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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: 13560
Folder ID Number: 13560-004

Folder Title:
Press Statement, Cabinet Room 3/21/91 [OA 6031]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	7	3

I HAVE ASKED ATTORNEY GENERAL THORNBURGH FOR AN UPDATE ON OUR CRIME BILL. HE ALSO WILL BRIEF ME ON THE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW OF ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE MISCONDUCT GENERALLY AND OF THE LOS ANGELES CASE SPECIFICALLY.

WE HAVE ALL SEEN THE SHOCKING VIDEOTAPE AND SEEN TRANSCRIPTS OF THE INCIDENT IN LOS ANGELES.

- 2 -

WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THAT CASE, THOSE TERRIBLE SCENES STIR US ALL TO DEMAND AN END TO GRATUITOUS VIOLENCE AND BRUTALITY.

LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS CANNOT PLACE THEMSELVES ABOVE THE LAWS THEY ARE SWORN TO DEFEND. WE FOUGHT A WAR IN THE GULF TO PROTECT THE RULE OF LAW. WE OUGHT TO DEFEND THAT RULE OF LAW JUST AS VIGOROUSLY AT HOME.

Latest

I HAVE ASKED ATTORNEY GENERAL THORNBURGH FOR AN UPDATE ON OUR CRIME BILL. HE ALSO WILL BRIEF ME ON THE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW OF ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE MISCONDUCT GENERALLY AND OF THE LOS ANGELES CASE SPECIFICALLY.

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LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS CANNOT PLACE THEMSELVES ABOVE THE LAWS THEY ARE SWORN TO DEFEND.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE BREACHES OF FEDERAL LAW AGGRESSIVELY, AND WILL PROSECUTE VIOLATORS TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR LAW-ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS OBEY THE LAW SCRUPULOUSLY, EVEN IN SITUATIONS OF GREAT DANGER, EVEN WHEN THEY SUSPECT THAT THE CRIMINALS THEY ARREST SOON MAY GO FREE. THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN NEED THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

THEY NEED THE SUPPORT OF THE COURT SYSTEM, AND THEY NEED THE FAITH AND SUPPORT OF LOCAL CITIZENS.

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN DEFENDING A SENSE OF NATIONAL DECENCY AND PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW. A HORRIBLE INCIDENT IN DETROIT THIS WEEK ILLUSTRATED THE KIND OF MORAL DECAY THAT HAS ATTACKED TOO MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND TOWNS.

SOME THUGS MURDERED ARMY SPEC. ANTHONY RIGGS AND STOLE HIS CAR AS HE WAS TRYING TO MOVE HIS WIFE AND THREE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER TO A BETTER HOME. SPEC. RIGGS HAD JUST RETURNED HOME FROM THE GULF, WHERE HE SERVED ON A PATRIOT MISSILE BATTERY -- SAVING LIVES. THIS KIND OF TERRORISM DESTROYS MORE THAN FAMILIES. BLOCK BY BLOCK IT CAN WIPE OUT ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOODS, AND TURN PEACEFUL CITIES INTO ARMED CAMPS.

IT IS HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSOLE SPEC. RIGGS'S WIFE. AND NO ONE CAN EXPLAIN TO HIS DAUGHTER WHY HER YOUNG FATHER, WHO FOUGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY, COULD NOT SURVIVE IN A FAMILY MEMBER'S FRONT YARD. MY HEART GOES OUT TO HIS FAMILY. HIS TRAGEDY MAKES ME ALL THE MORE DETERMINED TO STAMP OUT THE KIND OF VIOLENCE THAT CLAIMED ANTHONY RIGGS' LIFE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND I ARE COMMITTED TO PASSAGE OF OUR CRIME BILL, WHICH WOULD GIVE US THE TOOLS WE NEED TO WAGE AN EFFECTIVE WAR ON CRIME. AS I SAID IN MY JOINT SESSION ADDRESS, I CALL ON CONGRESS TO PASS THAT BILL SWIFTLY.

* * *

**PRESS STATEMENT \ CABINET ROOM
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991 \ 1:30 P.M.**

I HAVE ASKED ATTORNEY GENERAL THORNBURGH FOR AN UPDATE ON OUR CRIME BILL. HE ALSO WILL BRIEF ME ON THE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW OF ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE MISCONDUCT GENERALLY AND OF THE LOS ANGELES CASE SPECIFICALLY.

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- 2 -

Martin **WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THAT CASE, EVERYONE SHOULD BE SICKENED BY ANY SHOW OF GRATUITOUS VIOLENCE AND BRUTALITY. I KNOW I AM APPALLED.**

LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS CANNOT PLACE THEMSELVES ABOVE THE LAWS THEY ARE SWORN TO DEFEND. WE FOUGHT A WAR IN THE GULF TO PROTECT THE RULE OF LAW. WE OUGHT TO DEFEND THAT RULE OF LAW JUST AS VIGOROUSLY AT HOME.

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#

91 MAR 21 10:48

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 3/21/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESS STATEMENT, CABINET ROOM, 3/21

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 <i>N/C</i>	<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"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>Pook Ha</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 TODAY, Thursday, March 21, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

91 MAR 21 AM 10:04

(SNOW)
March 20, 1991
6 p.m.

PRESS STATEMENT:
CABINET ROOM
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991
1:30 p.m.

I have asked Attorney General Thornburgh to brief me on his review of...

We have all seen a shocking videotape and seen transcripts of the incident in Los Angeles. Without getting into the specifics of that case, everyone should be sickened by any show of gratuitous violence and brutality. I know I am appalled.

Law-enforcement officials cannot place themselves above the laws they are sworn to defend. We fought a war in the Gulf to protect the rule of law. We ought to defend that rule of law just as vigorously at home.

But the vast majority of our law-enforcement professionals obey the law scrupulously, even in situations of great danger, even when they suspect that the criminals they arrest soon may go free. These brave men and women need the support of local governments. They need the support of the court system, and they need the faith and support of local citizens.

Nothing is more important than defending a sense of national decency and promoting the rule of law. A horrible incident in Detroit this week shows the tragic toll of the moral dry rot that has infested too many of our neighborhoods and towns.

Some thugs murdered Army Spec. Anthony Riggs and stole his car as he was trying to move his wife and three-year-old daughter

to a better home. Spec. Riggs had just returned home from the Gulf, where he had served on a Patriot missile battery -- saving lives.

This kind of terrorism destroys more than families. Block by block it can wipe out entire neighborhoods, and turn peaceful cities into armed camps.

It is humanly impossible to console Spec. Riggs's wife. And no one can explain to his daughter why her young father, who fought for his country, could not survive in his own front yard. My heart goes out to his family. His tragedy makes me all the more determined to stamp out the kind of violence that claimed Anthony Riggs' life. The attorney general is here because we are determined to take back the streets.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM
 91 MAR 21 AM 11:16



DATE: 3/21/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESS STATEMENT, CABINET ROOM, 3/21

	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 checked="" 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"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 TODAY, Thursday, March 21, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

~~to copy~~
to copy
From: Malin

91 MAR 21 AM 10:04

(SNOW)
March 20, 1991
6 p.m.

PRESS STATEMENT:
CABINET ROOM
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991
1:30 p.m.

I have asked Attorney General Thornburgh to brief me on his review of...

We have all seen ^{the} a shocking videotape and ~~seen~~ transcripts of the incident in Los Angeles. ~~Without getting into the specifics of that case, everyone should be sickened by any show of gratuitous violence and brutality. I know I am appalled.~~ *Those terrible scenes stir us all to demand an end to gratuitous violence and brutality.*

Law-enforcement officials cannot place themselves above the laws they are sworn to defend. We fought a war in the Gulf to protect the rule of law. We ought to defend that rule of law just as vigorously at home.

~~But~~ ^The vast majority of our law-enforcement professionals obey the law scrupulously, even in situations of great danger, even when they suspect that the criminals they arrest soon may go free. These brave men and women need the support of local governments. They need the support of the court system, and they need the faith and support of local citizens.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/21/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESS STATEMENT, CABINET ROOM, 3/21

	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 checked="" 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"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 TODAY, Thursday, March 21, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*See comments. Thanks.
 Holly Williamson
 3-21-91*

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

91 MAR 21 AM 10:04

(SNOW)
March 20, 1991
6 p.m.

PRESS STATEMENT:
CABINET ROOM
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991
1:30 p.m.

Insert A
I have asked Attorney General Thornburgh to brief me on his review of...

We have all seen a shocking videotape and seen transcripts of the incident in Los Angeles. Without getting into the specifics of that case, everyone should be sickened by any show of gratuitous violence and brutality. I know I am appalled.

Insert B
Law-enforcement officials cannot place themselves above the laws they are sworn to defend. We fought a war in the Gulf to protect the rule of law. We ought to defend that rule of law just as vigorously at home.

But the vast majority of our law-enforcement professionals obey the law scrupulously, even in situations of great danger, even when they suspect that the criminals they arrest soon may go free. These brave men and women need the support of local governments. They need the support of the court system, and they need the faith and support of local citizens.

Nothing is more important than defending a sense of national decency and promoting the rule of law. A horrible incident in Detroit this week shows the tragic toll of the moral dry rot that has infested too many of our neighborhoods and towns.

Some thugs murdered Army Spec. Anthony Riggs and stole his car as he was trying to move his wife and three-year-old daughter

to a better home. Spec. Riggs had just returned home from the Gulf, where he had served on a Patriot missile battery -- saving lives.

This kind of terrorism destroys more than families. Block by block it can wipe out entire neighborhoods, and turn peaceful cities into armed camps.

It is humanly impossible to console Spec. Riggs's wife. And no one can explain to his daughter why her young father, who fought for his country, could not survive in his own front yard. My heart goes out to his family. His tragedy makes me all the more determined to stamp out the kind of violence that claimed Anthony Riggs' life. The attorney general is here because we are determined to take back the streets.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*from Justice
Bill Barr*

Insert A

I have asked the Attorney General for an update on our crime bill and to brief me on his ongoing investigation of the Los Angeles case specifically and, generally, of the department's review of allegations of police misconduct.

Inset B

The American people can rest assured that this Administration and the Department of Justice will vigorously investigate allegations of cases where federal law has been violated, and we will prosecute those cases to the full extent of the law.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 3/21/91

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESS STATEMENT, CABINET ROOM, 3/21

	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 checked="" 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"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE: *See inside*

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

91 MAR 21 AM 10:04

(SNOW)
March 20, 1991
6 p.m.

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A small band of Law-enforcement officials cannot place themselves above the laws they are sworn to defend. We fought a war in the Gulf to protect the rule of law. We ought to defend that rule of law just as vigorously at home.

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Does not sound like POTUS - To present will say "I'm the President and a moral dry rot has infested our cities black black black"

*Terrorism suggest a
Political nature - doesn't it?*

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91 MAR 21 11:56 AM
WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 3/21/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESS STATEMENT, CABINET ROOM, 3/21

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

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 TODAY, Thursday, March 21, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: *No comment*

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

91 MAR 21 AM 10:04

(SNOW)
March 20, 1991
6 p.m.

PRESS STATEMENT:
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THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991
1:30 p.m.

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#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 3/21/91

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESS STATEMENT, CABINET ROOM, 3/21

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

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 TODAY, Thursday, March 21, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

OK. S.R.

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

91 MAR 21 AM 10:04

(SNOW)
March 20, 1991
6 p.m.

PRESS STATEMENT:
CABINET ROOM
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991
1:30 p.m.

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We have all seen a shocking videotape and seen transcripts of the incident in Los Angeles. Without getting into the specifics of that case, everyone should be sickened by any show of gratuitous violence and brutality. I know I am appalled.

Law-enforcement officials cannot place themselves above the laws they are sworn to defend. We fought a war in the Gulf to protect the rule of law. We ought to defend that rule of law just as vigorously at home.

But the vast majority of our law-enforcement professionals obey the law scrupulously, even in situations of great danger, even when they suspect that the criminals they arrest soon may go free. These brave men and women need the support of local governments. They need the support of the court system, and they need the faith and support of local citizens.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1991

01 MAR 21 P12:55

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Press Statement, Cabinet Room

This responds to your request for comments on the President's remarks in the Cabinet Room.

1. I recommend completing the first sentence as follows:

"I have asked Attorney General Thornburgh to brief me on his review of the disturbing events in Los Angeles and the Department's response to them.

2. On page 2, I recommend deleting the last sentence and inserting:

We must continue our pursuit of the rule of law with even more determination. The Attorney General is here because that means ensuring the rights of all Americans to be free from violence from whatever source, including law enforcement itself. It means taking back the streets to free our neighborhoods from the fear that grips them.

I think we should come back to the point on police brutality to show that our efforts to take back the streets are not an invitation to the police to become lawbreakers themselves.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

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SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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