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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: 13557
Folder ID Number: 13557-007

Folder Title:
Opportunity Action Plan 2/27/91 [OA 6029]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	6	7

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 2/25

TO: *May Kate*

FROM: **RICHARD W. PORTER**
Special Assistant to the President
and Executive Secretary to the
Domestic Policy Council

A few thoughts on your speech -
Right now it suffers from laundry-listitis,
in part (I think) because we may no longer
use the "e-word" as a theme -

A solution to this problem is to
build on Kemp's theme that it is time to
move to a new level in the civil
rights debate. ~~Anti~~ Anti-discrimination laws
are important, but there is more to civil
rights than that. Americans believe opportunity,
a good education, a job - we believe those
are civil rights.

A theme of - Opportunity is a civil right -
opens the door to a more aggressive discussion
of the anti-discrimination laws. Don't call them
civil rights laws either - call them anti-discrimination laws.
(over)

I would also move up the discussion of ~~anti-discrimination~~ "technical changes to" the anti-discrimination laws" to the middle, so the speech doesn't end on a downer.

I think education should be a bit shorter - it dominates the speech, use the saved space to expand page 6.

Another thought on the theme - you speak of modern visionaries at page 2. You could then reshape the next few paragraphs to set out the President's vision (the theme of the speech).

Do you want to draw on the ~~200~~ bicentennial of the bill of rights?

I thought Weinstein's reference to Tocqueville creating a new word - individualism to describe Americans was good. Any use for that here?

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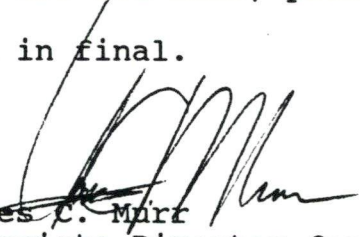
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

91 FEB 25 P3:17

NOTICE:

Enclosed are comments from staff members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such comments do not necessarily represent the official position of the Director of OMB or of the Office of Management and Budget. If you wish to have the Director's personal comments, please let me know -- and contact me if you have any questions.

If our proposed substantive changes are not made, please let us know before the material is prepared in final.


James C. Murr
Associate Director for
Legislative Reference
and Administration

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/22/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, MONDAY, FEB. 25

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	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"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, by NOON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comments

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 FEB 22 PM 12:22

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
PLACE? TIME?**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction.
(other acknowledgements) ... It's hard to believe a year has
passed since the day I issued a set of challenges to the members
of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization,
tap your power and transform a nation through community service.
[More to come]))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces,
so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
man and woman here this morning believes in the power of the
individual, and is bolstered by the notion that America is indeed
the land of opportunity. For 200 years, America has been the
home of democracy, the birthplace of free markets and free
people. There is no question: opportunity in America is the envy
of the world.

From its start, the story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
document in modern history -- our Bill of Rights. Abraham
Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage
movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The
founders of our public schools unleashed the potential of an
educated citizenry by introducing universal free education. And

by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is ~~the~~ story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright Brothers and Jesse Owens. *Marlin*

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our history books. There are just as many "new American heroes" today, many of them in this room. What they share with those who went before is pride, and integrity, and faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what makes America the world's great citadel of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

Theirs is a movement 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our own future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a place to call one's own,

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home and on the job and in the neighborhood.

But for some, America has not yet fulfilled its destiny as a land of opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

The Administration's Education ^{Excellence} ~~bill~~ ^{proposal} puts this kind of ~~choice~~ ^{States} ~~to~~ ^{and school districts} ~~to~~ ^{to} in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen choice and competition improve education -- from Minneapolis to East Harlem. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- and highly

Note [no bill until some weeks after Alexander is confirmed]

Scully
+5178

(Note: the Governor reference is essential as is the reference to groups outside the Education bureaucracy)

competitive. It's time all Americans become consumers and demand choice in education.

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school system. We're encouraging ^{Governors} ~~from inside and outside the school system~~ teachers, parents and administrators ^{to} ~~to~~ work together to meet the needs of all students, -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must ^{raise the quality of our education system for all our students} ~~cut the~~ dropout rate -- by ensuring that every kid in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

Bad example
There is nothing now like what this bill seeks)

Flet has nothing to do with dropout rate (per se.)

For quite some time now, the Administration has been calling for nothing short of the ^{total reformation} restructuring of American education. ^{so that it becomes the best in the world} I am personally committed to working with Governors to make ~~Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market-oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.~~

Martin 4/8/84

Martin

Note: The white population is growing but not as fast as minorities

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to ^{fast-}growing populations -- Blacks and Hispanics -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

8 Million New jobs will be added between 1988 and 2000, according to BLS. See attached.

Martin 4/8/84

* Note: "Janitors" are the 3rd largest job growth occupation between 1988 and 2000!

Notes: Do not establish via this speech a set of "principles" that are not part of the President's program yet. 2/3 of the Excellence Act is yet to be written. Charlottesville did not set goals.

-- will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education takes place in classrooms that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. Children cannot learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home alone after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. The weapons are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. Americans

Query:
the
night school
rhetoric is
very nice,
but is
there any
data to
support
this?

scully
45178

Martin
45178

seeking funding for
Shelter Plus Care

can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean starting up small businesses in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on seed capital. ~~That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work.~~ And it means allowing people to take home more of their pay. Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. //

ARE WE PROPOSING CHANGES TO WELFARE SYSTEM TO REMOVE EXISTING DISINCENTIVES TO WORK? IF WE AREN'T DO WE WANT TO SAY THIS?
B. white
x 4532

Selfridgell
x 6150

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, to many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering incentives for public housing residents to move out -- and move up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American Dream. // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. This will ^{help} bring ~~us closer to our goal of one million new homeowners by 1992.~~ ~~expand homeownership opportunity especially for low income~~ and ~~first time home buyers.~~

Ryder
x 4516

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, ~~that looks out for each other.~~ ^{for individuals and families who} Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level. Our

Martin
x 4864

proposing to enable communities to

Martin
x 4864

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

But the sixties are over. And so is the civil rights debate. That debate has been won -- won by those who decided Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.

*Martin
Feb 86*

I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or got a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul the will to live one more day.

Opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

#



Industry output and employment: a slower trend for the nineties

*Of the 18 million new jobs expected by 2000,
the service-producing sector will dominate,
with about half added to retail trade,
health services, and business services*

Valerie A. Personick

The U.S. economy is projected to add another 18 million jobs by the year 2000, an average of 1.5 million per year from 1988. This rate of growth is slower than in the past, when annual job gains averaged 2.3 million over a comparable 12-year period. Slower growth is directly tied to the expectation of less labor force expansion over the next decade.

The 18 million new jobs are expected to be added primarily in the service-producing sector. In contrast, manufacturing employment is projected to shrink slightly, from 19.4 million in 1988 to 19.1 million at the turn of the century. Among the service-sector leaders, retail trade is expected to add 3.8 million jobs; private health services, 3.0 million; and business services, 2.7 million. Government employment, especially in public schools and in State and local safety and general government functions, is also projected to add about 1.6 million new jobs. Despite these gains, the rate of growth for all these divisions from 1988 to 2000 is much slower than that between 1976 and 1988.

Total job growth averaged 2.3 percent a year from 1976 to 1988, but is only expected to average 1.2 percent annually through 2000. Job growth parallels the projected growth in the labor force. Details are in the article by Howard N Fullerton on pp. 3-12, but in broad terms, a slowdown in labor force growth projected for

the nineties is a continuation of a trend that started in the late 1970's, as the baby-boom generation became fully absorbed into the labor force. Coupled with the smaller numbers of new, young workers during the next decade is the expectation of a slowdown in the rate of increase of female labor force participation.

Assumptions about the overall level of economic activity, which are also key factors underlying the industry output and employment projections, are in the article by Norman C. Saunders on pp. 13-24. Economic growth, as measured by real gross national product, is projected to average 2.3 percent a year between 1988 and 2000, and the unemployment rate is projected to be 5.5 percent. Strong gains are especially projected for exports, leading to strength in the manufacturing sector.

Three alternative scenarios were projected for 2000: a base, or moderate case; a low-growth alternative; and a high-growth alternative. The data discussed in this article pertain mainly to the moderate case scenario, with a section at the end describing the low and high projections.

Employment in major industries

Total employment is projected to rise from 118 million in 1988 to 136 million by the turn of the century. (See table 1.) Most of these jobs, 122

Valerie A. Personick is an economist in the Office of Employment Projections, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
February 25, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Opportunity Action Plan
February 27, 1991

I have made several suggestions on the attached draft remarks circulated for the President's opportunity speech on Wednesday. They are all designed to be helpful and to strengthen the message of opportunity we are seeking to convey.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/22/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, MONDAY, FEB. 25

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RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 FEB 22 PM 12: 22

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A: CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
PLACE? TIME?**

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(other acknowledgements) ... It's hard to believe a year has
passed since the day I issued a set of challenges to the members
of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization,
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[More to come]))

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so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
man and woman here this morning believes in the power of the
individual, and is bolstered by the notion that America is indeed
the land of opportunity. For ^{MORE THAN} 200 years, America has been the
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people. There is no question: opportunity in America is the envy
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From its start, the story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
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Lincoln broke ~~forever~~ the chains of human slavery. The suffrage
movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The
founders of our public schools unleashed the potential of an
educated citizenry by introducing universal ^{free} education. And

by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright Brothers and Jesse Owens.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our ^{PAST} ~~history~~ books. There are ^{MORE} ~~just as many~~ "new American heroes" today, many of them in this room. What they share with those who went before is pride, and integrity, and faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what makes America the world's great citadel of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

There is a movement 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our ^{own} ~~own~~ future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a place to call one's own,

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home and on the job and in the neighborhood.

But for some, America has not yet fulfilled its ^{PROMISE} ~~destiny~~ as a land of opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

The Administration's Education ^{PROPOSALS} ~~bill~~ puts this kind of choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen choice and competition improve education -- from ^{MILWAUKEE} ~~Minneapolis~~ to East Harlem. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- ^{CREATIVE, INNOVATIVE} and highly

competitive. It's time all Americans become consumers and demand ^{HAVE} choice in ~~education~~ ^{ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY} ~~education~~ throughout our entire education system.

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school system. ^S We're encouraging teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must ^{ALSO} ~~cut~~ the dropout rate -- by ensuring that every ^{STUDENT} ~~kid~~ in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For ~~quite~~ ^{some} some time now, the Administration has ^{CAUSED} ~~been calling~~ for ~~nothing short of~~ the restructuring of American education. ~~Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts; to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are:~~ high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market-oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to growing populations -- blacks and hispanics -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

-- will go to the ones who have ^{THE SKILLS AND TOOLS} ~~what~~ it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education ^{NEEDS} ~~takes place in~~ classrooms that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. ^{IT IS DIFFICULT FOR} Children ~~cannot~~ learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home alone after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. ^{WHAT IS NEEDED} ~~The weapons~~ are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. Americans

can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe. //

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean starting up small businesses in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on seed capital. ~~[That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work.]~~ And it means allowing people to take home more of their pay. Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. //

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, to many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering incentives for public housing residents to move out -- and move up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American Dream. // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. This will bring us closer to our goal of one million new homeowners by 1992.

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're *proposing to allow communities to* restructuring programs to broaden *opportunity* ~~choice~~ at the local level. Our

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

But the sixties are over. And so is the civil rights debate. That debate has been won -- won by those who decided Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // ^{AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT} There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.

of 1990. //

I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or got a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul the will to live one more day.

Opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our
moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill
America's ^{PROMISE} destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the
United States of America. Thank you very much.

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91 FEB 25 P12: 32

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



February 25, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: C. BOYDEN GRAY *cmh*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Opportunity Action Plan -
February 27, 1991

At the request of Phillip D. Brady, I have reviewed the captioned draft remarks. I suggest the following changes:

(1) At the top of page 4, delete the sentence that reads "It's time all Americans become consumers and demand choice in education." Insert in place of that sentence the following new sentence:

It's time our primary and secondary schools also become the finest in the world.

(2) At the end of the first full paragraph on page 4 (after "and graduates ready to work."), insert the following new sentence:

And there are dramatic examples showing that this can be done.

(3) Replace the paragraphs about civil rights on page 7 with the following new paragraphs:

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Bigotry and discrimination still exist. But the debate is over. We have a broad and deep consensus that totally rejects the repugnant practices of the past. We have powerful legal tools for eliminating discrimination, and my Administration is enforcing our civil rights laws with vigor.

I am also committed to refining our laws where improvement is called for. We will soon introduce legislation featuring strong new remedies for ~~racial~~ and

1

*Partman
re: women to protect women
from sexual harassment
and minorities from
racial prejudice.*

*Porter
lawsuits*

sexual harassment in the workplace, and I call on the Congress to act promptly on this important initiative.

But it's also time to move on the real issues of economic opportunity. As vital as our civil rights laws are, lawyers do not hold the keys to opportunity. Lawyers don't create productive jobs. Or educate and train our people to fill those jobs. Or rebuild devastated neighborhoods. We have plenty of lawyers and too many lawsuits now.

Opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. . . .

I appreciate having had the opportunity to review these draft remarks.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

31 FEB 26 1991

DATE: 2/26/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ADDRESS TO ASAE ON THE OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN

	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 checked="" 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"/>
BRADY	<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"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PETERSMEYER</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

91 FEB 25 PM 9:14

February 25, 1991

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*
SUBJECT: ADDRESS TO ASAE ON THE OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN

I. SUMMARY

On Wednesday, February 27, at 11:00 a.m. you will make remarks to the American Society of Association Executives. The event will be held at the J.W. Marriott and approximately 500 guests are expected. Your remarks are about 15 minutes in length and will be TelePrompted.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks unveil the Administration's agenda for expanding opportunity and choice for all Americans. You will propose six major initiatives: restoring quality education; ensuring crime-free neighborhoods; strengthening civil and legal rights; creating jobs and new businesses; expanding access to homeownership; and allowing localities a greater share of responsibility.

Grant/Cawley
February 25, 1991
8 p.m. A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
11:00 A.M.**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction. Attorney General Thornburgh and Secretaries Kemp, Sullivan and Martin; our nominee for Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander; and of course, Bob Woodson of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise [others] ... It's hard to believe a year has passed since the day I challenged the members of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization, and transform a nation through community service. What a terrific job you've done.))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces, so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every man and woman here believes in the power of the individual, and is bolstered by the conviction that America is indeed a land of opportunity. For more than 200 years, America has been the home of free markets and free people. There is no question: **opportunity in America is the envy of the world.**

The story of America has been the story of opportunity. Throughout our history, we have pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound document in modern history -- our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Abraham Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The founders of our

promise of democracy a reality for women. The founders of our public schools unleashed our national potential through universal education. And by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright brothers and Rosa Parks.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our past. There are the "new American heroes" of today, many of them in this room. They, too, are inspired by pride, integrity, faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's made America the world's great beacon of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century.

Theirs is a movement more than 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind" and what I call "the American idea." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a vision driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

I share that vision -- for what is the American Dream, if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the

blessings of good health, having a home to call one's own, raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home, on the job, and in the neighborhood.

But for others, America has not yet fulfilled its promise of opportunity. We know who they are: they are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell any American for whom hope lies dormant: we will not forget you. // We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. // Yes, we must offer them hope. But we must guarantee them opportunity. //

It's been said, "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill, and with it, independence. Earning a living, with dignity and personal growth. More skills mean more freedom -- more options for even greater opportunity.

Today, our Administration is proposing an agenda to expand opportunity and choice for all Americans. It involves more than six major initiatives across the scope of our entire government: restoring quality education; ensuring crime-free neighborhoods; strengthening civil and legal rights for all; creating jobs and new businesses; expanding access to homeownership; and allowing localities a greater share of responsibility. In its entirety, I

believe it represents one of the most far-reaching efforts in decades to unleash the talents of every citizen in America.

In a few weeks, I will have legislation to enact this agenda on the desk of every Congressman. The Administration's Educational Excellence proposals, for example, will put choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- creative, innovative, and highly competitive. From the G.I. Bill to Pell Grants, college students already have the power to choose. Now it's time our education system -- all of it -- became the finest in the world. //

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school systems. We've seen what education reform can do -- from East L.A. to East Harlem. We're encouraging Governors to bring together teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students. We must cut the dropout rate -- and ensure that every student in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For some time now, the Administration has called for the restructuring of American education. We've got to raise our expectations for our students and our schools. But if we're going to ask more of them, it wouldn't be fair to tie the hands of the teachers and principals -- particularly those who make a difference. We need responsive schools -- customer-driven ones, if you will. Schools that are more market-oriented, and

performance-based -- because it's time we recognize that competition can spur excellence in our schools. Choice is the catalyst for change, the fundamental reform that drives forward all the others. These are the ideas will steer us toward meeting the national education goals the Governors and I set after the Education Summit -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates will be xx jobs in xx years. To fill those jobs, entrepreneurs will look increasingly to America's minorities -- Blacks, Hispanics and Asians -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. The majority of those xx million jobs are safer, cleaner, higher-skilled, better-paying jobs. And they will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education takes place in a safe, drug-free learning environment. It is difficult for children to learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because of the danger that darkness brings, especially in crime-ridden neighborhoods.

Low-income Americans are the ones more likely to be intimidated by crime and less likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families

from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. Our tactics: mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and surely. And a prison system that is up to the job. **Americans can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.//**

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Bigotry and discrimination still exist. We have powerful legal tools for eliminating discrimination, and I am determined to **continue vigorous enforcement of our civil rights laws. //**

I am committed to refining our laws where they need improvement. We will soon introduce legislation with strong new remedies to protect women from sexual harassment and minorities from racial prejudice in the workplace, and I call on the Congress to act promptly on this important initiative.

Let's remember, the legal guarantees of equality of opportunity are largely in place: Brown vs. the Board of

Education. // The Civil Rights Act of 1964. // The Voting Rights Act of 1965. // The Fair Housing Acts of 1968 and 1988. // The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. //

Further legislation that creates a lawyer's bonanza helps no one. [[Now, I know a lot of lawyers ... Some of my best friends are lawyers.]] // But we all know where opportunity really begins. It begins with a job. //

For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean attracting the seed capital for new small businesses and new entrepreneurs in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on businesses in these areas. We're providing new incentives for employers to hire more workers. Our proposals mean economic growth, more minority entrepreneurs and most importantly, jobs. //

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, for many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering public housing residents access to homeownership and private property -- to gain a stake in their communities. We've asked Congress to provide much-needed funding for the HOPE program in 1991, to make this opportunity a reality in our inner cities this year. And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. These initiatives will bring us closer to our goal of one million new homeowners by 1992.

You know, there's something reassuring about becoming part of a neighborhood -- a community that pulls together in times of

crisis, that looks out for one another. Each community in America is different, and its residents know best how to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're proposing to allow communities to restructure opportunity at the local level.

Our strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future. This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. Every man and woman in this room shares its vision. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's promise as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

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Grant/Cawley
 February 25, 1991
 5 p.m. A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
 FEBRUARY 27, 1991
 J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
 11:00 A.M.**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction.
 Attorney General Thornburgh and Secretary ^{iea} Kemp } ~~thanks so much~~ ✓
~~for your hard work on this issue;~~ } ~~Secretaries~~ } Sullivan and ✓
 Martin; our nominee for Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander;
 and of course, Bob Woodson of the Center for Neighborhood ✓
 Enterprise. ^[others] ... It's hard to believe a year has passed since the ✓
 day I challenged the members of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous
 energy of this organization, ~~[tap your power]~~ and transform a ✓
 nation through community service. ~~[More to come]~~)) ✓

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces,
 so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
 man and woman here believes in the power of the individual, and
 is bolstered by the conviction that America is indeed a land of
opportunity. For more than 200 years, America has been the home
 of ~~[democracy, the birthplace of]~~ ^{the} free markets ^{sket} and free people. ✓
 There is no question: **opportunity in America is the envy of the**
world.

~~[From its start]~~ the story of America has been the story of ✓
opportunity. Throughout our history, ^{we} ~~[men and women]~~ have
 pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
 Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
 document in modern history -- our Constitution and Bill of

Rights. Abraham Lincoln broke the chains of human slavery. The suffrage movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The founders of our public schools unleashed ^{our} ~~the~~ ^{national} potential ~~[of an educated citizenry by introducing]~~ ^{through} universal education. And by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright brothers and Rosa Parks.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our past. There are ~~(more)~~ ^{the} "new American heroes" ^{of} today, many of them in this room. ~~[What they share with those who went before is]~~ ^{you} ^{They, too, are inspired by} pride, integrity, faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's ^{made} ~~what~~ ~~makes~~ America the world's great beacon of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. ~~[examples to come].~~

Theirs is a movement more than 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind" and what I call "the American idea." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a vision driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

I share that vision -- ~~for it is~~ ^{for what is the American Dream, if it ~~isn't~~ isn't} wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? ^{> If it is n't} It is creating a better life

for our children than we might have had. ^{It is not} ~~It is~~ the freedom to take command of our future.

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a home to call one's own, raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home, on the job and in the neighborhood.

But for ^{others} ~~some~~, America has not yet fulfilled its promise ~~(as a land of)~~ opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. ~~[The destitute and the desperate.]~~ The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell ^{any American} ~~you that~~ we will not forget these Americans ^{you.} ~~for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a fact of life.~~

We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. ^{yes,} We must offer them hope. We must ^{But} guarantee them opportunity. ^{MI}

^{It's been} ~~Some~~ have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill, and with it, independence. Earning a living, and with ~~it~~ ^{freedom} dignity and personal growth. More skills mean more ~~choices~~ ^{choices}. -- More options for even greater opportunity.

Today, our Administration is proposing an agenda to expand opportunity and ^{step} ~~choice~~ for all Americans. It involves more than

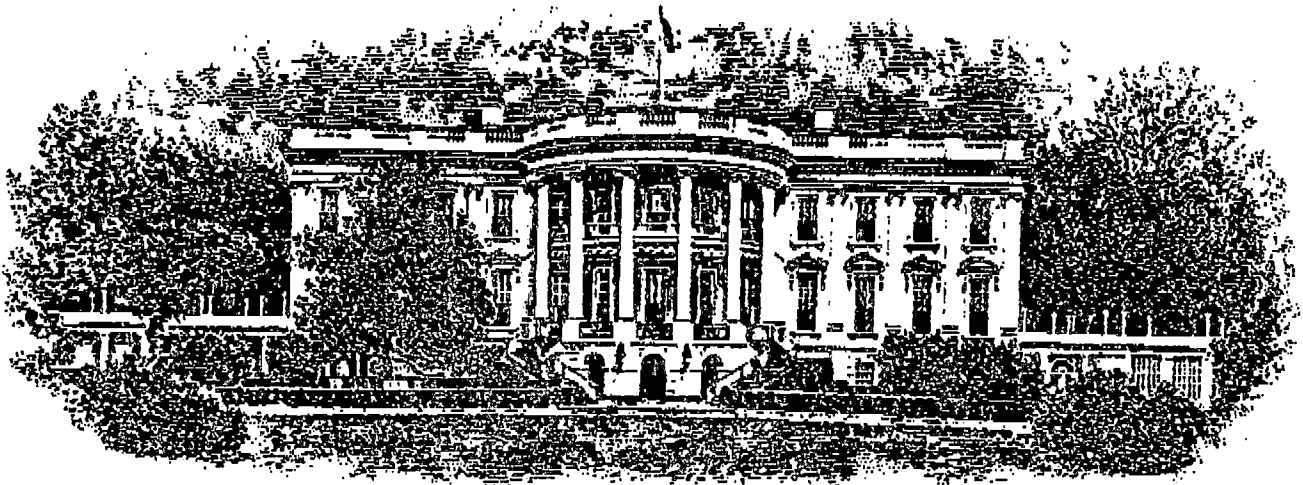
six major initiatives across the scope of our entire government:
 restoring quality education; ^{ensuring} creating crime-free neighborhoods; ✓
 creating jobs and ^{new businesses} enterprise; expanding access to homeownership; and ✓
 allowing localities a greater share of responsibility; and ✓
 strengthening civil and legal rights for all.) ✓

In its entirety, I believe it represents one of the most far-reaching efforts in decades to unleash the talents of every citizen ^{in America.} (through free enterprise capitalism). [It holds out the promise of turning government programs into a platform for dignity, choice and self-sufficiency -- rather than dependency and despair.] ✓

^{enact this agenda}
 In a few weeks, I will have legislation to ~~implement these~~ ^{enact} ~~efforts~~ ^{these} items on the desk of every Congressman. The Administration's Educational Excellence proposals, for example, will put choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. ^{educator} [We've seen ^{what reform can do -} choice and competition improve education -- from ^{East L.A.} Milwaukee to East Harlem.] Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- creative, innovative, and highly competitive. From the G.I. Bill to Pell Grants, ^{college} students ^{already} have the power to choose. ^{Now it's time for our education} [It's time all Americans become consumers and have choice throughout our entire education system.] ¹¹ ^{More Insert I}

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school systems. ^{Insert I} We're encouraging Governors to bring together teachers, parents and administrators ~~(from inside and outside the school system)~~ to work together to

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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TO M. K. _____

FAX NUMBER _____

COMMENTS _____

FROM Nancy _____

* DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS *

OFFICE NUMBER _____

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2-25-91 ; 6:36PM ;

SENT BY: THE WHITE HOUSE

countries which restrict emigration. The President made this decision:

- based on the liberalization of Soviet emigration policy in recent years by which an estimated 360,000 people will emigrate in 1990;
- after receiving assurances that this policy will continue, and
- to make food available to the Soviet Union in the form of up to \$1 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) credit guarantees for the purchase of U.S. agricultural products.

The President's waiver will be valid until at least July 1991, at which time he will need to determine whether to extend the waiver.

While the President has taken this action on Jackson-Vanik, he does not plan at this time to send the U.S.-Soviet trade agreement, signed during the Washington summit in June 1990, to the Congress. Only when the trade agreement is approved by Congress and takes effect could the Soviet Union receive most-favored-nation trading status.

The immediate effect of the President's action is to make the Soviet Union eligible for export credit guarantees under the CCC General Sales Manager program for the purchase of American agricultural products. This form of food assistance responds to Soviet requests for credit guarantees and will help the Soviet authorities address current food shortages. The waiver will also restore Soviet eligibility for Export-Import Bank credits and credit guarantees. However, the Stevenson amendment to the Ex-Im Bank Act and the Byrd Amendment to the 1974 Trade Act limit credits and guarantees to \$300 million, with a subceiling of \$40 million and other restrictions on Ex-Im Bank credits or guarantees in support of the fossil fuel industry.

In accordance with the requirements of Jackson-Vanik, before formally executing a waiver the President will report to Congress his determination that a waiver will substantially promote its freedom of emigration objectives in the Soviet Union. This report will also state that he has received

the required assurances on Soviet emigration practices.

White House Fact Sheet on the Medical Assistance Program for the Soviet Union
December 12, 1990

The President has decided to establish a mixed public-private medical assistance effort to help the Soviet Union deal with acute, immediate shortages of pharmaceutical and basic medical supplies. The effort would rely on private voluntary organizations, with U.S. Government support, to provide and distribute medicines and medical supplies within the Soviet Union. At least initially, these medicines and supplies would be donated by U.S. firms.

A U.S. task force, with representatives from the U.S. Government and private voluntary organizations, will be set up to coordinate and facilitate the overall relief effort.

- The Agency for International Development (AID) will contact private voluntary organizations and pharmaceutical firms to solicit donations. AID will provide financial assistance to participating private voluntary organizations.
- U.S. private voluntary organizations will organize, deliver, and distribute privately donated medical and pharmaceutical supplies in the Soviet Union.
- The U.S. Embassy in Moscow, working with Soviet authorities in the central government and at the republic and city level, and with U.S. private voluntary organizations already in the Soviet Union, will work to identify specific needs and medical assistance priorities.

The magnitude of the program and the specific materials to be provided will depend on both this detailed assessment of needs and the extent of private interest in this effort.

Ideally, U.S. assistance will be targeted at specific groups in the population needing medical supplies (e.g., disposable syringes

for infants, insulin for diabetics, drugs for those with leukemia, etc.).

White House Fact Sheet on Technical Assistance in Food Distribution and Marketing for the Soviet Union
December 12, 1990

The United States is prepared to send to the Soviet Union this month a team of private and public sector experts in the field of food distribution and marketing. The team's mission will be to assess the problems of food distribution, and provide technical assistance to central, republic, and local authorities in the Soviet Union.

The team will identify ways to strengthen and support market forces in the Soviet Union's food marketing system, consider alternatives to assist vulnerable populations, and recommend measures to improve the availability of food to the Soviet people.

The team will include experts from the U.S. private sector, universities, private voluntary organizations, and the U.S. Government. Team members will work closely with Soviet Government officials, as well as officials of the republic governments.

Excerpt of the White House Fact Sheet on the Soviet Union and International Financial Institutions
December 12, 1990

The President has proposed a special association of the Soviet Union with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank that will give Moscow access to the economic and financial expertise in those institutions. He has asked Secretary of the Treasury Brady, as U.S. Governor of the IMF and World Bank, to pursue this proposal with the institutions and other countries and to develop with them the necessary new arrangements.

We believe it is best for the Soviet Union to establish such a relationship with these institutions before addressing the issue of full membership.

Remarks at the Jobs for America's Graduates Awards Ceremony
December 12, 1990

Thank you, Governor McKernan, for those very kind words. And let me also thank you, given all you have on your plate, for your responsibilities and services—chairman. I also want to single out just a few here. I noticed you commented on the former Governor, now Senator, Chuck Robb's participation—chairman now, to those who don't know this, of the executive committee of Jobs for America's Graduates; Ken Smith, who—for the president; Julie Nixon Eisenhower, who's done an awful lot to make this day possible through her commitment.

And, of course, I want to salute the others that are with us: Governor Wilder of Virginia and Governor Castle is here from Delaware; Governor Stephens of Montana. And then Kit Bond, a former Governor [of Missouri], I understand is with us; and there he is over here. And then especially to salute Pete Du Pont, the former Governor of Delaware, who really presided over the genesis and really with a stimulating word and thought behind all of this. And I'm delighted to be with all of you distinguished people who have made such a contribution.

Also, I saw earlier Bill Brock, a former Senator, and I know of his interest in all of this, too. And I want to congratulate those Governors not here; it all adds up to a total of 19 Governors being honored here today. And then again, I see a lot of those in town who do the heavy lifting when it comes to supporting all these worthy causes. And I want to thank each and every one of you and your foundations and your companies for seeing the light and getting out front on this important one.

My own interest, as Jock says, dates back to the very beginning—not really the beginning because Pete gets the credit for that—but back to my time on the board of directors, when the JAG—Jobs for America's Graduates—was nothing more than this idea with plenty of promise. And that's why it is with special pride that I meet with all of you, the ones, literally, who have taken the idea and put it into action with, I think, spectacular results.

One of my great pleasures as President is to shine the spotlight on the success stories. Barbara calls it being a cheerleader. Well, she's darn good at it, too, I might add. But I think we are advantaged in having this special forum from which we can point out to the country the great successes that are taking place. And certainly today, JAG—Jobs for America's Graduates—deserves to be center stage. This organization has enjoyed lasting support from State officials, Governors, and from the business community. And it's all for one simple reason: It works; JAG works.

Take a look at the statistics: 92 percent of the young people in this program were able to complete their high school diploma or their CED last year—92 percent. And it doesn't stop there. That's what Pete impressed on me and Jock has reimpressed on me. The program assists these new graduates during that critical school-to-work transition. Eighty-three percent of the young people participating made a successful transition into the working world, the armed services, or on to their next level of education. And JAG accomplished all this at half the average cost of other youth employment programs.

You've been especially effective, I'd say, in the inner cities. Kids from low-income households, whose plans for the future don't include college and may not even include finishing high school—JAG takes aim at these at-risk kids; the ones who, without the right help, without the right encouragement, might find themselves out of school, on their own, no hope, no prospects, without a future, if you will. JAG catches these kids before they drop through the cracks—20,000 last year alone.

And since I know a little about this organization, I know that you're not resting on your laurels. I'm especially pleased that, with what Jock said here, that JAG has joined this nationwide Points of Light movement with today's announcement that each participant will be expected to engage in community service activities. JAG's been especially effective—I said the urban area—also in the urban schools. And I urge you to extend this inner-city outreach, expand this proven program to as many cities and schools as possible. It's my hope that, before long, there will be a Jobs for America's

Graduates program in every State in this country because as great as it is to see these award winners here today—and I met with them upstairs—there's a place in this room for all 50 Governors to be here. And it's no surprise to me that this success is taking place then at the State and local level.

Last fall, as the Governors and I forged our historic partnership at the education summit, we recognized that excellence in education required an effort that was not Federal but national, one that brought all levels of government together in common cause to improve America's schools. We've got to follow through on those goals.

I might say parenthetically just a word about a very new development. This morning, Secretary Cavazos, the Secretary of Education, my dear friend, resigned as Secretary. And I think of the contribution he made to establishing these national schools. And I think the country will always be very, very grateful to him for his service to country.

Since then, since that get-together, we've made real progress. A set of six national goals are now in place, as is this target date still in place for the year 2000. Efforts to expand flexibility and also accountability in education are underway. These efforts are underway. And at that summit, as Jock well knows—Governor McKernan—the Governors also committed to undertake a major, State-by-State effort to restructure the education system.

And I want to turn now to this challenge, the need for a reform effort that results in nothing less than the restructuring of American education. The people in this room are critical to this reform effort: corporate leaders, who know education is the key to competitiveness; Governors, from Maine to California, along with top education officials from each State; teachers and principals, whose daily dedication and commitment will mold tomorrow's citizens; and finally, students, young people, for whom the word education means hope and happiness, opportunity, and achievement.

Let me explain to all of you about what I mean, just briefly, about restructuring our schools. I'll limit myself to the broad principles, because the last thing we need if we want real restructuring is a set of prescrip-

tions, a bureaucratic blueprint from on-high Washington, mandating the States.

One of the keys to this approach is empowering people, not the bureaucracies. And central to empowerment is this concept of choice—empowering parents to decide which school is best for their children. Choice, you see, is the catalyst for change, the fundamental reform that drives forward all the others.

Let me lay out five principles that should guide our efforts to restructure our schools, principles that empower parents, expand choice, and encourage excellence in education: high expectations, decentralized authority, schools that are responsive, market-oriented, and performance-tested.

Take the first: high expectations. We've got to raise our sights, for our students, for our schools. We've seen the statistics. American kids already rank too low compared to our chief industrial competitors. America can't settle for a C average if we really mean to compete and get ahead. America's schools must, and will, aspire to world-class standards.

Secondly, we've got to decentralize authority. It wouldn't be fair to raise expectations, to ask more of our schools and our students, if we be the hands of the teachers and the principals, particularly those who make the difference. After all, the secret to our schools' success isn't the size of the bureaucracy. We succeed or fail one student at a time. And the secret is the principal who commands respect and cares deeply about each and every kid who walks into that school, and that special teacher who starts with the same tests and books and blackboard and then makes learning come alive. For years, we've stifled our schools with requirements and redtape. Let's give our schools something teachers and principals don't have enough of: authority. And then let's hold them accountable for the results.

Third, we need responsive schools, customer-driven if you will, schools that involve and engage students and their parents—the real experts on what's best for their kids. That's central to the concept of choice. Everywhere choice has been tried, choice has worked, in large part because it has brought parents into the process, into that whole process of shaping their kids

education. We need schools that are open to the input from the business community, real-world institutions that can work with our schools to educate the kind of employees they'll need tomorrow. If we want schools that work we've got to realize that there isn't any centralized monopoly on wisdom.

Fourth, restructuring means making our schools more market-oriented. We know what competition means in the business world. It's time we recognize that competition can spur excellence in our schools. Let them open their doors to experts from outside the teaching profession who are willing to share their wisdom in the schools. We've got to expand what they call alternative certification and tap the wealth of teaching in our society. There's a lot of talent out there that's precluded by mindless regulation from participating in our schools as teachers. Tap the wealth of that teaching talent that's been kept out of the classroom simply because they lack a teaching certificate.

Fifth and finally, we need to make sure the yardstick we use to measure our achievement is performance-based. All the necessary attention to rules and regulations and procedures, all the measures of dollars spent, all the hardware and software, statistics and studies cannot be allowed to obscure the one measure that matters. And what matters is what works, results, what kind of kid walks out of that classroom and into society, what our kids know, whether we've taught them how to learn. And one thing more while the subject is performance: We hold students accountable for their own failure. Well, let's do the same then for our schools.

These five principles—high expectations, decentralized authority, schools that are responsive, market-oriented, and performance-based—these five can guide our efforts as we restructure American education to meet the ambitious goals that have been set for our nation's students and for our schools, first set by the Governors of the 50 States, as we lead America forward to what I hope will be an education renaissance, a system that can compete with any in the world. We've got to redouble our efforts to achieve these goals. This restructuring must take

place. I don't have to tell the corporate leaders in this room that America can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-rate schools. And let me assure you, there is a role in this restructuring for everybody here, for your energy, for your ideas, for your commitment to educational excellence.

Before I close, let me just thank once again the companies and the foundations and the individuals whose contributions help keep jobs for America's Graduates going strong. The help you provide to each young person literally lasts a lifetime. And to those students here with us today, let me recognize your accomplishments, but let me ask something else as well. Just as you've been helped along the way, make it your mission to reach out your hand to all the other kids like you who have everything they need to succeed except encouragement.

So, once again, I really wanted to come over here, Jock, to thank you, to thank the other Governors and Senators that are with us here today, thank you for all you're doing to help the kids of this country. May you all have a wonderfully merry Christmas. And may God bless the United States. Thank you very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. in the ballroom at the National Press Club. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John H. McKernan, Senator Charles S. Robb, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, and Christopher S. Bond, chairman of the board of directors, chairman of the executive committee, chairman of the resource development committee, and member of the board of directors of Jobs for America's Graduates, respectively. A tape was not available for certification of the content of these remarks.

**Executive Order 12737—President's Commission on Environmental Quality
December 12, 1990**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to establish, in accordance with the provi-

sions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), an advisory committee on environmental quality, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the President's Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission"). The Commission shall comprise not more than 25 members to be appointed by the President. One of the members shall be the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. The remaining members shall be individuals from the private sector who have experience in various aspects of environmental and natural resources matters. The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality shall serve as Chairman of the Commission and shall report directly to the President.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Commission, through the Chairman, shall advise the President on matters involving environmental quality.

(b) The Chairman may, from time to time, invite experts to submit information to the Commission and may direct the members to investigate and report to the Commission on specific environmental issues of national consequence.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The heads of executive agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide to the Commission such information with respect to environmental and natural resources matters as the Commission requires for the purpose of carrying out its functions.

(b) Members of the Commission shall serve without any compensation for their work on the Commission. However, members appointed from among private citizens of the United States may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707).

(c) Any expenses of the Commission shall be paid from the funds available for the expenses of the Council on Environmental Quality.

(d) The Office of Administration shall, on a reimbursable basis, provide such administrative services as may be required.

Sec. 4. General. Notwithstanding any other Executive order, the functions of the

President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting to the Congress, which are applicable to the Commission, shall be performed by the Council on Environmental Quality in accord with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

George Bush

The White House,
December 12, 1990.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:21 a.m., December 13, 1990]

**Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards
December 13, 1990**

May I, too, salute the Deputy Secretary, Mr. Murrin and, of course, the Secretaries from the other Cabinet departments that are here. I'm delighted to see all of you. I want to single out our Science Adviser that was to be here, Allan Bromley—I'm not sure he is—but in any event, very much interested in this whole field of competitiveness. Dick Truly of NASA—a keen stake in seeing the quality of all performed. I want to salute the Cadillac general manager John Grettenberger; John Akers, who is the president and CEO of IBM; the president and chairman of the board of Federal Express, who's with us, Fred Smith—we'll be seeing these all in a bit; and John Wallace, from Houston, who is the CEO of the Wallace Company.

And then I also want to salute the Members of Congress who are good enough to be with us today, members of the Baldrige family. How I love Mac Baldrige. Welcome home! And congratulations especially to those winners. And I'm proud to see some who were honored last year.

I want to single out Bob Mosbacher here, who is doing a splendid job as our Secretary of Commerce. A quality job I might say. Quality is it. Quality for our administration. And we're here today to present these four awards, as I say, named for another man of

quality, and that again is former Secretary Mac Baldrige. What a great guy.

He was—you know, some forget this, but Mac, prior to becoming Secretary of Commerce, was a true leader in business. And when it came business, he really did understand that quality cannot be assured with some slogan or an ad campaign. And he knew that it begins with winning and keeping business. And it begins with understanding that only customers can define quality. And in short, it begins and ends with the mesentimental judgment of the marketplace.

Once quality separated winning firms from sluggish ones. That time has long since passed. And with the fierce competition of the international market, quality means survival, nothing less.

The renewed commitment by America to quality can be seen in the explosion of applications to receive the Baldrige Award. In just a few years, the National Quality Award has literally become the standard of business excellence. And the renewed spirit of excellence in business, of making quality an integral part of America's corporate strategy, has truly, I believe, made us more competitive in the international arena. Exports have already increased nearly 8 percent from year-ago levels and the figures keep on rising.

To compete and win in the international arena, United States companies are simply going to have to offer products and services that are world-class. And that's the purpose behind this award. And it's a national purpose.

So, we're here today not only to honor these four deserving firms, but to promote an awareness of quality in American business and to share successful management strategies. Strategies that can, indeed, sharpen America's lead in the world marketplace. Each of these companies offers unique lessons. Not these four companies also found success in a few basic principles. They learned that quality control cannot be imposed from top to bottom. They understand that quality management must cut through organization charts, across departments and offices. A quality culture does not depend on titles and job descriptions. And finally, these winning companies also

meet the needs of all students. We must ~~(also)~~ ^{and ensure} cut the dropout rate -- by ~~ensuring~~ that every student ~~and~~ in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For some time now, the Administration has called for the ~~fundamental~~ restructuring of American education. Five principles should guide our efforts: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will steer us toward meeting the national education goals the Governors and I set after the Education Summit -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates by the year 2000 ^{will be xx jobs in xx years.} will be 18 ~~million new jobs~~. To fill those jobs, American entrepreneurs will look increasingly to ^{America's minorities} ~~(fast-growing populations)~~ ^{start} blacks, ~~hispanics and asians~~ -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. ^{The majority of} Those xx million jobs -- ^{many} ~~of them~~ ^{safer, cleaner, higher-skilled.} -- ~~And they~~ ^{are} ~~are more skilled,~~ better-paying jobs -- will go to the ones who have what ~~(the skills and tools)~~ it takes -- a quality education.

//

Everyone knows the best education needs ^a ~~classrooms that are~~ drug-free, safe, ~~learning~~ environments. It is difficult for children to learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because ~~often~~

of the danger ^{not} darkness brings, especially in crime-ridden
~~they're afraid to walk home after dark, or leave the house with~~ ^{neighbor-}
~~no one around.~~ ^{hoods}

^{more} ~~{Intimidated by crime}~~ low-income Americans are ~~the ones~~
~~most~~ ^{likely to be intimidated by crime and less}
~~least~~ likely to ^{be able to} take advantage of opportunities that
may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the
ones defending themselves and their families from the drug
dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so
they're trapped in their homes (~~fearful and alone~~) slowly losing
the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in
their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be
waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be
the casualties of this war. (^{our tactics} ~~what is needed~~) are mandatory
sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened
protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough
prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and
surely. And a prison system that is up to the job. Americans
can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are
safe.//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure.
Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened
by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be
able to get one. Of course, vestiges of the past remain.

Bigotry and discrimination still exist. We have powerful legal
tools for eliminating discrimination, and ^{I am determined to enforce}
~~my Administration is~~
~~enforcing~~ our civil rights laws with vigor.

~~Let's~~ let's remember, the legal guarantees of equality of opportunity are largely in place. Brown vs

~~Further~~ ~~What we don't need is a lawyer's bonanza helps no one.~~
~~But new legis that is simply~~ that need

I am committed to refining our laws ~~where~~ ^{with} improvement. ~~(is called for)~~ We will soon introduce legislation featuring strong new remedies to protect women from sexual harassment and minorities from racial prejudice in the workplace, and I call on the Congress to act promptly on this important initiative.

Now, I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. [But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or got a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul the will to live one more day.]

~~We have plenty of lawyers and too many lawsuits.)~~ ^{but we all know} opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins with a job. ^P For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean attracting the seed capital for ~~small~~ ^{new small} businesses ~~start-ups~~ ^{new} and entrepreneurial ~~S~~ activity in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on businesses in these areas. We're providing new incentives for employers to hire more workers. Our proposals mean ~~economic~~ ^{more minority} growth and most importantly, jobs. // ^{entrepreneurs}

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, for many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering public housing residents ^{access to homeownership and private property to gain a stake} ~~the opportunity to own their homes and gain and stake~~ in their communities. We've asked Congress to provide much-needed funding for the HOPE program in 1991, to make this opportunity a reality in our inner cities this year. And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. These initiatives will bring us closer to our goal of **one million new homeowners by 1992.**

You know,

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becoming

There's something reassuring about ~~being~~ part of a neighborhood -- a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for ~~each~~ *one another* other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know best how to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're proposing to allow communities to restructure opportunity at the local level. ^P Our strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. Every man and woman in this room shares its vision. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's promise as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

#

sexual harassment in the workplace, and I call on the Congress to act promptly on this important initiative.

But it's also time to move on the real issues of economic opportunity. As vital as our civil rights laws are, lawyers do not hold the keys to opportunity. Lawyers don't create productive jobs. Or educate and train our people to fill those jobs. Or rebuild devastated neighborhoods. We have plenty of lawyers and too many lawsuits now.

Opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. . . .

I appreciate having had the opportunity to review these draft remarks.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the **casualties** of this war. Our tactics: mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and surely. And a prison system that is up to the job. **Americans can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.**//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Bigotry and discrimination still exist. We have powerful legal tools for eliminating discrimination, and I am determined to **enforce our civil rights laws with vigor.** //

I am committed to refining our laws ~~that~~ need improvement. We will soon introduce legislation with strong new remedies to protect women from sexual harassment and minorities from racial prejudice in the workplace, and I call on the Congress to act promptly on this important initiative.

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Education. // The Civil Rights Act of 1964. // The Voting Rights Act of 1965. // The Fair Housing Acts of 1968 and 1988. // The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. //

Further legislation that ~~is~~ ^{creates} simply a lawyer's bonanza helps no one. Now, I know a lot of lawyers ... Some of my best friends are lawyers. ~~But we all know opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins with a job. //~~

For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean attracting the seed capital for new small businesses and new entrepreneurs in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on businesses in these areas. We're providing new incentives for employers to hire more workers. Our proposals mean economic growth, more minority entrepreneurs and most importantly, jobs. //

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You know, there's something reassuring about becoming part of a neighborhood -- a community that pulls together in times of

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

91 FEB 25 12:32 Date:

2/25/91

TO:

Chris Winston

FROM:

CLARK KENT ERVIN
Office of National Service
Room 100, OEOB
x6266

C
KRE

- Action
- Your Comment
- Let's Talk
- FYI

Our substantive inserts are intended to make the case that it is only a partnership between empowerment-oriented government programs & grassroots, ~~with~~ community-led service initiatives that can solve social problems. Our inserts are intended to marry Points of light w/ govt. social policy. Please include them.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/22/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, MONDAY, FEB. 25

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	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"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, by NOON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

INSERT A

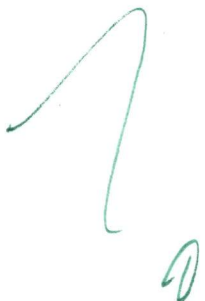
But educating our citizens isn't just the responsibility of the President and the governors. Nor is it just the responsibility of teachers, administrators, or even parents. Education is **everyone's** responsibility. Concerned citizens in Houston understand this obligation. There a partnership has been formed among the Houston school district, the Junior League and the Neuhaus Foundation. The Junior League recruits volunteers like banker, Tim Arnoult, who takes time out to teach elementary school classes, while the teachers he and other volunteers relieve get enhanced training at the Foundation. Another Houston program, one coordinated by Enron, provides discounts from 24 neighborhood businesses, ranging from fast food restaurants to record shops, for students at an area high school who maintain good grades, giving the youngsters a tangible incentive to succeed in school.

INSERT B

Just as education isn't just the responsibility of the education establishment, so crime prevention isn't just the responsibility of the criminal justice system. Consider programs like Midnight Basketball, the 124th Daily Point of Light. Concerned by a rising tide of juvenile crime, citizens in Hyattsville, Maryland organized late night basketball games and tutorial sessions to provide positive alternatives to criminal activity. The crime rate has dropped by 65%

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But jobs can't be produced by tax law changes alone. I think of programs like the Alpha Project in San Diego. This program hires homeless people at \$6 or more per hour to work on construction projects. Volunteers, ranging from retired carpenters to college students, teach employable skills, while providing free food, shelter and clothing until the homeless earn enough money to live on their own.



91 FEB 22 PM 12:22

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
PLACE? TIME?**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction.
(other acknowledgements) ... It's hard to believe a year has
passed since the day I issued a set of challenges to the members
of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization,
tap your power and transform a nation through community service.
[More to come]))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces,
so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
man and woman here this morning believes in the power of the
individual, and is bolstered by the notion that America is indeed
the land of opportunity. For 200 years, America has been the
home of democracy, the birthplace of free markets and free
people. There is no question: opportunity in America is the envy
of the world.

From its start, the story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
document in modern history -- our Bill of Rights. Abraham
Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage
movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The
founders of our public schools unleashed the potential of an
educated citizenry by introducing universal free education. And

by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright Brothers and Jesse Owens.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our history books. There are just as many "new American heroes" today, many of them in this room. What they share with those who went before is pride, and integrity, and faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what makes America the world's great citadel of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

Theirs is a movement 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our own future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a place to call one's own,

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home ~~and~~ on the job and in the neighborhood. ✓

But for some, America has not yet fulfilled its destiny as a land of opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

The Administration's Education bill puts this kind of choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen choice and competition improve education -- from Minneapolis to East Harlem. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- and highly

competitive. It's time all Americans become consumers and demand choice in education.

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school system. We're encouraging teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must cut the dropout rate -- by ensuring that every kid in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For quite some time now, the Administration has been calling for nothing short of the restructuring of American education. Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to growing populations -- blacks and hispanics -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

INSERT "A"

-- will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education takes place in classrooms that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. Children cannot learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home alone after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or ~~down~~ the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. The weapons are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. Americans

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An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean starting up small businesses in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on seed capital. That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work. And it means allowing people to take home more of their pay. Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. //

INSERT C

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, to many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering incentives for public housing residents to move out -- and move up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American Dream. // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. This will bring us closer to our goal of one million new homeowners by 1992.

to attract fresh into entrepreneurial activities

by purchasing their units. Community activists like King

Gray show that the dignity of home ownership can be a reality for all Americans

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level. Our

government

So And calling upon every American to assume equal responsibility with government for solving social problems. We're calling every American to be a "Point of light"

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

But the sixties are over. And so is the ~~civil rights~~ ^{desegregation} debate. That debate has been won -- won by those who decided Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.

I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or got a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul the will to live one more day.

Opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. **This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity.** Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

But

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/22/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, MONDAY, FEB. 25

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	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"/>
<i>late</i> DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>late</i> GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>late</i> HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, by NOON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 FEB 22 PM 12:22

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
PLACE? TIME?**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction.
(other acknowledgements) ... It's hard to believe a year has
passed since the day I issued a set of challenges to the members
of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization,
tap your power and transform a nation through community service.
[More to come]))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces,
so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
man and woman here this morning believes in the power of the
individual, and is bolstered by the notion that America is indeed
the land of opportunity. For 200 years, America has been the
home of democracy, the birthplace of free markets and free
people. There is no question: **opportunity in America is the envy
of the world.**

From its start, the story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
document in modern history -- our Bill of Rights. Abraham
Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage
movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The
founders of our public schools unleashed the potential of an
educated citizenry by introducing universal free education. And

by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright Brothers and Jesse Owens.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our history books. There are just as many "new American heroes" today, many of them in this room. What they share with those who went before is pride, and integrity, and faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what makes America the world's great citadel of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

Theirs is a movement 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our own future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a place to call one's own,

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home and on the job and in the neighborhood.

But for some, America has not yet fulfilled its destiny as a land of opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

The Administration's Education bill puts this kind of choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen choice and competition improve education -- from Minneapolis to East Harlem. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- and highly

competitive. It's time all Americans become consumers and demand choice in education.

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school system. We're encouraging teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must cut the dropout rate -- by ensuring that every kid in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For quite some time now, the Administration has been calling for nothing short of the restructuring of American education. Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to growing populations -- blacks and hispanics -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

-- will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education takes place in classrooms that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. Children cannot learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home alone after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. The weapons are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. Americans

can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe. //

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean starting up small businesses in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on seed capital. That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work. And it means allowing people to take home more of their pay. Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. //

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, to many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering incentives for public housing residents to move out -- and move up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American Dream. // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. This will bring us closer to our goal of **one million new homeowners by 1992**.

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level. Our

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

{ But the sixties are over. And so is the civil rights debate. That debate has been won } -- won by those who decided Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // (There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them. }

I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or got a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul the will to live one more day.

Opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/22/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, MONDAY, FEB. 25

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	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"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, by NOON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Please see comments. Also Richard Porter has spoken directly with ^{Mary Kate for} additional OCA comments. Many thanks.

Haley Williamson
2-25-91

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

I have not heard from Justice or Mrs. May
NAJ

Roger Porter Comments in red.

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

91 FEB 22 PM12:22

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
PLACE? TIME?**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction.
(other acknowledgements) ... It's hard to believe a year has
passed since the day I issued a set of challenges to the members
of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization,
tap your power and transform a nation through community service.
[More to come]))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces,
so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
man and woman here this morning believes in the power of the
individual, and is bolstered by the ^{firm conviction} ~~notion~~ that America is indeed
the land of opportunity. ^{& we want to make it a land of expanding opportunity for} For ^{more than} 200 years, America has been the
home of democracy, the birthplace of free markets and free
people. There is no question: opportunity in America is the envy
of the world, ^{but we need to make sure it reaches every ghetto, barrio & pocket} ~~of the world~~ ^{of poverty.}

From its start, the story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
document in modern history -- ^{Constitution and} ~~our~~ Bill of Rights. Abraham
Lincoln broke ~~forever~~ the chains of human slavery. The suffrage
movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The
founders of our public schools unleashed the potential of an
educated citizenry by introducing universal free education. And

✓ OCA
* add
a reference
to the
200th
anniv.?

✓ HVD
✓ HVD
these in
need?
✓ HVD
of poverty.

by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright Brothers and Jesse Owens. *mention ML King*

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our ~~history books~~. *past.* There are ~~just as many~~ *more* "new American heroes" today, many of them in this room. What they share with those who went before is pride, and integrity, and faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what makes America the world's great citadel of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

Theirs is a movement 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our ~~own~~ *home* future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a ~~place~~ *home* to call one's own, ✓ HUD

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home and on the job and in the neighborhood.

✓ Add
Insert
A
(next
page)

But for some, America has not yet fulfilled its ^{promise} destiny as a land of opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

✓ OCA
Before
setting into
the list of
bills, explain
the package is
& designed
to foster
opportunities
by enhancing
power.

The Administration's Education ^{al Excellence proposals} ~~bill~~ puts this kind of choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen choice and competition improve education -- from ~~Minneapolis~~ ^{Milwaukee} to ~~East Harlem~~ ^{stet Milwaukee!}. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- ^{creative, innovative} and highly

✓ OCA
Minnesota
not a great
example
Post article
this weekend.

Insert A

from HUD -

But for some America has not yet fulfilled its destiny as a land of opportunity. While the last decade has generated unprecedented prosperity and new jobs, yet in far too many parts of our nation -- especially America's inner cities -- there are pockets of poverty, joblessness, homelessness, and despair. For millions of blacks and minorities, the gates of economic opportunity ~~have been~~ ^{were} closed tightly, ~~just as the barriers to civil and human rights have been opened by~~ ^{until they were opened by the} the sweeping civil rights acts of the sixties.

Ladies and gentlemen, our nation can and must do better to open up the gates of opportunity for those who have been left behind by this economic expansion. We must expand choices for those who have been denied them by a top-heavy government bureaucracy that promotes dependency. We must create new jobs, promote minority business entrepreneurship, and expand small business creation in hundreds of distressed communities throughout our nation.

The great crusade for civil and human rights was Chapter I. Chapter II is to expand economic opportunity, jobs, and quality education to turn legal equality into the promise of equal opportunity and equal rights for all.

I'd like to outline today, the beginning agenda of this second great chapter in the civil rights effort. It involves more than 6 major initiatives across the scope of our entire government: restoring quality education; creating crime free neighborhoods; generating jobs and enterprise; expanding access to homeownership

(Insert A cont.)

and private property; devolving responsibility to localities; and strengthening civil and legal rights for all.

In its entirety, I believe it represents one of the most far-reaching efforts in decades to unleash the talents of low income Americans across our nation through free enterprise capitalism. It holds out the promise of turning government programs into a platform for dignity, choice, and self-sufficiency -- rather than dependency and despair.

In a few weeks, I will have legislation to implement these items on the desk of every Congressman. [I will be asking them to make this innovative anti-poverty agenda a centerpiece for a new domestic agenda.]

competitive. It's time all Americans become consumers and demand ^{have} choice in ~~education~~. ^{throughout our entire educ. system.}

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school systems. We're encouraging teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must ^{also} cut the dropout rate -- by ensuring that every ^{student} kid in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For quite some time now, the Administration has ~~been calling~~ for nothing short of the restructuring of American education. ^{three five} Let me lay out the ~~five~~ principles that should guide our efforts: to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are ^{market-oriented -- that means schools that are responsive} responsive, ~~market-oriented~~ and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be ^{an economy that will create at least} 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American ^{entrepreneurs} ~~business~~ will look increasingly to ~~growing populations -- blacks and hispanics~~ ^{blacks, hispanics,} and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

✓ OCA
DOL

✓ HUD

✓ HUD

✓ HUD

also remember that during the campaign we promised 30 million jobs in 4 (or 8) years - Cab. Affairs recommends maybe not to mention.

-- will go to the ones who have ~~what~~ ^{the skills + tools} it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education ~~takes place in classrooms~~ ^{needs classrooms} that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. Children ~~cannot~~ ^{It is difficult for} ~~to~~ learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home alone after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the ~~casualties~~ ^{what is needed} of this war. ~~The weapons~~ are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. **Americans**

can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened

by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our ~~hardest hit urban areas~~ ^{distressed pockets of poverty}, our new proposals mean ~~starting up small businesses~~ ^{creating jobs and entrepreneurial activity} in enterprise zones,

~~and eliminating the capital gains tax on seed capital.~~ That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work. And it means allowing people to take home more of ~~their~~ ^{what they}

~~earn.~~ Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, ~~jobs.~~ // ~~and entrepreneurship for minorities.~~

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, ~~to~~ ^{having access to homeownership + provide property} many working people, ~~owning a home someday.~~ We're offering

~~incentives for public housing residents to move out and move~~ ^{the opportunity to own their} homes ~~and gain a stake in their communities.~~ We've asked Congress to provide ~~up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American~~ ^{inner cities} ~~Dream.~~ // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use ~~the money in their IRAs to buy their first home.~~ ^{These initiatives} ~~This will bring~~ ^{help us achieve} us closer to our goal of one million new ~~homeowners~~ ^{low and moderate income} by 1992. ^{year.}

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're ~~restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level.~~ ^{proposing to allow communities to restructure} Our ~~restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level.~~ ^{that opportunity}

And for those who face challenges ~~that lead them to homelessness,~~ ^{that opportunity} the Administration is seeking funding for a program to combine shelter with care to help the homeless rebuild their lives,

HUD

all HUD comments

Insert (see below)

TP
ask
OMG
14ok
44

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

But the legal guarantees of equality of opportunity are largely in place
~~But the sixties are over. And so is the civil rights debate.~~ That debate has been won -- won by those who decided

Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // *American Disabilities 1990 Act*
~~There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.~~

HUD
~~I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or got a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul the will to live one more day.~~

see Insert below (HUD)
 But opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. *OCA* The *great* poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

It begins with teaching someone to read; with an economy brimming with jobs and entrepreneurship; with giving people access to assets and homeownership; with helping the lost find their way.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's ^{promise} ~~destiny~~ as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

###

Grant/Cawley
 February 25, 1991
 5 p.m. A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
 FEBRUARY 27, 1991
 J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
 11:00 A.M.**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction. Attorney General Thornburgh and Secretary^{ies} Kemp, ~~thanks so much for your hard work on this issue;~~ Secretaries Sullivan and Martin; our nominee for Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander; and of course, Bob Woodson of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. ^{other ack} ... It's hard to believe a year has passed since the day I challenged the members of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization, ~~tap your power~~ and transform a nation through community service. ~~{More to come}~~))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces, so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every man and woman here believes in the power of the individual, and is bolstered by the conviction that America is indeed a land of opportunity. For more than 200 years, America has been the home ~~of democracy, the birthplace~~ of free markets and free people. There is no question: **opportunity in America is the envy of the world.**

~~From its start,~~ the story of America has been the story of opportunity. Throughout our history, ~~men and women~~^{we} have pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound document in modern history -- our Constitution and Bill of

Rights. Abraham Lincoln broke the chains of human slavery. The suffrage movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The founders of our public schools unleashed ^{an} ~~the~~ ^{national} potential ~~of an educated citizenry~~ ^{through} by introducing universal education. And by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright brothers and Rosa Parks.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our past. There are ~~more~~ ^{the} "new American heroes" ^{of} today, many of them in this room. ~~What they share with those who went before is~~ ^{too are inspired by} pride, integrity, faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what ~~made~~ ^{made} America the world's great beacon of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. ~~[examples to come]~~.

~~Theirs~~ ^A is a movement more than 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind" and what I call "the American idea." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a vision driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

I share that vision -- for it is wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves. It is creating a better life

for our children than we might have had. It is the freedom to take command of our future.

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a home to call one's own, raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home, on the job and in the neighborhood.

But for ~~some~~ ^{others}, America has not yet fulfilled its promise as a ~~land~~ of opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell ~~you that~~ ^{any American for whom hope lies dormant} we will not forget ~~these Americans~~ ^{you} for whom hope lies dormant, ~~for whom despair is a fact of life.~~ We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. ^{yes,} We must offer them hope. ^{But} We must guarantee them opportunity.

^{It's been} ~~Some have~~ said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill, and with it, independence. Earning a living, ~~and~~ with ~~it~~ dignity and personal growth. More skills mean more ~~choices~~ ^{freedom} / ~~More~~ options for even greater opportunity.

Today, our Administration is proposing an agenda to expand opportunity and choice for all Americans. It involves more than

six major initiatives across the scope of our entire government: restoring quality education; ^{ensuring} ~~creating~~ crime-free neighborhoods; creating jobs and enterprise; expanding access to homeownership; allowing localities a greater share of responsibility; and strengthening civil and legal rights for all.

In its entirety, I believe it represents one of the most far-reaching efforts in decades to unleash the talents of every citizen ^{in America} ~~through free enterprise capitalism~~. ~~It holds out the promise of turning government programs into a platform for dignity, choice and self-sufficiency -- rather than dependency and despair.~~

In a few weeks, I will have legislation to ^{enact} ~~implement~~ these ^{TS} ~~agenda~~ items on the desk of every Congressman. The Administration's Educational Excellence proposals, for example, will put choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen ^{what education reform can do} ~~choice and competition~~ improve ^{East L.A.} ~~education~~ -- from ~~Milwaukee~~ to East Harlem. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- creative, innovative and highly competitive. From the G.I. Bill to Pell Grants, ^{college} students ^{already} have the power to choose. ^{Now} It's time ~~all~~ Americans ~~become consumers~~ and have choice throughout our entire education system. //

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school systems. We're encouraging Governors to bring together teachers, parents and administrators ~~from inside and outside the school system~~ to work together to

meet the needs of all students. We must ~~also~~ cut the dropout rate. ^{And we must} ~~by ensuring~~ that every student ~~and~~ in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For some time now, the Administration has called for the restructuring of American education. Five principles should guide our efforts: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will steer us toward meeting the national education goals the Governors and I set after the Education Summit -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates by the year 2000 will be ~~xx~~ million new jobs. To fill those jobs, ~~American~~ entrepreneurs will look increasingly to ^{America's minorities} ~~fast-growing populations~~ -- blacks, hispanics and asians -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those xx million jobs ^{The majority of} ~~many~~ are ~~more skilled~~, ^{safest, cleanest, highest skilled} better paying jobs. ^{They} will go to the ones who have what ~~the skills and tools~~ it takes -- a quality education.

//

Everyone knows the best education needs ~~classrooms that are~~ drug-free, safe, ~~learning~~ environments. It is difficult for children to learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often

they're afraid to walk home after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, ~~fearful and alone,~~ slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the **casualties** of this war. ~~What is needed~~ ^{Our tactics} are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and surely. And a prison system that is up to the job. **Americans can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.**//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Bigotry and discrimination still exist. We have powerful legal tools for eliminating discrimination, and ~~my Administration is~~ ^{I am determined} ~~to~~ enforcing ~~ing~~ our civil rights laws with vigor.

I am committed to refining our laws ^{that need} where improvement ~~is~~
~~called for~~. We will soon introduce legislation ^{with} featuring strong
 new remedies to protect women from sexual harassment and
 minorities from racial prejudice in the workplace, and I call on
 the Congress to act promptly on this important initiative.

^{Now} I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are
 lawyers. ~~But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or
 get a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul
 the will to live one more day.~~

~~We have plenty of lawyers and too many lawsuits.~~ Opportunity
 doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins with a job. ^{FP} For our
 hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean attracting the
 seed capital for ^{new} small businesses ~~start-ups~~ ^{ne} and entrepreneurial ^S
~~activity~~ in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains
 tax on businesses in these areas. We're providing new incentives
 for employers to hire more workers. Our proposals mean economic
 growth and most importantly, ^{more ~~needed~~ minority entrepreneurs} jobs. //

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and,
 for many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering
 public housing residents the opportunity to own their homes and
 gain and stake in their communities. We've asked Congress to
 provide much-needed funding for the HOPE program in 1991, to make
 this opportunity a reality in our inner cities this year. And
 we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in
 their IRAs to buy their first home. These initiatives will bring
 us closer to our goal of **one million new homeowners by 1992.**

you (know)
 There's something reassuring about *becoming* being part of a neighborhood -- a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for *one another* each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know best how to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're proposing to allow communities to restructure opportunity at the local level. *H* Our strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. Every man and woman in this room shares its vision. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's promise as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0001

FAX TRANSMISSION

2/25/91

DATE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page) 10

TO: Mary Kate Grant

FROM: Mary Brunette

Assistant Secretary for
Public Affairs

HUD

PHONE: 456-2157

PHONE: 708-3161

(the phone number of this fax machine is (202) 619-8257)

These are our recommended changes to the
speech faxed to Secretary Kemp on 2/22/91.

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A: CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
11:00 A.M.**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction.
(other acknowledgements) ... It's hard to believe a year has
passed since the day I issued a set of challenges to the members
of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization,
tap your power and transform a nation through community service.
[More to come]))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces,
so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
man and woman here this morning believes in the power of the
individual, and is bolstered by the ^{firm conviction} ~~notion~~ that America is indeed
the land of opportunity. ^{if we want to make it a land of expanding opportunity for} For 200 years, America has been the ~~those in~~ ^{need}
home of democracy, the birthplace of free markets and free
people. There is no question: opportunity in America is the envy
of the world, ^{but we need to make sure it reaches every ghetto, barrio +}
From its start, the ^{pocket of poverty.} story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
document in modern history -- our Bill of Rights. Abraham
Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage
movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The
founders of our public schools unleashed the potential of an
educated citizenry by introducing universal free education. And

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling safe and secure at home and on the job and in the neighborhood.

INSERT
A

But for some, America has not yet fulfilled its destiny as a land of opportunity. We know who they are: ~~They are the hopeless and the hopeless, the friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one.~~ They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity. *9 W*

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

The Administration's Education bill puts this kind of choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen choice and competition improve education -- from Minneapolis to East Harlem. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- and highly

Insert A

But for some America has not yet fulfilled its destiny as a land of opportunity. While the last decade has generated unprecedented prosperity and new jobs, yet in far too many parts of our nation -- especially America's inner cities -- there are pockets of poverty, joblessness, homelessness, and despair. For millions of blacks and minorities, the gates of economic opportunity have been closed tight, just as the barriers to civil and human rights have been opened by the sweeping civil rights acts of the sixties.

Ladies and gentlemen, our nation can and must do better to open up the gates of opportunity for those who have been left behind by this economic expansion. We must expand choices for those who have been denied them by a top-heavy government bureaucracy that promotes dependency. We must create new jobs, promote minority business entrepreneurship, and expand small business creation in hundreds of distressed communities throughout our nation.

The great crusade for civil and human rights was Chapter I. Chapter II is to expand economic opportunity, jobs, and quality education to turn legal equality into the promise of equal opportunity and equal rights for all.

I'd like to outline today, the beginning agenda of this second great chapter in the civil rights effort. It involves more than 6 major initiatives across the scope of our entire government: restoring quality education; creating crime free neighborhoods; generating jobs and enterprise; expanding access to homeownership

and private property; devolving responsibility to localities; and strengthening civil and legal rights for all.

In its entirety, I believe it represents one of the most far-reaching efforts in decades to unleash the talents of low income Americans across our nation through free enterprise capitalism. It holds out the promise of turning government programs into a platform for dignity, choice, and self-sufficiency -- rather than dependency and despair.

In a few weeks, I will have legislation to implement these items on the desk of every Congressman. I will be asking them to make this innovative anti-poverty agenda a centerpiece for a new domestic agenda.

competitive. It's time all Americans become consumers and demand choice in education.

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school system. We're encouraging teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must cut the dropout rate -- by ensuring that every kid in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For quite some time now, the Administration has been calling for nothing short of the restructuring of American education. Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be *an economy that will create at least* 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American ^{Entrepreneurs} ~~business~~ will look increasingly to ~~growing populations~~ ~~blacks and hispanics~~ ^{blacks, hispanics} ~~and to~~ people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

-- will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education takes place in classrooms that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. Children cannot learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home alone after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. The weapons are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. Americans

can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our ~~hardest hit urban areas~~ ^{distressed pockets of poverty}, our new proposals mean ~~starting up small businesses~~ ^{creating jobs and entrepreneurial activity} in enterprise zones by ~~and eliminating~~ the capital gains tax on seed capital. That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work. And it means allowing people to take home more of their ^{what they} earn. Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. ^{renew} ~~At~~ ^{for M.S.}

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and ~~to~~ ^{having access to homeownership + private property} many working people, ~~owning a home someday~~. We're offering ~~incentives for public housing residents to move out and move~~ ^{the opportunity to own their} homes and gain a stake in their communities. We've asked Congress to provide ~~us~~ ^{much-needed funding} ~~into the economic mainstream and into the American~~ ^{to make this opportunity a reality in our inner cities this year.} ~~Dream~~ // And ^{for the HOPE program in 1991} we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. ^{These initiatives help} ~~us~~ ^{achieve} ~~closer to~~ our goal of one million new homeowners by 1992. ^{low and moderate income}

^{INSERT} There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level. Our

TP And for those who face challenges lead them to ~~make their~~ ^{homes} homelessness, the Administration is seeking funding for a homeless rebuild their lives.

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

~~But the legal guarantees of equality of opportunity are largely in place -- ~~But the debates are over. And so is the civil rights debate. That debate has been won --~~ won by those who decided Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // ~~There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.~~~~

~~I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. ~~But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or get a job there. Or rebuild a neighborhood. Or give a lost soul the ~~the right to live one more day.~~~~~~

But opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

It begins with teaching someone to read; with an economy brimming with jobs and entrepreneurial^{ship} with giving ~~low~~ people access to assets and homeownership; with helping the

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

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SENT BY: THE WHITE HOUSE

: 2-22-91 : 3:20PM :

see OCA comments

*Please use as agent
from Lincoln*

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
11:00 A.M.

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But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our history books. There are just as many "new American heroes" today, many of them in this room. What they share with those who went before is pride, and integrity, and faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what makes America the world's great citadel of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

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For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our own future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a ^{home} place to call one's own,

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can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our ~~hardest hit urban areas~~ ^{distressed pockets of poverty}, our new proposals mean starting up small businesses in enterprise zones ^{creating jobs and entrepreneurial activity} ~~and eliminating~~ the capital gains tax on seed capital. That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work. And it means allowing people to take home more of ^{what they} ~~their~~ ^{earn.} ~~pay.~~ Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. ^{At Entrepreneurship for Minorities.}

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and ~~to~~ ^{having access to homeownership + private property.} ~~many working people, owning a home someday.~~ We're offering ~~incentives for public housing residents, to move out and move~~ ^{the opportunity to own their} ~~homes and gain a stake in their communities. We've asked Congress to provide~~ ^{up into the economic mainstream and into the American} ~~much-needed funding to make this opportunity a reality in our inner cities this year.~~ ^{Dream //} And ^{for the HOPE program in 1991} we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. ^{These initiatives help} ~~This will bring~~ ^{achieve} us ~~closer to~~ ^{us closer to} our goal of one million new ^{low and moderate income} ~~homeowners by 1992.~~

INSERT

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level. Our

TP And for those who face challenges lead them to ~~make their~~ ^{homeless homelessness} the Administration is seeking funding for a

7

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

~~But the legal guarantees of equality of opportunity are largely in place --~~
~~But the stakes are ever. And so is the civil rights~~
 In place --

~~debate. That debate has been won --~~ won by those who decided Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // ~~There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.~~

~~I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. But no one ever teaches how to read in a courtroom. Or get a job there. Or rebuild a neighborhood. Or give a lost soul the will to live one more day.~~

But opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity. Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

It begins with teaching someone to read; with an economy brimming with jobs and entrepreneurial ^{ships} with giving ~~low~~ people access to work and homeownership; with helping the

8

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

###

not left/right / but up/down

[Hemp]

"hope"
"opportunity"
"dream"

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
11:00 A.M.**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction.
(other acknowledgements) ... It's hard to believe a year has
passed since the day I ~~issued a set of~~ challenges to the members
of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization,
tap your power and transform a nation through community service.
[More to come]))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces,
so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
man and woman here this morning believes in the power of the
individual, and is bolstered by the notion that America is indeed
the land of opportunity. For 200 years, America has been the
home of democracy, the birthplace of free markets and free
people. There is no question: **opportunity in America is the** envy
of the world.

hope for
her

From its start, the story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
document in modern history -- our Bill of Rights. Abraham
Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage
movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The
founders of our public schools unleashed the potential of an
educated citizenry by introducing universal free education. And

by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright Brothers and Jesse Owens.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our history books. There are just as many "new American heroes" today, many of them in this room. What they share with those who went before is pride, and integrity, and faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what makes America the world's great citadel of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

Theirs is a movement 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our own future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a place to call one's own,

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home and on the job and in the neighborhood.

But for some, America has not yet fulfilled its destiny as a land of opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream. ^{get a chance to join + participate}

I'm here to tell you that **we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.** ^{Then we must stand back, let them realize their potential}

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

^{Any} ~~The Administration's~~ Education bill puts this kind of choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen choice and competition improve education -- from Minneapolis to East Harlem. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- ~~and~~ highly ^{because it is}

The govt cannot guarantee good education, but it can guarantee that everyone has a chance. ←
The GI Bill to Pell Grants → students have been empowered to choose

competitive, It's time all Americans become ^{sovereign} consumers and demand choice in education.

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school system. We're encouraging teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must cut the dropout rate -- by ensuring that every kid in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For quite some time now, the Administration has been calling for nothing short of the restructuring of American education. Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals ^{the 50 goals + I set} set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to growing populations -- blacks and hispanics -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

-- will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education takes place in classrooms that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. Children cannot learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home alone after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the ~~casualties~~ of this war. The ~~weapons~~ are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, ^{carefully but not} swiftly and predictably, ~~regardless of race.~~ And a prison system that is up to the job. **Americans**

can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean starting up small businesses in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on seed capital. That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work. And it means allowing people to take home more of their pay. Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. //

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, to many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering incentives for public housing residents to move out -- and move up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American Dream. // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. This will bring us closer to our goal of **one million new homeowners by 1992**.

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Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

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We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

#

debate of future is ~~not~~ up vs. down / not right vs. left
Reference S. O. U - Michael Jackson

I'm sure Cong will ~~not~~ send me Civil Kts bill
but I want to sign more than

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

just a C. Rights bill - do nothing Cong.
Agenda -
These 5 bills - not just one -

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J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
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From its start, the story of America has been the story of
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Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
document in modern history -- ^{written 200 years ago,} our Bill of Rights. Abraham
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world's citadel of freedom
ster *(opposite of freedom)*

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more than
Theirs is a movement ^{more than} **200 years old** -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a ^{vision} movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

I share that vision - a vision of *it is*
~~(For what is)~~ the American Dream -- ~~if it isn't~~ ^{it is} wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? ~~If it isn't~~ ^{It's} creating a better life for our children than we might have had? ~~If it isn't~~ ^{It's} the freedom to take command of our own future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a place to call one's own,

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I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.

Aristotle
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From the GI Bill to Pell Grants, students have the power to choose
competitive. It's time all Americans become [^]consumers and demand ~~sovereignty~~
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Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to growing populations -- blacks and hispanics ^{+ Asians} -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

-- will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. // *Anti-discrimination here? Tougher enforcement*

Everyone knows the best education takes place in classrooms that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. Children cannot learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home (alone) after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

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They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the **casualties** of this war. The **weapons** are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, ^{*carefully?*} swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. **Americans**

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The civil rights debate has been won
Pinkerton
NO

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

#

Document No. 21518255

91 FEB 25 10:17

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/22/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, MONDAY, FEB. 25

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	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"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*CC: FDU
Exp. 2/23/91
Ses*

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, by NOON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*No Comments on the speech -
we would like the opportunity to review the
Civil Rights insert. 2/23/91*


PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 FEB 25 P12:37 **WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

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DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

OK. S.R.

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 FEB 22 PM 12:22

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
PLACE? TIME?**

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[More to come]))

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of the world.

From its start, the story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
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These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

Theirs is a movement 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our own future?

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raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home and on the job and in the neighborhood.

But for some, America has not yet fulfilled its destiny as a land of opportunity. We know who they are: They are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The destitute and the desperate. The unemployed and the unemployable. The ones who can't read a simple sentence -- much less write one. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

The Administration's Education bill puts this kind of choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. We've seen choice and competition improve education -- from Minneapolis to East Harlem. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- and highly

competitive. It's time all Americans become consumers and demand choice in education.

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school system. We're encouraging teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must cut the dropout rate -- by ensuring that every kid in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For quite some time now, the Administration has been calling for nothing short of the restructuring of American education. Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to growing populations -- blacks and hispanics -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

-- will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education takes place in classrooms that are drug-free, safe, learning environments. Children cannot learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because often they're afraid to walk home alone after dark, or leave the house with no one around.

Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. The weapons are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. Americans

can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean starting up small businesses in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on seed capital. That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work. And it means allowing people to take home more of their pay. Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. //

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, to many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering incentives for public housing residents to move out -- and move up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American Dream. // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. This will bring us closer to our goal of one million new homeowners by 1992.

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level. Our

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

But the sixties are over. And so is the civil rights debate. That debate has been won -- won by those who decided Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.

I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or got a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul the will to live one more day.

Opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. **This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity.** Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

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STAFFED
FOR 11 AM

Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
PLACE? TIME?**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction.
(other acknowledgements) ... It's hard to believe a year has
passed since the day I issued a set of challenges to the members
of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization,
tap your power and transform a nation through community service.
[More to come]))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces,
so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every
man and woman here this morning believes in the power of the
individual, and is bolstered by the notion that America is indeed
the land of opportunity. For 200 years, America has been the
home of democracy, the birthplace of free markets and free
people. There is no question: **opportunity in America is the envy
of the world.**

From its start, the story of America has been the story of
opportunity. Throughout our history, men and women have
pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our
Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound
document in modern history -- our Bill of Rights. Abraham
Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage
movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The
founders of our public schools unleashed the potential of an
educated citizenry by introducing universal free education. And

by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright Brothers and Jesse Owens.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our history books. There are just as many "new American heroes" today, many of them in this room. What they share with those who went before is pride, and integrity, and faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's what makes America the world's great citadel of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century. [examples to come].

Theirs is a movement 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a movement driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

For what is the American Dream -- if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our own future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a place to call one's own,

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home and on the job and in the neighborhood.

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We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school system. We're encouraging teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students -- the success of community partnerships like Cities in Schools shows that the battle to give young people education, direction and hope can be won. We must cut the dropout rate -- by ensuring that every kid in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For quite some time now, the Administration has been calling for nothing short of the restructuring of American education. Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to growing populations -- blacks and hispanics -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

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Intimidated by crime, low-income Americans are the ones least likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. And so they're trapped in their homes, fearful and alone, slowly losing the hope of a better life.

They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. The weapons are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. Americans

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The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, to many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering incentives for public housing residents to move out -- and move up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American Dream. // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. This will bring us closer to our goal of **one million new homeowners by 1992**.

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level. Our

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

But the sixties are over. And so is the civil rights debate. That debate has been won -- won by those who decided Brown vs. the Board of Education. // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.

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We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

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Grant/Cawley
February 26, 1991
9 A.M. A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
11:00 A.M.**

((Thank you, Bill [Taylor], for that warm introduction. Attorney General Thornburgh and Secretaries Kemp and Sullivan and Acting Education Secretary Ted Sanders; and of course, Bob Woodson of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. It's hard to believe a year has passed since the day I challenged the members of ASAE -- to channel the tremendous energy of this organization, and transform a nation through community service. What a terrific job you've done.))

Looking around the room today, I see so many familiar faces, so many people making a difference in the lives of others. Every man and woman here believes in the power of the individual, and is bolstered by the conviction that America is indeed a land of opportunity. For more than 200 years, America has been the home of free markets and free people. There is no question: **opportunity in America is the envy of the world.**

The story of America has been the story of opportunity. Throughout our history, we have pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound document in modern history -- our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Abraham Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The founders of our

public schools unleashed our national potential through universal education. And by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement helped bring dignity to the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright brothers and Rosa Parks.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our past. There are the "new American heroes" of today, many of them in this room. They, too, are inspired by pride, integrity, faith in the dignity of man, and courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's made America the world's great beacon of freedom. //

These modern visionaries are the ones making history -- propelling us into the Next American Century.

Theirs is a movement more than 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind" and what I call "the American idea." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It is a vision driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

I share that vision -- for what is the American Dream, if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a home to call one's own,

raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure at home, on the job, and in the neighborhood.

But for others, America has not yet fulfilled the promise of equality of opportunity. We know who they are: they are the hopeless and the homeless. The friendless and the fearful. The unemployed and the underemployed. The ones who can't read. The ones who can't write. They are the ones who don't believe they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell any American for whom hope lies dormant: **we will not forget you. // We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. // Yes, we must offer them hope. But we must guarantee them opportunity. //**

It's been said, "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill, and with it, independence. Earning a living, with dignity and personal growth. More skills mean more freedom -- more options for even greater opportunity.

Today, our Administration is proposing an agenda to expand opportunity and choice for all Americans. It involves more than six major initiatives across the scope of our entire government: restoring quality education; ensuring crime-free neighborhoods; strengthening civil and legal rights for all; creating jobs and new businesses; expanding access to homeownership; and allowing localities a greater share of responsibility. In its entirety, I

believe it represents one of the most far-reaching efforts in decades to unleash the talents of every citizen in America.

In several weeks, I will have legislation to enact this agenda on the desk of every Congressman. The Administration's Educational Excellence proposals, for example, will put choice in the hands of students and parents -- so they can choose the best school to attend. Our higher education system is clearly the finest in the world -- creative, innovative, and highly competitive. From the G.I. Bill to Pell Grants, college students already have the power to choose. Now it's time our education system -- all of it -- became the finest in the world. //

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school systems. We've seen what education reform can do -- from East L.A. to East Harlem. We're encouraging Governors to bring together teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students. We must cut the dropout rate -- and ensure that every student in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work. //

For some time now, the Administration has called for the restructuring of American education. We've got to raise our expectations for our students and our schools. But if we're going to ask more of them, it wouldn't be fair to tie the hands of the teachers and principals -- particularly those who make a difference. We need responsive schools -- customer-driven ones, if you will. Schools that are more market-oriented, and

performance-based -- because it's time we recognize that competition can spur excellence in our schools. Choice is the catalyst for change, the fundamental reform that drives forward all others. These ideas will steer us toward meeting the national education goals the Governors and I set after the Education Summit -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Millions of jobs await America's graduates in the coming years. To fill those jobs, entrepreneurs will look increasingly to America's minorities -- Blacks, Hispanics and Asians -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. The majority of those jobs are safer, cleaner, higher-skilled, better-paying jobs. And they will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education. //

Everyone knows the best education takes place in a safe, drug-free environment. It is difficult for children to learn if there is violence in the classroom. Or crime in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office -- because of the danger that darkness brings, especially in crime-ridden neighborhoods.

Low-income Americans are the ones more likely to be intimidated by crime and less likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families

from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall, or down the street. They're the ones who need opportunity the most.

It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. Our tactics: mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and surely. A prison system that is up to the job. And finally, our strategy must include an unequivocal commitment to our young people. **There are meaningful and adventurous alternatives to a life of crime. //**

It starts with an education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Bigotry and discrimination still exist. But, we have powerful legal tools for eliminating discrimination -- and remember, the legal guarantees of equality of opportunity are largely in place: Brown vs. the Board of Education. The Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Fair Housing Acts of 1968 and 1988. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

To assure that every American enjoys the equality of opportunity and access, I am determined to continue vigorous enforcement of these and other civil rights laws. //

And where our laws need improvement, I am committed to refining them. We will soon introduce legislation with strong new remedies to protect women from sexual harassment and minorities from racial prejudice in the workplace, and I call on the Congress to act promptly on this important initiative.

But legislation that only creates a lawyer's bonanza **helps no one.** [[Now, I know a lot of lawyers ... Some of my best friends are lawyers.]] // **But we all know where opportunity really begins. It begins with a job.** //

In our hardest hit urban and rural areas our enterprise zone proposal will create new small businesses. We're providing new incentives for employers to hire more workers. And by eliminating the capital gains tax on businesses in these areas, and attracting more seed capital, our proposals mean economic growth, more minority entrepreneurs and most importantly, jobs.

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, for many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering public housing residents not only control and management of their own community but, for the first time, access to homeownership and private property -- to gain a stake in their communities. We've asked Congress to provide much-needed funding for the HOPE program in 1991, to make this opportunity a reality in our inner cities this year. And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. These initiatives will bring us closer to our goal of **one million new homeowners by 1992.**

You know, there's something reassuring about becoming part of a neighborhood -- a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for one another. Each community in America is different, and its residents know best how to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're proposing to allow communities to restructure programs at the local level.

Our strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future. **This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity.** It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. Every man and woman in this room shares its vision. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century. Half a world away, our allied troops face a defining moment in the new world order. And they are succeeding in their battle because each and every one of them possesses pride in their country, integrity in their cause and courage in their heart.

Our veterans will be home -- soon -- to a grateful nation. I want to ensure that their return is to a land of equal opportunity. Just as they have stood to safeguard our freedom, let us stand -- with pride, integrity, and courage in our hearts -- and expand the freedoms of all Americans. It's up to each of

us to secure the triumph of "the American idea." That idea is opportunity.//

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

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Grant/Cawley
February 21, 1991
12 noon A:CIVIL-RT

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
PLACE? TIME?**

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by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement unshackled the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Mother Seton, Clara Barton, the Wright Brothers and Jesse Owens.

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For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health, having a place to call one's own,

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I'm here to tell you that we will not forget these Americans for whom hope lies dormant, for whom despair is a daily fact of life. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. We must guarantee them opportunity.

Some have said "hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning. Understanding the power and potential of individual effort. Developing a skill. And the independence it brings. The ability to earn a living. With dignity and opportunity for personal growth. More skills mean more choices. More options for even greater opportunity.

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For quite some time now, the Administration has been calling for nothing short of the restructuring of American education. Let me lay out the five principles that should guide our efforts to empower parents, expand choice and encourage excellence. The principles are: high expectations; decentralized authority; and schools that are responsive, market oriented and performance-tested. These will guide our efforts to meet the national education goals set in Charlottesville -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Awaiting America's graduates over the next 20 years will be 15 million new jobs. To fill those jobs, American business will look increasingly to growing populations -- blacks and hispanics -- and to people just entering the economic mainstream -- workers with disabilities and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. Those 15 million jobs -- more skilled, better paying jobs

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They're the ones who need opportunity the most. It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs, and the gangs, and the drug kingpins should be the **casualties** of this war. The **weapons** are mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime. Strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse. Tough prosecutors. Courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and predictably, regardless of race. And a prison system that is up to the job. **Americans**

can only walk down the road to opportunity if the streets are safe.//

An education. A neighborhood that's safe and secure. Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing: A job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. For our hardest hit urban areas, our new proposals mean starting up small businesses in enterprise zones, and eliminating the capital gains tax on seed capital. That means removing the disincentives facing those on welfare who want to work. And it means allowing people to take home more of their pay. Our proposals mean economic growth and most importantly, jobs. //

The American Dream also means choosing where to live and, to many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering incentives for public housing residents to move out -- and move up -- into the economic mainstream -- and into the American Dream. // And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money in their IRAs to buy their first home. This will bring us closer to our goal of **one million new homeowners by 1992**.

There's something reassuring about being part of a neighborhood. There's a lot to be said for a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for each other. Each community in America is different, and its residents know how best to take care of each other -- what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. So we're restructuring programs to broaden choice at the local level. Our

strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities -- the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future.

Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Hatred, bigotry, and racial discrimination still exist in America. Where legal remedies work, we are refining our civil rights laws. [1991 Civil Rights bill insert to come].

But the sixties are over. And so is the civil rights debate. That debate has been won -- won by those who decided *Brown vs. the Board of Education.* // Won by those who enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. // And the Voting Rights Act of 1965. // And the Fair Housing Act of 1968. // There are plenty of civil rights laws on the books -- and plenty of lawyers in courtrooms to argue over them.

I know a lot of lawyers. Some of my best friends are lawyers. But no one ever learned how to read in a courtroom. Or got a job there. Or rebuilt a neighborhood. Or gave a lost soul the will to live one more day.

Opportunity doesn't begin in the courtroom. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom, and lives on in the American Dream. **This is our Administration's agenda for opportunity.** Every man and woman in this room is a member of the movement. The great poet Carl Sandburg wrote that "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the Dream a reality.

We face a new Century -- a new American Century -- and our moment in history is here. The time is now -- to fulfill America's destiny as a land of opportunity for all.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

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OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
FEBRUARY 27, 1991
J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL
11:00 A.M.

THANK YOU, BILL [TAYLOR], FOR THAT WARM INTRODUCTION. ATTORNEY GENERAL THORNBURGH AND SECRETARIES KEMP AND SULLIVAN AND ACTING EDUCATION SECRETARY TED SANDERS; AND OF COURSE, BOB WOODSON OF THE CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE THE DAY I CHALLENGED THE MEMBERS OF A.S.A.E. -- TO CHANNEL THE TREMENDOUS ENERGY OF THIS ORGANIZATION, AND TRANSFORM A NATION THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE. WHAT A TERRIFIC JOB YOU'VE DONE.

LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM TODAY, I SEE SO MANY FAMILIAR FACES, SO MANY PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. EVERY MAN AND WOMAN HERE BELIEVES IN THE POWER OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND IS BOLSTERED BY THE CONVICTION THAT AMERICA IS INDEED A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY. FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS, AMERICA HAS BEEN THE HOME OF FREE MARKETS AND FREE PEOPLE. THERE IS NO QUESTION: OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD.

THE STORY OF AMERICA HAS BEEN THE STORY OF OPPORTUNITY. THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, WE HAVE PIONEERED THE FRONTIERS OF LIBERTY FOR ALL HUMANITY. OUR FOUNDING FATHERS CREATED PERHAPS THE MOST SIMPLE YET PROFOUND DOCUMENT IN MODERN HISTORY -- OUR CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BROKE FOREVER THE CHAINS OF HUMAN SLAVERY. THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT MADE THE PROMISE OF DEMOCRACY A REALITY FOR WOMEN. THE FOUNDERS OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNLEASHED OUR NATIONAL POTENTIAL THROUGH UNIVERSAL EDUCATION. AND BY THEIR STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS, THE LEADERS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT HELPED BRING DIGNITY TO THE OPPRESSED AND DISENFRANCHISED. THE STORY OF OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA IS THE STORY OF THOMAS PAINE AND FREDERICK DOUGLASS, MOTHER SETON, CLARA BARTON, THE WRIGHT BROTHERS AND ROSA PARKS.

BUT IT DOESN'T END THERE, WITH THESE HEROES FROM OUR PAST. THERE ARE THE "NEW AMERICAN HEROES" OF TODAY, MANY OF THEM IN THIS ROOM. THEY, TOO, ARE INSPIRED BY PRIDE, INTEGRITY, FAITH IN THE DIGNITY OF MAN, AND COURAGE TO OVERCOME THE ODDS. IT'S CALLED LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE -- AND IT'S MADE AMERICA THE WORLD'S GREAT BEACON OF FREEDOM. //

THESE MODERN VISIONARIES ARE THE ONES MAKING HISTORY -- PROPELLING US INTO THE NEXT AMERICAN CENTURY.

THEIRS IS A MOVEMENT MORE THAN 200 YEARS OLD -- AS OLD AS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE -- A MOVEMENT DEFINED BY WHAT JEFFERSON CALLED "THE AMERICAN MIND" AND WHAT I CALL "THE AMERICAN IDEA." IT CONTINUES TO SWEEP OUR COUNTRY TODAY WITH A VIGOR AS STRONG AS EVER. IT IS A VISION DRIVEN BY THE STRENGTH AND POWER OF THE AMERICAN DREAM.

I SHARE THAT VISION -- FOR WHAT IS THE AMERICAN DREAM, IF IT ISN'T WANTING TO BE PART OF SOMETHING LARGER THAN OURSELVES? IF IT ISN'T CREATING A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN THAN WE MIGHT HAVE HAD? IF IT ISN'T THE FREEDOM TO TAKE COMMAND OF OUR FUTURE? FOR MOST PEOPLE, THESE ASPIRATIONS MEAN ENJOYING THE BLESSINGS OF GOOD HEALTH, HAVING A HOME TO CALL ONE'S OWN, RAISING A FAMILY, HOLDING A STAKE IN THE COMMUNITY, FEELING SECURE AT HOME, ON THE JOB, AND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

BUT FOR OTHERS, AMERICA HAS NOT YET FULFILLED THE PROMISE OF EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY. WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE: THEY ARE THE HOPELESS AND THE HOMELESS. THE FRIENDLESS AND THE FEARFUL. THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE UNDEREMPLOYED. THE ONES WHO CAN'T READ. THE ONES WHO CAN'T WRITE. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO DON'T BELIEVE THEY WILL EVER SHARE IN THE AMERICAN DREAM.

I'M HERE TO TELL ANY AMERICAN FOR WHOM HOPE LIES
DORMANT: WE WILL NOT FORGET YOU. // WE WILL NOT FORGET
THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET SHARED IN THE AMERICAN DREAM. //
YES, WE MUST OFFER THEM HOPE. BUT WE MUST GUARANTEE
THEM OPPORTUNITY. //

IT'S BEEN SAID, "HOPE IS A WAKING DREAM." THAT
AWAKENING BEGINS WITH LEARNING. UNDERSTANDING THE
POWER AND POTENTIAL OF INDIVIDUAL EFFORT. DEVELOPING A
SKILL, AND WITH IT, INDEPENDENCE. EARNING A LIVING,
WITH DIGNITY AND PERSONAL GROWTH. MORE SKILLS MEAN
MORE FREEDOM -- MORE OPTIONS FOR EVEN GREATER
OPPORTUNITY.

TODAY, OUR ADMINISTRATION IS PROPOSING AN AGENDA TO
EXPAND OPPORTUNITY AND CHOICE FOR ALL AMERICANS. IT
INVOLVES MORE THAN SIX MAJOR INITIATIVES ACROSS THE
SCOPE OF OUR ENTIRE GOVERNMENT: RESTORING QUALITY
EDUCATION; ENSURING CRIME-FREE NEIGHBORHOODS;
STRENGTHENING CIVIL AND LEGAL RIGHTS FOR ALL; CREATING
JOBS AND NEW BUSINESSES; EXPANDING ACCESS TO
HOMEOWNERSHIP; AND ALLOWING LOCALITIES A GREATER SHARE
OF RESPONSIBILITY. IN ITS ENTIRETY, I BELIEVE IT
REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST FAR-REACHING EFFORTS IN
DECADES TO UNLEASH THE TALENTS OF EVERY CITIZEN IN
AMERICA.

IN SEVERAL WEEKS, I WILL HAVE LEGISLATION TO ENACT THIS AGENDA ON THE DESK OF EVERY CONGRESSMAN. THE ADMINISTRATION'S EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE PROPOSALS, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL PUT CHOICE IN THE HANDS OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS -- SO THEY CAN CHOOSE THE BEST SCHOOL TO ATTEND. OUR HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IS CLEARLY THE FINEST IN THE WORLD -- CREATIVE, INNOVATIVE, AND HIGHLY COMPETITIVE. FROM THE G.I. BILL TO PELL GRANTS, COLLEGE STUDENTS ALREADY HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE. NOW IT'S TIME OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM -- ALL OF IT -- BECAME THE FINEST IN THE WORLD. //

WE'RE ALSO PROPOSING EDUCATION REFORMS TO BUILD FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY INTO OUR SCHOOL SYSTEMS. WE'VE SEEN WHAT EDUCATION REFORM CAN DO -- FROM EAST L.A. TO EAST HARLEM. WE'RE ENCOURAGING GOVERNORS TO BRING TOGETHER TEACHERS, PARENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS TO WORK TOGETHER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS. WE MUST CUT THE DROPOUT RATE -- AND ENSURE THAT EVERY STUDENT IN AMERICA ARRIVES AT SCHOOL READY TO LEARN, AND GRADUATES READY TO WORK. //

FOR SOME TIME NOW, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CALLED FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF AMERICAN EDUCATION. WE'VE GOT TO RAISE OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR OUR STUDENTS AND OUR SCHOOLS. BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO ASK MORE OF THEM, IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO TIE THE HANDS OF THE TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS -- PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE NEED RESPONSIVE SCHOOLS -- CUSTOMER-DRIVEN ONES, IF YOU WILL. SCHOOLS THAT ARE MORE MARKET-ORIENTED, AND PERFORMANCE-BASED -- BECAUSE IT'S TIME WE RECOGNIZE THAT COMPETITION CAN SPUR EXCELLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS. CHOICE IS THE CATALYST FOR CHANGE, THE FUNDAMENTAL REFORM THAT DRIVES FORWARD ALL OTHERS. THESE IDEAS WILL STEER US TOWARD MEETING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS THE GOVERNORS AND I SET AFTER THE EDUCATION SUMMIT -- BECAUSE WE CAN'T EXPECT TO REMAIN A FIRST-CLASS ECONOMY IF WE SETTLE FOR SECOND-CLASS SCHOOLS.

MILLIONS OF JOBS AWAIT AMERICA'S GRADUATES IN THE COMING YEARS. TO FILL THOSE JOBS, ENTREPRENEURS WILL LOOK INCREASINGLY TO AMERICA'S MINORITIES -- BLACKS, HISPANICS AND ASIANS -- AND TO PEOPLE JUST ENTERING THE ECONOMIC MAINSTREAM -- WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES AND MOTHERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE JOBS ARE SAFER, CLEANER, HIGHER-SKILLED, BETTER-PAYING JOBS. AND THEY WILL GO TO THE ONES WHO HAVE WHAT IT TAKES -- A QUALITY EDUCATION. //

EVERYONE KNOWS THE BEST EDUCATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN IF THERE IS VIOLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM. OR CRIME IN THE SCHOOLYARD. OR DRUG PUSHERS ALONG THE WAY HOME. AND OLDER STUDENTS AND WORKERS FIND IT HARD TO ATTEND NIGHT SCHOOL OR PUT IN LATE HOURS AT THE OFFICE -- BECAUSE OF THE DANGER THAT DARKNESS BRINGS, ESPECIALLY IN CRIME-RIDDEN NEIGHBORHOODS.

LOW-INCOME AMERICANS ARE THE ONES MORE LIKELY TO BE INTIMIDATED BY CRIME AND LESS LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAY BE ACROSS TOWN OR EVEN JUST AROUND THE CORNER. THEY'RE THE ONES DEFENDING THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM THE DRUG DEALERS AND MUGGERS DOWN THE HALL, OR DOWN THE STREET. THEY'RE THE ONES WHO NEED OPPORTUNITY THE MOST.

IT IS IN THEIR NAME THAT THIS BATTLE FOR THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES MUST BE WAGED. THE THUGS, AND THE GANGS, AND THE DRUG KINGPINS SHOULD BE THE CASUALTIES OF THIS WAR. OUR TACTICS: MANDATORY SENTENCES FOR USING A FIREARM IN A VIOLENT CRIME. STRENGTHENED PROTECTION AGAINST SEX CRIMES AND CHILD ABUSE. TOUGH PROSECUTORS. COURTS THAT METE OUT EQUAL JUSTICE, SWIFTLY AND SURELY. A PRISON SYSTEM THAT IS UP TO THE JOB. AND FINALLY, OUR STRATEGY MUST INCLUDE AN UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. THERE ARE MEANINGFUL AND ADVENTUROUS ALTERNATIVES TO A LIFE OF CRIME. //

IT STARTS WITH AN EDUCATION. A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT'S SAFE AND SECURE. OPPORTUNITY IS BUILT ON THESE FOUNDATIONS, BUT THE DOOR IS OPENED BY ONE THING: A JOB. EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS A JOB SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET ONE. OF COURSE, VESTIGES OF THE PAST REMAIN. BIGOTRY AND DISCRIMINATION STILL EXIST. BUT, WE HAVE POWERFUL LEGAL TOOLS FOR ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION -- AND REMEMBER, THE LEGAL GUARANTEES OF EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY ARE LARGELY IN PLACE: BROWN VS. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964. THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965. THE FAIR HOUSING ACTS OF 1968 AND 1988. THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990.

TO ASSURE THAT EVERY AMERICAN ENJOYS THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS, I AM DETERMINED TO CONTINUE VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT OF THESE AND OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. //

AND WHERE OUR LAWS NEED IMPROVEMENT, I AM COMMITTED TO REFINING THEM. WE WILL SOON INTRODUCE LEGISLATION WITH STRONG NEW REMEDIES TO PROTECT WOMEN FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND MINORITIES FROM RACIAL PREJUDICE IN THE WORKPLACE, AND I CALL ON THE CONGRESS TO ACT PROMPTLY ON THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.

BUT LEGISLATION THAT ONLY CREATES A LAWYER'S BONANZA HELPS NO ONE. [NOW, I KNOW A LOT OF LAWYERS ... SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE LAWYERS.] // BUT WE ALL KNOW WHERE OPPORTUNITY REALLY BEGINS. IT BEGINS WITH A JOB. //

IN OUR HARDEST HIT URBAN AND RURAL AREAS OUR ENTERPRISE ZONE PROPOSAL WILL CREATE NEW SMALL BUSINESSES. WE'RE PROVIDING NEW INCENTIVES FOR EMPLOYERS TO HIRE MORE WORKERS. AND BY ELIMINATING THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON BUSINESSES IN THESE AREAS, AND ATTRACTING MORE SEED CAPITAL, OUR PROPOSALS MEAN ECONOMIC GROWTH, MORE MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, JOBS.

THE AMERICAN DREAM ALSO MEANS CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE AND, FOR MANY WORKING PEOPLE, OWNING A HOME SOMEDAY. WE'RE OFFERING PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS NOT ONLY CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITY BUT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ACCESS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP AND PRIVATE PROPERTY -- TO GAIN A STAKE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE'VE ASKED CONGRESS TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED FUNDING FOR THE HOPE PROGRAM IN 1991, TO MAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY A REALITY IN OUR INNER CITIES THIS YEAR. AND WE'RE PROPOSING THAT AMERICANS BE ALLOWED TO USE THE MONEY IN THEIR IRAS TO BUY THEIR FIRST HOME. THESE INITIATIVES WILL BRING US CLOSER TO OUR GOAL OF ONE MILLION NEW HOMEOWNERS BY 1992.

YOU KNOW, THERE'S SOMETHING REASSURING ABOUT BECOMING PART OF A NEIGHBORHOOD -- A COMMUNITY THAT PULLS TOGETHER IN TIMES OF CRISIS, THAT LOOKS OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER. EACH COMMUNITY IN AMERICA IS DIFFERENT, AND ITS RESIDENTS KNOW BEST HOW TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER -- WHAT THE BEST OPTIONS ARE FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO NEED A HAND. SO WE'RE PROPOSING TO ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO RESTRUCTURE PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

OUR STRENGTH AS A NATION LIES IN THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES -- THE SUM OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND FAMILIES, OUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE. THIS IS OUR ADMINISTRATION'S AGENDA FOR OPPORTUNITY. IT BEGINS IN THE HEART OF EVERY PERSON WHO BELIEVES IN FREEDOM, AND LIVES ON IN THE AMERICAN DREAM. EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN THIS ROOM SHARES ITS VISION. THE GREAT POET CARL SANDBURG WROTE THAT "NOTHING HAPPENS UNLESS FIRST A DREAM." OUR MANDATE IS TO MAKE THE DREAM A REALITY.

WE FACE A NEW CENTURY -- A NEW AMERICAN CENTURY.
HALF A WORLD AWAY, OUR ALLIED TROOPS FACE A DEFINING
MOMENT IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER. AND THEY ARE SUCCESSING
IN THEIR BATTLE BECAUSE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM
POSSESSES PRIDE IN THEIR COUNTRY, INTEGRITY IN THEIR
CAUSE AND COURAGE IN THEIR HEART.

OUR VETERANS WILL BE HOME -- SOON -- TO A GRATEFUL
NATION. I WANT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR RETURN IS TO A
LAND OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. JUST AS THEY HAVE STOOD TO
SAFEGUARD OUR FREEDOM, LET US STAND -- WITH PRIDE,
INTEGRITY, AND COURAGE IN OUR HEARTS -- AND EXPAND THE
FREEDOMS OF ALL AMERICANS. IT'S UP TO EACH OF US TO
SECURE THE TRIUMPH OF "THE AMERICAN IDEA." THAT IDEA
IS OPPORTUNITY.//

WITH GOD'S HELP AND YOURS, WE WILL SUCCEED.

GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 27, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY ACTION PLAN
TO CIVIC AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

The J.W. Marriott Hotel
Washington, D.C.

11:08 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much. And what a wonderful reception. And I interpret that, I think properly, the same way I interpreted the applause at the State of the Union message -- as strong support for those men and women that are serving our country overseas. And now the war is almost over, and I think we owe them a vote of thanks, and I think I heard it right now. So thank you, Bill, and I'm just delighted to be here.

I want to shift and talk about domestic matters. And Bill, I couldn't help but glance at this marvelous quilt coming in here, and I do think that we owe you and all the others in the association a vote of thanks for following through and, indeed, being points of light.

I want to salute our Attorney General who is with us today; our two able Secretaries so concerned also about what we're talking about today, Secretaries Kemp and Sullivan; Ted Sanders, who is doing a superb job as our Acting Secretary at Education; and, of course, my old friend, a man so well-known to all of you, Bob Woodson of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. You know, it's hard to believe that a year has passed since the challenge Bill mentioned, since I challenged the members of ASAE to channel the tremendous energy of this organization and transform a nation through community service. And what a terrific job you've done.

Looking around the room today, peeking, before I came in here, I see so many familiar faces, so many people that are making a difference in the lives of others. Every man and woman here believes in the power of the individual, and is bolstered by the conviction that America is indeed a land of opportunity. For more than 200 years, America has been the home of free markets and free people. And there is no question: opportunity in America is the envy of the entire world.

The story of America has been the story of opportunity. Throughout our history, we've pioneered the frontiers of liberty for all humanity. Our Founding Fathers created perhaps the most simple yet profound document in modern history -- our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Abraham Lincoln broke forever the chains of human slavery. The suffrage movement made the promise of democracy a reality for women. The founders of our public schools unleashed our national potential through universal education. And by their struggle for equal rights, the leaders of the civil rights movement helped bring dignity to the oppressed and disenfranchised. The story of opportunity in America is the story of Thomas Paine and Frederick Douglass, Clara Barton, the Wright brothers, Rosa Parks.

But it doesn't end there, with these heroes from our past. There are the new American heroes of today, many of them in this room. And they, too, are inspired by pride, integrity, faith in the dignity of man, and courage -- yes, courage to overcome the odds. It's called leadership by example -- and it's made America the world's great beacon of freedom.

MORE

These modern visionaries are the ones that are making history -- propelling us into the next American century.

Theirs is a movement -- it's more than 200 years old -- as old as the Declaration of Independence -- a movement defined by what Jefferson called "the American mind" and what I've been calling "the American idea." It continues to sweep our country today with a vigor as strong as ever. It's a vision driven by the strength and power of the American Dream.

And I share that vision -- for what is the American Dream if it isn't wanting to be part of something larger than ourselves? If it isn't creating a better life for our children than we might have had? If it isn't the freedom to take command of our future?

For most people, these aspirations mean enjoying the blessings of good health or having a home to call one's own, or raising a family, holding a stake in the community, feeling secure -- secure at home or in our neighborhood.

But for others, sadly, America has not yet fulfilled the promise of equality of opportunity. We know who they are: They're the hopeless and the homeless, the friendless and the fearful, the unemployed and the underemployed, the ones who can't read, the ones who can't write. They are the ones who don't believe that they will ever share in the American Dream.

I'm here to tell any American for whom hope lies dormant: We will not forget you. We will not forget those who have not yet shared in the American Dream. We must offer them hope. But we must guarantee them opportunity.

It's been said, "Hope is a waking dream." That awakening begins with learning, understanding the power and potential of individual effort, developing a skill, and with it, independence, earning a living, with dignity and personal growth. More skills mean more freedom -- more options for even greater opportunity.

Today, our administration is proposing an agenda to expand opportunity and choice for all. It involves more than six major initiatives across the scope of our entire government: restoring quality education, ensuring crime-free neighborhoods, strengthening civil and legal rights for all, creating jobs and new businesses, expanding access to homeownership, and allowing localities a greater share of responsibility. In its entirety, I believe it represents one of the most far-reaching efforts in decades to unleash the talents of every citizen in America.

In several weeks, I will have legislation to enact this agenda on the desk of every congressman. The administration's Educational Excellence proposals, by way of example, will put choice in the hands of students and parents -- so that they can choose the best school to attend. Our higher education system is clearly, unquestionably, the finest in the world -- creative, innovative and highly competitive. From the G.I. Bill to Pell Grants, college students already have the power to choose. And now it's time that our education system, all of it, became the finest in the world.

We're also proposing education reforms to build flexibility and accountability into our school systems. We've seen what education reform can do, from East L.A. to East Harlem. We're encouraging governors to bring together teachers, parents and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students. We must cut the dropout rate and ensure that every student in America arrives at school ready to learn, and graduates ready to work.

For some time now, the administration has called for the restructuring of American education. We've got to raise our expectations for our students and our schools. But if we're going to ask more of them, it wouldn't be fair to tie the hands of the teachers and principals -- particularly those who make a difference.

We need responsive schools -- customer-driven ones, if you will. Schools that are more market-oriented, and performance-based, because it's time we recognize that competition can spur excellence in our schools. Choice is the catalyst for change, the fundamental reform that drives forward all others. These ideas will stir us and guide us toward meeting the national education goals the governors and I set up after that famous Education Summit -- because we can't expect to remain a first-class economy if we settle for second-class schools.

Millions of jobs await America's graduates in the coming years. But to fill those jobs, entrepreneurs will look increasingly to America's minorities: blacks, Hispanics and Asians, and to people just entering the economic mainstream, workers with disabilities, and mothers who have chosen to work outside the home. The majority of those jobs are safer, are cleaner, higher skilled, better paying jobs. And they will go to the ones who have what it takes -- a quality education.

Everyone knows the best education takes place in a safe, drug-free environment. It is difficult for children to learn if there's violence in the classroom. Or crime out in the schoolyard. Or drug pushers along the way home. And older students and workers find it hard to attend night school or put in late hours at the office because of the danger that darkness brings, especially in crime-ridden neighborhoods.

Low-income Americans are the ones more likely to be intimidated by crime, less likely to be able to take advantage of opportunities that may be across town or even just around the corner. They're the ones defending themselves and their families from the drug dealers and muggers down the hall or down the street. And they're the ones who need opportunity the most.

It is in their name that this battle for the streets of our cities must be waged. The thugs and the gangs and the drug kingpins should be the casualties of this war. Our tactics: mandatory sentences for using a firearm in a violent crime, strengthened protection against sex crimes and child abuse, tough prosecutors, courts that mete out equal justice, swiftly and surely, a prison system that is up to the job. And finally, our strategy must include an unequivocal commitment to our young people. There are meaningful and adventurous alternatives to a life of crime. And it starts with education, a neighborhood that's safe and secure.

Opportunity is built on these foundations, but the door is opened by one thing -- a job. Every American who wants a job should be able to get one. Of course, vestiges of the past remain. Bigotry and discrimination, regrettably, still do exist. But we have powerful legal tools for eliminating discrimination. And remember, the legal guarantees of equality of opportunity are largely in place: Brown vs. the Board of Education, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Acts of both 1968 and 1988, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

To assure that every American enjoys the equality of opportunity and access, I am determined to continue the vigorous enforcement of these and of all our civil rights laws.

And where our laws need improvement, I am committed to refining them. We will soon introduce legislation with strong new remedies to protect women from sexual harassment and minorities from racial prejudice in the workplace. And I call on the Congress to act promptly on this important initiative.

But legislation that only creates a lawyer's bonanza helps no one. We all know where opportunity really begins. It begins, as I said above, it begins with a job.

In our hardest hit urban and rural areas our enterprise zone proposal will create new small businesses. We're providing new incentives for employers to hire more workers, by eliminating the

capital gains tax on businesses in these areas, and attracting more seed capital. Our proposals mean economic growth, more minority entrepreneurs and most importantly, again, jobs.

The American dream also means choosing where to live and, for many working people, owning a home someday. We're offering public housing residents not only control and management of their own community, but for the first time, access to home ownership and private property to gain a stake in their communities. We've asked the Congress to provide much-needed funding for the HOPE program in 1991, to make this opportunity a reality in our inner cities this year. And we're proposing that Americans be allowed to use the money from their IRAs to buy their first home. These initiatives will bring us closer to our goal of one million new homeowners by 1992.

You know, there's something reassuring about becoming a part of a neighborhood, a community that pulls together in times of crisis, that looks out for one another. Each community in America is different, and its residents know best how to take care of each other, what the best options are for programs and services for those who need a hand. And so we're proposing to allow communities to restructure programs at the local level.

Our strength as a nation lies in the strength of our communities, the sum of our neighborhoods and families, our hopes and dreams for the future. This is our administration's agenda for opportunity. It begins in the heart of every person who believes in freedom and lives on in the American Dream. Every man and woman in this room shares its vision. The great poet, Carl Sandburg, put it this way: "nothing happens unless first a dream." Our mandate is to make the dream a reality.

We face a new century, a new American century. Half a world away, our allied troops face a defining moment in the new world order. And they are succeeding in their battle because each and every one of them possesses a pride in their country, integrity in their cause and courage in their heart.

Our troops will be home soon -- coming home to a grateful nation. And I want to ensure that their return is to a land of equal opportunity. And just as they have stood to safeguard our freedom -- the world's freedom -- let us stand with pride, integrity and courage in our hearts and expand the freedoms of all Americans. It's up to each of us to secure the triumph of "the American idea." And that idea is opportunity.

With God's help and yours, we will succeed. Thank you all very much. And may God bless our troops, and may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

11:30 A.M. EST