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FOIA Number:

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# FOIA MARKER

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

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**OA/ID Number:** 13623  
**Folder ID Number:** 13623-006

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**Folder Title:**  
Notre Dame Commencement 5/15/92 [OA 6102] [2]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/13/92 <sup>92 MAY 13 P3:38</sup> 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"/>
			<u>MCGROARTY</u>		<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:

*See comments. Thanks.  
 PK  
 Paul Korfanta  
 05/13*

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

(OCA)  
General Comment:  
Could benefit from a few  
examples of moral  
leadership or personal  
responsibility

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

(ok) → need explanation of what these values are

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.

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.

??  
(OCA)  
This sentence seems out of place

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.

OK  
(OCA)

give parents the choice to send their children to the best schools

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.

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## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/12/92 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"/>
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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"/>
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**RESPONSE:**

Please see  
Comments.  
Thank you.

**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 1992 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NOTRE DAME COMMENCEMENT  
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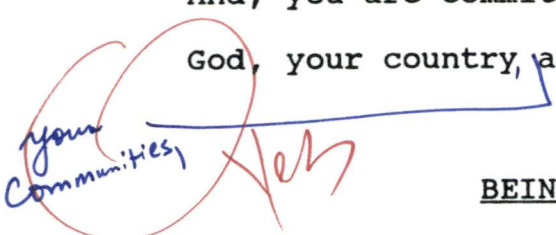
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*your Communities*  *Yes*

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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"/>
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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:

92 MAY 14 A  
good work

- 1) Get rid of all slash marks.
- 2) See comments
- 3) Find POTUS remarks from Mt. Zion use some verbatims

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Had to  
 get a degree,  
 parenthetically*

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 Imperial*  
~~In a last hour~~ *International*  
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 ~~→~~ *stood strong and prevailed* ~~we~~ won peace and ~~we~~ won a future -- ~~not just~~ for ourselves and our country, ~~but~~ *and* for our children and our grandchildren. Here ~~at home~~, *we are in America* changes ~~are~~ *as well-* ~~taking place~~ *in ways* that are no less wondrous and no less transforming.

*It is a crusade for reform - with*  
We are taking a fresh look at government, *and how we solve national problems* Outmoded ideas of social engineering ~~through government~~ are becoming passe. *Old thinking will not do.* ~~our~~ *not do.* ~~goal is to reform government so that it serves individuals, not~~ *As Lincoln As Lincoln said* ~~the other way around.~~ *It's time to try new ideas we must think and act anew.*

As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, ~~I see a~~ *we* ~~new dawn~~ *had in the midst*, // 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.

*But your preparation began long before you walked in the shadow of the Dome.*

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~~<sup>and</sup> in you // character and ~~values~~<sup>a moral being.</sup>. They sacrificed so that you could ~~have the singular experience of the~~ a Notre Dame education -- an education rooted in timeless ~~and~~ 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.~~ *will leave Notre Dame educated and challenged prepared.* But, ~~it is~~ one of the ironies of life // ~~that~~ we cannot stay on the mountaintop of proud accomplishment for long. *Great reward and humility requires that* Celebration and

*restore?*

3

elation are ~~usually~~ followed by introspection. After graduation, you will ~~probably spend some time determining how best to use the~~ <sup>step into an American society full of fantastic opportunities</sup> ~~knowledge and insight which you have developed here at Notre Dame~~ <sup>but haunted by long-standing and complicated social problems.</sup> 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

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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. *But* In the long run, the moral values driving millions of individuals to acts of compassion and goodness will prevail. *overwhelm evil* 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"~~

*the American Community* -- ~~barriers to create something majestic.~~ Today, our hope is based *upon* 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* ~~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 <sup>the</sup> America's <sup>in</sup> 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.

*What social?*

*Tom Bradley told me  
May 1988  
quote*

It would be tragic enough if these social trends just entailed personal unhappiness for the adults involved. But there ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> broader concerns. ~~Our nation's children are suffering~~ <sup>that it is who</sup>

the brunt of the cruel effects from family breakdown, <sup>family breakdown</sup> and our <sup>is tearing</sup> 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.

<sup>Starts</sup> 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 <sup>rebuild the American family</sup> 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.

*Handwritten mark*

*B*

*insert from the Mt Zion  
at remarks*

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. <sup>To paraphrase</sup> ~~As~~ that great not

philosopher, Barbara Bush, ~~once said~~, "What you teach at your house is more important than what happens at the White House."

*move to p. 6*  
*B*

~~Don't misunderstand, I fully intend that the federal government will do everything it can do, but government alone <sup>is not</sup> ~~can't solve problems. Only you and others like you can do the~~ enough.~~

~~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 <sup>form the foundation for all the</sup> ~~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

*M. Zim?*

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

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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.

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.

####

Phil:

Here's another copy of my thoughts on Notre Dame speech:

1. We should be a lot more explicit in using this forum to address Catholic America, focusing on the place of Catholics in American life and using that as a starting point to make some fundamental observations about what it means to be an American. Rarely will there be a better forum than Notre Dame to address these kinds of issues, for instance with something like this:

"Look at any American coin. On it you'll see our national motto -- E Pluribus Unum, "one out of many." America has always been a nation taken from the nations, a nation built up by the contributions of all its citizens, who pool each of their special talents to make a greater good.

"You, as Catholics, see this perhaps more than others. Look at the history of Catholicism in America. From its English beginnings, the Church has been enriched and strengthened by successive waves of immigration -- Irish, German, Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, Croatian, Ukrainian, and so many others. More recently, Hispanic Americans have achieved a new prominence both in our national life and in the Church. Yet through it all, there has been one Church -- and the Church is stronger, not weaker because it has been watered through so many different roots.

"Some say there is no more melting pot in America, that our culture is no longer one. For my part, I think such language is misguided at best. At worst, it has the potential to tear apart our national fabric. For it implies, subtly, the notion that new immigrants or even some who have lived in this country for generations can never become real Americans, that they will always, somehow, be different from their fellow citizens."

"Yet you know that is false. America is a land where many cultures thrive, but there remains one national culture, one set of national ideals and values. I think of the notion of democracy, of equality before the law. I think of the right of all Americans to take risks and enjoy the fruits of their labors and hard work. Three hundred sixty years of immigration and change have never changed our national optimism, our sense of fair play, our frontier spirit.

"It is qualities such as these which define the American character. While we as Americans are proud of our individual heritages, I like Theodore Roosevelt's comment

that "there are no hyphenated Americans." As long as I am President, no one should have to feel that they are not truly American, in every sense. Neither race, religion, color, or gender should exclude anyone from the high calling of our citizenship, its rights and its responsibilities.

"By and large, America has been successful in removing the poison of anti-Catholic hatred from our Nation. Similarly, we must move on to ensure that all forms of hatred, bigotry, and discrimination are eliminated from this land."

This can be expanded on, but you get the general idea.

2. The first two pages of the material, on personal responsibility, are pretty good. There is no real transition, though, between this and the last two pages. I don't think Notre Dame should be a speech about reinventing government. If it has to have a subtheme, it should not be government at all, but more probably directed towards foreign policy (the connection being values -- values at home and values abroad).

For one thing, this would undo Carter's Notre Dame speech ("inordinate fear of Communism"). More directly, however, it would go a long way towards answering the criticism of some that our policy towards Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union was not guided by moral principles.

Just as our values at home are freedom, democracy, and equality before the law, so too we seek to apply these values abroad.

Alan  
5-14-92  
5:30pm

Add H

3 legs:

Yesterday, at 8pm

focused on the economy  
and on ability to

generate jobs.

Today, —  
Foreign

a next week at

Monday, I will have

on the great question

of war + peace.

• Seen pg <sup>are estimated</sup> cost 21.5 billion a year

(1) to Legans

(2) Pres on bond / cover

(3) copy for Dave

(4) copy for Dave

*Janice's  
edits*

Crouse/Simon  
Thursday, May 14, 1992  
4:58pm  
[notre-dm]

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 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.

#### INTRODUCTION

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 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 people wanted 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 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 form our most pressing problems may take -- ultimately, all are related to the disintegration of the American family.

For instance, 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 gave us fair warning. He predicted with astonishing accuracy the terrible trends that would result from the breakdown of the family and he continues 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 <sup>u</sup> here 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. And, we give them reliable compasses by which to guide their actions and craft responsible behavior. 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 in "Black Enterprise" magazine, "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 Gary, Indiana -- with a 67% total. *a malarkey city →*
- 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 maltreatment 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 culture 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. You know, when Barbara reads to kids, she is emphasizing the role of grandparents in kids' lives, but even more, she is showing them love. 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. 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 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.

#### CONCLUSION -- CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

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. ~~We must~~ <sup>then with</sup> ~~have~~ 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.

####

*David's  
edits  
included  
in red*

Crouse/Simon  
Thursday, May 14, 1992  
4:29pm  
[notre-dm]

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 great university.*

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. This ceremony marks a significant milestone for today's graduates and their families -- especially for the 25% of the graduating seniors who have a parent who attended Notre Dame.

And, I want to pay a special tribute to the parents, family members and friends who made this day possible. There is a special family I want you to meet. Where are Joe, <sup>and</sup> Rita, <sup>of Anne</sup> 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. <sup>Your college career has</sup> It has 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.

#### INTRODUCTION

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 ~~do in regard to~~ <sup>generate</sup> 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 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 people wanted 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 <sup>a</sup> ~~one of the three~~ themes 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 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 form our most pressing problems may take --

ultimately, all are related to the disintegration of the American family. For instance, 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 gave us fair warning. He predicted with astonishing accuracy the terrible trends that would result from the breakdown of the family and he continues 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 ~~that accommodates some 10,000 students~~, 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 here 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. And, we give them reliable compasses by which to guide their actions and craft responsible behavior. 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* -- *from*  
~~We know that~~ new American communities ~~will become~~  
~~realities because~~ those who would build and re-build ~~will~~ *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 in "Black Enterprise" magazine, "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 <sup>too many</sup> most of these infants, and their mothers, <sup>will</sup> face a life of poverty. In 1989, the city with the highest number of unwed births of all races was 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 maltreatment 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 ~~we must put our country~~ <sup>putting America's families</sup> 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.~~ <sup>is essential to putting our country back on track.</sup>

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 culture 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: <sup>either</sup> you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help rebuild the American family.

<sup>To paraphrase the 2nd:</sup> ~~Pope John Paul gave us wisdom on this issue, too. He said,~~ <sup>you</sup> "The ultimate test of ~~(America's)~~ greatness is the way you treat <sup>every</sup> ~~any~~ human being, but especially the way we treat weak <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>most</sup> 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. You know, when Barbara reads to kids, she is emphasizing the role of grandparents in kids' lives, but even more, she is showing them love. 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, ~~-- 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 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.

#### CONCLUSION -- CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

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; we must have 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.

####

Thu 5/14/92  
2:30pm

Pinkerton's  
Comments

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.

Kings:  
Samuel  
David

values  
 Pent. L.

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.

L.A. Speech  
 #5  
 →

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.

e  
Pink

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.

11/20/4

←

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.

*Handwritten scribble*

*reference  
65 Reports*

*(pub, priv + ref)*

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.

Like architect  
or  
engineer  
Start  
w/  
overhaul.

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.

Blat-  
ramps  
who  
said

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.

real America con't.

faith

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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at least say  
welcome for it....

602200.

(703)  
573-  
7150.

coming into  
the light.

Frank:  
too stilled...

Friday. (Mark  
Aug 5-6  
1992.  
Mary  
XERO.

*Janice*

CHECK LIST

- ✓ 1 ~~incorporate something from John's "catholic" stuff.~~
- ✓ 2 ~~get Bradley quote~~
- ✓ 3 ~~other Mt Zion stuff~~
- LA *NO* ✓ 4 ~~pre med, urban clinic example to give life to "service" idea~~
- ✓ 5 ~~Ok to omit "introspection" section per Brady bunch?~~ *Yes*
- NO 6 ~~include oblique Carter reference to "fear of Communism"~~
- ✓ 7 ~~Bob check to see if we can "support" all of encyclical~~ *endorsed by Norah*
- ✓ 8 ~~Examples for section on "parental sacrifice."~~
- ✓ 9 ~~inner city out of wedlock births -- use Gary stats?~~ *(Source Darman)*
- NO 10 ~~humor for page 7 -- what kids learn at home / letters?~~

Note:

- ✓ 1 ~~Valedictorian will be critical of POTUS~~ *told Dave & Dan*
- ✓ 2 ~~Janice add stats on STDs and AIDS (bullet P.5)~~

Pinkerton:

- NO 1 ~~Quote from Kings, Samuel or David -- strong, victorious~~
- ✓ 2 ~~Stats for how bad things are re: family-related problems~~ *Fagan paper*
- NO 3 ~~down-to-earth example of how govt can't solve things alone -- must get down to basics (like blueprint for engineer or architect)~~
- ✓ 4 ~~Get names of ND people who exemplify "great men and women of conviction and faith"~~

NO - 5.. O'Hare / Not from ND

# I People want various emphases:

- 1) ND
- 2) Catholic history
- 3) volunteerism
- 4) family
- 5) values / US + Abroad
- 6)

# II Reconciling

OK Dorance Smith pg 3 - Today, explain imp  
pg 8 - Notre Dame family

OK Jim McBride / Ed Murrane / long insert / support  
from family and/or friends

Ede Holiday - Pope quote out of place? ✓  
needs examples of leadership & resp

Phil Brady / Teresa Donovan / John \_\_\_\_\_  
- Consider why we should be astonished & thankful  
OK Statist policies

Demarest - midst of change / new era  
T Bradley quote ??  
insert from Mt Zion Spch ??

Examples needed  
President

Mayor Brudler  
Zion

David  
4:30 pm

Done

Crouse/Simon  
Thursday, May 14, 1992  
1:23pm  
[notre-dm]

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.]

((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.))

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

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.] ~~This ceremony marks a significant milestone for today's graduates and their families.~~ So, I particularly want to pay a special tribute to the parents, family members and friends who made this day possible. It has been four long, tough years. ((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 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 <sup>generate</sup> ~~do in regard to~~ 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 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 people wanted 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. I know that America's future remains in good hands. You have the preparation. You have been taught the principles. And, you are committed to building partnerships for service to God, your communities, your country and your fellow Americans.

How appropriate that <sup>a</sup> ~~one of the three~~ themes 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 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 form our most pressing problems may take -- poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, child abuse -- ultimately, all are related to the disintegration of the American family. [Senator Moynihan has been at the forefront warning about the devastation of this problem -- way back in 1965 he predicted with astonishing accuracy the terrible trends that would result from the breakdown of the family. 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, we need not only the skills of inquiry that you have developed here at Notre Dame -- we also need your sense of duty and your character.

Nothing is 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. 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. Notre Dame still fosters those faith that sustains us as individuals and as a nation -- those principles 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 nor of its profound spiritual mission.

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, ~~you bring~~ <sup>our</sup> hope <sup>springs from a</sup> ~~that~~ new American communities ~~yes will~~ <sup>-- from</sup> ~~become realities because~~ those who would build and re-build ~~will~~ <sup>and</sup>

ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

We build strong communities through strengthening our institutions -- our families, our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses. The stronger these community institutions, the more unwavering and reliable will be the compasses <sup>to guide</sup> ~~by which individuals guide their actions~~ and the more ~~likely each of us will be to~~ <sup>to</sup> craft responsible behavior.

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. Earl Graves said it this way in "Black Enterprise" magazine, "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion." We should take heed when the American family is assailed on many sides.

- Half of all marriages now end in divorce. 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, statistics show that ~~most~~ <sup>will</sup> of these infants, and their mothers, <sup>too many</sup> face a life of poverty.
- Irresponsible sex has produced an epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

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. 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. [Mayor Tom Bradley quote] And, while we may not always agree on the causes or the remedies; we know that <sup>putting America's families back on track is essential to putting</sup> ~~we must~~ put 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.

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: <sup>either</sup> you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help rebuild the American family. <sup>To paraphrase</sup> Pope John Paul the 2nd ~~said,~~ "The ultimate test of ~~(America's)~~ <sup>your</sup> greatness is the way you treat <sup>every</sup> ~~any~~ human being, but especially <sup>you</sup> ~~the way we~~ <sup>est most</sup> treat weak and 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. ~~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 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.

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.

CONCLUSION -- CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

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 the thousands of miles I have travelled and among the thousands of Americans I have talked with since becoming President, I have seen 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; we must have 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.

####

Check list:

\* 1000

- \* 1) incorporate something from John's "catholic" stuff
- \* 2) get Bradley quote
- \* 3) other Mt. Zion stuff?
- \* 4) pre-med, urban clinic services??
- \* 5) OK to omit "introspection" per Brady bunch?
- \* 6) include oblique Carter reference "fear of communism" (get speech)
- \* 7) Bob check encyclical / can we "support" all??
- \* 8) example of sacrifice
- \* 9) inner city births - cite Larry stats?

Crouse/Simon  
 Thursday, May 14, 1992  
 12:12pm  
 [notre-dm]

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

\* 10) Rumor pg 7 / what kids learn at home? Letters?

already given?

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Bob says she will be critical of POTUS

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*polite  
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institutions, the more unwavering and reliable will be the compasses by which individuals guide their actions and the more likely each of us will be to craft responsible behavior.

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- In some of our inner-cities, a majority of the babies are born to unwed mothers. And, statistics show that most of these infants, and their mothers, 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 when a life lacks permanent bonds of love and commitment.]

? Does this imply they can't help themselves?

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. 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. [Mayor Tom Bradley quote] And,

Bob is getting

while we may not always agree on the causes or the remedies; we know that we must put 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.

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Completely free?

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

OK?

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*Dan's  
Edits  
Suggestions*

Crouse/Simon  
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11:11am  
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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. And, that strength in them, strengthens our families, our communities; thus, our whole nation benefits.

awk

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. 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 is based upon you and the communities that you will strengthen -- and the fact that those who would build and re-build will ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

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by  
[scribble]

?

We build strong communities through strengthening our institutions -- our families, our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses. The stronger these community

institutions, the more unwavering and reliable will be the compasses by which individuals guide their actions and the more likely each of us will be to craft responsible behavior.

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. Earl Graves said it this way in "Black Enterprise" magazine, "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion." We should take heed when the American family is assailed on many sides.

- Half of all marriages now end in divorce. 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, statistics show that most of these infants, and their mothers, 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 when a life lacks permanent bonds of love and commitment.]

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. 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. And, while we may not always agree

*Tom Bradley*

Bob  
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M. Novak  
Things  
we  
can't  
support??  
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on the causes or the remedies; we know that we must put 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.

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: you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help rebuild the American family. 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, 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."

~~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.~~ Pope John's encyclical makes special mention of the importance of volunteer work in helping to promote human dignity -- for those in need, but also for those who serve.

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 form the foundation for all 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 the truth that it is moral restraint that gives us true freedom. 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

simple  
power

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 passion for addressing the staggering needs of the day. And, Notre Dame's graduates are already working toward the restoration of <sup>Faith</sup> ~~values~~ and the family in America. Your alumni association is the prototype for other universities in sponsoring service projects. In the thousands of miles I have travelled and among the thousands of Americans I have talked with since becoming President, I have seen a groundswell of Americans who are working -- and working hard -- to restore our nation's values 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

*Pre-Med  
Urban Service / Pre-Law? / Priest*

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 and add to our material, political and economic accomplishments an ennobling purpose. *larger ??*

There is no surer way to build America'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.

####

Thursday Morning Working Copy

Crouse/Simon  
Thursday, May 14, 1992  
9:57am  
[notre-dm]

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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, <sup>already given?</sup> I am proud to become a Domer -- thank you for the honor and privilege.

((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 Daniel Patrick Moynihan. I also want to recognize the outstanding Notre Dame faculty -- including your 1992 Teacher of the Year, Father Michael Himes. <sup>accurate?</sup>

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. <sup>already delivered?</sup> This ceremony marks a significant milestone for today's graduates and their families. So, I particularly want to pay a special tribute to the parents, family members and friends who made this day possible. It has been four long, tough years. ((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~~ <sup>literally no</sup> have <sup>^</sup> time <sup>even</sup> to be astonished." Today, on this wonderful occasion, let's take a moment to be astonished. We have watched in amazement at the swiftness of history's verdict on communism -- 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. 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.

ask  
alan?  
?

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 do. As Lincoln said, "We must think <sup>new</sup> and act anew."

alan?

Alan? 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 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 Professor Frank O'Malley saving the bricks of your Administration Building. You know the story, the bricks were deteriorating and some people wanted to replace them. Instead, <sup>Professor</sup> ~~Father~~ 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; <sup>many</sup> ~~They~~ sacrificed so that you could experience the Notre Dame education -- an education rooted in timeless values and in a tradition of excellence. I know that America's future remains in good hands. You have the preparation. You have been taught the principles. And, you are committed to building partnerships for service to God, your communities, your country and your fellow Americans.

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 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

Example??

San?

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 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 form our most pressing problems may take -- poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, child abuse -- ultimately, all <sup>are related</sup> ~~point~~ 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 also need your sense of duty and your character.

Nothing is 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. 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. Notre Dame still fosters those values that sustain us as individuals and as a nation -- those principles 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

Personal  
Triumph  
hardship

②

① Example  
alumni  
LA

vibrant campus that accommodates some 10,000 students, it has never lost sight of its roots nor of its profound spiritual mission.

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. And, that strength in them, strengthens our families, our communities; thus, 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 values 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 is based upon you and the communities that you will strengthen -- and the fact that those who would build and re-build will ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

We build strong communities through strengthening our institutions -- our families, our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses. The stronger these community institutions, the more unwavering and reliable will be the compasses by which individuals guide their actions and the more likely each of us will be to craft responsible behavior.

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. Earl Graves said it this way in "Black Enterprise" magazine, "without the family, the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion." We should take heed when the American family is assailed on many sides.

- Half of all marriages now end in divorce. We have forgotten just how important stability and the presence of two parents are to children. The toll of divorce and desertion has devastated a generation of children.
- In some of our inner-cities, a majority of the babies are born to unwed mothers. And, statistics show that most of these infants, and their mothers, 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 when a life lacks permanent bonds of love and commitment.

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. 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. And, while we may not always agree on the causes or the remedies; we know that we must put our country back on track. We can begin by supporting Pope John Paul

Gary?

Alvin?

Mayan

the 2nd's most recent encyclical calling for a new social climate of moral accountability in which to raise our children.

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: you will add to the problems of family breakdown or you will help rebuild the American family. 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, 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."

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. Pope John's encyclical makes special mention of the importance of volunteer work in helping to promote

human dignity -- for those in need, but also for those who serve.

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 form the foundation for all 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 the truth that it is moral restraint that gives us true freedom. 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. Here at Notre Dame, you have benefitted from the legions

of great men and women of conviction, passion and faith. Here, there is a tradition of addressing the staggering needs of the day. And, Notre Dame's graduates are already working toward the restoration of values and the family in America. Your alumni association is the prototype for other universities in sponsoring service projects. In the thousands of miles I have travelled and among the thousands of Americans I have talked with since becoming President, I have seen a groundswell of Americans who are working -- and working hard -- to restore our nation's values 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 astounded 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 you to serve -- 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. And,

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 the light of 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 and add to our material, political and economic accomplishments an ennobling purpose.

There is no surer way to build America'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.

####

MASTER COPY - Wed Night

Crouse/Simon  
Wednesday, May 13, 1992  
6:19pm  
[notre-dm]

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 -- 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.

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 Daniel 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, ~~and~~ <sup>and supportive</sup> friends.

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 steppes of Russia // to the sands of the Persian Gulf // and on to nations of Central and South America. *And that happened* Because we, the people of the United States, -- and our allies around the world -- cared. *W* // 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 *dramatic or* wondrous and no *important* less ~~transforming~~. We are taking a fresh look at government. Outmoded ideas of social engineering through government are becoming passé. We are transforming government so that it will serve individuals, not the other way around.

As we move toward the beginning of the 21st Century, I see a new *era* 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.

Preparing young men & women for lives of leadership, service, and meaning is part of the 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.

*You know the story*

*the bricks* they were deteriorating *and* 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~~

*the blood & spirit of all those who have been a part of this great university lives on in* has // within you // the blood of 150 years of Notre Dame's

heritage. 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 your magnificent Golden Dome.

??  
Now, you are Notre Dame's 150 year heritage celebration in. How, you are celebrating the 150 year heritage as fully as you can.

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

*your communities,*

BEING PREPARED -- LIFE-LONG INQUIRY

Let's look at your 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. But, ~~it is one of the ironies of life // that we cannot stay on the~~

*You have pursued new knowledge and skills, and from seminar courses to quiet moments of prayer from in-depth discussions with professors to late night talks with roommates -- you have searched for Truth.*

~~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. I hope that you will make a commitment to help resolve some of the thorny problems facing American society.~~

*have* ~~you will probably spend~~ *considerable in reflecting on* ~~some time determining~~ *how best to use* the knowledge and insight which you have developed here at Notre Dame. I hope that you *have made* ~~will make~~ a commitment 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 form our most pressing problems may take -- poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, child abuse -- ultimately, all point 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 *also* need your ~~fresh insight and your creativity and your conviction~~ *sense of duty and character.*

#### BEING PRINCIPLED -- SOUND BELIEFS

~~Let's look at the principles that form the basis of belief.~~

Nothing is 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 and as a nation -- those *principles* ~~values~~ that ultimately enable individuals to triumph over hardship and nations to overcome adversity. Although Notre Dame has expanded

*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 & stability are vital.*

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 /// nor 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 good. But, in the end, // acts of forgiveness, // generosity, // and caring -- manifested in a myriad of small, but significant ways -- become a ceaseless current of goodness. And, that current overcomes "impossible" barriers to create something majestic. Today, our hope is based on the fact that those who would build and re-

*When we instill faith in our youth — faith in God, faith in themselves, and faith in the power of truth and goodness — we point our young people ~~and our whole nation~~ toward a bright future.*

*And to all things that when we strengthen them, our families, our communities, and thus, our whole nation benefit.*

build will ultimately triumph over the forces who would tear down and destroy.

### BEING PARTNERS -- BUILDING COMMUNITY

That brings us to the third theme of your Sesquicentennial, "community." We build strong communities through strengthening our institutions -- our families, our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses. The stronger these community institutions, the more unwavering and reliable will be the compasses by which individuals guide their actions and the more likely each of us will be to craft responsible behavior.

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. Earl Graves said it this way in "Black Enterprise" magazine, "without the family, // the glory of human progress is but a treacherous and fleeting illusion." We should take heed when the American family is assailed on many sides.

- *Half of present all* *now* ~~One of [??]~~ marriages ~~now ends~~ in divorce. We have forgotten just how important stability and the presence of two parents are to children. The toll of divorce and desertion has devastated a generation of children.
- In many of our inner-cities, up to 80% of the babies are born to unwed mothers; ~~statistically~~, most of these infants, and their mothers, face a life of poverty. *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 when a life lacks permanent bonds of love and commitment.
- *Say 40%* Parents today are spending 40% less time with their children than parents did in 1965. Experts say that

most American children spend far more time with television than with family or activities.

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 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 or the remedies; we ~~both support change that will~~ put our country back on track. One of the true lights in our moral darkness is Pope John Paul II; // in his May 1st encyclical, he called 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 ~~to produce solutions.~~ <sup>rebuild the Amer family.</sup> 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. Government can

PJPH: Detroit, Sept. 19, 1987. (Amor's)  
"The ultimate test of a greatness is the way you treat your members, but especially the weakest & most defenseless ones."

Doña

sect of love

*Give parents a 7 of the best*  
*is not those 5 schools for their children*  
-- 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 that moral restraint that gives us true freedom. 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. You have benefitted from the legions of great men and women of conviction, passion and faith here at Notre Dame; // they saw the staggering needs of their day and set out to meet those needs. And, Notre Dame's graduates are already working toward the restoration of values and the family in America. Your alumni association is the prototype for other universities in sponsoring service projects. In the thousands of miles I have travelled and among the thousands of Americans I have talked with since becoming President, // I have seen a groundswell of Americans who are working -- and working hard --to restore our nation's values 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 amazed to learn that two-thirds of Notre Dame's students participate in community service,

*Working w/ handicapped children at Logans Center or with former prisoners at Dismas House.*

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.~~ *each of you has a contribution to make. that only you can make.*

Let me remind you as you assume the mantles of tomorrow's leadership, that children tend to ~~dream~~ <sup>shape</sup> their dreams in the ~~shapes~~ <sup>images</sup> that they have seen. I want to challenge you to serve -- definitely as models, but also as mentors, -- ~~so that children who need role models can follow your example and shape their dreams by your image.~~

~~In a mass society, be an antidote to depersonalization. In a fragmented society, integrate your thoughts and your action.~~ *call and sometimes impersonal bring the light of warmth & welcome be a force for healing*

In a society cut off from moral and spiritual roots, ~~bring~~ <sup>cultivate</sup> 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 and ~~bring~~ <sup>add</sup> to our material, political and economic accomplishments an ennobling purpose.

And, there is no surer way to build America's future // than with the ~~mortar~~ <sup>strong cement</sup> 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 <sup>the</sup> Notre Dame // And, may God bless the United States of America. *family*

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*Show how a good education prepares one for a full, productive life, show what it means to be a person of strong principles and integrity, and demonstrate how concerned individuals, by working in partnership, can transform our communities & nation.*

*Again, Pope John's encyclical makes special mention of the ring of Voluntary work in helping to promote human dignity among those in need.*

Janice's Edits  
in PINK

Crouse/Simon  
Wednesday, May 13, 1992  
12:41pm  
[notre-dm]

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 -- 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.

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 Daniel 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 steppes of Russia // to the sands of the Persian Gulf // and on 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 passé. 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.

Passé / word perfect will do é  
by \_\_\_\_\_ Alt, 1, 3, 0 (num pad)

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 nor 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 good. But, in the end, acts of forgiveness, generosity, and caring -- manifested in a myriad of small, but significant ways -- become a 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." We build strong communities through strengthening our institutions -- our families, our churches, our schools, our government and our businesses. The stronger these community institutions, the more unwavering and reliable will be the compasses by which individuals guide their actions and the more likely each of us will be to craft responsible behavior.

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. 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 attack from many directions.

- One of [??] marriages now ends in divorce. We have forgotten just how important stability and the presence of two parents are to children. The toll of divorce and desertion has devastated a generation of children.
- 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 when a life lacks permanent bonds of love and commitment.
- Parents today are spending 40% less time with their children than parents did in 1965. Experts say that most American children spend far more time with television than with family or activities.

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 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 or the remedies; we both support change that will put our country back on track. Pope John Paul II, in his May, 1991 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 for governmental programs to 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.

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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 // -- definitely as models, but also as mentors -- so that children who need role models can follow your example and shape their dreams by your image.

In a mass society, be an antidote to depersonalization. In a fragmented society, integrate your thoughts 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. Together, we can lift our nation's spirit until it soars high enough to match all of our many material, political and economic accomplishments.

And, 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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