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# FOIA MARKER

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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13491  
**Folder ID Number:** 13491-002

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**Folder Title:**  
President's Dinner 6/14/89 [2]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Davis/Martin  
June 13, 1989/4 p.m.  
Title: Pdinner  
Draft: Five

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: PRESIDENT'S DINNER, WASH. CONVENTION CTR.  
June 14, 1989/9:20 p.m.

Thank you, Senator Nickles for that introduction and the great job you're doing as head of the Senate campaign committee. Mrs. Quayle, Marilyn, it's a delight to be with you on this excellent evening. Welcome back Dan, from Central America, and thank you for once again taking our message of democracy and hope to our important friends and neighbors. David Murdock, thank you for your dedication in making this event possible. Guy Vander Jagt, able chairman of the House campaign committee, it's great to see you.

As you have heard, this room is divided into four quadrants, depicting the regions of the United States -- North, South, East and West. ((Does this mean if I move down a few chairs I'll be standing in Texas?))

((And by the way, did you hear that I just returned from Nebraska, where I drove a car that runs on alcohol? . . . Don't get me wrong, only cars are allowed to drink and drive.))

THE WHITE HOUSE  
2  
WASHINGTON

((I also understand that Ronald Reagan has just been knighted in London, but that he will not be called "Sir Ron." And to think, that's what I called him for eight years.))

((In all candor, I believe Ronald Reagan's knighthood just goes to show one thing -- **you don't have to be born noble to be noble.**)) ((PAUSE))

It was at the last President's Dinner that Ronald Reagan, then the fortieth President of the United States, stood before us and formally declared his support for a successor. Since then, Ronald Reagan has returned to his beloved California. And you and I have fought shoulder to shoulder, battling our way from 17 points behind **to a 40-state win on Election Day.** ((PAUSE))

((And we would have won all 50 states if only Millie had had her puppies six months earlier.))

But we didn't fight the battle we fought, we didn't put ourselves and our families through the turmoil of a campaign, just to win an election. We fought because we believed in certain ideas and certain ideals. We fought because we believed **that together we can build a better America.**

The American people defined our mission. And in the five months since the Inaugural, without fanfare or partisan furor, we

THE WHITE HOUSE  
3  
WASHINGTON

have worked together to quietly follow our assigned mission, to achieve what was considered to be outlandishly impossible.

\*\*\* The American people want action on the deficit. And we reached an agreement with Congress to reduce the deficit **by a whopping \$65 billion.** ((PAUSE)) And we aim to achieve this without raising taxes. ((PAUSE))

\*\*\* The American people want action on a festering problem -- the hemorrhage of the Savings and Loan System. Our reform plan will restore stability, eliminate unsafe and extravagant practices, and punish those who abuse the trust of depositors. The American people will have to pay billions of dollars to clean up this mess, and we must make sure it **never** happens again. The Senate approved our plan 91 to 8. **I call on the House to follow suit.**

\*\*\* The American people want action on ethics. Clearly, it is time for an even-handed ethics approach across all branches of government. This is the goal of our ethics proposal I sent to the Congress in April. **We must all be equal before the law.**

As President, I will strive for a constructive working relationship with Speaker Foley, Senator Mitchell and the rest of the Democratic leadership. While we are in competition with each

other, there are, of course, rules of decency and fair play that transcend party labels.

But we will hit hard -- on the issues -- fighting for what we believe in, for we Republicans are bound together in a common purpose; to wage a vigorous debate on the important issues that unite us. We are confident that in taking our message of peace and prosperity to the American people in an open, honest and direct manner, we will become the majority party in America.

\*\*\* The American people want action on the environment. Yesterday, surrounded by the natural jewels of the Grand Tetons, enjoying the crisp, pristine mountain air, I called on Congress to join me in a quest for cleaner air, an end to acid rain, ozone depletion and other harmful emissions. **You shouldn't have to become a mountain man just to breathe good, clean air.**

((You know, when I was out in Wyoming, I slipped away with my grandson George P. to do some fishing. I say that every hour spent fishing is an hour added to your life . . . So by my reckoning, Malcolm Wallop should be immortal.))

\*\*\* The American people want action on crime. This Administration will not rest until we have lifted the shadow of fear from the homes, shops and streets of America. That is why I called last month for tough new laws, and more law enforcers and

prosecutors to back them up. This Administration is going to lead the charge to take back the streets, take them back from the criminals who threaten our neighborhoods -- not just in the cities, but all across our country.

\*\*\* The American people want action on foreign policy -- a sensible, yet bold plan to deal with the changes sweeping the Communist world. Our Bipartisan Agreement with Congress on Central America allows the United States to speak with one clear voice with one clear message -- let freedom ring in Managua. Let freedom ring throughout the Communist world, from Beijing to Budapest to Warsaw.

In Brussels, I said that we face an historic opportunity to move beyond containment of the Soviet Union. I said that the world has waited long enough -- that Europe can be whole and free; that we can move beyond armed camps divided by suspicion and fear. We asked the Soviets to join us in a peace of trust over a peace of tension. We offered our vision for a future of peace and freedom -- The Spirit of Brussels.

But this, the first five months of my Administration, is just a start. We must work together to protect what is already the longest peacetime expansion in our history -- to keep America competitive and on the job. We must fight drug abuse on every front, to redeem thousands of children, to return promise to

their lives. And we must revitalize our schools, so that a solid education is once again the birthright of every American.

To make this kind of progress will require more than a government program or another grand initiative. Republicans believe that it will take the active involvement of parents, students and teachers; business and local government; churches and schools. This is what we mean by a thousand points of light. As powerful and resourceful as government is, government alone cannot come close to overcoming these problems. Next week, I will announce a major initiative to challenge our young people to serve their communities. From now on, the definition of the good life in America must include service to others.

But as you know, achieving our highest goals depends, to a large extent, on winning elections in Congress. We must take our case to the American people, precinct by precinct, block by block.

I believe it's no coincidence that our party slipped to minority status in the House as we became a minority in the state legislatures. Today, Democrats now have a redistricting advantage in states that compose about 90 percent of the seats in Congress.

That is why we Republicans must make solid gains at the state level. Critical gubernatorial and legislative races in the eight largest states alone will determine whether Republicans will be treated fairly in the drafting of 209 Congressional Districts. **From Springfield to Sacramento, from Austin to Albany, we must win the fight for fair competition.**

A majority, or even a large minority, of Republicans in state legislatures can join with Republican governors to sustain the veto of outrageous gerrymander schemes, strengthening our numbers in the U.S. House. Bob Michel, our able leader in the House, is outgunned. Let us help him by picking up more House seats.

Strong state parties can help us to win back the U.S. Senate -- one of our most critical goals. Bob Dole is doing a superb job as Republican leader in the Senate, but he needs more troops. **Let us win back the Senate. Let us again make it a Republican Senate.**

In the next election, we have a good shot at making big gains. Of course, the party that controls the White House is often expected to do poorly in mid-term elections. But there are no iron-clad rules in politics. ((After all, if there were, I would never have become the only living member of the Martin Van Buren Society . . .)) With your support and leadership -- the

leadership of great Republicans like Carl Lindner of Ohio -- we can again defy the precedents. We can again make history.

In order to win, we must work together as a team, not as an association of acronyms. The RNC, the NRCC, the RGA, the NRSC -- these are top-notch, well-managed organizations staffed by the best people in politics today.

But our Republican Party must be greater than the sum of its parts; we must be inspired by a common purpose. We must bring opportunity to new constituencies, and campaign in their neighborhoods, in the inner cities and barrios, once considered to be the exclusive domain of the opposition.

Our party chairman, Lee Atwater, who's doing a great job has been a strong voice arguing that we Republicans need to reach out to minorities and the disadvantaged. These groups can benefit the most from our philosophy, which maximizes opportunity and rewards initiative. That is a message I believe in, and it is a message we as a Party must be prepared to act upon.

To win, we must also recruit the very best men and women to represent our party, as candidates and as officeholders.

These are my strategies for victory. But strategies are useless without a great purpose . . . We have such a purpose, to build a better America, for today and for the new century ahead.

We have shed a lot of blood, sweat and tears to rebuild the Republican Party since the early seventies. The best way to keep our party growing is to win more elections in 1990, from the courthouse, to the statehouse, to Capitol Hill. And with your help, let's prove to the Democrats that the successes of the 1980s are not a fluke; that they, in fact, **spell the beginning of the end of Democratic dominance in Congress.** ((PAUSE))

Thank you, good night and God bless you all.

Davis/Martin  
June 10, 1989/3 p.m.  
Title: Pdinner  
Draft: Three

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: PRESIDENT'S DINNER, WASH. CONVENTION CTR.  
June 14, 1989/9:20 p.m.

✓ For the introduction and for the great job you're doing as head of Sen. Campaign Com

Thank you, Senator Nickles, Mr. Vice President, Dan

~~welcome back from Cent~~

((compliment to come)) . . . Mrs. Quayle, Marilyn, it's a delight

to be with you on this excellent evening. David Murdock, thank you for once again talking our

you for your dedication in making this event possible. Guy

✓ valuable chance of House Campaign Com, Vander Jagt, it's great to see you.

message of democracy and hope to our important friends and neighbors

As you have heard, this room is divided into four quadrants, depicting the regions of the United States -- North, South, East and West. ((You may have also heard that Lee Atwater suggested a fifth corner, one whole corner to represent South Carolina.)

((PAUSE))

✓ ((Forgive me if I'm off to a slow start tonight . . . I've been speaking at so many school commencements lately, I'm only comfortable before audiences that snap gum.)) ((PAUSE))

It was at the last President's Dinner that the fortieth President of the United States stood before us and formally declared his support for a successor. Since then, Ronald Reagan has returned to his beloved California. And you and I have

fought shoulder to shoulder, battling our way from 17 points behind to a **40-state win on Election Day.** ((PAUSE))

But we didn't fight the battle we fought, we didn't put ourselves and our families through the turmoil of a campaign, just to win an election. We fought because we believed in certain ideas and certain ideals. We fought because we believed **that together we can build a better America.**

The American people defined our mission. And in the five months since the Inaugural, without fanfare or partisan furor, we have worked together to quietly follow our assigned mission, to achieve what was considered to be outlandishly impossible.

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\*\*\* The American people want action on a festering problem -- the hemorrhage of the Savings and Loan System. Our reform plan will restore stability, eliminate unsafe and extravagant practices, and punish those who abuse the trust of depositors. The American people will have to pay billions of dollars to clean up this mess, and we must make sure it **never** happens again. The

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As President, I will strive for a constructive working relationship with Speaker Foley <sup>✓ Sen Mitchell</sup> and the rest of the Democratic leadership. While we are in competition with each other, there are rules of decency and fair play that transcend party labels.

**I will not stand for any violation of these rules.**

*we will hit hard - on the issues - fighting for what we believe in for*

~~There is no place for such folly -- the country faces challenges that cannot wait until the next election. However, we must not forget that Tom Foley is Speaker today because of the failures of the Democratic leadership that has controlled the House for the last 35 years.~~

*we*

We Republicans are bound together in a common purpose: to wage a vigorous debate on the important issues that unite us. We are confident that in taking our message of peace and prosperity

to the American people in an open, honest and direct manner, we **will** become the majority party in America.

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*from the criminals who threaten our neighborhood, not just in the cities but all across our country*

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In Brussels, I said that we face an historic opportunity to move beyond containment of the Soviet Union. I said that the world has waited long enough -- that Europe can be whole and free; that the world can move beyond armed camps divided by suspicion and fear. We asked the Soviets to join us in a peace of trust over a peace of tension. We offered our vision for a future of peace and freedom -- The Spirit of Brussels.

But this, the first five months of my Administration, is just a start. We must work together to protect what is already the longest peacetime expansion in our history -- to keep America competitive and on the job. We must fight drug abuse on every front, to redeem thousands of children, to return promise to their lives. And we must revitalize our schools, so that **a solid education is once again the birthright of every American.**

*Any heavy emphasis drug abuse is Bill Bennett and the likes  
of state support.*

To make this kind of progress will require more than a government program or another grand initiative. Republicans believe that it will take the active involvement of parents, students and teachers; business and local government; churches and schools. This is what we mean by a thousand points of light. As powerful and resourceful as government is, government alone cannot come close to overcoming these problems. Next week, I will announce a major initiative to challenge our young people to serve their communities. From now on, **the definition of the good life in America must include service to others.**

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*new paragraph*

*Bob Michel, our able leader in the House is out-gunned.*

*Help us pick up more than seats*

*Bob Dole is doing a superb job as Republican leader in the Senate, but he needs more troops.*

In the next election, we have a good shot at making big gains. Of course, the party that controls the White House is <sup>often expected</sup> ~~supposed~~ to do poorly in mid-term elections. But there are no iron-clad rules in politics. ((After all, if there were, I would never have become the only living member of the Martin Van Buren Society . . .)) With your support and leadership -- the leadership of great Republicans like Carl Lindner of Ohio -- **we can again defy the precedents. We can again make history.**

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INSERT

(SEE INSERT)

*These groups can benefit the most from our Republican philosophy which maximizes opportunity and rewards initiative*

*Our party chairman, Lee Atwater has been a strong voice ~~for~~ arguing that we ~~as~~ Republicans need to reach out to minorities and the disadvantaged. That is a message I believe in, and it is a message we as a party must be prepared to act upon.*

6-13-89  
JWC

INSERT RE ATWATER

*who's doing a great job*

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Thank you, good night and God bless you all.

702 (A11)

Pres Dinner  
June 14, 9:40pm

On behalf of the President's Dinner Committee, I am presenting David Murdock an appropriate gift -- a very appropriate gift -- for his hard work and dedication as Chairman.

Davis/Martin  
June 10, 1989/3 p.m.  
Title: Pdinner  
Draft: Three

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June 14, 1989/9:20 p.m.

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~~((compliment to come))~~ . . . Mrs. Quayle, Marilyn, it's a delight  
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((PA

slow start tonight . . . I've  
been mmencements lately, I'm only  
conf ~~snap gum.))~~ ((PAUSE))

Pres s Dinner that the fortieth  
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has or. Since then, Ronald Reagan  
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taking our message  
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to our impt. friends  
& neighbors.  
\*Alto Chair.  
of House Camp.  
Comm.

thank you for once again

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\*Bob Michael

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Thank you, good night and God bless you all.

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/8/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 6/9/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: PRESIDENT'S DINNER

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

**REMARKS:** Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by 12:00 Friday June 9. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:** *see minor editorial changes*  
*6/8/89*  
*6/12*

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

1989 JUN -8 PM 1:29

Davis/Martin  
June 7, 1989  
Title: Pdinner  
Draft: One

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: PRESIDENT'S DINNER, WASH. CONVENTION CTR.  
June 14, 1989/9:20 p.m.

Thank you, Don. Mr. Vice President, Dan ((compliment to come)) . . . Mrs. Quayle, Marilyn, it's a delight to be with you on this excellent evening. David Murdock, thank you for your dedication in making this event possible. Guy Vander Jagt, it's great to see you. ((Note MOCs, Cabinet Officers.))

As you have heard, this room is divided into four quadrants, depicting the regions of the United States -- North, South, East and West. ((You may have also heard that Lee Atwater suggested a fifth corner, one whole corner to represent South Carolina.))  
((PAUSE))

((Forgive me if I'm off to a slow start tonight . . . I've been speaking at so many school commencements lately, I'm only comfortable before audiences that snap gum.)) ((PAUSE))

It was at the last President's Dinner that the fortieth President of the United States stood before us and formally threw his support for a successor. Since then, Ronald Reagan has returned to his beloved California. And you and I have fought

shoulder to shoulder, battling our way from 17 points behind to a **40-state win on Election Day.** ((PAUSE))

But we didn't fight the battle we fought, we didn't put ourselves and our families through the turmoil of a campaign, just to win an election. We fought because we believed in certain ideas and certain ideals. We fought because we believed that together we can build a better America.

The American people defined our mission. And in the four months since the Inaugural, without fanfare or partisan furor, we have worked together to quietly follow this mission, to achieve what was considered to be ~~outlandishly~~ impossible.

\*\*\* The American people want action on the deficit. And we reached an agreement with Congress to reduce the deficit **by a whopping \$65 billion.** ((PAUSE)) And we aim to achieve this without raising taxes by **a single copper penny.** ((PAUSE))

\*\*\* The American people want action on a festering problem -- the hemorrhage of the Savings and Loan System. Our reform plan will restore stability, eliminate extravagant practices, and punish those who abuse the trust of depositors. The Senate approved our plan 91 to 8. **I call on the House to follow suit.**

\*\*\* The American people want action on ethics. We are all *troubled and* saddened by the historic and unprecedented resignation of a Speaker and a Majority Whip of the House. Clearly, it is time for an even-handed ethics standard across all branches of government. This is the goal of our ethics proposal. **We must all be equal before the law.**

\*\*\* The American people want action on the environment. Yesterday, surrounded by the natural *treasure* ~~jewels~~ of the Grand Tetons, enjoying the crisp, pristine mountain air, I called on Congress to join me in a quest for cleaner air, an end to acid rain, ozone depletion and other harmful emissions. **You shouldn't have to become a mountain man just to breathe good, clean air.**

\*\*\* The American people want action on crime. This Administration will not rest until we have lifted the shadow of fear from the homes, shops and streets of America. That is why I called last month for tough new laws, and more police and prosecutors to back them up. In short, this Administration **is ready to take back the streets.**

\*\*\* The American people want action on foreign policy -- a sensible, yet bold plan to deal with the changes sweeping the Communist world, from Budapest to Beijing. Our agreement with Congress on Central America allows the United States to speak

with one clear voice with one clear message -- **let freedom ring in Nicaragua.**

In Brussels, I said that we face an historic opportunity to move beyond containment of the Soviet Union. I said that the world has waited long enough -- that Europe can be whole and free; and the world can move beyond armed camps divided by suspicion and fear. **And our NATO Allies agreed.**

But this, the first five months of my Administration, is just a start. We must work together to protect what is already the longest peacetime expansion in our history -- to keep America competitive and on the job. We must fight drug abuse on every front, to redeem thousands of children, to return promise to their lives. And we must revitalize our schools, so that **a solid education is once again the birthright of every American.**

To make this kind of progress will require more than a government program or another grand initiative. Republicans believe that it will take the active involvement of parents, students and teachers; business and local government; churches and schools. This is what we mean by a thousand points of light -- a constellation of volunteers.

But as you know, achieving our highest goals depends, to a large extent, on winning elections in Congress. We must take our

*district by district,*  
case to the American people, precinct by precinct, block by block.

I believe it's no coincidence that our party slipped to minority status in the House as we became a minority in the state legislatures. Today, Democrats now have a redistricting advantage in states that compose about 90 percent of the seats in Congress.

That is why we Republicans must make aggressive gains at the state level. Critical gubernatorial and legislative races in the eight largest states alone will determine whether Republicans will be treated fairly in the drafting of 209 Congressional Districts.

A majority, or even a large minority, of Republicans in state legislatures can join with Republican governors to sustain the veto of outrageous gerrymander schemes, strengthening our numbers in the U.S. House. Strong state parties can help us to win back the U.S. Senate -- perhaps *one of* our most critical goals. In the next election, we have a good shot at making big gains. Of course, the party that controls the White House is supposed to do poorly in mid-term elections. But there are no iron clad rules in politics. ((After all, if there were, I would never have become the only living member of the Martin Van Buren

Society . . .)) With your support and leadership, we can again defy the precedents. We can again make history.

In order to win, we must work together as a team, not as an association of acronyms. The RNC, the NRCC, the RGA, the NRSC -- these are top-notch, well-managed organizations staffed by the best people in politics today.

But our Republican Party must be greater than the sum of its parts; we must be inspired by a common purpose. We must reach out to new constituencies, to campaign in the neighborhoods, the ghettos, the barrios, once considered to be the exclusive domain of the opposition.

To win, we must also recruit the very best men and women to represent our party, as candidates and as officeholders.

These are my strategies for victory. But strategies are useless without a great purpose . . . We have such a purpose, to build a better America, for today and for the new century ahead.

We have shed a lot of blood, sweat and tears to rebuild the Republican Party over the last decade. The best way to keep our party ready for action is to engage ourselves in the 1990 election, from the courthouse, to the statehouse, to Capitol Hill. I thank you for your help in this campaign to elect more

Republicans. Let us prove to the Democrats that the successes of the 1980s are not a fluke; that they, in fact, **spell the beginning of the end of Democratic dominance in Congress.**

((PAUSE))

We can now aim for the stars, and we can do so because of you. For your leadership of our party, of our country, you have my sincerest gratitude.

Thank you, good night and God bless you all.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 9, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO CHRISS WINSTON

FROM:

JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT:

President's Dinner Speech Draft

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The entire media focus on the President's speech next Wednesday will surely be the RNC/Foley flap. This draft was obviously written before that incident. The draft in hand repeats our standard critique of Democratic ethics on pg.3, and then repeats our standard praise for the RNC on pg. 6.

Obviously we must to update the draft, in light of the changed political environment. However, much as we might like to, I don't think we can just obliterate any reference to anything that might be controversial.

If we duck, the best press commentary we could hope for would be that the President said absolutely nothing newsworthy at the dinner. At worst, the press will report that the President skipped over the one significant issue of the evening and then they will rely on other quotes to move the story forward.

Furthermore, if we duck the issue we will deeply disappoint the hardcore partisan audience. Admittedly, that may not be our foremost concern right now, but we will pay a price down the road if the President appears to be walking away from the Republican effort to retake the Congress.

My suggestion is this: we stick to our guns on the overall goal of a Republican majority, while we reiterate the President's strong denunciation of sleazy tactics. We must articulate our disgust at the specific incident while not conceding, as many Democrats are now alleging, that the whole Wright/Coelho scandal was some sort of Republican plot.

The President handled the issue perfectly last night in the press conference, citing John Tower's vilification as proof that the problem of "ugliness" in Washington is bipartisan. We should make the same sort of subtle distinction next Wednesday night.

(more)

Accordingly, I suggest the following:

Delete the first graf on pg. 3 and shift our comments on ethics and the House to pg.4, where it would serve as the emotional and news peak of the speech, at the end of the long list of issues that animate Republicans. Then say the following:

The American people want action on ethics. We were all struck [note: this is changed from "saddened" which sounds hypocritical in front of a partisan audience] by the historic and unprecedented resignation of a Speaker of the House, as well as the Majority Whip. [Note the slight rewrite: it sounds more awesome to say it this way.]

Clearly it is time for an even-handed ethics standard across all branches of government. This is the goal of the ethics proposal we released last April, and it will continue to be our goal until all of Washington lives up to the high standards of the American people. In the coming weeks I will be asking the Congress to work with me to do more.

As President I will strive for a constructive working relationship with Speaker Foley and the rest of the Democratic leadership. While we are in competition with each other, there are rules of decency and fair play that transcend party label.

I will not stand for any violation of these rules.

There is no place for such folly -- the country faces challenges that cannot wait until the next election. We will work together to do the people's business. However, we must not forget that Tom Foley is Speaker today because of the failures of the Democratic leadership which has controlled the House for 35 years. [Note: this last sentence is vital. If we take out the partisan edge and leave on conciliation, we will undercut the Republican majority cause.]

We Republicans are bound together in a common purpose: to wage a vigorous debate on the important issues that unite us. We are confident that in taking our message of peace and prosperity to the American people in an open, honest, and direct manner, we will become the majority party in America.

(more)

Additional Points

pg. 2, para. 3, line 1 It is closer to five months since the Inauguration, and since we say "the first five months" later at 4,3,1, we should be consistent.

pg. 3-4 The mention of "Nicaragua" on line 2 of page 4 is anti-climactic, given the world's attention on Russia, Eastern Europe and China. Change the first sentence of page 3 para 4 to read "...bold plan to deal with the changes sweeping the Communist world. [period]." Then the end of the graf on page 4 should read "let freedom ring from Beijing to Warsaw to Managua."

pg. 4, para 2 This paragraph on the President's greatest foreign policy triumph cries out for a memorable phrase that immortalizes the trip. I'm sure we can do better than "Spirit of Brussels," or "investment in strength paying dividends in peace," but in any case we need something snappier than "our NATO Allies agreed."

pg. 5, para 3, line 1 "aggressive" is not the right word here. "substantial," "solid" or "big" is more in line.

pg. 5, para 4, line 9 The Martin Van Buren joke nicely drives home the point here.

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