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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 28, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Remarks:
National Prayer Breakfast

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

cc: Richard G. Darman
bcc: Dianna Holland

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1Name of Correspondent: Richard Darman☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Proposed Presidential Remarks:
National Prayer Breakfast (1-28-10:30 am
draft)

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CUHOLL</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85,01,28</u>		<u>1/1</u>
<u>CUAT18</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>85,01,28</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>85,01,28</u> <u>5:00pm</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>

ACTION CODES:

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FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
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Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 1/28/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 p.m. TONIGHTSUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST
(1/28 - 10:30 a.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	MURPHY	☐	☒
MEESE	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☒	☐
BAKER	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☐
DEAVER	☐	☒	SPEAKES	☐	☒
STOCKMAN	☒	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
DARMAN	☐ P	☒ SS	VERSTANDIG	☒	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	WHITTLESEY	☒	☐
FULLER	☒	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒
HERRINGTON	☐	☐	HENKEL	☒	☐
HICKEY	☒	☐		☐	☐
McFARLANE	☒	☐		☐	☐
McMANUS	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits/comments directly to Ben Elliott, with a copy to my office, by 5:00 p.m. TONIGHT. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

1985 JAN 28 PM 1:04

(Noonan/BE)
January 28, 1985
10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1985

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much.

It's good to be here again. In fact it's very good. This is one of the meetings I've looked forward to most each year since coming to Washington.

I want to personally welcome our guests from other countries to Washington, to our capital. We are happy to have you here with us. I would also like to say something about how this National Prayer Breakfast came about. I think some of the story may be unknown even to a few of our hosts from the Congress here today.

Back in 1942, at the height of World War Two, a handful of Senators discussed how they might be of personal and spiritual support to one another in the midst of their demanding lives. If they could gather now and then to pray together they might discover an added resource which would be of sustaining value. And so, very informally, they began to meet. The following year a handful of Congressmen began to do the same in the House.

And in time, in both groups, some informal rules evolved. The members would meet in a spirit of peace, in the spirit of Christ. All members would be welcome, regardless of their political or religious affiliation -- sincere seekers as well as the deeply devoted, all on a common journey to understand the place of faith in their lives, and to discover how to love God and one's fellow man. They would not publicize the meetings --

no one would use them for any kind of political gain. The meetings would be off-the-record -- no one would repeat what was said. And above all, the members could talk about anything, any personal problem on which they needed guidance, any sadness for which they needed prayers. They might, for instance, talk about some of the unique problems faced by those in public life: how to use power for people and not for personal advantage -- and how to put others before ourselves.

The two groups met, quietly and with no fanfare, for 10 years. Then President Eisenhower came into the story.

In 1952, when he was running for President, his campaign manager was a fine man, a Senator named Frank Carlson. He was kind of Ike's Paul Laxalt. One night out on the campaign trail Eisenhower confided to Senator Carlson that during the war, when he was commanding the Allied forces in Europe, he had had a spiritual experience. He had felt the hand of God guiding him; he had felt the presence of God as a companion, as a rock. And he spoke of how his friends had provided real spiritual strength in the days before D-Day. Senator Carlson said he understood -- he himself was getting spiritual strength from the members of a little prayer group in the Senate.

A few months later, just a few days after he was sworn in as President, Eisenhower called Frank Carlson and invited him over to the White House. And he said, "Frank, this is the loneliest house I've ever been in. What can I do?" And Carlson said, "I think this may be a good time for you to come meet with our prayer group." And Eisenhower did. He attended the first combined prayer breakfast in 1953.

And Presidents have been coming here for relief and succor ever since. And here I am.

The prayer meetings in the House and Senate are not widely known by the public. Members of the media know, but they have, with great understanding and dignity, generally kept it quiet. They understood the meetings might lose their authenticity if they became a news story. You know, I've had my moments with the press, but I commend them this day for the way they've worked to maintain the integrity of this movement.

Some wonderful things have come out of this fellowship. A number of public figures have changed as human beings -- changed in ways I'd like to talk about but it might reveal too much about the membership.

Other great things have happened. Fellowships have begun to spring up throughout the capital; they exist now in all three branches of the Government. And they have spread throughout the capitals of the world -- to parliaments and congresses far away.

Since we met last year, another thing has happened. Members of the fellowships throughout the world have begun meeting with each other. Members of our Congress have met with leaders and officials from other countries, approaching them and speaking to them not on a political level but a spiritual level. I wish I could say more about it but it is working precisely because it is private. I can tell you that in some of the most troubled parts of the world, political figures who are old enemies are meeting with each other in a spirit of peace, meeting with each other in

the spirit of Christ. Some of those who have been involved in such meetings are here today.

I believe there is lasting hope here. There are many wars in the world, and much strife, but these meetings build relationships -- which build trust -- and trust brings hope and courage.

I think we often forget, in the daily rush of events, the importance, in all human dealings of the spiritual dimension. There are such diversities in the world, such terrible and passionate divisions between men. But, prayer and fellowship remind us of the great overarching things that really unite us.

After you've been in this job of mine for a few years, you have seen so much, met with so many people, and dealt with so many of the problems of man. And you can't help being moved by the quiet, unknown heroism of all kinds of people. The Prime Minister from another country who makes the bravest of brave decisions that is right but may not be too popular with his constituency. Or the fellow from Indiana who writes to me about some problems he's been having and what he did to solve them.

Sometimes leadership is an epiphany. And you see the heroism and the goodness of man and you know in a special way that we are all God's children. The convict in jail and the millionaire's daughter are God's children; the clerk and the King and the communist were made in His image. We all have souls. And we all have the same problems, all the problems of love and responsibility, of desire and disappointment.

I am convinced, more than ever, that the only way to penetrate man, to resolve the problems we face on Earth, is to communicate on a spiritual level. And I believe in the Big Paradox: that man finds liberation only when he binds himself to God, and commits himself to his fellow man.

Last year I told a story that I think makes this point. I repeat it because it is so pertinent to this wonderful group.

It is a story that goes back to the fourth century. At that time there was an Asian monk living in a little, remote village. He tended his garden and spent much of his time in prayer. And one day he thought he heard the voice of God telling him to go to Rome. He obeyed the Lord's command, and set out on foot. Weeks later he arrived in the capital city of the Roman Empire.

And it was at the time of the great festival in Rome. They were celebrating a triumph over the Goths. And the man, Telecmacmus, followed a crowd into the coliseum, and there in the midst of the great crowd he saw the gladiators come forth and stand before the Emperor and say, "We who are about to die, salute you."

And he realized they were going to fight to the death for the entertainment of the crowds. And Telecmacmus cried out, "In the name of Christ, stop!" But his voice was lost in the roar of the great coliseum.

And as the games began he made his way down through the crowd and climbed over the wall and dropped to the floor of the arena. And suddenly the crowds saw this small little figure making his way out to the gladiators and saying, "In the name of

Christ, stop!" And they thought it was part of the entertainment, and they laughed. But when they realized it wasn't, they grew angry. And as he was pleading with the gladiators, "In the name of Christ, stop!" one of them plunged his sword into his body. And as he fell to the sand of the arena in death, he spoke his last words. "In the name of Christ, stop!"

Suddenly a strange thing began to happen. The gladiators stood and looked at the tiny figure in the sand. And a silence fell over the coliseum. And then, way up in the upper tiers, one man made his way to an exit and left. And others began to follow. And in the dead silence everyone left the coliseum.

That was the last battle to the death between gladiators in the Roman coliseum. Never again in that great hall did men kill each other for the entertainment of the crowd.

And all because of one tiny voice that could hardly be heard above the roar of the crowd. One tiny voice that spoke the truth in God's name. I believe -- I know -- that voice is alive today. And may it continue to rise above the tumult and be heard.

Thank you so much. And God bless you.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) _____

Name of Correspondent: _____

Richard Darman☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____

(B) _____

(C) _____

Subject: _____

Presidential Speech Planning Schedule
-- January 28, 1985**ROUTE TO:****ACTION****DISPOSITION**

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>OUHOLL</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85/01/28</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>85/01/28</u>
<u>CUFIEL</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>85/01/28</u>			
<u>CUAT 04</u>	Referral Note:	<u>85/01/28</u>			
<u>CUAT 14</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>85/01/28</u>			
<u>CUAT 09</u>	Referral Note:	<u>85/01/28</u>			
<u>CUAT 17</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>85/01/28</u>			
<u>CUAT 02</u>	Referral Note:	<u>85/01/28</u>			
<u>CUAT 18</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>85/01/28</u>			
<u>CUAT 19</u>	Referral Note:	<u>85/01/28</u>			
	<u>I</u>	<u>85/01/28</u>			
	Referral Note:	<u>85/01/28</u>			

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/28/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: FYI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHEDULE -- JANUARY 28, 1985

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	MURPHY	☐	☒
MEESE	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☐	☒
BAKER	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☒
DEAVER	☐	☒	SPEAKES	☐	☒
STOCKMAN	☐	☒	SVAHN	☐	☒
DARMAN	☐	☒	VERSTANDIG	☐	☒
FIELDING	☐	☒	WHITTLESEY	☐	☒
FULLER	☐	☒	ELLIOTT	☐	☒
HERRINGTON	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
HICKEY	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
McFARLANE	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
McMANUS	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments to Ben Elliott, with a copy to my office.
Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

1985 JAN 28 PM 1:01

January 28, 1985

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHEDULE

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WRITER RESEARCHER</u>	<u>TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE</u>
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A. SPEECHES

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

01/31
Thursday

Peggy
Elizabeth

STATE OF THE UNION

02/06
Wednesday

Ben

BOY SCOUTS ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

02/08
Friday

Al
Elizabeth

MEETING WITH GOVERNORS

02/25
Monday

C. REMARKS

DINNER WITH FRESHMEN MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS & SPOUSES

01/29
Tuesday

Peter
KimW

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS
FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE

01/30
Wednesday

Al
Kim

DROPBY BUDGET BRIEFING

02/04
Monday

Peter
KimW

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WRITER RESEARCHER</u>	<u>TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE</u>
GOVERNORS' STATE DINNER	02/24 Sunday		

D. FOREIGN VISITS

PRIME MINISTER HAWKE OF AUSTRALIA DEPARTURE STATEMENT	02/07 Thursday	Dana Julie	
KING FAHD OF SAUDI ARABIA STATE VISIT	02/11 Monday	Dana Julie	
PRIME MINISTER THATCHER: DEPARTURE STATEMENT	02/20 Wednesday	Dana Julie	

E. TAPINGS

TAPING: AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOC. NATIONAL TELECONFERENCE	01/29 Tuesday	Al KimW	
TAPING: MODEL UNITED NATIONS MEETING AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY	01/29 Tuesday	Dana Julie	
TAPING: INTERNATIONAL WINTER SPECIAL OLYMPICS	01/29 Tuesday	Dana Elizabeth	

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WRITER RESEARCHER</u>	<u>TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE</u>
TAPING: TRIBUTE TO WALTER ANNENBERG	02/21 Thursday	Dana KimW	

TAPING: ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS ANNUAL CONVENTION	02/21 Thursday		
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G. RADIO TALKS

RADIO TALK:	02/02 Saturday		
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RADIO TALK:	02/09 Saturday		
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RADIO TALK:	02/16 Saturday		
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RADIO TALK:	02/23 Saturday		
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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ 3 - OUTGOING

☐ 4 - INTERNAL

☐ 1 - INCOMING

 Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD)

 Name of Correspondent: Richard Darman
☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (E) _____ (C) _____

 Subject: Presidential Speech Planning Schedule
11/7/85

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CUA 104</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:			
<u>CUA 704</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 714</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 720</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 727</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 730</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
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<u>CUA 743</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
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<u>CUA 750</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 753</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 758</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 760</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 763</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 768</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
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<u>CUA 773</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
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<u>CUA 848</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 850</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
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<u>CUA 888</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
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<u>CUA 893</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 898</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 900</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
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<u>CUA 910</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 913</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 918</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 920</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 923</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
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<u>CUA 940</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 943</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 948</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 950</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 953</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 958</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 960</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 963</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 968</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 970</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 973</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 978</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 980</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 983</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 988</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 990</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 993</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 998</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>CUA 1000</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>8510107</u>		<u>1 1</u>

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Comments: _____

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/7/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHEDULE - 1/7/85

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MURPHY	☐	☒
MEESE	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☐	☒
BAKER	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☒
DEAVER	☐	☒	SPEAKES	☐	☒
STOCKMAN	☐	☒	SVAHN	☐	☒
DARMAN	☐	☒	VERSTANDIG	☐	☒
FIELDING	☐	☒	WHITTLESEY	☐	☒
FULLER	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
HERRINGTON	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
HICKEY	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
McFARLANE	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
McMANUS	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments to Ben Elliott, with an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

1985 JAN -7 AM 11:41

January 7, 1985

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHEDULE

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WRITER RESEARCHER</u>	<u>TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE</u>
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A. SPEECHES

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

01/21
Monday

ADDRESS 1985 EXECUTIVE FORUM

01/25
Friday

Peggy
Kim

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

01/29
Tuesday

Ben

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

01/31
Thursday

Peggy
Elizabeth

C. REMARKS

RECEPTION FOR HUMAN EVENTS

01/08
Tuesday

Tony
Kim

DROPHY MICHAEL EVANS EXHIBIT AT
CONCORAN ART GALLERY

01/14
Monday

Peter
Kim

DROPHY HOOVER INSTITUTION RECEPTION
AT CONCORAN ART GALLERY

01/15
Tuesday

Josh
Julie

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WRITER RESEARCHER</u>	<u>TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE</u>
DROPBY MEETING OF REPUBLICAN MAYORS	01/16 Wednesday	Josh KimW	
DROPBY RECEPTION FOR CITIZENS FOR AMERICA	01/17 Thursday	Tony Julie	
ALFALFA CLUB DINNER	01/26 Saturday	Peter	
PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE	01/30 Wednesday	Al Kim	

D. FOREIGN VISITS

DEPARTURE STATEMENT: PRIME MINISTER MARTENS OF BELGIUM	01/14 Monday	Dana Julie	
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E. TAPINGS

TAPING: NATIONAL AUTO DEALERS' CONVENTION	01/10 Thursday	Al Kim	
TAPING: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROAD- CASTERS CONVENTION	01/10 Thursday	Ben Elizabeth	

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WRITER RESEARCHER</u>	<u>TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE</u>
TAPING: GENERIC MESSAGE	01/10 Thursday	Dana KimW	
TAPING: FIFTH ANNUAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DINNER	01/10 Thursday	Dana Elizabeth	
TAPING: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TELEVISION PROGRAM EXECUTIVES	01/10 Thursday	Peggy Julie	
TAPING: REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S 1985 MEETING	01/10 Thursday	Al KimW	

G. RADIO TALKS

RADIO TALK:	01/26 Saturday	Ben	
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Remarks: Dropby Briefing for the Grace
Commission (2/20/85 -- 5:00 p.m. Draft)

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

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) _____

Name of Correspondent: _____

David Chew☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____

(B) _____

(C) _____

Subject: _____

*Remarks: Dropby Briefing for the
Grace Commission (2/20/85 - 5:00 pm
draft)*

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)

Action
CodeTracking
Date
YY/MM/DDType
of
Response

Code

Completion
Date
YY/MM/DD*CU Hall*

ORIGINATOR

85,02,20

Referral Note:

*R**85,02,20**S 85,02,21*

Referral Note:

NCWN

Referral Note:

Referral Note:

Referral Note:

ACTION CODES:

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 2/20/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON TOMORROW 2/21SUBJECT: REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR THE GRACE COMMISSION
(2/20/85 - 5:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	MURPHY	☒	☐
MEESE	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☒	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☐
DEAVER	☐	☒	SPEAKES	☐	☒
STOCKMAN	☒	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	VERSTANDIG	☒	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	WHITTLESEY	☐	☐
FULLER	☒	☐	KINGON	☒	☐
TUTTLE	☐	☐	BUCHANAN	☒	☐
HICKEY	☐	☐	ROLLINS	☒	☐
McFARLANE	☐	☐	FRIEDERSDORF	☒	☐
McMANUS	☒	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by noon tomorrow, February 21st, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

1985 FEB 20 PM 6:03

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Dolan/BE)
February 20, 1985
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR THE GRACE COMMISSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1985

As you know, we have our share of meetings and visitors in this room. Believe me, though, there's no group I'd rather see coming this way than all of you, and no subject more dear to my heart than the one to which you have so generously dedicated your time and talent during the past few years.

I hope you'll let me reminisce here for a moment. I remember back during the campaign of 1980 I used to bring up the subject of waste, fraud, and abuse in the national Government, and even mentioned the idea of a commission like yours. Out there on the campaign trail it was an issue that really hit home, but somehow, back here in Washington, it never really played as well. To the permanent establishment, waste and fraud was a little bit like the issue of higher taxes -- it was okay for politicians to talk about it now and then, but it was never really considered kosher to go out and talk as if you meant it.

Well, come to think of it, we did do something about higher taxes. And then, just when the Washington establishment was getting over the shock from that one, we came up with this little number called the Grace Commission . . . and that put some of them right back in intensive care.

The impact you've had in this City is testimony to your own dedication and to that of your leadership. Now right here, somebody suggested that I mention that when I asked Peter Grace to take on the responsibility of running this Commission I had no

idea of the kind of energetic but healthy troublemaking I was contracting for . . . I'm sure they must have been kidding. I mean, anybody who knows Peter Grace for more than 5 minutes knows that he is not a man who . . . let me see how I can phrase this . . . a man who dislikes taking things to their logical conclusions.

And that's exactly what Peter and all of you have done. With dedication and selflessness, you succeeded where others failed; you provided clear, concise, and practical recommendations to enormously complicated problems; and instead of stopping there, you went out to build a ground-swell of support for the Grace Commission recommendations throughout this country. Recently, I know you've participated in the House Budget Committee hearings held at various points around the country. And now Peter and Jack Anderson -- and if that isn't an unusual but high octane, team I don't know what is -- have created a group called Citizens Against Waste. It's a group that will be a focus for citizen action, a truly bipartisan organization whose only loyalty is to the one special interest group we should all support because we all belong to it: The 77 million U.S. taxpayers who with their work, patriotism, and -- may I say immense patience -- finance the Federal Government.

I think this kind of grassroots educational program will, like the Grace Commission itself, focus on the abuse of taxpayer dollars and hold elected and appointed officials accountable. In doing this, Citizens Against Waste will not just help reduce our national deficit without increasing taxes, but spark a

much-needed increase in citizen involvement in the workings of Government and a long-overdue renewal of confidence in our democratic system.

But in addition to congratulating and thanking you today for this and other efforts, I also want to give you a progress report on where we stand with the Grace Commission recommendations. The statistics are impressive: As of now, more than 1,148 of your recommendations, involving a savings of \$160 billion over 3 years, are being implemented or have been agreed upon for implementation.

That's a record to be proud of, but something else needs to be said here. Some people have the odd idea that it's fine while you're a political candidate or during the first year or so in office to talk about waste and fraud -- you may remember in my first State of the Union message I called waste and fraud "an unrelenting national scandal" -- but they warn that after a certain period of time the political danger tends to grow. After all, if the headlines about Government boondoggles like \$_____ hammers or millions in benefits to deceased Social Security recipients start appearing on your watch, the public might just decide to start blaming you.

Well look, let's be realistic. Federal expenditures have gone up _____ percent in the last 15 years and the number of programs increased _____ times. So yes, thanks to you and others like you, we've worked hard on this problem for 4 years and we've made progress, but we know no problem of this size could ever have been solved in one year or one term of office.

And no matter what some of the political pros might say, I think the public knows this; I think they know we're trying and succeeding; and I think they're smart enough to understand that all those stories about waste and fraud are a direct result of a fight that we're proud to say we started in the first place.

So let's forget political angles; let's just trust the uncommon wisdom of the common people. Keep up your good work; bring on the headlines about waste and fraud; the Grace Commission has led the way and now it's everybody's fight.

Beyond even this, however, the impact of your work is incalculable. Even if nothing else gets done -- and I can assure you a lot more is going to get done -- you have permanently changed the mood of the country. From frustration and despair over a spendthrift, irresponsible bureaucracy, the public now knows some hope and optimism that Government can at last be made lean, cost-effective, and responsive to the people.

I speak for myself when I say I owe you all a personal debt of thanks; but I also speak for the Nation and for many future generations of Americans when I say that, in making Government more responsive to the wishes of the people, you've reached back to make contact with the very principle of Government that began this Nation: the belief that Government is here to serve the people and not the other way around. In doing this you're helping to restore faith in the democratic process and make our cherished way of life more secure. And for that, I thank and salute you, as do all your fellow Americans.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: H. LAWRENCE GARRETT, III 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Statement: Death of
Henry Cabot Lodge

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced
statement, and has no legal objection to it.

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1Name of Correspondent: DAVID L. CHEW☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Presidential Statement: Death of Henry Cabot Lodge

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CULTOLL</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85, 02, 28</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
<u>CUAT 18</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>85, 02, 28</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>85, 02, 28</u> <u>immed</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 2/28/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: IMMEDIATESUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT: Death of Henry Cabot Lodge
(11:30 a.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	MURPHY	☐	☐
MEESE	☐	☐	OGLESBY	☐	☐
REGAN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☐	☐
DEAVER	☐	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☐
STOCKMAN	☐	☐	SVAHN	☐	☐
CHEW	☐ P	☐ SS	VERSTANDIG	☐	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	WHITTLESEY	☐	☐
FULLER	☐	☐	KINGON	☐	☐
TUTTLE	☐	☐	BUCHANAN	☐	☐
HICKEY	☐	☐	ROLLINS	☒	☐
McFARLANE	☒	☐	FRIEDERSDORF	☐	☐
McMANUS	☐	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments or edits directly to Ben Elliott,
with an info copy to my office.

Thanks.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

1985 FEB 28 AM 11:38

(Dolan/BE)
February 28, 1985
11:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT: DEATH OF HENRY CABOT LODGE
FEBRUARY 28, 1985

Nancy and I were saddened, as were all Americans, by the recent death of Henry Cabot Lodge. Few men have played a more prominent role in the events of the last 50 years; Senator, soldier, diplomat, and political figure, Ambassador Lodge served his country long and selflessly. Henry Cabot Lodge was celebrated for his eloquence on behalf of the American cause; at a crisis point in the Cold War, he spoke for honesty and human freedom in the United Nations; as a Senator and Vice Presidential candidate, he often inspired his countrymen with words of vision and uplift. Yet perhaps the best measure of his dedication to this Nation and the ideals for which it stands was his willingness to forsake high political office to defend his country in time of war. His service in uniform was like that of his public career: long, valorous, dedicated.

Henry Cabot Lodge's sense of personal honor and his devotion to country remain an inspiration to those of us who knew him, and will remain so for many generations of Americans to come. Massachusetts has lost a loyal son and America has lost a distinguished public servant and symbol of America's quest for decency in a tumultuous era. On behalf of all Americans, Nancy and I extend our deepest sympathy to the Lodge family.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Address: National Association
of Counties (2/28/85 -- 12:30 p.m. Draft)

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective. On page 2, line 22, the reference to an "economic medicine man" evokes notions of "voodoo economics" that may not be entirely apt. On page 5, line 12, "one" should be "ones."

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) _____Name of Correspondent: David L. Chew☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Presidential Address: National Association
of Counties (2/28/85 - 12:30 pm draft)

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>WHolland</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85.02.28</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>CVAT 18</u>	Referral Note: <u>D</u>	<u>85.02.28</u>	<u>reply to Ben Elliott</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>85.02.28</u> <u>6:00 pm</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/28/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6:00 p.m. TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: National Association of Counties

(2/28/85 - 12:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	MURPHY	☒	☐
MEESE	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☒	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☐
DEAVER	☐	☒	SPEAKES	☐	☒
STOCKMAN	☒	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	VERSTANDIG	☒	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	WHITTLESEY	☒	☐
FULLER	☒	☐	KINGON	☒	☐
TUTTLE	☐	☐	BUCHANAN	☒	☐
HICKEY	☐	☐	ROLLINS	☒	☐
McFARLANE	☐	☒	FRIEDERSDORF	☒	☐
McMANUS	☒	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒
			HENKEL	☒	☐
			NISKANEN	☒	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments or edits directly to Ben Elliott,
with an info copy to my office.

Thanks.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Myer/BE)
February 28, 1985
12:30 p.m.

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1985**

Thank you very much. I'm delighted to have another chance to talk to NACo. Before I say anything else I want to thank all of you for the solid support you've given us during the past 4 years. It's been a pleasure working with Phil Elfstrom, Sandy Smoley, Roy Orr, and all of you. You stood with us when the going was rough, and I'll never forget your encouragement here in Washington and in counties all across America.

Just before I came over here I had the chance to look at your Association's statement on our budget proposal. And as you know, last week we met with our Nation's governors, and with State legislators from the Mid-West. And I couldn't help thinking that if the definition of a good budget proposal is to distribute dissatisfaction evenly, ours is a real winner.

But seriously, I know that you are facing tough problems, and tough decisions in many of your counties. In fact, I'm reminded of a story about local officials who were planning to build a new bridge. They discussed location and design and construction and timing and cost, and then got around to financing.

"Part should be paid by the city, part by the county," they said, "and part by the suburbs and part by the State."

But the tough question was, "how much by each?" There were strong differences of opinion, because no matter how it was divided up, it meant more State, county, and local taxes. There

was no solution in sight until one eager fella at the end of the table stood up and said, "Hold it. We're wasting our time. Let's just get the money from Washington -- then nobody'll have to pay for it."

And you know, because of wrongheaded thinking like that, when we meet during your 1981 legislative conference, there wasn't much good news to report. Our national economy was near the breaking point, and so were our local communities.

We had paid a steep price for years of good intentions, badly misdirected. Families were desperate in the face of double-digit inflation, 21-1/2 percent prime interest rates, and high taxes, all of which sent economic growth into a tailspin. And local governments didn't escape the punishment.

High inflation and low growth hit your counties with a double whammy -- increasing your costs and decreasing your tax base. Your cost-revenue gap widened. Labor costs increased and services had to be cut. Dramatic increases in bond rates knocked many of you out of the bond market -- and there was no choice but to delay infrastructure projects.

As you know too well, Federal programs provided no magic solution. In fact, years of compulsive spending had taken a heavy toll. It was almost as if some economic medicine man had the idea that since money could buy anything and Federal programs could provide everything, then more money and more programs were the answer to all our problems. But the dramatic increase of Federal participation in local government only complicated your problems.

To make matters even worse, the shift of power toward Washington moved us away from the very principles that had kept our country on a sound footing for most of our history. Calvin Coolidge, one of our most underrated Presidents, put it well. "Our country," he said, "was conceived in the theory of local self-government. It has been dedicated by long practice to that wise and beneficent policy. It is the foundation principle of our system of liberty."

When Cal Coolidge was President, taxes -- Federal, State and local -- were taking a dime out of every dollar earned and two-thirds of that went to State and local government. By 1980, taxes were up to 40 cents of every dollar, and two-thirds of that came to Washington.

No wonder communities had lost control of some of the most basic decisions affecting everyday life. As the Federal Government grew more intrusive, you became less able to respond to community needs. And to top it off, Federal oversight -- a fancy term that usually means burdensome regulations and unnecessary paperwork -- did little more than put you in handcuffs.

We knew that America could not move forward until local communities were back on their feet again. That's why, back in March 1981, we asked for your support to embark on a new course. It's been long, and we have begun well, but it's only a beginning. I believe that in lifting your communities toward a new era of lasting prosperity and stability, there are four keys to success:

First, we must continue to work to return power to levels of government closer to the people. We believe that when it comes to running county government, local officials will always do better from the county seat than bureaucrats could ever do from Washington.

In our discussions, you said you wanted regulatory relief and reform. We agree, and have been hard at work eliminating cumbersome and unnecessary Federal oversight regulations. The results have been dramatic: elimination of 647 pages of regulations, and a 90 percent cut in your paperwork burden. We estimate that local governments were spared at least \$2 billion in annual costs and between \$4-6 billion in start-up costs. And we're still looking for ways to save you more.

The second key to success is public-private partnerships, pooling our resources to harness the power and creativity of the marketplace for the benefit of all Americans.

No single sector of our Nation, whether it be Government, business, labor, or non-profit organizations, can solve our problems alone. But by working together, pooling our resources and building on our strengths, we can accomplish great things.

Partnerships produce jobs. The Job Training Partnership Act gives local governments new flexibility, and by using private industry councils it matches local needs with sensible training. Now that's a genuine partnership for real jobs with a bright future.

And there are more genuine partnerships that can be ours, if only the Congress would give our Enterprise Zones and our Youth

Employment Opportunity Wage bill a full hearing. We want hope and opportunity to reach every nook and cranny of our great land, and these initiatives deserve your support.

The third key is strengthening traditional values for a modern age, promoting a renewal of community life, and reviving the social fabric of our society -- safety on the streets, excellence in education, voluntarism, and a sense of responsibility.

People coming together in a spirit of community and neighborhood is what makes the smallest rural hamlet or the largest urban center worth living in; it's what keeps businesses in your counties and attracts new ones; and it's what keeps faith with the fine traditions of the past, as we turn to build the future.

For too many years, crime and the fear of crime robbed our communities of their vitality, threatened our sense of well-being, and frightened away new investment. Well, common sense is beginning to pay off. For the first time in 20 years, the crime index has fallen 2 years in a row. We've convicted 7,400 drug offenders, and put them, as well as leaders of organized crime, behind bars in record numbers. And as I'm sure you've read and seen recently, we are stepping up the pressure, because we are not going to stop until we wipe out organized crime in America.

In the area of education, we're seeing a strong new commitment to excellence, stressing the basics of discipline, learning, rigorous testing, and homework. And that commitment,

too, is also paying off. For 20 years, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores of our high school student went down. But now they've gone up 2 of the last 3 years.

This spirit of renewal is the American spirit. And we see it everywhere we look: from the record rise in corporate and private giving to thousands of exciting and important private sector initiatives, from neighborhood watch programs to increased attendance in places of worship, and from love of country rediscovered by our young people who led the way, to the millions of Americans who, in their quiet, caring way, are pulling together to move us forward, and upward.

The fourth and most important key to success is strong and steady economic growth. A vibrant economy is our single-most powerful tool for revitalizing every county in America. In fact, I believe that our economic expansion is the most important county improvement program, urban renewal program, and rural recovery program in America today.

The final economic figures for 1984 are in, and they're better, far better than anticipated. The U.S. economy grew at a rate of almost 5 percent in the fourth quarter and final sales increased at a rate of 8-1/2 percent. Overall economic growth for the calendar year measured just a shade under 7 percent. Inflation was under 4 percent for the third year in a row, and that hasn't happened in 17 years. When you add it up, 1984 gave America its strongest economic performance in a single year since 1951.

As our recovery enters its 28th month, with more than 7 million new jobs created during the past 2 years, Americans have good reason to look to the future with pride and confidence.

We intend to prolong and protect this wonderful expansion with a sweeping program of tax simplification, and with a Federal budget that remembers our economic recovery is a triumph of free people and their institutions, not Government.

Tax simplification will be a giant step toward lasting prosperity. I believe our current tax system acts as the single biggest threat to enterprise and lasting economic expansion. Many of our citizens are required to pay more than their fair share of the tax bill, while others are permitted to pay far less. Today's tax code drives money needed for investment and future growth into unproductive tax shelters. And hundreds of millions of dollars are wasted in needless paperwork. Plain and simple, the tax code is unfair, inequitable, counterproductive, and all but incomprehensible.

And there's something else to keep in mind, something I told our Nation's Governors just last week. During the debate of our 1981 tax bill, we pointed out that the most important effects of substantially reducing tax rates just might be the intangibles: the feeling of a positive political and economic climate for enterprise and growth; and the message that Government wants the people, and business, to succeed.

Well, it's time to send out another message -- one of lasting growth and a secure future -- by making the system more

fair and easier to understand, so we can bring personal and corporate income tax rates further down.

Now in speaking of our fiscal 1986 Federal budget, let me remind you of an observation by Thomas Jefferson: "The principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale."

Ray Larson, Chairman of the Cass County Board of Commissioners, Fargo, North Dakota, one of your contemporaries, said to us: "We know that many political subdivisions will have to scramble to meet current program expenses if Federal monies are lost; however, if these programs are important on a local level, they should be subject to the scrutiny of a local electorate. We support the cuts outlined in your 1986 Budget, and encourage you to look for more. No Federal program is more important than the economic security of the Country."

There's great wisdom in those words. Over the past 10 years, while Federal tax revenues grew by \$400 billion, Federal spending grew by \$600 billion -- 50 percent faster. And during that same decade, Government spending grew one-third faster than the growth of our economy.

If there is to be a secure economic future for our children, we must make sure that those days never return. The public treasury is a trust, not a gift shop. And we must move toward a budget that spends no more than Government takes in. Either we move in that direction or we will never be able to pass on a legacy of economic security.

We cannot and will not do this by raising taxes -- period. We must ensure that the economy grows faster than the growth in Federal spending.

The fiscal 1986 budget stops the built-in momentum of spending increases dead in its tracks. Our proposal will freeze overall Federal program spending at last year's level, cut \$51 billion out of programs in need of restraint, and reduce spending growth by half a trillion dollars over the next 5 years.

These tough but essential measures are driven by economic necessity and plain, old common sense. There simply is no justification, for example, for the Federal Government, strapped as it is with a deficit, to borrow money to be spent by State, county and local governments, some of which are running surpluses.

Now I understand that every budget dollar saved is a dollar someone expected to receive. And I know that your counties face difficult problems. I can sympathize with your position on revenue sharing. But the Federal spending dollar is not magic, and it certainly isn't free. It comes straight out of your pocket, and I just have to believe that, over the long haul, you'll be a lot better off with the Federal Government's hands out of your pockets.

The time is long overdue to end what have become indefensible and ludicrous subsidies. Because when you look at some of them, you just shake your head.

Every time a passenger boards an AMTRAK train, the American taxpayer pays about \$35. But on the New York to Chicago train,

it's much higher. In fact, on that run, it would cost the taxpayer less for the Government to pass out free plane tickets.

The mass transit Federal subsidy is another head shaker. In Miami, the \$1 billion subsidy helped build a system that serves less than 10,000 daily riders. That comes to \$100,000 a passenger. It would have been a lot cheaper to buy every one a Cadillac.

And then there's the air carrier subsidy, started in 1978, for communities thought to be hurt by airline deregulation. At one time, the G.A.O. found that the subsidy for one roundtrip airline ticket from Blythe, California to Los Angeles cost \$1,096. For that money, the air traveller could have flown to Hawaii, stayed a week on the beach and returned with money left over. And with due apologies to Los Angeles, I'll bet he or she would have had a better time.

Nearly 50 years of Government living beyond its means has brought us to this time, to this budget, to this day of reckoning. It's up to us to have the courage to make sure that the American taxpayer is protected from the Government.

And as usual, it's the people outside of Washington who are leading the way. Thirty-two States, and as of last week, the National Governors Association as well, have called for an amendment that would mandate the Federal Government spend no more than it takes in.

And it seems incredible that the chief executive of 43 States have line-item veto authority, but the President of the United States does not. I've told the Congress that this is a

time for political courage. We are asking for \$50 billion in spending cuts by Easter. But if that courage is lacking, then let them at least give me the line-item veto. I will take the responsibility, I will make the cuts, and I will take the heat. While you're here in town, and up on Capitol Hill, I'd appreciate your reinforcing that message for me.

You and I know that reaching a new era of lasting prosperity and stability will take much effort and patience -- and extraordinary cooperation between us. I just hope that I can count on NACo to continue to work with us in a spirit of good will in the months ahead. I've sought and appreciated your advice and will continue to do so.

We all want what is best for the American people. We can make it happen. And with your leadership and our partnership, it will happen.

Thank you, best wishes for a most successful conference, and God bless you all.