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Alfalfa Club Dinner 1/25/92 [OA 6096]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*
 TONY SNOW

FROM: ANDY FERGUSON *AF*

SUBJECT: ALFALFA CLUB DINNER

Attached are your remarks for the Alfalfa Club dinner
Saturday evening, January 25, 1992, incorporating your revisions.

(Ferguson)
January 23, 1992
DRAFT 3
ALFALFA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ALFALFA CLUB DINNER

Thank you all. As usual, this has been a very long evening. If it doesn't end soon, I may have to faint again.

I look around this room, filled with conservatives and liberals, Democrats and Republicans, and I'm struck by what unites us, what brings us together here tonight: None of us could get Super Bowl tickets.

I wasn't sure I was going to be able to make it myself. Fortunately we were able to build a Washington stop-over into my travel schedule.

I salute our outgoing president, Senator Boren. He's done a marvelous job, doing what this club does best -- nothing.

And to our new president, Secretary of State Baker, my congratulations. I don't know how Secretary Baker will find time to fill these new job responsibilities. Over at the State Department there's a sign on his door that reads, "10 to 3." Those aren't his hours; they're the odds of finding him there.

And I especially want to thank Chief Justice Rehnquist, who sat beside me all through dinner. Very courageous of you, Mr. Chief Justice. He looked a little nervous when I told him I hoped to make a big splash tonight.

I noticed Chief Justice Rehnquist spraying his suit with Scotchguard before we sat down.

One topic came in for a lot of ribbing here tonight -- my famous Maalox moment in Japan. Let me tell you, I'm getting sick of all these jokes -- and that's no idle threat.

It was an alarming experience. As I was lying under that table in Tokyo, Zachary Taylor's life flashed before my eyes.

And all those videotaped instant replays the networks kept showing -- you know how embarrassing that is? They went too far when they let John Madden draw those little diagrams on the screen.

Actually, I blame Marlin Fitzwater for the whole episode. Right before I sat down to dinner that night he told me about the last Democratic presidential debate.

Of course now there are only five Democratic candidates, and some of those aren't going to last long. I knew Paul Tsongas was in trouble when he called me the other day and asked for charisma lessons.

And there's Jerry "Our Operators Are Standing By" Brown. Jerry doesn't really care about winning. He just wants to start his own Home Shopping Network.

I've heard people say Jerry's a little flakey, so I dialed that 800 number of his. I got the planet Pluto.

I congratulate Senator Bentsen on receiving the club's nomination for president this year. But Senator, I know David Boren. David Boren's a friend of mine. You're no David Boren.

I want you to know that I'm going to be my own man in this campaign. Anyone who thinks I'll bend to the will of handlers is

just plain wrong -- at least I think that's what Teeter told me to say.

And if I do say so myself, my plan to keep Republicans from getting overconfident has worked perfectly.

If I may, let me finish on a different note. We're going through some tough times in this country. I know that. I am convinced this economy will turn around soon. I will be making some proposals Tuesday night that really will spur growth. I hope you'll find them sound and sensible.

But my point here tonight is a simple one.

We have much to be grateful for. The world has changed dramatically since Alfalfa last met. The cold war is over. Our kids no longer fear the horrible spectre of nuclear war. Ancient enemies are talking peace in the Middle East. Our own hemisphere is almost totally democratic. We are the undisputed and proud leader of the whole world.

Don't listen to those gloomy pessimists who say we are in decline or we can't compete.

On the domestic front there has been too much gloom and doom. We have big problems. People are hurting. But we are the United States of America and we can and will solve the economic problems that face us. And when we do, this country will come together just as we did after the triumph called Desert Storm.

You know, Barbara and I still say our prayers -- just as we did when we were little kids. We pray for those who are hurting in this country, but we also give thanks every single night. For

as I see it, all of us -- every single one of us -- has an awful lot to be grateful for.


Thank you again, and God bless you.


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST 
 TONY SNOW

FROM: ANDY FERGUSON 

SUBJECT: ALFALFA CLUB DINNER

Attached are remarks prepared for your appearance at the Alfalfa Club dinner Saturday evening, January 25, 1992. We have prepared more jokes than you will need, on a variety of subjects, so that you can keep those you like and discard the rest.

(Ferguson)
January 23, 1992
DRAFT 2
ALFALFA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ALFALFA CLUB DINNER

Thank you all. As usual, this has been a very long evening. If it doesn't end soon, I may have to faint again.

I look around this room, filled with conservatives and liberals, Democrats and Republicans, and I'm struck by what unites us, what brings us together here tonight: None of us could get Super Bowl tickets.

I wasn't sure I was going to be able to make it myself. Fortunately we were able to build a Washington stop-over into my travel schedule.

I told Barbara I'd be spending tonight taking it easy, having a few laughs, not getting much accomplished. She said, "You're having a domestic policy meeting?"

I salute our outgoing president, Senator Boren. He's done a marvelous job, doing what this club does best -- nothing.

And to our new president, Secretary of State Baker, my congratulations. Good news, Mr. Secretary: Hollywood wants to make a movie depicting how you became president of Alfalfa. Unfortunately, Oliver Stone is going to direct it.

I don't know how Secretary Baker will find time to fill these new job responsibilities. Over at the State Department there's a sign on his door that reads, "10 to 3." Those aren't his hours; they're the odds of finding him there.

And I especially want to thank Chief Justice Rehnquist, who sat beside me all through dinner. Very courageous of you, Mr. Chief Justice. He looked a little nervous when I told him I hoped to make a big splash tonight.

When I looked at my plate, I wondered why they gave me a bigger napkin than everybody else. I noticed Justice Rehnquist spraying his suit with Scotchguard before we sat down.

One topic came in for a lot of ribbing here tonight -- my famous Maalox moment in Japan. Let me tell you, I'm getting sick of all these jokes -- and that's no idle threat.

It was an alarming experience. As I was lying under that table in Tokyo, Zachary Taylor's life flashed before my eyes.

And all those videotaped instant replays the networks kept showing -- you know how embarrassing that is? They went too far when they let John Madden draw those little diagrams on the screen.

Actually, I blame Marlin for the whole episode. Right before I sat down to dinner that night he told me about the last Democratic presidential debate.

That's quite a crew the Democrats have vying for my job. They're called a "six pack" -- of near beer.

Of course now there's only five of them, and some of those aren't going to last long. I knew Paul Tsongas was in trouble when he called me the other day and asked for charisma lessons.

And there's Jerry "Our Operators Are Standing By" Brown. Jerry doesn't really care about winning. He just wants to start his own Home Shopping Network.

I've heard people say Jerry's a little flakey, so I dialed that 800 number of his. I got the Planet Pluto.

((You know, I was a little worried you might not like these jokes. But then I figured, what the heck, after cocktails, wine, champagne and brandy, nobody will remember any of them, anyway.))

I congratulate Senator Bentsen on receiving the club's nomination for president this year. Senator Bentsen isn't used to all this attention. I saw him outside signing autographs earlier. Still has them in his pocket if you want one.

As Sen. Bentsen knows, you need a thick skin to run for president. On the drive over here tonight I heard one of those smartaleck commentators say I'm putting on a "blue collar" act just to get reelected. I got so mad I almost lost control of the 18-wheeler.

But I'm going to be my own man in this campaign. Anyone who thinks I'll bend to the will of handlers is just plain wrong -- at least I think that's what Teeter told me to say.

And if I do say so myself, my plan to keep Republicans from getting overconfident has worked perfectly.

If I may, let me finish on a different note. We're going through some tough times, I know that. We'll soon turn things around. At the same time, we should count the many blessings God has showered on this land, particularly when we think of the

amazing changes around the globe in the past few years. The greatness of this country lies in the innate optimism of its people -- in their abiding belief that they can make good on their dreams. That special American faith is the strongest force in the world. Nothing has stopped it in the past. Nothing will stop it now.

Thank you again, and God bless you.