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(Elliott) 12/18/1982

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Last Updated: 04/01/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 18, 1982

RADIO ADDRESS
OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

12:06 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow Americans, for many of us this holiday season is the most special time of the year -- a time when faith, joy and love lift our spirits and bring new meaning to our lives. It's a time when we can look into the heart of America and know that her heart is good. And this year, especially this year, it's a time when we can look to our future with new hope. 1983 will be a better year.

Together we've launched a great national effort to correct the dangerous neglected problems that were leading our country toward disaster. The job hasn't been easy. It's been a long, tough haul and let's not kid ourselves, we have much more to do before we can truly say America is well again.

For too many of us, economic recovery is still a faceless stranger in some cold distant future, not a warm friend who's come to grace our family hearth. But despite our frustrations, let's not lose sight of the essential. America is on the mend. To move forward again, we had to get rid of what was holding us back -- runaway spending, double-digit inflation, record interest rates, a tax burden soaring out of sight and an alarming erosion of our national defense which jeopardized our security and undermined our leadership abroad. Progress is always slower than we would like but there's no doubt we're making headway on each of these deep-rooted problems.

Looking to the future, I see an America that will help to lead the world out of its longest, deepest recession in post-war history. 1983 will witness a higher level of economic activity and lower unemployment. This view is held not only by my economic advisers but by the vast majority of private forecasters across the country and the forecasts are being borne out by the facts and figures. Momentum for recovery is not weakening but building. Sharp declines in inflation, interest rates and the first reductions in personal income tax rates have given consumers more money to spend, more incentives to save, and more confidence to do both. Workers real hourly earnings have registered their first year-to-year improvement since 1978.

One of the most encouraging signs we're seeing is the strong recovery in a bedrock American industry -- housing. More homes built will mean new demand for big ticket items like appliances whose sales have been lagging. Auto and retail sales are also picking up and business start-ups are near a record. All this will stimulate demand for labor and that means jobs. I think it's encouraging that the help wanted advertising index in October, the most recent month available rose 4.1 percent after falling for the previous 10 months. Equally encouraging, initial claims for unemployment insurance have begun to trend lower.

MORE

Now, let me say a word about another long ignored problem we've begun to correct, the decline of our nation's defenses. The day I took office almost two years ago, our Armed Forces were in a dismal state of readiness. Shortages of skilled manpower, faulty equipment, lack of spare parts, insufficient fuel and ammunition for proper training all had left the United States exposed and vulnerable.

Let us always remember we have no higher responsibility than safeguarding the security and freedom of our country.

One of my first priorities was to restore the readiness of our Armed Forces. We've begun to pay our soldiers a decent wage for the risks they take. And that incentive is bearing fruit. Re-enlistment is up significantly and the educational caliber of enlistees is improving, too.

But we're not just giving our men and women in uniform the better pay they deserve. We're also providing them the training and equipment they weren't getting before. We have increased pilot flying time, extended basic training and restocked spare parts inventories.

By providing adequate compensation for our soldiers, by giving them the tools they need to do their jobs, we're restoring dignity, honor and pride to the uniform of the United States of America. And, by strengthening the credibility of our Armed Forces, we increase the probability of reaching a satisfactory arms control agreement with the Soviet Union.

A stronger defense is an investment in peace. It helps insure that our sons and daughters will not have to pay the price that so many before them had to.

Two years ago, there was growing doubt about America's determination to protect its vital interests and fulfill its obligations as a trustee of freedom, democracy and peace.

Well, I don't think anyone harbors such illusions anymore. With our friends in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia, we're working in a spirit of partnership to stimulate economic progress and to build a more peaceful world.

The United States will redouble its efforts to restore sovereignty to Lebanon and to renew negotiations for an end to turmoil and bloodshed in the Middle East. And we'll strive to strengthen world peace through intensive negotiations with the Soviet Union.

I want the Russian people to know the United States is committed to negotiate significant reductions in existing levels of weapons and to foster a more stable relationship between our two nations.

In this season when people all over the world celebrate the birth of Jesus, the one we call the Prince of Peace. Let us rededicate ourselves to this sacred mission.

Our country may face enormous challenges. But the great advantage of our democracy is that we do not act from fear or simply respond to threats. We Americans have never been pessimists. We conquer fear with faith and we overwhelm threats and hardship with courage, work, opportunity and freedom.

We're a nation built and sustained by hope. And for all of us in America, this is a time for new hope.

'Til next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.

(Elliott/AB)
December 17, 1982
2:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ECONOMY/DEFENSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1982

My fellow Americans:

For many of us, this holiday season is the most special time of year -- a time when faith, joy and love lift our spirits and bring new meaning to our lives. It's a time when we can look into the heart of America and know that her heart is good. And this year -- especially this year -- it's a time when we can look to our future with new hope. 1983 will be a better year.

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Two years ago, there was growing doubt about America's determination to protect its vital interests, and fulfill its obligations as a trustee of freedom, democracy and peace. Well, I don't think anyone harbors such illusions anymore. With our

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December 17, 1982
12:30 p.m.


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agreement
A stronger defense is a investment in peace; it helps ensu

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'Til next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: Dec. 16, 1982

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON FRIDAY
December 17, 1982

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK RE ECONOMY/DEFENSE

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | FULLER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | GERGEN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HARPER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | JENKINS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| STOCKMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CLARK | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ROLLINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | WILLIAMSON | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DOLE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | VON DAMM | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DUBERSTEIN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | BRADY/SPEAKES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FELDSTEIN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FIELDING | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Bakshian</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Remarks: Please forward comments directly to Aram Bakshian, with a copy to my office, by Noon tomorrow, Friday, December 17.

Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Ben
This reflects Darman's comments + mine.
but it needs one
add'l theme: Peace.
Esp. appropriate for the
military + insat
to secure peace in
Mid-east + arms control negotiations
1-2 paragraphs on efforts to strengthen
peace. Important for the

Response:

(Elliott/AB)
December 16, 1982
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ECONOMY/DEFENSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1982

My fellow Americans:

For many of us, this holiday season is the most special time of year -- a time when faith, joy and love lift our spirits and bring new meaning to our lives. It's a time when we can look into the heart of America and know that her heart is good. And this year -- especially this year -- it's a time when we can look to our future with new hope. 1983 will be a better year.

Together, we have ^{launched} ~~made~~ a great national effort to correct the dangerous, neglected problems that were leading our country toward disaster. The job hasn't been easy. It's been a long, tough haul, and let's not kid ourselves -- we have ^{much} more to do before we can truly say, America is well again. For too many of us, economic recovery is still a faceless stranger in some cold, distant future, not a warm friend who has come to grace our family hearth.

But despite our frustrations, let's not lose sight of the essential: America is on the mend. To move forward again, ~~with no economy~~ we had to get rid of what was holding us back -- runaway spending, double-digit inflation, record interest rates, a tax burden soaring out of sight, and an alarming erosion of our national defense, which jeopardized our security and undermined our leadership abroad. ~~It isn't easy, but we're solving each of these deep-rooted problems.~~ ^{Progress is always ~~slow~~ slower}

not claim much
than ~~first~~ ^{Wald} ~~like~~ ^{there is no doubt} ~~that~~ we are making ^{headway} ~~in~~ ^{each} ~~one~~ of these deep-rooted problems.

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~~America is ready to~~ lead the world out of its longest, deepest recession in post-war history. 1983 will witness a higher level of economic activity and lower unemployment. This view is held not only by my economic advisers, but by the vast majority of private forecasters across the country.

And the forecasts are being born out by the facts and figures. Momentum for recovery is not weakening, but building. Sharp declines in inflation, interest rates, and the first reductions in personal income tax rates have given consumers more money to spend, *intending to* ~~and~~ save, and ~~more~~ confidence to do both. Workers' real hourly earnings have just registered their first year-to-year improvement since 1978. X

One of the most encouraging signs we're seeing is the strong recovery in *a* ~~American~~ bedrock industry -- housing. More homes built will mean new demand for the big-ticket items like appliances, whose sales have been lagging. Auto and retail sales *and business start-ups are near a record.* are also picking up. (All this will stimulate demand for labor -- and that means jobs. I think it's encouraging that the help wanted advertising index in October, the most recent month available, rose 4.1 percent after falling the previous 10 months. Equally encouraging: initial claims for unemployment insurance have begun to trend lower.

So yes, there is hope, and incidentally, you *can* ~~will~~ help right now. A little extra shopping by all of us *can* contribute to recovery and shorten the time until more of our unemployed will be back at work. Don't let the doom and gloom criers have their way. You can make a difference.

on the

Now let me say a word about ~~that other~~ long, ignored problem we've begun to correct -- the decline of our nation's defenses. The day I took office almost 2 years ago, our armed forces were in a dismal state of readiness. Shortages of skilled manpower, faulty equipment, lack of spare parts, insufficient fuel and ammunition for proper training -- all had left the United States exposed and vulnerable. *(let us always remember:)* ~~(We have no higher responsibility than~~ safeguarding the security and freedom of our country, ~~but we had~~ allowed that responsibility to be neglected, year after year ~~after year.~~

Shorter
this

One of my first priorities was to restore the readiness of our armed forces. We've begun to pay our soldiers a decent wage for the risks they take ~~on our behalf.~~ And that incentive is bearing fruit. Today, ~~Re-enlistment~~ *educational* is up almost 50 percent from 1980 levels, ~~30 is the~~ *is improving too,* quality of enlistees. ~~Two years ago,~~ only half of our new army recruits were high school graduates. This year, 86 percent have their high school diplomas.

But

~~And there's something else:~~ we're not just giving our men and women in uniform the better pay they deserve, we're also providing them the training and equipment they weren't getting before. We have increased pilot flying time, extended basic training, and restocked spare parts inventories. ~~At one front line fighter unit in Virginia, the repair rate is up 300 percent, flying time is up 100 percent, and -- I don't think this is a coincidence -- the re-enlistment rate in the same unit has gone from one in four to three in four.~~ *Q* By providing adequate compensation for our soldiers, by giving them the tools they need

to do their jobs, we are restoring dignity, honor and pride to the uniform of the United States of America. And ~~as we~~ ^{by} ~~we are investing in peace.~~ ^{We are} strengthen^{ing} the credibility of our armed forces, ~~we~~ ^{we} reduce^d the ~~likelihood they will have to be used.~~ ^{chance that our sons and daughters will have to pay the price that so many} ~~before them had to do.~~

Two years ago, there was growing doubt about America's determination to protect its vital interests, and to fulfill its obligations as a trustee of peace, freedom and democracy. Well, I don't think ~~our adversaries~~ ^{anyone} harbor such illusions anymore. ~~And~~ With our friends, in ~~the Americas~~ ^{the Americas}, Europe, Africa and Asia, we are working in a spirit of partnership ~~and equality~~ to stimulate economic progress and to build a more peaceful world.

~~No one should minimize the challenges we face to our economic well-being and national security.~~ ^{At this country, face enormous} But the great

advantage of our democracy is that we do not act from fear or simply respond to threats. We Americans have never been pessimists. We conquer fear with faith and we overwhelm threats and hardship with courage, ^{work,} opportunity and freedom. We are a Nation built and sustained by hope, and for all of us in America, this is a ~~season~~ ^{time} for new hope.

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striven ~~to~~

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and ~~fostering~~ a more stable relationship between our
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 17, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ARAM BAKSHIAN

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK *WPC*
SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Radio Talk re Economy/
Defense

With reference to the attached draft Presidential radio talk (Tab A), on page two, I'm not sure the President should encourage shopping. This will look heartless since the reason shopping is down has to do with constricted disposable income. Also, this Administration is supposed to be in favor of increased savings, not consumption.

See additional changes on pages 3 and 4.

Attachment

Tab A Draft Presidential Radio Talk

cc: Richard Darman





WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: Dec. 16, 1982ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON FRIDAY
December 17, 1982SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK RE ECONOMY/DEFENSE

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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One of my first priorities was to restore the readiness of our armed forces. We've begun to pay our soldiers a decent wage for the risks they take on our behalf. And that incentive is bearing fruit. Today, re-enlistment is up almost 50 percent from 1980 levels. So is the quality of enlistees. Two years ago, only half of our new army recruits were high school graduates. This year, 86 percent have their high school diplomas.

And there's something else: we're not just giving our men and women in uniform the better pay they deserve, we're also providing them the training and equipment they weren't getting before. We have increased pilot flying time, extended basic training, and restocked spare parts inventories. [At one front line fighter unit in Virginia, the repair rate is up 300 percent, flying time is up 100 percent, and -- I don't think this is a coincidence -- the re-enlistment rate in the same unit has gone from one in four to three in four.] By providing adequate compensation for our soldiers, by giving them the tools they need

to do their jobs, we are restoring dignity, honor and pride to the uniform of the United States of America. And as we strengthen the credibility of our armed forces, we reduce the likelihood they will have to be used.

and increase the probability of reaching a satisfactory arms control agreement with the Soviet Union

Two years ago, there was growing doubt about America's determination to protect its vital interests, and to fulfill its obligations as a trustee of peace, freedom and democracy. Well, I don't think our adversaries harbor such illusions anymore. And with our friends, in Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia, we are working in a spirit of partnership and equality to stimulate economic progress and to build a more peaceful world.

No one should minimize the challenges we face to our economic well-being and national security. But the great advantage of our democracy is that we do not act from fear or simply respond to threats. We Americans have never been pessimists. We conquer fear with faith and we overwhelm threats and hardship with courage, opportunity and freedom. We are a Nation built and sustained by hope, and for all of us in America, this is a season for new hope.

'Til next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

(Elliott/AB)
December 17, 1982
12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ECONOMY/DEFENSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1982

My fellow Americans:

For many of us, this holiday season is the most special time of year -- a time when faith, joy and love lift our spirits and bring new meaning to our lives. It's a time when we can look into the heart of America and know that her heart is good. And this year -- especially this year -- it's a time when we can look to our future with new hope. 1983 will be a better year.

Together, we have launched a great national effort to correct the dangerous, neglected problems that were leading our country toward disaster. The job hasn't been easy. It's been a long, tough haul, and let's not kid ourselves -- we have much more to do before we can truly say, America is well again. For too many of us, economic recovery is still a faceless stranger in some cold, distant future, not a warm friend who has come to grace our family hearth.

But despite our frustrations, let's not lose sight of the essential: America is on the mend. To move forward again, we had to get rid of what was holding us back -- runaway spending, double-digit inflation, record interest rates, a tax burden soaring out of sight, and an alarming erosion of our national defense, which jeopardized our security and undermined our leadership abroad. Progress is always slower than we'd like, but there is no doubt we are making headway on each of these deep-rooted problems.

Looking to the future, I see an America that will help to lead the world out of its longest, deepest recession in post-war history. 1983 will witness a higher level of economic activity and lower unemployment. This view is held not only by my economic advisers, but by the vast majority of private forecasters across the country.

And the forecasts are being borne out by the facts and figures. Momentum for recovery is not weakening, but building. Sharp declines in inflation, interest rates, and the first reductions in personal income tax rates have given consumers more money to spend, more incentives to save, and more confidence to do both. Workers' real hourly earnings have just registered their first year-to-year improvement since 1978.

One of the most encouraging signs we're seeing is the strong recovery in a bedrock American industry -- housing. More homes built will mean new demand for big-ticket items like appliances, whose sales have been lagging. Auto and retail sales are also picking up; and business start-ups are near a record. All this will stimulate demand for labor -- and that means jobs. I think it's encouraging that the help wanted advertising index in October, the most recent month available, rose 4.1 percent after falling the previous 10 months. Equally encouraging: initial claims for unemployment insurance have begun to trend lower.

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faulty equipment, lack of spare parts, insufficient fuel and ammunition for proper training -- all had left the United States exposed and vulnerable. Let us always remember: we have no higher responsibility than safeguarding the security and freedom of our country.

One of my first priorities was to restore the readiness of our armed forces. We've begun to pay our soldiers a decent wage for the risks they take and that incentive is bearing fruit. Re-enlistment is up significantly and the educational caliber of enlistees is improving too. But we're not just giving our men and women in uniform the better pay they deserve, we're also providing them the training and equipment they weren't getting before. We have increased pilot flying time, extended basic training, and restocked spare parts inventories.

By providing adequate compensation for our soldiers, by giving them the tools they need to do their jobs, we are restoring dignity, honor and pride to the uniform of the United States of America. And by strengthening the credibility of our armed forces, we are investing in peace. We are reducing the chance that our sons and daughters will have to pay the price that so many before them had to do.

Two years ago, there was growing doubt about America's determination to protect its vital interests, and fulfill its obligations as a trustee of freedom, democracy and peace. Well, I don't think anyone harbors such illusions anymore. With our friends, in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia, we are working

in a spirit of partnership to stimulate economic progress and to build a more peaceful world.

The United States will redouble its efforts to restore sovereignty to Lebanon, and to renew negotiations for an end to turmoil and bloodshed in the Middle East. And we will strive to strengthen world peace through intensive negotiations with the Soviet Union. I want the Soviet people to know: the United States is committed to negotiate significant reductions in existing levels of weapons, and to foster a more stable relationship between our two nations. In this season, when people all over the world celebrate the birth of Jesus -- the one we call "Prince of Peace" -- let us rededicate ourselves to this sacred mission.

Our country may face enormous challenges. But the great advantage of our democracy is that we do not act from fear or simply respond to threats. We Americans have never been pessimists. We conquer fear with faith and we overwhelm threats and hardship with courage, work, opportunity and freedom. We are a Nation built and sustained by hope, and for all of us in America, this is a time for new hope.

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'Til next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

EHD
Red
Jack
Diana

Bill T
(comments to Nancy pls 11:00 a.m.)

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: Dec. 16, 1982

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON FRIDAY
December 17, 1982

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK RE ECONOMY/DEFENSE

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | FULLER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | GERGEN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HARPER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | JENKINS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| STOCKMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CLARK | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ROLLINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS | WILLIAMSON | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DOLF | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | VON DAMM | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DUBERSTEIN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | BRADY/SPEAKES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FELDSTEIN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FIELDING | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Bakshian</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Remarks: Please forward comments directly to Aram Bakshian, with a copy to my office, by Noon tomorrow, Friday, December 17.

Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

December 17, 1982

Good speech. One correction - page 2, second paragraph -- the word should be "borne," not born.

cc: Richard Darman


Elizabeth H. Dole

(Elliott/AB)
December 16, 1982
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ECONOMY/DEFENSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1982

My fellow Americans:

For many of us, this holiday season is the most special time of year -- a time when faith, joy and love lift our spirits and bring new meaning to our lives. It's a time when we can look into the heart of America and know that her heart is good. And this year -- especially this year -- it's a time when we can look to our future with new hope. 1983 will be a better year.

Together, we have made a great, national effort to correct the dangerous, neglected problems that were leading our country toward disaster. The job hasn't been easy. It's been a long, tough haul, and let's not kid ourselves -- we have more to do before we can truly say, America is well again. For too many of us, economic recovery is still a faceless stranger in some cold, distant future, not a warm friend who has come to grace our family hearth.

But despite our frustrations, let's not lose sight of the essential: America is on the mend. To move forward again, we had to get rid of what was holding us back -- runaway spending, double-digit inflation, record interest rates, a tax burden soaring out of sight, and an alarming erosion of our national defense, which jeopardized our security and undermined our leadership abroad. It isn't easy, but we're solving each of these deep-rooted problems.

America is ready to lead the world out of its longest, deepest recession in post-war history. 1983 will witness a higher level of economic activity and lower unemployment. This view is held not only by my economic advisers, but by the vast majority of private forecasters across the country.

And the forecasts are being born out by the facts and figures. Momentum for recovery is not weakening, but building. Sharp declines in inflation, interest rates, and the first reductions in personal income tax rates have given consumers more money to spend and save, and more confidence to do both. Workers' real hourly earnings have just registered their first year-to-year improvement since 1977.

One of the most encouraging signs we're seeing is the strong recovery in America's bedrock industry -- housing. More homes built will mean new demand for the big-ticket items like appliances, whose sales have been lagging. Auto and retail sales are also picking up. All this will stimulate demand for labor -- and that means jobs. I think it's encouraging that the help wanted advertising index in October, the most recent month available, rose 4.1 percent after falling the previous 10 months. Equally encouraging: initial claims for unemployment insurance have begun to trend lower.

So yes, there is hope, and incidentally, you can help right now. A little extra shopping by all of us will contribute to recovery and shorten the time until more of our unemployed will be back at work. Don't let the doom and gloom criers have their way. You can make a difference.

Now let me say a word about that other long, ignored problem we've begun to correct -- the decline of our nation's defenses. The day I took office almost 2 years ago, our armed forces were in a dismal state of readiness. Shortages of skilled manpower, faulty equipment, lack of spare parts, insufficient fuel and ammunition for proper training -- all had left the United States exposed and vulnerable. We have no higher responsibility than safeguarding the security and freedom of our country, but we had allowed that responsibility to be neglected, year after year after year.

One of my first priorities was to restore the readiness of our armed forces. We've begun to pay our soldiers a decent wage for the risks they take on our behalf. And that incentive is bearing fruit. Today, re-enlistment is up almost 50 percent from 1980 levels. So is the quality of enlistees. Two years ago, only half of our new army recruits were high school graduates. This year, 86 percent have their high school diplomas.

And there's something else: we're not just giving our men and women in uniform the better pay they deserve, we're also providing them the training and equipment they weren't getting before. We have increased pilot flying time, extended basic training, and restocked spare parts inventories. At one front line fighter unit in Virginia, the repair rate is up 300 percent, flying time is up 100 percent, and -- I don't think this is a coincidence -- the re-enlistment rate in the same unit has gone from one in four to three in four. By providing adequate compensation for our soldiers, by giving them the tools they need

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'Til next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

(Elliott) ^{AB} ^{MM}
December 16, 1982
~~4:00 p.m.~~

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ECONOMY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1982

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But despite ^{the} ~~these~~ frustrations, let's not lose sight of the essential: America is on the mend. To move forward again, we had to get rid of what was holding us back -- ^{runaway spending} ~~double-digit~~ inflation, record interest rates, a tax burden soaring out of sight, and, ^{an} ~~an~~ alarming erosion of our national defense, which

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(Elliott) ^{AB}
December 16, 1982
~~4:00 p.m.~~

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1982

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'Til next week Thanks for listening, and God bless you.

(Elliott)
December 16, 1982
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ECONOMY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1982

My fellow Americans:

For many of us, this holiday season is the most special time of year -- a time when faith, joy and love lift our spirits and bring new meaning to our lives. It is a time when we can look into the heart of America and know that her heart is good. And this year -- especially this year -- it is a time when we can look to our future with new hope. 1983 will be a better year.

Together, we have made a great, national effort to correct the dangerous, neglected problems that were leading our country toward disaster. The job hasn't been easy. It's been a long, tough haul, and let's not kid ourselves -- we have more to do before we can truly say, America is well again.

For too many of us, economic recovery is still a faceless stranger in some cold, distant future, not a warm friend who has come to grace our family hearth. Those who find themselves without jobs are forced to cut back on things they once thought of as their normal pattern of living. They aren't statistics, they're our neighbors, friends and, yes, family; and their number is greater than it has been for some time past.

But despite these frustrations, let's not lose sight of the essential: America is on the mend. To move forward again, we had to get rid of what was holding us back -- double-digit inflation, record interest rates, a tax burden soaring out of sight, and, an alarming erosion of our national defense, which

jeopardized our security and undermined our leadership abroad. Each of these deep-rooted problems is being attacked, and with success.

America is ready to lead the world out of its longest, deepest recession in post-war history. 1983 will witness a higher level of economic activity and lower unemployment. This view is held not only by my economic advisers, but by the vast majority of private forecasters across the country.

The forecasts are being born out by facts. Momentum for recovery is not weakening, but building. Sharp declines in inflation, interest rates, and the first reductions in personal income tax rates have given consumers more money to spend and save, and more confidence to do both. Workers' real hourly earnings have just registered their first year-to-year improvement since 1977.

We're seeing a strong recovery in America's bedrock industry -- housing. More homes built will mean new demand for the big ticket items like appliances, whose sales have been lagging. Auto and retail sales are also picking up. All this will stimulate demand for labor, and thus, jobs. I think its encouraging that the help wanted advertising index in October, the most recent month available, rose 4.1 percent after falling the previous 10 months. Equally encouraging: initial claims for unemployment insurance have begun to trend lower.

So yes, there is hope, and incidentally, you can help right now. A little extra shopping by all of us will contribute to recovery and shorten the time until more of our unemployed will

be back at work. Don't let the doom and gloom criers have their way. You can make a difference.

Now let me say a word about that other long, ignored problem we've begun to correct -- the decline of our nation's defenses. The day I took office almost two years ago, our armed forces were in a dismal state of readiness. Shortages of skilled manpower, faulty equipment, lack of spare parts, insufficient fuel and ammunition for proper training -- all had left the United States exposed and vulnerable. We have no higher responsibility than safeguarding the security and freedom of our country, but we had allowed that responsibility to be neglected, year after year after year.

One of my first priorities was to restore the readiness of our armed forces. Over the last two years we've begun to pay our soldiers a decent wage for the risks they take on our behalf. Today, re-enlistment is up almost 50 percent from 1980 levels. Two years ago, only half of our new army recruits were high school graduates. This year, 86 percent have their high school diplomas.

And there's something else: we're not just giving our men and women in uniform the better pay they deserve, we're also providing them the training and equipment they weren't getting before. We have increased pilot flying time, extended basic training, and re-stocked spare parts inventories. At one front line fighter unit in Virginia, the repair rate is up 300 percent, flying time is up 100 percent, and -- I don't think this is a coincidence -- the re-enlistment rate in the same unit has gone

from one in four to three in four. By providing adequate compensation for our soldiers, by giving them the tools they need to do their jobs, we are restoring dignity, honor and pride to the uniform of the United States of America. And as we strengthen the credibility of our armed forces, we reduce the likelihood they will have to be used.

Two years ago, there was growing doubt about America's determination to protect its vital interests, and to fulfill its obligations as a trustee of peace, freedom and democracy. Well, I don't think our adversaries harbor such illusions anymore. And with our friends, in Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia, we are working in a spirit of partnership and equality to stimulate economic progress and to take new risks for peace.

No one should minimize the challenges we face to our economic well-being and national security. But the great advantage of our democracy is that we do not act from fear or simply respond to threats. Americans have never been a defensive people. We conquer fear with faith and we overwhelm threats and violence with courage, opportunity and freedom. We are a nation built and sustained by hope, and for all of us in America, this is a time for new hope.

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Together, we have made a great, national effort to correct the dangerous, neglected problems that were leading our country toward disaster. ~~The~~ job hasn't been easy. It's been a long, tough haul, and let's not kid ourselves--we have ~~much~~ more to do before we can ^{truly} say, America is well again.

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out of sight, and, an alarming erosion of our national defense, which jeopardized our security and undermined our leadership abroad. Each of these deep-rooted ~~basic~~ problems is being attacked, and ~~successfully~~ with success.

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that could not operate for lack of spares, ^{parts} insufficient fuel and ammunition for proper training -- all ~~had left the United States exposed~~ *and vulnerable. We have no higher responsibility than safeguarding the security and freedom of our country, but we had allowed that responsibility to be neglected, year after year after year.*

~~One of my first priorities as President was to restore~~ the readiness of our armed forces. Today I am pleased to say

that we have made real progress. Over the last two years we've begun to *pay our soldiers a decent wage for the risks they take on our behalf.* ~~increased military pay 14.3 percent, and today reenlistment is up~~

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half of our new army recruits were high school graduates. This year, 86 percent have their high school diplomas. ^A *Not's something else:* And we're not

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is a time for hope in America.