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

OA/ID Number: 13613
Folder ID Number: 13613-004

Folder Title:
Grocers' Public Affairs Assembly 3/24/92 [OA 6099] [1]

Stack:

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY OF THE
THE NATIONAL-AMERICAN WHOLESALE GROCERS ASSOCIATION

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Washington, DC

11:04 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Boyd, thank you very much for the good news -- (laughter) -- and for the introduction. (Laughter.) And let me just say I am very pleased to be here. And I want to salute your leaders. First, Boyd, who did the honors here; Bill Eacho, who's with me; Richard Niemann; and T.C. Goodwin. And also, before I get going here, I want to single out a former Cabinet member, agricultural Secretary Jack Block, who's doing an outstanding job for the common interest so well represented here today.

And I am here to follow up on what I said Friday, but mainly to ask you to help me change this country, to make it stronger and make it better. And as Boyd so generously said, we have changed the world. We've won a great victory for world peace and freedom. And as President, believe me, I will stay fully engaged with the world. We have won the Cold War. And I salute previous Presidents for their role in keeping our defenses strong; my predecessor, Ronald Reagan, for his foresight in doing what he could to bring about the collapse of international communism.

But now is no time to pull back from engagement in international affairs. So now let's put to work the same leadership that we used to change the world to change America. And let me tell you what that means: We'll leave a legacy of productive jobs for our citizens, with strong families -- secure in a more peaceful world.

And I have a strategy to renew America and to keep our country strong in the next century. I have proposed a plan to stimulate the economy without raising taxes and without increasing the federal deficit. (Applause.) Action to strengthen real estate. Action to help young families buy that first home -- now. Get it done now. And I asked for action to create good jobs. One of those actions was to cut the tax on capital gains. It's not a break for the rich, it is a job-creation incentive. (Applause.)

But the majority in Congress simply couldn't break their tax-and-spend habits. And I asked for action to stimulate this economy -- not stifle it. And I asked for a jobs bill. And they passed a bill to increase income taxes by \$100 billion. And they turned their backs on that first-time homebuyer by failing to enact this \$5,000 tax credit. They watered down the investment tax allowance that we had, an allowance that would have sped up depreciation and encouraged people to buy new capital equipment, given them incentives to do that. They stifled other reforms to help businesses modernize and compete. And then they tinkered with the capital gains tax. But if their plan were adopted, that tax would still be among the highest in the developed world.

You people know this, but a lot of Americans don't: Japan and Germany tax capital gains at zero and at one percent. They don't even have -- in essence don't have taxes on capital gains in one country and tax it at one percent in another. And we're to

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compete with all that in this highly competitive world.

And, yes, I was disappointed in the Congress. But, frankly, I was not surprised. And so last Friday, that tax bill came down and I vetoed the tax increase. And that veto is going to be sustained. (Applause.) But not just to carp, then I announced actions that I would take on my own to do what I could to get the fat out of government, to cut the red tape that chokes our competitive spirit, and to get this country up to speed for the long haul.

You and I have business experience. We know what the tax increase would really do. About 80 percent of the revenue increase resulting from the higher rates, would come from, you guessed it, small businesses. More than a million small businesses would be affected -- many of them crippled -- by that Democratic leadership tax increase. Thousands of family-run grocery and convenience stores are in this category. Small family farms also could face financial ruin from such a tax increase.

The bill I've just vetoed tried to raise the marginal rate for small family businesses and farms by about 18 percent. Now, just think about the impact of this on your own businesses. The grocery business -- wholesale and retail -- is fiercely competitive. I know you're being nice to the guy next to you here today -- (laughter) -- but when you go home, why, we'll understand if you go at each other. And why is it so competitive? You operate on the thinnest of profit margins -- for wholesalers it's often less than a penny on the dollar.

And if you had to face a big increase in the bracket where you pay most of your taxes, how would you cope? You'd feel pressure to cut back on the quality of your service. Competition would press you to hold out as long as possible before passing costs along to your customers -- so you might have to eliminate jobs. Eventually everyone in the business would have to pass the costs along -- and that would fuel inflation.

Those are simple facts of life for people trying to make a living. But even as millions of American families were huddling over their kitchen tables to work on their tax returns, the liberal Congress tried to raise their taxes by \$100 billion.

Last Friday, as I say, I vetoed their massive tax increase. And I sent Congress my first line-item rescissions -- cutting \$3.6 billion in unneeded, wasteful spending. (Applause.) These rescissions will serve notice to Congress that the days of wasteful spending are over. And it is a step symbolic of the power that 43 governors have -- the line-item veto. Incidentally, at their recent National Meeting, the nation's governors, Democrat and Republican, went on record calling for line-item veto authority for the President -- and I need that authority. (Applause.)

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I'm also fighting for economic growth through actions that don't need to be passed by the Congress. Some things I need Congress to do, other things we can do without. Take a look at government regulation. Day by day, rule by rule, and industry by industry, we are winning battles against overregulation. We're winning victories for common sense and freedom.

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Just last Thursday, for example, our administration announced reforms on nutrition labeling for meat and poultry. Our reforms will keep our food supply every bit as safe --and I have responsibility for that -- but we will reduce the burden and expense of regulation on American consumers, and on our hard-working food producers and grocers. If Congress sends me any legislation that would overregulate our economy, I'm going to veto it as soon as it reaches my desk. (Applause.)

Now, if we Americans are going to hone our skills and really compete in the years ahead, we've got a lot more to do. And I want to have us keep our sights on the next American century. And when I think of America in the year 2000, I think of five strategic concerns mentioned in my address to the nation last Friday.

First, we must change and renew our schools. We must become a nation of students educating ourselves throughout our lifetimes in the best system of schools, colleges and universities in the entire world. And this is going to take revolutionary change. Most of our states and hundreds of local communities are committed to change. They have joined me already in a crusade that we call America 2000 -- an exciting program to revolutionize education.

Business as usual is not going to help us reach our national education goals. We need to get behind world-class standards, new curriculum frameworks, break-the-mold schools, voluntary national testing. And a centerpiece of our plan is the belief that schools will do their best when parents enjoy real freedom and real responsibility to choose their children's schools -- public, private and religious. (Applause.) School choice for parents is an idea whose time has come.

Second, we need to make our excellent health care system more affordable and more available to Americans. We've got the highest quality health care in the entire world -- but everyone should have access to it. And we all know the problems: Too many people don't have health insurance, and health care costs are going right through the roof. And we also know that the answer doesn't lie in costly and coercive plans like the scheme to make employers "play or pay." And the answer certainly isn't these nationalized -- these socialized medicine plans. Nationalized health care would be a national disaster. (Applause.)

The way I propose that we help our society deal with this is based on markets and choice. Just as in education, vouchers are a key part of my strategy for giving Americans a fairer and more affordable health care system. And our answer is to change our health care system for the better, not ruin it. And we're going to keep fighting for this sensible plan.

Third -- and I know you're going to agree with this one -- we need fundamental legal reform to stop the epidemic of lawsuits. (Applause.) You all know the litany. You hear it in your communities. You hear it in your businesses. Things are so out of hand that some parents refuse to coach Little League for fear of liability lawsuits. Some doctors won't deliver babies anymore because of malpractice suits. Well, just imagine what we could achieve if we spent as much time helping each other as we do suing each other. (Applause.)

And the costs of litigation and liability on small business are absolutely staggering -- horrendous. You know, in 1989 there were 18 million lawsuits filed in America. Eighteen million. And that's why I've again asked Congress to pass my civil justice reform bill which will help people resolve problems through means other than the courtroom. And it will help put a stop to frivolous lawsuits and reduce the drag on our economy caused by excessive

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litigation. (Applause.) And I need your help. I need you help with the Congress to pass this sensible approach. (Applause.)

And fourth, we must reform government in line with one of America's most important founding principles: strict limits on the size and power of government. With a federal government that gobbles up a quarter of GNP, we can't really say we're as free as we should be. One quarter of all we produce as a nation -- as a people -- goes to pay for the central government. Now, that's just not right. And right now, the system is not accountable, effective, efficient, or even compassionate. And we need government that knows its limits -- but more important, we need a government that works.

We have got to fix a congressional system that's gone out of control. Congress, as an institution controlled by one party -- the Democrats -- for most of the past four decades -- desperately needs reform. And I'm going to have more to say, constructively, about reforming Congress in not so many days from now, at a later date.

But we can start by compelling Congress to be governed by the laws that they impose on people like you. (Applause.) Such as civil rights law; wage and hour laws; fair labor standards. We must totally eliminate the special interest PACs that give unfair advantage to incumbents in Congress and say yes to the people's call for term limits on Congress. (Applause.) My term is limited -- the President's term is limited -- And I believe theirs should be now if we want true reform.

Fifth, we must work to expand our markets. Of all the legacies that I want to help create as your President, few could be more important than open and fair trade opportunities for our manufacturers and our service industries -- and also for our farmers and our food industries.

Food and agriculture trade is the critical problem of world trade. The European Community spends more than 10 times -- 10 times as much as we do -- on agricultural export subsidies. This cannot and must not go on. And I made that point in a very vigorous way to a very receptive Chancellor Kohl of Germany when he visited Camp David last weekend.

His leadership will be vital if we are to break the deadlock in GATT and concluding the Uruguay Round successfully. And I know from my talks that he wants to see a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round. So let me assure you, we'll be working as hard as possible the next few weeks to make a breakthrough in GATT. But as we see it, if there's no fair deal for agriculture, there simply cannot be a good GATT agreement. Agriculture is the key to getting this worked out. (Applause.)

And I'm also working to open up the exciting market opportunities in Mexico. With nearly 100 million people next door, Mexico is already one of our best customers. And they'll buy a lot more American goods as soon as these negotiations are concluded. It is one of our fastest growing markets anywhere in the world. And the bottom line is: A good agreement with Mexico means more U.S. jobs. (Applause.)

Last year, our exports around the world reached record levels, so the more trade barriers we can knock down the better. On a level playing field, I am absolutely convinced that Americans can outproduce, outperform anyone, anytime, anywhere. I have that kind of confidence in the American worker. (Applause.)

On each of these challenges, there are two roads to take: One is reform, the other protects the status quo. You and I are gathered on Capitol Hill today because we share a common purpose.

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We're here in the neighborhood of a Congress that fails to heed calls for reform, that so far has failed to pass a simple but effective plan to help create jobs and build confidence. We're not simply going to complain about the Congress, we're going to try to change it.

And there are hundreds of you here -- hometown business leaders -- who are the backbone of your community. And just after this speech, I understand that all of you are headed up the Hill to visit your senators and representatives. I hope you'll pass along my warmest thanks to those who have stood with us and urge all members of Congress to support our long-term economic growth package.

The five points I mentioned here today -- it is just that important. This will be, for me, my final campaign. And I plan to fight as never before. I have had the privilege of being your President at the great turning point when freedom prevailed over imperial communism; when the Berlin Wall came down; when Iraq's aggression was defeated; ancient enemies talking peace in the Middle East; when democracy really got on the move in this, our own hemisphere. We are helping solidify a legacy of peace.

But I cannot rest and you cannot rest until we help this country win another legacy: productive jobs for our citizens with strong families secure in a more peaceful world. Working together, we changed the world. And now we can change America.

Thank you all very, very much. And may God bless you in your important work. (Applause.)

END

11:26 A.M. EST

Other:

John Butterfield requested that everyone (including President Bush) wear workout gear at the event as a way to better portray and promote fitness.

Jim Lorimer raised the issue of provisions to sponsors; e.g. insignias on t-shirts. The general agreement was that the insignias would be approved if they were small.

Next Steps for the week of 3/30:

- 1) Jim Schaefer will design a diagram of the event site for meeting on Friday, April 3rd.
- 2) Security needs to address issue of 2-lb dumbbells.
- 3) Catherine Holt from the White House Press Office will look into possibility of submitting Family Fitness articles to Washington Post as well as other media plans.
- 4) The different core groups (Media, Set-up, Security) will meet separately to discuss various issues.

Reminder:

The next GAW III "count down" meeting will be held on Friday, April 3rd at 11:00 a.m. in Room 180 OEOB.

**GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY
HYATT REGENCY CAPITOL HILL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992
11:00 A.M.**

**THANK YOU, BOYD. \ I WANT TO SALUTE YOUR LEADERS:
BILL EACHO, RICH NIEMANN, AND T.C. GOODWIN. I ALSO PAY
MY RESPECTS TO A LONG-TIME FRIEND, FORMER AGRICULTURE
SECRETARY JACK BLOCK.**

**((WHEN I WAS AT A GROCERS' CONVENTION IN FLORIDA
RECENTLY, THE PRESS WONDERED WHY I WAS SO IMPRESSED
WITH A NEW CHECK-OUT SCANNER I WAS SHOWN. I'LL TELL
YOU WHY. IT WAS SO SOPHISTICATED, WHEN I RAN MY HAND
ACROSS IT, IT ACCURATELY PREDICTED THE FLORIDA RESULTS
FOR SUPER TUESDAY.))**

I'M HERE TODAY TO ASK YOU TO HELP ME CHANGE THIS COUNTRY -- TO MAKE IT STRONGER AND BETTER. WE'VE CHANGED THE WORLD -- WE'VE WON A GREAT VICTORY FOR WORLD PEACE AND FREEDOM. AND AS PRESIDENT I WILL STAY FULLY ENGAGED WITH THE WORLD. WE'VE WON THE COLD WAR AND NOW WE MUST NOT PULL BACK. NOW LET'S PUT TO WORK THE LEADERSHIP WE USED TO CHANGE THE WORLD TO CHANGE AMERICA. LET ME TELL YOU WHAT THAT MEANS: WE'LL LEAVE A LEGACY OF PRODUCTIVE JOBS FOR OUR CITIZENS, WITH STRONG FAMILIES -- SECURE IN A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD.

I HAVE A STRATEGY TO RENEW AMERICA AND KEEP OUR COUNTRY STRONG IN THE NEXT CENTURY. I PROPOSED A PLAN TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY WITHOUT RAISING TAXES -- AND WITHOUT INCREASING THE FEDERAL DEFICIT. ACTION TO STRENGTHEN REAL ESTATE. ACTION TO HELP YOUNG FAMILIES BUY THAT FIRST HOME -- NOW. \ I ASKED FOR ACTION TO CREATE GOOD JOBS. ONE OF THOSE ACTION ITEMS WAS TO CUT THE TAX ON CAPITAL GAINS. \

BUT THE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS COULD NOT BREAK THEIR TAX-AND-SPEND HABITS. \\ I ASKED FOR ACTION TO STIMULATE THIS ECONOMY -- NOT STIFLE IT. \\ I ASKED FOR A JOBS BILL -- AND THEY PASSED A BILL TO INCREASE INCOME TAXES BY 90 BILLION DOLLARS. \\

THEY TURNED THEIR BACKS ON FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS BY FAILING TO ENACT A \$5,000 TAX CREDIT. THEY WATERED DOWN MY INVESTMENT TAX ALLOWANCE AND OTHER REFORMS TO HELP BUSINESSES MODERNIZE AND COMPETE. THEY TINKERED WITH THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX, BUT IF THEIR PLAN WERE ADOPTED THAT TAX WOULD STILL BE AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD.

YES, I WAS DISAPPOINTED IN THE CONGRESS, BUT FRANKLY NOT SURPRISED. SO LAST FRIDAY, I VETOED THEIR TAX INCREASE. \\ THEN, I ANNOUNCED ACTIONS I WOULD TAKE ON MY OWN TO CUT THE FAT OUT OF GOVERNMENT, TO CUT THE RED TAPE THAT CHOKES OUR COMPETITIVE SPIRIT, AND TO GET THIS COUNTRY UP TO SPEED FOR THE LONG HAUL. \\

YOU AND I HAVE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: WE KNOW WHAT THE TAX INCREASE WOULD REALLY DO. ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE REVENUE INCREASE RESULTING FROM THE HIGHER RATES WOULD COME FROM SMALL BUSINESSES. MORE THAN A MILLION SMALL BUSINESSES WOULD BE AFFECTED -- MANY OF THEM CRIPPLED -- BY THE DEMOCRATS' TAX INCREASE. THOUSANDS OF FAMILY-RUN GROCERY AND CONVENIENCE STORES ARE IN THIS CATEGORY. SMALL FAMILY FARMS ALSO COULD FACE FINANCIAL RUIN FROM SUCH A TAX HIKE.

THE BILL I'VE JUST VETOED TRIED TO RAISE THE MARGINAL RATE FOR SMALL FAMILY BUSINESSES AND FARMS BY ABOUT 18 PERCENT.

JUST THINK ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THIS ON YOUR OWN BUSINESSES. THE GROCERY BUSINESS -- WHOLESALE AND RETAIL -- IS FIERCELY COMPETITIVE. YOU OPERATE ON THE THINNEST OF PROFIT MARGINS -- FOR WHOLESALERS IT'S OFTEN LESS THAN A PENNY ON THE DOLLAR.

IF YOU HAD TO FACE A BIG INCREASE IN THE BRACKET WHERE YOU PAY MOST OF YOUR TAXES, HOW WOULD YOU COPE? YOU'D FEEL PRESSURE TO CUT BACK ON THE QUALITY OF YOUR SERVICE. COMPETITION WOULD PRESS YOU TO HOLD OUT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BEFORE PASSING COSTS ALONG TO YOUR CUSTOMERS -- SO YOU MIGHT HAVE TO ELIMINATE JOBS. EVENTUALLY EVERYONE IN THE BUSINESS WOULD HAVE TO PASS THE COSTS ALONG -- AND THAT WOULD FUEL INFLATION.

THOSE ARE SIMPLE FACTS OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING. EVEN AS MILLIONS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES WERE HUDDLING OVER THEIR KITCHEN TABLES TO WORK ON THEIR TAX RETURNS, THE LIBERAL CONGRESS TRIED TO RAISE THEIR TAXES BY \$100 BILLION.

LAST FRIDAY I VETOED THEIR MASSIVE TAX INCREASE.
AND I SENT CONGRESS MY FIRST LINE-ITEM RESCISSIONS --
CUTTING \$3.6 BILLION IN WASTEFUL SPENDING. THESE WILL
SERVE NOTICE TO CONGRESS THAT THE DAYS OF WASTEFUL
SPENDING ARE OVER. AND IT IS A STEP SYMBOLIC OF THE
POWER THAT 43 GOVERNORS HAVE -- THE LINE-ITEM VETO.
INCIDENTALLY, AT THEIR RECENT NATIONAL MEETING, THE
NATION'S GOVERNORS WENT ON RECORD [UNANIMOUSLY] CALLING
FOR LINE-ITEM VETO AUTHORITY FOR THE PRESIDENT.

I'M ALSO FIGHTING FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH ACTIONS THAT DON'T NEED TO BE PASSED BY THIS CONGRESS. TAKE A LOOK AT GOVERNMENT REGULATION. DAY BY DAY, RULE BY RULE, AND INDUSTRY BY INDUSTRY, WE'RE WINNING BATTLES AGAINST OVER-REGULATION. WE'RE WINNING VICTORIES FOR COMMON SENSE AND FREEDOM. JUST LAST THURSDAY, FOR EXAMPLE, MY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED REFORMS ON NUTRITION LABELING FOR MEAT AND POULTRY. OUR REFORMS WILL KEEP OUR FOOD SUPPLY EVERY BIT AS SAFE, BUT WE WILL REDUCE THE BURDEN AND EXPENSE OF REGULATION ON AMERICAN CONSUMERS -- AND ON OUR HARD-WORKING FOOD PRODUCERS AND GROCERS. \\\ IF CONGRESS SENDS ME ANY NEW LEGISLATION THAT WOULD OVER-REGULATE OUR ECONOMY, I'LL VETO IT AS SOON AS IT REACHES MY DESK.

NOW IF WE AMERICANS ARE GOING TO HONE OUR SKILLS AND REALLY COMPETE IN THE COMING YEARS, WE'VE GOT A LOT MORE TO DO. I WANT US TO KEEP OUR SIGHTS ON THE NEXT AMERICAN CENTURY. WHEN I THINK OF AMERICA IN THE YEAR 2000, I THINK OF THE FIVE STRATEGIC CONCERNS MENTIONED IN MY ADDRESS TO THE NATION LAST FRIDAY.

FIRST, WE MUST CHANGE AND RENEW OUR SCHOOLS. WE MUST BECOME A NATION OF STUDENTS EDUCATING OURSELVES THROUGHOUT OUR LIFETIMES IN THE BEST SYSTEM OF SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD. THIS WILL TAKE REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES. MOST OF OUR STATES AND HUNDREDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE COMMITTED TO CHANGE. THEY HAVE JOINED ME ALREADY IN A CRUSADE WE CALL AMERICA 2000. BUSINESS AS USUAL WILL NOT HELP US REACH OUR NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS. WE NEED TO GET BEHIND WORLD CLASS STANDARDS, NEW CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS, BREAK-THE-MOLD SCHOOLS, VOLUNTARY NATIONAL TESTING. AND A CENTERPIECE OF OUR PLAN IS THE BELIEF THAT SCHOOLS WILL DO THEIR BEST WHEN PARENTS ENJOY REAL FREEDOM AND REAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CHOOSE THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS -- PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS. SCHOOL CHOICE FOR PARENTS IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME. \\\

SECOND, WE NEED TO MAKE OUR EXCELLENT HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE AND MORE AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS. WE'VE GOT THE HIGHEST QUALITY HEALTH CARE IN THE WORLD -- BUT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO IT. \\ WE ALL KNOW THE PROBLEMS: TOO MANY PEOPLE DON'T HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE -- AND HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE GOING THROUGH THE ROOF. WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE ANSWER DOESN'T LIE IN COSTLY AND COERCIVE PLANS LIKE THE SCHEME TO MAKE EMPLOYERS "PLAY OR PAY." AND THE ANSWER CERTAINLY ISN'T SOCIALIZED MEDICINE. \\ NATIONALIZED HEALTH CARE WOULD BE A NATIONAL DISASTER. \\ THE WAY I'VE PROPOSED WE HELP OUR SOCIETY DEAL WITH THIS IS BASED ON MARKETS AND CHOICE. JUST AS IN EDUCATION, VOUCHERS ARE A KEY PART OF MY STRATEGY FOR GIVING AMERICANS A FAIRER AND MORE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. OUR ANSWER IS TO CHANGE OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR THE BETTER -- NOT RUIN IT. \\

THIRD, WE NEED FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL REFORM -- TO STOP THE EPIDEMIC OF LAWSUITS. \\ THINGS ARE SO OUT OF HAND THAT SOME PARENTS REFUSE TO COACH LITTLE LEAGUE FOR FEAR OF LIABILITY SUITS. SOME DOCTORS WON'T DELIVER BABIES ANYMORE BECAUSE OF MALPRACTICE SUITS. \\ WELL, JUST IMAGINE WHAT WE COULD ACHIEVE IF WE SPENT AS MUCH TIME HELPING EACH OTHER AS WE DO SUING EACH OTHER. \\ AND THE COSTS OF LIABILITY AND LITIGATION ON SMALL BUSINESS ARE ABSOLUTELY HORRENDOUS. YOU KNOW, IN 1989 THERE WERE 18 MILLION LAWSUITS FILED IN AMERICA. EIGHTEEN MILLION! THAT'S WHY I'VE AGAIN ASKED CONGRESS TO PASS MY CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM BILL -- WHICH WILL HELP PEOPLE RESOLVE PROBLEMS THROUGH MEANS OTHER THAN A COURTROOM. IT WILL HELP PUT A STOP TO FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS AND REDUCE THE DRAG ON OUR ECONOMY CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE LITIGATION. \\

FOURTH, WE MUST REFORM GOVERNMENT IN LINE WITH ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST IMPORTANT FOUNDING PRINCIPLES: STRICT LIMITS ON THE SIZE AND POWER OF GOVERNMENT. WITH A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT GOBBLES UP A QUARTER OF GNP, WE CAN'T REALLY SAY WE ARE AS FREE AS WE SHOULD BE. ONE QUARTER OF ALL WE PRODUCE AS A NATION -- AS A PEOPLE -- GOES TO PAY FOR THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. THAT IS JUST NOT RIGHT. RIGHT NOW, THE SYSTEM IS NOT ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, OR EVEN COMPASSIONATE. WE NEED GOVERNMENT THAT KNOWS ITS LIMITS -- BUT MORE IMPORTANT, WE NEED A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS. \\\

WE MUST FIX A CONGRESSIONAL SYSTEM GONE OUT OF CONTROL. CONGRESS, AS AN INSTITUTION CONTROLLED BY ONE PARTY -- THE DEMOCRATS -- FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS -- DESPERATELY NEEDS REFORM. I'LL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT REFORMING CONGRESS AT A LATER DATE. BUT WE CAN START BY COMPELLING CONGRESS TO BE GOVERNED BY THE LAWS THEY IMPOSE ON PEOPLE LIKE YOU: CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS, WAGE AND HOUR LAWS, FAIR LABOR STANDARDS. \\ WE MUST TOTALLY ELIMINATE THE SPECIAL INTEREST PACS THAT GIVE UNFAIR ADVANTAGES TO INCUMBENTS IN CONGRESS. \\ AND SAY YES TO THE PEOPLE'S CALL FOR TERM LIMITS ON CONGRESS. \\ MY TERM IS LIMITED -- I BELIEVE THEIRS SHOULD BE, TOO. \\

FIFTH, WE MUST WORK TO EXPAND OUR MARKETS. OF ALL THE LEGACIES I WANT TO HELP CREATE AS YOUR PRESIDENT, FEW COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OPEN AND FAIR TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR MANUFACTURERS AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES -- AND FOR OUR FARMERS AND FOOD INDUSTRIES.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TRADE IS THE CRITICAL PROBLEM OF WORLD TRADE. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SPENDS MORE THAN 10 TIMES AS MUCH AS WE DO ON AGRICULTURE EXPORT SUBSIDIES. THIS CANNOT AND MUST NOT GO ON. I MADE THAT POINT IN A VERY VIGOROUS WAY TO CHANCELLOR KOHL OF GERMANY WHEN HE VISITED CAMP DAVID LAST WEEKEND. HIS LEADERSHIP WILL BE VITAL IF WE ARE TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN GATT. I KNOW HE WANTS TO SEE A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE URUGUAY ROUND. LET ME ASSURE YOU: WE'LL BE WORKING AS HARD AS POSSIBLE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO MAKE A BREAKTHROUGH IN GATT -- BUT AS WE SEE IT, IF THERE'S NO FAIR DEAL FOR AGRICULTURE, THERE CANNOT BE A GOOD GATT AGREEMENT.

I'M ALSO WORKING TO OPEN UP THE EXCITING MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN MEXICO. WITH NEARLY 100 MILLION PEOPLE NEXT DOOR, MEXICO IS ALREADY ONE OF OUR BEST CUSTOMERS, AND THEY'LL BUY A LOT MORE AMERICAN GOODS AS SOON AS THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCLUDED. IT IS ONE OF OUR FASTEST GROWING MARKETS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THE BOTTOM LINE IS: A GOOD AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO MEANS MORE U.S. JOBS.

LAST YEAR OUR EXPORTS AROUND THE WORLD REACHED RECORD LEVELS, SO THE MORE TRADE BARRIERS WE CAN KNOCK DOWN THE BETTER. ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD, I KNOW AMERICANS CAN OUT-PRODUCE AND OUT-PERFORM ANYONE, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE. \\\

ON EACH OF THESE CHALLENGES, THERE ARE TWO ROADS TO TAKE: ONE IS REFORM, THE OTHER PROTECTS THE STATUS QUO.

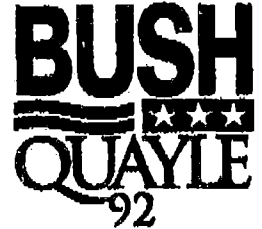
**YOU AND I ARE GATHERED ON CAPITOL HILL TODAY
BECAUSE WE SHARE A COMMON PURPOSE. WE'RE HERE IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD OF A CONGRESS THAT FAILS TO HEED CALLS FOR
REFORM, THAT SO FAR HAS FAILED TO PASS A SIMPLE BUT
EFFECTIVE PLAN TO HELP CREATE JOBS AND BUILD
CONFIDENCE. WE'RE NOT SIMPLY GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT
THE CONGRESS. WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO CHANGE IT. **

**THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF YOU HERE -- HOMETOWN BUSINESS
LEADERS WHO ARE THE BACKBONE OF YOUR COMMUNITIES. JUST
AFTER THIS SPEECH, I UNDERSTAND THAT ALL OF YOU ARE
HEADED UP THE HILL TO VISIT YOUR SENATORS AND
REPRESENTATIVES. I HOPE YOU'LL PASS ALONG MY WARMEST
THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN.**

**THIS WILL BE MY FINAL CAMPAIGN -- AND I PLAN TO
FIGHT AS NEVER BEFORE. I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF
BEING YOUR PRESIDENT AT THE GREAT TURNING POINT WHEN
FREEDOM PREVAILED OVER IMPERIAL COMMUNISM, WHEN THE
BERLIN WALL CAME DOWN, WHEN IRAQ'S AGGRESSION WAS
DEFEATED, AND WHEN DEMOCRACY REALLY GOT ON THE MOVE IN
OUR HEMISPHERE. WE ARE HELPING SOLIDIFY A LEGACY OF
PEACE. BUT I WON'T REST UNTIL I HELP THIS COUNTRY WIN
ANOTHER LEGACY. WORKING TOGETHER, WE'VE CHANGED THE
WORLD -- NOW WE CAN CHANGE AMERICA. THANK YOU, AND GOD
BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

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CAMPAIGN FAX



TO:

Don McGowan

OF:

FROM:

JIM PINKERTON

DATE:

3-26-92

FAX NUMBER:

PAGES TO FOLLOW:

1

SUBJECT:

COMMENTS:

Confidentiality Notice:

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BUSH/QUAYLE '92

PHONE (202) 336-7180 FAX (202) 336-7116
1030 15 St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005

POLITICAL NOTEBOOK: Campaigning for Incumbents; How Big Is That Tax Bill

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - On his campaign forays, President Bush never fails to get a rise from his audience when he rails against the evils of members of Congress who stay and stay and stay. "My term is limited," he says. "I believe theirs should be, too."

Does that mean the president will forgo campaigning for incumbent members of Congress this year?

No, said the president's press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater. "We'll be campaigning for some incumbents, I'm sure. We already have."

So the president will be campaigning for lawmakers who have served for three, four or five terms?

"We'll make those decisions as we come to them, but we support our Republican candidates in all these elections," Fitzwater said.

Do you support term limits only for Democrats?

"We support candidates and we support term limits," said Fitzwater. "Let the people decide."

When Bush criticizes the Democrats' tax-cut bill, he calls it a "massive tax increase." Some days he calls it a \$90 billion tax increase, other days it's a \$100 billion bill.

It's unclear where the president gets either figure. Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation says it is a \$77.5 billion bill.

Fitzwater was asked to explain the difference between the figures.

"I'll be glad to give you the calculations but we believe it's at least \$100 billion when you consider all the ramifications of their tax bill," Fitzwater said.

What ramifications, reporters asked.

"I don't know," the press secretary responded.

The filmmaker who produced "Tongues Untied," a documentary on gay men, says Republican Pat Buchanan infringed his copyright protection when he used footage from the film in a presidential campaign ad.

Buchanan used a snippet from the film showing gay men dancing in chains and leather straps in an ad that accused President Bush of allowing taxpayer financing of "pornographic and blasphemous art" through the National Endowment for the Arts.

A lawyer for producer Marlon T. Riggs has since informed Buchanan in a letter that use of the footage in the ad without his permission infringed on his copyright.

The letter from Attorney Peter Franck of San Francisco said the "violation of his copyright was clearly willful" and added Buchanan could be liable for damages or criminal prosecution.

A spokesman for Buchanan's campaign did not immediately return a call Wednesday seeking comment.

The real surprise in Connecticut's Democratic primary wasn't Jerry Brown's upset over Bill Clinton but how few people chose to vote, Jesse Jackson says.

"Mr. Brown won in Connecticut with 63,000 votes, I came in second with 68,000 votes in Connecticut in 1988," Jackson said Wednesday, and suggested both candidates should broaden their message.

JIM:
No this
figure
changed
in the
Luce's Speech.
- Jerry

(Duggan/Simon)
March 23, 1992
Draft Eight
Assembly

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY
HYATT REGENCY CAPITOL HILL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992
11:00 a.m.

[Acknowledgments]

~~((It's a pleasure to be with so many of the people who bring
broccoli to the grocery shelves of America.))~~

((When I was at a grocers' convention in Florida recently,
the press wondered why I was so impressed with a new check-out
scanner I was shown. I'll tell you why. It was so
sophisticated, when I ran my hand across it, it ^{accurately} predicted the
~~Florida results for Super Tuesday~~
~~number of electoral votes I'd get in November.~~))

((Seriously, though, those new scanners can actually read
the signature on a check. Something tells me you'll soon be
seeing them in every store on Capitol Hill.))

I'm here today to ask you to help me change this country --
to make it stronger and better. We've changed the world -- we've
won a great victory for world peace and freedom. ^{And as President}
E will ^{fully} stay engaged with the world, ^{We've won the cold war and now we must not} ~~Just as we'll~~
^{pull back} ~~new we must change America.~~ Let me ^{But let}
tell you what that means: We'll leave a legacy of productive
jobs for our citizens, with strong families -- secure in a more
peaceful world. ^{use the}
^{lead us}
^{we used}
^{to change}
^{the world}
^{to change}
^{America}

I have a strategy to renew America and keep our country
strong in the next century. I proposed a plan to stimulate the
economy without raising taxes -- and without increasing the
federal deficit. Action to strengthen real estate. Action to

help young families buy that first home -- now. \\ I asked for action to create good jobs. One of those action items was to cut the tax on capital gains. \\

But the majority in Congress could not break their tax-and-spend habits. \\ I asked for action to stimulate this economy - not stifle it. \\ I asked for a jobs bill -- and they passed a bill to increase income taxes by 90 billion dollars. \\

They turned their backs on first-time homebuyers by failing to enact a \$5,000 tax credit. They watered down my investment tax allowance and other reforms to help businesses modernize and compete. They tinkered with the capital gains tax, but if their plan were adopted that tax would still be among the highest in the developed world.

Yes, I was disappointed in the Congress, but frankly not surprised. So last Friday, I vetoed their tax increase. \\ Then, I announced actions I would take on my own to cut the fat out of government, to cut the red tape that chokes our competitive spirit, and to get this country up to speed for the long haul. \\

You and I have business experience: We know what the tax increase would really do. About 80 percent of the revenue increase resulting from the higher rates would come from small businesses. More than a million small businesses would be affected -- many of them crippled -- by the Democrats' tax increase. Thousands of family-run grocery and convenience stores are in this category. Small family farms also could face

(explain this to me)

financial ruin from such a tax hike.

The bill I've just vetoed tried to raise the marginal rate for small family businesses and farms by about 18 percent.

Just think about the impact of this on your own businesses. The grocery business -- wholesale and retail -- is fiercely competitive. You operate on the thinnest of profit margins -- for wholesalers it's often less than a penny on the dollar.

If you had to face a big increase in the bracket where you pay most of your taxes, how would you cope? You'd feel pressure to cut back on the quality of your service. Competition would press you to hold out as long as possible before passing costs along to your customers -- so you might have to eliminate jobs. Eventually everyone in the business would have to pass the costs along -- and that would fuel inflation.

Those are simple facts of life for people trying to make a living. Even as millions of American families were huddling over their kitchen tables to work on their tax returns, the liberal Congress tried to raise their taxes by \$90 billion.

Last Friday I vetoed their massive tax increase. And I sent Congress my first line-item rescissions -- cutting \$3.6 billion in wasteful spending. These will serve notice to Congress that the days of wasteful spending are over. And it is a step symbolic of the power that 43 governors have -- the line-item

veto. Incidentally at their recent National Meeting the Nations Governors went on record [unanimously] calling for line-item

I'm also fighting for economic growth through actions that don't need to be passed by this Congress. Take a look at

the
veto
authority
for the
President

Approved with the signature of the President is the Constitution

government regulation. Day by day, rule by rule, and industry by industry, we're winning battles against over-regulation. We're winning victories for common sense and freedom. Just last Thursday, for example, my Administration announced reforms on nutrition labeling for meat and poultry. Our reforms will keep our food supply every bit as safe, but we will reduce the burden and expense of regulation on American consumers --- and on our hard-working food producers and grocers. \\\ If Congress sends me any new legislation that would over-regulate our economy, I'll veto it as soon as it reaches my desk. Now if we Americans are going to hone our skills and really compete in the coming years, we've got a lot more to do. I want us to keep our sights on the next American Century. When I think of America in the year 2000, I think of the five strategic concerns mentioned in my address to the nation last Friday.

First, we must change and renew our schools. We must become a nation of students educating ourselves throughout our lifetimes in the best system of schools, colleges and universities in the world. This will take revolutionary changes. Most of our states and hundreds of local communities are committed to change. They have joined me already in a crusade we call America 2000. Business as usual will not help us reach our national education goals. We need to get behind world class standards, new curriculum frameworks, break-the-mold schools, voluntary national testing. And a centerpiece of our plan is the belief that schools will do their best when parents enjoy real freedom and

real responsibility to choose their children's schools -- public, private and religious. School choice for parents is an idea whose time has come. \\\

Second, we need to make our excellent health care more affordable and more available to Americans. We've got the highest quality health care in the world -- but everyone should have access to it. \\\ We all know the problems: Too many people don't have health insurance -- and health care costs are going through the roof. We also know that the answer doesn't lie in costly and coercive plans like the scheme to make employers "play or pay." And the answer certainly isn't socialized medicine. \\\ Nationalized health care would be a national disaster. \\\ The way I've proposed we help our society deal with this is based on markets and choice. Just as in education, vouchers are a key part of my strategy for giving Americans a fairer and more affordable health care system. Our answer is to change our health care system for the better -- not ruin it. \\\

Third, we need fundamental legal reform -- to stop the epidemic of lawsuits. \\\ Things are so out of hand that some parents refuse to coach Little League for fear of liability suits. Some doctors won't deliver babies anymore because of malpractice suits. \\\ Well, just imagine what we could achieve if we spent as much time helping each other as we do suing each other. \\\ And the costs of liability and litigation on small business are absolutely horrendous. You know, there were 18 million lawsuits filed in America last year. Eighteen million!

That's why I've ^{again} asked Congress to pass my civil justice reform bill -- which will help people resolve problems through means other than a courtroom. It will help put a stop to frivolous lawsuits and reduce the drag on our economy caused by excessive litigation. \\\

Fourth, we must reform government in line with one of America's most important founding principles: strict limits on the size and power of government. With a federal government that gobbles up a quarter of GNP, we can't really say we are as free as we should be. One quarter of all we produce as a nation -- as a people -- goes to pay for the central government. That is just not right. Right now, the system is not accountable, effective, efficient, or even compassionate. We need government that knows its limits -- but more important, we need a government that works. \\\ We must fix a congressional system gone out of control. Congress, as an institution controlled by one party -- the Democrats -- for almost 40 years -- desperately needs reform. I'll have more to say about reforming Congress at a later date. But we can start by ^{compelling} ~~applying to~~ Congress ^{to be governed by} ~~and~~ the laws they impose on people like you: Civil rights laws, wage and hour laws, fair labor standards. \\\ We must ^{totally} eliminate the special interest PACs that give unfair advantages to incumbents in Congress. \\\ And say yes to the people's call for term limits on Congress. \\\ My term is limited -- I believe theirs should be, too. \\\

Fifth, we must work to expand our markets. Of all the legacies I want to help create as your President, few could be

more important than open and fair trade opportunities for our manufacturers and service industries -- and for our farmers and food industries.

Food and agriculture trade is the critical problem of world trade. The European Community spends more than 10 times as much as we do on agriculture export subsidies. This cannot and must not go on. I made that point in a very vigorous way to

Chancellor Kohl of Germany when he visited Camp David last

weekend. His leadership will be vital if we are to break the deadlock in GATT. *I know he wants to see a successful conclusion to the GATT talks* Let me assure you: We'll be working as hard *Angela* as possible the next few weeks to make a breakthrough in GATT -- *Ross*

but as we see it, if there's no fair deal for agriculture, there cannot be a good GATT agreement.

I'm also working to open up the exciting market opportunities in Mexico. With nearly 100 million people next door, Mexico is already one of our best customers, and they'll buy a lot more American goods as soon as these negotiations are concluded. It is one of our fastest growing markets anywhere in

the world. *The bottom line is a good agreement with Mexico means more U.S. jobs*

Last year our exports around the world reached record levels, so the more trade barriers we can knock down the better. On a level playing field, I know Americans can out-produce and out-perform anyone, anytime, anywhere. \\\

On each of these challenges, there are two roads to take: One is reform, the other protects the status quo.

You and I are gathered on Capitol Hill today because we

share a common purpose. We're here in the neighborhood of a Congress ^{that so far has failed to pass} ~~that fails to heed calls for reform, that fails to pass~~ ^{but effective} a simple plan to help create jobs and build confidence. We're not simply going to complain about the Congress., ^{we're going to try to} ~~change the world, we can change the Congress.~~ ^{change} ~~Whoever can't~~ ^{it} help get this country moving -- can get out of the way. //

There are hundreds of you here -- hometown business leaders who are the backbone of your communities. Just after this speech, I understand that all of you are headed up the Hill to visit your Senators and Representatives. I hope you'll pass along my warmest thanks to those who supported our economic growth plan. But for those who are part of the crowd that's trying to stifle the economy while squeezing more taxes out of working Americans, I'd like you to send them this message: Goodbye.

This will be my final campaign -- and I plan to fight as never before. ^{had} ~~I never dreamed I'd have~~ the privilege of being your President at the great turning point when freedom prevailed ^{when the Berlin Wall came down, when Iraq's aggression was} over imperial Communism. ^{defeat} But I won't rest until I help this ^{and} country win another legacy. Working together, we've changed the ^{when} world -- now we can change America. Thank you, and God bless the ^{Dennis} United States of America. ^{really}

#

We are helping
solidify a legacy
of peace

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/23/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY
SUBJECT: TUESDAY, MARCH 23 - 11:00a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HORNER	☐	☐
SKINNER	☐	☒	MCBRIDE	☐	☒
SCOWCROFT	☐	☒	MOORE	☐	☒
DARMAN	☐	☒	PETERSMEYER	☐	☒
BRADY	☐	☒	PORTER	☐	☒
BROMLEY	☐	☐	ROGICH	☐	☒
CALIO	☐	☒	ROLLINS	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☐	☒	SMITH	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒	YEUTTER	☐	☒
GRAY	☐	☒	FINDLAY	☐	☒
HOLIDAY	☐	☒	KAUFMAN	☐	☒
BOSKIN		☒	MCGROARTY		☒

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 23, 1992

02 MAR 23 P4:04

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
FROM: JOSEPH P. DUGGAN *JD*
SUBJECT: GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, March 23, at 11:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, you will address 500 CEOs of wholesale groceries, convenience stores, and restaurant suppliers who are in town to visit their congressmen.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (16 minutes, on teleprompter) discuss the reasons for vetoing the tax bill and present parts of your long term reform strategy in education, health care, litigation, government, and trade.

(Duggan/Simon)
March 23, 1992
Draft Eight
Assembly

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HYATT REGENCY CAPITOL HILL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992
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[Acknowledgments]

((It's a pleasure to be with so many of the people who bring broccoli to the grocery shelves of America.))

((When I was at a grocers' convention in Florida recently, the press wondered why I was so impressed with a new check-out scanner I was shown. I'll tell you why. It was so sophisticated, when I ran my hand across it, it predicted the number of electoral votes I'd get in November.))

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I'm here today to ask you to help me change this country -- to make it stronger and better. We've changed the world -- we've won a great victory for world peace and freedom. Just as we'll stay engaged with the world, now we must change America. Let me tell you what that means: We'll leave a legacy of productive jobs for our citizens, with strong families -- secure in a more peaceful world.

I have a strategy to renew America and keep our country strong in the next century. I proposed a plan to stimulate the economy without raising taxes -- and without increasing the federal deficit. Action to strengthen real estate. Action to

help young families buy that first home -- now. \\ I asked for action to create good jobs. One of those action items was to cut the tax on capital gains. \\

But the majority in Congress could not break their tax-and-spend habits. \\ I asked for action to stimulate this economy - - not stifle it. \\ I asked for a jobs bill -- and they passed a bill to increase income taxes by 90 billion dollars. \\

They turned their backs on first-time homebuyers by failing to enact a \$5,000 tax credit. They watered down my investment tax allowance and other reforms to help businesses modernize and compete. They tinkered with the capital gains tax, but if their plan were adopted that tax would still be among the highest in the developed world.

Yes, I was disappointed in the Congress, but frankly not surprised. So last Friday, I vetoed their tax increase. \\ \\ Then, I announced actions I would take on my own to cut the fat out of government, to cut the red tape that chokes our competitive spirit, and to get this country up to speed for the long haul. \\

You and I have business experience: We know what the tax increase would really do. About 80 percent of the revenue increase resulting from the higher rates would come from small businesses. More than a million small businesses would be affected -- many of them crippled -- by the Democrats' tax increase. Thousands of family-run grocery and convenience stores are in this category. Small family farms also could face

financial ruin from such a tax hike.

The bill I've just vetoed tried to raise the marginal rate for small family businesses and farms by about 18 percent.

Just think about the impact of this on your own businesses. The grocery business -- wholesale and retail -- is fiercely competitive. You operate on the thinnest of profit margins -- for wholesalers it's often less than a penny on the dollar.

If you had to face a big increase in the bracket where you pay most of your taxes, how would you cope? You'd feel pressure to cut back on the quality of your service. Competition would press you to hold out as long as possible before passing costs along to your customers -- so you might have to eliminate jobs. Eventually everyone in the business would have to pass the costs along -- and that would fuel inflation.

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government regulation. Day by day, rule by rule, and industry by industry, we're winning battles against over-regulation. We're winning victories for common sense and freedom. Just last Thursday, for example, my Administration announced reforms on nutrition labeling for meat and poultry. Our reforms will keep our food supply every bit as safe, but we will reduce the burden and expense of regulation on American consumers -- and on our hard-working food producers and grocers. \\\ If Congress sends me any new legislation that would over-regulate our economy, I'll veto it as soon as it reaches my desk. Now if we Americans are going to hone our skills and really compete in the coming years, we've got a lot more to do. I want us to keep our sights on the next American Century. When I think of America in the year 2000, I think of the five strategic concerns mentioned in my address to the nation last Friday.

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real responsibility to choose their children's schools -- public, private and religious. School choice for parents is an idea whose time has come. \\\

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Third, we need fundamental legal reform -- to stop the epidemic of lawsuits. \\\ Things are so out of hand that some parents refuse to coach Little League for fear of liability suits. Some doctors won't deliver babies anymore because of malpractice suits. \\\ Well, just imagine what we could achieve if we spent as much time helping each other as we do suing each other. \\\ And the costs of liability and litigation on small business are absolutely horrendous. You know, there were 18 million lawsuits filed in America last year. Eighteen million!

That's why I've asked Congress to pass my civil justice reform bill -- which will help people resolve problems through means other than a courtroom. It will help put a stop to frivolous lawsuits and reduce the drag on our economy caused by excessive litigation. \\

Fourth, we must reform government in line with one of America's most important founding principles: strict limits on the size and power of government. With a federal government that gobbles up a quarter of GNP, we can't really say we are as free as we should be. One quarter of all we produce as a nation -- as a people -- goes to pay for the central government. That is just not right. Right now, the system is not accountable, effective, efficient, or even compassionate. We need government that knows its limits -- but more important, we need a government that works. \\ We must fix a congressional system gone out of control. Congress, as an institution controlled by one party -- the Democrats -- for almost 40 years -- desperately needs reform. I'll have more to say about reforming Congress at a later date. But we can start by applying to Congress all the laws they impose on people like you: Civil rights laws, wage and hour laws, fair labor standards. \\ We must eliminate the special interest PACs that give unfair advantages to incumbents in Congress. \\ And say yes to the people's call for term limits on Congress. \\ My term is limited -- I believe theirs should be, too. \\

Fifth, we must work to expand our markets. Of all the legacies I want to help create as your President, few could be

more important than open and fair trade opportunities for our manufacturers and service industries -- and for our farmers and food industries.

Food and agriculture trade is the critical problem of world trade. The European Community spends more than 10 times as much as we do on agriculture export subsidies. This cannot and must not go on. I made that point in a very vigorous way to Chancellor Kohl of Germany when he visited Camp David last weekend. His leadership will be vital if we are to break the deadlock in GATT. Let me assure you: We'll be working as hard as possible the next few weeks to make a breakthrough in GATT -- but as we see it, if there's no fair deal for agriculture, there cannot be a good GATT agreement.

I'm also working to open up the exciting market opportunities in Mexico. With nearly 100 million people next door, Mexico is already one of our best customers, and they'll buy a lot more American goods as soon as these negotiations are concluded. It is one of our fastest growing markets anywhere in the world.

Last year our exports around the world reached record levels, so the more trade barriers we can knock down the better. On a level playing field, I know Americans can out-produce and out-perform anyone, anytime, anywhere. \\

On each of these challenges, there are two roads to take: One is reform, the other protects the status quo.

You and I are gathered on Capitol Hill today because we

share a common purpose. We're here in the neighborhood of a Congress that fails to heed calls for reform, that fails to pass a simple plan to help create jobs and build confidence. We're not simply going to complain about the Congress. If we can change the world, we can change the Congress. \\ Whoever can't help get this country moving -- can get out of the way. \\

There are hundreds of you here -- hometown business leaders who are the backbone of your communities. Just after this speech, I understand that all of you are headed up the Hill to visit your Senators and Representatives. I hope you'll pass along my warmest thanks to those who supported our economic growth plan. But for those who are part of the crowd that's trying to stifle the economy while squeezing more taxes out of working Americans, I'd like you to send them this message: Goodbye.

This will be my final campaign -- and I plan to fight as never before. I never dreamed I'd have the privilege of being your President at the great turning point when freedom prevailed over imperial Communism. But I won't rest until I help this country win another legacy. Working together, we've changed the world -- now we can change America. Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

#

REVISED

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/23/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HORNER	☐	☐
SKINNER	☐	☒	MCBRIDE	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	MOORE	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	PETERSMEYER	☒	☐
BRADY	☐	☒	PORTER	☒	☐
BROMLEY	☐	☐	ROGICH	☐	☐
CALIO	☒	☐	ROLLINS	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	SMITH	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	YEUTTER	☐	☒
GRAY	☒	☐	FINDLAY	☐	☒
HOLIDAY	☒	☐	BOSKIN	☒	☐
			KAUFMAN		☒

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 TODAY, Monday, March 23, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Please see
Comments.
Thank you.*

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

32 MAR 23 10:41

(Duggan/Simon)
March 23, 1992
Draft Six
Assembly

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GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY
HYATT REGENCY CAPITOL HILL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992
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I have a strategy to renew America and keep our country strong in the next century. I proposed a plan to stimulate the economy without raising taxes -- and without increasing the federal deficit. Action to strengthen real estate. Action to

help young families buy that first home -- now. \\ I asked for action to create good jobs. One of those action items was to cut the tax on capital gains. \\

But the majority in Congress could not break their tax-and-spend habits. \\ I asked for action to stimulate this economy - not stifle it. \\ I asked for a jobs bill -- and they passed a bill to increase income taxes by 90 billion dollars. \\ They turned their backs on first-time homebuyers by failing to enact a \$5,000 tax credit. They rejected the investment tax allowance and other reforms to help businesses modernize and compete. They voted to keep our capital gains tax among the highest in the developed world.

Yes, I was disappointed in the Congress, but frankly not surprised. So last Friday, I vetoed their tax increase. \\ \\ Then, I announced actions I would take on my own to cut the fat out of government and to cut the red tape that chokes our competitive spirit. \\

You and I have business experience: We understand the cost of over-regulation. We know what the tax increase would really do. About two-thirds of the taxpayers who would be subject to the higher rates are owners of small businesses. More than a million small businesses would be affected -- many of them crippled -- by the Democrats' tax increase. Thousands of family-run grocery and convenience stores are in this category. Small family farms also could face financial ruin from such a tax hike.

The bill I've just vetoed tried to raise the marginal rate

for small family businesses and farms by more than 25 percent.

Just think about the impact of this on your own businesses. The grocery business -- wholesale and retail -- is fiercely competitive. You operate on the thinnest of profit margins -- for wholesalers it's often less than a penny on the dollar.

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because we can no longer tolerate anything less than excellence in our schools
~~First, we must change and renew our schools.~~ *lead a revolution in the American education system.*
 When I think of America in the year 2000, I think of a nation of students educating ourselves throughout our lifetimes in the best system of schools, colleges and universities in the world. This will take revolutionary changes. Most of our states and hundreds of local communities have joined me already in a commitment we call America 2000. Business as usual will not help us reach our national education goals. We need to get behind world class standards, new curriculum frameworks, break-the-mold schools, voluntary national testing. And a centerpiece of our plan is the belief that schools will do their best when parents enjoy real freedom and real responsibility to choose their children's schools. School choice for parents is an idea whose time has

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Second, we need to make ^{sure that quality} ~~our excellent~~ health care ^{is both} ~~more~~ affordable and ~~more~~ available to ^{all} Americans. \\ We all know the problems: Too many people don't have health insurance -- and health care costs are going through the roof. We also know that the answer doesn't lie in costly and coercive plans like the scheme to make employers "play or pay." And the answer ~~certainly~~ ^{is not} socialized medicine. \\ Nationalized health care would be a national disaster. \\ The way I've proposed we help our society deal with this is based on markets and choice. Our answer is to change our health care system for the better -- not ruin it. Just as in education, vouchers are a key part of my vision of giving Americans a fairer and more affordable health care system. \\

Third, we need to stop the epidemic of lawsuits. \\ Things are so out of hand that parents refuse to coach Little League for fear of liability suits. Some doctors won't deliver babies ^{volunteers stop serving others for fear of} anymore because of malpractice suits. \\ Well, just imagine what ^{liability} we could achieve if we spent as much time helping each other as ^{lawsuits} we do suing each other. \\ And the costs of liability and litigation on small business are absolutely horrendous. You know, there were 18 million lawsuits filed in America last year. Eighteen million! That's why I've asked Congress to pass my civil justice reform bill -- which will help people resolve problems without needless lawsuits. \\

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America's most important founding principles: strict limits on the size and power of government. With a federal government that now gobbles up a quarter of GNP, we can't really say we are as free as we should be. We must fix a congressional system gone out of control. Let's apply to Congress all the laws they impose on people like you: Civil rights laws, the minimum wage, fair labor standards, and so forth. \\ And let's eliminate the special interest PACs that give unfair advantages to incumbents in Congress. \\ And say yes to the people's call for term limits on Congress. \\ My term is limited -- theirs should be, too. \\

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Working together we
~~You can help me.~~ You can help lead this country to new heights of freedom and prosperity. Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 23, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Grocers' Public Affairs
Assembly

We have reviewed the attached presidential remarks and have noted a few suggested changes on the draft.

If you have any questions or we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

REVISED

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/23/92

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HORNER	☐	☐
SKINNER	☐	☒	MCBRIDE	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	MOORE	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	PETERSMEYER	☒	☐
BRADY	☐	☒	PORTER	☒	☐
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CALIO	☒	☐	ROLLINS	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	SMITH	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	YEUTTER	☐	☒
GRAY	☒	☐	FINDLAY	☐	☒
HOLIDAY	☒	☐	BOSKIN	☒	☐
			KAUFMAN	☒	☒

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 TODAY, Monday, March 23, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

32 MAR 23 AIO: 41

(Duggan/Simon)
March 23, 1992
Draft Six
Assembly

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY
HYATT REGENCY CAPITOL HILL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992
11:00 a.m.

[Acknowledgments]

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I have a strategy to renew America and keep our country strong in the next century. I proposed a plan to stimulate the economy without raising taxes -- and without increasing the federal deficit. Actions to strengthen real estate. Actions to

CONTINUE TO

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But the majority in Congress could not break their tax-and-spend habits. \\ I asked for action to stimulate this economy - - not stifle it. \\ I asked for a jobs bill -- and they passed a bill to increase income taxes by 90 billion dollars. \\ They turned their backs on first-time homebuyers by failing to enact a \$5,000 tax credit. They rejected the investment tax allowance and other reforms to help businesses modernize and compete. They voted to keep our capital gains tax among the highest in the developed world.

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REVISED

Document No. 2170

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

92 MAR 23 P4:35

DATE: 3/23/92ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 TODAYSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY*draft six*

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HORNER	☐	☐
SKINNER	☐	☒	MCBRIDE	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	MOORE	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	PETERSMEYER	☒	☐
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GRAY	☒	☐	FINDLAY	☐	☒
HOLIDAY	☒	☐	BOSKIN	☒	☐
			KAUFMAN		☒

REMARKS:

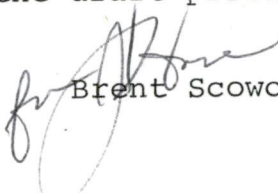
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RESPONSE:

March 23, 1992

TO: DAN MCGROARTY

The NSC staff concurs with the draft presidential remarks.


 Brent Scowcroft

cc: Phillip D. Brady

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

32 MAR 23 AIO: 41

(Duggan/Simon)
March 23, 1992
Draft Six
Assembly

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TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992
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REVISED

Document No. 

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RESPONSE:

Pg. 3 - Too nebulous - what are we trying to say?
 Q Also are we trying to de-emphasize that there will be MORE Revisions? *[Signature]*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary

32 MAR 23 AIO: 41

(Duggan/Simon)
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Yes, I was disappointed in the Congress, but frankly not surprised. So last Friday, I vetoed their tax increase. \\ \\ Then, I announced actions I would take on my own to cut the fat out of government and to cut the red tape that chokes our competitive spirit. \\

You and I have business experience: We understand the cost of over-regulation. We know what the tax increase would really do. About two-thirds of the taxpayers who would be subject to the higher rates are owners of small businesses. More than a million small businesses would be affected -- many of them crippled -- by the Democrats' tax increase. Thousands of family-run grocery and convenience stores are in this category. Small family farms also could face financial ruin from such a tax hike.

The bill I've just vetoed tried to raise the marginal rate

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for small family businesses and farms by more than 25 percent.

Just think about the impact of this on your own businesses. The grocery business -- wholesale and retail -- is fiercely competitive. You operate on the thinnest of profit margins -- for wholesalers it's often less than a penny on the dollar.

If you had to face more than a 25 percent increase in the bracket where you pay most of your taxes, how would you cope? You'd feel pressure to cut back on the quality of your service. Competition would press you to hold out as long as possible before passing costs along to your customers -- so you might have to eliminate jobs. Eventually everyone in the business would have to pass the costs along -- and that would fuel inflation.

Those are simple facts of life for people trying to make a living in business.

So last Friday I vetoed their massive tax increase. And I directed the Secretary of Labor to implement promptly the Supreme Court's Back decision. It is just not right to force a worker to have money taken out of his paycheck to finance the campaigns of politicians he opposes. And my Administration is going to uphold these fundamental rights for American workers.

Also last Friday, I sent Congress my first line-item recissions. [This will hold Congress to account as I seek to cut \$4 billion in wasteful spending.] And it will bring us a step closer to the power that 43 governors have -- the line-item veto.

I'm also fighting for economic growth through actions that don't need to be passed by this Congress. Take a look at

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government regulation. Day by day, rule by rule, and industry by industry, we're winning battles for common sense against over-regulation. - Just last Thursday, for example, my Administration announced reforms on nutrition labelling for meat and poultry. Our reforms will keep our food supply every bit as safe, but we will reduce the burden and expense of regulation on American consumers -- and on our hard-working food producers and grocers. \\ \\ If Congress sends me any new legislation that would over-regulate our economy, I'll veto it as soon as it reaches my desk.

Now if we Americans are going to hone our skills and really compete in the coming years, we've got a lot more to do. I want us to keep our sights on the next American Century. My strategy focuses on five key concerns:

First, we must change and renew our schools. When I think of America in the year 2000, I think of a nation of students educating ourselves throughout our lifetimes in the best system of schools, colleges and universities in the world. This will take revolutionary changes. Most of our states and hundreds of local communities have joined me already in a commitment we call America 2000. Business as usual will not help us reach our national education goals. We need to get behind world class standards, new curriculum frameworks, break-the-mold schools, voluntary national testing. And a centerpiece of our plan is the belief that schools will do their best when parents enjoy real freedom and real responsibility to choose their children's schools. School choice for parents is an idea whose time has

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come. \\\

Second, we need to make our excellent health care more affordable and more available to Americans. \\\ We all know the problems: Too many people don't have health insurance -- and health care costs are going through the roof. We also know that the answer doesn't lie in costly and coercive plans like the scheme to make employers "play or pay." And the answer certainly isn't socialized medicine. \\\ Nationalized health care would be a national disaster. \\\ The way I've proposed we help our society deal with this is based on markets and choice. Our answer is to change our health care system for the better -- not ruin it. Just as in education, vouchers are a key part of my vision of giving Americans a fairer and more affordable health care system. \\\

Third, we need to stop the epidemic of lawsuits. \\\ Things are so out of hand that parents refuse to coach Little League for fear of liability suits. Some doctors won't deliver babies anymore because of malpractice suits. \\\ Well, just imagine what we could achieve if we spent as much time helping each other as we do suing each other. \\\ And the costs of liability and litigation on small business are absolutely horrendous. You know, there were 18 million lawsuits filed in America last year. Eighteen million! That's why I've asked Congress to pass my civil justice reform bill -- which will help people resolve problems without needless lawsuits. \\\

Fourth, we must reform government in line with one of

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America's most important founding principles: strict limits on the size and power of government. With a federal government that now gobbles up a quarter of GNP, we can't really say we are as free as we should be. We must fix a congressional system gone out of control. Let's apply to Congress all the laws they impose on people like you: Civil rights laws, the minimum wage, fair labor standards, and so forth. \\ And let's eliminate the special interest PACs that give unfair advantages to incumbents in Congress. \\ And say yes to the people's call for term limits on Congress. \\ My term is limited -- theirs should be, too. \\

Fifth, we must work to expand our markets. I want to open up the exciting market opportunities in Mexico as soon as possible. As we work for the North American Free Trade Agreement, I'm also making progress advancing my vision of open trade and rising investment throughout the entire Western Hemisphere. [placeholder for insert from Clayton Yeutter on Kohl meeting and GATT]. With open markets and a level playing field, I know Americans can out-produce and out-perform anyone, anytime, anywhere. \\

On each of these challenges, there are two roads to take: One is reform, the other protects the status quo.

You and I are gathered on Capitol Hill today because we share a common purpose. We're here in the neighborhood of a Congress that fails to heed calls for reform, that fails to pass a simple plan to help create jobs and build confidence. We're not simply going to complain about the Congress -- we're going to

7

change the Congress. \\ Whoever can't help get this country moving -- can get out of the way. \\

There are hundreds of you here -- hometown business leaders who are the backbone of your communities. Just after this speech, I understand that all of you are headed up the Hill to visit your Senators and Representatives. I hope you'll pass along my warmest thanks to those who supported our economic growth plan. But for any of those members of Congress who happen to be part of the crowd that's trying to stifle the economy while squeezing more taxes out of working Americans, I'd like you to send them this message: Goodbye.

This will be my final campaign -- and I plan to fight as never before. I never dreamed I'd have the privilege of being your President at the great turning point when freedom prevailed over imperial Communism. But I won't rest until I help this country win another legacy.

You can help me. You can help lead this country to new heights of freedom and prosperity. Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

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(Duggan/Simon)
March 23, 1992
Draft Eight
Assembly

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY
HYATT REGENCY CAPITOL HILL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992
11:00 a.m.

[Acknowledgments]

((It's a pleasure to be with so many of the people who bring broccoli to the grocery shelves of America.))

((When I was at a grocers' convention in Florida recently, the press wondered why I was so impressed with a new check-out scanner I was shown. I'll tell you why. It was so sophisticated, when I ran my hand across it, it predicted the number of electoral votes I'd get in November.))

((Seriously, though, those new scanners can actually read the signature on a check. Something tells me you'll soon be seeing them in every store on Capitol Hill.))

I'm here today to ask you to help me change this country -- to make it stronger and better. We've changed the world -- we've won a great victory for world peace and freedom. Just as we'll stay engaged with the world, now we must change America. Let me tell you what that means: We'll leave a legacy of productive jobs for our citizens, with strong families -- secure in a more peaceful world.

I have a strategy to renew America and keep our country strong in the next century. I proposed a plan to stimulate the economy without raising taxes -- and without increasing the federal deficit. Action to strengthen real estate. Action to

help young families buy that first home -- now. \\ I asked for action to create good jobs. One of those action items was to cut the tax on capital gains. \\

But the majority in Congress could not break their tax-and-spend habits. \\ I asked for action to stimulate this economy - - not stifle it. \\ I asked for a jobs bill -- and they passed a bill to increase income taxes by 90 billion dollars. \\

They turned their backs on first-time homebuyers by failing to enact a \$5,000 tax credit. They watered down my investment tax allowance and other reforms to help businesses modernize and compete. They tinkered with the capital gains tax, but if their plan were adopted that tax would still be among the highest in the developed world.

Yes, I was disappointed in the Congress, but frankly not surprised. So last Friday, I vetoed their tax increase. \\ \\ Then, I announced actions I would take on my own to cut the fat out of government, to cut the red tape that chokes our competitive spirit, and to get this country up to speed for the long haul. \\

You and I have business experience: We know what the tax increase would really do. About 80 percent of the revenue increase resulting from the higher rates would come from small businesses. More than a million small businesses would be affected -- many of them crippled -- by the Democrats' tax increase. Thousands of family-run grocery and convenience stores are in this category. Small family farms also could face

financial ruin from such a tax hike.

The bill I've just vetoed tried to raise the marginal rate for small family businesses and farms by about 18 percent.

Just think about the impact of this on your own businesses. The grocery business -- wholesale and retail -- is fiercely competitive. You operate on the thinnest of profit margins -- for wholesalers it's often less than a penny on the dollar.

If you had to face a big increase in the bracket where you pay most of your taxes, how would you cope? You'd feel pressure to cut back on the quality of your service. Competition would press you to hold out as long as possible before passing costs along to your customers -- so you might have to eliminate jobs. Eventually everyone in the business would have to pass the costs along -- and that would fuel inflation.

Those are simple facts of life for people trying to make a living. Even as millions of American families were huddling over their kitchen tables to work on their tax returns, the liberal Congress tried to raise their taxes by \$90 billion.

Last Friday I vetoed their massive tax increase. And I sent Congress my first line-item rescissions -- cutting \$3.6 billion in wasteful spending. These will serve notice to Congress that the days of wasteful spending are over. And it is a step symbolic of the power that 43 governors have -- the line-item veto.

I'm also fighting for economic growth through actions that don't need to be passed by this Congress. Take a look at

government regulation. Day by day, rule by rule, and industry by industry, we're winning battles against over-regulation. We're winning victories for common sense and freedom. Just last Thursday, for example, my Administration announced reforms on nutrition labeling for meat and poultry. Our reforms will keep our food supply every bit as safe, but we will reduce the burden and expense of regulation on American consumers -- and on our hard-working food producers and grocers. \\\ If Congress sends me any new legislation that would over-regulate our economy, I'll veto it as soon as it reaches my desk. Now if we Americans are going to hone our skills and really compete in the coming years, we've got a lot more to do. I want us to keep our sights on the next American Century. When I think of America in the year 2000, I think of the five strategic concerns mentioned in my address to the nation last Friday.

First, we must change and renew our schools. We must become a nation of students educating ourselves throughout our lifetimes in the best system of schools, colleges and universities in the world. This will take revolutionary changes. Most of our states and hundreds of local communities are committed to change. They have joined me already in a crusade we call America 2000. Business as usual will not help us reach our national education goals. We need to get behind world class standards, new curriculum frameworks, break-the-mold schools, voluntary national testing. And a centerpiece of our plan is the belief that schools will do their best when parents enjoy real freedom and

real responsibility to choose their children's schools -- public, private and religious. School choice for parents is an idea whose time has come. \\\

Second, we need to make our excellent health care more affordable and more available to Americans. We've got the highest quality health care in the world -- but everyone should have access to it. \\\ We all know the problems: Too many people don't have health insurance -- and health care costs are going through the roof. We also know that the answer doesn't lie in costly and coercive plans like the scheme to make employers "play or pay." And the answer certainly isn't socialized medicine. \\\ Nationalized health care would be a national disaster. \\\ The way I've proposed we help our society deal with this is based on markets and choice. Just as in education, vouchers are a key part of my strategy for giving Americans a fairer and more affordable health care system. Our answer is to change our health care system for the better -- not ruin it. \\\

Third, we need fundamental legal reform -- to stop the epidemic of lawsuits. \\\ Things are so out of hand that some parents refuse to coach Little League for fear of liability suits. Some doctors won't deliver babies anymore because of malpractice suits. \\\ Well, just imagine what we could achieve if we spent as much time helping each other as we do suing each other. \\\ And the costs of liability and litigation on small business are absolutely horrendous. You know, there were 18 million lawsuits filed in America last year. Eighteen million!

That's why I've asked Congress to pass my civil justice reform bill -- which will help people resolve problems through means other than a courtroom. It will help put a stop to frivolous lawsuits and reduce the drag on our economy caused by excessive litigation. \\

Fourth, we must reform government in line with one of America's most important founding principles: strict limits on the size and power of government. With a federal government that gobbles up a quarter of GNP, we can't really say we are as free as we should be. One quarter of all we produce as a nation -- as a people -- goes to pay for the central government. That is just not right. Right now, the system is not accountable, effective, efficient, or even compassionate. We need government that knows its limits -- but more important, we need a government that works. \\ We must fix a congressional system gone out of control. Congress, as an institution controlled by one party -- the Democrats -- for almost 40 years -- desperately needs reform. I'll have more to say about reforming Congress at a later date. But we can start by applying to Congress all the laws they impose on people like you: Civil rights laws, wage and hour laws, fair labor standards. \\ We must eliminate the special interest PACs that give unfair advantages to incumbents in Congress. \\ And say yes to the people's call for term limits on Congress. \\ My term is limited -- I believe theirs should be, too. \\

Fifth, we must work to expand our markets. Of all the legacies I want to help create as your President, few could be

more important than open and fair trade opportunities for our manufacturers and service industries -- and for our farmers and food industries.

Food and agriculture trade is the critical problem of world trade. The European Community spends more than 10 times as much as we do on agriculture export subsidies. This cannot and must not go on. I made that point in a very vigorous way to Chancellor Kohl of Germany when he visited Camp David last weekend. His leadership will be vital if we are to break the deadlock in GATT. Let me assure you: We'll be working as hard as possible the next few weeks to make a breakthrough in GATT -- but as we see it, if there's no fair deal for agriculture, there cannot be a good GATT agreement.

I'm also working to open up the exciting market opportunities in Mexico. With nearly 100 million people next door, Mexico is already one of our best customers, and they'll buy a lot more American goods as soon as these negotiations are concluded. It is one of our fastest growing markets anywhere in the world.

Last year our exports around the world reached record levels, so the more trade barriers we can knock down the better. On a level playing field, I know Americans can out-produce and out-perform anyone, anytime, anywhere. \\

On each of these challenges, there are two roads to take: One is reform, the other protects the status quo.

You and I are gathered on Capitol Hill today because we

share a common purpose. We're here in the neighborhood of a Congress that fails to heed calls for reform, that fails to pass a simple plan to help create jobs and build confidence. We're not simply going to complain about the Congress. If we can change the world, we can change the Congress. \\ Whoever can't help get this country moving -- can get out of the way. \\

There are hundreds of you here -- hometown business leaders who are the backbone of your communities. Just after this speech, I understand that all of you are headed up the Hill to visit your Senators and Representatives. I hope you'll pass along my warmest thanks to those who supported our economic growth plan. But for those who are part of the crowd that's trying to stifle the economy while squeezing more taxes out of working Americans, I'd like you to send them this message: Goodbye.

This will be my final campaign -- and I plan to fight as never before. I never dreamed I'd have the privilege of being your President at the great turning point when freedom prevailed over imperial Communism. But I won't rest until I help this country win another legacy. Working together, we've changed the world -- now we can change America. Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

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REVISED

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/23/92

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HORNER	☐	☐
SKINNER	☐	☒	MCBRIDE	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	MOORE	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	PETERSMEYER	☒	☐
BRADY	☐	☒	PORTER	☒	☐
BROMLEY	☐	☐	ROGICH	☐	☐
CALIO	☒	☐	ROLLINS	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	SMITH	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	YEUTTER	☐	☒
GRAY	☒	☐	FINDLAY	☐	☒
HOLIDAY	☒	☐	BOSKIN	☒	☐
			KAUFMAN		☒

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 TODAY, Monday, March 23, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comments. Thanks.

PK
Paul Fortenta
03/23

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

32 MAR 23 10:41

(Duggan/Simon)
March 23, 1992
Draft Six
Assembly

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

GROCERS' PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSEMBLY
HYATT REGENCY CAPITOL HILL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1992
11:00 a.m.

[Acknowledgments]

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anyway.]
((It's a pleasure to be with so many of the people who bring
broccoli to the grocery shelves of America.))

((When I was at a grocers' convention in Florida recently,
the press wondered why I was so impressed with a new check-out
scanner I was shown. I'll tell you why. It was so
sophisticated, when I ran my hand across it, it predicted the
number of electoral votes I'd get in November.))

((Seriously, though, those new scanners can actually read
the signature on a check. Something tells me you'll soon be
seeing them in every store on Capitol Hill.))

I'm here today to ask you to help me change this country --
to make it stronger and better. We've changed the world -- we've
won a great victory for world peace and freedom. Just as we'll
stay engaged with the world, now it's a top priority that we make
things better here at home. Let me tell you what that means:
It's a legacy of productive jobs for our citizens, with strong
families -- secure in a more peaceful world.

I have a strategy to renew America and keep our country
strong in the next century. I proposed a plan to stimulate the
economy without raising taxes -- and without increasing the
federal deficit. Action to strengthen real estate. Action to

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help young families buy that first home -- now. \\ I asked for action to create good jobs. One of those action items was to cut the tax on capital gains. \\

But the majority in Congress could not break their tax-and-spend habits. \\ I asked for action to stimulate this economy - not stifle it. \\ I asked for a jobs bill -- and they passed a bill to increase income taxes by 90 billion dollars. \\ They turned their backs on first-time homebuyers by failing to enact a \$5,000 tax credit. They rejected the investment tax allowance and other reforms to help businesses modernize and compete. They voted to keep our capital gains tax among the highest in the developed world.

Yes, I was disappointed in the Congress, but frankly not surprised. So last Friday, I vetoed their tax increase. \\ Then, I announced actions I would take on my own to cut the fat out of government and to cut the red tape that chokes our competitive spirit. \\

You and I have business experience: We understand the cost of over-regulation. We know what the tax increase would really do. About two-thirds of the taxpayers who would be subject to the higher rates are owners of small businesses. More than a million small businesses would be affected -- many of them crippled -- by the Democrats' tax increase. Thousands of family-run grocery and convenience stores are in this category. Small family farms also could face financial ruin from such a tax hike.

The bill I've just vetoed tried to raise the marginal rate

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for small family businesses and farms by more than 25 percent.

Just think about the impact of this on your own businesses. The grocery business -- wholesale and retail -- is fiercely competitive. You operate on the thinnest of profit margins -- for wholesalers it's often less than a penny on the dollar.

If you had to face more than a 25 percent increase in the bracket where you pay most of your taxes, how would you cope? You'd feel pressure to cut back on the quality of your service. Competition would press you to hold out as long as possible before passing costs along to your customers -- so you might have to eliminate jobs. Eventually everyone in the business would have to pass the costs along -- and that would fuel inflation.

Those are simple facts of life for people trying to make a living in business.

So last Friday I vetoed their massive tax increase. And I

directed the Secretary of Labor ^{to ensure that Federal contractors notify their employees of their rights under} ~~to implement promptly the Supreme~~ Court's Beck decision. ^{Justice} It is just not right to force a worker to have money taken out of his paycheck to finance the campaigns of politicians he opposes. And my Administration is going to uphold these fundamental rights for American workers.

Also last Friday, I sent Congress my first line-item ^{accountable} ~~recissions~~ ^{recissions}. This will hold Congress ~~to account~~ ^{accountable} as I seek to cut \$4 billion in wasteful spending. And it will bring us a step closer to the power that 43 governors have -- the line-item veto.

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Our ~~reforms~~ will keep our food supply every bit as safe, but we will reduce the burden and expense of regulation on American consumers -- and on our hard-working food producers and grocers.

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Now if we Americans are going to hone our skills and really compete in the coming years, we've got a lot more to do. I want us to keep our sights on the next American Century. My strategy focuses on five key concerns:

First, we must change and renew our schools. When I think of America in the year 2000, I think of a nation of students educating ourselves throughout our lifetimes in the best system of schools, colleges and universities in the world. This will take revolutionary changes. Most of our states and hundreds of local communities have joined me already in a commitment we call America 2000. Business as usual will not help us reach our national education goals. We need to get behind world class standards, new curriculum frameworks, break-the-mold schools, voluntary national testing. And a centerpiece of our plan is the belief that schools will do their best when parents enjoy real freedom and real responsibility to choose their children's schools. School choice for parents is an idea whose time has

see attached
Fact Sheet
for your
information
Proposal

(Ag.)
Proposed
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Second, we need to make our excellent health care more affordable and more available to Americans. \\ We all know the problems: Too many people don't have health insurance -- and health care costs are going through the roof. We also know that the answer doesn't lie in costly and coercive plans like the scheme to make employers "play or pay." And the answer certainly isn't socialized medicine. \\ Nationalized health care would be a national disaster. \\ The way I've proposed we help our society deal with this is based on markets and choice. Our answer is to change our health care system for the better -- not ruin it. Just as in education, vouchers are a key part of my vision of giving Americans a fairer and more affordable health care system. \\

Third, we need to stop the epidemic of lawsuits. \\ Things are so out of hand that parents refuse to coach Little League for fear of liability suits. Some doctors won't deliver babies anymore because of malpractice suits. \\ Well, just imagine what we could achieve if we spent as much time helping each other as we do suing each other. \\ And the costs of liability and litigation on small business are absolutely horrendous. You know, there were 18 million lawsuits filed in America last year. Eighteen million! That's why I've asked Congress to pass my civil justice reform bill -- which will help people resolve problems without needless lawsuits. \\

Fourth, we must reform government in line with one of

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America's most important founding principles: strict limits on the size and power of government. With a federal government that now gobbles up a quarter of GNP, we can't really say we are as free as we should be. We must fix a congressional system gone out of control. Let's apply to Congress all the laws they impose on people like you: Civil rights laws, the minimum wage, fair labor standards, and so forth. \\ And let's eliminate the special interest PACs that give unfair advantages to incumbents in Congress. \\ And say yes to the people's call for term limits on Congress. \\ My term is limited -- theirs should be, too. \\

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This will be my final campaign -- and I plan to fight as never before. I never dreamed I'd have the privilege of being your President at the great turning point when freedom prevailed over imperial Communism. But I won't rest until I help this country win another legacy.

You can help me. You can help lead this country to new heights of freedom and prosperity. Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

March 19, 1992

FACT SHEET ON AGRICULTURE REFORMS

As part of the President's 90-day regulatory relief initiative, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced several actions to reduce the burden of regulation on American farmers, consumers and businesses. These actions will reduce regulatory compliance costs and enhance USDA's ability to serve the public.

1. Reducing Regulatory Compliance Costs. The Department is taking the following steps to reduce regulatory compliance costs while still protecting consumers and taxpayers.

- o Nutrition Labelling. In November, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) proposed certain nutrition labelling requirements for meat and poultry products. To reduce costs to consumers and the economy, FSIS will make three changes to its November proposal:
 - provide an exemption for small businesses, as FDA has, so that the regulation does not make meat and poultry labels too expensive for hundreds of food producing firms;
 - extend the implementation period for another year to give firms needed flexibility to comply with the new regulations, reducing their costs by an estimated \$210 million; and
 - allow the use of databases for nutrient labelling information when appropriate, thereby reducing expected implementation costs by about \$650 million.
- o Prior Label Approval. Currently, labels on meat and poultry products must be approved by FSIS prior to being used. FSIS receives 170,000 applications for prior approval each year. FSIS will publish a request for public comments on options for reforming or eliminating the prior label approval process. This will not only reduce costs, but will also allow new products to reach consumers more quickly. Nutrition labels will continue to meet same high level of accuracy as under the current system.
- o Official Commercial Inspection Service. Grain inspection by the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) is voluntary for domestic markets, but is not always convenient or cost-

As all of you know, one of the major stumbling blocks has been agriculture, where the enormous domestic subsidies of the ~~Euro~~/European Community have converted them from being a net importer of about 8 million tons of grain only a decade ago to where they are today a net exporter of about 28 million tons. That ~~20/11/~~ 36 million ton shift in ~~international/trade~~ the international trade of grains in only one decade has done tremendous damage to the Community's trading partners, foremost of which is the United States. But they've hurt other grain exporters too, including developing countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Thailand. These are countries that are buying large quantities of capital goods and other manufactured products from us as they attempt to boost their economies. Latin America is one of our fastest growing markets today, but we'll sell even more industrial goods there in the future if they can ~~market~~^{export} their agricultural products without having to compete with the gigantic export subsidy budget of the ~~E~~ European Community.

In total farm subsidies the Community outspends the United States by more than 4 to 1; in export subsidies the EC outspends us more than 10 to 1. And the difference is far greater when one compares the Community with an individual developing country, or even with all developing countries combined.

This cannot go on. Agricultural trade reforms are important to us all, and I am determined that they will be achieved. I made that point in a very vigorous way to Chancellor Kohl, for his personal leadership will be essential if an agreement is to be reached. Chancellor Kohl ~~was~~ is committed to a successful outcome for the Uruguay Round, and we'll both be working hard in the coming weeks to break the deadlock on agriculture and other subjects that has stymied these negotiations for ~~several~~ several months.

There is no doubt that we are the most productive agricultural nation in the world, and if we can get this reform process underway we'll sell more U.S. farm products in lots of places. That means jobs for American farmers, ~~American~~ processors, and even grocers as the additional purchasing power generated by more exports works its way through the U.S. economy.