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# FOIA MARKER

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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
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**Folder Title:**  
Intern Photo Opportunity, 10/18/90 [OA 6026]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

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REMARKS FOR INTERN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY \ ~~STEPS O.E.O.B.~~  
THURSDAY, OCT. 18, 1990 \ 2:35 P.M. Room 450

I AM GLAD TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU TODAY, BECAUSE I KNOW HOW MUCH OF A CONTRIBUTION YOU HAVE MADE TO THE WORKINGS OF THIS WHITE HOUSE. SOMETIMES THE CHORES YOU ARE ASSIGNED SEEM ORDINARY AND REMOTE FROM THE WEIGHTY PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT THAT YOU MAY BE STUDYING IN SCHOOL. HOWEVER, I AM SURE THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED THAT LITTLE THINGS ADD UP <sup>TO</sup> THE GREATNESS OF OUR DEMOCRACY. SO ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US I WANT TO JUST SAY "THANKS."

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I ALSO WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY IDEAS ABOUT WHAT THE ISSUES YOU ARE HEARING ABOUT MEAN TO YOU: TODAY, AND IN THE FUTURE.

I WILL VENTURE A GUESS THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT HOW WASHINGTON WORKS, HERE INSIDE THE SO-CALLED "BELTWAY." YOU HAVE LEARNED SOME OF THE JARGON: "CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS," "SEQUESTRATION," AND "CONFERENCE COMMITTEES."

MANY PEOPLE HEAR THIS TECHNICAL TALK, AND THEY THINK THAT IT IS ALL SO COMPLICATED THAT IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY MEAN ANYTHING TO THEM. MAYBE WHEN YOU RETURN HOME YOU CAN LET THESE FOLKS KNOW THAT DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS, FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

YOU HAVE ALSO HEARD A LOT ABOUT "SOAKING THE RICH."

LET ME TRANSLATE THIS DISHONEST BIT OF WASHINGTON DOUBLESPEAK FOR YOU: WHEN SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TALK ABOUT "SOAKING THE RICH," THEY REALLY MEAN RAISING TAXES ON EVERYONE. THEIR TALK ABOUT "PROGRESSIVITY" AND "REGRESSIVITY" IS JUST A SMOKESCREEN TO TRY AND HIDE THEIR EFFORT TO RAISE THE INCOME TAXES OF ORDINARY WORKING AMERICANS.

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LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ANOTHER WORD: "INDEXING." YOU WERE JUST KIDS WHEN INDEXING WAS ESTABLISHED BACK IN 1981, SO YOU MAY NOT KNOW THAT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN INFLATION PUSHED MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS INTO HIGHER AND HIGHER TAX BRACKETS THAT ONCE WERE DESIGNED TO "SOAK THE RICH." IN OTHER WORDS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS A SILENT PARTNER IN INFLATION, PROFITING FROM HIGHER PRICES EVEN AS FAMILIES SUFFERED.

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ELIMINATION OF INDEXING DOES NOT AFFECT THE RICH, BECAUSE THEY ARE ALREADY IN THE TOP TAX BRACKET. INDEXING IS A PROTECTIVE SHIELD FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS. TELL YOUR PARENTS AND FAMILIES THAT I WILL NOT LET ANYONE PIERCE THIS SHIELD FOR WORKING AMERICANS.

WE MUST REDUCE THE DEFICIT, SO THAT INTEREST RATES CAN COME DOWN AND ENABLE PEOPLE TO BUY HOMES AND CARS AND SO THAT BUSINESS CAN INVEST IN NEW JOBS. BUT LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ANOTHER IMPORTANT WORD: "INCENTIVE."

WHEN TAX RATES GET TOO HIGH, AS THEY DID BEFORE INDEXING, THEN PEOPLE DON'T SAVE, BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT TAKES SO MUCH THAT THERE IS NO INCENTIVE. THAT'S THE REASON WHY I AM STANDING FIRM ON THE 28% TOP RATE. NOT BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP THE RICH, BUT BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP EVERYONE. ONCE THEY START CHANGING ANYBODY'S INCOME TAX RATES, THEY CANNOT RESIST CHANGING EVERYBODY'S TAX RATES.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT IN FEDERAL FISCAL POLICY TO UNDERSTAND THE REAL ISSUE HERE.

AS I SAID, I AM DETERMINED TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT, BUT I AM EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC GROWTH, SO THAT ALL OF YOU CAN ENJOY A BETTER FUTURE. I WILL NOT LET DEMAGOGUES WHO SPEAK OF "SOAKING THE RICH," GET AWAY WITH KILLING THE INDEXING WHICH PRESERVES INCENTIVES AND PROTECTS THE FAMILY BUDGET FROM THE ATTACK OF A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHICH SPENDS SO MUCH THAT IT CAN'T BALANCE ITS OWN BUDGET.

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YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO HOLD THE CONGRESS' FEET TO THE FIRE AND MAKE THEM DO THE RIGHT THING. I BELIEVE IN WHAT I AM DOING. I BELIEVE THAT THE NATIONAL INTEREST IS ALWAYS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SPECIAL INTERESTS. I WILL FIGHT THE TAXERS AND THE SPENDERS BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT. IN THE REMAINING WEEKS OF THIS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SEASON, I WILL TAKE MY MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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I BELIEVE IN MY HEART THAT AS THE VOTERS LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT THE REAL ISSUES ARE, ISSUES LIKE INDEXING AND INCENTIVE, THAT THEY WILL JOIN ME IN DEMANDING A RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE CONGRESS THAT WILL REDUCE THE DEFICIT BY CONTROLLING TAXING AND SPENDING.

WHEN I LOOK AT YOUR BRIGHT YOUNG FACES, I AM REMINDED OF THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF MY GENERATION, WHO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE THE AMERICAN DREAM.

I BELIEVE THAT DREAM IS STILL ALIVE, BUT THAT WE MUST ALWAYS WORK TO PRESERVE IT. AS A PARENT AND GRANDPARENT, I OWE YOU NOTHING LESS.

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