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Last Updated: 12/03/2024

(Robinson/BE)
May 3, 1984
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 7, 1984

Good morning to all of you attending the 69th annual meeting of the Catholic Health Association of the United States. I'm sorry I can't be with you in St. Louis, but it's a pleasure to have this chance to speak to you. Before I say anything else, I want to congratulate your outgoing Board Chairman, Stewart Laird, for a job well done; and send your incoming Chairman, Sister Mary Roch Rocklage (Rock Rockledge), best wishes for the coming year. I had the pleasure of meeting Stewart and Sister Mary Roch at the White House this past April, and I was delighted to see that the Catholic Health Association is being guided by leaders of such dedication and skill.

Americans today are blessed with the finest health care in the world. Our physicians are superbly trained, our hospitals are well-equipped, and our research centers are producing one medical breakthrough after another. The men and women of the Catholic health care ministry have played a central role in the development of this national asset. In 1727, Catholic religious women founded the first religious hospital in what is now the United States and the Catholic health care ministry has been the way ever since. In 1842, a black Catholic women's order founded the first nursing home in the United States, and in 1900, a Catholic order founded the first American hospice. Today, there are more than 900 Catholic hospitals and nursing homes, distributed throughout the 50 States. The more than 600,000 men

and women of the Catholic health ministry care for more than 45 million patients every year. That means that in our Nation's health care system, the Catholic health care ministry is the largest single private segment.

But no matter how impressive the statistics, what's most impressive about the Catholic Health Association is the spirit that guides you. Our Lord told us that when we minister to the sick, we minister as unto Him. That spirit of true charity has always marked your work. The first Catholic hospitals and nursing homes were founded to care for those society shunned: the poor, the abandoned, the dying. Today you continue to care not only for your patients' physical well-being, but for the health of their souls.

It's no secret that we face difficult and complicated challenges in financing our health care systems. But, as we work together to meet these challenges, let us remain faithful to the deep and enduring values that have characterized the Catholic health ministry from the beginning -- above all, to the sacredness of each human life.

Shortly before he died, my good friend, Cardinal Cooke, wrote these words:

"The gift of life, God's special gift, is no less beautiful when it is accompanied by illness or weakness, hunger or poverty, mental or physical handicaps, loneliness or old age. Indeed, at these times, human life gains extra splendor as it requires our special care, concern and reverence. It is in and through the

weakest of human vessels that the Lord continues to reveal the power of His love."

Throughout our history, the Catholic health ministry has embodied that uplifting approach to human life. You've inspired us all, and on behalf of the American people, I thank you.

God bless you all.

1984 MAY -4 PM 6: 22

Re: JCS

(Myer/BE)
May 3, 1984
3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: CALIFORNIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS' TRIBUTE
MONDAY, MAY 7, 1984

Greetings to all of you in Los Angeles at the California Special Olympics Gala Dinner. And I want to thank each of you tonight for your support of this important program.

Your guests of honor are a distinguished group of Americans, and I join all of you in saluting them. These Olympic champions have shown us the importance of personal effort, fair play, and the discipline and determination it takes to reach the top. But maybe more importantly, they truly represent the American ideal of assisting those in our society who are less fortunate.

You remind us that our country was built by caring people pulling together. The true test of a society is not the size of its cities, the bounty of its countryside, or even how fast you can run the 100 meter dash, it's the kind of people a country turns out. America turns out winners, like the first recipients of the Spirit of Friendship Award: Bruce Jenner, Mark Spitz, Randy Gardner, Tai Babilonia, Bob Seagren, and the President of the California Special Olympics, Rafer Johnson.

Last year, we held a ceremony at the White House marking the 15th anniversary of the Special Olympics. This wonderful occasion included demonstrations of several athletic events, a picnic supper, and a concert by the Beach Boys on the South Lawn. And I remember thinking that in today's world of sports, with its emphasis on placing first, the Special Olympics movement was a welcome breath of fresh air -- everybody wins.

It's been like a spark lighting up our lives. Because of the efforts of everyone taking part in the Special Olympics program, more than a million young people -- and some who aren't so young -- have the opportunity to show courage, improve physical fitness, and experience the joy that comes from learning new skills, sharing gifts, and making new friends.

The Special Olympics is making important contributions to the physical, social, and psychological development of the mentally retarded. These special people are gaining strength, confidence, and self-esteem.

One of the athletes at last year's International Summer Games put it best when he said, "Winning isn't everything, it's how you look at the sport, going into it with a clear mind and a clear attitude." This brave wheel-chair athlete from Connecticut then said, "I look at my handicap different. God gave me the tools to work with in some things, and that's all I worry about."

It's no wonder the torch of the Special Olympics is called the Flame of Hope.

But there's also something else that the 450,000 Special Olympics volunteers understand: ever since America was founded, we've been a Nation of volunteers. The spirit that moved Betsy Ross to create the original stars and stripes has been woven into our national fabric.

Voluntarism ties us to the traditions that make us a good and caring people. Today, all across America, we're witnessing a rebirth of concern and involvement, a marvelous reawakening of the American spirit. It's a spirit that has been the backbone of

the Special Olympics movement since its founding 16 years ago. Don't ever lose it; you are giving the best of gifts -- the gifts of hope and friendship, courage, and love.

And I must say that you couldn't have chosen a better time for your awards dinner. When you see this tape, the XXIII Summer Olympics will be just 3 weeks away. And thanks to the dedication and hard work of Mayor Tom Bradley, Peter Ueberroth, and the entire Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, the generosity of millions of Americans, and the help of thousands of volunteers, the 1984 Games promise to be a rousing success. I can't wait to join you and officially open the Games.

Nancy and I send our love, best wishes, and deep appreciation for your lasting contributions to the Special Olympics -- an extraordinary community network of sharing and caring.

Thank you and God bless you all.

1984 MAY -4 PM 5:49

Ref: 10155

(Robinson/BE)
May 4, 1984
4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION
MONDAY, MAY 7, 1984

Convention Chairman Kathy Edwards, ladies and gentlemen:
I'm sorry I can't be with you in Kansas City, but I'm delighted to have this chance to speak to you.

When the Supreme Court handed down its Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, abortion became the overriding moral issue of our times. Ever since, the National Right to Life Committee has worked diligently to protect the lives of unborn infants. You serve as a clearinghouse of information for the press and public; you maintain an effective lobbying force here in Washington; and you've proven instrumental in enacting significant legislative reforms -- like crucial restrictions on Federal funding of abortions. Today, the National Right to Life Committee represents nearly 2,000 chapters, in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, with millions of supporters. That's a powerful army, marching in the name of human life.

Together, we must continue to proclaim the noble ideal that human life is sacred -- and that our Nation cannot turn its back on the taking of some 4,000 unborn infants' lives every day. Abortion as a means of birth control must stop.

Many who seek abortions do so in harrowing circumstances. Often, they suffer deep personal trauma, and no man or woman should sit in judgment on another. But if we could rise above bitterness and reproach, if Americans could come together in a

spirit of understanding and helping, then we could find positive solutions to the tragedy of abortion.

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. Over the first 3 years of my Administration, I have closely followed and assisted efforts in the Congress to reverse the tide of abortion -- efforts of Congressmen, Senators and citizens responding to this urgent moral crisis. I will continue to support every effort to restore legal protection for the unborn child and I ask for your all-out commitment, so that together, we can convince our fellow countrymen that America should, can, and will preserve God's greatest gift -- human life.

Shortly before his death last October, my friend, Cardinal Cooke, wrote these words: "The gift of life, God's special gift, is no less beautiful when it is accompanied by illness or weakness, hunger or poverty, mental or physical handicaps, loneliness or old age. Indeed, at these times, human life gains extra splendor as it requires our special care, concern and reverence. It is in and through the weakest of human vessels that the Lord continues to reveal the power of His love."

No human life is weaker, and therefore more deserving of our reverence and care, than that of unborn infants. I commend the National Right to Life Committee for all you have done to protect these innocent lives. And I urge you to carry on your noble work with vigor.

Thank you, and God bless you.

1984 MAY -4 PM 5:49

Recd: CS

(Myer/BE)
May 4, 1984
4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
MONDAY, MAY 7, 1984

Ladies and gentlemen of the National Restaurant Association, I'm delighted to have this chance to talk to you at your convention in Chicago. And I'd like to join your Board of Directors in welcoming you to the 65th Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show.

I understand that nearly 90,000 people will be viewing the products of more than 1,300 exhibitors -- making your trade show the largest of its kind in the world. But that should be expected. After all, the food service industry is one of the largest retailers in the Nation.

And let me take this opportunity to thank the food service industry and the National Restaurant Association for the important contributions you are making to the well-being of our country. The N.R.A.'s campaign against drunk driving and your "Projects with Industry" -- the program that is providing employment to thousands of handicapped Americans -- are sincerely appreciated. And I'm very pleased that you've accepted our challenge to harness the resources of the private sector in a public-private partnership to help meet local needs. Your vocational education and food distribution programs are doing just that. By working together, pooling our resources and building on our strengths, we can accomplish great things.

I also want to mention the opportunities your industry offers to all Americans. Food services employ more minority

managers than any other industry in our Nation. And for our young people, finding that first crucial job can make all the difference in the world. Your industry employs more than a million teenagers. You have good reason to be proud and may I say, well done.

A strong, vibrant food service industry depends on the health of the whole economy, and I'm sure you remember only too painfully the economic mess our country was in just 3 years ago. It was time for a change, and so we charted a new course to rebuild the American economy from the bottom up. And we knew that to do that, Government had to get out of the way of the people and the spirit of free enterprise that encourages risk-taking and rewards innovation.

We knew it wouldn't be easy, and it wasn't. The problems had been building up for 20 years and we were determined to find a lasting economic cure. There had been seven recessions since World War II and the typical response had been the political quick fix -- snake oil cures that didn't solve anything.

Well, we weathered the storm together, and now the sun is shining on a strong economy and America's industries are moving forward again. Inflation, once out of control, has plummeted by nearly two-thirds and is staying down. In 1983, overall economic growth was a robust 6 percent. And for the first quarter this year, the economy grew at an 8.3 percent annual rate.

And the best news of all is that we've had the steepest drop in unemployment in over 30 years. 5.4 million more Americans have jobs today than had jobs just 17 months ago. In 1983 alone,

entrepreneurs opening new restaurants hired more than 83,000 employees. It's no wonder that food service sales totalled \$144 billion last year.

But, you know, one of the strangest things is that some people suggest that strong economic growth is bad for us. Well, no one will ever convince me that economic growth is bad for the country. I think it's good for everybody.

In fact, according to a recent Dun and Bradstreet survey of over 1,400 business leaders, business optimism is at its highest level in over 5 years. And expectations for increases in new orders in the second quarter of 1984 reached their highest level since Dun and Bradstreet started its survey in the late 1940's.

This is a great time to be in the food service industry, and you have every reason to look to the future with confidence.

Congratulations on your many achievements, and best wishes for a successful convention -- and may your 65th Show be the best ever.

Thank you and God bless you all.

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SS. 10000

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 4, 1984

TAPING FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS

DATE: May 7, 1984
LOCATION: Diplomatic Reception Room
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
FROM: James K. Coyne, Special Assistant
Private Sector Initiatives

- I. PURPOSE
To thank the Red Cross for their exemplary volunteer program.
- II. BACKGROUND
Taping to be shown at the 59th Annual National Convention of the American Red Cross in San Antonio, Texas on May 13-16. You are Honorary Chairman.
- III. PARTICIPANTS
Taping crew
- IV. PRESS PLAN
No press
- V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
 - Enter Diplomatic Reception Room
 - Taping - DURATION: 5 minutes

Received 15 S
1984 MAY -4 PM 12: 19

(Robinson/BE)
May 4, 1984
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: NATIONAL RED CROSS ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 7, 1984

As Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, I'm delighted to have this opportunity to speak to you in historic San Antonio at the 59th national American Red Cross convention. I'm sorry I can't be there in person, but I'm pleased to have Secretary of Agriculture John Block standing in for me. John came to know and admire the Red Cross when the Department of Agriculture collaborated with you on your new course in nutrition -- a program that will benefit millions of Americans.

For more than a century now, the American Red Cross has been looking after the health and well-being of the American people and reflecting our Nation's humanitarian instincts. You've pioneered in disaster relief, public health programs, and assistance to veterans. You've led the way in efforts to boost the morale of our men and women in uniform -- both during war and in peacetime. And over the years you've built the world's largest system for voluntary blood donations.

In recent years, the Red Cross has played a particularly vital role in the life of our Nation. Last year, for example, America suffered unusually severe weather and a large number of tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters -- a tragic combination that left thousands sick or homeless. Across the country, the Red Cross responded with swift and sustained help. You provided so much aid, in fact, that just a year ago this month you faced the near exhaustion of your disaster-relief

budget. But you were able to replenish that budget when the American people stepped forward to help the organization that had so often helped them.

This year also has had more than its share of harsh weather and natural disasters. One figure alone tells a big part of the story: The National Weather Service calculated that, by May 4 some 539 tornadoes had struck the United States. As always, the Red Cross responded. From flooded towns in Nevada to tornado-stricken farms in Oklahoma you've been doing your all to provide shelter, medical help, and the simple encouragement people so often need to pick up the pieces and start over. On behalf of the American people, I thank you.

One of the Red Cross' great strengths is the ability to adapt to changing needs, and I know that at this conference you'll be examining means of preparing for the future. In particular, you'll be considering changes in the way the Red Cross serves the men and women of our Armed Forces.

The years ahead, like all years, will bring their own misfortunes, bad weather, and, yes, disasters. But by helping one another with resourcefulness and compassion, we can turn even the worst misfortunes into opportunities to do good. Since 1881, the American Red Cross has been showing us how to do just that, and I know you'll go on leading the way for decades to come.

Thank you, and God bless you.

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