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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: PRESIDENTIAL HANDWRITING FILE: Records

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File Folder: Folder 243 (1/28/84-1/30/84)

Date: 1/4/99

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. Memo	Ben Elliot to the President re speech, 1p	1/27/84	P5

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

JANUARY 28, 1984 - 3:00 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT'S BACKUP COPY:

ADDRESS TO THE NATION
JANUARY 29, 1984

200 587 55
SP 840

MY FELLOW AMERICANS:

IT HAS BEEN NEARLY 3 YEARS SINCE I FIRST SPOKE TO YOU FROM THIS ROOM. TOGETHER WE'VE FACED MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, AND I'VE COME TO FEEL A SPECIAL BOND OF KINSHIP WITH EACH ONE OF YOU.

TONIGHT I'M HERE FOR A DIFFERENT REASON. I'VE COME TO A DIFFICULT PERSONAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD SEEK RE-ELECTION. WHEN I FIRST ADDRESSED YOU FROM HERE, OUR NATIONAL DEFENSES WERE DANGEROUSLY WEAK. WE HAD SUFFERED HUMILIATION IN IRAN. AND AT HOME WE WERE ADRIFT POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF A FAILURE HERE IN WASHINGTON TO TRUST THE COURAGE AND CHARACTER OF YOU THE PEOPLE.

BUT WORST OF ALL, WE WERE ON THE BRINK OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE FROM YEARS OF GOVERNMENT OVERINDULGENCE AND ABUSIVE OVERTAXATION. THUS, I HAD TO REPORT THAT WE WERE "IN THE WORST ECONOMIC MESS SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION."

INFLATION HAD RISEN TO OVER 13 PERCENT IN 1979 AND TO 19 PERCENT IN MARCH OF 1980. THOSE BACK-TO-BACK YEARS OF PRICE EXPLOSIONS WERE THE HIGHEST IN MORE THAN 60 YEARS.

IN THE 5 YEARS BEFORE I CAME HERE, TAXES HAD ACTUALLY DOUBLED. YOUR COST OF LIVING PAY RAISES JUST BUMPED YOU INTO HIGHER TAX BRACKETS.

INTEREST RATES OVER 21 PERCENT -- THE HIGHEST IN 120 YEARS.

PRODUCTIVITY -- DOWN 2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DOWN. ACTUAL WAGES AND EARNINGS DOWN.

THE ONLY THINGS GOING UP WERE PRICES, UNEMPLOYMENT, TAXES, AND THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT. WHILE YOU TIGHTENED YOUR BELT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TIGHTENED ITS GRIP.

WELL, THINGS HAVE CHANGED. THIS PAST YEAR INFLATION DROPPED DOWN TO 3.2 PERCENT. INTEREST RATES -- CUT NEARLY IN HALF. RETAIL SALES ARE SURGING. HOMES ARE BEING BUILT AND SOLD. AUTO ASSEMBLY LINES ARE OPENING UP. AND IN JUST THE LAST YEAR, 4 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE FOUND JOBS -- THE GREATEST EMPLOYMENT GAIN IN 33 YEARS.

BY BEGINNING TO REBUILD OUR DEFENSES, WE HAVE RESTORED CREDIBLE DETERRENCE AND CAN CONFIDENTLY SEEK A SECURE AND LASTING PEACE, AS WELL AS A REDUCTION IN ARMS.

AS I SAID WEDNESDAY NIGHT, AMERICA IS BACK AND STANDING TALL. WE'VE BEGUN TO RESTORE GREAT AMERICAN VALUES -- THE DIGNITY OF WORK, THE WARMTH OF FAMILY, THE STRENGTH OF NEIGHBORHOOD, AND THE NOURISHMENT OF HUMAN FREEDOM.

BUT OUR WORK IS NOT FINISHED. WE HAVE MORE TO DO IN CREATING JOBS, ACHIEVING CONTROL OVER GOVERNMENT SPENDING, RETURNING MORE AUTONOMY TO THE STATES, KEEPING PEACE IN A MORE SETTLED WORLD, AND SEEING IF WE CAN'T FIND ROOM IN OUR SCHOOLS FOR GOD.

AT MY INAUGURAL, I QUOTED WORDS THAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN OVER 200 YEARS AGO BY DR. JOSEPH WARREN, PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESS. "ON YOU DEPEND THE FORTUNES OF AMERICA," HE TOLD HIS FELLOW AMERICANS. "YOU ARE TO DECIDE THE IMPORTANT QUESTION ON WHICH RESTS THE HAPPINESS AND LIBERTY OF MILLIONS YET UNBORN," AND HE ADDED, "ACT WORTHY OF YOURSELVES."

OVER THESE LAST 3 YEARS, NANCY AND I HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED BY THE WAY YOU, THE REAL HEROES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, HAVE MET DR. WARREN'S CHALLENGE.

YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT AS WE PULLED THE NATION THROUGH THE LONG NIGHT OF OUR NATIONAL CALAMITY. YOU HAVE, INDEED, ACTED WORTHY OF YOURSELVES.

YOUR HIGH STANDARDS MAKE US REMEMBER THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE: WHY ARE WE HERE? WELL, WE ARE HERE TO SEE THAT GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO SERVE YOU -- NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

WE ARE HERE TO LIFT THE WEAK -- AND TO BUILD THE PEACE. AND MOST IMPORTANT, WE ARE HERE, AS DR. WARREN SAID, TO ACT TODAY FOR THE HAPPINESS AND LIBERTY OF MILLIONS YET UNBORN, TO SEIZE THE FUTURE SO THAT EVERY NEW CHILD OF THIS BELOVED REPUBLIC CAN DREAM HEROIC DREAMS. IF WE DO LESS, WE BETRAY THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH.

THIS HISTORIC ROOM AND THE PRESIDENCY BELONG TO YOU. IT IS YOUR RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY EVERY 4 YEARS TO GIVE SOMEONE TEMPORARY CUSTODY OF THIS OFFICE AND OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE PRESIDENCY. YOU SO HONORED ME AND I AM GRATEFUL -- GRATEFUL AND PROUD OF WHAT TOGETHER WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

WE HAVE MADE A NEW BEGINNING. VICE PRESIDENT BUSH AND I
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND COOPERATION IN
COMPLETING WHAT WE BEGAN 3 YEARS AGO. I AM THEREFORE ANNOUNCING
THAT I AM A CANDIDATE AND WILL SEEK RE-ELECTION TO THE OFFICE I
PRESENTLY HOLD.

THANK YOU FOR THE TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN ME. GOD BLESS
YOU AND GOOD NIGHT.

#

(Reagan)
January 27, 1984
2:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1984

My fellow Americans:

It has been nearly 3 years since I first spoke to you from this room. Together we've faced many difficult problems, and I've come to feel a special bond of kinship with each one of you.

Tonight I'm here for a different reason. I've come to a difficult personal decision as to whether or not I should seek re-election. When I first addressed you from here, our national defenses were dangerously weak. We had suffered ~~the~~ humiliation ~~of our entire diplomatic mission being imprisoned~~ in Iran. And at home we were adrift possibly because of a failure here in Washington to trust the courage and character of you the people.

But worst of all, we were on the brink of economic collapse from years of Government overindulgence and abusive overtaxation. Thus, I had to report that we were "in the worst economic mess since the great depression."

Inflation had risen to over 13 percent in 1979 and to 19 percent in March of 1980. Those back-to-back years of price explosions were the highest in more than 60 years.

In the 5 years before I came here, taxes had actually doubled. Your cost of living ^{PAY} raises just bumped you into higher tax brackets, -- ~~a fall for you, a windfall for the Government.~~

Interest rates over 21 percent -- the highest in 120 years, -- ~~brought home buying nearly to a halt and some of our soundest industries to their knees.~~

Productivity -- down 2 consecutive years. Industrial production down. Actual wages and earnings down.

The only things going up were prices, unemployment, taxes, and the size of Government. While you tightened your belt, the Federal Government tightened its grip.

Well, things have changed. This past year inflation dropped down to 3.2 percent. Interest rates -- cut nearly in half. Retail sales are surging. Homes are being built and sold. Auto assembly lines are opening up. And in just the last year, 4 million people have found jobs -- the greatest employment gain in 33 years.

By beginning to rebuild our defenses, we have restored credible deterrence and ~~we~~ can confidently seek a ~~stable~~, secure, and lasting peace, as well as a reduction in arms. ~~Our door is open, and those who wish peace need only walk through.~~

As I said Wednesday night, America is back and standing tall. We've begun to restore great American values -- the dignity of work, the warmth of family, the strength of neighborhood, and the nourishment of human freedom.

But our work is not finished. We have more to do in creating jobs, achieving control over Government spending, returning more autonomy to the States, keeping peace in a more settled world, and seeing if we can't find room in our schools for God.

At my inaugural, I quoted words that had been spoken over 200 years ago by Dr. Joseph Warren, President of the Massachusetts Congress. "On you depend the fortunes of America,"

he told his fellow Americans. "You are to decide the important question on which rests the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn." And he added, "Act worthy of yourselves."

Over these last 3 years, Nancy and I have been sustained by the way you, the real heroes of American democracy, have met Dr. Warren's challenge.

You were magnificent as we pulled the Nation through the long night of our national calamity. You have, indeed, acted worthy of yourselves.

Your high standards make us remember the central question of public service: Why are we here? Well, we are here to see that Government continues to serve you -- not the other way around.

We are here to lift the weak -- and to build the peace. And most important, we are here, as Dr. Warren said, to act today for the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn, to seize the future so that every new child of this beloved Republic can dream heroic dreams. If we do less, we betray the memory of those who have given so much.

This historic room and the Presidency belong to you. It is your right and responsibility every 4 years to give someone temporary custody of this office and of the institution of the Presidency. You so honored me and I am grateful -- grateful and proud of what together we have accomplished.

We have made a new beginning. Vice President Bush and I would like to have your continued support and cooperation in completing what we began 3 years ago. I am therefore announcing

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that I am a candidate and will seek re-election to the office I presently hold.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. God bless you and good night.

(Khachigian)
January 17, 1984
10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: RE-ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT SPEECH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1984

~~Good evening:~~

My fellow Americans

It has been nearly 3 years since I first spoke to you from this room. Together, we have faced many difficult problems, and ~~I feel~~ ^{YOU'VE MADE ME FEEL THERE IS} a special bond of kinship ^{BETWEEN US.} ~~with each of you.~~

Tonight, I'm here for a different reason. I've come to a ~~decision for me a mere~~ ^{AS TO} difficult personal decision -- whether or not I should stand for re-election.

~~This historic room doesn't belong to me, nor does the Presidency. Both are yours. When you gave me responsibility for the Office of the President in January 1981, there was much to be done. When I first addressed you almost 3 years ago from this office abroad, there was concern from our allies.~~

Our national defenses were dangerously weak. We had suffered the humiliation of our entire diplomatic mission being imprisoned in Iran. And at home, we were adrift ^{POSSIBLY OF A FAILURE IN WASH.} because ~~our leadership failed~~ ^{YOU} to trust the courage and character of the people.

But, worst of all, we were on the brink of economic collapse brought on by years of government overindulgence and abusive overtaxation. Thus, I ~~had to report~~ in my first national address that our Nation was "in the worst economic mess since the Great Depression."

Inflation had ^{RISEN} ~~leaped~~ to over 13 percent in 1979 and ~~even~~ to 18 percent in January 1980. Those back-to-back years of price explosions were the highest in more than 60 years -- ~~crushing the hopes and dreams of so many.~~

In the 5 years before I came here, taxes had actually doubled. Your cost of living raises just kicked you into higher tax brackets -- a fall for you, a windfall for the Government.

Interest rates over 21 percent -- the highest in 120 years -- ~~smothered businesses~~, brought homebuying nearly to a halt and some of our ^{SOUNDTEST} ~~proud~~ industries to their knees.

Productivity . . . down 2 consecutive years. Industrial production . . . down. Actual wages and earnings . . . down.

The only things going up were prices, unemployment, taxes and the size of Government. While you tightened your belt, the Federal Government tightened its grip.

Now, 3 years ^{LATER} ~~after~~ ~~life was such a struggle for mere survival for so many~~, I can report ^{→ THAT →} ~~dramatic progress~~. For 2 straight years, inflation has been less than 4 percent. Interest rates . . . cut nearly in half. Retail sales are surging. Homes are being built and sold. Auto assembly lines are opening up. And in just ^{THE} ~~this~~ last ^{YEAR} ~~12 months~~, 4 million people ~~have~~ returned to work -- the ^{GREATEST} ~~best~~ employment gain in 33 years.

By beginning to rebuild our defenses, we have restored credible deterrence and we can confidently seek a stable, secure and lasting peace, ^{AS WELL AS A REDUCTION IN ARMS.} ~~and try to reduce destructive weaponry through civilized discourse.~~ Our door is open, and those who wish peace only need ~~to~~ walk through.

I'm proud, too, that we've begun to restore ^{VALUES} Americans ^{HAVE ALWAYS} ~~held in high esteem~~ ~~bedrock~~ values -- the dignity of work, the warmth of family, the

strength of neighborhood, and the nourishment of human freedom.--

~~These values which nurtured us across more than two centuries.~~

~~America is back.~~ But ~~despite progress,~~ our work is not finished. I wonder if America ^{WORK} can truly ever be finished. We have more to do in creating jobs, achieving ~~spending~~ ^{spending} controls ~~over~~ GOVT.

~~THAT MEANS A~~ ~~SPENDING~~ ~~requiring~~ balanced budgets, returning more autonomy to the states, keeping America at peace in a more settled world, and seeing if we can't find room for God in our classrooms. ~~So many opportunities remain.~~

~~At my inauguration I quoted ~~some~~ words that had been~~
~~A few weeks back, I read again the words spoken on the eve~~
~~spoken 200 yrs. ago on the~~
~~of our independence by~~ Dr. Joseph Warren, President of the

Massachusetts Congress, ~~words that I shared with you at my~~

~~inauguration.~~ "On you depend the fortunes of America," ~~said~~ ^{he said to his}

~~Dr. Warren.~~ ^{Dr. Warren} "You are to decide the important question upon which rests the happiness and the liberty of millions yet unborn. "Act worthy of yourselves."

Over these last 3 years -- ~~of trial and testing; of triumph~~
~~as well as tragedy.~~ I now realize how much I have been sustained by the way you, ~~the people,~~ ^{THE REAL} the heroes of American democracy, have ~~fulfilled~~ ^{MET} Dr. Warren's challenge.

~~You, your families, your neighbors.~~ -- You have all been magnificent as we have worked to pull ~~up~~ our Nation in renewal. Through the long night of our national calamity, You have, indeed, acted worthy of yourselves.

You have raised a standard for all ~~of us striving~~ ^{WHO STRIVE} to provide leadership -- reminding us of the central question of public service: Why are we here?

THE ANSWER TO THAT IS,

~~We~~l, we are here to ensure that Government ~~serves people~~ ^{CONTINUES TO SERVE YOU} and not the other way around.

~~We're here to take the binds off the ingenuity and creativity of free citizens so they shall create hope and prosperity for an entire civilization.~~

We are here to lift the weak -- and to build the peace -- and to shield forever the freedoms that we have and to make more intense their light for others to see.

~~And~~ we are here, finally, ^{As} And most important -- Dr. Warren said -- to act today for the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn. ~~We are here,~~ to seize the future so that every new child of this beloved Republic can dream heroic dreams.

If we ~~who ask to lead you~~ do less, then we ~~would~~ fail the memories of those who ^{HAVE GIVEN} ~~gave~~ so much ^{FAITH} ~~more~~. With gratitude for what you've given me and what we've accomplished together -- I am asking this evening for your support for another term as President of the United States. I ask you to step with me into a future abundant with the unbounded hopes of the human spirit. I ask you to join Vice President Bush and me as we continue the crusade for this Nation -- a Nation I believe divine Providence nestled here as an island of freedom in the world.

Thank you for your faith. Thank you for acting worthy of yourselves. God bless you, and good night.

WHORM: Presidential Handwriting File

FILE TRANSFER
BY THE REAGAN LIBRARY STAFF

Presidential Speeches

Previously filed: Folder 246

Presidential Speeches
New file location: January 29, 1984 [Legal]

Date of transfer: 12/9/98 JED

My fellow Americans:

It has been nearly 3 yrs. since I first spoke to you from this room. Together we've faced many difficult problems, ~~and I've come to~~ ^{and I've come to} ~~and you've~~ ^{and you've} ~~and we~~ ^{and we} feel ~~there~~ ^{there} is a special bond of kinship ~~between~~ with each one of you.

Tonight I'm here for a different reason. I've come to a difficult personal decision as to whether or not I should seek ~~re-~~ re-election. When I first addressed you almost 3 yrs. ago from this office our national defenses were dangerously weak. We had suffered the humiliation of our entire diplomatic mission being imprisoned in Iran. And at home we were adrift possibly because of a failure here in Wash. To trust the courage and character of you the people.

But worst of all, we were on the brink of ec. collapse brought on by years of govt. overindulgence & abusive overtaxation. Thus, I had to report in my 1st nat. address that our nation was "in the worst ec. mess since the great depression."

Inflation had risen ^{to} over 13% in 1979 and to 18% in Jan. of 1980. Those back to back years of price explosions were the highest in more than 60 yrs.

In the 5 yrs. before I came here, taxes had actually doubled. Your cost of living raises just bumped you into higher tax brackets — a fall for you, a windfall for the govt.

Interest rates over 21% — the highest in 120 years — brought home buying nearly to a halt & some of our soundest industries to their knees.

Productivity — down 2 consecutive years. Industrial production down. Actual wages & earnings down.

The only things going up were prices, unemployment, taxes and the size of govt. While you tightened your belt the Fed. govt. tightened it's grip.

Now 3 yrs. later I can report that for 2 straight years, inflation has been below 4%. Interest rates — cut nearly in half. Retail sales are surging. Homes are being built and sold. Auto assembly lines are opening up.

And in just the last ~~year~~ year 4 million people have found jobs - the greatest employment gain in 33 yrs. ~~THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT & STANDING TALL.~~

By beginning to rebuild our defenses, we have restored credible deterrence and we can confidently seek a stable, secure & lasting peace, as well as a reduction in arms.

Our door is open, and those who wish peace need only walk through. **America is back & standing tall.**

~~I'm proud to say that~~ We've begun to restore values Americans have always held in high esteem - the dignity of work, the warmth of family, the strength of neighborhood, and the nourishment of human freedom.

But our work is not finished. ~~And if America's work can ever truly be finished.~~ We have more to do in creating jobs, achieving control over govt. spending & that means a balanced budget, returning more autonomy to the states, keeping America at peace in a more settled world, and seeing if we can't find room in our classrooms for God.

Three years ago at my inaugural I quoted words that had been spoken 200 yrs ago by Dr. Joseph Warren, President of the Massachusetts Cong. "On you depend the fortunes of America" he told his fellow Americans. "You are to decide the important question upon which rests the happiness & the liberty of millions yet unborn." And he added, "Act worthy of yourselves."

Over these last 3 yrs ^(NANCY) I have been sustained by the way you, the real heroes of American democracy have met Dr. Warren's challenge.

You have all been magnificent as we worked to free our nation through the long night of our national calamity. You have indeed, acted worthy of yourselves.

You have raised a standard for all who ~~strive~~ strive to provide leadership - reminding us of the central question of public service: Why are we here?

Well the answer to that is, we are here to see that govt. continues to serve you - not the other way around.

We are here to lift the veil - & to build the peace. And most important we are here as Dr. Warren said, to act today for the happiness & liberty of millions yet unborn, to seize the future so that every new child of this beloved republic can dream heroic dreams. If we do less, we betray the memory of those who have given so much.

This historic room and the presidency belong to you. It is your right & responsibility every 4 years to give some ^{TEMPORARY} one custody of this office & the institution of the presidency. ~~That~~ ~~custody is only temporary.~~ You ~~are~~ so honored me and I am grateful - grateful & proud of what ^{TOGETHER} we have accomplished. ~~for~~

~~But what we began 3 yrs. ago still remains uncompleted. I've come before you this evening to ask if we may carry on together. I am as of this moment a candidate for re-election to the office of Pres of the United States. I ask your support and approval for Vice Pres. Bush & I to continue the crusade~~

We have made a new beginning. Vice Pres. Bush & I would like to have your continued support & cooperation in completing what we began 3 yrs. ago. I am therefore announcing that I am a candidate & ~~will seek~~ ^{will seek} for re-election to the office of ~~Pres of the United States~~. I presently hold -

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. God Bless you and goodnight.

OK
7 new names added
on P. 2. I assume
this will be on the program
to 1/29 need a good copy.
RR

The President's Office

(Reagan)
January 23, 1984
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1984

My fellow Americans:

It has been nearly 3 years since I first spoke to you from this room. Together we've faced many difficult problems, and I've come to feel a special bond of kinship with each one of you.

Tonight I'm here for a different reason. I've come to a difficult personal decision as to whether or not I should seek re-election. When I first addressed you almost 3 years ago from this office, our national defenses were dangerously weak. We had suffered the humiliation of our entire diplomatic mission being imprisoned in Iran. And at home we were adrift possibly because of a failure here in Washington to trust the courage and character of you the people.

But worst of all, we were on the brink of economic collapse brought on by years of Government overindulgence and abusive overtaxation. Thus, I had to report in my first national address that our Nation was "in the worst economic mess since the great depression."

Inflation had risen to over 13 percent in 1979 and to 18 percent in January of 1980. Those back-to-back years of price explosions were the highest in more than 60 years.

In the 5 years before I came here, taxes had actually doubled. Your cost of living raises just bumped you into higher tax brackets -- a fall for you, a windfall for the Government.

Interest rates over 21 percent -- the highest in 120 years -- brought home buying nearly to a halt and some of our soundest industries to their knees.

Productivity -- down 2 consecutive years. Industrial production down. Actual wages and earnings down.

The only things going up were prices, unemployment, taxes, and the size of Government. While you tightened your belt, the Federal Government tightened its grip.

Now, 3 years later, I can report that, for 2 straight years, inflation has been below 4 percent. Interest rates -- cut nearly in half. Retail sales are surging. Homes are being built and sold. Auto assembly lines are opening up. And in just the last year, 4 million people have found jobs -- the greatest employment gain in 33 years.

By beginning to rebuild our defenses, we have restored credible deterrence and we can confidently seek a stable, secure, and lasting peace, as well as a reduction in arms. Our door is open, and those who wish peace need only walk through.

As America Week. night
America is back and standing tall. We've begun to restore values Americans have always held in high esteem -- the dignity of work, the warmth of family, the strength of neighborhood, and the nourishment of human freedom.

But our work is not finished. We have more to do in creating jobs, achieving control over Government spending -- that means a balanced budget, returning more autonomy to the States, keeping America at peace in a more settled world, and seeing if we can't find room in our classrooms for God.

Three years ago at my inaugural, I quoted words that had been spoken 200 years ago by Dr. Joseph Warren, President of the Massachusetts Congress. "On you depend the fortunes of America," he told his fellow Americans. "You are to decide the important question upon which rests the happiness and the liberty of millions yet unborn." And he added, "Act worthy of yourselves."

Over these last 3 years, Nancy and I have been sustained by the way you, the real heroes of American democracy, have met Dr. Warren's challenge.

You have all been magnificent as we worked to pull our Nation through the long night of our national calamity. You have, indeed, acted worthy of yourselves.

You have raised a standard for all who strive to provide leadership -- reminding us of the central question of public service: Why are we here? Well, the answer to that is, we are here to see that Government continues to serve you -- not the other way around.

We are here to lift the weak -- and to build the peace. And most important, we are here, as Dr. Warren said, to act today for the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn, to seize the future so that every new child of this beloved Republic can dream heroic dreams. If we do less, we betray the memory of those who have given so much.

This historic room and the Presidency belong to you. It is your right and responsibility every 4 years to give someone temporary custody of this office and of the institution of the

Presidency. You so honored me and I am grateful -- grateful and proud of what together we have accomplished.

We have made a new beginning. Vice President Bush and I would like to have your continued support and cooperation in completing what we began 3 years ago. I am therefore announcing that I am a candidate and will seek re-election to the office I presently hold.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. God bless you and good night.

(ELLIOTT)

JANUARY 30, 1984

THE PRESIDENT'S BACKUP COPY:
NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS CONVENTION

200588 Sc
SP 841

THANK YOU BRANDT GUSTAVSON, DR. BEN ARMSTRONG, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS -- THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH. THIS IS A MOMENT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO. I REMEMBER WITH SUCH PLEASURE THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER LAST YEAR. TODAY I FEEL LIKE I'M DOING MORE THAN RETURNING FOR A SPEECH. I FEEL LIKE I'M COMING HOME.

HOMECOMING -- I THINK IT IS THE PROPER WORD. UNDER THIS ROOF SOME 4,000 OF US ARE KINDRED SPIRITS, UNITED BY ONE BURNING BELIEF: GOD IS OUR FATHER; WE ARE HIS CHILDREN; TOGETHER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE ARE ONE FAMILY.

BEING FAMILY MAKES US WILLING TO SHARE THE PAIN OF PROBLEMS WE CARRY IN OUR HEARTS. BUT FAMILIES ALSO COME TOGETHER IN TIMES OF JOY, AND WE CAN CELEBRATE SUCH A MOMENT TODAY. HOPE IS BEING REBORN ACROSS THIS LAND BY A MIGHTY SPIRITUAL REVIVAL THAT'S MADE YOU THE MIRACLE OF THE ENTIRE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY.

I MIGHT SAY, YOUR SUCCESS AND MY CELEBRATING ANOTHER BIRTHDAY ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR ARE BOTH A SOURCE OF ANNOYANCE TO A NUMBER OF PEOPLE. WELL, LET ME SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON YOUR ACCOUNT. THE SPECTACULAR GROWTH OF C.B.N., P.T.L., AND TRINITY, OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PRODUCE RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION, NOT TO MENTION THE BOOMING BUSINESS IN CHRISTIAN BOOKS, UNDERLINES A FAR-REACHING CHANGE IN OUR COUNTRY.

AMERICANS YEARN TO EXPLORE LIFE'S DEEPEST TRUTHS, AND TO SAY THEIR IDEA OF ENTERTAINMENT IS SEX, VIOLENCE, AND CRIME IS AN INSULT TO THEIR GOODNESS AND INTELLIGENCE. WE ARE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE LOVE CAN TRIUMPH OVER HATE, CREATIVITY OVER DESTRUCTION, AND HOPE OVER DESPAIR, AND THAT'S WHY SO MANY MILLIONS HUNGER FOR YOUR PRODUCT -- GOD'S GOOD NEWS.

IN HIS BOOK, "THE SECRET KINGDOM," PAT ROBERTSON TOLD US, "THERE CAN BE PEACE; THERE CAN BE PLENTY; THERE CAN BE FREEDOM. THEY WILL COME THE MINUTE HUMAN BEINGS ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD AND BEGIN TO LIVE BY THEM IN THE VISIBLE WORLD." MORE AND MORE OF US ARE TRYING TO DO THIS. GEORGE GALLUP HAS DETECTED A RISING TIDE OF INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN RELIGION AMONG ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY.

I WAS PLEASED LAST YEAR TO PROCLAIM 1983 THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE. BUT, YOU KNOW, A GROUP CALLED THE A.C.L.U. SEVERELY CRITICIZED ME FOR DOING THAT. I WEAR THEIR INDICTMENT LIKE A BADGE OF HONOR. AND I BELIEVE I STAND IN PRETTY GOOD COMPANY. ABRAHAM LINCOLN CALLED THE BIBLE, "THE BEST GIFT GOD HAS GIVEN TO MAN . . . BUT FOR IT," HE SAID, "WE COULD NOT KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG."

LIKE THAT IMAGE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON KNEELING IN PRAYER IN THE SNOW AT VALLEY FORGE, LINCOLN DESCRIBED A PEOPLE WHO KNEW IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO DEPEND ON THEIR OWN COURAGE AND GOODNESS. THEY MUST ALSO LOOK TO GOD THEIR FATHER AND PRESERVER. AND THEIR FAITH TO WALK WITH HIM, AND TRUST IN HIS WORD, BROUGHT THEM THE BLESSINGS OF COMFORT, POWER, AND PEACE THEY SOUGHT.

THE TORCH OF THEIR FAITH HAS BEEN PASSED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. "THE GRASS WITHERETH, THE FLOWER FADETH, BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD SHALL STAND FOREVER." MORE AND MORE AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT LOVING GOD IN THEIR HEARTS IS THE ULTIMATE VALUE.

LAST YEAR, NOT ONLY WERE YEAR-OF-THE-BIBLE ACTIVITIES HELD IN EVERY STATE OF THE UNION, BUT MORE THAN 25 STATES AND 500 CITIES ISSUED THEIR OWN YEAR-OF-THE-BIBLE PROCLAMATIONS. ONE SCHOOLTEACHER, MARY GIBSON IN NEW YORK, RAISED \$4,000 TO BUY BIBLES FOR WORKING PEOPLE IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-THREE WAS THE YEAR MORE OF US READ THE GOOD BOOK. CAN WE MAKE A RESOLUTION HERE TODAY: THAT 1984 WILL BE THE YEAR WE PUT ITS GREAT TRUTHS INTO ACTION. MY EXPERIENCE IN THIS OFFICE I HOLD HAS ONLY DEEPENED A BELIEF I'VE HELD FOR MANY YEARS: WITHIN THE COVERS OF THAT SINGLE BOOK ARE ALL THE ANSWERS TO ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE US TODAY -- IF ONLY WE'D READ AND BELIEVE.

LET'S BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING. GOD IS THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES; THE HUMAN FAMILY STANDS AT THE CENTER OF SOCIETY; AND OUR GREATEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE IS IN THE FACES OF OUR CHILDREN. SEVEN THOUSAND POLES RECENTLY CAME TO THE CHRISTENING OF MARIA VICTORIA WALESKA, DAUGHTER OF DANUTA AND LECH WALESKA, TO EXPRESS THEIR BELIEF THAT SOLIDARITY OF THE FAMILY REMAINS THE FOUNDATION OF FREEDOM.

GOD'S MOST BLESSED GIFT TO HIS FAMILY IS THE GIFT OF LIFE. HE SENT US THE PRINCE OF PEACE AS A BABE IN A MANGER. I'VE SAID THAT WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS IN CLAIMING GOD IS ON OUR SIDE. I THINK THE REAL QUESTION WE MUST ANSWER IS -- ARE WE ON HIS SIDE?

I KNOW WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY NOW IS CONTROVERSIAL, BUT I HAVE TO SAY IT. THIS NATION CANNOT CONTINUE TURNING A BLIND EYE AND A DEAF EAR TO THE TAKING OF SOME 4,000 UNBORN CHILDREN'S LIVES EVERY DAY -- ONE EVERY 21 SECONDS. WE CANNOT PRETEND AMERICA IS PRESERVING HER FIRST AND HIGHEST IDEAL -- THE BELIEF THAT EACH LIFE IS SACRED -- WHEN WE HAVE PERMITTED THE DEATH OF 15 MILLION HELPLESS INNOCENTS SINCE THE ROE VS. WADE DECISION.

FIFTEEN MILLION CHILDREN WHO WILL NEVER LAUGH, NEVER SING, NEVER KNOW THE JOY OF HUMAN LOVE; WILL NEVER STRIVE TO HEAL THE SICK, FEED THE POOR, OR MAKE PEACE AMONG NATIONS. ABORTION HAS DENIED THEM THE FIRST AND MOST BASIC OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ARE ALL INFINITELY POORER FOR THEIR LOSS.

THERE'S ANOTHER GRIM TRUTH WE SHOULD FACE UP TO. MEDICAL SCIENCE DOCTORS CONFIRM THAT WHEN THE LIVES OF THE UNBORN ARE SNUFFED OUT, THEY OFTEN FEEL PAIN -- PAIN THAT IS LONG AND AGONIZING.

THIS NATION FOUGHT A TERRIBLE WAR SO THAT BLACK AMERICANS WOULD BE GUARANTEED THEIR GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN RECOGNIZED WE COULD NOT SURVIVE AS A FREE LAND WHEN SOME COULD DECIDE WHETHER OTHERS SHOULD BE FREE OR SLAVES. WELL, TODAY ANOTHER QUESTION BEGS TO BE ASKED: HOW CAN WE SURVIVE AS A FREE NATION WHEN SOME DECIDE THAT OTHERS ARE NOT FIT TO LIVE AND SHOULD BE DONE AWAY WITH?

I BELIEVE NO CHALLENGE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO THE CHARACTER OF AMERICA THAN RESTORING THE RIGHT TO LIFE TO ALL HUMAN BEINGS. WITHOUT THAT RIGHT, NO OTHER RIGHTS HAVE MEANING. "SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME, AND FORBID THEM NOT, FOR SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD." I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EVERY EFFORT TO RESTORE THAT PROTECTION, INCLUDING THE HYDE-JEPSEN RESPECT-LIFE BILL. I ASK FOR YOUR ALL-OUT COMMITMENT, FOR THE MIGHTY POWER OF YOUR PRAYERS, SO THAT TOGETHER, WE CAN CONVINCE OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN THAT AMERICA SHOULD, CAN, AND WILL PRESERVE GOD'S GREATEST GIFT.

LET US ENCOURAGE THOSE AMONG US WHO ARE TRYING TO PROVIDE POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION -- GROUPS LIKE MOM'S HOUSE, AND HOUSE OF HIS CREATION IN PENNSYLVANIA, AND JIM MCKEE'S SAV-A-LIFE IN TEXAS -- WHICH I MENTIONED TO YOU LAST YEAR. BEGUN AS A RESPONSE TO THE CALL OF A CONSCIENCE, SAV-A-LIFE HAS BECOME A CRISIS COUNSELING CENTER AND SAVED 22 CHILDREN SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1981.

I THINK WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN UPHOLDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE OF INFANTS BORN WITH PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HANDICAPS. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HAS NOW PUBLISHED FINAL REGULATIONS TO ADDRESS CASES SUCH AS BABY DOE IN BLOOMINGTON. THAT CHILD WAS DENIED LIFESAVING SURGERY AND STARVED BECAUSE HE HAD DOWN'S SYNDROME AND SOME PEOPLE DIDN'T THINK HIS LIFE WOULD BE WORTH LIVING. NOT TOO LONG AGO, I WAS PRIVILEGED TO MEET A CHARMING LITTLE GIRL FILLED WITH THE JOY OF LIVING. SHE WAS ON CRUTCHES, BUT SHE SWIMS AND RIDES HORSEBACK. HER SMILE STEALS YOUR HEART. SHE WAS BORN WITH THE SAME DEFECTS AS THOSE "BABY DOES" WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED THE RIGHT TO LIFE.

SECRETARY HECKLER AND SURGEON GENERAL KOOP DESERVE CREDIT FOR DESIGNING REGULATIONS PROVIDING BASIC PROTECTIONS TO THE LEAST AMONG US. AND THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS HAVE NOW AFFIRMED A PERSON'S MENTAL OR PHYSICAL HANDICAP MUST NOT BE THE BASIS FOR DECIDING TO WITHHOLD MEDICAL TREATMENT.

LET ME ASSURE YOU OF SOMETHING ELSE: WE WANT PARENTS TO KNOW THEIR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. I LOOK FORWARD TO SIGNING A NEW BILL, NOW AWAITING FINAL ACTION IN A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, THAT WILL TIGHTEN OUR LAWS AGAINST CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. AND WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT ENFORCEMENT OF ALL THE FEDERAL ANTI-OBSCENITY LAWS. OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS INCREASED BY 200 PERCENT ITS CONFISCATION OF OBSCENE MATERIALS COMING IN ACROSS OUR BORDERS. WE ARE ALSO INTENSIFYING OUR DRIVE AGAINST CRIMES OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE. I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE PROTECTING VICTIMS IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF DEFENDANTS.

RESTORING THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION ARE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES. BUT AS MEMBERS OF GOD'S FAMILY WE SHARE ANOTHER -- HELPING TO BUILD A FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE TO PREPARE OUR CHILDREN FOR THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE. "TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO," SOLOMON WROTE, "AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT."

IF WE ARE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATING FOR THE SPACE AGE, OF OPENING EYES AND MINDS TO TREASURES OF LITERATURE, MUSIC AND POETRY, AND OF TEACHING VALUES OF FAITH, COURAGE, RESPONSIBILITY, KINDNESS AND LOVE -- THEN WE MUST MEET THESE CHALLENGES AS ONE PEOPLE. AND PARENTS MUST TAKE THE LEAD. I BELIEVE THEY ARE.

I KNOW ONE THING I'M SURE MOST OF US AGREE ON: GOD, SOURCE OF ALL KNOWLEDGE, SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM OUR CHILDREN'S CLASSROOMS. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE SUPPORT VOLUNTARY PRAYER IN SCHOOLS.

WE HEAR OF CASES WHERE COURTS SAY IT IS DANGEROUS TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO MEET IN BIBLE STUDY OR PRAYER CLUBS; AND THEN THERE WAS THE CASE OF THAT KINDERGARTEN CLASS RECITING A VERSE BEFORE THEIR MILK AND COOKIES. THEY SAID, "WE THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS SO SWEET. WE THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD WE EAT. WE THANK YOU FOR THE BIRDS THAT SING. WE THANK YOU GOD, FOR EVERYTHING." A COURT OF APPEALS ORDERED THEM TO STOP. THEY WERE SUPPOSEDLY VIOLATING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT TOLD US, "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE SLOW TO WRATH, BUT WHEN THEIR WRATH IS ONCE KINDLED, IT BURNS LIKE A CONSUMING FLAME." I THINK AMERICANS ARE GETTING ANGRY. I THINK THEY HAVE A MESSAGE AND CONGRESS BETTER LISTEN: WE ARE A GOVERNMENT OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE. AND PEOPLE WANT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MAKING IT UNEQUIVOCALLY CLEAR OUR CHILDREN CAN HOLD VOLUNTARY PRAYER IN EVERY SCHOOL ACROSS THIS LAND. AND IF WE COULD GET GOD AND DISCIPLINE BACK IN OUR SCHOOLS, MAYBE WE COULD GET DRUGS AND VIOLENCE OUT.

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I KNOW SOME BELIEVE THAT VOLUNTARY PRAYER IN SCHOOL SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO A MOMENT OF SILENCE. BUT WE ALREADY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT -- WE CAN TAKE THE FIFTH AMENDMENT. BUT SERIOUSLY, WE NEED A NEW AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE RIGHTS THAT WERE TAKEN FROM US. SENATOR BAKER HAS ASSURED US WE WILL GET A VOTE ON OUR AMENDMENT. WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN WIN AND THAT WILL BE A GREAT VICTORY FOR OUR CHILDREN.

DURING THE LAST DECADE, WE HAVE SEEN PEOPLE'S COMMITMENT TO RELIGIOUS LIBERTY EXPRESSED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THOUSANDS OF NEW RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS. THESE SCHOOLS WERE BUILT BY THE SACRIFICES OF PARENTS DETERMINED TO PROVIDE A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT PERMITS TRADITIONAL VALUES TO FLOURISH.

NOW, I BELIEVE SOME OF YOU HAVE MET WITH MY ADVISORS TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS IN NEBRASKA. WE HAVE ALL SEEN NEWS ACCOUNTS OF THE JAILING OF A MINISTER, THE PADLOCKING OF A CHURCH, AND THE CONTINUING IMPRISONMENT OF FATHERS OF STUDENTS. THIS ISSUE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY HAS ARISEN IN OTHER STATES. THE QUESTION IS HOW TO FIND A BALANCE BETWEEN ASSURING QUALITY OF EDUCATION, AND PRESERVING FREEDOM FOR CHURCHES AND PARENTS WHO WANT THEIR SCHOOLS TO REFLECT THEIR FAITH.

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THESE CASES HAVE MOSTLY PROCEEDED IN STATE COURTS. A NUMBER OF STATE SUPREME COURTS HAVE REACHED DECISIONS THAT MODERATED THE EFFECT OF STATE REGULATIONS ON RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS. LAST WEEK, A PANEL APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF NEBRASKA CONCLUDED THAT THE STATE'S REGULATIONS VIOLATE THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS. I'M A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE SEPARATION OF POWERS, THAT THIS NATION IS A FEDERATION OF SOVEREIGN STATES, BUT ISN'T IT TIME FOR THE NEBRASKA COURTS OR LEGISLATURE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY A SPEEDY RECONSIDERATION? I HOPE SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND TO RESOLVE THE LEGAL ISSUES, WITHOUT HAVING PEOPLE IN JAIL FOR DOING WHAT THEY THINK IS RIGHT.

WITHIN OUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBORHOODS, SCHOOLS, AND PLACES OF WORK, LET US CONTINUE REACHING OUT, RENEWING OUR SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER -- A SPIRIT THAT FLOWS LIKE A DEEP AND POWERFUL RIVER THROUGH THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION.

I MADE A POINT LAST YEAR WHICH SOME OF OUR CRITICS JUMPED ON, BUT I BELIEVE IT HAS MERIT. GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACIES SPEND BILLIONS FOR PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRUGS, ALCOHOLISM, AND DISEASE. HOW MUCH OF THAT MONEY COULD WE SAVE, HOW MUCH BETTER OFF MIGHT AMERICANS BE, IF ALL OF US TRIED A LITTLE HARDER TO LIVE BY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE GOLDEN RULE? I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION MILLIONS OF LAWS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN. TAKEN ALL TOGETHER THEY HAVE NOT IMPROVED THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ONE BIT.

LOOK AT PROJECTS LIKE C.B.N.'s "OPERATION BLESSING," MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE'S "OPEN LINE" RADIO PROGRAM, INNER CITY IMPACT IN CHICAGO, AND THE WORK OF DR. E. V. HILL OF MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, IN LOS ANGELES: THEY SHOW US THAT AMERICA IS MUCH MORE THAN JUST GOVERNMENT ON THE ONE HAND, AND HELPLESS INDIVIDUALS ON THE OTHER. THEY SHOW US THAT LIVES ARE SAVED, PEOPLE ARE REBORN, AND, YES, DREAMS COME TRUE WHEN WE HEED THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT, MINISTER TO THE NEEDY, AND GLORIFY GOD. THAT IS THE STUFF OF WHICH MIRACLES ARE MADE.

OUR MISSION STRETCHES FAR BEYOND OUR BORDERS; GOD'S FAMILY KNOWS NO BORDERS. IN YOUR LIVES, YOU FACE DAILY TRIALS, BUT MILLIONS OF BELIEVERS IN OTHER LANDS FACE FAR WORSE -- THEY ARE MOCKED AND PERSECUTED FOR THE CRIME OF LOVING GOD. TO EVERY RELIGIOUS DISSIDENT TRAPPED IN THAT COLD, CRUEL EXISTENCE, WE SEND OUR LOVE AND SUPPORT. OUR MESSAGE? YOU ARE NOT ALONE; YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN; DO NOT LOSE YOUR FAITH AND HOPE BECAUSE SOMEDAY YOU, TOO, WILL BE FREE.

IF THE LORD IS OUR LIGHT, OUR STRENGTH, AND OUR SALVATION, WHOM SHALL WE FEAR, OF WHOM SHALL WE BE AFRAID? NO MATTER WHERE WE LIVE, WE HAVE A PROMISE THAT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE -- A PROMISE FROM JESUS TO SOOTHE OUR SORROWS, HEAL OUR HEARTS, AND DRIVE AWAY OUR FEARS. HE PROMISED THERE WILL NEVER BE A DARK NIGHT THAT DOES NOT END. OUR WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR A NIGHT, BUT JOY COMETH IN THE MORNING. HE PROMISED IF OUR HEARTS ARE TRUE, HIS LOVE WILL BE SURE AS SUNLIGHT. AND BY DYING FOR US, JESUS SHOWED HOW FAR OUR LOVE SHOULD BE READY TO GO: ALL THE WAY.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE." HELPING EACH OTHER, BELIEVING IN HIM, WE NEED NEVER BE AFRAID. WE WILL BE PART OF SOMETHING FAR MORE POWERFUL, ENDURING AND GOOD THAN ALL THE FORCES HERE ON EARTH . . . WE WILL BE A PART OF PARADISE. MAY GOD KEEP YOU ALWAYS AND MAY YOU ALWAYS KEEP GOD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

BEN ELLIOTT *Ben*

SUBJECT:

National Religious Broadcasters

Attached is the draft for your speech to the National Religious Broadcasters on Monday. As we discussed, this is a very evangelical group and they are very supportive of you.

I draw your attention to the section on the Nebraska school institution -- page 8, paragraph 1-2. Ed Meese feels strongly that this issue should be discussed by you and he has read and approved the language.

But, Fred Fielding feels just as strongly that educational issues of this sort are the proper province of the States; that the courts are the proper forum for resolution of any "civil rights" issue involved; that the President does not commit on pending court cases; and that the persons involved in the Nebraska controversy, however sincere, have taken an extreme position.

I believe there is a consensus that the language used is balanced and that people do expect you to express yourself on this issue.

Thank you again for your call. It sure meant a lot.

(Elliott)
January 27, 1984
7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS CONVENTION
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1984

Thank you Brandt Gustavson, Dr. Ben Armstrong, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests -- thank you all very much. ~~Well,~~ This is a moment I've been looking forward to. I remember with such pleasure the time we spent together last year. ~~So~~ Today I feel like I'm doing more than returning for a speech. I feel like I'm coming home.

Homecoming -- I think it is the proper word. Under this roof some 4,000 of us are kindred spirits, united by one burning belief: God is our Father; we are His children; together, brothers and sisters, we are one family.

Being family makes us willing to share the pain of problems we carry in our hearts. But families also come together in times of joy, and we can celebrate such a moment today. Hope is being reborn across this land by a mighty spiritual revival that's made you the miracle of the entire broadcasting industry. *I might say, your success and my celebrating another birthday about this*
~~Your success is viewed a little like that birthday I keep~~
~~celebrating this time each year -- it's~~ *time of year are both* a source of ~~considerable~~ annoyance to ~~a great many~~ *a number of* people. Well, let me set the record straight on your account. The spectacular growth of C.B.N., P.T.L., and Trinity, of organizations that produce religious programs for radio and television, not to mention the booming business in Christian books, underlines a far-reaching change in our country.

Americans yearn to explore life's deepest truths. And to say their idea of entertainment is sex, violence, and crime is an insult to their goodness and intelligence. We are people who believe love can triumph over hate, creativity over destruction, and hope over despair, and that's why so many millions hunger for your product -- God's good news.

In his book, "The Secret Kingdom," Pat Robertson told us, "There can be peace; there can be plenty; there can be freedom. They will come the minute human beings accept the principles of the invisible world and begin to live by them in the visible world." More and more of us are trying to do this. George Gallup has detected a rising tide of interest and involvement in religion among all levels of society.

I was pleased last year to proclaim 1983 The Year of The Bible. But, you know, a group called the ACLU severely criticized me for ^{doing that.} ~~that decision. Well, I have a confession to make.~~ I wear their indictment like a badge of honor. And I believe I stand in pretty good company. Abraham Lincoln called the Bible, "The best gift God has given to man . . . But for it," ^{he said,} "we could not know right from wrong."

Like that image of George Washington kneeling in prayer in the snow at Valley Forge, Lincoln described a people who knew it was not enough to depend on their own courage and goodness. They must also look to God their Father and Preserver. And their faith to walk with Him, and trust in His word, brought them the blessings of comfort, power, and peace they sought.

The torch of their faith has been passed from generation to generation. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever." More and more Americans believe that loving God in their hearts is the ultimate value.

Last year, not only were Year-of-the-Bible activities held in every State of the Union, but more than 25 States and 500 cities issued their own Year-of-the-Bible proclamations. One schoolteacher, Mary Gibson in New York, took a year off from her teaching so she could raise \$7,000 to buy Bibles for working people in downtown Manhattan.

Nineteen eighty-three was the year more of us read the Good Book. Can we make a resolution here today: that 1984 will be the year we put ^{IT'S} ~~the~~ great truths into action. My experience ^{IN THIS OFFICE} ~~as~~ ~~President~~ ^{I HOLD} has only deepened a belief I've held for many years: Within the covers of that single Book are all the answers to all the problems that face us today -- if only we'd read and believe.

Let's begin at the beginning. God is the center of our lives; the human family stands at the center of society; and our greatest hope for the future is in the faces of our children. Seven thousand Poles recently came to the christening of Maria Victoria Walesa, daughter of Danuta and Lech Walesa, to express their belief that Solidarity of the family remains the foundation of freedom.

God's most blessed gift to His family is the gift of life. He sent us the Prince of Peace as a babe in a manger. I've said that we must be cautious in claiming God is on our side. I think the real question ^{WE MUST ANSWER} ~~is~~ -- are we on His side?