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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENT'S DINNER
SHOREHAM HOTEL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1990

Mike (Harper), thank you for that introduction -- and for the wonderful job you've done as Dinner Chairman for tonight's dinner. // Larry (Bathgate) -- I salute, you, too, for all you're doing as Finance Chairman of the Republican National Finance Committee. // I also want to recognize a personal friend of twenty years, and the National Chairman of the President's Club -- Wally Ganzi, and his lovely wife Reva. // To Crystal Gale and Loretta Lynn -- who loved country before it was cool. Above all, my thanks to each member of this club for your support of the Republican National Committee. //

On Barbara's behalf, thank you for that generous reception. She made me promise tonight not to be too windy. ((Maybe she's heard the report that some of our military have trained for those long hours of boredom in the Gulf by listening to tapes of my speeches.)) //

((As you know, I come here after my recent summit with President Gorbachev in Helsinki. A trip, incidentally, which I hope dispels the false report that the only finds I'm interested in are on fish.)) //

((Actually, here's a scoop: I'm thinking of giving up fishing altogether. As somebody put it recently: The way my

golf game's been going, I spend enough time around water just being out on the course.)) //

Seriously, I want to take a moment to salute a man who is in our thoughts tonight. He's a fighter // a winner // above all, he's our friend and inspiration, Lee Atwater. // Lee has been forced to keep a low profile. But he, himself, is a profile in courage. I join every Republican in extending prayers to Lee, his wife Sally, and his three beautiful daughters, Sarah, Ashley, and Sally T. // Here's to the grand young man of the Grand Old Party. //

Like you, Lee Atwater knows what this election is all about. It's about values, and priorities. It's about keeping America strong. It's about one philosophy -- ours -- that wishes to move ahead -- working, creating, investing, dreaming. And another philosophy which reminds me of a Randy Travis song I like called, "Diggin' up bones." // Whenever I hear it, I think of how these liberals keep coming up with bare bones from the past. //

The latter philosophy, not surprisingly, belongs to the national Democrat Party. A philosophy of burdening people for the benefit of government. // Our philosophy could not be more different. It uses government for the benefit of easing burdens on people. // Democrats believe in status-quo. We believe in status-grow. Democrats embrace "More of the same." Know what Republicans embrace? The letters "GOP." Yes, growth, opportunity, and prosperity. //

[[For proof, let's look first at the budget. Why not? That's all Congress has been doing for more than year. // Some

say there's not a dollar's worth of difference between our two parties. They're right. // There's half-a-trillion dollars' worth. // That's what our plan -- the Republican plan -- would have slashed the budget by over the next five years. //

CC To our sense of urgency, the Democrats echoed Scarlett O'Harra. // "Tomorrow is another day." // To our fiscal sanity, ^{she} they replied as they always do: Relying on our good money to bail us out of their mistakes. // A dollar's worth of difference? ~~It's~~ more like the Great Divide. Democrats believe in government of, by, and for special interests. We believe in the only interest that really counts: The United States of America. //

Let me tell you a story which indicates this difference. Happened while I was up in Kennebunkport. ((I told John Sununu I'd like to deliver a speech called, "Keeping pace with rapidly-moving events." He ^{said} replied, "Do you really think an audience wants to hear what it's like to play 18 holes with you?" // I said, "Sure, I like to do things quickly // and you can ignore that rumor that I watch 60 Minutes in three-quarters of an hour.")) //

Americans expect their leaders to act quickly -- and intelligently. Yet let me discuss several other ways Congress has thwarted growth, opportunity, and prosperity. It's been sixteen months, for instance, since our Administration's Violent Crime Control Act reached the desk of Congress. // Too many Democrats seem to feel we can soft-pedal the need to be hard on crime. We Republicans disagree / we believe that for anybody who

kills a police officer, no penalty is too tough. // So I call on the Congress to send me a bill with capital punishment for America's cop-killers. I will not sign a bill which favors criminals over our police. //

Here's another issue where the Congress has delayed. For seven months, both houses have debated a new Civil Rights bill. To what avail? Only to pass legislation which fosters the quotas that divide America. Republicans want to unite America. We know the way to end discrimination against some is not to begin it against others. // Soon, the Congress will send me its legislation. I want to sign a civil rights bill -- but I will not sign a quotas bill. //

Finally, here's an issue that should not wait another day: X The environment. ~~Over~~ a year ago, we proposed a landmark bill to rewrite the Clean Air Act. Legislation which says we can have a sound economy and a safe environment. // How have the Democrats ^{reacted} responded? By voting for neither growth, opportunity, nor prosperity. // Apparently, they think you have to throw people out of work to protect our natural resources. I disagree. To the Congress, I say: Send me a Clean Air Act I can sign. //

((These issues show clear differences between our parties. Sort of like the difference between the old and new "Air Force One." // The new plane is incredible. Incidentally, I want to take this chance to deny that I discussed the budget with several Congressmen last week up in its forward horseshoe pits.)) //

This fall, we will discuss our differences. Fairly, and honorable, as all Americans should. Yet as we ~~do~~, let's remember

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where there can be no difference. I refer to foreign policy -- and more specifically, to the Persian Gulf. //

Two weeks ago, I went before the Congress to talk about what we must do together to defend civilized values around the world. I spoke of how our objectives in the Middle East are clear: Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait, completely, immediately, and without reservation. // Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored. // The security and stability of the Persian Gulf must be assured. // And American citizens abroad must be protected. //

Tonight, I say: Those objectives are unchanged. They will remain unchanged until Saddam Hussein is banished from Kuwait. We will stay in the Persian Gulf not a moment more, nor less, than necessary. ^{but} ~~We will remain for as long as it takes to~~ ^{stay} complete our mission. //

To complete it will require the support of our friends and allies. We have it. Think of the unprecedented United Nations' unity. Or the aid -- economic and military -- over the past week by Germany, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, and so many others. This isn't the U.S. against Iraq. It's Iraq against the world. We're not going it alone -- but believe me, we are going to see it through. //

We will continue to stand up to aggression -- and for those who believe that no Nation should mug another -- and get away with its crime. // We will continue to put our armed forces where they are needed, when they are need. // Incidentally, if Saddam Hussein had any doubts about our staying power, the last few weeks should dispel them. Go to any city or town. Ask

anyone you meet. Their refrain can be heard from Boston to
Bghdad: America will not be intimidated. //

S This fall, then, let's honor our brave servicemen and women.
Defending them here at home -- just as they're defending us
X around the world. I'm talking, of course, about democracy. //
Let's canvas, and ^{can't be} ~~debate~~ // and above all, urge others to the
polls. If our troops can ~~take the time~~ to vote by absetee, how
can we do less? Let's put into practice what America's heroes
are showing abroad. //

As we do, let's remmeber a man who knew something about
democracy -- and war and peace -- as well as the differences
between our parties. // His name was Dwight David Eisenhower,
and this year we celebrate the centennial of his birth.
Moreover, two decades after his death, ~~what~~ ^{we} celebrate Ike's
lessons that endure until today. //

Dwight Eisenhower showed how, at home, private enterprise
can unleash growth, opportunity, and prosperity. And that
abroad, America will never -- ever -- allow a tyrant to brutalize
the family of Nations. // Something that, incidentally, a
certain dictator might recall as he ^{tries} ~~tries~~ to sleep each night. //

America has never been more willing, nore more able, to
follow Ike's lessons -- ^{to do what is right for herself, and for} to do what is right for herself, and for
the world. // With your help, we will remain that way -- for our
generation, and the generations to come. Thank you for this
occasion. Let's have a grand November 6. And God bless the
greatest Nation on the face of this earth -- the United States of
America.

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