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(Smith/Grossman)
December 11, 1991
Draft Four
LEAGUE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LEAGUE OF CITIES TELECONFERENCE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1991

President Sidney Barthelemy, Mayor of one of my favorite cities, New Orleans. / Incoming President Glenda Hood, I look forward to your help. / Most of all, officials who have enriched our cities -- and helped our cities enrich America. //

((I was hoping today to be with you in person, but at least I can say America has produced two Presidents in a row who have made it to the big screen.)) //

It is an honor to join this year's NLC Annual Congress of Cities -- even if it is by video hook-up -- and to salute you soldiers on the front lines. //

You man the front lines of our assault on falling scores and failing grades in education / our war on drugs, / our defense of the American family / and our battle against crime. You know why we must crusade to protect American principles -- and work to solve America's problems. //

As the elected officials out there hearing the needs of ordinary people, you understand those problems. You know them not from a bureaucrat's safe distance but from the hot-seat of an elected official whose neighbors call to complain about roads / taxes / the police / you name it. //

Many people wonder how a President can know what goes on outside Washington, especially for families struggling to make

year from drug dealers through the asset forfeiture program. // Overall, Federal aid to states and localities to fight drugs has grown under this Administration to nearly \$3 billion a year. // Our Healthy Start program to cut infant mortality got a big boost this year -- from \$21 million to \$65 million. That's also true for AIDS research and treatment -- under the Ryan White Act, \$200 million in AIDS prevention in FY '92 goes directly to cities. // I also ask your support of something which can help every city - - enterprise zones to unleash a new generation of entrepreneurs.

President Kennedy once said, "We will neglect our cities at our peril, for in neglecting them we neglect the nation." / I do not intend to neglect our cities. Nor do I intend to burden them with Washington's version of help -- taxes, rules, regulations, and no money. // We have learned the wisdom of keeping government closest to the people. My Administration wants to give local power and local responsibility to local officials. We want to free you to do what you do best. //

I want to do my part. To do so, I need your counsel and your wisdom. Let's work together to find new solutions to old problems. Only then can we prepare our cities and our country for the New American Century ahead. //

Thank you for what you've done, and are doing. God bless you, and your families and this great nation. Now, I'll be glad to answer your questions.

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Too often, federal handouts come attached with strings of red tape. Well, let's make sure the federal government tends to its own business -- instead of lecturing you on yours. / Let's make sure we maintain both the letter and spirit of the Executive Order on Federalism. /

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(Smith/Grossman)
December 12, 1991
Draft Five
LEAGUE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LEAGUE OF CITIES TELECONFERENCE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1991

President Sidney Barthelemy, Mayor of one of my favorite cities, New Orleans. / Incoming President Glenda Hood, I look forward to your help. / Most of all, officials who have enriched our cities -- and helped our cities enrich America. //

((I was hoping today to be with you in person, but at least I can say America has produced two Presidents in a row who have made it to the big screen.)) //

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Many people wonder how a President can know what goes on outside Washington, especially for families struggling to make

ends meet. I have read the letters of people feeling the pinch of a tough economy. // I have traveled to 48 states since becoming President: talking/ meeting people/ listening/ learning. I have listened to the guidance and advice of leaders like you.

When I deliver my State of the Union Address in a few weeks, I'll ask Congress to lay aside partisan interest just long enough to focus on America's interest, and enact a common-sense series of economic growth measures. // Also, because each additional billion dollars in manufactured goods and trade means another 20,000 American jobs, I'll continue fighting to crack open foreign markets to create domestic jobs. I'll take that message with me on my upcoming trip to Asia. //

In the meantime, I will make sure that our agencies do everything they can to help the people -- from getting unemployment checks out to easing the credit crunch. / Already, we have taken steps to help those in need -- speeding up a number of government payments that will put \$9.7 billion into the economy during the first and second quarters of the fiscal year. / I am especially proud of the transportation bill which I will be signing that will keep our traffic on the move and our economy on the rise -- building roads, fixing bridges, and creating jobs.

Still, it isn't enough -- we have to build on these beginnings. So I hope our other initiatives are also helping you. / For instance, our Administration has boosted state and local law enforcement funding to \$495 million -- that's in addition to the \$250 million in cash and property seized last

year from drug dealers through the asset forfeiture program. // Overall, Federal aid to states and localities to fight drugs has grown under this Administration to nearly \$3 billion. // Our Healthy Start program to cut infant mortality got a big boost this year -- from \$21 million to \$65 million. That's also true for AIDS research and treatment -- under the Ryan White Act, \$200 million in AIDS prevention in FY '92 goes directly to cities. // I also ask your support of something which can help every city - - enterprise zones to unleash a new generation of entrepreneurs.

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We have boosted funds for state and local law enforcement to \$495 million. Last year \$250 million in cash and property that was seized from drug dealers was given to state and local law enforcement through the asset forfeiture program. That's in addition to the \$3 billion a year in state and local aid to fight drugs. Our Healthy Start program to cut infant mortality got a big boost this year -- from \$21 million to \$65 million, ~~this year~~. Research and treatment for AIDS continues to get big increases - a total of \$4.4 billion in FY92. \$200 million for AIDS prevention under the Ryan White Act goes directly to cities.

FOR CITIES