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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5/17 am 1983

Mally:

Enclosed are the transcripts we had made of the Eureka tapes. We've taken copies, so the originals are yours. Sadly enough - they've not been proofed too well, but I hope they can still be of help to you.

I'll be sending the tapes under separate cover today or tomorrow so you can re-use them.

Thanks for the help!

Misty

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR REAGAN
EUREKA COLLEGE LIBRARY DEDICATION

Eureka, Illinois

September 28, 1967

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Dirksen, you're a tough act to follow. (Laughter.) You know, when you got going on the birthdays there, I looked down at our friends of the press to see that they were contemplating with great delight the next press conference when we shall meet.

I am most grateful to you for words I don't deserve. Grateful, as all of us are, that you would be here.

Senator Percy, Senators Darins (phonetic) and Michel (phonetic), other distinguished guests who are here, Trustees, De Langston (phonetic), members of the administration, the faculty of Eureka, oh, so many friends, new students who are here, you know this has been a wonderful experience, is a wonderful experience and I'm sure you recognize now and a kaleidoscope, a montage of pictures and memories that are going through my mind in this particular spot.

You know, the roots go very deep in the blue-black soil of this prairie heartland. It must be evident to most of you that there's only a very thin wall of waivering will power standing between you and an engulfing flood of nostalgia, but I'll try to resist.

Ten years ago, in cap and gown I was in this place just across the campus there to receive an honorary degree. It was a happening which compounded an already heavy sense of guilt I bore, as I told some of you at that time. I'd always figured the first degree you gave me was honorary. (Laughter.)

That first degree was 35 years and a few months ago. And as far as the students here are concerned now, that makes it definite that I'm not of our generation.

It isn't true, however, that when Captain Burgess (phonetic), for whom Burgess Hall is named, stood out under Old Recruiting Elm, called up to what is now the windows of what is now the Administration Building and urged the students to come down and join him and enlist in the Union Army, that I was among the first to go. (Laughter.)

Of course, there are those whose viewpoint politically differs from mine somewhat who'd suggest that I go farther back than that, to the Ice Age. Some would even suggest it's farther than that, the time of McKinley. (Laughter.)

But there are some here today who can bear witness, some I've already seen, such familiar faces, old friends, who also share the memories of those dark Depression days here on this campus. And they know 35 years are like 35 minutes, so clean and fresh is memory. And no matter how much you students may want to believe this, your imaginations aren't up to it. You'll just have to wait and find out for yourselves, but you will find out that this is true.

Now, if I seem to direct my remarks tonight mostly to the students, to that generation, bear with me because I too am laboring here under a little misapprehension. Somehow this didn't live up to my picture of it or my anticipation. I have pictured coming back, as I have before, meeting with the students and a few old friends of my own time, some of the good townspeople and I would address myself to the students.

But there's a tendency in today's world to put more than years between us. Somehow as humans, we've been stratified into a horizontal society instead of a vertical one. All the layers of humanity today are separated into groups -- age groups -- from pre-school to those the social tinkers would refer to as "senior citizens."

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And somehow we are losing our ability to establish communication between these layers. What is even worse, there is a growing hostility between the layers. Now this is an unnatural situation. Humanity is vertically structured. The teenager will become the young married or the junior executive, and in turn the middle-aged then eventually the senior citizen, and each will take the faults and virtues as pluses and minuses through the years being at all times nothing more than the sum total of all that he has experienced.

Separation into these horizontal groupings or layers just doesn't make any sense at all.

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For example, this wide-spread talk today from one end of the country to the other that no one over thirty understands the youth of today. Well, now if that is true, what happens when you reach thirty? Do you suddenly join us and quite understanding those who haven't quite made the magic age? Each generation is critical of its predecessor and as the day nears when the classroom and the playing field will give way to the larger arena, the problems of inequality, human misunderstanding -- it is easy to look at those in that larger arena and demand to know why the problems remain unsolved. We who preceeded you asked that question of those who preceeded us, and another generation will ask it of you, and I sincerely hope that there will be less justification for the questions when it is your turn to answer.

But what I am trying to say is that no generation has failed completely nor will yours succeed completely, but at the same time don't get me wrong -- when the generation of which I am a part leaves the stage of history, history will record that seldom has any generation fought harder or paid a higher price for freedom.

We have known three wars in our lifetime and now a fourth; a cataclysmic depression that toppled governments and reshaped the map of the world. And because we couldn't find a single cure-all for man's inhumanity to man or the answer to human frailty, we ourselves have downgraded our performance and we have confused you in so doing as well as ourselves. It is easy to point to our failures and to talk of the mess of our times and even to promise that we will do better. But for the record, since we are the generation that exploded an atomic bomb and brought permanent terror to the world, we are also the generation that harnessed the atom for peaceful purposes. Some of those peaceful purposes are in medicine and industrial power and we have brought man to the threshold of a fabulous era.

We have defeated polio and tuberculosis and most of the plague diseases that held even more terror for mankind than the threat of the bomb. And it is a certainty that in this vertical structure, your generation and ours will overlap in defeating cancer.

We point an accusing finger at the list of smog and water pollution and poverty and civil rights and inequality of opportunity, and we still seek the answers. While many disagree as to the solutions let us make it plain that we were the ones who faced up to those problems and we charged ourselves with finding the answers and no one in today's public life can fail to treat them and remain in public life very long.

This horizontal stratification has led to a lateral communication. And I think that it is highly important that we restore vertical dialogue if not outright recognition of the naturalness and the rightness of the vertical structure in a society. How well do you young people understand those whose defect today is that they have reached age thirty-plus? Can you possibly believe that your fathers who knew the savagery of World War II, or your grandfathers who came of age in the muddy trenches of the Great War could have an affection for war? That we could callously send our sons to war? Permit me here to try and build at least a foot-bridge between the age groups of parent and offspring, and remembering all the time that bridges are open to traffic both ways.

You young people -- that fellow with the thickening waistline or the thinning hair sometimes is a little unreasonable about your allowance or letting you have the family car; if life seems a little dull to you as he reports to his daily nine-to-five chores and looks forward with great excitement to lowering his golf handicap or catching a fish that no one in the family wants to eat. I wish that you could have known him a few years back. I wish that you could have known him when he was on a landing barge off the shores of Normandy or Terawa, or even just on a weekend pass in Peoria, he was quite a guy.

Winston Churchill said of him, "He was the only man in the world who could laugh and fight at the same time." General Marshall called him our secret weapon. And if you will forgive the bluntness of the language, remembering the time in which it was spoken and that he was a military man, General Marshall said of this young fellow from America, "He and his friends, they were just the best damned kids in the

He hated war more than he hated the enemy, but he did what had to be done.

And a few years after the end of World War II -- I have to pause for a little personal anecdote -- I was in a pub, a little, rural pub in England and there was a motherly soul waiting on the trade there and she finally figured out that I was an American. I can't tell how she knew that for the life of me. And then, she started telling me a little story. She was reminiscing. She sat there and her eyes kind of far away and she said, "Oh, you know," she said, "during the war, there were a great many of your chaps stationed just across the road here." And she said, "They used to come in to see us all the time and they'd have songfests every night." And she said, "They called me Mom and called they old man Pop." And she said, "Christmas eve we were sitting here and we were all alone and," she said, "the door burst open and in they came. And she said, "They had presents for me and Pop." And she said, "Then they sang some more and, oh," she said, "it was a wonderful Christmas." And she said, "There was great big strapping lads from a place called Iowa."

Well, now, these fellows they knew what it was to dream. This fellow I'm talking about, to say good-bye to a girl and wonder when, if ever, he'd see her again. They cursed the world that let things like that war happen and they swore to do better when they got back and were running the show themselves.

They came back from the war and they created an organization to outlaw war and we haven't known a single moment's peace since. But they had a dream and it was a good dream and no effort was spared and we continue to pour out our treasure to make that dream come true.

Proving again the vertical structure of society, this problem will be yours as well as ours to solve. It wasn't that we faltered or lacked in willingness. There are organizational difficulties in that structure they created that was to bring peace, organizational difficulties they couldn't have foreseen, new and emerging nations with neither the power nor the responsibility for controlling world forces, but that have a disproportionate voice in the world councils. A two-thirds majority can be mustered among a half hundred nations who represent less than 10 percent of the world's population.

There are problems to be solved in the urban ghettos and poverty. Are these the result of selfishness on our part or indifference to suffering? No people in all mankind's history have shared so widely of their material resources. We've taxed ourselves more heavily year after year and extended aid at home and abroad. And when, instead of shrinking the problems grew larger, we planned more, we passed more legislation, we added scores of new programs until today, they're listed in a federal government catalog with hundreds and hundreds of pages.

We, who are charged with being materialistic money grubbers, have tried to solve the human problems, I'm afraid, with material means and we've forgotten man's spiritual heritage too much.

We've placed security above freedom and we've confused the citizens' responsibility to society with society's responsibility to the individual.

We have to have a restudy of our social legislation. The legislation meant well, but it's failed. It's failed its goals or has created greater problems than the ones it was meant to cure.

We have to re-examine our individual goals and our aims. What do we want for ourselves and what do we want for you of that other generation? Is it enough to have material things? Aren't liberty and morality and integrity and high principles and a sense of responsibility more important?

The world's truly great thinkers haven't pointed toward materialism. They've dealt with great truths, with high questions of right and wrong and morality and integrity and they've dealt with the question of man, not the acquisition of things. And when civilizations

have disregarded their findings, when they've turned to the things of the flesh, they've disappeared.

Now, you, of this younger generation, you who are students, are concerned with us and you see what seems to be hypocrisy and a lack of purpose on our part. Well, that's fair enough. We, in turn, are pretty concerned about you.

We're seeing a rising spirit of unrest and aimlessness into drifting, a feeling of rebellion without real cause that results sometimes in meaningless, but violent action.

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Now, let me make it plain. I'm aware as are most of us that all of you are unfairly suspect because of a very small percentage of dissidents across the country of your particular age group.

At the same time, though, I think it's safe to say about most of you, all of you, that you do seek a purpose -- a meaning to life. And apparently we have failed somewhat in giving that to you. But again our failure wasn't one of bad intent. We're a classic example of giving you what we never had -- from TV to wheels, from dental care to Little League. But I'm afraid that we short-changed you on responsibilities -- for the right to earn for yourselves.

All too often, because we had to earn, we wanted to give. Our motives have been laudable, our judgement's been pretty bad. "No" was either a dirty word or dropped from the vocabulary entirely.

Sometime ago out in California in a beach city known as Newport Beach, something took place I'd like to tell you about it. There was a row of rather luxurious expensive ocean-front homes. And they were being threatened by an abnormally high tide and heavy surf. And all through the day and on into the late night and early morning hours, hundreds of people were there running as the great waves came in and brought with them back as fast they could -- with sandbags, piling them up, trying to save these homes. And TV, aware of the drama of that struggle was there throughout the day and the night covering this so that all could sit in the comfort of their own homes far away from the ocean and see. And we watched and watched and about two o'clock in the morning one of the TV commentators grabbed a young fellow -- obviously in his teens, attired only in a wet pair of bathing trunks had been there all day and all through the night until about two o'clock in the morning. And he grabbed him and he was asking him some questions. No, the boy didn't live in one of those houses. Yes, the boy was wet and cold and tired. And eventually he had to get to the question of why then. And out came an answer, a line that I think should have been bannered, should have been billboarded across this nation it was so poignant, so meaningful.

The kid stopped for just a minute and then he blurted out as only a young fellow can. "Well, I guess it's the first time we've ever felt like we were needed." You are needed. We need your courage, your idealism, your new and untried viewpoint. You know more than we did at your age. You're brighter. You're better informed and you're even healthier. Since humankind is vertically structured we can take a little credit for that.

But you do want a purpose. You want a cause. You want a banner to follow and we owe you that. A few years ago a national magazine did a series of articles by prominent people including the President of the United States and the Vice President and a number of other distinguished statesmen and other people of great prominence. Each wrote his idea of what was our national purpose. Somehow nothing very exciting or profound came out of those articles. And I've always felt personally that maybe it was because they all tried to invent something that we already have -- that we've had for 200 years. The national purpose of this country is to unleash the full talent and the genius of every individual, not to create one after the other, mass movements, subjecting each one of the citizens to the whims of government thinking that it's only right if we're marching in the ranks shoulder-to-shoulder trying to achieve something in the name of the state.

Here as nowhere else in the world, we're established to provide the ultimate in individual freedom consistent with law and order. Now, we're here to dedicate a library. This wouldn't be possible if humanity was indeed horizontally structured instead of vertically structured. This dedication tonight began more than a 100 years ago when a man named Ben Major struck an axe into a tree and said, "On this spot we'll build our school." According to the history as I learned it here, the wagon train that had brought them to this place hadn't even been unloaded. They hadn't built their homes. But still they started by choosing a site for a school.

And Walnut Grove Academy became Eureka College because a great many others followed Ben Major's footsteps, giving and building, not for themselves, but others who would come later, would take their place higher up in the vertical column of mankind.

Tonight, we dedicate a library because Wesley and Clinton Mallock have fought, not in horizontal lines, not just a communicating with their own associates in time and age, but because they, too, have thought of that vertical structuring of mankind, that ever upward building of the column.

You want a purpose, something to believe in? Well, you might try resolving that you will contribute something to generations unborn. Give a handhold above your own achievements so that another generation can climb higher and achieve more.

This library is more than a beautiful and functional building. It's first and foremost a repository of knowledge and culture. More facts will be available in this library than were available in all the libraries of the world a hundred years ago. That shouldn't surprise you. Man's knowledge has increased at such a rapid rate since the turn of the century that any book of facts written then would be obsolete now, both in terms of what we know to be true and, also, what we know to be true no longer.

The library, though, is more than a place to go for facts. The library is also a place to go for wisdom and the purpose of an educational institution is to teach, not only knowledge, but also wisdom.

Someone said once that people who want to understand democracy should spend less time in a library with Aristotle and more time on buses and subways. Well, in a way, that may be true, but to understand democracy is not necessarily to solve its problems. I'd venture to say that Aristotle and those others you'll not find on the buses and the subways, but instead, in this building will give more answers and more clues to the solution of our problems than you're likely to find on the bus and the subway. But maybe the best answer is to be found in a combination of both. But don't you let the library go to waste because you're awaiting the completion of Eureka's first subway. (Laughter.)

Now, when I suggest that you turn to books and the accumulated knowledge of the past, I'm not suggesting that we turn back the clock or retreat into some dim yesterday that's remembered only with nostalgia, if at all. But we must learn from yesterday if we're to have a better tomorrow.

We're beset by problems in a complex world. We're confused by those who tell us that only the new and the untried ways offer hope. This isn't true. The truth is the answers to all the problems of mankind, every one of them, even the most modern and the most complex, can be found in this building by those who desire to find them and have perception enough to recognize them when they do find them.

There will be the knowledge of Aristotle and Plato and Socrates and from the vantage point of history, there will also be the record of their mistakes. We can look back and see where their dream of pure democracy became as dictatorial as a sultan and majority rule, we'll find, without protection for the minority became just mob rule.

One of mankind's problems is that we keep repeating the same errors. In every generation someplace there have been people who have found that two and two added up to three or in another place to five. And four seemed always to elude some of us. It happened in my generation and I predict, without smugness, it'll happen in yours.

Now, let us truly honor two men who have given something almost beyond our comprehension. Do you doubt that all the answers can be found here, all the answers to modern day confusion?

Well, from the 11th century Hebrew philosopher and physician, Memonides, we can learn why, perhaps, the failure of our well-intentioned effort to help the less fortunate in what's becoming a welfare state because Memonides gave us eight steps which make it plain that you can only help the needy if you help them to help themselves.

If you're one who still rejects the so-called simple answers and says they won't fit anymore in these complex problems, can any one of us dare name a single problem that can't be solved if we'll simply follow the teachings of the Man from Galilee? The entire pattern for all mankind is laid out there.

We can redirect the nation's course in the paths of freedom, morality, and high principle and, in so directing it, we can build better lives for ourselves and our children and a better nation for those who come after us. Or we can ignore history and we can go the way of Greece and Rome.

I think that's the significance of this library --the fact that we can use it to rechart our course, not into great unknown, but unto paths that are clear and which, if followed, can show us how to cope with the new problems that always confront each generation, can lead us as a people onto continued greatness.

There were many who had a hand in this structure here, the building of this library. It represents cooperation between government and the private sector. It represents the efforts of many here in the college and many who are just friends of the college, but I think all of those would be the first to say it happened because of you, Clint, and because of your brother, Wes.

And on behalf of all who knew Eureka down through the years and those who still have Eureka to know, I'd like to usurp the privilege if I could at this moment in behalf of all those people say from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

Eureka means we have found a way of life and, Clint, you and your brother, Wes, have helped in the search and made the finding of that way a great deal easier.

God bless you and thank you.

(Applause.)

END

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR REAGAN
AT
FUND RAISER

Eureka, California

March 3, 1970

GOVERNOR REAGAN: Assemblyman Frank Belotti, Mrs. Belotti, Reverend Clergy, my own Chairman here from the counties of Humboldt and Del Norte, Bob Barnam, Darryl Schroeder, and our County Chairman, Jerry Scott, you ladies and gentlemen.

This is wonderful to be back here again and to have such a warm welcome, and I thank you for the kind things you said. And I think you ladies and gentlemen should know that it may not seem as if some of us get up here too often to visit, but I can assure you that as long as Frank Belotti is in Sacramento the northwest coast is on the mind of people in Sacramento and in the capital a great deal of the time. He sees to that. (Applause.)

I know we all miss Congressman Don Clausen, but it was good to hear from him and to have his greetings here tonight.

You know, I've been sitting here remembering because it doesn't seem as if it's been so long between dinners here in this particular room. But I was remembering the first one and that was back in the 1964 campaign. And right after dinner, several of us rushed into another little room here where they had taken a tape off the -- a sound tape off the television debate between Senator George Murphy and that other fellow, whatever his name was. (Laughter.) And then we listened to the sound tape that we'd had to miss by being in here for the dinner. Oh, when you get remembering, though.

I even go back so far I can remember when people use to brag about only living a stone's throw from the campus. (Laughter and applause.)

Sometimes, you know, I believe that insanity is inherited. We catch it from our kids. (Laughter.)

But, no, let me seriously say something about that: Don't be fooled and let the tiny dissident minority that has been creating so much trouble. Don't accept them as a stereotype of our young people today. I can say that and I've had a little experience in that line. But let me just remind you of this one encouraging thing: When you see a demonstration of that kind of lawlessness, remember you're seeing all the force they can muster. There are no more or they'd be out there. And the vast majority are just what we want them to be -- just the fine young men and women that we can find on our campuses and in our society. And keep your eyes focused on them because they have problems, too, and it's about time we started devoting some time to their legitimate problems instead of spending all of our time trying to appease that hungry little mob of dissidents. (Applause.)

I know that in the few times I've been here since the '66 campaign and all, I've now and then taken advantage of you to tell you a little bit about some of our troubles in Sacramento and some of the problems of the job. And yet I keep thinking back and now that we've gotten a little farther away from them, I keep thinking back to those first dark days.

I remember a story of an old-timer in the woods who was teaching a tenderfoot in the woods how to catch a porcupine. And he said the big thing was to avoid that flapping tail with all those spears on it. And he said, "You watch out for the tail and you slip in real quick and you drop a tub over him." And the fellow said, "A tub?" And he said, "Yeah, that's so you got something to sit on while you figure out what to do next." (Laughter.) It's a little like that.

I've had some days when I felt like the scuba diver that was on his way down to set a new record. And he'd gotten down beyond the fish. And there he was with all his breathing apparatus and his tanks of oxygen and he looked over and here was a fellow with nothing but a pair of bathing trunks, no breathing equipment at all. And he swam over to him and he took that slate they have, and he wrote on the slate. And he said, "How is this possible?" He says, "You're down here without any equipment. What are you doing?" And the fellow took the slate from him and wrote back, "I'm drowning." (Laughter.)

Well, there's one thing I learned, though, these last three years: If at first you don't succeed, you get an awful lot of advice. (Laughter.)

You know there was a -- one of the things that's the hardest, I guess, to move in government is -- when I was talking out on the campus about the day the permanent structure of government -- the -- those people that have been there and doing things the way they've decided to do them through several administrations. And then you try to change things.

There was a young bridegroom once who asked his bride why in cooking a ham she always cut both ends off. She said, "Because that's the way my mother did it." So one night the mother-in-law was over for dinner and he said, "Is this true that you always cut both ends?" And she said, "Yes." And he said, "Why?" And she said, "Because that's the way my mother did it." So came the holidays and grandma dropped in. And he couldn't wait. And he told her about this and he said, "And you were the one -- you always cut both ends off the ham before you cooked it?" And she said, "Yes." And he said, "Why?" And she said, "I didn't have a pot big enough to put the whole ham in." (Laughter.)

Oh, I tell you, there was a time up there in Sacramento when I was taking so many tranquilizers that I found myself being nice to people I shouldn't have been speaking to. (Laughter.)

Speaking of Jess -- (laughter and applause) -- Jess has a great gift for finding things that no one has tried to hide. (Laughter.)

Well, I had a letter the other day from a little girl. She was in fourth grade and I thought it was wonderful. They'd been asked to write what they thought the Governor did. And she wrote and said, "The Governor gets up in the morning and has his breakfast, and then his friend comes over and they walk together -- walk to work together. His friend is named Jesse." And then she said, "The Governor is twenty-five years old." Well, of course, she's a little wrong about me and Jess going to work together, but she's right on that other part.

A few months ago, I got a strong feeling that there might be an election in the offing. It was quite a surprise because it seemed like we'd just had one. But then the days are shorter in Sacramento, and things have a way of sneaking up on you. What caused all this was the loud scream that greeted my reference to the environment in this year's State of the State Message. Those fellows that Frank was mentioning who'd been in the majority and been in charge of things for about eight years prior to 1967 suddenly were screaming that I was a "Johnny come lately" in this field, that environment was their bag. Well, I apologize. But with trying to find the Eel River and to pick out that one redwood tree I wanted to save, I wasn't aware that California's air had been preserved until 1967 in wine-like purity, that every stream and river that was crystal clear, with even the San Francisco Bay untouched by sewage, until our administration. And that somehow the trash and the garbage had never cluttered California's meadowlands prior to my Inauguration.

Well, now having discovered all this, you got to admit that we've been pretty forthright about offering to clean it up and do something about it since we've been there.

Seriously, I would like to talk to you about what we've accomplished, what we're trying to do and how we're trying to maintain a proper balance between those extremes in the field of environment,

for example, which would on one hand would say, no more roads, no more factories, no more cars, no more people, do nothing but preserve the ecology. And those on the other hand who would justify everything and every kind of destruction in the name of progress. We're going to try extremely hard to avoid those extremes.

Progress for our people and preservation of our environment are compatible goals. It is the refusal to work together for a proper balance that is incompatible with the needs and the hopes of California.

Jobs and payrolls and our growing economy don't just happen. They're the result of several dynamic forces: Risk capital, managerial know-how, skilled labor and public demand for the product. Here in the northwest we have a good example of the vigorous industry that is bringing new and better production facilities in providing the need for employment opportunities.

The investment in two new pulp and paper mills demonstrates industry's confidence in the future and the future of the timber supply in the northwest. We must assure this supply by supporting a program for increased timber production on public lands within our general conservation and multiple use concepts.

Multiple use of our forest resources is the key. And through it, we can find the balance between conservation and production. Now, this will call for more creative policies on both the public and the private owners of timberland.

An example of achieving a proper balance in our environment is the agreement that preceded the start of the construction of the Humboldt Bay Bridge. The importance of fish and wildlife values that are result now of a joint agreement between the state resources and the business and transportation agencies.

Today, esthetic and ecological values are given an equal weight with engineering and the cost factors as we build roads and build bridges. And we've managed to bring this about with this whole new approach of saying no longer will highways just simply be the shortest distance between two points.

We will try to preserve the points of historical interest, preserve the ecology, preserve the esthetic values. And the proof that we've succeeded in this is the fact that just recently the National Transportation Agency made nine national awards in the United States. Four highways and bridges that were built with regard to environment and that were built with regard to esthetic values, and California won five of the nine awards and one honorable mention.

In December, the Mad River salmon and steel ad hatch reel go into operation. It should revitalize the diminishing resource and stimulate both sport and commercial fishing interests.

As we enter the decade of the '70's, it's important to continue the development of the well-rounded program of conservation education for our children. An initial step in this direction was taken in 1968 when the education code was changed to require studies of man's relation to his human and his natural environment.

Last October, the Advisory Committee on Conservation Education called for a comprehensive program in this field. And this will complement the work that is being done now by private and state groups.

The State Board of Education has been asked to fund the pilot program of conservation education as an experiment in 12 school districts in the coming year.

Now I know that many of you are aware of the outstanding programs in conservation education that have been undertaken by the Redwood Region Conservation Council. And now the cooperation with the State Department of Conservation we've developed Operation Springboard,

which is aimed at the kindergarten through third grade student.

All of these educational efforts, through both the public and the private programs, are designed to help us preserve the magic of California for future generations. I might add that our own park people are going beyond this now in a kind of human salvage also. They've set up a program for our state parks of going into the disadvantaged areas of our crowded urban centers, our cities, and taking children to whom outdoors and nature is -- are just words, and arranging tours of our state parks, taking them up into the camping areas and showing them the magic that is this land of California.

We figure that it's time as this program continues they're seeing enough of the ugly side that they begin to see America the beautiful.

Three years ago I said that government could be run efficiently and economically, employing common sense -- the same common sense that we all apply to our businesses and in the running of our homes. And I think we've proven that this can be done in these three years.

Now, it's been charged that in doing this, I have brought California to a halt, to a standstill. Or was it a standstill to move this state in three years from eleventh to second among the states in the rehabilitation of the physically and the mentally handicapped?

We're first in the nation in the treatment of the mentally ill. We are achieving the new staffing standards of increased staffing, medical treatment, medical personnel for the inmates in our hospitals for the mentally ill. These are the American Medical Association Standards adopted in 1967, and we will achieve those standards in June, four years ahead of the schedule that had been laid down for us.

Was it a standstill to impose procedures that will require all state construction projects, from highways to the water program, to conform with the long-range environmental goals; to establish a mechanism for the protection of our coastline and our estuaries.

We've imposed the strongest controls for the purity of air and water that have ever been adopted by any government anywhere in the world. And we did these things without practicing the prophecy of doom that seems to be so popular among some these days that would have you believe that our days are numbered and that we can't achieve the cleaning of our air and our water. We've achieved them without becoming political stunt men and trying for publicity instead of results.

No, I didn't put on a wet suit and plunge into the Santa Barbara Channel to discover that there was oil on the water, nor did I go over to the Bay area to be photographed standing by a sewer in time to make the 6:00 t.v. news. But it's true that we've brought some things in California to a halt.

Three years ago this state was spending a million dollars a day more than it was taking in, and we brought that to a halt. Three years ago this state was adding five thousand or more employees each year to the total staff of state government, and we brought that to a halt.

By the end of this year there will be fewer employees in state government than there were when we started three years ago. Three years ago they were planning to build more buildings to house more bureaus, to give more programs to the people that the people never asked for and I doubt if they want or need. We brought that to a halt. We cancelled the construction of the buildings and we eliminated more than 30 bureaus and agencies.

Now, they were going to build a bridge over Emerald Bay at Tahoe. And they were going to continue a fiscal program that was based on gimmickry and deception and enlarged government by hacks and

cronies by bringing in more hacks and cronies, and we brought all of that to a halt.

We have moved from ninth lowest among the states to fifth lowest with regard to the size of government in proportion to population. And we're not going to stop until we're number one in that; having the smallest government in proportion to our population. (Applause.)

We started a prairie fire. More than a dozen states have sent staff members out to California to find out how we've been doing some of these things, and they would then go back and do likewise.

Now, we've submitted a budget for the year that will begin July 1. And then a short time as that budget comes under discussion, brace yourself. You're going to hear screams that would curdle your blood. They're going to be screams coming from the same people who have been complaining about high taxes in Sacramento among our opponents. But the same ones who, when they were a majority until we achieved that bare majority that Frank told you about, passed legislation that would have increased the spending of state government \$330 million a year, all legislation that I had to veto.

But these people are going to charge that we're selfish and that we are lacking in compassion because we've asked the Legislature to help bring welfare under control. But unless it is controlled, welfare is going to put us in a position to where one day we won't even be able to help the deserving needy.

Welfare is increasing in costs faster than our economy can expand to bring us the revenues we need, and it has gobbled up all the savings that we've been able to make in our economies in government.

Edith Green, Congresswoman from Oregon, classifies herself as a liberal Democrat, asked the Library of Congress the other day to give her a hypothetical case of how much could a single family in the United States legally get from the welfare programs that are available. And they gave her two cases: one, a widow with four children spanning the ages from preschool to college; one, a widow with eight children spanning preschool to college. And they told her that the family of four could legally take advantage of all of the available programs and that family could get \$11,500 a year tax free. And the family of eight could get \$21,193 tax free income legitimately in welfare programs.

Now this is part of the importance. Incidentally, in our own state, we are faced right now with law suits against certain changes we want to make in welfare and certain changes we have made to try and bring the spending under control. If these cases are decided against us, they will add more than \$300 million immediately to the costs, the annual costs, of welfare. The cost now is one billion one hundred million dollars at the state level. And I think there is every reason to believe those cases will go against us.

To show you how ridiculous this situation can be, there is a man who has never been on welfare in this country, who is working, self-supporting, fully employed, and who is suing the United States Government claiming that they must give him the difference between his income and what he could get on welfare if he could quit work and go on welfare.

This is the importance or part of the importance of this coming election. We've only begun to unravel what has been done in the recent decades. But we have begun. And now it's necessary that we carry on.

Last year for the first time, you gave us a majority to show what could happen for that first time and with that first majority, we passed the most comprehensive anti-crime legislation that just went into effect in January. We passed the anti-pornography laws that the Legislature had been trying to pass for eight years or more that I know of and certainly for the three that I've been there. All of this came about just because we had a majority.

Now, I'd like to do something for a few remaining moments here, if you don't mind rather than going on.

I got another letter from a little girl. And this little girl wrote and told me what the Governor does. She says, "The Governor owns the state and he tells the people what to do and then he goes out and makes a speech." (Laughter.)

Well, I don't own the state and I don't tell the people what to do and I'd like to stop trying to make a speech. And I would like to have a dialogue that we haven't had for a long time. I don't know whether you're prepared for this or not. But it just seemed to me in talking about some of these things we've been doing that I'm bound to miss some of the points or some of the things you'd like to know about. How would you like to just finish out what limited time we have here by throwing a few questions up here, and I'll try to answer them? Sing out if you have one. I'll repeat the question so the microphones can pick it up. Don't be bashful. Someone should ask a question because I've missed a lot of points.

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR REAGAN
AT
FUNDRAISER FOR DON PETERSON

Eureka, California

August 29, 1974

GOVERNOR REAGAN: Well, Don, I thank you very much for your generous words. Madam Chairman, Reverend Clergy, our very dear friend that we miss very much in Sacramento, Mrs. Bilotti, others here at the head table and, of course, the man who has brought us here, our candidate for the Assembly in this District, Don Peterson.

I apologize. Have you ever had one of those days? (Laughter.) We waited and-- I've been an after-luncheon speaker on many occasions. I am still an after-breakfast speaker at this particular moment. (Laughter.)

I remember they said the repair job would be four hours and then we found another plane and we got on that plane and we've been hedgehopping all the way here and I found myself remembering one of those classic old lines from some of the movies that I used to be in years ago. Do you know that line? "You're not going to send the kid up in a crate like that?" (Laughter.)

But I know how long you've been here and I'm not going to give you the whole load. (Laughter.)

But I would like to just say a few things. This is kind of nostalgic. We have been here a number of times and it's always very heartwarming to come here. When I tell you it's a pleasure to be here, I can tell you it's a pleasure just not to be in Sacramento. (Laughter.)

About a year ago -- and I don't remember whether I've told you this or not -- Nancy and I came to a moment in which with our son we decided that when the legislature left town for the summer that we'd have a change. We'd get away from it all. And for the first time in our lives, we did a pack trip into the high Sierras and then found it wasn't all that different. We were still on an uphill, rocky road with a bunch of mules. (Laughter.) (Applause.)

Government is said to be the second oldest profession and sometimes I find it very similar to the first. (Laughter.)

I have learned, also, about some of the customs of ancient Greece. I was fascinated with the study of Greece when I found out that there was an ancient city-state in Greece that had a custom whereby when anyone suggested a new program for government, he had to make his proposal standing with a noose around his neck tied to the limb of a tree -- (laughter) -- standing on a chair. And, if they liked his proposal, they removed the noose. If they didn't, they removed the chair. (Laughter.) And I developed a morbid fascination with the customs of ancient Greece. (Laughter.)

Have you ever stopped to think what kind of service we'd get from government if the Internal Revenue Service had to do business on a satisfaction or money back guarantee? (Laughter.)

Well, let me tell you, speaking in politics at this particular time, as you can imagine, is a little harrowing. It was just a few days ago that I had to go up to Seattle to speak to a Republican gathering there and it was at the end of that 48 hours when the transition of authority had taken place in Washington. And the speech that I had and that I thought would do me through the whole campaign -- it was pertinent to the affairs of the day -- I took another look at it and it was about as appropriate as the Captain of the Titanic saying, "Never mind all that ice. It's for the party Saturday night." (Laughter.)

MORE

And then I found a story in a paper and this paper, this news story, was on the front page of the Sunday paper found in the airplane as I was riding up to Seattle. It had to do with a gentleman named Richard Conlin who was a campaign strategist for the Democratic Party and the Democratic Party Study Committee in Washington consists of about 170 Senators and Congressman and high party functionaries. He, on that night of resignation, was leaving his office to go home and met a young couple who were celebrating the resignation. And, gleefully, they told him they had voted for McGovern. And Mr. Conlin, Democratic strategist, said, "Swell. And we lost that election and now we're going to lose the '74 and the '76 elections."

Now, he might have been exaggerating, but what he was speaking of was the fact that for a year and a half we've been bludgeoned with one thing called Watergate. We've lost special elections, five out of six for the Congress alone, simply on the emotionalism of that one issue. And our opponents were hopeful that they were going to be able to carry out the '74 election on that one issue. The candidates would be chosen by the the people who will have an effect on our lives and the lives of our children for years to come and they wouldn't be questioned on the issues or where they stood philosophically. They would be selected on that one issue alone.

Then someone shot Santa Claus and now they have to get out and stand up and be counted on the issues that really confront us. And one of the reasons they were sorry that this was going to have to happen because in '72 the issues were more clearcut than they have been in the lifetime of any one of us in a national election.

In 1972, it was not so much a selection between candidates as it was a choice of two widely divergent philosophies and the American people, Democrats -- and I hope there are many present -- and Independents -- and I hope they're present, also because I hope they aspire to a better life -- and fellow Republicans all crossed party lines to repudiate and reject the the confiscation and redistribution of the peoples' earnings, the final step into a welfare state, the running of our entire lives by government to an extent greater than we've known so far. This was the thing they didn't want to have to campaign on.

There has been no change in the philosophy of the leadership on the other side, the state or the national level. They still lack faith in our ability to govern ourselves. Arrogantly, they count on the peoples' lack of knowledge to help them continue in office. And I'm afraid they're justified in counting on that.

A recent poll revealed that only 46 percent of the people polled could name their United States Congressman. Even less could name their State Representatives. But of the people who could name their Congressmen, 86 percent of them could not tell you a single thing he stood for, not a single policy that he represented.

We've had too much of this and that's why for 40 years we've had social tinkering by social experimenters that have distorted the relationship between the levels of government and have badly distorted the relationship of the people to their government.

Small businessmen in America spend 130 million manhours a year filling out government paperwork. It adds \$50 billion a year to the cost of doing business which all turns up in the price of the products we buy and contributes to the thing we call inflation.

A druggist in my original state of Illinois says it takes him more time to fill out the government paperwork every time he fills out a prescription than it does to fill out the prescription.

And the State is no different. Last week I vetoed a bill. This was a bill passed by the majority in the legislature and a bill

that would have mandated by the State for every community in California exactly the type of sign and the size sign that a person could put on his lawn in front of his house if he wanted to sell his house. And my veto was based on one thing only. When the bill was presented to us at the cabinet meeting and I heard it for the first time I said, "What business is that of the State government?" And so we vetoed it.

But there are other things that are going on. There is a bill now within the last couple of days that came to my desk -- our opponents are frantic. The law of the State of California says that every political party will in the month of August before an election hold a platform convention so that the people of this State know what the party platform is they're voting on. The Republicans have held theirs. The Peace and Freedom Party has held its convention. They're supposed to register the date of that convention and their intention to hold it on July 1st. Our opponents made no such declaration on July 1st and the Secretary of State who would now be Governor has not upheld the law or enforced the law and here we are coming to the end of August and they have not held a convention and the other day he was asked by the press why he was not enforcing the law and he said, "Maybe we don't need one."

But the law is the law. So, hastily, a bill was passed by the majority in the legislature and laid on my desk with four days to go in August that would have excused their party from holding such a convention until after the election, come next January.

Last night, the Chairman of the Democratic Party called frantically and said, "What is the Governor going to do about that bill because, if he's not going to sign it, I'm going to have to hastily call some kind of a convention and, if I have to, we'll kick the Governor's brains out for making us do it." Well, they can go ahead and kick because I'm still studying that bill. (Laughter). (Applause.)

You know, some of the progress we've made has been mentioned. It has been mentioned the fact, also, that we've been in an uphill fight against a hostile legislature on most of it. I know that I've spoken to you about these things before. Let me just briefly refresh your memory what it was like eight years ago.

I know that our Republican philosophy works because I've seen it work for the last seven years and eight months. The cost of living in California was higher than it was in the rest of the nation. And it had been so for the previous six years.

The State was adding 5,500 new employees each year to the State payroll.

Welfare, which was runaway, was increasing at a rate of 40,000 new cases a month. That's what we were adding to the welfare rolls.

We instituted our program that they called, "Cut, Squeeze, and Trim" and we tried everything we could to get welfare under control. Finally, after a few years of trying, we turned to the people of this State for a task force and told them to find out and bring to us a plan by which we could control this runaway program.

You know, when you find people that are earning \$16,500 a year and were still considered legally eligible for welfare, you had to believe something was wrong with the regulations that were governing it.

And so, we came with our welfare reform, again, to that same legislature. And they denied me the permission to even present the reforms to them, to a joint session of the legislature.

But we took our case to the people, as we have so many times. And government by the people works if the people work at it. And each time public opinion was such that our opponents had to give in. Oh, we always had to compromise a little. We couldn't get all we wanted. We only got 70 percent of the welfare reforms.

Incidentally, on those welfare reforms they told us that, if we got them, they said they would raise the caseload, not lower it. They told us that it would dump the burden onto the counties, on general relief and the county property taxes would go up and they said the needy would starve in the streets and we would have a \$700 million deficit at the end of the year. Other than that, they didn't find much wrong with the whole program. (Laughter.)

So, we started in. Now, we're coming to the end of the eight years. We started enforcing our reforms just three years and five months ago. The welfare rolls are not increasing at 40,000 a month. We have almost 400,000 fewer people on welfare in California than we had just three years ago.

The property taxes in more than 40 of the 58 counties in California have gone down for two years in a row. The taxpayers have been saved almost two billion dollars on welfare alone.

Some of the men who were responsible for those reforms have been taken to the government in Washington by Cap Weinberger at HEW. Their job is to go around the country and persuade other states to implement the similar kind of reforms. And last year for the first time in the history of welfare, it went down at the national level. Forty-seven percent of the decline was in California and the rest was in those states that had implemented our type of reforms. It is still going up in the other states that have not yet been reached.

And, oh, yes -- the \$700 million deficit. That turned out to be an \$850 million surplus and, as you know, we gave it back to you in the form of a one-time tax rebate. And that was the third time we've done such a thing.

To my knowledge, no government has ever followed the practice of giving one-time rebates when it found itself with a surplus, save we've done it three times. This last time at \$850 million, when I proposed that, that was a little like getting between a hog and the bucket. (Laughter.) One Senator protested that giving the money back to the people was an unnecessary expenditure of public funds. (Laughter.)

When the eight years end in January, we will have returned to the people of California in rebates, in tax cuts and things such as the inventory tax being changed, even in the cutting of bridge tolls, \$5.7 billion.

The credit for our bonds, the credit rating by Moody's has been lifted to triple, triple A which is the highest rating you can get -- credit rating. The raise from AA to AAA alone averages saving one and a half percent interest on the interest you have to pay on your bonds and that means hundreds of millions of dollars of savings.

In the meantime, I have vetoed and our Republicans in the legislature have upheld the vetos on over \$15½ billion in additional spending proposed by our opponents. The budget today, without those vetos, would be over \$13 billion, instead of the present very extensive \$10 billion.

Let me tell you what it's like. I shouldn't do this because it might discourage Don and he might want to change his mind. (Laughter.) But I tell it to you because I want you to know how much a Don Peterson is needed in Sacramento.

Saturday, they'll recess and go home for the election. Between now and then, in 48 hours, there will be pandemonium such as you've never seen in what are supposed to be the two deliberative bodies of our legislature. The clock will be stopped on Friday night and they will go into the small hours of the morning and they will be considering and they will be passing judgment on more than 800 pieces of legislation, including bills that involve hundreds of millions of dollars in spending.

And about in the wee, small hours of the morning before Saturday and their anxiety to get home, there will be rivalry and mirth on the floor, there will be tricks played on other legislators, there will be amendments added to bills that won't even be read. I speak from experience because this is what has happened under their leadership ever since I have been in Sacramento.

Last year, one of our legislators had to leave the chamber in those small hours. When he came back, found he had voted on four bills while he was gone. When he stood up to protest, he was declared out of order.

Down to my desk the last year came 450 bills that were passed in 18 hours of almost continuous sitting there. They included \$250 million in additional spending. The same thing will take place in these next few days.

Yesterday, in a committee hearing, rushing its business through, having to do with appointments to the Parole Board and to the Youth Authority, the committee refused to hear members of those boards as witnesses, but did give all the time they wanted to representatives of the Prisoner's Union who wanted to complain about-- register their complaints as to some of the appointments suggested for those particular boards. This is what takes place. This is why the people have got to know more about those who represent them in government and what they stand for.

This is why you have to ask -- incidentally, ask Barry Keene -- you might ask him how did he vote on the bill to exempt his party from telling the people of California what its platform was for the coming election. Ask him where he has stood on a number of the other things, where he stood on limitations.

Why should a legislator, for example, be able to introduce a program that would cost \$300 million additional in the first year and within four years would cost a billion dollars a year and pretend that there is no additional cost and make no effort whatsoever to propose a method for paying for it? And, yet, these things take place.

Today, a gathering like this in many circles is referred to as the gathering of the fat cats. That's what Republicans are all supposed to be. We've heard that for a year and a half. Look around you. You're a pretty good cross-section of America. I've never been able to figure why a rich Republican is a fat cat and a rich Democrat is a public-spirited philanthropist. (Laughter.)

We have a candidate running for the Controller's office on the other side, Assemblyman Court. He spend \$690,000 on the primary to win the nomination and \$600,000 of it came from two contributors. And we're supposed to be party with the fat cats.

No, our party has an opportunity to represent the one special interest group -- and we've heard a lot about special interest groups -- the one special interest group that hasn't had enough representation in government. That special interest group is made up of Democrats, Independents, Republicans, you name it. It's made up, crosses every ethnic and racial line, every religious line, geographic line, it's scattered across the whole United States and up and down this state. They're just Americans who ask of freedom nothing but freedom itself, who ask nothing of government except to be left alone to the extent possible. These are the Americans that get up in the morning and send their kids to school, and go to work, and pay their bills, and support their church and charity. These are the unsung heroes of America and they need representation in government. And I claim that the philosophy of our party, the mandate of 1972 that still exists, that philosophy is more akin to their hopes and dreams and aspirations than anything that our opponents can claim or that they represent.

Therefore, I beg of you, send Don Peterson to Sacramento. I know that the new governor, whoever he may be, in January will be the first governor in 22 years who will inherit a balanced budget and a surplus and will not have to face the necessity of a new tax program to pay for the previous year's spending.

But send him up there because we need to maintain that power. I don't say that we can get a majority in one election for the legislature. We're too far outnumbered. But we can prevent them from passing that two-thirds mark to where they could override the vetos of a Republican governor and thus, be able to add their \$15½ billion in spending.

So, ring doorbells and knock on doors and contribute to the best of your ability and do everything you can to see that Don Peterson represents the Second District in the Assembly and you will be doing yourself a very great favor.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

END