

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: 13514
Folder ID Number: 13514-009

Folder Title:
NAACP Fundraising 12/15/89 [OA 3540] [2]

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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/13/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12/13/89 5:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NAACP

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

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 5:00 PM TODAY, December 13, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

S.R.

Thousand Points has focused in areas that affect minorities. It may be worthwhile to include mention here... with some examples, etc.

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

1989 DEC 13 AM 9:05

Davis/Martin
Title: NAACP
Dec. 12, 1989
Draft: Four

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NAACP FUNDRAISING, WALDORF, NEW YORK
Friday, December 15, 1989**

((Maybe we should take our act on the road. They can bill us as: "The Coz and Mister Smooth."))\\

Ben Hooks, good to see you again. David Dinkins, Doug Wilder, congratulations on your victories. Governor Cuomo, great to be back in New York ((other acknowledgements to come.))

Lionel Hampton -- thank you. Good vibes from a good friend.\\

((You know, when I was ambassador to the United Nations, Barbara and I lived in this very hotel, in room 42 A. And whenever I complained about anything, Barbara would just roll her eyes and say: "Just where do you think we live? The Waldorf Astoria?"))\\

All in all, this is a wonderful evening, a time when Americans from different professions and political parties can come together to celebrate common ideals.

Nowhere are these ideals more visible than in the commitment and social concerns of this great association. Since the early days of the Niagara Movement, the NAACP has challenged the conscience of a nation. You have provided leadership -- not just for one people within America -- but for all of America.\\

Your leadership was born of troubled times, and sharpened by adversity. You've known persecution, and through it, you gained compassion. You've been without power, and through it, you won empowerment. You've suffered the ignorance and bigotry of small minds, and because of them, you built pride and respect.\\

Go to Montgomery, Alabama, today. Stand before the granite wall of the new civil rights memorial. And through a veil of flowing water you will read these words from the Bible: ". . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."\\

Like a mighty river, justice can cut a channel through the hardest of stone. Like a mighty river seeking the sea, justice will, in the end, find fulfillment. **It has been slow in coming. It has been impeded. But its journey is inexorable because justice cannot be denied.**\\

Because of the activism of the NAACP, justice is on the rise. On November 17, I met with Ben and the leaders of the other major civil rights organizations. You challenged me with the highest ideals of your movement. Now let me challenge you to work with me and my Cabinet, from this day forward, on a campaign to build a better America.\\

I seek a new partnership, one that draws inspiration from the achievement of the civil rights and Solidarity movements. For after all, from the country roads of Selma twenty years ago to the city streets of Eastern Europe today, a common refrain echoes through the history of our times: "We shall overcome."

Has the world known more improbable heroes than Rosa Parks and Lech Walesa? But make no mistake, heroes they are.

So let us emulate them by working together. For in solidarity, we can reasonably hope that in the new century, just a decade away, we will finally attain the fondest dream of the founders of the NAACP -- a society blind to bigotry, a society open to all.\\

The fight against discrimination has been the historic mission of the civil rights movement -- a mission that has yet to be completely fulfilled. That is why I reauthorized the Civil Rights Commission.\\ ((And that is why I have a surprise for you tonight in announcing a major appointment -- that of ((name)) to the Civil Rights Commission. He is a good man. He deserves your support.))\\

But I am told by many of you that there are other missions for the civil rights movement in the 1990s. From now on, the protection of civil rights must also mean the removal of all barriers to opportunity.

Of course, the barriers to opportunity for black Americans were much more prevalent in the past, even in the recent past. From 1973 to 1981, black employment growth lagged behind that of whites. And real black income declined sharply between 1973 to 1981 -- even as government was spending more on new social programs.

But black Americans have enjoyed enormous employment and income gains during the 1980s. Disparities remain, but they've

been narrowed by the rate of progress. Since 1981, black employment has grown 27 percent -- nearly twice the 15 percent growth in white employment. Between 1981 and 1988, the real median income for black families has grown 12 percent, compared with 10.5 percent for white families.

Some would say this signals the victory of the War on Poverty. But we know better. It was in 1965 that Lyndon Johnson declared his war -- a war of liberation -- a war he said was a struggle not to simply support people, but a struggle to give people a chance. It was a noble effort, but despite of all the good news I just relayed to you, the War on Poverty fell short. It fell short because the cruelest forms of poverty cannot be fought with dollars alone.

First and foremost -- there is a poverty of the spirit. Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith. Government can't teach that achievement is to be found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, instead of the murderous materialism of easy drug money. But, in a new solidarity, we can teach these values -- as leaders, as parents, as communities working with our churches.

Let me give you another example of another form of poverty -- the higher incidence of disease and early death in the black community is a kind of poverty, a poverty of health. Cancer, strokes, heart disease -- all afflict black Americans in greater proportions. This shameful disparity in the health of black

Americans is the foremost concern of our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Doctor Louis Sullivan. And so let us tonight to join in solidarity against disease and early death.\\

There are other forms of poverty. When people, going about the ordinary business of their lives -- waiting for a bus, walking to a corner grocery store -- must fear for their lives -- then fear has stolen a most precious possession -- their freedom.

Last week, in Houston, I saw such a community when I revisited the district I represented as a Congressman. I also saw a community that **had enough** of fear, **had enough** of crime, **had enough** of dope. Just as the people of Berlin are standing up for freedom, so the people of this poor Houston neighborhood are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- freedom from fear, crime and drugs. Their journey to this freedom is long and hard. But you and I must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city. Let us declare tonight our new solidarity against drugs.\\

Then there is yet another kind of poverty, a growing poverty of knowledge and skills.

A whole generation of young men and women in this country -- white, as well as black -- are simply not learning -- not **learning** -- the basic skills they need to hold down a job or to raise a family. **That is a national disgrace.**\\ For the first time in history, we face the prospect that the sons and daughters of America could be less educated than their mothers and fathers.

Well, let me tell you -- that is unacceptable and this President is not going to sit by and watch that happen.\\

Neither will American business, because business needs new talent as never before. There is a coming labor shortage in this country, of a kind which we have rarely seen before. Women, minorities and immigrants will comprise eight out of ten new entrants into the job market. Yet the new service and manufacturing industries will also require higher skills, more training and, at the very least, literacy. Education -- quality education is a prerequisite to making a decent living in America.

So we must work together, as never before, to reform our schools. Our mission must be to find a way to bring knowledge and enlightenment to a new generation of Americans. **Let us stand in solidarity for the liberation of young minds.**

You know my proposals. First, I believe parents deserve choice. They deserve the power to choose their children's child-care, whether that means a grandparent or a church-affiliated center. And then they deserve the power to choose their children's school.

And where disadvantaged children are concerned, Congress wants to provide an increase of \$151 million in the funding of Head Start to serve up to 37,500 more eligible 4-year-olds. I want to go further. I challenge Congress to increase Head Start funding by \$250 million, to serve up to 95,000 more children.

To provide opportunity to our young people, we need new and innovative economic tools. The training wage, just passed by

Congress, is one such tool. But we need more, much more, from enterprise zones, to merit pay and magnet schools, to more effective programs to fight illiteracy. And I believe you are aware of my many actions this year to strengthen and support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of America. In all these measures and so much more, I want and need your active support, your solidarity.

((Ben, as a Baptist minister, I'm sure you heard the story of the young preacher who was well into a sermon, and more than a little nervous about how he was doing, when he noticed his wife in the congregation holding up a little sign with the word "Kiss" scrawled on it. Inspired, he went on to speak for another half hour, and afterwards, asked his wife what she thought of the sermon. "Awful," she said. "Don't you know what I mean by 'Kiss.' It stands for 'Keep It Short Stupid.'"))\\

So in this same spirit, I want to say something in conclusion, but straight from the heart. In November, we started a new era of cooperation, the first of many working sessions on the problems that plague America. Now is no time for mere politics. Now is the time to band together -- not for our sake -- not for temporary partisan gain -- but in solidarity, for generations to come.

When I talk to young people about what they want out of life, one word keeps cropping up -- adventure. The generation that is coming of age today is poised for a truly great adventure. The world they will know will be as different from

today's world as ours is from that of W.E.B. Du Bois. Winds of freedom are sweeping the globe. New democracies are being born. Technology is leading us toward new worlds. And Americans must be prepared, as never before, to provide the leadership for the new century.

To take the lead, young Americans must be healthy, in body and mind. They must be ready, in knowledge and purpose. They must be free of soul-sapping poverty. And they must be free from discrimination.

I spoke earlier of the Biblical proverb that compared righteousness to a mighty stream. This same vision can be found in a poem by Langston Hughes, who compared the odyssey of black men and women to the crossing of many rivers. And with each crossing, their souls have grown deep -- deep, like the rivers.

This odyssey shaped the soul of a people, and because of your leadership, it also shaped the soul of our nation. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#

#

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: AUSTEN FURSE *AF*
SUBJECT: NAACP Draft Speech

The current draft succeeds in shifting our stance away from simply repeating the Administration's position on affirmative action and quotas and instead moves toward a positive, concrete agenda on civil rights.

Making the connection between Eastern Europe and the domestic challenges in the U.S. serves to strengthen this aspect not just because it is topical, but because it underscores the hopefulness of individual aspiration, (as did the "people power" rhetoric in the Acres Homes speech); it raises the resonant theme of individual empowerment which we have captured from Left; and it subtly hints that, at a fundamental level, the forces of decentralization and an economy based on knowledge are operating both in Eastern Europe and here at home. The "solidarity" language, in short, is a deft stroke.

The draft could be made even more pro-active, while avoiding the inadvertent creation of new policy, by fleshing out three particular points:

pg. 4, para. 3, line 2 "Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith."

This sentence poses the danger of sounding as if the President is being patronizing, and invites the charge of "blaming the victim." It also makes the problem of "poverty of spirit" one of lack of self-esteem, whereas inner-city drug dealers, for example, are not famous for their lack of "faith in themselves." Accordingly, we suggest addressing poverty of spirit in terms of personal character, e.g.,

"Government can't teach young men and women about the importance of good character -- that's a job for parents and teachers, ministers and coaches -- people that kids look up to in order to establish their spiritual moorings. Only people can cultivate character."

(more)

Note that the phrase "cultivating character" evokes the importance of individual responsibility without sounding patronizing. It also revives the word "character," which we should return to use as has been done with previously moribund words like "excellence" and "capitalism."

5,2 Second, in the section on fighting crime and drugs, the draft ably draws from the President's speech last week to the Acres Homes community in Houston. We could restate the point of that speech that such community-based efforts to fight crime and drugs are prime examples of the Thousand Points of Light, and the New Activism referred to in the Inaugural. Last Friday's news reports on that speech all made this connection, which is important in two aspects: 1) it toughens the idea of A Thousand Points of Light while softening, in a sense, the anti-crime/drugs message; and 2) it makes clear that the Thousand Points of Light is not limited to the stereotype of voluntarism as the domain of the socially-privileged.

6,4 Third, in the itemizing of the President's programs which address the poverty of knowledge and skills, we could add that the President believes that the coming skills shortage requires an economy in which people are judged more for what skills they have rather than what credentials they possess. In one crucial area, education jobs, the President has put forward a proposal to permit alternative certification of teachers and principals in order to broaden the pool of available talent. This will particularly benefit minorities and the poor, who could not otherwise find time or resources to spend in order to obtain the necessary credentials, but who deserve the chance to serve America's future generations as much as any American.

If space permitted, the President could add that his own glowing credentials were insufficient to allow him to volunteer to teach in the public schools when he first moved to Texas in the 40's. The point will be obvious: if a privileged white male could not use his skills as a volunteer, what chance have the less fortunate who wish to use their skills for pay?

The President could even tell the story of Ego Brown, a young black man who was prevented from opening shoe shine stands on the streets of Washington because of a Jim Crow-era law. It took a court decision merely to allow someone to start a small business (one that employed the homeless, incidentally). The over-emphasis on licenses, permits, and other types of credentials disproportionately affect minorities and the poor, depriving them of the opportunity to be judged on the basis of what skills they have to offer. This is not just a matter of a skills shortage, it is a matter of simple justice.

(more)

One other point:

The draft's mention of the new appointment to the Civil Rights Commission and its noting of the HBCU's initiatives, which have also involved a recent appointment, suggest that the President would be well served to underscore the number of black and minority appointments in his Administration. The quality of his appointments has proven to be impressive -- so will the actual quantity.

The themes of the draft as it now stands appear as follows, with the additional themes contemplated in this memo noted in bold:

- I. Civil Rights and Solidarity
- II. Reauthorization of CRC; Announce appointment
- III. Remove barriers to opportunity
 - A. Black economic achievement
 - B. War On Poverty; Money alone is insufficient
 - C. Poverty of spirit
 - i. **"Cultivating Character" (instead of countering lack of faith in oneself)**
 - D. Poverty of health
 - E. Poverty of "freedom" (personal security from drugs/crime)
 - i. **Community-based efforts are part of the Thousand Points of Light/New Activism**
 - F. Poverty of knowledge and skills:
 - i. **Evaluating people more by skills than by credentials:**
Alternative Certification
 - ii. Increased (parental) choice:
 - a. Child Care
 - b. Education
 - iii. Head Start
 - iv. Training wage
 - v. Enterprise Zones
 - vi. Merit Pay
 - vii. Magnet Schools
 - viii. Literacy
 - ix. HBCU's
 - a. **Quantity and Quality of Presidential Appointments of Minorities**

###

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: FREDERICK D. NELSON *FAN.*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: NAACP

The Counsel's Office makes no legal objections to this draft presidential address. I do offer a few minor rhetorical comments.

You might consider changing the last sentence on page one to begin with the word "Historically" and to substitute "people" with "race."

On page three, first full paragraph, perhaps the last sentence might read "a society open to all without reference to race, gender, or creed." In the third paragraph, the words "I am told by many of you that" implies that the President would not otherwise be aware of further civil rights goals.

The first full paragraph on page four may seem to give too much credit to President Johnson's War on Poverty. Many of those programs, after all, are thought by very respected scholars to have been highly counterproductive in several respects. We cannot gloss over the real problems that beset inner city families, notwithstanding the gains in black employment to which the speech refers.

On a related point, the address might refer in somewhat greater detail to the contrasting solutions that President Bush supports in promoting greater opportunity, choice, and independence. The housing ideas contained in the H.O.P.E. program, for example, could merit attention here, in conjunction with further discussion of enterprise zones, magnet schools, and so forth.

We appreciate the opportunity to have seen this draft.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/13/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12/13/89 5:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NAACP

	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"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>BOSKIN</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 5:00 PM TODAY, December 13, 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

1989 DEC 13 AM 9:05

Davis/Martin
Title: NAACP
Dec. 12, 1989
Draft: Four

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NAACP FUNDRAISING, WALDORF, NEW YORK
Friday, December 15, 1989**

((Maybe we should take our act on the road. They can bill us as: "The Coz and Mister Smooth."))\\

Ben Hooks, good to see you again. David Dinkins, Doug Wilder, congratulations on your victories. Governor Cuomo, great to be back in New York ((other acknowledgements to come.))

Lionel Hampton -- thank you. Good vibes from a good friend.\\

((You know, when I was ambassador to the United Nations, Barbara and I lived in this very hotel, in room 42 A. And whenever I complained about anything, Barbara would just roll her eyes and say: "Just where do you think we live? The Waldorf Astoria?"))\\

All in all, this is a wonderful evening, a time when Americans from different professions and political parties can come together to celebrate common ideals.

Nowhere are these ideals more visible than in the commitment and social concerns of this great association. Since the early days of the Niagara Movement, the NAACP has challenged the conscience of a nation. You have provided leadership -- not just for one people within America -- but for all of America.\\

Your leadership was born of troubled times, and sharpened by adversity. You've known persecution, and through it, you gained compassion. You've been without power, and through it, you won empowerment. You've suffered the ignorance and bigotry of small minds, and because of them, you built pride and respect.\\

Go to Montgomery, Alabama, today. Stand before the granite wall of the new civil rights memorial. And through a veil of flowing water you will read these words from the Bible: ". . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."\\

Like a mighty river, justice can cut a channel through the hardest of stone. Like a mighty river seeking the sea, justice will, in the end, find fulfillment. **It has been slow in coming. It has been impeded. But its journey is inexorable because justice cannot be denied.**\\

Because of the activism of the NAACP, justice is on the rise. On November 17, I met with Ben and the leaders of the other major civil rights organizations. You challenged me with the highest ideals of your movement. Now let me challenge you to work with me and my Cabinet, from this day forward, on a campaign to build a better America.\\

I seek a new partnership, one that draws inspiration from the achievement of the civil rights and Solidarity movements. For after all, from the country roads of Selma twenty years ago to the city streets of Eastern Europe today, a common refrain echoes through the history of our times: "We shall overcome."

Has the world known more improbable heroes than Rosa Parks and Lech Walesa? But make no mistake, heroes they are.

So let us emulate them by working together. For in solidarity, we can reasonably hope that in the new century, just a decade away, we will finally attain the fondest dream of the founders of the NAACP -- a society blind to bigotry, a society open to all.\\

The fight against discrimination has been the historic mission of the civil rights movement -- a mission that has yet to be completely fulfilled. That is why I reauthorized the Civil Rights Commission.\\ ((And that is why I have a surprise for you tonight in announcing a major appointment -- that of ((name)) to the Civil Rights Commission. He is a good man. He deserves your support.))\\

But I am told by many of you that there are other missions for the civil rights movement in the 1990s. From now on, the protection of civil rights must also mean the removal of all barriers to opportunity.

Of course, the barriers to opportunity for black Americans were much more prevalent in the past, even in the recent past. From 1973 to 1981, black employment growth lagged behind that of whites. And real black income declined sharply between 1973 to 1981 -- even as government was spending more on new social programs.

But black Americans have enjoyed enormous employment and income gains during the 1980s. Disparities remain, but they've

owed by the rate of progress. Since 1981, black unemployment has grown 27 percent -- nearly twice the 15 percent in white employment. Between 1981 and 1988, the real median income for black families has grown 12 percent, compared with 10.5 percent for white families.

Some would say this signals the victory of the War on Poverty. But we know better. It was in 1965 that Lyndon Johnson declared his war -- a war of liberation -- a war he said was a struggle not to simply support people, but a struggle to give people a chance. It was a noble effort, but despite of all the good news I just relayed to you, the War on Poverty fell short. It fell short because the cruelest forms of poverty cannot be fought with dollars alone.

First and foremost -- there is a poverty of the spirit. Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith. Government can't teach that achievement is to be found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, instead of the murderous materialism of easy drug money. But, in a new solidarity, we can teach these values -- as leaders, as parents, as communities working with our churches.

Let me give you another example of another form of poverty -- the higher incidence of disease and early death in the black community is a kind of poverty, a poverty of health. Cancer, strokes, heart disease -- all afflict black Americans in greater proportions. This shameful disparity in the health of black

is the foremost concern of our Secretary of Health and Services, Doctor Louis Sullivan. And so let us tonight to solidarity against disease and early death.\\

There are other forms of poverty. When people, going about the ordinary business of their lives -- waiting for a bus, walking to a corner grocery store -- must fear for their lives -- then fear has stolen a most precious possession -- their freedom.

Last week, in Houston, I saw such a community when I revisited the district I represented as a Congressman. I also saw a community that had enough of fear, had enough of crime, had enough of dope. Just as the people of Berlin are standing up for freedom, so the people of this poor Houston neighborhood are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- freedom from fear, crime and drugs. Their journey to this freedom is long and hard. But you and I must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city. Let us declare tonight our new solidarity against drugs.\\

Then there is yet another kind of poverty, a growing poverty of knowledge and skills.

A whole generation of young men and women in this country -- white, as well as black -- are simply not learning -- not learning -- the basic skills they need to hold down a job or to raise a family. That is a national disgrace.\\ For the first time in history, we face the prospect that the sons and daughters of America could be less educated than their mothers and fathers.

Well, let me tell you -- that is unacceptable and this President is not going to sit by and watch that happen.\\

Neither will American business, because business needs new talent as never before. There is a coming labor shortage in this country, of a kind which we have rarely seen before. Women, minorities and immigrants will comprise eight out of ten new entrants into the job market. Yet the new service and manufacturing industries will also require higher skills, more training and, at the very least, literacy. Education -- quality education is a prerequisite to making a decent living in America.

So we must work together, as never before, to reform our schools. Our mission must be to find a way to bring knowledge and enlightenment to a new generation of Americans. **Let us stand in solidarity for the liberation of young minds.**

You know my proposals. First, I believe parents deserve choice. They deserve the power to choose their children's child-care, whether that means a grandparent or a church-affiliated center. And then they deserve the power to choose their children's school.

And where disadvantaged children are concerned, Congress wants to provide an increase of \$151 million in the funding of Head Start to serve up to 37,500 more eligible 4-year-olds. I want to go further. I challenge Congress to increase Head Start funding by \$250 million, to serve up to 95,000 more children.

To provide opportunity to our young people, we need new and innovative economic tools. The training wage, just passed by

Congress, is one such tool. But we need more, much more, from enterprise zones, to merit pay and magnet schools, to more effective programs to fight illiteracy. And I believe you are aware of my many actions this year to strengthen and support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of America. In all these measures and so much more, I want and need your active support, your solidarity.

((Ben, as a Baptist minister, I'm sure you heard the story of the young preacher who was well into a sermon, and more than a little nervous about how he was doing, when he noticed his wife in the congregation holding up a little sign with the word "Kiss" scrawled on it. Inspired, he went on to speak for another half hour, and afterwards, asked his wife what she thought of the sermon. "Awful," she said. "Don't you know what I mean by 'Kiss.' It stands for 'Keep It Short Stupid.'"))\\

So in this same spirit, I want to say something in conclusion, but straight from the heart. In November, we started a new era of cooperation, the first of many working sessions on the problems that plague America. Now is no time for mere politics. Now is the time to band together -- not for our sake - - not for temporary partisan gain -- but in solidarity, for generations to come.

When I talk to young people about what they want out of life, one word keeps cropping up -- adventure. The generation that is coming of age today is poised for a truly great adventure. The world they will know will be as different from

today's world as ours is from that of W.E.B. Du Bois. Winds of freedom are sweeping the globe. New democracies are being born. Technology is leading us toward new worlds. And Americans must be prepared, as never before, to provide the leadership for the new century.

To take the lead, young Americans must be healthy, in body and mind. They must be ready, in knowledge and purpose. They must be free of soul-sapping poverty. And they must be free from discrimination.

I spoke earlier of the Biblical proverb that compared righteousness to a mighty stream. This same vision can be found in a poem by Langston Hughes, who compared the odyssey of black men and women to the crossing of many rivers. And with each crossing, their souls have grown deep -- deep, like the rivers.

This odyssey shaped the soul of a people, and because of your leadership, it also shaped the soul of our nation. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#

#

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/13/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12/13/89 5:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NAACP

	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"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>BOSKIN</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 5:00 PM TODAY, December 13, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comments

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

1989 DEC 13 AM 9:05

Davis/Martin
Title: NAACP
Dec. 12, 1989
Draft: Four

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NAACP FUNDRAISING, WALDORF, NEW YORK
Friday, December 15, 1989**

((Maybe we should take our act on the road. They can bill us as: "The Coz and Mister Smooth."))\\

Ben Hooks, good to see you again. David Dinkins, Doug Wilder, congratulations on your victories. Governor Cuomo, great to be back in New York ((other acknowledgements to come.))

Lionel Hampton -- thank you. Good vibes from a good friend.\\

((You know, when I was ambassador to the United Nations, Barbara and I lived in this very hotel, in room 42 A. And whenever I complained about anything, Barbara would just roll her eyes and say: "Just where do you think we live? The Waldorf Astoria?"))\\

All in all, this is a wonderful evening, a time when Americans from different professions and political parties can come together to celebrate common ideals.

Nowhere are these ideals more visible than in the commitment and social concerns of this great association. Since the early days of the Niagara Movement, the NAACP has challenged the conscience of a nation. You have provided leadership -- not just for one people within America -- but for all of America.\\

Your leadership was born of troubled times, and sharpened by adversity. You've known persecution, and through it, you gained compassion. You've been without power, and through it, you won empowerment. You've suffered the ignorance and bigotry of small minds, and because of them, you built pride and respect.\\

Go to Montgomery, Alabama, today. Stand before the granite wall of the new civil rights memorial. And through a veil of flowing water you will read these words from the Bible: ". . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."\\

Like a mighty river, justice can cut a channel through the hardest of stone. Like a mighty river seeking the sea, justice will, in the end, find fulfillment. **It has been slow in coming. It has been impeded. But its journey is inexorable because justice cannot be denied.**\\

Because of the activism of the NAACP, justice is on the rise. On November 17, I met with Ben and the leaders of the other major civil rights organizations. You challenged me with the highest ideals of your movement. Now let me challenge you to work with me and my Cabinet, from this day forward, on a campaign to build a better America.\\

I seek a new partnership, one that draws inspiration from the achievement of the civil rights and Solidarity movements. For after all, from the country roads of Selma twenty years ago to the city streets of Eastern Europe today, a common refrain echoes through the history of our times: "We shall overcome."

Has the world known more improbable heroes than Rosa Parks and Lech Walesa? But make no mistake, heroes they are.

So let us emulate them by working together. For in solidarity, we can reasonably hope that in the new century, just a decade away, we will finally attain the fondest dream of the founders of the NAACP -- a society blind to bigotry, a society open to all.\\

The fight against discrimination has been the historic mission of the civil rights movement -- a mission that has yet to be completely fulfilled. That is why I reauthorized the Civil Rights Commission.\\ ((And that is why I have a surprise for you tonight in announcing a major appointment -- that of ((name)) to the Civil Rights Commission. He is a good man. He deserves your support.))\\

But I am told by many of you that there are other missions for the civil rights movement in the 1990s. From now on, the protection of civil rights must also mean the removal of all barriers to opportunity.

Of course, the barriers to opportunity for black Americans were much more prevalent in the past, even in the recent past. From 1973 to 1981, black employment growth lagged behind that of whites. And real black income declined sharply between 1973 to 1981 -- even as government was spending more on new social programs.

But black Americans have enjoyed enormous employment and income gains during the 1980s. Disparities remain, but they've

*Helen
5/78*

Note: We did not have statistics to verify these figures.

*Clw-
#15 from
Larry
Lindsey
in Pink's
shop.*

been narrowed by the rate of progress. Since 1981, black employment has grown 27 percent -- nearly twice the 15 percent growth in white employment. Between 1981 and 1988, the real median income for black families has grown 12 percent, compared with 10.5 percent for white families.

Some would say this signals the victory of the War on Poverty. But we know better. It was in 1965 that Lyndon Johnson declared his war -- a war of liberation -- a war he said was a struggle not to simply support people, but a struggle to give people a chance. It was a noble effort, but despite of all the good news I just relayed to you, the War on Poverty fell short. It fell short because the cruelest forms of poverty cannot be fought with dollars alone.

First and foremost -- there is a poverty of the spirit. Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith. Government can't teach that achievement is to be found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, instead of the murderous materialism of easy drug money. But, in a new solidarity, we can teach these values -- as leaders, as parents, as communities working with our churches.

Let me give you another example of another form of poverty - - the higher incidence of disease and early death in the black community is a kind of poverty, a poverty of health. Cancer, strokes, heart disease -- all afflict black Americans in greater proportions. This shameful disparity in the health of black

Helen

Americans is the foremost concern of our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Doctor Louis Sullivan. And so let us tonight ~~to~~ join in solidarity against disease and early death.\\

There are other forms of poverty. When people, going about the ordinary business of their lives -- waiting for a bus, walking to a corner grocery store -- must fear for their lives -- then fear has stolen a most precious possession -- their freedom.

Last week, in Houston, I saw such a community when I revisited the district I represented as a Congressman. I also saw a community that had enough of fear, had enough of crime, had enough of dope. Just as the people of Berlin are standing up for freedom, so the people of this poor Houston neighborhood are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- freedom from fear, crime and drugs. Their journey to this freedom is long and hard. But you and I must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city. Let us declare tonight our new solidarity against drugs.\\

Then there is yet another kind of poverty, a growing poverty of knowledge and skills.

A whole generation of young men and women in this country - white, as well as black -- are simply not learning -- not learning -- the basic skills they need to hold down a job or to raise a family. That is a national disgrace.\\ For the first time in history, we face the prospect that the sons and daughters of America could be less ^{well} educated than their mothers and fathers.

Well, let me tell you -- that is unacceptable and this President is not going to sit by and watch that happen.\\

Neither will American business, because business needs new talent as never before. There is a coming labor shortage in this country, of a kind which we have rarely seen before. Women, minorities and immigrants will comprise eight out of ten new entrants into the job market. Yet the new service and manufacturing industries will also require higher skills, more training and, at the very least, literacy. Education -- quality education is a prerequisite to making a decent living in America.

Note:
We did not have figures to verify + his projection
Holen
5/78

So we must work together, as never before, to reform our schools. Our mission must be to find a way to bring knowledge and enlightenment to a new generation of Americans. **Let us stand in solidarity for the liberation of young minds.**

You know my proposals. First, I believe parents deserve choice. They deserve the power to choose their children's child-care, whether that means a grandparent or a church-affiliated center. And then they deserve the power to choose their children's school.

And where disadvantaged children are concerned, Congress ^{appropriated} ~~wants to provide~~ an increase of \$151 million in the funding of Head Start to serve up to 37,500 more eligible 4-year-olds. I want to go further. I challenge Congress to increase Head Start funding by \$250 million, to serve up to 95,000 more children.

To provide opportunity to our young people, we need new and innovative economic tools. The training wage, just passed by

Congress, is one such tool. But we need more, much more, from enterprise zones, to merit pay and magnet schools, to more effective programs to fight illiteracy. And I believe you are aware of my many actions this year to strengthen and support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of America. In all these measures and so much more, I want and need your active support, your solidarity.

((Ben, as a Baptist minister, I'm sure you heard the story of the young preacher who was well into a sermon, and more than a little nervous about how he was doing, when he noticed his wife in the congregation holding up a little sign with the word "Kiss" scrawled on it. Inspired, he went on to speak for another half hour, and afterwards, asked his wife what she thought of the sermon. "Awful," she said. "Don't you know what I mean by 'Kiss.' It stands for 'Keep It Short Stupid.'"))\\

So in this same spirit, I want to say something in conclusion, but straight from the heart. In November, we started a new era of cooperation, the first of many working sessions on the problems that plague America. Now is no time for mere politics. Now is the time to band together -- not for our sake - - not for temporary partisan gain -- but in solidarity, for generations to come.

When I talk to young people about what they want out of life, one word keeps cropping up -- adventure. The generation that is coming of age today is poised for a truly great adventure. The world they will know will be as different from

today's world as ours is from that of W.E.B. Du Bois. Winds of freedom are sweeping the globe. New democracies are being born. Technology is leading us toward new worlds. And Americans must be prepared, as never before, to provide the leadership for the new century.

To take the lead, young Americans must be healthy, in body and mind. They must be ready, in knowledge and purpose. They must be free of soul-sapping poverty. And they must be free from discrimination.

I spoke earlier of the Biblical proverb that compared righteousness to a mighty stream. This same vision can be found in a poem by Langston Hughes, who compared the odyssey of black men and women to the crossing of many rivers. And with each crossing, their souls have grown deep -- deep, like the rivers.

This odyssey shaped the soul of a people, and because of your leadership, it also shaped the soul of our nation. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#

#

#

Davis/Martin
Title: NAACP
Dec. 12, 1989
Draft: Four

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NAACP FUNDRAISING, WALDORF, NEW YORK
Friday, December 15, 1989**

((Maybe we should take our act on the road. They can bill us as: "The Coz and Mister Smooth."))\\

Ben Hooks, good to see you again. David Dinkins, Doug Wilder, congratulations on your victories. Governor Cuomo, great to be back in New York ((other acknowledgements to come.))

Lionel Hampton -- thank you. Good vibes from a good friend.\\

((You know, when I was ambassador to the United Nations, Barbara and I lived in this very hotel, in room 42 A. And whenever I complained about anything, Barbara would just roll her eyes and say: "Just where do you think we live? The Waldorf Astoria?"))\\

All in all, this is a wonderful evening, a time when Americans from different professions and political parties can come together to celebrate common ideals.

Nowhere are these ideals more visible than in the commitment and social concerns of this great association. Since the early days of the Niagara Movement, the NAACP has challenged the conscience of a nation. You have provided leadership -- not just for one people within America -- but for all of America.\\

Your leadership was born of troubled times, and sharpened by adversity. You've known persecution, and through it, you gained compassion. You've been without power, and through it, you won empowerment. You've suffered the ignorance and bigotry of small minds, and because of them, you built pride and respect.\\

Go to Montgomery, Alabama, today. Stand before the granite wall of the new civil rights memorial. And through a veil of flowing water you will read these words from the Bible: ". . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."\\

Like a mighty river, justice can cut a channel through the hardest of stone. Like a mighty river seeking the sea, justice will, in the end, find fulfillment. It has been slow in coming. It has been impeded. But its journey is inexorable because justice cannot be denied.\\

Because of the activism of the NAACP, justice is on the rise. On November 17, I met with Ben and the leaders of the other major civil rights organizations. You challenged me with the highest ideals of your movement. Now let me challenge you to work with me and my Cabinet, from this day forward, on a campaign to build a better America.\\

I seek a new partnership, one that draws inspiration from the achievement of the civil rights and Solidarity movements. For after all, from the country roads of Selma twenty years ago to the city streets of Eastern Europe today, a common refrain echoes through the history of our times: "We shall overcome."

Has the world known more improbable heroes than Rosa Parks and Lech Walesa? But make no mistake, heroes they are.

So let us emulate them by working together. For in solidarity, we can reasonably hope that in the new century, just a decade away, we will finally attain the fondest dream of the founders of the NAACP -- a society blind to bigotry, a society open to all.\\

The fight against discrimination has been the historic mission of the civil rights movement -- a mission that has yet to be completely fulfilled. That is why I reauthorized the Civil Rights Commission.\\ ((And that is why I have a surprise for you tonight in announcing a major appointment -- that of ((name)) to the Civil Rights Commission. He is a good man. He deserves your support.))\\

But I am told by many of you that there are other missions for the civil rights movement in the 1990s. From now on, the protection of civil rights must also mean the removal of all barriers to opportunity.

Of course, the barriers to opportunity for black Americans were much more prevalent in the past, even in the recent past. From 1973 to 1981, black employment growth lagged behind that of whites. And real black income declined sharply between 1973 to 1981 -- even as government was spending more on new social programs.

But black Americans have enjoyed enormous employment and income gains during the 1980s. Disparities remain, but they've

been narrowed by the rate of progress. Since 1981, black employment has grown 27 percent -- nearly twice the 15 percent growth in white employment. Between 1981 and 1988, the real median income for black families has grown 12 percent, compared with 10.5 percent for white families.

Some would say this signals the victory of the War on Poverty. But we know better. It was in 1965 that Lyndon Johnson declared his war -- a war of liberation -- a war he said was a struggle not to simply support people, but a struggle to give people a chance. It was a noble effort, but despite of all the good news I just relayed to you, the War on Poverty fell short. It fell short because the cruelest forms of poverty cannot be fought with dollars alone.

First and foremost -- there is a poverty of the spirit. Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith. Government can't teach that achievement is to be found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, instead of the murderous materialism of easy drug money. But, in a new solidarity, we can teach these values -- as leaders, as parents, as communities working with our churches.

Let me give you another example of another form of poverty - - the higher incidence of disease and early death in the black community is a kind of poverty, a poverty of health. Cancer, strokes, heart disease -- all afflict black Americans in greater proportions. This shameful disparity in the health of black

Americans is the foremost concern of our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Doctor Louis Sullivan. And so let us tonight to join in solidarity against disease and early death.\\

There are other forms of poverty. When people, going about the ordinary business of their lives -- waiting for a bus, walking to a corner grocery store -- must fear for their lives -- then fear has stolen a most precious possession -- their freedom.

Last week, in Houston, I saw such a community when I revisited the district I represented as a Congressman. I also saw a community that **had enough** of fear, **had enough** of crime, **had enough** of dope. Just as the people of Berlin are standing up for freedom, so the people of this poor Houston neighborhood are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- freedom from fear, crime and drugs. Their journey to this freedom is long and hard. But you and I must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city. Let us declare tonight our new solidarity against drugs.\\

Then there is yet another kind of poverty, a growing poverty of knowledge and skills.

A whole generation of young men and women in this country - white, as well as black -- are simply not learning -- **not learning** -- the basic skills they need to hold down a job or to raise a family. **That is a national disgrace.**\\ For the first time in history, we face the prospect that the sons and daughters of America could be less educated than their mothers and fathers.

Well, let me tell you -- that is unacceptable and this President is not going to sit by and watch that happen.\\

Neither will American business, because business needs new talent as never before. There is a coming labor shortage in this country, of a kind which we have rarely seen before. Women, minorities and immigrants will comprise eight out of ten new entrants into the job market. Yet the new service and manufacturing industries will also require higher skills, more training and, at the very least, literacy. Education -- quality education is a prerequisite to making a decent living in America.

So we must work together, as never before, to reform our schools. Our mission must be to find a way to bring knowledge and enlightenment to a new generation of Americans. **Let us stand in solidarity for the liberation of young minds.**

You know my proposals. First, I believe parents deserve choice. They deserve the power to choose their children's child-care, whether that means a grandparent or a church-affiliated center. And then they deserve the power to choose their children's school.

And where disadvantaged children are concerned, Congress wants to provide an increase of \$151 million in the funding of Head Start to serve up to 37,500 more eligible 4-year-olds. I want to go further. I challenge Congress to increase Head Start funding by \$250 million, to serve up to 95,000 more children.

To provide opportunity to our young people, we need new and innovative economic tools. The training wage, just passed by

Congress, is one such tool. But we need more, much more, from enterprise zones, to merit pay and magnet schools, to more effective programs to fight illiteracy. And I believe you are aware of my many actions this year to strengthen and support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of America. In all these measures and so much more, I want and need your active support, your solidarity.

((Ben, as a Baptist minister, I'm sure you heard the story of the young preacher who was well into a sermon, and more than a little nervous about how he was doing, when he noticed his wife in the congregation holding up a little sign with the word "Kiss" scrawled on it. Inspired, he went on to speak for another half hour, and afterwards, asked his wife what she thought of the sermon. "Awful," she said. "Don't you know what I mean by 'Kiss.' It stands for 'Keep It Short Stupid.'"))\ \

So in this same spirit, I want to say something in conclusion, but straight from the heart. In November, we started a new era of cooperation, the first of many working sessions on the problems that plague America. Now is no time for mere politics. Now is the time to band together -- not for our sake - - not for temporary partisan gain -- but in solidarity, for generations to come.

When I talk to young people about what they want out of life, one word keeps cropping up -- adventure. The generation that is coming of age today is poised for a truly great adventure. The world they will know will be as different from

today's world as ours is from that of W.E.B. Du Bois. Winds of freedom are sweeping the globe. New democracies are being born. Technology is leading us toward new worlds. And Americans must be prepared, as never before, to provide the leadership for the new century.

To take the lead, young Americans must be healthy, in body and mind. They must be ready, in knowledge and purpose. They must be free of soul-sapping poverty. And they must be free from discrimination.

I spoke earlier of the Biblical proverb that compared righteousness to a mighty stream. This same vision can be found in a poem by Langston Hughes, who compared the odyssey of black men and women to the crossing of many rivers. And with each crossing, their souls have grown deep -- deep, like the rivers.

This odyssey shaped the soul of a people, and because of your leadership, it also shaped the soul of our nation. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#

#

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dec. 14, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Through: ~~CHRIS~~ CHRISS WINSTON
From: MARK DAVIS MD
Subject: NAACP Dinner

I. SUMMARY: You will address more than a thousand people -- major donors, CEOs and NAACP leaders -- before dinner, at the Waldorf Astoria at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15. This is a fundraising event, marking the NAACP's 80th year. At the moment, you are scheduled to be introduced by Bill Cosby. Music will be provided by Stevie Wonder and Lionel Hampton. Your remarks will be teleprompted.

II. DISCUSSION: This speech discusses the whole array of Administration initiatives on civil rights, housing, drugs and crime, health and the struggle for opportunity.

Educ.
Crime.
Charac.

Double check Head
start

Xmas + season

had planned to
talk you
longer

Health - no
VALUES OVER
PROGRAM

close w/
longer speaking
+ heart
sympathy

Davis/Martin
Title: NAACP
Dec. 14, 1989
Draft: Five

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NAACP FUNDRAISING, WALDORF, NEW YORK
8 p.m. Friday, December 15, 1989**

((Maybe we should take our act on the road. They can bill us as: "The Coz and Mister Smooth."))\\

Ben Hooks, good to see you again. David Dinkins, Doug Wilder, congratulations on your victories. Governor Cuomo, great to be back in New York ((other acknowledgements to come.))

Lionel Hampton -- thank you. Good vibes from a good friend.\\

((You know, when I was ambassador to the United Nations, Barbara and I lived in this very hotel, in room 42 A. And whenever I complained about anything, Barbara would just roll her eyes and say: "Just where do you think we live? The Waldorf Astoria?"))\\

All in all, this is a wonderful evening, a time when Americans from different professions and political parties can come together to celebrate common ideals.

Nowhere are these ideals more visible than in the commitment and social concerns of this great association. Since the early days of the Niagara Movement, the NAACP has challenged the conscience of a nation. You have provided leadership -- not just for one people within America -- **but for all of America.**\\

Your leadership was born of troubled times, and sharpened by adversity. You've known persecution, and through it, you gained compassion. You've been without power, and through it, you won empowerment. You've suffered the ignorance and bigotry of small minds, and because of them, you built pride and respect.\\

Go to Montgomery, Alabama, today. Stand before the granite wall of the new civil rights memorial. And through a veil of flowing water you will read these words from the Bible: ". . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."\\

Like a mighty river, justice can cut a channel through the hardest of stone. Like a mighty river seeking the sea, justice will, in the end, find fulfillment. **It has been slow in coming. It has been impeded. But its journey is inexorable because justice cannot be denied.**\\

Because of the activism of the NAACP, justice is on the rise. On November 17, I met with Ben and the leaders of the other major civil rights organizations. You challenged me with the highest ideals of your movement. Now let me challenge you to work with me and my Administration, from this day forward, on a campaign to build a better America.\\

I seek a new partnership, one that draws inspiration from the achievement of the civil rights and Solidarity movements. For after all, from the country roads of Selma twenty years ago to the city streets of Eastern Europe today, a common refrain echoes through the history of our times: "We shall overcome."

Has the world known more improbable heroes than Rosa Parks and Lech Walesa? But make no mistake, heroes they are.

So let us emulate them by working together. For in solidarity, we can reasonably hope that we will finally attain the fondest dream of the founders of the NAACP -- a society blind to bigotry, a society open to all.\\

The fight against discrimination has been the historic mission of the civil rights movement -- a mission that has seen great success, but a mission that has yet to be completely fulfilled. We know that prejudice and racial tensions still exist in America. That is why I support, and intend to sign into law, a measure to collect as much information as we can on crimes motivated by religious, racial or ethnic animosity -- the Hate Crimes Bill.

And that is why I worked with the Congress in a bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Commission on Civil Rights.\\ I will appoint to that Commission men and women who will fight against discrimination, and fight for the civil rights of all Americans.\\

But there are other missions for the civil rights movement in the 1990s. From now on, the protection of civil rights must also mean the removal of all barriers to opportunity.

Of course, the barriers to opportunity for black Americans were much more prevalent in the past, even in the recent past. From 1973 to 1981, black employment growth lagged behind that of whites. And real black income declined sharply between 1973 to

1981 -- even as government was spending more on new social programs.

But black Americans have enjoyed enormous employment and income gains during the 1980s. Disparities remain, but they've been narrowed by the rate of progress. Since 1981, black employment has grown 27 percent -- nearly twice the 15 percent growth in white employment. Between 1981 and 1988, the real median income for black families has grown 12 percent, compared with 10.8 percent for white families.

Some would say this signals the victory of the War on Poverty. But we know better. It was in 1965 that Lyndon Johnson declared his war -- a war of liberation -- a war he said was a struggle not simply to support people, but a struggle to give people a chance. It was a noble effort, but despite all the good news I just relayed to you, the War on Poverty fell short. It fell short because the cruelest forms of poverty cannot be fought with dollars alone.

First and foremost -- there is a poverty of the spirit. Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith. Government can't teach that achievement is to be found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, instead of the murderous materialism of easy drug money. But, in a new solidarity, we **can** instill these values. We can cultivate character -- as leaders, as parents, as teachers, as communities working with our churches.

Let me give you another example of another form of poverty - - the higher incidence of disease and early death in the black community is a kind of poverty, a poverty of health. Cancer, strokes, heart disease -- all afflict black Americans in greater proportions. This unacceptable disparity in the health of black Americans is the foremost concern of our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Doctor Louis Sullivan. And so let us tonight join in solidarity against disease and early death.\\

There are other forms of poverty. Many Americans lack basic shelter and affordable housing. My HOPE initiative -- Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere -- seeks shelter for the homeless, affordable housing and homeownership for low-income families, help for first-time home-buyers and up to 50 new enterprise zones to create jobs in our most distressed communities.

But opportunity in jobs and housing is not enough. When people, going about the ordinary business of their lives -- waiting for a bus, walking to a corner grocery store -- must fear for their lives -- then fear has stolen a most precious possession -- freedom. And it is always these communities that can least afford it, that are already economically depressed -- that are the most tragic victims of crime and drugs.

Last week, in Houston, I saw such a community when I revisited the district I represented as a Congressman. I also saw a community that **had enough** of fear, **had enough** of crime, **had enough** of dope. Just as the people of Berlin are standing up for

freedom, so the people of this poor Houston neighborhood are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- from crime, from drugs -- freedom from fear.

You've heard me speak of the thousand points of light. Well, there is no brighter stars than those brave men and women who lead their communities to stand up to drugs and crime. Their journey to this freedom is long and hard. But you and I must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city. Let us declare tonight our new solidarity against crime and drugs.\\

Then there is yet another kind of poverty, a growing poverty of knowledge and skills.

Many young men and women in this country -white, as well as black -- are simply not learning -- **not learning** -- the basic skills they need to hold down a job or to raise a family. **That is a national disgrace.**\\ For the first time in history, we face the prospect that the sons and daughters of America could be less educated than their mothers and fathers. Well, let me tell you - that is unacceptable and this President is not going to sit by and watch that happen.\\

Neither will American business, because business needs new talent as never before. We are used to thinking of unemployment as a case of too many people, and too few jobs -- a game of musical chairs. All too often, it is minorities who are left standing when the music stops.

But the in the years to come, our problem will be just the opposite: more than enough jobs -- and too few people qualified to fill them. New workers will be in demand -- and the simple fact is that eight of every ten new workers will be women, immigrants or minorities.

Think about what that means. For every child growing up today -- black or white -- there will be a job waiting.\\ The question is whether they will have the education and the skills to seize that opportunity. The new service and manufacturing industries will require higher skills, more training and, at the very least, literacy. Education -- quality education -- is a prerequisite to making a decent living in America.

So we must work together, as never before, to reform our schools. Our mission must be to find a way to bring knowledge and enlightenment to a new generation of Americans. **Let us stand in solidarity for the liberation of young minds.**

You know my proposals. First, I believe parents deserve choice. They deserve the power to choose their children's child-care, whether that means a grandparent or a church-affiliated center. And then they deserve the power to choose their children's school.

And where disadvantaged children are concerned, Congress appropriated an increase of \$151 million in the funding of Head Start to serve up to 37,500 more eligible 4-year-olds. I want to go further. I challenge Congress, when it reconvenes, to

increase Head Start funding by \$250 million, to serve up to 95,000 more children.

To provide opportunity to our young people, we need new and innovative economic tools. The training wage, just passed by Congress, is one such tool. But we need more, much more, from merit pay, to magnet schools, to more effective programs to fight illiteracy. And I believe we need the steps we've taken this year to strengthen and support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of America. Our proposals respond to the needs of many communities -- of every color. They seek to provide opportunity because civil rights means opportunity, and opportunity requires education, safe streets, and a drug-free community for all Americans. In each these measures and so many more, I want and need your active support, your solidarity.

((Ben, as a Baptist minister, I'm sure you heard the story of the young preacher who was well into a sermon, and more than a little nervous about how he was doing, when he noticed his wife in the congregation holding up a little sign with the word "Kiss" scrawled on it. Inspired, he went on to speak for another half hour, and afterwards, asked his wife what she thought of the sermon. "Awful," she said. "Don't you know what I mean by 'Kiss.' It stands for 'Keep It Short Stupid.'"))\\

So in this same spirit, I want to say something in conclusion, but straight from the heart. In November, we started a new era of cooperation, the first of many working sessions on the problems that plague America. Now is no time for mere

politics. Now is the time to band together -- not for our sake -
- not for temporary partisan gain -- but in solidarity, for
generations to come.

When I talk to young people about what they want out of
life, one word keeps cropping up -- adventure. The generation
that is coming of age today is poised for a truly great
adventure. The world they will know will be as different from
today's world as ours is from that of W.E.B. Du Bois. Winds of
freedom are sweeping the globe. New democracies are being born.
Technology is leading us toward new worlds. And Americans must
be prepared, as never before, to provide the leadership for the
new century.

To take the lead, young Americans must be healthy, in body
and mind. They must be ready, in knowledge and purpose. They
must be free of soul-sapping poverty. And they must be free from
discrimination.

I spoke earlier of the Biblical proverb that compared
righteousness to a mighty stream. This same vision can be found
in a poem by Langston Hughes, who compared the odyssey of black
men and women to the crossing of many rivers. And with each
crossing, their souls have grown deep -- deep, like the rivers.

This odyssey shaped the soul of a people, and because of
your leadership, it also shaped the soul of our nation. Thank
you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#

#

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

DECEMBER 15, 1989

EVENTS:

Staff Photo
NAACP 80th Anniversary Dinner

DRESS:

Men - Black Tie
Women - Long Dress

CONTACT:

Office of Presidential Advance
John G. Keller, Jr. - 202/456-7565

Trip Coordinator
Kristin Goodwin - 202/456-7565

New York, New York Signal - 212/980-4477

ADVANCE:

Mel Lukens - LEAD
Chris Molineaux - PRESS
J.C. Carmichael - USSS
Larry Feast - WHCA
Bruce Caughman - MIL. AIDE
Nick Schubert - HMX
Rick Betz - AFI

WEATHER:

Cold/Mid 20's

BLACK
TIE

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

DECEMBER 15, 1989

GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:

5:15 pm Vans depart West Basement
en route Andrews Air Force
Base.

5:55 pm Those with own transportation
should arrive Andrews Air Force
Base, Distinguished Visitors
Lounge, for check-in.

6:10 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs White House en route Andrews
Air Force Base.

MARINE ONE MANIFEST:

THE PRESIDENT
A. Card
R. Porter
S. Hart
T. McBride
D. Valdez
Doctor
Mil. Aide
2 USSS

(Flying Time: 10 Minutes)

6:20 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews Air Force Base and
proceeds to board Air Force One.

6:25 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Andrews Air Force Base en route Newark, New Jersey.

(Flying Time: 45 Minutes)
(Interchange: No)
(Time Change: None)
(Food Service: Light Dinner)

7:10 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Newark International Airport, Newark, New Jersey and proceeds to board Marine One.

Met by:

The Honorable Frank Graves
Mayor of Patterson, New Jersey

The Honorable Ed Englehardt
Sheriff, Passaic County New Jersey

Mrs. Helen VerDuin Palit
Executive Director, City Harvest

7:15 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Newark International Airport en route Central Park Landing Zone, New York, New York.

HELICOPTER ASSIGNMENTS:

Marine One:

THE PRESIDENT
Sec. Sullivan
G. Sullivan
A. Card
S. Hart
T. McBride
Doctor
Mil. Aide
2 USSS

Nighthawk II:

WHMO Director
WHCA T.O.

COL Nickel
Medic
8 USSS

Nighthawk III:

J. Parmer
B. Zanca
M. Lukens
R. Porter
J. Watkins
B. Montagne
C. Martin

Nighthawk IV:

G. Fendler
J. Allison
Official Photographer
2 WHVD
1 WHCA AV
2 USSS
26 Press

(Flying Time: 20 Minutes)

7:35 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Central Park Landing Zone and proceeds to Motorcade.

7:40 pm

THE PRESIDENT boards Motorcade and departs Central Park Landing Zone en route Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS:

Lead	M. Lukens
Spare	T. McBride Doctor
LIMO	THE PRESIDENT
Follow Up	

Control	A. Card Mil. Aide
Support	S. Hart B. Zanca J. Parmer Official Photographer Medic
WHCA	
Staff I	
Camera I	
Camera II	G. Fendler
Wire I	
Wire II	
Staff Van	All Remaining Staff
Guest Van	All Remaining Guests
Press Van I	J. Allison
Press Van II	
Press Van III	

(Drive Time: 5 Minutes)

GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:

Upon arrival at the Waldorf Astoria,
Guests and Staff will be escorted to
Holding Room or Staff Viewing Area.

Please board Motorcade no later than
8:55 pm for transport to Central Park
Landing Zone.

7:45 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Waldorf Astoria Hotel and
proceeds to Holding Room.

Met by:

Mr. Richard Kotter
General Manager
Waldorf Astoria Hotel

Mr. Per Hellman
Vice President and Managing Director
Waldorf Astoria Hotel

7:47 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Holding Room and holds briefly.

7:49 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Holding Room and proceeds to West Foyer.

Met by:

Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Hooks (Frances)
Executive Director, NAACP

EVENT: STAFF PHOTO

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

7:50 pm THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Hooks, arrives West Foyer and begins participation in Staff Photo.

8:15 pm THE PRESIDENT concludes participation in Staff Photo, departs West Foyer, and proceeds to Holding Room.

8:17 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Holding Room and holds briefly.

8:19 pm THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by Dr. Hooks, departs Holding Room and proceeds to Main Ballroom Off-Stage Announcement Area.

8:20 pm THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by Dr. Hooks, arrives Main Ballroom Off-Stage Announcement Area and holds briefly.

EVENT: NAACP 80TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

OPEN PRESS

RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES

OFF-STAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

REMARKS

TELEPROMPTER

BLACK TIE

8:21 pm THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by Dr. Hooks, is announced into Main Ballroom and proceeds to Seat at Head Table.

8:22 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Seat and remains Standing.

8:23 pm Presentation of Colors

8:25 pm National Anthem performed by Ms. Dawnn Lewis

8:27 pm Retirement of Colors

8:28 pm Invocation by Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr., Pastor, Riverside Church

8:30 pm THE PRESIDENT is introduced for Remarks by Dr. Hooks.

NOTE: Dr. Hooks will acknowledge The Honorable and Mrs. Lewis Sullivan (Ginger), Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mayor-Elect David N. Dinkins (D-NY), Governor-Elect Douglas Wilder (D-VA), and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Kluge (Patricia).

8:35 pm THE PRESIDENT Remarks.

8:50 pm THE PRESIDENT concludes Remarks and returns to Head Table.

8:52 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Head Table and bids Farewell to Head Table participants.

8:55 pm THE PRESIDENT concludes participation in NAACP 80th Anniversary Dinner, departs Main Ballroom and proceeds to Holding Room.

8:57 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Holding Room and holds briefly.

8:59 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Holding Room and proceeds to Motorcade.

9:00 pm THE PRESIDENT boards Motorcade and departs Waldorf Astoria Hotel en route Central Park Landing Zone.

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS:

Same as on Arrival.

(Drive Time: 5 Minutes)

9:05 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Central Park Landing Zone and proceeds to board Marine One.

9:10 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Central Park Landing Zone en route Newark International Airport.

HELICOPTER ASSIGNMENTS:

Same as on Arrival.

(Flying Time: 20 Minutes)

9:30 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Newark International Airport and proceeds to board Air Force One.

9:35 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Newark, New Jersey en route Andrews Air Force Base.

(Flying Time: 50 Minutes)
(Interchange: No)
(Time Change: None)
(Food Service: Snacks)

10:25 pm THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews Air Force Base and proceeds to board Marine One.

10:30 pm THE PRESIDENT departs Andrews Air Force Base en route White House.

MARINE ONE MANIFEST:

THE PRESIDENT
A. Card

R. Porter
S. Hart
T. McBride
D. Valdez
Doctor
Mil. Aide
2 USSS

(Flying Time: 10 Minutes)

10:40 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 14, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *ABP*
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: NAACP

I have one additional comment on the NAACP speech. I believe it would be helpful to mention the Black Leadership Forum by name in the fourth paragraph of page four. I suggest substituting the following text for what currently appears in the draft. "On November 17, I met with Ben and other members of the Black Leadership Forum."

If you have any questions or we can help in any other way, please let me know.

cc: James W. Cicconi

Davis/Martin
Title: NAACP
Dec. 12, 1989
Draft: Four

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NAACP FUNDRAISING, WALDORF, NEW YORK
Friday, December 15, 1989**

((Maybe we should take our act on the road. They can bill us as: "The Coz and Mister Smooth."))\\

Ben Hooks, good to see you again. David Dinkins, Doug Wilder, congratulations on your victories. Governor Cuomo, great to be back in New York ((other acknowledgements to come.))

Lionel Hampton -- thank you. Good vibes from a good friend.\\

((You know, when I was ambassador to the United Nations, Barbara and I lived in this very hotel, in room 42 A. And whenever I complained about anything, Barbara would just roll her eyes and say: "Just where do you think we live? The Waldorf Astoria?"))\\

All in all, this is a wonderful evening, a time when Americans from different professions and political parties can come together to celebrate common ideals.

Nowhere are these ideals more visible than in the commitment and social concerns of this great association. Since the early days of the Niagara Movement, the NAACP has challenged the conscience of a nation. You have provided leadership -- not just for one people within America -- but for all of America.\\

Your leadership was born of troubled times, and sharpened by adversity. You've known persecution, and through it, you gained compassion. You've been without power, and through it, you won empowerment. You've suffered the ignorance and bigotry of small minds, and because of them, you built pride and respect.\\

Go to Montgomery, Alabama, today. Stand before the granite wall of the new civil rights memorial. And through a veil of flowing water you will read these words from the Bible: ". . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."\\

Like a mighty river, justice can cut a channel through the hardest of stone. Like a mighty river seeking the sea, justice will, in the end, find fulfillment. **It has been slow in coming. It has been impeded. But its journey is inexorable because justice cannot be denied.**\\

Because of the activism of the NAACP, justice is on the rise. On November 17, I met with Ben and the leaders of the other major civil rights organizations. You challenged me with the highest ideals of your movement. Now let me challenge you to work with me and my Cabinet, from this day forward, on a campaign to build a better America.\\

I seek a new partnership, one that draws inspiration from the achievement of the civil rights and Solidarity movements. For after all, from the country roads of Selma twenty years ago to the city streets of Eastern Europe today, a common refrain echoes through the history of our times: "We shall overcome."

Has the world known more improbable heroes than Rosa Parks and Lech Walesa? But make no mistake, heroes they are.

So let us emulate them by working together. For in solidarity, we can reasonably hope that in the new century, just a decade away, we will finally attain the fondest dream of the founders of the NAACP -- a society blind to bigotry, a society open to all.\\

The fight against discrimination has been the historic mission of the civil rights movement -- a mission that has yet to be completely fulfilled. That is why I reauthorized the Civil Rights Commission.\\ ((And that is why I have a surprise for you tonight in announcing a major appointment -- that of ((name)) to the Civil Rights Commission. He is a good man. He deserves your support.))\\

But I am told by many of you that there are other missions for the civil rights movement in the 1990s. From now on, the protection of civil rights must also mean the removal of all barriers to opportunity.

Of course, the barriers to opportunity for black Americans were much more prevalent in the past, even in the recent past. From 1973 to 1981, black employment growth lagged behind that of whites. And real black income declined sharply between 1973 to 1981 -- even as government was spending more on new social programs.

But black Americans have enjoyed enormous employment and income gains during the 1980s. Disparities remain, but they've

been narrowed by the rate of progress. Since 1981, black employment has grown 27 percent -- nearly twice the 15 percent growth in white employment. Between 1981 and 1988, the real median income for black families has grown 12 percent, compared with 10.5 percent for white families.

Some would say this signals the victory of the War on Poverty. But we know better. It was in 1965 that Lyndon Johnson declared his war -- a war of liberation -- a war he said was a struggle not to simply support people, but a struggle to give people a chance. It was a noble effort, but despite of all the good news I just relayed to you, the War on Poverty fell short. It fell short because the cruelest forms of poverty cannot be fought with dollars alone.

First and foremost -- there is a poverty of the spirit. Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith. Government can't teach that achievement is to be found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, instead of the murderous materialism of easy drug money. But, in a new solidarity, we **can** teach these values -- as leaders, as parents, as communities working with our churches.

Let me give you another example of another form of poverty - - the higher incidence of disease and early death in the black community is a kind of poverty, a poverty of health. Cancer, strokes, heart disease -- all afflict black Americans in greater proportions. This shameful disparity in the health of black

Americans is the foremost concern of our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Doctor Louis Sullivan. And so let us tonight to join in solidarity against disease and early death.\\

There are other forms of poverty. When people, going about the ordinary business of their lives -- waiting for a bus, walking to a corner grocery store -- must fear for their lives -- then fear has stolen a most precious possession -- their freedom.

Last week, in Houston, I saw such a community when I revisited the district I represented as a Congressman. I also saw a community that **had enough** of fear, **had enough** of crime, **had enough** of dope. Just as the people of Berlin are standing up for freedom, so the people of this poor Houston neighborhood are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- freedom from fear, crime and drugs. Their journey to this freedom is long and hard. But you and I must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city. Let us declare tonight our new solidarity against drugs.\\

Then there is yet another kind of poverty, a growing poverty of knowledge and skills.

A whole generation of young men and women in this country - white, as well as black -- are simply not learning -- **not learning** -- the basic skills they need to hold down a job or to raise a family. **That is a national disgrace.**\\ For the first time in history, we face the prospect that the sons and daughters of America could be less educated than their mothers and fathers.

Well, let me tell you -- that is unacceptable and this President is not going to sit by and watch that happen.\\

Neither will American business, because business needs new talent as never before. There is a coming labor shortage in this country, of a kind which we have rarely seen before. Women, minorities and immigrants will comprise eight out of ten new entrants into the job market. Yet the new service and manufacturing industries will also require higher skills, more training and, at the very least, literacy. Education -- quality education is a prerequisite to making a decent living in America.

So we must work together, as never before, to reform our schools. Our mission must be to find a way to bring knowledge and enlightenment to a new generation of Americans. **Let us stand in solidarity for the liberation of young minds.**

You know my proposals. First, I believe parents deserve choice. They deserve the power to choose their children's child-care, whether that means a grandparent or a church-affiliated center. And then they deserve the power to choose their children's school.

And where disadvantaged children are concerned, Congress wants to provide an increase of \$151 million in the funding of Head Start to serve up to 37,500 more eligible 4-year-olds. I want to go further. I challenge Congress to increase Head Start funding by \$250 million, to serve up to 95,000 more children.

To provide opportunity to our young people, we need new and innovative economic tools. The training wage, just passed by

Congress, is one such tool. But we need more, much more, from enterprise zones, to merit pay and magnet schools, to more effective programs to fight illiteracy. And I believe you are aware of my many actions this year to strengthen and support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of America. In all these measures and so much more, I want and need your active support, your solidarity.

((Ben, as a Baptist minister, I'm sure you heard the story of the young preacher who was well into a sermon, and more than a little nervous about how he was doing, when he noticed his wife in the congregation holding up a little sign with the word "Kiss" scrawled on it. Inspired, he went on to speak for another half hour, and afterwards, asked his wife what she thought of the sermon. "Awful," she said. "Don't you know what I mean by 'Kiss.' It stands for 'Keep It Short Stupid.'"))\\

So in this same spirit, I want to say something in conclusion, but straight from the heart. In November, we started a new era of cooperation, the first of many working sessions on the problems that plague America. Now is no time for mere politics. Now is the time to band together -- not for our sake -- not for temporary partisan gain -- but in solidarity, for generations to come.

When I talk to young people about what they want out of life, one word keeps cropping up -- adventure. The generation that is coming of age today is poised for a truly great adventure. The world they will know will be as different from

today's world as ours is from that of W.E.B. Du Bois. Winds of freedom are sweeping the globe. New democracies are being born. Technology is leading us toward new worlds. And Americans must be prepared, as never before, to provide the leadership for the new century.

To take the lead, young Americans must be healthy, in body and mind. They must be ready, in knowledge and purpose. They must be free of soul-sapping poverty. And they must be free from discrimination.

I spoke earlier of the Biblical proverb that compared righteousness to a mighty stream. This same vision can be found in a poem by Langston Hughes, who compared the odyssey of black men and women to the crossing of many rivers. And with each crossing, their souls have grown deep -- deep, like the rivers.

This odyssey shaped the soul of a people, and because of your leadership, it also shaped the soul of our nation. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#

#

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dec. 14, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Through: CHRISS WINSTON

From: MARK DAVIS *MD*

Subject: NAACP Dinner

I. SUMMARY: You will address more than a thousand people -- major donors, CEOs and NAACP leaders -- before dinner, at the Waldorf Astoria at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15. This is a fundraising event, marking the NAACP's 80th year. At the moment, you are scheduled to be introduced by Bill Cosby. Music will be provided by Stevie Wonder and Lionel Hampton. Your remarks will be teleprompted.

II. DISCUSSION: This speech discusses the whole array of Administration initiatives on civil rights, housing, drugs and crime, health and the struggle for opportunity.

Davis/Martin
Title: NAACP
Dec. 14, 1989
Draft: Five

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NAACP FUNDRAISING, WALDORF, NEW YORK
8 p.m. Friday, December 15, 1989**

((Maybe we should take our act on the road. They can bill us as: "The Coz and Mister Smooth."))\\

Ben Hooks, good to see you again. David Dinkins, Doug Wilder, congratulations on your victories. Governor Cuomo, great to be back in New York ((other acknowledgements to come.))

Lionel Hampton -- thank you. Good vibes from a good friend.\\

((You know, when I was ambassador to the United Nations, Barbara and I lived in this very hotel, in room 42 A. And whenever I complained about anything, Barbara would just roll her eyes and say: "Just where do you think we live? The Waldorf Astoria?"))\\

All in all, this is a wonderful evening, a time when Americans from different professions and political parties can come together to celebrate common ideals.

Nowhere are these ideals more visible than in the commitment and social concerns of this great association. Since the early days of the Niagara Movement, the NAACP has challenged the conscience of a nation. You have provided leadership -- not just for one people within America -- but for all of America.\\

Your leadership was born of troubled times, and sharpened by adversity. You've known persecution, and through it, you gained compassion. You've been without power, and through it, you won empowerment. You've suffered the ignorance and bigotry of small minds, and because of them, you built pride and respect.\\

Go to Montgomery, Alabama, today. Stand before the granite wall of the new civil rights memorial. And through a veil of flowing water you will read these words from the Bible: ". . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."\\

Like a mighty river, justice can cut a channel through the hardest of stone. Like a mighty river seeking the sea, justice will, in the end, find fulfillment. **It has been slow in coming. It has been impeded. But its journey is inexorable because justice cannot be denied.**\\

Because of the activism of the NAACP, justice is on the rise. On November 17, I met with Ben and the leaders of the other major civil rights organizations. You challenged me with the highest ideals of your movement. Now let me challenge you to work with me and my Administration, from this day forward, on a campaign to build a better America.\\

I seek a new partnership, one that draws inspiration from the achievement of the civil rights and Solidarity movements. For after all, from the country roads of Selma twenty years ago to the city streets of Eastern Europe today, a common refrain echoes through the history of our times: "We shall overcome."

Has the world known more improbable heroes than Rosa Parks and Lech Walesa? But make no mistake, heroes they are.

So let us emulate them by working together. For in solidarity, we can reasonably hope that we will finally attain the fondest dream of the founders of the NAACP -- a society blind to bigotry, a society open to all.\\

The fight against discrimination has been the historic mission of the civil rights movement -- a mission that has seen great success, but a mission that has yet to be completely fulfilled. We know that prejudice and racial tensions still exist in America. That is why I support, and intend to sign into law, a measure to collect as much information as we can on crimes motivated by religious, racial or ethnic animosity -- the Hate Crimes Bill.

And that is why I worked with the Congress in a bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Commission on Civil Rights.\\ I will appoint to that Commission men and women who will fight against discrimination, and fight for the civil rights of all Americans.\\

But there are other missions for the civil rights movement in the 1990s. From now on, the protection of civil rights must also mean the removal of all barriers to opportunity.

Of course, the barriers to opportunity for black Americans were much more prevalent in the past, even in the recent past. From 1973 to 1981, black employment growth lagged behind that of whites. And real black income declined sharply between 1973 to

1981 -- even as government was spending more on new social programs.

But black Americans have enjoyed enormous employment and income gains during the 1980s. Disparities remain, but they've been narrowed by the rate of progress. Since 1981, black employment has grown 27 percent -- nearly twice the 15 percent growth in white employment. Between 1981 and 1988, the real median income for black families has grown 12 percent, compared with 10.8 percent for white families.

Some would say this signals the victory of the War on Poverty. But we know better. It was in 1965 that Lyndon Johnson declared his war -- a war of liberation -- a war he said was a struggle not simply to support people, but a struggle to give people a chance. It was a noble effort, but despite all the good news I just relayed to you, the War on Poverty fell short. It fell short because the cruelest forms of poverty cannot be fought with dollars alone.

First and foremost -- there is a poverty of the spirit. Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith. Government can't teach that achievement is to be found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, instead of the murderous materialism of easy drug money. But, in a new solidarity, we can instill these values. We can cultivate character -- as leaders, as parents, as teachers, as communities working with our churches.

Let me give you another example of another form of poverty - the higher incidence of disease and early death in the black community is a kind of poverty, a poverty of health. Cancer, strokes, heart disease -- all afflict black Americans in greater proportions. This unacceptable disparity in the health of black Americans is the foremost concern of our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Doctor Louis Sullivan. And so let us tonight join in solidarity against disease and early death.\\

There are other forms of poverty. Many Americans lack basic shelter and affordable housing. My HOPE initiative -- Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere -- seeks shelter for the homeless, affordable housing and homeownership for low-income families, help for first-time home-buyers and up to 50 new enterprise zones to create jobs in our most distressed communities.

But opportunity in jobs and housing is not enough. When people, going about the ordinary business of their lives -- waiting for a bus, walking to a corner grocery store -- must fear for their lives -- then fear has stolen a most precious possession -- freedom. And it is always these communities that can least afford it, that are already economically depressed -- that are the most tragic victims of crime and drugs.

Last week, in Houston, I saw such a community when I revisited the district I represented as a Congressman. I also saw a community that **had enough** of fear, **had enough** of crime, **had enough** of dope. Just as the people of Berlin are standing up for

freedom, so the people of this poor Houston neighborhood are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- from crime, from drugs -- freedom from fear.

You've heard me speak of the thousand points of light. Well, there is no brighter stars than those brave men and women who lead their communities to stand up to drugs and crime. Their journey to this freedom is long and hard. But you and I must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city. Let us declare tonight our new solidarity against crime and drugs.\\

Then there is yet another kind of poverty, a growing poverty of knowledge and skills.

Many young men and women in this country -white, as well as black -- are simply not learning -- **not learning** -- the basic skills they need to hold down a job or to raise a family. **That is a national disgrace.**\\ For the first time in history, we face the prospect that the sons and daughters of America could be less educated than their mothers and fathers. Well, let me tell you - - that is unacceptable and this President is not going to sit by and watch that happen.\\

Neither will American business, because business needs new talent as never before. We are used to thinking of unemployment as a case of too many people, and too few jobs -- a game of musical chairs. All too often, it is minorities who are left standing when the music stops.

But the in the years to come, our problem will be just the opposite: more than enough jobs -- and too few people qualified to fill them. New workers will be in demand -- and the simple fact is that eight of every ten new workers will be women, immigrants or minorities.

Think about what that means. For every child growing up today -- black or white -- there will be a job waiting.\\ The question is whether they will have the education and the skills to seize that opportunity. The new service and manufacturing industries will require higher skills, more training and, at the very least, literacy. Education -- quality education -- is a prerequisite to making a decent living in America.

So we must work together, as never before, to reform our schools. Our mission must be to find a way to bring knowledge and enlightenment to a new generation of Americans. **Let us stand in solidarity for the liberation of young minds.**

You know my proposals. First, I believe parents deserve choice. They deserve the power to choose their children's child-care, whether that means a grandparent or a church-affiliated center. And then they deserve the power to choose their children's school.

And where disadvantaged children are concerned, Congress appropriated an increase of \$151 million in the funding of Head Start to serve up to 37,500 more eligible 4-year-olds. I want to go further. I challenge Congress, when it reconvenes, to

increase Head Start funding by \$250 million, to serve up to 95,000 more children.

To provide opportunity to our young people, we need new and innovative economic tools. The training wage, just passed by Congress, is one such tool. But we need more, much more, from merit pay, to magnet schools, to more effective programs to fight illiteracy. And I believe we need the steps we've taken this year to strengthen and support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of America. Our proposals respond to the needs of many communities -- of every color. They seek to provide opportunity because civil rights means opportunity, and opportunity requires education, safe streets, and a drug-free community for all Americans. In each these measures and so many more, I want and need your active support, your solidarity.

((Ben, as a Baptist minister, I'm sure you heard the story of the young preacher who was well into a sermon, and more than a little nervous about how he was doing, when he noticed his wife in the congregation holding up a little sign with the word "Kiss" scrawled on it. Inspired, he went on to speak for another half hour, and afterwards, asked his wife what she thought of the sermon. "Awful," she said. "Don't you know what I mean by 'Kiss.' It stands for 'Keep It Short Stupid.'"))\\

So in this same spirit, I want to say something in conclusion, but straight from the heart. In November, we started a new era of cooperation, the first of many working sessions on the problems that plague America. Now is no time for mere

politics. Now is the time to band together -- not for our sake -
- not for temporary partisan gain -- but in solidarity, for
generations to come.

When I talk to young people about what they want out of
life, one word keeps cropping up -- adventure. The generation
that is coming of age today is poised for a truly great
adventure. The world they will know will be as different from
today's world as ours is from that of W.E.B. Du Bois. Winds of
freedom are sweeping the globe. New democracies are being born.
Technology is leading us toward new worlds. And Americans must
be prepared, as never before, to provide the leadership for the
new century.

To take the lead, young Americans must be healthy, in body
and mind. They must be ready, in knowledge and purpose. They
must be free of soul-sapping poverty. And they must be free from
discrimination.

I spoke earlier of the Biblical proverb that compared
righteousness to a mighty stream. This same vision can be found
in a poem by Langston Hughes, who compared the odyssey of black
men and women to the crossing of many rivers. And with each
crossing, their souls have grown deep -- deep, like the rivers.

This odyssey shaped the soul of a people, and because of
your leadership, it also shaped the soul of our nation. Thank
you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#

#

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NAACP

		ACTION	FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>WINSTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>BOSKIN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1989 DEC 14 PM 1:09

Dec. 14, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Through: CHRISS WINSTON
From: MARK DAVIS MD
Subject: NAACP Dinner

I. SUMMARY: You will address more than a thousand people -- major donors, CEOs and NAACP leaders -- before dinner, at the Waldorf Astoria at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15. This is a fundraising event, marking the NAACP's 80th year. At the moment, you are scheduled to be introduced by Bill Cosby. Music will be provided by Stevie Wonder and Lionel Hampton. Your remarks will be teleprompted.

II. DISCUSSION: This speech discusses the whole array of Administration initiatives on civil rights, housing, drugs and crime, health and the struggle for opportunity.

Davis/Martin
Title: NAACP
Dec. 14, 1989
Draft: Five

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NAACP FUNDRAISING, WALDORF, NEW YORK
8 p.m. Friday, December 15, 1989**

((Maybe we should take our act on the road. They can bill us as: "The Coz and Mister Smooth."))\\

Ben Hooks, good to see you again. David Dinkins, Doug Wilder, congratulations on your victories. Governor Cuomo, great to be back in New York ((other acknowledgements to come.))

Lionel Hampton -- thank you. Good vibes from a good friend.\\

((You know, when I was ambassador to the United Nations, Barbara and I lived in this very hotel, in room 42 A. And whenever I complained about anything, Barbara would just roll her eyes and say: "Just where do you think we live? The Waldorf Astoria?"))\\

All in all, this is a wonderful evening, a time when Americans from different professions and political parties can come together to celebrate common ideals.

Nowhere are these ideals more visible than in the commitment and social concerns of this great association. Since the early days of the Niagara Movement, the NAACP has challenged the conscience of a nation. You have provided leadership -- not just for one people within America -- but for all of America.\\

Your leadership was born of troubled times, and sharpened by adversity. You've known persecution, and through it, you gained compassion. You've been without power, and through it, you won empowerment. You've suffered the ignorance and bigotry of small minds, and because of them, you built pride and respect.\\

Go to Montgomery, Alabama, today. Stand before the granite wall of the new civil rights memorial. And through a veil of flowing water you will read these words from the Bible: ". . . let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."\\

Like a mighty river, justice can cut a channel through the hardest of stone. Like a mighty river seeking the sea, justice will, in the end, find fulfillment. **It has been slow in coming. It has been impeded. But its journey is inexorable because justice cannot be denied.**\\

Because of the activism of the NAACP, justice is on the rise. On November 17, I met with Ben and the leaders of the other major civil rights organizations. You challenged me with the highest ideals of your movement. Now let me challenge you to work with me and my Administration, from this day forward, on a campaign to build a better America.\\

I seek a new partnership, one that draws inspiration from the achievement of the civil rights and Solidarity movements. For after all, from the country roads of Selma twenty years ago to the city streets of Eastern Europe today, a common refrain echoes through the history of our times: "We shall overcome."

Has the world known more improbable heroes than Rosa Parks and Lech Walesa? But make no mistake, heroes they are.

So let us emulate them by working together. For in solidarity, we can reasonably hope that we will finally attain the fondest dream of the founders of the NAACP -- a society blind to bigotry, a society open to all.\\

The fight against discrimination has been the historic mission of the civil rights movement -- a mission that has seen great success, but a mission that has yet to be completely fulfilled. We know that prejudice and racial tensions still exist in America. That is why I support, and intend to sign into law, a measure to collect as much information as we can on crimes motivated by religious, racial or ethnic animosity -- the Hate Crimes Bill.

And that is why I worked with the Congress in a bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Commission on Civil Rights.\\ I will appoint to that Commission men and women who will fight against discrimination, and fight for the civil rights of all Americans.\\

But there are other missions for the civil rights movement in the 1990s. From now on, the protection of civil rights must also mean the removal of all barriers to opportunity.

Of course, the barriers to opportunity for black Americans were much more prevalent in the past, even in the recent past. From 1973 to 1981, black employment growth lagged behind that of whites. And real black income declined sharply between 1973 to

1981 -- even as government was spending more on new social programs.

But black Americans have enjoyed enormous employment and income gains during the 1980s. Disparities remain, but they've been narrowed by the rate of progress. Since 1981, black employment has grown 27 percent -- nearly twice the 15 percent growth in white employment. Between 1981 and 1988, the real median income for black families has grown 12 percent, compared with 10.8 percent for white families.

Some would say this signals the victory of the War on Poverty. But we know better. It was in 1965 that Lyndon Johnson declared his war -- a war of liberation -- a war he said was a struggle not simply to support people, but a struggle to give people a chance. It was a noble effort, but despite all the good news I just relayed to you, the War on Poverty fell short. It fell short because the cruelest forms of poverty cannot be fought with dollars alone.

First and foremost -- there is a poverty of the spirit. Government can't teach young men and women to have faith in themselves if their mothers and fathers have lost all faith. Government can't teach that achievement is to be found in quiet moments and subtle rewards, instead of the murderous materialism of easy drug money. But, in a new solidarity, we can instill these values. We can cultivate character -- as leaders, as parents, as teachers, as communities working with our churches.

Let me give you another example of another form of poverty - the higher incidence of disease and early death in the black community is a kind of poverty, a poverty of health. Cancer, strokes, heart disease -- all afflict black Americans in greater proportions. This unacceptable disparity in the health of black Americans is the foremost concern of our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Doctor Louis Sullivan. And so let us tonight join in solidarity against disease and early death.\\

There are other forms of poverty. Many Americans lack basic shelter and affordable housing. My HOPE initiative -- Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere -- seeks shelter for the homeless, affordable housing and homeownership for low-income families, help for first-time home-buyers and up to 50 new enterprise zones to create jobs in our most distressed communities.

But opportunity in jobs and housing is not enough. When people, going about the ordinary business of their lives -- waiting for a bus, walking to a corner grocery store -- must fear for their lives -- then fear has stolen a most precious possession -- freedom. And it is always these communities that can least afford it, that are already economically depressed -- that are the most tragic victims of crime and drugs.

Last week, in Houston, I saw such a community when I revisited the district I represented as a Congressman. I also saw a community that **had enough** of fear, **had enough** of crime, **had enough** of dope. Just as the people of Berlin are standing up for

freedom, so the people of this poor Houston neighborhood are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- from crime, from drugs -- freedom from fear.

You've heard me speak of the thousand points of light. Well, there is no brighter stars than those brave men and women who lead their communities to stand up to drugs and crime. Their journey to this freedom is long and hard. But you and I must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city. Let us declare tonight our new solidarity against crime and drugs.\\

Then there is yet another kind of poverty, a growing poverty of knowledge and skills.

Many young men and women in this country -white, as well as black -- are simply not learning -- **not learning** -- the basic skills they need to hold down a job or to raise a family. **That is a national disgrace.**\\ For the first time in history, we face the prospect that the sons and daughters of America could be less educated than their mothers and fathers. Well, let me tell you - that is unacceptable and this President is not going to sit by and watch that happen.\\

Neither will American business, because business needs new talent as never before. We are used to thinking of unemployment as a case of too many people, and too few jobs -- a game of musical chairs. All too often, it is minorities who are left standing when the music stops.

But the in the years to come, our problem will be just the opposite: more than enough jobs -- and too few people qualified to fill them. New workers will be in demand -- and the simple fact is that eight of every ten new workers will be women, immigrants or minorities.

Think about what that means. For every child growing up today -- black or white -- there will be a job waiting.\\ The question is whether they will have the education and the skills to seize that opportunity. The new service and manufacturing industries will require higher skills, more training and, at the very least, literacy. Education -- quality education -- is a prerequisite to making a decent living in America.

So we must work together, as never before, to reform our schools. Our mission must be to find a way to bring knowledge and enlightenment to a new generation of Americans. **Let us stand in solidarity for the liberation of young minds.**

You know my proposals. First, I believe parents deserve choice. They deserve the power to choose their children's child-care, whether that means a grandparent or a church-affiliated center. And then they deserve the power to choose their children's school.

And where disadvantaged children are concerned, Congress appropriated an increase of \$151 million in the funding of Head Start to serve up to 37,500 more eligible 4-year-olds. I want to go further. I challenge Congress, when it reconvenes, to

increase Head Start funding by \$250 million, to serve up to 95,000 more children.

To provide opportunity to our young people, we need new and innovative economic tools. The training wage, just passed by Congress, is one such tool. But we need more, much more, from merit pay, to magnet schools, to more effective programs to fight illiteracy. And I believe we need the steps we've taken this year to strengthen and support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of America. Our proposals respond to the needs of many communities -- of every color. They seek to provide opportunity because civil rights means opportunity, and opportunity requires education, safe streets, and a drug-free community for all Americans. In each these measures and so many more, I want and need your active support, your solidarity.

((Ben, as a Baptist minister, I'm sure you heard the story of the young preacher who was well into a sermon, and more than a little nervous about how he was doing, when he noticed his wife in the congregation holding up a little sign with the word "Kiss" scrawled on it. Inspired, he went on to speak for another half hour, and afterwards, asked his wife what she thought of the sermon. "Awful," she said. "Don't you know what I mean by 'Kiss.' It stands for 'Keep It Short Stupid.'"))\

So in this same spirit, I want to say something in conclusion, but straight from the heart. In November, we started a new era of cooperation, the first of many working sessions on the problems that plague America. Now is no time for mere

politics. Now is the time to band together -- not for our sake -
- not for temporary partisan gain -- but in solidarity, for
generations to come.

When I talk to young people about what they want out of
life, one word keeps cropping up -- adventure. The generation
that is coming of age today is poised for a truly great
adventure. The world they will know will be as different from
today's world as ours is from that of W.E.B. Du Bois. Winds of
freedom are sweeping the globe. New democracies are being born.
Technology is leading us toward new worlds. And Americans must
be prepared, as never before, to provide the leadership for the
new century.

To take the lead, young Americans must be healthy, in body
and mind. They must be ready, in knowledge and purpose. They
must be free of soul-sapping poverty. And they must be free from
discrimination.

I spoke earlier of the Biblical proverb that compared
righteousness to a mighty stream. This same vision can be found
in a poem by Langston Hughes, who compared the odyssey of black
men and women to the crossing of many rivers. And with each
crossing, their souls have grown deep -- deep, like the rivers.

This odyssey shaped the soul of a people, and because of
your leadership, it also shaped the soul of our nation. Thank
you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#

#

#