

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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*Last Updated: 01/30/2025*

The President has seen

(ROBINSON)

JULY 9, 1985

3261725C

REGIONAL PRESS LUNCHEON

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO THE WHITE  
HOUSE. IT'S ALWAYS REFRESHING TO SPEAK TO  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REAL AMERICA /  
THAT VAST AND WONDERFUL LAND WHERE A SPECIAL  
INTEREST IS A HOBBY LIKE FISHING / AND A  
LOBBYIST IS SOMEBODY WHO HANGS AROUND IN  
HOTELS. I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW DEEPLY I  
APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU  
(AND, THROUGH YOU,) TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I'D LIKE TO DEVOTE THE BULK OF OUR TIME  
TOGETHER TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS.

FIRST, HOWEVER, PERMIT ME TO SAY A WORD  
ABOUT THE BUDGET / AND THEN ABOUT OUR MAJOR  
NEW DOMESTIC POLICY INITIATIVE / THE EFFORT  
TO INSTITUTE A FAIR SHARE TAX PLAN.

ONCE AGAIN, IT SEEMS THAT THE BUDGET  
PROCESS HAS BROKEN DOWN.

GROWING DEFICITS APPEAR TO HAVE MADE  
VIRTUALLY NO DIFFERENCE ~~/~~ FOR TOO MANY IN  
THIS TOWN, ~~/~~ IT'S STILL BUSINESS AS USUAL.

THEY'RE A LITTLE LIKE SAILORS ON A SHIP  
ADRIFT ~~/~~ WHO PAINT THE GUNNELS AND POLISH THE  
BRASS, BUT IGNORE THE BROKEN RUDDER.

THE MAIN PROBLEM LIES IN THE HOUSE ~~/~~  
WHICH HAS PROPOSED A BUDGET THAT JUGGLES  
FUNDS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN ACCOUNTS ~~/~~  
INVENTS SAVINGS ~~/~~ AND SIMPLY WISHES AWAY  
MASSIVE COSTS ~~/~~ A BUDGET THAT WOULD BE  
LAUGHED AT BY BOOKKEEPERS IN ANY WELL-RUN  
SHOP OR BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRY. ~~/~~ WHAT THE  
HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE CALLS A DEFENSE  
SPENDING "FREEZE," MOREOVER, IS REALLY A  
DEEP CUT. ~~/~~ IT WOULD REQUIRE US TO SCALE BACK  
OUR SPENDING ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ~~/~~  
CONSTRUCTION ~~/~~ AND PROCUREMENT ~~/~~ BY 19 PERCENT  
NEXT YEAR ~~/~~ 23 PERCENT IN 1987 ~~/~~ AND  
28 PERCENT IN 1988.

THE SENATE, (BY CONTRAST,) HAS TO ITS CREDIT PROPOSED A BUDGET THAT IS RESPONSIBLE AND FAIR, / THAT, AT LEAST, HOLDS REAL DEFENSE SPENDING CONSTANT / AND THAT MAKES THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN DOMESTIC SPENDING THAT WILL HELP US TO GROW OUT OF THESE DEFICITS.

BUT WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE MET IN CONFERENCE, / IT QUICKLY BECAME CLEAR THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE STILL REFUSED TO CONSIDER REAL CUTS IN DOMESTIC SPENDING. / EVIDENTLY, SOME WANT TO KEEP THE PROCESS PARALYZED.

MY FRIENDS, / I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT THIS YEAR THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT.

BY CUTTING TAXES AND FORCING DOWN INFLATION WE'VE CREATED NEW GROWTH / NEW JOBS / AND NEW HOPE. / AFTER SO MUCH PROGRESS, / I FLATLY REFUSE TO BE CORNERED INTO A CHOICE BETWEEN A BUDGET THAT UNDERMINES OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE, / AND A SPENDING SPREE THAT THREATENS OUR PROSPERITY.

TOGETHER, REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS MUST  
MAKE GENUINE CUTS IN DOMESTIC SPENDING.

AND TO SEE THAT THIS FINALLY HAPPENS/  
I AM WILLING TO GO TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE  
AGAIN AND AGAIN.

TURNING TO OUR TAX PLAN, WHEN THE  
INCOME TAX FIRST BECAME LAW BACK IN 1913,  
THE TAX CODE RAN TO 15 PAGES.

TODAY IT ADDS UP TO 4 VOLUMES AND MORE THAN  
4,000 PAGES. ONE STANDARD INTERPRETATION OF  
THE CODE RUNS TO 18 VOLUMES, REQUIRES SOME  
6 FEET OF SHELF SPACE, AND WEIGHS ALMOST  
90 POUNDS.

THE COMPLEXITY IS STAGGERING. BUT THE  
INJUSTICE IT ENGENDERS IS WORSE.

EACH YEAR, COUNTLESS AMERICANS PAY MORE  
IN FEDERAL INCOME TAXES THAN THE GIANT  
CORPORATIONS THEY WORK FOR. SOME WEALTHY  
INDIVIDUALS WRITE OFF OCEAN CRUISES AS  
"EDUCATIONAL," OTHERS DEDUCT EXPENSES FOR  
SKY-BOXES AT SPORTS ARENAS.

AND WITH OUR STEEPLY PROGRESSIVE TAX CODE/  
WORKING MEN AND WOMEN STRUGGLING ON BEHALF  
OF THEIR FAMILIES/FIND THAT THE GOVERNMENT  
LAYS CLAIM TO A BIGGER CHUNK OF EACH NEW  
DOLLAR THEY EARN, FOR THEM, MAKING ECONOMIC  
PROGRESS IS LIKE CLIMBING A WALL WITH NO  
LADDER.

OUR TAX CODE HAS BECOME IN A  
FUNDAMENTAL SENSE UN-AMERICAN / AND I MEAN  
THAT AS A SERIOUS MORAL AND ECONOMIC  
ASSERTION. AMERICANS ARE AN EXPANSIVE,  
OPTIMISTIC PEOPLE/WHO CONSTANTLY SEEK  
OPPORTUNITY AND WORK TO BETTER THEIR LOT.  
YET OUR HIGH MARGINAL TAX RATES DISCOURAGE  
RISK-TAKING/ SAVINGS/ AND WORK / AND  
THEREBY SMOTHER GROWTH. MOST AMERICANS ARE  
STRAIGHTFORWARD AND HONEST. YET OUR TAX  
CODE CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE MOST COMPLICATED  
AND CONVOLUTED LEGAL CODES EVER DEVISED  
AMERICANS LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

YET WE ARE WEIGHED DOWN BY A TAX CODE THAT,  
AS THE RESULT OF DECADES OF POLITICAL DEALS,  
HAS BECOME THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF THE DEAD  
HAND OF THE PAST.

NO WONDER THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY IS SO  
BIG AND THOUGHT TO BE GROWING. AMERICANS

TODAY FEEL AN ABIDING DISAPPOINTMENT /  
EVEN DISGUST / WITH THE TAXATION THAT  
REPRESENTS THE MOST BASIC TRANSACTION  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE.

MY FRIENDS, THIS IS NO WAY TO GO ABOUT  
BUILDING ECONOMIC GROWTH.

MAYBE IT HAS TO DO WITH OUR EARLY  
HISTORY AS A NATION OF FARMERS, BUT WHEN WE  
AMERICANS SEE A PROBLEM, WE SOLVE IT.

IF THERE'S A STUMP IN THE FIELD, WE HITCH UP  
THE TRACTOR AND HAUL IT OUT. IF A NEW BARN  
NEEDS BUILDING, WE GATHER TOGETHER AND RAISE  
IT.

AND WHEN WE HAVE A MESS AS BIG AS A TAX CODE THAT STIFLES GROWTH AND UNDERMINES OUR SELF-RESPECT AS A PEOPLE / THEN FORGIVE ME / BUT IT'S TIME TO CLEAN OUT THE STALLS AND PUT DOWN FRESH STRAW.

---

OUR FAIR SHARE TAX PLAN FOR AMERICA WOULD GIVE FAMILIES A DRAMATIC BENEFIT BY NEARLY DOUBLING THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION TO \$2,000. / THIS WOULD MEAN THAT ON AN INCOME WELL INTO THE \$25,000 TO \$30,000 RANGE / A WORKING FAMILY WITH TWO OR THREE CHILDREN WOULD PAY AN EFFECTIVE TAX RATE OF LESS THAN 10 PERCENT.

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PERHAPS THE CENTRAL IDEA IN OUR PROPOSAL IS THIS / BY CURTAILING LOOPHOLES AND ELIMINATING DEDUCTIONS THAT ARE ONLY USED BY A FEW / WE CAN LOWER MARGINAL RATES SHARPLY / INCREASING THE REWARDS FOR SAVINGS / INVESTMENT / AND GOOD, HARD WORK. / IN OTHER WORDS / A FAIR SHARE TAX PLAN IS A PRO-GROWTH TAX PLAN.

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LOWER TAX RATES / A NEAR-DOUBLING OF THE  
PERSONAL EXEMPTION / AND AN END TO UNFAIR  
DEDUCTIONS / - WHAT IT ADDS UP TO IS SIMPLE  
JUSTICE / MORE JOBS, / AND RENEWED HOPE FOR OUR  
OWN FUTURE AND THAT OF OUR CHILDREN.

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A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT A  
TIMETABLE FOR PASSAGE OF OUR PROPOSAL.

---

MY OWN IDEA IS SIMPLE. [ BY THANKSGIVING DAY  
OF 1985, / WE SHOULD COOK OUR TURKEY OF A TAX  
CODE AND GET OUR TAX REFORM PASSED BY BOTH  
THE HOUSE AND SENATE. ] THEN, BY CHRISTMAS  
DAY / AMERICA'S NEW TAX PLAN SHOULD BE SIGNED  
INTO LAW AND PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE AS THE  
BEST GIFT OF THE YEAR.

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THANK YOU, AND NOW I'D BE HAPPY TO  
ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

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# # #

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

JULY 10, 1985

31744355

DROPBY BREAKFAST FOR THE HOUSE WAYS AND  
MEANS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

GOOD MORNING. LET ME FIRST WELCOME YOU  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

I'VE ASKED YOU HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS  
THE ISSUE OF TAX REFORM, AND I CAN SEE THAT  
YOU HAVE ALREADY HAD A LIVELY DISCUSSION  
WITH JIM AND DON PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL.

SINCE UNVEILING OUR PROPOSAL ON  
MAY 28TH, I HAVE TRAVELED TO MANY PARTS OF  
OUR COUNTRY TO DISCUSS TAX REFORM.

THESE TRIPS HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT WE HAVE  
AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO REVISE OUR TAX  
CODE ~~TO~~ SIMPLIFY IT, MAKE IT MORE FAIR,  
AND BRING THE RATES DOWN. THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE ARE READY TO SUPPORT SUCH A SYSTEM.

THIS IS A BIPARTISAN EFFORT AND IT IS  
VITAL THAT WE ACHIEVE SOLID SUPPORT ON BOTH  
SIDES OF THE AISLE.

- 2 -

I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO YOUR CHAIRMAN /  
DAN ROSTENKOWSKI /-- FOR THE OPEN-MINDED AND  
COOPERATIVE APPROACH HE HAS TAKEN ON THIS  
ISSUE.

I REALIZE THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE  
PROBLEMS WITH SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN THE  
PACKAGE. THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED IN A  
COMPREHENSIVE REVISION OF OUR TAX CODE.

BUT I URGE YOU TO KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN AND  
FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON THE ENTIRE PACKAGE.  
DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE PUT IN THE  
POSITION NOW OF OPPOSING THE PROPOSAL  
BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS WITH ONE PORTION.

THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY DURING THE  
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS / AND WE ARE COMMITTED  
TO WORKING WITHIN THE PROCESS /--  
TO ADDRESS PROBLEM AREAS.

THERE IS, (AND THERE WILL CONTINUE TO  
BE,) INTENSE PRESSURE FROM SPECIAL INTERESTS  
TO EMASCULATE THIS PACKAGE.

MEANINGFUL REFORM WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF  
WE CAN WITHSTAND THIS PRESSURE AND WORK FOR  
THE ONLY SPECIAL INTEREST THAT COUNTS ~~/~~  
THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

---

THIS WILL BE A DIFFICULT TASK ~~/~~ BUT I  
KNOW THAT AS MEMBERS OF THE WAYS AND MEANS  
COMMITTEE YOU ARE ACCUSTOMED TO DEALING WITH  
DIFFICULT TASKS, WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS  
MOMENT TO SLIP AWAY.

---

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE REFORM A REALITY.  
I AM ASKING FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS CRUCIAL  
UNDERTAKING.

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LET ME NOW TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS AND  
COMMENTS.

# # #

The President has seen 31756355

SP930-26

(Noonan)  
July 19, 1985  
4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: SATURDAY HOSPITAL ADDRESS

My fellow Americans, I'm talking to you today from a little makeshift studio just outside my room in Bethesda Naval Hospital -- and at the moment I'm remembering the little boy who WROTE A LETTER BACK IN 1981 after I was shot and said: Mr. President, you better get well quick or you'll have to make your speech to Congress in your pajamas! Well, today I'm in street clothes again so I can go home this afternoon. I'm feeling fine and there's a lot I want to share with you -- so here goes.

First off, I'm feeling great but I'm getting a little restless. A lot of you know how it is when you have to endure some enforced bed rest: you get this feeling that life's out there and it's a big shiney apple and you just can't wait to get out and take a bite of it. I'm eager to get back to work. I've been keeping close track of ~~various~~ things that are going on, especially the budget process in Congress.

I'll tell you what I think of the House budget proposal so far: I hope it gets well soon. In fact, I told ONE OF THE FIVE surgeons WHO OPERATED ~~that~~

ON ME THAT if Congress can't make the spending cuts we need I'm going to send him UP TO CAPITOL HILL TO ASK FOR ~~over there~~ DO SOME REAL CUTTING. I know some ~~people~~ are saying we can just keep going with business as usual in the Federal spending department, but, well, FORGIVE ME I don't have as much stomach for that kind of talk as I used to!

But that's for another day. Today I just wanted to say some thank-yous to some very special people. First, the doctors and

nurses who helped me and healed me. Now I know why nearly everyone comes to America for a major operation. It's because we have the best doctors and nurses in the world, ~~IF YOU HAVE TO BE SICK YOU ARE BETTER OFF IF YOU ARE SICK RIGHT HERE IN THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.~~

I want to thank everyone -- heads of state, leaders,

<sup>WHO HAVE</sup>  
~~SO MANY~~ friends, and citizens -- ~~who's~~ written and called and included me in their prayers. There were the balloons and flowers and what seems like millions of cards. <sup>ONE OF</sup> ~~Somehow~~ the nicest was the one I got from the nurses down the hall. <sup>WHO</sup> ~~They~~ sent me a card from the <sup>NEW</sup> babies in pediatrics. It was "signed" with their little <sup>PATIENTS</sup> ~~handprints and~~ <sup>TINY</sup> footprints...

I also want to mention a sort of cautionary note: we all <sup>TEND</sup> ~~like~~ to ignore the signs that something may be wrong with us. But may I say <sup>SPEAKING</sup> from personal experience, it's important to go and get a checkup if you think something isn't right. So if you're listening to this right now and it reminds you of something that you've been putting out of your mind: well, ~~please~~ pick up the phone, call your doctor or local hospital and talk to someone. ~~If you need a referral...~~ just tell 'em Dr. Reagan sent you.

I'd also like to indulge myself for a moment here. There's something I wanted to say, and I wanted to say it with Nancy at my side, <sup>3</sup> as she is <sup>RIGHT</sup> now, as she always has been... First Ladies aren't elected and they don't receive a salary; they've mostly been private persons forced to live public lives; <sup>AND IN MY BOOK</sup> they've all been heroes. Abigail Adams helped invent America, Dolley Madison helped protect it, Eleanor Roosevelt was F.D.R.'s eyes and ears... and Nancy <sup>REAGAN</sup> is my everything. When I look back on these days, Nancy, I'll remember your radiance -- and your strength,

your support, and for taking part in the business of the Nation... I say for myself, but also on behalf of our Nation: thank you, partner. Thanks for everything. ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING THIS EVENING?

Just one more thing I wanted to say, and I want to address it to my supporters and opponents, Republicans and Democrats, friends and foe. So many of you have sent gracious notes and messages, and you've made me think of something that I've been pondering the past few days. ~~4~~

There are a number of things that keep our country united -- a shared reverence for certain ideals, for instance, and certain memories and traditions... But there's something more. We're a country of 230 million very different souls, and yet here we are, liberals and conservatives, fundamentalists and agnostics, southerners and northerners, recent immigrants and Mayflower descendants... arguing often enough, and disagreeing with each other, but ~~still~~ <sup>AT THE SAME TIME</sup> held together, always held together, by a tie that can't be seen <sup>YET</sup> ~~and~~ can't be broken. It is, I think, the great unknowing love of Americans for Americans -- the great unknowing love that keeps us together. And for which, this day, I am more thankful than ever.

In the next few <sup>MINUTES</sup> ~~hours~~ I'll be leaving to go home... to get on with the job <sup>YOU GAVE ME</sup> -- THERE ARE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE GREAT HONOR YOU'VE BESTOWED ON ME.

Until next week, thank you, all of you -- and God bless you.

(ROHRABACHER)

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

JULY 23, 1985

292460-55

CO034-02

ARRIVAL CEREMONY

PRESIDENT LI OF THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

IT IS MY PLEASURE TODAY TO WELCOME YOU,  
PRESIDENT LI. THIS IS YOUR FIRST TRIP TO  
THE UNITED STATES AND THE FIRST VISIT BY A  
CHINESE HEAD OF STATE TO OUR COUNTRY. IT IS  
A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE YOU, YOUR WIFE, AND  
THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATION WHO ACCOMPANIED  
YOU AS OUR GUESTS.

DURING MY VISIT TO CHINA LAST YEAR,  
I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW  
PRESIDENT LI. UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF  
PRESIDENT LI AND OTHER WISE LEADERS,  
THE CHINESE PEOPLE ARE ENJOYING GREATER  
PRODUCTIVITY AND A RISING STANDARD OF  
LIVING. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE WORKING  
WITH THEM AS FRIENDS AND PARTNERS IN  
ENTERPRISE.



TRADE BETWEEN US IS AT A RECORD LEVEL /  
AND CONTINUES TO CLIMB. / SCIENTIFIC AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IS BEING PUT TO  
USE IN A WIDE RANGE OF ENDEAVORS.

THIS, TOO, CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE.

OUR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES,

(ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL,) ARE EXPANDING. / WE ARE

IN THE INITIAL PHASES OF COOPERATION IN THE  
CONTROL OF NARCOTICS AND ANTI-TERRORISM.

AND BY OUR COMMON OPPOSITION TO AGGRESSION /

WE ARE NOT ONLY ENHANCING OUR MUTUAL  
SECURITY / BUT BOLSTERING WORLD PEACE AS  
WELL.

BOTH OUR PEOPLES SHOULD BE PROUD THAT  
IN A FEW SHORT YEARS A SOLID FOUNDATION OF  
GOOD WILL HAS BEEN LAID.

OURS IS AN INCREASINGLY PRODUCTIVE  
RELATIONSHIP / BASED NOT ON PERSONALITY OR  
MOMENTARY CONCERNS / BUT ON A RECOGNITION  
THAT OUR NATIONS SHARE SIGNIFICANT COMMON  
INTERESTS / AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MANY  
BENEFITS WE REAP FROM THE GOOD WILL BETWEEN  
US.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THERE ARE NO AREAS  
OF DISAGREEMENT. HOWEVER, WE WILL CONTINUE  
TO PUT ANY DIFFERENCES IN PERSPECTIVE.

WHEN I MET WITH YOU, PRESIDENT LI, IN THE  
GREAT HALL IN BEIJING / I SUGGESTED A CHINESE  
PRINCIPLE THAT CAN SERVE AS A TOOL IN  
BUILDING AN EVER STRONGER BOND BETWEEN US /  
[WHO-JING, WHO-HWAY] -- MUTUAL RESPECT,  
MUTUAL BENEFIT.

LET US PROCEED IN THAT SPIRIT.

[WHO-JING, WHO-HWAY]. AS LEADERS OF GREAT  
NATIONS, WE SHOULD EXPECT NOTHING MORE AND  
ACCEPT NOTHING LESS.

- 4 -

PRESIDENT LI, / WE AMERICANS HIGHLY VALUE  
THE TIES WE HAVE BUILT WITH THE PEOPLE OF  
CHINA IN THESE LAST 13 YEARS. / WE REJOICE  
WITH YOU OVER THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS YOUR  
COUNTRY IS ENJOYING / AND ARE PLEASED TO BE  
PLAYING A SMALL PART IN THIS MODERNIZATION  
EFFORT. / WE WISH FOR THE PEOPLE OF CHINA  
WHAT WE WISH FOR OURSELVES: / TO LIVE IN  
PEACE AND TO ENJOY PROSPERITY.

BY WORKING TOGETHER, / THE PEOPLE OF BOTH  
OUR COUNTRIES CAN ACHIEVE THIS NOBLE GOAL. /  
WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU WITH US.  
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED  
STATES, I SAY [HWAN-YING]. WELCOME.

# # #

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

(ROHRABACHER)

JULY 23, 1985

29246155

CO034-02

STATE DINNER TOAST

PRESIDENT LI OF THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO THE WHITE  
HOUSE. TONIGHT IT IS MY PLEASURE TO RETURN  
THE HOSPITALITY THAT WAS EXTENDED TO ME BY  
PRESIDENT LI DURING MY VISIT TO CHINA. I AM  
GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
DEVELOP A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM/AND  
IT IS MY HONOR, PRESIDENT LI, TO GREET YOU  
AFFECTIONATELY AS: [LAU-PUNG-YO]. FOR THOSE  
OF YOU WHO DON'T SPEAK CHINESE, THAT MEANS  
"OLD FRIEND."

TODAY, WHEN PRESIDENT LI AND I RENEWED  
OUR FRIENDSHIP, HE EXPRESSED HIS WISHES FOR  
MY FULL RECOVERY. IN FACT, HE TOLD ME THAT  
ONCE I WAS TOTALLY BACK ON MY FEET, A YOUNG  
MAN LIKE MYSELF COULD EXPECT TO HAVE A LONG  
AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER AHEAD OF ME.

PRESIDENT LI COMES FROM A NATION WHOSE PEOPLE ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR TRADITIONAL RESPECT FOR ELDERS. PRESIDENT LI, I CAN ASSURE YOU, I'M DOING MY BEST TO RE-ESTABLISH THAT TRADITION IN MY OWN COUNTRY.

I LEARNED ABOUT THAT AND MANY OTHER WONDERFUL ASPECTS OF CHINA DURING MY VISIT LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH MY STAY WAS BRIEF, I DID AS THE CHINESE SAY ~~for~~ LOOK AT THE FLOWERS WHILE RIDING HORSEBACK ~~for~~ CAPTURING LASTING IMPRESSIONS NOT ONLY OF THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THE CULTURE AND LAND, BUT ALSO THE BOLD VISION OF THOSE DIRECTING CHINA'S FUTURE.

THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE IS A TRIBUTE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH COURAGE AND FORESIGHT, (LIKE PRESIDENT LI,) ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PACIFIC. THE RELATIONSHIP WE'VE BUILT IMPROVES THE MATERIAL WELL-BEING AND INCREASES THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRIES.

AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT EXIST. THESE SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED, NOR SHOULD THEY BE PERMITTED TO INHIBIT US FROM ACTING TOGETHER IN THOSE MANY AREAS OF COMMONALITY. HISTORIC TRUTHS DETERMINE OUR FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THEY CONTINUE TO DRAW OUR TWO PEOPLES TOGETHER.

AFTER OUR MEETING TODAY, I AM HAPPY TO SAY I REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT CHINESE-AMERICAN COOPERATION WILL GROW AND STRENGTHEN IN THE YEARS AHEAD. UNDERSCORING THE MOMENTUM OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, I AM DELIGHTED TONIGHT TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS INVITED VICE PRESIDENT BUSH TO CHINA, AND THAT HE HAS ACCEPTED THIS MOST GRACIOUS INVITATION.

SUCH VISITS AS YOURS, (MR. PRESIDENT,) ELEVATE THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE LEADERS OF OUR TWO NATIONS, ENHANCE OUR JOINT EFFORTS, AND OPEN NEW DOORS OF COOPERATION.

PRESIDENT LI, BY THE TIME YOU RETURN HOME, YOU WILL HAVE SEEN MUCH OF THE UNITED STATES AND MET MANY AMERICANS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN OUR INDUSTRY, OUR PEOPLE, AND LAND.

WE AMERICANS CAME HERE FROM ALMOST EVERY NATION, (INCLUDING CHINA,) TO AN UNDEVELOPED LAND, A WILDERNESS. WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED. TODAY WE ARE PROUD TO STAND BESIDE THE PEOPLE OF CHINA WHO ARE STRIVING TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE.

BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN AND WILL CREATE A MORE PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL WORLD. LET US DRINK A TOAST TO THAT AND TO PRESIDENT LI AND HIS WIFE.

# # #

(ROBINSON)

The President has seen

JULY 31, 1985

29253755

BRIEFING FOR SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF

MC003

THANK YOU, THANK YOU ALL. IT'S A REAL  
PLEASURE TO SEE THE WHOLE TEAM GATHERED  
TOGETHER. SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN HERE FROM  
THE BEGINNING, SOME HAVE COME MORE RECENTLY.  
BUT I KNOW THAT, WHATEVER THE LENGTH OF  
TIME, EACH OF YOU HAS GIVEN YOUR ALL.  
AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MY  
HEARTFELT GRATITUDE.

THIS IS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY I'VE HAD  
TO SPEAK TO ALL OF YOU SINCE SPENDING A  
LITTLE TIME IN BETHESDA, AND I WANT YOU TO  
KNOW JUST HOW MUCH YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT  
MEANT TO NANCY AND ME. WE READ YOUR  
GET-WELL CARDS TOGETHER, AND THERE WERE MANY  
WE'LL ALWAYS CHERISH.

ONE OF YOU SAID, "GET WELL,  
MR. PRESIDENT -- AND EAT YOUR VEGETABLES."



ANOTHER WROTE, "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I WAS  
VERY CONCERNED TO HEAR THAT THE DOCTORS TOOK  
TWO FEET OUT OF YOUR INNER WORKINGS. HOW  
DID THOSE TWO FEET GET IN THERE?"

BELIEVE ME, IT'S GOOD TO BE UP TO  
STRENGTH AND BACK AT WORK. ALTHOUGH MY  
DOCTORS TELL ME THAT FROM NOW ON, THERE ARE  
A FEW THINGS I JUST WON'T BE ABLE TO  
STOMACH -- LIKE TAX HIKES.

TODAY MARKS THE END OF JULY AND THE  
MID-POINT OF SUMMER. IT'S THE TIME OF YEAR  
WHEN MANY IN WASHINGTON LEAVE TOWN TO REST  
UP AND PREPARE FOR THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.

NANCY AND I WILL BE HEADING OUT TO THE RANCH  
SOON, WHILE GEORGE AND BARBARA WILL BE  
SPENDING TIME UP AT KENNEBUNKPORT. TO THOSE  
OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT YET MADE PLANS TO GET  
AWAY, I CAN ONLY ADVISE YOU TO HURRY.

YOU SEE, THE WAY I FIGURE IT, THIS COULD BE  
OUR LAST REAL VACATION FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

NOW, I'M AWARE THAT SOME IN THIS TOWN BELIEVE OUR REVOLUTION HAS PASSED ITS HIGH-WATER MARK. THEY SEEM TO HAVE THE IDEA THAT WE COMPLETED OUR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FIRST TERM, AND THAT NOW, DURING THE SECOND TERM, WE SIMPLY INTEND TO MANAGE THE STATUS QUO -- TO BECOME JUST ANOTHER ESTABLISHMENT ADMINISTRATION.

MY FRIENDS, THERE'S A VERY OLD AND SERVICEABLE ANGLO-SAXON WORD THAT DESCRIBES JUST EXACTLY HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT POINT OF VIEW. A GENERAL IN WORLD WAR II USED IT WHEN THE ENEMY DEMANDED HE SURRENDER. HE SAID "NUTS." THE VOTERS ELECTED US TO KEEP THE REVOLUTION ALIVE; AND WHEN WE COME BACK IN SEPTEMBER, YOU, I, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DO JUST THAT.

ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, IT WILL BE UP TO US TO FIX THE BUDGET PROCESS ONCE AND FOR ALL. LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT THE SOURCE OF THE DEFICIT.

IT HAS NOT -- I REPEAT NOT -- ARISEN AS A  
RESULT OF OUR TAX CUTS. ON THE CONTRARY,  
GOVERNMENT REVENUES ARE ACTUALLY ON THE  
RISE. IN 1984, FEDERAL RECEIPTS INCREASED  
11 PERCENT -- A HEALTHY GAIN OF 7 PERCENT  
EVEN AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION.

THIS FISCAL YEAR, THAT REMARKABLE PACE IS  
BEING SUSTAINED.

NO, THE DEFICIT PROBLEM IS A SPENDING  
PROBLEM -- SPENDING WITHOUT DIRECTION OR  
DISCIPLINE, SPENDING THAT IN THE PAST  
20 YEARS HAS BURGEONED ABSOLUTELY OUT OF  
CONTROL. IN 1966, GREAT SOCIETY PROGRAMS  
COST \$16 BILLION. BY 1981, THAT FIGURE HAD  
RISEN TO A STAGGERING \$148 BILLION.

I HAVE OFTEN SAID THAT GOVERNMENT IS  
LIKE THAT OLD DEFINITION OF A BABY --  
AN ENORMOUS APPETITE AT ONE END AND NO SENSE  
OF RESPONSIBILITY AT THE OTHER.

THIS CANNOT GO ON. WE HAVE GOOD REASON  
TO HOPE THAT THIS WEEK CONGRESS WILL TAKE A  
FIRST STEP TOWARD BRINGING SPENDING UNDER  
CONTROL. BUT IT WILL BE JUST THAT --  
A FIRST STEP.

WHEN WE RETURN IN SEPTEMBER, WE'LL PUSH  
FOR A LINE-ITEM VETO/PRESS FOR A BALANCED  
BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION/  
AND INSIST UPON GENUINE CUTS IN DOMESTIC  
SPENDING. AND I WON'T HESITATE TO USE THE  
VETO AND TO TAKE OUR CASE TO THE PEOPLE  
AGAIN AND AGAIN.

ON TAX REFORM, WHEN WE COME BACK WE'LL  
REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PASSAGE BY  
CHRISTMAS. AFTER DECADES OF TAXES THAT ARE  
COMPLICATED AND UNJUST, THE PEOPLE WANT A  
TAX CODE THAT'S FAIR. AND THEY'VE ALREADY  
SEEN WHAT OUR FIRST TAX CUTS ACHIEVED IN  
REVITALIZING OUR ECONOMY AND SETTING IT  
FIRMLY ON A PATH OF HEALTHY,  
NON-INFLATIONARY GROWTH.

TAX REFORM IS THE NECESSARY NEXT STEP,  
A MEASURE THAT WILL TRULY RETURN US TO THE  
FREE MARKET PRINCIPLES THAT MADE THE UNITED  
STATES THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY AND THE  
GREATEST ECONOMIC POWER ON EARTH.

ON TAX REFORM, THE COUNTRY IS WITH US.  
IT WILL BE UP TO US TO GET WASHINGTON WITH  
THE COUNTRY.

IN FOREIGN POLICY, I WILL MEET GENERAL  
SECRETARY GORBACHEV IN GENEVA THIS NOVEMBER.  
I WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT, IN THE EFFORT  
TO BUILD A MORE LASTING PEACE, THE UNITED  
STATES IS WILLING TO PURSUE ANY OPPORTUNITY.

I WILL EXPRESS TO GENERAL SECRETARY  
GORBACHEV THE GOODWILL OF OUR COUNTRY.

IT IS MY ABIDING HOPE THAT HE AND I WILL BE  
ABLE TO MAKE A FRESH START ON RELATIONS  
BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. BUT, WHATEVER HIS  
INTENTIONS, I WILL MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR  
TO HIM THAT THE UNITED STATES IS UNITED IN  
THE CAUSE OF HUMAN FREEDOM.

A SECOND MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE WILL DEMAND OUR ATTENTION -- THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE. NOW, SOME CRITICS, WHO IGNORE ALL THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY DONE IN THIS AREA, CLAIM THAT OUR RESEARCH REPRESENTS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

MR. GORBACHEV MAY HAVE A WORD OR TWO TO SAY ALONG THOSE LINES HIMSELF. AND, YES, I'LL GRANT THE CRITICS THAT POINT -- IF THEY'LL AGREE THAT PUTTING A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD IS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THE RAIN.

THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE HOLDS OUT THE HOPE OF MAKING NUCLEAR WAR OBSOLETE. IT COULD SHIFT FOREVER THE WORLD STRUGGLE TO THE BATTLEFIELD ON WHICH IT HAS ALWAYS PROPERLY BELONGED -- THE BATTLEFIELD OF IDEAS.

THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE IS  
ALREADY WELL-BEGUN. LET US WORK TIRELESSLY  
TO SEE IT THROUGH.

THE THIRD MAJOR ASPECT OF FOREIGN  
POLICY UPON WHICH WE MUST FOCUS IS OUR  
EFFORT TO SUPPORT AND BUILD DEMOCRACY AROUND  
THE WORLD. WE MUST BUILD A COMMUNITY OF  
DEMOCRACIES, SUPPORTING — BOTH WITH PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES — THE ELEMENTS OF  
EACH SOCIETY THAT REPRESENT THE TRUE GROWTH  
OF PLURALISM/FREEDOM/AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA MUST ALSO SUPPORT THE BRAVE MEN  
AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE FIGHTING  
FOR THEIR FREEDOM. AS I SAID THIS YEAR IN  
MY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS, THE UNITED  
STATES MUST ASSIST FREEDOM FIGHTERS "ON  
EVERY CONTINENT FROM AFGHANISTAN TO  
NICARAGUA."

TODAY, THERE ARE MAJOR ANTI-COMMUNIST  
INSURGENCIES IN AFRICA/CAMBODIA/  
AFGHANISTAN/AND NICARAGUA. IN THE PAST  
2 MONTHS THE DEMOCRAT-CONTROLLED HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES HAS MOVED TO HELP ALL FOUR.  
THE HOUSE HAS VOTED AID TO THE FREEDOM  
FIGHTERS IN CAMBODIA, AFGHANISTAN, AND  
NICARAGUA. AND IT HAS REPEALED A 9-YEAR-OLD  
BAN/ THE CLARK AMENDMENT/ ON AID TO THE  
FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN ANGOLA.

AS THESE MEASURES INDICATE, WE ARE AT  
LAST PROVING SUCCESSFUL IN OUR EFFORTS TO  
ACHIEVE A NEW, BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS ON  
FOREIGN POLICY. IN ALL THE LONG MARCH OF  
HUMAN HISTORY, 1985 MAY WELL BE REMEMBERED  
AS A TURNING POINT — THE YEAR AMERICA CAME  
TOGETHER/ REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ALIKE/  
TO HELP FREEDOM FIGHTERS AROUND THE GLOBE.

THE FREEDOM TIDE IS RISING. SHOULDN'T  
WE HELP IT GATHER STRENGTH?



YOU KNOW, AFTER A CERTAIN DAY BACK IN 1981, I SORT OF HAD A TIME TO REASSESS THINGS. AS I LEARNED OF SOME OF THE NEAR MIRACLES THAT JUST SEEMED TO FALL IN PLACE IN MY FAVOR, I DECIDED THAT WHATEVER TIME WAS LEFT TO ME BELONGED TO SOMEONE ELSE. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY TO ALTER THE COURSE OF OUR COUNTRY FOR ALL TIME. FOR THE NEXT 3-1/2 YEARS, LET US CONDUCT OURSELVES SO THAT OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WILL SAY OF US THAT WE DID ALL WE COULD DO TO ENSURE THEIR FREEDOM AND TO PRESERVE THIS LAST BEST HOPE OF MAN ON EARTH.

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

# # #

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

(Robinson/BE)

July 30, 1985

5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BRIEFING FOR SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1985

Thank you, thank you all. It's a real pleasure to see the whole team gathered together. Some of you have been here from the beginning, some have come more recently. But I know that, whatever the length of time, each of you has given your all. And I want you to know that you have ~~the~~ <sup>MY HEARTFELT</sup> gratitude ~~of my heart~~.

This is the first opportunity I've had to speak to all of you since spending a little time in Bethesda, and I want you to know just how much your prayers and support meant to Nancy and me. We read your get-well cards together, and there were many we'll always cherish.

One of you said, "Get well, Mr. President -- and eat your vegetables." Another wrote, "Dear Mr. President, I was very concerned to hear that the doctors took two feet out of your inner workings. How did those two feet get in there?"

Believe me, it's good to be up to strength and back at work. Although my doctors tell me that from now on, there are a few things I just won't be able to stomach -- like tax hikes.

Today marks the end of July and the mid-point of summer. It's the time of year when many in Washington leave town to rest up and prepare for the challenges ahead. Nancy and I will be heading out to the ranch soon, while George and Barbara will be spending time up at Kennebunkport. To those of you who have not yet made plans to get away, I can only advise you to hurry. You

From  
Ben Elliott  
7/31  
8:40 p.m.

see, the way I figure it, this could be our last real vacation for quite some time.

Now, I'm aware that some in this town believe ~~the Reagan~~ <sup>OUR</sup> Revolution has passed its high-water mark. They seem to have the idea that we ~~won~~ <sup>COMPLETED</sup> our major achievements during the first term, and that now, during the second term, we simply intend to manage the status quo -- to become just another establishment Administration.

My friends, there's a very old and serviceable Anglo-Saxon word that describes just exactly how I feel about that point of view: ~~A GENERAL IN W.W.II USED IT WHEN THE ENEMY DEMANDED HE SURRENDER; HE SAID "NOT: VIEW: Nuts. We didn't win 49 out of 50 States to wallow in Washington like hippos in the mud. The voters elected us to keep the Revolution alive; and when we come back in September, you, I, and the American people are going to <sup>DO JUST THAT.</sup> show Washington just who's ~~king of the jungle.~~~~

On the domestic side, it will be up to us to fix the budget process once and for all. Let's be clear about the source of the deficit. It has not -- I repeat not -- arisen as a result of our tax cuts. On the contrary, Government revenues are actually on the rise. In 1984, Federal receipts increased 11 percent -- a healthy gain of 7 percent even after accounting for inflation. This fiscal year, that remarkable pace is being sustained.

No, the deficit problem is a spending problem -- spending without direction or discipline, spending that in the past 20 years has burgeoned absolutely out of control. In 1966, Great Society programs cost \$16 billion. By 1981, that figure had risen to a staggering \$148 billion.

*I have often said*

~~Sometimes I think~~ that Government is like that old definition of a baby -- an enormous appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.

This cannot go on. We have good reason to hope that this week Congress will take a first step toward bringing spending under control. But it will be ~~only~~ <sup>JUST</sup> that -- a first step.

~~So, When we return in September, I intend to begin~~  
~~3 1/2 years of undaunted, unrelenting effort.~~ We'll push for a line-item veto, press for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and insist upon genuine cuts in domestic spending. And I won't hesitate to use ~~my~~ <sup>THE</sup> veto and <sup>TO</sup> take our case to the people again and again.

On tax reform, when we come back we'll redouble our efforts to achieve passage by Christmas. After decades of taxes that are complicated and unjust, the people want a tax code that's fair. And they've already seen what our first tax cuts achieved in revitalizing our economy and setting it firmly on a path of healthy, non-inflationary growth. Tax reform is the necessary next step, a measure that will truly return us to the free market principles that made the United States the land of opportunity and the greatest economic power on Earth.

On tax reform, the country is with us. It will be up to us to get Washington with the country.

In foreign policy, I will meet General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva this November. I want the world to know that, in the effort to build a more lasting peace, the United States is willing to pursue any opportunity.

I will express to General Secretary Gorbachev the goodwill of our country. It is my abiding hope that he and I will be able to make a fresh start on relations between our two nations. But, whatever his intentions, I will make it abundantly clear to him that the United States is, ~~and will remain, proud,~~  
~~self-confident,~~ and united in the cause of human freedom.

A second major foreign policy initiative will demand our attention -- the Strategic Defense Initiative. Now, some critics, who ignore all that the Soviets have already done in this area, claim that our research represents an act of aggression against the Soviets. Mr. Gorbachev may have a word or two to say along those lines himself. And, yes, I'll grant the critics that point -- if they'll agree that putting a roof over your head is an act of aggression against the rain.

The Strategic Defense Initiative holds out the hope of making nuclear war obsolete. It could shift forever the world struggle to the battlefield on which it has always properly belonged -- the battlefield of ideas.

The Strategic Defense Initiative is already well-begun. Let us work tirelessly to see it through.

The third major aspect of foreign policy upon which we must focus is our effort to support and build democracy around the world. We must build a community of democracies, supporting -- both with public and private initiatives -- the elements of each society that represent the true growth of pluralism, freedom, and human rights.

And make no mistake, the United States of America must also support the brave men and women around the world who are fighting for their freedom. As I said this year in my State of the Union address, the United States must assist freedom fighters "on every continent from Afghanistan to Nicaragua."

Today, there are major anti-communist insurgencies in Africa, Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua. In the past 2 months the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives has moved to help all four. The House has voted aid to the freedom fighters in Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua. And it has repealed a 9-year-old ban, the Clark Amendment, on aid to the freedom fighters in Angola.

As these measures indicate, we are at last proving successful in our efforts to achieve a new, bipartisan consensus on foreign policy. In all the long march of human history, 1985 may well be remembered as a turning point -- the year America came together, Republicans and Democrats alike, to help freedom fighters around the globe.

The freedom tide is rising. Shouldn't we help it gather strength?

You know, after a certain day back in 1981, I sort of had a time to reassess things. ~~I thought about how easily things might~~ **AS I LEARNED OF SOME OF THE NEAR MIRACLES THAT** ~~JUST SEEMED TO FALL IN PLACE IN MY FAVOR I DECIDED THAT WHATEVER TIME WAS LEFT~~ ~~have been different -- how easily, indeed, everything might have~~ **TO ME BELONGED TO SOMEONE ELSE.** ~~come to an end and I realized how, from then on, each day of~~ ~~my life belonged to him.~~

~~During this recent stay in the hospital -- well, let me just say that you can't come out of major surgery without once again~~

~~reflecting on how easily things might have gone wrong. When I~~  
~~came home, I did so with a renewed sense of how precious our~~  
~~remaining time here in the White House is going to be. I believe~~  
~~with all my heart~~ that we have been given this moment in history  
~~to act dramatically,~~ to alter the course of our country for all  
time. ~~My friends,~~ For the next 3-1/2 years, let us conduct  
ourselves so that ~~we will be able to look back upon this time and~~  
**OUR CHILDREN & OUR CHILDRENS CHILDREN** ~~will~~  
**WILL SAY OF US THAT WE DID ALL WE COULD DO TO ENSURE THEIR FREEDOM**  
~~say to ourselves, yes, we fought the good fight, and yes, we~~  
**AND TO PRESERVE THIS LAST BEST HOPE OF MAN ON EARTH,**  
~~changed history -- we changed it forever.~~

Thank you, and God bless you all.