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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 10, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND DINNER

State Floor

7:30 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Well, welcome. Barbara and I are just thrilled to welcome all of you to the White House. And this will be short, because I remember Billy Graham's famous story he tells at the crusade about the speaker that went on and on. The guy sitting next to him picked up the gavel, threw it at the speaker -- missed, hit the woman next to him. And the woman, said, "Hit me again; I can still hear him." (Laughter.)

We're not here for all of this. Also, you'll forgive me if I'm a little nervous, it's a big election night out there. So if you see these little slips of paper coming in, forgive me.

Now, first let me thank Bill Gray and Andrea. And I've tried it both ways -- of being on the opposite side from this guy when he was in the Congress and being on the same side with him now that he's running the United Negro College Fund. And I like it better this way -- he was tough, strong and able. (Laughter and applause.)

To those of you who have benefited the United Negro College Fund and you don't know Bill Gray, you've got a wonderful leader. You've got a man of principle, a man of faith. And we are very fortunate to have him. I say "we" because I consider myself a part of this family, and so does Barbara.

I will say a word about Walter Annenberg in a minute because he has a very special role in all of this. I want to salute members of the Cabinet that are here -- Dick Cheney, Lou Sullivan, Jack Kemp; and our newest member, the Secretary of Transportation, Andy Card.

And I also want to thank Joe Williams, the outgoing chairman, for what he's done for this organization. And unless it smacks of a little too much family, I'd like to single out the incoming chairman, my brother, John. (Applause.) I think having the United Negro College Fund to a dinner in the White House is perhaps long overdue. And my arm is just twisted out of the sockets, but now it's back and all is well.

Let me just mention some good news for the UNCF. Together, a goal was set for Campaign 2000 of \$250 million. And to get this campaign off to a fast start -- and now I get to Walter Annenberg, who does so much for so many -- the Annenberg Foundation made a \$50-million challenge grant. And since the kickoff, donations large and small have poured in. And I'm delighted to note this evening that we're about halfway there -- \$125 million raised so far. (Applause.)

And I look around this room and I see so many from corporate America -- points of light, all -- who were asked day in and day out to support worthy causes, who respond overwhelmingly but have come through for the United Negro College Fund in a profound and

MORE

wonderful way. And many of America's most successful corporations and business leaders are in this room with us tonight.

I've known many of you for more years than many of us care to count. And let me say to all of you what I've said to many in private conversations. Barbara and I really believe in the United Negro College Fund and we want to help in any way we can. And that goes for two that aren't with us tonight: the Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander; and his able assistant, so well-known to many here, David Kearns, who is the Deputy at the Department of Energy. They believe in this, they want to support it, and so we've got a good team who believe in the work here.

The guiding mission of the Fund has not changed since the days when Barbara and I first came to the cause in '47, under the leadership then of a guy named Bill Trent, that some of you may know, now living in retirement in Greenville, North Carolina, I believe. But when so many despair about a bleak future, this organization gives tomorrow's great minds room to grow. And when so many repeat the all-too-familiar litany of crime and drugs and violence that does concern us all, the UNCF answers with education and opportunity and freedom for all.

So let me say tonight, may the noble aims of this organization guide this nation always. And once again, may I thank all of you for your support and for joining us here this special evening. And now may I ask Bill Gray, the only other and the final speaker to come up and just say a word in his defense.

Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

END

7:40 P.M. EST



Joe Williams

Good evening-welcoem to the White House.

Remember Billy Graham's story about the speaker who went on and on- finally a man at the head table picked up the gavel, heaved it at him, and hit the lady next to the speaker. She said "Hit me again I can still hear him".... well tonight this will be short....for one reason we've got some pleasant entertainment after dinner, and secondly this is a major election night and even though I love the UNCF I must confess to a little anxiety. First let me thank Bill Gray and wife ANDREA. I 'V TRIED IT BOTH WAYS- BEING ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE FENCE FROM BILL, NOW BEING ON THE SAME SIDE WITH HIM. I LIKE THIS BETTER. HE IS STRONG, COMMITED AND HE'LL DO A GREAT JOB FOR THIS ORGANIZATION WE ALL CARE SO MUCH ABOUT.

LET ME SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF MY CABINET HERE TONIGHT, DICK CHENEY, LOUS SULLIVAN, JACK KEMP, AND OUR NEWEST MEMBER ANDY CARD

outgoing *Joe Williams*
May I also salute and thank Board Chairman _____. What a job he's done for ;and unless it smacks of a little too much family, may I single out my brother Jon and say how proud and pleased I am that he is the incoming chairman.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

~~IT'S ALSO GREAT TO SEE FAMILY HERE -- JONATHAN BUSH,~~
~~MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND SOON-TO-BE CHAIRMAN. //~~

● LET ME START WITH THE GREAT NEWS FOR THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND. TOGETHER, WE SET A GOAL FOR CAMPAIGN 2000 OF \$250 MILLION DOLLARS -- AND TO GET THIS CAMPAIGN OFF TO A FAST START, THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION MADE A \$50 MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE GRANT. SINCE THE KICK-OFF, DONATIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, HAVE POURED IN.

AND I'M DELIGHTED TO NOTE THIS EVENING THAT WE'RE HALF WAY HOME: 125 MILLION DOLLARS RAISED SO FAR.

● ONCE AGAIN, I'M PLEASED TO SAY: CORPORATE AMERICA HAS COME THROUGH. MANY OF AMERICA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL CORPORATIONS ARE REPRESENTED RIGHT HERE IN THIS ROOM.

● I'VE KNOWN MANY OF YOU FOR MORE YEARS THAN ANY OF US CARE TO COUNT. LET ME SAY TO ALL OF YOU WHAT I'VE SAID TO SO MANY OF YOU IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. *Believe in the UNCF and I want to help any way I can*
~~KEEP AN OPEN DOOR HERE. IF YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS, I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.~~

The same goes for ^{- 4 -} Lamar Alexander & David
~~AND I'M FORTUNATE TO HAVE A FIRST-RATE SECRETARY OF
EDUCATION, LAMAR ALEXANDER -- A MAN SENSITIVE TO YOUR
CONCERNS.~~ *Keans over at DOE*

● THE GUIDING MISSION OF THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE
FUND HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE DAYS WHEN BARBARA AND I
FIRST CAME TO THE CAUSE, ^{in 1947} WHEN SO MANY DESPAIR ABOUT A
BLEAK FUTURE -- YOU GIVE TOMORROW'S GREAT MINDS ROOM TO
GROW. WHEN SO MANY REPEAT THE ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR LITANY
OF CRIME, DRUGS AND VIOLENCE -- YOU ANSWER WITH:
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- 5 -

● LET ME SAY TONIGHT TO ALL OF YOU: MAY THE NOBLE
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**TALKING POINTS / UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND
STATE FLOOR / TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1992 / 7:00 P.M.**

- **GOOD EVENING. WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE.**
- **REMEMBER BILLY GRAHAM'S STORY ABOUT THE SPEAKER WHO WENT ON AND ON -- FINALLY A MAN AT THE HEAD TABLE PICKED UP THE GAVEL, HEAVED IT AT HIM, AND HIT THE LADY NEXT TO THE SPEAKER. SHE SAID, "HIT ME AGAIN, I CAN STILL HEAR HIM" . . . WELL, TONIGHT THIS WILL BE SHORT. FOR ONE REASON, WE'VE GOT SOME PLEASANT ENTERTAINMENT AFTER DINNER. AND SECONDLY, THIS IS A MAJOR ELECTION NIGHT AND EVEN THOUGH I LOVE THE UNCF I MUST CONFESS TO A LITTLE ANXIETY.**

- 2 -

- **FIRST, LET ME THANK BILL GRAY AND WIFE, ANDREA. I'VE TRIED IT BOTH WAYS -- BEING ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE FENCE FROM BILL, NOW BEING ON THE SAME SIDE WITH HIM. I LIKE THIS BETTER. HE IS STRONG, ABLE, COMMITTED, AND HE'LL DO A GREAT JOB FOR THIS ORGANIZATION WE ALL CARE SO MUCH ABOUT.**
- **LET ME SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF MY CABINET HERE TONIGHT: DICK CHENEY, LOUIS SULLIVAN, JACK KEMP, AND OUR NEWEST MEMBER, ANDY CARD.**

● MAY I ALSO SALUTE AND THANK OUTGOING BOARD CHAIRMAN JOE WILLIAMS. WHAT A JOB HE'S DONE FOR THE UNCF. AND UNLESS IT SMACKS OF A LITTLE TOO MUCH FAMILY, MAY I SINGLE OUT MY BROTHER, JON, AND SAY HOW PROUD AND PLEASED I AM THAT HE IS THE INCOMING CHAIRMAN.

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I BELIEVE IN THE UNCF AND I WANT TO HELP ANY WAY I CAN. THE SAME GOES FOR LAMAR ALEXANDER AND DAVID KEARNS OVER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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STATE FLOOR / TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1992 / 7:00 P.M.**

● I KNOW WE'VE ALL SAID HELLO -- BUT LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU, OFFICIALLY, TO THE WHITE HOUSE. I WANT TO THANK PRESIDENT WILLIAM GRAY AND HIS WONDERFUL WIFE ANDREA. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. WALTER ANNEBERG FOR THEIR UNSTINTING SUPPORT. LET ME WELCOME THE MEMBERS OF MY CABINET WITH US TONIGHT: DICK CHENEY, LOU SULLIVAN, JACK KEMP AND ANDY CARD -- AS WELL AS ONE WHO PLANNED TO ATTEND BUT COULD NOT, LAMAR ALEXANDER.

- 2 -

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UNCF DINNER \ ENTERTAINMENT CARD
EAST ROOM \ TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1992

- SINCERE THANKS FOR THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF MELBA MOORE AND THE ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE CHOIR. IT WAS INSPIRATIONAL.
- I WANT TO THANK DR. SEVEALYN SMITH, THE CHOIR'S DIRECTOR, AND DR. PREZELL ROBINSON, PRESIDENT OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S FOR BRINGING THESE WONDERFUL SINGERS UP FROM RALEIGH, N.C.