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

OA/ID Number: 13486
Folder ID Number: 13486-008

Folder Title:
Mississippi State University, 5/13/89 [1]

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2:25 PM

(Smith/Blessey)
May 11, 1989
Draft Seven
MISS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
MISSISSIPPI STATE U.
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1989
3 P.M.

Δ on p. 8
Δ on p. 3

President Zacharias, Members of the Board of Trustees, soon-to-be fellow graduates, faculty, administrators, friends.

I want to thank you for that warm introduction. And for the generosity of your welcome. And let me say how delighted I am to address these Commencement ceremonies.

You know, one of my favorite Presidents was the man who first coined the term "bully pulpit." The story goes that Teddy Roosevelt would roam the halls of the White House, shouting "bully, bully." Well, having just met your mascot, I think Teddy would have felt right at home.

I also want to say what an honor it is to see again one of the great patriots of this or any era, the Honorable John Stennis. Ask anyone: Judge Stennis, Senator Stennis, doesn't merely hail from Mississippi. He is Mississippi.

Another long-time friend, of course, is Congressman Sonny Montgomery -- and I'm glad that he, too, is here.

Sonny's great-grandfather, Colonel W.B. Montgomery, was instrumental in rebuilding Mississippi after the Civil War. And he played a major role in founding this university.

This afternoon, I want to recognize those pioneering efforts. And to salute his great-grandson, too. Sonny and I play paddleball regularly. And he always kids me that I win only when I'm wearing my Mississippi State sweat-shirt [PAUSE] . . . When I lose, I'm wearing Ole Miss.

You know, I come from a State where we like to sing "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You." Well, today, my friends, the eyes of America are upon Starkville, Mississippi.

For we meet, to begin with, at a special school -- special because for 109 years, Mississippi State has made education a lasting legacy, and opportunity its bequest.

We gather, also, in a special State -- special for its people. You realize that who we are matters more than what we have. You value home and family and tradition.

I thought of that today as Air Force One brought me to Mississippi. And of how for me, this afternoon also marks

another journey: Back to some of my pivotal years -- the years I spent as an undergraduate.

It was 41 years ago next month that I, too, received my degree. I'll never forget it . . . nor will my family . . . they're still in shock.

In 1948, there were only 172,000 TV sets owned in this country. Milton Berle was Mr. Television, and taking pies in the face. Harry Truman was Mr. President, and he was giving 'em hell. In many ways, it was a different America. Less congestion. Less pollution. Less high technology. PacMan was a camper, not a video game.

We had problems, sure. At home, ~~gas lines~~ and a housing shortage. And veterans adjusting to domestic life. Abroad, the Cold War had turned downright frigid. The Communist bloc was solidifying. China and the Middle East were rent by war. And in a Europe torn by conflicting ideologies, the Soviets were blockading West Berlin.

Yet, with the end of World War Two, America was unified as few could have imagined. I am sure many of you have seen the famous Life magazine photo that captured the spirit of the times: the sailor in Times Square embracing a woman in the mass

exultation of V-J Day. A victory for freedom that came after so much sacrifice.

Like the woman swept off her feet, the spirit of rejoicing - and more importantly -- the limitless possibilities of America swept us all. I, too, felt that sense of idealism and opportunity. And I decided to go to Texas to make the most of the American Dream for my wife and baby.

Today, I look back upon those times and I am struck -- struck by the wonder of how much this country has achieved. What newly-married vet in his early twenties could have envisioned just how wide the golden door of opportunity would swing in four short decades?

And I ask myself: What made this achievement possible? What caused America's technological and scientific advance -- a prosperity and power unprecedented in world history? One thing, I believe, is what Mississippi's own William Faulkner called "the old verities and truths of the heart."

My friends, it is these verities that in 1948 allowed us to meet our problems together. For we took pride in our identity as a Nation. And solace in our faith in God. Above all, we believed in the simple, the basic, truths like kindness and civility, self-sacrifice and courage, compassion and concern for

others. Timeless values which span the generations. Values which show that America is great because America is good.

An old saying notes how "the world has turned over many times." It has since I graduated. The post-war period has given way to a new world -- a world still perilous, but alive with prospects for peace and with the certainty of change. Yet there are some things that haven't changed since 1948. America's values haven't.

We see these values everywhere -- at a church-based child-care center, at choir practice, at the PTA. They uplift American society -- for they reflect the tenets of "Do Unto Others": tenets I respect, and which as President I will serve. And they are the values of America's good, quiet, decent people -- Americans who know that we are not the sum of our possessions, but of how we conduct ourselves.

These people form the heart of our society. And they enrich its central unit: the family. Here, these values play a special role. For they teach that life is not a celebration of self. And our fate is not divisible.

As I told the graduating class at Alcorn State, I will do nothing as President to weaken the role of family in our society.

Instead, I will do all I can to emphasize its importance and to reinforce its role.

You know, I've been lucky -- a wonderful wife and five great kids. And having put them through college, I remember receiving letters from them, and there would always be a "P.S." at the bottom. It was those three little words that say so much about the special bond between parents at home and kids away at school: "Please Send Money."

Five kids. And eleven lively grandkids -- by themselves, they could field the Bulldogs' entire pitching staff. Like all kids, they provide a Rubik's Cube of questions. And, like most families, they supply that love and allegiance which make us more fulfilled. And, believe me, sometimes we need that loyalty. I'm reminded of the alumnus who sent his coach a telegram before the big game. It read: "Remember, coach. We're all behind you -- win or tie."

Yes, the individual is important. But the family unit can be our secret weapon, and our shield. And as President, I want to strengthen it.

To help the family, we must keep America prosperous, strong, and free. We must stop the scourge of drug abuse, and we will. We must build an educational system which invests in our

children. And for those who, for whatever reason -- sickness, poverty, the death of a loved one -- feel alone and isolated, let us become their family: Not in a legal sense, but in a human sense -- helping, supporting, and caring for our neighbor.

Today, millions of Americans are doing that -- giving of themselves, and helping others. We term their work volunteerism, or community service. For they show how the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

You know, the French writer Jean Cocteau (Cock-TOE) was once asked what he would take if his house were on fire and he could remove only one thing. "I would take the fire," he replied.

He liked what worked. Well, so do I. My friends, community service works. Because it's real, not abstract -- it makes achievement feasible. Compassion helps one child escape heroin addiction. Generosity allows another to eat a decent meal. Through faith in God, still another overcomes the curse of bigotry and hatred.

That is why I have created the Office of National Service, which will enlist new volunteers to help meet unmet social needs. Project Victory, or Mission Impossible? Look to the heroes of today for an answer.

Look, for example, to Dave Pettry, an MSU agronomist who has traveled around the world to nurture soil management. Or Steve Cooper, who works in Starkville's "Help Find the Children" campaign. Or Donnie Prisock [PRY-suc] -- Dr. Donnie -- a quadraplegic who earned his Ph. D., and who counsels handicapped students at this school.

Heroes? Every one. For they know that the private sector - - and individuals -- have the resources -- and the responsibility -- to confront issues like hunger and health care, drug abuse and teen pregnancy. A famous adage says that "Luck is the residue of design." Well, America's luck can be the residue of volunteerism's design.

My friends, you've worked and studied and struggled for four years, and now you've endured the hardest part: Listening to a Commencement address.

But let me leave you with the thought that Mississippi has given America some indelible leaders -- in politics, John Stennis; in ^{publishing} ~~education~~, a Eugene Butler; in entertainment, country's Jerry Clower. And, always, you've treasured Faulkner's "verities and truths of the heart."

Community service -- national service -- reflects those verities: "Love and honor . . . and pride and compassion and

sacrifice." Values which can ennoble the family, and American society at large.

Let Faulkner's "verities of the heart" be our values -- not merely for this generation, but for future generations. And inspired by America's good, quiet, decent people, let us help enrich America -- so that America can enrich the world.

Good luck to each of you, and my heart-felt congratulations. May your future be worthy of your dreams. And may you always say, as I do now, God bless America. Thank you for inviting me -- thank you so very much.

#

FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*

SUBJECT: MAY 13 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

I. SUMMARY

At 3:15 p.m., Saturday, May 13, you will address the Mississippi State University Commencement ceremonies. The graduating class totals 2,000. About 15,000 people are expected to attend, including John Stennis and Sonny Montgomery.

II. DISCUSSION

The attached remarks discuss how the world has changed since your 1948 graduation, and how what hasn't changed are the values which make America great. In particular, the text focuses on how community service reflects the selfless character of America's "good, quiet, decent people."

(Smith/Blessey)
May 10, 1989
Draft Six
MISS

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- and more importantly -- the limitless possibilities of America
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struck by the wonder of how much this country has achieved. What
newly-married vet in his early twenties could have imagined just
how wide the golden door of opportunity would have swung in four
short decades?

And yet, in spite of all this achievement -- in spite of
technological and scientific advance . . . of prosperity and
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things that made our progress possible. One is what
Mississippi's own William Faulkner called "the old verities and
truths of the heart."

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meet our problems together. For we took pride in our identity as
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Good luck to each of you, and my heart-felt congratulations. May your future be worthy of your dreams. And may you always say, as I do now, God bless America. Thank you for inviting me -- thank you so very much.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: PATRICIA MACK BRYAN *PMB*
LEE S. LIBERMAN *LSL*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: President's Mississippi Speeches

In response to our comments from yesterday afternoon, yesterday evening Jim Cicconi requested that we see to it that the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department review the draft speeches last night. As the attached memorandum notes, that review has been completed, and the Division has cleared the speeches.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 9, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES W. CICCONI

FROM: PATRICIA MACK BRYAN *PMB*
LEE S. LIBERMAN *W*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: President's Commencement Speeches at Mississippi
State and Alcorn Colleges

The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has reviewed these speeches, and sees no conflicts with its pending litigation.

As you requested, you will be receiving a separate memorandum to serve as general background for the President's trip summarizing the issues involved in that litigation as well as its status.

cc: Chriss Winston ✓

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT: Mississippi State Commencement Speech Draft

We like this speech, particularly the references to 1948 as a time of national cohesion in the face of economic and foreign challenges, although we believe that those references can be put in a more personal way that evokes the President's own feelings about the time [see below at 3,1-4]. Of all the commencement speeches, we understand that this is the only opportunity for the President to speak from the heart. We should make the most of this opportunity.

Pg. 1, Para. 4, Line 3 Does the President really play paddleball every week with Rep. Montgomery? The press will be curious. Also, is paddleball the right term? Do we mean racquetball? paddle tennis? (note the latter game's uppercrusty connotation).

1,3,1 If we rewrote this line to say, "First, I want to say..." it would read a lot easier.

2,2,1 "...I come from a state whose official song is 'The Eyes of Texas....'" This is not the official state song (it's "Texas, Our Texas"), but the song of the Univ. of Texas, the rival of Texas A & M -- the latter's fight song in fact pokes fun at "The Eyes of Texas."

Thus, it would be better to say something like "...I come from a state where they like to sing 'The Eyes of Texas....'" OPD prefers, however, to defer to the judgement of the Staff Secretary (U. of Texas, '74,) and the Assistant to the President for Congressional Liaison (Texas A & M, '76) on this matter.

2,2,3 Mississippi State is in Starkville, not Jackson.

(more)

2-2-2

Dave - Chriss

originally discussed this "more intensely personal kind" of approach - but we had doubts as to whether the President would feel comfortable doing so

Curt

3,1-4 We commend the device of referring back to the time of the President's own graduation. We believe that it should be made more evocative of the President's own feeling of idealism at this time of national cohesion, and his admiration of the achievements that America has wrought since.

Moreover, this evocation on page three could be the point at which to introduce the excellent Faulkner line, now used for the first time on page six. By introducing Faulkner early, and re-introducing him later, we develop a motif for the entire speech.

Curt -
let's
try

Thus, we suggest inserting lines such as the following:

^{yet} With the end of World War Two, America was unified as few would have thought possible. I am sure many of you have seen the famous Life magazine photo that captured the spirit of the times: the sailor in Times Square embracing a woman in the mass exultation of V-J Day. A victory for freedom that came after so much sacrifice.

And, too, "Like the woman swept off her feet, the spirit of rejoicing -- and more importantly -- the limitless possibilities of America, swept ~~all off us~~. I felt that sense of idealism and opportunity. I decided to go ^{to Texas} South to make the most of the American Dream for my wife and baby. I look back upon those times and I am struck -- struck by the wonder of how much this country has achieved. What newly-married vet in his early twenties could have imagined just how wide the golden door of opportunity would have swung in four short decades? Today,

"And yet, in spite of all this achievement -- in spite of technological and scientific advance... of Americans landing on the moon... unrivaled leadership in the arts and commerce... prosperity and power unprecedented in world history -- in spite of all this, there are some things which we must recapture. One is what Mississippi's own William Faulkner called "the old verities and truths of the heart."

span the generations.
link
unite the generations.

3,1,3 "In many ways, it was different America. Not worse or better, just different." We think most Americans, including the President, agree that America is better off today. Progress in civil rights alone spells a massive improvement in the U.S. since the '40s. You can still talk about the "good old days" in glowing terms even as you argue that things are getting better.

(more)

3-3-3

3,2,4 "The Communist bloc was monolithic." Strictly speaking, the idea of a monolithic Communist bloc emerged after China turned communist. 1948 was the year that Yugoslavia was expelled from Cominform and certain Central European countries were not yet fully communist, e.g. Romania. We are on safer ground to say: "The Communist bloc was solidifying."

4,4,1 "And eleven brimming grandkids..." We suggest adjectives such as "lively" or "strapping," rather than "brimming," which is less apt.

4,4,3 "Rubik's Cube of questions" is an excellent turn of phrase.

4,4,4 "...they supply that love and allegiance which makes us less alone." We suggest a more positive phrase than "less alone" such as "more human."

5,3,1 "To help the family, we must keep America economically strong and at peace abroad." We suggest a phrase such as "...prosperous, strong, and free" rather than use the words "economically strong," which could also be interpreted to mean "thriftily" or "efficiently" strong, and "at peace abroad" which omits the qualifying notions of strength and freedom.

5,3,4 "...for whatever reason -- divorce, poverty, death -- feel alone and isolated...." We suggest using "sickness" rather than "divorce" and "spiritual emptiness" rather than "death." Divorce is a common enough occurrence as not to warrant comparison with more serious afflictions; and you obviously can't feel alone if your dead, which is one way the sentence could be read.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 5/8/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

5/9/89 10:00 AMSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

	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"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" 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, Tuesday, May 9, 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

1989 MAY -0 11:11

(Smith/Blessey)
May 6, 1989
Draft Five
MISS

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These people form the heart of our society. And they enrich its central unit: the family. Here, these values play a special role. For they teach that life is not a celebration of self. And our fate is not divisible.

 A yellow highlighter mark covers the text "ONS INSERT". A handwritten letter "A" is written to the left of the highlighter, with a line pointing to the "O" in "ONS".

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Today, millions of Americans are doing that -- giving of themselves, and helping others. We term their work volunteerism, or community service. For they show how the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

I have often said I like what works. Community service works. Because it's real, not abstract -- it makes achievement possible. Compassion helps one child escape heroin addiction. Generosity allows another to eat a decent meal. Through faith in God, still another overcomes the curse of bigotry and hatred.

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Good luck to each of you, and my heart-felt congratulations. May your future be worthy of your dreams. And may you always say, as I do now, God bless America. Thank you for inviting me -- thank you so very much.

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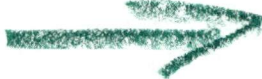
WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/8/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/9/89 10:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

	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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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"/>



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See comments

RESPONSE:

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

1989 MAY -0 11:11

(Smith/Blessey)
May 6, 1989
Draft Five
MISS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
MISSISSIPPI STATE U.
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1989

President Zacharias, Members of the Board of Trustees, soon-to-be fellow graduates, faculty, administrators, friends.

You know, one of my favorite Presidents was the man who first coined the term "bully pulpit." The story goes that Teddy Roosevelt would roam the halls of the White House, shouting "bully, bully." Well, having just met your mascot, I think Teddy would have felt right at home.

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Another long-time friend, of course, is your Congressman, Sonny Montgomery -- and I'm glad that he, too, is here. You know, each week Sonny and I play paddleball. And he always kids me that I win only when I'm wearing my Mississippi State sweat-shirt [PAUSE] . . . When I lose, I'm wearing Ole Miss.

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You know, I come from a State whose official song is "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You." Well, today, my friends, the eyes of America are upon Jackson, Mississippi.

For we meet, to begin with, at a special school -- special because for 111 years, Mississippi State has made education a lasting legacy, and opportunity its bequest.

We gather, too, in a special State -- special for its people. You realize that ~~what~~ ^{who} we are matters more than what we have. [You cherish home and people's feelings and ~~how~~ they grew up.]

?
what lessons

how about "facts" or "priorities"

< Dave - how does "the way" sound?

- makes point plus background of a person matters
Cur

I thought of those lessons today as Air Force One brought me to Mississippi. And of how for me, this morning also marks another journey: Back to some of my pivotal years -- the years I spent as an undergraduate.

It was 41 years ago next month that I, too, received my degree. I'll never forget it . . . nor will my teachers . . . some of ~~them~~ ^{and} they're still in shock.

In 1948, Milton Berle was Mr. Television, and taking pies in the face. Harry Truman was Mr. President, and he was giving 'em hell. In many ways, it was a different America. Not worse or better, just different. Less congestion. Less pollution. Less high technology. PacMan was a camper, not a video game.

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We had problems, sure. At home, gas lines, a housing shortage, and high inflation. And veterans adjusting to domestic life. Abroad, the Cold War had turned downright frigid. The Communist bloc was monolithic. China and the Middle East were rent by war. And in a Europe torn by conflicting ideologies, the Soviets were blockading West Berlin.

But we met our problems together. For we took pride in our identity as a Nation. And solace in our faith in God. Above all, we believed in the simple, the basic, things like kindness and civility, self-sacrifice and courage, compassion and concern for others. Values which are timeless, and which span the generations. Values which show that America is great because America is good.

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This doesn't sound right
Bush is Phi Beta Kappa

Holen
5178

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There is something peculiarly American about the notion that we are here to serve others. It is part of the historic American value system to believe that we have an obligation to make life better not just for ourselves and our posterity, but also for others in our community and the world around us. But, to be honest, in recent years, some of us seemingly lost sight of our heritage of deep compassion and concern for those outside ourselves.

That is why I called in my Inaugural Address for a "new engagement in each others' lives", a reawakening of the traditional American notion that it is every citizen's obligation, as the heir to a great and proud nation unprecedented in power and prosperity, to make life better in his or her own community. I have pointed to "a thousand points of light", meaning the whole constellation of concerned and committed individuals, schools and colleges, churches and synagogues, businesses and firms, unions, civic groups and service organizations that can make such a positive difference in the lives of their communities.

While the nation is at peace and record numbers of Americans are enjoying an historic degree of prosperity, a number of seemingly intractable problems plague us in the latter part of the century, which time has proved to be beyond the power of government alone to solve. At the root of many of these problems, homelessness, teenage pregnancy, illiteracy, drug abuse, AIDS, rampant crime, to name a few, lie the break-up of too many families, the erosion of moral values and the disintegration of communities. While there is a critical role for government and funding to play, no amount of money can rebuild a family, reawaken moral values or reweave a community. Only the power of the American people and their many institutions working together can fill this void.

That is why I have taken the unprecedented step of establishing in the White House an Office of National Service which will under my leadership:

(i) call every individual and institution in America to commit themselves to community service;

(ii) raise the level of understanding of the satisfaction and empowerment that comes from service;

(iii) identify service initiatives undertaken by neighborhoods, businesses, schools, churches and other institutions that are "working" and the extraordinarily gifted leaders who are making them "work";

(iv) help to ensure that everyone who wants to serve knows of available service opportunities in his or her community; and

(v) identify legal and governmental barriers to increased levels of service (i.e, tort law reform, tax reform and welfare law reform).

At present the Office of National Service is hard at work developing and planning a strategy to implement my YES to America or Youth Entering Service to American initiative. While I will ultimately call all Americans to service, I hope that young people like you, as the inheritors of the nation, will lead the way in making service to others part of any definition of a successful life.

I will announce my youth service initiative by early summer and submit legislation to the Hill to implement it. I hope that I can depend upon your help in redirecting the energy and idealism of American youth toward service to others. With your help, we will make America truly "kinder and gentler" as we enter the 21st century by brightening the American horizon with millions of points of light.

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You know, I come from a State whose official song is "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You." Well, today, my friends, the eyes of America are upon Jackson, Mississippi.

For we meet, to begin with, at a special school -- special because for 111 years, Mississippi State has made education a lasting legacy, and opportunity its bequest.

We gather, too, in a special State -- special for its people. You realize that what we are matters more than what we have. You cherish home and people's feelings and how they grew up.

I thought of those lessons today as Air Force One brought me to Mississippi. And of how for me, this morning also marks another journey: Back to some of my pivotal years -- the years I spent as an undergraduate.

It was 41 years ago next month that I, too, received my degree. I'll never forget it . . . nor will my teachers . . . they're still in shock.

In 1948, Milton Berle was Mr. Television, and taking pies in the face. Harry Truman was Mr. President, and he was giving 'em hell. In many ways, it was a different America. Not worse or better, just different. Less congestion. Less pollution. Less high technology. PacMan was a camper, not a video game.

We had problems, sure. At home, gas lines, a housing shortage, and high inflation. And veterans adjusting to domestic life. Abroad, the Cold War had turned downright frigid. The Communist bloc was monolithic. China and the Middle East were rent by war. And in a Europe torn by conflicting ideologies, the Soviets were blockading West Berlin.

But we met our problems together. For we took pride in our identity as a Nation. And solace in our faith in God. Above all, we believed in the simple, the basic, things like kindness and civility, self-sacrifice and courage, compassion and concern for others. Values which are timeless, and which span the generations. Values which show that America is great because America is good.

Tom Paine once wrote that "the world has turned over many times." It has since I graduated. The post-war period has given way to a new world -- a world still perilous, but alive with prospects for peace and with the certainty of change. Yet there are some things that haven't changed since 1948. America's values haven't.

We see these values everywhere -- at a child-care center, at Choir practice, at the PTA. They uplift American society -- for they reflect the tenets of "Do Unto Others": tenets I respect, and which as President I will serve. And they are the values of America's good, quiet, decent people -- Americans who know that we are not the sum of our possessions, but of how we conduct ourselves.

These people form the heart of our society. And they enrich its central unit: the family. Here, these values play a special role. For they teach that life is not a celebration of self. And our fate is not divisible.

You know, I've been lucky -- a wonderful wife and five great kids. And having helped put them through college, I remember receiving letters from them, and there would always be a "P.S." at the bottom. It was those three little words that say so much about the special bond between parents at home and kids away at school: "Please Send Money."

Five kids. And eleven brimming grandkids -- by themselves, they could field the Bulldogs' entire pitching staff. Like all kids, they provide a Rubik's Cube of questions. And, like most families, they supply that love and allegiance which make us less alone. And, believe me, sometimes we need that loyalty. I'm

reminded of the alumnus who sent his coach a telegram before the big game. It read: "Remember, coach. We're all behind you -- win or tie."

Yes, the individual is important. But the family unit can be our secret weapon, and our shield. And as President, I want to strengthen it.

To help the family, we must keep America economically strong and at peace abroad. We must stop the scourge of drug abuse, and we will. We must build an educational system which invests in our children. And for those who, for whatever reason -- divorce, poverty, death -- feel alone and isolated, let us become their family: Not in a legal sense, but in a human sense -- helping, supporting, and caring for our neighbor.

Today, millions of Americans are doing that -- giving of themselves, and helping others. We term their work volunteerism, or community service. For they show how the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

I have often said I like what works. Community service works. Because it's real, not abstract -- it makes achievement possible. Compassion helps one child escape heroin addiction. Generosity allows another to eat a decent meal. Through faith in God, still another overcomes the curse of bigotry and hatred.

That is why I have created the Office of National Service, which will enlist new volunteers to help meet unmet social needs. Project Victory, or Mission Impossible? Look to the heroes of today for an answer.

Look, for example, to Dave Pettry, an MSU agronomist who has traveled around the world to nurture soil management. Or Steve Cooper, who works in Starkville's "Help Find the Children" campaign. Or other students who work at adult education centers, combating the problem of illiterary. Or Donnie Prisock -- Dr. Donnie -- a paraplegic who earned his Ph. D., and who counsels handicapped students at this school.

Heroes? Every one. They know that life is not a ledger board. And they know that the private sector -- and individuals -- have the resources -- and the responsibility -- to confront issues like hunger and health care, drug abuse and teen pregnancy. A famous adage says that "Luck is the residue of design." Well, America's luck can be the residue of volunteerism's design.

My friends, Mississippi has given America some indelible leaders -- in politics, John Stennis and Sonny Montgomery; in education, a Eugene Butler; in entertainment, country's Jerry Clower. And, always, you've treasured what Mississippi's native son, William Faulkner termed "the old verities and truths of the heart."

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Community service -- national service -- reflects those verities: "Love and honor . . . and pride and compassion and sacrifice." Values which can ennoble the family, and American society at large.

Let Faulkner's "verities of the heart" be our values -- not merely for this generation, but for future generations. And inspired by America's good, quiet, decent people, let us help enrich America -- so that America can enrich the world.

Good luck to each of you, and my heart-felt congratulations. May your future be worthy of your dreams. And may you always say, as I do now, God bless America. Thank you for inviting me -- thank you so very much.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/8/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/9/89 10:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

		ACTION	FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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, Tuesday, May 9, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

no comments

RESPONSE: _____

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

BOND
CHRIS
w/ memo

(Smith/Blessey)
May 10, 1989
Draft Six
MISS

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
MISSISSIPPI STATE U.
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1989
3 P.M.

President Zacharias, Members of the Board of Trustees, soon-to-be fellow graduates, faculty, administrators, friends.

You know, one of my favorite Presidents was the man who first coined the term "bully pulpit." The story goes that Teddy Roosevelt would roam the halls of the White House, shouting "bully, bully." Well, having just met your mascot, I think Teddy would have felt right at home.



~~First~~, I want to thank you for that warm introduction. And for the generosity of your welcome. And let me say how delighted I am to address these Commencement ceremonies.

~~Next~~, I want to say what an honor it is to see again one of the great patriots of this or any era, the Honorable John Stennis. Ask anyone: John Stennis doesn't merely hail from Mississippi. He is Mississippi.

← SEB

Another long-time friend, of course, is ~~your~~ Congressman, Sonny Montgomery -- and I'm glad that he, too, is here.

Sonny's great-grandfather, Colonel W.B. Montgomery, was instrumental in rebuilding Mississippi after the Civil War. And he played a major role in founding this university.

This afternoon, I want to recognize those pioneering efforts. And to salute his great-grandson, too. Sonny and I play paddleball regularly. And he always kids me that I win only when I'm wearing my Mississippi State sweat-shirt [PAUSE] . . . When I lose, I'm wearing Ole Miss.

You know, I come from a State where they like to sing "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You." Well, today, my friends, the eyes of America are upon Starkville, Mississippi.

For we meet, to begin with, at a special school -- special because for 109 years, Mississippi State has made education a lasting legacy, and opportunity its bequest.

We gather, also, in a special State -- special for its people. You realize that who we are matters more than what we have. It's a state whose people value home and family and tradition.

I thought of that today as Air Force One brought me to Mississippi. And of how for me, this morning also marks another

journey: Back to some of my pivotal years -- the years I spent as an undergraduate.

It was 41 years ago next month that I, too, received my degree. I'll never forget it . . . nor will my family . . . they're still in shock.

In 1948, Milton Berle was Mr. Television, and taking pies in the face. Harry Truman was Mr. President, and he was giving 'em hell. In many ways, it was a different America. Less congestion. Less pollution. Less high technology. PacMan was a camper, not a video game.

We had problems, sure. At home, gas lines, a housing shortage, and high inflation. And veterans adjusting to domestic life. Abroad, the Cold War had turned downright frigid. The Communist bloc was solidifying. China and the Middle East were rent by war. And in a Europe torn by conflicting ideologies, the Soviets were blockading West Berlin.

Yet, with the end of World War Two, America was unified as few would have thought possible. I am sure many of you have seen the famous Life magazine photo that captured the spirit of the times: the sailor in Times Square embracing a woman in the mass exultation of V-J Day. A victory for freedom that came after so much sacrifice.

Like the woman swept off her feet, the spirit of rejoicing -
- and more importantly -- the limitless possibilities of America
swept us all. I, too, felt that sense of idealism and
opportunity. And I decided to go to Texas to make the most of
the American Dream for my wife and baby.

Today, I look back upon those times and I am struck --
struck by the wonder of how much this country has achieved. What
newly-married vet in his early twenties could have imagined just
how wide the golden door of opportunity would have swung in four
short decades?

And yet, in spite of all this achievement -- in spite of
technological and scientific advance . . . of prosperity and
power unprecedented in world history -- let us not forget the
things that made our progress possible. One is what
Mississippi's own William Faulkner called "the old verities and
truths of the heart."

My friends, it is these verities that in 1948 allowed us to
meet our problems together. For we took pride in our identity as
a Nation. And solace in our faith in God. Above all, we
believed in the simple, the basic, truths like kindness and
civility, self-sacrifice and courage, compassion and concern for

others. Timeless values which span the generations. Values which show that America is great because America is good.

~~Thomas~~ ← SEB
~~Tom~~ Paine once wrote that "the world has turned over many times." It has since I graduated. The post-war period has given way to a new world -- a world still perilous, but alive with prospects for peace and with the certainty of change. Yet there are some things that haven't changed since 1948. America's values haven't.

We see these values everywhere -- at a church-based child-care center, at choir practice, at the PTA. They uplift American society -- for they reflect the tenets of "Do Unto Others": tenets I respect, and which as President I will serve. And they are the values of America's good, quiet, decent people -- Americans who know that we are not the sum of our possessions, but of how we conduct ourselves.

These people form the heart of our society. And they enrich its central unit: the family. Here, these values play a special role. For they teach that life is not a celebration of self. And our fate is not divisible.

You know, I've been lucky -- a wonderful wife and five great kids. And having ~~helped~~ put them through college, I remember receiving letters from them, and there would always be a "P.S."

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Yes, the individual is important. But the family unit can be our secret weapon, and our shield. And as President, I want to strengthen it.

To help the family, we must keep America prosperous, strong, and free. We must stop the scourge of drug abuse, and we will. We must build an educational system which invests in our children. And for those who, for whatever reason -- sickness, poverty, the death of a loved one -- feel alone and isolated, let us become their family: Not in a legal sense, but in a human sense -- helping, supporting, and caring for our neighbor.

Today, millions of Americans are doing that -- giving of themselves, and helping others. We term their work volunteerism, or community service. For they show how the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

I have often said I like what works. Community service works. Because it's real, not abstract -- it makes achievement feasible. Compassion helps one child escape heroin addiction. Generosity allows another to eat a decent meal. Through faith in God, still another overcomes the curse of bigotry and hatred.

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Good luck to each of you, and my heart-felt congratulations. May your future be worthy of your dreams. And may you always say, as I do now, God bless America. Thank you for inviting me -- thank you so very much.

#

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Yesterday, I talked of that change -- of a new policy that moves beyond containment of the Soviet Union. This new policy seeks to bring the Soviet Union into the family of nations. ~~It~~ If we succeed, your future will be safer, the world you will know will be more free.

Change, yes, yet there are some things etc.

13A

Lysteromy, I ~~talked~~ ^{talked} of that change -
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civility, self-sacrifice and courage, compassion and concern for others. Timeless values which span the generations. Values which show that America is great because America is good.

The S.U. will be safe, AND ~~the~~ the world will be more free. ~~change~~

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These people form the heart of our society. And they enrich its central unit: the family. Here, these values play a special role. For they teach that life is not a celebration of self. And our fate is not divisible.

As I told the graduating class at Alcorn State, I will do nothing as President to weaken the role of family in our society.