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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GOP LUNCHEON
TAMPA, FLORIDA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1992

[[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]]. __, thank you for that introduction.
It's good to be back in America's vacation paradise. In
November, let's make Florida a Republican paradise. //

Two weeks ago, Barbara made some appearances here in Tampa.
/ ((I know: Trying to match her success is like a lemon trying
to be sweeter than a Florida orange.)) /

((Still, I'm trying. I was just at the Strawberry Festival
in Plant City. / Barbara was worried. When I told her I couldn't
wait to have some shortcake, she thought I said, "cheesecake." /
For my part, I'm just glad it wasn't a broccoli festival.)) //

I'm also glad to be with you. We've much to do these next
few months -- because we've much to do these next few months. //
Together, we can finish what we've started and move our country
forward. / To do that, I need your support. Help me win the
Presidency for four more years. //

I ask your support for the simplest reason. We believe in
the same things -- the important things. //

We know that taxes are too high -- and that our national
defense can't be too strong. / We believe that government is too
big and that it costs too much. / We believe in faith and family
-- responsibility and respect -- community and country. / We know
that we put America first when we put America's families first.//

So often today politicians do the easy thing -- the popular thing. / There's a word for that: Followship -- not leadership. I've never practiced that -- never will. For I believe in things that don't change from one election to the next. Things that guide each and every one of us -- each day of every year. //

I believe in the things which have led us to a new era in America's history. Things like liberty / freedom / human dignity / self-respect. / My friends, the Cold War is over -- and America won. // The Soviet Union collapsed -- and Imperial Communism is finished. // American leadership changed the world. Help elect the leadership which will now change America. //

We can change it by making right what is simply on the wrong track of our country. Take our courts, for example. //

When judges side more with the criminal than victim, that's wrong. / So I've appointed Justices Sutter and Thomas -- and will continue to name Justices who interpret, not legislate. //

When kids can't say a voluntary prayer in school -- or when fathers stop coaching Little League because they're afraid of liability lawsuits -- that, too, is wrong. //

So is when doctors stop delivering babies because they fear a malpractice lawsuit -- or when people stop volunteering to help each other because they fear ambulance-chasing lawyers. //

These days a sharp lawyer would tell the Good Samaritan -- keep on walking. / I want to change that. / So we've proposed reforms to our court system to address the question of frivolous

lawsuits. But the real answer for solving problems is to be more concerned with helping each other than suing each other. //

((I don't want to get into trouble with the Bar Association, but I once quoted to someone that line, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." / He said, "What works for lawyers?")) Reforming the courts will help our legal process work. But we can't stop there. We also have to reform the health care system. Let's make the world's best quality care even better. //

You know the problems. Too many people don't have access to health insurance. Too many people worry that they'll lose their insurance if they change jobs or worse still, if they lose their job. And anybody who's had even minor surgery knows that health care costs are going through the roof. //

What's the solution? Not to go down the road of socialized medicine, with its long lines and impersonal service. / If that's what we wanted we'd put our doctors and nurses to work for the Department of Motor Vehicles. // My approach is to make insurance available to all -- keep the quality high, the bureaucracy low -- and preserve choice. / The last thing we want is the government standing between you and your doctor. //

Health care reform means improving the system. / There's another system where reform means changing the system. // Let's face it: Welfare dependency is wrong. Self-sufficiency is right. Yet too often the system perpetuates dependency instead of providing personal responsibility and the dignity of a job. / So I've asked my departments and agencies to make it easier for

state and local government to reform policies that promote broken families. // We need to go after dead-beat fathers who run out on their children -- and to make families whole. I want to change welfare by making the able-bodied work. //

But we all know what the number one issue on the minds of all Americans is -- it's the economy. People worried about their jobs -- providing for their families / meeting the everyday challenges of paying the bills, providing a home, teaching our kids, and setting aside for our retirement. //

The American people want this economy to work. So in my State of the Union Address, I put forth a two-part plan. The first part gets business growing again right now -- upgrading plant and equipment again -- hiring workers again. / It uses incentives like an investment tax allowance. / It calls for Congress to wake up and cut the tax on capital gains. // And to get housing back on its feet I unveiled several common sense proposals to get people buying and building homes. // Perhaps the most easily understood proposal is a \$5,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers. / With our plan, young people almost able to buy that first home could do it with the extra \$5,000 in their pocket. / The House Democrats' plan gives them nothing. //

A word about the Democrats' so-called "plan." It's really a ripoff. Listen to their trade-off: 25 cents a day in temporary tax relief for two years -- paid for -- how typical of the Democrats -- by a large permanent tax increase. // Over in the Senate, the Democrats' ideas are just as leftover -- and just as

left-wing. To pay for their bidding war, they'd hike tax rates for the middle class -- people making \$35,000 a year -- people like teachers, factory workers, and everyday Floridians. /

Here's what the Democrats won't tell you: Their plan adds more than \$30 billion to the deficit, and the jobs it creates are more likely to be for more tax collectors. The last thing our economy needs now is a tax increase by that Democratic Congress. We drew a line in the Sand in the Persian Gulf and kept our word. I'll draw another line in the sand right now. If the Democrats send me this nonsense they're talking about, I'll send it right back. I will veto it the minute it hits my desk. // Instead of their phony maneuvers, Congress ought to pass my plan to make America more competitive. Here's the deadline: March 20, the first day of spring. / Here's the challenge: Give American workers a springtime of possibility. / No more games / no more empty gestures / just pass my plan and get this economy moving./

((You know, this morning our kids and I were talking about this. I asked how they felt about four more years. One said, "Why, is your and Mommy's marriage licensing expiring?")) // Well, America's patience with Congress is. So I also call on Congress to pass the second part of my plan: A road map for making America competitive in the fast-changing world of the 21st Century. //

Our plan revolutionizes America's education system, and none too soon. I was reading that by age 12, American kids have spent 12,000 hours in school and 15,000 watching television. We'll

change that by making our education system demand responsibility and results. // Our plan will also speed up the billions of dollars worth of government research and development that go to private sector businesses and workers. That'll produce a real return on your tax dollars investment -- helping to create new products and new jobs. / And our plan provides tax relief to strengthen the family. / We raise the tax deduction for children by \$500 dollars. Make no mistake, I want this plan passed in this session of Congress. //

Behind all of this a central idea: To succeed economically at home, we have to lead economically abroad. / Some don't want us to lead -- think we can't compete -- think we can shut out the rest of the world. // These people couldn't be more wrong. // The way to create jobs here isn't to cut and run. We're not going to do that -- ever. // The way to create jobs is by opening markets for our exports everywhere in the world. I am going to fight hard in every foreign market to do just that. //

I'm also going to fight hard in every primary -- not for my sake -- but for America's. For, you see, I happen to believe this: Just as America is the hope of the world -- Republican leadership is the hope of America. //

We saw that in the eight years Ronald Reagan led America. Last year, we saw it in the Persian Gulf. // ((Somebody was talking about Tampa's Norm Schwartzkopf, and he said: "I've figured out how the Buccaneers can make the Super Bowl. All they have to do is convince Norm to coach.")) // For the last three

years I have stood with Republican leaders against a Congress that would undermine the values we fought for in the Gulf. Twenty-five times these values were upheld -- vetoes of bad legislation sustained. / And the next five years for America are just too important to entrust to the inexperienced. //

I believe the American people want to hear about how we're going to address our country's challenges. They want to hear solutions, not just a lot of name calling and running this country down. // For you and I -- we believe in America. We know that we are number one -- make no mistake about it. / We are optimistic about its future -- about keeping inflation low and our confidence high / about protecting the savings of our elderly. / And we believe in our party -- as I believe in you. // The Florida Primary is crucial: I need your help to keep our party strong and united so we can win this fall. //

Yes, we have much to do. But I guarantee you we'll get the job done. Not through the bureaucrats of intellectual fashion - - but through the people whose values -- values like love of country and love of God -- are never / ever / out of fashion./

Yes, we have many challenges before us. And I guarantee you, we will meet them -- each and every one of them -- meet them from the great Panhandle to the tip of the Florida keys.

Yes, there's an election in November -- and I guarantee you, we will win it. I want to be your president for another four years. Thank you and God bless the United States of America.

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