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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARBOR DAY EVENT
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1990

Dan Coats, Mayor Hudnut, Director Strong, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is indeed great to be "back home again in Indiana." And as the banner says, to plant "trees for tomorrow" that will benefit our Nation and its kids. //

Defense?
((Not far from here is the law school of a friend of mine. And in that context, let me tell you a story. // A guy came up to me today and said, "Mr. President, the press has been wrong about your foreign and domestic policy." // And I said to him, "That may be true -- but you left out an important fact. // They've also been wrong about Dan Quayle."

((Let me say how proud I am of the job Dan has done as Vice-President. He's served our Administration well. He's served the Nation well.)) // Given the choice again, I'd pick him as my Vice-President more quickly than you can say, "Indiana loves basketball.)) //

Today, the Vice-President is back in Washington. // As you can see, he let me play hookie. // Nor, sadly, could Bobby Knight be with us. He's out recruiting what Dan assures me is yet another national champion. //

Even so, I am glad to see all of you here in a city which, unlike some, can always see the forest for the trees. // And

Trees, of course, can help ensure clean air -- just one reason why central to "America the Beautiful" is a program to reforest America. Yes, we need trees aesthetically. We also need them environmentally -- and economically. // Consider: A recent study showed that trees -- much more than water -- consume the carbon dioxide that raises temperatures. And another study showed that if temperatures are cut by five to ten degrees, energy used for cooling can be slashed by fifty percent. Trees can cool those temperatures. And lower the energy costs that burden the American family.

~~((You know, one of my grandkids once told me he'd rather be a doctor than a tree surgeon. His reason? A doctor never falls out of his patients. // Trees are ^{also} something we all can plant -- for the great outdoors is precious, but fragile. To preserve it, we must protect it. // And the record shows that Indianapolis isn't falling down on the job of planting them. And neither will our Administration.)) //~~

That's why in the budget I submitted in February to the Congress, I asked for seed money to plant a billion trees a year. And why two weeks ago I asked Congress to approve another step to protect the environment. // We call it the National Tree Trust Act of 1990. An initiative that will foster the partnership between the public and private sectors to plant trees across America. //

Under our plan, we will designate a private nonprofit Foundation to receive a one-time Federal grant to promote

community tree planting and cultivation projects. // It will, ^{also} solicit contributions from private sources. Sound a nationwide call for each American to protect the environment. And most of all, plant the trees that clean our air, prevent erosion, and purify our water.

By acting as one of a Thousand Points of Light, the National Tree Trust Act of 1990 will help create Ten Billion Trees of Life. // It is a key part of our national tree planting and forest improvement initiative, to be administered by the Agriculture Department. // This two-part program involves both rural areas as well as urban tree planting programs in cities like Indianapolis. And it, in turn, will complement local programs to help conservation enrich America's quality of life. Programs like your "Trees for Tomorrow."

You know, two weeks ago I told an audience that I'd been planting so many trees all over the country -- please forgive me -- that I may have to open a branch office. // Well, Indianapolis' "Trees for Tomorrow" is the best kind of office: It helps trees grow 24 hours a day. Talk about cooperation -- individuals, private groups, your Department of Parks and Recreation -- joining hands, linking hearts. And results -- this month alone, you're donating 1,000 trees. // This urban forestry program will help volunteers show new volunteers not only how and where to plant trees. That's the easy part. It will also teach the difficult part -- how to care for trees -- why we need them -- and how they help the environment. // Just

as trees grow, with roots and branches spreading, your efforts on behalf of trees can realize these words of a Chinese proverb:

"One generation plants the trees -- another gets the shade." //

I began by talking about two great Indiana exports -- Dan Quayle and basketball. Let me close by referring to a movie close to the Vice-President's heart. // It's called Hoosiers. You've seen it -- probably memorized it. It was filmed here and in three nearby towns. // Yes, it's about basketball. But it also portrays -- unforgettably -- the values of Indiana. //

and how? } The next time you see Hoosiers, look at the kids -- they're everywhere -- like the 2,000 here today. And the trees -- they're even more numerous than the movie's kids. // A lot of people don't know it, but Indiana is among our most heavily forested States. Look around you: Trees enhance the majesty of Indiana's cathedral of the outdoors. //

So let's help these youngsters plant trees -- nurture them -- in this State and all fifty States. And so knock Johnny Appleseed from the Guinness Book of Records. // Let's plant the "trees for tomorrow" that will bless the children of tomorrow -- the generations who will inherit our earth. //

Thank you for what you're doing. Hats off to the City of Indianapolis. God bless the land we so richly love -- the United States of America. And now, it is my great pleasure to officially plant the first tree of this magnificent campaign.

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