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National Italian American Foundation Dinner, October 29, 1994

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Alexis HERMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 28, 1994

Address at the National Italian American Foundation
Nineteenth Annual Gala Dinner

DATE: October 29, 1994
LOCATION: Washington Hilton
TIME: 9:20 p.m.
FROM: Alexis Herman
Marilyn DiGiacobbe

I. PURPOSE

To acknowledge and recognize the contributions of the Italian American community to our country.

II. BACKGROUND

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is a non-profit, non-partisan Foundation dedicated to promoting the positive contributions of Italian Americans. NIAF serves as a Washington voice for the Italian American community and an umbrella for the many local, more grassroots, organizations of Americans of Italian heritage.

NIAF was founded 19 years ago with the help of Monsignor Geno Baroni, former Congressmen Peter Rodino and Frank Annunzio along with other members of the Italian American Congressional delegation. The current NIAF Chairman is Frank Stella, the President is former Congressman Frank Guarini, and Arthur Gajarsa is Vice Chair, and immediate past President.

The Foundation has a wide-range of programs that have provided more than \$1 million in scholarships and grants for students, legislative internships in the Congress, conferences and seminar programs that reach out to the Italian American community, cultural exchange projects and many other activities which serve to benefit Americans of all ethnic backgrounds.

The NIAF Gala Dinner is one of the largest annual ethnic dinners in the United States. It is attended by 3,000 people from 42 states, and it has become a tradition for the President of the United States to participate. This year's Dinner Chair is Senator Patrick Leahy, and the awardees are:

- o Giorgio Armani, fashion designer
- o Nicolas Cage, actor
- o Anthony Fauci, M.D., Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- o Grace Mirabella, magazine editor
- o L. Jay Oliva, President, New York University
- o Edward Rensi, President and CEO, McDonald's Corp.

This is the third year you will participate in this dinner. This is a sell out event, the largest dinner the NIAF has ever had.

The dinner is part of a gala weekend which included a full day conference on health care reform, with a focus on the aging population. Administration officials participated. In addition, on Friday we held a reception in the Indian Treaty Room for prominent members of the NIAF. Leon Panetta and Alexis Herman addressed the group. Later that evening, the Italian American Democratic Leadership Council hosted a reception in honor of Italian-American Administration appointees. Leon Panetta and many other Italian-American appointees attended.

The major immigration of Italians to the United States was in the early 1900's. Many have assimilated well into American society and have made many outstanding contributions as evidenced by the honorees at this dinner. Today there are nearly 20 million Americans of Italian heritage working in virtually every field. Italian Americans live in suburbia as well as many of our urban cities in the North East and West Coast, such as California, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Rhode Island.

III. PARTICIPANTS

3000 Guests

64 Dais Guests (3 tier dais)

Seated on your level of the dais:

Domenick Antonelli
 Mary Ellen Oliva
 Journal Chairman Lee Rizzuto
 Vatican Ambassador Agostino Cacciavillan
 Anne Rensi
 Ambassador Boris Biancheri
 Joseph Maselli, NIAF Vice Chairman
 Geraldine Ferraro
 Richard Grasso, New York Stock Exchange Chairman-Elect
 Leon Panetta, White House Chief of Staff
 Arthur Gajarsa, NIAF Vice Chairman

Edward Rensi, NIAF Honoree
Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAF Honoree
Jack Valenti
Congressman Frank Annunzio
Frank Stella, NIAF Chairman
Frank Guarini, NIAF President
Grace Mirabella, NIAF Honoree
Senator Patrick Leahy
Nicolas Cage, NIAF Honoree
Marcelle Leahy
Isabella Rossellini
Giorgio Armani, NIAF Honoree
Lee Radziwill
Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew
Dr. Jay Oliva, NIAF Honoree
Dr. Christine Grady (wife of Dr. Fauci)
Dr. William Cahan (husband of Grace Mirabella)
Gene Casagrande, NIAF Regional Vice President

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

(The dinner begins at 7:30 p.m. Prior to your arrival, dinner will have been served. Upon your arrival, the program will begin.)

- o When you arrive at the Washington Hilton, you will be met by Bill Edwards, Washington Hilton General Manager.
- o You proceed to the holding room and then the backstage entrance to the ballroom.
- o Just prior to 9:20 p.m., Frank Stella, NIAF Chairman, Frank Guarini, NIAF President, and Senator Pat Leahy, NIAF Dinner Chair will be escorted backstage to meet you.
- o You will be announced into the ballroom by Jack Valenti. You will be accompanied by NIAF Chairman Frank Stella, NIAF President Frank Guarini, and Senator Leahy.
- o You will take your seat, between Frank Stella and Frank Guarini.
- o Jack Valenti will introduce NIAF President, Frank Guarini
- o Frank Guarini will introduce you.
- o You make remarks.

- o Following your remarks Senator Pat Leahy will join you at the podium and thank you for participating.
- o Work a ropeline. (optional)
- o Depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by speechwriters.

Attachments: Ballroom Diagram
Bottom Dais Diagram
List of Italian-American Political Appointees

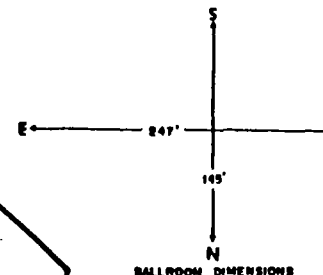
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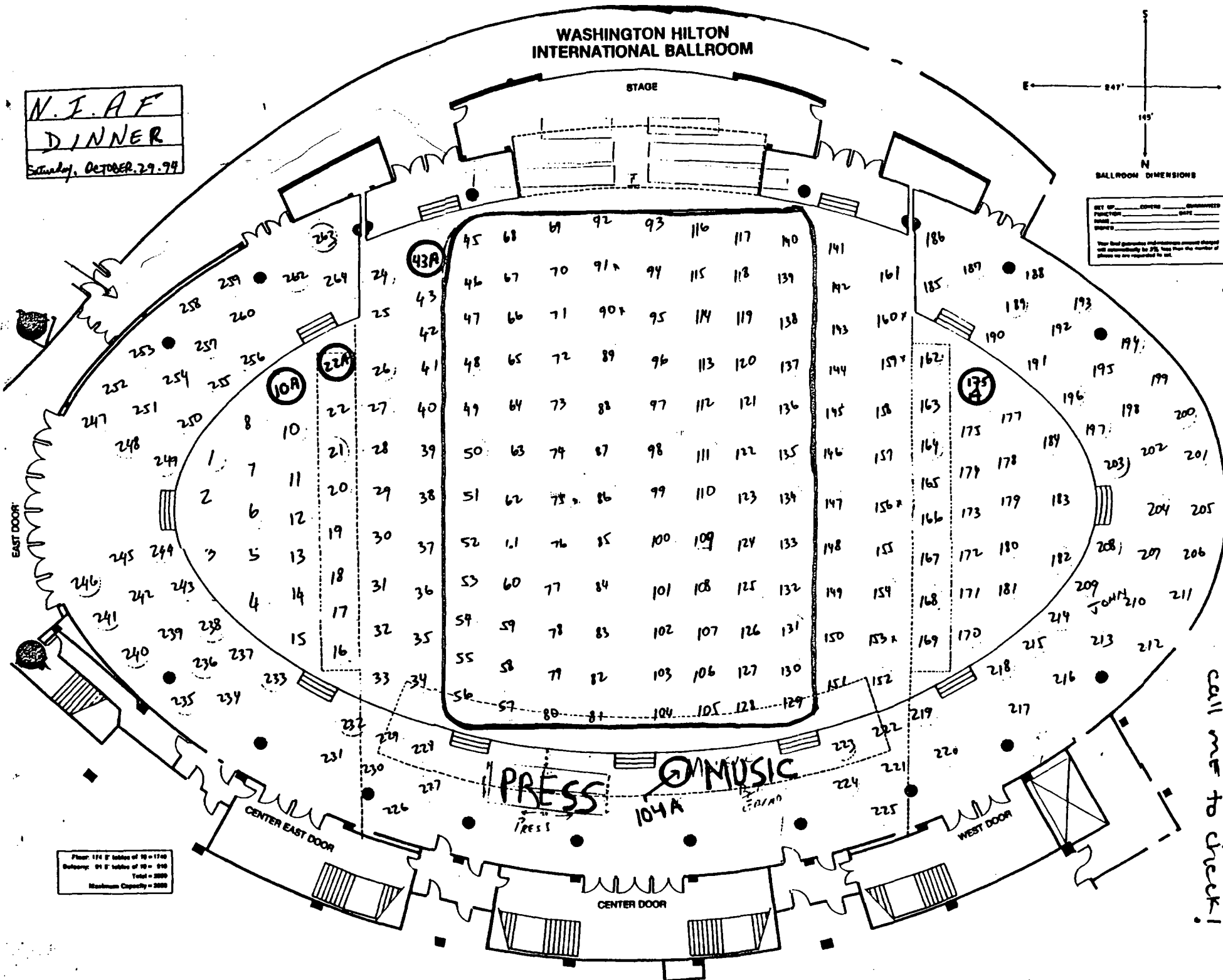
N.I.A.F.
DINNER
 Saturday, October 29, 94

WASHINGTON HILTON INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM

STAGE



SET UP: _____ CHAIRS: _____ DISHES: _____
 FUNCTION: _____ DATE: _____
 NAME: _____
 PHONE: _____
 Your final guarantee refund amount charged will automatically be 25% less than the number of chairs we are requested to set.



Floor: 114' x 114' of 10 = 1140
 Balcony: 51' x 114' of 10 = 510
 Total = 2000
 Maximum Capacity = 2000

call me to check!

BOTTOM LEVEL DAIS

Domenick Antonelli
Mary Ellen Oliva
Journal Chairman Lee Rizzuto
Vatican Ambassador Agostino Cacciavillian
Anne Rensi
Ambassador Boris Biancheri
NIAF Vice Chairman Joseph Maselli
Geraldine Ferraro
New York Stock Exchange Chairman-Elect Richard Grasso
White House Cheif of Staff Leon Panetta
NIAF Vice Chairman Arthur Gajarsa
Edward Rensi
Dr. Anthony Fauci
Jack Valenti
Congressman Frank Annunzio
NIAF Chairman Frank Stella
PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
NIAF President President Frank Guarini
Grace Mirabelli
Senator Patrick Leahy
Nicolas Cage
Marcelle Leahy
Isabella Rossellini
Giorgio Armani
Lee Radziwill
Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew
Dr. Jay Oliva
Dr. Christine Grady (wife of Dr. Fauci)
Dr. William Cahan (husband of Grace Mirabella)
Regional Vice President Gene Casagrande

BACKSTAGE

PODIUM

AUDIENCE

Italian American Members and Appointees of the Clinton/Gore Administration

____ **Nelson B. Alcalde**, Assistant Regional Administrator, National Capital Region, General Services Administration

____ **Francis M. Allegra**, Counsel to the Associate Attorney General, U.S. Dept. of Justice

____ **Donetta Ambrose**, US District Court Judge, Pennsylvania

____ **Thomas L. Baldini**, Chair, International Joint Commission-U.S. and Canada

____ **Reginald Bartholomew**, Ambassador to Italy, Department of State

____ **Ron Battocchi**, Deputy Managing Director, National Transportation Safety Board

____ **Dominic L. Bianchi**, Congressional Affairs, U.S. Trade Representative

____ **Robert B. Blancato**, Executive Director, White House Conference on Aging

____ **Ann N. Bormolini**, Chief Of Staff to The Secretary, Department Of Transportation

____ **Marca Bristo**, Chair, National Council On Disability

____ **David T. Buzzelli**, Co-Chair, Presidential Council on Sustainable Development

____ **Guido Calabresi**, U.S. Court of Appeals, Connecticut

____ **Lisa M. Caputo**, Deputy Assistant to the President and Press Secretary to the First Lady

____ **Anne Z. Carachristi**, Member, Presidential Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

____ **Marie-Louise Caravatti**, Special Assistant, Technology Administration, Department of Commerce

____ **Maria Cardona**, Confidential Assistant, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Commerce

____ **Anthony P. Carnevale**, Chair, National Commission on Employment Policy

____ **Mimi Castaldi**, Special Assistant, Women's Bureau, Department of Labor

____ **Ann Marie Cattalini**, The White House Office of Legislative Affairs

____ **Larry Cavaiola**, Deputy Under Secretary for Acquisition Operations, Department of Defense

____ **Michelle Cavatio**, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary, Department of Education

_____ Joseph Cerrell, Jr., Press Assistant, Office of the Vice President

_____ Joseph Cicippio, Deputy Director, Office of Cash Management, Agency for International Development

_____ Darlene M. Cocco, Assistant for Congressional Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development

_____ Eugene A. Conti, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Transportation

_____ Andrew M. Cuomo, Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development

_____ Theresa M. D'Addio, Office of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture

_____ Elaine Dalpiaz, Associate Director, White House Conference on Aging

_____ Catharin Dalpino, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Democracy and Human Rights, Department of State

_____ Robert W. DeGrasse, Jr., Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Energy

_____ Bernard J. Delia, Senior Counsel, Office of Policy Development, Department of Justice

_____ Amy DeMaria, Department of Health and Human Services

_____ Elizabeth DeMato, Special Assistant, Department of Commerce

_____ Julie Demeo, Confidential Assistant, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Agriculture

_____ Carol DiBattiste, Principal Deputy General Counsel, Department of the Navy

_____ Marilyn DiGiacobbe, Associate Director, Office of Public Liaison, The White House

_____ Kevin V. DiGregory, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice

_____ Jon E. DiGuillio, U.S. Attorney, Northern Indiana

_____ Michael F. DiMario, Public Printer of the U.S.

_____ Steve Diminuco, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Labor

_____ Martha R. DiSario, Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services

_____ Joseph DiVincenzo, Commissioner, White House Commission on Presidential Scholars

____ Louis A. Elisa, Regional Director, Region I, Federal Emergency Management Agency

____ Patricia Enright, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development

____ Mark Domenic Fabiani, Senior Counsel, Office of Policy Development, Department of Housing and Development

____ Joseph L. Famularo, U.S. Attorney, Eastern Kentucky

____ Evelyn Fierro, Special Assistant, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation

____ Diana Fortuna, Special Assistant to the Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

____ Robert Gallucci, Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs, Department of State

____ Patricia Garamendi, Associate Director, Volunteer Recruitment and Selection, Peace Corps

____ Irasema Garza, Special Assistant, Women's Bureau, Department of Labor

____ Cipriano Garza, Special Projects Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development

____ Louis Joseph Gicale, Jr., Deputy General Counsel, Department of Energy

____ Patrick Orlando Griffin, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

____ Maria Ionata, Special Assistant, Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State

____ Kathy Jurado, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Veteran's Affairs

____ Elaine Ciulla Karamack, Senior Policy Advisor to the Vice President, National Performance Review

____ Steven Kinsella, Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Agriculture

____ Philip Tripoli Lader, Small Business Administration

____ Matthew L. LaRocco, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of the Interior

____ Jeffrey Laurenti, Director of Policy, International Organizations, Department of State

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____ Mary M. Lisi, U.S District Court Judge, District of Rhode Island

____ John P. Loiello, Associate Director, Bureau of Education & Cultural Affairs, U.S. Information Agency

____ Sharon Longina, Associate Administrator, Farmers Home Administration, Department of Agriculture

____ Frank J. Lufrano, Associate Director of Scheduling for the President

____ Catherine Mainardi, Confidential Assistant, Department of Defense

____ Sandra K. Mancini, Staff Assistant, The White House, National Economic Council

____ Nora M. Manella, US Attorney, Central California

____ Sara Manzano, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development

____ Lynn Margherio, Senior Policy Analyst, White House Domestic Policy Council

____ Diana J. Marino, Confidential Assistant to the Director, Office of Management and Budget

____ Alice Maroni, Principal Deputy Comptroller. Department of Defense

____ Sherry S. Matteucci, US Attorney, District of Montana

____ Garry Mauro, Chairman, Federal Fleet Conversion Task Force

____ Daniel Mica, Chairman, Board for International Broadcasting

____ James J. Molinari, U.S. Marshal, Northern California

____ Janet A. Napolitano, US Attorney, District of Arizona

____ Josie C. Natori, Commissioner, White House Conference on Small Business Commission

____ Terry Nicolosi, Special Assistant, Department of Housing and Urban Development

____ Richard Nuccio, Senior Policy Advisor of Inter-American Affairs, Department of State

____ Rose Ochi, Associate Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

____ Jennifer M. Palmieri, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff

____ Leon E. Panetta, Chief of Staff to the President

____ Joseph Paolino, Ambassador to Malta

____ Linda Bello Paris, Office of the Deputy Secretary, US Department of Labor

____ Eileen Parise, Director, Advocacy Center, Department of Commerce

____ Margaret Passerini, Special Assistant, Office of the Undersecretary, US Department of Energy

____ Conrad S. Pattillo, U.S. Marshal, Eastern Arkansas

____ Richard Pecantte, Special Liaison for Public Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior

____ Robert W. Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator, Water Programs, Environmental Protection Agency

____ Antonella Pianalto, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director and Chief of Staff for Presidential Personnel

____ Theodore J. Piccone, Special Assistant, Office of Inter American Affairs, Department of Defense

____ John D. Podesta, Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary

____ James Quello, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

____ Mary Raguso, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense

____ Molly Millonzi Raiser, Chief of Protocol, 1232 Department of State

____ Steven J. Ricchetti, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

____ Linda Rotunno, Special Assistant, Office of Academic Programs, US Information Agency

____ Raimundo Ruga, Country Director, OASD-Regional Affairs/ISA/IA, Department of Defense

____ Jina Sanone, Special Assistant, Corporation for National Service

____ Donald P. Santa, Jr., Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

____ Lisa C. Schiavo, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Energy

____ Diana Sciocchetti, GSA Office of Public Affairs, General Services Administration

____ John Sepulveda, Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development

____ James V. Serio, Jr., U.S. Marshal, Eastern Louisiana

REVISED

10/29/94, 4 pm

The President of the United States
Annual Dinner, National Italian American Foundation
Washington, D.C.
October 29, 1994

Acknowledgements: Sen. Patrick Leahy, Dinner

Chair; Former Congressman Frank Guarini, NIAF

President; Frank Stella, NIAF Chairman; Art Gajarsa

[Guy-arsa], NIAF Vice Chair; Vatican Ambassador

Agostino Cacciavillan [Koch--yah--vill-yan]; Boris

Biancheri [Bee--yahn--carey], Italian Ambassador to the

United States. [Hillary is sorry that she couldn't be here
this evening.]

Ambassador Biancchieri, I hope you will send my warmest regards to the Prime Minister. Twice this year, I have had the opportunity to visit Italy and renew the partnership between our countries. I was reminded of how Italy has enriched America -- in art, music, philosophy, and, most important, the strength and wisdom of so many of her sons and daughters.

This morning, Senator Leahy and I returned from the Middle East. I was proud to stand with the brave men and women of our Armed Forces stationed at Tactical Assembly Area Liberty in the desert sands of Kuwait. And I also wish that all Americans could have been with me on the border between Israel and Jordan, when we witnessed a great stride forward towards a more peaceful region and a more peaceful world.

With the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, another large building block was put in place toward our goal of a comprehensive peace.

Now, the clash of arms will be heard no more between these two countries whose state of war lasted nearly 46 years. It was inspiring to see that these old foes are now truly waging peace. They are working together, so that the waters of the Jordan River will make the desert bloom. And they are clearing gun emplacements for invasions of tourists, not tanks.

I am proud that America could sustain and energize the negotiations that led to the Washington Declaration and the peace treaty between these two nations, and the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. We can do this because both sides trust us. They know us for who we are -- a nation that draws our strength from our diversity and where everyone has a voice.

From the Middle East to South Africa, from Northern Ireland to the Caribbean, the peoples of the world look to America. They respect the power of our military. They respect the power of our economy. But, most of all, they respect the power of our example.

Sometimes, you have to travel outside America to see ourselves as others see us -- the world's strongest democracy, always reaching and striving and changing.

We are at our best when we renew ourselves by welcoming people from all over the world who share a love of liberty and a willingness to work.

America does not define itself by language or lineage. Our values make us Americans, the values of work and family and faith.

You know these values because you live them every day. You work hard for a living. You sacrifice for your children. You take care of your parents. You care for your communities, you love your country, and you want everyone to have the same opportunities you have had.

These values have guided the Italian-American journey, and they have guided the American journey. I learned these values growing up in a small town. Many of you learned these values in strong communities, where parents and immigrant grandparents worked together with teachers, priests, and neighbors to set you on the right path in life.

You can see these values in the people you honor tonight. And in the more than 150 men and women of Italian heritage who serve in leading positions in our Administration. In Leon Panetta, I have a chief of staff who not only translated my remarks to the people of Rome, but who can read Machiavelli in the original.

I can't possibly mention everyone, but I want to thank: the chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Laura D'Andrea Tyson; FBI Director Louis Freeh; Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Andrew Cuomo; former Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro, a permanent member of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; the director of our effort to reinvent government, Elaine Ciulla [chew-lah] Kamarck; the First Lady's press secretary, Lisa Caputo;

the Vice President's press secretary, Lorraine Voles;

White House legislative director Patrick Orlando

Griffin; and White House staff secretary John Podesta.

I see my old friend Joe Paolino, Ambassador to

Malta, here tonight. And I thank you for letting me

recruit Bob Blancato from the staff of the National

Italian-American Foundation to run our White House

Conference on the Aging.

This is the third year that I have spoken at this dinner. I have been thinking why I keep coming back. For me -- as for you -- this dinner is not only an occasion to celebrate your achievements; it is a time to rededicate ourselves to our hopes for the future. And, most of all, I love to hear your stories.

Now, I know that you have been waiting for the jokes because you are honoring the chief executive officer of McDonald's, and I am one of his most loyal customers. I just want to tell Ed Rensi: Keep up the good work.

What gives me an even bigger thrill than a Big Mac and fries is Ed's story. I love it that America is a place where Ed Rensi [Ren-see] can start out as a grillman and work his way up to running the company.

That is why we are an example to the world.

Two weeks ago, I spoke at a dinner honoring Mario Cuomo. When he tells the story of his family and all they have achieved, he is singing a love song to America. And we all can't help but sit up a little straighter, throw our shoulders back, and be proud to be Americans.

We take pride in these stories, not because they are unusual but because they are typical. Not everyone can be a governor or a chief executive officer. But there are millions of Americans who came from all over the world, or who grew up here in poverty, who worked hard, played by the rules, held their families together, and made the most of the opportunities America offers.

We can climb as high as our hard work and our God-given talents can take us. But individuals do best when we have strong families, strong communities, and a strong country behind us. That is how we all can move forward, together.

For all the good fortune our families have enjoyed, we've seen some difficult times in the recent past. For 30 years -- and under both parties -- we've seen the breakdown of family and community, and the growth of crime and violence. For twenty years, too many of our families have been working longer and harder for less. And, for too long, Washington exploded the deficit, while neglecting the investments that help people build their future.

We're trying to put America back on its historic journey of progress. That journey, as you know so well, isn't about government alone. It's about business, labor, government, the schools, the churches, families, communities, and individuals working together, in partnership. That vision of strengthening families and communities -- and giving people the tools to build better lives for themselves -- is at the heart of everything we are doing.

You know the importance of work and family.

With the Family and Medical Leave Law, we are helping Americans be good workers and good parents.

You know the importance of education; that is why you provide scholarships for deserving young people [and I understand five of your scholarship winners are here tonight]. And that is why we are revolutionizing student loans, so that 20 million people can better afford to pay for their college educations.

You know the importance of safe and strong communities. That is why our Crime Bill is putting more police on the streets of our communities, setting tougher penalties for violent career criminals, and creating prevention programs to give young people something to say yes to as well as something to say no to.

This is all about partnership, not partisanship. That is why Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Congresswoman Connie Morella, who is here tonight, were leaders in the fight to pass the Crime Bill.

And you know that government should do what our families do: live within our means and provide for the future. That is why -- thanks to Leon Panetta's leadership at the Office of Management and Budget -- we are achieving historic deficit reduction, cutting taxes on small business and 15 million working families, and investing more in education, training, and technology. And we're starting to get results: 4.6 million new jobs, and three years in a row of lower deficits for the first time since President Truman.

But none of this will matter unless every American does what you have worked so hard to do: strengthen our families and our communities, so people can build better lives for themselves.