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(Elliott/AB)  
April 8, 1983  
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: RECEPTION FOR REPUBLICAN  
SENATORIAL INNER CIRCLE  
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1983

Thank you Senator Lugar, Vice President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Lugar\* -- and I would say welcome to everyone but, like you, I'm a guest here at the Corcoran too. Maybe I should surprise Nancy and tell her, I'm not giving a speech, you're giving us a tour.

It's wonderful to see so many of you. It reminds me of that evening when Winston Churchill was addressing a large crowd in America. A woman cornered him and said, "Doesn't it thrill you, Mr. Churchill, to know that every time you make a speech the hall is packed to overflowing?"

And Sir Winston replied, "It is quite flattering, but whenever I feel this way I always remember that if, instead of making a political speech, I was being hanged, the crowd would be twice as big."

I must say, you all look great. Maybe it's the elegance of our surroundings. Or maybe you're smiling because things are looking up for our Grand Old Party across the country?

Well, let me just tell you some of the reasons why I'm feeling optimistic about our prospects. For one, I can't imagine a more energetic, talented, and successful chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee than the man who introduced me -- Dick Lugar.

[\* Charlene Lugar usually goes by "Char"]

Then I feel good knowing how strongly each of you is behind us. If there is one point I'd like you to remember between now and November 1984, it's this: We must maintain control of the Senate and, with your help, we will maintain control.

I'm told that in just the last 3 months, the Inner Circle has already accomplished a major feat. You have raised \$1 million toward the \$8 million the Senatorial Committee can give directly to the 1984 Senate races. That shows how important your role will be. A strong, actively involved Inner Circle will ensure the Senatorial Committee's ability to fund each Senate race to the maximum permitted by law -- and we're determined that every one of our candidates will have that assurance.

There's another big reason why I'm optimistic: We're turning this country around. The last time I looked, we were no longer being squeezed by the double-digit inflation we inherited. It's been knocked all the way down to .4 percent in the last 6 months -- the lowest 6-month rate in 22 years. Those towering interest rates, which closed factory gates in industries like autos and steel, leveled the housing industry, and brought so many businesses to their knees have now been knocked down themselves. We don't have a 21½ percent prime rate anymore; we have a 10½ percent prime and we can knock that down further too.

Tax rates have been cut; real wages are improving; retail sales are up; personal savings and productivity are growing again; the stock market reached a new, all-time high; venture capital investments have reached record levels; production in housing, autos and steel is gaining strength; workers are being

called back; so maybe it's time we told the Democrats -- "If you can't work with us, if you can't cooperate and help make a good thing better, then stand aside and get out of the way."

You know, I just have one question: Now that our program is beginning to mesh and it's doing what we promised, how come they don't call it Reaganomics anymore? The Democrats called it that when they were so sure the program had failed -- the morning after it was passed.

We're not going to give in on the third year of the tax cut; we're not going to give in on indexing; we're going to keep our program intact and march forward to make America great again like she was always meant to be.

The one thing that could stand in our way is that catastrophic Democratic budget passed in the House. You know, they'll never change. It's the same old snake oil of tax and tax and spend and spend. Someone should point out to the media that the Democrats' idea of fairness and compassion is a \$315 billion tax increase, aimed straight at the heart of Main Street America. That's why I've said: If you liked the 21 percent prime rate, 18 percent mortgage rates, double-digit inflation and sky's-the-limit tax increases of 2 years ago, then you'll love their budget, because that's exactly what it would bring back.

We need your help to protect the recovery. And we must have Republican unity in the White House and the Senate to keep America strong, free, and at peace. The Senate faces critical decisions in the near future -- decisions that will go to the

heart of our defense rebuilding program, our efforts to reduce strategic weapons -- in other words, America's safety and security.

You know, I keep thinking back to a statement Harry Truman made in 1945, after he had studied the reports on Pearl Harbor. He said, ". . . I came to the conclusion that the whole thing is the result of the policy which . . . (our) country . . . pursued." We were "not ready for preparedness. Every time the President made an effort to get a preparedness program through the Congress, it was stifled. Whenever the President made a statement about the necessity of preparedness, he was vilified for doing it."

I'm very concerned that many of our leaders have not learned enough from history. Some of that same mentality exists in America today, and it's the most serious threat to our security and safety. It's up to us to see to it that wiser heads prevail and a strong, secure America continues to preserve the peace we all want.

So, yes, we've begun to rebuild America, and we can succeed if we stick with principle -- and if you stick with us. I know you will, and I want to thank you one more time for all your magnificent support. And now I think I've gone on long enough, so Nancy and I are going to get down from here and shake some of your hands.

God bless you all.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1983

EVENT: American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors,  
DRESS: Men's Business Suit; Women's Afternoon Dress  
WEATHER: Partly Cloudy; Low 50's

- 7:45 p.m. Accompanied by Mrs. Reagan, proceed to Marine One and board.
- 7:50 p.m. Marine One departs South Lawn en route Capital Center landing zone. Flight Time: 15 mins.  
PHOTO COVERAGE
- 8:05 p.m. Accompanied by Mrs. Reagan, arrive Capital Center landing zone and proceed to motorcade for boarding.  
OPEN PRESS COVERAGE
- 8:10 p.m. Motorcade departs en route Capital Center, North Entrance. Drive Time: 5 mins.
- 8:15 p.m. Accompanied by Mrs. Reagan, arrive Capital Center and proceed to holding room. OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

Met in holding room by:

Elie Wiesel, Chairman, U.S. Holocaust  
Memorial Council

Al Spiegel, Chairman, National Republican  
Jewish Coalition

Abe Pollin, Owner, Capital Center

Mr. Benjamin Meed, President, American  
Gathering of Jewish Survivors, makes  
introduction.

Note: Closed circuit T.V. coverage of the  
introduction will be available in  
holding room.

Ruffles and Flourishes  
"Hail to the Chief"

8:20 p.m. Escorted by Mrs. Reagan and Mr. Wiesel, proceed on stage. OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

Mrs. Reagan is seated on dais.

Proceed to podium and make remarks.

8:35 p.m. Conclude remarks and take seat on dais.

Mr. Meed asks you and Mrs. Reagan to join him at podium.

Accompanied by Mrs. Reagan, proceed to podium and accept scroll.

Accompanied by Mrs. Reagan, join in singing "God Bless America."

8:40 p.m. Accompanied by Mrs. Reagan, depart stage en route holding room.

8:45 p.m. Accompanied by Mrs. Reagan, proceed to motorcade for boarding and depart en route landing zone.  
Drive Time: 5 mins.

8:50 p.m. Marine One departs landing zone en route South Lawn.  
Flight Time: 15 mins.

9:05 p.m. Marine One arrives South Lawn.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1983

THE AMERICAN GATHERING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

DATE: April 11, 1983  
LOCATION: The Capital Center  
TIME: 8:15 - 8:45 p.m.  
FROM: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY *FRW*

I. PURPOSE

To remember the Holocaust and pay tribute to those who suffered and perished, as well as allow the thousands who had the opportunity to rebuild their shattered lives a chance to express their debt of gratitude to the United States.

II. BACKGROUND

The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors will be in Washington from April 11th through April 13th, 1983. The Gathering has attracted approximately 15,000 survivors and their families who have come to Washington from all 50 states to express publicly their appreciation to this country for allowing them the opportunity to rebuild their shattered lives. The survivors of the Holocaust and their families have a special vantage point in human history from which they can express their patriotism for this country.

The Gathering is a non-political event and provides an opportunity for reunion and reunification as they have organized a registry of thousands of names of living survivors which will probably grow to 70,000. The survivors will all sign a scroll that will be presented to you as a symbol of national appreciation. During the Gathering, there will be an annual Yom Hashoah remembrance service.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 15,000 survivors and members of their families. Please see attached list for dais guests.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Full White House press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

7:50 p.m. Depart White House by helicopter to the Capital Center

8:05 p.m. Arrive Capital Center, Depart by car to holding room

8:10 p.m. Met by Elie Wiesel, Chairman, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, Albert Spiegel, Chairman, National Republican Jewish Coalition and Abe Pollin, owner of the Capital Center

8:15 p.m. You, Elie Wiesel and Albert Spiegel watch Ben Meed, President, American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, introduce you

8:20 p.m. You begin your remarks

8:35 p.m. Your remarks conclude  
Mr. Meed, accompanied by survivors, makes a presentation of the Scroll of Survivors, and sing, "God Bless America"

8:40 p.m. You depart for holding room

8:45 p.m. You depart holding room for helicopter and return to the White House

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Seated on the dais:

Benjamin Meed, President, American Gathering of Jewish  
Holocaust Survivors

Elie Wiesel, Chairman, United States Holocaust Memorial  
Council

Sigmund Strochlitz, Chairman, Days of Remembrance Committee,  
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council

Sam Bloch, Senior Vice President, American Gathering of  
Jewish Holocaust Survivors

Sol Goldstein, Senior Vice President, American Gathering  
of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

Eli Zborowski, Senior Vice President, American Gathering  
of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

Roman Kent, Chairman, National Executive Committee, American  
Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

Menachem Rosensaft, Chairman, International Council of Children  
of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

David Chase, Member, Executive Committee, American Gathering  
of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

Dr. Gideon Hausner, Director of Yad Vashem (Holocaust Museum in  
in Israel)

Dov Shilansky, Deputy Minister, Office of the Prime Minister of  
Israel

Benjamin Netanyahu, Charge d'Affaires

Mrs. Marion Wiesel, wife of Elie Wiesel

Mrs. Vldadka Meed, wife of Benjamin Meed

(Rohrabacher/AB)  
April 8, 1983  
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE GATHERING  
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1983

President Meed, Chairman Wiesel [WE-zel], other distinguished leaders of the American gathering and the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, members of the Second Generation, friends, survivors:

Tonight we stand together to give thanks to America for providing freedom and liberty, and, for many here tonight, a second home and a second life.

Presidents are afforded many honors. The opportunity to join with you this evening, as a representative of the people of the United States, will be a cherished memory. I am proud to accept your thanks on behalf of our fellow Americans; and also to express our gratitude to you for choosing America, for being the good citizens that you are, and for reminding us of how important it is to remain true to our ideals, as individuals and as a Nation.

We are here, first and foremost, to remember. For these are the days of remembrance, Yom Hashoah [Yohm Hah-show-AH]. Ours is the only Nation other than Israel that marks this time with an official, national observance. For the last 2 years, I've had the privilege of participating personally in the candle lighting ceremony as President Carter did the year before me. Let us take just a moment now to pause and contemplate, perhaps in silent prayer, the magnitude of this occasion, the millions of lives, the courage and dignity, the malevolence and hatred; and what it

all means to our lives and the decisions we make more than a generation later. Please join me in tribute to those not with us for this moment of silence. [PAUSE]

In the early days of our country, George Washington visited a Hebrew congregation in Newport, Rhode Island. Later, as our first President, he wrote them a now rather famous letter, reflecting on the meaning of America's newly-won freedom. "All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens . . ."

Certainly our country does not have a spotless record, but our fundamental beliefs -- the ones that inspired Washington when he penned that letter -- are sound. Our whole way of life is based on a compact between good and decent people, a voluntary agreement to live here together in freedom, respecting the rights of others, and expecting that our rights, in return, will be respected.

But the freedom we enjoy carries with it a tremendous responsibility. You, the survivors, remind us of that. Good and decent people must not close their eyes to evil, must not ignore the suffering of the innocent, and must never remain silent and inactive in times of moral crisis.

A generation ago the American people felt, like many others in the Western world, that they could simply ignore the expanding power of a totalitarian ideology. Looking back now, we must

admit that the warning signs were there. But the world refused to see. The words and ideology of the Nazi's were rationalized, explained away, as if they had no meaning. Violations of religious freedom, the attacks on Jewish property, the censorship, the heavy taxes imposed on those who wished to emigrate, even the first concentration camps -- all this ignored, as was the incredible expansion of Germany's war machine.

A few brave voices tried to warn of the danger. They were strong individuals, like Winston Churchill, who was driven into the political wilderness for speaking the unpleasant truth. There were also those who, in their sincere desire for peace, were all too ready to give totalitarians every benefit of the doubt, and all too quick to label Churchill a warmonger. Well, time has proven that those who gloss over the brutality of tyrants are no friends of peace or freedom.

One of the greatest tragedies was that, even in the Jewish community, there were some eyes that would not see. Perhaps mistaking Nazism for another of the many waves of anti-semitism Jews have had to live with for centuries, they did not understand the magnitude of what was happening. Even when their freedom was attacked, even when immigration was restricted, even when they were deported, they did not recognize what was happening to them. Four decades ago the Warsaw ghetto rose in defiance, an inspiring stand by those who chose to die on their feet. But it was too late.

Tonight let us pledge that we will never shut our eyes, never refuse to acknowledge the truth, no matter how unpleasant.

If nothing else, the painful memory we share should strengthen our resolve to do this. Our Founding Fathers believed in certain self-evident truths. But for truth to prevail we must have the courage to proclaim it.

Last week we reaffirmed our belief in the most meaningful truths of our Judeo-Christian heritage: Passover and Easter. These two religious observances link our faiths and celebrate the liberation of the body and soul. The rites of Passover remind us of the freeing of our common ancestors from the yoke of Pharoah's bondage and their exodus to freedom. Today, you bear witness to a modern-day exodus from the darkness of unspeakable horror to the light and refuge of safe havens -- the two most important being America and what soon became the State of Israel. As a man whose heart is with you -- and as President of a people you are now so much a part of -- I promise you that the security of your safe havens, here and in Israel, will never be compromised.

Our most sacred task now is insuring that the memory of this greatest of human tragedies, the Holocaust, never fades -- that its lessons are not forgotten. Although so much has been written and said, words somehow are never enough. If a young person, the son or daughter of a neighbor or friend, should die or suffer a terrible illness, we feel the sorrow and share the pain. But how can we share the agony of a million young people, suffering unspeakable deaths. It is almost too great a burden for the human soul. Instead, its very enormity may make it seem unreal.

Simon Wisenthal [WE-zen-thal] has said, "When a hundred people die it's a catastrophe. When a million people die it's just a statistic."

We must see to it that the immeasurable pain of the Holocaust is not dehumanized, that it is not examined clinically and dispassionately, that its significance is not lost on this generation, or any future generation. Though it is now a dry scar, we cannot let the bleeding wound be forgotten. Only when it is personalized will it be real enough to play a role in the decisions we make. Those victims who cannot be with us today do a vital service to mankind by being remembered. But, we must be their vessel of remembrance, and we must never let them down.

This reunion is part of our duty to them. Ben Meed, by serving as the catalyst for this historic event, you exemplify the meaning of good citizenship. America is lucky to have you. Elie Wiesel, you have done so much for so many years now. For all you've done, thank you. I applaud you for your noble effort.

Americans can be proud that, with the help of these two men and many others, we are moving forward to build a Holocaust memorial, a living museum, here in the Nation's Capital. And it is being financed, as is this gathering, by voluntary contributions -- by Jews and Gentiles, by citizens from every walk of life, of every race and creed, who grasp the importance to our soul and to our well-being of seeing, of understanding, and of remembering.

Imparting the message of the Holocaust, using it to reinforce the moral fiber of our society, is much more than a

Jewish responsibility. It rests upon all of us who, not immobilized by cynicism and negativism, believe that mankind is capable of greater goodness. For just as the genocide of the Holocaust debased civilization, the outcome of the struggle against those who ran the camps, and committed the atrocities, gives us hope that the brighter side of the human spirit will, in the end, triumph.

We know now that even during the dark days when terror reigned on the continent of Europe there were quiet heroes, men and women whose moral fiber held firm. Some of those to whom I refer are called righteous Gentiles. At this solemn time, we remember them also. Alexander Rozlan and his wife, for example, now live in Clearwater, Florida. But during the war they lived in Poland and hid three Jewish children in their home for more than 4 years. They knew the terrible risk they were taking. Once, when German soldiers searched their home, the Rozlans kept serving wine and whiskey until the troops were so drunk they forgot what they were looking for.

Later, Rozlan's son was in the hospital with scarlet fever. The boy hid half his medicine under his pillow so he could give it to the Jewish children his family was hiding, because they too had scarlet fever.

There are many such stories. The picturesque town of Assi, Italy, sheltered and protected 300 Jews. Father Ruffino Niccacci [ ] organized the effort, hiding people in his monastery and in homes of parishioners. A slip of the tongue by a single

informant could have condemned the entire village to the camps. Yet they did not yield.

And, of course, there was Raoul Wallenberg, one of the moral giants of our time. His courage saved thousands. He could have remained in his native Sweden, safe from the conflagration that engulfed the continent. When he heard of what was happening, of the final solution, he followed his conscience.

Yes, we remember him too. I would affirm, as President of the United States and, if you would permit me, in the names of the survivors, that if those who took him from Budapest would win our trust, let them start by giving us an accounting of Raoul Wallenberg.

Wallenberg and others who displayed such bravery did not consider themselves heroes. I understand that some of them, when asked about why they risked so much, often for complete strangers, replied that they simply thought it was the right thing to do, and that was that. It was just their way.

That kind of moral character, unfortunately, was the exception and not the rule. But for that very reason, it is a consciousness we must foster. Earlier I described our country as a compact between good and decent people. I believe this because it is the love of freedom -- not nationalistic rituals and symbols -- that unites us.

And because of this, we are also bound in spirit to all those who yearn to be free and to live without fear. We are the keepers of the flame of liberty. In Hebrew the word for engraved is charut [ha-root]. It is very similar to the word for freedom,

cheyrut [hay-root]. Tonight we recognize that for freedom to survive and prosper it must be engraved in our character so that when confronted with fundamental choices we will do what is right, because that is our way.

Looking around this room tonight, I realize that, although we come from many lands, we share a wealth of common experiences. Most of us remember the time before the Second World War -- how we and our friends reacted to certain events has not faded from our memory. There are also in this room many young people, sons and daughters, maybe even a few grandchildren.

Perhaps some of the younger ones can't understand why we're making so much of a fuss. Perhaps some of them think we are too absorbed by the heartaches of the past and should move on.

Well, what we do tonight is not for us. It is for them. We who are old enough to remember must make certain those who take our place understand. So, if a youngster should ask you why you are here, just tell that young person: Because I love God. Because I love my country. Because I love you. Zachor [ZA-whore].

Thank you all and God bless you.