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PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: TEXAS VICTORY '92
GRAND KEMPINSKI HOTEL BALLROOM
SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1992

- o We've got a lot of big guns up here. Republicans who do everything big and right. So a word of advice to all those who question Republican strength in the Lone Star State:
Don't / mess / with / Texas.//
- o [Fred McClure told me he was going to have to sing for his supper tonight. I tried to do that, too, but I guess I didn't make the cut. That's okay. I wasn't very hungry.//]
- o Barbara and I have known the warm friendship of our Texas friends for many years -- especially during what I like to refer to as my first term as President.//
- o I have been honored to be your President at this historic time in our nation's history. We stand at an important crossroads -- one that requires new thinking.
- o Since becoming President, I've set ambitious goals -- ambitious because I knew they would go up against those who cling to the status quo, those who are wed to the old thinking. But today, too many Americans believe our country is off-track. I share their frustration. The supporters of the status quo remind me of the old saying: Without change, you might end up in the direction you are headed.
- o Managing change is not easy. It takes foresight and a level head. And I'm determined to keep your trust by managing it wisely, according to the principles you and I share.

- o There are others out there who say they are leaders of change. Maybe they can read polls but they haven't read the American people. You've got to start with time-tested principles -- and you've got to stick with them. Make no mistake: In this changing world we will hold fast to our principles and our values: decency, responsibility, faith, family.
- o And we have changed the world. I'm proud of that record. The Cold War is over. Eastern Europe free. Democracy is blossoming all over the world. Imperial Communism is a four-letter word, D-E-A-D -- DEAD. You and I grew up with the spectre of a nuclear holocaust -- but our children, and their children, now go to sleep at night with far less fear of nuclear war.
- o But you and I know: The time has come to get things back on track right here at home -- and it starts with a moral, even a spiritual revival across our nation. That how we put first things first -- families united, fathers and mothers staying together, in spite of tough times, because they love their children and want them to grow up whole and strong.
- o Together we have much to do these next four years, but I know the strength of America is in her values, her determination, and the fundamental optimism of the American people.
- o After a tough recession, confidence is returning to our economy. Some good fundamentals are in place: low interest

rates, and low inflation. Strong growth in the first quarter. Our exports are still climbing -- showing that Americans can compete with anyone in the world.

- o Don't ever forget -- the United States is still the strongest, most vibrant, and most productive economy in the world. And one of my goals in the next four years is to make sure we keep it that way.
- o We've walked down too many old paths with the old thinkers. It's time to forge a new way.
- o When I took office back in '89, we set off to forge a new way for America. And the legislation we've put into place so far proves that. Legislation like our Child Care Act -- which drew the line against government-controlled day care, giving low-income parents the means to select the best care for their children; Clean Air Act -- which broke a 12-year log jam; Americans with Disabilities Act -- which gives the disabled their rightful place in the mainstream.
- o When it comes to the issues -- we've led America forward. To read the papers, you might not know it, but there is a revolution going on to bring back excellence to our educational system. And we were the ones to start it.
- o To watch the evening news, you might not know it, but there is a new movement taking hold across this great country of ours -- one that is a nation of community problem solvers -- sometimes I call them Points of Light. That movement is

real and it is fundamental to building communities that are whole and good.

- o When others relaxed and settled into complacency / when the liberals in Congress blocked the way -- we pushed the debate. When others embraced the status quo -- we called for change. And we're still pushing.
- o We could use that kind of help with our crime legislation: Many of you know the story of Dallas police Sergeant Tony Crawford -- shot and paralyzed last November while on duty. Officers like Tony put themselves in harm's way everyday to protect our citizens. We must support our police. // That's why we're fighting hard to get a crime bill through Congress -- like the Crime Control Act: it makes things tougher on those who commit crime than on those who protect it.
- o URBAN REFORM: Fighting crime is just one element of a 6-point plan to renew our nation's cities: Weed and Seed, Enterprise Zones, H.O.P.E., Job Training, Welfare Reform, Education/America 2000.
- o The critics say: "You've proposed all this before." True, but these ideas have not been tried; now is the time to act.
- o This is a time of great change for America, and the American people will decide in a few months who they trust to make the tough calls ahead.
- o For so many years, America has embraced the principles of the Republican Party -- principles we know are right. We

are right about family -- about freedom and free enterprise. We are right about faith. And most of all, we are right about America's future. We are a rising nation -- full of promise.

- o And with your support, I will take the principles of this Party into what I like to refer to as my second term. // I appreciate this warm Texas welcome. God bless you all.

IF YOU'RE STILL MORE AMBITIOUS, AND TRY TO OPEN A BUSINESS, TO CREATE JOBS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, YOU FACE AN INFORMAL REDLINE. GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND CAPITAL ARE ALREADY TOO EXPENSIVE FOR OUR ENTREPRENEURS; IN THE INNER CITY, ADD THE EXTRA EXPENSES OF JOB TRAINING AND SECURITY, PLUS THE RELUCTANCE OF INVESTORS TO BRING CAPITAL AND CREDIT INTO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

NO WONDER THE SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK; NO WONDER IT BREEDS IRRESPONSIBILITY AND DESPAIR. IT REJECTS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF A FREE SOCIETY: PEOPLE WILL ACT RESPONSIBLY IF THEY'RE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY. THE CONVERSE IS ALSO TRUE: PEOPLE WON'T ACT RESPONSIBLY IF THEY'RE DENIED RESPONSIBILITY.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Dallas, Texas)

For Immediate Release

May 30, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT VICTORY '92 FUNDRAISING DINNER

Grand Kempinski Hotel
Dallas, Texas

7:37 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you for that wonderfully warm introduction, Senator, and I am just delighted to be at your side. I won't rave about Phil Gramm; we know what kind of Senator we have.

But as I listen to him on the floor of the Senate from time to time, as I see him in action up there, I am absolutely convinced that with his leadership now of this Senate campaign committee which is taking him all across the country, and then given what I'm about to tell you how I see this country moving, I really believe with his leadership we have an opportunity to get control back of the United States Senate and to move this country forward. (Applause.) And he's doing a superb job for our state.

Dr. Criswell, it is very nice to see you again, sir. Last time I saw him was in his own church and it was a moving experience for me. And I am delighted that he is with us tonight. When you want to get somebody that knows how to sing the Star Spangled Banner, sign up an Aggie, and Fred McClure did it once again. (Applause.) As you may know, Fred was one of the top people in the White House running all of our relationship with Congress and did a superb job there, and now he's back here in business in Dallas.

I want to thank the Rangerettes from Kilgore for their dance performance. I want to thank Rob Mosbacher who's heading this program, Victory '92; and, of course, Dan Cooke who's just done a superb job on this dinner. A great success and thank you to both of you. (Applause.)

Then my state chairman for the Bush-Quayle campaign, Jim Oberwetter. He's beginning to peak a little early, he's out on that television all the time, but he's saying smart and sensible things and it saves me from doing something that I look forward to doing but I'm not going to do it now, and that is get after these opponents. But I'm going to wait a little bit, and I'll tell you why in a minute.

I'm grateful to Jim. I'm grateful to Barbara Patton, our co-chairman; she's here from Houston. And, of course, to salute Kay Bailey-Hutchison, an old friend; Rick Perry, our commissioner; and then our state chairman, Fred Meyer, who continues to do a great, great job.

So welcome to all and thank you for being here. Phil put it right, these are not easy times. They're not easy. But in my view, we have a great deal to be grateful for as a nation. Phil touched on some of it. When you look at big things having happened, take a look around the world. The very fact that these little kids here, sitting over here, go to bed at night and do not have the fear of nuclear war that kids a generation before is something significant. And we helped bring that about. (Applause.) I happen to think that a foremost responsibility of any president is the national security of this country. And you don't read one single

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word about it in all this gloom-and-doom television we're getting in this country, not one.

There have been significant changes. Ancient enemies are talking to each other in the Middle East, something that nobody dreamed could happen. Democracy's on the move south of the border. Almost every single country where there used to be military dictatorships there are democratic regimes. South Africa's on the move. The states of the former Soviet Union struggling to become democratic. Eastern Europe free; the Baltics free. And so there's a great deal of gratitude that I have in my heart for the changes that are taking place in the world. And it is only the United States of America that can lead and effect this change. And I am going to remain involved in bringing about more change for peace for the whole world. (Applause.)

Now I hear the revisionists talking about Kuwait. If I'd have listened, as Phil said, to some of the critics on the Democratic Party up there, Saddam Hussein would be sitting in Saudi Arabia and we'd be paying \$10 a gallon for gasoline. And that's the fact. And we ought not to let somebody revise history because they were wrong on the Persian Gulf War. (Applause.)

So we've changed the world with a lot of help. I salute my predecessor that I met with yesterday, Ronald Reagan, a steadfast contribution -- "that wall will come down" and thank God, it did. And so we've got a lot to be grateful for. We have helped change the world.

And here's now what we're doing to help change this country. Phil touched on some of it. We have a strong domestic agenda. It is significant and it is in keeping with the principles that unite everybody here tonight -- empowerment, government close to the people, trying to hold the reign on the ever-increasing federal government and getting the action right back where it belongs, right here in the towns and cities around Dallas, Texas.

We're working hard for free trade. Some want us to retreat and pull back. Agricultural trade with Mexico is three times higher than it was just a few years ago, and we haven't even gotten the free trade agreement. I am going to continue to work for a job-creating free trade agreement with Mexico and a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round to the GATT. And you watch when we get that done -- a level playing field, the creation of American jobs in this country. We're not pulling back, we're the United States; we're moving forward. (Applause.)

I would hate to take my case to the people in the fall that the only way I could win is if everything was bad, capitalizing on the gloom and doom and on the dreariness of the recession and of the slow growth that we've been in for the last couple of years. It has been bad. Families have been hurt and they've been hurt bad. But this economy is beginning to move and each inch of the way it starts up the Democratic Party is panicking because the only way they can win is if things are going to hell in this country. And I wouldn't want that. I think we're much more positive than that. And the economy is moving. (Applause.) And as it begins to go forward we have good answers.

We need health care reform. We need to keep the quality of health care we've got and we have to make health insurance -- give it access to all, rich and poor alike have a chance to have insurance. But what we don't need to do is put a socialized medicine or a nationalized medicine program in that will diminish the quality of the health care in this country. (Applause.) And we have a good plan to take to the American people and they'll see it loud and clear in the fall. It will be there.

Education. As I look at what we need to give those kids a break and to be competitive in the world it gets right back to my passion for a change in education. And we've got a good program. And we've sent it to the United States Congress and what did they do? They through out this whole innovative approach that we call America 2000 and simply added more of your taxpayers' money to the programs that have failed. And I want to take this case for education reform to the American people in the fall and I'm confident we have a winner. We are right to fundamentally reform education in this country. (Applause.)

And I might say I strongly favor parental choice in schools. It works at the college level and it can work at the lower school levels. (Applause.) And where it's been tried it's benefited not just the chosen schools, but because of the old American theory of competition, it's benefited those that weren't chosen and they get their act together. So school choice and America 2000 is a positive program. But we have got to get more people elected to the Congress that don't want to do it the old-fashioned way.

Legal reform. Phil and I have been trying for at least three years to reform the legal system. The bottom line is simply this: we sue each other too much, and care for each other too little. And we're trying to change that. (Applause.) And the political opposition -- and don't take my word for it, ask Phil -- the political opposition so afraid to offend a powerful lobby they won't even let our liability reform proposals or malpractice reform proposals be voted on. We've got to change the Congress and get people there who will do what the people want done. (Applause.) I am worried about these deficits and leaving these kids with a greater legacy of debt and we've tried to do something about it.

I'll give you a four-point program is you want one, and I'll be proud to take this one to the American people this fall: One, you've got to cap the growth of mandatory spending. All these program that a President never gets a shot at, that are just locked into the law -- you can permit them to grow, they can grow at the rate of inflation plus population, and then that's it. And that in itself will have billions, literally, \$2 trillion of savings over the next five or 10 years. We've got to do that.

The second point is we've got pass some of the things that we've got up in the Congress for stimulating economic growth. The biggest one is a reduction in the capital gains tax. It will encourage entrepreneurship. (Applause.)

The third one is an idea that the Texas Republican Party and many in this room have been in the forefront for many, many years, but I believe it's time has come, unless it gets blocked by the leadership, the Democratic Party in the House and Senate who are now nervously conniving to find out how to block it -- and I'm talking about a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution that will discipline the Executive Branch and discipline the Congress. (Applause.)

The votes are there. And it obviously has to be phased in, but it can work. And I'll be glad to make the tough decisions that go with it.

And then the fourth point: Give me what 43 governors have now -- and this one, the case I'm taking to the American people -- you give me that line-item veto that 43 governors have and let's see what we can do. (Applause.)

We're talking about change -- people in the cities, horribly brought to our attention because of what happened in Los Angeles. And we moved immediately and forcefully because I didn't have to ask the Congress what to do. We mobilized SBA and FEMA and

Agriculture Department and HHS and all -- we put in seven central locations in the areas, in South Central, the burned areas, we brought what we could without having one piece of legislation -- the federal government to help these people. I was there yesterday and saw it and it was very, very moving.

And now I've said to the Congress -- and again, Phil is in the lead on this -- we want to do something better now. These programs haven't worked. We want people to have jobs with dignity. And the time has come -- and I heard this in the Boys Clubs, I heard it in the churches in South Central -- the time has come to pass enterprise zones to draw the businesses like a magnet into the inner city through getting rid of the capital gains tax in those green line areas. (Applause.)

Let me tell you this: The Mayor of Los Angeles wants it. The Council of Los Angeles wants it. The congressmen give a lot of lip service to it. And Peter Ueberroth tells me that it will make his job a lot easier as he's trying to bring businesses in there. And yet, it's hung up because some of the leadership is afraid to give the President or to give the Republicans in Congress a victory. I want to get that clearly in focus for the American people. This isn't time just to have some broad, general thesis; this is something that will really help. And we've got to get it done. And we may have a chance, still, to get that passed -- I hope we will, Phil -- in the next few weeks.

We've got other programs that I think will help. We've got a good one for crime -- Weed and Seed, it's called -- weed out the criminals, because I don't believe that this is the time to go soft on those who commit crime. We need a tough crime bill, and we need this Weed and Seed program. (Applause.)

I was amazed out there in California, listening to some of the television commercials for the people running now out there in their primaries, or running for the United States Senate; Democrats who come back to Washington and vote against our tough crime bill out there on those 30-second spots. I'm going to be tough on law and order. We have a good crime bill up there. And it's tougher on the criminals and it's kinder to the victims of crime. And it has been frustrated, as Phil said -- he said 1,079 days -- it seems like three million years. But we're going to keep fighting until we can get done what our police officers deserve and what the neighborhoods of this country are crying out for.

Welfare reform -- you've got to be careful on that, because some say you're playing a race card. Who gets hurt the most by a system that's failed? Those who can afford it the least. And I want to reform the welfare system. A little girl saved about \$1,200, and they came to her and said, well, you can't do that. Your mother's on welfare, and the law says you can't accumulate over \$1,000. We've got to change it. We've got to structure it so it does not discriminate against saving, but encourages the saving and encourages work, and encourages learning. We are going to reform that welfare system. And if I can't get it done before the fall, I'm taking that case to the American people, loud and clear. (Applause.)

Homeownership. Isn't it far better to encourage -- have a federal program that encourages owning homes than going into these tenements that strip you of your dignity? Of course, it is. We've got a good program for that, and I'm hoping we can get that through the Congress. Job Training 2000, a forward-looking job training program.

Now, there are six incentives that would help the cities immediately. Dallas would be a beneficiary, as well as Los Angeles, or Houston, or wherever else it might be.

Now, on those six points I've asked the Congress to put partisanship aside. I said, look, the American people really want something done. It's not just the cities, as a matter of fact, I think the whole country wants something done. And if you look at the core of these proposals, there are themes that all of us can agree on. Once again: Responsibility. Opportunity. Ownership. Independence. Dignity. Empowerment. And these are not partisan values. They are fundamental American values, and we have a duty to make them real.

Now, so far I've talked about what the government can do. But as I finish here, let me just say the more I am in this wonderfully challenging job -- and again, I'm very grateful to the people around this room because I see many, many that go back to my earliest days in Texas politics -- but the longer I am in this job, the more convinced I am that government alone simply cannot solve these problems. It can't be done.

And you might say: What keeps a kid in school? What keeps a kid away from drugs? What keeps a kid out of the gangs? It's not government. It is family. And Barbara -- Barbara Bush said it right: What happens in your house is far more important than what happens in the White House. We have got to find ways to strengthen the American family, and we must find ways to see that not one piece of legislation passes that diminishes the American family. (Applause.)

I've been in politics a long, long time. I computed it the other day. Half of my adult life since I got out of the Navy and went to school and then moved out to Odessa in the spring of 1948, half of my adult life has been in public life, and exactly half has been in the private sector. And we have been blessed -- both Barbara and I have been blessed by the challenges and the joy that we've had in all kinds of fascinating assignments.

The more I think of our country, I'd say this: We have been through tough times. The country's been through tough times. That's changing. Things are beginning to move. We are not a pessimistic nation. We are a rising nation, and we are full of promise for the future. And I have vowed, as we try to get something done with Congress before the shift goes entirely into politics in this every-four-year dance that we're all engaged in -- that I will not attack any single opponent. I haven't done it since it started. Five people in the Democratic side, one on the Republican side, bolstered by the press that love a good fight. I am not going to do it. I am going to concentrate on trying to lead this country. I'm going to concentrate on trying to build and get something done.

But I want each and every one of you to know that I am ready for the battle that lies ahead. I have never felt more confident of a victory, and I have never felt more fired up about taking our sound message of values and opportunity to the American people in the fall. (Applause.)

So let all these other balloons go up. Let everybody else have their day in the sun. Our day is going to prevail because we are right on the issues, because we are compassionate and caring about the American people, and because our fundamental values -- our fundamental values of faith and family is what this country is all about.

Thank you all for what you're doing, and may God bless the United States of America. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

7:59 P.M. CDT