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FOIA MARKER

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Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13482
Folder ID Number: 13482-012

Folder Title:
Bush Accomplishments, 4/17/89 [3]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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((Grant))
April 10, 1989

1989 APR 14 PM 5: 57

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

The new Administration is tackling the tough issues and addressing the most urgent priorities facing the nation.

Accomplishments so far include:

1. A comprehensive budget proposal to the Congress *J* and an unprecedented bipartisan agreement on the budget reached in *consultations* ~~negotiations~~ with the Congress
2. A plan to rescue the Savings and Loan industry
3. A proposal for cutting the capital gains tax rate to keep capital formation strong
4. A proposal for raising the minimum wage to \$4.25 coupled with a six month training wage
5. Foreign policy and defense strategy reviews *initiated*
6. Consultations with the leaders of 32 nations, including 18 bilateral meetings held during the *Asia* ~~Tokyo~~ trip (34 by 4/15)
7. The signing of a bipartisan accord on Central America with Congress
8. Introduction of a comprehensive legislative package for educational *excellence* ~~reform~~
9. Action by the Director of National Drug Control Policy, Bill Bennett, to target Washington, D.C. in the war on drugs

10. A temporary ban on the import of certain types of semi automatic military assault rifles [automatic already banned]
11. Federal action in the Alaskan oilspill cleanup effort, the banning of toxic waste exports, and a call for the phaseout of CFCs by the year 2000
12. A child care proposal to give parents greater choice and flexibility, while helping those most in need
13. Whistleblower protection legislation to strengthen the rights of those who report misdeeds and mismanagement
14. A comprehensive ethics proposal to make uniform the standards between all three branches of government
15. ~~A Presidential proclamation and series of events celebrating National Volunteer Week~~
Strong Presidential encouragement for volunteerism
16. A total of eleven televised press conferences by the President

President Bush has set an agenda for this country. He is orienting us as a nation toward the future -- building a better America -- keeping America strong and at peace. It is an agenda that seizes this special moment in our history: leadership is the ability to see the shape of things to come, to address tomorrow's challenges today. George Bush is preparing the nation for the 21st Century.

THE ECONOMY

Keeping our nation's economy strong is the key to managing change successfully. The news is good:

- o More Americans are at work today than ever before, and unemployment continues at a record low.
- o The economy is sound without resurging inflation.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Presenting a detailed budget:** The President ~~has~~ put forth a detailed budget which addresses our fundamental obligations for protection of national security and support of the needy, while providing sufficient funds to advance high-priority initiatives, ~~and~~ at the same time, it restrains overall growth of spending ~~so that we can meet~~ ^{and} the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings targets, ~~on time~~.
- o **Reaching a budget agreement with Congress:** The President and Congress announced on April 14 a budget plan to reduce the estimated FY 1990 deficit by about \$24 billion, relative to the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings baseline. The deficit will be reduced to \$99.4 billion, which is a \$64 billion reduction relative to the current estimate of the FY 1989 deficit. **This is the first budget agreement reached ahead of schedule and not framed in the context of crisis.**
- o **Capital gains tax ^{rate} cut:** In order to promote capital formation and investment, the President has proposed a 45 percent capital gains exclusion for qualified capital gains, a maximum 15 percent capital gains tax rate, and an increase

in the qualifying holding period from one year to three years.

- o **Minimum wage proposal:** The President is seeking to minimize the adverse economic impact of an across-the-board increase in the minimum wage, and to keep job opportunities available for youth and minority workers. His proposal is:
 - o A 27 percent increase in the minimum wage over three years to \$4.25 for most workers.
 - o Maintaining the current \$3.35 minimum for all new employees of a firm on the job for less than six months, regardless of age or previous employment.
 - o An increase in the small business exemption to include all firms, not just retail and service establishments, with gross sales under \$500,000.
 - o An increase in the tip credit from 40 percent to 50 percent.
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 - o Assure financial integrity of deposit insurance by raising the annual premium rate for both commercial banks and S&Ls.
 - o Resolve the status of existing insolvent banks in an orderly fashion.
 - o Improve supervisory control by bringing S&Ls up to the same standards applied to commercial banks.
 - o Enhance enforcement of bank fraud provisions.

FOREIGN POLICY

The Administration's policy of peace through strength is working. As he prepares for both the 40th Anniversary of NATO in Brussels and the economic summit in Paris, President Bush has undertaken a number of foreign policy initiatives to maintain America's position of world leadership.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Bipartisan accord:** On March 24, the President signed the Bipartisan Accord on Central America with top leaders of the Congress. The agreement sets out the broad outlines of U.S. policy in the region:
 - o **Humanitarian aid:** Congress has agreed to support the Administration's request for continued humanitarian assistance at current levels through the elections in Nicaragua scheduled for February, 1990.
 - o **Review/consultation:** There will be extensive consultations and review with respect to these funds effective November 30, 1989 by the bipartisan leadership and relevant committees.
 - o **Caveat:** The government to do from people and be violated find ways those prom start a ne

Do we really want to highlight the
Congressional review as an accomplishment?
John -
Agree. We don't need
the Review/Consultation pt.

- o ((INSERT POLAND))
- o **Bilateral meetings:** The President has met with a total of 32 foreign leaders while in office (34 by 4/15), including a series of 18 bilateral meetings during the trip to Emperor ~~Hirohito~~^{Showa's} funeral. President Bush has ^{also} met with leaders from the Middle East, including Prime Minister Shamir of Israel, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan.
- o **Policy reviews:** President Bush has ordered comprehensive review of foreign policy and defense strategies, soon to be completed.

EDUCATION

The President's actions to improve education are guided by **four key principles**: that **excellence** and success in education should be recognized and rewarded; that federal funding should be targeted to those who **need** it most; that **choice and flexibility** - - for educators, parents and students -- are important to educational reform and to achieving excellence; and finally, that greater **accountability** is needed in the education system to assure that students are actually receiving the highest quality education.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

The President proposed and sent to the Congress a comprehensive education package, "**The Educational Excellence Act of 1989**" which includes seven initiatives:

- o **The Presidential Merit Schools program** -- to reward schools that have made substantial progress in raising students' educational achievement, creating a safe and drug-free school environment, and reducing the drop-out rate.
- o **A new Magnet Schools of Excellence program** -- to support the establishment, expansion or enhancement of magnet schools, increasing parental choice and improving quality education.
- o **The Alternative Certification of Teachers and Principals program** -- to assist States interested in broadening the pool of talent from which to recruit teachers and principals.

- o **President's Awards for Excellence in Education** -- to be awarded to public and private school teachers in every state who meet the highest standards of excellence.
- o **Drug-free Schools Urban Emergency Grants** -- to provide special assistance to selected urban school districts that are disproportionately affected by drug trafficking and abuse.
- o **A National Science Scholars program** -- to provide college scholarships to high school seniors who have excelled in the sciences and mathematics.
- o **Executive Order for endowment matching grants at Historically Black Colleges and Universities** -- to strengthen HBCUs by building endowments, an especially effective way to create financial strength and long-term security.

FIGHTING DRUG ABUSE

America is being paralyzed by the threat of drugs. With the confirmation of Bill Bennett as Director of National Drug Control Policy, and the trip by Attorney General Thornburgh to South America to meet with leaders in interdiction efforts, we have begun a new war on drugs in this country. The President believes a four-pronged approach is key: education, rehabilitation, interdiction and enforcement. The policy of this Administration is "zero tolerance." No amount of illegal drug use is acceptable. This means dealing with both supply and demand.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Budget:** The Administration is requesting \$6 billion in new funding for FY 1990 to fight the drug war, increasing outlays by nearly \$1 billion for drug education, treatment and enforcement.
- o **Education:** The Administration is requesting nearly \$1.1 billion for education and prevention efforts. This is a 16 percent increase over 1989, and includes funding for ongoing programs and new initiatives.
- o **Rehabilitation:** Funding for drug abuse treatment will be increased 18 percent. The Administration is proposing over \$700 million to expand the nation's capacity to provide treatment, particularly to the indigent, disadvantaged, youth, and expectant mothers.
- o **Interdiction and enforcement:** The Administration is proposing over \$4.1 billion for law enforcement programs in 1990, a 10 percent increase over 1989.

This constitutes about 70 percent of President Bush's proposed drug budget. Substantial increases are requested in funding to strengthen inspection, interdiction, intelligence efforts and crop eradication programs. The President strongly supports the death penalty for drug kingpins who commit drug-related murders, and will appoint judges who will strongly enforce the drug penalty laws.

- o The Administration imposed a **temporary ban** on the import of certain types of ^{new} **automatic military assault weapons**, in order to get dangerous weapons out of the hands of criminals involved in drug-related killings.
- o In addition, the Office of National Drug Control Policy has responded to the drug emergency in the District of Columbia:
 - o **A Metropolitan Area Task Force will be convened**, with representatives from federal agencies, and state and local police from D.C., Maryland and Virginia.
 - o **More prisons:** The federal Bureau of Prisons will take custody of 250 inmates from the D.C. jail, and work to locate land for construction of a new prison.
 - o **Enforcement:** The FBI will provide support to D.C. police in investigations of drug-related murders. Also, HUD will ease red tape to hasten the eviction of drug offenders from federally funded

housing projects, and, with the D.C. police, will tighten security and maintenance at projects.

- o **Rehabilitation:** The National Institute on Drug Abuse will provide assistance in local treatment efforts and will be authorized to establish three new outpatient clinics by 1990.
- o **Prevention:** The Department of Education will provide the District with 50 percent more funds for drug prevention programs in city schools. The Department of Labor will work with the business community to increase job training for youth, and will provide a \$100,000 grant to establish employee assistance programs for drug abuse.

THE ENVIRONMENT

President Bush, a long-time environmentalist, has taken strong action to protect the environment. He is working shoulder-to-shoulder with Interior Secretary Lujan and EPA Administrator Reilly on a number of fronts.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Clean Air:** The President committed his Administration to submitting a new Clean Air Act, including provisions for control of acid rain, ozone, and toxic pollutants.
- o **^{Ozone Depletion} Global warming:** The President has called for the phaseout of CFCs by the year 2000, provided safe substitutes are available.
- o **Cleaning up hazardous wastes:** The President announced he will be seeking new legislation to give the United States government authority to ban all exports of hazardous waste except where an agreement exists with the receiving country providing for the safe handling and management of those wastes.
- o **Superfund:** The President is reinvigorating the Superfund hazardous waste clean-up program by directing EPA to take a number of actions, including stricter enforcement of violations, stepped-up cost recovery, and increased emergency cleanup authority.
- o **Clean water and coastlines:** The EPA has started a tracking system for medical wastes, a first step in a

comprehensive program to keep our beaches clean. The President is committed to end ocean dumping by 1991.

- o **Alaskan oil spill:** A Cabinet-level team was sent immediately to assess the Alaskan oil spill situation. A joint federal-state resource recovery team was convened, with Secretary of Transportation Skinner now coordinating all efforts. Coast Guard Commandant Yost has returned to Alaska to assume personal oversight of developments, and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident itself. Exxon has accepted responsibility for paying for the cleanup, and for employing local civilian personnel necessary to control further damage. In addition to the considerable federal personnel and equipment already in place, on April 7, the President announced that Defense Secretary Cheney will make available U.S. Armed Forces personnel and equipment to assist in the cleanup. EPA Administrator Reilly will coordinate the long-range planning to restore the environment of Prince William Sound, and the President has ordered a review of existing contingency plans for accidents such as this.

CHILDCARE

The changing nature of American society is putting more and more pressure on the family. President Bush wants to put choice in the hands of parents -- not government -- so they have the power to select the best and safest environment for their children.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Child care:** The President has proposed a child care package, the "**Working Family Child Care Assistance Act of 1989**" which:
 - o Provides a new child care tax credit of up to \$1000 per child under four for low and moderate income working families.
 - o Makes the existing Dependent Child Tax Credit refundable.
- o **Head Start:** The President has also transmitted legislation to the Congress which would increase authorization for Head Start programs by \$250 million for FY 1990; this will pay for up to 95,000 more children in the program.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

The President supports public servants who revere the trust placed in them by the American people. To this end, he is working to protect those public servants who report waste, fraud and mismanagement.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o On April 10, the President signed S. 20, the "Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989." This law will strengthen the protections and procedural rights available to those federal employees who report misdeeds and mismanagement.
- o This will enhance the authority of the Office of Special Counsel, and whistleblowers will also now be allowed to take their cases to the Merit Systems Protection Board.
- o The law now clarifies the burden of proof, so that employees must prove only that whistleblowing was a "contributing factor" to any adverse personnel actions against them. The agency will also have the right of rebuttal.

ETHICS

High ethical standards are central to this Administration, and we will enforce them -- strictly, comprehensively, fairly, and to the letter and spirit of the law.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

The President issued an **Executive Order** creating the **President's Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform**. On March 9, the Commission filed its report and its recommendations to the President. **Legislation was sent April 12th to the Congress, and the President issued an Executive Order announcing ethical principles for the conduct of executive-branch employees.** The President's proposals include:

- o A ban on outside ^{earned} income for non-career Presidential appointees in the executive branch, ^{and} including all employees in the immediate White House office.
- o **Expanded financial disclosure** for all three branches of government. The President has directed a **comprehensive review of federal campaign finance laws**, and is urging Congress to close all loopholes allowing the conversion of political contributions for personal or office use.
- o ~~Although it is not part of the legislative package,~~ ^{On a related issue} the President believes PACs weaken parties, restrain competition and deaden the political debate. He believes that **PAC contributions to candidates should be eliminated**, and he will be consulting with the Congress on this issue. President Bush is also **opposed to federal funding of congressional campaigns.**

- **Strengthened rules against abusing the revolving door for private gain at the expense of the public trust.** These rules also apply to the legislative branch.
- **A 25 percent pay raise for federal judges,** while restricting their acceptance of honoraria. President Bush believes that **honoraria** for Members of Congress should be banned. However, the President will not make that formal proposal until after he consults with Congress on the question of a **congressional pay raise.** He will include in that discussion the question of a **pay increase for certain Executive Branch positions,** ~~including researchers at NIH.~~
- The extension of the **Independent Counsel statute** to cover **the Congress.**
- The extension of the federal statute that prohibits employees from taking actions that enhance their own financial interest to cover legislative and judicial branch employees.
- The establishment of an **independent ethics office** for the **Congress,** to be headed by a clearly nonpartisan official, confirmed by both houses.
- The application of the existing **one-year post-employment "cooling-off" period** for senior executive-branch employees to the legislative and judicial branches.

VOLUNTEERISM

The President proclaimed National Volunteer Week, April 10-15, calling the nation forward to community service. He saluted those who are working to fight poverty, drug abuse, illiteracy, teen pregnancy and the alienation of young and old -- serving their communities in whatever way they can.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Presidential proclamation:** In signing the proclamation ^{for} ~~creating~~ National Volunteer Week, the President challenged every American who cares about the future of this country to get involved. He awarded 18 Presidential Awards to those chosen from nearly 2000 applications -- to winners who embody the ideals of decency, goodness, and self-discipline.
- o **Office of National Service:** President Bush created the Office of National Service at the White House, to lead this Administration's national service movement. This Office will take things that work and carry them to the nation. It will challenge individuals, schools, corporations and other institutions to expand existing programs. And it will enlist new volunteer^s in community-based efforts to combat urgent social ills which fray the American fabric.

help to

PRESS RELATIONS

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION (As of 4/11/89):

- o Eleven televised press conferences held by the President
- o Seven Presidential interviews with reporters
- o Three sessions in the Oval Office with reporters
- o One regional press briefing
- o One televised address to the nation

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/14/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/17/89 c.o.b.

SUBJECT: THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

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

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than c.o.b. Monday, April 17, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you..

See Changes on P-144

RESPONSE:

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

((Grant))
April 10, 1989

1989 APR 14 PM 5:57

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4. A proposal for raising the minimum wage to \$4.25 coupled with a six month training wage
5. *See attached #1*
- 5.6 Foreign policy and defense strategy reviews
- 6.7 Consultations with the leaders of 32 nations, including 18 bilateral meetings held during the Tokyo trip (34 by 4/15)
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9. *10* Action by the Director of National Drug Control Policy, Bill Bennett, to target Washington, D.C. in the war on drugs

- ~~10.~~¹¹ A temporary ban on the import of certain types of automatic military assault rifles
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 - o **Review/consultation:** There will be extensive consultations and review with respect to these funds effective November 30, 1989 by the bipartisan leadership and relevant committees.
 - o **Caveat:** The burden of proof is on the Sandinista government to do something it has steadfastly refused to do from 1979 to 1989: keep its promises to its people and its neighbors. If those pledges continue to be violated, we hope and expect that other nations will find ways to join us to condemn those actions. But if those promises are kept, we have an opportunity to start a new day in Central America.

- o ((INSERT POLAND))
- o **Bilateral meetings:** The President has met with a total of 32 foreign leaders while in office (34 by 4/15), including a series of 18 bilateral meetings during the trip to Emperor Hirohito's funeral. President Bush has met with leaders from the Middle East, including Prime Minister Shamir of Israel, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan.
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comprehensive program to keep our beaches clean. The President is committed to end ocean dumping by 1991.

- o **Alaskan oil spill:** A Cabinet-level team was sent immediately to assess the Alaskan oil spill situation. A joint federal-state resource recovery team was convened, with Secretary of Transportation Skinner now coordinating all efforts. Coast Guard Commandant Yost has returned to Alaska to assume personal oversight of developments, and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident itself. Exxon has accepted responsibility for paying for the cleanup, and for employing local civilian personnel necessary to control further damage. In addition to the considerable federal personnel and equipment already in place, on April 7, the President announced that Defense Secretary Cheney will make available U.S. Armed Forces personnel and equipment to assist in the cleanup. EPA Administrator Reilly will coordinate the long-range planning to restore the environment of Prince William Sound, and the President has ordered a review of existing contingency plans for accidents such as this.

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The changing nature of American society is putting more and more pressure on the family. President Bush wants to put choice in the hands of parents -- not government -- so they have the power to select the best and safest environment for their children.

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- o **Child care:** The President has proposed a child care package, the "Working Family Child Care Assistance Act of 1989" which:
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The President supports public servants who revere the trust placed in them by the American people. To this end, he is working to protect those public servants who report waste, fraud and mismanagement.

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- o This will enhance the authority of the Office of Special Counsel, and whistleblowers will also now be allowed to take their cases to the Merit Systems Protection Board.
- o The law now clarifies the burden of proof, so that ~~employees must prove only that whistleblowing was a~~ "contributing factor" to any adverse personnel actions against them. The agency will also have the right of rebuttal.

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High ethical standards are central to this Administration, and we will enforce them -- strictly, comprehensively, fairly, and to the letter and spirit of the law.

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- **The extension of the federal statute that prohibits employees from taking actions that enhance their own financial interest to cover legislative and judicial branch employees.**
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- o **Presidential proclamation:** In signing the proclamation creating National Volunteer Week, the President challenged every American who cares about the future of this country to get involved. He awarded 18 Presidential Awards to those chosen from nearly 2000 applications -- to winners who embody the ideals of decency, goodness, and self-discipline.
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PRESS RELATIONS

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION (As of 4/11/89):

- o Eleven televised press conferences held by the President
- o Seven Presidential interviews with reporters
- o Three sessions in the Oval Office with reporters
- o One regional press briefing
- o One televised address to the nation

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/14/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4/17/89 c.o.b.

SUBJECT: THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than c.o.b. Monday, April 17, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

Copy - original to Gregg - coordinate

RESPONSE:

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

((Grant))
April 10, 1989

1989 APR 14 PM 5:57

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

The new Administration is tackling the tough issues and addressing the most urgent priorities facing the nation.

Accomplishments so far include:

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2. A plan to rescue the Savings and Loan industry
3. A proposal for cutting the capital gains tax rate to keep capital formation strong
4. A proposal for raising the minimum wage to \$4.25 coupled with a six month training wage
5. Foreign policy and defense strategy reviews
6. Consultations with the leaders of 32 nations, including 18 bilateral meetings held during the Tokyo trip (34 by 4/15)
7. The signing of a bipartisan accord on Central America with Congress
8. Introduction of a comprehensive legislative package for educational reform
9. Action by the Director of National Drug Control Policy, Bill Bennett, to target Washington, D.C. in the war on drugs

10. A temporary ban on the import of certain types of automatic military assault rifles
11. Federal action in the Alaskan oilspill cleanup effort, the banning of toxic waste exports, and a call for the phaseout of CFCs by the year 2000
12. A child care proposal to give parents greater choice and flexibility, while helping those most in need
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14. A comprehensive ethics proposal to make uniform the standards between all three branches of government
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16. A total of eleven televised press conferences by the President

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President Bush has set an agenda for this country. He is orienting us as a nation toward the future -- building a better America -- keeping America strong and at peace. It is an agenda that seizes this special moment in our history: leadership is the ability to see the shape of things to come, to address tomorrow's challenges today. George Bush is preparing the nation for the 21st Century.

THE ECONOMY

Keeping our nation's economy strong is the key to managing change successfully. The news is good:

- o More Americans are at work today than ever before, and unemployment continues at a record low.
- o The economy is sound without resurging inflation.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Presenting a detailed budget:** The President has put forth a detailed budget which addresses our fundamental obligations for protection of national security and support of the needy, while providing sufficient funds to advance high-priority initiatives, and at the same time, it restrains overall growth of spending so that we can meet the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings targets on time.
- o **Reaching a budget agreement with Congress:** The President and Congress announced on April 14 a budget plan to reduce the estimated FY 1990 deficit by about \$24 billion, relative to the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings baseline. The deficit will be reduced to \$99.4 billion, which is a \$64 billion reduction relative to the current estimate of the FY 1989 deficit. This is the first budget agreement reached ahead of schedule and not framed in the context of crisis.
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in the qualifying holding period from one year to three years.

- o **Minimum wage proposal:** The President is seeking to minimize the adverse economic impact of an across-the-board increase in the minimum wage, and to keep job opportunities available for youth and minority workers. His proposal is:
 - o A 27 percent increase in the minimum wage over three years to \$4.25 for most workers.
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 - o An increase in the small business exemption to include all firms, not just retail and service establishments, with gross sales under \$500,000.
 - o An increase in the tip credit from 40 percent to 50 percent.
- o **Savings and Loan reform:** The Administration has transmitted the "Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989" to Congress, which includes provisions to:
 - o Assure financial integrity of deposit insurance by raising the annual premium rate for both commercial banks and S&Ls.
 - o Resolve the status of existing insolvent banks in an orderly fashion.
 - o Improve supervisory control by bringing S&Ls up to the same standards applied to commercial banks.
 - o Enhance enforcement of bank fraud provisions.

FOREIGN POLICY

The Administration's policy of peace through strength is working. As he prepares for both the 40th Anniversary of NATO in Brussels and the economic summit in Paris, President Bush has undertaken a number of foreign policy initiatives to maintain America's position of world leadership.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Bipartisan accord:** On March 24, the President signed the Bipartisan Accord on Central America with top leaders of the Congress. The agreement sets out the broad outlines of U.S. policy in the region:
 - o **Humanitarian aid:** Congress has agreed to support the Administration's request for continued humanitarian assistance at current levels through the elections in Nicaragua scheduled for February, 1990.
 - o **Review/consultation:** There will be extensive consultations and review with respect to these funds effective November 30, 1989 by the bipartisan leadership and relevant committees.
 - o **Caveat:** The burden of proof is on the Sandinista government to do something it has steadfastly refused to do from 1979 to 1989: keep its promises to its people and its neighbors. If those pledges continue to be violated, we hope and expect that other nations will find ways to join us to condemn those actions. But if those promises are kept, we have an opportunity to start a new day in Central America.

- o ((INSERT POLAND))
- o **Bilateral meetings:** The President has met with a total of 32 foreign leaders while in office (34 by 4/15), including a series of 18 bilateral meetings during the trip to Emperor Hirohito's funeral. President Bush has met with leaders from the Middle East, including Prime Minister Shamir of Israel, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan.
- o **Policy reviews:** President Bush has ordered comprehensive review of foreign policy and defense strategies, soon to be completed.

EDUCATION

The President's actions to improve education are guided by **four key principles**: that **excellence** and success in education should be recognized and rewarded; that federal funding should be targeted to those who **need** it most; that **choice and flexibility** - - for educators, parents and students -- are important to educational reform and to achieving excellence; and finally, that greater **accountability** is needed in the education system to assure that students are actually receiving the highest quality education.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

The President proposed and sent to the Congress a comprehensive education package, "**The Educational Excellence Act of 1989**" which includes seven initiatives:

- o **The Presidential Merit Schools program** -- to reward schools that have made substantial progress in raising students' educational achievement, creating a safe and drug-free school environment, and reducing the drop-out rate.
- o **A new Magnet Schools of Excellence program** -- to support the establishment, expansion or enhancement of magnet schools, increasing parental choice and improving quality education.
- o **The Alternative Certification of Teachers and Principals program** -- to assist States interested in broadening the pool of talent from which to recruit teachers and principals.

- o **President's Awards for Excellence in Education** -- to be awarded to public and private school teachers in every state who meet the highest standards of excellence.
- o **Drug-free Schools Urban Emergency Grants** -- to provide special assistance to selected urban school districts that are disproportionately affected by drug trafficking and abuse.
- o **A National Science Scholars program** -- to provide college scholarships to high school seniors who have excelled in the sciences and mathematics.
- o **Executive Order for endowment matching grants at Historically Black Colleges and Universities** -- to strengthen HBCUs by building endowments, an especially effective way to create financial strength and long-term security.

FIGHTING DRUG ABUSE

America is being paralyzed by the threat of drugs. With the confirmation of Bill Bennett as Director of National Drug Control Policy, and the trip by Attorney General Thornburgh to South America to meet with leaders in interdiction efforts, we have begun a new war on drugs in this country. The President believes a four-pronged approach is key: education, rehabilitation, interdiction and enforcement. The policy of this Administration is "zero tolerance." No amount of illegal drug use is acceptable. This means dealing with both supply and demand.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Budget:** The Administration is requesting \$6 billion in new funding for FY 1990 to fight the drug war, increasing outlays by nearly \$1 billion for drug education, treatment and enforcement.
- o **Education:** The Administration is requesting nearly \$1.1 billion for education and prevention efforts. This is a 16 percent increase over 1989, and includes funding for ongoing programs and new initiatives.
- o **Rehabilitation:** Funding for drug abuse treatment will be increased 18 percent. The Administration is proposing over \$700 million to expand the nation's capacity to provide treatment, particularly to the indigent, disadvantaged, youth, and expectant mothers.
- o **Interdiction and enforcement:** The Administration is proposing over \$4.1 billion for law enforcement programs in 1990, a 10 percent increase over 1989.

This constitutes about 70 percent of President Bush's proposed drug budget. Substantial increases are requested in funding to strengthen inspection, interdiction, intelligence efforts and crop eradication programs. The President strongly supports the death penalty for drug kingpins who commit drug-related murders, and will appoint judges who will strongly enforce the drug penalty laws.

- o The Administration imposed a **temporary ban** on the import of certain types of **automatic military assault weapons**, in order to get dangerous weapons out of the hands of criminals involved in drug-related killings.
- o In addition, the Office of National Drug Control Policy has responded to the drug emergency in the District of Columbia:
 - o **A Metropolitan Area Task Force** will be convened, with representatives from federal agencies, and state and local police from D.C., Maryland and Virginia.
 - o **More prisons:** The federal Bureau of Prisons will take custody of 250 inmates from the D.C. jail, and work to locate land for construction of a new prison.
 - o **Enforcement:** The FBI will provide support to D.C. police in investigations of drug-related murders. Also, HUD will ease red tape to hasten the eviction of drug offenders from federally funded

housing projects, and, with the D.C. police, will tighten security and maintenance at projects.

- o **Rehabilitation:** The National Institute on Drug Abuse will provide assistance in local treatment efforts and will be authorized to establish three new outpatient clinics by 1990.
- o **Prevention:** The Department of Education will provide the District with 50 percent more funds for drug prevention programs in city schools. The Department of Labor will work with the business community to increase job training for youth, and will provide a \$100,000 grant to establish employee assistance programs for drug abuse.

THE ENVIRONMENT

President Bush, a long-time environmentalist, has taken strong action to protect the environment. He is working shoulder-to-shoulder with Interior Secretary Lujan and EPA Administrator Reilly on a number of fronts.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Clean Air:** The President committed his Administration to submitting a new Clean Air Act, including provisions for control of acid rain, ozone, and toxic air pollutants.
- o **Global warming:** The President has called for the phaseout of CFCs by the year 2000, provided safe substitutes are available.
- o **Cleaning up hazardous wastes:** The President announced he will be seeking new legislation to give the United States government authority to ban all exports of hazardous waste except where an agreement exists with the receiving country providing for the safe handling and management of those wastes.
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- TERT REFORM
- Y.E.S.
- Incentives for increased Corporate & Business involvement.

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((Grant))
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1989 APR 14 PM 5:57

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- o **Savings and Loan reform:** The Administration has transmitted the "Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989" to Congress, which includes provisions to:
 - o Assure financial integrity of deposit insurance by raising the annual premium rate for both commercial banks and S&Ls.
 - o Resolve the status of existing insolvent banks in an orderly fashion.
 - o Improve supervisory control by bringing S&Ls up to the same standards applied to commercial banks.
 - o Enhance enforcement of bank fraud provisions.

FOREIGN POLICY

The Administration's policy of peace through strength is working. As he prepares for both the 40th Anniversary of NATO in Brussels and the economic summit in Paris, President Bush has undertaken a number of foreign policy initiatives to maintain America's position of world leadership.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Bipartisan accord:** On March 24, the President signed the Bipartisan Accord on Central America with top leaders of the Congress. The agreement sets out the broad outlines of U.S. policy in the region:
 - o **Humanitarian aid:** Congress has agreed to support the Administration's request for continued humanitarian assistance at current levels through the elections in Nicaragua scheduled for February, 1990.
 - o **Review/consultation:** There will be extensive consultations and review with respect to these funds effective November 30, 1989 by the bipartisan leadership and relevant committees.
 - o **Caveat:** The burden of proof is on the Sandinista government to do something it has steadfastly refused to do from 1979 to 1989: keep its promises to its people and its neighbors. If those pledges continue to be violated, we hope and expect that other nations will find ways to join us to condemn those actions. But if those promises are kept, we have an opportunity to start a new day in Central America.

- ((INSERT POLAND))
- **Bilateral meetings:** The President has met with a total of 32 foreign leaders while in office (34 by 4/15), including a series of 18 bilateral meetings during the trip to Emperor Hirohito's funeral. President Bush has met with leaders from the Middle East, including Prime Minister Shamir of Israel, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan.
- **Policy reviews:** President Bush has ordered comprehensive review of foreign policy and defense strategies, soon to be completed.

EDUCATION

The President's actions to improve education are guided by **four key principles**: that **excellence** and success in education should be recognized and rewarded; that federal funding should be targeted to those who **need** it most; that **choice and flexibility** - - for educators, parents and students -- are important to educational reform and to achieving excellence; and finally, that greater **accountability** is needed in the education system to assure that students are actually receiving the highest quality education.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

The President proposed and sent to the Congress a comprehensive education package, "**The Educational Excellence Act of 1989**" which includes seven initiatives:

- o **The Presidential Merit Schools program** -- to reward schools that have made substantial progress in raising students' educational achievement, creating a safe and drug-free school environment, and reducing the drop-out rate.
- o **A new Magnet Schools of Excellence program** -- to support the establishment, expansion or enhancement of magnet schools, increasing parental choice and improving quality education.
- o **The Alternative Certification of Teachers and Principals program** -- to assist States interested in broadening the pool of talent from which to recruit teachers and principals.

- o **President's Awards for Excellence in Education** -- to be awarded to public and private school teachers in every state who meet the highest standards of excellence.
- o **Drug-free Schools Urban Emergency Grants** -- to provide special assistance to selected urban school districts that are disproportionately affected by drug trafficking and abuse.
- o **A National Science Scholars program** -- to provide college scholarships to high school seniors who have excelled in the sciences and mathematics.
- o **Executive Order for endowment matching grants at Historically Black Colleges and Universities** -- to strengthen HBCUs by building endowments, an especially effective way to create financial strength and long-term security.

FIGHTING DRUG ABUSE

America is being paralyzed by the threat of drugs. With the confirmation of Bill Bennett as Director of National Drug Control Policy, and the trip by Attorney General Thornburgh to South America to meet with leaders in interdiction efforts, we have begun a new war on drugs in this country. The President believes a **four-pronged approach** is key: **education, rehabilitation, interdiction and enforcement.** The policy of this Administration is **"zero tolerance."** No amount of illegal drug use is acceptable. This means dealing with both supply and demand.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Budget:** The Administration is requesting \$6 billion in new funding for FY 1990 to fight the drug war, increasing outlays by nearly \$1 billion for drug education, treatment and enforcement.
- o **Education:** The Administration is requesting nearly \$1.1 billion for education and prevention efforts. This is a 16 percent increase over 1989, and includes funding for ongoing programs and new initiatives.
- o **Rehabilitation:** Funding for drug abuse treatment will be increased 18 percent. The Administration is proposing over \$700 million to expand the nation's capacity to provide treatment, particularly to the indigent, disadvantaged, youth, and expectant mothers.
- o **Interdiction and enforcement:** The Administration is proposing over \$4.1 billion for law enforcement programs in 1990, a 10 percent increase over 1989.

This constitutes about 70 percent of President Bush's proposed drug budget. Substantial increases are requested in funding to strengthen inspection, interdiction, intelligence efforts and crop eradication programs. The President strongly supports the death penalty for drug kingpins who commit drug-related murders, and will appoint judges who will strongly enforce the drug penalty laws.

- o The Administration imposed a **temporary ban** on the import of certain types of **automatic military assault weapons**, in order to get dangerous weapons out of the hands of criminals involved in drug-related killings.
- o In addition, the Office of National Drug Control Policy has responded to the drug emergency in the District of Columbia:
 - o **A Metropolitan Area Task Force** will be convened, with representatives from federal agencies, and state and local police from D.C., Maryland and Virginia.
 - o **More prisons:** The federal Bureau of Prisons will take custody of 250 inmates from the D.C. jail, and work to locate land for construction of a new prison.
 - o **Enforcement:** The FBI will provide support to D.C. police in investigations of drug-related murders. Also, HUD will ease red tape to hasten the eviction of drug offenders from federally funded

housing projects, and, with the D.C. police, will tighten security and maintenance at projects.

- o **Rehabilitation:** The National Institute on Drug Abuse will provide assistance in local treatment efforts and will be authorized to establish three new outpatient clinics by 1990.
- o **Prevention:** The Department of Education will provide the District with 50 percent more funds for drug prevention programs in city schools. The Department of Labor will work with the business community to increase job training for youth, and will provide a \$100,000 grant to establish employee assistance programs for drug abuse.

THE ENVIRONMENT

President Bush, a long-time environmentalist, has taken strong action to protect the environment. He is working shoulder-to-shoulder with Interior Secretary Lujan and EPA Administrator Reilly on a number of fronts.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Clean Air:** The President committed his Administration to submitting a new Clean Air Act, including provisions for control of acid rain, ozone, and toxic air pollutants.
- o **Global warming:** The President has called for the phaseout of CFCs by the year 2000, provided safe substitutes are available.
- o **Cleaning up hazardous wastes:** The President announced he will be seeking new legislation to give the United States government authority to ban all exports of hazardous waste except where an agreement exists with the receiving country providing for the safe handling and management of those wastes.
- o **Superfund:** The President is reinvigorating the Superfund hazardous waste clean-up program by directing EPA to take a number of actions, including stricter enforcement of violations, stepped-up cost recovery, and increased emergency cleanup authority.
- o **Clean water and coastlines:** The EPA has started a tracking system for medical wastes, a first step in a

comprehensive program to keep our beaches clean. The President is committed to end ocean dumping by 1991.

- o **Alaskan oil spill:** A Cabinet-level team was sent immediately to assess the Alaskan oil spill situation. A joint federal-state resource recovery team was convened, with Secretary of Transportation Skinner now coordinating all efforts. Coast Guard Commandant Yost has returned to Alaska to assume personal oversight of developments, and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident itself. Exxon has accepted responsibility for paying for the cleanup, and for employing local civilian personnel necessary to control further damage. In addition to the considerable federal personnel and equipment already in place, on April 7, the President announced that Defense Secretary Cheney will make available U.S. Armed Forces personnel and equipment to assist in the cleanup. EPA Administrator Reilly will coordinate the long-range planning to restore the environment of Prince William Sound, and the President has ordered a review of existing contingency plans for accidents such as this.

CHILDCARE

The changing nature of American society is putting more and more pressure on the family. President Bush wants to put choice in the hands of parents -- not government -- so they have the power to select the best and safest environment for their children.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Child care:** The President has proposed a child care package, the "Working Family Child Care Assistance Act of 1989" which:
 - o Provides a new child care tax credit of up to \$1000 per child under four for low and moderate income working families.
 - o Makes the existing Dependent Child Tax Credit refundable.
- o **Head Start:** The President has also transmitted legislation to the Congress which would increase authorization for Head Start programs by \$250 million for FY 1990; this will pay for up to 95,000 more children in the program.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

The President supports public servants who revere the trust placed in them by the American people. To this end, he is working to protect those public servants who report waste, fraud and mismanagement.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o On April 10, the President signed S. 20, the **"Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989."** This law will strengthen the protections and procedural rights available to those federal employees who report misdeeds and mismanagement.
- o This will enhance the authority of the Office of Special Counsel, and whistleblowers will also now be allowed to take their cases to the Merit Systems Protection Board.
- o The law now clarifies the burden of proof, so that employees must prove only that whistleblowing was a "contributing factor" to any adverse personnel actions against them. The agency will also have the right of rebuttal.

ETHICS

High ethical standards are central to this Administration, and we will enforce them -- strictly, comprehensively, fairly, and to the letter and spirit of the law.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

The President issued an Executive Order creating the President's Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform. On March 9, the Commission filed its report and its recommendations to the President. Legislation was sent April 12th to the Congress, and the President issued an Executive Order announcing ethical principles for the conduct of executive-branch employees. The President's proposals include:

- o A ban on outside income for non-career Presidential appointees in the executive branch, including all employees in the immediate White House office.
- o Expanded financial disclosure for all three branches of government. The President has directed a comprehensive review of federal campaign finance laws, and is urging Congress to close all loopholes allowing the conversion of political contributions for personal or office use.
- o Although it is not part of the legislative package, the President believes PACs weaken parties, restrain competition and deaden the political debate. He believes that PAC contributions to candidates should be eliminated, and he will be consulting with the Congress on this issue. President Bush is also opposed to federal funding of congressional campaigns.

- **Strengthened rules against abusing the revolving door for private gain at the expense of the public trust.** These rules also apply to the legislative branch.
- **A 25 percent pay raise for federal judges,** while restricting their acceptance of honoraria. President Bush believes that **honoraria** for Members of Congress should be banned. However, the President will not make that formal proposal until after he consults with Congress on the question of a **congressional pay raise.** He will include in that discussion the question of a **pay increase for certain Executive Branch positions.**
- **The extension of the Independent Counsel statute to cover the Congress.**
- **The extension of the federal statute that prohibits employees from taking actions that enhance their own financial interest to cover legislative and judicial branch employees.**
- **The establishment of an independent ethics office for the Congress,** to be headed by a clearly nonpartisan official, confirmed by both houses.
- **The application of the existing one-year post-employment "cooling-off" period for senior executive-branch employees to the legislative and judicial branches.**

VOLUNTEERISM

The President proclaimed National Volunteer Week, April 10-15, calling the nation forward to community service. He saluted those who are working to fight poverty, drug abuse, illiteracy, teen pregnancy and the alienation of young and old -- serving their communities in whatever way they can.

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- o **Presidential proclamation:** In signing the proclamation creating National Volunteer Week, the President challenged every American who cares about the future of this country to get involved. He awarded 18 Presidential Awards to those chosen from nearly 2000 applications -- to winners who embody the ideals of decency, goodness, and self-discipline.
- o **Office of National Service:** President Bush created the Office of National Service at the White House, to lead this Administration's national service movement. This Office will take things that work and carry them to the nation. It will challenge individuals, schools, corporations and other institutions to expand existing programs. And it will enlist new volunteer in community-based efforts to combat urgent social ills which fray the American fabric.

PRESS RELATIONS

ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION (As of 4/11/89):

- o Eleven televised press conferences held by the President
- o Seven Presidential interviews with reporters
- o Three sessions in the Oval Office with reporters
- o One regional press briefing
- o One televised address to the nation

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