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

OA/ID Number: 13529
Folder ID Number: 13529-010

Folder Title:
Prayer Breakfast 5/3/90 [OA 4729]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	2	7

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1990

1990 APR 30 PM 2:49

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*
SUBJECT: PRAYER BREAKFAST REMARKS

*OK
with changes!*

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, May 3, at 7:30 a.m. you will address 120 people in the State Dining Room for the National Prayer Day Breakfast. You are scheduled to greet everyone and introduce the prayer before breakfast. After breakfast, you will address the guests. Mrs. Vonette Bright, Chairman of the Day of Prayer; and her husband Dr. Bill Bright, President and founder of the Campus Crusade of Christ; Cardinal O'Connor; and Rabbi Joshua Habermann will attend. Other acknowledgements to be determined.

II. DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (5 minutes, speechcards) discuss the importance of God and religion in our lives. Throughout history leaders of our great country have found solace and hope from prayer.

(Smith/Blessey)
April 30, 1990
1:00 P.M.
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
STATE DINING ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1990
8:00 A.M.

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Your Eminence Cardinal O'Connor, Rabbi Habermann, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to welcome you -- America's religious, civic, and political leaders -- to the White House. ((It's always good to know that if it takes divine intervention to save my remarks, help is close at hand.)) //

In the spirit of the occasion, let me begin with a story about the power -- and necessity -- of the wonder of prayer.

((A principal walked into a classroom and found the teacher praying. The principal said, "According to the Supreme Court, you're not allowed to do that." // The teacher thought a moment, then replied, "The Supreme Court isn't a substitute teacher who's just been thrown into a classroom filled with eight-year-olds."))

The power of prayer is remarkable. In fact, Lord Tennyson once wrote, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." This morning, we rejoice in those blessings through the National Day of Prayer. //

More than two hundred years ago, the Continental Congress issued the first official proclamation for a National Day of Prayer. And since 1952, at Congress' bequest, a specific date

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has been set aside each year for Americans to gather in homes and places of worship to pray.

This morning, we continue that tradition. For we Americans have always been a religious people. We believe that while God can live without man, man cannot live without God. //

Thomas Jefferson believed in the Almighty's providence. Listen to what he wrote in 1774: "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time."

Ben Franklin also acknowledged our need for divine assistance and called for daily prayer at the Federal Convention in 1787. He knew -- as we do -- the truth of these words from the 127th Psalm: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

And some of you may be too young to remember -- I confess I'm not -- that on January 20, 1953, a beloved man named Ike began his Inaugural Address with a hand-written missive. "Almighty God . . . Give us, we pray," he said, "the power to discern clearly right from wrong."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. We believe that America is not only divinely blessed, but divinely accountable. We must use our resources to help those less fortunate than ourselves. // Over the past year, millions of people have struggled bravely for freedom and democracy. They have taken a first step, but the path to pluralism and economic opportunity is not an easy one. Each of us must join that

struggle through our own individual efforts and through our prayers.

We know God asks us, as the Book of Micah says, "to act justly, and love mercy and to walk humbly." In the end, without God's help, we can do nothing. But with God's help, we can do great things for all the world.

Look at the portrait above me. I have often said that any President's kinship with Abraham Lincoln is perhaps the most personal of all. This portrait shows why. In it you see the agony, and greatness, of a man who nightly fell on his knees to ask the help of God.

But Lincoln was also a man with a sense of humor. So let me close with a story that our 16th President liked to tell.

((Two ladies were discussing the merits of Lincoln and the Presidency of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. The first said, "I think Jefferson will succeed because he is a praying man." The second answered, "But so is Abraham a praying man." // "Yes," replied the first lady, "but the Lord will think Abraham is joking.")) //

Abraham Lincoln knew -- as I do with all my heart -- that one cannot be America's President without a belief in prayer. Yet the need for prayer goes beyond Presidents. It touches each one of our lives and brings strength and comfort, joy and contentment. You'll understand, then, why today I take special joy in saying: God bless you, and God bless America.

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**GREETING FOR PRAYER BREAKFAST / 7:30 A.M.
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1990**

**WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. AND NOW LET ME
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PRAYER.**



**PRAYER BREAKFAST / STATE DINING ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1990 / 8:15 A.M.**

**DR. AND MRS. BRIGHT, YOUR EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP
KEELER, REVEREND ZEOLI, RABBI HABERMANN [HAY-BER-MEN],
DISTINGUISHED CLERGY, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER COMMITTEE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

**I AM DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU -- AMERICA'S
RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC LEADERS -- TO THE WHITE HOUSE.**

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**((IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO KNOW THAT IF IT TAKES DIVINE
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HAND.)) //**

**IN THE SPIRIT OF THE OCCASION, LET ME BEGIN WITH A
STORY ABOUT THE WONDER -- AND NECESSITY -- OF RELIGIOUS
FAITH.**

**((IN 1956, QUEEN ELIZABETH OF BELGIUM VISITED
WARSAW, THEN UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION. SHE ASKED THE
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THE MAN ANSWERED, "BELIEVING, BUT NOT PRACTICING." //
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MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE CONTINENTAL
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FOR AMERICANS TO GATHER IN HOMES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP
TO PRAY.

THIS MORNING, WE CONTINUE THAT TRADITION. FOR WE AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A RELIGIOUS PEOPLE.

THOMAS JEFFERSON BELIEVED IN THE ALMIGHTY'S PROVIDENCE. LISTEN TO WHAT HE WROTE IN 1774: "THE GOD WHO GAVE US LIFE, GAVE US LIBERTY AT THE SAME TIME."

BEN FRANKLIN ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED OUR NEED FOR DIVINE ASSISTANCE AND CALLED FOR DAILY PRAYER AT THE FEDERAL CONVENTION IN 1787. HE KNEW -- AS WE DO -- THE TRUTH OF THESE WORDS FROM THE 127TH PSALM: "EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT."

AND SOME OF YOU MAY BE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER -- I CONFESS I'M NOT -- THAT ON JANUARY 20, 1953, A BELOVED MAN NAMED IKE BEGAN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS WITH A HAND-WRITTEN MISSIVE.

"ALMIGHTY GOD . . . GIVE US, WE PRAY," HE SAID, "THE POWER TO DISCERN CLEARLY RIGHT FROM WRONG."

OUR HISTORY TELLS US WHAT OUR HEARTS CONFIRM. WE BELIEVE THAT AMERICA IS NOT ONLY DIVINELY BLESSED, BUT DIVINELY ACCOUNTABLE. WE MUST USE OUR RESOURCES TO HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES. // OVER THE PAST YEAR, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE STRUGGLED BRAVELY FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

THEY HAVE TAKEN A FIRST STEP, BUT THE PATH TO PLURALISM AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IS NOT AN EASY ONE. EACH OF US MUST JOIN THAT STRUGGLE THROUGH OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS AND THROUGH OUR PRAYERS.

WE KNOW GOD ASKS US, AS THE BOOK OF MICAH SAYS, "TO ACT JUSTLY, AND LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY." IN THE END, WITHOUT GOD'S HELP, WE CAN DO NOTHING. BUT WITH GOD'S HELP, WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS FOR ALL THE WORLD.

LOOK AT THE PORTRAIT ABOVE ME. I HAVE OFTEN SAID THAT ANY PRESIDENT'S KINSHIP WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS PERHAPS THE MOST PERSONAL OF ALL. THIS PORTRAIT SHOWS WHY. IN IT YOU SEE THE AGONY, AND GREATNESS, OF A MAN WHO NIGHTLY FELL ON HIS KNEES TO ASK THE HELP OF GOD.

BUT LINCOLN WAS ALSO A MAN WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR. SO LET ME CLOSE WITH A STORY THAT OUR 16TH PRESIDENT LIKED TO TELL.

((TWO LADIES WERE DISCUSSING THE MERITS OF LINCOLN AND THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CONFEDERACY, JEFFERSON DAVIS. THE FIRST SAID, "I THINK JEFFERSON WILL SUCCEED BECAUSE HE IS A PRAYING MAN." THE SECOND ANSWERED, "BUT SO IS ABRAHAM A PRAYING MAN." // "YES," REPLIED THE FIRST LADY, "BUT THE LORD WILL THINK ABRAHAM IS JOKING.")) //

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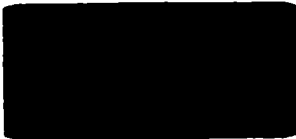
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**GREETING FOR PRAYER BREAKFAST / 7:30 A.M.
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1990 MAY -2 PM 6:48

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/1/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: -----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST

	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 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 type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<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 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"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1990

1990 APR 30 PM 2:49

INFORMATION

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FROM: CURT SMITH *C*
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Card 4

THE LITTLE, BROWN
BOOK OF
❧ ANECDOTES ❧

CLIFTON FADIMAN
GENERAL EDITOR



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
BOSTON TORONTO

that he obviously wanted to put to Richards. Eventually it came out: did Richards think that Eliot was a *good* poet? Richards replied that in his opinion, which would not be shared by everyone, Eliot was a good poet. The other man was pleased to hear it. Some of his colleagues considered that banking and poetry did not go together, but in his view if a man had a hobby and did it well it helped him in his work. He ended by telling Richards that he could tell Eliot that if he continued to do as well as he was doing at the bank, "I don't see why—in time, of course, in time—he mightn't even become a branch manager." Richards found great delight in relating this conversation to Eliot.

2 Critics and admirers of Eliot's work both found *Four Quartets* obscure. During his lecture tours students took the opportunity to question Eliot on the meaning of the poems. Louis Untermeyer repeated to Eliot a story he had heard of how a student at a midwestern university had volunteered a lengthy analysis of a passage from "East Coker." Eliot was said to have listened patiently. At the end the young man had said, "Isn't that what it means?" and Eliot responded, "It may very well mean that." Eliot smiled as Untermeyer finished his story, then remarked, "I may very well have said that."

3 On his way to Stockholm for the Nobel prize-giving ceremony, Eliot was interviewed by a reporter who asked him for which of his works the prize had been awarded. Eliot replied that he believed it was for the entire corpus. "And when did you publish that?" asked the reporter. Eliot observed afterward that *The Entire Corpus* might make rather a good title for a mystery story.

4 At a meeting of the Oxford Poetry Club Eliot was the guest of honor and agreed to answer questions about his work. An undergraduate asked him what he meant by the line from *Ash-Wednesday*: "Lady, three white leopards sat under a juniper-tree." Eliot answered, "I mean, 'Lady, three white leopards sat under a juniper-tree.'"

5 An American arriving in England in 1961 for postgraduate study went to visit Eliot. As he was leaving, he noticed that the poet was apparently searching for the right remark with

which to bid him farewell. "Forty years ago I went from Harvard to Oxford," Eliot began. "Now, what advice can I give you?" There was a prolonged pause while the younger man waited breathlessly for the poet's words of wisdom. Finally Eliot said, "Have you any long underwear?"

6 W. H. Auden, finding Eliot engrossed in a game of patience, expressed surprise at his apparent enjoyment of this trivial occupation. "Well," said Eliot thoughtfully, "I suppose it's the nearest thing to being dead."

7 Asked why he did not go the movies more often, Eliot replied, "Because they interfere with my daydreams."

8 Publisher Robert Giroux once asked Eliot whether he agreed with the widely held belief that most editors are failed writers. Eliot pondered for a moment, then said, "Yes, I suppose some editors are failed writers—but so are most writers."



ELISABETH (1876–1965), wife of King Albert I of Belgium (reigned 1909–34), whom she married in 1900. She won the affection of the Belgians by her devotion to duty as a nurse during World War I. Even after King Albert's death in a climbing accident, she exercised considerable influence over the affairs of the Belgian monarchy.

1 In 1956 Elisabeth visited Soviet-dominated Warsaw. A chief of protocol was assigned to accompany her to mass. She asked him, "Are you a Catholic?"

"Believing," replied the functionary, "but not practicing."

"Of course," said Elisabeth, "then in that case you must be a Communist."

"Practicing, Your Majesty, but not believing."



ELIZABETH I (1533–1603), queen of England and Ireland (1558–1603). The daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, she brought about a religious compromise that restored harmony to England after the troubled reign of her Roman Catholic half-sister, Mary. Her champi-

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

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

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Prayer Breakfast

Counsel's Office has some concern that the joke in the fourth paragraph on page 1 could be read as inviting teachers to disregard Supreme Court dictates. The problem could be alleviated somewhat by adding a phrase to the start of the next paragraph along the lines of: "I tell that story not to denigrate the teachings of the Court on matters of religious liberty, but to emphasize that" the power of prayer is remarkable. Or, less preferably, the story could specify that the principal found the teacher silently praying. We have no other legal objections to the draft.

We appreciate the opportunity to review these remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi

22 : 11v 30 MAR 30

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THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1990
8:00 A.M.

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Your Eminence Cardinal O'Connor, Rabbi Habermann, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to welcome you -- America's religious, civic, and political leaders -- to the White House. ((It's always good to know that if it takes divine intervention to save my remarks, help is close at hand.)) //

In the spirit of the occasion, let me begin with a story about the ^{near}power -- and ^{walk}necessity -- of the ^{power}wonder of ^{faith}prayer.

((A principal walked into a classroom and found the teacher praying. The principal said, "According to the Supreme Court, you're not allowed to do that." // The teacher thought a moment, then replied, "The Supreme Court isn't a substitute teacher who's just been thrown into a classroom filled with eight-year-olds.))

The power of prayer is remarkable. In fact, Lord Tennyson once wrote, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." This morning, we rejoice in those blessings through the National Day of Prayer. //

More than two hundred years ago, the Continental Congress issued the first official proclamation for a National Day of Prayer. And since 1952, at Congress' bequest, a specific date

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And some of you may be too young to remember -- I confess I'm not -- that on January 20, 1953, a beloved man named Ike began his Inaugural Address with a hand-written missive. "Almighty God . . . Give us, we pray," he said, "the power to discern clearly right from wrong."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. We believe that America is not only divinely blessed, but divinely accountable. We must use our resources to help those less fortunate than ourselves. // Over the past year, millions of people have struggled bravely for freedom and democracy. They have taken a first step, but the path to pluralism and economic opportunity is not an easy one. Each of us must join that

struggle through our own individual efforts and through our prayers.

We know God asks us, as the Book of Micah says, "to act justly, and love mercy and to walk humbly." In the end, without God's help, we can do nothing. But with God's help, we can do great things for all the world.

Look at the portrait above me. I have often said that any President's kinship with Abraham Lincoln is perhaps the most personal of all. This portrait shows why. In it you see the agony, and greatness, of a man who nightly fell on his knees to ask the help of God.

But Lincoln was also a man with a sense of humor. So let me close with a story that our 16th President liked to tell.

((Two ladies were discussing the merits of Lincoln and the Presidency of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. The first said, "I think Jefferson will succeed because he is a praying man." The second answered, "But so is Abraham a praying man." // "Yes," replied the first lady, "but the Lord will think Abraham is joking.")) //

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/27/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 AM 4/30/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST

	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 type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rogers</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Winston</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's of fice with a copy to my office no later than 10:00 AM Monday, April 30, 1990. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Blessey)

April 27, 1990

1990 APR 27 PM 1:01 ~~12:30~~ P.M.

PRAYER

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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSE:

N/C 4/30/90

90 MAR 30 P12:04

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

(Smith/Blessey)
April 27, 1990
1990 APR 27 PM 1:01 12:30 P.M.
PRAYER

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#

Staffed for 10am Monday.

Blessey's Des

(Smith/Blessey)
April 27, 1990
12:30 P.M.
PRAYER

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT: Prayer Breakfast Draft Speech

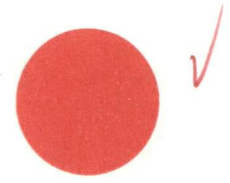
pg. 1, para. 4, line 1 "A principle walked into a classroom and found the teacher praying. The principal said, 'According to the Supreme Court, you're not allowed to do that.' The teacher thought a moment and replied, 'The Supreme Court isn't a substitute teacher who's just been thrown into a classroom filled with eight-year olds.'"

This is not so much a joke as it is a kind of defiant rejoinder. We wonder about the necessity of putting across the President's position on school prayer with such a defiant tone. Will this encourage and does this implicitly endorse teachers who wish to defy bans on school prayer, for example? Better to remind the audience that the President is still committed to his longstanding position on school prayer by doing it in a more straightforward way.

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90 MAR 30 4:55

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 4/27/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 AM 4/30/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST

	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 type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

*Dan - this is my only copy -
Please review + return w/ any
comments by 9am Monday.*

61:01V 03 MAR 30 AIO:19

*Thanks -
Haley*

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

J

(Smith/Blessey)
April 27, 1990
1990 APR 27 PM 1:01 12:30 P.M.
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Blah

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So did Ben Franklin, calling for daily prayer at the Federal Convention in 1787. He knew -- as we do -- the truth of these words from the 127th Psalm: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

And some of you may be too young to remember -- I confess I'm not -- that on January 20, 1953, a beloved man named Ike began his Inaugural Address with a hand-written missive. "God give us, we pray," he said, "the power to discern clearly right from wrong."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. We believe that America is divinely blessed. And we must use our resources to help those less fortunate than ourselves. // We know God asks us, as the Book of Micah says, "to do justly, and to love mercy." And that, in the end, without God's help, we can do nothing. With it, we can do great things for all the world.

Look at the portrait above me. I have often said that any President's kinship with Abraham Lincoln is perhaps the most personal of all. This portrait shows why. In it you see the

agony, and greatness, of a man who nightly fell on his knees to ask the help of God.

But Lincoln was also a man with a sense of humor. So let me close with a story that our 16th President liked to tell.

((Two ladies were discussing the merits of Lincoln and the Presidency of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. The first said, "I think Jefferson will succeed because he is a praying man." The second answered, "But so is Abraham a praying man." // "Yes," replied the first lady, "but the Lord will think Abraham is joking.")) //

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*I would add something about prayers of a generation
being heard and freedom opened to millions in
E. Europe - and encourage everyone to remember
this nation in ~~their~~ their prayers
etc etc.*

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/27/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 AM 4/30/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST

	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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rogers</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Winston</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pinkerton</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's of fice with a copy to my office no later than 10:00 AM Monday, April 30, 1990. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

OK S.R.

95 : 6v 06 MAR 30 06 James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

(Smith/Blessey)
April 27, 1990
1990 APR 27 PM 1:01:12:30 P.M.
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST
STATE DINING ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1990
8:00 A.M.

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, Members of the House and Senate, ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to welcome you -- America's religious, civic, and political leaders -- to the White House. ((It's always good to know that if it takes divine intervention to save my speech, help is close at hand.)) //

In the spirit of the occasion, let me begin with a story about the power -- and necessity -- of the wonder of prayer.

((A principle walked into a classroom and found the teacher praying. The principal said, "According to the Supreme Court, you're not allowed to do that." // The teacher thought a moment, then replied, "The Supreme Court isn't a substitute teacher who's just been thrown into a classroom filled with eight-year-olds.))

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