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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
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**Folder Title:**  
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<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

*Don't send over to Res. a s a f*

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
March 16, 1992  
CORRESPONDENTS  
Draft Three

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: RADIO AND TV CORRESPONDENTS  
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL  
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1992

Thelma LaBrecht, thank you for that kind introduction.

I'm delighted to be here tonight - [pause] - NOT!

I would have liked to stay for dinner. But then I saw the menu: carrots, also known as orange broccoli.

And yes, I've seen that new study saying broccoli has certain <sup>health</sup> ~~medicinal~~ effects. That proves my point: it tastes like medicine.

I'm glad to see you all could make it tonight. Marlin's right: if you want the press to show up for your speech, just cut the audio.

*I'm sorry Marlin's not here ~~but that's a problem~~*  
~~I'm glad to see you invited Marlin.~~ Of course, I know about his recent blow-up on the campaign trail, when he called several of you "lazy whatchamacallits." Please understand: he had a bad day. Earlier that morning he'd shattered his Thighmaster.

~~By the way, if you want to see a real "feeding frenzy," just watch Marlin when they bring dessert.~~

Now I don't need to tell you this is an election year. I see the field of candidates is thinning out - (pause) - No, this isn't another Marlin joke.

It's been quite a campaign so far. I couldn't believe the nerve of my Republican opponent. First, he loses several primaries -- and then demands I withdraw. Then he loses several more -- and he demands I fire the chairman of the Republican party. Then he had the gall to name his running mate, a guy he said shares his vision and experience. But who'd vote for a ticket with Geraldo Rivera on it?

And David Duke: He tried to take the "America First" theme away from <sup>Pat</sup> Buchanan. Duke swore all his facial features were made in the USA.

Then there's the Democrats. [I'm sorry that Paul Tsongas <sup>He's a thoroughly decent man.</sup> dropped out today.] Paul and I go way back. You know, I was his first charisma tutor.

And then there's Clinton, a very formidable candidate. I just wonder whether Cuomo would run as Hillary's vice president.

Eight months to the election -- and already the dirty tricks have begun. I picked up the hotline this morning to talk to Yeltsin -- and I got Jerry Brown on that damn 800 number.

Now to the issues: I've been accused of downplaying the issue of foreign aid. So let me be blunt: I favor foreign aid. And the sooner we get some the better.

And how about what's going on on Capitol Hill? I was watching C-SPAN when the check-kiting scandal broke. A congressman ran to the microphone and shouted: "Is there a spin doctor in the House?"

As an environmentalist I am deeply concerned about this scandal. Every time a congressman orders a new batch of checks, a rubber tree dies.

I know this is going to be a tough campaign, but I've been feeling more optimistic the last several days. A few months ago, a Democrat told me: "There's about as much chance of you winning this election as Teddy Kennedy settling down and getting married."

But if I could put jokes aside for a moment -- I know you <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ have tough jobs, and tough times haven't made them any easier. In your own industry, you've had cutbacks and layoffs. And yet I never fail to be impressed by what you can accomplish, despite the problems. ((Think back to February: For two weeks, CBS

managed to interrupt some of their commercials to bring us glimpses of the Olympics.))

And I'm impressed by the range of the stories you cover -- particularly those human interest stories. I notice some people think they discovered the wreckage of Amelia Earhart's plane. Fascinating stuff. They've found part of the plane, the heel from a shoe, and a travel voucher for John Sununu.

But now I would like to add a more serious word, if I may. This is going to be a tough, long year, as it is every four years. Some of it will be fun, some of it may be unpleasant -- all of it will be pretty tiring. But I'm confident that when it's all over, we'll ~~retain the regard we have for one another~~ <sup>still be talking</sup> -- because we'll know we've both been doing our jobs the best we know how.

I don't even mind some of your scurrilous accusations -- for example, that I'm always overscheduled and frenetically jumping from one thing to the next. ((I'd like to refute that, but I've got to run. I'm outta here.))

Thank you and good night.

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Draft Three

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By the way, if you want to see a real "feeding frenzy," just watch Marlin when they bring dessert.

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more -- and he demands I fire the chairman of the Republican party. Then he had the gall to name his running mate, a guy he said shares his vision and experience. But who'd vote for a ticket with Geraldo Rivera on it?

And David Duke: He tried to take the "America First" theme away from Buchanan. Duke swore all his facial features were made in the USA.

Then there's the Democrats. [I'm sorry that Paul Tsongas dropped out today.] Paul and I go way back. You know, I was his first charisma tutor.

And then there's Clinton, a very formidable candidate. I just wonder whether Cuomo would run as Hillary's vice president.

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As an environmentalist I am deeply concerned about this scandal. Every time a congressman orders a new batch of checks, a rubber tree dies.

I know this is going to be a tough campaign, but I've been feeling more optimistic the last several days. A few months ago, a Democrat told me: "There's about as much chance of you winning this election as Teddy Kennedy settling down and getting married."

But if I could put jokes aside for a moment -- I know you have tough jobs, and tough times haven't made them any easier. In your own industry, you've had cutbacks and layoffs. And yet I never fail to be impressed by what you can accomplish, despite the problems. ((Think back to February: For two weeks, CBS managed to interrupt some of their commercials to bring us glimpses of the Olympics.))

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But now I would like to add a more serious word, if I may. This is going to be a tough, long year, as it is every four years. Some of it will be fun, some of it may be unpleasant -- all of it will be pretty tiring. But I'm confident that when it's all over, we'll retain the regard we have for one another -- because we'll know we've both been doing our jobs the best we know how.

I don't even mind some of your scurrilous accusations -- for example, that I'm always overscheduled and frenetically jumping from one thing to the next.

((I'd like to refute that, but I've got to run. I'm outta here.))

Thank you and good night.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1992

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST

FROM: ANDY FERGUSON *af*

SUBJECT: RADIO AND TV CORRESPONDENTS DINNER

On Thursday, March 19, you will deliver brief remarks (5-7 minutes, cards) to the annual Radio and TV Correspondents Dinner at the Washington Hilton. We have prepared more jokes than you will need, on a variety of subjects, so that you can discard those you don't like. Please note the opening joke ("NOT!") plays off a fad started on "Saturday Night Live" and the new movie "Wayne's World."

(Ferguson/Aarhus)  
March 16, 1992  
CORRESPONDENTS  
Draft Two

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: RADIO AND TV CORRESPONDENTS  
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL  
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1992

[Thelma LaBrecht, thank you for that kind introduction.]

I'm delighted to be here tonight - (pause) - NOT!

[Or: I'm glad to you all showed up tonight. Marlin's right:  
all you have to do is cut the audio.]

I'm sorry Barbara and I won't be able to stay for dinner,  
but I really do appreciate the invitation. Ever since we got  
back from Japan, we've been getting fewer and fewer dinner  
invitations.

I know that some people have said we accomplished nothing  
with that Asia trip. But I can guarantee you one thing -- I left  
my mark on the prime minister of Japan.

On the way over tonight, Barbara told me we'd be seeing  
Washington's foremost broadcast journalists. I said, "Great! I'm  
dying to meet Murphy Brown!"

It was a lovely drive over here, with a gentle breeze. We  
saw some congressmen on the Mall flying their checks.

Barbara told me the other night she was watching some interesting coverage of Congress. I said, "On C-SPAN?" She said "No, 'America's Most Wanted.'"

Now maybe you'll listen to us Republicans. For years, we've been telling you the Democratic Congress has no respect for checks and balances.

I'm glad to see you invited Marlin tonight. Of course, I know about his recent blow-up on the campaign trail, when he called several of you "lazy whatchamacallits." You have to understand he'd had a bad day. Earlier that morning he'd shattered his Thighmaster.

By the way, if you want to see a real "feeding frenzy," just watch Marlin when they serve the dessert.

Now I don't need to tell you this is an election year. I'm a bit bemused by all the candidates. I can't believe the nerve of my Republican opponent. First, he loses several primaries and then demands I withdraw. Then he loses several more and demands I fire the chairman of the Republican party. Now he's even selected a vice presidential nominee, someone who shares his vision and experience. But who wants a vice president with a name like Hannibal Lecter?

David Duke's been trying to take the "America First" theme away from Buchanan. Duke swears all his facial features were manufactured and assembled in the USA.

Then there's the Democrats. Paul Tsongas and I go way back. I was his first charisma tutor.

And I think a Clinton candidacy would be very formidable. I just wonder whether Cuomo would run as Hillary's vice president.

And Jerry Brown has been saying some pretty rough things about me. I called him up to see if we could talk about it. Unfortunately, my White House translator only speaks earthling.

Now to the issues: I've been accused of downplaying the issue of foreign aid. Make no mistake: I'm all in favor of foreign aid. And the sooner we get some the better.

With all due to respect, I think the press has misreported the whole foreign aid issue. Russia has already turned down billions of dollars in foreign aid. Congress offered to write them a check.

I know there's been some talk that, just to curry political favor, we might take action against a terrorist despot despised

by every red-blooded American. Untrue. John McLaughlin has nothing to fear from this administration.

I must admit I'm feeling more optimistic the last several days. A few months ago, a Democrat told me "There's about as much chance of you winning this election as Teddy Kennedy settling down and getting married."

The single women of America must be devastated. All in one year they lose Ted Kennedy, Warren Beatty and Yasser Arafat. That's three fewer studs for "The Love Connection."

I've made a point this year of letting people know I understand their troubles, and that goes for the cutbacks in the network news divisions. Last week I saw Charles Kuralt "On the Road," and he was hitchhiking.

I do appreciate what you still accomplish despite all the problems. Why, for two weeks in January, CBS even interrupted some of their commercials to bring us glimpses of the Olympics.

I notice some people think they found the wreckage of Amelia Earhart's plane. Fascinating stuff. They've found part of the plane, the heel from a shoe, and a travel voucher for John Sununu.

But all joking aside, I am pleased to be here, to show my appreciation for what you do. Our democracy couldn't function without a free flow of information, and information is your business. Of course, neither of us can ignore or discount the friction that sometimes results between us -- but I take that friction, and I hope you do, as further evidence that both of us are doing our jobs. I don't even mind some of the scurrilous accusations you report -- for example, that I'm always overscheduled and frenetically moving from one thing to the next.

((I'd like to refute that, but I've got to run. And now, Marlin, if you'll cut the audio please.))

Thank you and good night.

# # #

**RADIO AND TV CORRESPONDENTS \ WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL  
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1992 \ 8:30 P.M.**

**THELMA LABRECHT, THANK YOU FOR THAT KIND  
INTRODUCTION.**

**I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TONIGHT - [PAUSE] - NOT!**

**I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO STAY FOR DINNER. BUT THEN I  
SAW THE MENU: CARROTS, ALSO KNOWN AS ORANGE BROCCOLI.**

**- 2 -**

**AND YES, I'VE SEEN THAT NEW STUDY SAYING BROCCOLI  
HAS CERTAIN HEALTH EFFECTS. THAT PROVES MY POINT: IT  
TASTES LIKE MEDICINE.**

**I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU ALL COULD MAKE IT TONIGHT.  
MARLIN'S RIGHT: IF YOU WANT THE PRESS TO SHOW UP FOR  
YOUR SPEECH, JUST CUT THE AUDIO.**

I'M SORRY MARLIN'S NOT HERE. OF COURSE, I KNOW ABOUT HIS RECENT BLOW-UP ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, WHEN HE CALLED SEVERAL OF YOU "LAZY WHATCHAMACALLITS." PLEASE UNDERSTAND: HE HAD A BAD DAY. EARLIER THAT MORNING HE'D SHATTERED HIS THIGHMASTER.

IT'S BEEN QUITE A CAMPAIGN SO FAR. I COULDN'T BELIEVE THE NERVE OF MY REPUBLICAN OPPONENT. FIRST, HE LOSES SEVERAL PRIMARIES -- AND THEN DEMANDS I WITHDRAW. THEN HE LOSES SEVERAL MORE -- AND HE DEMANDS I FIRE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. THEN HE HAD THE GALL TO NAME HIS RUNNING MATE, A GUY HE SAID SHARES HIS VISION AND EXPERIENCE. BUT WHO'D VOTE FOR A TICKET WITH GERALDO RIVERA ON IT?

AND DAVID DUKE: HE TRIED TO TAKE THE "AMERICA FIRST" THEME AWAY FROM PAT. DUKE SWORE ALL HIS FACIAL FEATURES WERE MADE IN THE USA.

THEN THERE'S THE DEMOCRATS. I'M SORRY THAT PAUL TSONGAS DROPPED OUT TODAY. HE'S A THOROUGHLY DECENT MAN. PAUL AND I GO WAY BACK. YOU KNOW, I WAS HIS FIRST CHARISMA TUTOR.

AND THEN THERE'S CLINTON, A VERY FORMIDABLE CANDIDATE. I JUST WONDER WHETHER CUOMO WOULD RUN AS HILLARY'S VICE PRESIDENT.

EIGHT MONTHS TO THE ELECTION -- AND ALREADY THE DIRTY TRICKS HAVE BEGUN. I PICKED UP THE HOTLINE THIS MORNING TO TALK TO YELTSIN -- AND I GOT JERRY BROWN ON THAT DAMN 800 NUMBER.

**NOW TO THE ISSUES: I'VE BEEN ACCUSED OF DOWNPLAYING THE ISSUE OF FOREIGN AID. SO LET ME BE BLUNT: I FAVOR FOREIGN AID. AND THE SOONER WE GET SOME THE BETTER.**

**AND HOW ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON ON CAPITOL HILL? I WAS WATCHING C-SPAN WHEN THE CHECK-KITING SCANDAL BROKE. A CONGRESSMAN RAN TO THE MICROPHONE AND SHOUTED: "IS THERE A SPIN DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?"**

**AS AN ENVIRONMENTALIST I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS SCANDAL. EVERY TIME A CONGRESSMAN ORDERS A NEW BATCH OF CHECKS, A RUBBER TREE DIES.**

**I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO BE A TOUGH CAMPAIGN, BUT I'VE BEEN FEELING MORE OPTIMISTIC THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS. A FEW MONTHS AGO, A DEMOCRAT TOLD ME: "THERE'S ABOUT AS MUCH CHANCE OF YOU WINNING THIS ELECTION AS TEDDY KENNEDY SETTling DOWN AND GETTING MARRIED."**

BUT IF I COULD PUT JOKES ASIDE FOR A MOMENT -- I KNOW YOU HAVE TOUGH JOBS, AND TOUGH TIMES HAVEN'T MADE THEM ANY EASIER. IN YOUR OWN INDUSTRY, YOU'VE HAD CUTBACKS AND LAYOFFS. AND YET I NEVER FAIL TO BE IMPRESSED BY WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH, DESPITE THE PROBLEMS. ((THINK BACK TO FEBRUARY: FOR TWO WEEKS, CBS MANAGED TO INTERRUPT SOME OF THEIR COMMERCIALS TO BRING US GLIMPSES OF THE OLYMPICS.))

AND I'M IMPRESSED BY THE RANGE OF THE STORIES YOU COVER -- PARTICULARLY THOSE HUMAN INTEREST STORIES. I NOTICE SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY DISCOVERED THE WRECKAGE OF AMELIA EARHART'S PLANE. FASCINATING STUFF. THEY'VE FOUND PART OF THE PLANE, THE HEEL FROM A SHOE, AND A TRAVEL VOUCHER FOR JOHN SUNUNU.

BUT NOW I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A MORE SERIOUS WORD, IF I MAY. THIS IS GOING TO BE A TOUGH, LONG YEAR, AS IT IS EVERY FOUR YEARS. SOME OF IT WILL BE FUN, SOME OF IT MAY BE UNPLEASANT -- ALL OF IT WILL BE PRETTY TIRING. BUT I'M CONFIDENT THAT WHEN IT'S ALL OVER, WE'LL STILL BE TALKING -- BECAUSE WE'LL KNOW WE'VE BOTH BEEN DOING OUR JOBS THE BEST WE KNOW HOW.

I DON'T EVEN MIND SOME OF YOUR SCURRILOUS ACCUSATIONS -- FOR EXAMPLE, THAT I'M ALWAYS OVERSCHEDULED AND FRENETICALLY JUMPING FROM ONE THING TO THE NEXT. ((I'D LIKE TO REFUTE THAT, BUT I'VE GOT TO RUN. I'M OUTTA HERE.))

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