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Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13491
Folder ID Number: 13491-013

Folder Title:
Presidential Scholars 6/20/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	25	6	3	4

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 20, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

The Rose Garden

2:37 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all and welcome to the White House. Please be seated. Ronna, you're in charge of keeping the rain off. (Laughter.) Secretary Cavazos and Ronna Romney and members of the Commission, sponsors, guests, distinguished teachers and Presidential Scholars, let me officially welcome you to the White House.

You know, that great English leader, Benjamin Disraeli, once said "Youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity." And the poet James Lowell, was moved to write, "If youth be a defect, it is one we outgrow only too soon."

Well, as this year's Presidential Scholars, you remain the trustees of our posterity. And I hope you'll accept some counsel from one who is a little long in the tooth maybe, but if youth is a defect, treasure it as many years as you can.

We meet here on the 25th anniversary of the Presidential Scholars Program, and to honor some of the best and the brightest students in American education.

This marks the highest scholastic honor that a President can bestow -- and I am honored to bestow it. For while already you have done much, I know you will do more. And not for yourselves alone, but for nation and neighbor -- learning, caring, helping education lead the way.

I believe in education. And so do you -- for the evidence is your lives. And you come from backgrounds of every race and creed, and from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and families living abroad. And you've excelled in the classroom and outside it, through leadership, character and, yes, community service.

You know, as I do, how education can unleash your talents. Take Presidential Scholar Eben Hewitt, of Muncie, Indiana. He started a Shakespeare Club at his high school. Or another scholar, Clarity Haynes, of Washington, D.C.'s Ellington School of the Arts. She is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish. I'm a little jealous. Some say I'm not even fluent in English.

Education can be the greater uplifter -- individually, and for America. Perhaps Meath Bowen, a Presidential Scholar from Anchorage, Alaska -- I think I see her -- put it best: "An educated person," she said, "has choices, alternatives, and can exercise freedom of mind in all areas of life."

Now, I know what you're thinking. It won't be easy. And you're right -- there'll be roadblocks along the way. And I'm reminded of how once, marking an examination paper written shortly before Christmas, the noted scholar teaching at Yale, William Lyons Phelps, came across this note: "God only knows the answer to this question. Merry Christmas." (Laughter.) Phelps returned the paper

MORE

with the annotation: "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year." (Laughter.)

Roadblocks? Sure. You bet. But you can overcome them. And as you do, remember that an educated person also has duties and responsibilities. I've said that in America, the definition of a successful life must include serving others. Well, that goes double for America's best. Many have labored to share their knowledge with you, and you can give them no greater gift than to share your knowledge with others.

In that spirit, a number of people have brought you here, and they deserve our thanks. Like Ronna Romney sitting right here, Chairman of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. And the Commission sponsors. And let me salute the 47 Commission members whom I just met with who chose you, 141 honorees from America's high-school graduates. But most of all, I want to thank -- and ask you to thank -- all of those people who form the fabric of your life.

Today and in the years to come, remember that favorite teacher -- the history instructor who was a friend and mentor; the biology teacher who did the impossible -- helped you dissect a frog. And remember the guidance counselor who cared, or the football coach who gave of his time and of himself as well. And remember those who love you most and point you toward the stars -- what scholar Christine Oh, of Bellville, Georgia has called "the backbone of my success -- my family."

My friends, this is your day. But it is also their day. So let me close with a story your family might appreciate about learning and teaching and scholars of all ages.

The story goes that physicist James Franck was professor at Gottingen University in Germany when Robert Oppenheimer, then only 23, was being examined for his doctorate. On emerging from the oral exam, Franck remembered -- this is the professor -- Franck remembered, "I got out of there just in time. He was beginning to ask me questions." (Laughter.)

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Trust these people. Make them proud. Honor them by the lives you lead. And as you do, remember how their values, which are education's values, can make ours a better, richer, most decent world.

To every Presidential Scholar, Barbara and I and our great Secretary Larry Cavazos give you our heartfelt congratulations. And to all of you here, thank you for coming to the White House. God bless you and God bless our great country. Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

END

2:44 P.M. EDT

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2:44 P.M. EDT

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

89 JUN 19 P4: 59
6/19/89

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

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JUNE 19, 1989

1989 JUN 19 10 13 AM

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *w*

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*

SUBJECT: JUNE 20 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, June 20, at 2:30 p.m., you will honor the 1989 Presidential Scholars in the Rose Garden. About 250-300 people are expected to attend the event, including Secretary Cavazos, teachers, family members, and Commission members who chose the students.

II. DISCUSSION

The enclosed remarks (7 minutes; no teleprompter) focus on how education can be "the great uplifter," and how the Presidential Scholars prove it. The text refers to individual Scholars, and also salutes the teachers and families who have contributed to their success.

(Smith/Blessey)
June 19, 1989
Draft Three
SCHOLAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

Secretary Cavazos, Ronna Romney, Members of the Commission,
Sponsors and Selected Guests, Distinguished Teachers,
Presidential Scholars.

Let me welcome you to the White House.

You know, that great English leader, Benjamin Disraeli, once
said, "Youth is the trustee of posterity." And the poet James
Lowell was moved to write, "If youth be a defect, it is one we
outgrow only too soon."

Well, as this year's Presidential Scholars, you remain the
trustees of our posterity. And I hope you'll accept some counsel
from one who's a little long in the tooth: If youth is a defect,
treasure it as many years as you can.

We meet here on the 25th anniversary of the Presidential
Scholars Program. And to honor some of the best and the
brightest students in American education.

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bestow -- and I am honored to bestow it. For while already you
have done much, I know you will do more. And not for yourselves
alone -- but for Nation, and neighbor: Learning, caring, helping
education lead the way.

My friends, I believe in education. And so do you -- for the evidence is your lives. You come from backgrounds of every race and creed. And from all fifty States, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories and families living abroad. And you've excelled in the classroom, and outside it: Through leadership, character, and community service.

You know, as I do, how education can unleash your talents. Take Presidential Scholar Eben Hewitt of Muncie, Indiana. He started a Shakespeare Club at his high school. Or another Scholar, Clarity Haynes of Washington, D.C.'s Duke Ellington School of the Arts. She is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish [PAUSE] . . . I'm jealous. Some people say I'm not even fluent in English.

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Now, I know what you're thinking: It won't be easy. And you're right: There'll be roadblocks along the way. I'm reminded of how once, marking an examination paper written shortly before Christmas, the noted scholar William Lyon Phelps came across this note: "God only knows the answer to this question. Merry Christmas." Phelps returned the paper with the annotation: "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year."

Roadblocks? You bet. But you can overcome them. And as you do, remember that an educated person also has duties and responsibilities. I have said that in America, the definition of a successful life must include serving others. Well, that goes double for America's best. Many have labored to share their knowledge with you. You can give them no greater gift than to share your knowledge with others.

In that spirit, a number of people have brought you here, and they deserve our thanks. Like Ronna Romney, Chairman of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. And the Commission sponsors. And let me salute the 47 Commission members who chose you 141 honorees from America's high-school graduates. But most of all, I want to thank -- and ask you to thank -- all of those people who form the fabric of your life.

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- 2 -

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JUNE 19, 1989

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THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*

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June 19, 1989
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1989

89 JUN 16 P1:08

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton

Subject: Presidential Scholars

The speech does a good job of praising the participants, which is the first requirement. We suggest also reminding them that their success implies a responsibility and a duty to use their talent to increase knowledge and serve others. For example, at pg. 2, para. 4, lines 3-5, after the scholar's quote about "choices, alternatives, and...freedom," the President could say:

✓ "I am sure that Meath would agree with me that an educated person also has duties and responsibilities. I have said that today, in America, the definition of a successful life must include service to others.

went A { "That goes all the more for America's best. That responsibility to others includes using knowledge to increase knowledge and overcome ignorance. There is a symmetry in the idea of giving something back in return for the knowledge you have received.

"And there is no greater gift to those who have labored to share their knowledge with you, than that you should seek to share your knowledge and your gifts with others."

1,2,2 The "gentleman -- gentlewomen" phrase seems a bit contrived and forced, not to mention slightly patronizing. We suggest omitting it. ✓

1,4,3 We think the President will not want to call himself a senior citizen. Instead, we suggest calling attention to the fact that the President is "one who has kids and grandkids, and thinks about the future all the time." ✓

(more)

2-2-2

2,3,5-8 Self-deprecation always serves to make the speaker seem more equal with his audience by being more human. The trouble here is that the audience does not want to feel more equal to the speaker. These are kids who very much look up to the President and the Presidency. They want and expect him to act Presidential. Because these lines are just slightly too self-mocking, they are un-Presidential, and therefore, we suggest omitting them. ✓

2,5,4 "Phelps" is mistakenly omitted here after "William Lyon." ✓

3,2,1 It seems obvious that a roadblock is "assailable." We suggest "can be overcome." ✓

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 6/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

	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 <i>coming + encl.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>not in office</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT <i>not in office</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>coming</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON <i>not in office</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, June 16. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

Add insert A somewhere

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

1030 JUN 18 1989

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
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~~scholars.~~

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outgrow ^{only} too soon." ^{be}

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from one who ^{his kids and grandkids} ~~last week became a senior citizen~~: If youth is a
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#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

89 JUN 19 AIO: 09

DATE: 6/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 6/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, June 16. Thank you.

all comments

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

1989 JUN 15 11 30

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

Secretary Cavazos, Ronna Romney, Members of the Commission,
Sponsors and Selected Guests, Distinguished Teachers,
Presidential Scholars.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 6/15/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 89 JUN 16 12:00 6/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, June 16. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comments attached!

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

- Education did not think it sounds like the President.
- Could tip in voluntarism.
- ~~4th floor~~

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

1989 JUN 15 10 11 AM

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

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DATE: 6/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 89 JUN 16 P4: 27 12:00 6/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, June 16. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

OK, except all the Presidential Scholars mentioned on Page 2 are males

JWC/ld

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

Comments called in 12:01 JWC

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

1989 JUN 15 11 30

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

89 JUN 16 4:50

June 16, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: PATRICIA M. BRYAN *PMB*
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks -- Presidential Scholars

Pursuant to James W. Cicconi's staffing memorandum of June 16, 1989, the Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks and has no legal objections to them. We have made a minor editorial suggestion on page 3 of the draft.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 6/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

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alone -- but for Nation, and neighbor: Learning, caring, helping education lead the way.

My friends, I believe in education. And so do you -- for the evidence is your lives. You come from backgrounds of every race and creed. And from all fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad. And you've excelled in the classroom, and outside it: Through leadership, character, and community service.

You know, as I do, how education can unleash your talents. Take Presidential Scholar Eben Hewitt of Muncie, Indiana. He started a Shakespeare Club at his high school [PAUSE] . . . Eben, do you think you could give me acting lessons? [PAUSE] . . . how about speaking lessons? Or another Scholar, Clarity Haynes of Washington, D.C.'s Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish [PAUSE] . . . I'm jealous. Some people say I'm not even fluent in English.

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Merry Christmas." Phelps returned the paper with the annotation:
 "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year."

Roadblocks? You bet. But each one is assailable. For your "choices and alternatives" can help you become a writer, stirring people through poetry. Or lead you to the the law, into medicine, or even to politics. Whatever you choose, the road marked "tomorrow" is wide open. You can walk it, climb it, through your "freedom" and your dreams.

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#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

89 JUN 16 P12:12

DATE: 6/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 6/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, June 16. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

1989 JUN 15 11 00

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

Secretary Cavazos, Ronna Romney, Members of the Commission,
Sponsors and Selected Guests, Distinguished Teachers,
Presidential Scholars.

Let me welcome you to the White House. I am always glad to
meet with those who are both gentlemen -- gentlewomen -- and
scholars.

You know, that great English leader, Benjamin Disraeli, once
said, "Youth is the trustee of posterity." And the poet Robert
Lowell was moved to write, "If youth is a defect, it is one we
outgrow too soon."

Well, as this year's Presidential Scholars, you remain the
trustees of our posterity. And I hope you'll accept some counsel
from one who last week became a senior citizen: If youth is a
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You know, as I do, how education can unleash your talents. Take Presidential Scholar Eben Hewitt of Muncie, Indiana. He started a Shakespeare Club at his high school [PAUSE] . . . Eben, do you think you could give me acting lessons? [PAUSE] . . . how about speaking lessons? Or another Scholar, Clarity Haynes of Washington, D.C.'s Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish [PAUSE] . . . I'm jealous. Some people say I'm not even fluent in English.

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Now, I know what you're thinking: It won't be easy. And you're right: There'll be roadblocks along the way. I'm reminded of how once, marking an examination paper written shortly before Christmas, the noted scholar William Lyon came across this note: "God only knows the answer to this question."

Merry Christmas." Phelps returned the paper with the annotation: "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year."

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89 JUN 16 12:11

DATE: 6/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 6/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

1989 JUN 15 10 00

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

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#

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

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*Bonnie Newman
He mentions
all my
females*



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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

REC'D JUN 19 11:15

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

6/19/89

JUNE 19, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*

SUBJECT: JUNE 20 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

OK
3 tiny changes
CS
6-19
9PM

I. SUMMARY

✓ On Tuesday, June 20, at 2:30 p.m., you will honor the 1989 Presidential Scholars in the Rose Garden. About 250-300 people are expected to attend the event, including Secretary Cavazos, teachers, family members, and Commission members who chose the students.

II. DISCUSSION

The enclosed remarks (7 minutes; no teleprompter) focus on how education can be "the great uplifter," and how the Presidential Scholars prove it. The text refers to individual Scholars, and also salutes the teachers and families who have contributed to their success.

(Smith/Blessey)
June 19, 1989
Draft Three
SCHOLAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

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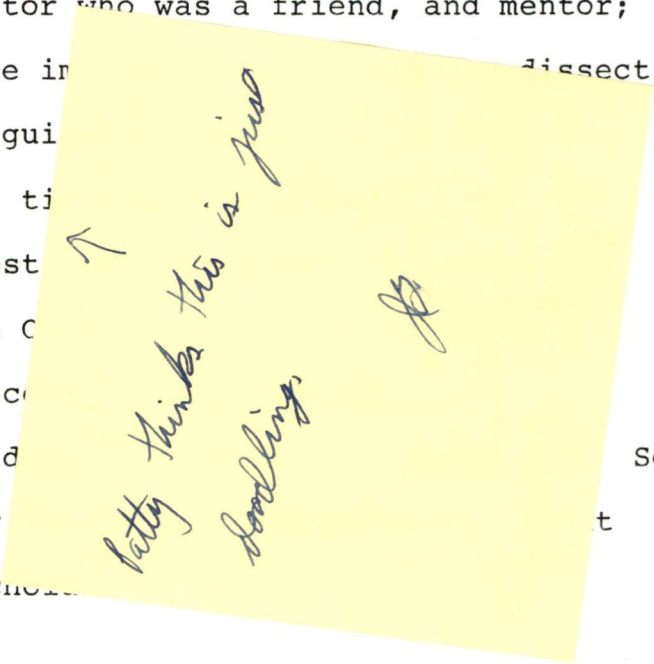
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Roadblocks? You bet. But you can overcome them. And as you do, remember that an educated person also has duties and responsibilities. I have said that in America, the definition of a successful life must include serving others. Well, that goes double for America's best. Many have labored to share their knowledge with you. You can give them no greater gift than to share your knowledge with others.

In that spirit, a number of people have brought you here, and they deserve our thanks. Like Ronna Romney, Chairman of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. And the Commission sponsors. And let me salute the 47 Commission members who chose you 141 honorees from America's high-school graduates. But most of all, I want to thank -- and ask you to thank -- all of those people who form the fabric of your life.

Today, and in the years to come, remember that favorite teacher -- the History instructor who was a friend, and mentor; the Biology teacher who did the in dissect a frog. Remember that caring guidance counselor; the football coach who gave of his time; the friends who remember those who love you most. Remember the stars: What Scholar Christine C... called "the backbone of my success."

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#

FILE

REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989
2:30 P.M.

SECRETARY CAVAZOS, RONNA ROMNEY, MEMBERS OF THE
COMMISSION, SPONSORS AND SELECTED GUESTS, DISTINGUISHED
TEACHERS, PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS.

LET ME WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

- 2 -

YOU KNOW, THAT GREAT ENGLISH LEADER, BENJAMIN
DISRAELI, ONCE SAID, "YOUTH IS THE TRUSTEE OF
POSTERITY." AND THE POET JAMES LOWELL WAS MOVED TO
WRITE, "IF YOUTH BE A DEFECT, IT IS ONE WE OUTGROW ONLY
TOO SOON."

WELL, AS THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS, YOU
REMAIN THE TRUSTEES OF OUR POSTERITY.

AND I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT SOME COUNSEL FROM ONE WHO'S A LITTLE LONG IN THE TOOTH: IF YOUTH IS A DEFECT, TREASURE IT AS MANY YEARS AS YOU CAN.

WE MEET HERE ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM. AND TO HONOR SOME OF THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST STUDENTS IN AMERICAN EDUCATION.

THIS MARKS THE HIGHEST SCHOLASTIC HONOR THAT A PRESIDENT CAN BESTOW -- AND I AM HONORED TO BESTOW IT.

FOR WHILE ALREADY YOU HAVE DONE MUCH, I KNOW YOU WILL DO MORE. AND NOT FOR YOURSELVES ALONE -- BUT FOR NATION, AND NEIGHBOR: LEARNING, CARING, HELPING EDUCATION LEAD THE WAY.

I BELIEVE IN EDUCATION. AND SO DO YOU -- FOR THE EVIDENCE IS YOUR LIVES. YOU COME FROM BACKGROUNDS OF EVERY RACE AND CREED. AND FROM ALL FIFTY STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, U.S. TERRITORIES AND FAMILIES LIVING ABROAD.

AND YOU'VE EXCELLED IN THE CLASSROOM, AND OUTSIDE IT:
THROUGH LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

YOU KNOW, AS I DO, HOW EDUCATION CAN UNLEASH YOUR
TALENTS. TAKE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR EBEN HEWITT OF
MUNCIE, INDIANA. HE STARTED A SHAKESPEARE CLUB AT HIS
HIGH SCHOOL. OR ANOTHER SCHOLAR, CLARITY HAYNES OF
WASHINGTON, D.C.'S DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS.
SHE IS FLUENT IN PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH [PAUSE] . . .

I'M JEALOUS. SOME PEOPLE SAY I'M NOT EVEN FLUENT IN
ENGLISH.

EDUCATION CAN BE THE GREAT UPLIFTER --
INDIVIDUALLY, AND FOR AMERICA. PERHAPS MEATH BOWEN, A
PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR FROM ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, PUT IT
BEST: "AN EDUCATED PERSON," SHE SAID, "HAS CHOICES,
ALTERNATIVES, AND CAN EXERCISE FREEDOM OF MIND IN ALL
AREAS OF LIFE."

NOW, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING: IT WON'T BE EASY. AND YOU'RE RIGHT: THERE'LL BE ROADBLOCKS ALONG THE WAY. I'M REMINDED OF HOW ONCE, MARKING AN EXAMINATION PAPER WRITTEN SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THE NOTED SCHOLAR WILLIAM LYON PHELPS CAME ACROSS THIS NOTE: "GOD ONLY KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION. MERRY CHRISTMAS." PHELPS RETURNED THE PAPER WITH THE ANNOTATION: "GOD GETS AN A. YOU GET AN F. HAPPY NEW YEAR."

ROADBLOCKS? YOU BET. BUT YOU CAN OVERCOME THEM. AND AS YOU DO, REMEMBER THAT AN EDUCATED PERSON ALSO HAS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. I HAVE SAID THAT IN AMERICA, THE DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE MUST INCLUDE SERVING OTHERS. WELL, THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR AMERICA'S BEST. MANY HAVE LABORED TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU. YOU CAN GIVE THEM NO GREATER GIFT THAN TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS.

IN THAT SPIRIT, A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE BROUGHT YOU
HERE, AND THEY DESERVE OUR THANKS. LIKE RONNA ROMNEY,
CHAIRMAN OF THE WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARS. AND THE COMMISSION SPONSORS. AND LET ME
SALUTE THE 47 COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO CHOSE YOU 141
HONOREES FROM AMERICA'S HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATES. BUT
MOST OF ALL, I WANT TO THANK -- AND ASK YOU TO THANK --
ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO FORM THE FABRIC OF YOUR LIFE.

TODAY, AND IN THE YEARS TO COME, REMEMBER THAT
FAVORITE TEACHER -- THE HISTORY INSTRUCTOR WHO WAS A
FRIEND, AND MENTOR; THE BIOLOGY TEACHER WHO DID THE
IMPOSSIBLE -- HELPED YOU DISSECT A FROG. REMEMBER THAT
CARING GUIDANCE COUNSELOR. OR THE FOOTBALL COACH WHO
GAVE OF HIS TIME, AND OF HIMSELF. AND REMEMBER THOSE
WHO LOVE YOU MOST, AND WHO POINT YOU TOWARD THE STARS:
WHAT SCHOLAR CHRISTINE OH OF BELLVILLE, GEORGIA, HAS
CALLED "THE BACKBONE OF MY SUCCESS." YOUR FAMILY.

MY FRIENDS, THIS IS YOUR DAY. BUT IT IS ALSO THEIR DAY. SO LET ME CLOSE WITH A STORY YOUR FAMILY MIGHT APPRECIATE: ABOUT LEARNING, AND TEACHING, AND SCHOLARS OF ALL AGES.

THE STORY GOES THAT PHYSICIST JAMES FRANCK WAS PROFESSOR AT GOTTINGEN UNIVERSITY IN GERMANY WHEN ROBERT OPPENHEIMER, THEN ONLY 23, WAS BEING EXAMINED FOR HIS DOCTORATE.

ON EMERGING FROM THE ORAL EXAM, FRANCK REMARKED: "I GOT OUT OF THERE JUST IN TIME. HE WAS BEGINNING TO ASK ME QUESTIONS."

IN COMING YEARS, YOU'LL ASK MANY QUESTIONS. QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAITH AND FUTURE, PROBLEMS AND PRIORITIES, ABOUT WHAT WE CAN BECOME, AND WHY WE ARE HERE.

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EDUCATION CAN PROVIDE SOME ANSWERS. AND SO CAN THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN IT, AND YOU: YOUR LIFE-LONG LOCAL MINISTER, THE FATHER WHO TRUDGED HIS SON TO LITTLE LEAGUE, THE MOTHER WHO TOILED NIGHT AND DAY SO THAT HER DAUGHTER COULD GO TO COLLEGE.

TRUST THESE PEOPLE. MAKE THEM PROUD. HONOR THEM BY THE LIVES YOU LEAD. AND AS YOU DO, REMEMBER HOW THEIR VALUES, WHICH ARE EDUCATION'S VALUES, CAN MAKE OURS A BETTER, RICHER, MORE DECENT WORLD.

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TO EVERY PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR -- MY HEART-FELT CONGRATULATIONS. AND TO ALL OF YOU HERE -- THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THE WHITE HOUSE, GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

for file

June 16, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Draft Remarks: Presidential Scholars

These draft remarks are superb in many, many ways. I think they will give these presidential scholars an event they will long remember.

My only suggestioned changes concern the paragraphs on page two that involve some self-deprecating humor. Specifically, the second full paragraph referring to the need for speaking lessons and that the President is not fluent in English. I would recommend simply deleting the humor. It reads well without it.

Once again, congratulations on another excellent speech.

cc: James W. Cicconi

1989 JUN 15 PM 6:21

(Smith/Blessey)
June 15, 1989
Draft Two
SCHOLAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS
WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1989

Secretary Cavazos, Ronna Romney, Members of the Commission,
Sponsors and Selected Guests, Distinguished Teachers,
Presidential Scholars.

Let me welcome you to the White House. I am always glad to
meet with those who are both gentlemen -- gentlewomen -- and
scholars.

You know, that great English leader, Benjamin Disraeli, once
said, "Youth is the trustee of posterity." And the poet Robert
Lowell was moved to write, "If youth is a defect, it is one we
outgrow too soon."

Well, as this year's Presidential Scholars, you remain the
trustees of our posterity. And I hope you'll accept some counsel
from one who last week became a senior citizen: If youth is a
defect, treasure it as long as you can.

We meet today on the 25th anniversary of the Presidential
Scholarship Program. And to honor some of the best and the
brightest students in American education.

This marks the highest scholastic honor that a President can
bestow -- and I am honored to bestow it. For while already you
have done much, I know you will do more. And not for yourselves

alone -- but for Nation, and neighbor: Learning, caring, helping education lead the way.

My friends, I believe in education. And so do you -- for the evidence is your lives. You come from backgrounds of every race and creed. And from all fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad. And you've excelled in the classroom, and outside it: Through leadership, character, and community service.

You know, as I do, how education can unleash your talents. Take Presidential Scholar Eben Hewitt of Muncie, Indiana. He started a Shakespeare Club at his high school [PAUSE] . . . Eben, do you think you could give me acting lessons? [PAUSE] . . . how about speaking lessons? Or another Scholar, Clarity Haynes of Washington, D.C.'s Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish [PAUSE] . . . I'm jealous. Some people say I'm not even fluent in English.

Yes, education can be the greater uplifter -- invidually, and for America. Perhaps Meath Bowen, a Presidential Scholar from Anchorage, Alaska, put it best: "An educated person," he said, "has choices, alternatives, and can exercise freedom of mind in all areas of life."

Now, I know what you're thinking: It won't be easy. And you're right: There'll be roadblocks along the way. I'm reminded of how once, marking an examination paper written shortly before Christmas, the noted scholar William Lyon came across this note: "God only knows the answer to this question.

Merry Christmas." Phelps returned the paper with the annotation: "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year."

Roadblocks? You bet. But each one is assailable. For your "choices and alternatives" can help you become a writer, stirring people through poetry. Or lead you to the the law, into medicine, or even to politics. Whatever you choose, the road marked "tomorrow" is wide open. You can walk it, climb it, through your "freedom" and your dreams.

A number of people have brought you here, and they deserve our thanks. Like Ronna Romney, Chairman of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. And the Commission sponsors. And let me salute the fifty Commission members who chose you 141 honorees from America's __ high-school graduates. But most of all, I want to thank -- and ask you to thank -- all of those people who form the fabric of your life.

Today, and in the years to come, remember that favorite teacher -- the History prof who was a friend, and mentor; the Biology teacher who did the impossible -- help you dissect a frog. Remember that caring guidance counselor. Or the football coach who gave of his time, and of himself. And remember those who love you most, and who point you toward the stars: What Scholar Christine Oh of Bellville, Georgia, has termed "the backbone of my success." Your parents.

My friends, this is your day. But it is also their day. So let me close with a story your parents might appreciate: about learning, and teaching, and Scholars of all ages.

The story goes that physicist James Franck was professor at Gottingen University in ___ when Robert Oppenheimer, then only 23, was being examined for his doctorate. When the oral exam ended, it was the professor, not student, who first emerged. Franck remarked: "I got out of there just in time. He was beginning to ask me questions."

In coming years, you'll ask many questions. Questions about faith and family, problems and priorities, about what we can become, and why we are here.

Education can provide some answers. And so can the people who believe in it, and you: Your life-long local minister, the mother who trudged her son to Little League, the father who toiled night and day so that his daughter could go to college.

My friends, trust these people. Make them proud. Honor them by the lives you lead. And as you do, remember how their values, which are education's values, can make ours a better, richer, more decent world.

To every Presidential Scholar -- my heart-felt congratulations. And to all of you here -- thank you for coming to the White House, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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