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Alabama 3/5/92

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Box 294

Richard W. Porter
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff
Personal/Political/Issues

- Alabama 3/5/92
- America Works NY 3/2/92
- Alaska, Anchorage 5/11/92
- Armenian Event
- AZ, Scottsdale, Herberger Dinner 1/22/92
- Scottsdale, AZ Edlund Breakfast 1/22/92
- Brookings Institute
- Biotech
- Bio-Richard Porter
- Basel Convention
- Bevel Waste
- CAFE
- Boy Scouts
- California Ag. Events
- CA., Fresno Leach Dinner 1/16/92
- Palm Springs Heckmann Breakfast 1/18/92
- Sacramento, CA 6/23/92
- Sacramento, CA Civil Justice Reform 1/14/92
- CA June 22-24, 1992
- CA 5/18/92
- Child Care
- Child Support
- CJR Securities Lawsuits
- Communities Reinvestment Act
- Congressional Reform



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

March 4, 1992

- BJS -
Put both of these
on Grog's calendar!

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAVE JUDAY
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR ALABAMA

o The Alabama **unemployment** rate for December 1991 was 7.0 percent; the rate for Birmingham for December was 5.8 percent; nationally, the rate for January was 7.1 percent (the February figures will be released the morning of Friday March 6).

o Governor Hunt has pretty well held the line on taxes -- he has repeated his opposition to new taxes; spending however has grown by almost \$260 per family per year since he took office in 1987. Hunt's state efficiency reforms, however, have saved the state \$100 million. The Governor, in his State of the State address the Governor called for a **balanced budget amendment to the state's constitution**.

o A theme of the Governor's **State of the State** address was optimism and discovery -- he repeatedly made references to the 500th anniversary of the voyage of Columbus and the need for leadership and to be positive as "we face an ocean of uncertainty." He also urged Alabamians to focus on good news in the state and not be "swallowed up by an ocean of despair that some want to conjure up," referring to the recession nationally.

o **Alabama's economy is in relatively good shape:** for a record five straight years Alabama has exceeded \$2 billion in announced capital industrial investment -- Site Selection and Industrial Development trade magazine reports that Alabama was first in the nation, per capita, in industrial development for the last three years; tourism is up 19 percent; home sales were up 16 percent in December; Kemper Securities reported that Alabama was in the top 10 states in economic performance for the third quarter of last year and the Federal Reserve reported that "Alabama has weathered the national recession surprisingly well, ... entering its own slump a bit later and declining less severely than most Southeastern states."

o Governor Hunt kicked-off **Alabama 2000** on October 31, 1991. In the legislature, a **choice bill has been introduced** (by Rep. Al Knight: R-Birmingham) that would permit, where school districts have agreed, students to attend the public school of their choosing, or any private school at state expense. Under the plan the school district would establish a choice office to provide information and administer the \$2,000 scholarship.

o Questions about **GATT** and Section 22 programs (peanuts, cotton, dairy, tobacco) may arise in unlikely venues. (You may recall the issue of "Section 22" programs -- specifically dairy -- being raised in California. These programs are basically the off-budget indirect support programs that limit production or access to the market.) Alabama is a big cotton state and second only to Georgia in peanut production. Peanuts, as you may recall, can only be sold for the fresh market (non-processed into peanut butter, etc.) by farmers who hold peanut quotas. There is no doubt that should this protection be negotiated away in GATT that quota holders would face more competition. While the few quota holders would face new risks and potentially be damaged, peanut farming in general would be opened to new producers in the state and agriculture and Alabama in general would benefit. Should the peanut program be eliminated through a GATT agreement, it should be stressed that it would be phased-out.

o A total of **\$995 million in disaster relief** has been made available by the President. Local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices have been accepting applications for relief funds from farmers since February 3rd and will continue to do so until March 13th.

o Alabama has 7.5 million acres of **wetlands** that comprise more than 22 percent of the state's surface area.

o Alabama is now deferring federal-aid **transportation projects** because state matching funds are not available. The new federal highway bill provides \$2.06 billion for Alabama over the next six years.

o Birmingham is a non-attainment area for ozone under the **Clean Air Act** -- it is the only non-attainment area in the state.

o **ALABAMA EXPORT FACTS:** Alabama exports to 159 countries, Canada is the state's largest customer; Mexico is the state's fifth largest customer and exports there have almost doubled since 1987. Exports create 79,000 jobs in Alabama and about 5,700 in Birmingham.

o A dispute regarding the **federal/state offshore boundary** for Alabama has delayed the production of 146 billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves in offshore Alabama. Under the Submerged Lands Act, the State has jurisdiction over the first three miles off its coast, whereas the federal government claims jurisdiction outside of those three miles. The state claims that a lighthouse that is situated outside the three mile claim is technically a better landmark -- the feds say it is an artificial boundary and cannot be used. The state and the federal government have tentatively agreed to a compromise settlement which could lead to an estimated \$71 million to the state over the next 30 years.

NOTE TO THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAVE JUDAY *(Signature)*

Fun facts about Alabama:

ALABAMA, ...

- o is the 22nd state admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819
- o is known as the Heart of Dixie -- or just plain 'Bama
- o Mobile is the home of the Civil War naval battle when Admiral Farragut said: "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead."
- o George Washington Carver is from Alabama

Sport Trivia in keeping with the Sport Hall of Fame venue:

- o The Alabama Crimson Tide finished their season at #5 with an 11-1 record defeating Colorado in the Blockbuster Bowl.
- o Stock Car driver Davey Allison -- winner of the 1992 Daytona 500 -- is from Alabama
- o Wille Mays, the "Say Hey" kid is from Alabama
- o Boxing immortal Joe Louis is an Alabamian
- o Paul Bear Bryant of course, former University of Alabama football coach is a legend in the state.

Previous Travel Alabama:

1989/03/02	Birmingham	Alabama	USX Dedication Reception for Covernor Hunt
1989/08/02	Huntsville	Alabama	Marshall Space Flight Center
1990/07/09	Birmingham	Alabama	Print Roundtable/Interviews
		Alabama	Major Donor Reception
		Alabama	Cabiness/Alabama GOP Breakfast
1990/09/04	Mobile	Alabama	FR Event f/Governor Humt
		Alabama	Print/Radio Roundtable/Interviews
		Alabama	Rep. HQ's Grand Opening
		Alabama	Roundtable Lunch/Photo Op
1990/10/29	Huntsville	Alabama	FR Breakfast f/Bill Cabaniss