

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

FOIA Number:

S

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Smith, Curt, Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1992

OA/ID Number: 13890
Folder ID Number: 13890-001

Folder Title:
American Farm Bureau, Kansas City, Missouri, 1/13/92

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	18	29	1	6

(Smith/Simon)
January 7, 1992
11 A.M.
FARM

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1992

___, ladies and gentlemen, my fellow Americans. As always, it is a special privilege to address the members of the American Farm Bureau Federation. //

((Two years ago, I spoke to your convention in the great city of Orlando -- the home of Disney World. / Today, I've flown here from Disney World East. / Washington, D.C.)) //

((Not that I'm superstitious, but I'm glad Friday the 13th falls on Monday this month. / I'm also pleased to be here with the ranchers who show America that not all the bull is produced in Washington -- and with the farmers who grow the food enjoyed by millions // and also those who grow broccoli.)) //

That great Voice of Rural America, Will Rogers, once said, "A man in the country does his own thinking / but you get him into town, and he will soon be thinking second-handed." // I do my own speaking -- but the press reports it second-handed. // I'm here to give you my first-hand report on how my trip to Asia will open markets for products that will maintain the heartbeat of prosperity in the heartland of America. //

All of you know why I went to Asia. Here's the three-syllable reason: Jobs, jobs, jobs. // I mean the jobs that will unleash the American farmer's ability to save / invest / and

dream. I mean the jobs which show how farmers, and Americans, can excell with their minds -- and thrive with their hands. //

A writer once observed of Rural America: "I would match [its people] against the world." // I agree. / So here is the message I bring from Australia, Singapore, Korea, and Japan: We demand trade policies that create equal opportunity -- not preferential treatment. // We don't ask for a (home-field advantage.) Insist, we insist on ^a ~~the~~ level playing field ^{which} ~~will allow the American farmer to~~ ^{Give} outthink / outwork / and outproduce any nation in the world. //

us a fair shot, + the will

I told our trading partners what we will, and will not, accept. We want free trade. We also demand fair trade. // We want the open markets which increase prosperity -- not closed markets which preclude prosperity. // History shows how the road of protectionism is paved with the potholes of disaster. As long as I am President, we will not burden Main Street by going down the dead-end street of building a fence around America. ///

too much road - imagery?

((You know, farming is hard in the best of times. I remember how Edgar Howe said, "About the only thing on a farm that has an easy time is the dog." // [[No wonder Millie wanted to make this trip.]] //) Dwight Eisenhower also knew farming up-close. It only looks easy, he said, "when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field.)) //

Protectionism would only make matters worse. Here at home, it would keep foreign products out. Abroad, just as wrongly, it would keep American products out. // Neither view makes

financial sense. Both views ignore common sense. Every \$1 billion of American agricultural exports means 25,000 American jobs. We need to expand the ^{agricultural} ~~economic~~ exports that, in turn, will expand free trade / open markets / and boost employment. //

Most Americans understand this. / Well, maybe most west of the Potomac. // In 1990, farm exports eclipsed \$40 billion, the highest since 1981 -- helping our farm trade surplus pass \$17 billion. / (A great son of Kansas, Alf Landon, once said, "There are some intelligent people in Washington, D.C. / There are more of 'em" outside Washington.) // ~~He knew -- as you do -- that~~ the more exports rise, the more the American economy will grow. //

Don Schawcroft can attest to that. ((Don, where are you? Give us a wave.)) / Japan imports \$1.6~~5~~ million in beef -- and ^{more than} 50 per cent of that beef comes from American products. This helps cattle ranchers like Don, who runs a 600-head beef herd with his dad in Alamosa, Colorado. // Five hundred miles away lives Arlene Wessel, who produces farrow-to-finish hogs, dryland wheat, and corn on her family's farm near Huron, South Dakota. // ((Arlene, stand up.)) (She also knows) how access to global markets will keep America's standard of living No. 1 in the world. //

((To achieve this, of course, will require diligence, and patience. I recall an old Quaker farmer back in Indiana who would never use the name of the Lord in vain. But one day his mule, who was hitched to a hay wagon, wouldn't budge an inch.

// The farmer tried every bit of coaxing. No success. Finally, he reached the end of his rope. "Mule," he said, "I cannot beat

great story - but not sure it works here.

how? strengthen this?

thee, or curse thee, or abuse thee in any way. But mule, "what thee doesn't know is that I can sell thee to an Episcopalian."))

5/10/77
 Last week, I coaxed our allies in America's leading agricultural export market to expand markets for them, and us. // The farmer knows the way to boost people up is to tear trade barriers down. So I talked with foreign leaders about erasing import quotas / cutting domestic tariffs / and increasing peaceful competition among Pacific Rim market economies, including America. // In that context, let me say a few words about agricultural subsidies. // I don't like them any more than you do. Ultimately, they stifle growth / burden the taxpayer / and make industry less competitive. // I also know that I must -- and will -- safeguard the interests of American farming. I don't intend to let American agriculture disarm unilaterally. //

Today, American farmers suffer from the predatory trade practices and huge subsidies of the European Community. Let us remember: Only our subsidies -- less than one-tenth of Europe's -- keep the EC from depressing prices artificially and stealing additional markets. // Yes, in the long run, (let us try) to end farm subsidies. In the short run, I will not try to balance our trade deficit on the back of the American farmer. //

strengthen?

In the end, our trade deficit will crumble through the ^Cruible of free trade. That is why we must successfully conclude the Uruguay Round of global negotiations known as the General Agreement on Tarriffs and Trade. // GATT will help the world move toward broader economic integration -- not trading blocks.

// I began by talking about jobs stemming from a level playing field. Our Administration will settle for nothing less than a GATT Treaty which enlarges markets -- and helps farmers earn more of their income from these markets. //

In 1990, we negotiated an agreement with Korea to open its beef import markets through 1997 -- and a similar agreement which has doubled 1987-91 U.S. beef exports to Japan. // GATT can make this progress global -- not merely regional -- by saying to each American: "Trade is now fair as well as free. Now, it's up to us. Let the best nation win." *Let the best nation win. Or the best nation.*

You'll forgive me if I say I believe that nation is America. Yet we will win only if our policies are worthy of our people. // ((I'm reminded of how someone wrote of the value of growing up close to the soil. "There's something about getting up at 5 o'clock, feeding the stock and chickens," he said, "and milking a couple of cows before breakfast that gives you a respect for the price of butter and eggs." // This man knew that when it comes to farming, Washington doesn't know best. American farmers do.))

Two months ago, in Kansas City, I spoke about this America to 18,000 Future Farmers of America. / I talked of the new farm bill I convinced Congress to pass last year that is even-handed - - and level-headed. // (I'll never forget a letter a farmer sent to Congress at the time. He asked if he could have some fertilizer left over from the debates.)) // In the end, our bill enhanced competitiveness while increasing flexibility for farmers to decide what crops to grow. //

I thank you for your support of a bill which has already helped lower interest rates, cut inflation, and increase choices for farmers and consumers. // I also salute your backing of the agreement I signed at the 1990 Summit with then President Gorbachev calling for at least 40 million metric tons of grain to be purchased by the former Soviet republics in the next five years. / Incidentally, I have not changed my views on using food as a political weapon. I still remember the disastrous grain embargo put into effect by President Carter. Never again. //

Since my last visit to Kansas City, we have built on these beginnings. / Last month, I signed a bill making nearly \$1 billion in disaster relief available to producers for 1990 and '91 crop losses. / Also, I have tried to put common sense into federal wetlands policy. / Our new guidelines will distinguish between genuine wetlands, which deserve to be protected, and other kinds of land -- like dry, productive farmland -- which do not. It's pretty simple: Wetlands should be wet. //

These policies reflect the America most farmers, and ranchers, want. // You want a Nation which prizes family -- where kids can watch television without the filth and indecency which makes a cesspool of the airwaves. // You also want a Nation which honors God. Today, I repeat my call for a Constitutional Amendment to restore voluntary prayer to our Nation's schools. // Next, you want an America of quality -- not quotas -- an America, too, where our military remains strong so that freedom will not become weak. // Finally, you want a nation

*good to but I want
sons of a tall people,
but they're always out of place here.*

*move
this
section
earlier?
set up
trade
as
new
challenge
for
Cincinnati
journal?*

built on the self-reliance and initiative which rolled back the frontiers / blazed railroads west / and helped this city on the Missouri survive three floods this century. I speak of the sod-buster and trailblazer and 19th Century pioneer. All believed in a Nation of "America-Can" -- not "bureaucracy-must." //

For two centuries, this spirit has forged America's gateway to the future -- built on dreams as vast as the prairie wilderness / as sweeping as the Mississippi / as soaring as the Texas sky. // Two weeks from tomorrow, in the State of the Union, I will talk more of how we make those dreams reality -- completing what my Asia trip has begun. //

I invite you to tune in -- for only together can we keep America, in Lincoln's words, "this last best hope of earth." // Ninety-two years ago, Kansas City showed how our fate is indivisible. On __, the Convention Hall here burned to the ground. Incredibly, proud men and women rebuilt it in ninety days. // "In Kansas City," someone explained, "we don't know what 'impossible' means." / What a metaphor for the people we call Americans. //

Our forefathers knew that the American Dream was not an Impossible Dream. // So let us -- as they did -- build a better America than even we inherited. // Thank you for your support, and the kindness of this occasion. God bless all of you, and the United States of America.

#

(Smith/Simon)
January 9, 1992
11 A.M.
FARM

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1992

__, ladies and gentlemen, my fellow Americans. As always,
it is a special privilege to address the members of the American
Farm Bureau Federation. //

((Two years ago, I spoke to your convention in the great
city of Orlando -- the home of Disney World. / Today, I've flown
here from Disney World East. / Washington, D.C.)) //

((Not that I'm superstitious, but I'm glad Friday the 13th
falls on Monday this month. / I'm also pleased to be here with
the ranchers who show America that not all the bull is produced
in Washington -- and with the farmers who grow the food enjoyed
by millions // and also those who grow broccoli.)) //

A few moments ago I visited a symbol of what is great and
good in the greatest nation in the world. I mean, of course, the
family farm -- in this case, owned by the __ family of nearby __.
//

The family farm stems from the American character. It
reflects love of neighbor, pride in self, love of family, faith
in God. // No government designed the family farm. No
bureaucracy helped it flourish. It lives because of proud men
and women who reflect what America is, and believes. //

Will Rogers was a great Voice of Rural America. Once he observed, "A man in the country does his own thinking / but you get him into town, and he will soon be thinking second-handed." // Today, I'm here to give you my first-hand report on my trip to Australia, Singapore, Korea, and Japan. //

All of you know why I went to Asia. Here's the three-syllable reason: Jobs, jobs, jobs. // I mean the jobs that will unleash the American farmer's ability to save / invest / create / and dream. // Here is the message I took to Asia. We don't ask for a home-field trade advantage. We just want a level playing field. Give us a fair shot, and the American farmer will outthink / outwork / and outproduce anyone in the world. //

I told our trading partners what we will, and will not, accept. We want free trade. We also demand fair trade. // We want the open markets that increase prosperity -- not the closed markets of protectionism that create suspicion and misery. //

Protectionism would keep foreign products out of American markets -- and American products out of foreign markets. // It would make farming even harder than it is. / I remember Edgar Howe, who said: "About the only thing on a farm that has an easy time is the dog." // We need to make it easier for American exports to rise -- and thus, for the American economy to grow. //

Most farmers know this. / Well, maybe most west of the Potomac. // They understand that every \$1 billion of American agricultural exports means 25,000 American jobs. They realize, too, that in 1990, farm exports eclipsed \$40 billion, the highest

since 1981 -- helping our farm trade surplus pass \$17 billion. /

Don Schawcroft can attest to that. ((Don, where are you? Give us a wave.)) / Japan imports \$1.654 million in beef -- and 53 per cent of that beef comes from American products. This helps cattle ranchers like Don, who runs a 600-head beef herd with his dad in Alamosa, Colorado. // Five hundred miles away lives Arlene Wessel, who produces farrow-to-finish hogs, dryland wheat, and corn on her family's farm near Huron, South Dakota. // Arlene also knows how to keep America's standard of living No. 1 in the world. Not by building a fence around America -- but by convincing other countries to tear their fences down. //

((To achieve this, of course, will require diligence, and patience. I recall an old Quaker farmer who would never use the name of the Lord in vain. But one day his mule, who was hitched to a hay wagon, wouldn't budge an inch. // The farmer tried every bit of coaxing. No success. Finally, he reached the end of his rope. "Mule," he said, "I cannot beat thee, or curse thee, or abuse thee in any way. But mule, "what thee doesn't know is that I can sell thee to an Episcopalian."))

Last week, I prodded our allies in America's leading agricultural export market to expand markets for their sake -- and ours. // I talked with foreign leaders about erasing import quotas / cutting domestic tariffs / and increasing the free trade that means new jobs. // In that context, let me say a few words about agricultural subsidies. // I don't like them any more than you do. Ultimately, they stifle growth / burden the taxpayer /

and make industry less competitive. // I also know that I must -
- and will -- safeguard the interests of American farming. I
don't intend to let American agriculture disarm unilaterally. //

Today, American farmers suffer from the predatory trade practices and huge subsidies of the European Community. Let us remember: Only our subsidies -- less than one-tenth of Europe's -- keep the EC from depressing prices artificially and stealing additional markets. // Yes, in the long run, we must end farm subsidies. In the short run, I will not try to balance our trade deficit on the back of the American farmer. //

The world's future progress and prosperity depend upon free trade. That is why I support enlarging the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement to include Mexico. A North American Free Trade Agreement would create the largest market in the world -- with more than 360 million consumers and an economy of \$6 trillion. //

I am also working to successfully conclude the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations. // GATT will help the world move toward broader economic integration -- not trading blocks. // Let me pledge: Our Administration will settle for nothing less than a GATT Treaty that enlarges markets and opportunities. // In 1990, we negotiated an agreement with Korea to open its beef import markets through 1997 -- and a similar agreement which has doubled 1987-91 U.S. beef exports to Japan. // GATT can make this progress global -- not merely regional. Here is what I want it to tell the world: "Trade is now fair as well as free. Now, it's up to us. Let the best nation win."

Like you, I believe that nation is America. Yet we will win only through policies that are worthy of our people. // ((In that spirit, I recall something written about people who grow up close to the soil. "There's something about getting up at 5 o'clock, feeding the stock and chickens and milking a couple of cows before breakfast that gives you a respect for the price of butter and eggs." // That writer knew that when it comes to farming, Washington doesn't know best. American farmers do.))

Two months ago, in Kansas City, I spoke about this America to 18,000 Future Farmers of America. / I talked of the new farm bill I convinced Congress to pass last year that is even-handed - - and level-headed. // (I'll never forget a letter a farmer sent to Congress at the time. He asked if he could have some fertilizer left over from the debates.)) // In the end, our bill enhanced competitiveness while increasing flexibility for farmers to decide what crops to grow. //

I thank you for your support of a farm bill that has already helped lower interest rates, cut inflation, and increase choices for farmers and consumers. // Toward those ends, I signed an agreement at the 1990 Summit with then President Gorbachev calling for at least 40 million metric tons of grain to be purchased by the former Soviet republics in the next five years. / Incidentally, I have not changed my views on using food as a political weapon. I still remember the disastrous grain embargo put into effect by President Carter. Never again. //

Instead, I have pursued policies that reflect farming's

"first-hand" thinking. / I have tried to put common sense into federal wetlands policy. / Our new guidelines will distinguish between genuine wetlands, which deserve to be protected, and other kinds of land -- like dry, productive farmland -- which do not. It's pretty simple: Wetlands should be wet. // Also, last month I signed a bill making nearly \$1 billion in disaster relief available to producers for 1990 and '91 crop losses. //

These policies mirror the America most farmers, and ranchers, want -- a Nation that prizes self-reliance, generosity, family, and community. // It is an America of courage, and initiative, which rolled back the frontiers / blazed railroads west / and helped this city on the Missouri survive three floods this century. // It is an America of the sod-buster and trailblazer and 19th Century pioneer -- heroes who believed in a Nation of "America-Can" -- not "bureaucracy-must." //

Ninety-two years ago, Kansas City showed the wonder of those words. // On __, the Convention Hall here burned to the ground. Incredibly, proud men and women rebuilt it in ninety days. // "In Kansas City," someone explained, "we don't know what 'impossible' means." My friends, in America we don't know what "impossible" means. //

For two centuries, this spirit has forged America's gateway to the future -- built on dreams as vast as the prairie wilderness / as sweeping as the Mississippi / as soaring as the Texas sky. //

Our forefathers knew that the American Dream was not an Impossible Dream. // So let us -- as they did -- build a better America than even we inherited. // Thank you for your support, and the kindness of this occasion. God bless all of you, and the United States of America.

#