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Last Updated: 01/17/2025

(ELLIOTT)

DECEMBER 11, 1984

280 441
CO 115

DEPARTURE STATEMENT
PRESIDENT SEYNI KOUNTCHE OF NIGER

IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND A PLEASURE TO
WELCOME PRESIDENT (SEN-EE KOON-CHAY) TO
WASHINGTON. OUR MEETING TAKES PLACES AT A
TIME WHEN THE WORLD'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSED
ON THE SERIOUS FOOD CRISIS IN AFRICA. NIGER
HAS NOT BEEN SPARED THE RAVAGES OF THE
DROUGHT; HOWEVER, THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTIVE
EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S GOVERNMENT,
AND THE HELP OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY,
INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, THE EFFECTS OF
THE DROUGHT IN NIGER WILL BE REDUCED.

THOSE WHO KNOW PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE KNOW
THAT FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THE
WELL-BEING OF HIS PEOPLE ARE HIS PRIMARY
GOALS. HE HAS GONE ABOUT THESE OBJECTIVES
WITH PRAGMATIC POLICIES. PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE
REPRESENTS AN IMPRESSIVE EXAMPLE OF THE KIND
OF SERIOUS, CONCERNED LEADERSHIP THAT AFRICA
WILL NEED TO OVERCOME ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

HIS REPUTATION AS A DEDICATED AND CAPABLE LEADER HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON TODAY.

IN OUR CONVERSATIONS THIS MORNING AND AT LUNCH, WE COVERED MANY OF THE IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF THE DAY, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNING AFRICA. WE HAVE BENEFITED FROM PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S VIEWS ON THE PROBLEMS OF DROUGHT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE (SUH-HELL), AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THAT REGION. WE SUPPORT NIGER'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. IN MANY AREAS OUR VIEWS CONVERGE. ON A FEW OTHERS, IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT, WE HAVE AGREED TO DIFFER. WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP TO WHICH WE BOTH ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE.

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NIGER AND THE UNITED STATES TOGETHER
ARE COMMITTED TO THE RESOLUTION OF
INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS THROUGH THE PURSUIT
OF REALISTIC DIALOGUE IN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, AND THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF
RATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES AT HOME. I HAVE
ASSURED PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OF OUR SUPPORT
FOR HIM AND HIS COUNTRY, AND I HAVE
EXPRESSED OUR ADMIRATION FOR HIS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

#

The President's News Conference

(ROHRABACHER)

DECEMBER 12, 1984

DROPBY BRIEFING FOR TOP EXECUTIVES OF
GANNETT COMPANY, INC.

280706 SS
MC003

WELL, WE'RE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME ALL OF
YOU TO WASHINGTON. I KNOW YOU ARE FROM
EVERY CORNER OF THE NATION AND YOU'RE HERE
TO FEEL THE PULSE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

HAVING BEEN GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA AND
NOW PRESIDENT, I'VE GOTTEN USED TO
JOURNALISTS FEELING MY PULSE. I ALWAYS
REMEMBER A STORY ABOUT ONE CUB REPORTER
WHOSE FIRST SOLO ASSIGNMENT WAS INTERVIEWING
THE OLDEST MAN IN TOWN, A MR. BROWN. THE
YOUNG REPORTER GOT TO THE ADDRESS AND AN OLD
FELLA ANSWERED THE DOOR.

"MR. BROWN?", HE ASKED.

"YEP," THE OLD MAN REPLIED.

HE EXPLAINED HE WAS FROM THE NEWSPAPER
AND THE OLD TIMER INVITED HIM INTO THE
LIVING ROOM. AS THEY WERE SITTING DOWN, THE
REPORTER GOT RIGHT TO THE HEART OF THE
MATTER.

"MR. BROWN, HOW OLD ARE YOU?"

"97."

"AND TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE YOUR
LONGEVITY?"

THE OLD MAN THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT AND
THEN ANSWERED, "I DON'T DRINK. I DON'T
SMOKE. I DON'T CAROUSE AROUND WITH WOMEN."

BEFORE HE COULD EVEN FINISH HIS SENTENCE
THERE WAS A CRASH AND A THUD FROM UPSTAIRS
AND THE REPORTER LOOKED UP AND ASKED, "WHAT
THE HECK WAS THAT?"

"OH THAT'S DAD. HE'S DRUNK AGAIN."

FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS OF OUR REPUBLIC,
JOURNALISM HAS PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN OUR
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. IN ONE OF HIS MORE
WELL-PUBLICIZED QUOTES, JEFFERSON EXPLAINED,
". . . WERE IT LEFT TO ME TO DECIDE WHETHER
WE SHOULD HAVE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT
NEWSPAPERS, OR NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT A
GOVERNMENT, I SHOULD NOT HESITATE A MOMENT
TO PREFER THE LATTER."

JEFFERSON WROTE THAT, OF COURSE, BEFORE
HE WAS PRESIDENT. SERIOUSLY, THOUGH,
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS PART OF THE
FOUNDATION UPON WHICH ALL OF OUR OTHER
FREEDOMS ARE GUARANTEED. TODAY WE MUST
REMAIN VIGILANT NOT ONLY TO DOMESTIC, BUT
ALSO INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES TO FREEDOM OF
THE PRESS.

THE RECENT ARREST AND THREATENED
IMPRISONMENT OF A FRENCH JOURNALIST IN
AFGHANISTAN IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN. WE ARE
CONCERNED AS WELL ABOUT THE INCREASE IN
PRESS CENSORSHIP IN NICARAGUA. EVEN MORE
WORRISOME ARE THE MOVES IN CERTAIN
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AIMED AT
RESTRICTING PRESS FREEDOM AND CONTROLLING
THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. I CAN PLEDGE
TO YOU THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST
STRENUOUSLY ANY ATTEMPT THROUGH
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPRESS
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
CONGRATULATE YOUR CHAIRMAN, AL NEUHARTH, FOR
HIS STRONG STAND ON THIS ISSUE.

AS AN OFFICER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS, HE HAS
SPOKEN OUT FIRMLY AGAINST THE IDEA OF A
SO-CALLED "NEW WORLD INFORMATION ORDER,"
WHICH MORE CORRECTLY SHOULD BE LABELED A
"BRAVE NEW WORLD INFORMATION ORDER."

I'D ALSO LIKE TO COMMEND HIM, AND ALL
OF YOU, FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE
JOURNALISM. AL CALLS IT "THE JOURNALISM OF
HOPE." YOUR HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
YOUR VISION OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES HAVE HELPED
YOU ACCOMPLISH WHAT MUST BE CALLED A
JOURNALISTIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL MIRACLE,
THE CREATION OF A NEW NATIONAL NEWSPAPER,
USA TODAY.

USA TODAY REPRESENTS IN YOUR BUSINESS
THE KIND OF INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S FUTURE
THAT WE'VE BEEN ENCOURAGING THROUGHOUT THE
ECONOMY. I KNOW YOU'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT THE
ECONOMIC ISSUES CONFRONTING US FROM
SECRETARY REGAN, AND I HOPE HE WAS ABLE TO
GIVE YOU A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT
WE'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.

LET ME JUST SAY THAT PUTTING AMERICA ON
A SOUND ECONOMIC FOOTING, AND ENSURING THE
CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR NEW INVESTMENT, NEW
JOBS AND HIGHER GROWTH, CONTINUES TO BE MY
TOP PRIORITY. WE CONFRONTED A CRISIS
SITUATION IN THE FIRST 4 YEARS. IN THE
SECOND 4 YEARS, WE WANT TO MAKE THE
FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS TO ENSURE LASTING
PROSPERITY FOR YEARS TO COME.

WE CAN AND WILL HAVE A NEW ERA OF
OPPORTUNITY AND GOOD WILL IF ENOUGH OF US
WILL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

DEFICIT REDUCTION IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT
OF ANY ECONOMIC REFORM. BUT LET ME

EMPHASIZE, SUCCESSFUL DEFICIT REDUCTION MUST
MEAN STRONGER GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY, AND
LESS GROWTH IN GOVERNMENT. ANY DEFICIT

REDUCTION PROPOSAL THAT REDUCES AMERICA'S
POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH --(AND THAT IS
WHAT TAX INCREASES WOULD DO)-- INEVITABLY
WILL GIVE US HIGHER DEFICITS. TO GET

SERIOUS ABOUT DEFICIT REDUCTION, WE MUST GET
SERIOUS ABOUT CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT
SPENDING, AND STRENGTHENING PERSONAL
INCENTIVES.

WE WILL BE PROPOSING THE MOST HISTORIC
EFFORT EVER MADE TO CUT UNNECESSARY
SPENDING. NO AREA OF THE BUDGET WILL BE
EXEMPT FROM COST SAVINGS. TAX

SIMPLIFICATION TO ENSURE GREATER EFFICIENCY,
FAIRNESS, AND GROWTH IS ANOTHER AVENUE OF
REFORM WHICH WE ARE EXPLORING.

WE'VE SET OUT A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR
DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE. AND, NOW WE ARE
MOVING FORWARD ON BOTH OF THESE APPROACHES.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EMPHATICALLY STATED
THEIR OPINION IN THE LAST ELECTION.

THE ISSUES WERE CLEARLY DEFINED. I THINK
YOUR PAPERS, AND OTHERS IN THE MEDIA,
OUTLINED THE CHOICES AND THE DIFFERENCES
VERY WELL. AND GIVEN THE OUTCOME, I DON'T
THINK ANYONE CAN MISCONSTRUE WHAT THE VOTERS
WERE SAYING. THEY DON'T WANT HIGHER TAXES;
THEY WANT GREATER OPPORTUNITIES.

AS WE APPROACH THE NEW YEAR, WE CAN
LOOK FORWARD TO A TIME OF DRAMATIC CHANGE.
THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF ACTIVITY TO
KEEP ALL OF YOU BUSY.

THANKS FOR BEING HERE. GOD BLESS YOU.

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(Rohrabacher/BE)
December 11, 1984
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY BRIEFING FOR TOP EXECUTIVES OF
GANNETT COMPANY, INC.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1984

Well, we're delighted to welcome all of you to Washington. I know you are from every corner of the Nation and you're here to feel the pulse of the Government.

Having been Governor of California and now President, I've gotten used to journalists feeling my pulse. I always remember a story about one cub reporter whose first solo assignment was interviewing the oldest man in town, a Mr. Brown. The young reporter got to the address and an old fella answered the door.

"Mr. Brown?", he asked.

"Yep," the old man replied.

He explained he was from the newspaper and the old timer invited him into the living room. As they were sitting down, the reporter got right to the heart of the matter.

"Mr. Brown, how old are you?"

"97."

"And to what do you attribute your longevity?"

The old man thought for a moment and then answered, "I don't drink. I don't smoke. I don't carouse around with women." Before he could even finish his sentence there was a crash and a thud from upstairs and the reporter looked up and asked, "What the heck was that?"

"Oh that's dad. He's drunk again."

From the earliest days of our republic, journalism has played a vital role in our American democracy. In one of his

more well-publicized quotes, Jefferson explained, ". . . were it left to me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Jefferson wrote that, of course, before he was President. Seriously though, freedom of the press is part of the foundation upon which all of our other freedoms are guaranteed. Today we must remain vigilant not only to domestic, but also international challenges to freedom of the press.

The recent arrest and threatened imprisonment of French journalists in Afghanistan is cause for concern. Even more worrisome are the moves in certain international institutions aimed at restricting press freedom and controlling the free flow of information. I can pledge to you that we will continue to resist strenuously any attempt through international organizations to suppress freedom of the press.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate your Chairman, Al Neuharth, for his strong stand on this issue. As an officer of the International Federation of European Journalists, he has spoken out firmly against the idea of a so-called "New World Information Order," which more correctly should be labeled a "Brave New World Information Order."

I'd also like to commend him, and all of you, for your commitment to responsible journalism. Al calls it "the Journalism of Hope." Your high professional standards and your vision of new opportunities have helped you accomplish what must

be called a journalistic and entrepreneurial miracle, the creation of a new national newspaper, USA Today.

USA Today represents in your business the kind of investment in America's future that we've been encouraging throughout the economy. I know you've heard much about the economic issues confronting us from Secretary Regan, and I hope he was able to give you a better understanding of what we're trying to accomplish.

Let me just say that putting America on a sound economic footing, and ensuring the conditions necessary for new investment, new jobs and higher growth, continues to be my top priority. We confronted a crisis situation in the first 4 years. In the second 4 years, we want to make the fundamental reforms to ensure lasting prosperity for years to come.

We can and will have a new era of opportunity and good will if enough of us will work together to make it happen. Deficit reduction is an essential ingredient of any economic reform. But let me emphasize, successful deficit reduction must mean stronger growth in the economy, and less growth in Government. Any deficit reduction proposal that reduced America's potential for economic growth -- and that is what tax increases would do -- inevitably would give us higher deficits. To get serious about deficit reduction, we must get serious about controlling Government spending, and strengthening personal incentives.

We will be proposing the most historic effort ever made to cut unnecessary spending. No area of the budget will be exempt from cost savings. Tax simplification to ensure greater

efficiency, fairness, and growth is another avenue of reform which we are exploring. We've set out a good starting point for discussion of this issue. And, now we are moving forward on both of these approaches.

The American people clearly stated their opinion in the last election. The issues were clearly defined. I think your papers, and others in the media, outlined the choices and the differences very well. And given the outcome, I don't think anyone can misconstrue what the voters were saying. They don't want higher taxes; they want greater opportunities.

As we approach the new year, we can look forward to a time of dramatic change. There's going to be a lot of activity to keep all of you busy.

Thanks for being here. God bless you.

(NOONAN)

DECEMBER 13, 1984

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

280314 SS
H0016

THANK YOU, ALL OF YOU, SO MUCH.

IN JUST A MOMENT I'M GOING TO PUSH THE
BUTTON THAT LIGHTS THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS
TREE. THIS IS AN OLD WHITE HOUSE TRADITION,
~~AND~~ I AM HAPPY TO CONTINUE.

I WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE A FEW MOMENTS
AGO LOOKING OUT AT ALL OF YOU SURROUNDING
THE TREE, AND I THOUGHT OF HOW GOD GIVES US
MOMENTS THAT LIFT US, AND THAT BRING US
TOGETHER.

FOR MANY OF US, CHRISTMAS IS A DEEPLY
HOLY DAY. THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PROMISED
MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO REDEEM
OUR SINS AND TO TEACH US THAT MOST-NEEDED OF
LESSONS: PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN.
FOR OTHERS OF US, CHRISTMAS MARKS THE BIRTH
OF A GOOD, GREAT MAN, A PROPHET WHOSE
TEACHINGS PROVIDE A PATTERN OF LIVING
PERTINENT TO ALL TIMES AND ALL PEOPLES.

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[EITHER WAY HIS MESSAGE REMAINS THE
GUIDING STAR OF OUR ENDEAVORS.]

I GUESS WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN FAVORITE
CHRISTMAS MEMORIES -- FOR THIS IS THE TIME
OF YEAR WHEN MOST OF US TRY TO BE BETTER
THAN OUR EVERYDAY SELVES.

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS IN THIS GREAT
HOUSE I HAVE THOUGHT OF OUR FIRST REAL
CHRISTMAS AS A NATION. IT WAS THE DARK AND
FREEZING CHRISTMAS OF 1776, WHEN
GENERAL WASHINGTON AND HIS TROOPS CROSSED
THE DELAWARE. THEY -- AND PROVIDENCE --
GAVE OUR NATION ITS FIRST CHRISTMAS GIFT,
A VICTORY THAT BROUGHT US CLOSER TO LIBERTY,
THE CONDITION IN WHICH GOD MEANT MAN TO
FLOURISH.

IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO ME THAT CHRISTMAS IS
A TIME OF MAGIC. EACH DECEMBER WE CELEBRATE
A PRINCE, THE PRINCE OF PEACE, BORN IN UTTER
POVERTY, AND THE FACT OF HIS BIRTH MAKES OUR
HEARTS TURN WARMEST AT THE COLDEST TIME OF
THE YEAR. MANY OF US DO GOOD AT THIS TIME
OF YEAR, AND MOST ALL OF US MEAN TO, BUT
SOMETIMES GOOD INTENTIONS GET LOST IN THE
HURRY AND BUSTLE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON.
WELL, THIS IS ONLY THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER,
WE STILL HAVE A DOZEN DAYS TO ANSWER THE
LETTER OF A CHILD WHO WROTE TO SANTA AT THE
POST OFFICE/ OR TO BUY AN EXTRA GIFT FOR A
TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN,/OR WHATEVER. SO IF
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN TO DO IT:/ DO IT, DO IT
TONIGHT OR TOMORROW.

ONE OF THE GREAT MESSAGES OF THIS
SEASON IS THAT IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO TOUCH
A LIFE AND MAYBE CHANGE THE WORLD FOREVER
FOR SOMEONE.

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, LET US ALL
REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY
ABROAD -- THE 800,000 MEN AND WOMEN IN
UNIFORM, / THE MEMBERS OF OUR FOREIGN SERVICE, /
THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN OUR INFORMATION
AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, / AND THE MEN
AND WOMEN IN THE PEACE CORPS. / EVEN THOUGH
THEY CAN'T BE AT THE TABLE THIS CHRISTMAS
THEY MUST NOT BE FAR FROM OUR HEARTS.

AND LET ME ADD THERE IS NO ONE WE HOLD
IN OUR HEARTS MORE CLOSELY THAN THOSE
M.I.A.'s -- (THOSE MISSING IN ACTION IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA, / SOME OF WHOM MAY BE SERVING
OUR COUNTRY STILL. / THEY TOO ARE ABSENT AT
THE TABLE; / AND THE GATHERING WILL NEVER BE
COMPLETE, UNTIL THEY RETURN OR ARE ACCOUNTED
FOR.

NOW, I KNOW YOU'RE ALL WAITING, / AND IN
THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF THE ASTRONAUT ALAN
SHEPARD, / I'M GONNA STOP TALKING AND "LIGHT
THIS CANDLE!"

- 5 -

LIGHT IT IN A NATION AT PEACE, A NATION
UNITED. THE TIES THAT BIND STILL BIND.

SO NOW I LIGHT THE NATION'S CHRISTMAS
TREE. MAY ITS THOUSAND LIGHTS ILLUMINATE
OUR BEST RESOLVES AND CAST A GREAT GLOW ON
OUR AFFECTION FOR EACH OTHER, AND OUR THANKS
FOR EACH OTHER, AND OUR LOVE.

AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GOING TO
GIVE A GIFT RIGHT NOW. I'M NOT GOING TO
LIGHT THE TREE. I'M GOING TO LET NANCY DO
IT.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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RR

(Noonan/BE)
December 12, 1984
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1984

Thank you, all of you, so much.

In just a moment I'm going to push the button that lights the National Christmas Tree. This is an old White House tradition, ~~this showing up to do this by a President or Vice President, and~~ I am happy to continue ~~it~~.

I was in the White House a few moments ago ~~and I was~~ looking out ~~at the tree and~~ at all of you surrounding the tree, and I thought of how God gives us moments that lift us, and that bring us together.

→ Christmas is a deeply holy day For many of us, ~~the day that~~ ^{THE BIRTHDAY OF THE} ~~PROMISED MESSIAH,~~ ^{PEACE ON EARTH} ~~marks the birth on Earth of~~ the Son of God, who came to redeem our sins and to teach us that most-needed of lessons: ^{how to} ~~live.~~ ^{GOOD WILL TO MEN.} For others of us, Christmas ~~is a national holiday that~~ ^{A GREAT MAN, A PROPHET WHOSE TEACHINGS PROVIDE} ~~marks the birth of a good preacher whose message of peace is~~ ^{A PATTERN OF LIVING} pertinent to all times and all peoples. ~~Either way His message remains the guiding star of our endeavors.~~

I guess we all have our own favorite Christmas memories -- for this is the time of year when most of us try to be better than our everyday selves, ~~when, for a week or so, we let loose the tautest coils of kindness in our hearts . . .~~

For the past few years in this great house I have thought ~~each Christmas season~~ of our first real Christmas as a Nation. It was the dark and freezing Christmas of 1776, when General Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware. They --

and Providence -- gave our Nation its first Christmas gift: a victory that brought us closer to liberty, the condition in which God meant man to flourish.

It always seems to me that Christmas is a time of magic, -- and the magic is there no matter what our external circumstances are. We are a prosperous Nation, and this year ^{SOME} many of us will go out and buy rather splendid gifts ^{FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS.} for the people we love -- books and artwork and clothing and jewelry. But, ^{EVEN} in leaner times, and for some of us these are lean times, the magic ^{IS STILL THERE, THE MAGIC} maintains. ~~THAT IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.~~ The other day a man talked about his childhood Christmases in the Great Depression. He'd been asked what folks did in those days for gifts. The man said that he had no money, but in Brooklyn in those days nobody had any money so it wasn't so bad. In fact, he could well remember his first Christmas gift to his father. He was 5 or 6 years old at the time, and he had just seen his first movie, a slapstick comedy. Early Christmas morning, as his unemployed father slept, the boy decided to give his father something that he had seen in the movie, something that had inspired great laughter and gaiety in the theatre. ~~So~~ he gave his father a hotfoot. Dad woke up and there was a little shouting but when the son explained his motives there was a lot of laughter, too. ^{TO} ~~I know many~~ ^{WHO MAY BE} children are watching right now ~~so~~ I just want to say; ~~as they do on t.v. specials:~~ Don't try this trick at home!

Each December ~~is a paradox~~ ^{THE PRINCE OF PEACE} We celebrate a Prince born in utter poverty, and the fact of His birth makes our hearts turn warmest at the coldest time of the year. Many of us do good at

this time of year, and most all of us mean to, but sometimes good intentions get lost in the ^{HURRY & BUSTLE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON.} ~~demands of shopping and such.~~ ^{BUT WELL} this is only the 13th day of December, ~~and~~ we still have a dozen days ~~to do a kindness~~ [→] to answer the letter of a child who ^{WROTE} ~~writes~~ to Santa at the Post Office, or to buy an extra gift for a Toys for Tots campaign, or whatever. So if you have forgotten to do it: Do it, do it tonight or tomorrow, ~~and make someone very glad.~~

~~There's still time. In fact,~~ One of the great messages of this season is that it's ~~not too late, it's~~ never too late, to touch a life and ^{MAYBE} ~~thereby~~ change the world forever ^{FOR SOME ONE.}

~~And it is good for all of us~~ ^{LET US ALL} Over the next few weeks ~~to~~ remember ~~all of~~ those who serve our country abroad -- the 800,000 men and women in uniform, the members of our Foreign Service, the people who work in our information agencies throughout the world, and the men and women in the Peace Corps. . . ~~All of these people, our brothers and sisters, protect our country and represent us abroad. And~~ Even though they can't be at the table this Christmas they ^{MUST NOT} ~~can't~~ be far from our hearts.

And ^{LET ME} ~~I want to~~ add ~~that~~ there is no one we hold in our hearts more closely than ^{THOSE M.I.A.S - THOSE} ~~the~~ Missing In Action in Southeast Asia, some of whom may be serving our country still. They too are absent at the table; and the gathering will ~~not be complete, will~~ never be complete, until they return or are accounted for.

Now, it's cold and, in the immortal words of the astronaut Alan Shepard, I'm gonna stop talking and "light this candle!"

I light it in a Nation at peace, a Nation united. The ties that bind still bind, ~~the circle is unbroken, and the magic maintains.~~

~~And~~ So now I light the Nation's Christmas tree. May its thousand lights illuminate our best resolves, and cast a great glow on our affection for each other, and our thanks for each

other, and our love. *And do you know what? I'm going to give a gift right now. I'm not going to light the tree. I'm going to let Nancy do it.*
~~Thank you. Merry Christmas! May you fill it with joy.~~

The President has seen

(ROHRBACHER)

DECEMBER 17, 1984

PRESENTATION OF 1984 PRESIDENTIAL
RANK AWARDS TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE MANAGERS

257237SC
MA

IT IS PARTICULARLY A PLEASURE TO
WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE INDIVIDUALS TO
WHOM WE OWE SO MUCH. IN AN ERA WHEN EVERY
PENNY COUNTS, YOU WHOM WE HONOR TODAY ARE
THE TRUE HEROES OF THE HOUR. YOUR
DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS DESERVE THE
RECOGNITION AND RESPECT OF YOUR FELLOW
CITIZENS. THAT IS WHAT PRESIDENTIAL RANK
AWARDS ARE ALL ABOUT.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT -- A FUNDAMENTAL
THEME OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY -- IN NO WAY
SUGGESTS A COMPROMISE IN THE PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS OF THOSE SERVICES PROVIDED BY
GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, IT MANDATES EVEN
HIGHER STANDARDS.

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TODAY WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT EVEN THOUGH CUTTING WASTE AND SEEKING NEW EFFICIENCIES HAS BECOME A TOP PRIORITY, WE REMAIN EVER MINDFUL THAT NO LESS THAN EXCELLENCE IS ACCEPTABLE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THOSE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.] YOU RECIPIENTS OF PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS PERSONIFY THAT EXCELLENCE.

ACHIEVING OUR GOAL -- WHICH IS LEAN AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT -- DEPENDS TO A GREAT DEGREE ON THE PERSISTENCE, ENERGY, AND SELFLESS SPIRIT OF OUR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES. THESE AWARDS HELP US RECOGNIZE THOSE OF YOU AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CIVIL SERVICE WHO HAVE TAKEN US FARTHEST TOWARD THAT GOAL.

YOU WHOM WE HONOR TODAY HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXEMPLARY MANAGEMENT OF SCARCE RESOURCES, A SKILL CRITICAL TO OUR VIABILITY AS A NATION.] YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THIS TIME OF CONSTRAINT HAS PROVIDED LEADERSHIP THAT WE HOPE OTHERS WILL FOLLOW.

WHETHER IN AUTOMATING YOUR OPERATION,
ESTABLISHING BETTER PROCEDURES, OR FERRETING
OUT WASTE AND FRAUD, YOU'VE SHOWN THE WAY.

THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE IS THE
BEST GOVERNMENT HAS TO OFFER, AND AS WINNERS
OF THE 1984 PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS YOU ARE
AMONG THE BEST OF THE BEST. I AM PERSONALLY
PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. YOUR
COMMITMENT, I KNOW, EXTENDS BEYOND YOUR
IMMEDIATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH WE RECOGNIZE
TODAY. BUT PLEASE ACCEPT THESE AWARDS AS
RECOGNITION AND THANKS FOR ALL THOSE TIMES
IN YOUR CAREER WHEN YOU PUT OUT THAT EXTRA
EFFORT AND WENT THE EXTRA MILE.

I LOOKED OVER THE CITATIONS AND WAS
DEEPLY IMPRESSED. AS A GROUP, YOU ARE
MAKING REAL THE PROMISE MADE TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT
SIMPLY CARRY ON GOVERNMENT AS USUAL. YOU'VE
SAVED AMERICAN TAXPAYERS ENORMOUS SUMS OF
MONEY.

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AND YOU'VE DONE IT ACROSS GOVERNMENT,
THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

SEEING HOW ADEPT YOU'VE BEEN AT CUTTING
COSTS AND HOW MUCH YOU'VE SAVED THE
GOVERNMENT...I WONDER -- CAN'T YOU FOLKS GET
YOURSELVES ELECTED TO THE CONGRESS?

THROUGH YOUR VICTORIES, YOU AWARD
WINNERS HAVE TOUCHED THE LIVES AND IMPROVED
THE LOT OF MILLIONS OF YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS.
THESE AWARDS REPRESENT THE APPRECIATION THAT
WE ALL HAVE FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE. ON BEHALF
OF ALL AMERICANS, PLEASE ACCEPT A HEARTY
THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

NOW WITH DON DEVINE'S ASSISTANCE, I'D
LIKE TO PRESENT THIS YEAR'S AWARDS.

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The President has seen _____

OK [signature]

(Rohrabacher/BE)
December 14, 1984
2:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESENTATION OF 1984 PRESIDENTIAL RANK
AWARDS TO DISTINGUISHED SENIOR EXECUTIVES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1984

It is particularly a pleasure to welcome to the White House individuals to whom we owe so much. In an era when every penny counts, you whom we honor today are the true heroes of the hour. Your dedication and achievements deserve the recognition and respect of your fellow citizens. That is what Presidential Rank Awards are all about.

Limited Government -- a fundamental theme of American democracy -- in no way suggests a compromise in the professional standards of those services provided by Government. In fact, it mandates even higher standards. Today we acknowledge that even though cutting waste and seeking new efficiencies has become a top priority, we remain ever mindful that no less than excellence is acceptable in the performance of those in the public sector. You recipients of Presidential Rank Awards personify that excellence.

Achieving our goal -- which is lean and efficient Government -- depends to a great degree on the persistence, energy, and selfless spirit of our Federal employees. These awards help us recognize those of you at the highest level of civil service who have taken us farthest toward that goal.

You whom we honor today have demonstrated exemplary management of scarce resources, a skill critical to our viability as a Nation. Your performance in this time of constraint has provided leadership that we hope others will follow. Whether in

automating your operation, establishing better procedures, or ferreting out waste and fraud, you've shown the way.

The Senior Executive Service is the best Government has to offer, and as winners of the 1984 Presidential Rank Awards you are among the best of the best. I am personally proud of each and every one of you. Your commitment, I know, extends beyond your immediate accomplishments which we recognize today. But please accept these awards as recognition and thanks for all those times in your career when you put out that extra effort and went the extra mile.

I looked over the citations and was deeply impressed. As a group, you are making real the promise made to the American people that this Administration would not simply carry on Government as usual. You've saved American taxpayers enormous sums of money. And you've done it across Government, throughout the departments and agencies.

Seeing how adept you've been at cutting costs and how much you've saved the Government . . . I wonder -- can't you folks get yourselves elected to the Congress?

Through your victories, you award winners have touched the lives and improved the lot of millions of your fellow citizens. These awards represent the appreciation that we all have for what you've done. On behalf of all Americans, please accept a hearty thank you for a job well done.

Now with Don Devine's assistance, I'd like to present this year's awards.