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The President has seen

(ROHRBACHER)

MARCH 6, 1985

29846755

DROPBY BRIEFING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS
ON M.X.-PEACEKEEPER MISSILE

MC003

THANK YOU. I APPRECIATE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH ALL OF YOU TODAY.
I LEARNED EARLY ON THAT IF AN ISSUE IS
IMPORTANT ENOUGH, THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO
GO DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE AND ENLIST THEIR
HELP. ONCE PEOPLE ARE MOBILIZED, THEY DON'T
HAVE TO MAKE POLITICIANS SEE THE LIGHT,
THEY JUST HAVE TO MAKE 'EM FEEL THE HEAT.

OF COURSE, ASKING FOR HELP SUGGESTS A
CERTAIN DEGREE OF TRUST. I'M REMINDED OF A
STORY ABOUT A FELLA WHO FELL OFF A STEEP
CLIFF, AND HALFWAY DOWN CAUGHT HOLD OF A
BRANCH. THERE HE WAS DANGLING ABOVE THE
ROCKY CANYON BELOW. HE LOOKED UP AND DIDN'T
SEE ANYONE. FINALLY HE SHOUTED OUT, "LORD,
IF YOU'RE UP THERE, TELL ME WHAT TO DO."
A MOMENT LATER A BOOMING VOICE CAME FROM THE
CLOUDS, "IF YOU HAVE FAITH... LET GO."

WELL THE FELLA LOOKED DOWN AT THOSE
ROCKS A COUPLE HUNDRED FEET BELOW AND THEN
LOOKED UP AND ASKED, "IS THERE ANYONE ELSE
UP THERE?"

WELL, WE CAN BE THANKFUL WE'RE NOT IN
THAT KIND OF SITUATION. BUT WE AS A PEOPLE
DO FACE A DECISION VITAL TO THE SAFETY OF
OUR COUNTRY. AND THAT IS WHY I HAVE ASKED
YOU HERE TODAY. ONE OF THE MOST SACRED
DUTIES OF ANY PRESIDENT IS KEEPING AMERICA
SECURE AND AT PEACE. PEACE AND SECURITY ARE
NOT FREE COMMODITIES. THEY ARE PRECIOUS
AND, LIKE EVERYTHING OF GREAT VALUE,
THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY.

DURING THE 1970's, PERHAPS AS A
REACTION TO THE CONFUSION AND DIVISION OVER
THE VIETNAM WAR, THE STRENGTH OF OUR
CONVENTIONAL AND STRATEGIC FORCES WAS
PERMITTED TO ERODE.

BY 1980, IT WAS CLEAR THAT A WEAKER AMERICA WAS NOT A SAFER AMERICA AND THAT IT WAS TIME TO GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS OF STRENGTHENING OUR DEFENSES. I WAS ELECTED IN 1980 AND RE-ELECTED A FEW MONTHS AGO PLEDGING TO PUT OUR ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK AND TO REBUILD OUR DEFENSES.

MODERNIZING OUR STRATEGIC FORCES WAS VITAL. WE UNILATERALLY REFRAINED FROM DEPLOYING MANY NEW STRATEGIC SYSTEMS IN THE 1970's / UNILATERALLY REFRAINED / EVEN AS THE SOVIETS RUSHED FORWARD TO EXPAND AND UPGRADE THEIR NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, / TESTING AND DEPLOYING AT LEAST THREE NEW I.C.B.M. SYSTEMS AND STATIONING THEM IN THEIR HARDENED SILOS. MORE THAN 800 NEW MISSILES WITH SOME 5,000 WARHEADS WERE ADDED TO THEIR ARSENAL.

NUCLEAR WAR WOULD BE THE GREATEST TRAGEDY EVER EXPERIENCED BY MANKIND.

WE HAVE AVOIDED THAT TRAGEDY BECAUSE WE HAVE
MAINTAINED A CREDIBLE DETERRENT FORCE.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO PLAY POLITICAL GAMES WITH
THE DELICATE BALANCE OF DETERRENCE. NO ROOM
SHOULD BE LEFT FOR DOUBT ABOUT A NUCLEAR
EXCHANGE. NO ONE WOULD WIN. THAT REALITY
HAS WORKED WELL FOR 30 YEARS; YET IF WE ARE
NOT WILLING TO MODERNIZE OUR FORCES,
TO KEEP OUR SYSTEMS CURRENT / THE CREDIBILITY
OF DETERRENCE WILL VANISH.

KNOWING THIS / WE BEGAN IMMEDIATELY TO
MAKE UP FOR THE IRRESPONSIBILITY OF THE
1970's AND TO REVITALIZE THE THREE LEGS OF
OUR NUCLEAR TRIAD. WE'VE HAD SOME SUCCESS.
THE TRIDENT SUBMARINE AND THE B-1 BOMBER
WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD FILLING THE GAP.
BUT WE CANNOT SIT ON A THREE-LEGGED STOOL IF
IT HAS ONLY TWO LEGS. THE THIRD LEG OF THE
TRIAD NEEDS THE PEACEKEEPER MISSILE.

OUR CURRENT, AGING LAND-BASED MISSILES
ARE SUFFERING FROM ATTRITION.

THE 22-YEAR-OLD TITAN MISSILES ARE BEING
RETIRED / LEAVING OUR LAND-BASED MISSILE
FORCE WITH LESS AND LESS PUNCH WITH WHICH TO
DETER AGGRESSION.

THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WE NEED THE
PEACEKEEPER / THE MOST RELIABLE AND ACCURATE
LAND-BASED MISSILE AMERICA HAS EVER
PRODUCED. IT WILL BRING OUR DETERRENT TO A
STATE-OF-THE-ART LEVEL AND REINFORCE THE
FUTILITY OF ATTACK TO ANY POTENTIAL
ADVERSARY. WHETHER OR NOT THAT MESSAGE IS
SENT NOW DEPENDS ON THE CONGRESS.

WE HAVE PROPOSED THE PRODUCTION AND
DEPLOYMENT OF 100 PEACEKEEPER MISSILES /
A MINIMUM INVESTMENT NEEDED FOR THE SECURITY
OF OUR COUNTRY. A BLUE-RIBBON / BIPARTISAN
COMMISSION, / THE SCOWCROFT COMMISSION /
STUDIED THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE
UNITED STATES AND AGREED.

PROMINENT DEMOCRATS, LIKE THE LATE SENATOR
HENRY "SCOOP" JACKSON, ALSO AGREED.

IF AMERICA MAINTAINS A STRONG DETERRENT /--
AND ONLY IF IT DOES, /HE SAID, /THIS NATION
WILL CONTINUE TO BE A LEADER IN THE CRUCIAL
QUEST FOR ENDURING PEACE AMONG NATIONS. /

SENATOR JACKSON KNEW THE PRICE OF
LIVING FREE, SECURE, AND AT PEACE.

I CAN ASSURE YOU, I DON'T ENJOY SPENDING
MONEY ON WEAPONS. IF IT WAS NOT ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL TO THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY /
MY CONSERVATIVE PHILOSOPHY WOULD REBEL AT
TAXING AWAY MONEY FROM THOSE WHO WORK SO
HARD TO EARN IT.

I GREW UP IN THE AGE OF COOLIDGE /
A CHAMPION OF THRIFT AND ECONOMY IN
GOVERNMENT. YET EVEN COOLIDGE KNEW THE
IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTH.

IN HIS 1925 INAUGURAL ADDRESS HE SAID, /
"OUR COUNTRY REPRESENTS NOTHING BUT PEACEFUL
INTENTIONS TOWARD ALL THE EARTH, / BUT IT
OUGHT NOT TO FAIL TO MAINTAIN SUCH A
MILITARY FORCE AS COMPORTS WITH THE DIGNITY
AND SECURITY OF A GREAT PEOPLE. / IT OUGHT TO
BE A BALANCED FORCE, / INTENSELY MODERN, /
CAPABLE OF DEFENSE BY SEA AND LAND, BENEATH
THE SURFACE AND IN THE AIR. / BUT IT SHOULD
BE SO CONDUCTED THAT ALL THE WORLD MAY SEE
IN IT, / NOT A MENACE, / BUT AN INSTRUMENT OF
SECURITY AND PEACE."

THAT IS THE SPIRIT WITH WHICH WE MUST
MOVE FORWARD IN THIS DEBATE.

WE HAVE REQUESTED A MINIMUM NUMBER OF
PEACEKEEPERS, ONLY 100. / THIS NUMBER --
(FAR TOO FEW FOR ANY FIRST STRIKE) --
UNDERScores THE PURELY DEFENSIVE NATURE OF
OUR PROPOSAL.

THE MISSILE IS NOW IN PRODUCTION;
COSTS ARE REASONABLE AND UNDER CONTROL;
AND FUNDING WOULD NOT ADD TO THE DEFICIT
BECAUSE IT HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROPRIATED IN
THE FY '85 BUDGET; WHAT'S MORE, WE HAVE HAD
SEVEN EXCELLENT TEST LAUNCHES. OF COURSE,
THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH
FOR ANY REASON TO VOTE NO. IF THE DECISIONS
WERE DETERMINED THAT WAY, OUR MILITARY WOULD
HAVE NO WEAPONS AT ALL. THIS WOULD BE
FINE / EXCEPT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE
SUFFERING FROM THE SAME HANDICAP.

OUR GOAL IS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE
SOVIETS / TO REACH AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL
PERMIT US TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF WEAPONS
THREATENING MANKIND, / BOTH NUCLEAR AND
CONVENTIONAL. AS YOU ARE AWARE, / NEXT WEEK
WE WILL BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

THE VOTE ON THE PEACEKEEPER IS ALSO A VOTE
ON GENEVA, / AND THE SOVIETS ARE WATCHING US
WITH INTENSE INTEREST.

SO, LET NO ONE MISJUDGE WHAT IS AT STAKE.
REJECTING THE PEACEKEEPER WILL KNOCK THE
LEGS OUT FROM UNDER THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.
IT WOULD BE AN IRRESPONSIBLE, UNILATERAL
CONCESSION ON THE PART OF THE CONGRESS TO
THE SOVIETS LEAVING ~~THEM~~ NO CONCLUSION BUT
THAT AMERICA LACKS UNITY AND RESOLVE.

I CAN THINK OF NO GREATER DISASTER FOR THE
NEGOTIATING POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

WEAKNESS DOES NOT MAKE FOR GOOD
NEGOTIATIONS. THIS ISN'T A NEW REVELATION.
PRESIDENT TEDDY ROOSEVELT SAID IT A LONG
TIME AGO. WE NEED TO KEEP IN A CONDITION
OF PREPAREDNESS.... (HE SAID) NOT BECAUSE
WE WANT WAR/ BUT BECAUSE WE DESIRE TO STAND
WITH THOSE WHOSE PLEA FOR PEACE IS LISTENED
TO WITH RESPECTFUL ATTENTION.

THE SUCCESS WE'VE HAD IN GETTING THE
SOVIETS TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE --

(OR GETTING THEIR RESPECTFUL ATTENTION,
AS TEDDY WOULD SAY)-- CAN BE TRACED NOT TO
VACILLATION, BUT TO FIRMNESS AND SENSE OF
PURPOSE.] WE PLEDGED THAT IF THE SOVIETS
WOULD NOT WORK WITH US TO REDUCE THE NUMBER
OF THEIR INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES AIMED
AT EUROPE, / WE WOULD DEPLOY OUR CRUISE AND
PERSHING'S TO BALANCE THE THREAT.

OUR COURAGE AND THAT OF OUR ALLIES LET THE
KREMLIN KNOW WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE OUR
SECURITY AND THAT WE HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL
TO STICK WITH IT.] WE MEAN NO THREAT TO THEM
BUT WILL NOT PERMIT THEM TO POSE A THREAT TO
US.

THERE SHOULD BE NO MISTAKE, /
A ~~CONGRESSIONAL~~ REJECTION OF THE PEACEKEEPER
WILL DIMINISH OUR CHANCE OF REACHING A FAIR
AND EQUITABLE ARMS REDUCTION AGREEMENT NOW
OR IN THE FUTURE.

WITHOUT THE PEACEKEEPER, / THE SOVIETS WILL
HAVE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO DISCONTINUE THEIR
BUILD-UP OR TO REACH AGREEMENTS WITH US.

YEARS AGO, I WAS A NEGOTIATOR FOR MY
UNION.] WHEN WE PICKED A TEAM AND SENT THEM
TO THE BARGAINING TABLE, WE STOOD BEHIND
THEM.] UNITY WAS KEY TO SUCCESS.] THEN,
WE WERE SEEKING HIGHER WAGES AND BETTER
WORKING CONDITIONS.] THE TEAM WE'RE SENDING
TO GENEVA WILL BE SEEKING PEACE AND SECURITY
FOR OUR COUNTRY AND THE FREE WORLD.

IT IS THE AMERICAN TEAM AND I NEED YOUR HELP
IN BACKING THEM UP.] I HOPE I CAN COUNT ON
YOU TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT THAT NOW IS NOT
THE TIME TO CANCEL A MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEM, /
OR UNDERCUT OUR ALLIES, / OR TO REWARD SOVIET
BELLIGERENCE.] NOW IS THE TIME FOR AMERICAN
COURAGE, / UNITY AND RESOLVE, / TIME TO STAND
TOGETHER BEHIND OUR TEAM IN GENEVA, / SO THEY
CAN REPRESENT US WITH ALL THE VIGOR AND
CONFIDENCE THEY CAN MUSTER.

THE SOVIETS RESPECT THIS KIND OF
RESOLVE. ANDREI SAKHAROV, A COURAGEOUS
VOICE FOR PEACE IN THE SOVIET UNION,
UNDERSTANDS THIS. HE WON THE NOBEL PEACE
PRIZE AND HOLDS THE RESPECT OF THE WORLD FOR
HIS STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS.
HE WROTE TO A FRIEND IN THE WEST THAT ARMS
CONTROL TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS WOULD BE
EASIER IF THE UNITED STATES WERE TO HAVE THE
M.X.

SAKHAROV KNEW THE RISK OF SENDING A
MESSAGE LIKE THAT. ~~LET US HOPE CONGRESS~~
~~DOES NOT REFUSE TO LISTEN.~~ PEACE IS NOT
EASY TO MAINTAIN. IT WILL TAKE HARD WORK
AND DILIGENCE. IT WILL TAKE UNITY AND SENSE
OF PURPOSE. AND, YES, IT WILL COST MONEY.
THIS GENERATION OF AMERICANS MUST MEET THE
TEST. THAT IS UP TO US. I HOPE I CAN COUNT
ON YOU. THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME TODAY.
GOD BLESS YOU.

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 The President has seen

(Rohrabacher/BE)

March 6, 1985

10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR
LEADERS ON MX-PEACEKEEPER MISSILE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1985

Thank you. I appreciate this opportunity to speak with all of you today. I learned early on that if an issue is important enough, the best thing to do is to go directly to the people and enlist their help. Once people are mobilized, they don't have to make politicians see the light, they just have to make 'em feel the heat.

Of course, asking for help suggests a certain degree of trust. I'm reminded of a story about a fella who fell off a steep cliff, and halfway down ~~he~~ caught hold of a branch. There he was dangling above the rocky canyon below. He looked up and didn't see anyone. Finally he shouted out, "Lord, if you're up there, tell me what to do." A moment later a booming voice came from the clouds, "If you have faith . . . let go."

Well the fella looked down at those rocks a couple hundred feet below and then looked up and asked, "Is there anyone else up there?"

Well, we can be thankful we're not in that kind of situation. But we as a people do face a decision vital to the safety of our country. And that is why I have asked you here today. One of the most sacred duties of any President is keeping America secure and at peace. Peace and security are not free commodities. They are precious and, like everything of great value, there is a price to pay.

During the 1970's, perhaps as a reaction to the confusion and division over the Vietnam War, the strength of our conventional and strategic forces was permitted to erode. By 1980, it was clear that a weaker America was not a safer America and that it was time to get down to the business of strengthening our defenses. I was elected in 1980 and re-elected a few months ago pledging to put our economy back on track and to rebuild our defenses.

Modernizing our strategic forces was vital. We unilaterally refrained from deploying many new strategic systems in the 1970's -- unilaterally refrained -- even as the Soviets rushed forward to expand and upgrade their nuclear capability, testing and deploying at least three new I.C.B.M. systems and stationing them in their hardened silos. More than 800 new missiles with some 5,000 warheads were added to their arsenal.

Nuclear war would be the greatest tragedy ever experienced by mankind. We have avoided that tragedy because we have maintained a credible deterrent force. We can't afford to play political games with the delicate balance of deterrence. No room should be left for doubt about a nuclear exchange. No one would win. That reality has worked well for 30 years; yet if we are not willing to modernize our forces, to keep our systems current, the credibility of deterrence will vanish.

Knowing this, we began immediately to make up for the irresponsibility of the 1970's and to revitalize the three legs of our nuclear triad. We've had some success. The Trident submarine and the B-1 bomber will go a long way toward filling

the gap. But we cannot sit on a three-legged stool if it has only two legs. The third leg of the triad needs the Peacekeeper missile.

Our current, aging land-based missiles are suffering from attrition. The 22-year-old Titan missiles are being retired, leaving our land-based missile force with less and less punch with which to deter aggression.

That's one of the reasons we need the Peacekeeper, the most reliable and accurate land-based missile America has ever produced. It will bring our deterrent to a state-of-the-art level and reinforce the futility of attack to any potential adversary. Whether or not that message is sent now depends on the Congress.

We have proposed the production and deployment of 100 Peacekeeper missiles, a minimum investment needed for the security of our country. A blue-ribbon, bipartisan commission, the Scowcroft Commission, studied the security requirements of the United States and agreed. Prominent Democrats, like the late Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson, also agreed. "If America maintains a strong deterrent -- and only if it does," he said, "this Nation will continue to be a leader in the crucial quest for enduring peace among nations."

Senator Jackson knew the price of living free, secure, and at peace. I can assure you, I don't enjoy spending money on weapons. If it was not absolutely essential to the security of our country, my conservative philosophy would rebel at taxing away money from those who work so hard to earn it.

I grew up in the age of Coolidge, a champion of thrift and economy in Government. Yet even Coolidge knew the importance of strength. In his 1925 Inaugural Address he said, "Our country represents nothing but peaceful intentions toward all the earth, but it ought not to fail to maintain such a military force as comports with the dignity and security of a great people. It ought to be a balanced force, intensely modern, capable of defense by sea and land, beneath the surface and in the air. But it should be so conducted that all the world may see in it, not a menace, but an instrument of security and peace."

That is the spirit with which we must move forward in this debate. We have requested a minimum number of Peacekeepers, only 100. This number -- far too few for any first strike -- underscores the purely defensive nature of our proposal.

The missile is now in production; costs are reasonable and under control; and funding would not add to the deficit because it has already been appropriated in the FY '85 budget; what's more, we have had seven excellent test launches. Of course, there are those who will continue to search for any reason to vote no. If the decisions were determined that way, our military would have no weapons at all. This would be fine -- except the Soviets would not be suffering from the same handicap.

Our goal is to negotiate with the Soviets to reach agreements which will permit us to reduce the number of weapons threatening mankind, both nuclear and conventional. As you are aware, next week we will begin negotiations in Geneva. The vote on the Peacekeeper is also a vote on Geneva, and the Soviets are

watching us with intense interest. So, let no one misjudge what is at stake. Rejecting the Peacekeeper will knock the legs out from under the negotiating table. It would be an irresponsible, unilateral concession on the part of the Congress to the Soviets, leaving them no conclusion but that America lacks unity and resolve. I can think of no greater disaster for the negotiating position of the United States.

Weakness does not make for good negotiations. This isn't a new revelation. President Teddy Roosevelt said it a long time ago. "We need to keep in a condition of preparedness . . .," he said, "not because we want war, but because we desire to stand with those whose plea for peace is listened to with respectful attention."

The success we've had in getting the Soviets to the negotiating table -- or getting their respectful attention, as Teddy would say -- can be traced not to vacillation, but to firmness and sense of purpose. We pledged that if the Soviets would not work with us to reduce the number of their intermediate range missiles aimed at Europe, we would deploy our Cruise and Pershings to balance the threat. Our courage and that of our allies let the Kremlin know we will not compromise our security and that we have the political will to stick with it. We mean no threat to them ^{But} ~~and~~ will not permit them to pose a threat to us.

There should be no mistake, a congressional rejection of the Peacekeeper will diminish our chance of reaching a fair and equitable arms reduction agreement now or in the future. Without

the Peacekeeper, the Soviets will have little incentive to discontinue their build-up or to reach agreements with us.

Years ago, I was a negotiator for my union. When we picked a team and sent them to the bargaining table, we stood behind them. Unity was key to success. Then, we were seeking higher wages and better working conditions. The team we're sending to Geneva will be seeking peace and security for our country and the free world. It is the American team and I need your help in backing them up. I hope I can count on you to get the message out that now is not the time to cancel a major weapons system; or undercut our allies, or to reward Soviet belligerence. Now is the time for American courage, unity and resolve; time to stand together behind our team in Geneva so they can represent us with all the vigor and confidence they can muster.

The Soviets respect this kind of resolve. Andrei Sakharov, a courageous voice for peace in the Soviet Union, understands this. He won the Nobel Peace Prize and holds the respect of the world for his struggle for peace and human rights. He wrote to a friend in the West that arms control talks with the Soviets would be easier if the United States were to have the MX.

Sakharov knew the risk of sending a message like that. Let us hope Congress does not refuse to listen. Peace is not easy to maintain. It will take hard work and diligence. It will take unity and sense of purpose. And, yes, it will cost money. This generation of Americans must meet the test. That is up to us. I hope I can count on you. Thank you for joining me today. God bless you.

(ELLIOTT)

MARCH 6, 1985
2988805C

FARM BILL VETO STATEMENT

MY FELLOW AMERICANS, AS YOU ALL KNOW,
SOME OF OUR FARMERS ARE FACING SEVERE
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. THEY ARE LIVING WITH
THE RESULTS OF A GENERATION OF FAILED
POLICIES THAT DROVE DOWN FARM PRICES,
AND DROVE UP THE COST OF THEIR LAND, SEED,
AND EQUIPMENT. THEN, IN THE LATE 1970's,
THEY WERE HIT AGAIN BY RUNAWAY INFLATION AND
INTEREST RATES, AND GRAIN EMBARGOES THAT
ROBBED THEM OF LONG-TERM MARKETS.

FARMERS WHO HAVE TOILED TO MAKE AMERICA
PRODUCTIVE, GROWING FOOD AND FIBER FOR ALL
OF US AND MILLIONS BEYOND OUR SHORES,
DESERVE OUR SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST NOT SHIRK ITS
RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP UNDO SOME OF THE
DAMAGE IT CREATED. AND WITH SPRING PLANTING
UPON US, WE ARE MEETING THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

LAST SEPTEMBER, / WE INITIATED A
CAREFULLY TARGETED EFFORT TO DIRECT SPECIAL
HELP TO FARMERS WITH CREDIT PROBLEMS.

AND JUST LAST MONTH, WE MODIFIED THIS NEW
PROGRAM TO ENSURE ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

THIS YEAR, UNDER PLANS I APPROVED, /
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE NEARLY
\$4-1/2 BILLION IN CREDIT AVAILABLE TO
FARMERS. / WE WILL ALSO SPEND JUST OVER
\$15 BILLION TO SUPPORT THE PRICE OF FARM
COMMODITIES.

WE ARE DOING A GREAT DEAL TO HELP
FARMERS. / BUT I'VE PLEADED AND WARNED
REPEATEDLY THAT, / JUST AS YOUR FAMILIES DON'T
HAVE A BLANK CHECK FOR WHATEVER YOUR NEEDS
MAY BE, / NEITHER CAN GOVERNMENT /-
AND THAT MEANS TAXPAYERS /- BAIL OUT EVERY
FARMER HOPELESSLY IN DEBT, / OR EVERY BANK
WHICH MADE IMPRUDENT OR SPECULATIVE LOANS
AND BET ON HIGHER INFLATION.

I ASKED FOR HELP. I ASKED CONGRESS,
WHICH, (JUST DAYS AGO,) WAS BEMOANING THE SIZE
OF DEFICITS, TO DEMONSTRATE COURAGE,
HOLD THE LINE, AND MATCH RHETORIC WITH
DEEDS. CONGRESS FAILED. IN THE FIRST MAJOR
BILL PASSED SINCE CONVENING IN JANUARY,
A MAJORITY PROVED ITSELF INCAPABLE OF
RESISTING THE VERY TAX-AND-SPEND PHILOSOPHY
THAT BROUGHT AMERICA TO ITS KNEES AND
WRECKED OUR ECONOMY. SO, TODAY, I HAVE
VETOED THIS MASSIVE NEW BAILOUT THAT WOULD
ADD BILLIONS TO THE DEFICIT OVER THE NEXT
SEVERAL YEARS.

LET'S BE CLEAR ON ONE THING: THE BILL
I VETOED WOULD NOT REALLY HELP FARMERS.
IT IS TOO LATE IN THE SEASON FOR THAT.
THE BILL IS MERELY DESIGNED TO CONVEY THE
IMPRESSION OF HELPING FARMERS.

BUT IF CONGRESS ~~THEY~~ WANTS TO HELP,
IT WILL HELP US REDUCE UNNECESSARY
SPENDING AND INCREASE INCENTIVES FOR GREATER
REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH, WHICH WILL PROVIDE
CONFIDENCE TO THE MARKETS AND HELP INTEREST
RATES COME FURTHER DOWN.

LET ME ADD THAT MY VETO WILL NOT
INTERFERE WITH THE AFRICAN RELIEF EFFORT NOW
UNDER WAY. USING AUTHORITY IN EXISTING LAW,
WE CAN MAINTAIN THE FLOW OF EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT SOMEONE IN
WASHINGTON MUST BE RESPONSIBLE, SOMEONE MUST
BE WILLING TO STAND UP FOR THOSE WHO PAY
AMERICA'S BILLS, AND SOMEONE MUST STAND UP
TO THOSE WHO SAY, ("HERE'S THE KEY,)
THERE'S THE TREASURY, JUST TAKE AS MANY OF
THOSE HARD-EARNED TAX DOLLARS AS YOU WANT."

I APPLAUD AND THANK THE 35 SENATORS AND
168 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WHO COURAGEOUSLY
STOOD WITH ME ON THIS ISSUE.

- 5 -

NOW THAT I HAVE VETOED THIS BILL,
I HOPE THE CONGRESS WILL GET THE MESSAGE
AND WORK WITH ME TO REDUCE SPENDING IN A
RESPONSIBLE WAY THAT DOES NOT THREATEN OUR
NATIONAL SECURITY. IF IT DOESN'T,
THEN I WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

I WILL VETO AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL SPENDING
IS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. PLEASE HELP ME BY
TELLING YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO STOP TALKING
ABOUT DEFICITS, AND TO START HELPING ME
BRING THEM DOWN.

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU.

#

OK.
PR

The President has seen _____

(Elliott/Khedouri)

March 6, 1985

10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT: FARM BILL VETO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1985

My fellow Americans, as you all know, some of our farmers are facing severe financial problems. They are living with the results of a generation of failed policies that drove down farm prices, and drove up the cost of their land, seed, and equipment. Then, in the late 1970's, they were hit again by runaway inflation and interest rates, and grain embargoes that robbed them of long-term markets.

Farmers who have toiled to make America productive, growing food and fiber for all of us and millions beyond our shores, deserve our sympathy and support. The Federal Government must not shirk its responsibility to help undo some of the damage it created. And with spring planting upon us, we are meeting that responsibility.

Last September, we initiated a carefully targeted effort to direct special help to farmers with credit problems. And just 2 weeks ago, we modified this new program to ensure its effectiveness. This year, under plans I approved, the Federal Government will make nearly \$4-1/2 billion in credit available to farmers. We will also spend just over \$15 billion to support the price of farm commodities.

We are doing a great deal to help farmers. But I've pleaded and warned repeatedly that, just as your families don't have a blank check for whatever your needs may be, neither can Government -- and that means taxpayers -- bail out every farmer

hopelessly in debt, or every bank which made imprudent or speculative loans and bet on higher inflation.

I asked for help. I asked the Congress, which, just days ago, was bemoaning the size of deficits, to demonstrate courage, hold the line, and match rhetoric with deeds. Congress failed. In the first major bill passed since convening in January, a majority proved itself incapable of resisting the very tax-and-spend philosophy that brought America to its knees and wrecked our economy. So, today, I have vetoed this massive new bailout that would add billions to the deficit over the next several years.

Let's be clear on one thing: The bill I vetoed would not really help farmers. It is much too late in the season for that. This bill is simply a political tool designed to convey the impression of helping farmers. But if Congress truly wants to help, it will help us to reduce unnecessary spending and increase incentives for greater real economic growth, which will provide confidence to the markets and help interest rates to come further down.

Let me add that my veto will not interfere with the African relief effort now underway. Using authority in existing law, we can maintain the flow of emergency assistance.

The bottom line is that someone in Washington must be responsible; someone must be willing to stand up for those who pay America's bills; and someone must stand up to those who say, "Here's the key, there's the Treasury, just take as many of those hard-earned tax dollars as you want." I applaud and thank the

35 Senators and 168 Members of the House who courageously stood with me on this issue.

Now that I have vetoed this bill, I hope the Congress will get the message and work with me to reduce spending in a responsible way that does not threaten our national security. If it doesn't, then I will do what must be done. I will veto again and again until spending is brought under control. Please help me by telling your Representatives to stop talking about deficits, and to start helping me bring them down.

Thank you, and God bless you.

The President has seen 3/7

(DOLAN)

MARCH 7, 1985

257367SC

DROPBY BRIEFING FOR NATIONAL MC003
NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW HOW DELIGHTED I
AM THAT YOU ARE HERE WITH US AGAIN
THIS IS THE FIFTH YEAR NOW THAT WE'VE HAD
THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING YOU AS OUR GUESTS --
I FEEL AS THOUGH WE'VE SORT OF GROWN UP
TOGETHER. I HOPE THAT DOESN'T OFFEND
ANYONE; ACTUALLY, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED,
NONE OF US IS REALLY OLDER, JUST BETTER,
AND AS CARDINAL SPELLMAN USED TO SAY,
THERE ARE THREE AGES IN LIFE;
YOUTH, MIDDLE AGE, AND YOU'RE LOOKING GREAT.

AND THAT BRINGS UP THE STORY ABOUT THE
CUB REPORTER WHO WENT OUT TO INTERVIEW A
65-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO HAD JUST WON THE LOCAL
MARATHON. THE FAST-PACED OLD TIMER CLAIMED
VITALITY WAS PART OF HIS FAMILY HERITAGE.

"AFTER ALL," HE BOASTED,

"MY FATHER IS 90 YEARS OLD AND IS STILL
SWIMMING A MILE EVERY DAY.

MY GRANDFATHER, WHO IS 110 YEARS OLD,
JUST GOT MARRIED FOR THE THIRD TIME."

THE YOUNG REPORTER ASKED WHY HE WOULD
WANT TO DO THAT, TO WHICH THE RUNNER
ANSWERED, "WHO SAID HE WANTED TO GET
MARRIED."

WELL, ALL THIS TALK ABOUT AGE IS NOT
REALLY ACCIDENTAL /- I AM AWARE THAT YOU ARE
CELEBRATING THIS YEAR YOUR
100TH ANNIVERSARY, HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE,
WE DO ISSUE OUR SHARE OF MESSAGES AND
CONGRATULATIONS; / YET YOURS WAS AND IS
SPECIAL, AS THE MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS
SUGGESTS / COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS HAD THEIR
ORIGINS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF OUR NATION IN
THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY /
AS OUR POLITICAL PARTIES GREW AND DEMOCRACY
FLOURISHED / THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS ALSO CAME
OF AGE.

TODAY, WITH THE ENORMOUS ADVANCES MADE IN TECHNOLOGY / YOU ARE EVEN MORE CAPABLE THAN IN THE PAST OF BRINGING TO YOUR HOMETOWNS TIMELY, PROVOCATIVE, AND COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF WHAT CONCERNS AND AFFECTS YOUR READERS.

I KNOW THAT LOCAL NEWS /
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITIES /
IS ONE OF THE REAL IMPORTANT FOCUSES FOR
YOUR NEWSPAPERS. I THINK IT'S INTERESTING
THAT THE NEW TECHNOLOGY LEADING TO SUCH
MASS DEVELOPMENTS AS NEWSPAPER CHAINS AND
TELEVISION NETWORKS IS NOW BEING PUT TO USE
BY MANY OF YOU / TO STRENGTHEN THE VERY
THING THAT SO MANY PEOPLE SAID THE MODERN
AGE WOULD HELP TO ELIMINATE /
THAT SENSE OF COMMUNITY. /
- THAT RICH DIVERSITY AND DIFFERENCE THAT
EXISTS IN AMERICA'S TOWNS AND CITIES.

I THINK YOU ALSO KNOW THAT AT THE
FEDERAL LEVEL/ WE ARE TRYING TO DO MUCH THE
SAME THING. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ALWAYS
BELIEVED THAT THE REAL SOURCE OF AMERICA'S
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IS NOT NATIONAL
EDICTS AND MANDATES ISSUED FROM WASHINGTON/
BUT THE TOIL AND CREATIVITY OF HER PEOPLE
WORKING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THROUGH THEIR OWN
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

THAT'S WHY WE ARE TRYING TO SHRINK THE
COST AND SIZE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT/
BRING ITS EXPENDITURES UNDER CONTROL/
AND TRANSFER AS MUCH OF ITS POWER AS WE CAN
BACK TO THE STATES AND LOCALITIES WHERE IT
WILL BE SUBJECT TO MORE CONTROL BY THE
PEOPLE THEMSELVES./AND, I MIGHT ADD./
TO MORE SCRUTINY BY THEIR WATCHDOGS./
THOSE OF YOU IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

IT HASN'T BEEN ALL THAT EASY,
~~OF COURSE~~ -- FEDERAL EXPENDITURES DURING THE
15 YEARS BEFORE WE TOOK OFFICE WENT UP
400 PERCENT AND THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL
PROGRAMS ESCALATED BEYOND BELIEF.

SO MUCH SO -- (AND I THINK THIS IS
INTERESTING) -- NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO COME
UP WITH A WAY OF COUNTING EXACTLY HOW MANY
SUCH PROGRAMS CURRENTLY EXIST.

GOVERNMENT AND REGULATIONS WERE AMERICA'S
BIGGEST GROWTH INDUSTRY.

NOW, AT LAST, WE'RE PUTTING A STOP TO
THAT. I WON'T GO THROUGH ALL THE STATISTICS
ABOUT HOW WE'RE CUTTING THE NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS AND REGULATIONS, THE RATE OF GROWTH
IN SPENDING, OR ELABORATE ON THE AMOUNT OF
POWER WE'RE RETURNING TO PEOPLE IN THE LOCAL
COMMUNITIES. I THINK THE BEST MEASURE OF
OUR SUCCESS IS THE CHANGE IN THE CLIMATE
HERE IN WASHINGTON.

ALL OF YOU CAN REMEMBER THAT A FEW YEARS AGO
THE SUREST WAY TO HEADLINES AND SUCCESS FOR
WASHINGTON POLITICIANS WAS TO PROPOSE
ANOTHER FEDERAL INITIATIVE AND SPENDING
EXTRAVAGANZA / TO LAUGH AT THE DEFICIT AND
CLAIM WE COULD TRY TO SPEND OUR WAY TO
PROSPERITY. WELL, NOW, AT LEAST,

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE
THAT DEFICIT SPENDING IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM /
AND THAT SPENDING YOURSELF RICH IS A BIT
LIKE DRINKING YOURSELF SOBER.

BUT THEY STILL HAVE A WAYS TO GO FROM
TALKING ABOUT BRINGING DEFICITS DOWN TO
BRINGING DEFICITS DOWN.

AND YOU KNOW ONE ADDITIONAL POINT HERE
IS IMPORTANT.

PERHAPS YOU'VE NOTICED THAT WHEN SOME
NEWSPAPERS START TO LOSE THEIR IMPACT/
THEY DO IT BY TRYING TO COVER EVERYTHING ON
THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCALE BUT
LOSE THEIR REAL FOCUS / WHAT IS IMPORTANT
TO THE PEOPLE IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

WELL, IT'S ALWAYS FASCINATED ME THAT,
AS GOVERNMENT GREW LARGER AND LARGER /
AND STARTED TO DO MORE AND MORE THINGS IT
WAS NEITHER INTENDED TO DO OR COMPETENT
ENOUGH TO HANDLE / IT GREW LESS CAPABLE OF
CARRYING OUT ITS TRADITIONAL AND FAR MORE
IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS / MAINTAINING CIVIL
ORDER AND PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

EVEN AS WE FOUGHT TO GET THE FEDERAL
BEHEMOTH UNDER CONTROL DURING THE PAST FEW
YEARS / WE WERE EMPHASIZING THESE TRADITIONAL
AND MOST IMPORTANT DUTIES OF GOVERNMENT.

I THINK MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN READING AND WRITING ABOUT OUR SUCCESS AGAINST CRIME / MUCH OF IT THE RESULT OF A SWEEPING ORGANIZED CRIME INITIATIVE WE ANNOUNCED A FEW YEARS AGO.

SO, TOO, WE HAVE BEEN MOVING AGAINST THE DANGERS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY FROM THE DAYS WHEN THE GROWTH OF TOTALITARIANISM WAS UNCHECKED / AND AMERICA WAS ROUTINELY HELD UP TO WORLD HUMILIATION.

BUT ALL THE WORK OF THE PAST FEW YEARS / THE REBUILDING OF OUR MILITARY STRENGTH AND OUR INTERNATIONAL STATURE / DEPENDS ON THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE CONGRESS.

AND VERY SHORTLY, ONE CRITICAL VOTE WILL BE HELD ON THE HILL ON ONE OF THE MAINSTAYS OF OUR STRATEGIC DEFENSES: / THE M.X. MISSILE.

I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE EDITORIAL
SUPPORT ALL OF YOU HAVE GIVEN US IN THE PAST
ON SO MANY ISSUES/BUT LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS
MORNING THAT THE M.X. IS ONE OF THE MOST
CRITICAL ITEMS ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA.

I KNOW I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU IT JUST
ISN'T THOSE OF US AT HOME WHO WILL BE
WATCHING THIS VOTE/ THE WORLD IS WATCHING
TOO/AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH WHOM WE ARE
NOW TRYING TO NEGOTIATE ARMS CONTROL AND
REDUCTION MEASURES IN GENEVA.

A VOTE NOW
AGAINST THE M.X. WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A
SIGN OF WEAKNESS/A SYMBOL OF DISUNITY/
AND IT COULD BE INTERPRETED BY SOME AS A
SIGNAL TO EXPLOIT RATHER THAN SERIOUSLY
NEGOTIATE THE ARMS REDUCTION PROCESS.

WE NEED PASSAGE OF THE M.X. PROGRAM/
WE NEED IT NOW/ WE NEED IT FOR THE SUCCESS
OF OUR ARMS REDUCTION EFFORTS./
WE NEED IT FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE.

AND THERE WE ARE AGAIN TALKING ABOUT
THE FUTURE AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU DURING THE PAST FEW
YEARS HAVE GONE THROUGH THE BUSINESS OF
HIRING YOUNG REPORTERS AND EXECUTIVES IN
YOUR BUSINESSES.

I KNOW THAT SOMETIMES YOU
MUST REFLECT ON HOW YOUNG THEY ARE AND
COUNSEL THEM ON THE WORK AND ADVENTURES THAT
AWAIT THEM.

THAT'S WHAT IT IS REALLY ALL ABOUT.

PASSING ON TO ANOTHER GENERATION AND THE
GENERATIONS AFTER THEM THIS THING CALLED THE
AMERICAN DREAM / MAKING SURE IT REMAINS A
BEACON OF HOPE TO A TROUBLED BUT WAITING

WORLD. YOU'VE BEEN DOING THAT NOW THROUGH

THIS ASSOCIATION FOR A HUNDRED YEARS / -

AND DURING THE PAST 4 YEARS ESPECIALLY /

ALL OF US TOGETHER HAVE COME A LONG WAY
TOWARDS BRINGING BACK EXCITEMENT AND ENERGY
TO THAT DREAM.

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SO THIS MORNING I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR
ALL YOUR EDITORIAL SUPPORT IN THE PAST,
SEEK YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE
PARTICULARLY ON THE CRUCIAL M.X. VOTE
AND WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

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SO THIS MORNING I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR
ALL YOUR EDITORIAL SUPPORT IN THE PAST, /
SEEK YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE /
PARTICULARLY ON THE CRUCIAL M.X. VOTE /-
AND WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

BEFORE I CLOSE, I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU
BRIEFLY ABOUT A GREAT POWER FOR PUBLIC
SERVICE THAT YOU POSSESS.

I'D LIKE TO SUGGEST ONE ESPECIALLY
TRAGIC AREA WHERE YOUR NEWSPAPERS CAN DO A
GREAT DEAL OF GOOD / THE PROBLEM OF MISSING
CHILDREN.

WELL OVER A MILLION AMERICAN CHILDREN
DISAPPEAR FROM THEIR HOMES OR NEIGHBORHOODS
EVERY YEAR CAUSING HEARTBREAKING ANGUISH.
PARENTS CRY OUT FOR HELP / MANY THROUGH
LETTERS TO ME. / FOR EXAMPLE, I LEARNED ABOUT
JONELLE MATTHEWS OF GREELEY, COLORADO /
WHO WOULD HAVE CELEBRATED A HAPPY
13TH BIRTHDAY WITH HER FAMILY LAST MONTH.

BUT 5 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS, JONELLE
DISAPPEARED FROM HER HOME.

LETTERS LIKE THESE TOUCH US DEEPLY/
AND WE'VE TRIED HARD TO HELP. LAST JUNE WE
OPENED THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND
EXPLOITED CHILDREN/WHICH RUNS A TOLL FREE
HOTLINE AND GIVES OTHER AID AS WELL.

BUT A PRESIDENT CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH.
SO TODAY, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOUR HELP.

WE SAW HOW REACTION TO THE TELEVISION
PROGRAM "ADAM" LED TO RECOVERY OF AT LEAST
36 MISSING CHILDREN. WE ALSO KNOW HOW MILK
CARTON MANUFACTURERS HAVE BEGUN PUTTING
PHOTOS OF MISSING CHILDREN ON MILK CARTONS.

IF YOUR NEWSPAPERS COULD EACH PUBLISH/
AS A REGULAR FEATURE/ PICTURES AND
DESCRIPTIONS OF CHILDREN MISSING IN OR NEAR
YOUR CIRCULATION AREAS/ I KNOW YOU WOULD
GIVE POLICE A WELCOME NEW SOURCE OF LEADS
THAT COULD SOLVE SOME OF THESE CASES.

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SO I'M ASKING YOU TO ENLIST YOUR NEWSPAPERS
IN THIS MISSION OF MERCY. EVEN IF IT ONLY
FINDS ONE MISSING CHILD, ISN'T IS WORTH IT?

SO, THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU CAN DO TO
HELP; THANK YOU FOR COMING, AND GOD BLESS
YOU ALL.

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