

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

FOIA Number:

S

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**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:** 13501  
**Folder ID Number:** 13501-006

---

**Folder Title:**  
National Baptist Convention - New Orleans 9/8/89 [2]

---

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

---

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/5/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 9/6/89 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON Wednesday, September 6, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

No Comments  
9/6/89  
27:47 9 SEP 89

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

Davis/Martin  
Sept. 4, 1989  
Draft: Seven  
Title: Baptists

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION USA, Inc.  
New Orleans Convention Center  
Sept. 8, 1989/2:30 p.m.

Reverend Jemison, members of the staff and members of the board of directors.

((You know, with so many Baptists here in New Orleans, I almost expect to hear: "When the Saints Come Marching In"))

((PAUSE))

((The last time I was here, I addressed thousands of Republicans. Now I am addressing sixteen thousand Baptists, and I'm just as anxious to make a good impression today as I was then. But Barbara put it all in perspective for me. She said: "Now George, just imagine you're standing in front of another Sunday school class."))

((But I never had a Sunday school class **this** big.))

((PAUSE))

Well, every Sunday school student knows that it is written in the Bible that wherever two or three people gather together to worship, there is a church. And, in many ways, that is what we have here for a few days in New Orleans -- **the biggest congregation inside the biggest church on Earth.** ((PAUSE))

You draw your inspiration from the faith of a great church. It was the first American Baptists in Rhode Island who, as sons of Pilgrims, led the campaign for religious toleration. It was

the Baptists who played an important role in securing our freedom of religion in the American Constitution. It was the Baptists who, as pioneers, built sturdy new churches on the empty plains and prairies of the West. But it is another tradition that we honor in New Orleans today. We honor **your** parents and grandparents, who were **also** brave pioneers -- pioneers who blazed trails into **another** frontier -- **the freedom frontier.** ((PAUSE))

It took **this** convention, the leadership of **your** pastors and **your** people, to extend the struggle for freedom to **all** men and women. ((PAUSE)) It took leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Wyatt Tee Walker, E.V. Hill, Jerry Moore and T.J. Jemison. And it took nothing less than another Great Awakening -- **an awakening to the promise of civil rights.** ((PAUSE))

I have watched this movement blossom in my lifetime, from my days in college to my days in Congress. So know one thing: in the struggle for equality and opportunity, your hopes and dreams are the **highest aspirations** of my Presidency. ((PAUSE))

It was just more than a year ago that I was privileged to give a nominating address here, one in which I promised our country would stand for a greater tolerance. I said, "We've come far, but I think we need a new harmony among the races in our country. We're on a journey to a new century, and **we've got to leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind.**"

Of course, discrimination is not the only problem that we face today. Just as you led America in the civil rights

movement, so you are now leading communities struggling with another national problem.

Is it crime? Not quite. Is it homelessness? No, not by itself. Is it drugs? Yes, but it is even more than that. As serious as all of these problems are, they are related to another one -- the decline of the most basic of all institutions -- the family. Too many children in America are growing up without direction, without values, without esteem for themselves or anyone else. So our goal is simple, and it is vital: We must work together to save the American family. ((PAUSE))

Family life is my source of strength, as it is for Barbara, and as it is for you. Strong families are bound by more than blood; they are bound by the precious memories of Christmas morning, a toddler's first steps, a grandfather's tall tales, and the lasting pride of a graduation ceremony. And our families are bound by something else: simple acts of learning and teaching; simple acts to instill the values of fairness, honesty and hard work.

Of course, there are more single parents today than ever before. And, difficult though it may be, most single parents are raising happy, well-adjusted children with the help of family and friends, and by drawing on their own inner strength. But imagine the lonely plight of a single mother who has no help; who has no money; who has no ability to keep her kids from being lost -- lost to the unhealthy life of the streets. So to save the

American family also means providing support for these parents, who are struggling against tough odds.

Nor can we ignore the difficulties of poor working couples with children. The challenge of strengthening these families requires both public and private efforts. And church leadership is meeting the challenge -- in ministries like that of E.V. Hill of Los Angeles, where hungry families find sustenance; in ministries where Baptists are providing families with everything from high chairs to a hand-up.

You know that no matter how close-knit **your** family may be, the decline of the American family is not just someone else's problem. It is **our** problem. When one generation is raised without values, it uncoils a chain of misery that weighs down future generations. Almost half of all black families are headed by one parent, and many of these parents are overwhelmed. And because they are overwhelmed, four out of ten black children live in poverty. And because of this, it is becoming harder for your churches to reach so many promising young men and women.

How can you teach respect for a hard-earned dollar, when easy drug money flourishes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach that achievement is found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, when a murderous materialism // glitters// with the promise of gold chains, // fast cars// and fashion clothes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach a young black man, living in poverty, to work for a better future, when he has a greater chance of going to prison than of going to college? ((PAUSE))

In short, without strong families, how can values triumph over vice?

The answers can only come from the heart, from the heart of every parent. And the answers can come from you, from the people of our churches.

I have come to New Orleans today to pledge my support and to recognize your heroic efforts. We can work together in many ways to strengthen families, with greater choice in child-care and education; and by replacing the crippling fear of crime with the promise of opportunity.

First, let me begin with child-care. Often, while parents work, love and care comes from the extended family -- grandparents, aunts and uncles. And in many ways, the church community is the greatest extended family of all. You have already taken a load off the shoulders of working parents, some single; some together. And in this same spirit, I offer a few ways government can help.

I have proposed a child-care tax credit, to be focused on those who need such assistance the most -- **the working poor**.

But this approach is different from past programs, because it would empower **parents**, not the government, to choose the best care for **their** children -- be it a grandparent, a neighbor or a

local church. **We need to give parents a choice in their children's care, not take it away.**

Yet some in Congress do not agree. Perhaps it is time we sent them a message. Just as we should support single-parent families, so we should also support two-parent families where one parent chooses to care for the children at home. And we should **never, never discriminate against religiously affiliated child care.** ((PAUSE))

I felt for myself, in Washington, D.C., the spirit of family and love that permeates the day-care center at Shiloh Baptist Church. And, if necessary, I am determined to protect Shiloh and every other church-affiliated child-care center in America **with my veto pen.** ((PAUSE))

But child-care for families is not enough. **Families need opportunity:** I want to renew my proposal for federal enterprise zones, to bring opportunity to the barren lots of the South Bronx, to the streets of Watts, to farm towns and to every community in need. And also I renew my proposal for tenant management of public housing. We can no longer deny these people **the autonomy and the dignity they deserve.** ((PAUSE))

These are ways to bring opportunity to those who need it most. But opportunity will be wasted if young men and women lack the means to take advantage of it. And that means education.

Today's job market will settle for nothing less than full literacy, and an aptitude for skilled labor. And those who are

incapable -- and they are great in number -- will fall further and further behind.

What's the answer? I see you pointing the way. For a century and a half, your churches have demonstrated the liberating power of learning. Annie Rose, a community leader in Alexandria, Virginia, tells a fascinating story about her father. You see, Annie Rose is 95-years-old, and her father, Henry Rose, was born into slavery.

Liberated at age 21, Henry Rose walked all the way from Texas to Virginia, and worked on the railroad until a Baptist society sponsored him at a seminary school. Annie Rose says her father was so poor that when he graduated, he had to wear a boot on one foot and a shoe on the other. But Henry Rose had something better than a matching pair of shoes. He had knowledge. He had pride. And as a Baptist minister, he founded five churches and two schools, establishing institutions with great traditions of service that live on to this day.

There is a lesson for us in this remarkable man's life. If a he could beat the overwhelming odds of slavery, oppression and prejudice to lead a community, then **any** obstacle **can** be overcome.

And we **will** overcome. Opportunity comes when we give parents and students greater choice. This means magnet schools; this means public and private partnerships like "Say Yes to Education," which sends impoverished minority students to college; and this means increased support for historically Black Colleges and Universities.

But education is more than schooling; it is nothing less than the communication of values. And once again, you are leading the way. Just look right here New Orleans, where the Greater Liberty Baptist Church is preparing many young men for adulthood through its Black Manhood Training program. ((PAUSE))

But to get to school, to get to work, to get to a child-care center, families must also be free to walk the streets of their cities without fear. And today, **freedom from fear means freedom from drugs.** ((PAUSE)) That is why Tuesday night I announced an all-out assault, a way to attack the drug menace on every front.

Nowhere are drug dealers more vicious, more predatory, than in the inner-city. They've turned whole communities into war zones, making the routine of daily life miserable and dangerous for thousands of honest families. **It is time to get tough.** Let us join together to **sweep out** these merchants of death, to **reclaim our cities, to reclaim our streets.** ((PAUSE))

To provide child-care, to improve education, to create opportunity and to defeat drugs -- these are steps to strengthen families that require nothing less than a sustained national effort, a national partnership. I believe government can and should be a strong partner.

As I said here just a little more than a year ago: "A government that remembers that the people are its master is a good and needed thing. I respect old fashioned common sense, and have no great love for the imaginings of social planners. I like what's been tested and found to be true."

Your faith has been tested. Your values have been found to be true. And it is your faith and your values that America is turning to today. Americans will always come back to our basic traditions, our values.

So I'm an optimist. I believe we will reach out to families in need. I believe we will see a strengthening of the many patterns of family life. And I believe we will see a sharing of values -- values rooted in the conviction that we, as individuals and as families are engaged in a single enterprise called America.

Thank you for all that you've done. And thank you for inviting me to New Orleans.

God bless you and God bless America.

#

#

#

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

09 SEP 6 10:54

September 6, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM:

ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: National Baptists  
Convention, U.S.A.

The draft remarks strike a useful emphasis on the family and on fundamental values. My comments are brief and I hope helpful:

1. On page 1, we should eliminate the phrase "as sons of Pilgrims" in referring to the first Baptists in Rhode Island. Roger Williams, who founded Rhode Island and was a Baptist, fled from Massachusetts because of a high level of intolerance on the part of the Pilgrims and Puritans in that state.

2. On page 2, we need to take care in the discussion of civil rights because of the most recent events at Virginia Beach and at Bensonhurst. The phrase "we're on a journey to a new century, and we've got to leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind," is a good one and should be retained. Stating that we need a new harmony among the races in our country may encourage some to wonder why he does not go on and say something directly about the incidents at Virginia Beach and Bensonhurst.

3. In the section on page 6 dealing with child care, we need to be careful to raise the scepter of a Presidential veto, given the fact that child care will undoubtedly get resolved in reconciliation and the President may not choose to veto a reconciliation bill that gives him what he wants with respect to spending reductions, capital gains, and catastrophic health insurance. Given this, I suggest that we have the last sentence in the second full paragraph on that page read, "I am determined to protect Shiloh and every other church-affiliated child-care center in America."

4. This is a largely black audience, as you are aware, and the first sentence in the last full paragraph on page 7 should read, "and we shall overcome" rather than "and we will overcome."

If you have any questions, or I can be helpful in any other way, please let me know.

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 9/5/89      **ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:** 9/6/89 NOON

**SUBJECT:** PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON Wednesday, September 6, 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

Davis/Martin  
Sept. 4, 1989  
Draft: Seven  
Title: Baptists

89 SEP 5 P12:09

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION USA, Inc.  
New Orleans Convention Center  
Sept. 8, 1989/2:30 p.m.

Reverend Jemison, members of the staff and members of the board of directors.

((You know, with so many Baptists here in New Orleans, I almost expect to hear: "When the Saints Come Marching In"))

((PAUSE))

((The last time I was here, I addressed thousands of Republicans. Now I am addressing sixteen thousand Baptists, and I'm just as anxious to make a good impression today as I was then. But Barbara put it all in perspective for me. She said: "Now George, just imagine you're standing in front of another Sunday school class."))

((But I never had a Sunday school class this big.))

((PAUSE))

Well, every Sunday school student knows that it is written in the Bible that wherever two or three people gather together to worship, there is a church. And, in many ways, that is what we have here for a few days in New Orleans -- the biggest congregation inside the biggest church on Earth. ((PAUSE))

You draw your inspiration from the faith of a great church. It was the first American Baptists in Rhode Island who, as sons of Pilgrims, led the campaign for religious toleration. It was

the Baptists who played an important role in securing our freedom of religion in the American Constitution. It was the Baptists who, as pioneers, built sturdy new churches on the empty plains and prairies of the West. But it is another tradition that we honor in New Orleans today. We honor your parents and grandparents, who were also brave pioneers -- pioneers who blazed trails into another frontier -- the freedom frontier. ((PAUSE))

It took this convention, the leadership of your pastors and your people, to extend the struggle for freedom to all men and women. ((PAUSE)) It took leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Wyatt Tee Walker, E.V. Hill, Jerry Moore and T.J. Jemison. And it took nothing less than another Great Awakening -- an awakening to the promise of civil rights. ((PAUSE))

I have watched this movement blossom in my lifetime, from my days in college to my days in Congress. So know one thing: in the struggle for equality and opportunity, your hopes and dreams are the highest aspirations of my Presidency. ((PAUSE))

It was just more than a year ago that I was privileged to give a nominating address here, one in which I promised our country would stand for a greater tolerance. I said, "We've come far, but I think we need a new harmony among the races in our country. We're on a journey to a new century, and we've got to leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind."

Of course, discrimination is not the only problem that we face today. Just as you led America in the civil rights

movement, so you are now leading communities struggling with another national problem.

Is it crime? Not quite. Is it homelessness? No, not by itself. Is it drugs? Yes, but it is even more than that. As serious as all of these problems are, they are related to another one -- the decline of the most basic of all institutions -- the family. Too many children in America are growing up without direction, without values, without esteem for themselves or anyone else. So our goal is simple, and it is vital: We must work together to save the American family. ((PAUSE))

Family life is my source of strength, as it is for Barbara, and as it is for you. Strong families are bound by more than blood; they are bound by the precious memories of Christmas morning, a toddler's first steps, a grandfather's tall tales, and the lasting pride of a graduation ceremony. And our families are bound by something else: simple acts of learning and teaching; simple acts to instill the values of fairness, honesty and hard work.

Of course, there are more single parents today than ever before. And, difficult though it may be, most single parents are raising happy, well-adjusted children with the help of family and friends, and by drawing on their own inner strength. But imagine the lonely plight of a single mother who has no help; who has no money; who has no ability to keep her kids from being lost -- lost to the unhealthy life of the streets. So to save the

American family also means providing support for these parents, who are struggling against tough odds.

Nor can we ignore the difficulties of poor working couples with children. The challenge of strengthening these families requires both public and private efforts. And church leadership is meeting the challenge -- in ministries like that of E.V. Hill of Los Angeles, where hungry families find sustenance; in ministries where Baptists are providing families with everything from high chairs to a hand-up.

You know that no matter how close-knit **your** family may be, the decline of the American family is not just someone else's problem. It is **our** problem. When one generation is raised without values, it uncoils a chain of misery that weighs down future generations. Almost half of all black families are headed by one parent, and many of these parents are overwhelmed. And because they are overwhelmed, four out of ten black children live in poverty. And because of this, it is becoming harder for your churches to reach so many promising young men and women.

How can you teach respect for a hard-earned dollar, when easy drug money flourishes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach that achievement is found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, when a murderous materialism // glitters// with the promise of gold chains, // fast cars// and fashion clothes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach a young black man, living in poverty, to work for a better future, when he has a greater chance of going to prison than of going to college? ((PAUSE))

In short, without strong families, how can values triumph over vice?

The answers can only come from the heart, from the heart of every parent. And the answers can come from you, from the people of our churches.

I have come to New Orleans today to pledge my support and to recognize your heroic efforts. We can work together in many ways to strengthen families, with greater choice in child-care and education; and by replacing the crippling fear of crime with the promise of opportunity.

First, let me begin with child-care. Often, while parents work, love and care comes from the extended family -- grandparents, aunts and uncles. And in many ways, the church community is the greatest extended family of all. You have already taken a load off the shoulders of working parents, some single; some together. And in this same spirit, I offer a few ways government can help.

I have proposed a child-care tax credit, to be focused on those who need such assistance the most -- the working poor.

But this approach is different from past programs, because it would empower parents, not the government, to choose the best care for their children -- be it a grandparent, a neighbor or a

local church. We need to give parents a choice in their children's care, not take it away.

Yet some in Congress do not agree. Perhaps it is time we sent them a message. Just as we should support single-parent families, so we should also support two-parent families where one parent chooses to care for the children at home. And we should never, never discriminate against religiously affiliated child care. ((PAUSE))

I felt for myself, in Washington, D.C., the spirit of family and love that permeates the day-care center at Shiloh Baptist Church. And, if necessary, I am determined to protect Shiloh and every other church-affiliated child-care center in America with my veto pen. ((PAUSE))

But child-care for families is not enough. Families need opportunity: I want to renew my proposal for federal enterprise zones, to bring opportunity to the barren lots of the South Bronx, to the streets of Watts, to farm towns and to every community in need. And also I renew my proposal for tenant management of public housing. We can no longer deny these people the autonomy and the dignity they deserve. ((PAUSE))

These are ways to bring opportunity to those who need it most. But opportunity will be wasted if young men and women lack the means to take advantage of it. And that means education.

[ Today's job market will settle for nothing less than full literacy, and an aptitude for skilled labor. ] And those who are

incapable -- and they are great in number -- will fall further and further behind.

What's the answer? I see you pointing the way. For a century and a half, your churches have demonstrated the liberating power of learning. Annie Rose, a community leader in Alexandria, Virginia, tells a fascinating story about her father. You see, Annie Rose is 95-years-old, and her father, Henry Rose, was born into slavery.

Liberated at age 21, Henry Rose walked all the way from Texas to Virginia, and worked on the railroad until a Baptist society sponsored him at a seminary school. Annie Rose says her father was so poor that when he graduated, he had to wear a boot on one foot and a shoe on the other. But Henry Rose had something better than a matching pair of shoes. He had knowledge. He had pride. And as a Baptist minister, he founded five churches and two schools, establishing institutions with great traditions of service that live on to this day.

There is a lesson for us in this remarkable man's life. If a he could beat the overwhelming odds of slavery, oppression and prejudice to lead a community, then **any** obstacle can be overcome.

And we **will** overcome. Opportunity comes when we give parents and students greater choice. This means magnet schools; this means public and private partnerships like "Say Yes to Education," which sends impoverished minority students to college; and this means increased support for historically Black Colleges and Universities.

But education is more than schooling; it is nothing less than the communication of values. And once again, you are leading the way. Just look right here New Orleans, where the Greater Liberty Baptist Church is preparing many young men for adulthood through its Black Manhood Training program. ((PAUSE))

But to get to school, to get to work, to get to a child-care center, families must also be free to walk the streets of their cities without fear. And today, freedom from fear means freedom from drugs. ((PAUSE)) That is why Tuesday night I announced an all-out assault, a way to attack the drug menace on every front.

Nowhere are drug dealers more vicious, more predatory, than in the inner-city. They've turned whole communities into war zones, making the routine of daily life miserable and dangerous for thousands of honest families. It is time to get tough. Let us join together to sweep out these merchants of death, to reclaim our cities, to reclaim our streets. ((PAUSE))

To provide child-care, to improve education, to create opportunity and to defeat drugs -- these are steps to strengthen families that require nothing less than a sustained national effort, a national partnership. I believe government can and should be a strong partner.

As I said here just a little more than a year ago: "A government that remembers that the people are its master is a good and needed thing. I respect old fashioned common sense, and have no great love for the imaginings of social planners. I like what's been tested and found to be true."

Your faith has been tested. Your values have been found to be true. And it is your faith and your values that America is turning to today. Americans will always come back to our basic traditions, our values.

So I'm an optimist. I believe we will reach out to families in need. I believe we will see a strengthening of the many patterns of family life. And I believe we will see a sharing of values -- values rooted in the conviction that we, as individuals and as families are engaged in a single enterprise called America.

Thank you for all that you've done. And thank you for inviting me to New Orleans.

God bless you and God bless America.

# # #

ADDRESS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION  
NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CENTER  
SEPT. 8, 1989/2:30 P.M.

REVEREND JEMISON, REVEREND CLARK AND RICHARDSON,  
DR. BEN HOOKS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS. FRIENDS.

((YOU KNOW, WITH SO MANY BAPTISTS HERE IN NEW  
ORLEANS, I ALMOST EXPECT TO HEAR: "WHEN THE SAINTS COME  
MARCHING IN")) ((PAUSE))

((THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE WAS LAST AUGUST 18TH.  
I WAS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT AND I ADDRESSED THOUSANDS  
OF REPUBLICANS. NOW I AM ADDRESSING FIFTEEN THOUSAND  
BAPTISTS, BUT THE FEELING OF SPEAKING BEFORE SUCH A  
HUGE AUDIENCE IS THE SAME. BARBARA PUT IT ALL IN  
PERSPECTIVE FOR ME. SHE SAID: "NOW GEORGE, JUST  
IMAGINE YOU'RE STANDING IN FRONT OF ANOTHER SUNDAY  
SCHOOL CLASS."))

((BUT I NEVER HAD A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS THIS  
BIG.)) ((PAUSE))

WELL, I HAVE COME TO NEW ORLEANS TO TELL YOU  
SOMETHING, AND I WILL SAY IT PLAINLY: YOUR GOOD WORKS  
ARE THE INSPIRATION OF AMERICA.

AND YOU, IN TURN, DRAW YOUR INSPIRATION FROM THE FAITH OF GREAT CHURCH. IT WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN BAPTISTS IN RHODE ISLAND WHO LED THE CAMPAIGN FOR RELIGIOUS TOLERATION. IT WAS THE BAPTISTS WHO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SECURING OUR FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION. IT WAS THE BAPTISTS WHO, AS PIONEERS, BUILT STURDY NEW CHURCHES ON THE EMPTY PLAINS AND PRAIRIES OF THE WEST. BUT IT IS ANOTHER TRADITION THAT WE HONOR IN NEW ORLEANS TODAY. WE HONOR YOUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, WHO WERE ALSO BRAVE PIONEERS -- PIONEERS WHO BLAZED TRAILS INTO ANOTHER FRONTIER -- THE FREEDOM FRONTIER. ((PAUSE))

IT TOOK THIS CONVENTION, THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR PASTORS AND PEOPLE, TO EXTEND THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN. ((PAUSE)) IT TOOK LEADERS LIKE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., WYATT TEE WALKER, E.V. HILL, JERRY MOORE, T.J. JEMISON, AND BEN HOOKS. AND IT TOOK NOTHING LESS THAN ANOTHER GREAT AWAKENING -- AN AWAKENING TO THE PROMISE OF CIVIL RIGHTS. ((PAUSE))

I HAVE WATCHED THIS MOVEMENT BLOSSOM IN MY LIFETIME, FROM MY DAYS IN COLLEGE TO MY DAYS IN CONGRESS. SO KNOW ONE THING: IN THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY, YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST ASPIRATIONS OF MY PRESIDENCY.

((PAUSE)) WE'RE ON A JOURNEY TO A NEW CENTURY, AND WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE THE TIRED OLD BAGGAGE OF BIGOTRY BEHIND.

OF COURSE, DISCRIMINATION IS NOT THE ONLY PROBLEM THAT WE FACE TODAY. JUST AS YOU LED AMERICA IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, SO YOU ARE NOW LEADING COMMUNITIES STRUGGLING WITH ANOTHER NATIONAL PROBLEM.

IS IT CRIME? NOT QUITE. IS IT HOMELESSNESS? NO, NOT BY ITSELF. IS IT DRUGS? YES, BUT IT IS EVEN MORE THAN THAT. AS SERIOUS AS ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS ARE, THEY ARE RELATED TO ANOTHER ONE -- THE DECLINE OF THE MOST BASIC OF ALL INSTITUTIONS -- THE FAMILY. TOO MANY CHILDREN IN AMERICA ARE GROWING UP WITHOUT DIRECTION, WITHOUT VALUES, WITHOUT ESTEEM FOR THEMSELVES OR ANYONE ELSE. SO OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE, AND IT IS VITAL: WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE THE AMERICAN FAMILY. ((PAUSE))

FAMILY LIFE MUST BE OUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH. IT IS FOR BARBARA, ME, AND IT IS FOR YOU. STRONG FAMILIES ARE BOUND BY MORE THAN BLOOD; THEY ARE BOUND BY THE PRECIOUS MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS MORNING, A TODDLER'S FIRST STEPS, A GRANDFATHER'S TALL TALES, AND THE LASTING PRIDE OF A GRADUATION CEREMONY. AND OUR FAMILIES ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY SOMETHING ELSE: SIMPLE ACTS OF LEARNING AND TEACHING; SIMPLE ACTS TO INSTILL THE VALUES OF FAIRNESS, HONESTY AND HARD WORK.

OF COURSE, THERE ARE MORE SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. AND, DIFFICULT THOUGH IT MAY BE, MOST SINGLE PARENTS ARE RAISING HAPPY, WELL-ADJUSTED CHILDREN WITH THE HELP OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND BY DRAWING ON THEIR OWN INNER STRENGTH. BUT IMAGINE THE LONELY PLIGHT OF A SINGLE MOTHER WHO HAS NO HELP; WHO HAS NO MONEY; WHO HAS NO ABILITY TO KEEP HER KIDS FROM BEING LOST -- LOST TO THE UNHEALTHY LIFE OF THE STREETS. SO TO SAVE THE AMERICAN FAMILY ALSO MEANS PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THESE PARENTS, WHO ARE STRUGGLING AGAINST TOUGH ODDS. NOR CAN WE IGNORE THE DIFFICULTIES OF POOR WORKING COUPLES WITH CHILDREN.

THE CHALLENGE OF STRENGTHENING THESE FAMILIES REQUIRES BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EFFORTS. AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP IS MEETING THE CHALLENGE -- IN MINISTRIES LIKE THAT OF E.V. HILL OF LOS ANGELES, WHERE HUNGRY FAMILIES FIND SUSTENANCE; IN MINISTRIES WHERE BAPTISTS ARE PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH EVERYTHING FROM HIGH CHAIRS TO A HAND-UP.

YOU KNOW THAT NO MATTER HOW CLOSE-KNIT YOUR FAMILY MAY BE, THE DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY IS NOT JUST SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM. IT IS EVERYONE'S PROBLEM. WHEN ONE GENERATION IS RAISED WITHOUT VALUES, IT STARTS A CHAIN OF MISERY THAT WEIGHS DOWN FUTURE GENERATIONS. ABOUT HALF OF ALL BLACK FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE HEADED BY ONE PARENT, AND MANY OF THESE PARENTS ARE OVERWHELMED. AND BECAUSE THEY ARE OVERWHELMED, MORE THAN FOUR OUT OF TEN BLACK CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY. AND BECAUSE OF THIS, IT IS BECOMING HARDER FOR YOUR CHURCHES TO REACH SO MANY PROMISING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

HOW CAN YOU TEACH RESPECT FOR A HARD-EARNED DOLLAR, WHEN EASY DRUG MONEY FLOURISHES? ((PAUSE))

HOW CAN YOU TEACH THAT ACHIEVEMENT IS FOUND IN QUIET MOMENTS AND SUBTLE REWARDS, WHEN A MURDEROUS MATERIALISM // GLITTERS// WITH THE PROMISE OF GOLD CHAINS, // FAST CARS// AND FASHION CLOTHES? ((PAUSE))

HOW CAN YOU PERSUADE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TO HAVE FAITH IN THEMSELVES IF THEIR PARENTS HAVE LOST ALL FAITH? ((PAUSE))

IN SHORT, WITHOUT STRONG FAMILIES, HOW CAN VALUES TRIUMPH OVER VICE?

THE ANSWERS CAN ONLY COME FROM THE HEART, FROM THE HEART OF EVERY PARENT. AND THE ANSWERS CAN COME FROM YOU, FROM THE PEOPLE OF OUR CHURCHES.

I HAVE COME TO NEW ORLEANS TODAY TO PLEDGE MY SUPPORT AND TO RECOGNIZE YOUR HEROIC EFFORTS. WE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN MANY WAYS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, WITH GREATER CHOICE IN CHILD-CARE AND EDUCATION; AND BY REPLACING THE CRIPPLING FEAR OF CRIME WITH THE PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY.

FIRST, LET ME BEGIN WITH CHILD-CARE. OFTEN, WHILE PARENTS WORK, LOVE AND CARE COME FROM THE EXTENDED FAMILY -- GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS AND UNCLES. AND IN MANY WAYS, THE CHURCH COMMUNITY IS THE GREATEST EXTENDED FAMILY OF ALL. I'VE SEEN THAT SPIRIT OF FAMILY AND LOVE PERMEATE THE DAY-CARE CENTER AT SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH IN WASHINGTON.

YOUR GREAT CHURCH HAS ALREADY TAKEN A LOAD OFF THE SHOULDERS OF WORKING PARENTS, SOME SINGLE; SOME TOGETHER. AS WE WORK TO SOLVE THE CHILD CARE PROBLEMS OF THIS COUNTRY, I AM DETERMINED TO PROTECT SHILOH AND EVERY OTHER CHURCH-SPONSORED CHILD CARE CENTER IN AMERICA.

IN THAT SPIRIT, I OFFER A FEW WAYS GOVERNMENT CAN HELP. I HAVE PROPOSED A CHILD-CARE TAX CREDIT, FOCUSED ON THOSE WHO NEED SUCH ASSISTANCE THE MOST -- LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

BUT THIS APPROACH IS DIFFERENT FROM PAST PROGRAMS. IT WOULD EMPOWER PARENTS, NOT THE GOVERNMENT, TO CHOOSE THE BEST CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN -- BE IT A GRANDPARENT, A NEIGHBOR OR A LOCAL CHURCH. WE NEED TO GIVE PARENTS A CHOICE IN THEIR CHILDREN'S CARE, NOT TAKE IT AWAY.

YET SOME IN CONGRESS DO NOT AGREE. PERHAPS IT IS TIME WE SENT THEM A MESSAGE. JUST AS WE SHOULD SUPPORT SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, SO WE SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT TWO-PARENT FAMILIES WHERE ONE PARENT CHOOSES TO CARE FOR THE CHILDREN AT HOME.

AND SOME WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST CHURCH-SPONSORED CHILD CARE. I SAY THAT'S WRONG.

WHEN IT COMES TO CHILD CARE, WE NEED MORE CHURCHES NOT MORE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION. (PAUSE)

WE NEED MORE CONGREGATIONS TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN -- NOT MORE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS TELLING US HOW TO DO IT. (PAUSE)

WHEN IT COMES TO CHILD CARE WE DON'T NEED MORE BUREAUCRACY. WE NEED MORE BAPTISTS ((PAUSE)) AND WE NEED THOUSANDS OF OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS WHO UNDERSTAND THE REAL CONCERNS OF PARENTS IN TOWNS AND CITIES ACROSS THIS LAND.

AND THAT'S WHY WE NEED A CHILD CARE POLICY THAT PUTS MONEY IN THE POCKETS AND CHOICE IN THE HANDS OF PARENTS BECAUSE, CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME MIGHT THINK, WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR OWN CHILDRENS' CARE, PARENTS STILL KNOW BEST.

BUT CHILD-CARE FOR FAMILIES IS NOT ENOUGH. FAMILIES NEED OPPORTUNITY: I WANT TO RENEW MY PROPOSAL FOR FEDERAL ENTERPRISE ZONES, TO BRING OPPORTUNITY TO THE BARREN LOTS OF THE SOUTH BRONX, TO THE STREETS OF WATTS, TO FARM TOWNS AND TO EVERY COMMUNITY IN NEED. AND ALSO I RENEW MY PROPOSAL FOR TENANT MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING. WE CAN NO LONGER DENY ANY OF OUR PEOPLE THE AUTONOMY AND THE DIGNITY THEY DESERVE. ((PAUSE))

AND THEY DESERVE SOMETHING ELSE - A SAFE PLACE TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN AND JUST LIVE THEIR LIVES. AND SO I'VE ORDERED HUD TO TARGET AN ADDITIONAL \$50 MILLION TO FIGHT THE DEALERS ON THEIR TURF AND RESTORE ORDER IN PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS.

BUT I ASK YOU TODAY TO HELP ME. JOIN THE BATTLE TO HELP DRIVE THESE DEALERS OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL. BECAUSE THERE'S ONE THING I'M SURE OF: \ \ IF THE 15,000 PEOPLE IN THIS HALL - YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FAMILIES, AND YOUR NEIGHBORS - WHEN AMERICA DECIDES THAT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, THE DEALERS WON'T STAND A CHANCE.

YES, WE MUST BRING OPPORTUNITY TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST. BUT OPPORTUNITY WILL BE WASTED IF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN LACK THE MEANS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. AND THAT MEANS EDUCATION.

TODAY'S JOB MARKET WILL SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN FULL LITERACY, AND AN APTITUDE FOR SKILLED LABOR. AND THOSE WHO ARE INCAPABLE -- AND THEY ARE GREAT IN NUMBER -- WILL FALL FURTHER AND FURTHER BEHIND.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER? I SEE YOU POINTING THE WAY. FOR A CENTURY AND A HALF, YOUR CHURCHES HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE LIBERATING POWER OF LEARNING. NO ONE BETTER EXEMPLIFIES THIS TRADITION THEN THE REVEREND HENRY ROSE, BORN INTO SLAVERY AND LIBERATED AT AGE 21.

HENRY ROSE WALKED ALL THE WAY FROM TEXAS TO VIRGINIA, AND WORKED ON THE RAILROAD UNTIL A BAPTIST SOCIETY SPONSORED HIM AT A SEMINARY SCHOOL. REVEREND ROSE WAS SO POOR THAT WHEN HE GRADUATED, HE HAD TO WEAR A BOOT ON ONE FOOT AND A SHOE ON THE OTHER. BUT HENRY ROSE HAD SOMETHING BETTER THAN A MATCHING PAIR OF SHOES. HE HAD KNOWLEDGE. HE HAD PRIDE. AND AS A BAPTIST MINISTER, HE FOUNDED FIVE CHURCHES AND TWO SCHOOLS, ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONS WITH GREAT TRADITIONS OF SERVICE THAT LIVE ON TO THIS DAY.

THERE IS A LESSON FOR US IN THIS REMARKABLE MAN'S LIFE. IF HE COULD BEAT THE OVERWHELMING ODDS OF SLAVERY, OPPRESSION AND PREJUDICE TO LEAD A COMMUNITY, THEN ANY OBSTACLE CAN BE OVERCOME.

AND WE SHALL OVERCOME. WHEN WE GIVE PARENTS AND STUDENTS GREATER CHOICE. THIS MEANS MAGNET SCHOOLS; THIS MEANS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS LIKE "SAY YES TO EDUCATION," WHICH SENDS IMPOVERISHED MINORITY STUDENTS TO COLLEGE; AND THIS MEANS INCREASED SUPPORT FOR HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

BUT EDUCATION IS MORE THAN SCHOOLING; IT IS NOTHING LESS THAN THE COMMUNICATION OF VALUES. AND ONCE AGAIN, YOU ARE LEADING THE WAY. JUST LOOK RIGHT HERE IN NEW ORLEANS, WHERE THE GREATER LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH IS PREPARING MANY YOUNG MEN FOR ADULTHOOD THROUGH ITS BLACK MANHOOD TRAINING PROGRAM. ((PAUSE))

BUT TO GET TO SCHOOL, TO GET TO WORK, TO GET TO A CHILD-CARE CENTER, FAMILIES MUST ALSO BE FREE TO WALK THE STREETS OF THEIR CITIES WITHOUT FEAR. AND TODAY, FREEDOM FROM FEAR MEANS FREEDOM FROM DRUGS. ((PAUSE)) THAT IS WHY TUESDAY NIGHT I ANNOUNCED OUR NATION'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED ALL-OUT ASSAULT; A WAY TO ATTACK THE DRUG MENACE ON EVERY FRONT.

I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS WILL EVENTUALLY WORK WITH ME, TO MAKE OUR NATIONAL STRATEGY THE LAW OF THE LAND. BUT, MY SURPRISE -- AND PERHAPS TO YOUR'S AS WELL -- BEFORE I EVEN PRESENTED MY PLAN TO YOU, THE PARTISAN ATTACKS HAD ALREADY BEGUN.

THIS IS NOT THE ISSUE FOR PARTISAN POLITICS. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR PARTISAN POLITICS. THIS IS THE TIME TO COME TOGETHER AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, PASS A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO FIGHT DRUGS.

WE CAN BEAT THE SCOURGE OF DRUGS IF WE FIGHT AS A NATION UNITED.

TO PROVIDE CHILD-CARE, TO IMPROVE EDUCATION, TO CREATE OPPORTUNITY AND TO DEFEAT DRUGS -- THESE ARE STEPS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES THAT REQUIRE NOTHING LESS THAN A SUSTAINED NATIONAL EFFORT, A NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP. I BELIEVE GOVERNMENT CAN AND SHOULD BE A STRONG PARTNER. BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACING US TODAY ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITIES DO.

I LIKE WHAT'S BEEN TESTED AND FOUND TO BE TRUE.  
YOUR FAITH HAS BEEN TESTED. YOUR VALUES HAVE BEEN  
FOUND TO BE TRUE. AND IT IS YOUR FAITH AND YOUR VALUES  
THAT AMERICA IS TURNING TO TODAY.

SO I'M AN OPTIMIST. I BELIEVE WE CAN REACH OUT TO  
FAMILIES IN NEED. I BELIEVE WE CAN SEE A STRENGTHENING  
OF THE MANY PATTERNS OF FAMILY LIFE. AND I BELIEVE WE  
WILL SEE A SHARING OF VALUES -- VALUES ROOTED IN THE  
CONVICTION THAT WE, AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS FAMILIES ARE  
ENGAGED IN A SINGLE, WONDERFUL ENTERPRISE CALLED  
AMERICA.

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

#

#

#

Davis/Martin  
Sept. 6, 1989  
Draft: Nine  
Title: Baptists

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION USA, Inc.  
New Orleans Convention Center  
Sept. 8, 1989/2:30 p.m.

Reverend Jemison, *Reverend Clou and Richardson, Ben Hooks*  
~~members of the staff~~ and members of the  
board of directors. *Friends,*

((You know, with so many Baptists here in New Orleans, I  
almost expect to hear: "When the Saints Come Marching In"))

((PAUSE))

((The last time I was here, I addressed thousands of  
Republicans. Now I am addressing twelve thousand Baptists, and  
I'm just as anxious to make a good impression today as I was  
then. But Barbara put it all in perspective for me. She said:  
"Now George, just imagine you're standing in front of another  
Sunday school class."))

((But I never had a Sunday school class this big.))

((PAUSE))

Well, I have come to New Orleans to tell you something, and  
I will say it plainly: Your good works are the inspiration of  
America.

And you, in turn, draw your inspiration from the faith of  
great church. It was the first American Baptists in Rhode Island  
who led the campaign for religious toleration. It was the  
Baptists who played an important role in securing our freedom of  
religion in the American Constitution. It was the Baptists who,

Wine on a

2

as pioneers, built sturdy new churches on the empty plains and prairies of the West. But it is another tradition that we honor in New Orleans today. We honor **your** parents and grandparents, who were **also** brave pioneers -- pioneers who blazed trails into **another frontier -- the freedom frontier.** ((PAUSE))

It took **this** convention, the leadership of **your** pastors and ~~some~~ people, to extend the struggle for freedom to all men and women. ((PAUSE)) It took leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Wyatt Tee Walker, E.V. Hill, Jerry Moore <sup>and Ben Hooks</sup> and T.J. Jemison, And it took nothing less than another Great Awakening -- **an awakening to the promise of civil rights.** ((PAUSE))

I have watched this movement blossom in my lifetime, from my days in college to my days in Congress. So know one thing: in the struggle for equality and opportunity, your hopes and dreams are among the **highest aspirations** of my Presidency. ((PAUSE)) We're on a journey to a new century, and **we've got to leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind.**

Of course, discrimination is not the only problem that we face today. Just as you led America in the civil rights movement, so you are now leading communities struggling with another national problem.

Is it crime? Not quite. Is it homelessness? No, not by itself. Is it drugs? Yes, but it is even more than that. As serious as all of these problems are, they are related to another one -- the decline of the most basic of all institutions -- the family. Too many children in America are growing up without

direction, without values, without esteem for themselves or anyone else. So our goal is simple, and it is vital: We must work together to **save the American family.** ((PAUSE))

Family life is my source of strength, as it is for Barbara, and as it is for you. Strong families are bound by more than blood; they are bound by the precious memories of Christmas morning, a toddler's first steps, a grandfather's tall tales, and the lasting pride of a graduation ceremony. And our families are bound together by something else: simple acts of learning and teaching; simple acts to instill the values of fairness, honesty and hard work.

Of course, there are more single parent families today than ever before. And, difficult though it may be, most single parents are raising happy, well-adjusted children with the help of family and friends, and by drawing on their own inner strength. But imagine the lonely plight of a single mother who has no help; who has no money; who has no ability to keep her kids from being lost -- lost to the unhealthy life of the streets. So to save the American family also means providing support for these parents, who are struggling against tough odds.

Nor can we ignore the difficulties of poor working couples with children. The challenge of strengthening these families requires both public and private efforts. And church leadership is meeting the challenge -- in ministries like that of E.V. Hill of Los Angeles, where hungry families find sustenance; in

ministries where Baptists are providing families with everything from high chairs to a hand-up.

You know that no matter how close-knit **your** family may be, the decline of the American family is not just someone else's problem. It is **everyone's** problem. When one generation is raised without values, it starts a chain of misery that weighs down future generations. About half of all black families with children are headed by one parent, and many of these parents are overwhelmed. And because they are overwhelmed, more than four out of ten black children live in poverty. And because of this, it is becoming harder for your churches to reach so many promising young men and women.

How can you teach respect for a hard-earned dollar, when easy drug money flourishes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach that achievement is found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, when a murderous materialism // glitters// with the promise of gold chains,// fast cars// and fashion clothes? ((PAUSE))

How can you persuade young men and women to have faith in themselves if their parents have lost all faith? ((PAUSE))

In short, without strong families, how can values triumph over vice?

The answers can only come from the heart, from the heart of every parent. And the answers can come from you, from the people of our churches.

I have come to New Orleans today to pledge my support and to recognize your heroic efforts. We can work together in many ways to strengthen families, with greater choice in child-care and education; and by replacing the crippling fear of crime with the promise of opportunity.

First, let me begin with child-care. Often, while parents work, love and care come from the extended family -- grandparents, aunts and uncles. And in many ways, the church community is the greatest extended family of all. You have already taken a load off the shoulders of working parents, some single; some together. And in this same spirit, I offer a few ways government can help.

I have proposed a child-care tax credit, to be focused on those who need such assistance the most -- **low-income families.**

But this approach is different from past programs, because it would empower parents, not the government, to choose the best care for their children -- be it a grandparent, a neighbor or a local church. **We need to give parents a choice in their children's care, not take it away.**

Yet some in Congress do not agree. Perhaps it is time we sent them a message. Just as we should support single-parent families, so we should also support two-parent families where one parent chooses to care for the children at home. And we should **never, discriminate against religiously-affiliated child care.**

((PAUSE))

I felt for myself, in Washington, D.C., the spirit of family and love that permeates the day-care center at Shiloh Baptist Church. I am determined to protect Shiloh and every other church-affiliated child-care center in America. ((PAUSE))

But child-care for families is not enough. **Families need opportunity:** I want to renew my proposal for federal enterprise zones, to bring opportunity to the barren lots of the South Bronx, to the streets of Watts, to farm towns and to every community in need. And also I renew my proposal for tenant management of public housing. We can no longer deny <sup>any of our</sup> ~~these~~ people the **autonomy and the dignity they deserve.** ((PAUSE)) ✓

These are ways to bring opportunity to those who need it most. But opportunity will be wasted if young men and women lack the means to take advantage of it. And that means education. \* insert A

Today's job market will settle for nothing less than full literacy, and an aptitude for skilled labor. And those who are incapable -- and they are great in number -- will fall further and further behind.

What's the answer? I see you pointing the way. For a century and a half, your churches have demonstrated the liberating power of learning. <sup>No one better exemplifies</sup> ~~Annie Rose, a community leader in Alexandria, Virginia, tells a fascinating story about her father.~~ <sup>told</sup> You see, ~~Annie Rose is 95 years old; and her father, Henry Rose,~~ <sup>that tradition show the Reverend</sup> ~~was born into slavery,~~ <sup>and</sup>

Liberated at age 21, <sup>to become</sup> Henry Rose walked all the way from Texas to Virginia, and worked on the railroad until a Baptist

Miss Annie B.

society sponsored him at a seminary school. Annie Rose says her father was so poor that when he graduated, he had to wear a boot on one foot and a shoe on the other. But Henry Rose had something better than a matching pair of shoes. He had knowledge. He had pride. And as a Baptist minister, he founded five churches and two schools, establishing institutions with great traditions of service that live on to this day.

There is a lesson for us in this remarkable man's life. If he could beat the overwhelming odds of slavery, oppression and prejudice to lead a community, then **any** obstacle can be overcome.

And we **shall** overcome. Opportunity comes when we give parents and students greater choice. This means magnet schools; this means public and private partnerships like "Say Yes to Education," which sends impoverished minority students to college; and this means increased support for historically Black Colleges and Universities.

But education is more than schooling; it is nothing less than the communication of values. And once again, you are leading the way. Just look right here in New Orleans, where the Greater Liberty Baptist Church is preparing many young men for adulthood through its Black Manhood Training program. ((PAUSE))

But to get to school, to get to work, to get to a child-care center, families must also be free to walk the streets of their cities without fear. And today, **freedom from fear means freedom from drugs.** ((PAUSE)) That is why Tuesday night I announced our


nation's first comprehensive, coordinated all-out assault; a way to attack the drug menace on every front.


I believe the Congress will eventually work with me, to make our national strategy the law of the land. To my surprise -- and perhaps to your's as well -- before I even presented my plan to you, the partisan attacks had already begun. This is bad politics, bad policy and bad for America.

I challenge those who hunger for a partisan issue to take the high road instead, to work for our national strategy, not against it.

I challenge those who seek more spending and more taxes, to instead seek more cooperation and bipartisanship. We can beat the scourge, as long as we are a nation united.

To provide child-care, to improve education, to create opportunity and to defeat drugs -- these are steps to strengthen families that require nothing less than a sustained national effort, a national partnership. I believe government can and should be a strong partner. But I also believe that the solution to the social problems facing us today ultimately depends on what you and your communities do.

I respect old fashioned common sense, and have no great love for the imaginings of social planners. I like what's been tested and found to be true. 

Your faith has been tested. Your values have been found to be true. And it is your faith and your values that America is turning to today. 

So I'm an optimist. I believe we can reach out to families in need. I believe we can see a strengthening of the many patterns of family life. And I believe we will see a sharing of values -- values rooted in the conviction that we, as individuals and as families are engaged in a single enterprise called America.

Thank you for all that you've done and for what you will continue to do to make America a better place. And thank you for inviting me to New Orleans.

God bless you and God bless America.

#

#

#

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Sept. 6, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARK DAVIS *MD*  
THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *CW*  
SUBJECT: Baptists

I. SUMMARY

The National Baptist Convention USA, 7.5 million members strong, is the nation's largest black denomination; and the third largest Protestant denomination in the country.

II. DISCUSSION

This speech addresses the socially conservative views of this group, based on the premise that values begin with strong families. It relates stronger families to 1) your child-care provision, which supports religiously affiliated child care; 2) opportunity programs like enterprise zones and tenant-management of public housing; 3) the value of education, and 4) freedom from fear, which means freedom from drugs.

Please take particular note of page 8. This passage describes the low-road approach of those who criticize your drug plan.

Gov. Buddy Roemer and Ben Hooks may attend. This speech is **teleprompted**.

June - July

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Old town Alexandria  
Alfred st Baptist Church  
683-2222

Annie Rose

683-3520

Miss Annie B.

Library of British Embassy

## GOOD COP

But to get to school, to get to work, to get to a child-care center, families must also be free to walk the streets of their cities without fear. And today, **freedom from fear means freedom from drugs.** ((PAUSE)) That's why Tuesday night I announced our nation's first comprehensive, coordinated all-out assault; a way to attack the drug menace on every front.

I believe the Congress will eventually work with me, to make our national strategy the law of the land. [To my surprise -- and perhaps to yours as well -- partisan commercials attacking our plan were on <sup>on television</sup> ~~the air~~ even before I presented it to you. This is bad politics, bad policy and bad for America.]

I challenge those who hunger for a partisan issue to take the high road instead, to work for our national strategy, not against it.

I challenge those who seek **more** spending and **more** taxes, to instead seek more cooperation and bipartisanship.

And I ask those who want a D-Day against drugs to remember that the war didn't end on the very day General Eisenhower invaded Normandy. We can only win this war against drugs, battle by battle. Together.

Insert.  
A

?

Davis/Martin  
Sept. 4, 1989  
Draft: Seven  
Title: Baptists

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION USA, Inc.  
New Orleans Convention Center  
Sept. 8, 1989/2:30 p.m.

Reverend Jemison, members of the staff and members of the board of directors.

((You know, with so many Baptists here in New Orleans, I almost expect to hear: "When the Saints Come Marching In"))

((PAUSE))

((The last time I was here, I addressed thousands of Republicans. Now I am addressing sixteen thousand Baptists, and I'm just as anxious to make a good impression today as I was then. But Barbara put it all in perspective for me. She said: "Now George, just imagine you're standing in front of another Sunday school class."))

((But I never had a Sunday school class **this** big.))

((PAUSE))

Well, every Sunday school student knows that it is written in the Bible that wherever two or three people gather together to worship, there is a church. And, in many ways, that is what we have here for a few days in New Orleans -- **the biggest congregation inside the biggest church on Earth.** ((PAUSE))

You draw your inspiration from the faith of a great church. It was the first American Baptists in Rhode Island who, as sons of Pilgrims, led the campaign for religious toleration. It was

the Baptists who played an important role in securing our freedom of religion in the American Constitution. It was the Baptists who, as pioneers, built sturdy new churches on the empty plains and prairies of the West. But it is another tradition that we honor in New Orleans today. We honor **your** parents and grandparents, who were **also** brave pioneers -- pioneers who blazed trails into **another** frontier -- **the freedom frontier.** ((PAUSE))

It took **this** convention, the leadership of **your** pastors (and **your** people) to extend the struggle for freedom to all men and women. ((PAUSE)) It took leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King

Jr., Wyatt Tee Walker, E.V. Hill, Jerry Moore and T.J. Jemison.

Ben Hooks

And it took nothing less than another Great Awakening -- **an awakening to the promise of civil rights.** ((PAUSE))

I have watched this movement blossom in my lifetime, from my days in college to my days in Congress. So know one thing: in the struggle for equality and opportunity, your hopes and dreams are the **highest aspirations** of my Presidency. ((PAUSE))

It was just more than a year ago that I was privileged to give a nominating address here, one in which I promised our country would stand for a greater tolerance. I said, "We've come far, but I think we need a new harmony among the races in our country. We're on a journey to a new century, and **we've got to leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind.**"

Of course, discrimination is not the only problem that we face today. Just as you led America in the civil rights

can  
we leave  
at the  
"we"  
and just  
"and  
"people"?

movement, so you are now leading communities struggling with another national problem.

Is it crime? Not quite. Is it homelessness? No, not by itself. Is it drugs? Yes, but it is even more than that. As serious as all of these problems are, they are related to another one -- the decline of the most basic of all institutions -- the family. Too many children in America are growing up without direction, without values, without esteem for themselves or anyone else. So our goal is simple, and it is vital: We must work together to save the American family. ((PAUSE))

Family life is my source of strength, as it is for Barbara, and as it is for you. Strong families are bound by more than blood; they are bound by the precious memories of Christmas morning, a toddler's first steps, a grandfather's tall tales, and the lasting pride of a graduation ceremony. And our families are bound by something else: simple acts of learning and teaching; simple acts to instill the values of fairness, honesty and hard work.

Of course, there are more single parents today than ever before. And, difficult though it may be, most single parents are raising happy, well-adjusted children with the help of family and friends, and by drawing on their own inner strength. But imagine the lonely plight of a single mother who has no help; who has no money; who has no ability to keep her kids from being lost -- lost to the unhealthy life of the streets. So to save the

American family also means providing support for these parents, who are struggling against tough odds.

Nor can we ignore the difficulties of poor working couples with children. The challenge of strengthening these families requires both public and private efforts. And church leadership is meeting the challenge -- in ministries like that of E.V. Hill of Los Angeles, where hungry families find sustenance; in ministries where Baptists are providing families with everything from high chairs to a hand-up.

You know that no matter how close-knit **your** family may be, the decline of the American family is not just someone else's problem. It is **our** problem. When one generation is raised without values, it uncoils a chain of misery that weighs down future generations. Almost half of all black families are headed by one parent, and many of these parents are overwhelmed. And because they are overwhelmed, four out of ten black children live in poverty. And because of this, it is becoming harder for your churches to reach so many promising young men and women.

How can you teach respect for a hard-earned dollar, when easy drug money flourishes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach that achievement is found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, when a murderous materialism // glitters// with the promise of gold chains, // fast cars// and fashion clothes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach a young black man, living in poverty, to work for a better future, when he has a greater chance of going to prison than of going to college? ((PAUSE))

In short, without strong families, how can values triumph over vice?

The answers can only come from the heart, from the heart of every parent. And the answers can come from you, from the people of our churches.

I have come to New Orleans today to pledge my support and to recognize your heroic efforts. We can work together in many ways to strengthen families, with greater choice in child-care and education; and by replacing the crippling fear of crime with the promise of opportunity.

First, let me begin with child-care. Often, while parents work, love and care comes from the extended family -- grandparents, aunts and uncles. And in many ways, the church community is the greatest extended family of all. You have already taken a load off the shoulders of working parents, some single; some together. And in this same spirit, I offer a few ways government can help.

I have proposed a child-care tax credit, to be focused on those who need such assistance the most -- **the working poor.**

But this approach is different from past programs, because it would empower **parents**, not the government, to choose the best care for **their** children -- be it a grandparent, a neighbor or a

local church. **We need to give parents a choice in their children's care, not take it away.**

Yet some in Congress do not agree. Perhaps it is time we sent them a message. Just as we should support single-parent families, so we should also support two-parent families where one parent chooses to care for the children at home. And we should **never, never discriminate against religiously affiliated child care.** ((PAUSE))

I felt for myself, in Washington, D.C., the spirit of family and love that permeates the day-care center at Shiloh Baptist Church. And, if necessary, I am determined to protect Shiloh and every other church-affiliated child-care center in America **with my veto pen.** ((PAUSE))

But child-care for families is not enough. **Families need opportunity:** I want to renew my proposal for federal enterprise zones, to bring opportunity to the barren lots of the South Bronx, to the streets of Watts, to farm towns and to every community in need. And also I renew my proposal for tenant management of public housing. We can no longer deny **these** people the **autonomy and the dignity they deserve.** ((PAUSE))

*Can we say "these" people?*

These are ways to bring opportunity to those who need it most. But opportunity will be wasted if young men and women lack the means to take advantage of it. And that means education.

Today's job market will settle for nothing less than full literacy, and an aptitude for skilled labor. And those who are

incapable -- and they are great in number -- will fall further and further behind.

What's the answer? I see you pointing the way. For a century and a half, your churches have demonstrated the liberating power of learning. <sup>Ms.</sup> Annie Rose, a community leader in Alexandria, Virginia, tells a fascinating story about her father. You see, Annie Rose is 95-years-old, and her father, Henry Rose, was born into slavery.

*Is she known in the black community as "Annie" or as "Ms. Rose" or as "Mrs. Rose"?*

Liberated at age 21, Henry Rose walked all the way from Texas to Virginia, and worked on the railroad until a Baptist society sponsored him at a seminary school. Annie Rose says her father was so poor that when he graduated, he had to wear a boot on one foot and a shoe on the other. But Henry Rose had something better than a matching pair of shoes. He had knowledge. He had pride. And as a Baptist minister, he founded five churches and two schools, establishing institutions with great traditions of service that live on to this day.

There is a lesson for us in this remarkable man's life. If a he could beat the overwhelming odds of slavery, oppression and prejudice to lead a community, then **any** obstacle **can** be overcome.

And we **will** overcome. Opportunity comes when we give parents and students greater choice. This means magnet schools; this means public and private partnerships like "Say Yes to Education," which sends impoverished minority students to college; and this means increased support for historically Black Colleges and Universities.

But education is more than schooling; it is nothing less than the communication of values. And once again, you are leading the way. Just look right here New Orleans, where the Greater Liberty Baptist Church is preparing many young men for adulthood through its Black Manhood Training program. ((PAUSE))

But to get to school, to get to work, to get to a child-care center, families must also be free to walk the streets of their cities without fear. And today, **freedom from fear means freedom from drugs.** ((PAUSE)) That is why Tuesday night I announced an all-out assault, a way to attack the drug menace on every front.

Nowhere are drug dealers more vicious, more predatory, than in the inner-city. They've turned whole communities into war zones, making the routine of daily life miserable and dangerous for thousands of honest families. **It is time to get tough.** Let us join together to **sweep out** these merchants of death, to **reclaim our cities, to reclaim our streets.** ((PAUSE))

To provide child-care, to improve education, to create opportunity and to defeat drugs -- these are steps to strengthen families that require nothing less than a sustained national effort, a national partnership. I believe government can and should be a strong partner.

As I said here just a little more than a year ago: "A government that remembers that the people are its master is a good and needed thing. I respect old fashioned common sense, and have no great love for the imaginings of social planners. I like what's been tested and found to be true."

*A great line,  
but...  
we want  
to talk about  
"masters" given  
the negative  
connotation that  
word has in the  
Black community?*

Your faith has been tested. Your values have been found to be true. And it is your faith and your values that America is turning to today. Americans will always come back to our basic traditions, our values.

So I'm an optimist. I **believe** we will reach out to families in need. I **believe** we will see a strengthening of the many patterns of family life. And I **believe** we will see a sharing of values -- values rooted in the conviction that we, as individuals and as families are engaged in a single enterprise called America.

Thank you for all that you've done. And thank you for inviting me to New Orleans.

God bless you and God bless America.

#

#

#

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/5/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 9/6/89 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C phone</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 <i>Roger needs to look at</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT <i>N/C phone</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT <i>will not return until 3pm</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON Wednesday, September 6, 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

movement, so you are now leading communities struggling with another national problem.

Is it crime? Not quite. Is it homelessness? No, not by itself. Is it drugs? Yes, but it is even more than that. As serious as all of these problems are, they are related to another one -- the decline of the most basic of all institutions -- the family. Too many children in America are growing up without direction, without values, without esteem for themselves or anyone else. So our goal is simple, and it is vital: We must work together to **save the American family**. ((PAUSE))

Family life is my source of strength, as it is for Barbara, and as it is for you. Strong families are bound by more than blood; they are bound by the precious memories of Christmas morning, a toddler's first steps, a grandfather's tall tales, and the lasting pride of a graduation ceremony. And our families are bound <sup>together</sup> by something else: simple acts of learning and teaching; simple acts to instill the values of fairness, honesty and hard work.

Of course, there are more single parents <sup>families</sup> today than ever before. And, difficult though it may be, most single parents are raising happy, well-adjusted children with the help of family and friends, and by drawing on their own inner strength. But imagine the lonely plight of a single mother who **has no** help; who **has no** money; who **has no** ability to keep her kids from being lost -- lost to the unhealthy life of the streets. So to save the

American family also means providing support for these parents, who are struggling against tough odds.

Nor can we ignore the difficulties of poor working couples with children. The challenge of strengthening these families requires both public and private efforts. And church leadership is meeting the challenge -- in ministries like that of E.V. Hill of Los Angeles, where hungry families find sustenance; in ministries where Baptists are providing families with everything from high chairs to a hand-up.

You know that no matter how close-knit **your** family may be, the decline of the American family is not just someone else's problem. It is ~~our~~ <sup>everyone's</sup> problem. When one generation is raised without values, it ~~uncoils~~ <sup>starts</sup> a chain of misery that weighs down future generations. ~~Almost~~ <sup>about</sup> half of all black families <sup>with children</sup> are headed by one parent, and many of these parents are overwhelmed. And because they are overwhelmed, ~~four~~ <sup>more than</sup> out of ten black children live in poverty. And because of this, it is becoming harder for your churches to reach so many promising young men and women.

How can you teach respect for a hard-earned dollar, when easy drug money flourishes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach that achievement is found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, when a murderous materialism // glitters// with the promise of gold chains, // fast cars// and fashion clothes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach a young black man, living in poverty, to work for a better future, when he has a greater chance of going to prison than of going to college? ((PAUSE)) ?

In short, without strong families, how can values triumph over vice?

The answers can only come from the heart, from the heart of every parent. And the answers can come from you, from the people of our churches.

I have come to New Orleans today to pledge my support and to recognize your heroic efforts. We can work together in many ways to strengthen families, with greater choice in child-care and education; and by replacing the crippling fear of crime with the promise of opportunity.

First, let me begin with child-care. Often, while parents work, love and care comes from the extended family -- grandparents, aunts and uncles. And in many ways, the church community is the greatest extended family of all. You have already taken a load off the shoulders of working parents, some single; some together. And in this same spirit, I offer a few ways government can help.

I have proposed a child-care tax credit, to be focused on those who need such assistance the most -- <sup>low income families.</sup> ~~the working poor.~~

But this approach is different from past programs, because it would empower **parents**, not the government, to choose the best care for **their** children -- be it a grandparent, a neighbor or a

local church. **We need to give parents a choice in their children's care, not take it away.**

Yet some in Congress do not agree. Perhaps it is time we sent them a message. Just as we should support single-parent families, so we should also support two-parent families where one parent chooses to care for the children at home. And we should **never, never discriminate against religiously-affiliated child care.** ((PAUSE))

I felt for myself, in Washington, D.C., the spirit of family and love that permeates the day-care center at Shiloh Baptist Church. And, if necessary, I am determined to protect Shiloh and every other church-affiliated child-care center in America **with my veto pen.** ((PAUSE))

But child-care for families is not enough. **Families need opportunity:** I want to renew my proposal for federal enterprise zones, to bring opportunity to the barren lots of the South Bronx, to the streets of Watts, to farm towns and to every community in need. And also I renew my proposal for tenant management of public housing. We can no longer deny these people the **autonomy and the dignity they deserve.** ((PAUSE))

These are ways to bring opportunity to those who need it most. But opportunity will be wasted if young men and women lack the means to take advantage of it. And that means education.

Today's job market will settle for nothing less than full literacy, and an aptitude for skilled labor. And those who are

incapable -- and they are great in number -- will fall further and further behind.

What's the answer? I see you pointing the way. For a century and a half, your churches have demonstrated the liberating power of learning. Annie Rose, a community leader in Alexandria, Virginia, tells a fascinating story about her father. You see, Annie Rose is 95-years-old, and her father, Henry Rose, was born into slavery.

Liberated at age 21, Henry Rose walked all the way from Texas to Virginia, and worked on the railroad until a Baptist society sponsored him at a seminary school. Annie Rose says her father was so poor that when he graduated, he had to wear a boot on one foot and a shoe on the other. But Henry Rose had something better than a matching pair of shoes. He had knowledge. He had pride. And as a Baptist minister, he founded five churches and two schools, establishing institutions with great traditions of service that live on to this day.

There is a lesson for us in this remarkable man's life. If ~~a~~ he could beat the overwhelming odds of slavery, oppression and prejudice to lead a community, then **any** obstacle **can** be overcome.

And we **will** overcome. Opportunity comes when we give parents and students greater choice. This means magnet schools; this means public and private partnerships like "Say Yes to Education," which sends impoverished minority students to college; and this means increased support for historically Black Colleges and Universities.

But education is more than schooling; it is nothing less than the communication of values. And once again, you are leading the way. Just look right here <sup>in</sup> New Orleans, where the Greater Liberty Baptist Church is preparing many young men for adulthood through its Black Manhood Training program. ((PAUSE))

But to get to school, to get to work, to get to a child-care center, families must also be free to walk the streets of their cities without fear. And today, **freedom from fear means freedom from drugs.** ((PAUSE)) That is why Tuesday night I announced an all-out assault, a way to attack the drug menace on every front.

*Insert A*

Nowhere are drug dealers more vicious, more predatory, than in the inner-city. They've turned whole communities into war zones, making the routine of daily life miserable and dangerous for thousands of honest families. **It is time to get tough.** Let us join together to **sweep out** these merchants of death, to **reclaim our cities, to reclaim our streets.** ((PAUSE))

To provide child-care, to improve education, to create opportunity and to defeat drugs -- these are steps to strengthen families that require nothing less than a sustained national effort, a national partnership. I believe government can and should be a strong partner. *But I also believe that the*

As I said here just a little more than a year ago: "A government that remembers that the people are its master is a good and needed thing. I respect old fashioned common sense, and have no great love for the imaginings of social planners. I like what's been tested and found to be true."

*Solutions to the social problems facing us today ultimately depends on what you and your communities do.*

Your faith has been tested. Your values have been found to be true. And it is your faith and your values that America is turning to today. ~~Americans will always come back to our basic traditions, our values.~~

So I'm an optimist. I **believe** we ~~will~~<sup>can</sup> reach out to families in need. I **believe** we ~~will~~<sup>can</sup> see a strengthening of the many patterns of family life. And I **believe** we ~~will~~<sup>can</sup> see a sharing of values -- values rooted in the conviction that we, as individuals and as families are engaged in a single enterprise called America.

Thank you for all that you've done, And thank you for inviting me to New Orleans.

God bless you and God bless America.

#

#

#

and for what you will continue to do to make America a better place.

Davis/Martin  
Sept. 7, 1989  
Draft: Eleven  
Title: Baptists

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION USA, Inc.  
New Orleans Convention Center  
Sept. 8, 1989/2:30 p.m.

Reverend Jemison, Reverend Clark and Richardson, Dr. Ben  
Hooks, board of directors. Friends.

((You know, with so many Baptists here in New Orleans, I  
almost expect to hear: "When the Saints Come Marching In"))

((PAUSE))

((The last time I was here was last August 18th. I was  
running for President, <sup>and</sup> I addressed thousands of Republicans. Now  
I am addressing fifteen thousand Baptists, but the feeling of  
speaking before such a huge audience is the same. ~~But~~ Barbara  
put it all in perspective for me. She said: "**Now George**, just  
imagine you're standing in front of another Sunday school  
class."))

((But I never had a Sunday school class **this** big.))

((PAUSE))

Well, I have come to New Orleans to tell you something, and  
I will say it plainly: Your good works are the inspiration of  
America.

And you, in turn, draw your inspiration from the faith of  
great church. It was the first American Baptists in Rhode Island  
who led the campaign for religious toleration. It was the  
Baptists who played an important role in securing our freedom of

religion in the American Constitution. It was the Baptists who, as pioneers, built sturdy new churches on the empty plains and prairies of the West. But it is another tradition that we honor in New Orleans today. We honor **your** parents and grandparents, who were **also** brave pioneers -- pioneers who blazed trails into **another** frontier -- **the freedom frontier.** ((PAUSE))

It took **this** convention, the leadership of **your** pastors and people, to extend the struggle for freedom to **all** men and women. ((PAUSE)) It took leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Wyatt Tee Walker, E.V. Hill, Jerry Moore, T.J. Jemison, and Ben Hooks. And it took nothing less than another Great Awakening -- **an awakening to the promise of civil rights.** ((PAUSE))

I have watched this movement blossom in my lifetime, from my days in college to my days in Congress. So know one thing: in the struggle for equality and opportunity, your hopes and dreams are among the **highest aspirations** of my Presidency. ((PAUSE)) We're on a journey to a new century, and **we've got to leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind.**

Of course, discrimination is not the only problem that we face today. Just as you led America in the civil rights movement, so you are now leading communities struggling with another national problem.

Is it crime? Not quite. Is it homelessness? No, not by itself. Is it drugs? Yes, but it is even more than that. As serious as all of these problems are, they are related to another one -- the decline of the most basic of all institutions -- the

family. Too many children in America are growing up without direction, without values, without esteem for themselves or anyone else. So our goal is simple, and it is vital: We must work together to save the American family. ((PAUSE))

Family life must be our source of strength. It is for Barbara, me, and it is for you. Strong families are bound by more than blood; they are bound by the precious memories of Christmas morning, a toddler's first steps, a grandfather's tall tales, and the lasting pride of a graduation ceremony. And our families are bound together by something else: simple acts of learning and teaching; simple acts to instill the values of fairness, honesty and hard work.

Of course, there are more single parent families today than ever before. And, difficult though it may be, most single parents are raising happy, well-adjusted children with the help of family and friends, and by drawing on their own inner strength. But imagine the lonely plight of a single mother who has no help; who has no money; who has no ability to keep her kids from being lost -- lost to the unhealthy life of the streets. So to save the American family also means providing support for these parents, who are struggling against tough odds.

Nor can we ignore the difficulties of poor working couples with children. The challenge of strengthening these families requires both public and private efforts. And church leadership is meeting the challenge -- in ministries like that of E.V. Hill of Los Angeles, where hungry families find sustenance; in

ministries where Baptists are providing families with everything from high chairs to a hand-up.

You know that no matter how close-knit **your** family may be, the decline of the American family is not just someone else's problem. It is **everyone's** problem. When one generation is raised without values, it starts a chain of misery that weighs down future generations. About half of all black families with children are headed by one parent, and many of these parents are overwhelmed. And because they are overwhelmed, more than four out of ten black children live in poverty. And because of this, it is becoming harder for your churches to reach so many promising young men and women.

How can you teach respect for a hard-earned dollar, when easy drug money flourishes? ((PAUSE))

How can you teach that achievement is found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, when a murderous materialism // glitters// with the promise of gold chains, // fast cars// and fashion clothes? ((PAUSE))

How can you persuade young men and women to have faith in themselves if their parents have lost all faith? ((PAUSE))

In short, without strong families, how can values triumph over vice?

The answers can only come from the heart, from the heart of every parent. And the answers can come from you, from the people of our churches.

families, so we should also support two-parent families where one parent chooses to care for the children at home.

And some want to discriminate against church-sponsored child care. I say that's wrong.

**When it comes to child care, we need more churches not more government intervention. (Pause)**

**We need more congregations taking care of our children not government manuals telling us how to do it. (Pause)**

**When it comes to child care we don't need more bureaucracy. We need more Baptists (Pause) and we need thousands of other church members who understand the real concerns of parents in towns and cities across this land.**

And that's why we need a child care policy that puts money in the pockets and choice in the hands of parents because, contrary to what some might think, parents still know best when it comes to their own children's care.

But child-care for families is not enough. **Families need opportunity:** I want to renew my proposal for federal enterprise zones, to bring opportunity to the barren lots of the South Bronx, to the streets of Watts, to farm towns and to every community in need. And also I renew my proposal for tenant management of public housing. We can no longer deny any of our people the **autonomy and the dignity they deserve.** ((PAUSE)) And they deserve something else - a safe place to raise their children and just live their lives. And so I've ordered HUD to target an additional \$50 million to fight the dealers on their

turf and restore order in public housing projects. But I ask you today to help me. Join the battle to help drive these dealers out once and for all. **Because there's one thing I'm sure of: \\ if the 15,000 people in this hall - your friends, your families, your neighbors - when America decides that enough is enough, the dealers won't stand a chance.**

Yes, we must bring opportunity to those who need it most. But opportunity will be wasted if young men and women lack the means to take advantage of it. And that means education.

Today's job market will settle for nothing less than full literacy, and an aptitude for skilled labor. And those who are incapable -- and they are great in number -- will fall further and further behind.

What's the answer? I see you pointing the way. For a century and a half, your churches have demonstrated the liberating power of learning. No one better exemplifies this tradition than the Reverend Henry Rose, born into slavery and liberated at age 21.

Henry Rose walked all the way from Texas to Virginia, and worked on the railroad until a Baptist society sponsored him at a seminary school. Reverend Rose was so poor that when he graduated, he had to wear a boot on one foot and a shoe on the other. But Henry Rose had something better than a matching pair of shoes. He had knowledge. He had pride. And as a Baptist minister, he founded five churches and two schools, establishing

institutions with great traditions of service that live on to this day.

There is a lesson for us in this remarkable man's life. If he could beat the overwhelming odds of slavery, oppression and prejudice to lead a community, then **any** obstacle **can** be overcome.

And we **shall** overcome. Opportunity comes when we give parents and students greater choice. This means magnet schools; this means public and private partnerships like "Say Yes to Education," which sends impoverished minority students to college; and this means increased support for historically Black Colleges and Universities.

But education is more than schooling; it is nothing less than the communication of values. And once again, you are leading the way. Just look right here in New Orleans, where the Greater Liberty Baptist Church is preparing many young men for adulthood through its Black Manhood Training program. ((PAUSE))

But to get to school, to get to work, to get to a child-care center, families must also be free to walk the streets of their cities without fear. And today, **freedom from fear means freedom from drugs**. ((PAUSE)) That is why Tuesday night I announced our nation's first comprehensive, coordinated all-out assault; a way to attack the drug menace on every front.

I believe the Congress will eventually work with me, to make our national strategy the law of the land. To my surprise -- and perhaps to your's as well -- before I even presented my plan to you, the partisan attacks had already begun.

This is not the **issue** for partisan politics. This is not the **time** for partisan politics. This is the time to **come together** and, for the first time in our history, pass a national strategy to fight drugs.

We can **beat** the scourge of drugs if we fight as a nation united.

To provide child-care, to improve education, to create opportunity and to defeat drugs -- these are steps to strengthen families that require nothing less than a sustained national effort, a national partnership. I believe government can and should be a strong partner. But I also believe that the solution to the social problems facing us today ultimately depends on what you and your communities do.

I like what's been tested and found to be true. Your faith has been tested. Your values have been found to be true. And it is your faith and your values that America is turning to today.

So I'm an optimist. I **believe** we can reach out to families in need. I **believe** we can see a strengthening of the many patterns of family life. And I **believe** we will see a sharing of values -- values rooted in the conviction that we, as individuals and as families are engaged in a single, wonderful enterprise called America.

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

#

#

#

I have come to New Orleans today to pledge my support and to recognize your heroic efforts. We can work together in many ways to strengthen families, with greater choice in child-care and education; and by replacing the crippling fear of crime with the promise of opportunity.

First, let me begin with child-care. Often, while parents work, love and care come from the extended family -- grandparents, aunts and uncles. And in many ways, the church community is the greatest extended family of all. I've seen that spirit of family and love permeate the day-care center at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington. Your great church has already taken a load off the shoulders of working parents, some single; some together. And I am determined to protect Shiloh and every other church-sponsored child care center in ~~the~~ America as we work to solve the child care problems of this country. In that spirit, I offer a few ways government can help.

I have proposed a child-care tax credit, focused on those who need such assistance the most -- **low-income families.**

But this approach is different from past programs. It would empower **parents**, not the government, to choose the best care for **their** children -- be it a grandparent, a neighbor or a local church. **We need to give parents a choice in their children's care, not take it away.**

Yet some in Congress do not agree. Perhaps it is time we sent them a message. Just as we should support single-parent