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University of Nebraska 6/13/89

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McGroarty/Simon
June 11, 1989
4:00 p.m.
Draft 4

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
JUNE 13, 1989
4:00 P.M.

Thank you, Governor Orr, for those kind words. I also want to thank Dr. Peter Jenkins -- my tour guide -- who runs the Center for Engine Technology here at the University of Nebraska, and Secretaries Watkins and Yeutter for joining me today. Secretary Yeutter's a graduate of this fine school, and I'm delighted to have a Cornhusker in my Cabinet.

((I would have been here a few minutes earlier, but we've been driving around campus hunting for a parking space....))

Actually, I've just come up from Dr. Jenkins' lab. I got a short seminar on engine testing and alternative fuels -- fascinating, trail-blazing work. A real window into the future.

((And I'm a believer in alternative fuels and conservation. This winter, I'm putting windmills in Washington. Henceforth, hot air will heat the entire city.))

Let me tell you a bit about the path-breaking work I've just seen in the engine lab. They've got two cars hooked up to

emissions monitors -- one running on gasoline, the other on the new ethanol-blend they're working on. And the results are impressive. The proof's right there in the readout: the car runs cleaner on the ethanol mix.

They're confident down there. I asked about performance -- and they told me to take the car out on a test drive. Now, I don't do a lot of driving these days, so I'm not sure I'm the best judge. I enjoyed the ride -- and it's certainly got more pick-up than the 14,000 pound limo outside.

Many of you know that yesterday, I announced a sweeping set of changes to the Clean Air Act -- the first amendments to that landmark legislation in more than a decade. Whether you live in the city or the country, on a farm or near a factory -- the changes we're calling for are going to improve the quality of the air we breathe -- and therefore the quality of life for all Americans.

This is a nation rich in the majesty of nature. In the past twenty-four hours, I've seen some of the magnificent sights this great land has to offer. Nature renewing itself in Yellowstone.... The Tetons rising up, postcard-perfect, from the Wyoming plateau.... Sights like those make me all the more determined that this nation dedicate itself to the restoration and renewal of our natural heritage.

My approach is driven by a new kind of environmentalism, built on five principles: harnessing the power of technology and the marketplace; promoting state and local environmental initiatives; encouraging a common international effort; concentrating on pollution prevention; and strict enforcement of environmental standards. Today, I want to focus on the first of these five -- on ways we can harness the power of technology in service to our environment.

The work you're doing here puts Lincoln on the leading edge of that effort. Alternative fuel is going to help us reconcile the automobile to our environment.

Right now, 81 American cities exceed Federal clean-air standards. Expanded use of alternative fuels is a key element in my plan to guarantee that 20 years from now, every American, in every city across this country, will breathe clean air.

Alternative fuels are going to help us get there. In the nine urban areas with the worst ozone pollution, we're requiring a million clean-fuel vehicles on the street per year by 1997. Our Clean Air plan also calls for cities with the worst carbon monoxide problems to use oxygenated fuels to cut emissions during peak winter months.

And our plan preserves flexibility. The urban areas targeted for clean-up can "opt out" of requirements -- provided they find other ways to make equivalent cuts in pollution levels. And although we're proposing some tough pollution control measures, we're going to develop ways to allow automobile manufacturers and fuel companies to trade "emissions reduction credits" among themselves -- so long as the overall emissions standard is met. Our goal is clean air -- and we're going to achieve it in the most efficient way possible.

I came out to the University of Nebraska to get a first-hand look at one of the clean-air technologies of tomorrow -- an alternative fuel called ETBE, made from ethanol and Nebraska corn. ((And I thought I left all the acronyms behind in Washington.)) ETBE is short for Ethyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether. ((Maybe the acronym isn't such a bad idea after all.))

ETBE isn't quite a household word -- but it may just become one, based on what I've seen today. Right now, ethanol-blend fuels account for only a fraction of America's overall gasoline consumption: about 8%. That's going to change in the years ahead. Gasohol, ETBE, and natural gas-based fuels like methanol, CNG, and MTBE: all are going to play a role in a transition to cleaner, more efficient engines.

Cutting auto exhaust is an effective avenue to cleaner air. Motor vehicles produce about two-thirds of all carbon monoxide emissions, and about 40% of all ozone pollution -- chemical threats to our environment that we have all had to live with.

We're learning every day that pollution respects no borders. There's no safe haven from the damaging long-term effect of chronic environmental abuse. **Exhaust pollution isn't just a big-city problem anymore.**

We know it's time to cut exhausts. The question is how.

We shouldn't have to choose between clean air and continued progress -- between sound ecology and sustained economic development. The answer isn't to shut off our engines and throw away our keys. **That's a horse-and-buggy solution to a 21st Century problem. We can do better than that.**

We've got to follow your lead -- push the envelope -- push forward technologies that promise cleaner fuels for the future. There is more the automobile industry can -- and will -- do. But it's time now to produce cleaner fuels our cars will burn in the future.

Let me tell you a little of what I learned down in the lab. Results so far show that gas blended with ETBE additive lowers

environmentally harmful emissions -- and increases engine performance.

That's a promising combination. Think about what that means. ETBE and other alternative fuels can help us meet more stringent air quality standards -- and strengthen our domestic energy industry at the same time.

And America must maintain energy independence. Last year, 37% of the oil America consumed was imported. So far this year, that figure's up to 40%.

That trend means trouble. We worked hard to cut our consumption of foreign oil. I won't stand by and watch our country slip back into a dangerous state of dependency -- wide open to the next oil shock.

We've got to plan for the future now. We need secure, reliable sources of energy right here at home. **Alternative fuels are an American answer.**

Take a look at ETBE. It's made from ethanol, which I've long supported -- and ethanol's made from corn, and other grains we grow in abundance. **That's good for American farmers -- and it's good for all American taxpayers,** who are now paying more than \$5 billion dollars a year in corn price supports.

Ethanol is a home-grown energy alternative. That's good for national security -- and good for our trade deficit.

And ethanol produces a fuel that burns cleaner. That's good for our environment, plain and simple.

A source of energy that's clean, abundant and made right here in the U.S.: three good reasons why ethanol and ETBE are fuels of the future.

I've got great faith in farm country. Some folks might be surprised to see the kind of work going on here -- to see Nebraska leading the way on alternative fuels. But we all know the heartland's been high-tech for a long time.

The American farmer has long been the most productive and efficient in the world. You've put food on America's table -- now you're going to help America fill up its tank.

The modern farmer is as comfortable talking about gene-splicing and biotechnology as he is taking the wheel of a tractor. You've been pioneering in agriculture for years. I'm not surprised to see you moving from agriculture to energy -- and a car that runs on corn.

((And Nebraska's going to make it work. These alternative fuels are going to take the market by storm -- like the Big Red on game day, rolling into Norman, Oklahoma.))

What you're doing here will mean cleaner air in Los Angeles and New York -- and dozens of cities in between, now plagued by smog and air pollution. That's the kind of environmental impact that can **improve the quality of life -- across America and around the world.**

And we won't stop with alternative fuels. In the future, we're going to be using other technological alternatives -- like bio-degradables in the battle against litter and waste disposal -
- to ease the threats to our environment.

Out here, there's always been a strong environmental ethic. **In this part of the country, taking care of the land is a way of life.** It's natural. That's why I know when I call on all Americans to make renewal and restoration our new environmental watchwords -- **I can count on you.**

All Nebraskans should be proud of the pioneering work being done here at the University. It's been a privilege to visit your great state, to listen and learn -- and catch a glimpse of progress in the making.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States
of America.

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of resource -- *mus*

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Shannon Ligger

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
JUNE 13, 1989
4:00 P.M.

FILE

THANK YOU, GOVERNOR ORR, FOR THOSE KIND WORDS. I
ALSO WANT TO THANK DR. PETER JENKINS -- MY TOUR GUIDE -
- WHO RUNS THE CENTER FOR ENGINE TECHNOLOGY HERE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, AND SECRETARIES WATKINS, AND
YEUTTER FOR JOINING ME TODAY.

Lujan

- 2 -

SECRETARY YEUTTER'S A GRADUATE OF THIS FINE SCHOOL, AND
I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE A CORNHUSKER IN MY CABINET.

((I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE A FEW MINUTES EARLIER, BUT
WE'VE BEEN DRIVING AROUND CAMPUS HUNTING FOR A PARKING
SPACE....))

ACTUALLY, I'VE JUST COME UP FROM DR. JENKINS' LAB.
I GOT A SHORT SEMINAR ON ENGINE TESTING AND ALTERNATIVE
FUELS -- FASCINATING, TRAIL-BLAZING WORK. A REAL
WINDOW INTO THE FUTURE.

((AND I'M A BELIEVER IN ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND CONSERVATION. THIS WINTER, I'M PUTTING WINDMILLS IN WASHINGTON. HENCEFORTH, HOT AIR WILL HEAT THE ENTIRE CITY.))

LET ME TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT THE PATH-BREAKING WORK I'VE JUST SEEN IN THE ENGINE LAB. THEY'VE GOT TWO CARS HOOKED UP TO EMISSIONS MONITORS -- ONE RUNNING ON GASOLINE, THE OTHER ON THE NEW ETHANOL-BLEND THEY'RE WORKING ON. AND THE RESULTS ARE IMPRESSIVE.

THE PROOF'S RIGHT THERE IN THE READOUT: THE CAR RUNS CLEANER ON THE ETHANOL MIX.

THEY'RE CONFIDENT DOWN THERE. I ASKED ABOUT PERFORMANCE --AND THEY TOLD ME TO TAKE THE CAR OUT ON A TEST DRIVE. NOW, I DON'T DO A LOT OF DRIVING THESE DAYS, SO I'M NOT SURE I'M THE BEST JUDGE. I ENJOYED THE RIDE -- AND IT'S CERTAINLY GOT MORE PICK-UP THAN THE 14,000 POUND LIMO OUTSIDE.

MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT YESTERDAY, I ANNOUNCED A SWEEPING SET OF CHANGES TO THE CLEAN AIR ACT -- THE FIRST AMENDMENTS TO THAT LANDMARK LEGISLATION IN MORE THAN A DECADE. WHETHER YOU LIVE IN THE CITY OR THE COUNTRY, ON A FARM OR NEAR A FACTORY -- THE CHANGES WE'RE CALLING FOR ARE GOING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE AIR WE BREATHE -- AND THEREFORE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

THIS IS A NATION RICH IN THE MAJESTY OF NATURE. IN THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, I'VE SEEN SOME OF THE MAGNIFICENT SIGHTS THIS GREAT LAND HAS TO OFFER. NATURE RENEWING ITSELF IN YELLOWSTONE.... THE TETONS RISING UP, POSTCARD-PERFECT, FROM THE WYOMING PLATEAU.... SIGHTS LIKE THOSE MAKE ME ALL THE MORE DETERMINED THAT THIS NATION DEDICATE ITSELF TO THE RESTORATION AND RENEWAL OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE.

- 7 -

MY APPROACH IS DRIVEN BY A NEW KIND OF ENVIRONMENTALISM, BUILT ON FIVE PRINCIPLES: HARNESSING THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE MARKETPLACE; PROMOTING STATE AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES; ENCOURAGING A COMMON INTERNATIONAL EFFORT; CONCENTRATING ON POLLUTION PREVENTION; AND STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS. TODAY, I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE FIRST OF THESE FIVE -- ON WAYS WE CAN HARNESS THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY IN SERVICE TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.

- 8 -

THE WORK YOU'RE DOING HERE PUTS LINCOLN ON THE LEADING EDGE OF THAT EFFORT. ALTERNATIVE FUEL IS GOING TO HELP US RECONCILE THE AUTOMOBILE TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.

RIGHT NOW, 81 AMERICAN CITIES EXCEED FEDERAL CLEAN-AIR STANDARDS. EXPANDED USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS IS A KEY ELEMENT IN MY PLAN TO GUARANTEE THAT 20 YEARS FROM NOW, EVERY AMERICAN, IN EVERY CITY ACROSS THIS COUNTRY, WILL BREATHE CLEAN AIR.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS ARE GOING TO HELP US GET THERE. IN THE NINE URBAN AREAS WITH THE WORST OZONE POLLUTION, WE'RE REQUIRING A MILLION CLEAN-FUEL VEHICLES ON THE STREET PER YEAR BY 1997. OUR CLEAN AIR PLAN ALSO CALLS FOR CITIES WITH THE WORST CARBON MONOXIDE PROBLEMS TO USE OXYGENATED FUELS TO CUT EMISSIONS DURING PEAK WINTER MONTHS.

AND OUR PLAN PRESERVES FLEXIBILITY. THE URBAN AREAS TARGETED FOR CLEAN-UP CAN "OPT OUT" OF REQUIREMENTS -- PROVIDED THEY FIND OTHER WAYS TO MAKE EQUIVALENT CUTS IN POLLUTION LEVELS. AND ALTHOUGH WE'RE PROPOSING SOME TOUGH POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES, WE'RE GOING TO DEVELOP WAYS TO ALLOW AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS AND FUEL COMPANIES TO TRADE "EMISSIONS REDUCTION CREDITS" AMONG THEMSELVES -- SO LONG AS THE OVERALL EMISSIONS STANDARD IS MET.

- 11 -

OUR GOAL IS CLEAN AIR -- AND WE'RE GOING TO ACHIEVE IT IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY POSSIBLE.

I CAME OUT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA TO GET A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT ONE OF THE CLEAN-AIR TECHNOLOGIES OF TOMORROW -- AN ALTERNATIVE FUEL CALLED ETBE, MADE FROM ETHANOL AND NEBRASKA CORN. ((AND I THOUGHT I LEFT ALL THE ACRONYMS BEHIND IN WASHINGTON.)) ETBE IS SHORT FOR ETHYL TERTIARY-BUTYL ETHER. ((MAYBE THE ACRONYM ISN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL.))

- 12 -

ETBE ISN'T QUITE A HOUSEHOLD WORD -- BUT IT MAY JUST BECOME ONE, BASED ON WHAT I'VE SEEN TODAY. RIGHT NOW, ETHANOL-BLEND FUELS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY A FRACTION OF AMERICA'S OVERALL GASOLINE CONSUMPTION: ABOUT 8%. THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE IN THE YEARS AHEAD. GASOHOL, ETBE, AND NATURAL GAS-BASED FUELS LIKE METHANOL, CNG, AND MTBE: ALL ARE GOING TO PLAY A ROLE IN A TRANSITION TO CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT ENGINES.

CUTTING AUTO EXHAUST IS AN EFFECTIVE AVENUE TO CLEANER AIR. MOTOR VEHICLES PRODUCE ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF ALL CARBON MONOXIDE EMISSIONS, AND ABOUT 40% OF ALL OZONE POLLUTION -- CHEMICAL THREATS TO OUR ENVIRONMENT THAT WE HAVE ALL HAD TO LIVE WITH.

WE'RE LEARNING EVERY DAY THAT POLLUTION RESPECTS NO BORDERS. THERE'S NO SAFE HAVEN FROM THE DAMAGING LONG-TERM EFFECT OF CHRONIC ENVIRONMENTAL ABUSE. EXHAUST POLLUTION ISN'T JUST A BIG-CITY PROBLEM ANYMORE.

WE KNOW IT'S TIME TO CUT EXHAUSTS. THE QUESTION IS HOW.

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN CLEAN AIR AND CONTINUED PROGRESS -- BETWEEN SOUND ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE ANSWER ISN'T TO SHUT OFF OUR ENGINES AND THROW AWAY OUR KEYS. THAT'S A HORSE-AND-BUGGY SOLUTION TO A 21ST CENTURY PROBLEM. WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.

- 15 -

WE'VE GOT TO FOLLOW YOUR LEAD -- PUSH THE ENVELOPE -- PUSH FORWARD TECHNOLOGIES THAT PROMISE CLEANER FUELS FOR THE FUTURE. THERE IS MORE THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY CAN -- AND WILL -- DO. BUT IT'S TIME NOW TO PRODUCE CLEANER FUELS OUR CARS WILL BURN IN THE FUTURE.

- 16 -

LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE OF WHAT I LEARNED DOWN IN THE LAB. RESULTS SO FAR SHOW THAT GAS BLENDED WITH ETBE ADDITIVE LOWERS ENVIRONMENTALLY HARMFUL EMISSIONS -- AND INCREASES ENGINE PERFORMANCE.

THAT'S A PROMISING COMBINATION. THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS. ETBE AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE FUELS CAN HELP US MEET MORE STRINGENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS -- AND STRENGTHEN OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY INDUSTRY AT THE SAME TIME.

AND AMERICA MUST MAINTAIN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

LAST YEAR, 37% OF THE OIL AMERICA CONSUMED WAS IMPORTED. SO FAR THIS YEAR, THAT FIGURE'S UP TO 40%.

THAT TREND MEANS TROUBLE. WE WORKED HARD TO CUT OUR CONSUMPTION OF FOREIGN OIL. I WON'T STAND BY AND WATCH OUR COUNTRY SLIP BACK INTO A DANGEROUS STATE OF DEPENDENCY -- WIDE OPEN TO THE NEXT OIL SHOCK.

WE'VE GOT TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE NOW. WE NEED SECURE, RELIABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY RIGHT HERE AT HOME. ALTERNATIVE FUELS ARE AN AMERICAN ANSWER.

TAKE A LOOK AT ETBE. IT'S MADE FROM ETHANOL, WHICH I'VE LONG SUPPORTED -- AND ETHANOL'S MADE FROM CORN, AND OTHER GRAINS WE GROW IN ABUNDANCE. THAT'S GOOD FOR AMERICAN FARMERS -- AND IT'S GOOD FOR ALL AMERICAN TAXPAYERS, WHO ARE NOW PAYING MORE THAN \$5 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR IN CORN PRICE SUPPORTS.

ETHANOL IS A HOME-GROWN ENERGY ALTERNATIVE. THAT'S GOOD FOR NATIONAL SECURITY -- AND GOOD FOR OUR TRADE DEFICIT.

AND ETHANOL PRODUCES A FUEL THAT BURNS CLEANER. THAT'S GOOD FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

A SOURCE OF ENERGY THAT'S CLEAN, ABUNDANT AND MADE RIGHT HERE IN THE U.S.: THREE GOOD REASONS WHY ETHANOL AND ETBE ARE FUELS OF THE FUTURE.

I'VE GOT GREAT FAITH IN FARM COUNTRY. SOME FOLKS MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO SEE THE KIND OF WORK GOING ON HERE -- TO SEE NEBRASKA LEADING THE WAY ON ALTERNATIVE FUELS. BUT WE ALL KNOW THE HEARTLAND'S BEEN HIGH-TECH FOR A LONG TIME.

THE AMERICAN FARMER HAS LONG BEEN THE MOST PRODUCTIVE AND EFFICIENT IN THE WORLD. YOU'VE PUT FOOD ON AMERICA'S TABLE -- NOW YOU'RE GOING TO HELP AMERICA FILL UP ITS TANK.

THE MODERN FARMER IS AS COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT GENE-SPLICING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY AS HE IS TAKING THE WHEEL OF A TRACTOR. YOU'VE BEEN PIONEERING IN AGRICULTURE FOR YEARS. I'M NOT SURPRISED TO SEE YOU MOVING FROM AGRICULTURE TO ENERGY -- AND A CAR THAT RUNS ON CORN.

((AND NEBRASKA'S GOING TO MAKE IT WORK. THESE ALTERNATIVE FUELS ARE GOING TO TAKE THE MARKET BY STORM -- LIKE THE BIG RED ON GAME DAY, ROLLING INTO NORMAN, OKLAHOMA.))

WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE WILL MEAN CLEANER AIR IN LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK -- AND DOZENS OF CITIES IN BETWEEN, NOW PLAGUED BY SMOG AND AIR POLLUTION. THAT'S THE KIND OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THAT CAN IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE -- ACROSS AMERICA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

AND WE WON'T STOP WITH ALTERNATIVE FUELS. IN THE FUTURE, WE'RE GOING TO BE USING OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES -- LIKE BIO-DEGRADABLES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST LITTER AND WASTE DISPOSAL -- TO EASE THE THREATS TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.

OUT HERE, THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC. IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY, TAKING CARE OF THE LAND IS A WAY OF LIFE. IT'S NATURAL.

THAT'S WHY I KNOW WHEN I CALL ON ALL AMERICANS TO MAKE RENEWAL AND RESTORATION OUR NEW ENVIRONMENTAL WATCHWORDS -- I CAN COUNT ON YOU.

ALL NEBRASKANS SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE PIONEERING WORK BEING DONE HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY. IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO VISIT YOUR GREAT STATE, TO LISTEN AND LEARN -- AND CATCH A GLIMPSE OF PROGRESS IN THE MAKING.

THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

06/09/89

89 JUN 9 16:45

DATE: _____ ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
(06/09 12:00 noon draft 3)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been attached to the President.

RESPONSE:

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



24: 42 a 00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 9, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*

FROM: DANIEL Mc GROARTY *Dmg*

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA REMARKS

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, June 13, 1989, you will speak at the University of Nebraska, in Lincoln. Your speech takes place in the University's sports arena, to an audience of approximately 8000 students and citizens of Lincoln. Prior to your speech, you will tour the University's Engine Test Lab and receive a briefing on its alternative fuels research program. You will also test drive a car powered by ETBE-ethanol, a promising alternative fuel developed in the Engine Lab.

II. DISCUSSION

This event follows the introduction of your Clean Air package on Monday. It provides a forum to focus on the contribution alternative fuels can make to clean air, and the power of technology in improving our environment. The bracketed section on page 3 will be completed when final decisions on the Clean Air initiatives related to alternative fuels have been made.

McGroarty/Simon
June 9, 1989
12:00 noon
Draft 3

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
JUNE 13, 1989
4:00 P.M.

Thank you, Governor Orr, for those kind words. I also want to thank Dr. Peter Jenkins -- my tour guide -- who runs the Center for Engine Technology here at the University of Nebraska, and Secretaries Watkins and Yeutter for joining me today. Secretary Yeutter's a graduate of this fine school, and I'm delighted to have a Cornhusker in my Cabinet.

((I would have been here a few minutes earlier, but we've been driving around campus hunting for a parking space....))

Actually, I've just come up from Dr. Jenkins' lab. I got a short seminar on engine testing and alternative fuels -- fascinating, trail-blazing work. A real window into the future.

((And I'm a believer in alternative fuels. When you've seen how much mileage some folks get on hot air in Washington, that's all the proof you'll ever need.))

Let me tell you a bit about the path-breaking work I've just seen in the engine lab. They've got two cars hooked up to

emissions monitors -- one running on gasoline, the other on the new ethanol-blend they're working on. And the results are impressive. The proof's right there in the readout: the car runs cleaner on the ethanol mix.

They're confident down there. I asked about performance -- and they told me to take the car out on a test drive. Now, I don't do a lot of driving these days, so I'm not sure I'm the best judge. I enjoyed the ride -- and it's certainly got more pick-up than my 14,000 pound limo.

Many of you know that yesterday, I announced a sweeping set of changes to the Clean Air Act -- the first amendments to that landmark legislation in more than a decade. Whether you live in the city or the country, on a farm or near a factory -- the changes we're calling for are going to improve the quality of the air we breathe -- and therefore the quality of life for all Americans.

This is a nation rich in the majesty of nature. In the past twenty-four hours, I've seen some of the magnificent sights this great land has to offer. Nature renewing itself in Yellowstone.... The Tetons rising up, postcard-perfect, from the Wyoming plateau.... Sights like those make me all the more determined that this nation dedicate itself to the restoration and renewal of our natural heritage.

My approach is driven by a new kind of environmentalism, built on five principles: harnessing the power of technology and the marketplace; promoting state and local environmental initiatives; encouraging a common international effort; concentrating on pollution prevention; and strict enforcement of environmental standards. Today, I want to focus on the first of these five -- on ways we can harness the power of technology in service to our environment.

The work you're doing here puts Lincoln on the leading edge of that effort. [Our Clean Air package promotes expanded use of alternative fuel technology.... Section listing alternative fuel elements/initiatives in Clean Air legislation.]

I came out to the University of Nebraska to get a first-hand look at one of the technologies of tomorrow -- an alternative fuel called ETBE, made from ethanol and Nebraska corn. ((And I thought I left all the acronyms behind in Washington.)) ETBE is short for Ethyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether. ((Maybe the acronym isn't such a bad idea after all.))

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ahead. Gasohol, ETBE, and natural gas-based fuels like methanol, CNG, and MTBE: all are going to play a role in a transition to cleaner, more efficient engines.

Cutting auto exhaust is an effective avenue to cleaner air. Roughly half of all air pollution is caused by vehicle emissions. Exhaust contributes to acid rain and increased ozone emissions -- chemical threats to our environment that we will all have to live with.

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it's time now to produce cleaner fuels our cars will burn in the future.

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Ethanol is a home-grown energy alternative. That's good for national security -- and good for our trade deficit.

And ethanol produces a fuel that burns cleaner. That's good for our environment, plain and simple.

A source of energy that's clean, abundant and made right here in the U.S.: three good reasons why ethanol and ETBE are fuels of the future.

I've got great faith in farm country. Some folks might be surprised to see the kind of work going on here -- to see Nebraska leading the way on alternative fuels. But we all know the heartland's been high-tech for a long time.

The American farmer has long been the most productive and efficient in the world. You've put food on America's table -- now you're going to help America fill up its tank.

The modern farmer is as comfortable talking about gene-splicing and biotechnology as he is taking the wheel of a tractor. You've been pioneering in agriculture for years. I'm not surprised to see you moving from agriculture to energy -- and a car that runs on corn.

((And Nebraska's going to make it work. These ethanol fuels are going to take the market by storm -- like the Big Red on game day, rolling into Norman, Oklahoma.))

What you're doing here could mean cleaner air in Los Angeles and New York -- and dozens of other cities in between, now plagued by smog and air pollution. That's the kind of environmental impact that can change the quality of life across America -- and perhaps around the world as well.

Out here, there's always been a strong environmental ethic. Taking care of the land is a way of life. It's natural. That's why I know I can count on you when I call on all Americans to make renewal and restoration our new environmental watchwords.

All Nebraskans should be proud of the pioneering work being done here at the University. It's been a privilege to visit your great state, to listen and learn -- and catch a glimpse of progress in the making.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States
of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIRSS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: ROBERT J. PORTMAN 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: University of Nebraska

Pursuant to your request today, Counsel's Office has reviewed the attached draft Presidential Remarks to be delivered at the University of Nebraska.

As I discussed with your office earlier today, we have a number of specific comments, all of which are indicated on the attached document. As a general matter, we believe the President should not place undue emphasis on a single alternative fuel technology. We believe that our suggestions on page 5 which would substitute "ethanol" for "ETBE" in certain references is important in broadening the President's expression of interest and support.

Finally, as we have discussed with your Office this afternoon, we would suggest that these remarks be reviewed by the EPC Alternative Fuels Working Group, which is chaired by John Robson, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. (I understand the Office of Cabinet Affairs may have already coordinated such a review).

Thank you for bringing these remarks to our attention and please contact the Counsel's Office with any questions.

cc: James W. Cicconi

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN McGROARTY

FROM

COOPER EVANS

CE

SUBJECT

COMMENTS ON DRAFT OF PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH
IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

The draft speech is excellent. I have only three comments:

- * In the first paragraph on page 3, the term is " Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether." This is more commonly used than your Ethyl Tert-Butyl Ether.
- * In the alternative fuels industry, and among farmers, there is a difference of opinion over the relative merits of ethanol and ETBE. I suggest adding a few words about ethanol, rather than focusing entirely on ETBE.
- * Ethanol is subject to steep import duties, but due to peculiarities in our laws, ETBE, with ethanol as a large component, is not. There is great concern about this around the country, because without the import duty, increased use of ETBE would encourage the import of foreign ethanol. The President's remarks do not allude to this problem. I am not sure that they should, but you and the President should know that questions along these lines will be asked.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: University of Nebraska


We have reviewed the draft remarks for the President's address at the University of Nebraska. In general, they are positive and optimistic. A good tone.

Our substantive comments revolve around the section dealing with the reasons for our advocacy of alternative fuels. Our strongest argument is that alternative fuels will enhance the quality of our environment by furthering cleaner air and reducing air toxics.

The argument that this will enhance our energy security is a more difficult one to make since cleaner fuels, such as methanol and ethanol, may rely heavily on imports of natural gas. Natural gas reserves in the world, about two-thirds of those known to exist now, are concentrated in the Persian Gulf and the Soviet Union.

The statement at the bottom of page four that this program could strengthen our domestic energy industry is true in one sense, but the petroleum industry would take issue with such a statement.

We recommend eliminating the last part of the last sentence, following the -- mark.

We also recommend adding a sentence at the top of page five. After the sentence which reads: "And American must maintain energy independence," we recommend adding: "This program could reduce America's reliance on imported oil." 

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/8/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

	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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DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by Close of Business TODAY, Thursday, June 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE: _____

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



1989 JUN -8 PM 12:52

McGroarty/Simon
June 8, 1989
12:00 noon
Draft 2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
JUNE 13, 1989
4:00 P.M.

→ These comments
were made immediately
following a meeting
Porter had with
the President.

[Introductory remarks, acknowledgements: Governor Kay Orr, Dr. Peter Jenkins, Director of University of Nebraska Center for Engine Technology, others....]

((I would have been here a few minutes earlier, but we've been driving around campus hunting for a parking space....))

Actually, I've just come up from Dr. Jenkins' lab. I got a short seminar on engine testing and alternative fuels -- fascinating, trail-blazing work. A real window into the future.

((And I'm a believer in alternative fuels. When you've seen how much mileage some folks get on hot air in Washington, that's all the proof you'll ever need.))

Down in the lab, they're getting results. They've got two cars hooked up to emissions monitors -- one running on gasoline, the other on the new ethanol-blend they're working on. The proof's right there in the readout -- how much cleaner the car runs on the ethanol mix.

[They're confident down there. I asked about performance -- and they told me to take the car out on a test drive. Now, I don't do a lot of driving these days, so I'm not sure I'm the best judge. I thought the car rode real well -- and it's certainly got more pick-up than my 14,000 pound limo.]

All of you know that yesterday, I announced a sweeping set of changes to the Clean Air Act -- the first amendments to that landmark legislation in more than a decade. Whether you live in the city or the country, on a farm or near a factory -- the changes we're calling for are going to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

This is a nation rich in the majesty of nature. In the past twenty-four hours, I've seen some of the magnificent sights this great land has to offer. Nature renewing itself in Yellowstone.... The Tetons rising up, postcard-perfect, from the Wyoming plateau.... Sights like those make me all the more determined that this nation dedicate itself to the restoration and renewal of our natural heritage.

The work you're doing here puts Lincoln on the leading edge of this renewed national effort to preserve our environment. [Our Clean Air package promotes expanded use of alternative fuel

technology.... Section listing elements/amendments in Clean Air legislation.]

I came out to the University of Nebraska to get a first-hand look at one of the technologies of tomorrow -- an alternative fuel called ETBE. ((And I thought I left all the acronyms behind in Washington.)) That's short for Ethyl Tert-Butyl Ether. ((Maybe the acronym isn't such a bad idea after all.))

ETBE isn't quite a household word -- but it may just become one, based on what I've seen today. Right now, ethanol-blend fuels account for only a fraction of America's overall gasoline consumption: about 8%. That's going to change in the years ahead. Gasahol, ETBE, MTBE -- an additive produced from natural gas: all are going to play a role in a transition to cleaner, more efficient engines.

Cutting auto exhaust is the quickest way to cleaner air. Roughly half of all air pollution is caused by vehicle emissions. Exhaust contributes to acid rain and increased ozone emissions -- chemical threats to our environment that we will all have to live with.

We're learning every day that pollution respects no borders. There's no safe haven from the damaging long-term affect of

chronic environmental abuse. Exhaust pollution isn't just a big-city problem anymore.

We know it's time to cut exhausts. The question is how.

We shouldn't have to choose between clean air and continued progress -- between sound ecology and sustained economic development. The answer isn't to shut off our engines and throw away our keys. That's a horse-and-buggy solution to a 21st Century problem. We can do better than that.

We've got to follow your lead -- push the envelope -- push forward technologies that promise cleaner fuels for the future.

Let me tell you a little of what I learned down in the lab. Results so far show that gas blended with ETBE additive lowers environmentally harmful emissions -- and increases engine performance.

That's a promising combination. Think about what that means. ETBE and other alternative fuels can help us meet more stringent air quality standards -- and strengthen our domestic energy industry at the same time.

And America must maintain energy independence. Last year, 37% of the oil America consumed was imported. So far this year that figure's up to 40%.

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That trend means trouble. We worked hard to cut our consumption of foreign oil. I won't stand by and watch our country slip back into a dangerous state of dependency -- wide open to the next oil shock.

We've got to plan for the future now. We need secure, reliable sources of energy right here at home. **Alternative fuels are an American answer.**

Take a look at ETBE. It's made from corn, and other grains we grow in abundance. **That's good for American farmers -- and it's good for all American taxpayers,** who are now paying more than \$5 billion dollars a year in corn price supports.

ETBE is a home-grown energy alternative. **That's good for national security -- and good for our trade deficit.**

And ETBE produces a fuel that burns cleaner. **That's good for our environment, plain and simple.**

A source of energy that's clean, abundant and made right here in the U.S.: I can see why the state of Nebraska saw an

entrepreneurial opportunity in ETBE, and entered a joint venture to develop this technology with private investors.

I've got great faith in farm country. Some folks might be surprised to see the kind of work going on here -- to see Nebraska leading the way on alternative fuels. But we all know the heartland's been high-tech for a long time.

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Out here, there's always been a strong environmental ethic. Taking care of the land is a way of life. It's natural. That's

why I know I can count on you when I call on all Americans to make renewal and restoration our new environmental watchwords.

All Nebraskans should be proud of the pioneering work being done here at the University. It's been a privilege to visit your great state, to listen and learn -- and catch a glimpse of progress in the making.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/8/89 88 JUN 9 10:17 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

	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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BREEDEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS: Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by Close of Business TODAY, Thursday, June 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE: *Ok C/SW C/S*

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

11:8A 8 JUL 68

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/8/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: (COB TODAY) 5:30

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>Brad Mitchell on the way 6:55pm</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS: Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by Close of Business TODAY, Thursday, June 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE: _____

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



1989 JUN - 8 PM 12:50

McGroarty/Simon
June 8, 1989
12:00 noon
Draft 2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
JUNE 13, 1989
4:00 P.M.

[Introductory remarks, acknowledgements: Governor Kay Orr, Dr. Peter Jenkins, Director of University of Nebraska Center for Engine Technology, others....]

((I would have been here a few minutes earlier, but we've been driving around campus hunting for a parking space....))

Actually, I've just come up from Dr. Jenkins' lab. I got a short seminar on engine testing and alternative fuels -- fascinating, trail-blazing work. A real window into the future.

((And I'm a believer in alternative fuels. When you've seen how much mileage some folks get on hot air in Washington, that's all the proof you'll ever need.))

Down in the lab, they're getting results. They've got two cars hooked up to emissions monitors -- one running on gasoline, the other on the new ethanol-blend they're working on. The proof's right there in the readout -- how much cleaner the car runs on the ethanol mix.

[They're confident down there. I asked about performance -- and they told me to take the car out on a test drive. Now, I don't do a lot of driving these days, so I'm not sure I'm the best judge. I thought the car rode real well -- and it's certainly got more pick-up than my 14,000 pound limo.]

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This is a nation rich in the majesty of nature. In the past twenty-four hours, I've seen some of the magnificent sights this great land has to offer. Nature renewing itself in Yellowstone.... The Tetons rising up, postcard-perfect, from the Wyoming plateau.... Sights like those make me all the more determined that this nation dedicate itself to the restoration and renewal of our natural heritage.

The work you're doing here puts Lincoln on the leading edge of this renewed national effort to preserve our environment. [Our Clean Air package promotes expanded use of alternative fuel

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I came out to the University of Nebraska to get a first-hand look at one of the technologies of tomorrow -- an alternative fuel called ETBE. ((And I thought I left all the acronyms behind in Washington.)) That's short for Ethyl ^{Tertiary-}~~Tert~~-Butyl Ether. ←
 ((Maybe the acronym isn't such a bad idea after all.))

ETBE isn't quite a household word -- but it may just become one, based on what I've seen today. Right now, ethanol-blend fuels account for only a fraction of America's overall gasoline consumption: about 8%. That's going to change in the years ahead. Gasahol, ETBE, MTBE -- an additive produced from natural gas: all are going to play a role in a transition to cleaner, more efficient engines.

Cutting auto exhaust is the quickest way to cleaner air.
Roughly half of all air pollution is caused by vehicle emissions.
 Exhaust contributes to acid rain and increased ozone emissions -- chemical threats to our environment that we will all have to live with.

We're learning every day that pollution respects no borders. There's no safe haven from the damaging long-term ^{e/}effect of ← X

chronic environmental abuse. Exhaust pollution isn't just a big-city problem anymore.

We know it's time to cut exhausts. The question is how.

We shouldn't have to choose between clean air and continued progress -- between sound ecology and sustained economic development. The answer isn't to shut off our engines and throw away our keys. That's a horse-and-buggy solution to a 21st Century problem. We can do better than that.

We've got to follow your lead -- push the envelope -- push forward technologies that promise cleaner fuels for the future.

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That's a promising combination. Think about what that means. ETBE and other alternative fuels can help us meet more stringent air quality standards -- and strengthen our domestic energy industry at the same time.

And America must maintain energy independence. Last year, 37% of the oil America consumed was imported. So far this year, that figure's up to 40%.

*(pointer)
↓
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That trend means trouble. We worked hard to cut our consumption of foreign oil. I won't stand by and watch our country slip back into a dangerous state of dependency -- wide open to the next oil shock.

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Out here, there's always been a strong environmental ethic. Taking care of the land is a way of life. It's natural. That's

why I know I can count on you when I call on all Americans to make renewal and restoration our new environmental watchwords.

All Nebraskans should be proud of the pioneering work being done here at the University. It's been a privilege to visit your great state, to listen and learn -- and catch a glimpse of progress in the making.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Lincoln, Nebraska)

For Immediate Release

June 13, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Bob Devaney Sports Center
Lincoln, Nebraska

3:25 P.M. (CDT)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. (Applause.) Thank you very, very much. Kay, Governor Orr, thank you so much. Thank all of you -- Governor Orr, distinguished leader of this state, for those kind words, that warm introduction. My thanks also to Dr. Roskens, Chancellor Massengale, Chairperson Hoke, and all the other officials at this wonderful institution. And I also want to thank Dr. Peter Jenkins, my tour guide, who runs the Center for Engine Technology here at the University of Nebraska. And also my special thanks to three members of my Cabinet, Secretary Watkins, Secretary Lujan, and Secretary Clayton Yeutter, for joining me here today.

I hope that this symbolizes to all of you the importance that we place not just on the research that's going on here at the University, at this wonderful University, but the importance of agriculture and Nebraska -- the two go together. And we're here to salute you. (Applause.)

And Secretary Yeutter, as we've heard, is a graduate of this fine school, and let me put it this way -- I'm delighted to have a Cornhusker in my Cabinet. (Applause.)

And we have several members of Congress traveling with me today -- your own Doug Bereuter is here, Congressman from Nebraska, someplace over here. (Applause.) And then three Wyoming officials, Senator Wallop, Senator Alan Simpson, and Congressman Craig Thomas over here. Maybe they'd stand up. (Applause.)

And lastly, I'd like to thank the band, the Air Force Band from Offet -- first-class music. Anybody who can keep you all awake for two hours must have something going for them. So thank you, sir, thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you so much for being with us.

I would have made it here a few minutes earlier, but we've been driving around looking for a parking place. (Laughter.) Actually, I've come from Dr. Jenkins' lab, where I got a short seminar on engine testing and alternative fuels -- fascinating, trail-blazing work. You can't help but

performance and they told me to take a car out on a test drive. I don't do a lot of driving these days, so I'm not sure that I'm the best judge. But I enjoyed the ride. And it had a lot of pickup, certainly got more pickup than the 14,000-pound limousine sitting outside this place. (Laughter.)

Many of you know that yesterday I announced some sweeping changes to the Clean Air Act -- the first amendments to that landmark legislation in more than a decade. And whether you live in the city, or in the country, or on a farm, or near a factory -- the changes that we're calling for are going to improve the quality of the air we breathe and, therefore, the quality of life for all Americans. (Applause.)

This is a nation rich in the majesty of nature. In the past 24 hours, I've seen some of the magnificent sights that this great land has to offer. Nature renewing itself in Yellowstone after those devastating fires. The Tetons rising up, postcard-perfect, from the Wyoming plateau. Sights like those make me all the more determined that this nation dedicate itself to the restoration and renewal of our natural heritage.

My approach is driven by a new kind of environmentalism, built on five principles: harnessing the power of technology and the marketplace; promoting state and local environmental initiatives; encouraging a common international effort; concentrating on pollution prevention; and strict enforcement of environmental standards. Today, I want to focus on the first of these five -- on ways that we can harness the power of technology in service to our environment.

The work you're doing here puts Lincoln on the leading edge of that effort. Alternative fuel is going to help us reconcile the automobile to our environment.

And right now, 81 American cities exceed federal clean air standards. Expanded use of alternative fuels is a key element in my plan to guarantee that 20 years from now, every American, in every city across this country, will breathe clean air. (Applause.)

Alternative fuels are going to help us get there. In the nine urban areas with the worst ozone pollution, we're requiring a million clean-fuel vehicles on the street by the year 1997. Our clean air plan also calls for cities with the worst carbon monoxide problems to use oxygenated fuels to cut emissions during peak winter months.

And our plan preserves flexibility. The urban areas targeted for cleanup can opt out of requirements -- provided they find other ways to make equivalent cuts in pollution levels. And although we're proposing some tough pollution control measures, we're going to develop ways to allow automobile manufacturers and fuel companies to trade emissions reduction credits among themselves -- so long as the overall emissions standard is met. And our goal -- clean air -- and we're going to achieve it in the most efficient way possible, but make no mistake about it, we are going to achieve our goal. (Applause.)

transition to cleaner, more efficient engines.

Cutting auto exhaust is an effective avenue to cleaner air. Motor vehicles produce about two-thirds of all the carbon monoxide emissions, and about 40 percent of all ozone pollution -- chemical threats to our environment that we have all had to live with.

And we're learning every day that pollution respects no borders. There's no safe haven from the damaging long-term effect of chronic environmental abuse. Exhaust pollution isn't just a big city problem anymore. We know it's time to cut exhausts, and the question then is how?

We shouldn't have to choose -- in this great country of ours we shouldn't have to choose between clean air and continued progress, between sound ecology and sustained economic growth. The answer isn't to shut off our engines and throw away our keys. That's a horse-and-buggy solution to a 21st century problem. And we can do better than that.

We've got to follow your lead -- push the envelope -- push forward technologies that promise cleaner fuels for the future. And there is more the automobile industry can -- and will -- do. But it's time now to produce cleaner fuels our cars will burn in the future.

Let me tell you just a little of what I learned in your lab. Results so far show that gas blended with ETBE additive lowers environmentally harmful emissions and increases engine performance. That's a promising combination. Think about what that means. ETBE and other alternative fuels can help us meet more stringent air quality standards -- and strengthen our domestic energy industry at the same time.

And America must work towards energy independence. You know, last year 37 percent of the oil that America consumed was imported, and so far this year, that figure's up to 40 percent.

And that trend means trouble. We worked hard to cut our consumption of foreign oil. And I will not stand by and watch our country slip back into a dangerous state of dependency -- wide open to the next oil shock from some country halfway around the world. We're not going to do that in this country. (Applause.) We've got to plan for the future now. We need secure, reliable sources of energy right here at home. Alternative fuels are an American answer.

And take a look at ETBE. It's made from ethanol, which I've long supported -- and ethanol's made from corn and other grains we grow in abundance. And that's good for American farmers -- and it's good for all American taxpayers who are now paying more than \$5 billion a year in corn price supports.

Ethanol is a home-grown energy alternative. And that's good for national security -- and that's good for our trade deficit. (Applause.) And ethanol produces a fuel that burns cleaner. And that's good for our environment, just plain and simple -- good for our environment. A source of energy that's clean, abundant, and right here at home.

The modern farmer is as comfortable talking about gene-splicing and biotechnology as he is taking the wheel off a tractor. You've been pioneering in agriculture for years. And I'm not surprised to see you moving from agriculture to energy -- and a car that runs on corn.

And Nebraska's going to make it work. These alternative fuels are going to take the market by storm. Kind of like the Big Red rolling into Norman, Oklahoma. (Applause.) You know, what you're doing here will mean cleaner air in Los Angeles and New York -- and dozens of cities in between now plagued by smog and air pollution. And that's the kind of environmental impact that can improve the quality of life -- across America and around the world.

And we won't stop with alternative fuels. In the future, we're going to be using other technological alternatives -- like biodegradables in the battle against litter and waste disposal -- to ease the threats to our environment.

Out here there's always been a strong environmental ethic. In this part of the country, taking care of the land is a way of life. It's natural. And that's why I know when I call on all Americans to make renewal and restoration our new environmental watchwords, I can count on you. (Applause.)

So let me say to all of you here today in this magnificent auditorium, stadium, area of combat -- (laughter) -- all Nebraskans should be proud of the pioneer work being done here at this great University. (Applause.) It's been a privilege for me as President of the United States to visit this great state, to listen, to learn, to catch a glimpse of progress in the making.

And for those of you in the overflow room and those along the streets from the airport into the city, let me thank you for that warm Nebraska welcome. I'll never forget it. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

3:43 P.M. CDT