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Grant/Cawley
May 22, 1991
A:NBC / Draft three

**BRIEF REMARKS: NBC AFFILIATES MEETING TELECONFERENCE
ROOM 459 EOB
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1991
2:25 P.M.**

Good afternoon. Thank you, Bob.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of the NBC affiliates around this country -- as vital resources in your local communities. Whether it's fighting drug abuse and combatting illiteracy, or promoting pre-natal care and keeping kids in school, the NBC family is making a difference in the lives of their fellow Americans.

I was delighted to film a piece for "The More You Know" campaign -- and now, two years later, your public service ads are still going strong -- addressing issues, raising awareness, and enlightening viewers.

The impact has been enormous. You know the issues. You see and hear the challenges people face. You deal with it all on the local level: the volunteers, the heroes, the local boy who makes good. But there's the other side, too. The side nobody wants to see: the gangs, the drug dealers, the murderers.

And here's the real untold story: we've been arguing over fundamental, badly needed reforms for years. When we sent our crime bill up to Congress, we put the Hill on a 100-day clock. Well, it's been 74 days since we transmitted our legislation. Most of its core proposals are identical to those we sent up in

THE IMPACT HAS BEEN ENORMOUS. YOU KNOW THE ISSUES. YOU SEE AND HEAR THE CHALLENGES PEOPLE FACE. YOU DEAL WITH IT ALL ON THE LOCAL LEVEL: THE VOLUNTEERS, THE HEROES, THE LOCAL KID WHO MAKES GOOD. BUT THERE'S THE OTHER SIDE, TOO. THE SIDE NOBODY WANTS TO SEE: THE GANGS, THE DRUG DEALERS, THE MURDERERS.

AND HERE'S THE REAL UNTOLD STORY: WE'VE BEEN ARGUING OVER FUNDAMENTAL, BADLY NEEDED REFORMS FOR YEARS. SO WHEN WE SENT OUR CRIME BILL UP TO CONGRESS, WE PUT THE HILL ON A 100-DAY CLOCK. WELL, IT'S BEEN 74 DAYS SINCE WE TRANSMITTED OUR LEGISLATION. MOST OF ITS CORE PROPOSALS ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE WE SENT UP IN 1989. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ACTION. AND THEY'RE NOT GETTING IT FROM CONGRESS.

THEY WANT AN END TO THE MURDER AND MAYHEM IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS ... TO THE DRUGS AND GUNS IN THE SCHOOLS ... TO THE COP-KILLERS AND GANG LEADERS ON THE STREETS. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ACTION -- ACTION LIKE A SIMPLE VOTE -- ON PROPOSALS THAT ARE MORE THAN JUST FEEL-GOOD RESPONSES.

We're going

F.I.T taking is ex. of place today

Cong + exec should be together

Full + fair debate give + take

Country deserves this kind of debate

We need to extend this kind of COOP on Rallie crime C.F.T. Cong should move forward on these issues

1) Ack. by party leadership
2) Challenged 74 days

Work F.I.T shown from work together for good of country

WE'VE PROPOSED STIFF PENALTIES FOR CRIMINALS WHO USE SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS; TOUGH LAWS TO PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ABUSE; AN IMPROVED EXCLUSIONARY RULE TO PROTECT THE TRUTH AND PUNISH THE GUILTY; AND HABEAS CORPUS REFORM THAT WOULD STOP FRIVOLOUS APPEALS. FINALLY, OUR BILL WILL GIVE US A FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY FOR SOCIETY'S MOST HEINOUS CRIMES. IT'S TIME TO STOP THE VIOLENCE.

CONGRESS HAS IMPOSED A 74 DAY WAITING PERIOD ON AMERICANS WHO WANT A COMPREHENSIVE CRIME BILL. I URGE CONGRESS TO HEED THE VOICES YOU BROADCASTERS HEAR EVERY DAY -- THOSE OF OUR PEOPLE, OUR POLICE, AND OUR PROSECUTORS. IT'S TIME TO STOP THE VIOLENCE AND THE KILLINGS. IT'S TIME TO STOP THE TRAGEDIES. IT'S TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE ACTION BY THE CONGRESS ON OUR COMPREHENSIVE CRIME BILL.

I'VE CHALLENGED CONGRESS TO ACT ON THE URGENT ISSUES FACING THIS NATION. WITH 26 DAYS LEFT, CONGRESS HAS HAD TOO LONG A WAITING PERIOD. AND IT'S NOT JUST ON OUR CRIME BILL. I WANT TO SIGN A GOOD CIVIL RIGHTS BILL THIS YEAR, AND I'VE SENT A GOOD STRONG PROPOSAL UP TO THE HILL. UNFORTUNATELY, MY BILL IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE WHILE THE OTHER SIDE PUSHES A BILL THAT IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE ONE I VETOED LAST YEAR.

ON TUESDAY, WE HAD AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC COMPROMISE. BUT IT WAS JUST AN ANNOUNCEMENT -- NO BILL -- NO EXACT LANGUAGE. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL FROM THEIR SUMMARY, THE CHANGES THEY'RE PROPOSING SEEM TO BE PURELY COSMETIC.

I DO NOT WANT TO VETO ANOTHER BILL WITH THE NAME "CIVIL RIGHTS" ON IT. BUT I WILL NOT SIGN A BILL THAT WILL FOSTER QUOTAS AND UNFAIR PREFERENCES AND PROMOTE A LITIGATION EXPLOSION FOR THE BENEFIT OF LAWYERS. IF CONGRESS IS SERIOUS ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS, THEY WILL PASS MY BILL. WE THEN CAN MOVE FORWARD IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND BIPARTISAN FASHION TO ADDRESS THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF MY PROGRAM FOR EXPANDING CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH, AND NOW I THINK WE HAVE TIME FOR TWO QUESTIONS.

((SEE QUESTIONS NEXT PAGE))

FIRST QUESTION ((TO BE ASKED BY BOB WRIGHT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NBC)):

-- WHAT INDUSTRIES WILL HAVE TO DO BETTER BEFORE WE SEE AN UPTURN IN THE ECONOMY?

WHILE EXPERTS DISAGREE ABOUT THE LENGTH AND DEPTH OF THE RECESSION, I THINK WE'RE ALREADY SEEING SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS. IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, WE'VE SEEN RISES IN BOTH HOUSING STARTS AND CONSUMER SPENDING. BOTH OF THESE ARE OFTEN PRECURSORS TO AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. OUR EXPORT MARKETS ARE GOING STRONG -- LAST MONTH WAS OUR BEST INTERNATIONAL TRADE MONTH IN ALMOST A DECADE.

BUT LET ME ADD THAT THE GOVERNMENT ISN'T IN THE BUSINESS OF PICKING WINNERS OR LOSERS IN THE MARKETPLACE. WE SERVE BEST WHEN WE TRY TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH -- AND LET AMERICAN WORKERS AND INNOVATORS PUSH US FORWARD. I'M REALLY VERY ENCOURAGED ABOUT THE ECONOMY, AND WE'VE SENT AN ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE TO THE CONGRESS THAT WILL STIMULATE GROWTH, CREATE JOBS, AND ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

SECOND QUESTION ((ALSO ASKED BY BOB WRIGHT)):

-- IS THERE AN APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR THE AMERICAN TELEVISION INDUSTRY IN RESPONDING TO THE "NEW WORLD ORDER"?

I THINK TELEVISION IS ALREADY PLAYING A VERY LARGE ROLE. NOT LONG AGO, TELEVISION HELPED BRING A NEW WORLD INTO THE LIVING ROOMS OF PEOPLE IN EASTERN EUROPE. IT BROUGHT NEWS, IT BROUGHT ENTERTAINMENT, IT BROUGHT GLIMPSES OF THE KINDS OF PLACES THEIR COUNTRIES COULD BECOME. THE REVOLUTION OF '89 TOOK PLACE BECAUSE COMMUNISM NO LONGER COULD RESTRAIN THE POWER OF IDEAS.

YOU STILL FULFILL THAT KIND OF ROLE. YOU PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ENTERTAINMENT -- TWO FORCES THAT WILL CONTINUE TO HELP SHAPE THE WORLD. TODAY, IN SO MANY CITIES AND VILLAGES AROUND THE WORLD, YOUR CAMERAS HAVE HELPED IGNITE THE FIRES OF TRUTH AND FREEDOM. THANKS TO THE SCRUTINY THAT NO GOVERNMENT CAN NOW ESCAPE, THE SPIRIT IS CATCHING.

NOW, I'VE GOT TO SAY THAT I DON'T ALWAYS LIKE WHAT I SEE ON TELEVISION. BUT I UNDERSTAND ITS IMPORTANCE. OUR AIRWAVES ARE THE HIGHWAYS FOR FREE IDEAS. THEY EXPOSE PEOPLE TO NEW CHALLENGES AND WONDERS. THEY BRING THE ENTIRE WORLD INTO LIVING ROOMS. SO, LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU ARE SHAPING THE POST COLD WAR WORLD, AND YOU WILL CONTINUE TO HELP SHAPE IT. YOUR CHALLENGE TOMORROW WILL BE THE ONE YOU WRESTLE WITH EVERY DAY: TO PROVIDE HONEST NEWS, GOOD ENTERTAINMENT, AND TO HONOR THE TRUST THE PUBLIC PLACES IN YOU.

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THE DEBATE OVER THE FAST TRACK VOTE TAKING PLACE TODAY IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF COOPERATION WE NEED. LEADERS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE WORKED TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY, IN A TRULY BIPARTISAN SPIRIT. AFTER A FULL AND FAIR DEBATE ON THE ISSUES, CONGRESS WILL EITHER TAKE A STEP BACKWARD -- OR FORWARD -- TOWARD FREE AND FAIR TRADE IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE. THE FAST TRACK VOTE WILL BE A TREMENDOUS

STATEMENT TO THE WORLD AS TO WHETHER AMERICA IS READY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LEADERS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE WHO LED THE BIPARTISAN DEBATE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE THIS KIND OF GIVE-AND-TAKE ON THE ISSUES. AND THEY DESERVE TO HAVE THIS KIND OF COOPERATION EXTENDED TO OTHER PROPOSALS BEFORE CONGRESS. OUR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON EDUCATION, CRIME, TRANSPORTATION, AND CIVIL RIGHTS -- TO NAME ONLY A FEW -- HAVE BEEN SITTING AND GATHERING DUST, SOME FOR OVER TWO YEARS NOW. IT'S TIME CONGRESS MOVED FORWARD ON THESE VITAL ISSUES, TOO.

I'VE CHALLENGED CONGRESS TO ACT ON THE URGENT ISSUES FACING THIS NATION. CONGRESS IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME. AND IT'S NOT JUST ON OUR CRIME BILL. I WANT TO SIGN A GOOD CIVIL RIGHTS BILL THIS YEAR, AND I'VE SENT A GOOD STRONG PROPOSAL UP TO THE HILL. UNFORTUNATELY, MY BILL IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE WHILE CONGRESS PUSHES A BILL THAT IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE ONE I VETOED LAST YEAR.

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WITH TODAY'S FAST TRACK VOTE, THE CONGRESS HAS SHOWN THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY, IN A TRULY BIPARTISAN SPIRIT. AFTER A FULL AND FAIR DEBATE ON THE ISSUES, CONGRESS IS TAKING A STEP FORWARD -- NOT BACKWARD -- TOWARD FREE AND FAIR TRADE IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE. THE FAST TRACK VOTE IS A TREMENDOUS STATEMENT TO THE WORLD THAT AMERICA IS READY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

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NBC AFFILIATES MEETING TELECONFERENCE
ROOM 459 EOB
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1991
2:25 P.M.

GOOD AFTERNOON. THANK YOU, BOB -- NOT JUST FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION, BUT FOR YOUR WORK AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION. IN THAT REGARD, I WANT TO THANK ADVERTISING AGENCIES -- SAATCHI AND SAATCHI IN PARTICULAR -- FOR THEIR HELP IN DEVELOPING THE POINTS OF LIGHT MESSAGE, AND THE NBC AFFILIATES, WHO ARE NOW BEGINNING TO AIR OUR MESSAGES.

OF COURSE, YOU AT NBC ALSO HAVE YOUR OWN VERY IMPRESSIVE TRADITION OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMING. WHETHER YOU'RE FIGHTING DRUG ABUSE OR COMBATTING ILLITERACY, PROMOTING PRE-NATAL CARE OR KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL, THE NBC FAMILY MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO COMMUNITIES AND TO THE NATION.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO FILM A PIECE FOR "THE MORE YOU KNOW" CAMPAIGN -- AND NOW, TWO YEARS LATER, YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE ADS ARE STILL GOING STRONG -- ADDRESSING ISSUES, PROVOKING THOUGHT AND ACTION, AND ENLIGHTENING VIEWERS.

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AGAIN, LET ME ACKNOWLEDGE BOTH THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS GREAT SHOW OF BIPARTISAN COOPERATION. THIS VOTE TELLS THE WORLD THAT AMERICANS ARE NOT AFRAID OF COMPETITION, AND THAT WE ARE READY TO BOLDLY FACE THE 21ST CENTURY.

NOW, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION SPECIFICALLY

((IF VOTE HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE))

BOB -- BEFORE I BEGIN -- LET ME SAY THAT WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR WORD ON THE FAST TRACK VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. ANYBODY WHO SAYS WE'VE GOT THE VOTE IN THE BAG IS DEAD WRONG. WE'RE DOWN TO THE WIRE, AND EVERY VOTE COUNTS.

CONGRESS HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR TRADING PARTNERS -- THAT AMERICA IS READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY -- AND TO STAND ON THE SIDE OF FREE MARKETS AND FREE PEOPLE. I URGE CONGRESS TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY AND VOTE FOR FAST TRACK. NOW, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION SPECIFICALLY ...

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BOB, I ENJOYED DOING THIS WITH YOU TODAY ... NOW I CAN TELL MY WIFE THAT I FINALLY PLAYED CARNEGIE HALL. GOOD TO SEE YOU AND THANKS AGAIN.

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BUT HERE'S THE REAL UNTOLD STORY: WE'VE BEEN ARGUING OVER FUNDAMENTAL, BADLY NEEDED REFORMS FOR YEARS. SO WHEN WE SENT OUR CRIME BILL UP TO CONGRESS, WE PUT THE HILL ON A 100-DAY CLOCK. WELL, IT'S BEEN 74 DAYS SINCE WE TRANSMITTED OUR LEGISLATION. MOST OF ITS CORE PROPOSALS ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE WE SENT UP IN 1989. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ACTION. AND SO DO I
-- BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT THE HELP OF CONGRESS.

Grant/Cawley
May 20, 1991
A:NBC / Draft one

**BRIEF REMARKS: NBC AFFILIATES MEETING TELECONFERENCE
ROOM 459 EOB
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1991
TIME?**

Good afternoon. Thank you, Jay [Leno]. ((possible joke)).

I want to acknowledge the hard work being done by so many NBC affiliates around this country -- as vital resources in their local communities. Whether it's fighting drug abuse and combatting illiteracy, or promoting pre-natal care and keeping kids in school, NBC broadcasters are making a difference in the lives of their fellow Americans.

I was delighted to film a piece for "The More You Know" campaign -- and now, two years later, your public service ads are still going strong -- addressing issues, raising awareness, and enlightening viewers.

The impact has been enormous. ~~And it's because~~ you know the issues ~~you see and hear the challenges people~~ ^{face} are facing. ~~In your local programming,~~ ^{on the local level} you deal with it all: the volunteers, the heroes, the local boy who makes good. But there's the other side, too. The side nobody wants to see: the gangs, the drug dealers, the cop-killers.

passive / And here's the real untold story: fundamental, badly needed reforms have been argued over for years. But the American people ~~are not begging for more debate on the issue.~~ **They want action.** And they're not getting it from ~~the~~ Congress.

I urge the Congress to heed the voices you broadcasters hear every day -- those of our people, our police, and our prosecutors. **It's time to stop the violence. It's time for substantive action by the Congress.**

Thank you all very much, and now I think we have time for a few questions.

#

Very short riff on trans. bill

~~Today they're demanding~~ action. They want an end to the murder and mayhem in their neighborhoods ... to the drugs and guns in the schools ... to the cop-killers and gang leaders on the streets. **The American people want action -- action that translates into a straight up-or-down vote on proposals that are more than just feel-good responses.**

We've proposed stiff penalties for criminals ^{who use} using semiautomatic weapons, tough laws ^{to protect} protecting women and children from abuse; an improved exclusionary rule to protect the truth and punish the guilty; and habeas corpus reform that would stop frivolous appeals. ~~Most important of all, our bill will finally~~ ^{finally our bill will} give us a Federal death penalty for society's most heinous crimes. **It's time to stop the violence.**

When we sent our crime bill up to Congress, we ~~said the clock was ticking~~ -- we put the Hill on a 100-day clock. Well, it's been xx days since we transmitted our legislation. Most of its core proposals are identical to those we sent up in 1989. And today, two years later, ((number)) police men and women are dead -- killed in the line of duty. In those last xx days alone, another ((number)) more have died. How many does it take? **How bad do things have to get?**

Congress talks a lot about ^a this "seven-day waiting period" ^{for guns,} ~~but they've given voters~~ ^{but it has imposed a} a xx day waiting period. ^{on Americans who want} ~~And they're~~ ^{It is} also asking voters to put up with more killings. More violence. More tragedy.

a comprehensive crime bill

FIRST QUESTION ((TO BE ASKED BY BOB WRIGHT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NBC)):

-- WHAT INDUSTRIES WILL HAVE TO DO BETTER BEFORE WE SEE AN UPTURN IN THE ECONOMY?

WHILE EXPERTS DISAGREE ABOUT THE LENGTH AND DEPTH OF THE RECESSION, I THINK WE'RE ALREADY ^{SEEING} SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS. IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, WE'VE SEEN RISES IN BOTH HOUSING STARTS AND CONSUMER SPENDING. BOTH OF THESE ARE OFTEN PRECURSORS TO AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. OUR EXPORT MARKETS ^{ARE GOING} ~~CONTINUE~~ STRONG -- LAST MONTH WAS OUR BEST INTERNATIONAL TRADE MONTH IN ALMOST A DECADE.

BUT LET ME ADD THAT THE GOVERNMENT ISN'T IN THE BUSINESS OF PICKING WINNERS OR LOSERS IN THE MARKETPLACE. WE SERVE BEST WHEN WE TRY TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH -- AND LET AMERICAN WORKERS AND INNOVATORS PUSH US FORWARD. I'M REALLY VERY ENCOURAGED ABOUT THE ECONOMY, AND WE'VE SENT AN ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE TO THE CONGRESS THAT WILL STIMULATE GROWTH, CREATE JOBS, AND ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

I Before get to forward not backward 2 or 3 bullets v. happy HR hope Senate follow tremendous statement to world that we're ready to meet challenges of 21st C.

