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Last Updated: 05/07/2025

To: C.FULLER (EOP021)

To: WH-RM (EOP043)

From: WH-SPEECH (EOP047) Posted: Fri 10-Aug-84 12:24 EDT Sys 64 (122)

To: WH-OCA (EOP020)

Subject: speech/rr/olympic medalists

(Noonan/BE) August 10, 1984 11:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you Don Miller, and thank you all very much. Ladies and Gentlemen of America's Team at the 23rd Olympiad:

You're heroes, every one of you. You're living proof of what happens when America sets its sights high and says, "Let's create a little excellence." And you gave us moments we'll never forget. There was Blatnick falling to his knees in thanks -- and Retton getting that perfect ten. There was Steinseifer and Hogshead hitting the wall at the exact same hundredth of a second -- and Carl Lewis' smile when he tied Jesse Owens' record.

There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. I think you may have heard that cheer. It went something like "U...S...A!" It doesn't matter whether you won the gold, the silver or the bronze -- that cheer was for you.

The specialness of this Olympics was apparent from the beginning, when all of you marched into the Coliseum together. An Englishman watching from the stands looked out at you and was quoted as saying, "That's what the world loves about America, that wonderful casualness and confidence." You walked into the opening ceremonies with a special kind of pride, a vibrant and very human delight that was transmitted to the crowds and that was picked up by people watching throughout the country.

Page 2

I couldn't help but think that if the people of the world judged Americans by what they saw of you, then they think, "Americans? Well, they're generous and full of serious effort, they're full of gaity and high spirits, they're motivated by all the best things...and do they bring home the gold, or what?"

I want to take a moment here to single out and say thank you to the uncelebrated people in the story: your coaches and trainers, your parents and friends. All the quiet people who stood behind you when the shot rang out and the race began. Every hero knows that no hero does it alone. The people who stood behind you deserve our thanks. The way I see it, there ought to be an Olympic event in Moral Support. They'd get a perfect ten.

I want to say too that the city of Los Angeles did a marvelous job. What terrific people in this town. Just about everyone in this city had to put him or herself out in some way, one way or another, while the Games were on. They not only did it, they did it with a smile. They won the admiration and thanks of the entire country. And I think a guy back East summed it up when he was sitting around with his family during the games one day. He said, "L.A. has a lotta class, a lotta style." Don't you think he was right?

This is a good time also to thank the corporations and businesses that decided, a few years back, to contribute money and personnel and time to help our athletes. They proved that the profits reaped from a free economy can be used to help our young people compete on an even footing with the state-subsidized

Page 3

athletes of other countries. Those corporations did us proud. So did Bill Simon, who led this great Citizen's Effort. So did the Los Angeles Olympic Committee...and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The 23rd Olympiad of the modern era is over but it will never be forgotten. It was attended by more countries than ever before — there was more competition than ever before — there was more brilliant talent than ever before — and, incidentally, more records were broken than ever before. A few countries — very few — did not attend. But at least now we know why the Soviets said they felt so insecure about coming. If thought I'd lose a lot of gold while visiting another country I might think twice too! The Games were a triumph — a triumph of friendly and generous competition, a triumph of fellowship, a triumph of the spirit. It turned out nothing could mar the Games, nothing could detract. It turned out the only losers of the 23rd Olympiad were those who didn't — or couldn't — come.

As for those who did -- what greatness they showed us. Weren't you impressed by the athletes the other countries sent? The Korean boxers and the Chinese gymnasts, the Rumanian athletes and the Jamaicans and the Japanese . . . For a lot of us, one of the really indelible images of the games was of Gabriella Andersen-Schiess of Switzerland, walking dazed and dehydrated to the finish line, refusing to give up, pushing on even when all her strength was gone, summoning up just that last bit of reserve and crossing that line. What a hero ____ is.

Page 4

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And so I say to you, the great melting pot team of 1984, the members of America's team at the 23rd Olympiad: Thanks for the memories, thanks for the great moments. Thanks for being what you are: genuine heroes. You did us proud.

And you know what? 1984 has a kind of special significance for me. I'm finding it to be a very interesting year. But after seeing what you did at this Olympics, I can't wait 'til '88. I can't wait.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

Comments from: WH-OCA (EOP020) Posted: Fri 10-Aug-84 16:16 EDT Sys 64 Forwarded to the President today.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

8/11/84 -

PLEASE DACOM IMMEDIATE

TO THE PRESIDENT (Via the Military Aide) The Ranch

copies to: JAMES BAKER

BILL SITTMANN FOR MICHAEL DEAVER

CRAIG FULLER

DONA PROCTOR

FROM:

RICHARD DARMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 11, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

BEN ELLIOTT BL

SUBJECT:

Olympic Medalists Ceremony

Attached is a revised draft of your remarks to the U.S. Olympic Medal winners on Monday. It incorporates your edits and a few small editorial and research changes.

On page 1, paragraph 3, the reference to Carl Lewis breaking Jesse Owens' record is not yet a fact, but is written on what is viewed as a certainty for Saturday. Should Lewis fail, we will delete this reference.

On page 3, paragraph 1, the words "more records were broken than ever before," has been changed to "a lot of records were broken."

At the request of Advance, we added language at the end for your presentation of an American Eagle to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.

Thank you.

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Mr. Darman

Attached is revised copy of President's speech for Monday, Aug 13 at 0945. The President deleted the reference to Soviets on Page 3 (see attached); therefore, pages 3 and 4 are newly typed pages.

Dona Proctor

Page 3

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The 23rd Olympiad of the modern era is over but it will never be forgotten. It was attended by more countries than ever before -- there was more competition than ever before -- there was more brilliant talent than ever before -- and, as you know, a lot of records were broken. A few countries -- very few -- did not attend. But maybe now we know why the Soviets felt so insecure about coming. If I thought I'd lose a lot of gold while visiting another country I might think twice too!

The Games were a triumph -- a triumph of friendly and generous competition, a triumph of fellowship, a triumph of the spirit. It turned out nothing could mar the Games, nothing could detract. It turned out the only losers of the 23rd Olympiad were those who didn't -- or couldn't -- come.

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I have just a final point here. One of the things I noted, and liked so much as I watched the Games on T.V., was that often, in many of the events. you could sort of figure out the

(Noonan/BE/RR) August 11, 1984 10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you Bill Simon, and thank you all very much.

Ladies and Gentlemen of America's Team at the 23rd Olympiad:
You did us proud.

You're heroes, every one of you living proof of what happens when America sets its sights high and says, "Let's create a little excellence." And you gave us moments we'll never forget. There was Blatnick dropping to his knees in thanks -- and Mary Lou Retton getting that perfect ten. There was Steinseifer and Hogshead hitting the wall at the exact same hundredth of a second -- and Carl Lewis' smile when he tied Jesse Owens' record.

There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. I think you may possibly have heard that cheer. It went something like "U...S...A!" It doesn't matter whether you won the gold, the silver or the bronze -- that cheer was for you.

The specialness of this Olympics was apparent from the beginning. You walked into the opening ceremonies with a special kind of pride, a vibrant and very human delight that was transmitted to the crowds and that was picked up by people watching all around the country.

Throughout the Games, I couldn't help but think that if the people of the world judged Americans by what they saw of you,

The 23rd Olympiad of the modern era is over but it will never be forgotten. It was attended by more countries than ever before -- there was more competition than ever before -- there was more brilliant talent than ever before -- and, as you know, a lot of records were broken.

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And so I say to you, the great melting pot team of 1984, the members of America's team at the 23rd Olympiad: Thanks for the memories, thanks for the great moments. Thanks for being what you are: genuine heroes.

You did us proud.

And you know what? '1984 has a kind of special significance for me. I'm finding it to be a very interesting year. But after seeing what you did at this Olympics, I can't wait 'til '88. I can't wait.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

And now, you remember that right before the Games you gave me a gift of all your Olympic team pins. Today I want to return the favor. I have a gift for the future U.S. Olympics Hall of Fame. It is the American Eagle, and it is given to honor the members of America's Team at the '84 Games -- because you soared to greatness.

Document No.	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	8/9/84	ACTION/CO	NCURR	ENCE/CC	MMENT DUE BY:	5:00 TODAY	8/9			
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(Noonan/BE) August 9, 1984 10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. It think you may have heard that cheer. It went something like "U...S...A!"

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I couldn't help but think that if the people of the world judged Americans by what they saw of you, then they think, "Americans? Well, they're generous and full of serious effort, they're full of gaity and high spirits, they're motivated by all the best things...and do they bring home the gold, or what?"

I want to take a moment here to single out and say thank you to the uncelebrated people in the story: your coaches and trainers, your parents and friends. All the quiet people who stood behind you when the shot rang out and the race began. Every hero knows that no hero does it alone. The people who stood behind you deserve our thanks. The way I see it, there ought to be an Olympic event in Free Style Emotional Support. They'd get a perfect ten.

I want to say too that the city of Los Angeles did a marvelous job. What terrific people in this town. Just about everyone in this city had to put him or herself out in some way, one way or another, while the Games were on. They not only did it, they did it with a smile. They won the admiration and thanks of the entire country. And I think a guy back East summed it up when he was sitting around with his family during the games one day. He said, "L.A. has a lotta class, a lotta style." Don't you think he was right?

This is a good time also to thank the corporations and businesses that decided, a few years back, to contribute money and personnel and time to help our athletes. They proved that the profits reaped from a free economy can be used to help our young people compete with the state-subsidized athletes of other

countries. Those corporations did us proud. So did Bill Simon, who led this great Citizen's Effort. So did the Los Angeles Olympic Committee...and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

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Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

Document No.	

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DATE:	8/9/84	_ ACTION/CONCURR	ENCE/C	OMMENT DUE BY:	5:00 TODAY 8	19 J	
SUBJECT: REMARKS:		EVENT WITH U.S	S. OLY	MPIC MEDALIST	S		
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Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 5:00 p.m. today, August 9th, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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(Noonan/BE) August 9, 1984 10:30 a.m.

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Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

August .9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM:

ROBERT M. KIMMITT Bob_

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Event with

US Olympic Medalists

The NSC has reviewed the attached Presidential remarks at the event with the US Olympic Medalists and has made a minor suggested edit on page 3.

Attachment

As stated

cc: Richard G. Darman

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Document No.

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Please	provide ar	ny edits direct an information		Ben Elliott by 5:0 to my office.	00 p.m. today,	
Thank	you.					

Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President Ext. 2702

(Noonan/BE) August 9, 1984 10:30 a.m.

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countries. Those corporations did us proud. So did Bill Simon, who led this great Citizen's Effort. So did the Los Angeles Olympic Committee...and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The 23rd Olympiad of the modern era is over but it will never be forgotten. It was attended by more countries than ever before -- there was more competition than ever before -- there was more brilliant talent than ever before -- and, incidentally, more records were broken than ever before. A few countries -- very few -- did not attend. But at least now we know why the Soviets said they felt so insecure about coming. If I thought I'd lose a lot of gold while visiting another country I might think twice too! The Games were a triumph -- a triumph of friendly and generous competition, a triumph of fellowship, a triumph of the spirit. It turned out nothing could mar the Games, nothing could detract. It turned out the only losers of the 23rd Olympiad were those who didn't -- or couldn't -- come.

As for those who did -- what greatness they showed us.

Weren't you impressed by the athletes the other countries sent?

The Korean boxers and the Chinese gymnasts, the Rumanian athletes and the Jamaicans and the Japanese . . . For a lot of us, one of the really indelible images of the games was of Gabriella

Andersen-Schiess of Switzerland, walking dazed and dehydrated to the finish line, refusing to give up, pushing on even when all her strength was gone, summoning up just that last bit of reserve and crossing that line. What a hero she is.

I have just a final point here. One of the things I noted, and liked so much as I watched the Games on T.V., was that

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And so I say to you, the great melting pot team of 1984, the members of America's team at the 23rd Olympiad: Thanks for the memories, thanks for the great moments. Thanks for being what you are: genuine heroes.

You did us proud.

And you know what? 1984 has a kind of special significance for me. I'm finding it to be a very interesting year. But after seeing what you did at this Olympics, I can't wait 'til '88. I can't wait.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

August 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BEN ELLIOTT

FROM:

DAVID GERSON (ML

SUBJECT:

REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

OMB has no comments on the attached draft.

cc: Richard Darman

Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	8/9/84	્રે ટ્! ACTION/CONCURR	ENCE'S	OMMENT DUE BY:	5:00 TODAY	8/9	·
SUBJECT: REMARKS:		EVENT WITH U.S			'S		
(8/9 10:30 a.m.)							
	ACTION FYI						FYI
VICE P	RESIDENT			MURPHY			
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REMARKS:							!
Please August	provide ar 9th, with	ny edits directi an information	ly to copy	Ben Elliott k to my office.	oy 5:00 p.m.	today,	
Thank y	you.						
RESPONSI	E:						

Rate 17 17 S IS84 AUG -9 AU II: 27 (Noonan/BE) August 9, 1984 10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you Don Miller, and thank you all very much.

Ladies and Gentlemen of America's Team at the 23rd Olympiad:
You did us proud.

You're heroes, every one of you. You're living proof of what happens when America sets its sights high and says, "Let's create a little excellence." And you gave us moments we'll never forget. There was Blatnick falling to his knees in thanks -- and Retton getting that perfect ten. There was Steinseiffer and Hogshead hitting the wall at the exact same mili-second -- and

There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. It went something like "U...S...A!"

The specialness of this Olympics was apparent from the beginning, when all of you marched into the Coliseum together. An Englishman watching from the stands looked out at you and was quoted as saying, "That's what the world loves about America, that wonderful casualness and confidence." You walked into the opening ceremonies with a special kind of pride, a vibrant and very human delight that was transmitted to the crowds and that was picked up by people watching throughout the country.

I couldn't help but think that if the people of the world judged Americans by what they saw of you, then they think, "Americans? Well, they're generous and full of serious effort, they're full of gaity and high spirits, they're motivated by all the best things...and do they bring home the gold, or what?"

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