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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 2:20 P.M.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1989

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE CONFERENCE

Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

August 8, 1989

I want to speak to you today about the state of urban America -- about the future I see for American cities, and for the many millions of Americans who make them their home.

In many respects, urban America offers a bleak picture -- an inner city in crisis. There is too much crime, too much crack. Too many drop outs, too much despair. Too little economic opportunity, too little advancement. Too little hope.

But there's something else that's true about our inner cities -- something we can't overlook, something the Urban League has worked tirelessly to strengthen. And that's a core community that is simply too strong to succumb. A community where there is too much faith, too much pride, too strong a sense of family not to fight back -- whatever their challenge, whatever the odds.

But the challenge for urban America is a challenge for all of America. It's a challenge for my Administration -- it's a challenge every American must embrace.

The condition of our inner cities isn't a matter of charts and graphs and cold statistics. It's more than an exercise in sociology or public policy. It's a question of how people live their lives -- a question of human dignity.

And it's a challenge I take to heart. Your problems are my problems. Your hopes -- the hopes all Americans hold dear. Today, I offer you my hand. I offer you my word. Together, we will make America open and equal to all.

Together, we will find a way to stop the decline in our inner cities -- to restore hope, and make the 90's a decade of urban renaissance.

Whether we succeed depends on how well we meet three key tests. First, we must strike down barriers to advancement and opportunity for American minorities -- and strike them down for good. Second, we must create conditions for urban growth and economic revival -- conditions that leave no one behind. And finally, we must secure the most fundamental right of all -- the right of young and old alike of any race to walk any street without fear.

Let me start with equal opportunity. Not just in urban America, but across this Nation, we must continue the crusade for equality.

Just over a week ago, a collection of scholars released a monumental study called A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society. It offers detailed evidence of the progress our Nation has made in the past 50 years in living up to American ideals.

But the study makes clear that our work is far from over. The "great gulf" between black and white America has narrowed. But it has not closed. Closing that gulf -- eliminating it for all time -- is the next chapter we must write in the unfolding history -- the unfinished history -- of civil rights. And that chapter will be written. Because today -- as in the past -- advancing the cause of equal rights is in keeping with America's highest ideals. It is the right thing to do.

Think back to 1954, the Court's decision in favor of Linda Brown. A year later, another decision: Rosa Parks' refusal to go to the back of the bus. The 1960s: The passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Fair Housing.

In this decade, the elevation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to a place of honor among our American heroes. It was the right thing to do. And today -- when our challenge is securing true equality for every American -- once again, we will succeed, because it is the right thing to do.

Discrimination still exists. Race hate -- born of ignorance and inhumanity -- still exists. The day of the poll tax is over, the day of Jim Crow is gone. Today, bigotry and bias may take more subtle forms. But they persist -- and as long as they do, our work is not over.

Before I go on -- I want to make sure everyone in this room knows just where I stand -- just where my Administration stands. My Administration is committed to reaching out to minorities, to striking down barriers to free and open access. We will not tolerate discrimination, bigotry or bias of any kind -- period.

Now -- we've all spent a lot of time over the past two decades debating the best means for ending unequal treatment. We've argued -- society's argued -- about affirmative action, about quotas, goals and timetables, about set-asides and 8-A firms. Well, while society's been debating these important issues -- society's also been changing. The economy's been changing. Our world -- the world our children will inherit -- is changing. Part of the change is the progress we have made -- hard-fought changes in which the Urban League can take pride. Part of the change is simply a matter of the dynamics at work in our world.

Take the economy. We're used to thinking of unemployment as a case of too many people, and too few jobs -- a game of musical chairs. All too often it is minorities left standing when the music stops. In the 1990s -- into the next century -- our problem will be the just the opposite: More than enough jobs -- and too few people qualified to fill them.

The last of the Baby Boom generation are in their thirties. There's been a slowdown in the number of new workers entering our economy, which will continue into the 1990s. New workers will be in demand -- and the simple fact is that 8 of every 10 new workers will be women, minorities, or immigrants.

Think about what that means. For every child growing up today -- black or white, urban or rural -- there will be a job waiting. The question -- our challenge -- is whether they will have the education and the skills they need to seize that opportunity. That's the new frontier for civil rights.

Opportunity means education. The jobs open to the 21st Century worker will require higher skills. Never has education been more important than for the next generation -- for the first grader who is a member of the high school class of 2001. The package of education initiatives I sent to Congress this spring will make a difference -- for urban America -- and for American minorities.

I've called on Congress to provide a \$250 million dollar increase in funds for Head Start -- a key program in getting disadvantaged children ready for school. And back in April, I signed an executive order that will strengthen our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities -- and expand opportunities for their students and graduates.

In many urban schools, the key is creating a sound learning environment: One that keeps drop-outs in -- and keeps drugs out. That's why I've called for the creation of Urban Emergency Grants, to help clean up schools hit hardest by the drug scourge.

Education is the way to turn dreams into reality. And even in the inner city, every kid has a dream.

And opportunity means job training -- building the employment skills and basic literacy ability everyone needs to get and keep a job. For six years now, the Job Training Partnership program has been equipping disadvantaged youth to enter the workforce -- and start that climb up out of the poverty trap. JTPA works. The proof is its 68% success rate -- and we're working to make the program even stronger. Last month we introduced amendments to the JTPA to target it more tightly on at-risk youth -- kids with the most urgent need for job training.

But growth creates jobs -- and the future of urban America depends on bringing growth to our inner cities. One entrepreneurial answer to inner city poverty is enterprise zones. Enterprise zones can be a source of jobs, growth, and advancement. And the payoff isn't simply economic. When you create jobs -- you create hope.

We've debated the idea of enterprise zones long enough. I've asked Congress to create at least 50 enterprise zones between now and 1993. And now it's time for action. But enterprise zones are meaningless if we don't create economic incentives for urban expansion. That's why I've also called on Congress to enact changes in the tax code that will make enterprise zones magnets for capital and job creation.

I'm talking about incentives to increase investment -- to open a flow of "seed capital" into urban areas. If we're going to make inner cities attractive to new capital, individuals who invest in enterprise zones should get an immediate tax savings.

And we've also got to reward risk taking. I've proposed a zero capital gains rate for eligible business investments in enterprise zones. That should be a powerful incentive for outside investors, and a rate of return fitting for urban entrepreneurs.

And I'm talking about incentives for working people. We want to establish a refundable wage credit for low-income employees in enterprise zones. In many cases, this credit will cut the taxes of low-income workers to zero. And for some low-income families who already owe little in taxes, a refundable credit will not only take them off the Federal income tax rolls -- it will put money in their pockets.

Opportunity, education, advancement, equality. Each is essential. But we can't talk about the future we want to see for urban America without talking about the number one threat in our inner cities today: Illegal drugs. You know the simple truth: Our inner cities cannot become centers of opportunity as long as they are battle zones in a drug war.

A little over a week ago, HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan released the newest statistics on illegal drug use in America. The statistics show two trends: One positive, one profoundly

disturbing. Overall use of cocaine has declined by almost half -- testimony to the years of dedication and hard work of parents, educators, religious and community leaders, all determined to end this plague. But our greatest challenge is yet to come. Frequent cocaine use is up sharply. That means while our message is getting across to the casual user, hard-core drugs -- drugs like crack cocaine -- are tightening their grip.

That's grim news, because crack, crime and violence are an unholy trinity in our inner cities. And urban communities suffer most. When the crack house is on your block. When the stray bullet from a drug-war shoot-out kills the mother sitting on her porch. When parents and teachers and churches struggle to teach the values of honesty and hard work -- and find themselves up against the fast-money lure of the drug trade.

But our children can live and learn in peace. Urban communities can thrive again. That's why we've got to combat drug violence. That's why we've got to eliminate fear. That's why we've got to create a climate of hope.

The Federal Government is doing its part -- and we're going to do more. We've taken forceful action to speed up the eviction process for drug dealers in America's public housing communities. And in less than a month, we'll unveil our drug strategy -- our comprehensive battle plan to wage the long, hard fight against illegal drugs.

And there's a message I want to send today to all law-abiding Americans. The war on drugs is a battle that can't simply be waged from Washington. When I was in Chicago last month, I asked this Nation's Governors to pass laws in each of their States that parallel the tough Federal stand we've taken against illegal drugs. Today, I ask each of you to do the same at the local level, in urban America.

Let's put more police on the streets, tougher laws on the books, build the jail cells we need to put drug criminals where they belong -- behind bars -- and keep them there. Let's not point the finger or look for scapegoats. Let's enlist every asset we have, form a united front, and fight this war together.

There are some who say the state of urban America is hopeless. I say they're wrong. We've got to see past the stories on the six o'clock news, past the statistics. We've got to see the potential for progress -- we've got to see the face of hope in our inner cities.

Now, I'm not afraid to say we've got hard work ahead of us -- that we've got to wage war on poverty, wage war on despair, wage war on the hopelessness that robs us of our future.

And I want to tell all of you here today: I'm not going to rest until I know that I've done everything in my power to ensure that we succeed -- that every child in our inner cities has a shot at a good job. That every kid stays in school -- gets a quality education. Lives in decent housing -- in a neighborhood free of drugs, fear and violence.

We've got to work together to achieve these goals. I know we will -- and I know why. Everyone here today knows why. Because it's the right thing to do.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

89 JUL 3 P5:16

August 3, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: PATRICIA MACK BRYAN *PMB*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: National Urban League

Pursuant to James W. Cicconi's staffing memorandum of August 2, 1989, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks. Subject to the comments noted below, we have no legal objection to those remarks.

Discussion of Set Asides in First Full Paragraph of Page 4

We are extremely concerned about the paragraph on page 4 about the set-asides. In the first place, all reference to the Carpenter case should be deleted. The discussion of it in that paragraph is oversimplified and, to the extent it suggests the Justice Department is defending racial category set-asides, incorrect. Consequently, touting that case may well result in angering civil rights leaders who are familiar with it and embarrassing the President. The Department of Justice strongly advises against referencing that case and we concur.

Based on the above and to further improve the problematic nature of the set-asides discussion, we suggest that one of two alternatives be chosen.

Alternative 1: At the least, we recommend that this paragraph be edited along the following lines: (1) delete the second sentence and (2) rewrite the remainder of the paragraph to read "The Department of Justice will defend set-aside programs that assist disadvantaged minority businesses and remedy real injustices. Affirmative action is not at risk. It remains a tool for positive change."

The suggested changes have the advantage of making it clearer that the President favors set-asides for the disadvantaged, not set-asides based on race. Moreover, it avoids reference to the Carpenter case.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

89 JUL 3 P4: 49

August 3, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton 
Subject: National Urban League Draft Speech

The following comments are similar to the comments you have or will be receiving from Roger Porter. The draft as currently constituted repeats our line of "affirmative action, Yes; quotas, No." This message by itself will only serve to concede much of the civil rights issue to the Left. Thus, we suggest a few alternatives below, and append language by Hans Kuttner of OPD that we believe will help shift the focus of the speech onto our strong points.

At pg. 4, para. 2, having set up the three themes of the speech earlier (at 2,4,2): striking down barriers to opportunity, creating urban economic growth, and anti-drugs/crime, the draft turns to the first theme, opportunity, and declares opposition to quotas and support of affirmative action.

But the example we give of enforcing affirmative action is itself a quota: 10% set-asides for interstate highway construction. While this may prove popular with the audience, we can do better at remaining true to our stated principle of striking down barriers to opportunity. For instance:

1) We could mention the relevant figures on the President's appointment of minorities and women to the Executive branch. Assuming such figures are compelling, they will give added force to the President's declared commitment to greater minority recruitment, a key concept of affirmative action.

2) Since we mention educational opportunities in the first graf of this page, we could turn in the second paragraph to the President's relevant actions on education -- promoting parental choice, through magnet schools, for example. (Coincidentally, today's New York Times reports that black parents in Kansas City are suing to have magnet schools opened up more to black kids.) Educational choice will be a popular message, particularly because magnet schools are a common means of achieving integration while maintaining excellence and preventing "white flight."

(more)

2-2-2

3) In addition, we might consider mentioning the President's support of Alternative Certification of teachers as a way to remove barriers to qualified minorities who wish to teach but are denied the opportunity because they lack the necessary credentials -- which is to say that they are denied the opportunity because of their background.

Any or all of these suggestions, in addition to the existing first paragraph on page five dealing with education, could substitute for the present second paragraph on page four -- without self-contradicting our pledge to oppose quotas and support affirmative action.

Accordingly, we have attached language prepared by Hans Kuttner, which we suggest inserting at page 3. We also suggest as above, the addition of some reference to parental choice in education via magnet schools.

2,6,1-2 The study is actually called Blacks And American Society.

9,3 The conclusion is clearly too abrupt. Presumably a more complete conclusion is in the works. If not, we suggest drawing the lesson from the previous anecdotal examples of self-help to point out what is often overlooked: that the solution to the problems of the inner city lie in the inner city itself and its people; people like Lena Jackson, Mattie Pitts, etc. Government should act as the catalyst for this renewal by removing barriers and intervening to protect the vulnerable -- whether they are vulnerable persons, vulnerable families, vulnerable associations and small businesses. The inner city, in short, already contains the seeds of its own renewal.

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alternative criteria for certifying teachers. Those who can teach should teach.

Consider another case, that of an individual who is dear to me: Connie Newman started her government career as a GS3 clerk typist at the Department of Agriculture. Since then the range of responsibilities she has shown that she is fit for most any job. I was proud to nominate her to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, the director of personnel for our ___ million employee federal government. Yet because she doesn't have the credentials that have been established, she can't

I want credential requirements that keep qualified minorities from jobs and economic advancement to come tumbling down like the walls of Jericho. The federal government can be a model. I want Connie to sound the trumpet to make those walls come tumbling down. We will study all the requirements for federal jobs and ask ourselves, does this requirement hold away qualified people? How can performance -- the demonstrated ability to do the job -- substitute for requirements like certifications and exams?

We need to open new frontiers of opportunity. I say to you that the greatest barrier to the advancement of minorities in this country are the rules that say who is qualified to do a job. Too many of them are irrelevant. The only qualification should be, can this individual do the job? If this and only this can be made the standard, then I tell you, the dam will be broken and the aspirations of minorities can flow on to realization.

That's why I am calling for alternative certification for teachers. In almost all the States of the union a prospective teacher must study education in order to qualify for a teaching position in the public schools. Those who do not take the right college courses are excluded from the teaching profession. Too many of those who are excluded are qualified minorities. I want to take down this barrier. My Administration supports using

(more)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*

FROM: DANIEL MCGROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE SPEECH

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
8/7/89

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, August 8, at 1:00 p.m., you will address the National Urban League Annual Conference at the Convention Center here in Washington, D.C. About 3500 people will be in the audience.

You will be introduced by Dr. Bernard Watson, Senior Vice Chairman of the National Urban League. John E. Jacob, President of the Urban League, will be there, as well as Secretary Kemp.

II. DISCUSSION

The speech centers on three themes: equal opportunity; urban growth and economic revival; and the fight against drugs and crime. We also discuss the importance of education in making all three possible.

The overall theme of the speech is that we need to stop bemoaning the "hopeless" state of urban America, and start focusing on the opportunities and potential that is there.

We suggest at the close of the speech that you turn to John Jacob and Jack Kemp as you speak.

McGroarty/Dooley
August 4, 1989
4:30 pm
[URBAN]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 8, 1989
1:00 P.M.

Thank you. [Introductory acknowledgements. John Jacob, President, other Urban League leaders, Secretary Kemp.]

I want to speak to you today about the state of urban America -- about the future I see for American cities, and for the many millions of Americans who make them their home.

In many respects, urban America offers a bleak picture -- an inner city in crisis. There is too much crime, too much crack. Too many drop outs, too much despair. Too little economic opportunity, too little advancement. Too little hope.

But there's something else that's true about our inner cities -- something we can't overlook, something the Urban League has worked tirelessly to strengthen. And that's a core community that is simply too strong to succumb. A community where there is too much faith, too much pride, too strong a sense of family not to fight back -- whatever their challenge, whatever the odds.

But the challenge for urban America is a challenge for all of America. It's a challenge for my Administration -- it's a challenge every American must embrace.

The condition of our inner cities isn't a matter of charts and graphs and cold statistics.... It's more than an exercise in

sociology or public policy. **It's a question of how people live their lives -- a question of human dignity.**

And it's a challenge I take to heart. **Your problems are my problems.** [Pause] Your hopes -- the hopes all Americans hold dear. **Today, I offer you my hand. I offer you my word.**

Together, we will make America open and equal to all. [Pause]

Together, we will find a way to stop the decline in our inner cities -- to restore hope, and make the 90's a decade of urban renaissance.

Whether we succeed depends on how well we meet three key tests. First, we must strike down barriers to advancement and opportunity for American minorities -- **and strike them down for good.** [Pause] Second, we must create conditions for urban growth and economic revival -- **conditions that leave no one behind.** [Pause] And finally, we must secure the most fundamental right of all -- the right of young and old alike of **any race to walk any streets without fear.** [Pause]

Let me start with equal opportunity. Not just in urban America, but across this nation, **we must continue the crusade for equality.** [Pause]

Just over a week ago, a collection of scholars released a monumental study called A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society. It offers detailed evidence of the progress our nation has made in the past 50 years in living up to American ideals. But the study makes clear that our work is far from over. The

"great gulf" between black and white America has narrowed. But it has not closed.

Closing that gulf -- eliminating it for all time -- is the next chapter we must write in the unfolding history -- the unfinished history -- of civil rights.

And that chapter will be written. Because today -- as in the past -- advancing the cause of equal rights is in keeping with America's highest ideals. **It is the right thing to do.**

Think back to 1954, the Court's decision in favor of Linda Brown.... A year later, another decision: Rosa Parks' refusal to go to the back of the bus. The 1960s: the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Fair Housing.

In this decade, the elevation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to a place of honor among our American heroes. **It was the right thing to do.**

And today -- when our challenge is securing true equality for every American -- **once again, we will succeed, because it is the right thing to do.**

Discrimination still exists. Race hate -- born of ignorance and inhumanity -- still exists. The day of the poll tax is over, the day of Jim Crow is gone.... Today, bigotry and bias may take more subtle forms. But they persist -- and as long as they do, **our work is not over.**

Before I go on -- I want to make sure everyone in this room knows just where I stand -- just where my Administration stands. My Administration is committed to reaching out to minorities, to

striking down barriers to free and open access. We will not tolerate discrimination, bigotry or bias of any kind -- period.

[[Pause]]

Now -- we've all spent a lot of time over the past two decades debating the best means for ending unequal treatment. We've argued -- society's argued -- about affirmative action, about quotas, goals and timetables, about set-asides and 8-A firms.

Well, while society's been debating these important issues -- society's also been changing. The economy's been changing. Our world -- the world our children will inherit -- is changing.

Part of the change is the progress we have made -- hard-fought changes in which the Urban League can take pride. Part of the change is simply a matter of the dynamics at work in our world.

Take the economy. We're used to thinking of unemployment as a case of too many people, and too few jobs -- a game of musical chairs. All too often it is minorities left standing when the music stops. In the 1990s -- into the next century -- our problem will be the just the opposite: More than enough jobs -- and too few people qualified to fill them.

The last of the Baby Boom generation are in their thirties. There's been a slowdown in the number of new workers entering our economy, which will continue into the 1990s. New workers will be

in demand -- and the simple fact is that 8 of every 10 new workers will be women, minorities, or immigrants.

Think about what that means. For every child growing up today -- black or white, urban or rural -- there will be a job waiting. [[Pause]]

The question -- our challenge -- is whether they will have the education and the skills they need to seize that opportunity.

That's the new frontier for civil rights.

Opportunity means education. The jobs open to the 21st Century worker will require higher skills. Never has education been more important than for the next generation -- for the first grader who is a member of the high school class of 2001.

The package of education initiatives I sent to Congress this spring will make a difference -- for urban America -- and for American minorities.

I've called on Congress to provide a \$250 million dollar increase in funds for Head Start -- a key program in getting disadvantaged children ready for school. And back in April, I signed an executive order that will strengthen our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities -- and expand opportunities for their students and graduates.

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But growth creates jobs -- and the future of urban America depends on bringing growth to our inner cities. One entrepreneurial answer to inner city poverty is enterprise zones.

Enterprise zones can be a source of jobs, growth, and advancement. And the payoff isn't simply economic. When you create jobs -- you create hope.

We've debated the idea of enterprise zones long enough. I've asked Congress to create at least 50 enterprise zones between now and 1993. And now it's time for action. [Pause]

But enterprise zones are meaningless if we don't create economic incentives for urban expansion. That's why I've also called on Congress to enact changes in the tax code that will make enterprise zones magnets for capital and job creation.

I'm talking about incentives to increase investment -- to open a flow of "seed capital" into urban areas. If we're going

to make inner cities attractive to new capital, individuals who invest in enterprise zones should get an immediate tax savings.

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- it will put money in their pockets.

Opportunity, education, advancement, equality. Each is essential. But we can't talk about the future we want to see for urban America without talking about the number one threat in our inner cities today: illegal drugs. You know the simple truth: **Our inner cities cannot become centers of opportunity as long as they are battle zones in a drug war.**

A little over a week ago, HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan released the newest statistics on illegal drug use in America. The statistics show two trends: one positive, one profoundly disturbing. Overall use of cocaine has declined by almost half -
- testimony to the years of dedication and hard work of parents, educators, religious and community leaders, all determined to end

this plague. But our greatest challenge is yet to come.

Frequent cocaine use is up sharply. That means while our message is getting across to the casual user, hard-core drugs -- drugs like crack cocaine -- are tightening their grip.

That's grim news, because crack, crime and violence are an unholy trinity in our inner cities. And urban communities suffer most. When the crack house is on your block.... When the stray bullet from a drug-war shoot-out kills the mother sitting on her porch.... When parents and teachers and churches struggle to teach the values of honesty and hard work -- and find themselves up against the fast-money lure of the drug trade.

But our children can live and learn in peace. Urban communities can thrive again. That's why we've got to combat drug violence. That's why we've got to eliminate fear. That's why we've got to create a climate of hope.

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against illegal drugs. Today, I ask each of you to do the same at the local level, in urban America.

Let's put more police on the streets, tougher laws on the books, build the jail cells we need to put drug criminals where they belong --behind bars -- and keep them there. Let's not point the finger or look for scapegoats. Let's enlist every asset we have, form a united front, and fight this war together.

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Now, I'm not afraid to say we've got hard work ahead of us - - that we've got to wage war on poverty, wage war on despair, wage war on the hopelessness that robs us of our future.

And I want to tell all of you here today: I'm not going to rest until I know that I've done everything in my power to ensure that we succeed -- that every child in our inner cities has a shot at a good job.... That every kid stays in school -- gets a quality education.... Lives in decent housing -- in a neighborhood free of drugs, fear and violence.

~~I can't do it alone. None of us can.~~ We've got to work together. *to achieve their goals* I know we will -- and I know why.

John, you know why. Jack, you know why. Everyone here today knows why.

Because it's the right thing to do.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States
of America.

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IN THE 1990s -- INTO THE NEXT CENTURY -- OUR PROBLEM WILL BE JUST THE OPPOSITE: MORE THAN ENOUGH JOBS -- AND TOO FEW PEOPLE QUALIFIED TO FILL THEM.

THE LAST OF THE BABY BOOM GENERATION ARE IN THEIR THIRTIES. THERE'S BEEN A SLOWDOWN IN THE NUMBER OF NEW WORKERS ENTERING OUR ECONOMY, WHICH WILL CONTINUE INTO THE 1990s. NEW WORKERS WILL BE IN DEMAND -- AND THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT 8 OF EVERY 10 NEW WORKERS WILL BE WOMEN, MINORITIES, OR IMMIGRANTS.

REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 8, 1989
2:00 P.M.

THANK YOU DR. WATSON. JOHN JACOB, URBAN LEAGUE
LEADERS, SECRETARY KEMP, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT THE STATE OF
URBAN AMERICA -- ABOUT THE FUTURE I SEE FOR AMERICAN
CITIES, AND FOR THE MANY MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO MAKE
THEM THEIR HOME.

GUIDANCE

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
TO THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AUGUST 8, 1989**

In his address, President Bush focusses on the state of urban America, and on ways to stop the decline in our inner cities and make the 1990s a decade of urban renaissance.

The President identifies the challenge for urban America as a challenge for all of America, and declares that success depends on meeting three key tests:

First, our ability to strike down barriers to advancement and opportunity for American minorities.

Second, our ability to create conditions for urban growth and economic revival.

Third, our success in securing the most fundamental right of all -- the right of every American of any race to walk any street without fear.

The President notes that in recent decades the great gulf between black and white America has narrowed, but has not closed. Discrimination still exists, and as long as it does, the crusade for true equality is not over.

The President offers his personal pledge -- that he will not tolerate discrimination, bigotry or bias of any kind, and that he is committed to reach out to minorities and to striking down barriers to free and open access.

The new frontier for civil rights is preparing all American children for the changing future they will face.

The economy is a case in point. We generally think of unemployment as a case of too many people, and too few jobs. In the 1990s the problem will be the just the opposite: More than enough jobs -- and too few people qualified to fill them.

A slowdown in the number of new workers entering our economy means that new workers will be in demand. And 8 of every 10 new workers will be women, minorities, or immigrants. That means that for every child growing up today -- regardless of race -- there will be a job waiting.

The question is whether our children receive adequate education and training to seize that opportunity. The President's education initiatives will help urban America and American minorities prepare for this challenge. They include: A \$250 million dollar increase in funds for Head Start, expanded assistance to America's Historically Black Colleges and

[Originally attached to previous page]

Steph -
for our files -
DD and Holly
have copies.

Ann

Universities, and Urban Emergency Grants, to help clean up schools hit hardest by the drug scourge.

In addition, the President's recent proposals to strengthen the successful Job Training Partnership program will help at-risk youth build the employment skills and basic literacy ability they need to get and keep a job.

But growth that creates jobs, and in order to bring growth to our inner cities, the President proposes an entrepreneurial answer: enterprise zones. The President has called on Congress to create at least 50 enterprise zones between now and 1993 -- and the economic incentives to make them meaningful.

Those include incentives to increase investment in urban areas, by granting immediate tax savings to enterprise zone investors, a zero capital gains rate for eligible business investments in enterprise zones, and a refundable wage credit for low-income employees in the zones.

Finally, the future of urban America depends on our ability to number one threat in our inner cities today: illegal drugs.

The newest statistics on illegal drug use in America show two trends: one positive, one profoundly disturbing. Overall use of cocaine has declined by almost half -- but frequent cocaine use is up sharply. That means while our message is getting across to the casual user, hard-core drugs -- drugs like crack cocaine -- are tightening their grip. And it is urban America that suffers most from drug violence.

The federal government's commitment to the war on drugs includes action to speed up the eviction process for drug dealers in America's public housing communities, and the unveiling next month of a comprehensive anti-drug strategy.

But the war on drugs is a battle that can't simply be waged from Washington. States and local governments must parallel the tough federal stand against illegal drugs. Support at all levels of government for tougher laws, more police, and increased prison construction is part of united front against illegal drugs.

Contrary to the bleak picture we often see, the state of urban America is not at all hopeless. President Bush emphasizes his personal commitment to wage war on the poverty and despair that stand between urban America and a brighter future.

Please call Holly Williamson for further information, White House Public Affairs, 456-2930.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/5/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, DC
SUBJECT: AUGUST 8, 1989, 1:00 PM

(8/4 - 4:30 p.m. draft)

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

August 4, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*

FROM: DANIEL MCGROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE SPEECH

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, August 8, at 1:00 p.m., you will address the National Urban League Annual Conference at the Convention Center here in Washington, D.C. About 3500 people will be in the audience.

You will be introduced by Dr. Bernard Watson, Senior Vice Chairman of the National Urban League. John E. Jacob, President of the Urban League, will be there, as well as Secretary Kemp.

II. DISCUSSION

The speech centers on three themes: equal opportunity; urban growth and economic revival; and the fight against drugs and crime. We also discuss the importance of education in making all three possible.

The overall theme of the speech is that we need to stop bemoaning the "hopeless" state of urban America, and start focusing on the opportunities and potential that is there.

We suggest at the close of the speech that you turn to John Jacob and Jack Kemp as you speak.

McGroarty/Dooley
August 4, 1989
4:30 pm
[URBAN]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 8, 1989
1:00 P.M.

Thank you. [Introductory acknowledgements. John Jacob, President, other Urban League leaders, Secretary Kemp.]

I want to speak to you today about the state of urban America -- about the future I see for American cities, and for the many millions of Americans who make them their home.

In many respects, urban America offers a bleak picture -- an inner city in crisis. There is too much crime, too much crack. Too many drop outs, too much despair. Too little economic opportunity, too little advancement. Too little hope.

But there's something else that's true about our inner cities -- something we can't overlook, something the Urban League has worked tirelessly to strengthen. And that's a core community that is simply too strong to succumb. A community where there is too much faith, too much pride, too strong a sense of family not to fight back -- whatever their challenge, whatever the odds.

But the challenge for urban America is a challenge for all of America. It's a challenge for my Administration -- it's a challenge every American must embrace.

The condition of our inner cities isn't a matter of charts and graphs and cold statistics.... It's more than an exercise in

sociology or public policy. It's a question of how people live their lives -- a question of human dignity.

And it's a challenge I take to heart. Your problems are my problems. [Pause] Your hopes -- the hopes all Americans hold dear. Today, I offer you my hand. I offer you my word. Together, we will make America open and equal to all. [Pause]

Together, we will find a way to stop the decline in our inner cities -- to restore hope, and make the 90's a decade of urban renaissance.

Whether we succeed depends on how well we meet three key tests. First, we must strike down barriers to advancement and opportunity for American minorities -- and strike them down for good. [Pause] Second, we must create conditions for urban growth and economic revival -- conditions that leave no one behind. [Pause] And finally, we must secure the most fundamental right of all -- the right of young and old alike of any race to walk any streets without fear. [Pause]

Let me start with equal opportunity. Not just in urban America, but across this nation, we must continue the crusade for equality. [Pause]

Just over a week ago, a collection of scholars released a monumental study called A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society. It offers detailed evidence of the progress our nation has made in the past 50 years in living up to American ideals. But the study makes clear that our work is far from over. The

"great gulf" between black and white America has narrowed. But it has not closed.

Closing that gulf -- eliminating it for all time -- is the next chapter we must write in the unfolding history -- the unfinished history -- of civil rights.

And that chapter will be written. Because today -- as in the past -- advancing the cause of equal rights is in keeping with America's highest ideals. It is the right thing to do.

Think back to 1954, the Court's decision in favor of Linda Brown.... A year later, another decision: Rosa Parks' refusal to go to the back of the bus. The 1960s: the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Fair Housing.

In this decade, the elevation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to a place of honor among our American heroes. It was the right thing to do.

And today -- when our challenge is securing true equality for every American -- once again, we will succeed, because it is the right thing to do.

Discrimination still exists. Race hate -- born of ignorance and inhumanity -- still exists. The day of the poll tax is over, the day of Jim Crow is gone.... Today, bigotry and bias may take more subtle forms. But they persist -- and as long as they do, our work is not over.

Before I go on -- I want to make sure everyone in this room knows just where I stand -- just where my Administration stands. My Administration is committed to reaching out to minorities, to

striking down barriers to free and open access. We will not tolerate discrimination, bigotry or bias of any kind -- period.

[[Pause]]

Now -- we've all spent a lot of time over the past two decades debating the best means for ending unequal treatment. We've argued -- society's argued -- about affirmative action, about quotas, goals and timetables, about set-asides and 8-A firms.

Well, while society's been debating these important issues -- society's also been changing. The economy's been changing. Our world -- the world our children will inherit -- is changing.

Part of the change is the progress we have made -- hard-fought changes in which the Urban League can take pride. Part of the change is simply a matter of the dynamics at work in our world.

Take the economy. We're used to thinking of unemployment as a case of too many people, and too few jobs -- a game of musical chairs. All too often it is minorities left standing when the music stops. In the 1990s -- into the next century -- our problem will be the just the opposite: More than enough jobs -- and too few people qualified to fill them.

The last of the Baby Boom generation are in their thirties. There's been a slowdown in the number of new workers entering our economy, which will continue into the 1990s. New workers will be

in demand -- and the simple fact is that 8 of every 10 new workers will be women, minorities, or immigrants.

Think about what that means. For every child growing up today -- black or white, urban or rural -- there will be a job waiting. [[Pause]]

The question -- our challenge -- is whether they will have the education and the skills they need to seize that opportunity.

That's the new frontier for civil rights.

Opportunity means education. The jobs open to the 21st Century worker will require higher skills. Never has education been more important than for the next generation -- for the first grader who is a member of the high school class of 2001.

The package of education initiatives I sent to Congress this spring will make a difference -- for urban America -- and for American minorities.

I've called on Congress to provide a \$250 million dollar increase in funds for Head Start -- a key program in getting disadvantaged children ready for school. And back in April, I signed an executive order that will strengthen our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities -- and expand opportunities for their students and graduates.

In many urban schools, the key is creating a sound learning environment: one that keeps drop-outs in -- and keeps drugs out. That's why I've called for the creation of Urban Emergency Grants, to help clean up schools hit hardest by the drug scourge.

Education is the way to turn dreams into reality. And even in the inner city, every kid has a dream.

And opportunity means job training -- building the employment skills and basic literacy ability everyone needs to get and keep a job. For six years now, the Job Training Partnership program has been equipping disadvantaged youth to enter the workforce -- and start that climb up out of the poverty trap. JTPA works. The proof is its 68% success rate -- and we're working to make the program even stronger. Last month we introduced amendments to the JTPA to target it more tightly on at-risk youth -- kids with the most urgent need for job training.

But growth creates jobs -- and the future of urban America depends on bringing growth to our inner cities. One entrepreneurial answer to inner city poverty is enterprise zones.

Enterprise zones can be a source of jobs, growth, and advancement. And the payoff isn't simply economic. When you create jobs -- you create hope.

We've debated the idea of enterprise zones long enough. I've asked Congress to create at least 50 enterprise zones between now and 1993. And now it's time for action. [Pause]

But enterprise zones are meaningless if we don't create economic incentives for urban expansion. That's why I've also called on Congress to enact changes in the tax code that will make enterprise zones magnets for capital and job creation.

I'm talking about incentives to increase investment -- to open a flow of "seed capital" into urban areas. If we're going

to make inner cities attractive to new capital, individuals who invest in enterprise zones should get an immediate tax savings.

And we've also got to reward risk taking. I've proposed a zero capital gains rate for eligible business investments in enterprise zones. That should be a powerful incentive for outside investors, and a rate of return fitting for urban entrepreneurs.

And I'm talking about incentives for working people. We want to establish a refundable wage credit for low-income employees in enterprise zones. In many cases, this credit will cut the taxes of low-income workers to zero. And for some low-income families who already owe little in taxes, a refundable credit will not only take them off the federal income tax rolls - - it will put money in their pockets.

Opportunity, education, advancement, equality. Each is essential. But we can't talk about the future we want to see for urban America without talking about the number one threat in our inner cities today: illegal drugs. You know the simple truth: Our inner cities cannot become centers of opportunity as long as they are battle zones in a drug war.

A little over a week ago, HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan released the newest statistics on illegal drug use in America. The statistics show two trends: one positive, one profoundly disturbing. Overall use of cocaine has declined by almost half - - testimony to the years of dedication and hard work of parents, educators, religious and community leaders, all determined to end

this plague. But our greatest challenge is yet to come. Frequent cocaine use is up sharply. That means while our message is getting across to the casual user, hard-core drugs -- drugs like crack cocaine -- are tightening their grip.

That's grim news, because crack, crime and violence are an unholy trinity in our inner cities. And urban communities suffer most. When the crack house is on your block.... When the stray bullet from a drug-war shoot-out kills the mother sitting on her porch.... When parents and teachers and churches struggle to teach the values of honesty and hard work -- and find themselves up against the fast-money lure of the drug trade.

But our children can live and learn in peace. Urban communities can thrive again. That's why we've got to combat drug violence. That's why we've got to eliminate fear. That's why we've got to create a climate of hope.

The federal government is doing its part -- and we're going to do more. We've taken forceful action to speed up the eviction process for drug dealers in America's public housing communities. And in less than a month, we'll unveil our drug strategy -- our comprehensive battle plan to wage the long, hard fight against illegal drugs.

And there's a message I want to send today to all law-abiding Americans. The war on drugs is a battle that can't simply be waged from Washington. When I was in Chicago last month, I asked this nation's governors to pass laws in each of their states that parallel the tough federal stand we've taken

against illegal drugs. Today, I ask each of you to do the same at the local level, in urban America.

Let's put more police on the streets, tougher laws on the books, build the jail cells we need to put drug criminals where they belong --behind bars -- and keep them there. Let's not point the finger or look for scapegoats. Let's enlist every asset we have, form a united front, and fight this war together.

There are some who say the state of urban America is hopeless. I say they're wrong. We've got to see past the stories on the six o'clock news, past the statistics.... We've got to see the potential for progress -- we've got to see the face of hope in our inner cities.

Now, I'm not afraid to say we've got hard work ahead of us - - that we've got to wage war on poverty, wage war on despair, wage war on the hopelessness that robs us of our future.

And I want to tell all of you here today: I'm not going to rest until I know that I've done everything in my power to ensure that we succeed -- that every child in our inner cities has a shot at a good job.... That every kid stays in school -- gets a quality education.... Lives in decent housing -- in a neighborhood free of drugs, fear and violence.

I can't do it alone. None of us can. We've got to work together. I know we will -- and I know why.

John, you know why. Jack, you know why. Everyone here today knows why.

Because it's the right thing to do.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States
of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
FROM: DANIEL MCGROARTY *DMG*
SUBJECT: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE SPEECH

I. SUMMARY

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You will be introduced by Dr. Bernard Watson, Senior Vice Chairman of the National Urban League. John E. Jacob, President of the Urban League, will be there, as well as Secretary Kemp.

II. DISCUSSION

The speech centers on three themes: equal opportunity; urban growth and economic revival; and the fight against drugs and crime. We also discuss the importance of education in making all three possible.

The overall theme of the speech is that we need to stop bemoaning the "hopeless" state of urban America, and start focusing on the opportunities and potential that is there.

We suggest at the close of the speech that you turn to John Jacob and Jack Kemp as you speak.

McGroarty/Dooley
August 4, 1989
4:30 pm
[URBAN]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 8, 1989
1:00 P.M.

Thank you. [Introductory acknowledgements. John Jacob, President, other Urban League leaders, Secretary Kemp.]

I want to speak to you today about the state of urban America -- about the future I see for American cities, and for the many millions of Americans who make them their home.

In many respects, urban America offers a bleak picture -- an inner city in crisis. There is too much crime, too much crack. Too many drop outs, too much despair. Too little economic opportunity, too little advancement. Too little hope.

But there's something else that's true about our inner cities -- something we can't overlook, something the Urban League has worked tirelessly to strengthen. And that's a core community that is simply too strong to succumb. A community where there is too much faith, too much pride, too strong a sense of family not to fight back -- whatever their challenge, whatever the odds.

But the challenge for urban America is a challenge for all of America. It's a challenge for my Administration -- it's a challenge every American must embrace.

The condition of our inner cities isn't a matter of charts and graphs and cold statistics.... It's more than an exercise in

sociology or public policy. It's a question of how people live their lives -- a question of human dignity.

And it's a challenge I take to heart. Your problems are my problems. [Pause] Your hopes -- the hopes all Americans hold dear. Today, I offer you my hand. I offer you my word. Together, we will make America open and equal to all. [Pause]

Together, we will find a way to stop the decline in our inner cities -- to restore hope, and make the 90's a decade of urban renaissance.

Whether we succeed depends on how well we meet three key tests. First, we must strike down barriers to advancement and opportunity for American minorities -- and strike them down for good. [Pause] Second, we must create conditions for urban growth and economic revival -- conditions that leave no one behind. [Pause] And finally, we must secure the most fundamental right of all -- the right of young and old alike of any race to walk any streets without fear. [Pause]

Let me start with equal opportunity. Not just in urban America, but across this nation, we must continue the crusade for equality. [Pause]

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And that chapter will be written. Because today -- as in the past -- advancing the cause of equal rights is in keeping with America's highest ideals. It is the right thing to do.

Think back to 1954, the Court's decision in favor of Linda Brown.... A year later, another decision: Rosa Parks' refusal to go to the back of the bus. The 1960s: the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Fair Housing.

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And today -- when our challenge is securing true equality for every American -- once again, we will succeed, because it is the right thing to do.

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Before I go on -- I want to make sure everyone in this room knows just where I stand -- just where my Administration stands. My Administration is committed to reaching out to minorities, to

striking down barriers to free and open access. We will not tolerate discrimination, bigotry or bias of any kind -- period.

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Now -- we've all spent a lot of time over the past two decades debating the best means for ending unequal treatment. We've argued -- society's argued -- about affirmative action, about quotas, goals and timetables, about set-asides and 8-A firms.

Well, while society's been debating ^{these important issues} -- society's ^{also} been changing. The economy's been changing. Our world -- the world our children will inherit -- is changing.

Part of the change is the progress we have made -- hard-fought changes in which the Urban League can take pride. Part of the change is simply a matter of the dynamics at work in our world.

Take the economy. We're used to thinking of unemployment as a case of too many people, and too few jobs -- a game of musical chairs. All too often it is minorities left standing when the music stops. In the 1990s -- into the next century -- our problem will be the just the opposite: More than enough jobs -- and too few people qualified to fill them.

The last of the Baby Boom generation are in their thirties. There's been a slowdown in the number of new workers entering our economy, which will continue into the 1990s. New workers will be in demand -- and the simple fact is that 8 of every 10 new workers will be women, minorities, or immigrants.

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In many urban schools, the key is creating a sound learning environment: one that keeps drop-outs in -- and keeps drugs out. That's why I've called for the creation of Urban Emergency Grants, to help clean up schools hit hardest by the drug scourge.

Education is the way to turn dreams into reality. And even in the inner city, every kid has a dream.

And opportunity means job training -- building the employment skills and basic literacy ability everyone needs to get and keep a job. For six years now, the Job Training Partnership program has been equipping disadvantaged youth to enter the workforce -- and start that climb up out of the poverty trap. JTPA works. The proof is its 68% success rate -- and we're working to make the program even stronger. Last month we introduced amendments to the JTPA to target it more tightly on at-risk youth -- kids with the most urgent need for job training.

But growth creates jobs -- and the future of urban America depends on bringing growth to our inner cities. One entrepreneurial answer to inner city poverty is enterprise zones.

Enterprise zones can be a source of jobs, growth, and advancement. And the payoff isn't simply economic. When you create jobs -- you create hope.

We've debated the idea of enterprise zones long enough. I've asked Congress to create at least 50 enterprise zones between now and 1993. **And now it's time for action.** [Pause]

But enterprise zones are meaningless if we don't create economic incentives for urban expansion. That's why I've also called on Congress to enact changes in the tax code that will make enterprise zones magnets for capital and job creation.

I'm talking about incentives to increase investment -- to open a flow of "seed capital" into urban areas. If we're going to make inner cities attractive to new capital, individuals who invest in enterprise zones should get an immediate tax savings.

And we've also got to reward risk taking. I've proposed a **zero capital gains rate** for eligible business investments in enterprise zones. That should be a powerful incentive for outside investors, and a rate of return fitting for urban entrepreneurs.

And I'm talking about incentives for working people. We want to establish a refundable wage credit for low-income employees in enterprise zones. In many cases, this credit will cut the taxes of low-income workers **to zero**. And for some low-income families who already owe little in taxes, a **refundable** credit will not only take them off the federal income tax rolls - **it will put money in their pockets.**

Opportunity, education, advancement, equality. Each is essential. But we can't talk about the future we want to see for urban America without talking about the number one threat in our inner cities today: illegal drugs. You know the simple truth: **Our inner cities cannot become centers of opportunity as long as they are battle zones in a drug war.**

A little over a week ago, HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan released the newest statistics on illegal drug use in America. The statistics show two trends: one positive, one profoundly disturbing. Overall use of cocaine has declined by almost half - testimony to the years of dedication and hard work of parents, educators, religious and community leaders, all determined to end this plague. But our greatest challenge is yet to come. Frequent cocaine use ^{is up sharply} has almost doubled. That means while our

message is getting across to the casual user, hard-core drugs -- drugs like crack cocaine -- are tightening their grip.

That's grim news, because crack, crime and violence are an unholy trinity in our inner cities. And urban communities suffer most. When the crack house is on your block.... When the stray bullet from a drug-war shoot-out kills the mother sitting on her porch.... When parents and teachers and churches struggle to teach the values of honesty and hard work -- and find themselves up against the fast-money lure of the drug trade.

But our children can live and learn in peace. Urban communities can thrive again. That's why we've got to combat drug violence. That's why we've got to eliminate fear. That's why we've got to create a climate of hope.

The federal government is doing its part -- and we're going to do more. We've taken forceful action to speed up the eviction process for drug dealers in America's public housing communities. And in less than a month, we'll unveil our drug strategy -- our comprehensive battle plan to wage the long, hard fight against illegal drugs.

And there's a message I want to send today to all law-abiding Americans. The war on drugs is a battle that can't simply be waged from Washington. When I was in Chicago last month, I asked this nation's governors to pass laws in each of their states that parallel the tough federal stand we've taken against illegal drugs. Today, I ask each of you to do the same at the local level, in urban America.

Let's put more police on the streets, tougher laws on the books, build the jail cells we need to put drug criminals where they belong --behind bars -- and keep them there. Let's not point the finger or look for scapegoats. Let's enlist every asset we have, form a united front, and fight this war together.

There are some who say the state of urban America is hopeless. I say they're wrong. We've got to see past the stories on the six o'clock news, past the statistics.... We've got to see the potential for progress -- we've got to see the face of hope in our inner cities.

Now, I'm not afraid to say we've got hard work ahead of us - - that we've got to wage war on poverty, wage war on despair, wage war on the hopelessness that robs us of our future.

And I want to tell all of you here today: I'm not going to rest until I know that I've done everything in my power to ensure that we succeed -- that every child in our inner cities has a shot at a good job.... That every kid stays in school -- gets a quality education.... Lives in decent housing -- in a neighborhood free of drugs, fear and violence.

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John, you know why. Jack, you know why. Everyone here today knows why.

Because it's the right thing to do.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

See pp. 3-5.

McGroarty/Dooley
August 4, 1989
8:30 am
[URBAN]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 8, 1989
1:00 P.M.

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I want to speak to you today about the state of urban America -- about the future I see for American cities, and for the many millions of Americans who make them their home.

In many respects, urban America offers a bleak picture -- an inner city in crisis. There is too much crime, too much crack. Too many drop outs, too much despair. Too little economic opportunity, too little advancement. Too little hope.

But there's something else that's true about our inner cities -- something we can't overlook, something the Urban League has worked tirelessly to strengthen. And that's a core community that is simply too strong to succumb. A community where there is too much faith, too much pride, too strong a sense of family **not** to fight back and win -- whatever their challenge, whatever the odds.

But the challenge for urban America is a challenge for all of America. It's a challenge for my Administration -- it's a challenge every American must embrace.

The condition of our inner cities isn't a matter of charts and graphs and cold statistics.... It's more than an exercise in sociology or public policy. It's a question of how people live their lives -- a question of human dignity.

And it's a challenge I take to heart. Your problems are my problems. Your hopes -- the hopes all Americans hold dear. Today, I offer you my hand. I offer you my word. Together, we will make America open and equal to all.

Together, we will find a way to stop the decline in our inner cities -- to restore hope, and make the 90's a decade of urban renaissance.

Whether we succeed depends on how well we meet three key tests. First, we must strike down barriers to advancement and opportunity for American minorities. Second, we must create conditions for urban growth and economic revival. And finally, we must secure the most fundamental right of all -- the right of young and old alike of any race to walk city streets without fear.

Let me start with equal opportunity. Not just in urban America, but across this nation, we must continue the crusade for equal rights.

Just a few weeks ago, a collection of scholars released a monumental study called Blacks and American Society. It offers detailed evidence of the progress our nation has made in the past 50 years in living up to American ideals. But the study makes

clear that our work isn't over. The "great gulf" between black and white America has narrowed. It has not closed.

Closing that gulf -- eliminating it for all time -- is the next chapter we must write in the unfolding history -- the **unfinished** history -- of civil rights.

And that chapter **will** be written. Because today -- as in the past -- advancing the cause of equal rights is in keeping with America's highest ideals. **It is the right thing to do.**

Think back to 1954, the Court's decision in favor of Linda Brown.... A year later, another decision: Rosa Parks' refusal to go to the back of the bus. It was the right thing to do.

1964: the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Four years later, Fair Housing. It was the right thing to do.

In this decade, the elevation of Martin Luther King to a place of honor among our American heroes. It was the right thing to do.

And today -- when our challenge is securing true equality for every American -- **once again, we will succeed, because it is the right thing to do.**

And there's work to be done. Discrimination still exists. Race hate -- born of ignorance and inhumanity -- still exists. The day of the poll tax is over, the day of Jim Crow is gone.... Today, bigotry and bias may take more subtle forms. But they persist -- and as long as they do, our work is not over.

Let me be clear. This Administration is committed to reaching out to minorities, to striking down barriers to free and open access. **We will not tolerate discrimination, bigotry or bias of any kind.** [[Pause]]

We've all spent a lot of time ^{over} the past two decades debating the best means for ending unequal treatment. We've argued -- for and against affirmative action.... For and against quotas.

Well, while we've been debating -- society's been changing. The economy's been changing. Our world -- the world our children will inherit -- is changing.

Part of it is the progress we have made -- hard-fought changes in which the Urban League can take pride. Part of it is simply a matter of different dynamics -- of the ^{over period} constant change that takes place in our country and the world beyond.

Take the economy. (We're used to thinking of too many people, and not enough jobs) -- a game of musical chairs, where all too often it is minorities left standing when the music stops. In the 1990s -- into the next century -- our problem will be the just the opposite: An abundance of jobs -- and too few people to fill them.

We're approaching a labor shortage -- a slowdown in the number of new workers entering our economy. **New workers will be in demand -- and the simple fact is that 8 of every 10 new workers will be women, minorities, or immigrants.**

Think about what that means. For every black child growing up today -- there will be a job waiting. [[Pause]] The question

time frame

Never been as busy more want than for the next generation

jobs that will require more....

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-- our challenge -- is whether they will have the education and the skills they need to seize the opportunities open to them.

That's the new frontier for equal rights. Expanding advancement and opportunity. Helping the disadvantaged get a hand-hold on their future. Helping all of our children get ready for the opportunities open to them.

And opportunity means education. The bill I sent to Congress this spring will make a difference for urban America -- and for American minorities.

I've called on Congress to increase funds for Head Start, and to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In many urban schools, the key is creating a sound learning environment: one that keeps the drop-outs in -- and keeps the drugs out. That's why I've called for the creation of Urban Emergency Grants, to help schools hit hardest by the drug scourge.

[Job training....]

All our kids have their eye on their dreams. Education is a means of turning those dreams into reality.

The future of urban America depends on bringing growth to our inner cities. And there **is** an entrepreneurial answer to inner city poverty. I'm talking about enterprise zones.

Enterprise zones can be a source of jobs, growth and advancement. And the payoff isn't simply economic. When you create jobs -- you create hope.

We've debated the idea of enterprise zones long enough. It's time for action. I'm asking Congress to create 50 enterprise zones between now and 1993. But enterprise zones are meaningless if we don't create economic incentives for urban expansion. That's why I've called on Congress to enact changes in the tax code that will make enterprise zones magnets for capital and job creation.

I'm talking about incentives for working people. We want to establish a refundable wage credit for low-income employees in enterprise zones. In many cases, this credit will cut the taxes of low-income workers to zero. And for some low-income families who already owe little in taxes, a refundable credit will not only take them off the tax rolls -- it will put money in their pockets. That will make a real difference in the lives of working men and women in our inner cities.

But in order to make enterprise zones a magnet for economic growth, we've got to encourage investment. If we're going to make inner cities attractive to new capital, individuals who invest in enterprise zones should get an immediate tax savings.

And we've also got to reward economic success. I've proposed a zero capital gains rate for businesses in enterprise zones. That should be a powerful incentive for outside investors, and a fitting reward for urban entrepreneurs.

All together, that's a package of tax incentives worth nearly \$1.8 billion dollars over four years. That will start in

motion an economic renaissance that will bring jobs and growth to our inner cities, to the people who need them most.

Opportunity, education, advancement, equal rights. Each is essential. But we can't talk about the future we want to see for urban America without talking about the number one threat in our inner cities today: illegal drugs. You know the simple truth: Our inner cities cannot become oases of opportunity as long as they are battle zones in a drug war run out of control.

A little over a week ago, Dr. Louis Sullivan released the newest statistics on illegal drug use in America. The statistics show two trends: one positive, one profoundly disturbing. Overall use of cocaine is down 37% -- but cases of cocaine addiction are up one third. That means while our message is getting across to the casual user, hard-core drugs -- drugs like crack cocaine -- are tightening their grip.

That's grim news, because crack, crime and violence are an unholy trinity in our inner cities. And urban communities suffer most. When the crack house is on your block.... When the stray bullet from a drug-war shoot-out kills the mother sitting on her porch.... When parents and teachers and churches struggle to teach the values of honesty and hard work -- and find themselves up against the fast-money lure of the drug trade.

We've got to combat that violence. We've got to eliminate that fear. We've got to create a climate of hope -- so that our

children can live and learn in peace, so that urban communities can thrive again.

The federal government is doing its part -- and we're going to do more. In less than a month, we'll unveil our drug strategy -- our comprehensive battle plan to wage the long, hard fight against illegal drugs.

And we've already sent to Congress a comprehensive crime package that sends a clear message to criminals:

If you commit a crime -- you will be caught.

When you're caught -- you will be prosecuted.

If you're convicted -- you will do time.

And there's a message I want to send today to all law-abiding Americans. The war on drugs is a battle that can't simply be waged from Washington. That is why urban leaders must demand that states and local governments fully fund anti-drug and anti-crime efforts. Put more police on the streets, tougher laws on the books, build the jail cells we need to put drug criminals where they belong -- behind bars -- and keep them there. Let's not point the finger or look for scapegoats. Let's enlist every asset we have, form a united front, and fight this war together.

There are some who say the state of urban America is hopeless. I say they're wrong. We've got to see past the stories on the six o'clock news, past the statistics.... We've got to see the inner city heroes who are keeping communities

alive -- who are carving out a better future in urban America, and they're doing it today.

People like Lena Jackson, a tenant in a Cleveland housing project where drug dealers caused residents to live in fear. Lena led a crusade to have management responsibilities turned over to residents, and drove the drug dealers out. Before the tenants took control, they used to call crime-ridden Lakeview Terrace Estates "Saigon." Today there's a 3000 person waiting list for housing units there.

People like Mattie Pitts, whose husband and son served on the Miami police force, and who now heads Miami's Citizens Crime Watch. Mattie spends 14 and 15 hours a day on the streets and in the schools of Miami's north side -- an area devastated by riots less than a decade ago. She's helping a neighborhood reverse course -- rebuild -- and work its way back.

Everyday heroes like Eric Holoman, an urban entrepreneur in Los Angeles, owner of a string of fast food restaurants. Eric's growing business is giving 170 employees from disadvantaged areas -- as he puts it -- "an opportunity to move from the working class to the middle class." All this -- and he's not even 30 years old.

Lena Jackson, Mattie Pitts and Eric Holoman are just three of the thousands of people making life better in urban America. Let's look to them -- for answers, and for the inspiration we need to create a promising, prosperous future for all Americans and every American city.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States
of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 3, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: National Urban League

I hope the following comments are helpful with respect to the President's speech to the National Urban League.

1. On page 1, in the paragraph that begins "But there's something...", I would expand the language of the sentence that begins "A community where..." to include a concept such as dignity or pride.

2. On page 2, in the fourth full paragraph I would use the word "equality" rather than "equal rights", because of the latter's association with the issue of sex discrimination.

3. Talking about affirmative action quotas is tricky. On page 3, the President states that he fundamentally opposes quotas. On page 4 he applauds a federal set-aside program which reserves 10% of all interstate highway construction contracts for minority-owned businesses, which is clearly a quota program. These two policy positions are inconsistent.

4. On page 4, the last line seems to suggest that owning or managing housing projects is a way out of poverty. Although it may improve housing conditions, the causal connection to improved economic status seems weak, if it exists at all.

5. Insert after "Historically Black Colleges and Universities":

On April 28, I signed an Executive Order on these historic institutions which puts forth initiatives to strengthen them...and expand opportunities for their students and graduates.

6. On page 5, in the paragraph that begins "The future of urban America...", the implication is that enterprise zones are the answer to inner city poverty rather than an important part of the answer to inner city poverty.

7. On page 6, in the last paragraph, the phrase "equal rights" is used again and may cause confusion if quoted independently.

8. On page 7, line 1, the word "oasis" should be changed to a word such as "harbors". The term "oasis" suggests that inner cities will be the exclusive areas of opportunity to the exclusion of other areas of the country.

9. Substitute for "Overall use of cocaine is down 37%...":

Overall use of illegal drugs is down 37%. This is testimony to the years of dedication and hard work by parents, educators, religious and community leaders...all of you determined to end this plague. But our hardest work is yet to come. The number of people addicted to cocaine is up one-third.

insert B

That's grim news...

10. On page 7, in the first sentence of the second full paragraph, it may be appropriate to find a substitute for the expression "unholy trinity".

I also recommend inserting a passage emphasizing opening frontiers of opportunity that is attached. This language could be included at page 3.

We need to open new frontiers of opportunity. I say to you that the greatest barrier to the advancement of minorities in this country are the rules that say who is qualified to do a job. Too many of them are irrelevant. The only qualification should be, can this individual do the job? If this and only this can be made the standard, then I tell you, the dam will be broken and the aspirations of minorities can flow on to realization.

That's why I am calling for alternative certification for teachers. In almost all the States of the union a prospective teacher must study education in order to qualify for a teaching position in the public schools. Those who do not take the right college courses are excluded from the teaching profession. Too many of those who are excluded are qualified minorities. I want to take down this barrier. My Administration supports using

(more)

alternative criteria for certifying teachers. Those who can teach should teach.

Consider another case, that of an individual who is dear to me: Connie Newman started her government career as a GS3 clerk typist at the Department of Agriculture. Since then the range of responsibilities she has shown that she is fit for most any job. I was proud to nominate her to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, the director of personnel for our __ million employee federal government. Yet because she doesn't have the credentials that have been established, she can't

I want credential requirements that keep qualified minorities from jobs and economic advancement to come tumbling down like the walls of Jericho. The federal government can be a model. I want Connie to sound the trumpet to make those walls come tumbling down. We will study all the requirements for federal jobs and ask ourselves, does this requirement hold away qualified people? How can performance -- the demonstrated ability to do the job -- substitute for requirements like certifications and exams?

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/2/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/3/89 2:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

2pm *4pm*

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT <i>N/C</i>	<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"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON <i>clb4</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jaylor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>7803 Pat Bryan</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 PM, Thursday, August 3, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

McGroarty/Dooley
August 2, 1989
4:30 pm
[URBAN]

1009 AUG - 2 PM 4:

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 8, 1989
1:00 P.M.?

Thank you. [Introductory acknowledgements, Urban League leaders, Secretary Kemp(?).]

I want to speak to you today about the state of urban America -- about the future I see for American cities, and for the many millions of Americans who make them their home.

In many respects, urban America offers a bleak picture -- an inner city in crisis. There is too much crime, too much crack. Too many drop outs, too much despair. Too little economic opportunity, too little advancement. Too little hope.

But there's something else that's true about our inner cities -- something we can't overlook. And that's a core community that is simply too strong to succumb. A community where there is too much faith, ^{too much pride,} too strong a sense of family not to fight back and win -- whatever their challenge, whatever the odds.

But the challenge for urban America is a challenge for all of America. It's a challenge for my Administration -- it's a challenge every American must embrace.

The condition of our inner cities isn't a matter of charts and graphs and cold statistics.... It's more than an exercise in

sociology or public policy. It's a question of how people live their lives -- a question of human dignity.

And it's a challenge I take to heart. Your problems are my problems. Your hopes -- the hopes all Americans hold dear. Today, I offer you my hand. I offer you my word. Together, we will make America open and equal to all.

Together, we will find a way to stop the decline in our inner cities -- to restore hope, and make the 90's a decade of urban renaissance.

Whether we succeed depends on how well we meet three key tests. First, we must strike down barriers to advancement and opportunity for American minorities. Second, we must create conditions for urban growth and economic revival. And finally, we must secure the most fundamental right of all -- the right of young and old alike of any race to walk city streets without fear.

Let me start with equal opportunity. Not just in urban America, but across this nation, we must continue the crusade for equal ¹⁴⁴rights.

Just a few weeks ago, a collection of scholars released a ~~monumental~~ study called ^{and} Blacks in American Society. It offers detailed evidence of the progress our nation has made in the past 50 years in living up to American ideals. But the study makes clear that our work ^{is far from} isn't over. The "great gulf" between black and white America has narrowed. ^{But} It has not closed.

Closing that gulf -- eliminating it for all time -- is the next chapter we must write in the unfolding history -- the unfinished history -- of civil rights.

And that chapter will be written. Because today -- as in the past -- advancing the cause of civil rights *there is nothing complicated about it* *is the right thing to do.* *It's simply put, it's*

Think back to 1954, the Court's decision in favor of Linda Brown.... A year later, another decision: Rosa Parks' refusal to go to the back of the bus. It was the right thing to do.

1964: the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Four years later, Fair Housing. It was the right thing to do.

In this decade, the elevation of ^{Dr.} Martin Luther King, ^{Jr.} to a place of honor among our American heroes. It was the right thing to do.

And today -- when our challenge is securing true equality for every American -- once again, we will succeed, because it is the right thing to do.

Let me be clear. This Administration will not tolerate discrimination, bigotry or bias of any kind. [[Pause]] We mean to reach out to minorities, to strike down barriers to free and open access. And I want to tell you today: we're not throwing away affirmative action as a remedy. [[Pause]]

All of you know that I oppose quotas. There's something fundamentally wrong about a solution -- that with the best of intentions -- in the name of erasing past injustices and the

Voting Rights Act

1988 Fair Housing Amendments

stigma of race, awards jobs, promotions and educational opportunities on the basis of race. I am convinced that quotas are counter-productive. They promise to perpetuate the very same set of attitudes that are the opposite of all that "equal rights" stands for.

But there are ways to put the force of law behind affirmative action -- and my Administration is committed to doing just that. Take a look at the Carpenter case. The Department of Justice is defending a federal set-aside program, one that reserves 10% of all interstate highway construction contracts for minority-owned businesses. It's a sound plan -- fair and flexible -- that assists disadvantaged minority businesses, that remedies real injustices. **And it's proof that affirmative action is not at risk. It remains a tool for positive change.**

Beyond the courts, the new frontier for equal rights is expanding advancement and opportunity -- helping the disadvantaged get a hand-hold on their future.

Take low-income housing. We're working to expand resident management -- **and resident ownership.** The aim: to give tenants ~~a sense of control~~ -- a stake in their community, and something more: a shot at the American Dream.

And it's working. Here in Washington, ^{Chicago} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~St. Louis, in~~ ~~San~~ ~~Francisco~~ and in cities across America, more and more public housing residents are travelling the road from tenant to manager to owner. **That's a path out of the poverty trap -- and we've got to keep it open.**

Opportunity ~~also~~ means education. The ^{legislation} bill I sent to Congress this spring will make a difference for urban America -- and for American minorities. I've called on Congress to increase funds for Head Start, and to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. * In many urban schools, the key is creating a sound learning environment: one that keeps the drop-outs in -- and keeps the drugs out. That's why I've called for the creation of Urban Emergency Grants, to help schools hit hardest by the drug scourge.

All our kids have their eye on their dreams. Education is a means of turning those dreams into reality.

The future of urban America depends on bringing growth to our inner cities. And there is an entrepreneurial answer to inner city poverty. I'm talking about enterprise zones.

Enterprise zones can be a source of jobs, growth and advancement. And the payoff isn't simply economic. When you create jobs -- you create hope.

We've debated the idea of enterprise zones long enough. It's time for action. I'm asking Congress to create ^{at least} 50 enterprise zones between now and 1993. But enterprise zones are meaningless if we don't create economic incentives for urban expansion. That's why I've ^{also} called on Congress to enact changes in the tax code that will make enterprise zones magnets for capital and job creation.

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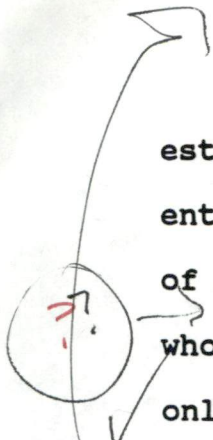
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But in order to make enterprise zones a magnet for economic growth, we've got to encourage investment. If we're going to make inner cities attractive to new capital, individuals who invest in enterprise zones should get an immediate tax savings.

And we've also got to reward economic success. I've proposed a zero capital gains rate for ^{eligible} businesses ^{investment} in enterprise zones. That should be a powerful incentive for outside investors, and a fitting reward for urban entrepreneurs.

All together, that's a package of tax incentives worth nearly \$1.8 billion dollars over ^{five} four years. That will start in motion an economic renaissance that will bring jobs and growth to our inner cities, to the people who need them most.

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move
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p. 6.

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We've got to combat that violence. We've got to eliminate that fear. We've got to create a climate of hope -- so that our children can live and learn in peace, so that urban communities can thrive again.

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reference to convictions of drug offenders

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The state of urban America is far from hopeless. We've got to see past the stories on the six o'clock news, past the statistics.... We've got to see the inner city heroes who are keeping communities alive -- who are carving out a better future in America's inner cities, and they're doing it today.

People like Lena Jackson, a tenant in a Cleveland housing project where drug dealers caused residents to live in fear. Lena led a crusade to have management responsibilities turned over to residents, and drove the drug dealers out. Before the tenants took control, they used to call crime-ridden Lakeview Terrace Estates "Saigon." Today there's a 3000 person waiting list for housing units there.

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Lena Jackson, Mattie Pitts and Eric Holoman are just three of the thousands of people making life better in urban America. Let's look to them -- for answers, and for the inspiration we need to create a promising, prosperous future for all Americans and every American city.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

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