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Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13534
Folder ID Number: 13534-012

Folder Title:
Detroit Pistons Visit 6/21/90 [OA 5375]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	3	5

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NBA BASKETBALL CHAMPION DETROIT PISTONS

The Rose Garden

2:17 p.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you all very much. Deja vu all over again, as Yogi Berra would say. (Laughter.) To the members of the Senate -- both senators and several members of the House delegation from Michigan, welcome to the steamy Rose Garden. There hasn't been so much excitement around here since Michael Jackson swung out through that door a while back.

But I want to welcome you all back and to say to the Deputy Commissioner here, Russ Granik, and all distinguished guests, welcome to the White House. Bill Davidson and General Manager McCloskey, and of course, Coach Daly, and all the proud members of the Pistons, we're very proud of you.

I'm delighted to welcome all of you here to the Rose Garden to join in honoring the World Champion Detroit Pistons on this repeat performance. (Applause.)

I know that -- one serious note -- that it is a bitter-sweet victory for one member of the Pistons team -- I should say the Pistons family. And I'm talking about Joe Dumars. And our hearts go out to you and to your family on your loss. And all of us admire the strength and the dignity that you displayed these last, very difficult weeks.

You know, today is a proud day for the Pistons -- it's one for the record books. You've become only the third team in pro-basketball history to win the NBA championship back to back. First the Celtics, then the Lakers, and now the Detroit Pistons. (Applause.)

And each great team has a trademark style, the Pistons being no exception. The style starts with Chuck Daly, voted Coach of the Year by Gentlemen's Quarterly -- (laughter) -- who knows it's not just how you play, it's how you look. How he made it some of us don't know. But anyway -- (laughter.)

In Detroit, it's defense, the take-no-prisoners, wall-to-wall pressure that held Pistons' opponents under 100 points for 44 times this season. And 13 of the 20 games in the playoffs. And the key is to keep that focus -- play with the same intensity for the full 48 minutes. And that's the Pistons' brand of basketball that has captivated the hearts of this country. Take the fifth and final game. The Trailblazers had a tough team. They played the Pistons dead-even all game long -- 47 minutes, 59.3 seconds to be exact. Good, but not good enough. And in the last seven-tenths of a second, Vinnie Johnson nailed a jumper and the Pistons nailed another championship banner to the rafters in the Palace. (Applause.)

And on a team with this tremendous talent, it's no surprise to find some of pro-basketball's very best. I should start I guess with everybody's MVP, Isiah Thomas. (Applause.) The kind of guy who gets lost in a crowd until you toss in a basketball out there. And his game goes into overdrive in the playoffs. Listen to these stats. In the last seven minutes of game one, Isiah scored 16 points. Or game four -- 30 points in the second half. And, of course, the final last Thursday night, Isiah led the way with a

MORE

team-high 29 points. That concludes today's reading from Isiah.
(Laughter.)

Detroit got championship-level play all series long -- all season long -- from every member of the team. Instant offense from Mark Aguirre, Joe Dumars. Aggressive -- I see their families are here. (Laughter.) Aggressive defense from John Sally and the NBA's number one defensive player, Dennis Rodman. (Applause.)

And there's the front court -- James Edwards and, of course, my old friend, Mr. Congeniality over here, Bill Laimbeer. (Laughter.) James' nickname may be Budda, but I know no one is ever going to call Bill Laimbeer Gandhi. (Laughter.) Kinder and gentler maybe, but not peaceful.

In any event, key contributions along the way from Jerome Henderson and Scott Hastings, David Greenwood, William Bedford -- all under the guidance of the great coach, Coach Daly, and his topnotch staff. There may be five men out there on the court, but no one knows better than this proud Piston team that it takes a 12-man effort, and more, to bring home the title two years in a row.

So I want to welcome you here today, welcome you back. True champions that you are. Once again, my sincere congratulations to you, to the City of Detroit, the home of the World Champion Pistons. Maybe I'll see you next year, too.

Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

ISIAH THOMAS: As they said in Poltergeist, "we're back."
(Laughter.)

On behalf of the Detroit Pistons -- well, let me say one other thing. Vice President Quayle, sir, you've come to see us play twice. (Laughter.) The first time was in Indiana, and I think we ended up losing by about -- what was it, 30 that night? It was the worst game we played all season. So we're happy and everything that he's going to come and watch us play again in Detroit. So he comes to the final game, and that's the only game we lose in the finals. (Laughter.) We lose it in overtime. Thanks for all your support. (Laughter.)

Now, on behalf of the Detroit Pistons, my teammates, the whole organization, we again would like to present President Bush with a Piston jersey. (Applause.) And even though we may be number one, he's also number one. Thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank all of you guys. (Applause.)

END

2:25 P.M. EDT

END

JUNE 21, 1990 / 2:00 P.M.

~~SENATOR REIGLE.~~ ~~SENATOR LEVIN.~~ MEMBERS OF THE
MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
OF THE NBA, RUSS GRANIK. DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:
WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. //

AND TO OWNER BILL DAVIDSON, GENERAL MANAGER JACK
McCLOSKEY, COACH DALY -- AND THE PROUD MEMBERS OF THE
PISTONS: WELCOME BACK. //

- 2 -

I'M DELIGHTED TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU HERE TO THE
ROSE GARDEN, TO JOIN ME IN HONORING THE WORLD CHAMPION
DETROIT PISTONS ON THEIR REPEAT PERFORMANCE.

I KNOW THIS YEAR IT'S A BITTERSWEET VICTORY FOR ONE
MEMBER OF THE PISTONS' TEAM -- THE PISTON'S FAMILY. /

LET ME SAY TO JOE DUMARS [DU-MARS]: OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ON YOUR LOSS. ALL OF US ADMIRE THE STRENGTH AND DIGNITY YOU DISPLAYED THESE LAST DIFFICULT WEEKS. //

TODAY IS A PROUD DAY FOR PISTONS -- ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS. YOU'VE BECOME ONLY THE THIRD TEAM IN PRO BASKETBALL HISTORY TO WIN THE NBA CHAMPIONSHIP BACK-TO-BACK. FIRST THE CELTICS, THEN THE LAKERS -- AND NOW, THE DETROIT PISTONS. //

EACH GREAT TEAM HAS A TRADEMARK STYLE -- AND THE PISTONS ARE NO EXCEPTION. [[OF COURSE, STYLE STARTS WITH CHUCK DALY -- VOTED COACH OF THE YEAR BY GENTLEMAN'S QUARTERLY -- WHO KNOWS IT'S NOT JUST HOW YOU PLAY. IT'S HOW YOU LOOK.]]

IN DETROIT -- IT'S DEFENSE. THE TAKE-NO-PRISONERS, WALL-TO-WALL PRESSURE THAT HELD PISTONS' OPPONENTS UNDER 100 POINTS 44 TIMES THIS SEASON -- AND 13 OF 20 GAMES IN THE PLAYOFFS.

THE KEY IS TO KEEP THAT FOCUS -- PLAY WITH THE SAME INTENSITY FOR THE FULL 48 MINUTES. THAT'S THE PISTONS' BRAND OF BASKETBALL. TAKE THAT FIFTH AND FINAL GAME: THAT TOUGH TRAILBLAZER TEAM PLAYED THE PISTONS DEAD EVEN ALL GAME LONG -- FOR 47 MINUTES, 59.3 SECONDS, TO BE EXACT. GOOD, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH. / IN THAT LAST 7/10THS OF A SECOND, VINNIE JOHNSON NAILED A JUMPER -- AND THE PISTONS NAILED ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP BANNER TO THE RAFTERS IN THE PALACE. //

ON A TEAM WITH TREMENDOUS TALENT AND DRIVE, IT'S NO SURPRISE TO FIND SOME OF PRO BASKETBALL'S VERY BEST. I'LL START WITH EVERYBODY'S MVP: ISIAH THOMAS. THE KIND OF GUY WHO GETS LOST IN THE CROWD -- UNTIL YOU TOSS IN A BASKETBALL. AND HIS GAME GOES INTO OVERDRIVE IN THE PLAYOFFS. LISTEN TO THESE STATISTICS: IN THE LAST 7 MINUTES OF GAME 1 -- ISIAH SCORED 16 POINTS. OR GAME 4: 30 POINTS IN THE SECOND HALF.

AND OF COURSE THE FINAL LAST THURSDAY NIGHT: ISIAH LED THE WAY WITH A TEAM-HIGH 29 POINTS.

[[THAT CONCLUDES TODAY'S READING FROM ISIAH.]]

BUT DETROIT GOT CHAMPIONSHIP-LEVEL PLAY, ALL SERIES LONG --ALL SEASON LONG -- FROM EVERY MEMBER OF THE TEAM. / INSTANT OFFENSE FROM MARK AGUIRRE [UH-GWIRE] AND JOE DUMARS [DU-MARS]. / AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE FROM JOHN SALLEY, AND THE NBA'S NUMBER ONE DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR, DENNIS RODMAN. /

THEN THERE'S THE DETROIT FRONTCOURT: JAMES EDWARDS AND OF COURSE, MR. CONGENIALITY -- BILL LAIMBEER. [[JAMES' NICKNAME MAY BE BUDDHA -- BUT I KNOW NO ONE'S EVER GOING TO CALL BILL LAIMBEER GHANDI. // KINDER AND GENTLER MAYBE -- BUT NOT PEACEFUL.]] AND FINALLY, KEY CONTRIBUTIONS ALONG THE WAY FROM GERALD HENDERSON, SCOTT HASTINGS, DAVID GREENWOOD AND WILLIAM BEDFORD -- ALL UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF COACH DALY AND HIS TOP-NOTCH STAFF. /

- 9 -

THERE MAY BE 5 MEN ON THE COURT -- BUT NO ONE KNOWS
BETTER THAN THIS PROUD PISTONS TEAM THAT IT TAKES A 12-
MAN EFFORT -- AND MORE -- TO BRING HOME THE TITLE --
TWO YEARS IN A ROW. //

SO THANK YOU ALL FOR VISITING TODAY. ONCE AGAIN,
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND TO THE CITY OF DETROIT --
HOME OF THE WORLD CHAMPION PISTONS.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

90 JUN 19 A 9:38

DATE: 6/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/19/90 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</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"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON, Tuesday, June 19, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*need pronunciation
or names*
AA

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

McGroarty/Dooley
June 18, 1990
12:30 pm
[nba]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT
THE ROSE GARDEN
JUNE 21, 1990
2:00 P.M.

[Introductory acknowledgements.] [Michigan Congressional delegation.] NBA Commissioner David Stern, distinguished guests: welcome to the White House. //

And to owner Bill Davidson, General Manager Jack McCloskey, Coach Daly -- and the proud members of the Pistons: **welcome back.** //

I'm delighted to welcome all of you here to the Rose Garden, to join me in honoring the world champion Detroit Pistons on their repeat performance.

I know this year it's a bittersweet victory for one member of the Pistons' team -- the Pistons' family. / For myself and for all America -- let me say to Joe Dumars: Our hearts go out to you and your family on your loss. All of us admire the strength and dignity you displayed these last difficult weeks. //

While today is the second time around for most of you, it's our first time together in the Rose Garden. Last year, ^{when} bad weather forced us inside -- and ~~as a special treat~~, at the end of the ceremony ^{we} decided to take the team and their wives on an impromptu tour of the White House. I reminded Barbara of that this morning when I told her you were coming back today. [[She

asked me to congratulate you on winning again -- and she said, "make sure you tell the Pistons the house looks pretty much the same as last year."]]

This is a proud day for Pistons -- one for the record books. You've become only the third team in pro basketball history to win the NBA championship back-to-back. First the Celtics, then the Lakers -- and now the Detroit Pistons. //

Each great team has a trademark style -- and the Pistons are no exception. [[Of course, style starts with Chuck Daly -- voted Coach of the Year by Gentleman's Quarterly -- who knows it's not just **how you play**. It's **how you look**.]]

In Detroit -- it's defense. The take-no-prisoners, wall-to-wall pressure that held Pistons' opponents under 100 points 44 times this season -- and 13 of 20 games in the playoffs.

The key is to keep that focus -- play with the same intensity for the full 48 minutes. That's the Pistons' brand of ~~blue-collar~~ basketball, ~~at its best~~. Take that fifth and final game: That tough Trailblazer team played the Pistons dead even all game long -- for 47 minutes, 59.3 seconds, to be exact. Good, but not good enough. / In that last 7/10ths of a second, Vinnie Johnson nailed a jumper -- and the Pistons nailed another championship banner to the rafters in The Palace. //

On a team with tremendous talent and drive, it's no surprise to find some of pro basketball's very best. I'll start with everybody's MVP: Isiah Thomas. The kind of guy who gets lost in the crowd -- until you toss in a basketball. The NBA's little big man, whose game goes into overdrive in the playoffs. Listen

to these statistics: In the last 7 minutes of Game 1 -- Isiah scored 16 points. At one point there, it was Isiah 10, Portland 0. / Or Game 4: ~~Isiah scored 32 total~~ -- 30^{points} in the second half. And of course the final last Thursday night: Isiah led the way with a team-high 29 points.

Some people are students of the game -- Isiah's a philosopher. How about this quote after Game 1: "It's never a battle of your skill -- it's a battle of your will." [[That concludes today's reading from Isiah.]]

But Detroit got championship-level play, all series long -- all season long -- from every member of the team. / Instant offense from Mark Aguirre and Joe Dumars. / Aggressive defense from John Salley, and the NBA's number one defensive player of the year, Dennis Rodman. / Then there's the Detroit frontcourt: James Edwards and of course, Mr. Congeniality -- Bill Laimbeer. [[James' nickname may be Buddha -- but I know no one's ever going to call Bill Laimbeer Ghandi.]] And finally, key contributions along the way from Gerald Henderson, Scott Hastings, David Greenwood and William Bedford -- all under the guidance of Coach Daly and his top-notch staff. / There may be 5 men on the court -- but no one knows better than this proud Pistons team that it takes a 12-man effort -- and more -- to bring home the title -- **two years in a row. //**

So thank you all for visiting today. Once again, congratulations to you and to the City of Detroit -- home of world champion Pistons.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: DAN MCGROARTY *DMcG*
SUBJECT: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, June 21, at 2:00 p.m. the NBA champion Detroit Pistons will visit the White House. The event will take place in the Rose Garden, with about 70 guests.

II. DISCUSSION

The Detroit Pistons have become only the third team in NBA history to win back to back championships. Eight of the twelve players (the top eight on the team) were here for last year's ceremony.

Joe Dumars' father died just before the third game of the five-game series. He played for the rest of the series, and the funeral was held this past weekend.

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McGroarty/Dooley
June 19, 1990
5:30 pm
[nba]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT
THE ROSE GARDEN
JUNE 21, 1990
2:00 P.M.

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And to owner Bill Davidson, General Manager Jack McCloskey, Coach Daly -- and the proud members of the Pistons: **welcome back.** //

I'm delighted to welcome all of you here to the Rose Garden, to join me in honoring the world champion Detroit Pistons on their repeat performance.

I know this year it's a bittersweet victory for one member of the Pistons' team -- the Piston's family. / For myself and for all America -- let me say to Joe Dumars [Du-MARS]: Our hearts go out to you and your family on your loss. All of us admire the strength and dignity you displayed these last difficult weeks. // Today is a proud day for Pistons -- one for the record books. You've become only the third team in pro basketball history to win the NBA championship **back-to-back.** First the Celtics, then the Lakers -- and now, **the Detroit Pistons.** //

And while this is the second time around for most of you, it's our first time together in the Rose Garden. Last year, when bad weather forced us inside, at the end of the ceremony we decided to take the team and their wives on an impromptu tour of the White House. I reminded Barbara of that this morning when I told her you were coming back today. [[She asked me to congratulate you on winning again -- and she said, "make sure you tell the Pistons the house looks pretty much the same as last year."]]

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In Detroit -- it's defense. The take-no-prisoners, wall-to-wall pressure that held Pistons' opponents under 100 points 44 times this season -- and 13 of 20 games in the playoffs.

The key is to keep that focus -- play with the same intensity for the full 48 minutes. That's the Pistons' brand of basketball. Take that fifth and final game: That tough Trailblazer team played the Pistons dead even all game long -- for 47 minutes, 59.3 seconds, to be exact. Good, but not good enough. / In that last 7/10ths of a second, Vinnie Johnson nailed a jumper -- and the Pistons nailed another championship banner to the rafters in The Palace. //

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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"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		PINKERTON	<i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		_____		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<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"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON, Tuesday, June 19, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No Comments.

6/19/90

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

McGroarty/Dooley
June 19, 1990
2:00 pm
[nba]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT
THE ROSE GARDEN
JUNE 21, 1990
2:00 P.M.

[Introductory acknowledgements.] [Michigan Congressional
delegation.] Deputy Commissioner of the NBA, Russ Granik.

Distinguished guests: welcome to the White House. //

And to owner Bill Davidson, General Manager Jack McCloskey,
Coach Daly -- and the proud members of the Pistons: **welcome
back.** //

I'm delighted to welcome all of you here to the Rose Garden,
to join me in honoring the world champion Detroit Pistons on
their repeat performance.

I know this year it's a bittersweet victory. For the City
of Detroit, suffering the senseless tragedy that followed your
great triumph. / For one of the members of the Pistons' team -
- Joe Dumars -- who suffered a personal loss. / Our hearts go
out to all those touched by tragedy in what is otherwise a time
of triumph. And to Joe especially -- all of us admire the
strength and dignity you displayed these last difficult weeks.

Today is a proud day for Pistons -- one for the record
books. You've become only the third team in pro basketball
history to win the NBA championship **back-to-back.** First the
Celtics, then the Lakers -- and now, **the Detroit Pistons.** //

8 out of
62

And while this is the second time around for most of you, it's our first time together in the Rose Garden. Last year, bad weather forced us inside -- and as a special treat, at the end of the ceremony I decided to take the team and their wives on an impromptu tour of the White House. I reminded Barbara of that this morning when I told her you were coming back today. [[She asked me to congratulate you on winning again -- and she said, "make sure you tell the Pistons the house looks pretty much the same as last year."]]

Each great team has a trademark style -- and the Pistons are no exception. [[Of course, style starts with **Chuck Daly -- voted Coach of the Year by Gentleman's Quarterly** -- who knows it's not just **how you play. It's how you look.**]]

In Detroit -- it's defense. The **take-no-prisoners, wall-to-wall pressure that held Pistons' opponents under 100 points 44 times this season -- and 13 of 20 games in the playoffs.**

The key is to keep that focus -- **play with the same intensity for the full 48 minutes.** That's the Pistons' brand of **blue-collar basketball at its best. Take that fifth and final game: That tough Trailblazer team played the Pistons dead even all game long -- for 47 minutes, 59.3 seconds, to be exact. Good, but not good enough. / In that last 7/10ths of a second, Vinnie Johnson nailed a jumper -- and the Pistons nailed another championship banner to the rafters in The Palace. //**

On a team with tremendous talent and drive, it's no surprise to find some of pro basketball's very best. I'll start with everybody's MVP: **Isiah Thomas. The kind of guy who gets lost in**

Captain, team leader

the crowd -- until you toss in a basketball. (The NBA's little big man, whose game goes into overdrive in the playoffs. Listen to these statistics: In the last 7 minutes of Game 1 -- Isiah scored 16 points. At one point there, it was Isiah 10, Portland 0. / Or Game 4: Isiah scored 32 total -- 30 in the second half. And of course the final last Thursday night: Isiah led the way with a team-high 29 points.

Some people are students of the game -- Isiah's a philosopher. How about this quote after Game 1: "It's ^{not} ~~never~~ a battle of ~~your~~ skill -- it's a battle of ~~your~~ will." [[That concludes today's reading from Isiah.]]

But Detroit got championship-level play, all series long -- all season long -- from every member of the team. / Instant offense from Mark Aguirre and Joe Dumars, / Aggressive defense from John Salley, and the NBA's number one defensive player of the year, Dennis Rodman. / Then there's the Detroit frontcourt: James Edwards and of course, Mr. Congeniality -- Bill Laimbeer. [[James' nickname may be Buddha -- but I know no one's ever going to call Bill Laimbeer Ghandi.]] And finally, key contributions along the way from Gerald Henderson, Scott Hastings, David Greenwood and William Bedford -- all under the guidance of Coach Daly and his top-notch staff. / There may be 5 men on the court -- but no one knows better than this proud Pistons team that it takes a 12-man effort -- and more -- to bring home the title -- two years in a row. //

Asst coaches
Brendan Suhr
Brendan Malone

[Handwritten scribble]

So thank you all for visiting today. Once again,
congratulations to you and to the City of Detroit -- home of
world champion Pistons.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

90 JUN 19 1990
June 19, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Detroit Pistons Visit

We have reviewed the attached draft and have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint. We approve of the draft remarks in their current form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/19/90 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</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"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

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

McGroarty/Dooley
June 18, 1990
12:30 pm
[nba]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT
THE ROSE GARDEN
JUNE 21, 1990
2:00 P.M.

[Introductory acknowledgements.] [Michigan Congressional delegation.] NBA Commissioner David Stern, distinguished guests: welcome to the White House. //

And to owner Bill Davidson, General Manager Jack McCloskey, Coach Daly -- and the proud members of the Pistons: **welcome back.** //

I'm delighted to welcome all of you here to the Rose Garden, to join me in honoring the world champion Detroit Pistons on their repeat performance.

I know this year it's a bittersweet victory for one member of the Pistons' team -- the Pistons' family. / For myself and for all America -- let me say to Joe Dumars: Our hearts go out to you and your family on your loss. All of us admire the strength and dignity you displayed these last difficult weeks. //

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In Detroit -- it's defense. The take-no-prisoners, wall-to-wall pressure that held Pistons' opponents under 100 points 44 times this season -- and 13 of 20 games in the playoffs.

The key is to keep that focus -- play with the same intensity for the full 48 minutes. That's the Pistons' brand of blue-collar basketball at its best. Take that fifth and final game: That tough Trailblazer team played the Pistons dead even all game long -- for 47 minutes, 59.3 seconds, to be exact. Good, but not good enough. / In that last 7/10ths of a second, Vinnie Johnson nailed a jumper -- and the Pistons nailed another championship banner to the rafters in The Palace. //

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So thank you all for visiting today. Once again, congratulations to you and to the City of Detroit -- home of world champion Pistons.

#

PISTONS insert....

And let me also say a word about the night of violence that followed your great sports triumph -- and brought senseless tragedy to the city of Detroit. Celebrations that began in joy ended in violence and loss of life. / Today, here with the Detroit Pistons -- the best in basketball -- it does nothing to diminish this occasion and this team's great accomplishments to say clearly and unequivocally that every individual and every community leader must join forces to make certain **what happened in Detroit will never happen again.** //

heads
out

Chriss -
I'd recommend this insert
after #4 on 1st page.
Ending with it, as Sig
suggested, is certain to cast
a pall over this "celebration".
- Dan McG

S.F.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

80 JUN 19 9:00

DATE: 6/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/19/90 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</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"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

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S.F.

RESPONSE:

Much too much Isaiah Thomas - now that he's mentioned in sports betting line - Also - in view of the terrible aftermath some mention should be considered for the senseless deaths that occurred during the celebration.

As noted

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

McGroarty/Dooley
June 18, 1990
12:30 pm
[nba]

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THE ROSE GARDEN
JUNE 21, 1990
2:00 P.M.

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Pistons -- As an opportunity ^{to} ~~stand~~ ^{the best in basketball}
stand with ~~them~~ ^{and sports}
heroes that they ~~are~~ ^{deserve} -- ~~to~~
speak out against violence --
senseless ^{and tragic} violence --
of the kind ~~we~~ ^{we} witnessed
recently in Detroit -- (pause)

Winning is a time for
Joy --

to these statistics: In the last 7 minutes of Game 1 -- Isiah scored 16 points. At one point there, it was Isiah 10, Portland 0. / Or Game 4: Isiah scored 32 total -- 30 in the second half. And of course the final last Thursday night: Isiah led the way with a team-high 29 points.

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So thank you all for visiting today. Once again, congratulations to you and to the City of Detroit -- home of world champion Pistons.

while
But today should be a day for remembering in good part for the tragedy -- the senseless tragedy -- that took 8 lives

because of the hooligans who
drive a car into a crowd of
innocent bystanders
Killing etc

~~It~~ It will be
remembered not entirely as
it should -- as a great
moment in sports -- but instead
as a tragic moment in
sports history.

And we should work to see
that it never happens again.

The "we" I'm referring to is the
fans -- those who really make it all
come together, those who buy the tickets,
those who take their sons and daughters
to the games to root for their favorite
teams -- those who sadly witnessed
innocent deaths -- that evening in
Detroit after this tremendous victory.

So let us not diminish the triumph.

But let us not forget the sad
aftermath.

To Detroit -- the city -- and the
Pistons -- I say "bravo" --
to the ~~truthless crowd~~ ^{small but} ~~who~~ ^{participated}
in this tragedy -- I say -- ~~who~~
"boo"

And so I view this moment here with
the great team -- the Detroit

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

90 JUN 19 AM 11:32

June 18, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
Deputy Assistant to the President for
Communications

FROM: BRENT O. HATCH *BH*
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks -- Detroit Pistons Visit

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/19/90 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT

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

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON, Tuesday, June 19, 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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/19/90 NOON

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	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

No comment. *HW*

Holly Williamson 6/19/90

JUN 19 11 41 AM '90

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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/19/90 NOON

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REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

See comment

JUN 19 11:13 AM '90

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

McGroarty/Dooley
June 18, 1990
12:30 pm
[nba]

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In Detroit -- it's defense. The take-no-prisoners, wall-to-wall pressure that held Pistons' opponents under 100 points 44 times this season -- and 13 of 20 games in the playoffs.

The key is to keep that focus -- play with the same intensity for the full 48 minutes. That's the Pistons' brand of blue-collar basketball at its best. Take that fifth and final game: That tough Trailblazer team played the Pistons dead even all game long -- for 47 minutes, 59.3 seconds, to be exact. Good, but not good enough. / In that last 7/10ths of a second, Vinnie Johnson nailed a jumper -- and the Pistons nailed another championship banner to the rafters in The Palace. //

On a team with tremendous talent and drive, it's no surprise to find some of pro basketball's very best. I'll start with everybody's MVP: Isiah Thomas. The kind of guy who gets lost in the crowd -- until you toss in a basketball. The NBA's little big man, whose game goes into overdrive in the playoffs. Listen

to these statistics: In the last 7 minutes of Game 1 -- Isiah scored 16 points. At one point there, it was Isiah 10, Portland 0. / Or Game 4: Isiah scored 32 total -- 30 in the second half. And of course the final last Thursday night: Isiah led the way with a team-high 29 points.

Some people are students of the game -- Isiah's a philosopher. How about this quote after Game 1: "It's never a battle of your skill -- it's a battle of your will." [[That concludes today's reading from Isiah.]]

But Detroit got championship-level play, all series long -- all season long -- from every member of the team. / Instant offense from Mark Aguirre and Joe Dumars. / Aggressive defense from John Salley, and the NBA's number one defensive player of the year, Dennis Rodman. / Then there's the Detroit frontcourt: James Edwards and of course, Mr. Congeniality -- Bill Laimbeer. [[James' nickname may be Buddha -- but I know no one's ever going to call Bill Laimbeer Ghandi.]] And finally, key contributions along the way from Gerald Henderson, Scott Hastings, David Greenwood and William Bedford -- all under the guidance of Coach Daly and his top-notch staff. / There may be 5 men on the court -- but no one knows better than this proud Pistons team that it takes a 12-man effort -- and more -- to bring home the title -- **two years in a row. //**

So thank you all for visiting today. Once again, congratulations to you and to the City of Detroit -- home of *the* ✓ world champion Pistons.

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Scully
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
6/20/90

June 19, 1990

90 JUN 20 AB: 11
Need toe marks
so I can identify
them - on at least
a "sight" pre-brief

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: DAN MCGROARTY *DMcG*
SUBJECT: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, June 21, at 2:00 p.m. the NBA champion Detroit Pistons will visit the White House. The event will take place in the Rose Garden, with about 70 guests.

II. DISCUSSION

The Detroit Pistons have become only the third team in NBA history to win back to back championships. Eight of the twelve players (the top eight on the team) were here for last year's ceremony.

Joe Dumars' father died just before the third game of the five-game series. He played for the rest of the series, and the funeral was held this past weekend.

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McGroarty/Dooley
June 19, 1990
5:30 pm
[nba]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DETROIT PISTONS VISIT
THE ROSE GARDEN
JUNE 21, 1990
2:00 P.M.

[Introductory acknowledgements.] [Michigan Congressional delegation.] Deputy Commissioner of the NBA, Russ Granik. Distinguished guests: welcome to the White House. //

And to owner Bill Davidson, General Manager Jack McCloskey, Coach Daly -- and the proud members of the Pistons: **welcome back.** //

I'm delighted to welcome all of you here to the Rose Garden, to join me in honoring the world champion Detroit Pistons on their repeat performance.

I know this year it's a bittersweet victory for one member of the Pistons' team -- the Piston's family. / ~~For myself and for all America~~ -- **Let** me say to Joe Dumars [Du-MARS]: Our hearts go out to you and your family on your loss. All of us admire the strength and dignity you displayed these last difficult weeks. // Today is a proud day for Pistons -- one for the record books. You've become only the third team in pro basketball history to win the NBA championship **back-to-back.** First the Celtics, then the Lakers -- and now, **the Detroit Pistons.** //

And while this is the second time around for most of you, it's our first time together in the Rose Garden. Last year, when bad weather forced us inside, at the end of the ceremony we decided to take the team and their wives on an impromptu tour of the White House. I reminded Barbara of that this morning when I told her you were coming back today. [[She asked me to congratulate you on winning again -- and she said, "make sure you tell the Pistons the house looks pretty much the same as last year."]]

*change this
to return*

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Steph -
Peggy is going
to double check
Michigan Cong. + Sens.
in attendance tomorrow -
all one tentative so far.
- Dan

McGroarty/Dooley
June 20, 1990
11:15 am
[nba]

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THE ROSE GARDEN
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2:00 P.M.

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