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

OA/ID Number: 13499
Folder ID Number: 13499-005

Folder Title:
National Urban League 8/8/89 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	25	6	4	5

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 8/2/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/3/89 2:00 PMSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☒	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☒	☐	ROGERS	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐		☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

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:

*See comments
8/3/89*

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 hope, 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

Justice - Dave Runkel

Treasury - Deseree Tucker-Sereini ~ 566-8191

- too negative - doesn't acknowledge that there have been successes in the 80's in America's inner cities - give Urban League some credit.
- talk about expanding prosperity into pockets of poverty & despair, restoring jobs, hope, opportunity, enterprise
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.

To Succeed we must
~~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 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 isn't over. The "great gulf" between black and white America has narrowed. It has not closed.

for many, but for all too many
after it has widened

Attorney General has been making a statement like this for 10 years may want to reference the A.G.

This needs to be stronger, is a reference to the Declaration of Independence, the promise of democracy. 3

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 (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.)

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 ^{the strict use of} quotas. There's something fundamentally wrong about a solution -- that with the best of I am not opposed to affirmative action. intentions -- in the name of erasing past injustices and the

5

Opportunity also 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.

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.

entrepreneurship
Enterprise
(at least)
the key
Capital gains should be lost because it is ~~the~~ key to creating new businesses, more jobs -- ~~that's what~~

6

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 ^{risk taking} economic success. I've proposed a zero capital gains rate ^{on certain investments} 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 ^{five} four years.) That will start in motion ^{help} an economic renaissance that will bring jobs and growth to our inner cities, to the people who need them most.

The key is the power of free-enterprise, the private sector, not the government. ^{Stress the power of entrepreneurship.}

Opportunity, 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

need to talk about unlocking the flow of "seed capital" removing barriers between risk & reward to help turn an entrepreneur's dreams into reality. Not because the rich want it, but because those who ~~want~~ want to become

7

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:

My Administration has taken forceful action to speed the eviction process for drug dealers in America's public housing communities by waiving burdensome, duplicative Federal lease & guarantee procedures (saves up to 12 months)

speed drug evictions
in public housing.

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.

(Insert A) ← But 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.

(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.

9

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People 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 "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.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INSERT A

But the Federal government recognizes that law enforcement alone will not be enough to stop the scourge of drugs. We have to help people make good anti drug decisions. People strong enough, people tall enough, and bold enough to withstand the temptation of drugs and drug trafficking. That is why federal law enforcement agents all across the country are becoming involved in drug prevention activities in their local communities.

 Editing: Kristen Taylor
only on pages 2,3+4

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

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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.

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And that chapter **will** be written. Because today -- as in the past -- advancing the cause of civil rights **is the right thing to do.**

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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~~ ^{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, 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 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.

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#



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

August 3, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: BILL KRISTOL *WPK*
SUBJECT: National Urban League Speech

I think the speech is basically fine. I enclose some suggested edits on the text.

89 JUL 3 P3:09

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 8/2/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/3/89 2:00 PMSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

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RESPONSE:

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

McGroarty/Dooley
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1989 AUG -2 PM 4:

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

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programs should be strong to eliminate

not quotas

Threaten Civil racism, color-consciousness, denial of equal opportunity

We should

I've also urged measures to increase choice and thus improve the quality of schools.
Opportunity also 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 more Urban Emergency Grants, to help schools hit hardest by the drug scourge. *accountable for providing effective education to all Americans*

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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 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 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,~~ ^{now must pay} ~~a~~ ^{this} 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, 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

Centers

remain
^

7

inner cities cannot become oases of opportunity as long as they are battle zones in a drug war run out of control.

Cocaine use

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. *by almost the same amount.* That means while our message is getting across to the casual user, hard-core drugs -- drugs like crack cocaine -- are tightening their grip. *on the urban communities.*

STET

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.

But 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.

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.

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.

OK { People 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 "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.

#

Why is he singled out -- is he ~~the~~ drift? more than any other fast-food chain?

Killed?
? relevance

Alternative 2: Our preference would be to delete that paragraph and any reference to set-asides altogether. It could be replaced by a discussion of the affirmative action activities the President has taken as an employer -- touting his hiring of competent minorities for top positions in the federal government. The President could follow that discussion with a statement to the effect that he will work to encourage the private sector to do the same.

Page 9, Paragraph 2: Of far less significance than the comments made above, we recommend deleting of the quote "an opportunity to move from the working class to the middle class." In the first place, the quote is confusing in this context in that it appears that Mr. Holoman actually is providing people with an opportunity to move from unemployment to the working class. Moreover, there are those who may well think that the working class is the middle class. Finally, it seems inappropriate to have the President refer to groups of Americans in terms of "class".

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 8/2/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

8/3/89 2:00 PM

SUBJECT: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☒	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☒	☐	ROGERS	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

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: OK

98 : 30 8 JUL 88

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

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.

****[[INSERT CARDS 1A & 1B]]****

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.

- 1A -

BEFORE I BEGIN TODAY, I WANT TO SAY A WORD ABOUT A
DEDICATED CONGRESSMAN AND FELLOW HOUSTONIAN, MICKEY
LELAND. WE'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
ETHIOPIA AND THE UN TO LEARN THE WHEREABOUTS OF
CONGRESSMAN LELAND'S PLANE. [UPDATE, IF AVAILABLE.]

I THINK IT SAYS A LOT ABOUT THE MAN THAT HE WAS ON
HIS SIXTH HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO HELP THE HUNGRY OF
ETHIOPIA.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH MICKEY LELAND'S
FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WE PRAY THAT HE'S SAFE, THAT HE
AND THE OTHERS TRAVELLING WITH HIM WILL BE FOUND
SOON -- AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO LEARN
WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 8/2/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 8/3/89 2:00 PMSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
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CARD	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐		☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

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: *Comments inside.*

92:4d 6 JUL 3 1989

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



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

NOTICE:

Enclosed are comments from staff members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such comments do not necessarily represent the official position of the Director of OMB or of the Office of Management and Budget. If you wish to have the Director's personal comments, please let me know -- and contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David J. Haun", is positioned above the typed name.

David J. Haun
Executive Assistant
to the Director

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

1989 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 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 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 isn't over. The "great gulf" between black and white America has narrowed. It has not closed.

note: This study is methodologically flawed. 1/6/90
x 5178

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} is the right thing to do. ^{It's simply}

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. ^{Voter} 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.

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

What about
Voting Rights
Act?
Sweeney
x7362

What about
Fair Housing
Amendments
Act of 1968?
Sweeney
x7362

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, 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.

Note: a specific participation level signifies a quota.

*Holan
X5178*

*This number
little extra
quote -
Summary
X2362*

Opportunity also 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.

➤ insert from next page --
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.

Helen
x 5178

insert for page 5

In addition, I have put improving the rate of success of minorities in our education system at the top of my policy agenda. On July 26th, I established for each of the major agencies of government the key policy objectives I intend to hold the agencies accountable for. Here are two of the three objectives for the Secretary of Education:

- o To increase minority participation and retention in two-and four-year college degree granting programs.
- o To improve academic achievement of elementary and secondary students, especially low-income, minority, and handicapped children.

Last week, I also invited the Governors to join me in an intensive two-day summit meeting on education to hammer out our national goals and objectives in practical terms and to set our course for success.

Ultimate success will not come in a day or a year, *government* but with this kind of concentrated effort by the Federal partner, ~~along~~ with the efforts of groups like yours, with the comparable commitment of the Governors, and most importantly, with the commitment of parents and students, ~~we~~ will come.

Success

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. 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 ^{eligible business investments} ~~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 ^{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.

Opportunity, 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

note: In budget documents,
we talk about \$1.05
billion in 4 years.

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.

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

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

But 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.

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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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People 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 "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.

#

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

Troy
Hammond
drop#

THANK YOU DR. WATSON. JOHN JACOB, OTHER 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.

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.

Convention Center.

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 STREET 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 PARTNERTSHIP 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.

WE'VE GOT TO WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THESE 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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