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FOIA Number:

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# FOIA MARKER

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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

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**OA/ID Number:** 13615  
**Folder ID Number:** 13615-001

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**Folder Title:**  
National Teacher of the Year 4/7/92 [OA 6100]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

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**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 04/04/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
(04/03 11:00 a.m.; draft two)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIRESTONE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

02 APR 3 P3:53

April 3, 1992

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*

FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, April 7, at 11:15 a.m., you will deliver remarks (9 minutes, on cards) to an audience of approximately 200 people gathered in the Rose Garden for the presentation of the 1992 National Teacher of the Year award.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks recognize the contribution of Thomas E. Fleming -- a man who has devoted his life and his career to counseling and guiding troubled youth. Additionally, you note that teachers like Fleming are what this country needs to advance its educational system into the next century.

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
April 3, 1992 11:00 a.m.  
TEACHER Draft Two

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 11:15 A.M.  
ROSE GARDEN**

Thank you and welcome to the Rose Garden. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]  
We're here to salute and thank the thousands of outstanding men and women who educate this nation's children. There's no calling greater than a teacher's, because there's nothing more precious than what they touch -- the minds of our youth. The Talmud says teachers are our "protectors." That's true. By teaching our kids what we've learned, and by teaching them to dream, teachers protect the treasures of our past and the promise of our future.

Today, I want to share with you a story -- about a Detroit kid brought up by his grandparents. He struggled in school -- was labeled a slow learner. When he dropped out of high school, he couldn't read or write or spell. He didn't think that mattered. But one day it did. His faith became tremendously important to him and he wanted to read the Bible, but he couldn't -- he didn't know how. From that moment, he thought about what it would really mean to take charge of his life.

That moment changed his life. Five years after he dropped out, he enrolled in night school to learn how to read -- and earn his high school diploma. He went on to Bible College, while working as a minister to kids like himself in northwest Detroit. Here he found he had the power to touch and change lives. He decided to become a teacher, and worked with forgotten kids at a state institution for juvenile offenders.

There's an old saying: "Whoever would be a teacher of men, let him begin by teaching himself before teaching others -- and let him set an example before teaching by word." That's exactly what the young man of that story did -- and we're here today to honor him as the 1992 Teacher of the Year -- Thomas Fleming.

Tom is a hero -- a man of strength, courage and great heart. For the last 20 years, as lead teacher in the Washtenaw County Juvenile Detention Program, he's taught history, government and geography to youths aged 12-16. But he teaches much more. To kids who've had the hope drained out of them by a vicious cycle of abuse, neglect, failure, drugs, and crime -- he gives life-training. Here's what he says to them: "Knowledge is power -- the more you know, the more you're worth." And in these "throw-away" kids he instills pride.

Tom doesn't want the moon for his kids. He wants something more important -- a future. In his classroom, it will be a future forged out of new personal responsibility -- enthusiasm for learning -- and hope. Some of his kids have gone on to respected civic and religious positions -- one even rebuilt Tom's original youth club as a ministry of his own. And one, "Saturday Night Live" comedian A. Whitney Brown, spoke for many when, more than 20 years after being in his classroom, he dedicated his book to Tom and to his colleague Anne Klein, who's also here today, calling them "two teachers who made a difference." \\\

I have a feeling this crystal apple isn't as important to Tom as his other rewards -- seeing the first spark of light in a

kid's eye -- or even just having a kid who before had never been able to read ask him for a book from the public library. But the apple does symbolize the respect with which Tom's country views him. And the apple reminds us of Tom's message: education is important because every life can be redeemed -- every life counts.

Whether you're concerned about the big issues that shape our world -- or about the values close to home, education is a fundamental part of the three precious legacies Americans take to heart: Strong families. Good jobs. A world at peace.

Every day, on the most intense and personal level, Tom Fleming sees the heart of the problems we face -- the breakdown of families -- the loss of traditional values -- the lure of crime and substance abuse -- the dead-end of unemployment and hopelessness. But he knows that good teachers will help us find a solution -- for with every student you teach -- you shape a future, you touch a lifetime.

But teachers can't exist in isolation. Our tremendous respect for them, and our utter conviction that education is the key to our country's future, led us to develop America 2000: our revolutionary blueprint for educational reform. At the heart of it stand four transforming ideas. First, Flexibility for Teachers and Principals -- freedom from the web of federal regulations that impose a one-size-fits-all solution on our schools. Second, a Generation of New American Schools -- a break-the-mold experiment in what education can be. Third, World

community, neighborhood by neighborhood, all across this country.

And at the heart of this shining new school will be -- as always -- the teacher. Last week at the Oscars, filmmaker George Lucas might have captured it best, when he thanked the teachers of his childhood. He said: "all of us ... are teachers, teachers with very loud voices, but we will never match the power of the teacher who is able to whisper in a student's ear."

Tom -- on behalf of all Americans who've had the rare and priceless privilege of having a fine teacher whisper in their ear -- congratulations. You teach the one lesson that matters most. There's no distinction between who you are and what you do -- you've woven the values of your life into your work. Thank you, Tom -- and may God bless you.

And now I have something special for you. The apple is the traditional symbol of teaching -- and crystal represents the clarity of vision and commitment that great teachers possess. On behalf of a grateful and admiring nation, Tom -- congratulations.

# # # # #

Document No. 319429ss

92 APR 2 P6:19

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 4/2/92 COB

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TUESDAY, 4/7/92 - 11:15 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIRESTONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than COB, TODAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*See comments. Thanks.*

*Paul KorGenta*

*(All comments from Education)*

*MASTER 04/02*

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

(Barrieton)

\*Mention that this is the fourth year we've honored the Teacher of the Year.

MICHELLE -  
DID PRES  
INVOLVEMENT  
ROBIN W/ POTUS?  
IF SO, let's  
reference this...

02 APR 2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 11:15 A.M.  
ROSE GARDEN

(Winchliffe/Nix)  
April 2, 1992 9 p.m.  
TEACHER Draft One

Thank you and welcome to the Rose Garden. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]  
We're here to salute and thank the thousands of outstanding men and women who educate this nation's children. There's no calling greater than a teacher's, because there's nothing more precious than what they touch -- the minds of our youth. <sup>(celebrating)</sup> ~~The Talmud says teachers are our "protectors."~~ *That's why I have made it a clear goal for our nation -- for every community in America -- to create excellent schools and a culture that fosters lifelong learning.* ~~By teaching our kids what we've learned, and by teaching them to dream, teachers protect the treasures of our past and the promise of our future.~~

NO.  
SECRET

I want to share a story -- about a <sup>(BT)</sup> Detroit kid brought up by his grandparents. He struggled in school -- was labeled a slow learner. When he dropped out of high school he couldn't read or write or spell. He didn't think that mattered. But one day it did. His faith became tremendously important to him and he wanted to read the Bible, but he couldn't -- he didn't know how. From that moment, he thought about what it would really mean to take charge of his life.

That moment changed his life. Five years after he dropped out, he went to night school for two years to learn how to read -- and earn his high school diploma. He went on for seven more years to Bible College, while working as a minister to kids in the ghetto. Here he found he had the power to touch and change lives. He decided to become a teacher. He began by working with forgotten kids at a state institution for juvenile offenders.

2

There's an old saying: "Whoever would be a teacher of men, let him begin by teaching himself before teaching others -- and let him set an example before teaching by word." That's exactly what the young man of that story did -- and we're here today to honor him as the 1992 Teacher of the Year -- Thomas Fleming.

Tom is a hero -- a man of strength, courage and great heart. For the last 20 years, as lead teacher in the Washtenaw County Juvenile Detention Program, he's taught history, government and geography to youths aged 12-16. But he teaches much more. To kids who've had the hope drained out of them by a vicious cycle of abuse, neglect, failure, drugs, and crime -- he gives life-training. Here's what he says: "Knowledge is power -- the more you know, the more you're worth." And in these suspicious times ~~away~~ he instills pride.

Tom doesn't want the moon for his kids. He wants something more important -- a future. In his classroom, it will be a future forged out of new personal responsibility; enthusiasm for learning; and hope. Some of his kids have gone on to respected civic and religious positions -- one even took over Tom's original inner-city youth ministry. And one, "Saturday Night Live" comedian A. Whitney Brown, spoke for many when, 20 years after being in his classroom, he dedicated his book to Tom for the difference this man had made in his life.

I have a feeling this crystal apple isn't as important to Tom as his other rewards -- seeing the first spark of light in a kid's eye -- or even just having a kid who'd never been able to

THIS DOESN'T  
MAKE SENSE.

IT'S AWFULLY  
NEGATIVE.

read ask for a book from the public library. But the apple does symbolize the respect in which Tom's country holds him. And the apple reminds us of his message: education is important because every life can be redeemed -- every life counts.

Every day, on the most intense and personal level, Tom Fleming sees the heart of the problems we face -- the breakdown of families; the loss of traditional values; the lure of crime and substance abuse; the dead-end of unemployment and hopelessness. But he knows that good teachers will help us find a solution -- for with every student you teach -- you shape a future, you touch a lifetime.

But teachers can't exist in isolation. Our tremendous respect for them, and the utter conviction that education is the key to our country's future, led us to develop America 2000: our revolutionary blueprint for educational <sup>REFORM</sup> excellence. At the heart of it stand four <sup>transforming ideas</sup> key reforms. First, Flexibility for Teachers and Principals freedom from the web of federal regulations that impose a one-size-fits-all solution on our schools. Second, Generation of New American Schools <sup>an effort to</sup> break-the-mold <sup>experiment</sup> ~~and envision~~ <sup>what education can be.</sup> Third, World Class Standards and Voluntary National Exams -- to help us raise our sights and measure our performance. Fourth and finally, Parental Choice of Schools <sup>-- giving more of the same choices to low- and middle-income families that wealthier families already have.</sup> ~~public, private, religious.~~ Our plan is innovative; it's exciting; it's uniting this country -- and it will work. Changing our schools is too important to wait -- or to waste -- a generation. We know we've got to be competitive in a

✓

✓

X  
STEP

NO!  
STEP

changing world. We set our goals for the year 2000 because we know our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges of a new century.

Tom and the thousands of men and women like him will help us meet these challenges. Teachers know that real excellence demands

commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create communities where learning can happen  
~~in every corner of American schools.~~ It demands that talented

men and women give time to become tutors and mentors. It demands

that businesses, churches and synagogues, and civic groups form join together

partnerships to support local schools. It demands that every cit-

izen helping his or her community develop a plan of action based on America 2000: our new Declaration of Educational Excellence and help the nation reach the National Education Goals.

Together, we will reinvent the American school community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, all across this country.

WE REALLY DONT LIKE THIS.

And at the heart of this shining new school will be -- as always -- the teacher. Last week at the Oscars, filmmaker George Lucas might have captured it best, when he thanked the teachers of his childhood. He said: "all of us ... are teachers, teachers with very loud voices, but we will never match the power of the teacher who is able to whisper in a student's ear."

We got the message

Tom -- on behalf of all Americans who've had the rare and priceless privilege of having a fine teacher whisper in their ear -- congratulations. You teach the one lesson that matters most. There's no distinction between who you are and what you do: you've woven the values of your life into your work. Thank you, Tom -- and may God bless you.

partnerships" -- We don't use this word because it's too narrow a concept. one business helping one school doesn't change anything. That's what a partnership has come to mean.

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

92 APR 2 11:37

DATE: 4/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 4/2/92 COB

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
 SUBJECT: TUESDAY, 4/7/92 - 11:15 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE <i>by phone</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>NK</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO <i>nlc</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS <i>nlc</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH <i>nlc</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>28910 Luid n/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than COB, TODAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

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

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
April 2, 1992 9 p.m.  
TEACHER Draft One

92 APR 2 AIO: 55

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 11:15 A.M.  
ROSE GARDEN**

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I want to share a story -- about a Detroit kid brought up by his grandparents. He struggled in school -- was labeled a slow learner. When he dropped out of high school he couldn't read or write or spell. He didn't think that mattered. But one day it did. His faith became tremendously important to him and he wanted to read the Bible, but he couldn't -- he didn't know how. From that moment, he thought about what it would really mean to take charge of his life.

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read ask for a book from the public library. But the apple does symbolize the respect in which Tom's country holds him. And the apple reminds us of his message: education is important because every life can be redeemed -- every life counts.

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But teachers can't exist in isolation. Our tremendous respect for them, and the utter conviction that education is the key to our country's future, led us to develop America 2000: our revolutionary blueprint for educational excellence. At the heart of it stand four key reforms. First, Flexibility for Teachers and Principles: freedom from the web of federal regulations that impose a one-size-fits-all solution on our schools. Second, A Generation of New American Schools -- a break-the-mold experiment in what education can be. Third, World Class Standards and Voluntary National Exams -- to help us raise our sights and measure our performance. Fourth and finally, Parental Choice of Schools -- public, private, religious. Our plan is innovative; it's exciting; it's uniting this country -- and it will work.

Changing our schools is too important to wait -- or to waste -- a generation. We know we've got to be competitive in a

changing world. We set our goals for the year 2000 because we know our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges of a new century.

Tom and the thousands of men and women like him will help us meet those challenges. Teachers know that real excellence demands commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create a new generation of American schools. It demands that talented men and women give time to become tutors and mentors. It demands that businesses, churches and synagogues, and civic groups form partnerships to support local schools. It demands that every citizen helping his or her community develop a plan of action based on America 2000: our new Declaration of Educational Excellence. Together, we will reinvent the American school community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, all across this country.

And at the heart of this shining new school will be -- as always -- the teacher. Last week at the Oscars, filmmaker George Lucas might have captured it best, when he thanked the teachers of his childhood. He said: "all of us ... are teachers, teachers with very loud voices, but we will never match the power of the teacher who is able to whisper in a student's ear."

Tom -- on behalf of all Americans who've had the rare and priceless privilege of having a fine teacher whisper in their ear -- congratulations. You teach the one lesson that matters most. There's no distinction between who you are and what you do: you've woven the values of your life into your work. Thank you, Tom -- and may God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *JH for*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: National Teacher of the  
Year

We have reviewed the attached remarks and have noted a few suggested changes on pages two and four of the draft.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may help in any other way.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

92 APR 3  
PP: 01

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

*RAE*

DATE: 4/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 4/2/92 COB

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
 SUBJECT: TUESDAY, 4/7/92 - 11:15 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIRESTONE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than COB, TODAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
April 2, 1992 9 p.m.  
TEACHER Draft One

02 APR 2 AIO: 55

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 11:15 A.M.  
ROSE GARDEN**

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I want to share a story -- about a Detroit kid brought up by his grandparents. He struggled in school -- was labeled a slow learner. When he dropped out of high school he couldn't read or write or spell. He didn't think that mattered. But one day it did. His faith became tremendously important to him and he wanted to read the Bible, but he couldn't -- he didn't know how. From that moment, he thought about what it would really mean to take charge of his life.

That moment changed his life. Five years after he dropped out, he went to night school for two years to learn how to read -- and earn his high school diploma. He went on for seven more years to Bible College, while working as a minister to kids in the ghetto. Here he found he had the power to touch and change lives. He decided to become a teacher. He began by working with forgotten kids at a state institution for juvenile offenders.

There's an old saying: "Whoever would be a teacher of men, let him begin by teaching himself before teaching others -- and let him set an example before teaching by word." That's exactly what the young man of that story did -- and we're here today to honor him as the 1992 Teacher of the Year -- Thomas Fleming.

Tom is a hero -- a man of strength, courage and great heart. For the last 20 years, as lead teacher in the Washtenaw County Juvenile Detention Program, he's taught history, government and geography to youths aged 12-16. But he teaches much more. To kids who've had the hope drained out of them by a vicious cycle of abuse, neglect, failure, drugs, and crime -- he gives life-training. Here's what he says: "Knowledge is power -- the more you know, the more you're worth." And in these suspicious throw-away kids he instills pride. ✓

Tom doesn't want the moon for his kids. He wants something more important -- a future. In his classroom, it will be a future forged out of new personal responsibility; enthusiasm for learning; and hope. Some of his kids have gone on to respected civic and religious positions -- one even took over Tom's original inner-city youth ministry. And one, "Saturday Night Live" comedian A. Whitney Brown, spoke for many when, 20 years after being in his classroom, he dedicated his book to Tom for the difference this man had made in his life.

I have a feeling this crystal apple isn't as important to Tom as his other rewards -- seeing the first spark of light in a kid's eye -- or even just having a kid who'd never been able to

⊕ this phrase might be taken out of context --- possibly delete? ✓

See draft

read ask for a book from the public library. But the apple does symbolize the respect in which Tom's country holds him. And the apple reminds us of his message: education is important because every life can be redeemed -- every life counts.

Every day, on the most intense and personal level, Tom Fleming sees the heart of the problems we face -- the breakdown of families; the loss of traditional values; the lure of crime and substance abuse; the dead-end of unemployment and hopelessness. But he knows that good teachers will help us find a solution -- for with every student you teach -- you shape a future, you touch a lifetime.

But teachers can't exist in isolation. Our tremendous respect for them, and the utter conviction that education is the key to our country's future, led us to develop America 2000: our revolutionary blueprint for educational excellence. At the heart of it stand four key reforms. First, Flexibility for Teachers and Principles: freedom from the web of federal regulations that impose a one-size-fits-all solution on our schools. Second, A Generation of New American Schools -- a break-the-mold experiment in what education can be. Third, World Class Standards and Voluntary National Exams -- to help us raise our sights and measure our performance. Fourth and finally, Parental Choice of Schools -- public, private, religious. Our plan is innovative; it's exciting; it's uniting this country -- and it will work.

Changing our schools is too important to wait -- or to waste -- a generation. We know we've got to be competitive in a

changing world. We set our goals for the year 2000 because we know our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges of a new century.

Tom and the thousands of men and women like him will help us meet those challenges. Teachers know that real excellence demands commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create a new generation of American schools. It demands that talented men and women give time to become tutors and mentors. It demands that businesses, churches and synagogues, and civic groups form partnerships *with teachers and parents* to ~~support local schools.~~ *help our students succeed in school.* It demands that every citizen helping his or her community develop a plan of action based on America 2000: our <sup>g</sup>new Declaration of Educational Excellence. Together, we will reinvent the American school community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, all across this country.

And at the heart of this shining new school will be -- as always -- the teacher. Last week at the Oscars, filmmaker George Lucas might have captured it best, when he thanked the teachers of his childhood. He said: "all of us ... are teachers, teachers with very loud voices, but we will never match the power of the teacher who is able to whisper in a student's ear."

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Illustration

~ anecdote

adverse effects

as formulated  
grant



Jack Macdonald

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1992

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST  
FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE  
SUBJECT: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, April 7, at 11:15 a.m., you will deliver remarks (9 minutes, on cards) to an audience of approximately 200 people gathered in the Rose Garden for the presentation of the 1992 National Teacher of the Year award.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks recognize the contribution of Thomas E. Fleming -- a man who has devoted his life and his career to counseling and guiding troubled youth. Additionally, you note that teachers like Fleming are what this country needs to advance its educational system into the next century.

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
April 3, 1992 11:00 a.m.  
TEACHER Draft Two

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 11:15 A.M.  
ROSE GARDEN**

Thank you and welcome to the Rose Garden. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]  
We're here to salute and thank the thousands of outstanding men and women who educate this nation's children. There's no calling greater than a teacher's, because there's nothing more precious than what they touch -- the minds of our youth. The Talmud says teachers are our "protectors." That's true. By teaching our kids what we've learned, and by teaching them to dream, teachers protect the treasures of our past and the promise of our future.

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Whether you're concerned about the big issues that shape our world -- or about the values close to home, education is a fundamental part of the three precious legacies Americans take to heart: Strong families. Good jobs. A world at peace.

Every day, on the most intense and personal level, Tom Fleming sees the heart of the problems we face -- the breakdown of families -- the loss of traditional values -- the lure of crime and substance abuse -- the dead-end of unemployment and hopelessness. But he knows that good teachers will help us find a solution -- for with every student you teach -- you shape a future, you touch a lifetime.

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Changing our schools is too important to wait -- or to waste -- a generation. That's why education is one of the five urgent reform challenges I've been talking about. We know we've got to be competitive in a changing world. We can't go on sending our children into the working world under-educated and ill-equipped -- and expect the business community to spend billions teaching new workers what they should have learned in school. Status quo schools won't carry us into the next century. We set our goals for the year 2000 because we know our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges a new century will bring.

Tom and the thousands of men and women like him will help us meet those challenges. Teachers know that real excellence demands commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create communities where learning can happen. It demands that talented men and women give time to become tutors and mentors. It demands that businesses, churches and synagogues, and civic groups join together to support local schools. It demands that every citizen help his community develop a plan of action based on America 2000 -- and help the nation reach the National Education Goals. Together, we will reinvent the American school community by

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Tom -- on behalf of all Americans who've had the rare and priceless privilege of having a fine teacher whisper in their ear -- congratulations. You teach the one lesson that matters most. There's no distinction between who you are and what you do -- you've woven the values of your life into your work. Thank you, Tom -- and may God bless you.

And now I have something special for you. The apple is the traditional symbol of teaching -- and crystal represents the clarity of vision and commitment that great teachers possess. On behalf of a grateful and admiring nation, Tom -- congratulations.

# # # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1992

INFORMATION

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THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST  
FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*  
SUBJECT: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
April 3, 1992 11:00 a.m.  
TEACHER Draft Two

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TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 11:15 A.M.  
ROSE GARDEN**

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# # # # #

Document No. 319429SS

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 4/2/92 COB

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SUBJECT: TUESDAY, 4/7/92 - 11:15 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<del>DEMAREST</del>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<del>FITZWATER</del>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIRESTONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than COB, TODAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

very nice  
AD

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

Peters Meyer

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
April 2, 1992 9 p.m.  
TEACHER Draft One

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 11:15 A.M.  
ROSE GARDEN**

Thank you and welcome to the Rose Garden. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]  
We're here to salute and thank the thousands of outstanding men and women who educate this nation's children. There's no calling greater than a teacher's, because there's nothing more precious than what they touch -- the minds of our youth. ~~The Talmud says teachers are our "protectors."~~ *That's why I have made it a clear goal for our nation -- for every community in America -- to create excellent schools and a culture that fosters lifelong learning.* By teaching our kids what we've learned, and by teaching them to dream, teachers protect the treasures of our past and the promise of our future.

I want to share a story -- about a Detroit kid brought up by his grandparents. He struggled in school -- was labeled a slow learner. When he dropped out of high school he couldn't read or write or spell. He didn't think that mattered. But one day it did. His faith became tremendously important to him and he wanted to read the Bible, but he couldn't -- he didn't know how. From that moment, he thought about what it would really mean to take charge of his life.

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**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

92 APR 2 P5:32

DATE: 4/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 4/2/92 COB

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SUBJECT: TUESDAY, 4/7/92 - 11:15 a.m.


	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIRESTONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than COB, TODAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

NO LEGAL OBJECTION.

Nelson Lund   
 Associate Counsel to the President  
 April 2, 1992

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

92 APR 2 10:01 AM  
**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**



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SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIRESTONE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than COB, TODAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Good - a few thoughts.  
 BT for SR*

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

\* Mention that this is the fourth year  
we're honoring the Teacher of the Year,

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
April 2, 1992 9 p.m.  
TEACHER Draft One

82 APR 2 AIO: 55

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 11:15 A.M.  
ROSE GARDEN

Thank you and welcome to the Rose Garden. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]  
We're here to salute and thank the thousands of outstanding men and women who educate this nation's children. There's no calling greater than a teacher's, because there's nothing more precious than what they touch -- the minds of our youth. The Talmud says teachers are our "protectors." That's true. By teaching our kids what we've learned, and by teaching them to dream, teachers protect the treasures of our past and the promise of our future.

I want to share a story -- about a Detroit kid brought up by his grandparents. He struggled in school -- was labeled a slow learner. When he dropped out of high school he couldn't read or write or spell. He didn't think that mattered. But one day it did. His faith became tremendously important to him and he wanted to read the Bible, but he couldn't -- he didn't know how. From that moment, he thought about what it would really mean to take charge of his life.

That moment changed his life. Five years after he dropped out, he went to night school for two years to learn how to read -- and earn his high school diploma. He went on for seven more years to Bible College, while working as a minister to kids in the ghetto. Here he found he had the power to touch and change lives. He decided to become a teacher. He began by working with forgotten kids at a state institution for juvenile offenders.

There's an old saying: "Whoever would be a teacher of men, let him begin by teaching himself before teaching others -- and let him set an example before teaching by word." That's exactly what the young man of that story did -- and we're here today to honor him as the 1992 Teacher of the Year -- Thomas Fleming.

Tom is a hero -- a man of strength, courage and great heart. For the last 20 years, as lead teacher in the Washtenaw County Juvenile Detention Program, he's taught history, government and geography to youths aged 12-16. But he teaches much more. To kids who've had the hope drained out of them by a vicious cycle of abuse, neglect, failure, drugs, and crime -- he gives life-training. Here's what he says: "Knowledge is power -- the more you know, the more you're worth." And in these ~~years~~ kids he instills pride.

Tom doesn't want the moon for his kids. He wants something more important -- a future. In his classroom, it will be a future forged out of new personal responsibility; enthusiasm for learning; and hope. Some of his kids have gone on to respected civic and religious positions -- one even took over Tom's original inner-city youth ministry. And one, "Saturday Night Live" comedian A. Whitney Brown, spoke for many when, 20 years after being in his classroom, he dedicated his book to Tom for the difference this man had made in his life.

I have a feeling this crystal apple isn't as important to Tom as his other rewards -- seeing the first spark of light in a kid's eye -- or even just having a kid who'd never been able to

read ask for a book from the public library. But the apple does symbolize the respect in which Tom's country holds him. And the apple reminds us of his message: education is important because every life can be redeemed -- every life counts.

Every day, on the most intense and personal level, Tom Fleming sees the heart of the problems we face -- the breakdown of families; the loss of traditional values; the lure of crime and substance abuse; the dead-end of unemployment and hopelessness. But he knows that good teachers will help us find a solution -- for with every student you teach -- you shape a future, you touch a lifetime.

But teachers can't exist in isolation. Our tremendous respect for them, and the utter conviction that education is the key to our country's future, led us to develop America 2000: our revolutionary blueprint for educational excellence. At the heart of it stand four key reforms. First, Flexibility for Teachers and Principals<sup>als</sup>: freedom from the web of federal regulations that impose a one-size-fits-all solution on our schools. Second, A Generation of New American Schools -- a break-the-mold experiment in what education can be. Third, World Class Standards and Voluntary National Exams -- to help us raise our sights and measure our performance. Fourth and finally, Parental Choice of Schools -- public, private, religious. Our plan is innovative; it's exciting; it's uniting this country -- and it will work.

Changing our schools is too important to wait -- or to waste -- a generation. We know we've got to be competitive in a

changing world. We set our goals for the year 2000 because we know our economic health -- our economic survival -- depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges of a new century.

Tom and the thousands of men and women like him will help us meet those challenges. Teachers know that real excellence demands commitment from everyone in every community as we work to create a new generation of American schools. It demands that talented men and women give time to become tutors and mentors. It demands that businesses, churches and synagogues, and civic groups form partnerships to support local schools. It demands that every citizen helping his or her community develop a plan of action based on America 2000: our new Declaration of Educational Excellence. Together, we will reinvent the American school community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, all across this country.

And at the heart of this shining new school will be -- as always -- the teacher. Last week at the Oscars, filmmaker George Lucas might have captured it best, when he thanked the teachers of his childhood. He said: "all of us ... are teachers, teachers with very loud voices, but we will never match the power of the teacher who is able to whisper in a student's ear."

Tom -- on behalf of all Americans who've had the rare and priceless privilege of having a fine teacher whisper in their ear -- congratulations. You teach the one lesson that matters most. There's no distinction between who you are and what you do: you've woven the values of your life into your work. Thank you, Tom -- and may God bless you.

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
April 2, 1992 9 p.m.  
TEACHER Draft One

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NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR \ ROSE GARDEN  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992 \ 11:15 A.M.

THANK YOU, LAMAR. WELCOME TO THE ROSE GARDEN,  
EVERYBODY -- IN ADDITION TO OUR SECRETARY OF EDUCATION,  
I'M GLAD TO SEE GORDON AMBACH OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEF  
STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS; SUPERINTENDENTS ROBERT SCHILLER  
AND MICHAEL EMLAW FROM MICHIGAN; ALL YOU KIDS FROM  
JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH AND SAINT RITA'S SCHOOL; AND, OF  
COURSE, THE FOLKS I JUST HAD THE PLEASURE TO MEET IN  
THE OVAL OFFICE -- TOM, DIANE, AND MALCOLM FLEMING AND  
DIANE'S MOTHER JOSEPHINE ROSINSKI. \ \

- 2 -

WE'RE ALL HERE TODAY TO SALUTE AND THANK THE  
THOUSANDS OF OUTSTANDING MEN AND WOMEN WHO EDUCATE THIS  
NATION'S CHILDREN. THERE'S NO CALLING GREATER THAN A  
TEACHER'S, BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN  
WHAT THEY TOUCH -- THE MINDS OF OUR YOUTH. \ \

THE TALMUD SAYS TEACHERS ARE OUR "PROTECTORS."  
THAT'S TRUE. BY TEACHING OUR KIDS WHAT WE'VE LEARNED -  
- AND BY TEACHING THEM TO DREAM -- TEACHERS PROTECT THE  
TREASURES OF OUR PAST AND THE PROMISE OF OUR FUTURE.

\ \ \

TODAY, I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU A STORY -- ABOUT A DETROIT KID BROUGHT UP BY HIS GRANDPARENTS, GORDON AND CARRIE BELL STARKS. HE STRUGGLED IN SCHOOL -- WAS LABELED A SLOW LEARNER.

WHEN HE DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, HE COULDN'T READ OR WRITE OR SPELL. HE DIDN'T THINK THAT MATTERED. BUT ONE DAY IT DID. HIS FAITH BECAME TREMENDOUSLY IMPORTANT TO HIM AND HE WANTED TO READ THE BIBLE, BUT HE COULDN'T -- HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW.

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FROM THAT MOMENT, HE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD REALLY MEAN TO TAKE CHARGE OF HIS LIFE. \

THAT MOMENT CHANGED HIS LIFE. FIVE YEARS AFTER HE DROPPED OUT, HE ENROLLED IN NIGHT SCHOOL TO LEARN HOW TO READ HIS BIBLE -- AND EARN HIS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. HE WENT ON TO BIBLE COLLEGE, WHILE WORKING AS A MINISTER TO KIDS LIKE HIMSELF IN NORTHWEST DETROIT. HERE HE FOUND HE HAD THE POWER TO TOUCH AND CHANGE LIVES.

HE DECIDED TO BECOME A TEACHER, AND WORKED WITH FORGOTTEN KIDS AT A STATE INSTITUTION FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING: "WHOEVER WOULD BE A TEACHER OF MEN, LET HIM BEGIN BY TEACHING HIMSELF BEFORE TEACHING OTHERS -- AND LET HIM SET AN EXAMPLE BEFORE TEACHING BY WORD." \\ THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE YOUNG MAN OF THAT STORY DID -- AND WE'RE HERE TODAY TO HONOR HIM AS THE 1992 TEACHER OF THE YEAR -- THOMAS FLEMING.  
\\

TOM IS A HERO -- A MAN OF STRENGTH, COURAGE AND GREAT HEART. FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS, AS LEAD TEACHER IN THE WASHTENAW COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION PROGRAM, HE'S TAUGHT HISTORY, GOVERNMENT AND GEOGRAPHY TO KIDS AGE 12-16.

BUT HE TEACHES MUCH MORE. TO KIDS WHO'VE HAD THE HOPE DRAINED OUT OF THEM BY A VICIOUS CYCLE OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, FAILURE, DRUGS, AND CRIME -- HE GIVES LIFE-TRAINING. HERE'S WHAT HE SAYS TO THEM: "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER -- THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU'RE WORTH."

IN THESE "THROW-AWAY" KIDS HE INSTILLS PRIDE. \\

TOM DOESN'T WANT THE MOON FOR HIS KIDS. HE WANTS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT -- A FUTURE. IN HIS CLASSROOM, IT WILL BE A FUTURE FORGED OUT OF NEW PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY -- ENTHUSIASM FOR LEARNING -- AND HOPE.

SOME OF HIS KIDS HAVE GONE ON TO RESPECTED CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS POSITIONS -- ONE EVEN REBUILT TOM'S ORIGINAL YOUTH CLUB AS A MINISTRY OF HIS OWN.

AND ONE OF HIS KIDS, "SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE" COMEDIAN A. WHITNEY BROWN, IS HERE WITH US TODAY -- WHERE ARE YOU, WHITNEY? \\ WHITNEY SPOKE FOR MANY OF TOM'S KIDS WHEN, MORE THAN 20 YEARS AFTER BEING IN HIS CLASSROOM, HE DEDICATED HIS BOOK "THE BIG PICTURE" TO TOM AND TO HIS COLLEAGUE ANNE KLEIN, WHO'S ALSO HERE TODAY. HE CALLED THEM "TWO TEACHERS WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE." ///

I HAVE A FEELING THIS CRYSTAL APPLE ISN'T AS IMPORTANT TO TOM AS HIS OTHER REWARDS -- SEEING THE FIRST SPARK OF LIGHT IN A KID'S EYE -- OR EVEN JUST HAVING A KID, WHO NEVER BEFORE HAD BEEN ABLE TO READ, ASK HIM FOR A BOOK FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BUT THE APPLE DOES SYMBOLIZE THE RESPECT WITH WHICH TOM'S COUNTRY VIEWS HIM. AND THE APPLE REMINDS US OF TOM'S MESSAGE: EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE EVERY LIFE CAN BE REDEEMED -- EVERY LIFE COUNTS. \\\

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WHETHER YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE BIG ISSUES THAT SHAPE OUR WORLD -- OR ABOUT THE VALUES CLOSE TO HOME, EDUCATION IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THE THREE PRECIOUS LEGACIES AMERICANS TAKE TO HEART: STRONG FAMILIES. GOOD JOBS. A WORLD AT PEACE.

EVERY DAY, ON THE MOST INTENSE AND PERSONAL LEVEL, TOM FLEMING SEES THE HEART OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACE: THE BREAKDOWN OF FAMILIES -- THE LOSS OF TRADITIONAL VALUES -- THE LURE OF CRIME AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE -- THE DEAD-END OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND HOPELESSNESS.

BUT HE KNOWS THAT GOOD TEACHERS WILL HELP US FIND A SOLUTION -- FOR WITH EVERY STUDENT YOU TEACH -- YOU SHAPE A FUTURE, YOU TOUCH A LIFETIME. \\\

BUT TEACHERS CAN'T EXIST IN ISOLATION. OUR TREMENDOUS RESPECT FOR THEM, AND OUR UTTER CONVICTION THAT EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE, LED US TO DEVELOP AMERICA 2000 -- OUR REVOLUTIONARY BLUEPRINT FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM.

IT WILL LEAD US TO REACH OUR SIX NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS: ADOPTED MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO IN AN EXTRAORDINARY NONPARTISAN, FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP BY THE NATION'S GOVERNORS AND THIS ADMINISTRATION.

LET ME REMIND YOU OF THESE SIX GOALS, WHICH WILL PROPEL THIS NATION FORWARD INTO EXCELLENCE. BY THE YEAR 2000 -- OUR CHILDREN WILL START SCHOOL READY TO LEARN. \ AMERICA'S STUDENTS WILL ACHIEVE AT LEAST A 90% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE. \

THEY WILL DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE IN FIVE CORE SUBJECTS MEASURED AGAINST WORLD-CLASS STANDARDS. \

BY THE YEAR 2000, OUR CHILDREN WILL BE FIRST IN THE WORLD IN SCIENCE AND MATH. \ OUR ADULTS WILL BE LITERATE AND ABLE TO COMPETE IN THE WORK FORCE. \ AND FINALLY, OUR SCHOOLS WILL BE SAFE, DISCIPLINED, AND DRUG-FREE. \ \

WE'LL ACHIEVE THESE GOALS BY ADVANCING FOUR TRANSFORMING IDEAS AT THE HEART OF AMERICA 2000.

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FIRST, FLEXIBILITY FOR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS -- FREEDOM FROM THE WEB OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS THAT IMPOSE A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL SOLUTION ON OUR SCHOOLS. \

SECOND, A GENERATION OF NEW AMERICAN SCHOOLS -- TEACHERS ARE CRITICAL TO THIS EXCITING BREAK-THE-MOLD EXPERIMENT IN WHAT EDUCATION CAN BE. \

**THIRD, WORLD CLASS STANDARDS AND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL EXAMS -- AGAIN, TEACHERS ARE LEADING THE WAY IN DEFINING STANDARDS, CREATING CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS AND DEVELOPING EXAMS TO HELP US RAISE OUR SIGHTS AND MEASURE OUR PERFORMANCE. \**

**FOURTH AND FINALLY, PARENTAL CHOICE OF SCHOOLS -- PUBLIC, PRIVATE, RELIGIOUS. \ \**

**OUR PLAN IS INNOVATIVE; IT'S EXCITING; IT'S UNITING THIS COUNTRY -- AND IT WILL WORK. \ \ \**

**CHANGING OUR SCHOOLS IS TOO IMPORTANT TO WAIT -- OR TO WASTE -- A GENERATION. THAT'S WHY EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE FIVE URGENT REFORM CHALLENGES I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT. WE KNOW WE'VE GOT TO BE COMPETITIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD. WE CAN'T GO ON SENDING OUR CHILDREN INTO THE WORKING WORLD UNDER-EDUCATED AND ILL-EQUIPPED -- AND EXPECT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO SPEND BILLIONS TEACHING NEW WORKERS WHAT THEY SHOULD HAVE LEARNED IN SCHOOL.**

STATUS QUO SCHOOLS WON'T CARRY US INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. WE SET OUR GOALS FOR THE YEAR 2000 BECAUSE WE KNOW OUR ECONOMIC HEALTH -- OUR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL -- DEPENDS ON HOW WE EDUCATE OURSELVES TO FACE THE CHALLENGES A NEW CENTURY WILL BRING.

TOM AND THE THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN LIKE HIM WILL HELP US MEET THOSE CHALLENGES.

TEACHERS KNOW THAT REAL EXCELLENCE DEMANDS COMMITMENT FROM EVERYONE IN EVERY COMMUNITY AS WE WORK TO CREATE COMMUNITIES WHERE LEARNING CAN HAPPEN.

IT DEMANDS THAT TALENTED MEN AND WOMEN GIVE TIME TO BECOME TUTORS AND MENTORS. IT DEMANDS THAT BUSINESSES, CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES, AND CIVIC GROUPS JOIN TOGETHER TO SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOLS. IT DEMANDS THAT EVERY CITIZEN HELP HIS COMMUNITY DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION BASED ON AMERICA 2000 -- AND HELP THE NATION REACH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS.

**TOGETHER, WE WILL REINVENT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY, NEIGHBORHOOD BY NEIGHBORHOOD,  
ALL ACROSS THIS COUNTRY. \\\**

**AND AT THE HEART OF THIS SHINING NEW SCHOOL WILL BE  
-- AS ALWAYS -- THE TEACHER. LAST WEEK AT THE OSCARS,  
FILMMAKER GEORGE LUCAS MIGHT HAVE CAPTURED IT BEST,  
WHEN HE THANKED THE TEACHERS OF HIS CHILDHOOD. HE  
SAID: "ALL OF US ... ARE TEACHERS, TEACHERS WITH VERY  
LOUD VOICES, BUT WE WILL NEVER MATCH THE POWER OF THE  
TEACHER WHO IS ABLE TO WHISPER IN A STUDENT'S EAR."**

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**TOM -- ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS WHO'VE HAD THE  
RARE AND PRICELESS PRIVILEGE OF HAVING A FINE TEACHER  
WHISPER IN THEIR EAR -- CONGRATULATIONS. YOU TEACH THE  
ONE LESSON THAT MATTERS MOST. THERE'S NO DISTINCTION  
BETWEEN WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU DO -- YOU'VE WOVEN THE  
VALUES OF YOUR LIFE INTO YOUR WORK. THANK YOU, TOM --  
AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU. \\\**

AND NOW I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU. THE  
APPLE IS THE TRADITIONAL SYMBOL OF TEACHING -- AND  
CRYSTAL REPRESENTS THE CLARITY OF VISION AND COMMITMENT  
THAT GREAT TEACHERS POSSESS. ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL  
AND ADMIRING NATION, TOM -- CONGRATULATIONS.

# # # # #

