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Last Updated: 01/17/2025

(Rohrabacher/BE)
January 23, 1985
3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: L.A. AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1985

Thank you Dick and good evening to all of you at the 97th Inaugural Ball of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. A special greeting to Julie Budd and to Mark Russell, a fellow everyone loves, but no one ever takes seriously.

It is so picturesque back here in Washington this time of year; we've already had snow -- and it sure came at an inopportune moment! I keep telling my East Coast friends we Californians get just as much snow in our State, however, we keep it up in the mountains where we can use it when we like and then ~~and~~ forget about it the rest of the time.

I can't think of any place I'd rather be than there with you right now, enjoying old friends, as well as the bright days and sunshine.

Tonight I understand you are honoring the commercial banking industry. Well, I'm pleased to offer my hearty congratulations to the champions of commerce receiving awards this evening: Carol Pruett, Sam Armacost, Frank Cahouet [COW-wit], Joe Pinola, Dick Flamson and Paul Hazen [HAY-zin]. The lifeblood of our economy is the entrepreneurial spirit these individuals represent.

As you are aware, restoring strength and vitality to our economy was the top priority of our Administration when we got here 4 years ago. That isn't something Government can accomplish alone. Our basic job was getting Government out of the way so

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that the vigor and genius of the private sector could work its magic. The magic to which I am referring is the hard work and good judgement represented there tonight.

Together we've come a long way. Inflation is down and our economy is growing again. And the chambers of commerce around the country played a crucial role during the political battles to reform Federal tax and spending policies and in throwing off some of the shackles of over-regulation that burdened American commerce and industry.

We now have it within our grasp to open up a whole new era of unprecedented opportunity and growth. Accomplishing this will require us to build on the working relationship we developed over the first 4 years. I know I can count on you.

I'd like to extend my best wishes for the year ahead to your incoming chairman Dave Anderson. Congratulations to your outgoing chairman Bob McIntyre for a job well done in 1984, including the appointment of Ray Remy [REM-ee] as your new president.

You've got a magnificent team. Then again, I hope you agree with me when I say, we are all on the same team. It is America's team and there is every reason for us to be optimistic about the year ahead.

Nancy and I hope you are having a wonderful party. Good night and God bless you.

(Rohrabacher/BE)
January 23, 1985
3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION DINNER
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1985

Good evening and thank you for letting me play a part in remembering one great athlete, Jesse Owens, and honoring another, Carl Lewis.

Some of you, I know, are aware that I began my career as a ^{SPORTS} radio announcer, and one of the events I covered featured an amazing young athlete named Jesse Owens. That was many years ago, yet we remember Jesse as an athlete, as an American, as an inspiration to us all.

Saying Jesse Owens was an inspiration is, of course, a bit of an understatement. He gave the whole free world a boost when he put Hitler's strutting Nazis in their place. I remember the pride that swelled within me when I read the wire copy and saw the newsreels chronicling his triumph in Berlin. His was a victory not just for his fellow countrymen but for everyone who believed in the dignity and respect of every individual.

Jesse never let us down. His off-the-field life exemplified a sense of character and personal values that encourage us always to strive and to use the talents with which we've been blessed. He once said, "I think God gave us all ability when he created us. All individuals can do something a little bit better than someone else." After leaving the track, he used the good will he earned and the ability God gave him to help others with this message of hope.

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I think it is fitting and appropriate that the International Amateur Athlete Award is presented in Jesse Owens' name. No one better exemplifies the spirit of fair play, striving for excellence, and the fellowship of sports than Jesse Owens.

It is appropriate to see Carl Lewis selected as this year's recipient of the Jesse Owens International Amateur Athlete Award. I know Carl's been compared to Jesse so often -- the uniqueness is wearing off, to say the least. But let me simply suggest that Carl, like Jesse Owens, has made a magnificent contribution to amateur athletics. He is a fine young man of whom his family and all of us can be proud.

Carl's four Gold Medals say all that can be said of his athletic abilities. He has made a mark in the history of sporting competition. Carl, I hope that as the years go by you will continue to live the kind of life, maintain the standards of personal conduct, as the man for whom this award is dedicated. Perhaps that will be the greatest challenge of all. We applaud you now for your great accomplishments, and we wish you a full and happy life.

I'd also like to express my thanks to all those in the International Amateur Athletic Association who have made this award possible. By honoring fine athletes like Carl, you are giving them their due as well as reminding all of us of an individual -- a great athlete and a good man -- the world should never forget.

So congratulations to you Carl, and thanks to all of you for permitting me to honor both Carl and Jesse. God bless you.

(Elliott)
January 23, 1985
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS CONVENTION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1985

Brandt Gustavson, Dr. Ben Armstrong, and all of you
distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

It doesn't seem quite right starting off the year without
coming to your National Religious Broadcasters annual convention.
I do apologize that I can't be with you. I know that all of
you -- the more than 1,100 members of your group -- are living
proof of a great, reassuring truth: to love God in our hearts,
to live for Him in our daily lives, is to know the fullness of
His promise of strength, power, and hope -- for today, and for
eternity.

Thinking of your work reminds me of the story in the book of
Matthew that says, "Now Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw
two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting
a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

"And He ^{SAID} ~~said~~ unto them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you
fishers of men.' ^{AND} ~~Then~~ ^{STRAIGHTWAY} they ~~immediately~~ left their nets and
followed Him."

You have been good and faithful fishermen. You have fought
long and hard for our Lord, and through it all you have kept true
to Him. Thanks to the power of your faith and commitment,
America is, once again, a rising Nation -- a good and generous
people seeking to be better still, striving to reach closer to
the God who has blessed our land -- blessed America as no other
Nation has ever been blessed.

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In virtually every public survey, the importance of spiritual faith has grown stronger. Recent Gallup surveys indicate 64 percent of American adults express a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in their church or organized religion. Fifty-six percent of Americans believe that religion can answer all or most of today's problems, while only one in five doubts the relevance of religion in the modern world.

We can be truly thankful. Our many years of self-doubt are over. And with our traditional values of faith, family, and self-reliance being restored, the American idea of progress is being reborn as well. We have it within our power to rise higher, to greater heights than ever before.

Yet, for all we have accomplished, we know that the American Revolution remains an unfinished work. So many challenges lie ahead. So many challenges that we must meet together if we are to hold our heads high and say, we fought the good fight, we finished the race, we kept the faith.

Men and women only grow as they rededicate themselves daily to a noble faith. Let us not rest as long as millions of our children are still denied America's long respected freedom of prayer in their schools. Our efforts to pass legislation permitting voluntary vocal prayer will be renewed and with your voices heard in the halls of Congress and across this land, justice will be done.

Thomas Jefferson told us that the God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time. In these coming days, let us resolve to work even harder to ensure that all God's children,

not just the born, but also the unborn, here and everywhere, may come to enjoy the fullness of life and liberty which are His glorious gifts.

And, trusting in Him, let us not be afraid but, instead, ". . .glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Thank you, and I hope to see you all in person next year.

God bless you all.

(Myer/BE)
January 23, 1985
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: FOOD PROCESSING MACHINERY AND
SUPPLIES ASSOCIATION MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1985

Ladies and gentlemen of the Food Processing Machinery and Supplies Association, I'm delighted to have this chance to talk to you at your annual meeting in San Francisco. And congratulations on reaching an important milestone -- your 100th anniversary.

You know, it seems like only yesterday that canners and packers were showing their products in hotels at the annual "Canners Show." Times sure have changed, and I understand that about 15,000 people will be at the Moscone Center, viewing the products of more than 300 exhibitors -- making the International Exposition for Food Processors the largest trade show of its kind in the world.

Your industry has good reason to celebrate its centennial anniversary. America's manufacturers of food production, preparation, processing and packaging machinery, supplies, and services have been a dynamo of energy and creativity. You have helped to take our country toward unprecedented levels of freedom, opportunity, and innovation.

And what's even better is that your membership can look to the future with confidence. A strong, vibrant food processing machinery and supplies industry depends on the health of the whole economy. Well, after a tough fight, Government is finally getting out of the way of the people, and the spirit of free

enterprise that encourages risk-taking and rewards innovation has, once again, taken hold.

Today the sun is shining on a strong economy and America's industries are moving forward. And we're going to do everything possible to keep our economic expansion going. Last year, overall economic growth was a vigorous 6.8 percent, the biggest increase since 1951. Inflation, once out of control, has plummeted by two-thirds and we're determined to keep it down for good. Interest rates have dropped by half, and we're going to fight to get them down even further. And the best news of all has been the steepest drop in unemployment in over 30 years. ~~More than~~ ^{OVER} 7 million ^{MORE} Americans have jobs today than just 2 years ago.

Purchasing power is back in the hands of the consumer and that is great news for your industry. And we're doing everything we can to keep it that way. Tax rates are now indexed, and the Federal Government can no longer profit from inflation at the people's expense. And we're not finished. To provide greater incentives to every hardworking American, and to make taxes more simple and fair, we will press for tax simplification -- not tinkering and fiddling here and there -- but a sweeping, comprehensive reform of the entire tax code.

And there's something else, and that's the wonderful rebirth of the American spirit, the reaffirmation by our people of those values that bind us as a Nation and make us a good and worthy people. Each of you has been doing your part -- and more -- to make our country the kind of place we want it to be. And that's

why I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all you've done, and for all you will keep on doing, to keep the American spirit soaring, strong, and proud.

Finally, I want to congratulate your fine President, Dewey Clower [CLAU-er], and all of you, for your many achievements. Best wishes for a successful meeting -- and may your 100th show be the best ever.

Thank you and God bless you all.

(ROHRBACHER)

JANUARY 24, 1985

DROPBY MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS

THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO WASHINGTON.

I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU COME FROM SOMEWHAT
WARMER CLIMATES AND AREN'T ACCUSTOMED TO
THIS WASHINGTON DEEP FREEZE. I HOPE THE
WARMTH OF OUR HOSPITALITY HAS HELPED MAKE UP
FOR THE TEMPERATURE OUTSIDE.

I THINK IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT
YOUR VISIT COINCIDES WITH OUR INAUGURAL
TIME, WHEN THE MANTLE OF POWER HERE IN THE
UNITED STATES IS PASSED TO THE CHOICE OF THE
ELECTORATE. WHEREVER WE ARE, NO MATTER WHAT
OUR POLITICAL AGENDA, THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN
DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD REJOICE IN
TIMES LIKE THIS. BELIEVING IN THE PEACEFUL
TRANSFER OF POWER THROUGH DEMOCRATIC
ELECTIONS AND A SOLID RESPECT FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS UNITES ALL OF US HERE TODAY WITH
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE.

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RECOGNIZING THAT BOND IS WHAT THIS
GATHERING AND THE CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY ARE
ALL ABOUT. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN
MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, /
PROFESSOR ALLEN WEINSTEIN, / DR. JOHN SILBER, /
PETER KELLY, / AND FRANK FAHRENKOPF, / FOR ALL
THEY'VE DONE TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS
CONFERENCE.

BEING FROM DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, YOU
KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT TO GET OPPOSING
POLITICAL PARTIES TOGETHER, / EVEN IN
WORTHWHILE ENDEAVORS LIKE THIS. WELL, THE
BIPARTISAN SUPPORT BEHIND THIS EFFORT
REFLECTS THE VALUE WE PLACE ON ENHANCING
LONG-RANGE HEMISPHERIC COLLABORATION AMONG
THE FREE AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE
AMERICAS.

BUILDING AND REINFORCING THESE TIES HAS
BEEN OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THIS
ADMINISTRATION AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO
DURING THE NEXT 4 YEARS.

OUR EFFORTS ARE GUIDED BY THREE
CONSISTENT AND MUTUALLY REINFORCING GOALS: /

-- WE SEEK TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

-- WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC GROWTH
WHICH WILL INCREASE OPPORTUNITY AND
IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR
PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE.

-- WE ARE WILLING TO HELP OUR FRIENDS
DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST SOVIET BLOC,
CUBAN/NICARAGUAN SPONSORED SUBVERSION.

I LIKE TO THINK THAT THE FIRST OF THESE
GOALS IS SIMPLY A REAFFIRMATION OF SOMETHING
IN WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS BELIEVED SO FIRMLY,
AND THAT IS: / THAT FREE AND DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENT IS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF EVERY
CITIZEN OF THIS HEMISPHERE. / THE AMERICAS
SHOULD AND, BY RIGHT OF HERITAGE, OUGHT TO
BE POPULATED BY FREE AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE.

AS YOU KNOW, NOT LONG AFTER OUR OWN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, SIMON BOLIVAR LED THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA IN A COURAGEOUS STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. BOLIVAR, LIKE WASHINGTON A GIANT IN THE ANNALS OF HUMAN FREEDOM, POINTED OUT IN HIS LATER YEARS/ "IT IS HARDER TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF LIBERTY THAN TO ENDURE THE WEIGHT OF TYRANNY."

THE GREAT LIBERATOR LAMENTED THAT MANKIND IS ALL TOO WILLING TO REST UNCONCERNED AND ACCEPT THINGS AS THEY ARE.

THAT IS WHY WE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO FREE GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS MUST MAINTAIN A SENSE OF FRATERNITY BETWEEN OURSELVES AND OTHER FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE.

TODAY THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR OPTIMISM. DESPITE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE THREAT OF WELL-ARMED, ANTI-DEMOCRATIC FORCES, WE AMERICANS -- (AND I MEAN ALL OF US FROM THE NORTH SLOPE OF ALASKA TO THE TIP OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO) -- ARE ENJOYING A RISING TIDE OF DEMOCRACY.

OF THE 34 COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA, /
27 WITH ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE REGION'S
POPULATION, / ARE EITHER DEMOCRATIC OR IN
TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY; / A DECADE AGO LESS
THAN 40 PERCENT OF LATIN AMERICA'S
POPULATION WAS SO FORTUNATE.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
OFFER MY HEARTFELT BEST WISHES TO THE
REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE WITH US FROM THE
HEMISPHERE'S NEWEST DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS,
URUGUAY AND BRAZIL.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO OFFER MY
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE AND POLITICAL
LEADERSHIP OF ARGENTINA, / WHO I UNDERSTAND
HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE CENTER FOR THE
1985 INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRACY PRIZE.

THE TREND TO DEMOCRACY NOT ONLY
UNDERScores THE DESIRE OF PEOPLE TO BE FREE, /
BUT ALSO SUGGESTS A NEW RECOGNITION THAT
FREE GOVERNMENT IS THE SUREST PATH TO
ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

THIS WAS POINTED OUT LONG AGO BY ANDRES BELLO, ONE OF THE HEMISPHERE'S INTELLECTUAL GIANTS. "LIBERTY," HE NOTED, "GIVES WINGS TO THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE WHEREVER IT MEETS IT."

TODAY, AS NEVER BEFORE, WE NEED THIS SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE TO OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF THE HEMISPHERE.

THE LEAP IN ENERGY PRICES AND THE ONSET OF GLOBAL RECESSION IN 1979 AND 1980 BROUGHT SERIOUS HARDSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

HERE IN THE UNITED STATES WE COUNTERED THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN WITH ECONOMIC REFORMS THAT LOWERED TAX RATES / ELIMINATED COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS / AND BROUGHT DOWN THE RATE OF INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING. WE CONCENTRATED ON PROMOTING GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY, / ON ENCOURAGING BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND INVESTMENT.

THIS FORMULA WORKED WELL FOR US. LAST
YEAR WE HAD A GROWTH RATE OF 6.8 PERCENT,
THE BEST SINCE 1951. AND THE INFLATION RATE
WAS ONLY 4 PERCENT. IN FACT, IT HAS ONLY
AVERAGED 3.9 OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS.

WHILE PUTTING OUR OWN ECONOMIC HOUSE IN
ORDER WE'VE TRIED TO HELP OUR HEMISPHERIC
NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.

-- WE INCREASED, BY OVER 50 PERCENT, THE
LEVEL OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
OVER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.

-- WE'VE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE WORLD
BANK, / THE INTER-AMERICAN BANK, / AND
I.M.F. PROGRAMS.

-- WE'VE WORKED WITH LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT
AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ENCOURAGE THE
REFINANCING OF INTERNATIONAL DEBTS.

YOUR COOPERATION HAS BEEN INDISPENSABLE
IN THIS EFFORT.

-- AND LAST YEAR, A DRAMATIC AND INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO PROGRESS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WENT INTO EFFECT. IT TOOK CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO PASS THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE/AND WE ARE ANXIOUS TO WORK WITH YOU TO SEE THAT ITS BENEFITS ARE ENJOYED BY ALL CONCERNED.

A FEW MOMENTS AGO, I EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT THE COURSE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AMERICAS. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT I AM EQUALLY OPTIMISTIC THAT OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS/WHICH TODAY SEEM SO MENACING/WILL BE OVERCOME. FREE PEOPLE, GIVEN TIME, WILL FIND A WAY TO SOLVE WHAT MAY APPEAR UNSOLVABLE. I CAN ASSURE YOU, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ARE ANXIOUS TO WORK WITH YOUR PEOPLE TO BUILD A PROSPEROUS AND OPPORTUNITY-FILLED FUTURE.

OUR COOPERATION WILL ENHANCE OUR CHANCE FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND HELP US MEET SOME SERIOUS CHALLENGES TO OUR SECURITY AS WELL.

THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY, (ESPECIALLY IN CENTRAL AMERICA) HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A CONCERTED AND WELL-FINANCED EFFORT BY THE SOVIET BLOC AND CUBA/TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS/AND TO SEIZE POWER FROM THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY. THIS IS NOTHING NEW. VENEZUELAN'S WHO STRUGGLED SO LONG AND HARD FOR FREEDOM/FACED THIS SAME THREAT AS THEY TRANSFORMED THEIR COUNTRY INTO A DEMOCRACY. SIMILAR SUBVERSION,/FINANCED,/ARMED,/AND SUPPORTED BY THE OUTSIDE/HAS PLAGUED COLOMBIA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.

A NEW DANGER WE SEE IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS THE SUPPORT BEING GIVEN THE SANDINISTAS BY COLONEL QUADAFI'S LIBYA/THE P.L.O.,/AND MOST RECENTLY THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI'S IRAN.

THE SUBVERSION WE'RE TALKING ABOUT VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW; THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, IN THE PAST, HAS ENACTED SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA FOR SUCH AGGRESSION. THE SANDINISTAS HAVE BEEN ATTACKING THEIR NEIGHBORS THROUGH ARMED SUBVERSION SINCE AUGUST OF 1979. [COUNTERING THIS BY SUPPORTING NICARAGUAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS IS ESSENTIALLY ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE/AND IS CERTAINLY CONSISTENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND O.A.S. CHARTER PROVISIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY.]

TWO CENTURIES AGO, WHEN OUR FOREFATHERS IN THE UNITED STATES WERE RISKING ALL TO ESTABLISH OUR DEMOCRACY, ONE OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS SAID, WE MUST ALL HANG TOGETHER, OR ASSUREDLY WE SHALL ALL HANG SEPARATELY. ✓

WELL, I THINK IT BEHOOVES ALL OF US WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, / IN FREE ELECTIONS / IN THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS / TO STAND SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THOSE WHO SHARE OUR IDEALS, / ESPECIALLY IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WE MUST NOT PERMIT THOSE HEAVILY ARMED BY A FARAWAY DICTATORSHIP TO UNDERMINE THEIR NEIGHBORS / AND TO STAMP OUT DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVES AT HOME. WE MUST HAVE THE SAME SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WHO STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY / AS OUR ADVERSARIES DO WITH THOSE WHO WOULD IMPOSE COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP.

IT WAS JUST ONE YEAR AGO WHEN THE BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON CENTRAL AMERICA, (OF WHICH JOHN SILBER WAS A MEMBER) ISSUED THEIR REPORT. THESE DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS INDEED A THREAT TO CENTRAL AMERICA.

AS THEY RECOMMENDED, I HAVE ASKED THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE \$8 BILLION IN AID OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HELP.

WE ARE ALSO TAKING STEPS, (INCLUDING ACTIVE DIPLOMACY,) TO DEFUSE A POTENTIAL CRISIS. WE SUPPORT, (FOR EXAMPLE) ALL 21 OBJECTIVES OF THE CONTADORA PROCESS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE SANDINISTAS TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN 1979. I BELIEVE THAT THE ANSWER LIES IN DEMOCRACY. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A WAR BETWEEN TWO FREE COUNTRIES. IF WE ARE FOR DEMOCRACY WE ARE FOR PEACE, DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

TODAY, WITH DEMOCRACY ON THE RISE, WE HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO RECAPTURE SIMON BOLIVAR'S DREAM. WE CAN HAVE A UNITED HEMISPHERE LIVING IN PEACE, OPPORTUNITY, AND FREEDOM.

THE IDEALS WE SHARE HAVE COME OF AGE.
NOW IS THE TIME.) WE ARE THE PEOPLE.
DEMOCRACY IS THE WAY.) THANK YOU FOR BEING
HERE, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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The President has seen _____

(Rohrabacher/BE)

January 23, 1985

7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LATIN AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE LEADERS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1985

Thank you and welcome to Washington. I know that many of you come from somewhat warmer climates and aren't accustomed to this Washington deep freeze. I ~~only~~ hope the warmth of our hospitality has helped make up for the temperature outside.

I think it is particularly fitting that your visit coincides with our inaugural time, when the mantle of power here in the United States is passed to the choice of the electorate. Wherever we are, no matter what our political agenda, those who believe in democracy and human rights should rejoice in times like this. Believing in the peaceful transfer of power through democratic elections and a solid respect for human rights unites all of us here today with millions of people across the globe.

Recognizing that bond is what this gathering and the Center for Democracy are all about. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Democratic and Republican Members of the United States Congress, Professor Allen Weinstein, Dr. John Silber, and Peter Kelly for all they've done to ensure the success of this conference.

Being from democratic countries, you know it's difficult to get opposing political parties together, even in worthwhile endeavors like this. Well, the bipartisan support behind this effort reflects the value we place on enhancing long-range hemispheric collaboration among the free and democratic countries of the Americas.

Building and reinforcing these ties has been of the utmost importance to this Administration and will continue to be so during the next 4 years.

Our efforts are guided by three consistent and mutually reinforcing goals:

- We seek to promote the development of democratic political institutions.
- We want to encourage economic growth which will increase the opportunity and improve the standard of living of people throughout the hemisphere.
- We are willing to help our friends defend themselves against Soviet bloc, Cuban/Nicaraguan sponsored subversion.

I like to think that the first of these goals is simply a reaffirmation of something in which our forefathers believed so firmly, and that is: that free and democratic government is the birthright of every citizen of this hemisphere, the Americas should and, by right of heritage, ought to be populated by free and independent people.

Do you know, not long after our own war of independence, Simon Bolivar led the people of Latin America in a courageous struggle for independence. Bolivar, like Washington a giant in the annals of human freedom, pointed out in his later years, "It is harder to maintain the balance of liberty than to endure the weight of tyranny." The great liberator lamented that mankind is all too willing to rest unconcerned and accept things as they are.

That is why we who are committed to free government and democratic institutions must maintain a sense of fraternity between ourselves and other freedom-loving people.

Today there are many reasons for optimism. Despite economic problems and the threat of armed forces, we Americans -- and I mean all of us from the North Slope of Alaska to the Tip of Tierra del Fuego -- are enjoying a rising tide of democracy. Of the 34 countries in Latin America, 27 with about 90 percent of the region's population, are either democratic or in transition to democracy; a decade ago less than 40 percent of Latin America's population was so fortunate.

I'd like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt best wishes to the representatives who are with us from the hemisphere's newest democratic governments, Uruguay and Brazil.

I'd also like to offer my congratulations to the people and political leadership of Argentina, who I understand have been chosen by the Center for the 1985 International Democracy Prize.

The return to democracy not only underscores the desire of people to be free, but also suggests a new recognition that free government is the surest path to economic progress. This was pointed out long ago by Andres Bello, one of the hemisphere's intellectual giants. "Liberty," he noted, "gives wings to the spirit of enterprise wherever it meets it."

Today, as never before, we need this spirit of enterprise to overcome the economic challenges of the hemisphere. The leap in energy prices and the onset of global recession in 1979 brought serious hardship throughout the world.

Here in the United States we countered the economic downturn with economic reforms that lowered tax rates, eliminated counter-productive Government regulations, and brought down the rate of increase in Government spending. We concentrated on promoting growth and opportunity, on encouraging business enterprise and investment.

This formula worked well for us. Last year we had a growth rate of 6.8 percent, the best since 1951. And the inflation rate was only 4 percent. *(IN FACT IT HAS ONLY AVERAGED 3.9 OVER THE LAST 3 YRS.)*

While putting our own economic house in order we've tried to help our hemispheric neighbors and friends.

- We increased, by over 50 percent, the level of bilateral economic assistance over the previous administration.
- We've maintained our support of the World Bank, the Inter-American Bank, and I.M.F. programs.
- We've worked with leaders in Government and the private sector to encourage the refinancing of international debts. Your cooperation has been indispensable in this effort.
- And last year, the Congress enacted our Caribbean Basin Initiative, a dramatic and innovative approach to progress in Central America and the Caribbean. It took considerable effort to pass this legislation and we are anxious to work with you to see that its benefits are enjoyed by all concerned.

A few moments ago, I expressed optimism about the course of political developments in the Americas. I would like to add that I am equally optimistic that our economic problems, which today seem so menacing, will be overcome. Free people, given time,

will find a way to solve what may appear unsolvable. I can assure you, the people of the United States are anxious to work with your people to build a prosperous and opportunity-filled future.

Our cooperation will enhance our chance for economic progress and help us meet some serious challenges to our security as well.

The transition to democracy, especially in Central America, has been accompanied by a concerted and well-financed effort by the Soviet bloc and Cuba to undermine democratic institutions and to seize power from those who believe in democracy. This is nothing new. Venezuelans who struggled so long and hard for freedom faced this same threat as they transformed their country into a democracy. Similar subversion, financed, armed, and directed by the outside has plagued Colombia, and other countries as well.

Such subversion violates international law, and the Organization of American States, in the past, has enacted sanctions against Cuba for such aggression. The Sandinistas have been attacking their neighbors through armed subversion since August of 1979. Countering this by supporting Nicaraguan freedom fighters is essentially acting in self-defense and is certainly consistent with the United Nations and O.A.S. charter provisions for individual and collective security.

Two centuries ago, when our forefathers in the United States were risking all to establish our democracy, one of our Founding Fathers said, "In this matter we must all hang together or we will surely hang separately." Well, I think it behooves all of

us who believe in democratic government, in free elections, in the respect for human rights, to stand side-by-side with those who share our ideals, especially in Central America. We must not permit those heavily armed by a faraway dictatorship to undermine their neighbors and to stamp out democratic alternatives at home. We must have the same solidarity with those who struggle for democracy as our adversaries do with those who would impose communist dictatorship.

It was just one year ago when the bipartisan commission on Central America, of which John Silber was a member, issued their report. These distinguished citizens concluded that there was indeed a threat to Central America. As they recommended, I have asked the United States Congress to provide \$8 billion in aid over the next 5 years: 80 percent for economic and social help.

We are also taking steps, including active diplomacy, to defuse a potential crisis. We support, for example, all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, including the implementation of the democratic commitments made by the Sandinistas to the Organization of American States in 1979. I believe that the answer lies in democracy. There has never been a war between two free countries. If we are for democracy we are for peace, domestically and internationally.

Today, with democracy on the rise, we have it within our power to recapture Simon Bolivar's dream. We can have a united hemisphere living in peace, opportunity, and freedom. The ideals we share have come of age. Now is the time. We are the people. Democracy is the way. Thank you all for being here, and God bless you all.