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(ELLIOTT/AB)

2/22/82 - 11:40 AM

RADIO REMARKS TO YOUNG AMERICANS ON
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MRS. GUY,
MEMBERS OF THE MT. VERNON LADIES
ASSOCIATION, HONORED GUESTS, & FELLOW
CITIZENS:

WE ARE GATHERED ON HALLOWED GROUNDS
TO SHARE A SPECIAL MOMENT IN OUR
HISTORY. WE COME, FILLED WITH PRIDE &
GRATITUDE, TO HONOR GEORGE WASHINGTON,
FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY, KNOWING THAT
BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID WE ARE FREE AND
WE ARE AMERICANS.

TWO HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS AFTER HIS
BIRTH, WASHINGTON'S STAR SHINES
BRIGHTER THAN EVER. "OUR CAUSE IS
NOBLE," HE SAID, "IT IS THE CAUSE OF
MANKIND!"

(ELLIOTT/AB)

2/22/82 - 11:40 AM

This is great NR
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MANKIND!"

PURSUIT OF LIBERTY & JUSTICE UNDER GOD
IS STILL THE MOST INSPIRING, THE MOST
SUCCESSFUL, THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY IDEA
THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.

WORDS ALONE CANNOT EXPRESS HOW MUCH
WE REVERE THIS GIANT FOR FREEDOM. YES,
HE IS FIRST IN OUR HEARTS, AND WILL BE
FIRST FOR ALL TIME. BUT AS LINCOLN
SAID: "TO ADD BRIGHTNESS TO THE SUN, OR
GLORY TO THE NAME OF WASHINGTON, IS...
IMPOSSIBLE. LET NONE ATTEMPT IT ...
PRONOUNCE THE NAME, AND ... LEAVE IT
SHINING ON."

EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, CALVIN
COOLIDGE WOULD SAY, WASHINGTON'S "WAYS
WERE THE WAYS OF TRUTH. HE BUILT FOR
ETERNITY. HIS INFLUENCE GROWS ...
IN ... ACTION, IN ... CHARACTER, HE
STANDS ALONE."

IF ONE WORD COULD DESCRIBE ALL THIS
MAN WAS, & ALL HE MEANT, IT MIGHT BE --
INDISPENSABLE. HAD HE NOT LIVED,
PERHAPS SOME OTHER GREAT LEADER WOULD
HAVE APPEARED TO LIBERATE THE COLONIES &
ESTABLISH OUR REPUBLIC. WE WILL NEVER
KNOW. WE KNOW ONLY THAT WASHINGTON WAS
THERE, THAT HE DID FULFILL THIS DESTINY,
& THAT HE DID IT WITH SUCH SKILL &
PERFECTION HE SEEMED TO BE CARRYING OUT
A DIVINE PLAN FOR AMERICA.

NEVER A PASSIVE LEADER, NEVER AN
ARMCHAIR GENERAL, HE WAS ALWAYS IN FRONT
OF HIS TROOPS & HIS NATION. HE DID MORE
THAN LIVE UP TO THE STANDARDS OF THE
TIME, HE SET THEM.

WASHINGTON WAS GIFTED WITH THE
VISION OF OUR FUTURE. HE DREAMED
AMERICA COULD BE A GREAT, PROSPEROUS &
PEACEFUL NATION, STRETCHING FROM OCEAN
TO OCEAN.

HE HOPED THE DELIBERATIONS AT
PHILADELPHIA WOULD END WITH A
DECLARATION OF OUR INDEPENDENCE. HE
EVEN DESIGNED & PRESENTED A DRAWING OF
THE NEW AMERICAN FLAG TO BETSY ROSS --
13 STRIPES & A CIRCLE OF WHITE STARS ON
A FIELD OF BLUE.

WHEN THE WAR WAS GOING BADLY, HIS
COURAGE & LEADERSHIP TURNED THE TIDE OF
HISTORY OUR WAY. ON OUR FIRST CHRISTMAS
AS A NATION, IN 1776, HE LED HIS BAND OF
RAGGED CITIZEN SOLDIERS ACROSS THE
DELAWARE RIVER, THROUGH DRIVING SNOW, TO
A VICTORY THAT SAVED THE CAUSE OF
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

THEIR ROUTE OF MARCH WAS STAINED BY
BLOODY FOOTPRINTS, BUT THEIR SPIRIT DID
NOT FAIL. THEIR WILL COULD NOT BE
CRUSHED. WASHINGTON KEPT THEM GOING,
AND, WITH THE HELP OF FRANCE, THEY
FINALLY BATTLED THEIR WAY TO YORKTOWN &
THE DECISIVE VICTORY THAT ENDED THE WAR.

AFTER THE REVOLUTION, HE WANTED TO
RETURN TO MT. VERNON -- TO BE WITH HIS
FAMILY, TO FARM, TO HUNT, TO ENGAGE IN
COMMERCE. BUT HE LOVED HIS COUNTRY, AND
HIS COUNTRY NEEDED HIM. THE 13 FORMER
COLONIES WERE IMPOVERISHED, THEY WERE
BICKERING. THEY NEEDED A CONSTITUTION
SO THEY COULD BECOME A UNION OF
SOVEREIGN STATES JOINED TO A CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT. THIS AMERICAN POLITICAL
EXPERIMENT WAS NEW TO ALL HUMAN
EXPERIENCE. THE WORLD EXPECTED US TO
FAIL.

IF WASHINGTON HAD NOT STEPPED FORWARD AGAIN, FIRST AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, THEN AS OUR FIRST ELECTED PRESIDENT, WE MIGHT WELL HAVE FAILED.

HIS FEATS WERE HARVESTED FROM THE SEEDS OF EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER. HE

LACKED HIGHER EDUCATION BUT HE PULLED HIMSELF UP WITH YEARS OF TRAINING & HARD WORK.

HE WAS A MAN OF DEEP FAITH WHO BELIEVED THE PILLARS OF SOCIETY WERE RELIGION, MORALITY, & BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN ALL CITIZENS. IT

HAS BEEN WRITTEN THAT THE MOST SUBLIME FIGURE IN AMERICAN HISTORY WAS GEORGE WASHINGTON, ON HIS KNEES IN THE SNOW AT

VALLEY FORGE. HE PERSONIFIED A PEOPLE WHO KNEW IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO DEPEND ON THEIR OWN COURAGE & GOODNESS --

THEY MUST ALSO SEEK HELP FROM GOD, THEIR FATHER AND PRESERVER.

WASHINGTON WAS SO POPULAR HE COULD HAVE BEEN KING HAD HE WANTED THAT. BUT

HE HAD NO HUNGER FOR PERSONAL POWER.

HIS LOVE WAS LIBERTY, AND HIS TRUST WAS IN THE PEOPLE. HE BELIEVED THEY ARE

DEPENDABLE & RIGHTMINDED, AND HE

BELIEVED THAT A LEADER'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO BRING OUT THEIR BEST QUALITIES.

LET US ASK OURSELVES: ARE WE KEEPING FAITH WITH HIS TRUST IN US? THE

PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY DO NOT REQUIRE

THE KIND OF SACRIFICES WASHINGTON & HIS

MEN MADE THAT CHRISTMAS NIGHT ON THE

DELAWARE. BUT THEY DO REQUIRE US TO

GIVE & SUSTAIN OUR BEST EFFORTS, TO

BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER, & TO BELIEVE IN

THE GOD WHO HAS BLESSED US & WILL HELP

US REBUILD OUR COUNTRY.

GEORGE WASHINGTON & HIS GENERATION
OF AMERICANS MET THEIR CHALLENGE. WE
CAN, WE MUST, AND WE WILL MEET OURS.

TO THE STUDENTS ACROSS AMERICA
LISTENING IN, IF WASHINGTON SEEMS MUCH
LARGER THAN LIFE & MAKES YOU FEEL A
LITTLE SMALLER, I'LL LET YOU IN ON A
SECRET -- HE MAKES US ALL FEEL THAT WAY.
BUT YOU DO MATTER -- A LOT. I'M SURE HE
WOULD TELL YOU THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO
FIND YOUR GOAL -- AND GO FOR IT. THEN,
IF YOU FAIL -- AND HE HIMSELF FAILED
MANY TIMES -- PICK YOURSELVES UP & TRY
AGAIN.

REMEMBER, OUR PROBLEMS ARE ALSO
OPPORTUNITIES. YOU CAN TAKE US TO NEW
FRONTIERS IN SPACE, FIND MEDICAL CURES
FOR DEADLY DISEASE, DISCOVER
TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS, - - -

DEVELOP BETTER WAYS TO GROW FOOD, —
PROVIDE SHELTER, & PRODUCE ENERGY. THE
WORLD'S HOPE IS STILL AMERICA'S FUTURE.
AMERICA'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR DREAMS.
MAKE THEM COME TRUE, — THE ONLY LIMITS
ARE YOUR IMAGINATION, AND YOUR
DETERMINATION.

THE STORY IS TOLD THAT ONE NIGHT AT
DINNER HERE AT MT. VERNON, LAFAYETTE
SAID TO WASHINGTON, GENERAL, YOU
AMERICANS EVEN IN WAR & DESPERATE TIMES
HAVE A SUPERB SPIRIT. YOU ARE HAPPY &
YOU ARE CONFIDENT. WHY IS IT? "

WASHINGTON ANSWERED, THERE IS
FREEDOM, THERE IS SPACE FOR A MAN TO BE
ALONE & THINK & THERE ARE FRIENDS WHO
OWE EACH OTHER NOTHING BUT AFFECTION.
WE STILL HAVE THAT IN AMERICA.

AS AMERICANS, LET US ALL REDEDICATE
OURSELVES TO THE IDEALS GEORGE
WASHINGTON SET. LET US GIVE OF

OURSELVES, SO THAT WHEN OUR TIME IS
THROUGH, HISTORY MAY SAY OF US WHAT

THOMAS JEFFERSON SAID OF HIM. THEIR

INTEGRITY WAS THE MOST PURE, & THEIR

JUSTICE THE MOST INFLEXIBLE WE HAVE EVER

KNOWN. THEY WERE, IN EVERY SENSE OF THE

WORD, A WISE, A GOOD AND A GREAT PEOPLE.

I BELIEVE WE STILL ARE, — AND, BECAUSE I

BELIEVE IN YOU, I BELIEVE WE WILL BE

TOMORROW.

GOD BLESS AMERICA. THANK YOU VERY
MUCH.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ARAM BAKSHIAN, JR. 
Director, Presidential Speechwriting

SUBJECT: George Washington Birthday Remarks

Attached are the Washington remarks with your changes. One small note: While research has not been able to confirm the Washington conversation with Lafayette (the Mount Vernon librarian was also unable to trace it), we feel it's safe to run with -- you led into it as a story "told" rather than as a definite historic fact. We've made one change. Nobody called Washington "George" (with the possible exception of Martha and his older brother). Gouverneur Morris tried it once and got a very dirty look from the Father of Our Country. As a considerably younger man and former subordinate, Lafayette is most likely to have called Washington "General," so that's the word we've used in the text.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 19, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ARAM BAKSHIAN

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping letters that appear to be 'AB'.

Attached are suggested remarks for your appearance Monday at Mt. Vernon in commemoration of George Washington's 250th birthday. The audience will include a Who's Who of public people, including members of the Cabinet and senior officials from government and private industry.

Your remarks will also be carried live on nationwide radio by Mutual Broadcasting and fed into public classrooms across the Nation.

(Elliott/AB)
February 19, 1982
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO REMARKS TO YOUNG AMERICANS ON
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY - MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 22, 1982

Thank you very much, Mrs. Guy, members of the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association, honored guests, and fellow citizens:

~~Today~~, ^{We} gathered on hallowed grounds to share a special moment in our history. (FILLED WITH PRIDE & GRATITUDE) We come to honor George Washington, father of our country, ~~and we are filled with pride and gratitude~~, knowing that because of what he did we are free and we are Americans.

Two hundred fifty years after his birth, Washington's star shines brighter than ever. "Our cause is noble," he said, "it is the cause of Mankind!" Pursuit of liberty and justice under God is still the most inspiring, the most successful, the most revolutionary idea the world has ever known.

Words alone cannot express how much we revere this giant for freedom. Yes, he is first in our hearts, and ~~he~~ will be first for all time. But as Lincoln said: "To add brightness to the sun, or glory to the name of Washington, is . . . impossible. Let none attempt it . . . pronounce the name, and . . . leave it shining on."

Eighty-five years later Calvin Coolidge would say, Washington's "ways were the ways of truth. He built for eternity. His influence grows In . . . action, in . . . character, he stands alone."

If one word could describe all this man was, and all he meant, it might be -- indispensable. Had he not lived perhaps some other great leader would have appeared to liberate the colonies and establish our Republic. We will never know. We know only that Washington was there, that he did fulfill this destiny, and that he did it with such skill and perfection he seemed to be carrying out a Divine plan for America.

Never a passive leader, never an armchair general, he was always in front of his troops and his Nation. He did more than live up to the standards of the time, he set them.

Washington was gifted with the vision of our future. He dreamed America could be a great, prosperous and peaceful Nation, stretching from ocean to ocean.

He hoped the deliberations at Philadelphia would end with a declaration of our independence. He even designed and presented a drawing of the new American flag to Betsy Ross -- 13 stripes and a circle of white stars on a field of blue.

When the war was going badly, his courage and leadership turned the tide of history our way. On our first Christmas as a Nation, in 1776, he led his band of ragged citizen soldiers across the Delaware River, through driving snow, to a victory that saved the cause of American independence. Their route of march was stained by bloody footprints, but their spirit did not fail. Their will could not be crushed. Washington kept them going, and, with the help of France, they finally battled their way to Yorktown and the decisive victory that ended the war.

After the revolution, he wanted to return here to Mt. Vernon -- to be with his family, to farm, to hunt, to engage in commerce. But he loved his country, and his country needed him. The 13 former colonies were impoverished, they were bickering. They needed a Constitution so they could become a union of sovereign states joined to a central government. This American political experiment was new to all human experience. The world expected us to fail. If Washington had not stepped forward again, first at the Constitutional Convention, then as our first elected President, we might well have failed.

His feats were harvested from the seeds of exceptional character. He lacked higher education but he pulled himself up with years of training and hard work.

He was a man of deep faith who believed the pillars of society were religion, morality, and bonds of brotherhood between all citizens. It has been written that the most sublime figure in American history was George Washington, on his knees in the snow at Valley Forge. He personified a people who knew it was not enough to depend on their own courage and goodness -- they must also seek help from God, their Father and Preserver.

Washington was so popular he could have been King had he wanted ~~to be~~. ^{THAT} ~~He did not~~ ^{BUT} He had no hunger for personal power. His love was liberty, and his trust was in the people. He believed they are dependable and rightminded, and he believed that a leader's responsibility is to bring out their best qualities.

Insert - Bottom P. 4

(Believe me this is a legit. quote)

The story is told that one night at dinner there at Mt. Vernon.

Lafayette said to Washington: "George you Americans even in war &

desperate times have a superb spirit. You are happy & you are confident. Why is it?"

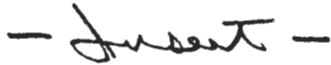
Washington answered: "There is freedom, there is space for a man to be alone & think & there are friends who owe each other nothing but affection."

We still have that in America.

Let us ask ourselves: Are we keeping faith with his trust in us? The problems we face today do not require the kind of sacrifices Washington and his men made that Christmas night on the Delaware. But they do require us to give and sustain our best efforts, to believe in each other, and to believe in the God who has blessed us and will help us rebuild our country.

George Washington and his generation of Americans met their challenge. We can, we must, and we will meet ours.

To the students across America listening in, if Washington seems much larger than life and makes you feel a little smaller, I'll let you in on a secret -- he makes us all feel that way. But you do matter -- a lot. I'm sure he would tell you the important thing is to find your goal -- and go for it. Then, if you fail -- and he himself failed many times -- pick yourselves up and try again.

Remember, our problems are also opportunities. You can take us to new frontiers in space, find medical cures for deadly disease, discover technological breakthroughs, develop better ways to grow food, provide shelter, and produce energy. The world's hope is still America's future. America's future is in your dreams. Make them come true. The only limits are your imagination, and your determination. 

As Americans, let us all rededicate ourselves to the ideals George Washington set. Let us give of ourselves, so that when our time is through, history may say of us what Thomas Jefferson said of him: Their integrity was the most pure, and their justice the most inflexible we have ever known. They were, in

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every sense of the word, a wise, a good and a great people. I believe we still are. And, because I believe in you, I believe we will be tomorrow.

God bless America. Thank you very much.