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Folder Title:
Notre Dame Commencement 5/15/92 [OA 6102] [1]

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First, our "Weed and Seed" anticrime initiative. Weed out the criminals and then seed the neighborhoods with hope;

Second, our HOPE initiative to turn public housing into private homes. Homeownership, I think, is the key when it comes to dignity and stronger families;

Third, enterprise zones. Change the tax system so that it will serve as a magnet to bring jobs and investment to the inner city, jobs with dignity;

Then fourth, education reform—touched on that. But offer every child the chance at a world-class education;

Fifth, welfare reform, to replace the hand-out with the hand up;

And sixth, expanded job training for the young people of our cities.

When I visited L.A.—and a very moving trip it was for me—I came away with a deepened sense of hope for America and her people. We all saw those horrifying acts of violence. But let me tell you another story from L.A. In the heat and chaos of the riots, a pastor named Bennie Newton saw a man being beaten to the ground. And despite the threats and the blows, Reverend Newton walked into the fray and draped his body over the bloody man until the beating stopped. "My heart was crying," said the pastor. He saved the man's life.

America is a Nation of Bennie Newtons, and you'll find him in every city, in every town, in every union hall, boy's club, Scout troop. You'll find a lot right here at S.M.U., with your proud tradition of serving others. Few of us, of course, are ever called to take the risks that Reverend Newton did. But every day we face the question posed in the New Testament: "If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

On countless small occasions, each of us is called to open our hearts; each of us is called to lead, to take responsibility, to show the power of faith in action. I have spoken today of our economic future, about free enterprise, personal liberty. But the freedoms we cherish mean nothing unless they're infused with the old virtues, the time-honored values: honor, honesty, thrift, faith, self-discipline, service to others.

I do not pretend to know the shape of the next century. The genius of a free people defies prediction. Certainly Barbara and I, when we loaded up our Studebaker for the trip to Odessa so long ago, could never have imagined the technological marvels that our grandchildren take for granted, fax machines and VCR's, for example, not to mention the most amazing invention of 1992, the supermarket scanner. [Laughter] But I do know this: the next century will be your century. If you believe in freedom and if you hold fast to your values and if you remain faithful to our role in the world, it is sure to be yet another American century.

Thank you again. May God bless the graduating class at S.M.U., and the United States of America. Thank you very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 10:33 a.m. at Moody Coliseum. In his remarks, he referred to A. Kenneth Pye, president of Southern Methodist University; William M. Finnin, University chaplain and preacher; Ray Hunt, chairman, Southern Methodist University Board of Trustees; and two other honorary degree recipients, Herma Hill Kay, dean of the Boalton School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, and Jarsoav Pelikan, Sterling professor of history and religious studies, Yale University. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the University of Notre Dame Commencement Ceremony in South Bend, Indiana

May 17, 1992

Thank you, Father Malloy. It is really wonderful to be back here at Notre Dame. Whenever I visit the campus or meet a group of Notre Dame alumni, I feel this sense of family, and at Notre Dame that truly means more than just words. I think it's at the very core of what this institution is all about. And with this honorary degree that I am so very proud to have, I am proud to become a Domer. Thank you for the honor. Thank you for the privilege.

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I want to salute all of the honorary degree recipients. A pleasure to be among such distinguished educators and public servants. I want to single out again Father Malloy, whose graciousness means a lot to me. A special greeting to the man we all respect so much, Chile's President Aylwin, who has done so much for democracy not just in Chile but in our whole hemisphere. We're grateful to you, sir. And another old friend I'm proud to share this dais with. He doesn't vote with me much. I don't vote with him much. But we're good friends and have been for a long time, and I respect him, Pat Moynihan. Pat, glad to be with you. May I pay my respects to the outstanding faculty of Notre Dame. They put up with a lot and have done a great job, I'll tell you. To our distinguished provost, don't worry, sir, there's a provost opening in a junior college just outside of Nome, Alaska. And I'm sure you'll qualify. [Laughter] But thank you for your warm introduction to me, thank you.

Now to the graduates. For you graduates, these have been 4 long years. But I first want to say—I want to congratulate—I don't know where they are, but the class of 1992. And I want to pay a special tribute to the family, to the parents, the family members, and the friends. At today's ceremony are a group of second generation Domers; 25 percent of the graduating seniors have a parent who attended Notre Dame. For you graduates, these have been 4 long, tough years. Now comes the hardest part, sitting through the commencement speech. [Laughter] But Billy Graham put it very well when he told, after a speaker had gone on a long time, a man sitting over here where Pat is, picked up the gavel, heaved it at the guy that was speaking, missed him, clipped a lady in the front row, who said, "Hit me again. I can still hear him." [Laughter]

Let me first say I'm not here in the mode of politics. I'm here to tell you the values that I strongly believe in. Those values can be summarized by the three major legacies that I certainly want to leave behind for my grandchildren, hopefully, for yours: jobs, both for today's workers who are actively seeking work and for graduates entering the work force; strong families, to sustain us as individuals, to nurture and encourage our

children, and to preserve our Nation's character and culture; and peace, peace around the world, on our streets, and in our schools as well.

Yesterday I spoke down at Southern Methodist where I focused on the economy and ability to generate jobs. Next week it will be the Naval Academy, when I focus on our hope for a more peaceful world.

Freedom has swept around the world—you heard Chile's President paying homage to that—from the snows of Siberia to the sands of the Gulf. Because we and our allies stood strong and principled, our children and our grandchildren now sleep in a world less threatened by nuclear war. That is dramatic change, and it's something good that we can take great pride in.

Now we must concentrate on change here in America as well, in ways no less dramatic or important. We're taking a fresh look at Government and how we solve national problems. In Lincoln's words, we must think anew, act anew.

Preparing young men and women for lives of leadership, service, and meaning: Each is part of this fantastic Notre Dame tradition, a tradition that has generated a host of inspiring stories. I was particularly moved when I heard about Frank O'Malley's role in saving the bricks of your administration building. Most of you know the story. The masonry was deteriorating, and some thought the time had come to replace it. Instead, Professor O'Malley reminded all who would listen, "These bricks contain the blood of everyone who helped to build Notre Dame."

Today, that 150-year heritage is fully yours, too. But your preparation began long before you walked in the shadow of the dome. Your parents instilled in you character and a moral bearing. They sacrificed so that you could experience the Notre Dame education, an education that's rooted in timeless faith and in a tradition of excellence, and in the process inculcating into each of you the worth of serving others. I hope each of you has also made a commitment to helping others and attacking some of the major problems facing American society; become a mentor, a community organizer, a Point of Light.

At the heart of the problems facing our country stands an institution under siege.

That institution is the American family. Whatever form our most pressing problems may take, ultimately, all are related to the disintegration of the family.

Let us look objectively at a few brief and sad facts. In comparison with other countries, the Census Bureau found that the United States has the highest divorce rate, the highest number of children involved in divorce, the highest teenage pregnancy rates, the highest abortion rates, the highest percentage of children living in a single-parent household, and the highest percentage of violent deaths among our precious young. These are not the kind of records that we want to have as a great country.

In Philadelphia the other day, in the inner city in what they call the Hill area, I talked to a barber there, Mr. Buice, who is one of the leaders of the community there, and I said, "Do these kids come from broken families?" He said, "Sir, it's a question of babies having babies" tears coming into his eyes. We've got to do something about this. And unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the American family, our Nation is going to remain at risk.

Senator Moynihan, way back, way back, early in 1965, you gave us fair warning. You predicted with astonishing accuracy the terrible trends that would result from the breakdown of the family. And today, with respect, sir, you continue to sound the alarm. The Senator and I agree: If America is to solve her social problems, we must, first of all, restore our families.

In addressing the problems associated with family breakdown, nothing is more critical than equipping each succeeding generation with a sound moral compass. As Notre Dame has expanded it has never lost sight of its profound spiritual mission. Indeed, this institution takes seriously its role in building the character of our young people and the strength of our families, for those are the leading indicators of our future as a culture. When we instill faith in our youth, faith in themselves, faith in God, we give them a solid foundation on which to build their future.

As Pope John XXIII said, "The family is the first essential cell of human society." The

family is the primary and most critical institution in America's communities.

In January—I'll never forget this meeting—I met with some mayors from America's League of Cities, including Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles. They came together, smalltown Republican mayor from North Carolina, middle-size city mayors, large-city mayors, and they told me of their concerns for their cities, their municipalities. But most of all, the mayors came together on one key point, and they were unanimous: Their major concern about the problems in the cities, in their view, the people on the front line, was the decline in the American family. One result of that meeting is this Commission on America's Urban Families. And I hope it comes up with some good, positive, constructive answers.

It is clear that we all know that putting America's families back on track is essential to putting our country back on track. You may ask how we can proceed when we don't all agree on the causes of the problem or the remedies. I believe that one place to begin is by supporting Pope John Paul II's most recent encyclical calling for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children. Leadership in that task can and should be led by the Nation's churches; kids need to learn faith to help them understand the larger family. And we are one Nation under God. We must remember that, and we must teach that.

Starting today, as you go from this fine institution to face the challenges of your adult life, the decisions you make will have one of two effects: Either you will add to the problems of family breakdown, or you will help rebuild the American family.

And you see, I am absolutely convinced that today's crisis will have to be addressed by millions of Americans at the personal, individual level for governmental programs to be effective. The Federal Government, of course, must do everything it can do, but the point is Government alone is simply not enough.

In my view, Government can, and we must, provide parental choice of the best schools for our children, whether public, private, or religious. The G.I. bill says here's some money; go to the college of your choice.

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Choice should apply to all levels of education. Parents must read to their children and instill a love of learning. Government can, and we must, fight crime. But fathers and mothers must teach discipline and instill those values in their children. Government can, and we must, foster American competitiveness. But parents must teach their children the dignity of work and instill a work ethic in the kids.

And to paraphrase that fantastic philosopher, Barbara Bush—[laughter]—what you teach at your house is more important than what happens at the White House. And she is absolutely correct on that.

All of us realize that merely knowing what's right is not enough. We must then do what's right. Today I'm asking you to carefully consider the personal decisions that you'll make about marriage and about how you will raise your children. Ultimately, your decisions about right and wrong, about loyalty and integrity, and yes, even self-sacrifice, will determine the quality of all the other decisions that you'll make. And as you think about these decisions, remember: It is in families that children learn the keys to personal economic success and self-discipline and personal responsibility. It is in families that children learn that moral restraint gives us true freedom. It is from their families that they learn honesty and self-respect and compassion and self-confidence.

And you would do well to consider the simple, but profound, words of Notre Dame's own Father Hesburgh when he said: "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Think how this vitally important commitment from fathers to mothers would radically transform for the better both the lives of thousands of our Nation's hurting children and their struggling mothers as well.

In many respects, I feel here at Notre Dame that I'm preaching to the choir because here at Notre Dame, you have benefited from the legions of great men and women of conviction and faith. Here, there is a tradition of passion for addressing the staggering needs of the day. Notre Dame's Alumni Association is the prototype for other universities in sponsoring service projects

and working toward the restoration of faith and the family in America.

In fact, at this very moment, the Notre Dame alumni group out there in Los Angeles is in the midst of a massive food and distribution project to assist residents affected by the violence in south central L.A. When that food is distributed and the riot-torn areas are rebuilt, I hope that the alumni group and thousands of others who are helping will stay involved in this and other urban areas. Government alone cannot do what needs to be done by itself. People who care must help.

And since becoming President I have had an opportunity to see a groundswell of Americans who are working, and working hard, to restore our Nation's faith and heal the wounds that have undermined our Nation's families. These Americans are devoted to rebuilding, restoring America from the ground up, family by family, home by home, community by community.

I was impressed to learn that more than two-thirds of Notre Dame's students participate in community service, two-thirds, ranging from working with the handicapped children at Logan Center to assisting former prisoners at Dismas House. Fully 10 percent of your graduates plan to go into social service careers. And to paraphrase Pope John Paul II, the ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and the most defenseless ones.

Let me challenge all of you to find a place to serve in some capacity, definitely as models but also as mentors. Remember each of us has a contribution that only we can make. And let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership that children tend to shape their dreams in the images that they have seen. Show how a good education prepares one for a full, productive life. Show what it means to be a person of strong principle and integrity. Demonstrate how concerned individuals, by working in partnership, can transform our communities and Nation.

Lastly, in a society that can sometimes be cold and impersonal, bring warmth and welcome. In a fragmented society, be a force for healing. In a society cut off from moral

and spiritual roots, cultivate grace and truth. In the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise. Together, we can lift our Nation's spirit. Together we can give our material, political, and economic accomplishments a larger, more noble purpose, to build God's kingdom here on Earth.

There is no surer way to build our Nation's future than with the mortar and the bricks of moral values and strong families. If you will add your blood to the bricks, the future will echo, then as now, "Never bet against Notre Dame or against the United States of America."

Thank you all, and good luck to this class of 1992 and to the entire Notre Dame family. And may God Bless our great country. Thank you very much.

Note: The President spoke at 3:03 p.m. in the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center. In his remarks, he referred to University of Notre Dame officials Edward A. Malloy, president; Timothy O'Meara, provost; Theodore M. Hesburgh, former president; and Frank O'Malley, former professor of English. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the National Association of Home Builders

May 18, 1992

Thank you very much for that welcome, and welcome to the South Lawn of the White House. May I salute the national directors, the homebuilders, and the many, many friends that are here. I also want to single out two members of our Cabinet, Secretary Brady, and then one you know so well because you've dealt with him a lot, Secretary Jack Kemp, who's out there doing an awful lot in the housing field.

Welcome to the people's house. Some of you may know this is like a museum, well over a million people going through every year. I don't know how many are going through right this minute, but I'm sure they're going to think we're having a yard

sale out here when they see all of this stuff. [Laughter]

But we're here to mark a special birthday. I heard a little earlier from the leadership about this 50th anniversary of the Home Builders. I want to salute a special team of them, the leaders, with whom I just met in the Rose Garden. First, of course, Jay Buchert, who has done an outstanding job for this organization, outstanding, and then Roger Glunt and Tommy Thompson and Jim Irvine and Mark Tipton, Bob Bannister, and of course, Kent Colton. I want to thank you at the beginning of these brief remarks for your support. Even more, we Bushes are grateful for the friendships we have of those in the Home Builders.

Millie was a little disappointed. She thought she was going to get a new dog house here. We came and checked it out this morning. [Laughter]

But I do believe that Barbara and our kids believe in these same values that you all have: community, country, respect, responsibility, family, jobs, peace. We know we put America first when we put America's families first, and for 50 years, that's what the Home Builders have been doing. You're helping people fulfill the American dream and enlarge the American pie. When the Home Builders were founded, the NAHB, almost one-half of the Nation lived in substandard housing, and only four in ten owned their own homes. Today, more than 70 million new homes and apartment units later, two in three households own their own home. That is dramatic progress, but we're not done yet.

For that, I salute you. Once again, you're helping our economy work so that America can get back to work. And yes, we have had some tough times in this country. But consider this: 264,000 housing starts in the first 3 months of this year; a 2-percent GDP growth in the first quarter, more than a quarter of that resulting from residential construction. The old adage is coming true: As housing goes, so goes the economy.

Your industry employs more than 6 million Americans. More and more, they're helping other Americans turn recession into recovery. I speak here as a participant, not a bystander. From my Texas business days I know what it means to meet a payroll and

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(South Bend, Indiana)

For Immediate Release

May 17, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

University of Notre Dame
South Bend, Indiana

3:03 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Father Malloy. It is really wonderful to be back here at Notre Dame. Whenever I visit the campus or meet a group of Notre Dame alumni, I feel this sense of family -- and at Notre Dame that truly means more than just words; I think it's at the very core of what this institution is all about. And with this honorary degree that I am so very proud to have, I am proud to become a Domer. Thank you for the honor. Thank you for the privilege. (Applause.)

I want to salute all of the honorary degree recipients. A pleasure to be among such distinguished educators and public servants. I want to single out again Father Malloy, whose graciousness means a lot to me. A special greeting to the man we all respect so much, Chile's President Aylwin, who has done so much for democracy not just in Chile, but in our whole hemisphere. We're grateful to you, sir. (Applause.)

And another old friend I'm proud to share this dais with. He doesn't vote with me much; I don't vote with him much, but we're good friends and have been for a long time, and I respect him -- Pat Moynihan -- Pat, glad to be with you. (Applause.)

And may I pay my respects to the outstanding faculty of Notre Dame. They put up with a lot and have done a great job, I'll tell you. (Applause.)

And to our distinguished Provost, don't worry, sir, there's a provost opening in a junior college just outside of Nome, Alaska. And I'm sure you'll qualify. (Laughter.) But thank you for your warm introduction to me, thank you.

Now to the graduates. For you graduates, these have been four long years. But I first want to say -- I want to congratulate -- I don't know where they are, but the Class of 1992. And I want to pay a special tribute to the family -- to the parents, the family members and the friends. At today's ceremony are a group of second generation Domers -- 25 percent of the graduating seniors have a parent who attended Notre Dame. (Applause.) For you graduates, these have been four long, tough years. And now comes the hardest part -- sitting through the commencement speech. (Laughter.)

But Billy Graham put it very well when he told, after a speaker had gone on a long time -- a man sitting over here where Pat is, picked up the gavel, heaved it at the guy that was speaking, missed him, clipped a lady in the front row, who said, "Hit me again. I can still hear him." (Laughter.)

Let me first say I'm not here in the mode of politics, I'm here to tell you the values that I strongly believe in. (Applause.) Those values can be summarized by the three major legacies that I certainly want to leave behind for my grandchildren -- hopefully, for yours -- jobs, both for today's workers who are actively seeking work and for graduates entering the work force;

strong families, to sustain us as individuals, to nurture and encourage our children, and to preserve our nation's character and culture; and peace -- peace around the world, on our streets, and in our schools, as well.

Yesterday, I spoke down at Southern Methodist where I focused on the economy and ability to generate jobs. Next week it will be the Naval Academy, when I focus on our hope for a more peaceful world.

Freedom has swept around the world. You heard Chile's President paying homage to that -- from the snows of Siberia to the sands of the Gulf. Because we and our allies stood strong and principled, our children and our grandchildren now sleep in a world less threatened by nuclear war. That is dramatic change, and it's something good that we can take great pride in. (Applause.)

Now we must concentrate on change here in America as well -- in ways no less dramatic or important. We're taking a fresh look at government and how we solve national problems. In Lincoln's words, "We must think anew, act anew."

Preparing young men and women for lives of leadership, service and meaning: each is part of this fantastic Notre Dame tradition -- a tradition that has generated a host of inspiring stories. I was particularly moved when I heard about Frank O'Malley's role in saving the bricks of your administration building. Most of you know the story -- the masonry was deteriorating and some thought the time had come to replace it. Instead, Professor O'Malley reminded all who would listen, "These bricks contain the blood of everyone who helped to build Notre Dame." (Applause.)

Today, that 150-year heritage is fully yours, too. But your preparation began long before you walked in the shadow of the dome. Your parents instilled in you character and a moral bearing. They sacrificed so that you could experience the Notre Dame education -- an education that's rooted in timeless faith and in a tradition of excellence; and in the process inculcating into each of you the worth of serving others.

I hope each of you has also made a commitment to helping others and attacking some of the major problems facing American society -- become a mentor, a community organizer, a Point of Light.

At the heart of the problems facing our country stands an institution under siege. That institution is the American family. Whatever form our most pressing problems may take -- ultimately, all are related to the disintegration of the family. (Applause.)

Let us look objectively at a few brief and sad facts. In comparison with other countries, the Census Bureau found that the United States has the highest divorce rate, the highest number of children involved in divorce, the highest teenage pregnancy rates, the highest abortion rates, the highest percentage of children living in a single-parent household, and the highest percentage of violent deaths among our precious young. These are not the kind of records that we want to have as a great country. (Applause.)

In Philadelphia the other day, in the inner city in what they call the Hill Area, I talked to a barber there, Mr. Buice, who is one of the leaders of the community there. And I said, "Do these kids come from broken families?" He said, "Sir, it's a question of babies having babies." Tears coming into his eyes. We've got to do something about this. And unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the American family, our nation is going to remain at risk.

Senator Moynihan, way back -- way back, early in 1965, you gave us fair warning. You predicted with astonishing accuracy

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the terrible trends that would result from the breakdown of the family -- and today, with respect, sir, you continue to sound the alarm. The Senator and I agree, if America is to solve her social problems, we must, first of all, restore our families. (Applause.)

In addressing the problems associated with family breakdown, nothing is more critical than equipping each succeeding generation with a sound moral compass. As Notre Dame has expanded it has never lost sight of its profound spiritual mission. Indeed, this institution takes seriously its role in building the character of our young people and the strength of our families -- for those are the leading indicators of our future as a culture.

When we instill faith in our youth, faith in themselves, faith in God -- we give them a solid foundation on which to build their future.

As Pope John XXIII said, "The family is the first essential cell of human society." The family is the primary and most critical institution in America's communities.

In January -- I'll never forget this meeting -- I met with some mayors from America's League of Cities, including Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles. They came together -- small-town Republican Mayor from North Carolina; middle-size city mayors; large city mayors -- and they told me of their concerns for their cities, their municipalities. But most of all, the mayors came together on one key point, and they were unanimous: Their major concern about the problems in the cities, in their view -- the people on the front line -- was the decline in the American family. One result of that meeting is this commission on America's urban families. And I hope it comes up with some good, positive, constructive answers.

It is clear that we all know that putting America's families back on track is essential to putting our country back on track. You may ask how we can proceed when we don't all agree on the causes of the problem or the remedies. I believe that one place to begin is by supporting Pope John Paul II's most recent encyclical calling for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children. (Applause.)

And leadership in that task can and should be led by the nation's churches -- kids need to learn faith to help them understand the larger family. And we are one nation under God. And we must remember that. And we must teach that. (Applause.)

Starting today, as you go from this fine institution to face the challenges of your adult life, the decisions you make will have one of two effects: either you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help rebuild the American family.

And you see, I am absolutely convinced that today's crisis will have to be addressed by millions of Americans at the personal, individual level for governmental programs to be effective. And the federal government, of course, must do everything it can do, but the point is government alone is simply not enough. (Applause.)

In my view, government can, and we must, provide parental choice of the best schools for our children, whether public, private or religious. (Applause.) The G.I. Bill says here's some money, go to the college of your choice. Choice should apply to all levels of education. (Applause.) Parents must read to their children and instill a love of learning. And government can, and we must, fight crime. But fathers and mothers must teach discipline and instill those values in their children. (Applause.) Government can and we must, foster American competitiveness. But parents must teach their children the dignity of work and instill a work ethic in the kids.

MORE

And to paraphrase that fantastic philosopher, Barbara Bush -- (laughter and applause) -- "What you teach at your house is more important than what happens at the White House." And she is absolutely correct on that. (Applause.)

All of us realize that merely knowing what's right is not enough. We must then do what's right. And today, I'm asking you to carefully consider the personal decisions that you'll make about marriage and about how you will raise your children. Ultimately, your decisions about right and wrong, about loyalty and integrity -- and, yes, even self-sacrifice -- will determine the quality of all the other decisions that you'll make.

And as you think about these decisions, remember: It is in families that children learn the keys to personal economic success and self-discipline and personal responsibility. And it is in families that children learn that moral restraint gives us true freedom. It is from their families that they learn honesty and self-respect and compassion and self-confidence.

And you would do well to consider the simple, but profound, words of Notre Dame's own Father Hesburgh when he said: "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." (Applause.) Think how this vitally important commitment from fathers to mothers would radically transform for the better both the lives of thousands of our nation's hurting children and their struggling mothers as well.

In many respects, I feel here at Notre Dame that I'm preaching to the choir, because here at Notre Dame, you have benefited from the legions of great men and women of conviction and faith. And here, there is a tradition of passion for addressing the staggering needs of the day. And Notre Dame's Alumni Association is the prototype for other universities in sponsoring service projects and working toward the restoration of faith and the family in America.

In fact, at this very moment, the Notre Dame alumni group out there in Los Angeles is in the midst of a massive food and distribution project to assist residents affected by the violence in South Central L.A. (Applause.) And when that food is distributed and the riot-torn areas are rebuilt, I hope that the alumni group and thousands of others who are helping will stay involved in this and other urban areas. Government alone cannot do what needs to be done by itself. People who care must help. (Applause.)

And since becoming President I have had an opportunity to see a groundswell of Americans who are working -- and working hard -- to restore our nation's faith and heal the wounds that have undermined our nation's families.

These Americans are devoted to rebuilding, restoring America -- from the ground up, family by family, home by home, community by community. And I was impressed to learn that more than two-thirds of Notre Dame's students participate in community service -- two-thirds -- (applause) -- ranging from working with the handicapped children at Logan Center to assisting former prisoners at Dismas House. And fully 10 percent of your graduates plan to go into social service careers. And to paraphrase Pope John Paul II: "The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and the most defenseless ones. (Applause.)"

Let me challenge all of you to find a place to serve in some capacity -- definitely as models, but also as mentors -- remember each of us has a contribution that only we can make. And let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership that children tend to shape their dreams in the images that they have seen. Show how a good education prepares one for a full, productive life. Show what it means to be a person of strong principle and

integrity. Demonstrate how concerned individuals, by working in partnership, can transform our communities and nation.

And lastly, in a society that can sometimes be cold and impersonal, bring warmth and welcome. In a fragmented society, be a force for healing. In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, cultivate grace and truth. And in the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise. Together, we can lift our nation's spirit. And together we can give our material, political and economic accomplishments a larger, more noble purpose -- to build God's kingdom here on Earth.

There is no surer way to build our nation's future than with the mortar and the bricks of moral values and strong families. If you will add your blood to the bricks, the future will echo, then as now, "Never bet against Notre Dame or against the United States of America."

Thank you all, and good luck to this class of 1992, and to the entire Notre Dame family. (Applause.) And may God bless our great country. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

3:24 P.M. CDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*
FROM: JANICE SHAW CROUSE *Janice Shaw Crouse*
SUBJECT: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT

I. SUMMARY

On Sunday, May 17, in South Bend, Indiana, you will give the commencement address at Notre Dame University. There will be an indoor audience of 14,000, including 2,300 graduates.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (20 minutes, on teleprompter) identify the family as the "bricks and mortar" of American society, and the importance of strengthening families as a solution to social problems.

Crouse/Simon
Thursday, May 14, 1992
5:55pm
[notre-dm]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

It is wonderful to be here at Notre Dame. Whenever I visit the campus or meet a group of Notre Dame alumni, I feel your sense of family -- at Notre Dame that truly means more than just words; it is at the very core of what this institution is all about. [And, with this honorary degree, I am proud to become a Domer -- thank you for the honor and privilege.]

Let me give just one example of what this Notre Dame family is like. Last week I heard about Marita Klosterman, who works in the L.A. regional office. She saw a newspaper ad, responded to it, and ended up helping to distribute 250,000 bags of groceries in the riot-torn areas of Los Angeles. Her daughter, Elisa is beginning her summer vacation by helping with the food distribution. That kind of effort makes us all proud to be a part of this university family.

It is a pleasure to be among such distinguished educators and public servants -- Father Edward Malloy, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Father Ted Hesburgh. I also want to recognize the outstanding Notre Dame faculty.

((I'm told the University tried to get a successful author to give the Sesquicentennial commencement address -- but my dog, Millie, couldn't make it.))

Now, let me extend my congratulations to the Class of 1992 and your valedictorian, Sarah McGrath. And, I want to pay a special tribute to the parents, family members and friends who made this day possible. This ceremony is becoming a tradition for the 25% of the graduating seniors who have a parent who attended Notre Dame.

And, there is a special family I want you to meet. Where are Joe, Rita and Anne Murphy of Casper, Wyoming? Joe is a doctor who graduated from Notre Dame in 1945. His daughter, Anne, is graduating today and will join six brothers and sisters who are all Notre Dame graduates.

For you graduates, these have been four long, tough years. ((And now comes the hardest part -- sitting through the commencement speech.))

Let me say at the beginning -- I'm not here in the mode of politics, I am here to tell you of the values that I strongly believe in. Those values can be summarized by the three major legacies that I want to leave behind for my grandchildren and yours -- jobs, both for today's workers who are actively seeking work and for graduates entering the workforce; families, to sustain us as individuals, to nurture and encourage our children, and to preserve our nation's character and culture; and peace, around the world, on our streets, and in our schools.

In my three major commencement addresses this year, my focus is on those three top legacies. Yesterday, I gave the commencement address at Southern Methodist University where I

focused on the economy and our ability to generate jobs. Today, we will focus on the necessity to strengthen America's families and next week at the Naval Academy, I will focus on the great question of war and peace.

During your college years, world-shaking events have altered history so fast that Czechoslovakia's President, Vaclav Havel, has said, "We have literally no time even to be astonished." Today, on this wonderful occasion, let's take a moment to be astonished.

Every American wanted to believe with President Reagan that communism would become a "bizarre chapter in human history." Then came the Revolution of '89: we saw the swiftness of history's verdict -- the communist idea is now the dinosaur of the 20th century. We have seen its most hated symbol, the Berlin Wall, toppled by the weight of mankind's need to be free.

Indeed, freedom has swept round the world -- from the snows of Siberia to the sands of the Gulf. Because we and our allies stood strong and principled, we won a future -- not just for ourselves and our country, but for our children and our grandchildren.

We are changing America as well -- in ways no less dramatic or important. We are taking a fresh look at government and how we solve national problems. Outmoded ideas of social engineering are becoming passé. Old thinking will not generate economic growth; we must look beyond our borders for trade opportunities.

In all these areas, Lincoln's words have the ring of truth, "We must think anew and act anew."

As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, I see a dawning of a new era in the midst of great change. To paraphrase the Old Testament book of Esther -- perhaps the Class of 1992 has come to maturity for just such a time as this. I believe so -- and, I am convinced that your Notre Dame education has uniquely prepared you for leadership during the upcoming decades of national change and reform.

Preparing young men and women for lives of leadership, service, and meaning: each is part of the Notre Dame tradition -- a tradition that has generated a host of inspiring stories. I am particularly moved each time I hear about Frank O'Malley saving the bricks of your Administration Building.

You know the story -- the bricks were deteriorating and some thought the time had come to replace them. Instead, Professor O'Malley reminded all who would listen, "These bricks contain the blood of everyone who helped to build Notre Dame."

Today, that 150 year heritage is fully yours, too. But your preparation began long before you walked in the shadow of the Dome. Your parents instilled in you character and a moral bearing. They sacrificed so that you could experience the Notre Dame education -- an education rooted in timeless faith and in a tradition of excellence.

How appropriate that a theme of your Sesquicentennial is "inquiry." Your professors challenged your intellect -- through

their efforts and your hard work, you will leave Notre Dame educated and prepared. You have pursued knowledge and skills, and -- from seminar courses to quiet moments of prayer, from in-depth discussions with caring professors to late-night talks with roommates -- you have searched for truth.

You have spend considerable time reflecting on how best to use the knowledge and insight which you have developed here at Notre Dame. I hope that you have made a commitment to help resolve some of the major problems facing American society.

At the heart of those problems, I believe, stands an institution under siege. That institution is the American family. Whatever form our most pressing problems may take -- ultimately, all are related to the disintegration of the American family.

Let's look at a few facts. In comparison with other countries, the Census Bureau found that the United States has the highest divorce rate, the highest number of children involved in divorce, the highest teenage pregnancy rates, the highest abortion rates, the highest percentage of children living in a single-parent household, and the highest percentage of violent deaths among youth. These are not the kind of records we want to have.

Senator Moynihan, back in 1965, you gave us fair warning. You predicted with astonishing accuracy the terrible trends that would result from the breakdown of the family -- and today you continue to sound the alarm. The Senator and I agree, if America

is to solve our social problems, we must, first of all, restore our families.

If we are to address the problems associated with family breakdown, nothing is more important than the preparation of young minds equipped with a sound moral compass. Although Notre Dame has expanded from a few small buildings to a large and vibrant campus, it has never lost sight of its roots nor of its profound spiritual mission.

Indeed, this institution takes seriously its role in building the character of our young people -- for that is the leading indicator of our future as a culture. And, this institution takes seriously its role in strengthening the family -- for that is where society's most cherished values and traditions are passed from one generation to the next.

When we instill faith in our youth -- faith in God, faith in themselves, and faith in the power of truth and goodness -- we give them a solid foundation on which to build their future. That foundation strengthens our families and thus new American communities are re-built and our whole nation benefits.

The cynics say that social conditions in America are too bad to turn around. Don't you believe it. They say that faith and ideals are puny and inconsequential when put up against our problems. Don't you believe it. Often, the bold, swaggering forces of evil seem more powerful than the modest forces of good.

But, in the long run, the moral values driving millions of individuals to acts of compassion and goodness will overwhelm

evil. Today, our hope springs from a new American community -- from those who would build and re-build and ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

For as Pope John the 23rd said, "The family is the first essential cell of human society." The family is the primary -- and most critical -- institution in America's communities.

Washington entrepreneur, Earl Graves, said it this way, "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion."

We should take heed of the way the American family is assailed on many sides.

- Half of all marriages now end in divorce -- which is more than double what it was in 1960. We have forgotten just how important stability and the presence of two parents are to children. The toll of divorce and desertion has affected a generation of children.
- In some of our inner-cities, a majority of the babies are born to unwed mothers. And, nationwide, one in ten births in 1989 were to unwed mothers. Statistics show that too many of these infants, and their mothers, will face a life of poverty. In 1989, the city with the highest number of unwed births of all races was a city nearby -- Gary, Indiana -- with a 67% total.
- Irresponsible sex has produced an epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS. Anti-biotic resistant gonorrhoea has skyrocketed in the past 5 years and syphilis has doubled since 1980.

It would be tragic enough if these social trends just entailed personal unhappiness for the adults involved. But there are broader concerns. Most Americans are appalled that it is our nation's children who are suffering the brunt of the cruel effects from family breakdown. Child abuse and neglect reports have increased dramatically and teen suicide tripled between 1976

and 1986. Family breakdown is tearing apart our nation's social fabric at its stress-points. Unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the family in America, our nation will remain at risk.

In January, I met with America's mayors -- urban mayors, rural mayors and mayors of some of America's largest cities -- including Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles. They told me of their concerns for their cities, their municipalities. But they came together on one key point: They told me that their major concern about the problems in the cities was the decline in the American family, the fact that the family is weaker today.

And, while we may not always agree on the causes of that breakdown or the remedies; we know that putting America's families back on track is essential to putting our country back on track. We can begin by supporting Pope John Paul the 2nd's most recent encyclical calling for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children. Leadership in that task can and should be led by the nation's churches -- kids need to learn faith to help them understand the larger family. We are one nation under God. We must remember that. We must advocate that.

I know of no better group to spread that word than Catholics. Your history has been enriched and strengthened by successive waves of immigration -- Irish, German, Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, Croation, Ukrainian, Hispanic. Yet through

it all, the church has become stronger by being watered through so many different roots.

America, too, is a land where many cultures thrive under one set of national ideals. I like what Theodore Roosevelt said, "There are no hyphenated Americans."

Starting today, as you go from this fine institution to face the challenges of your adult life, the decisions you make will have one of two effects: either you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help rebuild the American family.

To paraphrase Pope John Paul the 2nd: The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones. You see, I am absolutely convinced that today's crisis will have to be addressed by millions of Americans at the personal, individual level for governmental programs to be effective. The federal government must do everything it can do, but government alone is not enough.

Government can -- and we must -- provide parental choice of the best schools for their children, whether public, private or religious. But, parents must read to their children and instill a love for learning. Government can -- and we must -- fight crime, but parents must teach discipline and instill values in their children. Government can -- and we must -- foster American competitiveness, but parents must teach their children the dignity of work and instill a work ethic in their children. To paraphrase that great philosopher, Barbara Bush, "What you teach

at your house is more important than what happens at the White House."

At the same time, we realize that just knowing what's right is not enough. We must then do what's right. I'm talking about the personal decisions you make about your marriage, about how you will raise your children, about loyalty, faithfulness, honesty and integrity. Ultimately, your actions and behavior about right and wrong, about morality, about personal responsibility and about sacrifice form the foundation for all the other decisions you will make.

We must not forget: it is in families that children learn the keys to economic success, self-discipline, and responsibility. It is in families that children learn that moral restraint gives us true freedom. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and self-confidence.

And, we also cannot forget the profound words Father Hesburgh said years ago: "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Think how this vitally important commitment from fathers to mothers would radically transform for the better both the lives of thousands of our nation's hurting children and their struggling mothers as well.

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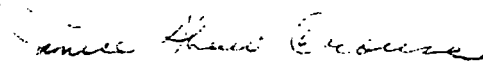
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

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FROM: JANICE SHAW CROUSE 
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at your house is more important than what happens at the White House."

At the same time, we realize that just knowing what's right is not enough. We must then do what's right. I'm talking about the personal decisions you make about your marriage, about how you will raise your children, about loyalty, faithfulness, honesty and integrity. Ultimately, your actions and behavior about right and wrong, about morality, about personal responsibility and about sacrifice form the foundation for all the other decisions you will make.

We must not forget: it is in families that children learn the keys to economic success, self-discipline, and responsibility. It is in families that children learn that moral restraint gives us true freedom. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and self-confidence.

And, we also cannot forget the profound words Father Hesburgh said years ago: "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Think how this vitally important commitment from fathers to mothers would radically transform for the better both the lives of thousands of our nation's hurting children and their struggling mothers as well.

In many respects I feel like I am preaching to the choir today. Here at Notre Dame, you have benefitted from the legions of great men and women of conviction and faith. Here, there is a tradition of passion for addressing the staggering needs of the

day. And, Notre Dame's alumni association is the prototype for other universities in sponsoring service projects and working toward the restoration of faith and the family in America.

In fact, at this very moment, the Notre Dame Alumni Club of Los Angeles is in the midst of a massive food and distribution project to assist residents affected by the violence in South Central L.A. Since becoming President, I have had opportunity to see a groundswell of Americans who are working -- and working hard -- to restore our nation's faith and heal the wounds that have undermined our nation's families.

These Americans are devoted to rebuilding and restoring America -- from the ground up, family by family, home by home, community by community. I was impressed to learn that more than two-thirds of Notre Dame's students participate in community service -- ranging from working with handicapped children at Logan Center to assisting former prisoners at Dismas House. And, fully 10% of your graduates plan to go into social service careers.

I want to challenge all of you to serve in some capacity -- definitely as models, but also as mentors -- remember each of us has a contribution that only we can make. Let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership, that children tend to shape their dreams in the images that they have seen. Show how a good education prepares one for a full, productive life. Show what it means to be a person of strong principle and

integrity. Demonstrate how concerned individuals, by working in partnership, can transform our communities and nation.

In a society that can sometimes be cold and impersonal, bring warmth and welcome. In a fragmented society, be a force for healing. In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, cultivate grace and truth. In the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise. Together, we can lift our nation's spirit. Together, we can give our material, political and economic accomplishments a larger, more noble purpose -- to build God's kingdom here on earth.

There is no surer way to build our nation's future than with the strong cement of moral values and the bricks of strong families. If you will add your blood to the bricks, the future will echo, then as now, "Never bet against Notre Dame or against the United States of America." May God bless you. May God bless the Notre Dame family. And, may God bless the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/15/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: - - -

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
			<u>MCGROARTY</u>		<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

12 MAY 11 08:14

May 14, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*
FROM: JANICE SHAW CROUSE *Janice Shaw Crouse*
SUBJECT: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT

I. SUMMARY

On Sunday, May 17, in South Bend, Indiana, you will give the commencement address at Notre Dame University. There will be an indoor audience of 14,000, including 2,300 graduates.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (20 minutes, on teleprompter) identify the family as the "bricks and mortar" of American society, and the importance of strengthening families as a solution to social problems.

Crouse/Simon
Thursday, May 14, 1992
5:55pm
[notre-dm]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
 SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
 SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

It is wonderful to be here at Notre Dame. Whenever I visit the campus or meet a group of Notre Dame alumni, I feel your sense of family -- at Notre Dame that truly means more than just words; it is at the very core of what this institution is all about. [And, with this honorary degree, I am proud to become a Domer -- thank you for the honor and privilege.]

Let me give just one example of what this Notre Dame family is like. Last week I heard about Marita Klosterman, who works in the L.A. regional office. She saw a newspaper ad, responded to it, and ended up helping to distribute 250,000 bags of groceries in the riot-torn areas of Los Angeles. Her daughter, Elisa is beginning her summer vacation by helping with the food distribution. That kind of effort makes us all proud to be a part of this university family.

It is a pleasure to be among such distinguished educators and public servants -- Father Edward Malloy, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Father Ted Hesburgh. I also want to recognize the outstanding Notre Dame faculty.

((I'm told the University tried to get a successful author to give the Sesquicentennial commencement address -- but my dog, Millie, couldn't make it.))

Now, let me extend my congratulations to the Class of 1992 and your valedictorian, Sarah McGrath. And, I want to pay a special tribute to the parents, family members and friends who made this day possible. This ceremony is becoming a tradition for the 25% of the graduating seniors who have a parent who attended Notre Dame.

And, there is a special family I want you to meet. Where are Joe, Rita and Anne Murphy of Casper, Wyoming? Joe is a doctor who graduated from Notre Dame in 1945. His daughter, Anne, is graduating today and will join six brothers and sisters who are all Notre Dame graduates.

For you graduates, these have been four long, tough years. ((And now comes the hardest part -- sitting through the commencement speech.))

Let me say at the beginning -- I'm not here in the mode of politics, I am here to tell you of the values that I strongly believe in. Those values can be summarized by the three major legacies that I want to leave behind for my grandchildren and yours -- jobs, both for today's workers who are actively seeking work and for graduates entering the workforce; families, to sustain us as individuals, to nurture and encourage our children, and to preserve our nation's character and culture; and peace, around the world, on our streets, and in our schools.

In my three major commencement addresses this year, my focus is on those three top legacies. Yesterday, I gave the commencement address at Southern Methodist University where I

focused on the economy and our ability to generate jobs. Today, we will focus on the necessity to strengthen America's families and next week at the Naval Academy, I will focus on the great question of war and peace.

During your college years, world-shaking events have altered history so fast that Czechoslovakia's President, Vaclav Havel, has said, "We have literally no time even to be astonished." Today, on this wonderful occasion, let's take a moment to be astonished.

Every American wanted to believe with President Reagan that communism would become a "bizarre chapter in human history." Then came the Revolution of '89: we saw the swiftness of history's verdict -- the communist idea is now the dinosaur of the 20th century. We have seen its most hated symbol, the Berlin Wall, toppled by the weight of mankind's need to be free.

Indeed, freedom has swept round the world -- from the snows of Siberia to the sands of the Gulf. Because we and our allies stood strong and principled, we won a future -- not just for ourselves and our country, but for our children and our grandchildren.

We are changing America as well -- in ways no less dramatic or important. We are taking a fresh look at government and how we solve national problems. Outmoded ideas of social engineering are becoming passé. Old thinking will not generate economic growth; we must look beyond our borders for trade opportunities.

In all these areas, Lincoln's words have the ring of truth, "We must think anew and act anew."

As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, I see a dawning of a new era in the midst of great change. To paraphrase the Old Testament book of Esther -- perhaps the Class of 1992 has come to maturity for just such a time as this. I believe so -- and, I am convinced that your Notre Dame education has uniquely prepared you for leadership during the upcoming decades of national change and reform.

Preparing young men and women for lives of leadership, service, and meaning: each is part of the Notre Dame tradition -- a tradition that has generated a host of inspiring stories. I am particularly moved each time I hear about Frank O'Malley saving the bricks of your Administration Building.

You know the story -- the bricks were deteriorating and some thought the time had come to replace them. Instead, Professor O'Malley reminded all who would listen, "These bricks contain the blood of everyone who helped to build Notre Dame."

Today, that 150 year heritage is fully yours, too. But your preparation began long before you walked in the shadow of the Dome. Your parents instilled in you character and a moral bearing. They sacrificed so that you could experience the Notre Dame education -- an education rooted in timeless faith and in a tradition of excellence.

How appropriate that a theme of your Sesquicentennial is "inquiry." Your professors challenged your intellect -- through

their efforts and your hard work, you will leave Notre Dame educated and prepared. You have pursued knowledge and skills, and -- from seminar courses to quiet moments of prayer, from in-depth discussions with caring professors to late-night talks with roommates -- you have searched for truth.

You have spend considerable time reflecting on how best to use the knowledge and insight which you have developed here at Notre Dame. I hope that you have made a commitment to help resolve some of the major problems facing American society.

At the heart of those problems, I believe, stands an institution under siege. That institution is the American family. Whatever form our most pressing problems may take -- ultimately, all are related to the disintegration of the American family.

Let's look at a few facts. In comparison with other countries, the Census Bureau found that the United States has the highest divorce rate, the highest number of children involved in divorce, the highest teenage pregnancy rates, the highest abortion rates, the highest percentage of children living in a single-parent household, and the highest percentage of violent deaths among youth. These are not the kind of records we want to have.

Senator Moynihan, back in 1965, you gave us fair warning. You predicted with astonishing accuracy the terrible trends that would result from the breakdown of the family -- and today you continue to sound the alarm. The Senator and I agree, if America

is to solve our social problems, we must, first of all, restore our families.

If we are to address the problems associated with family breakdown, nothing is more important than the preparation of young minds equipped with a sound moral compass. Although Notre Dame has expanded from a few small buildings to a large and vibrant campus, it has never lost sight of its roots nor of its profound spiritual mission.

Indeed, this institution takes seriously its role in building the character of our young people -- for that is the leading indicator of our future as a culture. And, this institution takes seriously its role in strengthening the family -- for that is where society's most cherished values and traditions are passed from one generation to the next.

When we instill faith in our youth -- faith in God, faith in themselves, and faith in the power of truth and goodness -- we give them a solid foundation on which to build their future. That foundation strengthens our families and thus new American communities are re-built and our whole nation benefits.

The cynics say that social conditions in America are too bad to turn around. Don't you believe it. They say that faith and ideals are puny and inconsequential when put up against our problems. Don't you believe it. Often, the bold, swaggering forces of evil seem more powerful than the modest forces of good.

But, in the long run, the moral values driving millions of individuals to acts of compassion and goodness will overwhelm

evil. Today, our hope springs from a new American community -- from those who would build and re-build and ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

For as Pope John the 23rd said, "The family is the first essential cell of human society." The family is the primary -- and most critical -- institution in America's communities. Washington entrepreneur, Earl Graves, said it this way, "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion."

We should take heed of the way the American family is assailed on many sides.

- Half of all marriages now end in divorce -- which is more than double what it was in 1960. We have forgotten just how important stability and the presence of two parents are to children. The toll of divorce and desertion has affected a generation of children.
- In some of our inner-cities, a majority of the babies are born to unwed mothers. And, nationwide, one in ten births in 1989 were to unwed mothers. Statistics show that too many of these infants, and their mothers, will face a life of poverty. In 1989, the city with the highest number of unwed births of all races was a city nearby -- Gary, Indiana -- with a 67% total.
- Irresponsible sex has produced an epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS. Anti-biotic resistant gonorrhea has skyrocketed in the past 5 years and syphilis has doubled since 1980.

It would be tragic enough if these social trends just entailed personal unhappiness for the adults involved. But there are broader concerns. Most Americans are appalled that it is our nation's children who are suffering the brunt of the cruel effects from family breakdown. Child abuse and neglect reports have increased dramatically and teen suicide tripled between 1976

and 1986. Family breakdown is tearing apart our nation's social fabric at its stress-points. Unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the family in America, our nation will remain at risk.

In January, I met with America's mayors -- urban mayors, rural mayors and mayors of some of America's largest cities -- including Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles. They told me of their concerns for their cities, their municipalities. But they came together on one key point: They told me that their major concern about the problems in the cities was the decline in the American family, the fact that the family is weaker today.

And, while we may not always agree on the causes of that breakdown or the remedies; we know that putting America's families back on track is essential to putting our country back on track. We can begin by supporting Pope John Paul the 2nd's most recent encyclical calling for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children. Leadership in that task can and should be led by the nation's churches -- kids need to learn faith to help them understand the larger family. We are one nation under God. We must remember that. We must advocate that.

I know of no better group to spread that word than Catholics. Your history has been enriched and strengthened by successive waves of immigration -- Irish, German, Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, Croation, Ukrainian, Hispanic. Yet through

it all, the church has become stronger by being watered through so many different roots.

America, too, is a land where many cultures thrive under one set of national ideals. I like what Theodore Roosevelt said, "There are no hyphenated Americans."

Starting today, as you go from this fine institution to face the challenges of your adult life, the decisions you make will have one of two effects: either you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help rebuild the American family.

To paraphrase Pope John Paul the 2nd: The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones. You see, I am absolutely convinced that today's crisis will have to be addressed by millions of Americans at the personal, individual level for governmental programs to be effective. The federal government must do everything it can do, but government alone is not enough.

Government can -- and we must -- provide parental choice of the best schools for their children, whether public, private or religious. But, parents must read to their children and instill a love for learning. Government can -- and we must -- fight crime, but parents must teach discipline and instill values in their children. Government can -- and we must -- foster American competitiveness, but parents must teach their children the dignity of work and instill a work ethic in their children. To paraphrase that great philosopher, Barbara Bush, "What you teach

at your house is more important than what happens at the White House."

At the same time, we realize that just knowing what's right is not enough. We must then do what's right. I'm talking about the personal decisions you make about your marriage, about how you will raise your children, about loyalty, faithfulness, honesty and integrity. Ultimately, your actions and behavior about right and wrong, about morality, about personal responsibility and about sacrifice form the foundation for all the other decisions you will make.

We must not forget: it is in families that children learn the keys to economic success, self-discipline, and responsibility. It is in families that children learn that moral restraint gives us true freedom. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and self-confidence.

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day. And, Notre Dame's alumni association is the prototype for other universities in sponsoring service projects and working toward the restoration of faith and the family in America.

In fact, at this very moment, the Notre Dame Alumni Club of Los Angeles is in the midst of a massive food and distribution project to assist residents affected by the violence in South Central L.A. Since becoming President, I have had opportunity to see a groundswell of Americans who are working -- and working hard -- to restore our nation's faith and heal the wounds that have undermined our nation's families.

These Americans are devoted to rebuilding and restoring America -- from the ground up, family by family, home by home, community by community. I was impressed to learn that more than two-thirds of Notre Dame's students participate in community service -- ranging from working with handicapped children at Logan Center to assisting former prisoners at Dismas House. And, fully 10% of your graduates plan to go into social service careers.

I want to challenge all of you to serve in some capacity -- definitely as models, but also as mentors -- remember each of us has a contribution that only we can make. Let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership, that children tend to shape their dreams in the images that they have seen. Show how a good education prepares one for a full, productive life. Show what it means to be a person of strong principle and

integrity. Demonstrate how concerned individuals, by working in partnership, can transform our communities and nation.

In a society that can sometimes be cold and impersonal, bring warmth and welcome. In a fragmented society, be a force for healing. In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, cultivate grace and truth. In the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise. Together, we can lift our nation's spirit. Together, we can give our material, political and economic accomplishments a larger, more noble purpose -- to build God's kingdom here on earth.

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In short, this speech demonstrated that the "family legacy" has tremendous potential for the President's reelection.

- ◆ The President can speak with moral authority in calling for action in restoring American families.
- ◆ This issue ties in so directly and is so integral to the inner city that it is an obvious direction for the President to go in addressing inner city problems.
- ◆ The President is the only candidate in a position to effectively seize the initiative on this particular issue during the next 6 months.
- ◆ Obviously, middle America is very concerned about family breakdown and wants to see something done about reversing the terrible trends.

Crouse/Simon
Thursday, May 14, 1992
5:52pm
[notre-dm]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

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their efforts and your hard work, you will leave Notre Dame educated and prepared. You have pursued knowledge and skills, and -- from seminar courses to quiet moments of prayer, from in-depth discussions with caring professors to late-night talks with roommates -- you have searched for truth.

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At the heart of those problems, I believe, stands an institution under siege. That institution is the American family. Whatever form our most pressing problems may take -- ultimately, all are related to the disintegration of the American family.

Let's look at a few facts. In comparison with other countries, the Census Bureau found that the United States has the highest divorce rate, the highest number of children involved in divorce, the highest teenage pregnancy rates, the highest abortion rates, the highest percentage of children living in a single-parent household, and the highest percentage of violent deaths among youth. These are not the kind of records we want to have.

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- In some of our inner-cities, a majority of the babies are born to unwed mothers. And, nationwide, one in ten births in 1989 were to unwed mothers. Statistics show that too many of these infants, and their mothers, will face a life of poverty. In 1989, the city with the highest number of unwed births of all races was a city nearby -- Gary, Indiana -- with a 67% total.
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and 1986. Family breakdown is tearing apart our nation's social fabric at its stress-points. Unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the family in America, our nation will remain at risk.

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America, too, is a land where many cultures thrive under one set of national ideals. I like what Theodore Roosevelt said, "There are no hyphenated Americans."

Starting today, as you go from this fine institution to face the challenges of your adult life, the decisions you make will have one of two effects: either you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help rebuild the American family.

To paraphrase Pope John Paul the 2nd: The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones. You see, I am absolutely convinced that today's crisis will have to be addressed by millions of Americans at the personal, individual level for governmental programs to be effective. The federal government must do everything it can do, but government alone is not enough.

Government can -- and we must -- provide parental choice of the best schools for their children, whether public, private or religious. But, parents must read to their children and instill a love for learning. Government can -- and we must -- fight crime, but parents must teach discipline and instill values in their children. Government can -- and we must -- foster American competitiveness, but parents must teach their children the dignity of work and instill a work ethic in their children. To paraphrase that great philosopher, Barbara Bush, "What you teach

at your house is more important than what happens at the White House."

At the same time, we realize that just knowing what's right is not enough. We must then do what's right. I'm talking about the personal decisions you make about your marriage, about how you will raise your children, about loyalty, faithfulness, honesty and integrity. Ultimately, your actions and behavior about right and wrong, about morality, about personal responsibility and about sacrifice form the foundation for all the other decisions you will make.

We must not forget: it is in families that children learn the keys to economic success, self-discipline, and responsibility. It is in families that children learn that moral restraint gives us true freedom. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and self-confidence.

And, we also cannot forget the profound words Father Hesburgh said years ago: "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Think how this vitally important commitment from fathers to mothers would radically transform for the better both the lives of thousands of our nation's hurting children and their struggling mothers as well.

In many respects I feel like I am preaching to the choir today. Here at Notre Dame, you have benefitted from the legions of great men and women of conviction and faith. Here, there is a tradition of passion for addressing the staggering needs of the

day. And, Notre Dame's alumni association is the prototype for other universities in sponsoring service projects and working toward the restoration of faith and the family in America.

In fact, at this very moment, the Notre Dame Alumni Club of Los Angeles is in the midst of a massive food and distribution project to assist residents affected by the violence in South Central L.A. Since becoming President, I have had opportunity to see a groundswell of Americans who are working -- and working hard -- to restore our nation's faith and heal the wounds that have undermined our nation's families.

These Americans are devoted to rebuilding and restoring America -- from the ground up, family by family, home by home, community by community. I was impressed to learn that more than two-thirds of Notre Dame's students participate in community service -- ranging from working with handicapped children at Logan Center to assisting former prisoners at Dismas House. And, fully 10% of your graduates plan to go into social service careers.

I want to challenge all of you to serve in some capacity -- definitely as models, but also as mentors -- remember each of us has a contribution that only we can make. Let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership, that children tend to shape their dreams in the images that they have seen. Show how a good education prepares one for a full, productive life. Show what it means to be a person of strong principle and

integrity. Demonstrate how concerned individuals, by working in partnership, can transform our communities and nation.

In a society that can sometimes be cold and impersonal, bring warmth and welcome. In a fragmented society, be a force for healing. In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, cultivate grace and truth. In the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise. Together, we can lift our nation's spirit. Together, we can give our material, political and economic accomplishments a larger, more noble purpose -- to build God's kingdom here on earth.

There is no surer way to build our nation's future than with the strong cement of moral values and the bricks of strong families. If you will add your blood to the bricks, the future will echo, then as now, "Never bet against Notre Dame or against the United States of America." May God bless you. May God bless the Notre Dame family. And, may God bless the United States of America.

####

Crouse/Simon
Tuesday, May 12, 1992
4:17pm
[notre-dm]

32 MAY 12 1992 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is wonderful to be here at Notre Dame. Every time I visit campus and each time I meet a Notre Dame alumnus, I feel your sense of family -- the Notre Dame family is truly more than words; it is at the very core of what this institution is all about. And, with this honorary degree, I am proud to become a part of the family -- thank you for the honor and privilege.

This ceremony marks a significant milestone for today's graduates and their families. I'm told the university tried to get a successful author to give the Sesquicentennial commencement address -- unfortunately my dog, Millie, couldn't make it.

It is a pleasure to be among such distinguished educators and public servants -- Father Edward A. Malloy, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, and Senator Patrick Moynihan. I also want to recognize the outstanding Notre Dame faculty -- including your 1992 Teacher of the Year, Father Michael Himes.

Now, let me extend my congratulations to the Class of 1992. I want to express appreciation to Sarah McGrath, valedictorian, and your other class leaders for their very timely and challenging remarks. And, a special tribute for those who made this day possible -- your parents and family members.

It has been four // long, // tough years for both students and their parents. /// And now comes the hardest part -- /// sitting through the commencement speech.

INTRODUCTION

During your college years, world-shaking events have altered history so fast that Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel, has said, // "we don't have time to be astonished." Today, on this wonderful occasion, // let's take a moment to be astonished. On the international front -- communism has collapsed under its own weight // and its flagship symbol, the Berlin Wall, is a relic. Freedom has swept the world -- from the Russian steppes // to the sands of the Gulf // to nations of Central and South America. Because we, the people of the United States, -- and our allies around the world -- cared, /// we won peace and we won a future -- not just for ourselves and our country, but for our children and our grandchildren. Here at home, changes are taking place that are no less wondrous and no less transforming. We are taking a fresh look at government. Outmoded ideas of social engineering through government are becoming passe. Our goal is to reform government so that it serves individuals, not the other way around.

As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, I see a new dawning, /// a time of great change. To paraphrase the Old Testament book of Esther -- perhaps the Class of 1992 has come to maturity /// for just such a time as this. I believe so -- and, I am convinced that your Notre Dame education has uniquely prepared you for leadership during the upcoming decades of national change and reform.

Notre Dame's history is full of inspiring stories. I am particularly moved each time I hear about Professor Frank O'Malley saving the bricks of your Administration Building. When they were deteriorating, some people wanted to replace them. Instead, Father O'Malley reminded all who would listen, //// "These bricks contain the blood of everyone who helped to build Notre Dame." /// Today, this Sesquicentennial graduating class has the blood of 150 years of Notre Dame's heritage // in you. Your parents tried to instill in you // character and values. They sacrificed so that you could have the singular experience of a Notre Dame education -- an education rooted in timeless moral values and in a tradition of excellence that countless Americans see symbolized in that magnificent Golden Dome.

When I look out at you, I know that America's future remains in good hands. You have the preparation. You have the principles. And, you are committed to building partnerships for service to God, your country and your fellow Americans.

BEING PREPARED -- LIFE-LONG INQUIRY

Let's look at your preparation for the task. How appropriate that one of the three themes of your Sesquicentennial is "inquiry." Your professors challenged your intellect and stretched your mind -- through their efforts // and your hard work, you have received the highest quality education. But, it is one of the ironies of life // that we cannot stay on the mountaintop of proud accomplishment for long. Celebration and

elation are usually followed by introspection. After graduation, you will probably spend some time determining how best to use the knowledge and insight which you have developed here at Notre Dame to help resolve some of the thorny problems facing American society. At the heart of those problems, I believe, stands an institution under siege. That institution is the American family. Whatever the form our most pressing problems may take -- poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, child abuse -- all are related to the disintegration of the American family. If we are to solve our social problems, we must, first of all, restore our families. If we are to address the problems associated with family breakdown, we need the skills of inquiry that you developed here at Notre Dame -- we need your fresh insight and your creativity.

BEING PRINCIPLED -- SOUND BELIEFS

Let's look at the principles that form the basis of belief. There is nothing more important to the future of free institutions than the preparation of young minds equipped with a moral compass. The character of our young people is the leading indicator of our future as a culture. Notre Dame still fosters those values that sustain us as individuals and as a nation -- those values that ultimately enable individuals to triumph over hardship and nations to overcome adversity. Although Notre Dame has expanded from a few small buildings to a large and vibrant

campus that accommodates some 10,000 students, it has never lost sight of its roots or of its profound spiritual mission.

The cynics say that social conditions in America are too bad to turn around. Don't you believe it. They say that values and ideals are puny and inconsequential when put up against our problems. Don't you believe it.

Last fall, I stood and looked out over one of nature's great masterpieces, the Grand Canyon. That breathtaking creation is awesome testimony that seemingly inconsequential things can be very powerful. Though both solid granite and molten lava once blocked the path of the Colorado River, the mounting pressure and grinding force of millions of raindrops carrying millions of grains of sand ultimately cut through.

Just so, our problems in America -- even the ones that sometimes erupt like a volcano -- cannot defeat the determined efforts of millions of our people. In the long run, the moral values driving millions of individuals to acts of compassion and goodness will prevail. Often, the bold, swaggering forces of evil seem more powerful than the modest forces of right. But, in the end, acts of forgiveness, generosity, and caring -- manifested in a myriad of small, but significant acts -- become an ceaseless current of goodness that overcomes "impossible" barriers to create something majestic. Today, our hope is based on the fact that those who would build and re-build will ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

BEING PARTNERS --

BUILDING COMMUNITY BY STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

That brings us to the third theme of your Sesquicentennial, "community." Our institutions -- our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses -- need to lead the way in building community. With a breakdown of confidence in our institutions, comes an inevitable breakdown of confidence in ourselves. We must not let that happen; we need an unwavering, reliable compass by which to guide our actions and craft responsible behavior.

Pope John XXIII said, "The family is the first essential cell of human society." The family is the primary --and most critical -- institution in America's communities. Truly, it has been said that "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion." Yet, today, the American family is under siege.

Yes

Scully 5178 Note: But data is not very good.

- ~~About 1 in 2~~ ^{52%} ~~will~~ ^{of recent} One of [??] marriages ~~now~~ ends in divorce -- devastating a generation of children with burdens of doubt and false guilt. **from NCHS 1985 study (latest data) Scully-5178*
- In many of our inner-cities, up to 80% of the babies are born to unwed mothers; statistically, the majority of these infants face a life of poverty.
- Irresponsible sex has produced an epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS. At the same time escalating numbers of unwed teen births give ample evidence of the driving need to fill the emptiness of a life without permanent bonds of love and commitment.
- Parents today ^{say they} are spending 40% less time with their children than parents did in 1965. Most American children spend far more time with television than with family or activities.

cannot confirm (Scully 5178)

Yes

Note: This data source has been criticized as inaccurate. Time diary v. these survey results show no decrease in time spent with children. Scully 5178

Marriage and Divorce Statistics:

Citation: Weed, James, Ph.D. Duration of Marriage Table: A 1985 Update. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Demographic Association, October, 1988. (Jim is an employee of NCHS in the Division of Vital Statistics)

"52% of recent marriages will end in divorce"

Unwed Mother Statistics:

Citation: National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics

Inner city data is not available. Following is available data for cities with populations of 100,000 or more.

1988 data of births to unwed mothers for cities of 100,000 or more

<u>Location</u>	<u>All Races</u>	<u>Blacks</u>
U.S.	38%	
DC	62	68%
LA	42	73
		70

In 1989 the city with the highest number of births to unwed mothers for all races was Gary, Indiana - 67%

In 1989 the city with the highest number of births to unwed mothers for Blacks was Davenport, Iowa - 80%

It would be tragic enough if these social trends just entailed personal unhappiness for the adults involved. But there are two broader concerns. Our nation's children are suffering the brunt of the cruel effects from family breakdown and our nation's social fabric is tearing apart at the stress-points. Unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the family in America, our nation will remain at risk.

Most Americans are appalled at the social changes that have brought such devastation and pain to the people of our nation. Senator Moynihan has been at the forefront warning about the devastation of this problem. One of his studies, revealed in [??] that 40% of all American children will be on welfare at some point before they turn age 18. And, while we may not always agree on the causes; we both support change that will put our country back on track. Pope John Paul II, in his new encyclical, calls for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children.

Today, as you go from this fine institution to face the challenges of your adult life, the decisions you make will have one of two effects: you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help produce solutions. You see, I am absolutely convinced that today's crisis will have to be addressed by millions of Americans at the personal, individual level before governmental programs can be effective. Government can -- and we must -- provide choice in education, but parents must read to their children and instill a love for learning.

Scully
5/17/81
Can't
confirm
in time
available

Government can -- and we must -- fight crime, but parents must teach discipline and instill values in their children.

Government can -- and we must -- foster American competitiveness, but parents must teach their children the dignity of work and instill a work ethic in their children. As that great philosopher, Barbara Bush, once said, "What you teach at your house is more important than what happens at the White House."

Don't misunderstand, I fully intend that the federal government will do everything it can do, but government alone can't solve problems. Only you and others like you can do the really important things. It is not enough to just know what's right -- that's the easiest part. After we know what's right, we must then do what's right. I'm talking about the personal decisions you make about your marriage, about how you will raise your children, about loyalty, faithfulness, honesty and integrity. Ultimately, your actions and behavior about right and wrong, about morality, about personal responsibility and about sacrifice are far more important than many of the other decisions you will make.

We must not forget the power of these simple rules of life. The plain truth is that, it is in families that children learn the keys of economic success, self-discipline, responsibility and moral restraint. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and confidence. We cannot forget these basics. Years ago, Father Hesburgh said something very simple, yet very profound, "The most important thing a father can do for

his children is to love their mother." Think how this vitaly important commitment from fathers to mothers would radically transform for the better both the lives of thousands of our nation's hurting children and their struggling mothers as well.

CONCLUSION -- CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

In many respects I feel like I am preaching to the choir today. Notre Dame's graduates are already working toward the restoration of values and the family in America. But this historical moment demands that we hear the clarion call for leadership into the new century. You have benefitted from the great men and women of conviction, passion and faith here at Notre Dame, who saw the staggering needs of their day and set out to meet those needs. Since becoming President, I have travelled thousands of miles and talked to thousands of Americans who are working to make America's future even brighter than our glorious past.

Many of you are devoted to making a difference through public service -- two-thirds of you already work within your communities to serve others and fully 10% plan to go into social service careers. That is a wonderful record, but it does not let the rest of you off the hook. Let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership, that children tend to dream their dreams in the shapes that they have seen. I want to challenge you to serve as models and mentors of preparedness, principles and partnerships all across this great land so that

children who need role models will be able to shape their dreams after your image. In a mass society, be an antidote to depersonalization. In a fragmented society, integrate your life, your thought and your action. In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, inculcate positive values. In the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise.

There is no surer way to build America's future // than with the mortar of moral values /// and the bricks of strong families. ///// If you will add your blood to the bricks, ///// the future will echo //// -- then as now -- //// "Never bet against Notre Dame /// or agāinst the United States of America." May God bless you. // And, may God bless Notre Dame // and the United States of America.

####

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5/13

David,

Please find attached
some joint (Phil, John
& Teresa Donovan) comments
on the Notre Dame speech.

John also has a concept
paper which may be
of interest here or with
respect to some future
speech. T. Arch. J. D.

Phil Brady
Teresa Donovan
John Gardner

Crouse/Simon
Tuesday, May 12, 1992
4:17pm
[notre-dm]

02 MAY 12 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is wonderful to be here at Notre Dame. Every time I visit campus and each time I meet a ~~Notre Dame~~ ^{former Notre} alumnus, I feel your sense of family -- the Notre Dame family is truly more than words; it is at the very core of what this institution is all about. And, with this honorary degree, I am proud to become a part of ~~the family~~ ^{it} -- thank you for the honor and privilege. Not

This ceremony marks a significant milestone for today's graduates and their families. I'm told the ~~University~~ ^U tried to get a successful author to give the Sesquicentennial commencement address -- unfortunately my dog, Millie, couldn't make it. Yes

It is a pleasure to be among such distinguished educators and public servants -- Father Edward A. Malloy, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, and Senator Patrick Moynihan. I also want to recognize the outstanding Notre Dame faculty -- including your 1992 Teacher of the Year, Father Michael Himes.

Now, let me extend my congratulations to the Class of 1992. I want to express appreciation to Sarah McGrath, valedictorian, and your other class leaders for their very timely and challenging remarks. And, a special tribute for those who made this day possible -- your parents and family members.

It has been four // long, // tough years for both students and their parents. /// And now comes the hardest part -- /// sitting through the commencement speech.

INTRODUCTION

During your college years, world-shaking events have altered history so fast that Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel, has said, // "we don't have time to be astonished." Today, on this wonderful occasion, // let's take a moment to ^{Consider why we should} be astonished -- ^{and thankful.} On the international front -- communism has collapsed under its own weight // and its flagship symbol, the Berlin Wall, is a relic. Freedom has swept the world -- from the Russian steppes // to the sands of the Gulf // to nations of Central and South America. Because we, the people of the United States, -- and our allies around the world -- cared, /// we won peace and we won a future -- not just for ourselves and our country, but for our children and our grandchildren. Here at home, changes are taking place that are no less wondrous and no less transforming. We are taking a fresh look at government. Outmoded ideas of social engineering through statist policies government are becoming passe. Our goal is to reform government so that it serves individuals, not the other way around.

^{yes} As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, I see a ^{era?} new dawning, /// a time of great change. To paraphrase the Old Testament book of Esther -- perhaps the Class of 1992 has come to maturity /// for just such a time as this. I believe so -- and, I am convinced that your Notre Dame education has uniquely prepared you for leadership during the upcoming decades of national change and reform.

needs segue to next pg

↑ Preparing young men and women for lives of leadership, service, and meaning is part of the 2 Notre Dame tradition -- a tradition that has generated a host

Notre Dame's history is full of inspiring stories. I am particularly moved each time I hear about Professor Frank O'Malley saving the bricks of your Administration Building. When they were deteriorating, some people wanted to replace them. Instead, Father O'Malley reminded all who would listen, ///

"These bricks contain the blood of everyone who helped to build Notre Dame." /// Today, ^{the blood of} this Sesquicentennial graduating class ^{has the blood of 150 years of Notre Dame's heritage} // in you. ???

Your parents tried to instill in you // character and values. They sacrificed so that you could have the singular experience of a Notre Dame education -- an education rooted in timeless moral values and in a tradition of excellence that countless Americans see symbolized in that magnificent Golden Dome.

When I look out at you, I know that America's future remains in good hands. You have the preparation. You have the principles. And, you are committed to building partnerships for service to God, your country and your fellow Americans.

BEING PREPARED -- LIFE-LONG INQUIRY

Let's look at your ^{up} preparation ^{over the past few years.} ~~for the task.~~ How appropriate that one of the three themes of your Sesquicentennial is "inquiry." Your professors challenged your intellect and stretched your mind -- through their efforts // and your hard work, you have received the highest quality education. ^{ok}

^{yes} new knowledge and skills, and -- from seminar courses to quiet moments of prayer to lively, late night talks with roommates -- you have searched for Truth. ~~But, it is one of the ironies of life // that we cannot stay on the mountaintop of proud accomplishment for long. Celebration and~~

Yes

I am sure that, even before you made that agonizing choice of a major, you spent ~~relation are usually followed by introspection. After graduation, you will probably spend some time determining how best to use the knowledge and insight which you have developed here at Notre Dame.~~ And I am ~~equally sure that most of you have resolved, in one way or another, to help resolve some of the thorny problems facing American society.~~ At the heart of those problems, I believe, stands an institution under siege. That institution is the American family. Whatever the form our most pressing problems may take -- poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, child abuse -- all are related to the disintegration of the American family. If we are to solve our social problems, we must, first of all, restore our families. If we are to address the problems associated with family breakdown, we need ^{not only} the skills of inquiry that you ^{have} developed here at Notre Dame -- ~~we need your fresh insight and your creativity.~~ but also the sense of duty, character, and vision.

BEING PRINCIPLED -- SOUND BELIEFS

↑
is written, lost the family theme

~~Let's look at the principles that form the basis of belief.~~ There is nothing more important to the future of free institutions than the preparation of young minds equipped with a sound moral compass. ^{Indeed,} The character of our young people is the leading indicator of our future as a culture. ^{Notre Dame} still fosters those values that sustain us as individuals ^{families,} and as a nation -- those values that ^{guide us in time of decision} ~~ultimately enable individuals to triumph over and sustain and fortify us in times of hardship and nations to overcome adversity.~~ Although Notre Dame has expanded from a few small buildings to a large and vibrant

And because the family is the institution by which a society's most cherished values and traditions are passed from one generation to the next, its strength and stability are vital.

campus that accommodates some 10,000 students, it has never lost

sight of its roots or of its profound spiritual mission. Indeed, the

No
~~The cynics say that social conditions in America are too bad to turn around. Don't you believe it. They say that values and ideals are puny and inconsequential when put up against our problems. Don't you believe it.~~

For 150 years, Notre Dame has challenged and inspired its students to do exactly that, combining with its tradition of academic excellence an equally strong commitment to faith and service.
~~Last fall, I stood and looked out over one of nature's great masterpieces, the Grand Canyon. That breathtaking creation is~~

~~awesome testimony that seemingly inconsequential things can be~~

Today we must reaffirm the proven values of faith and family in

America. When we instill faith in our youth -- faith in God, faith in themselves, and faith in the power of goodness -- we point them toward a bright future. When we strengthen the family, we strengthen our communities and Nation →

Just so, our problems in America -- even the ones that sometimes erupt like a volcano -- cannot defeat the determined efforts of millions of our people. In the long run, the moral values driving millions of individuals to acts of compassion and goodness will prevail. Often, the bold, swaggering forces of evil seem more powerful than the modest forces of right. But, in the end, acts of forgiveness, generosity, and caring -- manifested in a myriad of small, but significant acts -- become an ceaseless current of goodness that overcomes "impossible" barriers to create something majestic. Today, our hope is based on the fact that those who would build and re-build will ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

BEING PARTNERS --BUILDING COMMUNITY BY STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

That brings us to the third theme of your Sesquicentennial, "community." Our institutions -- our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses -- need to lead the way in building community. With a breakdown of confidence in our institutions, comes an inevitable breakdown of confidence in ourselves. We must not let that happen; we need an unwavering, reliable compass by which to guide our actions and craft responsible behavior.

Pope John XXIII said, "The family is the first essential cell of human society." The family is the primary --and most critical -- institution in America's communities. Truly, it has been said that "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion." Yet, today, the American family is under siege.

- ~~One of [??] marriages now ends in divorce -- devastating a generation of children with burdens of doubt and false guilt.~~ *Hall of all*
- In many of our inner-cities, up to 80% of the babies are born to unwed mothers; ~~statistically,~~ the majority of these infants face a life of poverty. *Yes and statistics show that*
- Irresponsible sex has produced an epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS. ~~At the same time escalating numbers of unwed teen births give ample evidence of the driving need to fill the emptiness of a life without permanent bonds of love and commitment.~~ *while revealing the emptiness of life*
- Parents today are spending 40% less time with their children than parents did in 1965. Most American children spend far more time with television than with family or activities.

I think these stats are imp. because they illustrate his point (the ones on next p. are superfluous, + I agree - DON'T BRING in "creator" again

It would be tragic enough if these social trends just entailed personal unhappiness for the adults involved. But there are two broader concerns. Our nation's children are suffering the brunt of the cruel effects from family breakdown and our nation's social fabric is tearing apart at the stress-points. Unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the family in America, our nation will remain at risk.

Most Americans are appalled at the social changes that have brought such devastation and pain to the people of our nation. ~~Senator Moynihan has been at the forefront warning about the devastation of this problem. One of his studies, revealed in [??] that 40% of all American children will be on welfare at some point before they turn age 18.~~ And, while we may not always agree on the causes; we ^{know that we must} ~~both support change that will put our~~ country back on track. Pope John Paul II, in his new encyclical, calls for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children.

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Yes

Yes

STOP

Government can -- and we must -- fight crime, but parents must teach discipline and instill values in their children.

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We must not forget the power of these simple rules of life. The plain truth is that, it is in families that children learn the keys of economic success, self-discipline, responsibility and moral restraint. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and confidence. We cannot forget these basics. Years ago, Father Hesburgh said something very simple, yet very profound, "The most important thing a father can do for

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



92 MAY 14 8:15

DATE: 5/13/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 5/13/92 2:00pm

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" 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"/>
			MCGROARTY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1992, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

May 13, 1992

TO: DAN MCGROARTY

The NSC staff concurs with the draft presidential remarks. Please see comment on page 5.

[Signature]
Brent Scowcroft

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

cc: Phillip D. Brady

Crouse/Simon
Tuesday, May 12, 1992
4:17pm
[notre-dm]

32 MAY 12 1992 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is wonderful to be here at Notre Dame. Every time I visit campus and each time I meet a Notre Dame alumnus, I feel your sense of family -- the Notre Dame family is truly more than words; it is at the very core of what this institution is all about. And, with this honorary degree, I am proud to become a part of the family -- thank you for the honor and privilege.

This ceremony marks a significant milestone for today's graduates and their families. I'm told the university tried to get a successful author to give the Sesquicentennial commencement address -- unfortunately my dog, Millie, couldn't make it.

It is a pleasure to be among such distinguished educators and public servants -- Father Edward A. Malloy, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, and Senator Patrick Moynihan. I also want to recognize the outstanding Notre Dame faculty -- including your 1992 Teacher of the Year, Father Michael Himes.

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It has been four // long, // tough years for both students and their parents. /// And now comes the hardest part -- /// sitting through the commencement speech.

INTRODUCTION

During your college years, world-shaking events have altered history so fast that Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel, has said, // "we don't have time to be astonished." Today, on this wonderful occasion, // let's take a moment to be astonished. On the international front -- communism has collapsed under its own weight // and its flagship symbol, the Berlin Wall, is a relic. Freedom has swept the world -- from the Russian steppes // to the sands of the Gulf // to nations of Central and South America. Because we, the people of the United States, -- and our allies around the world -- cared, /// we won peace and we won a future -- not just for ourselves and our country, but for our children and our grandchildren. Here at home, changes are taking place that are no less wondrous and no less transforming. We are taking a fresh look at government. Outmoded ideas of social engineering through government are becoming passe. Our goal is to reform government so that it serves individuals, not the other way around.

As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, I see a new dawning, /// a time of great change. To paraphrase the Old Testament book of Esther -- perhaps the Class of 1992 has come to maturity /// for just such a time as this. I believe so -- and, I am convinced that your Notre Dame education has uniquely prepared you for leadership during the upcoming decades of national change and reform.

Notre Dame's history is full of inspiring stories. I am particularly moved each time I hear about Professor Frank O'Malley saving the bricks of your Administration Building. When they were deteriorating, some people wanted to replace them. Instead, Father O'Malley reminded all who would listen, //// "These bricks contain the blood of everyone who helped to build Notre Dame." /// Today, this Sesquicentennial graduating class has the blood of 150 years of Notre Dame's heritage // in you. Your parents tried to instill in you // character and values. They sacrificed so that you could have the singular experience of a Notre Dame education -- an education rooted in timeless moral values and in a tradition of excellence that countless Americans see symbolized in that magnificent Golden Dome.

When I look out at you, I know that America's future remains in good hands. You have the preparation. You have the principles. And, you are committed to building partnerships for service to God, your country and your fellow Americans.

BEING PREPARED -- LIFE-LONG INQUIRY

Let's look at your preparation for the task. How appropriate that one of the three themes of your Sesquicentennial is "inquiry." Your professors challenged your intellect and stretched your mind -- through their efforts // and your hard work, you have received the highest quality education. But, it is one of the ironies of life // that we cannot stay on the mountaintop of proud accomplishment for long. Celebration and

elation are usually followed by introspection. After graduation, you will probably spend some time determining how best to use the knowledge and insight which you have developed here at Notre Dame to help resolve some of the thorny problems facing American society. At the heart of those problems, I believe, stands an institution under siege. That institution is the American family. Whatever the form our most pressing problems may take -- poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, child abuse -- all are related to the disintegration of the American family. If we are to solve our social problems, we must, first of all, restore our families. If we are to address the problems associated with family breakdown, we need the skills of inquiry that you developed here at Notre Dame -- we need your fresh insight and your creativity.

BEING PRINCIPLED -- SOUND BELIEFS

Let's look at the principles that form the basis of belief. There is nothing more important to the future of free institutions than the preparation of young minds equipped with a moral compass. The character of our young people is the leading indicator of our future as a culture. Notre Dame still fosters those values that sustain us as individuals and as a nation -- those values that ultimately enable individuals to triumph over hardship and nations to overcome adversity. Although Notre Dame has expanded from a few small buildings to a large and vibrant

campus that accommodates some 10,000 students, it has never lost sight of its roots or of its profound spiritual mission.

The cynics say that social conditions in America are too bad to turn around. Don't you believe it. They say that values and ideals are puny and inconsequential when put up against our problems. Don't you believe it.

Last fall, I stood and looked out over one of nature's great masterpieces, the Grand Canyon. That breathtaking creation is awesome testimony that seemingly inconsequential things can be very powerful. Though both solid granite and molten lava once blocked the path of the Colorado River, the mounting pressure and grinding force of millions of raindrops carrying millions of grains of sand ultimately cut through.

right example?

Just so, our problems in America -- even the ones that sometimes erupt like a volcano -- cannot defeat the determined efforts of millions of our people. In the long run, the moral values driving millions of individuals to acts of compassion and goodness will prevail. Often, the bold, swaggering forces of evil seem more powerful than the modest forces of right. But, in the end, acts of forgiveness, generosity, and caring -- manifested in a myriad of small, but significant acts -- become an ceaseless current of goodness that overcomes "impossible" barriers to create something majestic. Today, our hope is based on the fact that those who would build and re-build will ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

BEING PARTNERS --BUILDING COMMUNITY BY STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

That brings us to the third theme of your Sesquicentennial, "community." Our institutions -- our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses -- need to lead the way in building community. With a breakdown of confidence in our institutions, comes an inevitable breakdown of confidence in ourselves. We must not let that happen; we need an unwavering, reliable compass by which to guide our actions and craft responsible behavior.

Pope John XXIII said, "The family is the first essential cell of human society." The family is the primary --and most critical -- institution in America's communities. Truly, it has been said that "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion." Yet, today, the American family is under siege.

- One of [??] marriages now ends in divorce -- devastating a generation of children with burdens of doubt and false guilt.
- In many of our inner-cities, ^{up to} 80% of the babies are born to unwed mothers; statistically, the majority of these infants face a life of poverty.
- Irresponsible sex has produced an epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS. At the same time escalating numbers of unwed teen births give ample evidence of the driving need to fill the emptiness of a life without permanent bonds of love and commitment.
- Parents today are spending 40% less time with their children than parents did in 1965. Most American children spend far more time with television than with family or activities.

Time?
Drops?

It would be tragic enough if these social trends just entailed personal unhappiness for the adults involved. But there are two broader concerns. Our nation's children are suffering the brunt of the cruel effects from family breakdown and our nation's social fabric is tearing apart at the stress-points. Unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the family in America, our nation will remain at risk.

Most Americans are appalled at the social changes that have brought such devastation and pain to the people of our nation. Senator Moynihan has been at the forefront warning about the devastation of this problem. One of his studies, revealed in [??] that 40% of all American children will be on welfare at some point before they turn age 18. And, while we may not always agree on the causes; we both support change that will put our country back on track. Pope John Paul II, in his new encyclical, calls for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children.

Today, as you go from this fine institution to face the challenges of your adult life, the decisions you make will have one of two effects: you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help produce solutions. You see, I am absolutely convinced that today's crisis will have to be addressed by millions of Americans at the personal, individual level before governmental programs can be effective. Government can -- and we must -- provide choice in education, but parents must read to their children and instill a love for learning.

Government can -- and we must -- fight crime, but parents must teach discipline and instill values in their children.

Government can -- and we must -- foster American competitiveness, but parents must teach their children the dignity of work and instill a work ethic in their children. As that great philosopher, Barbara Bush, once said, "What you teach at your house is more important than what happens at the White House."

Don't misunderstand, I fully intend that the federal government will do everything it can do, but government alone can't solve problems. Only you and others like you can do the really important things. It is not enough to just know what's right -- that's the easiest part. After we know what's right, we must then do what's right. I'm talking about the personal decisions you make about your marriage, about how you will raise your children, about loyalty, faithfulness, honesty and integrity. Ultimately, your actions and behavior about right and wrong, about morality, about personal responsibility and about sacrifice are far more important than many of the other decisions you will make.

We must not forget the power of these simple rules of life. The plain truth is that, it is in families that children learn the keys of economic success, self-discipline, responsibility and moral restraint. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and confidence. We cannot forget these basics. Years ago, Father Hesburgh said something very simple, yet very profound, "The most important thing a father can do for

his children is to love their mother." Think how this vitaly important commitment from fathers to mothers would radically transform for the better both the lives of thousands of our nation's hurting children and their struggling mothers as well.

CONCLUSION -- CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

In many respects I feel like I am preaching to the choir today. Notre Dame's graduates are already working toward the restoration of values and the family in America. But this historical moment demands that we hear the clarion call for leadership into the new century. You have benefitted from the great men and women of conviction, passion and faith here at Notre Dame, who saw the staggering needs of their day and set out to meet those needs. Since becoming President, I have travelled thousands of miles and talked to thousands of Americans who are working to make America's future even brighter than our glorious past.

Many of you are devoted to making a difference through public service -- two-thirds of you already work within your communities to serve others and fully 10% plan to go into social service careers. That is a wonderful record, but it does not let the rest of you off the hook. Let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership, that children tend to dream their dreams in the shapes that they have seen. I want to challenge you to serve as models and mentors of preparedness, principles and partnerships all across this great land so that

children who need role models will be able to shape their dreams after your image. In a mass society, be an antidote to depersonalization. In a fragmented society, integrate your life, your thought and your action. In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, inculcate positive values. In the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise.

There is no surer way to build America's future // than with the mortar of moral values /// and the bricks of strong families. ///// If you will add your blood to the bricks, ///// the future will echo //// -- then as now -- //// "Never bet against Notre Dame /// or against the United States of America." May God bless you. // And, may God bless Notre Dame // and the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/13/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 5/13/92 2:00pm

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT <i>hostow</i>	<input checked="" 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 <i>N/C</i>	<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"/>
<i>N/C</i> GRAY <i>proletto 78034</i>	<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"/>
			<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

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

Crouse/Simon
Tuesday, May 12, 1992
4:17pm
[notre-dm]

02 MAY 12 2333 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 13, 1992

92 MAY 13 P1: 36

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: TIM McBRIDE/ED MURNANE



SUBJECT: COMMENTS RE: SMU AND NOTRE DAME SPEECHES

Here are some suggestions.

Notre Dame Speech

Add to Page One, first paragraph:

And that happened because we, the people of the United States -- etc.

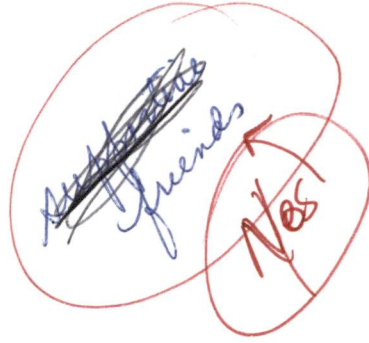
Insert on Page Three:

This very day is one of the few days in all of our lives when the importance of our own family is so evident.

You graduates realize that you could not have reached this point in your lives without the support, encouragement and love that your family gave you. And you know that right now as you sit here, your parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, or whoever else may be here -- are bursting with a love and pride that can only be found in a family.

And the parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members who are here know full well -- perhaps with some surprise -- how difficult it was to get you to this point. And they, perhaps more than you, realize that this is one of the most important moments in the life of your family.

There are probably graduates here who have not had the benefit of a close family, who reached this moment today largely on their own efforts, or through the support of friends or non-family members -- and you also will appreciate the importance of a strong, close family. Think of how much easier it would have been with the support of a family, and how much more satisfying this moment would be if there was a family to share it with.



Point made more economically?

Crouse/Simon
Tuesday, May 12, 1992
4:17pm
[notre-dm]

02 MAY 12 03:33 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

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1

INTRODUCTION

During your college years, world-shaking events have altered history so fast that Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel, has said, // "we don't have time to be astonished." Today, on this wonderful occasion, // let's take a moment to be astonished. On the international front -- communism has collapsed under its own weight // and its flagship symbol, the Berlin Wall, is a relic. Freedom has swept the world -- from the Russian steppes // to the sands of the Gulf // to nations of Central and South America. Because we, the people of the United States, -- and our allies around the world -- cared, /// we won peace and we won a future -- not just for ourselves and our country, but for our children and our grandchildren. Here at home, changes are taking place that are no less wondrous and no less transforming. We are taking a fresh look at government. Outmoded ideas of social engineering through government are becoming passe. Our goal is to reform government so that it serves individuals, not the other way around.

As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, I see a new dawning, /// a time of great change. To paraphrase the Old Testament book of Esther -- perhaps the Class of 1992 has come to maturity /// for just such a time as this. I believe so -- and, I am convinced that your Notre Dame education has uniquely prepared you for leadership during the upcoming decades of national change and reform.

2

Notre Dame's history is full of inspiring stories. I am particularly moved each time I hear about Professor Frank O'Malley saving the bricks of your Administration Building. When they were deteriorating, some people wanted to replace them. Instead, Father O'Malley reminded all who would listen, //// "These bricks contain the blood of everyone who helped to build Notre Dame." /// Today, this Sesquicentennial graduating class has the blood of 150 years of Notre Dame's heritage // in you. Your parents tried to instill in you // character and values. They sacrificed so that you could have the singular experience of a Notre Dame education -- an education rooted in timeless moral values and in a tradition of excellence that countless Americans see symbolized in that magnificent Golden Dome.

When I look out at you, I know that America's future remains in good hands. You have the preparation. You have the principles. And, you are committed to building partnerships for service to God, your country and your fellow Americans.

BEING PREPARED -- LIFE-LONG INQUIRY

Let's look at your preparation for the task. How appropriate that one of the three themes of your Sesquicentennial is "inquiry." Your professors challenged your intellect and stretched your mind -- through their efforts // and your hard work, you have received the highest quality education. But, it is one of the ironies of life // that we cannot stay on the mountaintop of proud accomplishment for long. Celebration and

elation are usually followed by introspection. After graduation, you will probably spend some time determining how best to use the knowledge and insight which you have developed here at Notre Dame to help resolve some of the thorny problems facing American society. At the heart of those problems, I believe, stands an institution under siege. That institution is the American family. Whatever the form our most pressing problems may take -- poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, child abuse -- all are related to the disintegration of the American family. If we are to solve our social problems, we must, first of all, restore our families. If we are to address the problems associated with family breakdown, we need the skills of inquiry that you developed here at Notre Dame -- we need your fresh insight and your creativity.

- this moment is one of the most important in your life

→
INSERT

BEING PRINCIPLED -- SOUND BELIEFS

Let's look at the principles that form the basis of belief. There is nothing more important to the future of free institutions than the preparation of young minds equipped with a moral compass. The character of our young people is the leading indicator of our future as a culture. Notre Dame still fosters those values that sustain us as individuals and as a nation -- those values that ultimately enable individuals to triumph over hardship and nations to overcome adversity. Although Notre Dame has expanded from a few small buildings to a large and vibrant

4

campus that accommodates some 10,000 students, it has never lost sight of its roots or of its profound spiritual mission.

The cynics say that social conditions in America are too bad to turn around. Don't you believe it. They say that values and ideals are puny and inconsequential when put up against our problems. Don't you believe it.

Last fall, I stood and looked out over one of nature's great masterpieces, the Grand Canyon. That breathtaking creation is awesome testimony that seemingly inconsequential things can be very powerful. Though both solid granite and molten lava once blocked the path of the Colorado River, the mounting pressure and grinding force of millions of raindrops carrying millions of grains of sand ultimately cut through.

Just so, our problems in America -- even the ones that sometimes erupt like a volcano -- cannot defeat the determined efforts of millions of our people. In the long run, the moral values driving millions of individuals to acts of compassion and goodness will prevail. Often, the bold, swaggering forces of evil seem more powerful than the modest forces of right. But, in the end, acts of forgiveness, generosity, and caring -- manifested in a myriad of small, but significant acts -- become an ceaseless current of goodness that overcomes "impossible" barriers to create something majestic. Today, our hope is based on the fact that those who would build and re-build will ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

BEING PARTNERS --BUILDING COMMUNITY BY STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

That brings us to the third theme of your Sesquicentennial, "community." Our institutions -- our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses -- need to lead the way in building community. With a breakdown of confidence in our institutions, comes an inevitable breakdown of confidence in ourselves. We must not let that happen; we need an unwavering, reliable compass by which to guide our actions and craft responsible behavior.

Pope John XXIII said, "The family is the first essential cell of human society." The family is the primary --and most critical -- institution in America's communities. Truly, it has been said that "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion." Yet, today, the American family is under siege.

- One of [??] marriages now ends in divorce -- devastating a generation of children with burdens of doubt and false guilt.
- In many of our inner-cities, up to 80% of the babies are born to unwed mothers; statistically, the majority of these infants face a life of poverty.
- Irresponsible sex has produced an epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS. At the same time escalating numbers of unwed teen births give ample evidence of the driving need to fill the emptiness of a life without permanent bonds of love and commitment.
- Parents today are spending 40% less time with their children than parents did in 1965. Most American children spend far more time with television than with family or activities.

6

It would be tragic enough if these social trends just entailed personal unhappiness for the adults involved. But there are two broader concerns. Our nation's children are suffering the brunt of the cruel effects from family breakdown and our nation's social fabric is tearing apart at the stress-points. Unless we successfully reverse the breakdown of the family in America, our nation will remain at risk.

Most Americans are appalled at the social changes that have brought such devastation and pain to the people of our nation. Senator Moynihan has been at the forefront warning about the devastation of this problem. One of his studies, revealed in [??] that 40% of all American children will be on welfare at some point before they turn age 18. And, while we may not always agree on the causes; we both support change that will put our country back on track. Pope John Paul II, in his new encyclical, calls for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children.

Today, as you go from this fine institution to face the challenges of your adult life, the decisions you make will have one of two effects: you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help produce solutions. You see, I am absolutely convinced that today's crisis will have to be addressed by millions of Americans at the personal, individual level before governmental programs can be effective. Government can -- and we must -- provide choice in education, but parents must read to their children and instill a love for learning.

7

Government can -- and we must -- fight crime, but parents must teach discipline and instill values in their children.

Government can -- and we must -- foster American competitiveness, but parents must teach their children the dignity of work and instill a work ethic in their children. As that great philosopher, Barbara Bush, once said, "What you teach at your house is more important than what happens at the White House."

Don't misunderstand, I fully intend that the federal government will do everything it can do, but government alone can't solve problems. Only you and others like you can do the really important things. It is not enough to just know what's right -- that's the easiest part. After we know what's right, we must then do what's right. I'm talking about the personal decisions you make about your marriage, about how you will raise your children, about loyalty, faithfulness, honesty and integrity. Ultimately, your actions and behavior about right and wrong, about morality, about personal responsibility and about sacrifice are far more important than many of the other decisions you will make.

We must not forget the power of these simple rules of life. The plain truth is that, it is in families that children learn the keys of economic success, self-discipline, responsibility and moral restraint. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and confidence. We cannot forget these basics. Years ago, Father Hesburgh said something very simple, yet very profound, "The most important thing a father can do for

8

his children is to love their mother." Think how this vitaly important commitment from fathers to mothers would radically transform for the better both the lives of thousands of our nation's hurting children and their struggling mothers as well.


CONCLUSION -- CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

In many respects I feel like I am preaching to the choir today. Notre Dame's graduates are already working toward the restoration of values and the family in America. But this historical moment demands that we hear the clarion call for leadership into the new century. You have benefitted from the great men and women of conviction, passion and faith here at Notre Dame, who saw the staggering needs of their day and set out to meet those needs. Since becoming President, I have travelled thousands of miles and talked to thousands of Americans who are working to make America's future even brighter than our glorious past.

Many of you are devoted to making a difference through public service -- two-thirds of you already work within your communities to serve others and fully 10% plan to go into social service careers. That is a wonderful record, but it does not let the rest of you off the hook. Let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership, that children tend to dream their dreams in the shapes that they have seen. I want to challenge you to serve as models and mentors of preparedness, principles and partnerships all across this great land so that

9

children who need role models will be able to shape their dreams after your image. In a mass society, be an antidote to depersonalization. In a fragmented society, integrate your life, your thought and your action. In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, inculcate positive values. In the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise.

 There is no surer way to build America's future // than with the mortar of moral values /// and the bricks of strong families. ///// If you will add your blood to the bricks, ///// the future will echo //// -- then as now -- //// "Never bet against Notre Dame /// or against the United States of America." May God bless you. // And, may God bless Notre Dame // and the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/13/92 92 MAY 13 P2:36 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 5/13/92 2:00pm

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" 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"/>	<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"/>
			MCGROARTY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1992, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Comments
 P. 1
 P. 3
 P. 8
 P. 9

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

Crouse/Simon
Tuesday, May 12, 1992
4:17pm
[notre-dm]

02 MAY 12 2 33 33 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is wonderful to be here at Notre Dame. Every time I visit campus and each time I meet a Notre Dame alumnus, I feel your sense of family -- the Notre Dame family is truly more than words; it is at the very core of what this institution is all about. And, with this honorary degree, I am proud to become a part of the family -- thank you for the honor and privilege.

This ceremony marks a significant milestone for today's graduates and their families. I'm told the university tried to get a successful author to give the Sesquicentennial commencement address -- unfortunately my dog, Millie, couldn't make it.

It is a pleasure to be among such distinguished educators and public servants -- Father Edward A. Malloy, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, and Senator Patrick Moynihan. I also want to recognize the outstanding Notre Dame faculty -- including your 1992 Teacher of the Year, Father Michael Himes.

Now, let me extend my congratulations to the Class of 1992. I want to express appreciation to Sarah McGrath, valedictorian, and your other class leaders for their very timely and challenging remarks. And, a special tribute for those who made this day possible -- your parents and family members.

It has been four // long, // tough years for both students and their parents. /// And now comes the hardest part -- /// sitting through the commencement speech.

INTRODUCTION

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As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, I see a new dawning, /// a time of great change. To paraphrase the Old Testament book of Esther -- perhaps the Class of 1992 has come to maturity /// for just such a time as this. I believe so -- and, I am convinced that your Notre Dame education has uniquely prepared you for leadership during the upcoming decades of national change and reform.

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TODAY I WANT TO EXPLORE THE ~~WONDERS~~ OF THIS INSTITUTION.

No

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- One of [??] marriages now ends in divorce -- devastating a generation of children with burdens of doubt and false guilt.
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We must not forget the power of these simple rules of life. The plain truth is that, it is in families that children learn the keys of economic success, self-discipline, responsibility and moral restraint. It is in families that they learn honesty, self-respect, compassion and confidence. We cannot forget these basics. Years ago, Father Hesburgh said something very simple, yet very profound, "The most important thing a father can do for

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CONCLUSION -- CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES Nb

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children who need role models will be able to shape their dreams after your image. In a mass society, be an antidote to depersonalization. In a fragmented society, integrate your life, your thought and your action. In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, inculcate positive values. In the face of the uncertainties of the future, affirm your purpose and realize your promise.

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Yes

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

92 MAY 7 AIO: 11

DATE: 5/6/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: -----

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MOUNT ZION
LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: MAY 7, 1992

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	_____ FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____ KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			_____ MCGROARTY	<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

May 6, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THOUGH: DAVE DEMAREST
FROM: JENNIFER GROSSMAN
SUBJECT: MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

On Thursday, May 7th, at 7:50 a.m., you will deliver brief remarks (7 minutes/cards) to the congregation of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend E.V. Hill will introduce you.

Your remarks take aim at questions of racial division and violence. You note your meetings with the civil rights community, and acknowledge advances in civil rights legislation. Yet you stress that our problems cannot be solved by law alone. As your remarks fall on our National Day of Prayer, you acknowledge that we are "one nation under God," and suggest that some of the answers we seek may already live in our hearts.

(Grossman)
May 5, 1992
Draft One
CHURCH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MOUNT ZION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1992

Rev. Hill, thank you for that introduction. Over the years I've turned to the good reverend for advice. His guidance has always echoed the words of another Baptist minister, a man from Atlanta, Georgia. \ Martin Luther King said, 'I don't know what the future holds but I know who holds our future. That's why we're here.

I've come to Mount Zion on this National Day of Prayer, as a man who cares about his family. Not just the one I share with my wife and my children -- but the one I share with you. For better or for worse, in sickness or in health, America is one family -- one people -- one Nation Under God. You see, I believe that we are our brother's keeper. Not to keep him back. Not to keep him down. But to keep him well, and safe. To keep him in our hearts and in our counsel.

I've been keeping quite a bit of that counsel these past few days. From the advice of Rev. Hill \ to the guidance of civil rights leaders \ to the letters of thousands of Americans just like you. The cynics can paint it any which way they like -- that won't change what I know to be right, and how I've fought to do right. In ways small and large, I have spent a good part of my life working on something we want to give to our grandchildren: an America where they can work and play -- freely

\ safely \ and together. I've said it before and I'll say it again: we must not and will not tolerate racism, bigotry, or anti-semitism in America.

I believe we've made progress. We killed Jim Crow. We leveled the legal walls that divided us. Most recently, we took another step: last November I signed new civil rights legislation to strengthen protections against discrimination. I did this not because it was the easy thing to do \ not because it was the political thing to do \ but because it was the right thing to do.

But law alone won't solve our problems. No law can reach what we have in our hearts or change what we have on our conscience. Government can abolish "back of the bus" rules -- but it can't make people share a seat. It can punish cruel acts -- but it can't silence cruel words. Government can make good laws -- but it can't make men good.

I heard a story about one good man. Another man of the cloth, Rev. Bennie Newton, laid his life -- literally -- on the line because he believed he was his brother's keeper. During the riots he saw a man being beaten to the ground. Despite the threats and the blows, Bennie walked into the fray and laid his body over the bloody man until the beating stopped. "My heart was crying," said the pastor. He saved the man's life.

A terrible thing happened to the family we call America, a dark hour that left many wondering what to do. But it's people like Rev. Newton that carried part of the answer within them all along. There were answers in the churches -- churches that

opened their doors, congregations that opened their hearts. I think of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church. During the nights of violence, this house of God also found room for families displaced by fire, for citizens trying to help, and for parishioners seeking to pray.

The Bible tells us, "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" These are words to remember on this National Day of Prayer. All across our land, thousands of churches and synagogues are filled with the prayers of our citizens. Prayers, like the words of the great spiritual anthem, "full of the faith that the dark past has taught us and the hope that the present has brought us." If we "lift every voice," I believe we will be heard.

I heard about the prayers of one little girl, 4-year-old Ryan Bennett -- about the age of my granddaughter Ashley. During the nights of rioting, Ryan's neighborhood was sprayed with bullets, her candy store was looted, her nightmares were real. "I'm saying special prayers," she said, "I asked [God] if He could make it so that it's not dark anymore." Let's make a promise to Ryan and to all the children like her: never again will we let it become that dark again. Never again as dark as the darkest nights of that young life.

We've made a start. As I speak the trucks are rolling in -
- 6 tractor-trailer loads of food from Oklahoma City, from Albuquerque, from Tucson and Biloxi. A convoy of caring

organized by Feed the Children International, a non-profit church group. Churches throughout the southland are collecting money, food, and clothing -- reaching out to the community. That's the America we know. The America we're praying for. Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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