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# FOIA MARKER

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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13570  
**Folder ID Number:** 13570-008

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**Folder Title:**  
Southern Baptist Convention 6/6/91 [OA 6034]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

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# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/6/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

	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"/>	PETERSMEYER	<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"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<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 JUN -4 PM 8:00

June 4, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*  
TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: MARK LANGE *ML*

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, June 6, at 11:45 a.m., you will address an audience of 20,000 at the annual Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (12 minutes, on teleprompter) point out the strong presence of religion in our national character and the need to protect freedom of religion. Also mentioned are the need for a constitutional amendment to allow prayer in school and a request for Congress to act on our crime bill.

(Lange/Simon)  
June 4, 1991  
6:30 P.M.  
[BAPTIST.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

[[ Acknowledgements... ]]

The last time I attended a Southern Baptist Convention was in 1982. Too long ago. But never so long that I'd lose touch with the rock-solid values of this community -- qualities that make it uniquely American. Strong but compassionate, proud but not boastful, decent and giving -- bearing an enduring belief in freedom -- an abiding faith in the love of God and the power of prayer.

Everywhere you turn, it seems, American values are ascendant around the world. Look to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union: There, places of worship long stood silent and subdued, forced underground by the iron fist of the state. But now, the churches, synagogues and mosques buzz with life: reclaimed by the people, joyfully emerging to proclaim their faith anew.

In Africa, Asia, Latin America -- your ministries flourish and spread the word of God around the world.

Even in the heat of the Persian Gulf, nearly 200 Southern Baptist chaplains reported well over 1,000 conversions among the servicemen and women of Operation Desert Storm -- with poncho-lined holes in the sand serving as makeshift baptistries.

Southern Baptists have been doing quiet but crucial work -- engaging in countless acts of kindness and compassion, spreading

the word of God, demonstrating the profound power of religious freedom.

You've held to faith where others have lost it -- gained in numbers where others haven't -- made a difference where others couldn't. // You prove that the flower of faith can bloom anywhere -- that no matter how hard the journey, no matter how high or humble the surroundings, God's love provides.

During the Gulf crisis, Barbara and I found guidance and comfort in prayer -- and throughout the struggle, your prayers sustained us. So I want to thank you all -- and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

And above all, after all the months of prayer and asking for God's guidance -- I thought it important to thank Him for sustaining our nation through this crisis.

You know, for too long, too many have worried that we Americans have weakened the two fundamental pillars supporting our society -- our families, and our faith.

But while the cynics may sense some kind of "religious resurgence" over the last two or three years, they've always been a lagging indicator of American life. Most of us have never had to get our faith in God back, because we never lost it. \\

In a recent survey, 40 percent of Americans named "faith in God" the most important part of their lives. Only two percent selected, "a job that pays well."

In this Bicentennial year of the Bill of Rights, we'd do well to pause and reflect on religion's roots in our society, and

our society's roots in religion.

The founding fathers thought long and carefully about the role of religion and government in our society. It's no accident that among all of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment -- freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, of petition -- the first was freedom of religion. That's why the story of a little girl named Monette Rethford, out in Norman, Oklahoma, is getting national attention.

A fifth-grader in a public elementary school, Monette liked to read her Bible under a shade tree during recess. No teachers involved, no disruption of school activities -- just Monette and a handful of friends who joined her, voluntarily, to share their faith and discuss how it touched their daily lives.

Yet school officials told Monette her prayer group was illegal on school property -- an "unlawful assembly." They forgot that the First Amendment was written to protect people against religious intrusions by the state -- not to protect the state from voluntary religious activity by the people.

My friends, the day a child's quiet prayer group during recess becomes an "unlawful assembly," law in America ceases to make sense. \\ In that spirit, today I again call on Congress: Pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to our nation's schools. \\ Let's put people first -- and allow them the freedom to follow their faith. \\

Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions -- and that means

giving parents and families the right to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids. \\

Just today we are publishing regulations that will provide the first vouchers for child care. Finally low-income parents will have the chance to choose where their kids get child care - - including religious settings and with religious instruction. \\

We want to extend the concept of choice to include schools.\\ Every family should have the freedom to choose a school for a child. Our efforts for choice in schools seek to put power in parents' hands. We trust them to make the right decisions for their kids.

And something more: we believe that kids should be safe to walk the streets -- any streets -- free from the fear of crime and the despair of drugs.

That's why, on March 6, I challenged the Congress to pass a tough Crime Bill in 100 days -- to keep our streets safe. Yet among all the items Congress put on their agenda for last month, crime didn't even make the list.

We submitted our first crime bill more than two years ago -- and nothing has happened. If God created the world in six days, surely the United States Congress can pass a crime bill in a hundred days. \\

There's another issue before Congress, and that's abortion -- a difficult, deeply emotional decision for all Americans. The question -- and we've faced it before -- is whether the American taxpayer should pay for abortions, and under what circumstances.

Since 1981 the Federal Government has determined that taxpayer funds should be used for abortion in only the most narrow of circumstances: where the life of the mother is endangered.

I believe these policies should continue, and earlier this week I sent exactly that message to Congress. \\

Whatever we've learned over the last few decades, it's clear that America is a nation that no longer lacks a moral vocabulary. Ideals like decency and virtue are no longer subject to scorn.

I'd ask that you hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of "a free church in a free state." Hold fast to protect all faiths, in freedom. And hold fast to protect our most essential unit of life, the family. \\

Let us ask ourselves: in child care, in education, in crime legislation -- are we doing all we can to preserve faith and family? If not, we must do more. Only when we protect and preserve our most cherished ideals and institutions, does government by the people serve the people.

We are, as ever, "one nation under God." No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. As new challenges confront us, we must draw on that strength -- and work to build a nation united in its commitment to decency and opportunity; to freedom, family and faith.

Let me close with a story about a Kurdish family -- Mikail and Sophia Dosky -- who escaped from Iraq over a decade ago. During their perilous journey across the Turkish border, they became separated from their 2-year-old daughter Gelawish [GAL-a-

wish]. Mikail and Sophia made it out of Iraq. Their daughter did not.

After settling in America, Mikail kept trying to get his daughter out of Iraq, even traveling there himself, but to no avail. Just a few weeks ago, Mikail and Sophia got a phone call from an American helicopter pilot in Turkey. The pilot had been flying supplies to Kurdish refugees when he got a note from Gelawish --- now 18 years old -- asking him to call her parents in America. He did -- and Mikail's friends at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia helped him get to Turkey and bring his daughter back. After thousands of miles, thousands of days, and thousands of dollars, Mikail and Gelawish arrived in America Tuesday night -- where years of sorrow were be wiped away with tears of joy.

What a testament to the power of faith, hope and love --- all of which God provides in abundance.

In war and peace, faith provides our solace, our shield and our shelter. As the Psalmist wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." God's light leads us forward. Today and always, let us pray for His continued guidance and grace.

Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers. May God continue to bless this land with freedom and peace.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

91 JUN -4 PM 8:00

June 4, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*  
TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: MARK LANGE *ML*

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

*OK*  
*with change*

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, June 6, at 11:45 a.m., you will address an audience of 20,000 at the annual Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (12 minutes, on teleprompter) point out the strong presence of religion in our national character and the need to protect freedom of religion. Also mentioned are the need for a constitutional amendment to allow prayer in school and a request for Congress to act on our crime bill.

(Lange/Simon)  
June 4, 1991  
6:30 P.M.  
[BAPTIST.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

[[ Acknowledgements... ]]

*Family*

The last time I attended a Southern Baptist Convention was in 1982. Too long ago. But never so long that I'd lose touch with the rock-solid values of this community -- qualities that make it uniquely American. Strong but compassionate, proud but not boastful, decent and giving -- <sup>*Better struggle in Family*</sup> bearing an enduring belief in freedom -- an abiding faith in the love of God and the power of prayer.

Everywhere you turn, it seems, American values are ascendant around the world. Look to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union: There, places of worship long stood silent and subdued, forced underground by the iron fist of the state. But now, the churches, synagogues and mosques buzz with life: reclaimed by the people, joyfully emerging to proclaim their faith anew.

In Africa, Asia, Latin America -- your ministries flourish and spread the word of God around the world.

Even in the heat of the Persian Gulf, nearly 200 Southern Baptist chaplains reported well over 1,000 conversions among the servicemen and women of Operation Desert Storm -- with poncho-lined holes in the sand serving as makeshift baptistries.

Southern Baptists have been doing quiet but crucial work -- engaging in countless acts of kindness and compassion, spreading

the word of God, demonstrating the profound power of religious freedom.

You've held to faith where others have lost it -- gained in numbers where others haven't -- made a difference where others couldn't. // You prove that the flower of faith can bloom anywhere -- that no matter how hard the journey, no matter how high or humble the surroundings, God's love provides.

During the Gulf crisis, Barbara and I <sup>and wish of the nation</sup> found guidance and comfort in prayer -- and throughout the struggle, <sup>your</sup> ~~your~~ prayers sustained us. So I want to thank you all -- and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

And above all, after all the months of prayer and asking for God's guidance -- I thought it important to thank <sup>God</sup> ~~him~~ for sustaining our nation through this crisis. <sup>That led to -- National Days of Prayer.</sup>

You know, for too long, too many have worried that we Americans have weakened the two fundamental pillars supporting our society -- our families, and our faith.

But while the cynics may sense some kind of "religious resurgence" over the last two or three years, they've always been a lagging indicator of American life. Most of us have never had to get our faith in God back, because we never lost it. \\

In a recent survey, 40 percent of Americans named "faith in God" the most important part of their lives. Only two percent selected, "a job that pays well."

In this Bicentennial year of the Bill of Rights, we'd do well to pause and reflect on religion's roots in our society, and

our society's roots in religion.

The founding fathers thought long and carefully about the role of religion and government in our society. It's no accident that among all of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment -- freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, of petition -- the first was freedom of religion. That's why the story of a little girl named Monette Rethford, out in Norman, Oklahoma, is getting national attention.

A fifth-grader in a public elementary school, Monette liked to read her Bible under a shade tree during recess. No teachers involved, no disruption of school activities -- just Monette and a handful of friends who joined her, voluntarily, to share their faith and discuss how it touched their daily lives.

Yet school officials told Monette her prayer group was illegal on school property -- an "unlawful assembly." They forgot that the First Amendment was written to protect people against religious intrusions by the state -- not to protect the state from voluntary religious activity by the people.

My friends, the day a child's quiet prayer group during recess becomes an "unlawful assembly," <sup>something's ~~wrong~~ really wrong.</sup> law in America ceases to ~~make sense~~. \\ In that spirit, today I again call on Congress: Pass a Constitutional Amendment <sup>permitting</sup> ~~restoring~~ voluntary prayer <sup>back into</sup> ~~to our~~ nation's schools. \\ Let's put people first -- and allow them the freedom to follow their faith. \\

Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions -- and that means

giving parents and families the right to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids. \\

Just today we are publishing regulations that will provide the first vouchers for child care. Finally low-income parents will have the chance to choose where their kids get child care - - including religious settings and with religious instruction. \\

We want to extend the concept of choice to include schools.\\ Every family should have the freedom to choose a school for a child. Our efforts for choice in schools seek to put power in parents' hands. We trust them to make the right

decisions for their kids. *Some argue choice will make bad schools worse. I am confident that choice will make the bad schools better.*

And something more: we believe that kids should be safe to walk the streets -- any streets -- free from the fear of crime and the despair of drugs.

That's why, on March 6, I challenged the Congress to pass a tough Crime Bill in 100 days -- to keep our streets safe. Yet among all the items Congress put on their agenda for last month, crime didn't even make the list.

We submitted our first crime bill more than two years ago -- and nothing has happened. ~~If God created the world in six days,~~ surely the United States Congress can pass a crime bill in a hundred days. \\

There's another issue before Congress, and that's abortion -- a difficult, deeply emotional decision for all Americans. The question -- and we've faced it before -- is whether the American taxpayer should pay for abortions, ~~and under what circumstances.~~

*Honest people of good will differ on this question but I firmly oppose taxpayer Federal funding of abortion*

My position (states clearly)

Don't change my paper, in the name of mother

except

Since 1981 the Federal Government has determined that taxpayer funds should be used for abortion in only <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ most narrow of circumstances: where the life of the mother is endangered. *stet*

I believe these policies should continue, and earlier this week I sent exactly that message to Congress. \\\

Whatever we've learned over the last few decades, it's clear that America is a nation that no longer lacks a moral vocabulary. Ideals like decency and virtue are no longer subject to scorn.

I'd ask that you hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of "a free church in a free state." Hold fast to protect all faiths, in freedom. And hold fast to protect our most essential unit of life, the family. \\\

Let us ask ourselves: in child care, in education, in crime legislation -- are we doing all we can to preserve faith and family? If not, we must do more. Only when we protect and preserve our most cherished ideals and institutions, does government by the people serve the people.

We are, as ever, "one nation under God." No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. As new challenges confront us, we must draw on that strength -- and work to build a nation united in its commitment to decency and opportunity; to freedom, family and faith.

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After settling in America, Mikail kept trying to get his daughter out of Iraq, even traveling there himself, but to no avail. Just a few weeks ago, Mikail and Sophia got a phone call from an American helicopter pilot in Turkey. The pilot had been flying supplies to Kurdish refugees when he got a note from Gelawish -- now 18 years old -- asking him to call her parents in America. He did -- and Mikail's friends at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia helped him get to Turkey and bring his daughter back. After thousands of miles, thousands of days, and thousands of dollars, Mikail and Gelawish arrived in America Tuesday night -- where years of sorrow were be wiped away with tears of joy.

What a testament to the power of faith, hope and love -- all of which God provides in abundance.

In war and peace, faith provides our solace, our shield and our shelter. As the Psalmist wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." God's light leads us forward. Today and always, let us pray for His continued guidance and grace.

Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers. May God continue to bless this land with freedom and peace.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 4, 1991

91 JUN 5 AM: 06

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*  
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Southern Baptist  
Convention

We have reviewed the attached remarks and have one suggestion which we feel would strengthen the draft.

On page two, in the first sentence of the sixth paragraph, we recommend inserting a period after the word "roots" and deleting the rest of the sentence. We feel strongly that the President should avoid labelling the decades of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may help in any other way.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/3/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUESDAY 6/4/91 5:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

	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"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<del>PORTER</del>	<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"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<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 your **comments** directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

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

91 MAY 31 PM 7:45

(Lange/Simon)  
May 31, 1991  
7:10 P.M.  
[BAPTIST.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

[[ Acknowledgements... ]]

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During the Gulf crisis, Barbara and I found guidance and comfort in prayer -- and throughout the struggle, your prayers sustained us. So I want to thank you all -- and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

And above all, after all the months of prayer and asking for God's guidance -- I thought it important to thank Him for sustaining our nation through this crisis.

You know, for too long, too many have worried that we Americans have lost our way. That the two fundamental pillars supporting this society -- our families, and our faith -- have been undermined. Damaged beyond repair.

But in a real sense, America is the one place forever being rediscovered -- renewed in faith, and reborn in freedom.

Some now sense a return to the roots -- ~~an end to the 60's self-centeredness, the 70's cynicism, the 80's apathy and "thirtysomething" self-absorption.~~ After decades of departure, they say, we're rediscovering the core values -- our fundamental goodness and decency, our deliverance from apathy.

Some may call this merely another trend in the cross-current of American life -- but you know better. You know that we are, as we have always been, a deeply religious culture.

Devoted to family and community. Drawing strength from our faith in God. Not loudly, but in quiet ways and small acts of kindness.

So while the cynics may sense some kind of "religious resurgence" over the last two or three years, they've always been a lagging indicator of American life. Most of us have never had to get our faith in God back, because we never lost it.

In a recent survey, 40 percent of Americans named "faith in God" as the most important part of their lives. Only two percent said "a job that pays well" was most important.

Far from being motivated only by greed and ambition, Americans' broad river of faith runs quietly -- but deep rivers always do. We would never claim to have a special place in God's soul -- but we are better as a people because He has a hallowed place in ours.

The founding fathers thought long and carefully about the role of religion and government in our society. It's no accident that among all of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment -- freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, of petition -- the first was freedom of religion. That's why the story of a little girl named Monette Rethford, out in Norman, Oklahoma, is getting national attention.

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a handful of friends who joined her, voluntarily, to share their faith and discuss how it touched their daily lives.

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My friends, the day a child's quiet prayer group during recess becomes an "unlawful assembly," law in America ceases to make sense. \\ In that spirit, today I again call on Congress: Pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to our nation's schools. \\ Let's put people first -- and allow them the freedom to follow their faith. \\

Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions -- and that means giving parents and families the power to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids. \\

It means giving all parents -- rich and poor, in every community, of every kind -- the power to choose the kind of school their children attend. \\ Every family should have the power of an alternative -- and through our efforts for choice in schools, we want to put power in parent's hands -- because we trust them to make the right decisions for their kids.

And something more: we believe that kids should be safe to walk the streets -- any streets -- free from the fear of crime and the despair of drugs.

That's why, on March 6, I challenged the Congress to pass a tough Crime Bill in 100 days -- to keep our streets safe. Yet among all the items Congress put on their agenda for last month, crime didn't even make the list.

If God created the world in six days, surely the United States Congress can pass a crime bill in a hundred days. \\

Whatever we've learned over the last few decades, it's clear that America is a nation that no longer lacks a moral vocabulary. Ideals like decency and virtue are no longer subject to scorn.

And while every President learns the limits to the power of the "bully pulpit" -- the power of your pulpits to persuade, to guide, to lead, is as limitless as God's love.

So I'd ask that you hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of "a free church in a free state" -- to protect all of America's faiths, in freedom. In all we do, let us ask first -- are we supporting that most essential unit of American life, the family? In child care, in education, in crime legislation -- are we doing all we can to preserve the twin pillars of faith and family? Only then does government by the people serve the people.

While the world's challenges seem to change shape almost daily, our fundamental values remain constant. Our principles endure.

We are, as ever, "one nation under God." No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. Of all the sources of this nation's strength -- our love of family, our

commitment to freedom -- none is more enduring or inspiring than our faith in God.

Let me close with a story about family, about faith, and about freedom. It's the story of a Kurdish family -- Mikail and Sophia Dosky -- who escaped from Iraq over a decade ago. During their perilous journey across the Turkish border, they became separated from their 3-year-old daughter Gelawish. Mikail and Sophia made it out of Iraq, but their daughter did not.

After settling in America, Mikail kept trying to get his daughter out of Iraq, even traveling there himself, but to no avail. Just a few weeks ago, Mikail and Sophia got a phone call from an American helicopter pilot in Turkey. The pilot had been flying supplies to Kurdish refugees when he got a note from Gelawish -- now 16 years old -- asking him to call her parents in America. He did -- and Mikhail asked his friends at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia to help him get to Turkey and bring his daughter back. After thousands of miles, thousands of days, and thousands of dollars, Mikail and Gelawish will soon be back in America -- where years of sorrow will be wiped away with tears of joy.

What a testament to the power of faith, love, and hope -- all of which God provides in abundance.

In war and in peace, faith provides our solace and our strength, our shield and our shelter. God's light leads us forward -- bringing strength in challenge, grace in adversity, solace in hardship, humility in achievement.

So today and always, let us pray for God's continued guidance: that His grace will sustain us -- as it has throughout our lives -- in the challenges ahead.

Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers.

# # #

*highlight  
insert  
general for life  
working on it*

Document No. 242518SS

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 6/3/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUESDAY 6/4/91 5:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>Jim</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>Andy Sigg</i>	<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"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 <i>Sharon</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>GARDNER</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

*MASTER*

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

(Lange/Simon)  
May 31, 1991  
7:10 P.M.  
[BAPTIST.DOC]

91 MAY 31 PM 7:45

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

[[ Acknowledgements... ]]

The last time I attended a Southern Baptist Convention was in 1982. Too long ago. But never so long that I'd lose touch with the rock-solid values of this community -- the qualities that make it uniquely American. Strong but compassionate, proud but not boastful, decent and giving -- bearing an enduring belief in freedom, and an abiding faith <sup>the love of God and</sup> in the power of prayer. *(Lange)*

Everywhere you turn, it seems, <sup>-- the values of freedom --</sup> American values are ascendant around the world. Look to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union: Places of worship long subdued and silent, forced underground by the iron fist of the state -- now reclaimed by the people, joyfully emerging to proclaim their faith anew.

In Africa, in Asia, in Latin America -- your ministries flourish and spread the word of God around the world.

And even in the heat of the Persian Gulf, nearly 200 Southern Baptist chaplains reported well over 1,000 conversions among the servicemen and women of Operation Desert Storm -- with poncho-lined holes in the sand serving as makeshift baptistries.

Southern Baptists have been doing quiet but crucial work -- engaging in countless acts of kindness and compassion, spreading the word of God and the undeniable value of religious freedom.

You've held to faith where others have lost it -- gained in numbers where others haven't -- made a difference where others couldn't. You prove that faith is a flower that can bloom anywhere -- that no matter how hard the journey, no matter how high or humble the surroundings, God's love provides.

During the Gulf crisis, Barbara and I found guidance and comfort in prayer -- and throughout the struggle, your prayers sustained us. So I want to thank you all -- and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

And above all, after all the months of prayer and asking for God's guidance -- I thought it important to thank Him for sustaining our nation through this crisis.

You know, for too long, too many have worried that we Americans have lost our way. That the two fundamental pillars supporting this society -- our families, and our faith -- have been undermined. Damaged beyond repair.

But in a real sense, America is the one place forever being rediscovered -- renewed in faith, and reborn in freedom.

Some now sense a return to the roots, ~~an end to the 60's self-centeredness, the 70's cynicism, the 80's apathy and "thirtysomething" self-absorption.~~ After decades of departure, they say, we're rediscovering the core values -- our fundamental goodness and decency, our deliverance from apathy.

Some may call this merely another trend in the cross-current of American life -- but you know better. You know that we are, as we have always been, a deeply religious <sup>people (?)</sup> culture.

*awkward interjection of God into war (Smith)  
said for sure.*

*(Porter)  
(Smith)*

*(Gardner)*

Devoted to family and community. Drawing strength from our faith in God. Not loudly, but in quiet ways and small acts of kindness.

So while the cynics may sense some kind of "religious resurgence" over the last two or three years, they've always been a lagging indicator of American life. Most of us have never had to get our faith in God back, because we never lost it.

In a recent survey, 40 percent of Americans named "faith in God" as the most important part of their lives. Only two percent said "a job that pays well" was most important.

Far from being motivated only by greed and ambition, Americans' broad river of faith runs quietly -- but deep rivers always do. We would never claim to have a special place in God's soul -- but we are better as a people because He has a hallowed place in ours.

The founding fathers thought long and carefully about the role of religion and government in our society. It's no accident that among all of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment -- freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, of petition -- the first was freedom of religion. That's why the story of a little girl named Monette Rethford, out in Norman, Oklahoma, is getting national attention.

A fifth-grader in a public elementary school, Monette liked to read her Bible under a shade tree during recess. No teachers involved, no disruption of school activities -- just Monette and

In this bicentennial year of the Bill of Rights, we do well to pause and reflect on the meaning of our freedoms, including our cherished freedom of religion. (Guard.)

a handful of friends who joined her, voluntarily, to share their faith and discuss how it touched their daily lives.

Yet school officials told Monette her prayer group was illegal on school property -- an "unlawful assembly." They forgot that the First Amendment was written to protect people against religious intrusions by the state -- not to protect the state from voluntary religious activity by the people.

My friends, the day a child's quiet prayer group during recess becomes an "unlawful assembly," law in America ceases to make sense. \\ In that spirit, today I again call on Congress: Pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to our nation's schools. \\ Let's put people first -- and allow them the freedom to follow their faith. \\

Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions -- and that means giving parents and families the <sup>right</sup> ~~power~~ to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids. \\

It means giving all parents -- rich and poor, in every community, of every kind -- the power to choose the kind of school their children attend. \\ Every family should have the power of an alternative -- and through our efforts for choice in schools, we want to put power in parent's hands -- because we trust them to make the right decisions for their kids. (Gard.)

And something more: we believe that kids should be safe to walk the streets -- any streets -- free from the fear of crime and the despair of drugs.

That's why, on March 6, I challenged the Congress to pass a tough Crime Bill in 100 days -- to keep our streets safe. Yet among all the items Congress put on their agenda for last month, crime didn't even make the list.

If God created the world in six days, surely the United States Congress can pass a crime bill in a hundred days. \\ *And here one says C since 181, also prohib. Fed funding abortion*

Whatever we've learned over the last few decades, it's clear that America is a nation that no longer lacks a moral vocabulary. Ideals like decency and virtue are no longer subject to scorn.

And while every President learns the limits to the power of the "bully pulpit" -- the power of your pulpits to persuade, to guide, to lead, is as limitless as God's love.

So I'd ask that you hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of "a free church in a free state" -- to protect all of America's faiths, in freedom. In all we do, let us ask first -- are we supporting that most essential unit of American life, the family? In child care, in education, in crime legislation -- are we doing all we can to preserve the twin pillars of faith and family? Only then does government by the people serve the people.

While the world's challenges seem to change shape almost daily, our fundamental values remain constant. Our principles endure.

We are, as ever, "one nation under God." No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. Of all the sources of this nation's strength -- our love of family, our

commitment to freedom -- none is more enduring or inspiring than our faith in God.

Let me close with a story about family, about faith, and about freedom. It's the story of a Kurdish family -- Mikail and Sophia Dosky -- who escaped from Iraq over a decade ago. During their perilous journey across the Turkish border, they became separated from their <sup>2</sup> ~~1~~-year-old daughter Gelawish. Mikail and Sophia made it out of Iraq, but their daughter did not. → [LEGAL - Q - WISH] (Simon)

After settling in America, Mikail kept trying to get his daughter out of Iraq, even traveling there himself, but to no avail. Just a few weeks ago, Mikail and Sophia got a phone call from an American helicopter pilot in Turkey. The pilot had been flying supplies to Kurdish refugees when he got a note from Gelawish -- now <sup>18</sup> ~~16~~ years old -- asking him to call her parents in America. He did -- and Mikail ~~asked his~~ friends at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia <sup>to help</sup> ~~to help~~ him get to Turkey and bring his daughter back. After thousands of miles, thousands of days, and thousands of dollars, Mikail and Gelawish <sup>arrived</sup> ~~will soon~~ <sup>(Simon)</sup> be back in America <sup>Tuesday night</sup> -- where years of sorrow <sup>were</sup> ~~will be~~ wiped away with tears of joy.

What a testament to the power of faith, love, and hope -- all of which God provides in abundance. (reference to 1 Cor. 13.) (Grand)

In war and in peace, faith provides our solace and our strength, our shield and our shelter. God's light leads us forward -- bringing strength in challenge, grace in adversity, solace in hardship, humility in achievement. (Grand)

As the Psalmist wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

So today and always, let us pray for God's continued guidance: that His grace will sustain us -- as it has throughout our lives -- in the challenges ahead.

Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers. May God continue to bless this land  
# # # with freedom +  
peace. (Gard.)

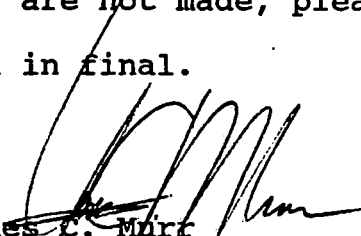


EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

**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. Merritt  
Associate Director for  
Legislative Reference  
and Administration

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DATE: 6/3/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUESDAY 6/4/91 5:00 p.m

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SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" 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"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<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 comments

**PHILLIP D. BRADY**  
Assistant to the President  
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Ext. 2702

91 MAY 31 PM 7:45

(Lange/Simon)  
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JUST TODAY WE ~~PROPOSE~~ <sup>ARE PUBLISHING</sup> REGULATIONS THAT WILL PROVIDE THE FIRST VOUCHERS FOR CHILD CARE. ~~THE~~ FINALLY LOW INCOME PARENTS WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE WHERE <sup>THEIR</sup> ~~THEIR~~ KIDS GET CHILD CARE -- INCLUDING ~~THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND~~ DAY CARE IN

4 RELIGIOUS SETTINGS AND WITH RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

a handful of friends who joined her, voluntarily, to share their faith and discuss how it touched their daily lives.

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Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions -- and that means giving parents and families the power to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids. \\

~~It means~~ giving all parents -- rich and poor, in every community, of every kind -- the power to choose the kind of school their children attend. \\ Every family should have the power of an alternative -- and through our efforts for choice in schools, we want to put power in parents' hands -- because we trust them to make the right decisions for their kids.

And something more: we believe that kids should be safe to walk the streets -- any streets -- free from the fear of crime and the despair of drugs.

THIS IS A PRECEDENT FOR

Scully 45178

WE HAVE CHOICE IN COLLEGE EDUCATION THROUGH VOUCHERS. WE ~~DO NOT~~ <sup>ALSO</sup> HAVE CHOICE THROUGH CHILD CARE ~~WHERE~~ <sup>WHERE</sup> WE DON'T HAVE CHOICE IS IN OUR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS SYSTEM -- WHERE IT CAN WORK.

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So I'd ask that you hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of "a free church in a free state" -- to protect all of America's faiths, in freedom. In all we do, let us ask first -- are we supporting that most essential unit of American life, the family? In child care, in education, in crime legislation -- are we doing all we can to preserve the twin pillars of faith and family? Only then does government by the people serve the people.

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**RESPONSE:**

*See  
comments  
p 2*

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Assistant to the President  
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Ext. 2702

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By the way they just cancelled thirtysomething

AWKWARD  
INTERSECTION  
OF  
GOD INTO  
THE WAR

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While the world's challenges seem to change shape almost daily, our fundamental values remain constant. Our principles endure.

We are, as ever, "one nation under God." No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. Of all the sources of this nation's strength -- our love of family, our

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Let me close with a story about family, about faith, and about freedom. It's the story of a Kurdish family -- Mikail and Sophia Dosky -- who escaped from Iraq over a decade ago. During their perilous journey across the Turkish border, they became separated from their 3-year-old daughter Gelawish. Mikail and Sophia made it out of Iraq, but their daughter did not.

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Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers.

# # #

**from the desk of**

**GOOD**

*Simon*  
*Comments* (Lange/Simon)  
May 31, 1991  
7:10 P.M.  
91 MAY 31 PM 7:15 [BAPTIST.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

[[ Acknowledgements... ]]

The last time I attended a Southern Baptist Convention was in 1982. Too long ago. But never so long that I'd lose touch with the rock-solid values of this community -- the qualities that make it uniquely American. Strong but compassionate, proud but not boastful, decent and giving -- bearing an enduring belief in freedom, and an abiding faith in the power of prayer.

Everywhere you turn, it seems, American values are ascendant around the world. Look to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union: Places of worship long subdued and silent, forced underground by the iron fist of the state -- now reclaimed by the people, joyfully emerging to proclaim their faith anew.

In Africa, in Asia, in Latin America -- your ministries flourish and spread the word of God around the world.

And even in the heat of the Persian Gulf, nearly 200 Southern Baptist chaplains reported well over 1,000 conversions among the servicemen and women of Operation Desert Storm -- with poncho-lined holes in the sand serving as makeshift baptistries.

Southern Baptists have been doing quiet but crucial work -- engaging in countless acts of kindness and compassion, spreading the word of God and the undeniable value of religious freedom.

You've held to faith where others have lost it -- gained in numbers where others haven't -- made a difference where others couldn't. You prove that faith is a flower that can bloom anywhere -- that no matter how hard the journey, no matter how high or humble the surroundings, God's love provides.

During the Gulf crisis, Barbara and I found guidance and comfort in prayer -- and throughout the struggle, your prayers sustained us. So I want to thank you all -- and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

And above all, after all the months of prayer and asking for God's guidance -- I thought it important to thank Him for sustaining our nation through this crisis.

You know, for too long, too many have worried that we Americans have lost our way. That the two fundamental pillars supporting this society -- our families, and our faith -- have been undermined. Damaged beyond repair.

But in a real sense, America is the one place forever being rediscovered -- renewed in faith, and reborn in freedom.

Some now sense a return to the roots -- an end to the 60's self-centeredness, the 70's cynicism, the 80's apathy and "thirtysomething" self-absorption. After decades of departure, they say, we're rediscovering the core values -- our fundamental goodness and decency, our deliverance from apathy.

Some may call this merely another trend in the cross-current of American life -- but you know better. You know that we are, as we have always been, a deeply religious culture.

Devoted to family and community. Drawing strength from our faith in God. Not loudly, but in quiet ways and small acts of kindness.

So while the cynics may sense some kind of "religious resurgence" over the last two or three years, they've always been a lagging indicator of American life. Most of us have never had to get our faith in God back, because we never lost it.

In a recent survey, 40 percent of Americans named "faith in God" as the most important part of their lives. Only two percent said "a job that pays well" was most important.

Far from being motivated only by greed and ambition, Americans' broad river of faith runs quietly -- but deep rivers always do. We would never claim to have a special place in God's soul -- but we are better as a people because He has a hallowed place in ours.

The founding fathers thought long and carefully about the role of religion and government in our society. It's no accident that among all of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment -- freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, of petition -- the first was freedom of religion. That's why the story of a little girl named Monette Rethford, out in Norman, Oklahoma, is getting national attention.

A fifth-grader in a public elementary school, Monette liked to read her bible under a shade tree during recess. No teachers involved, no disruption of school activities -- just Monette and

a handful of friends who joined her, voluntarily, to share their faith and discuss how it touched their daily lives.

Yet school officials told Monette her prayer group was illegal on school property -- an "unlawful assembly." They forgot that the First Amendment was written to protect people against religious intrusions by the state -- not to protect the state from voluntary religious activity by the people.

My friends, the day a child's quiet prayer group during recess becomes an "unlawful assembly," law in America ceases to make sense. \\ In that spirit, today I again call on Congress: Pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to our nation's schools. \\ Let's put people first -- and allow them the freedom to follow their faith. \\

Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions -- and that means giving parents and families the power to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids. \\

It means giving all parents -- rich and poor, in every community, of every kind -- the power to choose the kind of school their children attend. \\ Every family should have the power of an alternative -- and through our efforts for choice in schools, we want to put power in parent's hands -- because we trust them to make the right decisions for their kids.

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After settling in America, Mikail kept trying to get his daughter out of Iraq, even traveling there himself, but to no avail. Just a few weeks ago, Mikail and Sophia got a phone call from an American helicopter pilot in Turkey. The pilot had been flying supplies to Kurdish refugees when he got a note from Gelawish -- now <sup>18</sup>~~16~~ years old -- asking him to call her parents in America. He did -- and Mikail <sup>5</sup>asked ~~his~~ friends at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia <sup>ed</sup> to help <sup>ed</sup> him get to Turkey and bring his daughter back. After thousands of miles, thousands of days, and thousands of dollars, Mikail and Gelawish <sup>arrived</sup> will soon ~~be~~ back in America <sup>Tuesday night</sup> -- where years of sorrow <sup>were</sup> will ~~be~~ wiped away with tears of joy.

What a testament to the power of faith, love, and hope -- all of which God provides in abundance.

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# # #

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/3/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUESDAY 6/4/91 5:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

	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"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" 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"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<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 your **comments** directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

OK S.B.

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

(Lange/Simon)  
May 31, 1991  
7:10 P.M.  
[BAPTIST.DOC]

91 MAY 31 PM 7:45

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

[[ Acknowledgements... ]]

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# # #

P. 2 Porter  
next to last

Don't label decades

Put  $\odot$  after  
no's.

91 44:19 P4:19  
**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 6/3/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUESDAY 6/4/91 5:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

	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"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" 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"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<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"/>
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REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

NO COMMENTS. THANKS.

HOLLY WILLIAMSON *Holly*

6-4-91

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

61:49 4 NOV 19  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 6/4

TO: *Tony / Mark*

FROM: **JOHN S. GARDNER**  
**Special Assistant to the President**  
**and Assistant Staff Secretary**

*This was a great speech. I've noted  
just a few minor comments.*

*Thanks  
JG.*

(Lange/Simon)  
May 31, 1991  
7:10 P.M.  
[BAPTIST.DOC]

91 MAY 31 PM 7:45

91 JUN 4

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
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*the love of God and*

*-- the values of freedom --*

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And above all, after all the months of prayer and asking for God's guidance -- I thought it important to thank Him for sustaining our nation through this crisis. *[Good! This should get applause.]*

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→ In this bicentennial year of the Bill of Rights, we do well to pause and reflect on the meaning of our freedoms, including our cherished freedom of religion.

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So I'd ask that you hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of "a free church in a free state" -- to protect all of America's faiths, in freedom. In all we do, let us ask first -- are we supporting that most essential unit of American life, the family? In child care, in education, in crime legislation -- are we doing all we can to preserve the twin pillars of faith and family? Only then does government by the people serve the people.

While the world's challenges seem to change shape almost daily, our fundamental values remain constant. Our principles endure.

We are, as ever, "one nation under God." No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. Of all the sources of this nation's strength -- our love of family, our

commitment to freedom -- none is more enduring or inspiring than our faith in God.

Let me close with a story about family, about faith, and about freedom. It's the story of a Kurdish family -- Mikail and Sophia Dosky -- who escaped from Iraq over a decade ago. During their perilous journey across the Turkish border, they became separated from their 3-year-old daughter Gelawish. Mikail and Sophia made it out of Iraq, but their daughter did not.

After settling in America, Mikail kept trying to get his daughter out of Iraq, even traveling there himself, but to no avail. Just a few weeks ago, Mikail and Sophia got a phone call from an American helicopter pilot in Turkey. The pilot had been flying supplies to Kurdish refugees when he got a note from Gelawish -- now 16 years old -- asking him to call her parents in America. He did -- and Mikhail asked his friends at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia to help him get to Turkey and bring his daughter back. After thousands of miles, thousands of days, and thousands of dollars, Mikail and Gelawish will soon be back in America -- where years of sorrow will be wiped away with tears of joy.

What a testament to the power of faith, love, and hope -- all of which God provides in abundance.

*reverse to accord w/ I. Corin-  
thians 13*

In war and in peace, faith provides our solace and our strength, our shield and our shelter. God's light leads us forward -- bringing strength in challenge, grace in adversity, solace in hardship, humility in achievement.

→ *As the Psalmist wrote, 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.'*

So today and always, let us pray for God's continued guidance: that His grace will sustain us -- as it has throughout our lives -- in the challenges ahead.

Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers. *May God continue to bless this land with freedom and peace.*

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*  
TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: MARK LANGE *ML*

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, June 6, at 11:45 a.m., you will address an audience of 20,000 at the annual Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (12 minutes, on teleprompter) point out the strong presence of religion in our national character and the need to protect freedom of religion. Also mentioned are the need for a constitutional amendment to allow prayer in school and a request for Congress to act on our crime bill.

(Lange/Simon)  
June 4, 1991  
6:30 P.M.  
[BAPTIST.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

[[ Acknowledgements... ]]

The last time I attended a Southern Baptist Convention was in 1982. Too long ago. But never so long that I'd lose touch with the rock-solid values of this community -- qualities that make it uniquely American. Strong but compassionate, proud but not boastful, decent and giving -- bearing an enduring belief in freedom -- an abiding faith in the love of God and the power of prayer.

Everywhere you turn, it seems, American values are ascendant around the world. Look to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union: There, places of worship long stood silent and subdued, forced underground by the iron fist of the state. But now, the churches, synagogues and mosques buzz with life: reclaimed by the people, joyfully emerging to proclaim their faith anew.

In Africa, Asia, Latin America -- your ministries flourish and spread the word of God around the world.

Even in the heat of the Persian Gulf, nearly 200 Southern Baptist chaplains reported well over 1,000 conversions among the servicemen and women of Operation Desert Storm -- with poncho-lined holes in the sand serving as makeshift baptistries.

Southern Baptists have been doing quiet but crucial work -- engaging in countless acts of kindness and compassion, spreading

the word of God, demonstrating the profound power of religious freedom.

You've held to faith where others have lost it -- gained in numbers where others haven't -- made a difference where others couldn't. // You prove that the flower of faith can bloom anywhere -- that no matter how hard the journey, no matter how high or humble the surroundings, God's love provides.

During the Gulf crisis, Barbara and I found guidance and comfort in prayer -- and throughout the struggle, your prayers sustained us. So I want to thank you all -- and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

And above all, after all the months of prayer and asking for God's guidance -- I thought it important to thank Him for sustaining our nation through this crisis.

You know, for too long, too many have worried that we Americans have weakened the two fundamental pillars supporting our society -- our families, and our faith.

But while the cynics may sense some kind of "religious resurgence" over the last two or three years, they've always been a lagging indicator of American life. Most of us have never had to get our faith in God back, because we never lost it. \\

In a recent survey, 40 percent of Americans named "faith in God" the most important part of their lives. Only two percent selected, "a job that pays well."

In this Bicentennial year of the Bill of Rights, we'd do well to pause and reflect on religion's roots in our society, and

our society's roots in religion.

The founding fathers thought long and carefully about the role of religion and government in our society. It's no accident that among all of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment -- freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, of petition -- the first was freedom of religion. That's why the story of a little girl named Monette Rethford, out in Norman, Oklahoma, is getting national attention.

A fifth-grader in a public elementary school, Monette liked to read her Bible under a shade tree during recess. No teachers involved, no disruption of school activities -- just Monette and a handful of friends who joined her, voluntarily, to share their faith and discuss how it touched their daily lives.

Yet school officials told Monette her prayer group was illegal on school property -- an "unlawful assembly." They forgot that the First Amendment was written to protect people against religious intrusions by the state -- not to protect the state from voluntary religious activity by the people.

My friends, the day a child's quiet prayer group during recess becomes an "unlawful assembly," law in America ceases to make sense. \\ In that spirit, today I again call on Congress: Pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to our nation's schools. \\ Let's put people first -- and allow them the freedom to follow their faith. \\

Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions -- and that means

giving parents and families the right to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids. \\

Just today we are publishing regulations that will provide the first vouchers for child care. Finally low-income parents will have the chance to choose where their kids get child care - - including religious settings and with religious instruction. \\

We want to extend the concept of choice to include schools.\\ Every family should have the freedom to choose a school for a child. Our efforts for choice in schools seek to put power in parents' hands. We trust them to make the right decisions for their kids.

And something more: we believe that kids should be safe to walk the streets -- any streets -- free from the fear of crime and the despair of drugs.

That's why, on March 6, I challenged the Congress to pass a tough Crime Bill in 100 days -- to keep our streets safe. Yet among all the items Congress put on their agenda for last month, crime didn't even make the list.

We submitted our first crime bill more than two years ago -- and nothing has happened. If God created the world in six days, surely the United States Congress can pass a crime bill in a hundred days. \\

There's another issue before Congress, and that's abortion -- a difficult, deeply emotional decision for all Americans. The question -- and we've faced it before -- is whether the American taxpayer should pay for abortions, and under what circumstances.

Since 1981 the Federal Government has determined that taxpayer funds should be used for abortion in only the most narrow of circumstances: where the life of the mother is endangered.

I believe these policies should continue, and earlier this week I sent exactly that message to Congress. \\

Whatever we've learned over the last few decades, it's clear that America is a nation that no longer lacks a moral vocabulary. Ideals like decency and virtue are no longer subject to scorn.

I'd ask that you hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of "a free church in a free state." Hold fast to protect all faiths, in freedom. And hold fast to protect our most essential unit of life, the family. \\

Let us ask ourselves: in child care, in education, in crime legislation -- are we doing all we can to preserve faith and family? If not, we must do more. Only when we protect and preserve our most cherished ideals and institutions, does government by the people serve the people.

We are, as ever, "one nation under God." No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. As new challenges confront us, we must draw on that strength -- and work to build a nation united in its commitment to decency and opportunity; to freedom, family and faith.

Let me close with a story about a Kurdish family -- Mikail and Sophia Dosky -- who escaped from Iraq over a decade ago. During their perilous journey across the Turkish border, they became separated from their 2-year-old daughter Gelawish [GAL-a-

wish]. Mikail and Sophia made it out of Iraq. Their daughter did not.

After settling in America, Mikail kept trying to get his daughter out of Iraq, even traveling there himself, but to no avail. Just a few weeks ago, Mikail and Sophia got a phone call from an American helicopter pilot in Turkey. The pilot had been flying supplies to Kurdish refugees when he got a note from Gelawish -- now 18 years old -- asking him to call her parents in America. He did -- and Mikail's friends at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia helped him get to Turkey and bring his daughter back. After thousands of miles, thousands of days, and thousands of dollars, Mikail and Gelawish arrived in America Tuesday night -- where years of sorrow were be wiped away with tears of joy.

What a testament to the power of faith, hope and love -- all of which God provides in abundance.

In war and peace, faith provides our solace, our shield and our shelter. As the Psalmist wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." God's light leads us forward. Today and always, let us pray for His continued guidance and grace.

Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers. May God continue to bless this land with freedom and peace.

# # #

4130

Document No: 242518SS

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 JUN 5 P8:29

DATE: 6/3/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUESDAY 6/4/91 5:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

	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"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" 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"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<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 your **comments** directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

June 5, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

The NSC staff concurs on the proposed presidential remarks.

  
Brent Scowcroft

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

cc: Phillip D. Brady

(Lange/Simon)  
May 31, 1991  
7:10 P.M.  
[BAPTIST.DOC]

91 MAY 31 PM 7:45

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

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Southern Baptists have been doing quiet but crucial work -- engaging in countless acts of kindness and compassion, spreading the word of God and the undeniable value of religious freedom.

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During the Gulf crisis, Barbara and I found guidance and comfort in prayer -- and throughout the struggle, your prayers sustained us. So I want to thank you all -- and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

And above all, after all the months of prayer and asking for God's guidance -- I thought it important to thank Him for sustaining our nation through this crisis.

You know, for too long, too many have worried that we Americans have lost our way. That the two fundamental pillars supporting this society -- our families, and our faith -- have been undermined. Damaged beyond repair.

But in a real sense, America is the one place forever being rediscovered -- renewed in faith, and reborn in freedom.

Some now sense a return to the roots -- an end to the 60's self-centeredness, the 70's cynicism, the 80's apathy and "thirtysomething" self-absorption. After decades of departure, they say, we're rediscovering the core values -- our fundamental goodness and decency, our deliverance from apathy.

Some may call this merely another trend in the cross-current of American life -- but you know better. You know that we are, as we have always been, a deeply religious culture.

Devoted to family and community. Drawing strength from our faith in God. Not loudly, but in quiet ways and small acts of kindness.

So while the cynics may sense some kind of "religious resurgence" over the last two or three years, they've always been a lagging indicator of American life. Most of us have never had to get our faith in God back, because we never lost it.

In a recent survey, 40 percent of Americans named "faith in God" as the most important part of their lives. Only two percent said "a job that pays well" was most important.

Far from being motivated only by greed and ambition, Americans' broad river of faith runs quietly -- but deep rivers always do. We would never claim to have a special place in God's soul -- but we are better as a people because He has a hallowed place in ours.

The founding fathers thought long and carefully about the role of religion and government in our society. It's no accident that among all of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment -- freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, of petition -- the first was freedom of religion. That's why the story of a little girl named Monette Rethford, out in Norman, Oklahoma, is getting national attention.

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Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions -- and that means giving parents and families the power to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids. \\

It means giving all parents -- rich and poor, in every community, of every kind -- the power to choose the kind of school their children attend. \\ Every family should have the power of an alternative -- and through our efforts for choice in schools, we want to put power in parent's hands -- because we trust them to make the right decisions for their kids.

And something more: we believe that kids should be safe to walk the streets -- any streets -- free from the fear of crime and the despair of drugs.

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If God created the world in six days, surely the United States Congress can pass a crime bill in a hundred days. \\

Whatever we've learned over the last few decades, it's clear that America is a nation that no longer lacks a moral vocabulary. Ideals like decency and virtue are no longer subject to scorn.

And while every President learns the limits to the power of the "bully pulpit" -- the power of your pulpits to persuade, to guide, to lead, is as limitless as God's love.

So I'd ask that you hold fast to the Southern Baptist ideal of "a free church in a free state" -- to protect all of America's faiths, in freedom. In all we do, let us ask first -- are we supporting that most essential unit of American life, the family? In child care, in education, in crime legislation -- are we doing all we can to preserve the twin pillars of faith and family? Only then does government by the people serve the people.

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So today and always, let us pray for God's continued guidance: that His grace will sustain us -- as it has throughout our lives -- in the challenges ahead.

Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers.

# # #

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ATLANTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991  
11:45 A.M.

THANK YOU, DR. [MORRIS] CHAPMAN AND DR. [HAROLD] BENNETT. ALSO HERE WITH ME TODAY, PAUL COVERDELL, PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR AND ONE OF GEORGIA'S FAVORITE SONS.

THE LAST TIME I ATTENDED A SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION WAS IN 1982. TOO LONG AGO. BUT NEVER SO LONG THAT I'D LOSE TOUCH WITH THE ROCK-SOLID VALUES OF THIS COMMUNITY -- QUALITIES THAT MAKE IT UNIQUELY AMERICAN. STRONG BUT COMPASSIONATE, PROUD BUT NOT BOASTFUL, DECENT AND GIVING -- BELIEVING STRONGLY IN FAMILY, BEARING AN ENDURING BELIEF IN FREEDOM -- AN ABIDING FAITH IN THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE POWER OF PRAYER.

EVERYWHERE YOU TURN, IT SEEMS, AMERICAN VALUES ARE ASCENDANT AROUND THE WORLD. LOOK TO EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION: THERE, PLACES OF WORSHIP LONG STOOD SILENT AND SUBDUED, FORCED UNDERGROUND BY THE IRON FIST OF THE STATE. BUT NOW, THE CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES AND MOSQUES BUZZ WITH LIFE: RECLAIMED BY THE PEOPLE, JOYFULLY EMERGING TO PROCLAIM THEIR FAITH ANEW.

IN AFRICA, ASIA, LATIN AMERICA -- YOUR MINISTRIES  
FLOURISH AND SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD AROUND THE WORLD.

EVEN IN THE HEAT OF THE PERSIAN GULF, NEARLY 200  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHAPLAINS REPORTED WELL OVER 1,000  
CONVERSIONS AMONG THE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN OF OPERATION  
DESERT STORM -- WITH PONCHO-LINED HOLES IN THE SAND  
SERVING AS MAKESHIFT BAPTISTRIES.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS HAVE BEEN DOING QUIET BUT CRUCIAL  
WORK -- ENGAGING IN COUNTLESS ACTS OF KINDNESS AND  
COMPASSION, SPREADING THE WORD OF GOD, DEMONSTRATING  
THE PROFOUND POWER OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

YOU'VE HELD TO FAITH WHERE OTHERS HAVE LOST IT  
-- GAINED IN NUMBERS WHERE OTHERS HAVEN'T -- MADE A  
DIFFERENCE WHERE OTHERS COULDN'T. // YOU PROVE THAT  
THE FLOWER OF FAITH CAN BLOOM ANYWHERE -- THAT NO  
MATTER HOW HARD THE JOURNEY, NO MATTER HOW HIGH OR  
HUMBLE THE SURROUNDINGS, GOD'S LOVE PROVIDES.

DURING THE GULF CRISIS, BARBARA AND I AND MUCH OF THIS NATION FOUND GUIDANCE AND COMFORT IN PRAYER -- AND THROUGHOUT THE STRUGGLE, YOUR PRAYERS SUSTAINED US. SO I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL -- AND ASK THAT YOU KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS.

AND ABOVE ALL, AFTER ALL THE MONTHS OF PRAYER AND ASKING FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE -- I THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO THANK GOD FOR SUSTAINING OUR NATION THROUGH THIS CRISIS. THAT LED TO THREE NATIONAL DAYS OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER.

YOU KNOW, FOR TOO LONG, TOO MANY HAVE WORRIED THAT WE AMERICANS HAVE WEAKENED THE TWO FUNDAMENTAL PILLARS SUPPORTING OUR SOCIETY -- OUR FAMILIES, AND OUR FAITH.

BUT WHILE THE CYNICS MAY SENSE SOME KIND OF "RELIGIOUS RESURGENCE" OVER THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS, THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LAGGING INDICATOR OF AMERICAN LIFE. MOST OF US HAVE NEVER HAD TO GET OUR FAITH IN GOD BACK, BECAUSE WE NEVER LOST IT. \ \

IN A RECENT SURVEY, 40 PERCENT OF AMERICANS NAMED "FAITH IN GOD" THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR LIVES. ONLY TWO PERCENT SELECTED, "A JOB THAT PAYS WELL."

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, WE'D DO WELL TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON RELIGION'S ROOTS IN OUR SOCIETY, AND OUR SOCIETY'S ROOTS IN RELIGION.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS THOUGHT LONG AND CAREFULLY ABOUT THE ROLE OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT IN OUR SOCIETY. IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT AMONG ALL OF THE FREEDOMS GUARANTEED BY THE FIRST AMENDMENT -- FREEDOMS OF SPEECH, OF THE PRESS, OF ASSEMBLY, OF PETITION -- THE FIRST WAS FREEDOM OF RELIGION. THAT'S WHY THE STORY OF A LITTLE GIRL NAMED MONETTE RETHFORD, OUT IN NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, IS GETTING NATIONAL ATTENTION.

A FIFTH-GRADER IN A PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MONETTE LIKED TO READ HER BIBLE UNDER A SHADE TREE DURING RECESS. NO TEACHERS INVOLVED; NO DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES -- JUST MONETTE AND A HANDFUL OF FRIENDS WHO JOINED HER, VOLUNTARILY, TO SHARE THEIR FAITH AND DISCUSS HOW IT TOUCHED THEIR DAILY LIVES.

YET SCHOOL OFFICIALS TOLD MONETTE HER PRAYER GROUP WAS ILLEGAL ON SCHOOL PROPERTY -- AN "UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY." THEY FORGOT THAT THE FIRST AMENDMENT WAS WRITTEN TO PROTECT PEOPLE AGAINST RELIGIOUS INTRUSIONS BY THE STATE -- NOT TO PROTECT THE STATE FROM VOLUNTARY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY BY THE PEOPLE.

MY FRIENDS, THE DAY A CHILD'S QUIET PRAYER GROUP DURING RECESS BECOMES AN "UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY," SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG. \\ IN THAT SPIRIT, TODAY I AGAIN CALL ON CONGRESS: PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PERMITTING VOLUNTARY PRAYER BACK INTO OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS. \\ LET'S PUT PEOPLE FIRST -- AND ALLOW THEM THE FREEDOM TO FOLLOW THEIR FAITH. \\

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST ALSO MEANS MAKING SURE  
GOVERNMENT ALLOWS PEOPLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS  
-- AND THAT MEANS GIVING PARENTS AND FAMILIES THE RIGHT  
TO CHOOSE THE KIND OF CHILD CARE THEY WANT FOR THEIR  
KIDS. SOME ARGUE CHOICE WILL MAKE BAD SCHOOLS WORSE.  
I AM CONFIDENT THAT CHOICE WILL MAKE THE BAD SCHOOLS  
BETTER. \ \

JUST TODAY WE ARE PUBLISHING REGULATIONS THAT WILL  
PROVIDE THE FIRST VOUCHERS FOR CHILD CARE. FINALLY  
LOW-INCOME PARENTS WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE WHERE  
THEIR KIDS GET CHILD CARE -- INCLUDING RELIGIOUS  
SETTINGS AND WITH RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION. \ \ [[ ON MY  
WAY HERE THIS MORNING, I VISITED A CHURCH-BASED CHILD  
CARE CENTER WHERE CHILDREN RECEIVE FIRST-CLASS CARE --  
REGARDLESS OF THEIR PARENTS' RELIGION, BACKGROUND --  
OR INCOME. WE FOUGHT A LONG TIME TO PRESERVE CHOICE  
FOR PARENTS. TODAY, IT TRULY BECOMES A REALITY. ]]

WE WANT TO EXTEND THE CONCEPT OF CHOICE TO INCLUDE SCHOOLS. \ \ EVERY FAMILY SHOULD HAVE THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE A SCHOOL FOR A CHILD. OUR EFFORTS FOR CHOICE IN SCHOOLS SEEK TO PUT POWER IN PARENTS' HANDS. WE TRUST THEM TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS FOR THEIR KIDS.

AND SOMETHING MORE: WE BELIEVE THAT KIDS SHOULD BE SAFE TO WALK THE STREETS -- ANY STREETS -- FREE FROM THE FEAR OF CRIME AND THE DESPAIR OF DRUGS.

THAT'S WHY, ON MARCH 6, I CHALLENGED THE CONGRESS TO PASS A TOUGH CRIME BILL IN 100 DAYS -- TO KEEP OUR STREETS SAFE. YET AMONG ALL THE ITEMS CONGRESS PUT ON THEIR AGENDA FOR LAST MONTH, CRIME DIDN'T EVEN MAKE THE LIST.

WE SUBMITTED OUR FIRST CRIME BILL MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO -- AND NOTHING HAS HAPPENED. SURELY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS CAN PASS A CRIME BILL IN A HUNDRED DAYS. \ \

THERE'S ANOTHER ISSUE BEFORE CONGRESS, AND THAT'S ABORTION -- A DIFFICULT, DEEPLY EMOTIONAL DECISION FOR ALL AMERICANS. THE QUESTION -- AND WE'VE FACED IT BEFORE -- IS WHETHER THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER SHOULD PAY FOR ABORTIONS. HONEST PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL DIFFER ON THIS QUESTION, BUT I FIRMLY OPPOSE FEDERAL FUNDING OF ABORTIONS, EXCEPT WHERE THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER IS ENDANGERED. SINCE 1981 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DETERMINED THAT TAXPAYER FUNDS SHOULD BE USED FOR ABORTION IN ONLY THIS MOST NARROW OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHATEVER WE'VE LEARNED OVER THE LAST FEW DECADES, IT'S CLEAR THAT AMERICA IS A NATION THAT NO LONGER LACKS A MORAL VOCABULARY. IDEALS LIKE DECENCY AND VIRTUE ARE NO LONGER SUBJECT TO SCORN.

I'D ASK THAT YOU HOLD FAST TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST IDEAL OF "A FREE CHURCH IN A FREE STATE." HOLD FAST TO PROTECT ALL FAITHS, IN FREEDOM. AND HOLD FAST TO PROTECT OUR MOST ESSENTIAL UNIT OF LIFE, THE FAMILY. \ \

LET US ASK OURSELVES: IN CHILD CARE, IN EDUCATION, IN CRIME LEGISLATION -- ARE WE DOING ALL WE CAN TO PRESERVE FAITH AND FAMILY? IF NOT, WE MUST DO MORE. ONLY WHEN WE PROTECT AND PRESERVE OUR MOST CHERISHED IDEALS AND INSTITUTIONS, DOES GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE SERVE THE PEOPLE.

WE ARE, AS EVER, "ONE NATION UNDER GOD." NO NATION BETTER RECONCILES DIVERSITY OF FAITH WITH UNITY OF PURPOSE. AS NEW CHALLENGES CONFRONT US, WE MUST DRAW ON THAT STRENGTH -- AND WORK TO BUILD A NATION UNITED IN ITS COMMITMENT TO DECENCY AND OPPORTUNITY; TO FREEDOM, FAMILY AND FAITH.

LET ME CLOSE WITH A STORY ABOUT A KURDISH FAMILY -- MIKAIL AND SAFIYA [SOF-EE-A] DOSKY -- WHO ESCAPED FROM IRAQ OVER A DECADE AGO. DURING THEIR PERILOUS JOURNEY ACROSS THE TURKISH BORDER, THEY BECAME SEPARATED FROM THEIR 2-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER GELAWISH [GAL-A-WISH]. MIKAIL AND HIS WIFE MADE IT OUT OF IRAQ. THEIR DAUGHTER DID NOT.

AFTER SETTLING IN AMERICA, MIKAIL KEPT TRYING TO GET HIS DAUGHTER OUT OF IRAQ, EVEN TRAVELING THERE HIMSELF, BUT TO NO AVAIL. JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, MIKAIL GOT A PHONE CALL FROM AN AMERICAN HELICOPTER PILOT IN TURKEY. THE PILOT HAD BEEN FLYING SUPPLIES TO KURDISH REFUGEES WHEN HE GOT A NOTE FROM GELAWISH -- NOW 18 YEARS OLD -- ASKING HIM TO CALL HER PARENTS IN AMERICA. HE DID -- AND MIKAIL'S FRIENDS AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA HELPED HIM GET TO TURKEY AND BRING HIS DAUGHTER BACK. AFTER THOUSANDS OF MILES, THOUSANDS OF DAYS, AND THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, MIKAIL AND GELAWISH ARRIVED IN AMERICA TUESDAY NIGHT -- WHERE YEARS OF SORROW WERE WIPED AWAY WITH TEARS OF JOY.

WHAT A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE -- ALL OF WHICH GOD PROVIDES IN ABUNDANCE.

IN WAR AND PEACE, FAITH PROVIDES OUR SOLACE, OUR SHIELD AND OUR SHELTER. AS THE PSALMIST WROTE, "GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE." GOD'S LIGHT LEADS US FORWARD. TODAY AND ALWAYS, LET US PRAY FOR HIS CONTINUED GUIDANCE AND GRACE.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, YOUR LOVE, AND YOUR PRAYERS. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS LAND WITH FREEDOM AND PEACE.

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