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(RR) January 8, 1985

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: INAUGURAL JANUARY 21, 1985

Senator Hatfield, Reverend Clergy, Chief Justice Burger,
Vice President Bush, Senator Dole, Speaker O'Neill, members of my
family, and my fellow citizens:

There are no words adequate to express my thanks for the great honor you have bestowed on me. I will do my utmost to be deserving of your trust.

This is the 50th time an American President has taken the oath of office. When the first President, George Washington, placed his hand upon the Bible, the Capitol was less than a single day's journey by horseback from raw, untamed wilderness.

There were 4 million Americans in a confederation of 13 States. Today, there are 60 times as many in a Union of 50 States. We have lighted the world with our inventions, gone to the aid of our fellow humans wherever in the world they cried out for help, journeyed to the Moon and safely returned.

When I took this oath 4 years ago, I did so in a time of economic stress. Voices were raised saying we had to look to our past for the greatness and glory that had marked our two centuries as a Nation. But we, the present-day Americans, are not given to looking backward. In this blessed land, there is always a better tomorrow.

Four years ago, I spoke to you of a new beginning and we have accomplished that. But in another sense, our new beginning is just a continuation of that beginning created two centuries ago; that break with the past when, for the first time in

history, a people said, "government is not our master, it is our servant, created by us for our convenience. Its only power is that which we the people allow it to have."

That system has never failed us. But for a time we failed the system. Over recent years we asked things of government that government was not equipped to give. We yielded authority to government that properly belonged at local or state government levels or in the hands of the citizenry. A combination of taxes and inflation robbed us of our earnings and savings. In 1965, less than 3 percent of those who work and earn were faced with a marginal tax rate of 28 percent. By 1980, that had become

The great industrial machine that had made us the most productive people on Earth had slowed and the number of unemployed had increased. Today, taxes have been reduced, inflation brought under control, and more people are employed than ever in our history. Oh, there is more to be done and we're going to do it.

Our two-party system has served us well over the years, but never better than when in times of stress and danger -- we come together not as Democrats or Republicans but as Americans; Americans united in a common cause, the preservation of this unique society founded as it is on belief in the rights, the dignity, and the freedom of the individual.

Two of our Founding Fathers, a Boston lawyer named Adams and a Virginia planter named Jefferson, both members of that remarkable group who met in Carpenters Hall and dared to think

they could start the world over again, left us an important lesson. They had become political rivals in the government they had helped create.

In the presidential campaign and election of 1800, they were bitterly estranged. In the middle of the night, March 1801, the night before the inauguration of President-elect Jefferson president Adams departed Washington for his home in Boston. Only years later when both were retired did they begin to speak to each other through letters when age had softened their anger.

Their correspondence is a testimony to life and learning on every conceivable subject; horticulture, shortcomings of news reporters, sneezing as a cure for hiccups, and other subjects. They wrote of the loss of loved ones, the mystery of grief and sorrow in our lives, the importance of religion, and then of those last thoughts, those final hopes of two old men for the country they had helped to found and so deeply loved. They discovered that what unites us far outweighs whatever may divide us. In 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, they both died, on the same day, within a few hours of each other. The day was the Fourth of July.

In one of those letters exchanged in the sunset of their lives, Jefferson wrote, "It carries me back to the times when, beset with difficulties and dangers, we were fellow laborers in the same cause, struggling for what is most valuable to man, his right of self government. Laboring always at the same oar, with some wave ever ahead threatening to overwhelm us and yet passing harmless -- we rode through the storm with heart and hand."

With heart and hand, let us stand as one today: One people under God determined that our future shall be worthy of our past. Our problem is not one for Democrats or Republicans to solve. It is for all of us as Americans.

We are emerging from a recession, the eighth since World War II. But while we have made some progress in curbing the excesses that caused those recessions, we are faced with an economic crisis -- not caused by any single Congress or administration. An almost unbroken 50 years of deficit spending has finally brought us to a time of reckoning.

It isn't enough to simply look at the deficit and say, "We must balance the budget." Our problem is not the deficit, it is the spending -- Government taking too high a percentage of gross national product. Whether we continue borrowing a meet the deficit by raising taxes, the problem is simply one of Government (155) Government (155) Taken taking too big a share from the capital pool we need to keep our Sakilo Provide jobs and prosperity for all our people.

We have reduced the rate of increase in the cost and size of Government, lowered the amount of regulatory interference in the people's affairs, and the economy is growing.

There is general agreement that we must achieve a balanced budget. I believe there is also agreement that we cannot reverse a half century of deficit spending in a single budget year.

Together, all of us must go forward with a program of reducing the deficit as a percentage of the overall economy aimed at

reaching a date certain when the budget will be balanced and we can then begin reducing the national debt.

I will shortly submit a budget to the Congress aimed at setting such a plan in motion. We aim to freeze overall a fearant in 1986 at the 1985 level.

Beyond solving our deficit problem over the short term, however, the new American consensus for economic growth and limited Government can help as take further steps to PERMANENTLY institutionalize our ability to control Government's power to tax and spend, and prevent a repeat of this problem.

Thomas Jefferson, shortly after the Constitution was adopted, declared it lacked one thing: a clause to prohibit Government from borrowing. Let us enact a constitutional prohibition to protect future generations from Government's TAKNAG desire to spend its citizens' money and there was them into servitude when the bills come due. Let us stop the enact from mortgaging our children's future. Let us make it unconstitutional for the Federal Government to spend more than it takes in.

We have already lowered the tax rates for our citizens, now let us do more now have not us rid ourselves of incomprehensible

TAX regulations, and simplify our tax system, and, at the same time, make it more fair.

We have already started, and should continue, returning to the people and to State and local governments these functions and responsibilities that are better handled by them. This foes not mean there is a place for the Federal Government in matters of social compassion, but our final goal must be to reduce

dependency and upgrade the dignity of those who are infirm or disadvantaged. And here, it is the family and community that offer our best chance for a society where compassion is the way of life, where the old and infirm are cared for, the young and, yes, the unborn protected and the unfortunate looked after and made self-sufficient.

There is another area where the Federal Government can play a part. As an older American, I remember a time when people of differente race, creed, or ethnic origin in our land found hatred and prejudice installed in social custom and, yes, even in law. There is no story more heartening in our history than the progress we've made toward the "brother of man" that God intended for us. Let us resolve there will be no turning back or even hesitation on the road to an America rich in dignity and abundant with opportunity for all our citizens. Again, let us remember that, though our heritage is one of blood lines from every corner of the Earth, we are all Americans pledged to carry on this last, best hope of man on Earth.

I've talked of our domestic problems and goals, and the limitations we should put on our national Government. Let me turn now to a task that is, above all, the primary responsibility of national Government -- are national security of our PEOPLE.

Today, we utter no prayer more fervently than the ancient prayer for peace on Earth. Yet history has shown us that peace does not come, nor will our freedom be preserved, by good will alone. There are those in the world who disdain our vision of

human dignity and freedom. They have built up arsenals of awesome weapons, which are obviously offensive by nature.

We have made great progress in restoring our defense capability, but much remains to be done if we are to remedy the erosion that was allowed to take place in years past. One nation, the Soviet Union, over the same years and continuing teday has and is engaged in the greatest military buildup in the history of man.

As we strive to maintain a deterrent force sufficient to assure our safety, demands are made that we reduce our spending for defense in view of our economic problems. And some who hold this view charge that such spending is wasteful and extravagant and, indeed, is responsible for our economic ills. That charge yowever is not substantiated by any fact or figure. National security being Government's prime responsibility, we find that back over the years defense spending and a lower percentage of gross national product than was customary in the past.

There is only one way to safely and legitimately reduce the cost of national security, and that is to reduce the need for it. This we are trying to do in negotiations with the Soviet Union.

We are not discussing limits on further increase of nuclear weapons. We seek, instead, a reduction of the number of such weapons with an ultimate goal of total elimination. Our children and our children's children should not have to live in a world

where nations have, aimed at each other, weapons that can destroy THAT world.

For decades, we and the Soviets have had a policy of mutual assured destruction; if either of us resorted to nuclear weapons, the other maintained a sufficient number to retaliate. In short, we could destroy each other. Granted, this mutual threat has played a part in the 40 years of peace we've known since World War II, there is a great immorality in an agreement that if one side kills tens of millions of our people, our only recourse is to kill tens of millions of theirs.

We seek another way. I have approved a research program to see if a weapon can be developed that will destroy nuclear missiles before they reach their target. Such a defensive weapon will itself be non-nuclear; it will not kill people, it will destroy weapons. If and when such a weapon can be developed it will render nuclear weapons obsolete. In the meantime, we will the meantime to meet with the Soviets in the hope that we can agree on a formula for ridding the world of the threat of nuclear destruction.

More than 350 years ago, standing on the deck of the tiny ship Arbella off the Massachusetts coast, John Winthrop told a little band of Pilgrims: "We shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us." In the years since, we have not tried to the our way upon other nations, but other nations, seeing our success, have chosen the road of freedom and democracy.

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The Land of the number of democracies has grown five-fold. More
than a third of the world's population lives under democratic
in our own
rule. Here in this hemisphere, more than 90 percent of the
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people in Latin America live under governments that are
democratically run or are moving decisively in that direction.

Human freedom is on the march. It is one of the deepest and noblest aspirations of the human spirit. People worldwide hunger for the right of self-determination, for those unalienable rights that make for human dignity.

Today, our alliances with our neighbors have been strengthened, our economy is expanding, almost 108 million of our people are employed, and, for 3 years, inflation has been less than one-third of what it was only a few years ago. All of this is because we worked and acted together, not as members of political parties, but as Americans.

excessive covernment spending, simplification of our tax structure, and economic growth that will provide jobs and opportunity for all our citizens. This is one of those times of crisis I mentioned earlier when we must remember that what unites us is far greater than any divisions between us.

We stand as one today: One people under God, one Nation dedicated to His service, and to the dream of freedom He has placed in the human heart. A dream we cherish and protect, a dream we can pass on to a waiting and hopeful world.

God bless you and may God bless America.

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