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Prayer Breakfast, 5/4/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 4, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING BREAKFAST FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS

The Residence

8:45 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Dr. and Mrs. Bright and reverend clergy, and members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, distinguished members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and ladies and gentlemen, you know, it's often said of a group or individual that he hasn't got a prayer. (Laughter.) Well, those of us interested in sports keep hearing that all of the time. But I'm delighted to address an audience about which that will never be said.

And first, I want to say what a pleasure it is to welcome you on this special day. America's religious, civic, political leaders welcome you to this very special place, America's house. We come as friends, as believers in a humane and loving God, and we meet on a special day for America -- a National Day of Prayer.

You know, a little boy once uttered this simple prayer: "God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister, and, oh, God, do take care of yourself because if anything happens to you, we're all sunk." (Laughter.) Well, I expect this George Healy portrait of Lincoln gets to the margins of that prayer, and I expect he felt that way -- perilous times for our country. And I'm sure all of us have shared those sentiments at one time or another -- something in our own lives, something facing our country.

Certainly the Continental Congress did, for it was they who in 1775 issued the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer. In 1952, Congress decreed that a specific date be set aside each year for Americans to gather in homes and places of worship in order to pray. And since then, every president has declared a National Day of Prayer. And so this morning, like my predecessors, I am proud to continue that tradition.

But I am pleased to note that today marks a departure from the norm, for 1989 marks the first year of an official permanent date of designation -- from now on, the first Thursday of every May.

My friends, I'm glad that together we could commemorate this event, and just for a few moments let me focus on what to me, and I hope to you, this observance means.

It does mean, I'm sure we would all agree, that we believe in separation of church and state, but not in the separation of morality or moral values and state. While the government must remain neutral towards particular religions, it must not -- certainly it need not -- remain neutral toward values that Americans support. And, yes, we believe in pluralism, and I just want to reassure you I believe in pluralism -- certainly in mutual tolerance, for we are one nation under God. And we were placed here on Earth to do His work. And our work has gone on now for more than 200 years in the nation -- a work best embodied in four simple words, in God we trust.

And it was to that higher being that George Washington looked when in 1776 he was addressing his troops, and he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army.

Lincoln believed in divine providence. Leaving

MORE

Springfield to take over, to assume the presidency, he told the people of his home town that the God which helped General Washington must now help him. "Without the assistance of the divine being," Lincoln said, "I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail."

And some of you may be too young to remember how -- remember D-Day. Not many of you, but some of you may be too young. (Laughter.) Over a nationwide network, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for the safety and success of our invading force. "Our sons," he said, "pride of our nation, lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm -- as Americans we are a religious people. We prize compassion and self-sacrifice. We know that America is great because America is good. And, as President, I am reminded of that constantly. Several weeks ago I was sharing this with Mrs. Bright and Mr. Zeoli. Barbara and I went up to -- or did you go to Lancaster, Pa.? She didn't make the traveling squad. (Laughter.) I went to Pennsylvania, and I went to a local high school in a relatively affluent rural area, Lancaster, and there we discussed a problem which is America's problem -- the rising use of drugs. If you ever need to pray about something and ask for strength and guidance, it is this, that we succeed in our anti-narcotics efforts. But then, after meeting with this relatively affluent group and hearing that drugs were in their corridors and in their playgrounds, I went a few miles over -- just the same community -- to meet with the Amish and Mennonite leaders. And wonderful people and kind, living their own lives, and they don't have a drug problem. And they made very clear to me why -- family and faith. Against them, drugs don't have a chance.

And I am convinced that faith and family can help us honor God in a most profound and personal way daily as human beings by the conduct of our lives. They teach us not only to revere but to practice the golden rule, and they also help us reflect the internal values of decency, humility, kindness and caring.

I thought of those values last Sunday when I was in New York to mark the 200th anniversary of George Washington's first inaugural address, for it was then that, like Washington two centuries ago, Barbara and I prayed at St. Paul's Chapel there where in 1789 a prayer service was offered by the chaplains of Congress for the United States of America. To me that day -- some of you may have seen it -- was moving, intimate, but there was something special about that church service 200 years ago. This Washington realized that political values without moral values, without that moral underpinning, cannot sustain a nation.

And so this strong yet gentle man knew that the advancement of America, while it might rely on its president, would surely depend on providence. And so what Washington believed so strongly over 200 years ago -- it really is just as true today. For without God's help, we can do nothing, and with it, we can do great things -- for our children, for the world.

So let me just thank you all for coming. Barbara and I are delighted to have you here. We will do our best in the people's house to hold these values high that are shared by everybody here regardless of our denomination, regardless of our own personal commitments. We welcome you, we are pleased you're here, and if you have an extra minute for a prayer when the going gets a little tough, remember the Congress. They need it, too. (Laughter.) And Barbara and I know we do, too.

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

REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
STATE DINING ROOM
MAY 4, 1989/8 A.M.

DR. AND MRS. BRIGHT, REVEREND CLERGY, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER COMMITTEE, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

YOU KNOW, IT IS OFTEN SAID OF A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL THAT "HE HASN'T GOT A PRAYER." WELL, I AM DELIGHTED TO ADDRESS AN AUDIENCE ABOUT WHOM THAT WILL NEVER BE SAID.

- 2 -

FIRST, I WANT TO SAY WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO WELCOME YOU -- AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS, CIVIC, AND POLITICAL LEADERS -- TO THIS, AMERICA'S HOUSE.

WE GATHER HERE AS FRIENDS, AND AS BELIEVERS IN A HUMANE AND LOVING GOD. AND WE MEET ON A SPECIAL DAY FOR AMERICA -- A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

YOU KNOW, A LITTLE BOY ONCE UTTERED THIS SIMPLE PRAYER: "GOD BLESS MOTHER AND DADDY, MY BROTHER AND SISTER.

AND, OH GOD, DO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BECAUSE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU WE'RE ALL SUNK."

AT TIMES, I'M SURE ALL OF US HAVE SHARED THOSE SENTIMENTS. AND SO DID THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, FOR IT WAS THEY WHO IN 1775 ISSUED THE FIRST OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION OF A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

IN 1952, CONGRESS DECREED THAT A SPECIFIC DATE BE SET ASIDE EACH YEAR FOR AMERICANS TO GATHER IN HOMES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP TO PRAY.

AND, SINCE THEN, EVERY PRESIDENT HAS PROCLAIMED A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

THIS MORNING, LIKE MY PREDECESSORS, I AM PROUD TO CONTINUE THAT TRADITION. BUT I'M PLEASED TO NOTE THAT TODAY MARKS A DEPARTURE FROM THE NORM. FOR 1989 MARKS THE FIRST YEAR OF AN OFFICIAL PERMANENT DATE OF DESIGNATION -- FROM NOW ON, THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MAY.

MY FRIENDS, I'M GLAD THAT TOGETHER, WE COULD COMMEMORATE THIS EVENT. AND JUST FOR A FEW MOMENTS, I'D LIKE TO FOCUS ON WHAT -- TO ME, AND I HOPE TO YOU -- OUR OBSERVANCE MEANS.

IT MEANS THAT WE BELIEVE IN THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. BUT NOT IN A SEPARATION OF MORALITY AND STATE. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT MUST REMAIN NEUTRAL TOWARDS PARTICULAR RELIGIONS, IT NEED NOT REMAIN NEUTRAL TOWARDS VALUES THAT AMERICANS SUPPORT.

YES, WE BELIEVE IN PLURALISM, AND IN MUTUAL TOLERANCE. FOR WE ARE "ONE NATION UNDER GOD" -- AND WE WERE PLACED HERE ON EARTH TO DO HIS WORK.

OUR WORK HAS GONE ON NOW FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS -- WORK BEST EMBODIED IN FOUR SIMPLE WORDS: "IN GOD WE TRUST."

IT WAS TO THAT HIGHER BEING THAT GEORGE WASHINGTON LOOKED WHEN, ADDRESSING HIS TROOPS IN 1776, HE SAID, "THE FATE OF UNBORN MILLIONS WILL NOW DEPEND, UNDER GOD, ON THE COURAGE AND CONDUCT OF THIS ARMY."

LINCOLN, TOO, BELIEVED IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE. LEAVING SPRINGFIELD TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY, HE TOLD THE PEOPLE OF HIS HOMETOWN THAT THE GOD WHICH HELPED GENERAL WASHINGTON MUST NOW HELP HIM.

"WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DIVINE BEING," LINCOLN SAID, "I CANNOT SUCCEED. WITH THAT ASSISTANCE, I CANNOT FAIL."

AND SOME OF YOU MAY BE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER HOW ON D-DAY, OVER A NATIONWIDE RADIO NETWORK, FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT PRAYED FOR THE SAFETY AND SUCCESS OF OUR INVADING FORCE. "OUR SONS," HE SAID, "PRIDE OF OUR NATION. LEAD THEM STRAIGHT AND TRUE.

GIVE STRENGTH TO THEIR ARMS, STOUTNESS TO THEIR HEARTS, STEADFASTNESS IN THEIR FAITH."

OUR HISTORY TELLS US WHAT OUR HEARTS CONFIRM. AS AMERICANS, WE ARE A RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. WE PRIZE COMPASSION AND SELF-SACRIFICE. WE KNOW THAT AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE AMERICA IS GOOD.

AS PRESIDENT, I'M REMINDED OF THAT CONSTANTLY. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, FOR INSTANCE, I JOURNEYED TO CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

FIRST, I WENT TO A LOCAL HIGH-SCHOOL. AND DISCUSSED A PROBLEM WHICH IS AMERICA'S PROBLEM: THE RISING USE OF DRUGS.

BUT THEN, I TRAVELED A FEW MILES TO MEET WITH AMISH AND MENNONITE LEADERS. WONDERFUL PEOPLE, KIND. YOU KNOW WHAT? THEY DON'T HAVE A DRUG PROBLEM. YOU KNOW WHY? FAITH AND FAMILY, THEY TOLD ME. AGAINST THEM, DRUGS DON'T HAVE A CHANCE.

MY FRIENDS, FAITH AND FAMILY CAN HELP US HONOR GOD IN A MOST PROFOUND AND PERSONAL WAY -- DAILY, AS HUMAN BEINGS, BY THE CONDUCT OF OUR LIVES. FAITH AND FAMILY TEACH US NOT ONLY TO REVERE BUT TO PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE. THEY ALSO HELP US REFLECT THE ETERNAL VALUES OF DECENCY, HUMILITY, AND CARING.

I THOUGHT OF THOSE VALUES LAST SUNDAY, WHEN I VISITED NEW YORK TO MARK THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FIRST PRESIDENT'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS. FOR IT WAS THEN THAT, LIKE WASHINGTON TWO CENTURIES AGO, I PRAYED AT SAINT PAUL'S CHAPEL, WHERE IN 1789 A PRAYER SERVICE WAS OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAINS OF CONGRESS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TO ME, THE ENTIRE DAY WAS MOVING, INTIMATE. BUT MY TIME AT SAINT PAUL'S WAS ESPECIALLY SO. FOR AS I PRAYED, I THOUGHT OF HOW -- EVEN THEN -- WASHINGTON HAD REALIZED THAT POLITICAL VALUES WITHOUT MORAL VALUES CANNOT SUSTAIN A NATION.

THIS STRONG YET GENTLE MAN KNEW THAT THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMERICA, WHILE IT MIGHT RELY ON ITS PRESIDENTS, WOULD SURELY DEPEND ON PROVIDENCE.

WHAT WASHINGTON BELIEVED SO STRONGLY OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IS JUST AS TRUE TODAY. FOR WITHOUT GOD'S HELP, WE CAN DO NOTHING. WITH IT, WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS -- FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND FOR THE WORLD.

LET ME THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE THIS MORNING -- AND FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE TO MAKE OURS A BETTER, MORE DECENT, MORE PEACEFUL NATION. AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY TODAY, I TAKE SPECIAL JOY IN SAYING: GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

To the President: 5/3 12:30pm

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/2/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/3/89 10:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>N/C</i>	<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 <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 3, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Simon)
May 2, 1989
Draft One
PRAYER

1989 MAY - 2 11 5:0

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
~~WASHINGTON, D.C.~~
MAY 4, 1989

Thursday, *state Dining Room*

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, Members of the House and Senate, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You know, it is often said of a group or individual that "He hasn't got a prayer." Well, I am delighted to address an audience about whom that will never be said.

First, I want to say what a pleasure it is to welcome you -- America's religious, civic, and political leaders -- to this, America's House.

We gather here as friends, and as believers in a humane and loving God. And we meet on a special day for America -- a National Day of Prayer.

You know, a little boy once uttered this simple prayer: "God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister. And, oh God, do take care of yourself, because if anything happens to you we're all sunk."

At times, I'm sure all of us have shared those sentiments. And so did the Continental Congress, for it was they who in 1775 issued the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer.

In 1952, Congress decreed that a specific date be set aside each year for Americans to gather in homes and places of worship to pray. And, since then, every President has proclaimed a National Day of Prayer.

This morning, like my predecessors, I am proud to continue that tradition. But I'm pleased to note that today marks a departure from the norm. For 1989 marks the first year of an official permanent date of designation -- from now on, the first Thursday of every May.

My friends, I'm glad that together, we could commemorate this event. And just for a few moments, I'd like to focus on what -- to me, and I hope to you -- our observance means.

It means, ~~I think,~~ that we believe in the separation of church and state. But not in a separation of morality and state. Yes, we believe in pluralism, and in mutual tolerance. For we are "One Nation Under God" -- and we were placed here on earth to do His work.

(CIC.)
 While the government must remain neutral towards particular religions, it need not remain neutral towards ~~the~~ values that Americans support.

Our work has gone on ~~now~~ for more than 200 years -- work best embodied in four simple words: "In God We Trust."

It was to that Higher Being that George Washington looked when, addressing his troops in 1776, he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

Lincoln, too, believed in divine providence. Leaving Springfield to assume the Presidency, he told ^{the people} his home people ^{of his home town} that "~~The great~~ God which helped General Washington must now help me. Without that ^{the} great assistance, ^(of the Divine Being, "Lincoln said,") I will ~~surely~~ fail. With it, ^{that} I cannot fail."

assistance,

cannot succeed.

And some of you may be too young to remember how on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for the safety and success of our invading force. "Our sons," he said, "pride of our Nation. Lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness ⁱⁿ to their faith."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. As Americans, we are a religious people. We prize compassion and self-sacrifice. We know that America is great because America is good.

As President, I'm reminded of that constantly. Several weeks ago, for instance, I journeyed to central Pennsylvania. First, I went to a local high-school. And ~~found~~ ^{discussed a} the problem which is America's problem: ~~The~~ rising use of drugs.

But then, I traveled a few miles to meet with Amish ^{and Mennonite} leaders. Wonderful people, kind. You know what? They don't have a drug problem. You know why? ~~The Amish said it best.~~ ^{told me} "Faith and family," ~~they~~ responded. Against them, drugs don't have a chance.

My friends, faith and family can help us honor God in a most profound and personal way -- daily, as human beings, by the conduct of our lives. ~~They can help reverse the Golden Rule, and~~ ^{Faith and family teach us not only to ~~practice~~ ^{reverse} but to practice} ~~"Do Unto Others."~~ ^{They also help us} And ~~let us~~ reflect the eternal values of decency, humility, and caring.

I thought of those values last Sunday, when I visited New York to mark the 200th anniversary of our first President's first Inaugural Address. For it was then that, like Washington two centuries ago, I prayed at Saint Paul's Chapel, where in 1789 a prayer service was offered by the Chaplain of Congress for the United States of America.

To me, the entire day was moving, intimate. But my time at Saint Paul's was especially so. For as I ~~kneelt to pray,~~ ^{ed} I

thought of how -- even then -- Washington had realized that political values without moral values cannot sustain a Nation.

This strong ^{yet gentle} man -- ~~also, a gentle man~~ -- knew that the advancement of America, while it might rely on its presidents, would surely depend on Providence. ~~He was right, and is today.~~ For without God's help, we can do nothing. With it, we can do great things -- for our children, and for the world.

Let me thank you for coming here this morning -- and all you've done to make ours a better, more decent, more peaceful Nation. And you'll understand why today, I take special joy in saying: God bless you all, and God bless America.

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What Washington believed so strongly over two hundred years ago, is just as true today.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/3/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MAY 3, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*

SUBJECT: MAY 4 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

I. SUMMARY

At 8 a.m., May 4, you will address approximately 60 people, mostly religious leaders, in the State Dining Room. The breakfast will honor the National Day of Prayer.

II. DISCUSSION

The enclosed remarks focus on the role of prayer in American history, and life. They sketch the belief in divine providence by leaders like Washington, Lincoln, and FDR, and discuss how faith and family enhance America today.

(Smith/Simon)
May 3, 1989
Draft Two
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
STATE DINING ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1989

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, Members of the House and Senate, Ladies and Gentlemen.

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We gather here as friends, and as believers in a humane and loving God. And we meet on a special day for America -- a National Day of Prayer.

You know, a little boy once uttered this simple prayer: "God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister. And, oh God, do take care of yourself, because if anything happens to you we're all sunk."

At times, I'm sure all of us have shared those sentiments. And so did the Continental Congress, for it was they who in 1775 issued the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer.

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It was to that Higher Being that George Washington looked when, addressing his troops in 1776, he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

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how -- even then -- Washington had realized that political values without moral values cannot sustain a Nation.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MAY 3, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRIS WINSTON *cw*

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*

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(Smith/Simon)
May 3, 1989
Draft Two
PRAYER

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STATE DINING ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1989

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My friends, I'm glad that together, we could commemorate this event. And just for a few moments, I'd like to focus on what -- to me, and I hope to you -- our observance means.

It means that we believe in the separation of church and state. But not in a separation of morality and state. While the government must remain neutral towards particular religions, it need not remain neutral towards values that Americans support. Yes, we believe in pluralism, and in mutual tolerance. For we are "One Nation Under God" -- and we were placed here on earth to do His work.

Our work has gone on now for more than 200 years -- work best embodied in four simple words: "In God We Trust."

It was to that Higher Being that George Washington looked when, addressing his troops in 1776, he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

Lincoln, too, believed in divine providence. Leaving Springfield to assume the Presidency, he told the people of his hometown that "the God which helped General Washington must now help me. Without the great assistance of the Diving Being," Lincoln said, "I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail."

And some of you may be too young to remember how on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for the safety and success of our invading force. "Our sons," he said, "pride of our Nation. Lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. As Americans, we are a religious people. We prize compassion and self-sacrifice. We know that America is great because America is good.

As President, I'm reminded of that constantly. Several weeks ago, for instance, I journeyed to central Pennsylvania. First, I went to a local high-school. And discussed a problem which is America's problem: the rising use of drugs.

But then, I traveled a few miles to meet with Amish and Mennonite leaders. Wonderful people, kind. You know what? They don't have a drug problem. You know why? Faith and family, they told me. Against them, drugs don't have a chance.

My friends, faith and family can help us honor God in a most profound and personal way -- daily, as human beings, by the conduct of our lives. Faith and family teach us not only to revere but to practice the Golden Rule. They also help us reflect the eternal values of decency, humility, and caring.

I thought of those values last Sunday, when I visited New York to mark the 200th anniversary of our first President's first Inaugural Address. For it was then that, like Washington two centuries ago, I prayed at Saint Paul's Chapel, where in 1789 a prayer service was offered by the Chaplain of Congress for the United States of America.

To me, the entire day was moving, intimate. But my time at Saint Paul's was especially so. For as I prayed, I thought of

how -- even then -- Washington had realized that political values without moral values cannot sustain a Nation.

This strong yet gentle man knew that the advancement of America, while it might rely on its presidents, would surely depend on Providence. What Washington believed so strongly over two hundred years ago, is just as true today. For without God's help, we can do nothing. With it, we can do great things -- for our children, and for the world.

Let me thank you for coming here this morning -- and all you've done to make ours a better, more decent, more peaceful Nation. And you'll understand why today, I take special joy in saying: God bless you all, and God bless America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 3, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Prayer Breakfast

The draft remarks for the prayer breakfast are well written and appropriate for the occasion. We have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint and approve of the draft in its present form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/2/89ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/3/89 10:00 AMSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST

	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 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"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 3, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Simon)
May 2, 1989
Draft One
PRAYER

1989 MAY -2 PM 5:0

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 4, 1989

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, Members of the House and Senate, Ladies and Gentlemen.

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#

from
Doug
Wead

Simon edits

(Smith/Simon)
May 2, 1989
Draft One
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
WASHINGTON, ~~D.C.~~ STATE DINING ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1989

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It was to ^{personal faith} ~~that Higher Being~~ that George Washington ^{turned} ~~looked~~ when, addressing his troops in 1776, he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

Lincoln, too, believed in divine providence. Leaving Springfield to assume the Presidency, he told ^{the} ~~his home~~ people of his home town that ~~the great~~ God which helped General Washington must now help me. "Without ^{the} ~~that great~~ assistance, ^{cannot succeed.} "I ~~will surely fail.~~ With ~~it,~~ ^{that} assistance, I cannot fail."
 ↓
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Simon edits

(Smith/Simon)
May 2, 1989
Draft One
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
WASHINGTON, ~~D.C.~~ *STATE DINING ROOM*
THURSDAY MAY 4, 1989

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/2/89ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/3/89 10:00 AMSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST

	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 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"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input 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 10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 3, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No Comment

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

(Smith/Simon)
May 2, 1989
Draft One
PRAYER

1989 MAY -2 PM 5:0

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
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MAY 4, 1989

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	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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RESPONSE:

*No Comment
5/3/89*

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

1989 MAY -2 PM 5:03

JSW
5/3/89

(Smith/Simon)
May 2, 1989
Draft One
PRAYER

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Yes

Add in line from campaign: "While the government must ~~all~~ remain neutral towards particular religions, it need not remain neutral towards values that Americans support."

3

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It was to that Higher Being that George Washington looked when, addressing his troops in 1776, he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

Lincoln, too, believed in divine providence. Leaving Springfield to assume the Presidency, he told his home people that "The great God which helped General Washington must now help me. Without that great assistance, I will surely fail. With it, I cannot fail."

And some of you may be too young to remember how on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for the safety and success of our invading force. "Our sons," he said, "pride of our Nation. Lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. As Americans, we are a religious people. We prize compassion and self-sacrifice. We know that America is great because America is good.

As President, I'm reminded of that constantly. Several weeks ago, for instance, I journeyed to central Pennsylvania. First, I went to a local high-school. And ~~found~~ the problem which is America's problem; ~~the~~ rising use of drugs. *discussed a*

But then, I traveled a few miles to meet with Amish leaders. Wonderful people, kind. You know what? They don't have a drug problem. You know why? The Amish said it best. "Faith and family," they responded. Against them, drugs don't have a chance.

My friends, faith and family can help us honor God in a most profound and personal way -- daily, as human beings, by the conduct of our lives. ~~They can help reverse~~ the Golden Rule, and "Do Unto Others!" ~~And let us reflect~~ the eternal values of decency, humility, and caring. *Faith and family teach us to not only practice but to*

I thought of those values last Sunday, when I visited New York to mark the 200th anniversary of our first President's first Inaugural Address. For it was then that, like Washington two centuries ago, I prayed at Saint Paul's Chapel, where in 1789 a prayer service was offered by the Chaplain of Congress for the United States of America. *as we would have others do unto us.*

To me, the entire day was moving, intimate. But my time at Saint Paul's was especially so. For as I knelt to pray, I *They also help*

thought of how -- even then -- Washington had realized that political values without moral values cannot sustain a Nation.

yet gentle ~~[the desire could lead him to mispeak]~~
 This strong man -- ~~also, a gentle man~~ -- knew that the advancement of America, while it might rely on its presidents, would surely depend on Providence. He was right, ~~and is today.~~ For without God's help, we can do nothing. With it, we can do great things -- for our children, and for the world.

Let me thank you for coming here this morning -- and all you've done to make ours a better, more decent, more peaceful Nation. And you'll understand why today, I take special joy in saying: God bless you all, and God bless America.

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then, and is equally right on this spring morning 200 years later.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: NELSON LUND 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Prayer Breakfast

At the request of James W. Cicconi, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned draft remarks. We have no legal objections.

We appreciate having had the opportunity to review these remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi

COPY

(Smith/Simon)
May 2, 1989
Draft One
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 4, 1989

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, Members of the House and Senate, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You know, it is often said of a group or individual that "He hasn't got a prayer." Well, I am delighted to address an audience about whom that will never be said.

First, I want to say what a pleasure it is to welcome you -- America's religious, civic, and political leaders -- to this, America's House.

We gather here as friends, and as believers in a humane and loving God. And we meet on a special day for America -- a National Day of Prayer.

You know, a little boy once uttered this simple prayer: "God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister. And, oh God, do take care of yourself, because if anything happens to you we're all sunk."

At times, I'm sure all of us have shared those sentiments. And so did the Continental Congress, for it was they who in 1775 issued the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer.

In 1952, Congress decreed that a specific date be set aside each year for Americans to gather in homes and places of worship to pray. And, since then, every President has proclaimed a National Day of Prayer.

This morning, like my predecessors, I am proud to continue that tradition. But I'm pleased to note that today marks a departure from the norm. For 1989 marks the first year of an official permanent date of designation -- from now on, the first Thursday of every May.

My friends, I'm glad that together, we could commemorate this event. And just for a few moments, I'd like to focus on what -- to me, and I hope to you -- our observance means.

It means, I think, that we believe in the separation of church and state. But not in a separation of morality and state. Yes, we believe in pluralism, and in mutual tolerance. For we are "One Nation Under God" -- and we were placed here on earth to do His work.

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