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Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13585
Folder ID Number: 13585-006

Folder Title:
Associated Press Managing Editors Teleconference 10/17/91 [OA 6038]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	17	3	7



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/16/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 10/17/91 9:00 am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>SOME, NOT ALL</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 9:00 a.m., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

— MASTER —

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1991

OCT 16 P6:10

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST

FROM: TONY SNOW TS

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, October 17, at 12:15 p.m., you will broadcast remarks (8 minutes, on prompter) from the OEOB Studio to the 57th Annual AP Managing Editors Convention at the Westin Hotel in Detroit. The audience of approximately 400 people include managing editors from large and small dailies from around the country. Acknowledgements include AP President Lou Boccardi and APME President Ralph Langer. Langer is editor of the Dallas Morning News.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks highlight elements of the domestic agenda -- specifically, our economic growth package -- and Congress's blindspot to this administration domestic policy legislation.

NOTE: The text of this address is in simultaneous staffing and thus has not been reviewed by senior staff.

Snow/Nix
APME
October 16, 1991
Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL TELECONFERENCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS
OCTOBER 17, 1991
12:15 p.m.

Thank you, Ralph [Langer -- rhymes with ranger]. It's nice being introduced in Detroit by a fellow Texan. It's also nice to see Lou Boccardi again. I'm sorry I couldn't join you for today's luncheon -- unless you're serving broccoli, that is. \\

[[Let me open with an apology. I know many of you depend on Washington to provide grist for news stories, and I know that we just haven't held up our end of the deal. In recent weeks, things around here have been just plain dull.]] \\

[[Actually, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to get a couple of gripes off my chest. First, could you get delivery people to stop throwing our paper in the shrubs? \\ Millie has a heck of a time finding it.

Second -- and I know you're tired of hearing this one -- couldn't you focus on the good news for once? I've just about had it with all the bad news about lawyers, bankruptcies, strikes, business seizures, takeover attempts, wars and bitter personal feuds. Just once -- just once -- I'd like to see sports coverage limited to standings and scores.]]

Today, I want to talk about a subject that many of your papers discuss regularly -- our administration's domestic policy.

I have talked with audiences around the nation about our initiatives on crime, education, energy, transportation and other matters. Here, I will focus on an issue of concern ^{not only} in Detroit but ~~and~~ ^(Rogich) throughout our nation: Economic growth.

^(Rogich) (Our administration) ^(Rogich) over the years has promoted a series of initiatives that would stimulate economic growth and keep our economy strong. Congress ^(Rogich) generally has chosen to avoid these proposals -- either by preventing votes or changing the subject.

The capital gains tax offers a case in point.

Must come out (Parman)
(Lindsey)

^{vocal (Rogich)} [Some opponents claim] that the cut helps only the rich. I

will ask you to judge: The capital gains tax affects future wealth, ^(Rogich) not present wealth. ^{Today's wealthy already have earned their money.} It ~~doesn't help today's rich people.~~

^{They've had their capital gain.} It ~~prevents~~ others from becoming prosperous tomorrow.

^{stops (Rogich)} High capital gains rates discourage investment in untested products and services. Historically, small business growth has exploded when we have cut capital gains rates, and ~~disparities in income between rich and poor have shrunk.~~ ^{the rich have assumed a lion's share of the tax burden. (PARMAN)}

A capital gains cut would give our economy a much-needed boost. It would increase real-estate prices and reduce the overall burden of the Savings and Loan ^{*} bailout. It would help people of imagination and drive. As I've said a number of times, ^{simply (Rogich)} the capital gains tax is a tax on the American Dream.

Nevertheless, in three years, Congressional leaders have not permitted a single up-or-down vote on capital gains.

Consider other items in our growth package: We have introduced comprehensive banking reform legislation. That

Doesn't bailout hurt our own case? Perhaps restructure or rescue. (Parman)

legislation would make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally. We have offered proposals to ease the credit crunch that affects lenders nationwide -- lenders who, for instance, make it possible for newspapers to build new presses and plants, purchase new equipment, and improve their fitness in the incredibly competitive media business.

We have promoted incentives for savings, investment and entrepreneurship. We have proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development, and have advocated a permanent R&D tax credit. We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. We have begun negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement, which would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada - *(where are you? Rogich)* - just across the river from here -- and Mexico. We have pursued the Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere.

We have pushed for tort reform, to cut down on needless litigation -- and the costs it imposes on every industry. Just think about the money your organizations spend on libel lawyers, and you'll get the idea. We have fought against regulations that produce red tape without improving the quality of American life. We have recruited judicial and regulatory appointees who appreciate the importance of economic liberty and personal freedom as indispensable ingredients of economic growth. We have worked to build a more intelligent, flexible workforce through our America 2000 education strategy. And we insist upon

maintaining the fiscal discipline established by last year's controversial budget agreement.

When people say we have no domestic agenda, they just haven't seen the facts. We have a good agenda. Congressional leaders just won't act on it. *A headline writer might call it "Congressional gridlock."*

I know you will spend two sessions discussing economic issues tomorrow. I'd also like to encourage you to think about ways of improving the coverage of economic issues. Encourage your reporters to take a hard, fair, informed look at our policies and at Congressional alternatives. Ask them to study the history of capital gains cuts. Ask them to discuss banking reform proposals with leading bankers in your town. Ask them to dig deeper and deeper for the facts, and to treat sweeping generalizations and slogans with proper skepticism. [[Well, since you're editors, I suppose you could tell them. \\]]

I'm sorry I couldn't join you today in Detroit, but I am glad that we've been able to get together through the magic of television. [[I know that sounds ironic, but I believe Americans always will need and demand first-rate newspapers.]] I wish you all the best in your meetings over the next three days. May God bless you and the United States of America.

#

Questions will be asked by:

Jerry Ceppos [SEE-poes]
 Mang. Ed. San Jose News

Bob McGruder
 Mang. Ed. Detroit Free Press



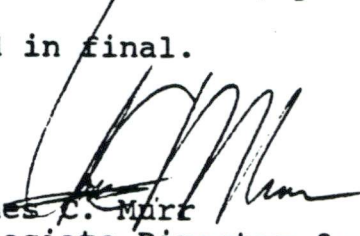
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

91 OCT 17 AIO: 52 OCT 17 1991

NOTICE:

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

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


James C. Murr
Associate Director for
Legislative Reference
and Administration

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/16/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY. 10/17/91 9:00 am

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OCT 16 P6:10

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FROM: TONY SNOW *TS*

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

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II. DISCUSSION

The remarks highlight elements of the domestic agenda -- specifically, our economic growth package -- and Congress's blindspot to this administration domestic policy legislation.

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Snow/Nix
APME
October 16, 1991
Draft One

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OCTOBER 17, 1991
12:15 p.m.

Thank you, Ralph [Langer -- rhymes with ranger]. It's nice being introduced in Detroit by a fellow Texan. It's also nice to see Lou Boccardi again. I'm sorry I couldn't join you for today's luncheon -- unless you're serving broccoli, that is. \\

[[Let me open with an apology. I know many of you depend on Washington to provide grist for news stories, and I know that we just haven't held up our end of the deal. In recent weeks, things around here have been just plain dull.]] \\

[[Actually, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to get a couple of gripes off my chest. First, could you get delivery people to stop throwing our paper in the shrubs? \\ Millie has a heck of a time finding it.

Second -- and I know you're tired of hearing this one -- couldn't you focus on the good news for once? I've just about had it with all the bad news about lawyers, bankruptcies, strikes, business seizures, takeover attempts, wars and bitter personal feuds. Just once -- just once -- I'd like to see sports coverage limited to standings and scores.]]

Today, I want to talk about a subject that many of your papers discuss regularly -- our administration's domestic policy.

I have talked with audiences around the nation about our initiatives on crime, education, energy, transportation and other matters. Here, I will focus on an issue of concern in Detroit and throughout our nation: Economic growth.

Our administration over the years has promoted a series of initiatives that would stimulate economic growth and keep our economy strong. Congress generally has chosen to avoid these proposals -- either by preventing votes or changing the subject. The capital gains tax offers a case in point. *Insert (A) (next page)*

Some opponents claim that the cut helps only the rich. I will ask you to judge: The capital gains tax affects future wealth, not present wealth. *The cut won't* ~~It doesn't~~ help today's rich people. *gives* ~~It prevents others from becoming~~ *the chance to become* prosperous tomorrow.

High capital gains rates discourage investment in untested products and services. Historically, small business growth has exploded when we have cut capital gains rates; and *the rich have* ~~disparities in~~ *assumed a lion share of the tax burden.* ~~income between rich and poor have shrunk.~~ *When we last cut the capital gains tax rate in 1976, the result was an explosion of new jobs (and, by the way, new revenues) from Silicon Valley to*

*Al-Somerville
45873*

A capital gains cut would give our economy a much-needed boost. It would increase real-estate prices and reduce the overall burden of the Savings and Loan bailout. It would help people of imagination and drive. As I've said a number of times, the capital gains tax is a tax on the American Dream. Nevertheless, in three years, Congressional leaders have not permitted a single up-or-down vote on capital gains.

*Mark 178
to central
New Jersey.
These are
exactly
some of
the areas
that
could
use this
stimulus
today.*

Consider other items in our growth package: We have introduced comprehensive banking reform legislation. That

Grady 4844

Insert (A)

Let me read you a quote about capital gains.

"The tax on capital gains directly affects... the ease or difficulty experienced by new ventures in obtaining capital, and thereby the strength and potential for growth of the economy." That was John F. Kennedy.

Grady
x4844

legislation would make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally. We have offered proposals to ease the credit crunch that affects lenders nationwide -- lenders who, for instance, make it possible for newspapers to build new presses and plants, purchase new equipment, and improve their fitness in the incredibly competitive media business.

We have promoted incentives for savings, investment and entrepreneurship. We have proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development, and have advocated a permanent R&D tax credit. We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. We have begun negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement, which would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada -- just across the river from here -- and Mexico. We have pursued the Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere.

-- by about \$10 billion in the last two years alone - Congress has cut that proposed increase in R&D.

(Congress has not yet passed it.)

We

*Grady
4844*

We have pushed for tort reform, to cut down on needless litigation -- and the costs it imposes on every industry. Just think about the money your organizations spend on libel lawyers, and you'll get the idea. We have fought against regulations that produce red tape without improving the quality of American life. We have recruited judicial and regulatory appointees who appreciate the importance of economic liberty and personal freedom as indispensable ingredients of economic growth. We have worked to build a more intelligent, flexible workforce through our America 2000 education strategy. And we insist upon

maintaining the fiscal discipline established by last year's controversial budget agreement.

Congress has tried to ~~cut it~~ bust its spending caps -- all the while complaining that the deficit is too high.

When people say we have no domestic agenda, they just haven't seen the facts. We have a good agenda, Congressional leaders just won't act on it.

an
for growth, for investment in the future, for a competitive America in the next century.

I know you will spend two sessions discussing economic issues tomorrow. I'd also like to encourage you to think about ways of improving the coverage of economic issues. Encourage your reporters to take a hard, fair, informed look at our policies and at Congressional alternatives. Ask them to study the history of capital gains cuts. Ask them to discuss banking reform proposals with leading bankers in your town. Ask them to dig deeper and deeper for the facts, and to treat sweeping generalizations and slogans with proper skepticism. [[Well, since you're editors, I suppose you could tell them. \ \]]

Grady 4/8/44

I'm sorry I couldn't join you today in Detroit, but I am glad that we've been able to get together through the magic of television. [[I know that sounds ironic, but I believe Americans always will need and demand first-rate newspapers.]] I wish you all the best in your meetings over the next three days. May God bless you and the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1991

OCT 16 P6:10

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

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FROM: TONY SNOW TS

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

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Snow/Nix
APME
October 16, 1991
Draft One

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OCTOBER 17, 1991
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[[Let me open with an apology. I know many of you depend on Washington to provide grist for news stories, and I know that we just haven't held up our end of the deal. In recent weeks, things around here have been just plain dull.]] \\

[[Actually, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to get a couple of gripes off my chest. First, could you get delivery people to stop throwing our paper in the shrubs? \\ Millie has a heck of a time finding it.

Second -- and I know you're tired of hearing this one -- couldn't you focus on the good news for once? I've just about had it with all the bad news about lawyers, bankruptcies, strikes, ~~business seizures, takeover attempts~~ (OCA), wars and bitter personal feuds. Just once -- just once -- I'd like to see sports coverage limited to standings and scores.]]

Today, I want to talk about a subject that many of your papers discuss regularly -- our administration's domestic policy.

~~legislation would~~ make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally, ~~see insert * attached~~ ~~additional~~ ~~(treasury)~~ We have offered proposals to ease the credit crunch that affects lenders nationwide -- lenders who, for instance, make it possible for newspapers to build new presses and plants, purchase new equipment, and improve their fitness in the incredibly competitive media business.

We have promoted incentives for savings, investment and entrepreneurship. We have proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development, and have advocated a permanent R&D tax credit. We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. ~~see sentence bottom of p.~~ We have begun negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement, which would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada ~~just across the river from here~~ ~~(OCA)~~ and Mexico. We have pursued the Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere.

General note: we say that we are heightening the domestic agenda but mention foreign agenda again (OCA)

We have pushed for tort reform, to cut down on needless litigation -- and the costs it imposes on every industry. Just think about the money your organizations spend on libel lawyers, and you'll get the idea. We have fought against regulations that produce red tape without improving the quality of American life. We have recruited judicial and regulatory appointees who appreciate the importance of economic liberty and personal freedom as indispensable ingredients of economic growth. We have worked to build a more intelligent, flexible workforce through our America 2000 education strategy. And we insist upon

insert [We are working hard to bring the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to a successful conclusion (OCA).
 Note: It's important to show that we lift US own top trade priority OCA

maintaining the fiscal discipline established by last year's ~~controversial~~^(OCA) budget agreement.

When people say we have no domestic agenda, they just haven't seen the facts. We have a ^{solid forward-looking} ~~good~~^(OCA) agenda. Congressional leaders just won't act on it.

I know you will spend two sessions discussing economic issues tomorrow. I'd also like to encourage you to think about ways of improving the coverage of economic issues. Encourage your reporters to take a hard, fair, informed look at our policies and at Congressional alternatives. Ask them to study the history of capital gains cuts. Ask them to discuss banking reform proposals with leading bankers in your town. Ask them to dig deeper and deeper for the facts, and to treat sweeping generalizations and slogans with proper skepticism. [[Well, since you're editors, I suppose you could tell them. \\]]

I'm sorry I couldn't join you today in Detroit, but I am glad that we've been able to get together through the magic of television. [[I know that sounds ironic, but I believe Americans ~~always will~~^(OCA) need and demand first-rate newspapers.]] I wish you all the best in your meetings over the next three days. May God bless you and the United States of America.

#



~~We have introduced comprehensive banking reform legislation. Congress has the opportunity to make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally but they must act now. Only comprehensive legislation which addresses the fundamental problems facing the industry will allow our banks to become stronger and better able to promote economic growth. The credit crunch is a symptom of the problems facing our banks. We have offered additional proposals to ease the crunch. . . .~~

(Treasury)

Document No. 278552sa

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 OCT 17 11:48:11 AM

DATE: 10/16/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 10/17/91 9:00am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

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RESPONSE:

*Good - a few thoughts.
BT R-SR*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1991

OCT 16 8:10

INFORMATION

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^{vecal} Some opponents claim that the cut helps only the rich. I will ask you to judge: The capital gains tax affects future wealth, not present wealth. It doesn't help today's rich people. It ^{stops} ~~prevents~~ others from becoming prosperous tomorrow.

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3

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We have promoted incentives for savings, investment and entrepreneurship. We have proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development, and have advocated a permanent R&D tax credit. We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. We have begun negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement, which would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada - ^{where you are?} - just across the river from here -- and Mexico. We have pursued the Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere.

We have pushed for tort reform, to cut down on needless litigation -- and the costs it imposes on every industry. Just think about the money your organizations spend on libel lawyers, and you'll get the idea. We have fought against regulations that produce red tape without improving the quality of American life. We have recruited judicial and regulatory appointees who appreciate the importance of economic liberty and personal freedom as indispensable ingredients of economic growth. We have worked to build a more intelligent, flexible workforce through our America 2000 education strategy. And we insist upon

4

maintaining the fiscal discipline established by last year's controversial budget agreement.

When people say we have no domestic agenda, they just haven't seen the facts. We have a good agenda. Congressional leaders just won't act on it. *A headline writer might call it "Congressional Gridlock."*

I know you will spend two sessions discussing economic issues tomorrow. I'd also like to encourage you to think about ways of improving the coverage of economic issues. Encourage your reporters to take a hard, fair, informed look at our policies and at Congressional alternatives. Ask them to study the history of capital gains cuts. Ask them to discuss banking reform proposals with leading bankers in your town. Ask them to dig deeper and deeper for the facts, and to treat sweeping generalizations and slogans with proper skepticism. [[Well, since you're editors, I suppose you could tell them. \]]

I'm sorry I couldn't join you today in Detroit, but I am glad that we've been able to get together through the magic of television. [[I know that sounds ironic, but I believe Americans always will need and demand first-rate newspapers.]] I wish you all the best in your meetings over the next three days. May God bless you and the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

91 OCT 17 A 9: 55 October 17, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: *Chester Paul Beach, Jr.*
CHESTER PAUL BEACH, JR.
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks - AP Managing Editors
Teleconference

This responds to Phil Brady's memorandum of October 16, 1991, requesting our comments on these proposed remarks.

This Office concurs in the proposed remarks, with one suggested change. The second sentence of the paragraph at the bottom of page two --

Just think about the money your organizations spend on libel lawyers, and you'll get the idea.

should be deleted. Our tort reform proposals are primarily driven by the need to enhance competitiveness of American producing industries in world markets, not the costs to news organizations of legal services related to libel matters. Moreover, inasmuch as the law of libel provides what little external check there is on irresponsible journalism, use of this example may cut against concerns we may wish to express in the future. Finally, deletion of the sentence does not weaken the argument.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

cc:
Phil Brady

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 17, 1991

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DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

cc:

Phil Brady

RECEIVED
OCT 17 1991

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 10/16/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 10/17/91 9:00

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 9:00 a.m., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1991

OCT 16 P6:10

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST

FROM: TONY SNOW TS

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, October 17, at 12:15 p.m., you will broadcast remarks (8 minutes, on prompter) from the OEOB Studio to the 57th Annual AP Managing Editors Convention at the Westin Hotel in Detroit. The audience of approximately 400 people include managing editors from large and small dailies from around the country. Acknowledgements include AP President Lou Boccardi and APME President Ralph Langer. Langer is editor of the Dallas Morning News.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks highlight elements of the domestic agenda -- specifically, our economic growth package -- and Congress's blindspot to this administration domestic policy legislation.

NOTE: The text of this address is in simultaneous staffing and thus has not been reviewed by senior staff.

Snow/Nix
APME
October 16, 1991
Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL TELECONFERENCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS
OCTOBER 17, 1991
12:15 p.m.

Thank you, Ralph [Langer -- rhymes with ranger]. It's nice being introduced in Detroit by a fellow Texan. It's also nice to see Lou Boccardi again. I'm sorry I couldn't join you for today's luncheon -- unless you're serving broccoli, that is. \\

[[Let me open with an apology. I know many of you depend on Washington to provide grist for news stories, and I know that we just haven't held up our end of the deal. In recent weeks, things around here have been just plain dull.]] \\

[[Actually, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to get a couple of gripes off my chest. First, could you get delivery people to stop throwing our paper in the shrubs? \\ Millie has a heck of a time finding it.

Second -- and I know you're tired of hearing this one -- couldn't you focus on the good news for once? I've just about had it with all the bad news about lawyers, bankruptcies, strikes, business seizures, takeover attempts, wars and bitter personal feuds. Just once -- just once -- I'd like to see sports coverage limited to standings and scores.]]

Today, I want to talk about a subject that many of your papers discuss regularly -- our administration's domestic policy.

I have talked with audiences around the nation about our initiatives on crime, education, energy, transportation and other matters. Here, I will focus on an issue of concern in Detroit and throughout our nation: Economic growth.

Our administration over the years has promoted a series of initiatives that would stimulate economic growth and keep our economy strong. Congress generally has chosen to avoid these proposals -- either by preventing votes or changing the subject. The capital gains tax offers a case in point.

Some opponents claim that the cut helps only the rich. I will ask you to judge: The capital gains tax affects future wealth, not present wealth. It doesn't help today's rich people. It prevents others from becoming prosperous tomorrow.

High capital gains rates discourage investment in untested products and services. Historically, small business growth has exploded when we have cut capital gains rates, and disparities in income between rich and poor have shrunk.

A capital gains cut would give our economy a much-needed boost. It would increase real-estate prices and reduce the overall burden of the Savings and Loan bailout. It would help people of imagination and drive. As I've said a number of times, the capital gains tax is a tax on the American Dream. Nevertheless, in three years, Congressional leaders have not permitted a single up-or-down vote on capital gains.

Consider other items in our growth package: We have introduced comprehensive banking reform legislation. That

legislation would make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally. We have offered proposals to ease the credit crunch that affects lenders nationwide -- lenders who, for instance, make it possible for newspapers to build new presses and plants, purchase new equipment, and improve their fitness in the incredibly competitive media business.

We have promoted incentives for savings, investment and entrepreneurship. We have proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development, and have advocated a permanent R&D tax credit. We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. We have begun negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement, which would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada - - just across the river from here -- and Mexico. We have pursued the Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere.

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maintaining the fiscal discipline established by last year's controversial budget agreement.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1991

91 OCT 16 P6:10

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

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SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

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The remarks highlight elements of the domestic agenda -- specifically, our economic growth package -- and Congress's blindspot to this administration domestic policy legislation.

NOTE: The text of this address is in simultaneous staffing and thus has not been reviewed by senior staff.



Dave/Tony

Instead of joke on bottom of darft's first page could we sue Anne Murray's theme.. referring to her, to my visit to CMA etc...
^The are some good lines in this, one of my favorite songs.)

Insert "A"

Also ,dave, give me a short back-up list for "B" on top of page 2. (what proposals -in case i get question)-- not needed if we are referring to proposals that follow in next few 'graphs'.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

By Anne Murray

I rolled out this morning, kids had the morning news show on...
Bryant Gumble was talkin' 'bout the fightin' in Lebanon;
Some Senator was squawkin' about the bad economy,
It's gonna get worse you see...
Need a change in policy.

There's a local paper rolled up in a rubber band,
One more sad story's one more than I can stand.
Just once how I'd like to see the headlines say
Not much to print today;
Can't find nothing bad to say.

Because nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town,
Nobody OD'ed, nobody burned a single building down.
Nobody fired a shot in anger, nobody had to die in vain;
We sure could use a little good news today.

I came home this evening. I bet that the news will be the same;
Somebody takes a hostage,
Somebody steals a plane,
How I want to hear the anchorman talk about a county fair,
How we cleaned up the air...
How everybody learned to care.

Oh, tell me...
Nobody was assassinated in the whole third world today,
And in the streets of Ireland all the children had to do was play,
And everybody loves everybody in the good ole' USA;
We sure could use a little good news today.

Because nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town,
Nobody OD'ed, nobody burned a single building down.
Nobody fired a shot in anger, nobody had to die in vain;
We sure could use a little good news today.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

10/17/91

Snow/Nix
APME
October 16, 1991
Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL TELECONFERENCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS
OCTOBER 17, 1991
12:15 p.m.

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[[Let me open with an apology. I know many of you depend on Washington to provide grist for news stories, and I know that we just haven't held up our end of the deal. In recent weeks, things around here have been just plain dull.]] \\

~~[[Actually, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to get a couple of gripes off my chest. First, could you get delivery people to stop throwing our paper in the shrubs? \\ Millie has a heck of a time finding it.~~

Second -- and I know you're tired of hearing this one -- couldn't you focus on the good news for once? I've just about had it with all the bad news about lawyers, bankruptcies, strikes, business seizures, takeover attempts, wars and bitter personal feuds. Just once -- just once -- I'd like to see sports coverage limited to standings and scores.]]

Today, I want to talk about a subject that many of your papers discuss regularly -- our administration's domestic policy.

First I believe we are recovering - albeit slowly.
There are some worrisome signs in the economy but some good

signs too

(Housing ↑, — ↑ —)² ask Danon.
I have talked with audiences around the nation about our

initiatives on crime, education, energy, transportation and other matters. Here, I will focus on an issue of concern in Detroit and throughout our nation: Economic growth.

Our administration over the years has promoted a series of initiatives that would stimulate economic growth and ^{make} keep our economy stronger. ^{initiatives that would instantly restore} Congress generally has chosen to avoid these ^{make needed} proposals -- either by preventing votes or changing the subject. ^{"confidence"}
The capital gains tax offers a case in point.

Some opponents claim that the cut helps only the rich. I will ask you to judge: The capital gains tax affects future wealth, not present wealth. It doesn't help today's rich people. It prevents others from becoming prosperous tomorrow.

High capital gains rates discourage investment in untested products and services. Historically, small business growth has exploded when we have cut capital gains rates, and disparities in income between rich and poor have shrunk.

A capital gains cut would give our economy a much-needed boost. It would increase real-estate prices and reduce the overall burden of the Savings and Loan bailout. It would help people of imagination and drive. As I've said a number of times, the capital gains tax is a tax on the American Dream. Nevertheless, in three years, Congressional leaders have not permitted a single up-or-down vote on capital gains.

Consider other items in our growth package: We have introduced comprehensive banking reform legislation. That

legislation would make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally. We have offered proposals to ease the credit crunch that affects lenders nationwide -- lenders who, for instance, make it possible for newspapers to build new presses and plants, purchase new equipment, and improve their fitness in the incredibly competitive media business.

We have promoted incentives for savings, investment and entrepreneurship. We have proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development, and have advocated a permanent R&D tax credit. We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. We have begun negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement, which would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada -- just across the river from here -- and Mexico. We have pursued the Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere.

We have pushed for tort reform, to cut down on needless litigation -- and the costs it imposes on every industry. Just think about the money your organizations spend on libel lawyers, and you'll get the idea. We have fought against regulations that produce red tape without improving the quality of American life. We have recruited judicial and regulatory appointees who appreciate the importance of economic liberty and personal freedom as indispensable ingredients of economic growth. We have worked to build a more intelligent, flexible workforce through our America 2000 education strategy. And we insist upon

Handwritten signature
"B"

maintaining the fiscal discipline established by last year's controversial budget agreement.

When people say we have no domestic agenda, they just haven't seen the facts. We have a good agenda. Congressional leaders just won't act on it.

I know you will spend two sessions discussing economic issues tomorrow. I'd also like to encourage you to think about ways of improving the coverage of economic issues. Encourage your reporters to take a hard, fair, informed look at our policies and at Congressional alternatives. Ask them to study the history of capital gains cuts. Ask them to discuss banking reform proposals with leading bankers in your town. Ask them to dig deeper and deeper for the facts, and to treat sweeping generalizations and slogans with proper skepticism. [[Well, since you're editors, I suppose you could tell them. \\]]

I'm sorry I couldn't join you today in Detroit, but I am glad that we've been able to get together through the magic of television. [[I know that sounds ironic, but I believe Americans always will need and demand first-rate newspapers.]] I wish you all the best in your meetings over the next three days. May God bless you and the United States of America.

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Snow/Nix
APME
October 17, 1991
Draft Three

PRESIDENTIAL TELECONFERENCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS
OCTOBER 17, 1991
12:15 p.m.

Thank you, Ralph [Langer -- rhymes with ranger]. It's nice being introduced in Detroit by a fellow Texan. It's also nice to see Lou Boccardi again. I'm sorry I couldn't join you for today's luncheon -- especially since it's rainy and cold here and it's nice and sunny there. \\

[[Let me open with an apology. I know many of you depend on Washington to provide grist for news stories, and I know that we just haven't held up our end of the deal. In recent weeks, things around here have been just plain dull.]] \\

[[Actually, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to get a couple of gripes off my chest. First, can you get the delivery people to stop throwing our paper in the shrubs? \\ I know you love it when people ask about that. \\

Second -- and I know you're tired of hearing this one -- but couldn't you focus on the good news for once? You know, there's a great Anne Murray song, "A Little Good News."

One nice verse says: "I came home this evening. I bet that the news will be the same: Somebody takes a hostage, Somebody steals a plane. How I want to hear the anchorman talk about a

county fair, how we cleaned the air ... How everybody learned to care."

That's a great idea. ~~You know~~, I've just about had it with all the bad news about lawyers, bankruptcies, strikes, business seizures, stock splits, profit sharing, wars and bitter personal feuds. Just once -- just once -- I'd like to see you limit the sports pages to scores and standings.]]

Today, I want to talk about a subject that many of your papers discuss regularly -- our administration's domestic policy. I have talked with audiences around the nation about our initiatives on crime, education, energy, transportation and other matters. Today, I will focus on an issue of concern in Detroit and throughout our nation: Economic growth.

Let me start with the good news: The economic trends look good. Industrial production has risen for five straight months. Housing starts have risen 26 percent since January. The unemployment rate in September fell to 6.7 percent -- down three-tenths of a percent in three months, and the lowest rate in nearly five years. The index of leading economic indicators has held steady or increased for seven straight months, and it has jumped five percent since January. Inflation has fallen -- a 2.7 percent annual rate. Mortgage interest rates have dropped to the lowest level since 1977.

Over the years our administration has promoted a series of initiatives that would stimulate economic growth and make our

economy much stronger -- initiatives that would instantly restore much-needed confidence in our economic progress.

Congress generally has chosen to avoid these proposals -- either by preventing votes or changing the subject. The capital gains tax offers a case in point.

Against the argument that the cut raises questions of fairness, I will ask you to judge: The capital gains tax affects future wealth, not present wealth. High capital gains rates discourage investment in untried products and services. They make it difficult for people with ideas to get the capital they need to make a difference. Historically, when capital gains rates fall, revenues increase -- and the "rich" assume the lion's share of the tax burden.

A capital gains cut will set off an explosion of small business formation -- which means that your ad people will have new clients and you might be able to give your reporters a pay raise, after all.

In short, a capital gains cut would give our economy a much-needed boost. It would raise real-estate prices and cut the overall cost of the Savings and Loan cleanup. It would help people of imagination and drive.

As I've said a number of times, the capital gains tax is a tax on the American dream. Nevertheless, in three years, Congressional leaders have not permitted a single up-or-down vote on our capital gains proposals.

Consider other items in our growth package: We have proposed comprehensive banking reform legislation. Congress has the opportunity to make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally, but it must act now. Only comprehensive legislation -- which addresses the fundamental problems facing the banking industry -- will strengthen our banks and support economic growth.

We have offered proposals to ease the credit crunch that affects lenders nationwide -- lenders who, for instance, make it possible for newspapers to build new presses and plants, purchase new equipment, and improve their fitness in the incredibly competitive media business.

We have promoted incentives for savings, investment and entrepreneurship. We have proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development, and have advocated a permanent R&D tax credit. We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. We continue to press for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. We have begun negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement, which would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada -- just across the river from you -- and Mexico. We have pursued the Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere, and build ties of mutual interest.

We have promoted tort reform, to cut down on needless litigation -- and the costs it imposes on every industry. We have fought against regulations that produce red tape without improving the quality of American life. We have worked to build a more intelligent, flexible workforce through our America 2000 education strategy. And finally, we have worked to maintain the fiscal discipline established by last year's controversial budget agreement.

When people say we have no domestic agenda, they just haven't seen the facts. We have a good, forward-looking agenda. Congressional leaders just won't act on it.

I know you will spend two sessions discussing economic issues tomorrow. I'd also like to encourage you to think about ways of improving coverage of economic issues. Urge your reporters to take a hard, fair, informed look at our policies and at Congressional alternatives. Ask them to study the history of capital gains cuts. Ask them to discuss banking reform proposals with leading bankers in your town. Ask them to dig deeper and deeper for the facts, and to treat sweeping generalizations and slogans with proper skepticism. Well, since you're editors, I suppose you could tell them. \\

A free press truly can serve as a guide to good public policy but only if reporters and editors take seriously their duty to inform the public in a comprehensive, balanced manner.

I'm sorry I couldn't join you today in Detroit, but I am glad that we've been able to get together by video hook-up. I

wish you all the best in your meetings over the next three days.
May God bless you and the United States of America. Now, I'll be
glad to take a couple of questions.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 17, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN TELECONFERENCE WITH THE
ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Old Executive Office Building

12:15 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Ralph. Thank you very much. Thank you for the plug for the Texas Rangers. It's nice being introduced in Detroit by a fellow Texan. It's also nice to see Lou Boccardi again. He's on the corner of my screen -- about half of Lou is there. But let me just say I am very sorry I couldn't join you for today's lunch, especially since it's miserable, rainy and cold here, and I'm sure it's nice and sunny out there.

Let me open with an apology. I know that many of you depend on Washington to provide grist for news stories. And I know that we just haven't held up our end of the deal. In recent weeks, things around here have been just plain dull.

Actually, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to get a couple of gripes off my chest. First, can you get the delivery people to stop throwing our paper in the shrubs? And I know you love it when people ask about that.

Second -- and I know you're tired of hearing this one -- but couldn't you focus on the good news for once? You know, there's a great Anne Murray song -- I'm a country music fan -- Anne Murray of Canada, a song called "A Little Good News." And let me recite for you one verse. One nice verse:

"I came home this evening. I bet that the news will be the same. Somebody takes a hostage, somebody steals a plane. How I want to hear the anchorman talk about a county fair, how we cleaned the air, how everybody learned to care."

Well, I think that's a great idea, not exactly what your work is about, and I understand that. But I've just about had it with all the bad news about lawyers, and bankruptcies, and strikes, and business seizures, and stock splits, and profit-sharing, and wars, and bitter personal feuds. Just once, just once, I'd like to see you limit the sports pages to scores and standings.

Today I want to talk about a subject that many of your papers discuss regularly: our administration's domestic policy. And I've talked with audiences around the nation about our initiatives on crime, on education, on energy, transportation and many other matters. But today let me focus on an issue of great concern in Detroit and, as a matter of fact, throughout our nation -- economic growth. And let me start with some good news. I cite this recognizing that a lot of people are still hurting. But the trends, the economic trends, look good.

Industrial production, for example, has risen for five straight months. Housing starts have risen 26 percent since January. The unemployment rate in September fell to 6.7 percent, down three-tenths of a percent in three months, and the lowest rate in nearly

MORE

five years.* The Index of Leading Economic Indicators has held steady or increased for seven straight months, and it's jumped five percent since January.

Inflation -- now, this is solid good news -- it's fallen a 2.7 percent annual rate. Mortgage interest rates have dropped to the lowest level since 1977. And over the years, our administration has promised a series of initiatives that would stimulate economic growth and make our economy much stronger -- initiatives that would instantly restore much needed confidence in our economic progress. Congress generally has chosen to avoid these proposals, either by preventing votes or changing the subject.

Maybe you're tired of hearing me talk about this, but the capital gains tax offers a case in point. Against the argument that the cut raises questions of fairness, let me ask you to judge. The capital gains tax effects future wealth, not present wealth. High capital gains rates discourage investment in untried products and services. They make it difficult for people with ideas to get the capital they need to make a difference. Historically, when capital gains rates fall, revenues increase, and the rich assume the lion's share of the tax burden.

Let me read you a quote about capital gains: "The tax on capital gains directly effects the ease or difficulty experienced by new ventures in obtaining capital and thereby the strength and potential for the growth of the economy." John F. Kennedy said that.

A capital gains cut will set off an explosion of small business formation, which means that your ad people will have new clients and you might be able to give your reporters a pay raise after all. In short, a capital gains cut would give our economy a much-needed boost. It would raise real estate prices and cut the overall cost of the savings and loan cleanup. It would help people of imagination and drive.

As I've said a number of times, the capital gains tax is a tax on the American dream. And nevertheless, in three years congressional leaders have not permitted one single up or down vote on our capital gains proposals. If they were convinced that this is a tax break for the rich and would be unpopular across the country, they ought to at least let it come to a vote. Consider other items in our growth package. We proposed a comprehensive banking reform legislation. And Congress has the opportunity to make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally. But it has got to act now. It's hung up on the House side, incidentally -- the House of Representatives.

Only comprehensive legislation which addresses the fundamental problems facing the banking industry will strengthen our banks and support economic growth. We've offered proposals to ease the credit crunch that affects lenders nationwide -- lenders who, for instance, make it possible for newspapers to build new presses and plants, purchase new equipment and improve their fitness in the incredibly competitive media business. We've promoted incentives for savings, investment, entrepreneurship. We've proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development. And we've advocated a permanent R&D tax credit.

We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. And we continue to press for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. This is a very important thing. And then, as you all know, we've begun negotiating a North American free trade agreement, which

*five months

would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada, just across the river from you, and Mexico.

We've pursued the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere and build ties of mutual interest. We've promoted tort reform -- and this is an important one, and I sure would like to ask your support -- we have promoted tort reform to cut down on needless litigation and the costs that that imposes on every single industry. And we've fought against regulations that produce red tape without improving the quality of American life. We've still got a ways to go there, I will admit.

We've worked to build a more intelligent, flexible workforce through our America 2000 Education Strategy. It's a little longer-range, but very, very important. And, finally, we've worked to maintain the fiscal discipline established by last year's controversial budget agreement.

When people say that we have no domestic agenda, they simply have not seen the facts. We have a good forward-looking agenda. Congressional leaders just won't act on it. This is one of the great problems of a divided government, where you have the President of one party and both Houses controlled by another.

I know that you will spend two sessions discussing economic issues tomorrow. And I'd also like to encourage you to think about ways of improving the coverage of economic issues. They're not the sexiest, they're not the most vital, they aren't the most interesting, but they are the most vital.

Urge your reporters to take a hard, fair, informed look at these policies and then at the congressional alternatives. Ask them to study the history of capital gains cuts. Ask them to discuss banking reform proposals with leading bankers in your town. Ask them to dig deeper and deeper for the facts and to treat sweeping generalizations and slogans, whether they come from me or somebody else, with proper skepticism. Well, since you're editors, I suppose you could tell them, not ask them.

A free press truly can serve as a guide to good public policy, but only if reporters and editors take seriously their duty to inform the public in a comprehensive, balanced manner. I am very sorry that I couldn't join you today in Detroit. But I am glad that we have been able to get together by this video hookup, and I wish you all the best in your meetings over the next three days.

May God bless our great country. And now I'll be glad to take a couple of questions.

Q Mr. President, many of the people in this room feel that the American people didn't receive an entirely complete or timely report on the Persian Gulf war because of the requirement for press pools in virtually every situation, not just situations where independent reporting was physically impossible. One particularly sensitive issue was prior review of stories and pictures. Right now, a group of editors is talking with Pentagon people about those feelings. Without prejudging what they come up with, I wondered if you think it's possible to restore the kind of aggressive and independent reporting that characterized American newspaper reporting of World War II and Korea and Vietnam, rather than this somewhat pool-driven, briefing-driven coverage of the Persian Gulf war?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think there can be room for improvement. I thought some of you all's people were going to meet with Dick Cheney on this. It is my understanding that the final decision on whether to go public with disputed material really rested at the hands of the outlets.

Let me address myself to the broader question. I do think that the pooling worked to some degree. I don't agree with you and I have to tell you this -- and I expect I'm the only one. I don't know how many people you've got in the room, but the vote will be overwhelmingly against me -- I think that the American people felt that they got very strong, intrusive coverage of the war. I really believe that. I also believe, and I think you might agree with this one, that there must be discipline. There cannot be everybody strolling around in a hostile environment. And I think when we saw some taken prisoner, that was pretty good evidence that there was some reason to have some kind of pooling mechanism.

But, look, I can't argue with you that it was perfect. I do think the American people feel they got good, thorough coverage and that's a credit to every single person in the room there and many, many more in other media forums all around the country. But I'd like to think we could improve it. The Desert Storm, the rules for this are not locked in concrete. They were tailored for this particular operation that had long logistic problems.

I also would like to -- and I may be on weak ground here, but I thought that in World War II -- and I'm old enough to remember some of it -- that there was real censorship of all these dispatches. I know my mail was censored, for example, as a little guy flying or floating around on an aircraft carrier. And I think that if you look back, you'll find that there was an awful lot of pure censorship there that was not anywhere near matched by what went on under the Desert Storm arrangements.

But let me just offer you a spirit, having defined some differences here, of cooperation, because we do want the best, most intrusive coverage possible, and that can be done with the safety of everybody in mind and the national interest in mind. I say "national interest" because I'm still reminded of the Saturday Night Live program. I don't know whether any of you saw that, about the guy getting up, "Now, could you please give us the code words that would help Saddam Hussein understand what he's up against?" Or, "Could you give us directly the place that you plan for the Marines to land? Would it be this on the map or that?" And it went on and on and on. I showed this to a couple of people and it hit -- with all respect now -- (laughter) -- it hit a familiar chord with some.

We don't want to go to one extreme or another. And if we need to do a better job of finding the balance, we'll sure try. I think in Dick Cheney we've got an extraordinarily reasonable man, and I know he's already trying to improve the whole pooling concept and the restrictions that did cause you understandable concern.

Q Thank you.

Q Mr. President, one of the most disturbing issues that emerged from the Thomas hearings and confirmation process was the whole issue of sexual harassment in the workplace. Do you think that your support of Judge Thomas, the continuing perception of the "old boys' network" in Washington D.C. and in government, your positions on abortion, all cause you a problem with women as you approach your reelection? And related to that, what are the things that you're thinking about doing that, in the words of Judge Thomas, can help heal the wounds that have emerged from the hearings, the great divisions of race and gender and class?

THE PRESIDENT: That's a very broad, penetrating question. Let me try to respond. And the answer to your question is no. To begin with, I don't think that I have, as a result of all this, an increased problem with women. I go back -- if you want to put it in a -- and I think you put it in a political context. But I noticed on the surveys that everybody lives and dies by that women

supported Judge Thomas overwhelmingly. Women activists, feminist groups might not have, but women overwhelming supported Judge Thomas as did men, as did the entire country with minority Americans, Afro-Americans supporting him even more than the national average. When you've separated out the Afro-Americans, support was even stronger there.

So I don't start from the defensive posture on having nominated this good man to the court. And I also believe that he will be an independent justice. And I believe that he going to surprise some who think they know exactly where he stands on every single social issue.

Now, in terms of discrimination, sexual harassment in the workplace, I have a civil rights bill before the Congress now -- you haven't heard much about it because they just keep beating me over the head to pass their civil rights bill -- I'm talking about the Democratic leaders. Ours is the only one, I believe, that addresses further the question of sexual harassment in the workplace. And we have a good policy on this as it is in the Executive Branch, And I think everybody should take it very, very seriously. And maybe even though a lot of it was deeply offensive to American families across this country with its graphic detail, maybe something good will come out of it. And by that, I mean a sensitizing of the populous to the problem, the legitimate problem of sexual harassment.

Having said that, I wish that the country had been spared some of the detail that I think should have been assigned to the Congress. Anita Hill, as you remember, she didn't want to bring out this graphic detail. And had that graphic detail not been out there, I think the hearing could have been properly done. Her charges could have been properly heard in some executive session. And I don't think the people would have been denied anything that they had a right to know about. I think sometimes when you get to subjects that are that sensitive, it is well to delegate to your elected officials.

So I was troubled -- I was thinking of my little grandchildren hearing some of the graphic sex allegations. And yet, setting that aside for a minute, I do think there was something sensitizing about the question of sexual harassment. The problem is, there was also something sensitizing about the process itself, where a good man, on the eve of confirmation, had a last-minute charge raised about him, a charge stemming back from ten years before. And this troubled the American people, and I think that's one of the reasons support for Judge Thomas -- about to be Mr. Justice Thomas -- increased as the hearings went on.

So let's hope -- you know, I think you also mentioned -- I didn't write the notes down properly here -- I think you also mentioned what Justice Thomas said -- maybe you didn't -- but I've been doing a series of interviews here -- what he said about healing and getting on with it I think makes a good deal of sense.

I will be coming out -- in answer to part of your question here -- next week with some suggestions -- not in anger, not for partisan political gain, certainly not assailing the Congress in which I once served, but hopefully making constructive suggestions as to how we can avoid in the future, that which the American people -- I think rather unanimously think -- has been a kind of a messy situation.

It's been very interesting here. Everyone -- including me -- have been glued to our television sets. We saw some ugliness. We saw some good things. We saw some people that wanted to bring this man down for reasons having nothing to do with sexual harassment. But we also saw the prevailing wisdom of the American people.

So I don't think that these -- what I think of is the women's groups, feminist groups that were on the television every day berating those that voted the other way -- voting for Thomas -- I don't think they speak for all the women in this country.

And I might say something I hope you don't think is too controversial. I don't believe that the civil rights leaders all speak for the American people on a matter of this nature. If they did, how come support for Judge Thomas would have been so strong among black Americans?

So I've learned a lot. I'm still -- as you can tell from this rambling answer -- trying to sort it out, and I will be for the next few days, then I'll have some constructive suggestions. And I expect half the people in that room -- maybe more -- will criticize and the other half might see some merits to what I suggest. But we're a strong country and we can get beyond the ugliness of all of this, and let's hope something good comes out of it. And I want to do my part to heal whatever wounds do exist out there.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you all very much. Ralph, thank you, sir.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Over and out.

END

12:39 P.M. EDT



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/16/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY. 10/17/91 9:00 am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BOSKIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 9:00 a.m., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Good - a few highlights.
BT R-SR*

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1991

OCT 16 P 6: 10

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST

FROM: TONY SNOW TS

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS TELECONFERENCE

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, October 17, at 12:15 p.m., you will broadcast remarks (8 minutes, on prompter) from the OEOB Studio to the 57th Annual AP Managing Editors Convention at the Westin Hotel in Detroit. The audience of approximately 400 people include managing editors from large and small dailies from around the country. Acknowledgements include AP President Lou Boccardi and APME President Ralph Langer. Langer is editor of the Dallas Morning News.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks highlight elements of the domestic agenda -- specifically, our economic growth package -- and Congress's blindspot to this administration domestic policy legislation.

NOTE: The text of this address is in simultaneous staffing and thus has not been reviewed by senior staff.

Snow/Nix
APME
October 16, 1991
Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL TELECONFERENCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS
OCTOBER 17, 1991
12:15 p.m.

Thank you, Ralph [Langer -- rhymes with ranger]. It's nice being introduced in Detroit by a fellow Texan. It's also nice to see Lou Boccardi again. I'm sorry I couldn't join you for today's luncheon -- unless you're serving broccoli, that is. \\

[[Let me open with an apology. I know many of you depend on Washington to provide grist for news stories, and I know that we just haven't held up our end of the deal. In recent weeks, things around here have been just plain dull.]] \\

[[Actually, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to get a couple of gripes off my chest. First, could you get delivery people to stop throwing our paper in the shrubs? \\ Millie has a heck of a time finding it.

Second -- and I know you're tired of hearing this one -- couldn't you focus on the good news for once? I've just about had it with all the bad news about lawyers, bankruptcies, strikes, business seizures, takeover attempts, wars and bitter personal feuds. Just once -- just once -- I'd like to see sports coverage limited to standings and scores.]]

Today, I want to talk about a subject that many of your papers discuss regularly -- our administration's domestic policy.

I have talked with audiences around the nation about our initiatives on crime, education, energy, transportation and other matters. Here, I will focus on an issue of concern ^{not only} in Detroit ^{but} ~~and~~ throughout our nation: Economic growth.

Our administration ~~over~~ the years has promoted a series of initiatives that would stimulate economic growth and keep our economy strong. Congress ~~generally~~ ^g has chosen to avoid these proposals -- either by preventing votes or changing the subject. The capital gains tax offers a case in point.

Some ^{vocal} opponents claim that the cut helps only the rich. I will ask you to judge: The capital gains tax affects future wealth, not present wealth. It doesn't help today's rich people. It ~~prevents~~ ^{stops} others from becoming prosperous tomorrow.

High capital gains rates discourage investment in untested products and services. Historically, small business growth has exploded when we have cut capital gains rates, and disparities in income between rich and poor have shrunk.

A capital gains cut would give our economy a much-needed boost. It would increase real-estate prices and reduce the overall burden of the Savings and Loan bailout. It would help people of imagination and drive. As I've said a number of times, the capital gains tax is ^{simply} a tax on the American Dream. Nevertheless, in three years, Congressional leaders have not permitted a single up-or-down vote on capital gains.

Consider other items in our growth package: We have introduced comprehensive banking reform legislation. That

legislation would make America's banking system more efficient and more competitive internationally. We have offered proposals to ease the credit crunch that affects lenders nationwide -- lenders who, for instance, make it possible for newspapers to build new presses and plants, purchase new equipment, and improve their fitness in the incredibly competitive media business.

We have promoted incentives for savings, investment and entrepreneurship. We have proposed increasing federal expenditures on research and development, and have advocated a permanent R&D tax credit. We have worked aggressively to open foreign markets to American goods and services. We have begun negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement, which would create a unified market consisting of the United States, Canada - *where you are?* - just across the river from here -- and Mexico. We have pursued the Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which promises to encourage economic growth throughout our hemisphere.

We have pushed for tort reform, to cut down on needless litigation -- and the costs it imposes on every industry. Just think about the money your organizations spend on libel lawyers, and you'll get the idea. We have fought against regulations that produce red tape without improving the quality of American life. We have recruited judicial and regulatory appointees who appreciate the importance of economic liberty and personal freedom as indispensable ingredients of economic growth. We have worked to build a more intelligent, flexible workforce through our America 2000 education strategy. And we insist upon

maintaining the fiscal discipline established by last year's controversial budget agreement.

When people say we have no domestic agenda, they just haven't seen the facts. ~~excess spending~~ We have a good agenda. Congressional leaders just won't act on it. *A headline writer might call it "Congressional Gridlock."*

I know you will spend two sessions discussing economic issues tomorrow. I'd also like to encourage you to think about ways of improving the coverage of economic issues. Encourage your reporters to take a hard, fair, informed look at our policies and at Congressional alternatives. Ask them to study the history of capital gains cuts. Ask them to discuss banking reform proposals with leading bankers in your town. Ask them to dig deeper and deeper for the facts, and to treat sweeping generalizations and slogans with proper skepticism. [[Well, since you're editors, I suppose you could tell them. \ \]]

I'm sorry I couldn't join you today in Detroit, but I am glad that we've been able to get together through the magic of television. [[I know that sounds ironic, but I believe Americans always will need and demand first-rate newspapers.]] I wish you all the best in your meetings over the next three days. May God bless you and the United States of America.

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