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Fire Service Dinner, 4/12/89

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 12, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT FIRE SERVICE DINNER

Sheraton Washington Hotel
Washington, D.C.

7:08 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, very much. Members of the fire service community, and ladies and gentlemen and friends, what a wonderful evening this is. Let me say, it's a great privilege to be, as Yogi Berra might say, in such extinguished company -- (laughter) -- all fired up. (Laughter.) I want to thank you though for that warmth of your reception here and for your kindness. And let me just first congratulate some who are responsible for this first, massively successful event. I'm referring, of course, to the International Associations of Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services.

And I want to also salute the individual representatives of the fire service community and then the members of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus -- now, the third-largest, I believe, technically. But if I know Congressman Curt Weldon, you're going to be number one. (Applause.) Let me salute the members of Congress that are gathered here. And particularly singling out not only the fire fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon -- he talked about a sleeping giant awakened. You try sleeping -- (laughter) -- with Curt Weldon on your case, giving you a hot foot. (Applause.) But Congressman Doug Walgren here and Sheri Boehlert on this side here at the head table -- I single them out for their special leadership and interest in the affairs that bind us all together tonight here.

And finally, I want to say that you've chosen a wonderful time of year to hold this first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner. After all, just think of it. Spring is in the air, Washington is alive with visitors, baseball's Orioles are still in the pennant race -- (applause) -- something we couldn't have said last year at this time -- (laughter) -- the season's a week old. (Laughter.) Our dog has had her puppies -- (laughter.) And my wife got a nice clean bill of health today out of Walter Reed Hospital. (Applause.)

So we meet together in a special week. For this is Volunteer Week, a time which celebrates the selfless character of the American people. And looking toward tonight, I was struck by the fact that 85 percent of our nation's fire protection is indeed supplied by volunteers. And it occurred to me that both you and your

And you know, being here reminds me of a story that I heard which happened back in Prohibition days. It seems that 25 of Boston's top bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation.

And the first 24 men were engaged in the same profession -- each claimed to be a fire fighter. Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" And "Your honor," he replied, "I'm a bootlegger." And surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "Well, how's business?" The guy said "Well, it'd be a hell of a lot better if there weren't so many fire fighters around." (Laughter and applause.)

What I'm getting at -- even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide. (Laughter.) And so they can today, and must, too, in the future. We've come a long way since Benjamin Franklin founded one of the first volunteer fire companies in 1736. And now, let's go forward and help achieve your goal -- a better, more secure, more fire-safe America. (Applause.)

Let me just share a few thoughts with you, and then you can get on with the dinner. First, this administration believes the fire service network deserves a federal government which understands and values its place in the American community. Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July celebration, or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. And when fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the first responder not only to fire, but to accidents and floods and cave-ins and collapsed buildings, you deserve the government's respect. And in my administration, you have it. (Applause.)

Second, this administration believes that you deserve the government's support. Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created to ensure that your concerns would be heard by every level of government. I intend for those concerns to be heard.

And tonight, I commend the U.S. Fire Administration for pursuing with vigor its rightful role as the fire services federal advocate -- (applause) -- and for providing a national clearinghouse to deal with these fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to retain its prominence as a national training center. (Applause.) And like the previous administration, we want the original intent of the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be maintained. (Applause.)

You know, every profession -- you know this and I know it -- every profession has its ups and downs. And perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road," he said. "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play." (Laughter.)

Well, the difference is that few professions display that special brand of skill and heroism that is found in the fire service. I'm thinking, for example, of how last May, Richard Shiah, an

supporting the federal fire safety program. (Applause.) But we must also act when tragedy does occur. And toward that end, last year, as part of the Omnibus Drug Act of 1988, we raised the death benefit for fallen fire fighters from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

We've done much. But we must do more. And as we do, we'll show how volunteerism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America. And that's why I have opened at the White House the Office of National Service. This office is leading my administration's community and national service efforts. And yesterday, I saluted the 18 recipients of the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards. And soon, I will announce our administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. And this program will encourage all young Americans to get involved in community service -- to reignite the concept of one young person helping another.

And I have said I like what works. Well, volunteerism works. In a recent Gallup Poll, nearly 50 percent of the population was involved in community service. And today, millions of people are lending a hand, tending a wound, helping the less fortunate -- in a homeless shelter, in an inner-city school, or in our fire and emergency services.

And some of you may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite presidents. Let me relate what his dad said to him on the eve of his 16th birthday: "All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is connected with others. We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves." And my friends, you, as well as anyone, embody those words. By saving lives, you have defined a successful life.

And for that, I thank you -- and yet I challenge you, too. And so, let us build on our beginnings. Let us continue to strive for a fire-safe America. And as we do, all Americans will say as I do tonight, the horizons of America have no limit. The best for America still does lie ahead.

Thank you for this evening. Thank you for inviting me. God bless you and God bless the United States of America. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

END

7:21 P.M. EDT

MASTER F

Document No.

624412

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/7/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

10:00 am 4/10/89

SUBJECT:

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE No Comments	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☐	☐	STUDDERT No Comments	☒	☐
BATES No Comments	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN No Comments	☒	☐	WINSTON	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	ROGERS 6394	☒	☐
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	Petersmeyer 4266	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 10:00am Monday, April 10. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Dooley)
April 5, 1989
Draft Four
FIRE

1000 APR -7 PM 2:0

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER
SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

Members of the fire service community, ladies and gentlemen, friends.

You know, it's been said that politicians, like fire fighters, are often misunderstood. Well, let me observe that I resemble that charge. It is a great privilege to be . . . please forgive me . . . in such extinguished company. Indeed, you might say that I'm all fired-up for the occasion.

Seriously, I want to thank you for that kind introduction, and for your generous reception. And let me, first, congratulate some of those responsible for this evening.

I'm referring, of course, to the International Associations of Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the National Fire Protection Association and National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services.

I want to also salute the more than 2,000 representatives here of the fire service community, and the members of the

Congressional Fire Service Caucus -- now, the third-largest congressional caucus on Capitol Hill. And let me say a special thanks to the fire fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon.

Finally, I want to say that you've chosen a wonderful time of year to hold this first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner.

After all, just think of it. Spring is in the air . . . Millie has had her puppies . . . Washington is alive with visitors . . . and baseball's Orioles are still in the pennant race. Of course, the season is one week old.

We meet, together, in a special week. For this is Volunteer Week, a time which celebrates the selfless character of the American people.

Looking toward tonight, I was struck by the fact that 85 per cent of our Nation's fire protection is supplied by volunteers. And it occurred to me that both you and your paid colleagues -- for both give of your time, and of yourselves -- provide the definition of a successful life.

For a successful life, it seems to me, must include serving others. A successful life states that we are partners, not

islands unto ourselves -- the sum not of our possessions, but of how we treat our neighbors.

Well, for more than 200 years, fire fighters have been this Nation's neighbor -- in word and deed, "the backbone of America." You have met local emergencies through volunteer and paid fire and emergency service networks. And today, you meet them still -- three million members strong.

You know, being here reminds me of a story that I heard which happened back in Prohibition days.

It seems that 25 of Boston's top bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation.

The first 24 men were engaged in the same profession -- each claimed to be a "fire fighter." Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" "Your honor," he replied, "I'm a bootlegger." Surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "How's business?" "It would be a lot better," he answered, "if there weren't so many fire fighters around."

See what I'm getting at? Even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide! And so they can today, and must too in the future. We've come a long way since Benjamin Franklin founded one of the first volunteer fire companies in 1736. Now,

let us go forward, and help achieve your goal: a better, more secure, more fire-safe America.

Toward that end, let me share some thoughts.

First, this Administration believes the fire service network deserves a Federal government which understands and values its place in the American family.

Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July centennial, or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. When fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the "first responder" not only to fire, but to accidents, floods, cave-ins, and collapsed buildings. You deserve the government's respect. In my Administration, you have it.

Second, this Administration believes you deserve the government's support. Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created. Finally, you thought, your concerns would be heard by every level of government. Well, too often that didn't happen, and you felt shunted to the sidelines. My friends, under this Administration, we're returning -- together -- to the center of the field.

Tonight, I call for restoring the U.S. Fire Administration to its rightful role as the fire service's Federal advocate. And for a national clearinghouse to deal with fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to regain its identity and prominence as a "national training center." And for the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be restored to its original intent.

You know, every profession has its ups and downs. Perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road," he said. "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play."

But the difference is that few professions display that special brand of skill and heroism that is found in the fire service.

I'm thinking, for example, of how last May, Richard Shiah [SHY-a], an off-duty Battalion Chief, arrived at the scene of a burning pickup truck that was overturned in a ditch. With no protective clothing on him, he risked his life, and suffered second-degree burns on his face and wrists, to save a father and two sons.

Battalion Chief Shiah shows -- like every fire fighter -- that heroism, American-style, is not going out of style. Tonight, let us pledge that it never will. And to achieve that

goal, let us act, specifically, to help the fire services in protecting our citizens from loss of life and property.

Each year more than 6,000 lives are lost in fires, and over \$10 billion lost in property damage. And, last year, as part of the Omnibus Drug Act of 1988, we raised the death benefit for fallen fire fighters from \$50,000 to \$100,000. No, it's not enough. It can never be enough. For no price can be attached to the life of a heroic American.

But in other ways, prices can be attached. For example, I believe that funds appropriated by Congress for "fire programs" at the Fire Emergency Training Center should be used for that program and not for non-fire related programs. And we must must foster greater public awareness of fire problems by supporting the Federal fire safety program.

All this, we can, and must, achieve. And as we do, we'll show how volunteerism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America.

That is why I have opened the Office of National Service. This Office is leading my Administration's community and national service programs. Next month, I will send legislation to the Congress proposing our Administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. And yesterday, I saluted the 18 recipients of the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards.

I have said I like what works. Volunteerism works. In a recent Gallup Poll, nearly 50 per cent of those interviewed were involved in community service -- that's up from 31 per cent in 1984. Today, millions of people are lending a hand, tending a wound, and helping the less fortunate -- in a homeless shelter, an inner-city school, and in our fire and emergency services.

As some of may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite Presidents. And recently I came across some words spoken on the eve of his 16th birthday. "All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is concerned with others," said Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. And then Teddy's father went on to add, "We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves."

My friends, you, as well as anyone, embody those words. By saving lives, you have defined a successful life. You have lived, as much as possible, by the tenets of the Golden Rule.

For that, I thank you -- and yet I challenge you, too. Yes, let us build on our beginnings. Let us achieve a fire-safe America. And as we do, Americans will say what I do tonight: "The horizons of America have no limit. The best for America still lies ahead."

Thank you for this evening, and for inviting me. God bless you, and God bless America.

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MASTER II

Document No. _____

024412

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

04/10/89

DATE: _____

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

SUBJECT: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER

(04/05 Draft Five)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☐	☒
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☐	☒
DARMAN	☐	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☒
BATES	☐	☒	UNTERMEYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☐	☒	PETERSMEYER	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
GRAY	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

1030 APR 10 PM 7:31

April 10, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Chriss Winston CW

SUBJECT: Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner

Attached are remarks for the April 12 first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner. The occasion links the key organizations of America's fire service community -- in all three million members. Almost 2000 people, including about 75 Congressmen, are expected to attend.

Since 85 per cent of America's fire-service protection is provided by volunteers, this ties in nicely with Volunteer Week. The remarks praise the fire service as "the backbone of America," and discuss issues of specific concern (pages 4-6) to voluntary and paid fire fighters.

(Smith/Dooley)
April 5, 1989
Draft Five
FIRE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER
SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

Members of the fire service community, ladies and gentlemen,
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You know, it's been said that politicians, like fire
fighters, are often misunderstood. Well, let me observe that I
resemble that charge. It is a great privilege to be . . . please
forgive me . . . in such extinguished company. Indeed, you might
say that I'm all fired-up for the occasion.

Seriously, I want to thank you for that kind introduction,
and for your generous reception. And let me, first, congratulate
some of those responsible for this evening.

I'm referring, of course, to the International Associations
of Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters, the International Society of
Fire Service Instructors, the National Fire Protection
Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the
Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services.

I want to also salute the individual representatives of the
fire service community, and the members of the Congressional Fire

Service Caucus -- now, the third-largest congressional caucus on Capitol Hill. Let me salute the members of Congress gathered here. And let me say a special thanks to the fire fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon.

Finally, I want to say that you've chosen a wonderful time of year to hold this first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner.

After all, just think of it. Spring is in the air . . . Millie has had her puppies . . . Washington is alive with visitors . . . and baseball's Orioles are still in the pennant race. Of course, the season is one week old.

We meet, together, in a special week. For this is Volunteer Week, a time which celebrates the selfless character of the American people.

Looking toward tonight, I was struck by the fact that 85 per cent of our Nation's fire protection is supplied by volunteers. And it occurred to me that both you and your paid colleagues -- for both give of your time, and of yourselves -- provide the definition of a successful life.

For any definition of a successful life, it seems to me, must include serving others. A successful life means that we are

partners, not islands unto ourselves -- the sum not of our possessions, but of how we treat our neighbors.

Well, for more than 200 years, fire fighters have been this Nation's neighbor -- in word and deed, "the backbone of America." You have met local emergencies through volunteer and paid fire and emergency service networks. And today, you meet them still -- three million members strong.

You know, being here reminds me of a story that I heard which happened back in Prohibition days.

It seems that 25 of Boston's top bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation.

The first 24 men were engaged in the same profession -- each claimed to be a "fire fighter." Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" "Your honor," he replied, "I'm a bootlegger." Surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "How's business?" "It would be a lot better," he answered, "if there weren't so many fire fighters around."

See what I'm getting at? Even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide! And so they can today, and must too in the future. We've come a long way since Benjamin Franklin

founded one of the first volunteer fire companies in 1736. Now, let us go forward, and help achieve your goal: a better, more secure, more fire-safe America.

Toward that end, let me share some thoughts.

First, this Administration believes the fire service network deserves a Federal government which understands and values its place in the American community.

Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July celebration, or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. When fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the "first responder" not only to fire, but to accidents, floods, cave-ins, and collapsed buildings. You deserve the government's respect. In my Administration, you have it.

Second, this Administration believes you deserve the government's support. Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created. Finally, you thought, your concerns would be heard by every level of government. Well, too often that didn't happen, and you felt shunted to the sidelines. My friends, under this Administration, we're returning -- together -- to the center of the field.

Tonight, I commend the U.S. Fire Administration for pursuing with vigor its rightful role as the fire service's Federal advocate. And for providing a national clearinghouse to deal with fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to retain its prominence as a "national training center." And like the previous Administration, we want the original intent of the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be maintained.

You know, every profession has its ups and downs. Perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road," he said. "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play."

But the difference is that few professions display that special brand of skill and heroism that is found in the fire service.

I'm thinking, for example, of how last May, Richard Shiah [SHY-ah], an off-duty Battalion Chief, arrived at the scene of a burning pickup truck that was overturned in a ditch. With no protective clothing on him, he risked his life, and suffered second-degree burns on his face and wrists, to save a father and two sons.

Chief Shiah shows -- like every fire fighter --that heroism, American-style, is not going out of style. Tonight, let us pledge that it never will. And to achieve that goal, let us act, specifically, to help the fire services in protecting our citizens from loss of life and property.

Each year more than 6,000 lives are lost in fires, and over \$10 billion lost in property damage. To combat such tragedy, we must foster greater public awareness of fire problems by supporting the Federal fire safety program. But we must also act when tragedy does occur. And toward that end, last year, as part of the Omnibus Drug Act of 1988, we raised the death benefit for fallen fire fighters from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

We have done much. But we must do more. And as we do, we'll show how volunteerism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America.

That is why I have opened the Office of National Service. This Office is leading my Administration's community and national service . Yesterday, I saluted the 18 recipients of the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards. And soon, I will announce our Administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. This program will encourage all young Americans to get involved in community service.

I have said I like what works. Volunteerism works.

In a recent Gallup Poll, nearly 50 per cent of the population was involved in community service. Today, millions of people are lending a hand, tending a wound, and helping the less fortunate - in a homeless shelter, an inner-city school, and in our fire and emergency services.

As some of you may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite Presidents. Well, let me relate what his father said to him on the eve of his 16th birthday: "All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is connected with others . . . We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves."

My friends, you, as well as anyone, embody those words. By saving lives, you have defined a successful life.

For that, I thank you -- and yet I challenge you, too. Yes, let us build on our beginnings. Let us achieve a fire-safe America. And as we do, all Americans will say as I do tonight: "The horizons of America have no limit. The best for America still lies ahead."

Thank you for this evening, and for inviting me. God bless you, and God bless America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 7:15 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE DINNER

Sheraton Washington Hotel
Washington, DC

April 12, 1989

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 12, 1989

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AT FIRE SERVICE DINNER

Sheraton Washington Hotel
Washington, D.C.

7:08 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, very much. Members of the fire service community, and ladies and gentlemen and friends, what a wonderful evening this is. Let me say, it's a great privilege to be, as Yogi Berra might say, in such extinguished company -- (laughter) -- all fired up. (Laughter.) I want to thank you though for that warmth of your reception here and for your kindness. And let me just first congratulate some who are responsible for this first, massively successful event. I'm referring, of course, to the International Associations of Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services.

And I want to also salute the individual representatives of the fire service community and then the members of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus -- now, the third-largest, I believe, technically. But if I know Congressman Curt Weldon, you're going to be number one. (Applause.) Let me salute the members of Congress that are gathered here. And particularly singling out not only the fire fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon -- he talked about a sleeping giant awakened. You try sleeping -- (laughter) -- with Curt Weldon on your case, giving you a hot foot. (Applause.) But Congressman Doug Walgren here and Sheri Boehlert on this side here at the head table -- I single them out for their special leadership and interest in the affairs that bind us all together tonight here.

And finally, I want to say that you've chosen a wonderful time of year to hold this first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner. After all, just think of it. Spring is in the air, Washington is alive with visitors, baseball's Orioles are still in the pennant race -- (applause) -- something we couldn't have said last year at this time -- (laughter) -- the season's a week old. (Laughter.) Our dog has had her puppies -- (laughter.) And my wife got a nice clean bill of health today out of Walter Reed Hospital. (Applause.)

So we meet together in a special week. For this is Volunteer Week, a time which celebrates the selfless character of the American people. And looking toward tonight, I was struck by the fact that 85 percent of our nation's fire protection is indeed

And you know, being here reminds me of a story that I heard which happened back in Prohibition days. It seems that 25 of Boston's top bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation.

And the first 24 men were engaged in the same profession -- each claimed to be a fire fighter. Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" And "Your honor," he replied, "I'm a bootlegger." And surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "Well, how's business?" The guy said "Well, it'd be a hell of a lot better if there weren't so many fire fighters around." (Laughter and applause.)

What I'm getting at -- even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide. (Laughter.) And so they can today, and must, too, in the future. We've come a long way since Benjamin Franklin founded one of the first volunteer fire companies in 1736. And now, let's go forward and help achieve your goal -- a better, more secure, more fire-safe America. (Applause.)

Let me just share a few thoughts with you, and then you can get on with the dinner. First, this administration believes the fire service network deserves a federal government which understands and values its place in the American community. Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July celebration, or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. And when fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the first responder not only to fire, but to accidents and floods and cave-ins and collapsed buildings, you deserve the government's respect. And in my administration, you have it. (Applause.)

Second, this administration believes that you deserve the government's support. Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created to ensure that your concerns would be heard by every level of government. I intend for those concerns to be heard.

And tonight, I commend the U.S. Fire Administration for pursuing with vigor its rightful role as the fire services federal advocate -- (applause) -- and for providing a national clearinghouse to deal with these fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to retain its prominence as a national training center. (Applause.) And like the previous administration, we want the original intent of the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be maintained. (Applause.)

You know, every profession -- you know this and I know it -- every profession has its ups and downs. And perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road," he said. "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play." (Laughter.)

Well, the difference is that few professions display that special brand of skill and heroism that is found in the fire service. I'm thinking, for example, of how last May, Richard Shiah, an off-duty battalion chief, arrived at the scene of a burning pickup truck that was overturned in a ditch. And with no protective

supporting the federal fire safety program. (Applause.) But we must also act when tragedy does occur. And toward that end, last year, as part of the Omnibus Drug Act of 1988, we raised the death benefit for fallen fire fighters from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

We've done much. But we must do more. And as we do, we'll show how volunteerism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America. And that's why I have opened at the White House the Office of National Service. This office is leading my administration's community and national service efforts. And yesterday, I saluted the 18 recipients of the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards. And soon, I will announce our administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. And this program will encourage all young Americans to get involved in community service -- to reignite the concept of one young person helping another.

And I have said I like what works. Well, volunteerism works. In a recent Gallup Poll, nearly 50 percent of the population was involved in community service. And today, millions of people are lending a hand, tending a wound, helping the less fortunate -- in a homeless shelter, in an inner-city school, or in our fire and emergency services.

And some of you may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite presidents. Let me relate what his dad said to him on the eve of his 16th birthday: "All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is connected with others. We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves." And my friends, you, as well as anyone, embody those words. By saving lives, you have defined a successful life.

And for that, I thank you -- and yet I challenge you, too. And so, let us build on our beginnings. Let us continue to strive for a fire-safe America. And as we do, all Americans will say as I do tonight, the horizons of America have no limit. The best for America still does lie ahead.

Thank you for this evening. Thank you for inviting me. God bless you and God bless the United States of America. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

END

7:21 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Chriss Winston CW

SUBJECT: Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner

Attached are remarks for the April 12 first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner. The occasion links the key organizations of America's fire service community -- in all three million members. Almost 2000 people, including about 75 Congressmen, are expected to attend.

Since 85 per cent of America's fire-service protection is provided by volunteers, this ties in nicely with Volunteer Week. The remarks praise the fire service as "the backbone of America," and discuss issues of specific concern (pages 4-6) to voluntary and paid fire fighters.

(Smith/Dooley)
April 5, 1989
Draft Five
FIRE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER
SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

Members of the fire service community, ladies and gentlemen,
friends.

You know, it's been said that politicians, like fire
fighters, are often misunderstood. Well, let me observe that I
resemble that charge. It is a great privilege to be . . . please
forgive me . . . in such extinguished company. Indeed, you might
say that I'm all fired-up for the occasion.

Seriously, I want to thank you for that kind introduction,
and for your generous reception. And let me, first, congratulate
some of those responsible for this evening.

I'm referring, of course, to the International Associations
of Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters, the International Society of
Fire Service Instructors, the National Fire Protection
Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the
Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services.

I want to also salute the individual representatives of the
fire service community, and the members of the Congressional Fire

Service Caucus -- now, the third-largest congressional caucus on Capitol Hill. Let me salute the members of Congress gathered here. And let me say a special thanks to the fire fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon.

Finally, I want to say that you've chosen a wonderful time of year to hold this first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner.

After all, just think of it. Spring is in the air . . . Millie has had her puppies . . . Washington is alive with visitors . . . and baseball's Orioles are still in the pennant race. Of course, the season is one week old.

We meet, together, in a special week. For this is Volunteer Week, a time which celebrates the selfless character of the American people.

Looking toward tonight, I was struck by the fact that 85 per cent of our Nation's fire protection is supplied by volunteers. And it occurred to me that both you and your paid colleagues -- for both give of your time, and of yourselves -- provide the definition of a successful life.

For any definition of a successful life, it seems to me, must include serving others. A successful life means that we are

partners, not islands unto ourselves -- the sum not of our possessions, but of how we treat our neighbors.

Well, for more than 200 years, fire fighters have been this Nation's neighbor -- in word and deed, "the backbone of America." You have met local emergencies through volunteer and paid fire and emergency service networks. And today, you meet them still -- three million members strong.

You know, being here reminds me of a story that I heard which happened back in Prohibition days.

It seems that 25 of Boston's top bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation.

The first 24 men were engaged in the same profession -- each claimed to be a "fire fighter." Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" "Your honor," he replied, "I'm a bootlegger." Surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "How's business?" "It would be a lot better," he answered, "if there weren't so many fire fighters around."

See what I'm getting at? Even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide! And so they can today, and must too in the future. We've come a long way since Benjamin Franklin

founded one of the first volunteer fire companies in 1736. Now, let us go forward, and help achieve your goal: a better, more secure, more fire-safe America.

Toward that end, let me share some thoughts.

First, this Administration believes the fire service network deserves a Federal government which understands and values its place in the American community.

Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July celebration, or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. When fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the "first responder" not only to fire, but to accidents, floods, cave-ins, and collapsed buildings. You deserve the government's respect. In my Administration, you have it.

Second, this Administration believes you deserve the government's support. Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created. Finally, you thought, your concerns would be heard by every level of government. Well, too often that didn't happen, and you felt shunted to the sidelines. My friends, under this Administration, we're returning -- together -- to the center of the field.

Tonight, I commend the U.S. Fire Administration for pursuing with vigor its rightful role as the fire service's Federal advocate. And for providing a national clearinghouse to deal with fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to retain its prominence as a "national training center." And like the previous Administration, we want the original intent of the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be maintained.

You know, every profession has its ups and downs. Perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road," he said. "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play."

But the difference is that few professions display that special brand of skill and heroism that is found in the fire service.

I'm thinking, for example, of how last May, Richard Shiah [SHY-ah], an off-duty Battalion Chief, arrived at the scene of a burning pickup truck that was overturned in a ditch. With no protective clothing on him, he risked his life, and suffered second-degree burns on his face and wrists, to save a father and two sons.

Chief Shiah shows -- like every fire fighter --that heroism, American-style, is not going out of style. Tonight, let us pledge that it never will. And to achieve that goal, let us act, specifically, to help the fire services in protecting our citizens from loss of life and property.

Each year more than 6,000 lives are lost in fires, and over \$10 billion lost in property damage. To combat such tragedy, we must foster greater public awareness of fire problems by supporting the Federal fire safety program. But we must also act when tragedy does occur. And toward that end, last year, as part of the Omnibus Drug Act of 1988, we raised the death benefit for fallen fire fighters from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

We have done much. But we must do more. And as we do, we'll show how volunteerism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America.

That is why I have opened the Office of National Service. This Office is leading my Administration's community and national service . Yesterday, I saluted the 18 recipients of the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards. And soon, I will announce our Administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. This program will encourage all young Americans to get involved in community service.

I have said I like what works. Volunteerism works.

In a recent Gallup Poll, nearly 50 per cent of the population was involved in community service. Today, millions of people are lending a hand, tending a wound, and helping the less fortunate - in a homeless shelter, an inner-city school, and in our fire and emergency services.

As some of you may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite Presidents. Well, let me relate what his father said to him on the eve of his 16th birthday: "All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is connected with others . . . We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves."

My friends, you, as well as anyone, embody those words. By saving lives, you have defined a successful life.

For that, I thank you -- and yet I challenge you, too. Yes, let us build on our beginnings. Let us achieve a fire-safe America. And as we do, all Americans will say as I do tonight: "The horizons of America have no limit. The best for America still lies ahead."

Thank you for this evening, and for inviting me. God bless you, and God bless America.

#

FINAL

REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER
SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989
6:40 P.M.

MEMBERS OF THE FIRE SERVICE COMMUNITY, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS.

- 2 -

LET ME SAY IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO BE . . .
PLEASE FORGIVE ME . . . IN SUCH EXTINGUISHED COMPANY.
INDEED, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT I'M ALL FIRE-UP FOR THE
OCCASION.

SERIOUSLY, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THAT KIND
INTRODUCTION, AND FOR YOUR GENEROUS RECEPTION. AND LET
ME, FIRST, CONGRATULATE SOME OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THIS EVENING.

- 3 -

I'M REFERRING, OF COURSE, TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF FIRE CHIEFS AND FIRE FIGHTERS, THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS, THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL, AND THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S INSURANCE SERVICES.

- 4 -

I WANT TO ALSO SALUTE THE INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRE SERVICE COMMUNITY, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICE CAUCUS -- NOW, THE THIRD-LARGEST CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON CAPITOL HILL. LET ME SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS GATHERED HERE. AND LET ME SAY A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FIRE FIGHTER'S BEST FRIEND, CONGRESSMAN CURT WELDON.

- 5 -

FINALLY, I WANT TO SAY THAT YOU'VE CHOSEN A WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR TO HOLD THIS FIRST ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE DINNER.

AFTER ALL, JUST THINK OF IT. SPRING IS IN THE AIR . . . MILLIE HAS HAD HER PUPPIES . . . WASHINGTON IS ALIVE WITH VISITORS . . . AND BASEBALL'S ORIOLES ARE STILL IN THE PENNANT RACE. OF COURSE, THE SEASON IS ONE WEEK OLD.

- 6 -

WE MEET, TOGETHER, IN A SPECIAL WEEK. FOR THIS IS VOLUNTEER WEEK, A TIME WHICH CELEBRATES THE SELFLESS CHARACTER OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

LOOKING TOWARD TONIGHT, I WAS STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT 85 PER CENT OF OUR NATION'S FIRE PROTECTION IS SUPPLIED BY VOLUNTEERS. AND IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT BOTH YOU AND YOUR PAID COLLEAGUES -- FOR BOTH GIVE OF YOUR TIME, AND OF YOURSELVES -- PROVIDE THE DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE.

FOR ANY DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE, IT SEEMS TO ME, MUST INCLUDE SERVING OTHERS. A SUCCESSFUL LIFE MEANS THAT WE ARE PARTNERS, NOT ISLANDS UNTO OURSELVES -- THE SUM NOT OF OUR POSSESSIONS, BUT OF HOW WE TREAT OUR NEIGHBORS.

WELL, FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS, FIRE FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN THIS NATION'S NEIGHBOR -- IN WORD AND DEED, "THE BACKBONE OF AMERICA."

YOU HAVE MET LOCAL EMERGENCIES THROUGH VOLUNTEER AND PAID FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE NETWORKS. AND TODAY, YOU MEET THEM STILL -- THREE MILLION MEMBERS STRONG.

YOU KNOW, BEING HERE REMINDS ME OF A STORY THAT I HEARD WHICH HAPPENED BACK IN PROHIBITION DAYS.

IT SEEMS THAT 25 OF BOSTON'S TOP BOOTLEGGERS WERE ROUNDED UP IN A SURPRISE RAID. AND AS THEY WERE BEING ARRAIGNED, THE JUDGE ASKED THE USUAL QUESTION ABOUT OCCUPATION.

THE FIRST 24 MEN WERE ENGAGED IN THE SAME PROFESSION -- EACH CLAIMED TO BE A "FIRE FIGHTER." WELL, NATURALLY, THE JUDGE ASKED THE LAST PRISONER, "AND WHAT ARE YOU?" "YOUR HONOR," HE REPLIED, "I'M A BOOTLEGGER." SURPRISED, THE JUDGE LAUGHED AND ASKED, "HOW'S BUSINESS?" "IT WOULD BE A LOT BETTER," HE ANSWERED, "IF THERE WEREN'T SO MANY FIRE FIGHTERS AROUND."

SEE WHAT I'M GETTING AT? EVEN BACK IN PROHIBITION, YOUR NUMBERS TURNED THE TIDE! AND SO THEY CAN TODAY, AND MUST TOO IN THE FUTURE. WE'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FOUNDED ONE OF THE FIRST VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES IN 1736. NOW, LET US GO FORWARD, AND HELP ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL: A BETTER, MORE SECURE, MORE FIRE-SAFE AMERICA.

TOWARD THAT END, LET ME SHARE SOME THOUGHTS.

FIRST, THIS ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THE FIRE SERVICE NETWORK DESERVES A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHICH UNDERSTANDS AND VALUES ITS PLACE IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

ALMOST EVERY MUNICIPALITY HAS SOME SORT OF EMERGENCY FIRE ORGANIZATION. AT THE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION, OR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, THE FIRE SERVICE IS THERE. AT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTERS AND SERVICE CLUBS, THE FIRE SERVICE IS THERE.

WHEN FIRE RAGED AT YELLOWSTONE, THE FIRE SERVICE WAS THERE. AND SO, TOO, WHEN YOU BECOME THE "FIRST RESPONDER" NOT ONLY TO FIRE, BUT TO ACCIDENTS, FLOODS, CAVE-INS, AND COLLAPSED BUILDINGS. YOU DESERVE THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPECT. IN MY ADMINISTRATION, YOU HAVE IT.

SECOND, THIS ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES YOU DESERVE THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THE NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ADMINISTRATION WAS CREATED TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CONCERNS WOULD BE HEARD BY EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT. MY FRIENDS, I INTEND FOR THOSE CONCERNS TO BE HEARD.

TONIGHT, I COMMEND THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION FOR PURSUING WITH VIGOR ITS RIGHTFUL ROLE AS THE FIRE SERVICE'S FEDERAL ADVOCATE.

AND FOR PROVIDING A NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE TO DEAL WITH FIRE SERVICE ISSUES. WE WANT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TO RETAIN ITS PROMINENCE AS A "NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER." AND LIKE THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION, WE WANT THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE FEDERAL FIRE ACT OF 1974 TO BE MAINTAINED.

YOU KNOW, EVERY PROFESSION HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS. PERHAPS FORMER HOCKEY COACH HARRY NEALE PUT IT BEST: "LAST SEASON WE COULDN'T WIN AT HOME AND WE WERE LOSING ON THE ROAD," HE SAID. "MY FAILURE AS A COACH WAS THAT I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYPLACE ELSE TO PLAY."

BUT THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT FEW PROFESSIONS DISPLAY THAT SPECIAL BRAND OF SKILL AND HEROISM THAT IS FOUND IN THE FIRE SERVICE.

I'M THINKING, FOR EXAMPLE, OF HOW LAST MAY, RICHARD SHIAH [SHY-AH], AN OFF-DUTY BATTALION CHIEF, ARRIVED AT THE SCENE OF A BURNING PICKUP TRUCK THAT WAS OVERTURNED IN A DITCH. WITH NO PROTECTIVE CLOTHING ON HIM, HE RISKED HIS LIFE, AND SUFFERED SECOND-DEGREE BURNS ON HIS FACE AND WRISTS, TO SAVE A FATHER AND TWO SONS.

CHIEF SHIAH SHOWS -- LIKE EVERY FIRE FIGHTER -- THAT HEROISM, AMERICAN-STYLE, IS NOT GOING OUT OF STYLE.

TONIGHT, LET US PLEDGE THAT IT NEVER WILL. AND TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL, LET US ACT, SPECIFICALLY, TO HELP THE FIRE SERVICES IN PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS FROM LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

EACH YEAR MORE THAN 6,000 LIVES ARE LOST IN FIRES, AND OVER \$10 BILLION LOST IN PROPERTY DAMAGE. TO COMBAT SUCH TRAGEDY, WE MUST FOSTER GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FIRE PROBLEMS BY SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM.

BUT WE MUST ALSO ACT WHEN TRAGEDY DOES OCCUR. AND TOWARD THAT END, LAST YEAR, AS PART OF THE OMNIBUS DRUG ACT OF 1988, WE RAISED THE DEATH BENEFIT FOR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS FROM \$50,000 TO \$100,000.

WE HAVE DONE MUCH. BUT WE MUST DO MORE. AND AS WE DO, WE'LL SHOW HOW VOLUNTEERISM CAN JOIN HANDS WITH GOVERNMENT TO RENEW THE PROMISE OF AMERICA.

THAT IS WHY I HAVE OPENED THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE.

- 19 -

THIS OFFICE IS LEADING MY ADMINISTRATION'S COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL SERVICE EFFORTS. YESTERDAY, I SALUTED THE 18 RECIPIENTS OF THE 1989 PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER ACTION AWARDS. AND SOON, I WILL ANNOUNCE OUR ADMINISTRATION'S Y-E-S OR YES PROGRAM -- YOUTH ENTERING SERVICE. THIS PROGRAM WILL ENCOURAGE ALL YOUNG AMERICANS TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE.

I HAVE SAID I LIKE WHAT WORKS. VOLUNTEERISM WORKS.

- 20 -

IN A RECENT GALLUP POLL, NEARLY 50 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WAS INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE. TODAY, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE LENDING A HAND, TENDING A WOUND, AND HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE -- IN A HOMELESS SHELTER, AN INNER-CITY SCHOOL, AND IN OUR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.

AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, TEDDY ROOSEVELT IS AMONG MY FAVORITE PRESIDENTS. WELL, LET ME RELATE WHAT HIS FATHER SAID TO HIM ON THE EVE OF HIS 16TH BIRTHDAY:

- 21 -

"ALL THAT GIVES ME MOST PLEASURE IN THE RETROSPECT IS CONNECTED WITH OTHERS . . . WE ARE NOT PLACED HERE TO LIVE EXCLUSIVELY FOR OURSELVES."

MY FRIENDS, YOU, AS WELL AS ANYONE, EMBODY THOSE WORDS. BY SAVING LIVES, YOU HAVE DEFINED A SUCCESSFUL LIFE.

FOR THAT, I THANK YOU -- AND YET I CHALLENGE YOU, TOO. YES, LET US BUILD ON OUR BEGINNINGS. LET US ACHIEVE A FIRE-SAFE AMERICA.

- 22 -

AND AS WE DO, ALL AMERICANS WILL SAY AS I DO TONIGHT: "THE HORIZONS OF AMERICA HAVE NO LIMIT. THE BEST FOR AMERICA STILL LIES AHEAD."

THANK YOU FOR THIS EVENING, AND FOR INVITING ME. GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 4/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 am 4/10/89SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☐	☐	STUDDERT	☒	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☒	☐	WINSTON	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	ROGERS	☒	☐
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	Petersmeyer	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 10:00am Monday, April 10. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No comment.
4/10/89
D.Q. Bates

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

(Smith/Dooley)
April 5, 1989
Draft Four
FIRE

1000 APR -7 PM 2:0

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER
SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

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Association and National Volunteer Fire Council, and the
Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services.

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here of the fire service community, and the members of the

Congressional Fire Service Caucus -- now, the third-largest congressional caucus on Capitol Hill. And let me say a special thanks to the fire fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon.

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islands unto ourselves -- the sum not of our possessions, but of how we treat our neighbors.

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let us go forward, and help achieve your goal: a better, more secure, more fire-safe America.

Toward that end, let me share some thoughts.

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Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July centennial, or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. When fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the "first responder" not only to fire, but to accidents, floods, cave-ins, and collapsed buildings. You deserve the government's respect. In my Administration, you have it.

Second, this Administration believes you deserve the government's support. Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created. Finally, you thought, your concerns would be heard by every level of government. Well, too often that didn't happen, and you felt shunted to the sidelines. My friends, under this Administration, we're returning -- together -- to the center of the field.

Tonight, I call for restoring the U.S. Fire Administration to its rightful role as the fire service's Federal advocate. And for a national clearinghouse to deal with fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to regain its identity and prominence as a "national training center." And for the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be restored to its original intent.

You know, every profession has its ups and downs. Perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road," he said. "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play."

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Battalion Chief Shiah shows -- like every fire fighter -- that heroism, American-style, is not going out of style. Tonight, let us pledge that it never will. And to achieve that

goal, let us act, specifically, to help the fire services in protecting our citizens from loss of life and property.

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But in other ways, prices can be attached. For example, I believe that funds appropriated by Congress for "fire programs" at the Fire Emergency Training Center should be used for that program and not for non-fire related programs. And we must must foster greater public awareness of fire problems by supporting the Federal fire safety program.

All this, we can, and must, achieve. And as we do, we'll show how volunteerism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America.

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Thank you for this evening, and for inviting me. God bless you, and God bless America.

(Smith/Dooley)
April 5, 1989
Draft Five
FIRE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER
SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

Members of the fire service community, ladies and gentlemen, friends.

You know, it's been said that politicians, like fire fighters, are often misunderstood. Well, let me observe that I resemble that charge. It is a great privilege to be . . . please forgive me . . . in such extinguished company. Indeed, you might say that I'm all fired-up for the occasion.

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I'm referring, of course, to the International Associations of Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services.

I want to also salute the individual representatives of the fire service community, and the members of the Congressional Fire

Service Caucus -- now, the third-largest congressional caucus on Capitol Hill. Let me salute the members of Congress gathered here. And let me say a special thanks to the fire fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon.

Finally, I want to say that you've chosen a wonderful time of year to hold this first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner.

After all, just think of it. Spring is in the air . . . Millie has had her puppies . . . Washington is alive with visitors . . . and baseball's Orioles are still in the pennant race. Of course, the season is one week old.

We meet, together, in a special week. For this is Volunteer Week, a time which celebrates the selfless character of the American people.

Looking toward tonight, I was struck by the fact that 85 per cent of our Nation's fire protection is supplied by volunteers. And it occurred to me that both you and your paid colleagues -- for both give of your time, and of yourselves -- provide the definition of a successful life.

For any definition of a successful life, it seems to me, must include serving others. A successful life means that we are

partners, not islands unto ourselves -- the sum not of our possessions, but of how we treat our neighbors.

Well, for more than 200 years, fire fighters have been this Nation's neighbor -- in word and deed, "the backbone of America." You have met local emergencies through volunteer and paid fire and emergency service networks. And today, you meet them still -- three million members strong.

You know, being here reminds me of a story that I heard which happened back in Prohibition days.

It seems that 25 of Boston's top bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation.

The first 24 men were engaged in the same profession -- each claimed to be a "fire fighter." Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" "Your honor," he replied, "I'm a bootlegger." Surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "How's business?" "It would be a lot better," he answered, "if there weren't so many fire fighters around."

See what I'm getting at? Even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide! And so they can today, and must too in the future. We've come a long way since Benjamin Franklin

founded one of the first volunteer fire companies in 1736. Now, let us go forward, and help achieve your goal: a better, more secure, more fire-safe America.

Toward that end, let me share some thoughts.

First, this Administration believes the fire service network deserves a Federal government which understands and values its place in the American community.

Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July celebration, or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. When fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the "first responder" not only to fire, but to accidents, floods, cave-ins, and collapsed buildings. You deserve the government's respect. In my Administration, you have it.

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Tonight, I commend the U.S. Fire Administration for pursuing with vigor its rightful role as the fire service's Federal advocate. And for providing a national clearinghouse to deal with fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to retain its prominence as a "national training center." And like the previous Administration, we want the original intent of the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be maintained.

You know, every profession has its ups and downs. Perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road," he said. "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play."

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Chief Shiah shows -- like every fire fighter --that heroism, American-style, is not going out of style. Tonight, let us pledge that it never will. And to achieve that goal, let us act, specifically, to help the fire services in protecting our citizens from loss of life and property.

Each year more than 6,000 lives are lost in fires, and over \$10 billion lost in property damage. To combat such tragedy, we must foster greater public awareness of fire problems by supporting the Federal fire safety program. But we must also act when tragedy does occur. And toward that end, last year, as part of the Omnibus Drug Act of 1988, we raised the death benefit for fallen fire fighters from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

We have done much. But we must do more. And as we do, we'll show how volunteerism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America.

That is why I have opened the Office of National Service. This Office is leading my Administration's community and national service . Yesterday, I saluted the 18 recipients of the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards. And soon, I will announce our Administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. This program will encourage all young Americans to get involved in community service.

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As some of you may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite Presidents. Well, let me relate what his father said to him on the eve of his 16th birthday: "All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is connected with others . . . We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves."

My friends, you, as well as anyone, embody those words. By saving lives, you have defined a successful life.

For that, I thank you -- and yet I challenge you, too. Yes, let us build on our beginnings. Let us achieve a fire-safe America. And as we do, all Americans will say as I do tonight: "The horizons of America have no limit. The best for America still lies ahead."

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MASTER II

(Smith/Dooley)
April 5, 1989
Draft Five
FIRE

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

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7
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For that, I thank you -- and yet I challenge you, too. Yes, let us build on our beginnings. Let us achieve a fire-safe America. And as we do, ^{all} Americans will say ^{as} ~~what~~ I do tonight: "The horizons of America have no limit. The best for America still lies ahead."

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From W. Harman
See Comments

(Smith/Dooley)
April 5, 1989
Draft Four
FIRE

20 APR 1989 3 49

1989 APR -7 PM 2:05

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER
SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

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Hale
3/20
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Delete criticism of FEMA that is not justified
Hale 3/20
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Editorial deleted
Hale 3/20
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check with AFCE of National Service. I don't think this is right

A. Raul 2044

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Thank you for this evening, and for inviting me. God bless you, and God bless America.

government. And by helping others, by building a better America, -- honorably, ethically -- we seek to show how public service is not the sum of our perks or possessions, but a measure of how we conduct ourselves and what we achieve.

Come to think of it, this is a code for all occupations, from high school to the highest callings in journalism and government. Perhaps the greatest reward of all is the chance to contribute to America's greatness.

Thank you, and now I would be delighted to take your questions.

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2-2-2

Pinkerton, Porter comments 4/10/89

FIRE SERVICE DINNER

p. 1, graf 2. I would delete this entire paragraph, beginning "You know, it's been said that politicians"

p. 2, graf 2. The joke about the Orioles is excellent.

p. 2, graf 4. Misspelled "occurred" line 3.

p. 3, graf 4. The joke about the bootleggers/fire fighters is weak, and perhaps a bit too off-color for the audience. I would find a substitute anecdote.

p. 5, graf 1. Please rewrite line 4 to read as follows: "We want the National Fire Academy to be prominent, as it ought to be, as a 'national training center.'" As written, the connotation is that the Academy is much worse off than it really is. The new wording is suggested to present a more optimistic picture.

p. 5, graf 1. Delete the last sentence, "And for the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be restored to its original intent."

p. 6, graf 2. Delete first two sentences "But in other ways, ... not for non-fire related programs." The following sentence, "We must foster greater public awareness of fire problems ..." would then be appended at the end of graf 1.

p. 6, graf 4. Please delete the second sentence, "Next month, I will send legislation ... Youth Entering Service." Following sentence would then delete "And," to begin with "Yesterday, ..."

p. 7, graf 2. The quote is appropriate, but it is not set up well. I would rephrase the graf to read "As Teddy Roosevelt's father said to him on the eve of his 16th birthday, 'All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is concerned with others. We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves.'"

Clyde Bragdon

Lucas Administrator

approved by Regan

301-477-1018

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, *MJA*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Remarks: Fire Service
Dinner

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed Presidential remarks, and we have no legal objection to their delivery.

Thank you for submitting these proposed remarks for our review.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/7/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

10:00 am 4/10/89

SUBJECT:

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☐	☐	STUDDERT	☒	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☒	☐	WINSTON	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	ROGERS	☒	☐
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	Petersmeyer	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 10:00am Monday, April 10. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Dooley)
April 5, 1989
Draft Four
FIRE

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FIRE SERVICE DINNER
SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

Members of the fire service community, ladies and gentlemen, friends.

You know, it's been said that politicians, like fire fighters, are often misunderstood. Well, let me observe that I resemble that charge. It is a great privilege to be . . . please forgive me . . . in such extinguished company. Indeed, you might say that I'm all fired-up for the occasion.

Seriously, I want to thank you for that kind introduction, and for your generous reception. And let me, first, congratulate some of those responsible for this evening.

I'm referring, of course, to the International Associations of Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the National Fire Protection Association and National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services. *Whew!*

I want to also salute the more than 2,000 representatives here of the fire service community, and the members of the

Congressional Fire Service Caucus -- now, the third-largest congressional caucus on Capitol Hill. And let me say a special thanks to the fire fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon.

Finally, I want to say that you've chosen a wonderful time of year to hold this first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner.

After all, just think of it. Spring is in the air . . . Millie has had her puppies . . . Washington is alive with visitors . . . and baseball's Orioles are still in the pennant race. Of course, the season is one week old.

We meet, together, in a special week. For this is Volunteer Week, a time which celebrates the selfless character of the American people.

Looking toward tonight, I was struck by the fact that 85 per cent of our Nation's fire protection is supplied by volunteers. And it occurred to me that both you and your paid colleagues -- for both give of your time, and of yourselves -- provide the definition of a successful life.

For a successful life, it seems to me, must include serving others. A successful life states that we are partners, not

islands unto ourselves -- the sum not of our possessions, but of how we treat our neighbors.

Well, for more than 200 years, fire fighters have been this Nation's neighbor -- in word and deed, "the backbone of America." You have met local emergencies through volunteer and paid fire and emergency service networks. And today, you meet them still -- three million members strong.

You know, being here reminds me of a story that I heard which happened back in Prohibition days.

It seems that 25 of Boston's top bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation.

The first 24 men were engaged in the same profession -- each claimed to be a "fire fighter." Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" "Your honor," he replied, "I'm a bootlegger." Surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "How's business?" "It would be a lot better," he answered, "if there weren't so many fire fighters around."

See what I'm getting at? Even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide! And so they can today, and must too in the future. We've come a long way since Benjamin Franklin founded one of the first volunteer fire companies in 1736. Now,

let us go forward, and help achieve your goal: a better, more secure, more fire-safe America.

Toward that end, let me share some thoughts.

First, this Administration believes the fire service network deserves a Federal government which understands and values its place in the American family.

Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July centennial, or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. When fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the "first responder" not only to fire, but to accidents, floods, cave-ins, and collapsed buildings. You deserve the government's respect. In my Administration, you have it.

Second, this Administration believes you deserve the government's support. Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created. Finally, you thought, your concerns would be heard by every level of government. Well, too often that didn't happen, and you felt shunted to the sidelines. My friends, under this Administration, we're returning -- together -- to the center of the field.

Tonight, I call for restoring the U.S. Fire Administration to its rightful role as the fire service's Federal advocate. And for a national clearinghouse to deal with fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to regain its identity and prominence as a "national training center." And for the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be restored to its original intent.

You know, every profession has its ups and downs. Perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road," he said. "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play."

But the difference is that few professions display that special brand of skill and heroism that is found in the fire service.

I'm thinking, for example, of how last May, Richard Shiah [SHY-a], an off-duty Battalion Chief, arrived at the scene of a burning pickup truck that was overturned in a ditch. With no protective clothing on him, he risked his life, and suffered second-degree burns on his face and wrists, to save a father and two sons.

Battalion Chief Shiah shows -- like every fire fighter -- that heroism, American-style, is not going out of style. Tonight, let us pledge that it never will. And to achieve that

goal, let us act, specifically, to help the fire services in protecting our citizens from loss of life and property.

Each year more than 6,000 lives are lost in fires, and over \$10 billion lost in property damage. And, last year, as part of the Omnibus Drug Act of 1988, we raised the death benefit for fallen fire fighters from \$50,000 to \$100,000. No, it's not enough. It can never be enough. For no price can be attached to the life of a heroic American.

But in other ways, prices can be attached. For example, I believe that funds appropriated by Congress for "fire programs" at the Fire Emergency Training Center should be used for that program and not for non-fire related programs. And we must foster greater public awareness of fire problems by supporting the Federal fire safety program.

All this, we can, and must, achieve. And as we do, we'll show how volunteerism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America.

That is why I have opened the Office of National Service. This Office is leading my Administration's community and national service programs. Next month, I will send legislation to the Congress proposing our Administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. And yesterday, I saluted the 18 recipients of the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards.

I have said I like what works. Volunteerism works.

In a recent Gallup Poll, nearly 50 per cent of those interviewed were involved in community service -- that's up from 31 per cent in 1984. Today, millions of people are lending a hand, tending a wound, and helping the less fortunate -- in a homeless shelter, an inner-city school, and in our fire and emergency services.

As some of may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite Presidents. And recently I came across some words spoken on the eve of his 16th birthday. "All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is concerned with others," said Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. And then Teddy's father went on to add, "We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves."

My friends, you, as well as anyone, embody those words. By saving lives, you have defined a successful life. You have lived, as much as possible, by the tenets of the Golden Rule.

For that, I thank you -- and yet I challenge you, too. Yes, let us build on our beginnings. Let us achieve a fire-safe America. And as we do, Americans will say what I do tonight: "The horizons of America have no limit. The best for America still lies ahead."

Thank you for this evening, and for inviting me. God bless you, and God bless America.

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