD YOU'VE FOUGHT, NOT ONLY FOR YOUR OWN BELIEFS, BUT TO PROTECT THE PRINCIPLE THAT RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN TO WORSHIP AS THEY BELIEVE RIGHT.

6

WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, TO PROTECT THESE RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS. REST ASSURED THAT MY ADMINISTRATION WILL WORK TO UPHOLD THIS PRINCIPLE AS THE VERY CORNERSTONE OF OUR FREEDOM.

THANK YOU.

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TO PRESIDENT →

(McGroarty/Simon)
March 10, 1989
6:00 pm
(antidef)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1989

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But the ADL knows well that however well-established religious freedom may be, it can never be taken for granted. Our national conscience must take note whenever this freedom is violated -- and all Americans must rush to its defense.

As one of our forefathers wrote nearly two hundred years ago: "The government of the United States ... gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.... May the children of the Stock of Abraham ... sit in safety under his own vine and fig-tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

I know that the Anti-Defamation League recently issued its annual report detailing rising incidents of anti-Semitism in 1988.

We must condemn all attacks on the Jewish religion and the Jewish heritage -- clearly, unequivocally, and without exception.

This nation must stand for tolerance, pluralism, and a healthy respect for the rights of all minorities.

I know many of you well. We've worked together in common cause many times over the years. You know how deeply I cherish the principle of religious freedom -- and I know how hard you've fought, not only for your own beliefs, but to protect the principle that recognizes the right of all men and women to worship as they believe right.

We must continue to work together as we have in the past, to protect these rights for all Americans. Rest assured that my Administration will work to uphold this principle as the very cornerstone of our freedom.

Thank you.

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SUBJECT: _____

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REMARKS:

Please forward any comments to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 AM, Friday, March 10, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*okay
JWC*

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

(McGroarty/Simon)
March 9, 1989
2:30 pm
(antidef)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 14, 1989

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As George Washington wrote nearly two hundred years ago:
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I know that the Anti-Defamation League recently issued its annual report detailing rising incidents of anti-Semitism in 1988.

We must condemn all attacks on the Jewish religion and the Jewish heritage -- clearly, unequivocally, and without exception.

This nation cannot -- and I will not -- tolerate intolerance.

I know many of you well. We've worked together in common cause many times over the years. You know how deeply I cherish the principles of religious freedom -- and I know how hard you've fought, not only for your own beliefs, but to protect the principle that recognizes the right of all men and women to worship as they believe right.

We must continue to work together as we have in the past, to protect these rights for all Americans. Rest assured that my Administration will work to uphold these principles as the very cornerstone of our freedom.

Thank you.

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see comments
XX

RESPONSE:

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

1989 MAR -9 PM 3:00

(McGroarty/Simon)
March 9, 1989
2:30 pm
(antidef)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 14, 1989

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*owned slaves
perhaps one of our fathers*

As George Washington wrote nearly two hundred years ago: "The government of the United States ... gives to bigotry no

sanction, to persecution no assistance.... May the children of the Stock of Abraham ... sit in safety under his own vine and fig-tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

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Thank you.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: NELSON LUND *NL*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Anti-Defamation League
of B'nai B'rith, Washington, D.C., March 14, 1989

Pursuant to a request from James W. Cicconi, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks. Counsel's Office has no legal objections.

We appreciate the opportunity to review these remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 10, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Roger B. Porter
James P. Pinkerton

Re: Comments on Junior Achievement, B'nai B'rith,
Derwinski, Attorneys General, Insurance Agents
drafts

A general comment on the drafts: If we are serious about our message of "Building a Better America," then we should state our message. We can't count on anyone else to carry our line if we won't do it ourselves. Ideally, all these speeches should include the phrase "Building A Better America."

Junior Achievement

Overall, a good speech. But the pitch for the President's program doesn't kick in until p.7. Again, there's no effort to ask these people -- renowned for their pep and enthusiasm -- for their help. We need a more imperative voice. The phrase "Building A Better America" should be included since it's our overall theme.

p.2, para. 4: Since this is the paragraph on voluntarism, we suggest including a specific reference to YES.

p.3, para. 1: "In your hands, economics is anything but as some call 'the dismal science.'" Change to: "In your creative hands, economics is anything but the 'dismal science' that some have called it."

p.8, para. 4: "...a system that gives ingenuity free reign" -- "reign" should be "rein." Obviously nobody in the audience will notice, but a reader will.

B'nai B'rith

p.2, para. 4: We must be careful about over-using the words "tolerance" and "intolerance." We used the phrase "intolerance" in the DEA speech and we have spoken repeatedly of "Zero Tolerance." We're tying many meanings and inferences around "tolerance."

When you overload a word with too many messages you sometimes wind up in trouble, as in the President's fumble over the phrase "anti-bigotry, anti-racism, and anti-semitism" in the campaign. We would draw the line right here and turn this negative-sounding sentence into a positive, e.g. "This nation must stand for tolerance, pluralism, and a healthy respect for the rights of all minorities."

Derwinski

p.1, para. 3: Change "bronzed giant," which sounds like a cross between Nietzsche and George Hamilton, to "Jefferson commands our respect: a bronze giant..."

p.2, para. 2: "...is now cast for the ages in bronze." We'd delete "in bronze" at the end of this sentence if we use "bronze giant" above.

p.2, para. 4: "a somber salute to those who fell, and all who answered the call to duty." We would add "to" after the "and." The sentence should now read "and to all who answered the call...."

P. 3, para. 2: "speeches and stone" sounds somewhat cold. We suggest a change to "speeches and statuary," which sounds more generous.

p.3, para. 3: This graf is a non-sequitur from the previous graf: we go from talking about how speeches and stone/statuary are an inadequate repayment, to this paragraph which starts "But that doesn't free us of obligation."

You can't be freed of an obligation by an inadequate repayment. As we move from talking about past debts to current concerns we need a sentence that tracks the logic of what we're saying. I'd change to: "Our obligation is also to the living."

In the second sentence of this graf, the word "entrance" is misspelled.

p.7, para. 1: "...We will never again need to erect another monument to the casualties of war." Strictly speaking, we don't just erect monuments to the casualties of war.

We would change to "...erect another monument to the men and women who protect us and uphold our liberties." We need to demonstrate some sensitivity to the current composition of the armed forces. Note, for example, that the previous page uses the term "airman." This is fine, in view of the demographics of the armies of yesterday. But we need to demonstrate our understanding that times have changed. Thus, our preference for using "men and women" here.

Attorneys General

The President needs to throw a bipartisan bear-hug around these law enforcers based on a common commitment to a stern, no-nonsense struggle against drug abuse and environmental degradation. Thus, a phrase like "kindred spirits" in the third line, and a conclusion like "Let me now turn this party [emphasis added] over to Bill Reilly" evinces a lackadaisical tone unbecoming a President who is dead serious about winning the war on drugs.

p.1, para. 2: "Kindred spirits:" We prefer "fellow warriors" or "fellow soldiers" or something tougher and less convivial than "kindred spirits" in a speech on drugs and cleaning up the environment.

p.2, para. 4: Change "This government will" to the more emphatic "I will."

p.3, para. 1: Change "Bill Reilly will give you his thinking on the environment" to "Bill Reilly will outline in detail our agenda on the environment." If we agree on the need for a more martial overall tone, then we should consider a word like "strategy" in place of "agenda."

Similarly, in the following sentence of that paragraph, we'd change "You will certainly find him...to be an outstanding ally" to "You will certainly find him...to be an outstanding ally and a fellow warrior" or "and a fellow soldier in the struggle."

p.3, para. 2: This should read "turn your attention to and enlist your support for." The current "turn your attention -- and enlist your support -- on another pervasive problem" doesn't parse.

p.3, para. 5: "budget ... not ... d.o.a." -- We're asking for trouble with this complacent, back-patting phrase. We should stop citing an "achievement" that can be stripped away from us in an instant by some sharp-tongued Democrat. The whole graf should read as follows:

"The budget I presented to Congress last month is a realistic, fiscally responsible plan that identifies key priorities requiring our immediate attention. One of these priorities is combating the scourge of drugs. That's why I'm asking for an increase of \$1 billion for our anti-drug program. That's a 47 percent increase over 1988, for a total of \$6 billion."

p.4, para. 5: Instead of "Let me encourage you" etc., we would make it more imperative: "I ask you to study your drug enforcement programs. How can they help reduce demand for drugs? Less demand means more success in the war on drugs."

p.4, para. 6: We would make the first sentence more positive and ambitious: "Our financial resources may be limited but our resolve is unlimited." Then add: "With that limitless resolution, I know that we can inspire every child, teacher, and parent; every community group, religious institution, and tenant association; and every business and professional organization in this country. And then, united in common resolve, we will truly be invincible."

And then we suggest adding a Rooseveltian clincher:

"As I have said before, we have more will than wallet. However, the only limits on our will are those limits we place on ourselves."

Note that our rewrite version avoids the phrase "hearts and minds." Anyone who lived through Vietnam remembers the ironic and cynical connotation that phrase took on.

p.5, para. 4: Again, "Let me now turn this party over to Bill Reilly" is simply too light-hearted for this grim subject. In keeping with a more substantive tone, get the job done with simply "Let me now introduce."

Insurance Agents

p. 2, para. 4: This allusory graf contributes nothing to the President's agenda. We think it should be deleted outright.

p.3, para. 3: It seems to us that we should follow this graf with p.4, para. 1 immediately instead of detouring into job creation.

p.4, para. 3: Here we are about to launch into selling our program -- but we don't mention it by name: Building A Better America.

We need a paragraph that establishes an umbrella theme for the speech -- something reminiscent of the following, taken from the 2/9 speech: "But I am presenting to you tonight a realistic plan for tackling [the budget deficit]. My plan has four broad features: Attention to urgent priorities, investment in the future, an attack on the deficit, and no new taxes."

Before we launch into a long list of agenda items we should wrap it into an overriding theme -- Building A Better America.

p.5, para. 1: "It is for this reason that I will resist the movement toward mandated benefits." "Resist" has a footdragging quality to it. We want to communicate the idea that we will not just "resist," but will in fact block the move toward mandated benefits. Therefore we would substitute the word "oppose."

The last sentence of this graf reads: "But these programs, born of the best intentions, can have agonizing consequences." The word "agonizing" implies an unresolved dilemma. We would change to "can have unintended and counterproductive consequences."

Better yet, we could add another layer of anti-mandated benefits argument, as follows:

"We have seen what happens in other countries where mandated benefit programs create obstacles to productivity and growth. We cannot Build a Better America if we weigh down our production sector with new burdens."

p.5, para. 3: "But when local governments cannot install playgrounds, when business are bankrupted, when volunteer organization have to pull back" -- I would add "when mothers struggle to find an obstetrician," -- and "volunteer organization" should be plural.

p.5, para. 4: "All of my policies are centered around a single goal --" We'd change to "My plan for Building a Better America is centered around..."

p.7, para. 1: "So my agenda is this: to confront the emerging problems of the future today." We'd add "and to invest in the future."

p.7, para. 3: Change the word "areas" in "these are the areas that will irrevocably alter the world" to "trends" -- and in the next sentence: "Will American foreign policy be flexible enough to meet this emerging new world order?" the word "flexible" by itself looks weak. Flexibility is a virtue but it should be coupled with vision. We'd rewrite to say "wise enough, creative enough, and flexible enough...."

p.8, para. 1: Again, the term "Dead-On-Arrival" just begs for some Democrat to take it away from us. We suggest using language similar to what we suggested in the Attorneys General speech (pg. 3 of this memo).

p.8, para. 3: "Homelessness concerns a small proportion of Americans." We'd change to "Homelessness afflicts a small number of Americans but concerns all of us."

p.9, para. 1: "The environment -- once the domain of activists, it is becoming a top priority of pinstriped diplomats."

As is written here, "activists" appears to be pejorative. "Pinstriped" is also pejorative, the adjective of choice for critics of the State Department.

We would reverse the logic from pejorative to complementary and also omit "domain," which sounds both parochial and territorial. Instead, we suggest the President throw a bouquet to his fellow environmentalists: "Once the concern of a far-sighted few, it is now a top priority of my Administration, at home and abroad."

p.10, para. 3: "I've laid out my agenda for you." Change to "I've laid out my agenda for Building a Better America."

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