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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT:

Address: International Concrete
and Aggregates Show Convention

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the above-referenced remarks be sent directly to Ben Elliott by close of business today. The remarks stress opposition to big government, central planning, and regulation, and support for free enterprise and unleashing the profit motive. The remarks also review the progress of the economic recovery, and express support for line-item veto authority (the form is not specified) and a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced Federal budget.

On page 9, line 7, the President refers to his support for the creation of a "bipartisan commission" to deal with the deficit. What the President proposed in his State of the Union address was the designation by the congressional leadership of a bipartisan group of congressional representatives to meet with administration representatives. Use of the term "bipartisan commission" suggests an advisory committee along the lines of the Scowcroft, Social Security, and Kissinger Commissions. I think we should avoid use of the "bipartisan commission" label to avoid the confusion about exactly what the President meant that characterized media reports after the address. I would delete "by supporting the creation of a bipartisan commission" and substitute "by urging the congressional leadership to designate a bipartisan group of congressional representatives to work with my representatives on this question."

The attached memorandum includes this suggestion and two more minor grammatical ones.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1984

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

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Address: International Concrete
and Aggregates Show Convention

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks. On page 9, line 7, we recommend deleting "by supporting the creation of a bipartisan commission" and substituting "by urging the congressional leadership to designate a bipartisan group of congressional representatives to work with my representatives on this question." What the President proposed in his State of the Union address was quite different from a "bipartisan commission" such as the Scowcroft, Social Security, or Kissinger Commissions. Use of the term "bipartisan commission" to describe the President's proposal for a bipartisan group of congressional representatives meeting with Administration officials would create considerable confusion over precisely what the President intended.

On page 3, line 11, either "energies" should be "energy" or "it" should be "them."

On page 3, line 23, "there" should be "therefrom" or "from it."

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 1/27/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1

Name of Correspondent: Richard G. Darman

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Address: International Concrete and Aggregates Show Convention

| ROUTE TO: | ACTION | DISPOSITION | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Action Code | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD | Type of Response Code | Completion Date YY/MM/DD |
| <u>W Holland</u> | ORIGINATOR | <u>8410127</u> | | <u>1 1</u> |
| <u>WAT 18</u> | Referral Note: <u>D</u> | <u>8410127</u> | | <u>58410127</u> <u>COB</u> |
| <u>WAT 17</u> | Referral Note: <u>A</u> | <u>8410127</u> | | <u>1 1</u> |
| | Referral Note: | <u>1 1</u> | | <u>1 1</u> |
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| <p>ACTION CODES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply | <p>DISPOSITION CODES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A - Answered B - Non-Special Referral C - Completed S - Suspended |
|---|---|
- FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**
 Type of Response = Initials of Signer
 Code = "A"
 Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/27/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: c.o.b. TODAY, 1/27

SUBJECT: ADDRESS: INTERNATIONAL CONCRETE & AGGREGATES SHOW CONVENTION

| | ACTION FYI | | | ACTION FYI | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | McFARLANE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | McMANUS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OGLESBY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| STOCKMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SPEAKES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FELDSTEIN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SVAHN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FIELDING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | VERSTANDIG | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FULLER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | WHITTLESEY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HERRINGTON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ELLIOTT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HICKEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | HENKEL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| JENKINS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | FISCHER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott by c.o.b. today, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

1984 JAN 27 PM 12: 27

story of that old farmer who took over a parcel of creek-bottom land that had never been cleared. It was covered with rocks and brush and had deep ruts, but he was determined to make it flourish. He cleared the brush, he hauled away the rocks, cultivated the soil, and planted the crops. Before long he had a beautiful garden. Proud of what he'd accomplished, one Sunday he asked the minister to drop by after church to see it.

Well, the reverend came out, and he was impressed. "That's the tallest corn I've ever seen," he said. "The Lord certainly has blessed this land." Then he said, "Those melons are so large. Praise the Lord." He went on that way -- tomatoes, squash, and beans, he praised the Lord.

The old farmer was getting pretty edgy. Finally, he couldn't take it any more, "Reverend," he said, "With all due respect, I wish you could have seen this place when the Lord was taking care of it by Himself."

We Americans have always been grateful to God for the blessings bestowed on this land. One of our greatest blessings was freedom that unleashed the creative energy of our people. That energy took an undeveloped land, with vast stretches of wilderness and desert, and turned it into an economic dynamo that has provided a better quality of life and greater degree of freedom for more people than any other in history.

There are many explanations for the American miracle; not one of them is Government planning. I can't help but think that, had Chicago faced modern Federal regulations, we'd still be stepping over the burned out wrecks left by the great fire. Of

job because they are not just following orders; they are doing what they want to do.

Profit motive unleashed an explosion of energy in this country. A young Frenchman named Alexis de Tocqueville, traveling through America in the 1830's, wrote, "America is a land of wonders, in which everything is in constant motion and every change seems an improvement." He said that, "No natural boundary seems to be set to the efforts of man; and in his eyes what is not yet done is only what he has not yet attempted to do."

Those who are uncomfortable with profit motive may not understand something you folks in business know well. Making a profit means filling other people's needs, and doing it efficiently, courteously, and at as low a price as possible. Because our business men and women have been working for profit, the American people pay a lower percentage of their income for food and the necessities of life than people anywhere else in the world.

Of course, mistakes sometimes happen. There is a story of a fellow whose friend was so successful that he was opening up a new branch office. A floral arrangement was ordered for the occasion. He was upset when he got to the opening to find a wreath reading, "Rest in peace." On the way home the man stopped by the flower shop to complain and the owner told him to calm down. Things weren't all that bad. "Just think," the owner said, "Somewhere today, someone was buried under a flower arrangement inscribed: 'Good luck in your new location.'"

American character. For the first time the refrain was heard that America's best days were behind her.

Economic stagnation held us in a vice-like grip while double-digit inflation picked our pockets. Twenty-one-and-one-half percent interest rates knocked the construction and automobile industries right off their feet. I know this isn't a political gathering, but does anyone really want to go back to those days? ✓

The woes from which we are now emerging were not the result of some uncontrollable cycle. Nor were they a result of personality defects in our political leaders. Instead, we strayed too far from those truths which served as the basis of American progress. Government was spending too much, draining away any chance for growth in the private sector. Federal taxes were too high, undercutting the incentive to work or invest. Federal regulation was beyond all reason, tying our hands, threatening our freedom.

Getting this situation straightened out and putting this country back on the right road has not been easy. The job is not done, but we have made a beginning. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you, and to thank you collectively as an organization for all the support you've given over the last 36 months. What we've accomplished couldn't have been done without the active support of you and good folks like you. I want you to know I appreciate it very much.

Together, we've put the inflation monster in a cage and we've broken the inflation mentality.

We've turned stagnation and decline into robust growth, 6 percent in 1983. Productivity is up. Consumer spending is up. Factory use is up. Housing starts and auto sales are up.

Most encouraging, venture capital, which lays the foundation for a better tomorrow, is way up. During 1983, \$3.5 billion was raised -- nearly four times more than in 1980.

Working people are already seeing results. More people are, in fact, working today than ever before in our history. Unemployment took its biggest drop in post-war history last year. Furthermore, real wages went up ___ last year. When we got to Washington, real wages were going down.

One statistic of which I'm most proud: A working family earning \$25,000 has \$1,100 more in purchasing power than if we had kept the same tax and inflation rates we inherited from the last Administration. In short, the American people are better off.

We inherited despair and turned it into hope. With hard work and common sense, we turned the era of limits into an era of opportunity.

We've come a long way, but much remains for us to do. Turning the economy around was priority number one. Now we can turn to the equally difficult task of streamlining Government, making it more efficient and responsive. We've made a start here too. We've transferred a host of programs back to the State and local levels, programs that should never have been the Federal Government's responsibility in the first place.

We also put to work a team of experts from the private sector to determine where changes can be made to eliminate waste

individuals of good will, individuals who want what's best for this country.

Nobody should ever sell America or Americans short. We are today recapturing much of the spirit of enterprise about which de Tocqueville wrote. Your industry, more than most, reflects this spirit. You've proven that those willing to take a chance, willing to work hard and live right, can accomplish great things. You need only look around you to find successful individuals at the head of impressive companies who started with a pick or shovel, or driving a truck.

This magnificent theater in which we are meeting today was built by an individual who started in the sand and gravel industry, Colonel Henry Crown. His father, Arie, after whom this theater is named, was a Lithuanian immigrant. Henry Crown and his brother borrowed the money needed to get started. From this humble beginning, Henry Crown became one of the most successful men in the American business. Reflecting the good and decent values at the heart of this country, he has been one of this country's leading philanthropists.

His story is not unique among this group. You are powerful forces for good in communities across our country. Walt Whitman once wrote, "O America because you build for mankind I build for you."

Today, American liberty shines brightly, offering proof to a mankind plagued with tyranny and deprivation, that there is a better way. Together, we can keep America the blessed land of freedom and opportunity God meant it to be.

Thank you and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Remarks: National Prayer Breakfast

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the above-referenced remarks be sent directly to Ben Elliott by 4:00 p.m. today. The remarks reflect upon the importance of prayer, and stress the success of the Year of the Bible proclamation. Aside from mention of that proclamation itself, the only politically controversial reference is one on page 3, lines 12-13 to "the right of our children to worship God in their schools." The President simply states that on this issue we should all work and pray together.

I have no legal objections, although the opening joke -- Churchill's famous quip about how more people would come to see him hanged than to hear him speak -- strikes me as inappropriate.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1984

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

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *Orig. signed by FFF*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Remarks: National Prayer Breakfast

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective. I would point out, however, that I found the Churchill story on page one to be somewhat inappropriate.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 1/31/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1984

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

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Remarks: National Prayer Breakfast

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cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 1/31/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

Name of Correspondent: Richard G. DARMAN

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Remarks: National Prayer Breakfast

| ROUTE TO: | ACTION | DISPOSITION | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---|
| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Action Code | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD | Type of Response Code Completion Date YY/MM/DD |
| <u>CW40LL</u> | ORIGINATOR | <u>84,01,81</u> | <u> 1 1 </u> |
| | Referral Note: | | |
| <u>CW4T18</u> | <u>D</u> | <u>84,01,81</u> | <u>S 84,01,81</u> <u>4:00p</u> |
| | Referral Note: | | |
| <u>CW4T17</u> | <u>A</u> | <u>84,01,81</u> | <u> 1 1 </u> |
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| | Referral Note: | | |

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
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DISPOSITION CODES:

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- C - Completed
- B - Non-Special Referral
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/31/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 P.M. TODAY, 1/31

SUBJECT: REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | McFARLANE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | McMANUS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OGLESBY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| STOCKMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS | SPEAKES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FELDSTEIN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SVAHN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| FULLER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | WHITTLESEY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HERRINGTON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ELLIOTT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HICKEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | TUTWILER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| JENKINS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | HENKEL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | FISCHER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/edits by 4:00 p.m. today, Tuesday, 1/31, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

1984 JAN 31 PM 12: 20

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

Received SS
1984 JAN 31 PM 12: 10

(Elliott)
January 31, 1984
12:00 noon

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1984

Thank you very much Barbara Jordan, all our friends and distinguished guests here at the head table, and all of you very distinguished people. I'm delighted and honored to be back with you again this year.

I'm told some 3,000 people are here with us today -- including Ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, the Cabinet, Government agencies, and, of course, everyday citizens from all walks of life.

I couldn't help recalling something Winston Churchill said when a woman cornered him at a speech and asked: Doesn't it thrill you to know every time you speak the hall is packed to overflowing?

Yes, it's flattering, he replied. But whenever I feel this way, I remember that if, instead of making a political speech, I was being hanged, the crowd would be twice as big.

But we know why thousands are gathered here from different backgrounds, groups, and political persuasions. Despite our apparent differences, we are kindred spirits, united by one burning belief: God is our Father; we are his children; together, brothers and sisters, we are one family.

Isaiah told us, ". . . the Government shall be upon His shoulders." We in Washington must do all we can to provide responsible leadership for our country. Even in this political year, how much better would it be for America if we could try to

work His will in our lives, by coming together just as we are this morning -- in prayer.

For a time, there seemed to be a feeling in the land that we should only pray as a last resort -- pray after everything else we tried had failed. Well, somehow I don't get the idea that God appreciates being last. He'd rather have us pray first, then act. And I think more and more Americans are doing that. There is a hunger for faith that is spreading a spiritual revival across America.

Like that image of George Washington kneeling in prayer in the snow at Valley Forge, we're remembering it's not enough to depend on own courage and goodness. We must also look to God our Father and Preserver. And faith to walk with Him, and to trust in His word, can bring the blessings of comfort, power, and peace we seek.

I remember talking to a Senator a while back during one of those conflicts that frequently arises. Views were held deeply on both sides. And when we finished talking, he rose and said, "I'm going out of here and do some praying." And I said, "Well, if you get a busy signal, it's me there ahead of you."

Last year, I was delighted and honored to help proclaim 1983 the Year of the Bible. You here this morning know what a blessing we have in its words of strength, comfort, and truth. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds, and refresh our souls.

Thanks to so many of you, we saw a tremendous outpouring of spirit and good works and they blessed America.

Year-of-the-Bible activities were held in every State of the Union. More than 25 States and 500 cities issued their own Year-of-the-Bible proclamations.

The National Committee met on four different occasions to determine policy and hear reports of Year-of-the-Bible activities -- twice in Washington, D.C., once in Dallas, and once in Chicago. I'm told that these historic gatherings of leading Christians and Jews were characterized by cooperation and enthusiasm.

And why shouldn't they be? Whether we are Christians or Jews, we are all the children of Abraham; we are children of the same God. I happen to believe that whether the question is the right of our children to worship God in their schools, or the right of our brothers and sisters to be free of religious persecution in foreign lands, all of us should stand together, work together, march together, and, yes, pray together as one family under God.

And that leads me to ask you something: If our Year-of-the-Bible activities were so successful, why abandon our efforts, why not press on toward greater challenges? Nineteen eighty-three was the year more of us read the Good Book. Could we resolve together this morning that 1984 will be the year we put its great truths into action?

I've been criticized for saying this before. But my experience in this office I hold has only deepened a belief that I've held for many years: Within the covers of that one Book are

all the answers to all the problems we face today -- if only we'd read, believe, and act.

Just imagine how many more problems we could solve in America and in the world if we asked not, what's in this for me, but, how, together, will we heed the voice of the spirit, minister to each other, and glorify our God?

Those of us who look to Jesus might ponder the words attributed to Mother Theresa: "Christ has no body on Earth but your body; no hands but your hands. Yours are the eyes with which He must look out with compassion upon our world. Yours are the feet with which He must go about doing good."

If the Lord is our light, our strength, and our salvation, whom shall we fear, of whom shall we be afraid? "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

Helping each other, believing in Him, we can make 1984 the year America puts the principles of His Kingdom above the concerns of partisan politics. If we do, I think we'd find that this is the stuff of which miracles are made.

May God keep you always, and may you always keep God.

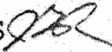
Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Birthday Rally/
Dixon, Illinois -- Monday, Feb. 6, 1984

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the above-referenced remarks be sent directly to Ben Elliott by 1:00 p.m. today. The remarks are to be delivered at a birthday rally and appropriately begin with some defusing comments about the President's age. The bulk of the remarks are general ones about American values and community spirit, interspersed with references to the history of Dixon, Illinois.

In the last full sentence on page 3 the President states that if the founder of Dixon "had to fill out environmental impact statements and report to regulatory agencies in Washington, I'd probably still be calling Dixon's Ferry my hometown." I think this could easily be misinterpreted as an adverse reflection on those who never left and never will leave Dixon. If the point is that Dixon would still be Dixon's Ferry, i.e., that there would have been no technological development, it could be made clearer by changing "I'd probably still be calling Dixon's Ferry my hometown" to "Dixon would probably still be known as Dixon's Ferry." I have no legal objections.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1984

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

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Birthday Rally/
Dixon, Illinois -- Monday, Feb. 6, 1984

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective. The last full sentence on page 3 may be misconstrued as an adverse comment on the people who never left and never will leave Dixon. If the point is that Dixon would still be known as Dixon's Ferry, because there would have been no technological progress, it could be made clearer by changing "I'd probably still be calling Dixon's Ferry my hometown" to "Dixon would probably still be known as Dixon's Ferry."

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 1/31/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
 - H - INTERNAL
 - I - INCOMING
- Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

JK

Name of Correspondent: Richard G. DARMAN

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Presidential Remarks: Birthday Rally/
Dixon, Illinois Monday, Feb. 6, 1984

| ROUTE TO: | ACTION | DISPOSITION | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Action Code | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD | Type of Response Code Completion Date YY/MM/DD |
| <u>CUBDU</u> | ORIGINATOR | <u>84/01/31</u> | _____ <u>1 1</u> |
| <u>CUAT18</u> | Referral Note: <u>D</u> | <u>84/01/31</u> | _____ <u>S 84/01/31</u> |
| <u>CUAT17</u> | Referral Note: <u>A</u> | <u>84/01/31</u> | _____ <u>1:00p.</u> |
| _____ | Referral Note: _____ | _____ | _____ <u>1 1</u> |
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- ACTION CODES:**

 - A - Appropriate Action
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DISPOSITION CODES:

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 - S - For Signature
 - X - Interim Reply
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/30/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. TUESDAY, 1/31

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BIRTHDAY RALLY/DIXON, ILLINOIS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1984

| | ACTION FYI | | | ACTION FYI | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | McFARLANE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | McMANUS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OGLESBY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| | | | <u>TUTWILER</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please provide comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott in room 100 by 1:00 p.m. TOMORROW, TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

1984 JAN 31 AM 7:45

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

Received SS
1984 JAN 30 PM 6:02

(Myer/BE)
January 30, 1984
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BIRTHDAY RALLY
DIXON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1984

Thank you so very much. Nancy and I have been looking forward to this day for a long time, and your warm welcome touches our hearts. Before I say anything else, let me express my sincere thanks to everyone who made this terrific day possible. Mayor Jim Dixon, distinguished guests, and may I add with great pride and pleasure, my fellow Dixonians. It's great to be back home.

You know, if our old house on Hennipin Avenue looked as good in 1924 as it does now, I might never have left. But I can tell you that my heart is still here -- and it will always be here.

Birthdays are special moments and you've given me one today. But I must tell you, even though this is the 34th anniversary of my 39th birthday, the numbers don't phase me at all. I believe Moses was 80 when God first commissioned him for public service. And I also remember something that Thomas Jefferson once said. He said that we should never judge a President by his age; only by his work. And ever since he told me that, I've stopped worrying.

Back in 1951, another Illinois native returned to his hometown for a short visit. Carl Sandburg was also 73 years old when he spent a day on his cousin's farm in Galesburg, just 90 miles down the road.

Later, he reflected on America's future. He thought about the three wars and the two depressions he had lived through. He reminisced about the pain and suffering he had seen on so many

faces. But Carl Sandburg didn't forecast a dark future for America. When he came back to the prairies of Illinois, he felt the spirit of a strong and worthy people. And that made him an optimist. He said, "I see great days ahead" . . . for "men and women of will and vision." Then he tipped his hat as a way of offering his favorite toast, "To the storms to come and the stars coming after the storm."

Carl Sandburg understood that our greatest strength is not bullets or balance sheets, but the mighty spirit of free people under God. And our spirit has never waned. The heart of America is strong, good and true. We look forward to the future; we know we were never meant to be second best. And we never will be.

Like Carl Sandburg, I also remember those depression years. Times were tough, but what I remember most clearly is that Dixon held together. Our faith was our strength. Our teachers pointed to the future. People held on to their hopes and dreams. Neighbors helped neighbors. We knew -- my Mom and Dad, my brother Neil, and good people like Dick McNichol, B. J. Frazer and the Wolfes -- we knew that with pride, confidence and courage, we would overcome adversity and be able to reach for our dreams; after the storm, the stars would come.

Dixon has changed a lot since then, but in many ways, it hasn't changed at all. And I'm not talking about Lowell Park, St. Luke's or the Memorial Arch. What I'm really referring to are the values and traditions that made America great.

Our values bring us together as a Nation, they help us go as far as our God-given talents will take us. Americans are the

most charitable people in the world. We reach out to the needy. We are a Nation of volunteers. We seek community service. It's so easy to have faith in America.

When you're talking about the character of America, you're also talking about the small business community, about the owners of that store down the street, the faithful who support their churches and their civic organizations -- all the brave men and women with faith to invest in the future to build a better America.

Only when individuals are given a personal stake in deciding their own destiny, in benefitting from their own risks, do societies prosper, grow and remain free. To those who would stifle personal initiative through more and more Government, I ask them to read the Constitution. As a matter of fact, just read its first three words. It says, "We the People," not, "We the Government."

It's everyday people with big ideas that count; people like Father John Dixon who arrived here in 1830 with his wife, five children -- and a dream. His ferry service provided the only means of crossing the Rock River for travelers to Galena coming from Peoria, Fort Dearborn, and Fort Armstrong. But he didn't stop there. Through his efforts, he lived to see Dixon's Ferry become the county seat and a thriving community of 8,000.

You know, I must say that if Father Dixon had to fill out environmental impact statements and report to regulatory agencies in Washington, I'd probably still be calling Dixon's Ferry my hometown. And our town would have never produced people like

John Deere and the Walgreens, people with ingenuity, audacity and vision.

That's why we're working so hard to limit the size and scope of the Federal Government. We've already reduced the growth of Federal regulations by more than 25 percent; and we've cut well over 300 million hours of Government-required paperwork each year. And we're going to reduce it even more. We want to give today's pioneers the same chance that Father Dixon had.

And there's something else. When you stop to think, it's easy to understand why America is back on her feet and moving forward with confidence. Our rebirth began right here, in our homes, schools, churches and neighborhoods. From the grocery store to the football field, and from the service clubs to the Chamber of Commerce, America has recaptured her drive, energy and determination.

There is a new spirit of community building -- you can feel it everywhere. We see so many acts of courage and downright heroism -- like the 11-year-old in Hampton, Virginia, who was seriously burned recently while rescuing his elderly neighbor from a serious house fire. I talked to Tim Diakis; he'll be out of the hospital in a few weeks and he's going to be O.K. And now his community is chipping in to help cover the cost of his hospitalization.

And you showed how much you care in Dixon when you raised \$25,000 for special medical care needed by young Jason Heinrich. This community spirit responds to our desire for cooperation and brotherhood and it makes our hometown a better place to live.

If anybody wants to know what "community" is all about, come to Lee County and Dixon, Illinois. Come take a look at the Hometown Heritage Foundation, a community alumni organization dedicated to future development of the local area. By working together -- individuals, business, civic organizations and local government -- Dixon is building a brighter future.

So you see, the reason I came home today was not to celebrate my birthday, but to celebrate Dixon and America. Honor, integrity and kindness do exist all across our land. There is a zest for life and laughter.

Another Illinois native, Adlai Stevenson, kind of put it all together when he said,

"America is much more than a geographical fact. It is a political and moral fact -- the first community in which men set out in principle to institutionalize freedom, responsible government, and human equality."

That's what we're celebrating today. Thank you, God Bless you all and God Bless America.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 31, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONCRETE & AGGREGATES
INDUSTRIES CONVENTION

Arie Crown Theatre
McCormick Place
Chicago, Illinois

12:38 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: I was just trying to learn here for just a second whether the weather was as bad here yesterday as it looked last night on television in Washington. I understand it wasn't that bad.

Thank you, Bill, the members of Congress, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen. I appreciate this chance to be with you. Over the years we've stood shoulder to shoulder on the major issues of the day. I remember when it was in style to say that no growth would improve the quality of life. Well, we can be grateful no one's falling for that anymore. (Applause.) The folks in your industry are today, as you have always been, working not to keep America the same, but building to make it better.

Your group was one of the first I addressed after becoming Governor of California back in 1967. I also spoke at one of your luncheons in San Francisco in 1971. And while preparing for today, I looked over that 1971 speech. It began with the words, "I just returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. and have to say it's a great place to visit; but I wouldn't want to live there." (Laughter.)

Now, I still have some of the same feelings today, but -- (laughter) -- I'm -- I think maybe I'll stretch the visit out for a few more years, if I can, and then I'll head home. (Applause.) Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Be careful. I may decide not to go on after that. (Laughter.)

I appreciate this opportunity to give you an update on what we've been accomplishing during our 36-month tenure in Washington.

Of course it's what you and people like you outside of Washington are doing that makes all the difference. Too often government is given a lion's share of the credit. And that's a pretty good excuse for a story here about the old farmer who took over a parcel of land down in a creek bottom. It had never been cleared, was covered with rocks, brush all rotted and he just determined to make it flourish and he went to work and he hauled away the rocks and he cleared away the brush, cultivated the ground and fertilized and so forth and then planted his garden and before long just had a very beautiful garden. And he was

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so proud of what he'd accomplished that one Sunday after church, he asked the minister to drop by and see his place. Well, the reverend came out and he was impressed. He said, "That's the tallest corn I've ever seen. The Lord certainly has blessed this land." And then he said, "Those melons -- I've never seen any any bigger than that. Praise the Lord." And he went on that way -- tomatoes, squash, the beans, everything, and what the Lord had done with that land. And the old farmer was getting pretty edgy. And finally, he couldn't take it anymore and he said, "Reverend, I wish you could have seen it when the Lord was doing it by Himself." (Laughter.)

We Americans have always been grateful to God for the blessings bestowed on this land. One of our greatest blessings was freedom that unleashed the creative energy of our people. That energy took an undeveloped land, with vast stretches of wilderness and desert, and turned it into an economic dynamo that has provided a better quality of life and a greater degree of freedom for people than any other in history.

There are many explanations for the American miracle, but government planning isn't one of them. I can't help but think -- (applause) -- I can't help but think that had Chicago faced modern federal regulations, we'd still be stepping over the burned out recks left by that great fire. Of course, back in those days, no one waited for help from Washington. They just rolled up their sleeves and went to work.

Chicago's resilience reflected the spirit of a free people. The key word is "free". The prevalent notion in this country was that progress is the result of unleashing people's talents and energies to achieve goals as established by the people, themselves.

Now, this was contrary to another concept that has had a degree of acceptance in the latter half of the 20th Century, especially in the nation's Capital. This theory supposes that progress is a product of harnessing the people's energy and focusing it on predetermined goals. Planners would determine the goals to be targeted. The planners, invariably, are people with whom the espousers of this philosophy agree.

The latter theory didn't take hold here because -- and this is something of which we can all be proud -- it is pretty darn hard to harness an American. Thank God for that. (Applause.)

The American character is proud and independent. It's one of this country's greatest assets. We came here from every land. We're the product of every culture and race. We came to be free and to better our lives and the lives of our families. And yet, we are all Americans. Our love of liberty and the values that flow from it unite us as a nation and a people.

An aspect of American history, distasteful to some, is the important role played by the profit motive. Well, I, for one, have no trouble with the profit motive. When people are free to work for themselves, they work longer and harder. They'll do a better job because they're not just following orders, they're doing what they want to do. Profit motive unleashed an explosion of energy in America.

The young Frenchman, Alexis de Tocqueville, traveled to America back in the 1830s and he observed that, "America is a land of wonders in which everything is in constant motion and every change seems an improvement." He wrote that, "No natural boundary seems to be set to the efforts of man; and in his eyes, what is not yet done is only what he has not yet attempted to do."

Those who are uncomfortable with profits may not understand something that you folks in business know well. In a competitive economy, making a profit means filling other people's needs and doing it efficiently, courteously, and as low a rate as possible. (Applause.)

Because our business men and women have been working for profit, the American people pay less of their income for food and necessities of life than people anywhere else. Of course, mistakes sometimes happen. There's a story of a fellow whose friend was so successful that he was opening up a new branch of office and a floral arrangement was ordered for the occasion. He was upset when he got to the opening to find a wreath reading, "Rest in peace." (Laughter.) Well, on the way home, he was so upset he went by and stopped by the flower shop to complain. And after he ranted for a little bit, the owner of the flower shop said, "Well, calm down. Things aren't all that bad." He said, "Just think, somewhere today someone was buried under a flower arrangement enscribed, 'Good luck in your new location.'" (Laughter.)

It hasn't been perfect, and yes, our country has made mistakes. But with freedom and a profit motive, we've achieved greatness as a nation. And don't let anyone tell you that because our people are working for themselves and their families, it is contrary to community spirit and a spirit of human kindness and generosity.

The frontier spirit is pulling together, is legendary. And today, people voluntarily donate hundreds of millions of hours and billions of dollars to charitable and community projects each year.

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This, too, is inherent in the spirit of America. After all, when people are free, the choice of helping others becomes meaningful. The choice of doing something to better one's community becomes a source of pride because it reflects the character of the donor and not the product of legal coercion.

It's time to reject the notion that advocating government programs is a form of personal charity. Generosity is a reflection of what one does with his or her own resources and not what he or she advocates the government to do with everyone's money. (Applause.)

Calls for more and more government may reflect a lack of understanding of the American character. Our values as a people are strong. We believe in work, yes, but also in family, faith and neighborhood. We're optimistic people who believe we can overcome adversity and accomplish great things.

Four years ago it was clear that something had gone wrong. There was a growing feeling of pessimism and a sense of hopelessness inconsistent with the American character. For the first time the refrain was heard that America's best days were behind her.

Economic stagnation held us in a vice-like grip while double-digit inflation picked our pockets. Sky-high interest rates knocked the construction and automobile industries right off their feet. Now, I know this isn't a political gathering. But does anyone really want to go back to those days?

The woes from which we're now emerging were not the result of some uncontrollable cycle. Nor were they the result of personality defects in our political leaders. We simply strayed too far from those truths which serve as the basis of American progress. Government was spending too much, draining away any chance for growth in the private sector. Federal taxes were too high, undercutting the incentive to work or invest. Federal regulation was beyond all reason, tying our hands and threatening our freedom.

Getting this situation straightened out and putting this country back on the right road has not been easy and the job is not yet done, but we have made a beginning. I want to take this opportunity to thank you -- (applause) -- I want to thank you for all your support over the last 36 months. What we've accomplished couldn't have been done without the active support of you and good folks like you. Together we've put the inflation monster in a cage, and we've broken the inflation mentality.

Together, we've cut the growth in federal spending more than in half.

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More progress can be made here, but we've made a good start. The prime interest rate has come down from 21½ percent to 11 percent. Here, too, those rates can and must come down more. (Applause.)

I think there's just some people that aren't quite sure that what's going on now is for real. Well, maybe a little bit longer and they'll realize it is for real.

Federal regulatory reform has reduced the growth of federal red tape by more than 25 percent. This initiative, led by Vice President Bush, has cut over 300 million man-hours of needless government-required paperwork each year and will save more than \$150 billion for you over the next 10 years.

Through across-the-board tax rate reductions and indexing to begin in 1985, we're preventing people from being mangled by built-in tax increases.

As the political rhetoric heats up this year, there'll be those trying to appeal to greed and envy. Make no mistake, that is what they're trying to do. They suggest our tax program favors the rich. Well, this is the same anti-business, anti-success attitude that brought this country to the brink of economic disaster. The finger-pointers and hand-wringers of today were the policymakers of yesterday. And they gave us economic stagnation and double-digit inflation. (Applause.) There was only one thing fair about their policies, they didn't discriminate; they made everyone miserable. (Laughter.) Today, 10 percent of the people, 10 percent, pay 50 percent of the income tax and 50 percent of the workers in America and earners pay 93 percent.

Teddy Roosevelt once said, "It ought to be evident to everyone that business has to prosper before anybody can get any benefit from it." (Applause.) Well, together, we're restoring progress and every American will benefit.

We've turned stagnation and decline into robust growth, six percent in 1983. Productivity is up. Consumer spending is up. Factory use is up. Housing starts and auto sales are up. And most encouraging, venture capital, which lays the foundation for a better tomorrow, is way up. During 1983, \$4.1 billion was raised, that was four times more than in 1980.

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Working people are already seeing results. More people are, in fact, working today than ever before in our history. Last year, unemployment took its biggest drop in 33 years. Real wages went up last year and the year before that. When we got to Washington, real wages were going down and one statistic of which I'm most proud, a working family, earning \$25,000 has \$1,500 more in purchasing power than if tax and inflation rates were still at the 1980 levels.

Just this morning, we received two gems of good news. The leading economic indicators, forecasting the direction of the economy, posted a solid increase in December, the fifteenth increase in the last sixteen months, and home sales in December jumped to their highest level in more than five years.

America's economy is strong and, yes, I do believe the American people are better off today than they were before. (Applause.)

We inherited despair and we're turning it into hope. With hard work and common sense, we're turning the era of limits into an era of opportunity.

We've come a long way, but much remains for us to do. Turning the economy around was priority number one. Now, we can turn to the equally difficult task of streamlining government, making it more efficient and responsive. We've made a start here, too. We've transferred a host of programs back to the state and local levels, programs that never should have been the federal government's responsibility in the first place.

We also put to work a team of experts from the private sector to determine where changes can be made to eliminate waste and make the federal government more cost effective. The Grace Commission came up with some 2,500 recommendations that are being studied right now throughout the departments and agencies. This was all done by some 2,000 of your companions in the business world who volunteered and even put up the money to fund their activity.

We, of course, still must come to grips with the deficit. My only caution is to watch out for those offering easy answers. I have attempted to keep this issue from being totally politicized by supporting the creation of a bipartisan working group from the Congress. The group will work with the administration on making a down payment on the deficit. More substantial measures will still be required. But one thing is certain, raising taxes and threatening the recovery is no answer. (Applause.) This problem was long in the making. It will require more than band-aid solutions. I've sometimes compared government to that unkind definition of a baby: It's an alimentary canal with an appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other. (Laughter.)

One of the first steps that we can take to make our system more responsible is providing the Chief Executive with a line-item veto. It's working in 43 states and -- think it should be put to use in Washington, D.C.

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The American people want this reform. And they and I also want a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced federal budget. (Applause.) Now, this isn't a new idea. At the adoption of the Constitution, 1787, Thomas Jefferson noted that the Constitution needed one additional article. He said it should contain one that would prohibit the government from borrowing money.

Well, in addition to long-term reforms, I believe we should make our tax system more simple, fair, and rewarding for all the people. If we could broaden the tax base, then personal rates could come down rather than go up. And I think tax simplification is an historic change the people want and our economy needs. (Applause.)

In closing, just let me express that I have every confidence that we can control government spending, taxing, and in doing so, ensure a lasting era of growth and opportunities for all our people. Although the rhetoric gets thick at times, especially during election years, the leaders of both political parties are individuals of goodwill. Individuals who want what's best for this country.

Nobody should ever sell America or Americans short. We are, today, recapturing much of the spirit of enterprise about which that Frenchman, de Tocqueville, wrote. Your industry, more than most, reflects this spirit. You've proven that those who are willing to take a chance, willing to work hard and live right, can accomplish great things. You need only look around you to find successful individuals at the head of impressive companies who started with a pick or shovel, or driving a truck.

This magnificent theater in which we're meeting today is part of the legacy of an individual who started in the sand and gravel industry, Colonel Henry Crown. (Applause.) His father, Arie, -- I hope I have the name -- pronounce the name right -- after whom this theater is named, was a Lithuanian immigrant. From the humblest of beginnings, Henry Crown became one of the most successful men in the American business world. Reflecting the good and decent values at the heart of this country, he's been one of this country's leading philanthropists. Colonel Crown, thank you for all you've done. (Applause.)

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Colonel Crown's story is not unique among this group. You are powerful forces for good in your communities across our country. Walt Whitman once wrote, "O America because you build for mankind I build for you."

Today, American liberty shines brightly, offering proof to a mankind plagued with tyranny and deprivation -- there is a better way. Together, we can keep America the blessed land of freedom and opportunity God meant it to be.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

12:59 P.M. CST