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WASHINGTON

June 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Remarks: California GOP Fundraiser

(June 28, 1983/6:00 p.m. Draft)

Richard Darman has asked that minor edits on the abovereferenced revised draft be sent directly to Aram Bakshian
by 11:00 a.m. today. The draft has already gone to the
President. I saw no legal objections to the original
circulated draft. The only major change is the addition of
a paragraph on page 2, ascribing the loss of Republican
seats in California to Democratic gerrymandering and
expressing support for an alternative reapportionment
proposal. The language comes from Ed Rollins, and reflects
the position of the Republican Party in California. Since
this is a political party event, I have no objection to the
President expressing support for a Republican-sponsored
reapportionment proposal.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

June 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ARAM BAKSHIAN, JR.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Remarks: California GOP Fundraiser

(June 28, 1983/6:00 p.m. Draft)

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF: JGR: aw 6/29/83

cc: FFFielding

JGRoberts

Subj. Chron

WASHINGTON

June 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ARAM BAKSHIAN, JR.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Remarks: California GOP Fundraiser

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JGRoberts

Subj. Chron

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET □ O · OUTGOING ☐ H - INTERNAL ☐ 1 - INCOMING Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) Name of Correspondent: Kichard ☐ Mi Mail Report DISPOSITION **ROUTE TO:** ACTION Tracking Completion Type Action Date Date YY/MM/DD YY/MM/DD Office/Agency (Staff Name) Code Response Code **ORIGINATOR** Referral Note: WATER Referral Note: Referral Note: Referral Note: Referral Note: **DISPOSITION CODES: ACTION CODES:** I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary R - Direct Reply w/Copy A - Answered C - Completed A - Appropriate Action B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response S - For Signature - Furnish Fact Sheet X - Interim Reply FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: to be used as Enclosure Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code Completion Date = Date of Outgoing Comments:

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 28, 1983

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

11:00 tomorrow

June 29, 1983 - Wednesday

SUBJECT:

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CALIFORNIA GOP FUNDRAISER

(June 28, 1983/6:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI		ACTION FYI
VICE PRESIDENT		HARPER	
MEESE		HERRINGTON	
BAKER		JENKINS	
DEAVER		McMANUS	
STOCKMAN		MURPHY	
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GERGEN	D / □	BAKSHIAN	
		FISCHER	

REMARKS:

Please note: This draft speech has gone forward to the President this evening. Forward any minor edits directly to Aram Bakshian, with a copy to my office, by 11:00 tomorrow, Wednesday, June 29.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CALIFORNIA GOP FUNDRAISER LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1983

Thank you very much George. Thank you all for that wonderful, warm California welcome. You know, Nancy and I look forward so much to coming home for these short visits. Seeing old friends like you here tonight is the best part of our trip. And now of course we have a special reason for cheer. How sweet it is to say: Governor George Deukmejian.

George and I go back many years -- more than I think he or I care to remember. Maybe that's because we seem to have so much in common. For one thing, we both have this habit of getting sent to Sacramento -- to clean up after the Browns.

Well, I must say, you all look great. Maybe it's our "spruced" up surroundings. Or could you be smiling because things are looking up for our Grand Old Party in California and across the country?

I'm told that here tonight, thanks to your support, we will raise \$1 million for California Republicans -- what a shot in the arm that will be. Isn't it great to see so many Republicans in California?

It wasn't always that way. It wasn't long ago that
Republicans seemed as plentiful as spring water in Death Valley.
And I ought to know, I spent a good part of my life on that
desolate piece of real estate.

I'm reminded of a story about a Republican candidate searching for votes in Mississippi. It seems this man

dropped in on a farm and introduced himself as a Republican candidate. And as he tells it, the farmer's eyes lit up and then he said. "Hold everything until I get my wife. We've never seen a Republican before." And a few minutes later he was back with his wife and they asked if he would give them a speech. He looked around for a podium, something to stand on. And the only thing available was a pile of that stuff that the late

Mrs. Truman said it had taken her 35 years to get Harry to call "fertilizer." So he stepped up on that and made his speech. And apparently he won them over. And they told him it was the first time they'd ever heard a Republican. And he said, "That's okay. This is the first time I've ever given a speech from a Democratic platform."

Well, our party is strong and growing and I'm proud to say we've got a leader in this state doing a tremendous job. And you know I'm talking about my former Lieutenant Governor, and your State Chairman, Ed Reinecke.

We did all right last year at the top of the ticket, and we'll do better in 1984. Our losses were due less to Jerry Brown than to gerrymandering. Under the Democratic-reapportionment plan, the Democrats took back by fancy map drawing the six Congressional seats we had won in the last two elections. Hopefully, with the qualification of the Sebastiani reapportionment plan, and its passage, Republicans can gain back the seats we lost so unfairly in 1982.

One reapportionment victim was John Rousselot. John ran a terrific race. His wife even campaigned for him in Spanish, and he almost pulled off a great upset. But let me assure you: your

loss is our gain. John Rousselot is now one of my special assistants, and I'm mighty pleased to have his help.

I'm also pleased to have another local success story working closely with us in Washington -- our senator, the good California senator, Pete Wilson. And let me take this opportunity to thank the loyal members of our House delegation here with us tonight. They are wonderful, and if I could rate the delegations, California's would be a 10.

Now as I mentioned, we know what a tough job George

Deukmejian has. But let's make something else plain: if anyone
in California has the talent, experience and determination to
turn this State around -- George will do it.

He's been taking the no-nonsense stands we need on the budget, education and crime. He's proving the truth of Andrew Jackson's words, "One man with courage makes a majority." George wants to make it safe for Californians to walk their streets again without having to be afraid. He said no to Prop 15 because you won't get gun control by disarming law abiding citizens. There's only one way you get real gun control: disarm the thugs and career criminals, lock them up, and throw away the key.

George also wants to help working people keep their earnings safe from all those who would bleed them dry with higher and higher taxes. I notice there have been some complaints against Prop 13. Anything that could conceivably be better will be done with more tax dollars. Maybe you could help George by sending a message: Tell them the people approved Prop 13, the people still want Prop 13 and the people will defend Prop 13.

I think I can sympathize with what George is up against.

When I was here a year ago, I said we were engaged in an epic conflict with the proponents of "no," the people who offer the politics of no growth, no take-home pay, no incentives to work or save.

We arrived in Washington to find an economic calamity dumped in our laps: spending increasing at an annual rate of 17 percent; double-digit inflation; record interest rates; and a tax system pushing working families into higher brackets faster than they could earn or save.

It took us nearly the entire first year to get our program approved, and even then, the tax cut had to be watered down. The morning after the tax cut passed, the liberals announced the program had failed. I said that in fairness, to borrow their favorite word, we needed a little more time.

Do you remember all those predictions they made which received so much publicity? They said the our program would guarantee double-digit inflation. Well, they left us inflation of 12.4, and we've knocked it down to 3.5 percent over the last year — the lowest in a decade. They said the program would push interest rates to a new record. Well, the prime rate was 21.5 percent when they left. Today it's 10.5.

Since so much of what they said, and are still saying, is pure propaganda, let me give you one prediction you can count on. Despite all their attacks and demagoguery, the full and final portion of the tax cut -- the 10 percent -- will go into effect in less than 24 hours, and it will be followed by indexing in 1985.

You know, if they had their way, I think the Democrats would want to tax motherhood and apple pie, but don't worry because we've not going to let them do it.

What we see is a recovery gaining momentum and an economy beginning to sparkle: tax rates have been cut; real wages are improving; retail sales are up; productivity has reversed its decline; the stock market has surged into new, high ground; venture capital investments have reached record levels; production is increasing in one industry after another; more and more workers are being called back, and in the words of Al Jolson, "you ain't seen nothin yet, folks."

Maybe it's time we told our critics: "If you can't cooperate and work with us, if you can't do anything but carp, whine and oppose . . . then stand aside, get out of the way and let us get on with it."

You know I've asked this before, but maybe you've noticed it too. Now that our program is working, how come they don't call it Reaganomics anymore? I never wanted to call it that. I've always thought it was the people's program. But I will say one thing: I'll take Reaganomics over Taxonomics anyday. The last thing we need is more taxes for more spending. And if the spenders can't get that straight, then I am prepared to veto their budget-busting bills again and again and again.

Tax rates affect prices for working, saving and investing.

And when you raise the prices of those productive activities, you get less of them and more activity in the underground economy, tax shelters and leisure pursuits. Business people can't force the public to buy products that aren't selling by raising their

prices. But too many in Washington and across the country still believe that we can raise more revenues <u>from</u> the economy, by making it more expensive to work, save and invest in the economy.

The truth is, since the capital gains tax was cut in 1978, revenues to the government have gone up. And since we lowered the top rate of personal income tax from 70 to 50 percent in 1981, we're collecting more revenues from this consolidated 50 percent tax bracket. And that's the secret of good taxes. As I've said before, we didn't run up a trillion dollar debt because you're not taxed enough. We ran up that debt because government spends too much.

We cannot compromise fundamental principles without compromising ourselves and our future. We're not asking the Congress to do what's easy. We're asking them Democrats and Republicans alike -- to work with us to do what's right.

Doing what's right includes standing up for a strong, national defense, making America second to none. We believe that what occurred during the last decade -- when the Soviets raced ahead militarily and we stood still -- was wrong. We believe it is immoral to ask the sons and daughters of America to protect this land with second-rate equipment and weapons that won't work.

We are not a belligerent people. We have never sought war we have always sought peace. We occupy no country, we build no walls to keep our people in, and we have no armies of secret police to keep them quiet. But we must understand our foes will do everything they can to divide us and undermine our will. To keep our families safe, to keep our country at peace, the enemies

of democracy must know that America has the courage to stay strong -- and I intend to make sure they do.

The security of our country, of course, depends on more than weapons. We must have the will to meet the challenges to our vital interests. What is going on now in Central America, only a few hundred miles from our shores, directly affects the United States' national security.

Two-thirds of all our foreign trade and petroleum pass through the Panama Canal and the sealanes of the Caribbean. But look in that area and what have we seen: Construction in Cuba of a Naval base at Cienfuegos, from which Soviet nuclear submarines can now operate; a Soviet capacity for air reconnaissance over our Eastern coast from Cuban bases; the building of an enormous war machine in Nicaragua, aided by thousands of Cuban military personnel, sophisticated weapons including Soviet-made tanks, and arms from Cuba, the Soviet Union, the eastern bloc, Libya, and the PLO, to name a few.

The Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan war machine is not being built to make Central America safe for democracy. It's not being built to pursue peace there, or economic and social reform. It is being built to subvert the peace and impose communism by force.

I appreciate the sincere motives of those who point out the faults of our friends and insist on reforms. El Salvador is trying to build democracy. El Salvador did hold elections, and under threats of death, a much greater percentage of their people voted than in our own country.

I agree with those who insist on economic as well as military assistance to Central America. I just wonder why the

news media so seldom reminds the public that we're giving more than twice as much economic aid as military aid. But I must come back to the main point: U.S. security, the safety of American citizens, that's why Central America matters so much. Either we pay a modest price now, so we can prevent a crisis; or, we listen to the do-nothings and risk an explosion of violence that could bring real danger to our own borders.

We must not turn our backs on our friends. We must not permit dictators to ram communism down the throats of innocent people in one country after another. If we are to be successful in helping the forces for democracy, then we must have the full financial package we requested. If we do not get what we asked for, we cannot do the job and we will leave the door open to more subversion.

You know, the Soviet paper, Pravda, recently said something I actually support. It said that peace in Central America is possible only on the basis of respect for the right of each people to choose itself its way of life. Well, I would only add this -- the two perfect places to begin are Cuba and Nicaragua where free and democratic elections are not permitted.

To those dictators we say this: "Prove to the world your system is legitimate. Prove you're not afraid of your own people. Put down your guns. Permit a free press. Stop harrassing your priests and let your people vote." Then we'll see if they truly desire your repression and regimentation, or the chance for a new life with dignity and opportunity in freedom.

What we have in this country is the most precious gift God has given to mankind. Our country, more than any other, has been blessed with liberty and abundance.

A few years ago some people were counting America out, claiming that our best days were behind us, that our country was in decline. Well, not anymore. That pessimism is something else we've turned around.

We have an agenda for growth and security and we can be proud of what we're doing. Let us tell the people who we are and what we stand for. We are the party that fights for lower taxes, more opportunity, stable prices, a sound dollar, and peace through strength. We believe that standing up for America means standing up for the God who has so blessed our land.

Lincoln charted our course. "I am not bound to win," he said, "but I am bound to be true." And he said, "Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

We are rebuilding America. If we stick together and trust in God, we will make this wonderful land all we have ever dreamed she could be.

Thank you very much and God bless you all.

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Presidential Address: 75th Anniversary

of the FBI, Tuesday, July 26, 1983

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the above-referenced draft remarks be sent directly to Aram Bakshian by 11:00 a.m. today. The remarks are intended to accompany the signing of the FBI Day Proclamation on July 26. The brief remarks begin by lauding the FBI and move to a discussion of the Bureau's newest mission -- no, not reviewing campaign activities, but investigating narcotics cases. Tony Dolan drafted the remarks and accordingly discussion of the new drug offensive quickly shifts to a discussion of organized crime. The remarks end with a call for renewed efforts against the mob. I have no objections.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ARAM BAKSHIAN, JR.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Prig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Address: 75th Anniversary

of the FBI, Tuesday, July 26, 1983

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential address and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF: JGR: aw 7/25/83

cc: FFFielding

*JGRoberts

Subj. Chron

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ARAM BAKSHIAN, JR.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 22	ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:	11:00	a.m.	July 25
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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FBI

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1983

	ACTION	FYI		AC	TION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT			HARPER		9	
MEESE			HERRINGTON			
BAKER			JENKINS			
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FIELDING			BRADY/SPEAKES			
FULLER			BAKSHIAN FISCHER			
GERGEN			HENKEL			

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits directly to Aram Bakshian by 11:00 a.m. Monday, July 25, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Dolan/AB)
July 22, 1983
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FBI TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1983

Judge Webster, special agents and staff of the FBI, distinguished guests.

The proclamation I am about to sign outlines the history and accomplishments of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Believe me, it makes for impressive reading. But I could not help thinking this morning that no document or official history of the exploits of the men and women of the FBI could ever really capture what the bureau -- what the letters "FBI" themselves -- mean to the people whose way of life you are sworn to serve and protect.

To the American people you are a legend; and this is rightfully so. FBI agents have always been thought of as a cut above ordinary, as law enforcement agents whose dedication and professionalism make them a first line of defense against 'mobsters, spies, corrupt public officials, and other professional wrongdoers who prey on the innocent and undermine the moral foundations of our society. The personal qualities of the special agents of the FBI have made the bureau the most corruption-free institution in the history of law enforcement, and one of the most modern and advanced agencies of its kind in the world.

Recently, we have passed through a painful era in American history when it seemed that many of our proudest values and most important institutions were called into question. It is my

personal belief that as mindless and destructive as some of this criticism was, its final result has been not only a reaffirmation of those institutions and those values but a new and greater understanding and appreciation for their usefulness and their meaning.

Today, under Judge Webster's leadership, the FBI takes on great new challenges -- for the first time you are involved in the investigation of narcotics and dangerous drugs trade and already you have brought to this endeavor the kind of expertise and skill we have come to expect of you.

The challenge of crime today in America is a grave one. As you know, upon entering office this Administration addressed itself immediately to the economic crisis we were facing at that time as well as to the dangerous decline that had taken place in our Nation's national security and military strength. Yet even while we worked on these difficult problems we still kept work on the Nation's crime problem foremost in our mind.

Last year, when I announced at the Justice Department our eight-point program for attacking this problem, I was pleased to be able to announce a very sizable expansion of Justice Department personnel including for the first time in many years additional agents for the FBI. We are now moving forward with the other elements of that crime program; we are doing so methodically and carefully but with one goal in mind. The recent increase in the drug trade, which has led to your new role in this battle, is really a reflection of an even deeper problem: the criminal networks and syndicates that have been tolerated in

America for too long. I can only repeat to you that we are going after organized crime root and branch; our goal is to break the power of the mob in America and nothing short of it. We mean to end their profits, imprison their members, and cripple their organization.

The FBI has been, and is today, in the forefront of this battle. In recent years you have scored admirable successes against professional criminals and their organizations. What is called for now is a national strategy and a unified effort to achieve this objective.

On this, your 75th anniversary, I ask you to redouble your efforts to break apart and ultimately cripple the criminal syndicates in America. The FBI's record of fidelity, bravery, and integrity is a long and distinguished one. At each turn in your history, when criminals have engaged in new or advanced forms of criminal activity, you have led the law enforcement community in responding to these threats. Once again, you are being asked by the American people for that kind of leadership, that kind of selfless dedication. I want to say to you that I know you will respond as you always have -- with excellence and with fervor. I want to say to all the agents and staff of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that the American people are proud of your past and your present -- and we are grateful that you will be there for all of the challenges that lie in our future.

And now I will sign the proclamation designating today, July 26, 1983, as FBI Day.

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Reception for National Council

of Negro Women (7/26 - 5:00 Draft)

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the above-referenced remarks be sent directly to Aram Bakshian by 1:00 p.m. today. The remarks praise the work of the National Council of Negro Women, and review the Administration's record in the area of employment discrimination, minority appointments, housing discrimination, and education. The remarks strike me as legally unobjectionable.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ARAM BAKSHIAN, JR.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Reception for National

Council of Negro Women (7/26 - 5:00 Draft)

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aw 7/27/83

cc: FFFielding

JGRoberts

Subj. Chron

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ARAM BAKSHIAN, JR.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

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COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Reception for National

Council of Negro Women (7/26 - 5:00 Draft)

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cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF: JGR: aw 7/27/83

cc: FFFielding

JGRoberts

Subj. Chron

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:	REMARKS: RECEPTION FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN
	(7/26 - 5:00 draft)

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VICE PRESIDENT	/	HARPER	\ \	
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REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Aram Bakshian by $\frac{1:00 \text{ tomorrow}}{\text{copy to my office}}$. Wednesday, July 27, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Maseng/Keshishian/AB) July 26, 1983 5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: RECEPTION FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1983

Thank you very much, Faith, and thank you for bringing us together this afternoon. Nancy and I are delighted to welcome Dorothy Height and the National Council of Negro Women to the White House. I can think of no group that better represents what is good and right and hopeful about America. You of the Council have been an important force for progress and opportunity not just in America, but around the world. On behalf of the thousands you have helped and a Nation you have made proud, I thank you. And I especially would like to recognize the superb leadership of your President, Dorothy Height.

Dorothy has been quoted as saying, "We have common problems, common desires and common goals, it is time for us to begin to work on the problems of the world, together." Her words have 'never been more true than today. Our country and our people face serious challenges and our values and families are bearing considerable strain. We need unity, not divisiveness, to see us through. If we are to remain strong and free and good, we must not waste the talents of one mind, the muscle of one body or the potential of a single soul. We need all our people -- men and women, young and old, individuals of every race -- to be healthy and happy and whole. Our young people must grow up free of drugs, our families must stay together, our people must have jobs and our elderly must live out their days secure from want and

free from fear. I know these are your goals, and I want you to know that I share them.

Your Alliance for Volunteerism, Operation Cope, and the National Collaboration for Children and Youth, to name just a few of your projects, testify to your commitment. Although there is so much yet to do, the National Council has achieved incredible success. Your willingness to give of yourselves should lift the hearts of all who are tired and discouraged. Dorothy's words, which I know have been an inspiration to you, must become a rallying cry for all Americans who love freedom and who believe, as I do, that we are one family of humankind. Together, we can make our dreams real. Obstacles of inequality and discrimination are still great, but our combined determination to overcome them is greater. If we persevere together we can and we will succeed together.

As women and as blacks, few know better than you the difficult problems of discrimination. And through your volunteer work you are keenly sensitive to the needs of our underprivileged and disadvantaged. I want to listen and learn and to help in your cause. And let me also take this opportunity to make one important point very plain: the door to the Oval Office will always be open to Dorothy Height and the members of the National Council of Negro Women.

My open door, open mind policy may surprise some of you who've heard me described as a hardliner. Yes, I'm a hardliner when it comes to civil rights. I'll take the hard line every day when it comes to rooting out discrimination in employment, in housing, in education and in every other area of American life.

In terms of equal employment opportunity, you'll find we far outstrip the efforts of the previous administration. We are fighting 116 ongoing cases against public employers charged with discriminating against blacks, and we're fighting them across the country -- from New York to Texas. And you'll also find that we've appointed more women and minorities to high policy making positions in 2 years than did any other administration in our history.

And to fight housing discrimination, I've made good on my pledge to put real teeth into the Fair Housing Law. We believe all Americans should be free to choose where to make their homes. If our proposed amendments are passed by the Congress, heavy financial penalties will be levied for the first time against those who practice bigotry and discrimination in housing.

And we also believe that a good, solid education is the right of every child in our land. It is a vital, first step to opportunity, the means by which American families traditionally have made life better for themselves and the generations who followed. That's why we've launched a national campaign to improve the quality of America's classrooms, and have begun to outline an agenda for excellence in education that will leave no child behind. We also are aggressively combating segregation in schools. The Justice Department, for example, has recently taken legal action against both Mississippi and Alabama, charging discrimination in their higher education systems. At the same time, we are actively investigating discriminatory practices in Ohio.

I could go on and on, but I don't think you want or need me to read lists of accomplishments. If you like, I can provide more details for you later. But let me assure you, I hear your call. With your help, this Administration will continue to respond not just with words, but with action. You may not have heard much in the media about our commitment, but -- take it from an informed White House source -- it's here, and we will continue to build a record that proves it.

Your founder, Dr. Bethune, once said black people in America only want what other Americans want -- an opportunity to make real what the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights say, what the Four Freedoms establish. She said black people understand these ideals are open to no one completely, they only want an equal chance to obtain them.

That's what we want for all Americans, too. And that's why
I ask your help so that we can work together to preserve and
enhance those basic but precious freedoms that Dr. Bethune so
eloquently expressed. Let me say again, my door is open, and so
is Faith Whittlesey's. Let's make this meeting the beginning of
a lasting, positive relationship. We may not always agree on
every detail, but, together, we can make the land we all love a
better, freer place for our children and our children's children.

I'm afraid I've used up more than my share of the schedule. So thank you for joining us here today, I look forward to working with you, and God bless you.