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White House Correspondents Dinner 5/9/92 [OA 6102]

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**WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER \ WASHINGTON HILTON
MAY 9, 1992 \ 7:45 P.M.**

MANY OF YOU RETURNED WITH ME LESS THAN 24 HOURS AGO FROM LOS ANGELES. SO TONIGHT, RATHER THAN DAZZLE THIS TOUGH CROWD WITH MY USUAL SERIES OF HILARIOUS ONE-LINERS, I WANT TO JUST BRIEFLY MENTION SOMETHING ABOUT THE EVENTS OF THE PAST 10 DAYS. WITHOUT BEING TOO MAUDLIN, AMIDST THE WAR-ZONE HORRORS, AMIDST THE DESTRUCTION THAT STRETCHED ON FOR WHOLE CITY BLOCKS, WE SAW SOMETHING MORE: SCENES OF HEALING.

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WE SAW THOUSANDS OF NEIGHBORS ARM-IN-ARM HELPING NEIGHBORS, REGARDLESS OF RACE -- PEOPLE OF EVERY BACKGROUND COMING TOGETHER; NOT TO DESTROY BUT TO REBUILD; NOT TO RAVAGE, BUT TO HEAL; NOT TO DESPAIR, BUT TO HOPE.

THE ONLY WAY MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY COULD SEE AND HEAR THIS UNFOLDING DRAMA IS BECAUSE OF YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES. AND THAT IS ALL TO THE GOOD.

NOW I DON'T WANT TO DAMAGE AN ASSIDUOUSLY CRAFTED REPUTATION FOR COMPLAINING ABOUT THE MEDIA, BUT IT'S A POWERFUL STORY: ONE AMERICA HAS HEARD THOUSANDS OF TIMES BEFORE. BUT YOU MUST CONTINUE TO TELL IT: FOR IT'S NOT JUST A GOOD STORY, IT'S A STORY ABOUT GOODNESS. AND GOD KNOWS THAT'S GOT TO BE SHARED. END OF SERMON.

NOW I'LL TURN THE MIKE OVER TO PAULA POUNDSTONE. YOU KNOW, THE TWO OF US HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. WE'RE BOTH VERY FUNNY PEOPLE. OF COURSE, SHE'S FUNNY ON PURPOSE. HERE'S PAULA.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 5, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*

FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER

I. SUMMARY

On Saturday, May 9, 1992 you will address the White House Correspondents at their annual dinner. Your remarks will be approximately 2 minutes in length (on cards).

The proposed remarks have been cleared by Marlin Fitzwater.

(Hinchliffe)
May 5, 1992 4 p.m.
CORR Draft Two

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER

Many of you returned with me less than 24 hours ago from Los Angeles. So tonight, rather than dazzle this tough crowd with my usual series of hilarious one-liners, I want to just briefly mention something about the events of the past 10 days. Without being too maudlin, amidst the war-zone horrors, amidst the destruction that stretched on for whole city blocks, we saw something more: scenes of healing. We saw thousands of neighbors arm-in-arm helping neighbors, regardless of race -- people of every background coming together not to destroy but to rebuild; not to ravage, but to heal; not to despair, but to hope.

The only way millions of American across the country could see and hear this unfolding drama is because for you and your colleagues. And that is all to the good. Now I don't want to damage an assiduously crafted reputation for complaining about the media, but it's a powerful story: one America has heard thousands of times before. But you must continue to tell it: for it's not just a good story, it's a story about goodness. And God knows that's got to be shared. End of sermon.

Now I'll turn the mike over to Paula Poundstone. You know, the two of us have a lot in common. We're both very funny people. Of course, she's funny on purpose. Here's Paula.

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