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October 4, 1990
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SENATE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ENGLER RALLY
GRAND RAPIDS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1990

It's a pleasure to see members of the Michigan Republican Congressional delegation, and to have here your superb State Party Leadership. // Ladies and gentlemen, honored guests. Thank you, __, for that kind introduction. As always, it's great to be back in Michigan. //

((Undoubtedly, you know by now of my fondness for this State. I'll never forget your kindness in the 1980 Primary. Just to show you what Michigan means to me, I asked the most famous White House writer to work on these remarks. // So Millie was up half the night putting them together.)) //

((Already this year, I've spent almost as much time here as Lee Iacocca. // Rumor has it that if President Gorbachev has to call me on the hotline, the telephone rings straight through to Cobo Hall.)) //

Let me begin by restating what I said three weeks ago, in Detroit, on behalf of your next U.S. Senator -- Bill Schuette. // Bill indeed is "the change we need." Let's get real leadership in the Senate. Let's elect the Man from Midland. // *boldface*

We also need to ~~elect~~ ^{keep come or up} one thing we don't have in Washington // not yet, anyway. A Republican Senate. // So two weeks ago I met with friends and candidates of the Michigan State Senate. We

Democrats want to empower the bureaucracy. *endless* ~~We~~ want to empower individuals. // Above all, it means reminding voters what I learned in that 1980 Primary: Michigan remains a metaphor for ingenuity. // Meeting challenges through the human heart and mind -- not through the heavy hand of Washington. ///

((Here is a story which describes that creativity. A Michigan mother told her son, "I have a pretty idea that you skipped your piano lesson to listen to the Tigers' game." // The son said that though he loved Ernie Harwell, he hadn't. // The mother said, "Are you sure? Ernie's irresistible." // The son replied, "Uh-uh. And I have a fish to prove it.")). // *a bit* *Ernie's son says.*

Maybe that boy was fishing in the Northern Peninsula. Or in one of those great holes around Mackinack. ((Can't blame him. // JOKE.)) // Either way, I'll bet he believed as most Michiganders do. // You know that progress made isn't measured by dollars spent. But by power flowing back to localities, to States, and most important, to the people. //

This idea forms the essence of the Republican Party. It's even more powerful than Cecil Fielder's bat -- how about that? Fifty-one home runs. // The idea I'm talking about rejects the status-quo -- the politics of special interests. We support the status-grow. Where the only true interest is America's. //

Look, first, at education -- where Governors play a special role. John Engler thinks excellence is obtained not by spending more money. But through higher standards, more accountability, and giving parents more choice where their kids go to school. //

So we've introduced the Educational Excellence Act of 1990 -- legislation that, for 17 months, liberal Democrats have delayed.

Let's support candidates like John Engler who will convince Congress to help make American education No. 1. //

Next, take the environment. There, too, differences shine. Liberal Democrats think you have to throw people out of work to protect our natural resources. John Engler disagrees. So ~~15~~ ¹⁵ ~~months~~ ^{months} ago we sent a bill to Congress to rewrite the Clean Air Act // and to what avail? Here, too, ~~delay~~. ^{new suit was in answer} No State knows more than Michigan that we need clear air and good jobs. Let's elect Republicans who will help pass a Clean Air Act I can sign.

Now comes issue this election will affect: Crime and drugs. You in Detroit know how bad crime can be in the toll it takes on communities. That's why 16 months ago we sent our Comprehensive Crime Control Act to Congress. // Here's the problem: Democrats have sabotaged the bill. The solution? Electing candidates who support toughening laws at the State level -- just as we are in Washington. We need officials like John Engler who will see the punishment fits the crime. //

((The other day, John and I got to talking about all this. He said, "Mr. President, these are tough questions demanding answers." // I replied, "You think they're tough. Let me tell about questions recently phoned to the White House." // As Jack Paar would say: I kid you not. // Questions like: "Does the President shave himself?" // "We're taking a poll, do you watch 'Family Feud'?" // "Why does the President use the word 'thing'

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so much?" / I don't know: It's just one of those things. // And my personal favorite: "What is your response to the allegation that the White House does not play enough polka music?")) //

When it comes to national priorities, I want our answers to play with all America. So two weeks ago Congress and I took action to reduce the Federal deficit by \$500 billion -- half-a-trillion dollars -- over the next five years. // No, our budget plan isn't perfect -- but let's not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Our plan is balanced, tough, and fair. Special interests may decry it -- but Michigan and the Nation need it. //

We want to build on the more than 20 million new jobs created since 1982. So our budget agreement contains growth-oriented tax incentives. Also, our plan enacts real -- not phony -- spending cuts -- cuts with teeth. By enforcing these cuts in law -- and by not raising income taxes -- we'll create the jobs which create growth, opportunity, and prosperity -- GOP. Has a nice ring to it -- wouldn't you agree? //

Here's what our plan doesn't do: It doesn't affect military or Federal retirement. It doesn't mess with Social Security. // ((JOKE)). // Here's what our plan will do. It creates the largest entitlement savings ever -- the largest deficit package ever. It will cut interest rates and inflation. One more thing: It ensures crucial funds for Operation Desert Shield. //

When I was here two weeks ago, I spoke of Michigan's sons and daughters now on active duty in Saudi Arabia. "These men and women," I said, "reflect the vital essence of our mission. They

show that America would not be the land of the free if it were not also the home of the brave." // We intend to stand by those who stand up for what is right, and good. So America will remain in the Persian Gulf for as long it takes to complete our mission.

// We will keep up the pressure -- and keep the faith. Faith with our friends. Faith with the United Nations. Faith with the greatest servicemen and women any Nation could ever have. //

Twenty days from now, we must keep faith with America. By supporting Republicans who will help achieve promise, not empty promises. // So let's reject the hand of Big Government in favor of a thousand points of light. Let's canvas / contribute / and above all, urge others to the polls. // Echoing those words of Grand Rapid's Jerry Ford: "It is the Republican Party's golden opportunity," he said, "to prove that it has the resolution to rouse the nation's greatness -- and the will to win elections."

Fellow Republicans, let's show our resolution -- and our will. Let's keep a Republican majority in the Michigan State Senate -- and win a majority in the House of Representatives. // Let's elect Bill Schuette as U.S. Senator. And let's send the right man to Lansing. We know what he can do. Let's elect John Engler the next Governor of the State of Michigan. //

With your help, we can make November 6 a great day for Michigan and our Nation. Thank you for all you've done, and will do in the future. And God bless the United States of America.

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When it comes to priorities, our solutions must play across America. So let me talk for a moment about a comprehensive budget plan to cut the Federal budget deficit by \$500 billion over the next five years. I want Congress to send me a plan which cuts inflation, lowers interest rates, and means new jobs. // In short, a plan creating growth, opportunity, and prosperity -- GOP -- has a nice ring, don't you think? //

Problems caused by the deficit problem have been building for years. This year, they reached the boiling point. For **eight months** we've wrestled with this problem. For **eight months**, I've negotiated in good faith. The American people didn't send me here to play politics. They sent me here to govern. So I put it all on the table -- and I took the heat. // Now, I will continue to press for a budget that proves to the American people that we can -- and will -- bring this deficit down. //

The test comes three days from now: Congress' budget bill must be passed by both houses no later than October 19. Here is what I will accept: This agreement must be consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Agreement reached two weeks ago -- produced on a bipartisan basis. And include pro-growth incentives to propel the economy. It must deliver real savings through real -- not phony -- spending cuts -- cuts that are enforceable. And any budget I sign must include the significant budget process reforms hammered out in the bipartisan budget agreement.

Let me reiterate: I couldn't be more serious about the October 19 deadline. Eleven days ago, with no budget agreement, I shut down the government to keep the pressure on. If Congress doesn't send me a sound budget that ensures long-term growth, I will use my veto pen again. Two more things: This budget must not mess with Social Security. // ((In this Administration, it's as untouchable as Bo Schembechler's place in Michigan football history.)) // Finally, I will veto any plan which does not ensure crucial funds for Operation Desert Shield. //

When I was here three weeks ago, I spoke of Michigan's sons and daughters now on active duty in Saudi Arabia -- saying, "These men and women reflect the vital essence of our mission. They show that America would not be the land of the free if it were not also the home of the brave." // We intend to stand by those who stand up for what is right, and good. So America will remain in the Persian Gulf for as long it takes to complete our mission. // Above all, we will keep the faith. Faith with our

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