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Davis/Bymire
October 25, 1990
Title: Harry-2
Draft: Ten

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SAIKI FOR SENATE
HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE HOTEL, WAIKIKI
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1990
7:25 P.M.**

((Thank you. Governor Peter Tali Coleman, Congressman Ben Blaz [blahs], Senator Hiram Fong. Fred Hemmings, Mike Liu [Lee-you], Andy Poepoe [poi-poi], David Kahanu [kaw-haw-new], Andy Anderson, Frank Fasi [fah-see].))

Thank you all, for that warm welcome. Nice to get away from Washington, to warmer climes and cooler heads, to a wonderfully welcoming place -- Hawaii.

You feel the welcome in the warm wind. See it in the eyes of young and old. Sense it even in your State Capitol -- not some dark dome, but a roof open to the sky, the sun, and the stars -- as if to make room for higher aspirations.

And higher aspirations properly belong to a great teacher, a great lady and a great leader among us, someone who cares about this state, and knows how to serve you well in Washington -- Pat Saiki [SY-kee] -- the next Senator from Hawaii.\\\

Pat built her career by beating the odds. Back when the experts said she had no chance, she won her House seat with 60 percent. And next month she's going to make history -- as the first Asian-American woman in the United States Senate. \\\

It was Pat who convinced President Reagan to sign legislation for Japanese-Americans interned during World War II - a reaffirmation of integrity and justice. Pat Saiki has helped make America ever stronger, ever proud. \\\

She's also been a leader in Congress to safeguard Hawaii's precious environment -- protecting marine mammals and seabirds from destructive driftnetting; expanding wildlife refuges and endangered species; working to establish oil-spill strike teams to protect Hawaiian waters. And now she's convinced me that the bombing of Kahoolawe [Kah-- oh-oh --la-vay] should be halted.\\\

Over the years I've seen how Pat moves government forward. Pat knows that leaders are sent to Washington, not to quarrel, but to lead -- that is why America needs the Spirit of Aloha in the United States Senate. \\\

And we need more Republicans like Pat in Congress than ever before. All Americans are asking: "What on earth is wrong with Washington?" And this I want to try to answer that question -- and answer it as far away from Washington as possible.\\\

I've seen many Congresses come and go. And I have never seen a Congress more gridlocked, more paralyzed and ineffective than today's.

Patience and goodwill are American virtues. And the American people have been very patient during the budget negotiations. But their patience is not unlimited. They have a right to feel angry and betrayed. And so do I.

The negotiations were tough because the one party that has ruled Congress for forty years is dedicated to perpetual re-election. And this party, the Democrats, has a bias for solutions of the past -- a bias for red-tape over choice; for the Capitol over community; for bureaucracy over people. When you add all this up, you can see why everything this Congress does is a variation on a theme: tax and spend.

The final budget agreement is a sad example of how the Democratic Congress works -- or doesn't work. For the sake of the nation, we had to reduce the deficit now. We've been spending more than we take in for far too long -- an agreement had to be reached. But I felt strongly about reducing the deficit with a careful balance of spending cuts. The Democrats wanted to slash defense and raise income taxes for all Americans. What we got was a compromise.

I understand why some members of my own party had to go the other way. I didn't have that choice. Under our Constitution, only the President is elected by all the people; only the President represents the nation. Thus, the choice I faced was this agreement, or no agreement.

Of course, there is some good in it. We got \$500 billion in deficit reduction -- including \$300 billion in spending cuts -- the largest cut in history -- a solid victory for our children's future.\\\

We also got Congress to agree to reduce the rate of spending growth with the first five-year curb on spending ever.\\

We put Congress on the pay-as-you-go plan, so Congress will no longer be able to fund programs on promises.\\ And, should the Congressional mood change -- and you can bet it will -- Congress will find that these cuts are already enforced by law - - these spending cuts and spending caps are real.\\

Finally, though deficit-spending was reduced, our agreement held the line against reckless cuts of our Armed Forces. This Administration put a marker down early -- I will never agree to jeopardize America. And now I will not let down our servicemen and women in the Persian Gulf.\\

So all in all, this agreement is unprecedented, long-overdue, absolutely necessary. But I will not join the Congress in a carnival of self-congratulation. After all, we discussed three kinds of proposals: the good, the bad and the ugly. I told you about the good, now let me tell you about the rest. The bad: We had to swallow \$150 billion in taxes, taxes on gasoline and alcohol. But we stopped them from enacting the ugliest proposal -- to raise income taxes on working Americans.

We did even out the system to make it more fair: cutting the tax rate for many, while raising it for the wealthy few. But had this Administration not stood firm, the Democrats in the House of Representatives would have slapped automatic tax increases on working families. The bill they proposed would have raised taxes

on a family of four, with a taxable income of \$34,000, by an additional \$313.50 in income taxes. That's not taxing the rich. That's socking it to the middle-class.\\\

This Democratic Congress was eager to raise taxes, and hoped no one would notice by using this ugly backdoor maneuver.

Well that proposal has now been kicked out the door -- it's history.\\\

But to get an agreement, to keep the Democratic majority that rules Congress at the table, we had to pay a price; and that price was taxes. That is the cost of divided government.

We could have had this agreement in May, in June or in August, any time during the eight months the economy worsened. Congress didn't have to hunt for every last morsel of political opportunity; didn't have to wait until 24 days into the new fiscal year, about eleven days before an election, to act.

But the Democratic majority that controls Congress choked the throttle on a slowing economy -- all in the name of politics and higher taxes. Thirty-seven times in nine years, Congress has had to pass emergency measures to fund the government. This Continuing Resolution makes thirty-eight.

By law, a budget was due April 15. Congress has once again violated its lawful deadlines and given me a late budget; so late, in fact, that we are now at the brink of an economic downturn that could have been avoided. Washington talked for eight months while the economy deteriorated.

In April, when the budget was due, unemployment was 5.4 percent. Unemployment last month was 5.7 percent. In April, when the budget was due, the inflation rate was 1.9 percent. Now it is 9.5 percent. Economic growth, up to the time the budget was due, was 1.7 percent. Economic growth for the second quarter was less than a half a percent. Even after the economy was threatened by higher oil prices from the Persian Gulf crisis, Congress delayed. This Congress was content to stall an agreement and stall the economy, all in the name of politics and higher taxes.\\\

The Democrats talk a lot about "fairness." Well let me tell you what really isn't fair: High interest rates are not fair. Inflation is not fair. And unemployment is not fair. And if you hear a Democratic Member of Congress bemoan a slow economy, ask your legislator why Democrats blocked the people's business for half a year -- again, in the name of politics and higher taxes.

Some of the more self-congratulatory members of the process have compared this budget agreement to the Constitutional Convention. That is ludicrous. How stunted the ambitions of the Capitol seem when compared to those of the Founders; how petty this budget deal seems when compared to Teddy Roosevelt's Square Deal or Harry Truman's Fair Deal; how narrow our goals seem when compared to those of a generation that made home-ownership affordable for millions, built highways across a continent, and sent a man to the Moon.

I believe that a \$1.3 trillion budget gives us ample room to dream again, to advance new ideas to renew our government -- to rethink and restructure our priorities from the ground up. But Congress makes programs in its own image: unresponsive and bureaucratic. And Congress would rather raise taxes than raise the issue of reform. So the problem isn't with the American people and their Dream. It's with an institution that protects its prerogatives, perks and privileges through the naked use of power.

Congress rejects our proposals for campaign finance reform, and to abolish special-interest political action committees. It refuses to clean up the special-interest politics that allows incumbents to feather their nests with special-interest dollars. In short, it protects its own.

And when Congress speaks, it speaks in the language of Alice-in-Wonderland. For example, if a family spends \$100 on groceries one week, and \$110 the next -- you'd consider that a ten-percent increase. But if this Democratic Congress wanted to spend \$120, they'd call a ten-dollar increase a "cut." In other words, to the Congress, up is down.

Of course, there are many Members like Pat who reject the failed tradition of spend and tax. She is a recognized fighter against waste, which is why she was honored with the "Golden Bulldog Award." But the big taxers and big spenders outnumber leaders like Pat, in the Hawaiian delegation and in Congress.

Even in the midst of a crisis, Congress looks for pork-barrel bonanzas. Last Saturday, in the midst of the budget crisis, Congressional conferees on one panel alone pushed through an almost 19 percent increase for pet projects. Even as we voted to cut Medicare, they also voted to spend half a million dollars to create a Lawrence Welk tourist attraction. ((Other examples available.))

I say it's time we stopped spending and running up big deficits. The American people are watching -- and learning. They see that when their Congress asks them to tighten their belts, it always loosens its own. Never have I felt more strongly about the line-item veto. Never has the country needed a balanced budget amendment more than now. Never again should the people and their president be presented with such waste.\\\

We have a sacred obligation not to squander the generosity and compassion of the American people. There is so much we could achieve if we could reform Washington, to make it empower people, not bureaucracies; to work with them to fulfill their potential at home and be competitive around the world.

In education, we want reform -- to empower parents to choose their children's schools. In child care, we want reform -- to empower parents to choose who will watch over their children. In the most desolate inner cities, we want reform -- so we strive to create zones of opportunity, to remove barriers to mobility and success, to empower people with the spirit of enterprise.

But this Congress that can't stomach reform, can proclaim "National Digestive Disease Awareness Month." This Congress that won't pass our tough crime bill, can proclaim "National Crime Prevention Month." And this Congress held up education reform for over a year. But at least they passed a proclamation declaring "The Decade of the Brain." \\\

In short, this is a Congress that would rather issue feel-good proclamations, than address problems. This Democratic Congress is all sound and fury, signifying nothing. Make no mistake -- this Congress itself has become the biggest, most entrenched special interest of our time.\\\ And the House intended to be closest to the people has become a House of Lords.\\\

So if the status quo is stagnant, then America needs a change. America needs a Better Deal.\\\

America needs a Republican Congress that will balance the budget by cutting spending -- not a Democratic Congress that tries to raise the income-taxes of the middle-class.

America needs a Republican Congress that will pass our tough crime bill -- not a Democratic Congress that tries to weaken the law and gut the death penalty.

America needs a Republican Congress that will end the influence of special interests and eliminate PAC money -- not a Democratic Congress that wants the taxpayers to join the lobbyists in paying for their re-election. In short, America

needs a Republican Congress dedicated to the **national** interest, not the **special interests**.

We need a Better Deal because this is a Congress wedded to Washington solutions. We have seen it become a perpetual Congress that expects to rule for eternity. Ninety-eight percent of all incumbents who seek re-election are re-elected. They are re-elected because they use -- or abuse -- all the powers of incumbency, from free mail to pork-barrel spending.

In 1959, Congress was served by 5,800 staff members. Today it is served by almost 20,000 staff members -- a 212 percent increase. **Congress is a chaos of committees, a confusion of command, an anarchy of egos.**

But it doesn't have to be this way. Everyone says Congress is the problem -- but not my Representative, not my Senator. But the only way to make an institution accountable is to make its Members accountable. **The only way to send a message to Washington is to elect a Republican majority. The only way to send a message to Washington is not to send the Democrats back.**

The American voter can return power to communities from bureaucracies. We can do this by electing a reform Congress; and we can begin thirteen days from today. This next election will be a small step. But it will be the start of a momentum that will build, and build, in the elections ahead.

In the remaining weeks of this campaign season, and for the rest of my presidency, I will take a message to the people:
America doesn't need a House of Lords.\\\ America needs a new responsible Congress.\\\ America needs a Congress that will work with the President for the good of all.\\\ America needs a Better Deal.

Harry Truman reminded us that only a President represents all the people, can stand for the national interest, and stand against the special interests.

We have extended a hand, worked for a bipartisan solution, tried our hardest -- only to have a parade of liberal Democrats march to the Well of the House to blame us for their failures. Our goodwill has been rewarded with sarcasm and swearing. Well I've had enough.\\\

I am going from Honolulu to Boston, to take my case to the American people, to challenge them to take charge of their destiny. Let us start here, let us get out the vote -- from Hilo on the Big Island, to the slopes of Haleakala [huh-LAY-uh-kala], to the bustling streets and communities of Oahu. Get the people to the polls -- send Pat Saiki to the U.S. Senate -- and give America a fresh start for reform and a better future.\\\

Mahalo [ma-HAH-lo] -- and may God bless the beautiful state of Hawaii.

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Mahalo [ma-HAH-lo] -- and may God bless the beautiful state of Hawaii.

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