

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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FOIA ID: F1997-066/⁹8, D. Cohen
Date: 09/14/2004

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. memo	Robert Powis to Arthur Schissel re Dept. of Justice draft legislative proposal, 6p	3/1/84	B2 B7e
2. letter	L. Niederlehner to David Stockman re same topic as item 1, 3p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	3/13/84	

RESTRICTIONS

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- B-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- B-7a Release could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings [(b)(7)(A) of the FOIA].
- B-7b Release would deprive an individual of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication [(b)(7)(B) of the FOIA].
- B-7c Release could reasonably be expected to cause unwarranted invasion or privacy [(b)(7)(C) of the FOIA].
- B-7d Release could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source [(b)(7)(D) of the FOIA].
- B-7e Release would disclose techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines which could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law [(b)(7)(E) of the FOIA].
- B-7f Release could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual [(b)(7)(F) of the FOIA].
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

incentive to joint research ventures. A similar bill, S. 1841, is awaiting action by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Both of these bills are similar to Title II of the National Productivity and Innovation Act which was submitted to the Congress by the President in the fall of 1983.

National Security Information. A scheduled March 21 House Post Office and Civil Service Committee markup of Representative Brooks' proposed Federal Polygraph Limitation and Anti-Censorship Act, H.R. 4681, was postponed until March 28 at the request of Congresswoman Schroeder. Representative Schroeder indicated in a letter to full committee Chairman Ford that she wanted the hearing postponed to give her staff time to complete negotiations with staffers with the Intelligence, Judiciary and Government Operations Committees. She also indicated that the one week delay was not critical in light of the March 20 letter to her from National Security Advisor McFarlane assuring that before effecting any future action to address "the problem of unauthorized disclosures of classified information...the Administration will notify (the) Subcommittee of any such intended action at least 90 calendar days" in advance.

Representative Schroeder's staff has provided the Department with the most recent redrafts of H.R. 4681 and invited us to comment on them. In addition, Representative Pashayan's staff has indicated that the Congressman is willing to advance any corrective amendments the Administration may wish to offer. However, the Administration's position is to avoid offering corrective amendments since making the bill more reasonable and palatable would only lessen the chances of stopping the bill altogether on the Senate side.

Beyond the legislative point, the Department must point out that the letter referred to above presents a major concern. There is no more important Presidential power than the power constitutionally vested in the President relating to the security of the Nation. In a system where National authority and responsibility is balanced among branches of government, those powers assigned so carefully by the Framers to the President should not be treated lightly; as bargaining chips on the table of short term negotiations. A promise of 90 day notification to a particular subcommittee of the House before a "problem of unauthorized disclosures" may be addressed is, or arguably could be, a promise which compromises significantly the President's ability to perform a vital function. It is most alarming that the Office of Legal Counsel was not consulted before such a commitment was forwarded to Mrs. Schroeder.

Anti-Terrorism Legislation. It has now been eight weeks since the President announced in his State of the Union Address that he would be submitting a comprehensive anti-terrorism legislative package "shortly." We are still stuck on the same narrow issue which has been holding this package back for over three months.

Crime Bill. We are continuing to explore different strategies for moving our crime package. In the meantime, House Judiciary continues to approach our package on a "piecemeal" basis, e.g. John Conyers has scheduled a hearing for next week on the assault provisions of our package and Bill Hughes has scheduled a hearing the following week on our anti-money laundering proposals (Title IX of S. 1762). These hearings represent progress as we have not had any House action this Congress on these proposals, but House Judiciary is still intent upon preventing House consideration of the entire Senate-passed package.

Cop-Killer Bullets. As previously reported, law enforcement groups are pushing hard for legislation to ban bullets capable of penetrating the body armor worn by police officers. The Department has developed and submitted to OMB a narrow and precise bill which

would ban the most dangerous handgun ammunition such as the Teflon-clad "KTW" bullet, but which would not affect any bullets manufactured by the "big three" American manufacturers (Winchester, Remington and Federal). We believe our bill offers a responsible way out of an emotion-charged issue -- far preferable to the Biaggi-Moynihan bills which are gaining strong support. Nevertheless, our bill has been held up since it was submitted to OMB on January 26 due to objections of the Department of the Treasury. We have also been told this week that Constance Horner of OMB has advised others in OMB that our armor-piercing bullet package will never be cleared. This is unfortunate and I believe, unwise. There is widespread Congressional interest in the legislation. Our inaction presents the opportunity for attack; opponents saying that they are trying to protect the lives of police officers while the Administration is only concerned about alienating gun groups.

McClure Gun Bill. On Thursday, March 22, the Senate Judiciary Committee began consideration of the McClure gun bill, S. 914. The Department of the Treasury had worked out a compromise with Senators McClure and Hatch on all of their parts of the bill but deferred to us on the issue of mandatory-minimum penalties for use of a gun during the course of a federal crime of violence. Pursuant to requests from the Thurmond staff, we furnished a letter stating our preference for the mandatory-minimum gun crime provision included in the President's Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1983 which was approved by the Senate as part of S. 1762. In an effort to reach a compromise with McClure and Hatch, however, our letter indicated that we would not object to a mandatory-minimum provision patterned after S. 1630 of the 97th Congress which represented an effort to reach a compromise with gun groups on this issue. We now understand, however, that Senator Kennedy will be dispatching a letter to the Department probing us on this and two other aspects of the bill. He has indicated that he will filibuster the bill in Committee if we do not respond by early next week. This may present problems as we are frankly uncomfortable with the Treasury-McClure compromise and have been in the position of holding our nose and deferring to Treasury. If we are expected to explain in detail why we think the Treasury compromises are a "good idea," we may gag. In the meantime, the McClure bill is pending on the Executive Calendar of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. It is pending on the agenda right in front of S. 1841, which at this point is Title II of the National Innovation and Productivity Act -- a Presidential initiative!

Steel Industry. On March 22, J. Paul McGrath, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, appeared before the Subcommittee on Employment and Productivity of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources to discuss issues relating to the domestic steel industry.

Pharmacy Robbery Legislation. Both the Subcommittee on Crime (Bill Hughes) of the House Judiciary and the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment (Henry Waxman) of the House Energy and Commerce Committee reported pharmacy robbery bills this week. Although the Waxman bill is closer to the Senate version which we have endorsed, the Hughes version does not pose a major problem and we are inclined to let the people on the Hill fight this out among themselves as we are in what appears to be a "can't lose" position on this issue.

Precious Metals Frauds. The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held hearings Monday and Wednesday on the proliferation of commodities fraud activity involving precious metals. These fraud schemes, referred to as "boiler-room operations" have cost many citizens their life savings. The two "hotspots" for this species of commodities fraud have been South Florida and Los Angeles. Through a major enforcement effort, we have made a great number of criminal cases in recent months. At the Wednesday hearing, U.S. Attorney

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
ROUTE SLIP

TO Jim Cicconi

- Take necessary action
- Approval or signature
- Comment
- Prepare reply
- Discuss with me
- For your information
- See remarks below

FROM John Cooney

DATE 3/27/84

REMARKS

Attached are the Treasury and Defense
comments on the draft Justice bill
on copkiller bullets.

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THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

March 13, 1984

Honorable David A. Stockman
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Stockman:

This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Defense on a legislative proposal from the Justice Department, "To amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal sanctions for the manufacture, importation or criminal use of certain handgun ammunition."

The following comments are made with respect to two aspects of the draft bill: the impact of the proposed legislation on the Department of Defense, and the validity of the testing proposed.

The legislation would establish criminal penalties for the manufacture or importation of "armor-piercing" handgun ammunition, and would establish minimum mandatory sentences for criminal use of "high power" handgun ammunition. Both "armor-piercing" and "high power" ammunition are to be defined by a specified test procedure. The test procedure involves the use of a "Universal" receiver, standard test barrels, a photo-electric chronograph, and a test target consisting of a holding fixture and standard aluminum plates.

Test resources required are extensive, far beyond the capability of typical forensic laboratories. In fact, Department of Defense facilities have custody of the overwhelming majority of the required Universal receivers extant. Given that there are over 1300 licensed ammunition manufacturers in the country and more than 700 ammunition importers, the test workload to certify production ammunition lots, not to mention testing for criminal prosecution, could be tremendous. With test resources scarce and the lion's share under Department of Defense control, it is anticipated that pressure to involve Department of Defense compliance and enforcement testing is likely to develop. This possibility would result in an unfortunate drain on the finite resources available to accomplish the existing Department of Defense mission.

The testing workload is exacerbated by the fact that qualification of ammunition is a continuous process. A round cannot be certified into perpetuity by a one-time test. Rather, cartridges must be tested on a recurring and statistically significant sampling basis throughout the production cycle. The test program of the draft bill would commit the government to a continuing burden involving funds, manpower, and test resources.

The following technical comments are provided to assist in developing workable legislation.

With regard to the validity of the test procedure, we note that any correlation between the ability of a projectile to penetrate a Kevlar vest and its ability to perforate aluminum plates is undemonstrated. The mechanism of penetration for Kevlar may be "petalling" or "shear plugging," quite different in the case of metal plates. Kevlar is sensitive to the angle of incidence of projectiles, a factor unaddressed in the test procedure. A bullet design might be effective in penetrating the woven fabric of a Kevlar vest, yet the same round could be inconsequential against metal. Thus, the test may not measure what it is intended to measure: a bullet's ability to injure a human target protected by a Kevlar vest. Incidentally, Type IIIA body armor, stipulated as a reference standard in the Justice letter, has yet to be defined. Testing to an undefined standard is problematical.

The choice of expensive, scarce test equipment has been noted. Non-vented test barrels have been specified which generally produce higher velocities than production handguns. However, handguns may have barrels longer than the standard, attaining higher bullet velocities and deeper penetration than their ammunition would in the test setup. A more realistic test would be to fire at standard test panels of Kevlar, backed by flesh simulant, using production handguns (the weapon of evidence in prosecutions).

Since instrumental velocity data is not required in the test, the chronograph should be removed from the setup. Using production handguns without chronographs would permit testing at local levels without the necessity to task elaborate test resources. Further, test procedures should specify ambient temperature of the ammunition because pressure and velocity are somewhat sensitive to that variable.

Given the test procedure for the category termed "high power" ammunition, we note that difficulties may be encountered in applying the sanction. A test procedure based on performance of a single aluminum plate will exclude few cartridges from the high power category. Further, correspondence between lethality, aluminum plate penetration, and Kevlar penetration is not established.

In summary, the Department of Defense would not object to the proposed legislation provided that Defense test resources are expressly excluded from use to further the purposes of the bill. As noted, we have serious technical reservations concerning the validity of the various test procedures proposed and have provided comments to assist in these areas.

Sincerely,



L. Niederlehner
Acting General Counsel

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Document No.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON TODAY

SUBJECT: REMARKS: NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

(5/3 7:30 p.m draft)

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

Remarks:

The attached has been forwarded to the President. Please provide any minor comments/edits directly to Aram Bakshian by noon today, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

OK

(Elliott)
May 3, 1983
7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1983

President Gaffney, officers, honored guests, and may I add with great pride and pleasure -- my fellow members of the National Rifle Association.

I'm delighted to be here in Phoenix, in this great, good neighbor State of Arizona. And I'm delighted to be with all of you. It does my spirit good to be with people who never lose faith in America, who never stop believing in her future -- and who never back down one inch from defending the constitutional freedoms that are every American's birthright.

What an honor to be together on the 110th annual meeting of this great organization. Nowadays, I'm honored to belong to any organization that's been around longer than I have.

Not too long ago, I had a very memorable visit from your officials. They walked into the Oval office with some members of the "F" troop of the Texas army. Now when I saw how those fellows were dressed, and what they were packing, I didn't know whether to stretch out my hand, or make a run for it through the Rose Garden.

Well, it turned out they wanted to induct me into the Texas army, and to give me a beautiful, hand-crafted flintlock rifle. Thank you for taking such good care of it. And Chris Hirsch -- are you out there? -- I just want you to know again how much I appreciate it and look forward to using it someday.

Being a part of this group, you know that good organizations don't just happen. They take root in a body of shared beliefs. They grow strong from leadership with vision, initiative and determination to reach great goals. And what you've accomplished speaks for itself: more than 2½ million members and NRA's getting stronger every day.

May I just say we have great respect for your fine leaders in Washington: Harlan Carter, Warren Cassidy and your Institute for Legislative Action. Believe me, they're effective.

We saw proof of NRA's strength recently. Some of you share a special blessing with me -- you're Californians. And you shocked California last November when you mobilized to help send Proposition 15 down to defeat. You pointed out that police would be so busy arresting handgun owners, they would be unable to protect the people against criminals. --It's a nasty truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun control laws. I happen to know this from personal experience.

You know, I've always felt a special bond with the members of your group. You live by Lincoln's words, "Important principles may and must be inflexible." Your philosophy puts its trust in people. So you insist individuals be held responsible for their actions. The NRA believes America's laws were made to be obeyed; and that our constitutional liberties are just as important today as 200 years ago. And by the way, the Constitution does not say Government shall decree the right to keep and bear arms. The Constitution says ". . . the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

I believe we share the same goal: a strong America, carrying the banner of freedom, and secure from threats to her domestic tranquility, economic well-being and national security.

No group does more to promote gun safety and respect for the laws of this land than the NRA, and I thank you. Still, we've both heard the charge that supporting gunowners' rights encourages a violent, shoot-em-up society. But just a minute. Don't they understand that most violent crimes are not committed by decent, law-abiding citizens, they're committed by career criminals. Guns don't make criminals. Hard-core criminals use guns, and locking them up and throwing away the key is the best gun control law we could ever have.

When I was Governor of California, we added 5 to 15 years to the sentence of any criminal who committed a crime with a firearm. I am even more convinced today that this is the right approach.

I've said many times that our Administration did not come to Washington to continue business as usual. Either we make fundamental reforms that change things for the better, or we aren't doing our job. We think it's time for our loved ones to walk the streets of America without being afraid.

So we have declared war on organized crime and the career criminal element in America. More than 100 prosecutors' offices are working with special teams around the country to throw the book at career criminals in court. And we are determined to cripple the drug pushers who are poisoning the minds and bodies of our children. We want mandatory sentences, we want firm and speedy application of penalties, and we want tougher parole laws.

But there is one thing we do not want: We will never disarm any American who seeks to protect his or her family from fear and harm.

We are making headway in our crackdown on crime, while protecting the rights of legitimate gunowners. A recent U.S. News and World Report story said, "It may be no accident that the first dip in U.S. crime totals in 5 years coincides with a nationwide crackdown on 'career criminals.'" Serious crime dropped by 4 percent in 1982, after rising more than 21 percent since 1977 and 254 percent since 1962.

Longer prison sentences and tougher treatment are beginning to pay dividends. And make no mistake: this is happening because you the people are fed up with crime. 'You're the ones who are organizing neighborhood patrols, supporting your local police, insisting that justice be carried out -- and every time you do that you keep the spirit of democracy strong in America.

add ons → We can't solve these terrible problems overnight. But since we established a Florida task force against drugs, under the Vice President's leadership, drug-related arrests have risen sharply. Just last week, our agents trailed then landed behind a suspicious plane near LaBelle, Florida. Two drug smugglers jumped out to run away. One of them swam across a canal and hid in the bushes. The alligators didn't get him, but our enforcement people did. They seized 625 pounds of cocaine valued at \$187½ million.

As we crackdown on criminals, we are trying to move forward on another front: to reform the firearms laws which needlessly interfere with the rights of legitimate gunowners like

yourselves. We are working closely with your leadership and Congressional sponsors of firearms legislation, such as Senators McClure and Hatch and Congressman Volkmer. I look forward to signing a bill that truly protects the rights of law-abiding citizens, without diminishing the effectiveness of criminal law enforcement against the misuse of firearms.

Your leadership's support has been important to us. Just last year, I signed two amendments into law: one eliminated unnecessary recordkeeping requirements on 22-caliber rimfire ammunition; the other saved many custom gunsmiths from financial ruin.

I want you to know that I am in favor of the Civilian Marksmanship Program. I support this idea because, clear back to World War I, one of the great talents of American soldiers has been their marksmanship. And it turned out they developed this from shooting at targets as young boys. So I am asking Secretary Weinberger to study ways in which the marksmanship program can be improved.

May I say a few words about conservation and the group I consider the foremost conservationists of our wildlife resources: America's sportsmen -- hunters and fishermen. As Teddy Roosevelt recognized, "The free, self-reliant, adventurous life, with its rugged . . . democracy; the wild surroundings, the grand beauty of the scenery, the chance to study the way and habits of the woodland creatures -- all these unite to give to the career of the . . . hunter its peculiar charm."

Unfortunately, there has been a kind of elitist attitude in Washington that vast natural resource areas must be locked up to

save the planet from mankind. I'm proud to say that Secretary of the Interior, Jim Watt, and I have a different philosophy -- one based on respect for both man and nature. We believe in the concept of stewardship, caring for the resources we have for the benefit of mankind.

Now let me be clear about those words: stewardship for the benefit of mankind. Our Administration favors economic development -- but not within our national parks or within our wilderness areas. We have not and will never propose that. What we do say is: When the last Administration arbitrarily closed 40 million acres of Alaskan land telling sports hunters to stay out, then, yes, you bet we think that was wrong and we're trying to correct it.

We're trying to correct something else, too. A 1980 General Accounting Office report warned of health and safety health hazards in our national parks. The previous Administration had cut the National Park Service budget for restoration and improvement every year. We have doubled it.

With the active support of NRA, we have also addressed one of America's most neglected and serious environmental problems -- the destruction of our wetlands. We have introduced in the Congress the most important wetlands protection legislative proposal in history.

Our national parks, national wildlife refuges, coastal barriers, wetlands, national forests and public lands are better managed today than they were 2 years ago -- and I think that story merits more attention than it's received.

Another point which should be better understood: The backbone of our conservation efforts begins with American sportsmen. For over 40 years, hunters have been paying a special excise tax on sporting arms and ammunitions through the Pittman-Robertson Act -- nearly \$1.2 billion since 1939. State wildlife managers have used these funds to preserve and enhance valuable wildlife habitats. Such wild creatures as the white tail deer, ruffed grouse, wild turkey and pronghorn antelope, which were threatened with extraction in many areas have been brought back, in some cases, to great abundance.

This past year alone, American hunters have paid more than \$107 million toward these conservation efforts. The money will fund important studies of game and their habitat; it will provide food and habitat projects for wildlife; and portions will go for hunter safety and education courses -- where our youngsters will be taught marksmanship, firearms safety, and some of the values and ethics of hunting and the outdoors.

I deeply appreciate your contributions to preserving our national treasures for the benefit of our people and future generations.

This idea of stewardship -- preserving and caring for what we have, bringing our economy back to health, so you, the people, can make us great again -- that's a crucial part of keeping America free and making her secure. I know the road to recovery has been long and hard. Too many people are still out of work. But I believe with all my heart that we have turned the corner, we are on our way back, and like that fighter, Rocky Balboa -- America is getting strong now.

You know, when I see inflation down, interest rates down, tax rates being cut, industrial production and productivity up, housing starts and auto sales up, and workers being called back, I wonder about something: Now that our program is doing what we said it would, how come they don't call it Reaganomics anymore?

Oh yes, some critics say nothing is right. They oppose budget savings, they oppose tax cuts. Despite the calamity they created, they continue to resist reform. Their attitude reminds me of a comment a great American made about a similar situation. "Those who are frightened," he said, "by boldness and cowed by the necessity for making decisions complain that all we have done is unnecessary and subject to great risks. Now that these people are coming out of their storm cellars, they forget that there ever was a storm."

Those words were spoken by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1934. Well, I haven't forgotten the storm that was raging around every family in 1980. With all due respect, may I remind our critics: those who saddled this Nation with double-digit inflation, 21½ percent interest rates -- the highest in more than 100 years -- and the worst tax burden in our peacetime history, they are the last people who should be giving sermonettes on fairness and compassion.

If inflation had continued as it was when they were in office, a family of four on a fixed income of \$20,000 would be more than \$1,500 poorer in purchasing power today. If their tax increases had stayed on the books, and our tax cuts had not been passed, a median-income family of four would be paying \$700 more in Federal income taxes this year. If this is the liberal idea

of fairness and compassion, may the good Lord be with you if Teddy and Tip ever get their Irish up.

President John F. Kennedy said in 1963, ". . . the largest, single barrier to full employment . . . and to a higher rate of economic growth is the . . . heavy drag of Federal income taxes on private purchasing power, initiative and incentive." Those wise words are just as true today. I will veto any attempt to tamper with the third year of your tax cut, or the indexing provision. Indexing is the best security middle-income families have against bracket creep -- inflation pushing you into higher and higher tax brackets. Those who would strip you of this protection are tax grabbers, pure and simple.

The United States did not run up a trillion dollar debt because you're not taxed enough. We got that debt because Government spends too much. We need spending restraint, not tax increases. I want to work with the Congress, but not at your expense, and not at the risk of sabotaging this recovery we worked so hard to achieve.

Nor must we gamble, ever again, with the security of this country by neglecting our defense readiness. The day I took office, our armed forces were in a shocking state of neglect. We had shortages of skilled manpower, faulty equipment, lack of spare parts, and insufficient fuel and ammunition for proper training. We had planes that couldn't fly, ships that couldn't leave port and helicopters that couldn't stay aloft.

I believe it is immoral to ask the sons and daughters of America to protect this land with second-rate equipment and bargain basement weapons. If they can put their lives on the

line to protect our way of life, then by golly we can give them the weapons, training, and money they need to do the job right. When it comes to keeping America safe and strong, when it comes to keeping America free, there should be no Republicans or Democrats, only patriotic Americans working together for the greater good.

We are doing that. We've begun to pay our soldiers a decent wage. We've increased pilot flying time, extended basic training and restocked spare parts inventories. The level and quality of recruits are up sharply.

By providing adequate compensation for our soldiers, by giving them the tools they need to do their jobs, we are restoring dignity, honor and pride to the uniform of the United States military -- and we dare not sacrifice that.

The people who disagree with our side rebuilding its military security don't seem to understand: Our side is the only side where people are permitted to disagree -- and that should make them nervous. It is not America that attacks and occupies other countries; we conduct no worldwide campaign of subversion and terrorism; we build no walls to keep our people in, or use armies of secret police and gulag prison camps to keep them quiet.

We are a free people, a democratic people; we believe in God and we love peace. But let us remember what George Washington warned in 1790: That to be prepared for war is one of the best means of preserving the peace.

There's nothing I want more than a verifiable agreement with the Soviet Union to reduce the levels of strategic weapons. In

the long run, that's the best way to lower the growth in defense spending. But the Soviets will only bargain in good faith if they understand we're determined to defend freedom -- and I'm determined they will understand that.

Now 9 days ago, I addressed the Congress on the subject of Central America, where the United States has fundamental and far-reaching interests. El Salvador is 10 miles closer to Phoenix than Phoenix is to Washington. The people of El Salvador are not perfect, they have made mistakes, as we have made mistakes. But they are trying, with great bravery and against tremendous odds, to build the dream of a society like ours.

They understand that government must rest on the consent of the governed; that only when people are free to worship, create and build, only when they are given a personal stake in deciding their destiny, and benefitting from their own risks -- only then will their society become dynamic, prosperous, progressive and free.

But El Salvador is under attack. Guerillas with contempt for democracy, and armed-to-the-teeth by Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviets, are determined to shoot their way into power. We have asked the Congress for a modest package of assistance for the region -- with three times as much economic aid as military aid.

But military aid is essential, because the guerillas are deliberately and systematically destroying El Salvador's economy -- blowing up bridges, railroads, water facilities, telephone and electrical systems. These are not the actions of people who love the common man and who seek to reform their

system. They are the actions of thugs who trample the common man in their quest for total power.

So we face a choice: will we give El Salvador her chance to walk beside us in the sunlight of democracy? Or will we turn our backs on a friend, letting her slide into a dark night of tyranny, rationalizing our inaction with detached lectures on morality?

Running away from this clear-cut responsibility would reward aggression and bring dishonor on the good name of the United States. It would swell the tide of political and economic instability in Central America, creating a new army of refugees and bringing danger closer and closer to home. I appeal to you today: tell your representatives they cannot remain indifferent to another Communist takeover on our doorstep.

Standing up for America also means standing up for the God who has so blessed this land. If we could remember that Moses brought down 10 Commandments, not 10 suggestions, and if those of us who live for Jesus could remember that He wants us to love our Lord and our neighbor, then there is no limit to the problems we could solve, or the mountains we could climb together as a mighty force for good.

The United States remains the last, best hope for a mankind plagued by tyranny and deprivation. America is no stronger than its people, and that means you and me. I believe in you. And I believe that if we work together, then one day, we will say: We have fought the good fight; we have finished the race; we have kept the faith. And to our children, and our children's

children, we can say, we did all that could be done in the moment that was given to us here on Earth.

Thank you all, and God bless you.

RECEIVED 03 MAY 83 10

TO CLARK

FROM DARMAN, R

DOCDATE 02 MAY 83

URGENT

KEYWORDS SPEECHES

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS / NATL RIFLE ASSOC ANNUAL CONVENTION 6 MAY

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION DUE: 03 MAY 83 STATUS S FILES

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for Federal offenses. But there is one thing we do not want: We will never disarm any American who seeks to protect his or her family from fear and harm.

We are making headway in our crackdown on crime. A recent U.S. News and World Report story said, "It may be no accident that the first dip in U.S. crime totals in 5 years coincides with a nationwide crackdown on 'career criminals.'" Serious reported crime dropped by 4 percent in 1982, after rising more than 21 percent since 1977 and 254 percent since 1962.

Longer prison sentences and tougher treatment are beginning to pay dividends. And make no mistake: this is happening because you the people are fed up with crime. You're the ones who are organizing neighborhood patrols, supporting your local police, insisting that justice be carried out -- and every time you do that you keep the spirit of democracy strong in America. This morning, I had the pleasure of meeting Arizona's Sun City Posse, a group which has had great success roping in the bad guys. They're not a posse in the old-time sense, just individuals who patrol their neighborhoods in their cars, wearing hard hats and carrying whistles and flashlights.

May 15 marks the beginning of National Police Week. I urge you and every citizen to let our men and women in blue across America know: "We stand with you, this week and every week of the year." Another way NRA can help our police is to ^{Support} ~~our efforts~~ ~~for a minimum mandatory term of five years imprisonment~~ ~~the bill to ban "cop-killer bullets."~~ ~~These bullets can~~ ~~penetrate the bullet-resistant vests worn by police.~~ ~~Every major~~ ~~federal crime of violence.~~ ~~police organization supports this ban, so I hope you'll help.~~

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officer for the day. So, you're dismissed. [Laughter] Let's be careful out there.

Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. at the posse's headquarters. Maurine E. Barkdoll is commander of the posse.

Older Americans Month, 1983

Proclamation 5058. May 6, 1983

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, the American people have held a special place in their hearts for our older citizens.

From this Nation's earliest days, when the wisdom and eloquence of our elder statesmen played such an important role in the creation of our Republic, to this era of renewed private sector initiative, where so many of our senior citizens toil in volunteer armies of community service across the land, older Americans remain a vital force in our national life.

We recognize that no single group in our society has done more to build America and to shape our national character than our nearly thirty-three million older citizens. We treasure their continuing involvement and the unique understanding they bring to us. Their wisdom, experience, insights, and accomplishments merit an invaluable place in our culture and economy.

Through hard work and creativity, our older Americans have made enormous contributions throughout their lives to preserve our way of life and our standard of living.

Now we must keep faith with them.

It is our responsibility to protect them by reducing inflation—that monster which eats at savings and pensions and destroys the independence and well-being of our older Americans.

Of particular importance to our older citizens is the integrity of their pension funds. The recent rise in business confidence and the resulting surge in the net worth of investments have significantly increased the

value of America's pension funds. These developments remind us that the most important step we can take for all Americans, but especially our senior citizens, is to follow economic policies that will create noninflationary growth.

It is also our responsibility to keep faith with our older citizens by guaranteeing a secure and stable social security system so they might live in dignity. The recent amendments to the Social Security Act assure the elderly that America will always uphold the promises made in troubled times a half-century ago.

The future of our older Americans should be as sweet as the memories of their youth. I believe the future for our older citizens holds as much promise as the achievements of their past. In this twenty-first annual observance of Older Americans Month, we celebrate that potential.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1983 as Older Americans Month. I ask public officials at all levels, community agencies, educators, the clergy, the communications media, and the American people to take this opportunity to honor older Americans and to consider how we may make it possible for them to enjoy their later years.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

Ronald Reagan

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:29 p.m., May 10, 1983]

National Rifle Association

*Remarks at the Association's Annual
Members Banquet. May 6, 1983*

President Gaffney, officers, Members of the Congress, honored guests—may I add with pride and pleasure—my fellow members of the National Rifle Association:

I'm delighted to be here in Phoenix in this great, good neighbor State of Arizona, and I'm delighted to be with all of you. It does my spirit good to be with people who never lose faith in America, who never stop believing in her future, and who never back down one inch from defending the constitutional freedoms that are every American's birthright.

And while I was thanking all of you for a warm welcome, I understand that in another room, unable to fit into this one, are about a thousand more people that are watching through closed-circuit television. And I welcome them and thank them for being present. And it's wonderful also to know that I'm on daytime TV and not the late, late show. [Laughter]

Before I get into my remarks, I would like to pause a moment and report to you on some very good news from another part of world that I've just received.

For the past 2 months, I and others in our administration have been closely involved in negotiations in the Middle East. And this morning I had the pleasure of speaking with Secretary Shultz, who is there in the Middle East, Defense Minister Moshe Arens of Israel, and then I talked to Prime Minister Begin. And they reported to me on the decision of the Israeli Cabinet to accept in principle the agreement worked out by Secretary Shultz for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

This agreement is a step forward. It can lead to the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty throughout its territory while also ensuring that southern Lebanon will not again become a base for hostile actions against Israel. Through diligent and patient diplomacy, we're proving once again that direct negotiations are the best path to peace between Israel and her neighbors. I'm sure that all those who seek peace and stability in Lebanon will welcome this decision by the Israeli Cabinet and will join us in seeking wider support.

At times the challenge of resolving the problems of the Middle East and the world may seem long and difficult, but the alternative is chaos, conflict, and more humane suffering—human suffering, I should say. The United States is committed to peaceful progress. Ours is the way of reason and ne-

gotiation, and we will never swerve from that path.

I want to salute Prime Minister Begin and the Israeli Cabinet today, just as I salute President Gemayel and the leadership of Lebanon. And may I add a word or two on behalf of Secretary George Shultz and our Ambassador Phil Habib, whose tireless efforts and dedication to reason have done so much to make this possible. Today we have crossed an important threshold on the path to peace.

And, now, back to business. And what an honor to be together on the 112th annual meeting of this great organization. As a matter of fact, I'm honored to belong to any organization that's been around longer than I have. [Laughter]

Not too long ago, I had a very memorable visit from your officials. They walked into the Oval Office with some members of the "F" troop of the Texas army. Now, when I saw how those fellows were dressed, and what they were packing, I didn't know whether to stretch out my hand, or make a run for it through the Rose Garden. [Laughter] Well, it turned out they wanted to induct me into the Texas army and to give me a beautiful, hand-crafted flintlock rifle. And I thank you for taking such good care of it, because it's in your museum now.

Being a part of this group, you know that good organizations don't just happen. They take root in a body of shared beliefs. They grow strong from leadership with vision, initiative, and determination to reach great goals. And what you've accomplished speaks for itself—more than 2½ million members, and NRA's getting stronger every day.

May I just say that we have great respect for your fine, effective leaders in Washington—Harlan Carter, Warren Cassidy, and your Institute for Legislative Action. We saw proof of NRA's strength a few months ago. Some of you share a special blessing with me—you're Californians. And you shocked California last November when you mobilized to send help and to down Proposition 13 and defeat it. You pointed out that police would be so busy arresting handgun owners that they would be unable to protect the people against criminals.

It's a nasty truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun control

laws. I happen to know this from personal experience.

You know, I've always felt a special bond with the members of your group. You live by Lincoln's words, "Important principles may and must be inflexible." Your philosophy put its trust in people. So, you insist on individuals being held responsible for their actions. The NRA believes that America's laws were made to be obeyed and that our constitutional liberties are just as important today as 200 years ago.

And by the way, the Constitution does not say that government shall decree the right to keep and bear arms. The Constitution says "... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." [Applause] Thank you very much. I wish I'd saved that and said it last. [Laughter]

But I believe we share the same goal, a strong America, carrying the banner of freedom and secure from threats to our domestic tranquility, economic well-being, and national security.

No group does more to promote gun safety and respect for the laws of this land than the NRA, and I thank you. Still, we've both heard the charge that supporting gun-owners rights encourages a violent, shoot-em-up society. But just a minute. Don't they understand that most violent crimes are not committed by decent, law-abiding citizens? They're committed by career criminals. Guns don't make criminals. Hard-core criminals use guns. And locking them up, the hard-core criminals up, and throwing away the key is the best gun-control law we could ever have.

When I was Governor of California, we dealt with gun control—we added 5 to 15 years to the sentence of any criminal who, while committing a crime, had a gun in his possession, whether he used that gun or not. Now, I'm even more convinced than ever that this is the right approach if they're going to talk about something to do with guns and crime.

I've said many times that our administration didn't come to Washington to continue business as usual. Either we make fundamental reforms that change things for the better, or we aren't doing our job. We think it's time for our loved ones to walk the streets of America without being afraid.

So, we have declared war on organized crime and the career criminal element in America. More than a hundred prosecutors' offices are working with special teams around the country to throw the book at career criminals in court. And we're determined to cripple the drug-pushers who are poisoning the minds and bodies of our children. We want mandatory sentences. We want firm and speedy application of penalties. And we want to abolish parole for Federal offenses. But there's one thing we do not want: We will never disarm any American who seeks to protect his or her family from fear and harm.

You know, I have to interject something I hadn't planned to say here—but having mentioned being the Governor of California, during a time when they were talking gun control there in our State, I received a letter, a most unusual letter, from a convicted burglar serving time in San Quentin Prison. And he wrote and told me that he just thought from his vantage point, where he was, he'd like to tell me how happy it would make all of them if we would adopt gun control. And then he explained the inside of his profession. He said, "We can case a place, a home. We can watch and learn the habits of the people that live there when they're in and out and all of that. But," he said, "the one thing that always sticks in our mind that we can never answer is, is that one of those homes where the fellow has a gun in a drawer by the bed?" And he said that, "That's the one that scares us most of all. So," he said, "there'd be a lot of smiles in this place if you would adopt gun control."

We are making headway in our crackdown on crime. A recent U.S. News and World Report story said that "It may be no accident that the first dip in U.S. crime totals in 5 years coincides with a nationwide crackdown on career criminals." Well, serious reported crime dropped by 4 percent in 1982, after rising more than 21 percent since 1977 and 254 percent since 1962.

Longer prison sentences and tougher treatment are beginning to pay dividends. And make no mistake: This is happening because you, the people, are fed up with crime. You're the ones who are organizing neighborhood patrols, supporting your local

police, insisting that justice be carried out—and every time you do that, you keep the spirit of democracy strong in America.

This morning I had the pleasure of meeting Arizona's Sun City Posse, a group which has had great success roping in the bad guys. They're not a posse in the old-time sense, just individuals who patrol their neighborhoods in their cars, wearing hard hats and carrying whistles and flashlights.

May 15th marks the beginning of National Police Week. I urge you and every citizen to let our men and women in blue across America know we stand with them this week and every week of the year. Another way NRA can help police is to support our efforts for a minimum mandatory term of 5 years imprisonment—and perhaps there'll be some disagreement in this, but I have to say it: for the use of armor-piercing bullets during a Federal crime of violence. These are designed to truly be a threat to law enforcement officers who, so many times, have to depend on bulletproof vests.

We can't solve the problems overnight. But since we established our Florida task force against drugs, drug-related arrests have risen sharply. Just last week, our agents trailed, and then landed behind a suspicious plane near LaBelle, Florida. Two drug smugglers jumped out of the plane and ran away. One of them swam across a canal and hid in the bushes. The alligators didn't get him, but our enforcement people did. They seized 625 pounds of cocaine valued at \$187 ½ million.

And let me interject something here. I'm not one who often feels or too often vents anger, but I want the American people to know that they're faced with the most sinister, despicable actions. We have strong evidence that high-level Cuban Government officials have been involved in smuggling drugs into the United States. Attorney General Smith and FBI Director Webster have assured me that they will use every resource they have to combat this menace. And as we crack down on criminals, we're trying to move forward on another front: to reform the firearms laws which needlessly interfere with the rights of legitimate gun owners like yourselves.

We're working closely with your leadership and congressional sponsors of firearms

legislation, such as Senators McClure and Hatch and Congressman Volkmer. I look forward to signing a bill that truly protects the rights of law-abiding citizens, without diminishing the effectiveness of criminal law enforcement against the misuse of firearms.

Your leadership's support has been important to us. Just last year, I signed two amendments into law. One eliminated unnecessary recordkeeping requirements on 22-caliber rimfire ammunition. The other saved many custom gunsmiths from financial ruin.

And I want you to know that I'm in favor of the Civilian Marksmanship program. I support this idea because clear back to the Revolutionary War, one of the great talents of American soldiers has been their marksmanship. And it turned out they developed this shooting at targets and plinking as young boys. So, I'm asking Secretary Weinberger to study ways in which the marksmanship program can be improved.

I'm also happy to report that since I took office the sale of M-1 rifles to participants and instructors in high-power rifle marksmanship training programs has been increased significantly. And I have asked the Department of Defense to look at ways in which sales might be increased even further.

May I say a few words about conservation and the group I consider the foremost conservationists of our wildlife resources—America's sportsmen, hunters, and fishermen. As Teddy Roosevelt recognized, "The free, self-reliant, adventurous life, with its rugged . . . democracy; the wild surroundings, the grand beauty of the scenery, the chance to study the ways and habits of the woodland creatures—all these unite to give to the career of the . . . hunter its peculiar charm."

Well, unfortunately, there's been a kind of elitist attitude in Washington that vast natural resource areas must be locked up to save the planet from mankind. Well, we have a different philosophy, one based on respect for both man and nature. Our administration believes in the concept of stewardship, caring for the resources we have for the benefit of mankind.

Now, let me be clear about those words—"stewardship for the benefit of mankind." We favor economic development, but not within our national parks or within our wilderness areas. We have not and never will propose that. What we do say is when the last administration arbitrarily closed tens of millions of acres of Alaskan land, telling sports hunters to stay out, then, yes, we think that was wrong, and we're trying to correct it.

We're trying to correct something else, too. A 1980 General Accounting Office report warned of health and safety hazards in our national parks. During the previous administration, the National Park Service budget for restoration and improvement had been cut. Now, I don't usually brag about spending money; but we have doubled it. We have the active support of NRA. We've also addressed one of America's most neglected and serious environmental problems, the destruction of our wetlands.

Our national parks, national wildlife refuges and coastal barriers, wetlands, national forests, and public lands are better managed today than they were just a few years ago. And I think that story merits more attention than it's received.

Another point which should be better understood: The backbone of our conservation efforts begins with American sportsmen. For over 40 years, hunters have been paying a special excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition through the Pittman-Robertson Act, nearly \$1.2 billion since 1939. State wildlife managers have used these funds to preserve and enhance valuable wildlife habitats. Such wild creatures as the whitetail deer, the ruffed grouse, wild turkey and pronghorn antelope, which were threatened with extinction in many areas have been brought back, in some cases, to great abundance.

This past year alone, American hunters have paid more than \$107 million toward these conservation efforts. The money will fund important studies of game and their habitat. It'll provide food and habitat projects for wildlife. And portions will go for hunter safety and education courses where our youngsters will be taught marksmanship, firearms safety, and some of the values and ethics of hunting and the outdoors. I deeply appreciate your contributions to pre-

serving our national treasures for the benefit of our people and future generations.

This idea of stewardship, of preserving and caring for what we have, bringing our economy back to health so you, the people, can make us great again, that's a crucial part of keeping America free and making her secure. Now, I know that the road to recovery has been long and hard. Too many people are still out of work. But I believe with all my heart that we have turned the corner. We are on our way back. And like that fighter, Rocky Balboa, America is getting stronger now.

You know, when I see inflation down, interest rates down, tax rates being cut, industrial production and productivity up, housing starts and auto sales up, and workers being called back, 250,000 more people put to work last month—now that our program is doing what we said it would, I have to ask of our critics, how come they're not calling it Reaganomics anymore? [Laughter]

Yes, some critics say nothing is right. They oppose budget savings, and they oppose tax cuts. Despite the calamity they created, they continue to resist reform. Their attitude reminds me of a comment a great American made about a similar situation. "Those who are frightened," he said, "by boldness and cowed by the necessity for making decisions complain that all we have done is unnecessary and subject to great risks. Now that these people are coming out of their storm cellars, they forget that there ever was a storm." Well, now those words were spoken by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1934.

Well, I haven't forgotten the storm that was raging around every family in 1980. With all due respect, may I remind our critics: Those who saddled this nation with double-digit inflation, 21½ percent interest rates—the highest in more than a hundred years—the worst tax burden in our peacetime history, are the last people who should be giving sermons on fairness and compassion.

If inflation had continued as it was when they were in office, a family of four on a fixed income of \$20,000 would be more than \$1,500 poorer in purchasing power today. If their tax increases had stayed on the books, and our tax cuts hadn't been

passed, a median-income family of four would be paying \$700 more in Federal income taxes this year. If this is the liberal idea of fairness and compassion, may the good Lord be with you if they ever have their way.

President John F. Kennedy said in 1963, "... the largest single barrier to full employment . . . and to a higher rate of economic growth is the . . . heavy drag of Federal income taxes on private purchasing power, initiative, and incentive." Those wise words are just as true today. I will veto any attempt to tamper with the third year of our tax cut, or the indexing provision.

And the other day I had a very exciting experience when a Member of the Senate and a Member of the House walked into my office, each presented me a letter; each letter signed by enough men in the House—men and women in the House and enough Senators to guarantee the upholding of any vetoes that I might take with regard to the taxing matters.

Indexing is the best security middle-income families have against bracket creep—inflation pushing you into higher and higher tax brackets when you get cost-of-living pay raises and so forth. Those who would strip you of this protection are tax-grabbers, pure and simple.

The United States didn't run up a trillion-dollar debt because you aren't taxed enough. We've got that debt because government spends too much. We need spending restraint, not tax increases. I want to work with the Congress, but not at your expense and not at the risk of sabotaging this recovery that we worked so hard to achieve.

Nor must we gamble, ever again, with the security of this country by neglecting our defense readiness. The day I took office, our Armed Forces were in a shocking state of neglect. I was surprised even though I thought I'd known something about it. We had shortages of skilled manpower, faulty equipment, lack of spare parts, and insufficient fuel and ammunition for proper training. We had planes that couldn't fly for lack of spare parts, ships that couldn't leave port, and helicopters that couldn't stay aloft.

I believe it's immoral to ask the sons and daughters of America to protect this land

with second-rate equipment and bargain-basement weapons. If they can put their lives on the line to protect our way of life, then, by golly, we can give them the weapons, the training, and the money they need to do the job right. And when it comes to keeping America safe and strong, when it comes to keeping America free, there should be no Republicans or Democrats, only patriotic Americans working together.

We've begun to pay our military personnel a decent wage. We've increased pilot flying time, extended basic training inventories. The level and quality of recruits are up sharply with the highest levels they've ever been. By providing adequate compensation for our soldiers, by giving them the tools they need to do their jobs, we're restoring dignity, honor, and pride to the uniform of the United States military, and we must not—we dare not—sacrifice that.

The people who disagree with our side rebuilding its military security don't seem to understand: Our side is the only side where people are permitted to disagree—and that should make them nervous. It isn't America that attacks and occupies other countries; we conduct no worldwide campaign of subversion and terrorism; we don't have to build walls to keep our people in, or use armies of secret police and gulag prison camps to keep them quiet. We're a free people, a democratic people; we believe in God and we love peace. But let us remember what George Washington warned in 1790—that to be prepared for war is one of the best means of preserving the peace.

There's nothing I want more than a verifiable agreement with the Soviet Union to reduce the levels of strategic weapons. In the long run, that's the best way to lower the growth in defense spending. But the Soviets will only bargain in good faith if they understand we're determined to defend freedom. And I'm determined that they will understand that.

Now, 9 days ago, I addressed the Congress on the subject of Central America, where the United States has fundamental and far-reaching interests. We must never forget that two-thirds of all our foreign trade and petroleum pass through the sear lanes of that region. Nor can we forget that

a country like El Salvador is approximately 10 miles closer to Phoenix, Arizona, than Phoenix is to Washington, D.C.

The people of El Salvador are not perfect. They're made mistakes as we have made mistakes. But they're trying, with great bravery and against tremendous odds, to build the dream of a society like ours. They understand that government must depend and rest on the consent of the governed; that only when people are free to worship, create, and build, only when they are given a personal stake in deciding their destiny, and benefiting from their own risks—only then will their society become dynamic, prosperous, progressive, and free.

But El Salvador is under attack. Guerrillas with contempt for democracy and armed to the teeth by Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Soviets are determined to shoot their way into power. We have asked the Congress for a modest package of assistance for the region, with three times as much economic aid as military aid.

But military aid is essential, because the guerrillas are deliberately destroying El Salvador's economy—blowing up bridges, railroads, water facilities, telephone, and electrical systems. These are not the actions of a people who love the common man and who seek to reform their system. They're the actions of thugs who trample the common man in their quest for total power.

America faces a choice: Will we give El Salvador her chance to walk beside us in the sunlight of democracy, or will we turn our backs on a friend, letting her slide into a dark night of tyranny, rationalizing our inaction with detached lectures on morality.

Running away from this clear-cut responsibility would reward aggression and bring dishonor on the good name of the United States. It would swell the tide of political and economic instability in Central America, creating a new army of refugees, and bringing danger closer and closer to home.

I appeal to you today: Tell your representatives they cannot remain indifferent to another Communist takeover on our doorstep.

Standing up for America also means standing up for the God who has so blessed this land. If we could just keep remembering that Moses brought down from the mountain 10 Commandments, not 10 sug-

gestions—[laughter]—and if those of us who live for the Lord could remember that He wants us to love our Lord and our neighbor, then there's no limit to the problems we could solve or the mountains we could climb together as a mighty force for good.

The United States remains the last, best hope for a mankind plagued by tyranny and deprivation. America is no stronger than its people—and that means you and me. Well, I believe in you, and I believe that if we work together, then one day we will say, "We fought the good fight. We finished the race. We kept the faith." And to our children and our children's children we can say, "We did all that could be done in the brief time that was given us here on Earth."

Thank you all and God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 1:02 p.m. at the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

Following his appearance at the luncheon, the President traveled to California and Rancho del Cielo, his ranch near Santa Barbara.

Mother's Day, 1983

Radio Address to the Nation. May 7, 1983

My fellow Americans:

This is a very special weekend in American life, a time specially set aside to honor our mothers and the mothers of our children. As we do, we acknowledge their role as the heart of our families and reinforce our families as the cornerstone of our society.

In our families, and often from our mothers, we first learn about values and caring and the difference between right and wrong. Those of us blessed with loving families draw our confidence from them and the strength we need to face the world. We also first learn at home, and, again, often from our mothers, about the God who will guide us through life.

The mothers we honor this weekend, young or not so young, partners or alone, well-to-do or sometimes agonizingly poor,