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Mississippi State University, 5/13/89 [2]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1989

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1989 MAY 10 11 53

INFORMATION

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/11/89

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."

548-7856
12




Dave:

yesterday we talked about owkring in a para. on each of these speeches in Miss about "Yesterday I spelled out a new doctrine towards hte Soviet Union. This doctrine must lead to a more peaceful world. CV1;eraly we are living in hopeful times.... then segue in to what comes next.... (you can do this better, but let's tie it in to both soem way.)

GB

Both speeches need only
a little more work.
Little more Humor if possible but pretty good
length fine!! as is



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

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 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.

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} ^{Senator} ^{Stennis,} John 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 ~~they~~^{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. 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~~^{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.

On spring of 48, there were only — TV sets owned in the country and Milton et

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.

*2,3
check
facts*

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.

Mark

see the main purpose of the values

Thomas 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.

As I told the graduating class at Alcorn State I will do nothing as President to weaken the role of family in our society. I will do everything I can to emphasize the importance of family and to strengthen 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.

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.

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 -- Dr. Donnie -- a paraplegic 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.

Mississippi has given America some indelible politics, John Stennis and Sonny Montgomery; in gene Butler; in entertainment, country's Jerry always, you've treasured Faulkner's "verities and heart."

service -- national service -- reflects those ve and honor . . . and pride and compassion and values which can ennoble the family, and American age.

kner's "verities of the heart" be our values -- not is generation, but for future generations. And America's good, quiet, decent people, let us help ca -- so that America can enrich the world.

ck to each of you, and my heart-felt congratulations. ure be worthy of your dreams. And may you always o now, God bless America. Thank you for inviting me u so very much.

#

I dont believe this is sonny's district so maybe we should mention the Senators and their congressman... or leave it out about sonny.

Stennis to Butler

April 12, 1989



Dear Dr. Zacharias:

On behalf of the President, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your kind invitation to address Mississippi State University's commencement ceremonies

The President is pleased to accept. This has been entered on his schedule for May 13th, and nearer the date Mr. John G. Keller, Jr., Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Advance will contact you about the President's acceptance of your invitation.

The President's acceptance of this invitation should not be announced to anyone until official notification is given by the White House Press Office, and any public announcement of this event must be coordinated with that office.

You should be aware that certain physical facility requirements exist for any Presidential appearance. The costs associated with these requirements are generally the responsibility of the host and are summarized on the attached list.

If you wish to alter the current plans for this event in any way, such as changing any part of the format, the location, or the participants, please direct your request for the proposed change to the Office of Presidential Appointments and Scheduling.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH W. HAGIN II
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Appointments and Scheduling

Dr. Donald W. Zacharias
President
Mississippi State University
Post Office Box Drawer J
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

cc and incoming to Speechwriting Office
cc to Helen Donaldson 182, OEOB

9/10/20 gear
Pres. scheduled for
Mississippi State
Commencement
letter enclosed
KIM



17721#11

Republican National Committee

Ann Wilson
(Mrs. Roberts Wilson, Jr.)
Member for Mississippi
31 Polo Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
(601) 956-2051

March 8, 1989

*Scheduling
5/12 - 5/13*

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I have received a letter regarding your invitation from Dr. Donald Zacharias, President of Mississippi State University, to address the commencement exercises on May 12, or 13, at Mississippi State University.

It would be a great honor to have you here in Mississippi and certainly an unforgettable experience for the 2,000 graduates of Mississippi's largest institution of higher learning.

It is always a great honor and privilege to have you visit Mississippi and I look forward to your next trip. No President has ever spoken at Mississippi State, and I think it would be good for the University, and good for the State of Mississippi to have you there for graduation.

Your consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ann Wilson



RECEIVED

FEB 08 1989

SCHEDULING
OFFICE

Jan 13

11

Office of the President

February 3, 1989

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Attention: Director of Scheduling

Dear President Bush:

Mississippi State University would consider it a high honor and privilege to have you address our university commencement on May 13, 1989, at 3:00 p.m. We anticipate awarding degrees to approximately ~~2500~~ students at the baccalaureate through doctoral levels. Our university is the largest in the state and is, of course, a land-grant university.

I had the honor of welcoming you to speak at Western Kentucky University during the 1984 campaign. I was serving as president of Western Kentucky at the time. You made an outstanding presentation on that occasion, and I would like the privilege of presenting you to the crowd of 10,000 or more who would attend the indoor and air-conditioned commencement ceremony at Mississippi State.

I realize of course that you will have numerous invitations to make commencement addresses, but I believe Mississippi merits recognition for the numerous achievements that have been made in science, industry, and social conditions within this state. Having the President visit and see firsthand what is occurring here would emphasize to the nation that education is in the forefront of this state as well as at the top of your national agenda.

We would be happy to work with you in setting the starting time for the commencement activities if that becomes a factor in making it possible for you to be our guest speaker. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely yours,

Donald W. Zacharias
President

nc

c: Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Trent Lott
Congressman Sonny Montgomery

HALEY BARBOUR

11

POST OFFICE BOX 960
AZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI 39194
(601) 746-2134

SUITE 1010
600 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE. N W
WASHINGTON, D C. 20037
(202) 333-8767

February 13, 1989

5/12
5/13
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Congressman Sonny Montgomery has made me aware of Mississippi State University's invitation to you to address their commencement exercises on May 12 or 13. I am writing to endorse their invitation.

Although it excels in such fields as engineering and computers, Mississippi State was founded as a land grant institution and continues to be the lead university in our state for agriculture and agri-business, still the dominant industry in Mississippi and many other states.

Despite the serious decline of agriculture during a large portion of the 80's, most farmers and agri-business people voted for you last November. They did so because they share your belief in more market-oriented policy and trust you to make the move away from excessive government involvement in a way that protects the farm community during the transition.

With this in mind and considering both the reduction in the budget for agriculture for FY 1990 and the upcoming reconstitution of the farm bill, a visit to Mississippi State may provide a timely opportunity for you to speak to the entire country and agriculture in particular about your concerns and views in this critical area. I hope so.

Thank you for giving this matter the consideration it deserves.

Sincerely,

Haley Barbour
Haley Barbour

HB/lp

cc: Sonny Montgomery
Thad Cochran
Trent Lott
Ed Rogers

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

(Starkville, Mississippi)

For Immediate Release.

May 13, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Thurman Field
Starkville, Mississippi

3:22 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. (Applause.) Thank all of you. Congratulations to you. Thank you all very much. President Zacharias and members of the Board of Trustees, members of the distinguished faculty, administrators, friends, soon to be graduates, I can't tell you how much I appreciate that warm Bulldog welcome. (Applause.)

Before I get too far into these remarks, I don't believe I've ever heard a more beautiful or remarkable rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner." Richard Gaddis -- (applause) -- just wonderful. And thank you all for the warmth of this welcome here today. And I am very honored and privileged to address your commencement. I was at Alcorn State, another part of this great state, earlier on. And I told them that I was reminded of my own graduation, because I could see on the faces of some of these kids the apprehension about the President coming here and how long they might have to endure the message. And I was reminded of a graduation at Yale and the speaker got up and went on and on. He finally -- at the beginning he said "Yale -- Y is for youth." He talked about that for 20 minutes. "A is for altruism." 18. "L is for Loyalty." 32 minutes. "E is for excellence." Finished his speech -- there was only one person left, head down in prayer. And the speaker said "Were you praying for those values?" He said "No, sir. I was giving thanks that I didn't go to Mississippi State University." (Laughter.)

I want to say what a great honor it is to see a long time family friend, one of the great patriots of this or any other era, the Honorable John Stennis, who resides right here on this campus. (Applause.) Judge Stennis, Senator Stennis, call him what you will. He doesn't merely hail from Mississippi. He is Mississippi. And his service to the United States of America will not be forgotten.

Now, I wondered whether we could ever fill those big shoes. But I say this not as a partisan, but as an observer of some time, as President Zacharias said of the public scene -- and you have two great United States Senators in Thad Cochran and in Trent Lott and I'm proud to be with them here today. (Applause.) And I salute the two Members of Congress that are with us today.

One of them, Congressman Montgomery and I were elected to Congress on the same day. I'm delighted he's here. His great-grandfather, Colonel W. B. Montgomery, was instrumental in rebuilding Mississippi after the war, and he played a major role in founding this university.

And so this afternoon, I want to recognize those pioneering efforts, and to salute my dear friend, the Colonel's great-grandson, your own Congressman, Sonny Montgomery. (Applause.) He always kids me that I win only when I'm wearing my Mississippi State shorts. I brought them along today with a plea: Can't we do

better than this? (Laughter.) Twenty years. If you don't do better than that by me, you're going to get this. (Laughter.)

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, MSU has made education a lasting legacy, and opportunity its bequest.

We gather, also, in a very special state -- special for its people. You realize that who we are matters more than what we have. And you value home and family and tradition and service to country. 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 own pivotal years -- the years I spent as an undergraduate.

It was 41 years ago next month that I, too, received my degree -- 1948.

In 1948, there were only 172,000 television sets owned in the entire United States of America. Milton Berle was Mr. Television, taking pies in the face. Harry Truman was Mr. President, giving 'em hell. And in many ways, it was a different America. Less congestion. Less pollution. Less high tech. Pac Man was a camper, not a video game. (Laughter.)

And we had problems, sure. At home, gas shortages and housing problems, and veterans adjusting to domestic life after World War II. Abroad, the Cold War had turned frigid. The Communist Bloc was solidifying. China and the Middle East were rent assunder by war. And in a Europe torn by conflicting ideologies, the Soviets were blockading West Berlin.

And yet, with the end of World War II, America was unified as few could have imagined. I'm sure many of you have seen that famous Life Magazine photo that captured the spirit of those 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. And I, too, felt that sense of idealism and opportunity and headed on out with Barbara -- headed out to Texas to make the most of the American Dream.

But 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. We took pride in our identity as a nation and solace in our faith in God. And 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. Yesterday at Texas A&M

in Bryant, Texas, I talked of that change, of a new policy that moves beyond containment of the Soviet Union. And the new policy seeks to bring the Soviet Union into the family of nations -- a policy, if you will, of reintegration. And, as the Soviet Union moves toward greater openness and democratization, and as they meet the challenge of responsible international behavior, we will match their steps with steps of our own. And if we succeed, the future of every graduate today is going to be safer. The world we know will be more free. We can dedicate ourselves then to helping others even more.

Yet there are some things that haven't changed since 1948. Our values haven't. We see these values everywhere -- a church-based child care center, choir practice or the PTA, and they uplift American society -- for they reflect the tenets of "Do Unto Others" -- tenets I respect, and which I will try hard to serve as President of the United States. 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.

And 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 mentioned to the graduating class at Alcorn, I will do nothing as President -- nothing at all -- to weaken our society by weakening the fundamental role of family in our society. Instead, I will do all I can to emphasize its importance and to reinforce its role.

I've been very lucky -- a wonderful wife and five great kids. They're through college. And I remember receiving letters from them, and there would always be that "P.S." at the bottom -- those three little words, "Please Send Money" -- that special bond between parents at home and kids away at school. I expect these parents have never, ever received a letter like that.

Five kids and 11 lively grandkids -- and by themselves, they could field the Bulldogs' entire pitching staff. And I understand you people with the earphones staying plugged in to the baseball game. (Laughter.) If I were sitting up there, I'd be doing exactly the same thing. (Laughter and applause.) Never say that Mississippians do not have their priorities sorted out right. (Laughter.)

But like all kids, ours provide a Rubik 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." (Laughter.)

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, caring for our neighbor.

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

The French writer Jean Cocteau 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. (Laughter.) He liked what worked. Well, so do I. Community service works. Because it's real, not abstract -- it makes achievements feasible. Compassion helps one child escape heroin addiction. Generosity allows another to eat a decent meal. And through faith in God, still another overcomes the curse of bigotry and hatred.

And that's 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 to David 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 -- Dr. Donnie -- a quadriplegic who earned his Ph.D., and who counsels handicapped students right here 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 hard and studied and struggled for four years, and now you've endured the hardest part: Listening to the commencement address. (Laughter.) And I haven't even begun. Let's see, Y,M,I,S. (Laughter.)

But let me leave you with the thought that Mississippi has given America some indelible leaders -- in politics, John Stennis; in publishing, 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.

So 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 continue to enrich the world. Good luck to each one of you. My heart-felt congratulations. May your future be worthy of your dreams. And may you always say, as I do now, God bless the United States of America. Thank you for inviting me. (Applause.) Thanks a lot.

END

3:40 P.M. CDT

REMARKS: 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.

- 2 -

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."

- 3 -

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.

- 4 -

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.

- 5 -

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.

- 6 -

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.

- 7 -

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.

- 8 -

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.

- 9 -

WE HAD PROBLEMS, SURE. AT HOME, GAS SHORTAGES AND HOUSING PROBLEMS. 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.

- 10 -

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.

- 11 -

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.

- 12 -

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."

- 13 -

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.

- 14 -

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.

- 15 -

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. AS THE SOVIET UNION MOVES TOWARD GREATER OPENNESS AND DEMOCRATIZATION -- AS THEY MEET THE CHALLENGE OF RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR -- WE WILL MATCH THEIR STEPS WITH STEPS OF OUR OWN. IF WE SUCCEED, YOUR FUTURE WILL BE SAFER, THE WORLD WILL KNOW WILL BE MORE FREE.

- 16 -

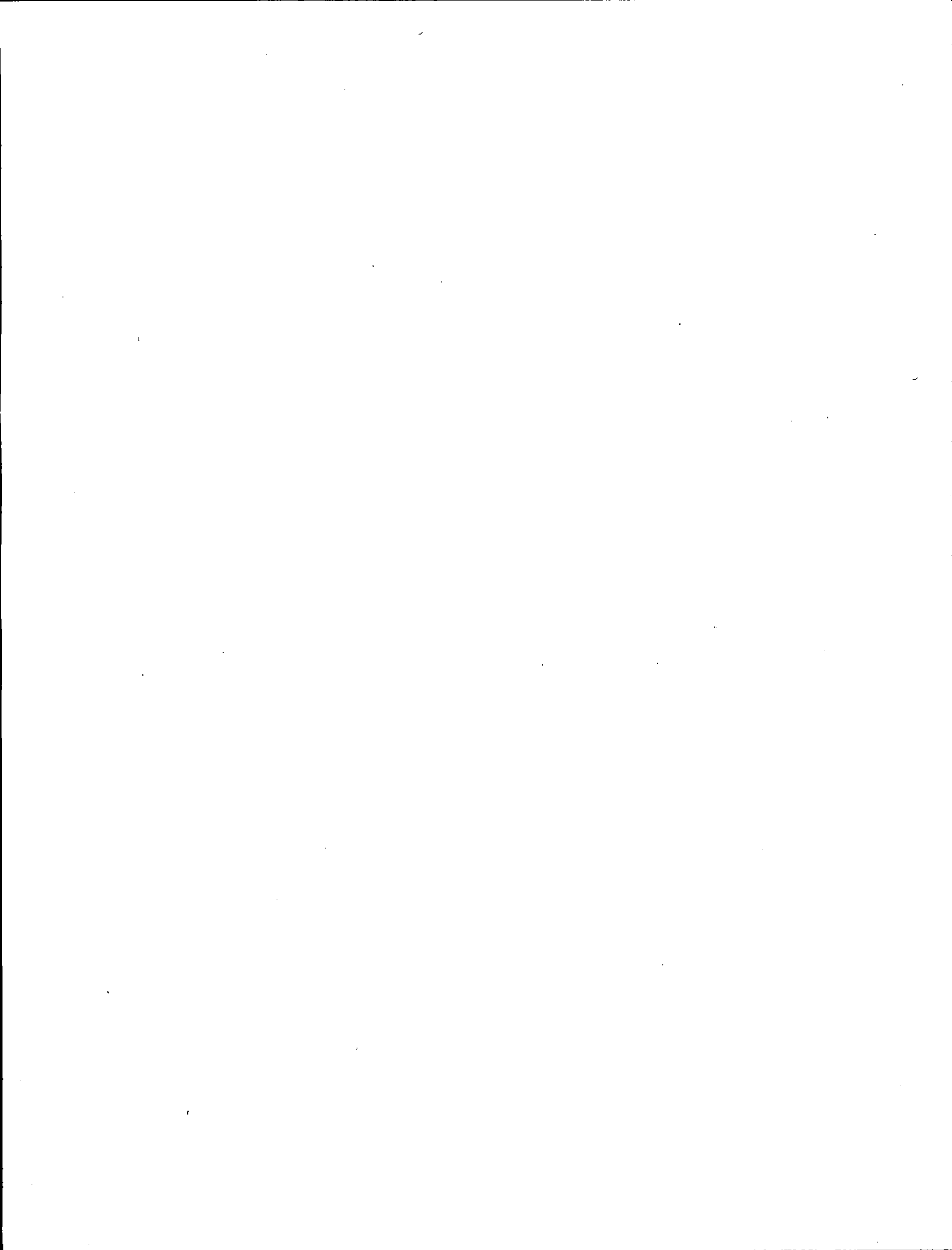
YET THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE 1948. AMERICA'S VALUES HAVEN'T.

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.

- 17 -

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.



- 18 -

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.

- 20 -

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.

- 21 -

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.

- 22 -

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.

- 23 -

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.

- 24 -

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.

- 25 -

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.

- 26 -

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.

- 27 -

BUT LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH THE THOUGHT THAT MISSISSIPPI HAS GIVEN AMERICA SOME INDELIBLE LEADERS -- IN POLITICS, JOHN STENNIS; IN PUBLISHING, EUGENE BUTLER; IN ENTERTAINMENT, COUNTRY'S JERRY CLOWER. AND, ALWAYS, YOU'VE TREASURED FAULKNER'S "VERITIES AND TRUTHS OF THE HEART."

- 28 -

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.

- 29 -

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.

#

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"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN 3060	<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

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

1989 MAY - 0 11:11
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.

First, I want to

(First, Next,)

~~Second,~~ I want ~~first~~ 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.

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 ^{*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.

→ L 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.
L This afternoon, I want to recognize those pioneering efforts.
(And to salute his great-grandson, too.

Empuse - graph 3

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.

Page 2 - sent graph

You know, I come from a State ^{where they like to sing} ~~whose official song is~~ "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You." Well, today, my friends, the eyes of America are upon ~~Jackson~~, Mississippi.

Starkville,

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 ^{who} ~~what~~ we are matters more than what we have. ^{It's a state that values} ~~You cherish~~ home and ~~people's feelings and how they grew up.~~ ^{whose people} ~~family and tradition.~~

I thought ^{of that} ~~of these 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 ^{family} ~~teachers~~ . . . they're still in shock.

~~Pinkerton~~
~~insert~~

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~~ ^{Solidifying}. China and the Middle East were rent by war. And in a Europe torn by conflicting ideologies, the Soviets were blockading West Berlin.

→ Pink. insert / My friends, it is these values that in 1948 allowed us to meet

~~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, ^{truths like} things like kindness and civility, self-sacrifice and courage, compassion and concern for others. Values which are ^{know no time, no place.} ~~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 ^{church-based child care} ~~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 ^{lively} ~~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~~ ^{more fulfilled.} 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~~ ^{prosperous, strong and free.} 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 -- ^{sickness} ~~divorce~~, 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 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."

Faulkner's "

son, ~~William Faulkner~~ termed "the old 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.

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#620

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Starkville, Mississippi)

For Immediate Release

May 13, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Thurman Field
Starkville, Mississippi

3:22 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. (Applause.) Thank all of you. Congratulations to you. Thank you all very much. President Zacharias and members of the Board of Trustees, members of the distinguished faculty, administrators, friends, soon to be graduates, I can't tell you how much I appreciate that warm Bulldog welcome. (Applause.)

Before I get too far into these remarks, I don't believe I've ever heard a more beautiful or remarkable rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner." Richard Gaddis -- (applause) -- just wonderful. And thank you all for the warmth of this welcome here today. And I am very honored and privileged to address your commencement. I was at Alcorn State, another part of this great state, earlier on. And I told them that I was reminded of my own graduation, because I could see on the faces of some of these kids the apprehension about the President coming here and how long they might have to endure the message. And I was reminded of a graduation at Yale and the speaker got up and went on and on. He finally -- at the beginning he said "Yale -- Y is for youth." He talked about that for 20 minutes. "A is for altruism." 18. "L is for Loyalty." 32 minutes. "E is for excellence." Finished his speech -- there was only one person left, head down in prayer. And the speaker said "Were you praying for those values?" He said "No, sir. I was giving thanks that I didn't go to Mississippi State University." (Laughter.)

I want to say what a great honor it is to see a long time family friend, one of the great patriots of this or any other era, the Honorable John Stennis, who resides right here on this campus. (Applause.) Judge Stennis, Senator Stennis, call him what you will. He doesn't merely hail from Mississippi. He is Mississippi. And his service to the United States of America will not be forgotten.

Now, I wondered whether we could ever fill those big shoes. But I say this not as a partisan, but as an observer of some time, as President Zacharias said of the public scene -- and you have two great United States Senators in Thad Cochran and in Trent Lott and I'm proud to be with them here today. (Applause.) And I salute the two Members of Congress that are with us today.

One of them, Congressman Montgomery and I were elected to Congress on the same day. I'm delighted he's here. His great-grandfather, Colonel W. B. Montgomery, was instrumental in rebuilding Mississippi after the war, and he played a major role in founding this university.

And so this afternoon, I want to recognize those pioneering efforts, and to salute my dear friend, the Colonel's great-grandson, your own Congressman, Sonny Montgomery. (Applause.) He always kids me that I win only when I'm wearing my Mississippi State shorts. I brought them along today with a plea: Can't we do

MORE

better than this? (Laughter.) Twenty years. If you don't do better than that by me, you're going to get this. (Laughter.)

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, MSU has made education a lasting legacy, and opportunity its bequest.

We gather, also, in a very special state -- special for its people. You realize that who we are matters more than what we have. And you value home and family and tradition and service to country. 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 own pivotal years -- the years I spent as an undergraduate.

It was 41 years ago next month that I, too, received my degree -- 1948.

In 1948, there were only 172,000 television sets owned in the entire United States of America. Milton Berle was Mr. Television, taking pies in the face. Harry Truman was Mr. President, giving 'em hell. And in many ways, it was a different America. Less congestion. Less pollution. Less high tech. Pac Man was a camper, not a video game. (Laughter.)

And we had problems, sure. At home, gas shortages and housing problems, and veterans adjusting to domestic life after World War II. Abroad, the Cold War had turned frigid. The Communist Bloc was solidifying. China and the Middle East were rent assunder by war. And in a Europe torn by conflicting ideologies, the Soviets were blockading West Berlin.

And yet, with the end of World War II, America was unified as few could have imagined. I'm sure many of you have seen that famous Life Magazine photo that captured the spirit of those 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. And I, too, felt that sense of idealism and opportunity and headed on out with Barbara -- headed out to Texas to make the most of the American Dream.

But 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. We took pride in our identity as a nation and solace in our faith in God. And 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. Yesterday at Texas A&M

in Bryant, Texas, I talked of that change, of a new policy that moves beyond containment of the Soviet Union. And the new policy seeks to bring the Soviet Union into the family of nations -- a policy, if you will, of reintegration. And, as the Soviet Union moves toward greater openness and democratization, and as they meet the challenge of responsible international behavior, we will match their steps with steps of our own. And if we succeed, the future of every graduate today is going to be safer. The world we know will be more free. We can dedicate ourselves then to helping others even more.

Yet there are some things that haven't changed since 1948. Our values haven't. We see these values everywhere -- a church-based child care center, choir practice or the PTA, and they uplift American society -- for they reflect the tenets of "Do Unto Others" -- tenets I respect, and which I will try hard to serve as President of the United States. 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.

And 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 mentioned to the graduating class at Alcorn, I will do nothing as President -- nothing at all -- to weaken our society by weakening the fundamental role of family in our society. Instead, I will do all I can to emphasize its importance and to reinforce its role.

I've been very lucky -- a wonderful wife and five great kids. They're through college. And I remember receiving letters from them, and there would always be that "P.S." at the bottom -- those three little words, "Please Send Money" -- that special bond between parents at home and kids away at school. I expect these parents have never, ever received a letter like that.

Five kids and 11 lively grandkids -- and by themselves, they could field the Bulldogs' entire pitching staff. And I understand you people with the earphones staying plugged in to the baseball game. (Laughter.) If I were sitting up there, I'd be doing exactly the same thing. (Laughter and applause.) Never say that Mississippians do not have their priorities sorted out right. (Laughter.)

But like all kids, ours provide a Rubik 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." (Laughter.)

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, caring for our neighbor.

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

The French writer Jean Cocteau 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. (Laughter.) He liked what worked. Well, so do I. Community service works. Because it's real, not abstract -- it makes achievements feasible. Compassion helps one child escape heroin addiction. Generosity allows another to eat a decent meal. And through faith in God, still another overcomes the curse of bigotry and hatred.

And that's 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 to David 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 -- Dr. Donnie -- a quadriplegic who earned his Ph.D., and who counsels handicapped students right here 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 hard and studied and struggled for four years, and now you've endured the hardest part: Listening to the commencement address. (Laughter.) And I haven't even begun. Let's see, Y,M,I,S. (Laughter.)

But let me leave you with the thought that Mississippi has given America some indelible leaders -- in politics, John Stennis; in publishing, 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.

So 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 continue to enrich the world. Good luck to each one of you. My heart-felt congratulations. May your future be worthy of your dreams. And may you always say, as I do now, God bless the United States of America. Thank you for inviting me. (Applause.) Thanks a lot.

END

3:40 P.M. CDT