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The President has seen _____

(ROBINSON)

MAY 16, 1984/7:30 P.M.

215005SC
SP882

WHITE HOUSE NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS
ANNUAL DINNER

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.) SPECIAL THANKS TO
BERNIE BOSTON, KEN BLAYLOCK, PAUL LYONS,
AND THE DINNER COMMITTEE FOR DOING SUCH A
FINE JOB OF PUTTING THIS ALL TOGETHER.
AND GREETINGS TO BUCK MAY, THE DEAN OF WHITE
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHERS.

NOW, I ALREADY KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR
MINDS.) YOU'RE ALL WONDERING WHETHER I'M
GOING TO PUT MY THUMBS IN MY EARS AND WAVE
MY FINGERS THE WAY I DID LAST YEAR.

THE ANSWER IS YES.) BUT SINCE LAST TIME
RICH LIPSKI WAS QUICK ENOUGH WITH HIS CAMERA
TO CATCH IT, THIS YEAR I'M GOING TO MOVE A
LITTLE FASTER.

READY? HERE WE GO.

(PAUSE, RR STAND STILL.)

WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN?

BUT IT'S A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE.
YOU KNOW, IN WASHINGTON, THERE ARE A LOT OF
BIG DINNERS LIKE THIS ONE, BUT TONIGHT IS
SPECIAL FOR ME. YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN AROUND
PHOTOGRAPHERS ALL MY ADULT LIFE, AND I THINK
I CAN SAY THAT I'VE DEVELOPED AN
APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CRAFT. SO IT'S AS AN
OLD PRO THAT I ADMIRE THE WORK EACH OF YOU
PERFORMS. YOU DEMONSTRATE TRUE
PROFESSIONALISM AND ARTISTRY, AND TIME AND
TIME AGAIN I FIND MYSELF PAUSING TO ADMIRE A
WONDERFUL PICTURE THAT ONE OF YOU HAS
PRODUCED.

AS YOU RECORD HISTORY IN THE MAKING,
YOU YOURSELVES ARE PART OF A HISTORIC
TRADITION. EVER SINCE MATTHEW BRADY TOOK
HIS STIRRING PICTURES OF ABE LINCOLN AND THE
CIVIL WAR, PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN IMPARTING
IMMEDIACY TO AMERICAN NEWS.

NEWS PHOTOS SHOW US WHAT IS SPECIFIC AND VIVID. A STORY MIGHT EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED DURING WORLD WAR II, BUT IT WAS A PHOTO THAT GAVE US THAT UNFORGETTABLE IMAGE OF FOUR MARINES, STRUGGLING TO HOIST THE STARS AND STRIPES ON IWO JIMA. AND ALTHOUGH NEWS ANALYSIS MIGHT DISCUSS THE PRESIDENCY, IT'S YOUR PHOTOS THAT SHOW J.F.K. WORKING IN THE OVAL OFFICE WITH JOHN-JOHN PLAYING UNDER HIS DESK, OR ME GIVING A BRIEFING WITH NANCY WAITING IN THE WINGS TO SURPRISE ME WITH A BIRTHDAY CAKE. PICTURES LIKE THAT REMIND US THE PRESIDENCY ISN'T AN ABSTRACTION, BUT AN OFFICE HELD BY ORDINARY MEN WHO DO THEIR JOB THE BEST THEY CAN.

OFTEN NEWS PHOTOS REMIND US OF THE FIRST THINGS -- THE FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE THAT MAKE US DO WHAT WE DO. LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, WE MIGHT BEGIN TO TAKE DEMOCRACY FOR GRANTED.

THEN WE SEE A NEWS PHOTO OF PEOPLE LINED UP
AT BALLOT BOXES IN EL SALVADOR -- SIMPLE MEN
AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BRAVED DEATH THREATS TO
TRAVEL INTO TOWN AND CAST THEIR VOTES. WE
SEE THE CARE IN THEIR FACES, THE LIFE OF
HARD WORK IN THEIR SHOULDERS AND HANDS.
AND WE REMEMBER ONCE AGAIN WHY WE STRIVE FOR
DEMOCRACY AND PEACE.

MY ADMIRATION FOR NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS
GOES TO THE ROOT OF MY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.
IN TOO MANY COUNTRIES, PHOTOGRAPHS OF TOP
OFFICIALS ARE ONLY RELEASED ONCE IN AWHILE
TO SHOW THAT THE LEADERS ARE STILL HEALTHY.
BUT IN OUR COUNTRY, YOUR RIGHT TO SNAP
ANYTHING YOU WANT IS PROTECTED BY THE
CONSTITUTION, AND EACH OF YOU REPRESENTS A
VITAL PART OF THE GREAT AND LIVELY AMERICAN
SYSTEM OF FREEDOM.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, ONE EVENT SAID IT ALL. IT TOOK PLACE AT AN AIRBASE IN SOUTH CAROLINA, SHORTLY AFTER A PLANE HAD RETURNED FROM GRENADA, CARRYING THE MEDICAL STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN TRAPPED AT ST. GEORGE'S MEDICAL SCHOOL. AS ONE STUDENT GOT OFF THE PLANE, HE DROPPED TO HIS KNEES AND KISSED THE GOOD EARTH OF THE UNITED STATES. NEARBY, A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER CLICKED HIS CAMERA AND CAUGHT THAT MOMENT FOR ALL AMERICANS TO SHARE. ALTHOUGH THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME HURLY-BURLY AND TUGGING BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE PRESS, I KNOW THAT PHOTO CAPTURED THE WAY THAT ALL OF US FEEL ABOUT OUR GREAT LAND.

THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU, AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

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(ELLIOTT)

The President has seen
MAY 16, 1984/11:45 A.M.

215006SC
MC003

DROPBY BRIEFING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS' PRESS

WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WE'RE
DELIGHTED TO HAVE ALL OF YOU WITH US THIS
MORNING TO JOIN IN OBSERVING OLDER AMERICANS
MONTH. I KNOW YOU'RE RECEIVING THE FULL
TREATMENT FROM OUR STAFF, SO I WON'T TALK
FOR LONG.

I'D JUST LIKE TO MAKE ONE REQUEST, THAT
YOU TAKE BACK THE MESSAGE OF OUR
DETERMINATION TO KEEP FAITH WITH AMERICA'S
SENIOR CITIZENS -- OUR DETERMINATION TO DO
EVERYTHING WE CAN TO MAKE SURE THE FUTURE OF
OUR OLDER AMERICANS CAN BE AS SWEET AS THE
MEMORIES OF THEIR YOUTH.

THOMAS CARLYLE ONCE SAID THAT THE WORK
OF UNKNOWN GOOD MEN AND WOMEN IS LIKE A VEIN
OF WATER FLOWING HIDDEN UNDERGROUND,
SECRETLY MAKING THE GROUND GREEN.

SO, TOO, HAVE BEEN THE LIFELONG CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICA'S ELDERLY TO THEIR FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND COUNTRY. WITH QUIET COURAGE AND LITTLE FANFARE, THEY HAVE GIVEN FAR MORE TO ALL OF US THAN WE COULD EVER REPAY.

BUT WE CAN KEEP FAITH WITH THEM, AND, I THINK THE FIRST AND MOST FUNDAMENTAL WAY IS BY SHIELDING THEM FROM THE MONSTER OF INFLATION. ONLY 4 YEARS AGO, THIS SINISTER THIEF WAS DEVOURING THE SAVINGS AND PENSIONS THAT OUR SENIOR CITIZENS HAD FAITHFULLY BUILT UP WITH A LIFETIME OF HARD WORK. WE WERE TOLD THERE WAS NO REAL SOLUTION IN SIGHT. WELL, THEY FORGOT ABOUT AN OLD-FASHIONED REMEDY CALLED COMMON SENSE. THANKS TO PRUDENCE IN SPENDING AND TAXING, THE INFLATION RATE TODAY IS LESS THAN A THIRD OF WHAT IT WAS IN 1980.

AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP THE NIGHTMARE OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION FROM EVER COMING BACK.

PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY HAVE LONG BEEN A POLITICAL FOOTBALL. SOME HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS SOMEHOW NOT SUPPORTIVE OF PROGRAMS WHICH HELP OLDER AMERICANS. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR BUDGET FOR THIS YEAR PROVIDES FOR \$238 BILLION IN PROGRAMS THAT HELP OUR ELDERLY, WHICH AVERAGES OUT TO \$17,000 FOR EVERY SENIOR COUPLE IN AMERICA? YOU KNOW, IF WE DO ANY BETTER BY MY GENERATION, I'LL GET ACCUSED OF HAVING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

AMERICA'S ECONOMY IS STRONG, PUBLIC OPTIMISM IS HIGH, BUSINESSES ARE BEING FORMED AT RECORD RATES, UNEMPLOYMENT HAS FALLEN FASTER DURING THE LAST 16 MONTHS THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE LAST THREE DECADES, AND MORE PEOPLE ARE NOW WORKING IN AMERICA THAN AT ANY TIME IN THIS NATION'S HISTORY.

AMERICA'S FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT AGAIN.

IF WE MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO GO FORWARD
TOGETHER WITH COURAGE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND
FAIRNESS FOR ALL, THEN WE CAN AND WILL
COMPLETE THE JOB WE HAVE BEGUN. WE CAN MAKE
AMERICA THE SOURCE OF ALL THE DREAMS OUR
BLESSED NATION WAS PUT ON THIS GOOD EARTH TO
PROVIDE. NOW, BEFORE I GET CARRIED AWAY,
I'D BE DELIGHTED TO USE THE TIME THAT
REMAINS TO TAKE SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

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Received
1984 MAY 16 AM 10: 20

(Elliott)
May 15, 1984
2:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPHY BRIEFING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS' PRESS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1984

Well, thank you very much. We're delighted to have all of you with us this morning to join in observing Older Americans Month. I know you're receiving the full treatment from our staff, so I won't talk for long.

I'd just like to make one request, that you take back the message of our determination to keep faith with America's senior citizens -- our determination to do everything we can to make sure the future of our older Americans can be as sweet as the memories of their youth.

Thomas Carlyle once said that the work of unknown good men and women is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green. So, too, have been the lifelong contributions of America's elderly to their families, communities, and country. With quiet courage and little fanfare, they have given far more to all of us than we could ever repay.

But we can keep faith with them. And, I think the first and most fundamental way is by shielding them from the monster of inflation. Only 4 years ago, this sinister thief was devouring the savings and pensions that our senior citizens had faithfully built up with a lifetime of hard work. We were told there was no real solution in sight. Well, they forgot about an old-fashioned remedy called common sense. Thanks to prudence in spending and taxing, the inflation rate today is less than a third of what it

was in 1980. And we are determined to keep the nightmare of double-digit inflation from ever coming back.

Programs for the elderly have long been a political football. Some have suggested that this Administration is somehow not supportive of programs which help older Americans. But did you know that our budget for this year provides for \$238 billion in programs that help our elderly, which averages out to \$17,000 for every senior couple in America? *YOU KNOW IF WE DO ANY BETTER BY MY GENERATION I'LL GET ACCUSED OF HAVING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.*

America's economy is strong, public optimism is high, businesses are being formed at record rates, unemployment has fallen faster during the last 16 months than at any time in the last three decades, and more people are now working in America than at any time in this Nation's history. America's future looks bright again.

If we make up our minds to go forward together with courage, responsibility, and fairness for all, then we can and will complete the job we have begun. We can make America the source of all the dreams our blessed Nation was put on this good Earth to provide. Now, before I get carried away, I'd be delighted to use the time that remains to take some of your questions.

(MYER)

MAY 16, 1984/1:15 P.M.

BRIEFING FOR AMERICAN RETAIL FEDERATION

GOOD AFTERNOON. I'M DELIGHTED TO
WELCOME YOU -- THE MERCHANTS OF AMERICA --
BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

2150045C
MCOO3

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT 2 YEARS HAVE
PASSED SINCE WE LAST MET -- 2 SHORT YEARS
BUT WHAT A DIFFERENCE. AS YOU PROBABLY
REMEMBER, WHEN WE MET IN THE ROSE GARDEN,
I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH GOOD NEWS TO GIVE YOU.
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAD PAID A STEEP PRICE
FOR YEARS OF GOOD INTENTIONS BADLY
MISDIRECTED. AS A RESULT, OUR NATIONAL
ECONOMY HAD NEARLY REACHED THE BREAKING
POINT.

WELL, BACK IN 1982 WE WEREN'T PURSUING
A PROGRAM BASED ON THE SHIFTING SANDS OF
GOVERNMENT EXPEDIENCY. ANOTHER QUICK FIX
WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE FAILED. THERE WAS ONLY
ONE WAY TO GO, AND THAT WAS TO USE
THREE SIMPLE WORDS AS OUR GUIDE -- TRUST THE
PEOPLE.

LASTING ECONOMIC RECOVERY HAD TO BE BUILT ON
THE SOLID ROCK OF THE AMERICAN FREE
ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

AND WHEN I THINK BACK TO ALL THE
CRITICS WHO SAID WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY GET IT
DONE, I'M REMINDED OF ONE OF MY FAVORITE

STORIES. IN THE OLD DAYS OF VAUDEVILLE,
YOUNG VAUDEVILLIANS — AND SOME WHO WEREN'T
SO YOUNG — USED TO GO INTO AN EMPTY THEATER
AND TRY OUT IN FRONT OF A HARD-TO-PLEASE
BOOKING AGENT. THE AGENT WOULD SIT IN THE
FRONT ROW OF THE THEATER, WITH A BORED LOOK
ON HIS FACE AND A CIGAR IN HIS MOUTH,
AND WOULD BE VERY HARD TO PLEASE.

ONE DAY A YOUNG FELLOW CAME IN WITH AN
ACT, HOPING TO BREAK INTO SHOW BUSINESS.
HE WALKED ONTO THE STAGE AND THE AGENT ASKED
HIM WHAT HE DID. WELL, THE KID DIDN'T SAY A
WORD.

HE JUST TOOK OFF, FLEW ALL AROUND THE THEATER, MADE A COUPLE OF CIRCLES CLEAR UP AT THE CEILING, HOVERED FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN GENTLY LANDED RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE BOOKING AGENT.

THE AGENT LOOKED UP AND QUIETLY SAID, "OKAY KID, WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO BESIDES BIRD IMITATIONS?"

WELL, THERE ARE STILL SOME CRITICS, AND THEY MAY STILL THINK THEY'RE LOOKING AT BIRD IMITATIONS, BUT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WE'VE PASSED THE RECOVERY STAGE, WE'RE WELL INTO AN ECONOMIC EXPANSION.

FROM THE MESS WE INHERITED JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, A STRONG AND MORE VIBRANT AMERICA IS TAKING SHAPE. INFLATION, ONCE OUT OF CONTROL, HAS PLUMMETED BY NEARLY TWO-THIRDS, AND WE'RE DETERMINED TO KEEP INFLATION DOWN FOR GOOD.

PURCHASING POWER IS BACK IN THE HANDS
OF THE CONSUMER AND THAT'S GREAT NEWS FOR
RETAILERS. AND WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE
CAN TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. STARTING NEXT
YEAR, TAX RATES WILL BE INDEXED SO THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO
PROFIT FROM INFLATION AT YOUR EXPENSE.
AND WE'RE NOT FINISHED. TO PROVIDE GREATER
INCENTIVES TO EVERY HARDWORKING AMERICAN,
AND TO MAKE TAXES MORE SIMPLE AND FAIR,
WE WILL PRESS FOR TAX SIMPLIFICATION — NOT
TINKERING HERE AND THERE — BUT A SWEEPING,
COMPREHENSIVE REFORM OF THE ENTIRE TAX CODE.

I KNOW THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK
ABOUT THE MONSTER OF INFLATION COMING BACK.
BUT WE DON'T THINK THAT'S HAPPENING.
CONSUMER PRICES ROSE A SCANT TWO-TENTHS OF A
PERCENT IN MARCH, AND LAST MONTH,
THE PRODUCER PRICE INDEX DIDN'T RISE AT ALL.

THE PESSIMISTS MADE DIRE PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE ECONOMY WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER THIS YEAR EXPANDED AT A ROBUST 8.3 PERCENT. OVERHEATING, THEY WARNED, WOULD CAUSE RISING INFLATION. BUT THE ECONOMY ISN'T CONFORMING TO THEIR FEARS.

HOUSING STARTS CONTINUE TO BE STRONG.

IN FACT AT 8:30 THIS MORNING, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HOUSING STARTS IN APRIL ROSE TO AN ANNUAL RATE OF 1.96 MILLION.

THAT'S AN INCREASE OF 19 PERCENT FROM MARCH, AND NEW HOUSING PERMITS HOLD STEADY AT 1.7 MILLION. NEW HOMEOWNERS MEAN MORE RETAIL BUSINESS.

VENTURE CAPITAL IS UP FOUR-FOLD SINCE 1980. REAL FIXED BUSINESS INVESTMENT INCREASED BY 13 PERCENT LAST YEAR, THE BEST IN 30 YEARS. BANKRUPTCIES DECLINED SOME 30 PERCENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1983 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1982.

THE BEST NEWS OF ALL HAS BEEN THE
STEEPEST DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN OVER
30 YEARS. 5.4 MILLION MORE AMERICANS HAVE
JOBS TODAY THAN JUST 17 MONTHS AGO. IT'S NO
WONDER THAT RETAIL SALES LAST YEAR REACHED
AN ALL-TIME HIGH— \$1.2 TRILLION.

WE MUST AND WILL GO FORWARD TO KEEP
OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDING FOR YOU AND ALL
AMERICANS. NOW, JUST IN CASE YOU WANT TO
CALL OR TALK TO SOMEONE WHILE YOU'RE IN
TOWN, THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS YET TO GET
DONE.

WE WANT TO SEE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
GROW AND GROW. WE'RE WORKING HARD TO BE
SENSITIVE TO YOUR CONCERNS. THE FEDERAL
TRADE COMMISSION, WITH JIM MILLER AT THE
HELM, HAS BUILT A SOLID, BALANCED
RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR INDUSTRY. AND WE'RE
PRESSING TO GET PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION WHICH
WOULD TIGHTEN UP CONSUMER CREDIT PROVISIONS
OF FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

I KNOW THAT THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU,
SO I HOPE YOU'LL MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN.

AND WE ALL HAVE AN INTEREST IN MAKING
SURE THAT FEDERAL SPENDING IS BROUGHT DOWN
INTO LINE WITH GOVERNMENT REVENUES.

THAT'S WHY I STRONGLY FAVOR CONSTITUTIONAL
REFORMS LIKE THE LINE-ITEM VETO AND THE
BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT. I HAVE NO
QUARREL WITH THE BIG-SPENDERS, SO LONG AS
THEY SPEND THEIR MONEY AT YOUR STORES.

IT'S TIME THEY STOPPED SPENDING OUR MONEY ON
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS THAT DON'T SERVE THE
INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

NOW BEFORE I CLOSE, I WANT TO TAKE
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK RETAILERS ALL
ACROSS AMERICA FOR THE WORK THEY'RE DOING TO
HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FIND THAT CRUCIAL
FIRST JOB. WHEN AMERICA'S YOUTH CAN GET
THEIR FEET ON THE FIRST RUNG OF THE ECONOMIC
LADDER, EVERYBODY BENEFITS.

YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX CREDIT
FOR HIRING DISADVANTAGED, MINORITY YOUTH
AND I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TAKE EVEN GREATER
ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROGRAM. AND WHILE I'M AT
IT, LET ME MENTION THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE
RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM THE MINIMUM WAGE
CAUSES FOR OUR UNSKILLED YOUNG PEOPLE,
OUR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WAGE BILL
WILL GIVE A MUCH NEEDED BOOST TO THOSE
LOOKING FOR THEIR FIRST SUMMERTIME JOB.
IT DESERVES YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE BOTTOM LINE —
IF I CAN BORROW THE PHRASE THAT IS THE
HEARTBEAT OF ALL RETAILERS — IT'S A GREAT
TIME TO BE A MERCHANT. AND I BELIEVE THE
BEST IS YET TO COME.

I HOPE THAT YOUR 46TH ANNUAL MEETING
IS A GREAT SUCCESS. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS
YOU ALL.

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(Myer/BE)
May 15, 1984
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN RETAIL FEDERATION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1984

Good afternoon. I'm delighted to welcome you -- the merchants of America -- back to the White House.

It's hard to believe that 2 years have passed since we last met -- 2 short years but what a difference. As you probably remember, when we met in the Rose Garden, I didn't have much good news to give you. The American people had paid a steep price for years of good intentions badly misdirected. As a result, our national economy had nearly reached the breaking point.

Well, back in 1982 we weren't pursuing a program based on the shifting sands of Government expediency. Another quick fix would certainly have failed. There was only one way to go, and that was to use three simple words as our guide -- trust the people. Lasting economic recovery had to be built on the solid rock of the American free enterprise system.

And when I think back to all the critics who said we couldn't possibly get it done, I'm reminded of one of my favorite stories. In the old days of vaudeville, young vaudevillians -- and some who weren't so young -- used to go into an empty theater and try out in front of a hard-to-please booking agent. The agent would sit in the front row of the theater, with a bored look on his face and a cigar in his mouth, and would be very hard to please.

One day a young fellow came in with an act, hoping to break into show business. He walked onto the stage and the agent asked

him what he did. Well, the kid didn't say a word. He just took off, flew all around the theater, made a couple of circles clear up at the ceiling, hovered for a moment, and then gently landed right in front of the booking agent.

The agent looked up and quietly said, "Okay kid, what else do you do besides bird imitations?"

Well, there are still some critics, and they may still think they're looking at bird imitations, but as far as I'm concerned, we've passed the recovery stage, we're well into an economic expansion.

From the mess we inherited just a few years ago, a strong and more vibrant America is taking shape. Inflation, once out of control, has plummeted by nearly two-thirds, and we're determined to keep inflation down for good.

Purchasing power is back in the hands of the consumer and that's great news for retailers. And we're doing everything we can to keep it that way. Starting next year, tax rates will be indexed so the Federal Government will no longer be able to profit from inflation at your expense. And we're not finished. To provide greater incentives to every hardworking American, and to make taxes more simple and fair, we will press for tax simplification -- not tinkering here and there -- but a sweeping, comprehensive reform of the entire tax code.

I know there's been a lot of talk about the monster of inflation coming back. But we don't think that's happening. Consumer prices rose a scant two-tenths of a percent in March, and last month, the producer price index didn't rise at all. The

pessimists made dire predictions about the economy when it was announced that the gross national product for the first quarter this year expanded at a robust 8.3 percent. Overheating, they warned, would cause rising inflation. But the economy isn't conforming to their fears.

Housing starts continue to be strong and new homeowners means more retail business. *On fact at 8:30 this morning it was announced that housing starts in office* Venture capital is up four-fold since 1980. Business fixed investment increased by nearly 13 percent last year, the best in 30 years. Bankruptcies declined some 30 percent in the second half of 1983 compared with the same period in 1982.

The best news of all has been the steepest drop in unemployment in over 30 years. More than 5.4 million more Americans have jobs today than just 17 months ago. It's no wonder that retail sales last year reached an all-time high -- \$1.2 trillion. I'll tell you, with money like that, your industry could sure give me a helping hand with the deficit.

We must and will go forward to keep opportunities expanding for you and all Americans. Now, just in case you want to call or talk to someone while you're in town, there are still some things yet to get done.

We want to see the business community grow and grow. We're working hard to be sensitive to your concerns. The Federal Trade Commission, with Jim Miller at the helm, has built a solid, balanced relationship with your industry. And we're pressing to get passage of legislation which would tighten up consumer credit

... more at an annual rate of 1.96 Mil. + New purchase value in money ...

provisions of Federal bankruptcy laws. I know that this issue is important to you, so I hope you'll make your views known.

And we all have an interest in making sure that Federal spending is brought down into line with government revenues. That's why I strongly favor constitutional reforms like the line-item veto and the balanced budget amendment. I have no quarrel with the big-spenders, so long as they spend their money at your stores. It's time they stopped spending our money on Govt. programs that don't serve the interests of the American people.

Now before I close, I want to take this opportunity to thank retailers all across America for the work they're doing to help our young people find that crucial first job. When America's youth can get their feet on the first rung of the economic ladder, everybody benefits. You're taking advantage of the tax credit for hiring disadvantaged, minority youth, and I'd like to see you take even greater advantage of this program. And while I'm at it, let me mention that more and more people recognize the problem the minimum wage causes for our unskilled young people. Our youth employment opportunity wage bill will give a much needed boost to those looking for their first summertime job. It deserves your active support.

When it comes to the bottom line -- if I can borrow the phrase that is the heartbeat of all retailers -- it's a great time to be a merchant. And I believe the best is yet to come.

I hope that your 46th annual meeting is a great success. Thank you and God bless you all.

(MYER)

MAY 17, 1984

KICKOFF SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

215007SC
LA 002-03

MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, SECRETARY
RAY DONOVAN, OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
SHARING THE PLATFORM WITH ME, AND LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN: GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO THE
WHITE HOUSE. I'M DELIGHTED TO HELP KICK-OFF
THE 1984 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM,

AND I WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL THE
PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATE AWARD WINNERS FOR
THEIR DEDICATION TO THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT
OF AMERICA'S YOUTH, AND FOR THEIR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF THE 1983 PRIVATE SECTOR SUMMER
JOBS PROGRAM. IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS THAT
REMINDE US AMERICA WAS BUILT BY PEOPLE
HELPING PEOPLE. WE'RE PROUD TO HONOR YOU
THIS MORNING. AND I HOPE THAT NEXT YEAR
YOUR NUMBERS WILL GROW.

MANY OF YOU WILL RECALL THAT LAST JULY
WE HELD A SIMILAR CEREMONY RIGHT HERE IN THE
ROSE GARDEN.

SINCE THEN, MORE THAN 3 MILLION AMERICANS
HAVE FOUND JOBS. IN FACT, SINCE THE
ECONOMIC EXPANSION BEGAN 17 MONTHS AGO,
5.4 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE FOUND JOBS,
AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS SHOWN THE
STEEPEST DROP IN 30 YEARS. THAT'S WHY WHEN
I'M ASKED TO DESCRIBE OUR ECONOMIC PROGRAM,
I DO IT WITH THREE SHORT WORDS:
JOBS, JOBS, JOBS.

BUT WE CANNOT REST UNTIL EVERYONE WHO
WANTS A JOB HAS FOUND ONE. WE MUST AND WILL
GO FORWARD TO KEEP OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDING,
PARTICULARLY FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF
AMERICA.

NO SINGLE SECTOR OF OUR NATION --
GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, LABOR, OR NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION -- CAN SOLVE THE EMPLOYMENT
NEEDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. BUT BY WORKING
TOGETHER, POOLING OUR RESOURCES,
AND BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS, WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS.

THAT'S THE WHOLE IDEA BEHIND OUR YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS: PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS TO PRODUCE REAL, NOT MAKE-WORK,
JOBS. PARTNERSHIPS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP AMERICA'S YOUTH GAIN A
FOOTHOLD ON THE ECONOMIC LADDER.

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO WORK IN THE SUMMER
DESERVE THE CHANCE, AND PARTNERSHIPS CAN
MAKE IT HAPPEN.

THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
INCLUDES A \$725 MILLION BLOCK GRANT TO STATE
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THIS GRANT WILL GIVE
718,000 YOUNG AMERICANS VALUABLE WORK
EXPERIENCE, BUT IT'S ONLY PART OF OUR EFFORT
TO HELP DESERVING YOUNG PEOPLE GET A START.

ANOTHER PROGRAM IN PLACE GIVES
EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE ECONOMICALLY
DISADVANTAGED TEENAGERS A TAX CREDIT OF UP
TO 85 PERCENT OF THE WAGES PAID.

THE EMPLOYERS GET A YOUNG EMPLOYEE THE COMPANY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD WITHOUT THE TAX BREAK. AND THE YOUNG WORKER GETS A NEEDED JOB AND VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

MR. AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM OF ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA -- WHO IS WITH US TODAY -- CAN TELL YOU HOW WELL THE TARGETED JOBS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM WORKS. AFTER HE "DISCOVERED" THE PROGRAM, MR. CUNNINGHAM PROMOTED THE IDEA TO 77 OTHER SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN IN ORANGEBURG. TOGETHER, THEY HIRED 264 ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE. FOR MOST OF THESE 16- AND 17-YEAR-OLDS, IT WAS THEIR FIRST REAL JOB. AND WHEN THE SUMMER WAS OVER, MANY OF THEM WERE ASKED TO STAY ON FULL-TIME -- EVEN THOUGH THE TAX CREDIT NO LONGER APPLIED. THAT'S PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION AND EVERYBODY'S BETTER OFF BECAUSE OF IT.

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS TO HELP OUR
YOUNG PEOPLE FIND THAT CRITICAL FIRST JOB.
WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE WORKPLACE, AMERICA'S
YOUTH CAN DEVELOP SKILLS AND DEMONSTRATE
THEIR QUALIFICATIONS TO POTENTIAL PERMANENT
EMPLOYERS.

BUT FAR TOO OFTEN, INEXPERIENCED AND
DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PRICED OUT OF
THE LABOR MARKET BY THE MINIMUM WAGE.

WELL, RAY DONOVAN AND A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE
HERE TODAY HAVE PUT TOGETHER LEGISLATION
THAT WILL GIVE A MUCH NEEDED BOOST TO THOSE
LOOKING FOR THAT FIRST JOB. TODAY I WILL
SUBMIT OUR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WAGE
ACT TO THE CONGRESS. AND SENATORS PERCY AND
HATCH AND CONGRESSMAN PACKARD, WHO HAVE
WORKED HARD ON THIS BILL, WILL INTRODUCE IT
ON THE HILL ON BEHALF OF OUR ADMINISTRATION
AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THIS LEGISLATION WOULD ALLOW EMPLOYERS TO HIRE YOUNG PEOPLE AT A LOWER MINIMUM WAGE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. THE BILL WOULD INCREASE SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROVIDE EXPLICIT SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT PERMANENT EMPLOYEES AND SANCTIONS TO PREVENT ABUSE.

I'M DELIGHTED THAT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK MAYORS HAS ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WAGE. AND NOW THAT MAYOR JOHNNY FORD, THE PAST PRESIDENT, AND MAYOR MARION BARRY, THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK MAYORS, HAVE ENDORSED THIS LEGISLATION, MAYBE WE CAN HELP CHUCK, ORRIN, AND RON GET THIS IMPORTANT JOBS INITIATIVE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS.

WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE, I WANT TO
THANK BILL KOLBERG AND ALL THE OTHER
EXECUTIVES OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF
BUSINESS FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT IN
COORDINATING THE SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM.

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF PRIVATE SECTOR
INITIATIVES AND THE N.A.B. HAVE DONE AN
OUTSTANDING JOB IN LEADING THIS YEAR'S
EFFORT.] AND THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OTHER
PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCILS, AMERICA'S
BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND STATE AND LOCAL
AGENCIES, WE'RE REACHING OUT AND RESPONDING
TO THE NEEDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

COUNCILS LIKE THE GREATER KANSAS CITY
ALLIANCE OF BUSINESS ARE USING INNOVATIVE
IDEAS AND MODERN MARKETING TECHNIQUES TO
DEVELOP THOUSANDS OF SUMMER JOBS.] COMPANIES
LIKE PHILIP MORRIS, COCA-COLA, CHEVRON, AND
THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LIFE INSURANCE HAVE
DONATED GENEROUSLY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.

TELEVISION STATIONS LIKE W.T.V.J. IN MIAMI AND K.P.I.X. IN SAN FRANCISCO HAVE HELD JOB-A-THONS. W.P.I.X.-T.V. IS LEADING THE VERY SUCCESSFUL SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM FOR NEW YORK CITY. SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN ALL ACROSS AMERICA ARE OPENING THEIR HEARTS AND THEIR BUSINESS DOORS TO AMERICA'S YOUTH. AND THOUSANDS OF CARING AMERICANS, LIKE ROOSEVELT GRIER AND DAVE WINFIELD WHO ARE WITH US TODAY, ARE PITCHING IN TO HELP MAKE THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THE BEST EVER.

YES, AMERICA IS REACHING OUT WITH THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY, A GIFT THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME. BUT THERE ARE STILL FAR TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE -- PARTICULARLY DISADVANTAGED AND MINORITY YOUTH -- WHO CANNOT FIND SUMMER EMPLOYMENT. WE CAN AND MUST HELP THEM GET THE START THEY SO RICHLY DESERVE.

LET ME CLOSE BY ASKING AMERICA'S
BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN TWO QUESTIONS.
DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST JOB? DO YOU
REMEMBER THE LUCKY BREAK YOU RECEIVED EVEN
THOUGH YOU WERE INEXPERIENCED, AND THE ONLY
SKILLS YOU HAD WERE ENTHUSIASM AND
DETERMINATION? NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO OFFER
THE SAME OPPORTUNITY. YOU'LL NEVER REGRET
IT.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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(Elliott)
May 17, 1984
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT
SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1984

226488 SC
SP 832-20

My fellow Americans, I want to talk to you today about our young people and what we can do to provide them an all-important opportunity -- a summer job. This is a crucial time for young job-seekers -- May being the month many firms make their summer ~~recruitment plans and~~ hiring decisions.

~~Just~~ Why are summer jobs so important for teenagers?

Because when young people are exposed to the world of work, they can reap a wealth of benefits that often remain with them for a lifetime: values of personal initiative, self-reliance, and hard work, practical experience which teaches skills and imparts confidence and the ability to compete in the permanent job market, the beginning of work history and references which are vital to successful careers, and, of course, earnings, which can make the difference between going on to college and greater educational achievements, or not.

I'll always remember my first job. I was 14 at the time, and I wound up finding work with a construction company that was remodeling homes. By summer's end, I was laying hardwood floors, shingling roofs, and painting houses. I recognize that a lot of rules and regulations have changed since then; ~~not many~~ 14-year-olds can't receive those kinds of opportunities today.

But what of those who receive no opportunity to work at all? ~~Clearly~~ That is a crushing disappointment, not just for these individuals who may lose motivation and, eventually,

self-respect, but also for our economy, because we are literally throwing away America's most precious resource, our next generation.

The problem of teenage unemployment is most severe among our black and other minority youth. ^{FOR SOME TIME NOW} ~~Historically~~, the unemployment rate among black youth has been more than twice as high as that for all youth. And while the current economic expansion has brought the overall unemployment rate down with record speed, the drop in black teenage unemployment has been far less dramatic. As of April, the unemployment rate for all youth 16-19 years of age was 19.4 percent; among black teenagers, the rate was 44.8 percent. ↙

If a 19.4-percent unemployment rate is unacceptable, and it ~~clearly~~ is, then a 44.8-percent unemployment rate is a national tragedy, and neither must be allowed to persist. Our Administration has been working hard on this problem, and we're beginning to make headway. But we want and intend to do much more. Clearly, if the dream of America is to be preserved, we must not waste the genius of one mind, the strength of one body, or the spirit of one soul. We must use every asset we have, and our greatest progress will come by mobilizing the power of private enterprise.

We are supporting an extension of the targeted jobs tax credit program, providing major incentives for employers to hire more disadvantaged youth. Employers can receive tax credits of as much as 85 percent on the first \$3,000 in wages they pay.

Last year, almost 300,000 young Americans were hired under this program.

The Job Training Partnership Act is another important initiative. ³ The Act grants \$1.9 billion to States, of which 40 percent must be earmarked for training youth for private sector jobs. Many private firms are cooperating in this program, and I hope many more will do so in coming weeks.

But one of the barriers to more jobs for youth is the single minimum wage system. Because the cruel truth is, while everyone must be assured a fair wage, there's no compassion in mandating \$3.35 an hour ~~for every covered job, even~~ for start-up jobs that simply aren't worth that much in the marketplace. All that does is guarantee that fewer jobs for teenagers will be created and fewer young people will be hired.

So, we are proposing youth employment opportunity wage legislation that can create more than 400,000 new summer jobs for youth. Our bill would allow employers to hire young people at a lower minimum wage during the summer months. ⁴ ~~But~~ ^{AND} our legislation would ^{DO THIS} ~~create these jobs~~ without displacing adults. The bill explicitly prohibits employers from displacing adults in order to hire youth at the summer wage. I'm delighted this concept has been endorsed by the National Conference of Black Mayors.

Thanks to the strength of the economy, some 8.5 million young people are likely to be employed this summer -- an increase over last year. But America can do better, and ~~America~~ must do better, if we are to bring those teenage unemployment rates down further. I'm asking the Congress to pass our youth employment

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opportunity wage legislation. But I also want to request that all employers review their operations, with the aim of creating more summer jobs. You, the business leaders of America, can make a great difference, and the time to act is now.

Until next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.

The President has seen

(ROBINSON)

MAY 20, 1984

RECEPTION FOR THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN
HERITAGE GROUPS (NATIONALITIES) COUNCIL

215 D2 SC
50004

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO THE WHITE
HOUSE, THE HOME THAT BELONGS TO ALL OF US,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WARM GREETINGS TO YOUR
CHAIRMAN, MICHAEL SOTIRHOS (SEW-TIER-os),
TO YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RADI (RAH-DEE) SLAVOFF, AND TO YOUR FORMER
CHAIRMEN, LASZLO PASZTOR, ED DERWINSKI,
MITCHELL KOBELINSKI, ANNA CHENNAULT,
AND FRANK STELLA. I'M ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO
HAVE YOU HERE THIS AFTERNOON BECAUSE I
HAPPEN TO BE AN ETHNIC REPUBLICAN MYSELF.
AND THIS IS A GOOD HOUSE FOR AN IRISHMAN.
EVERY MARCH 17TH, I CAN HONOR ST. PATRICK BY
SPENDING ALL DAY IN THE GREEN ROOM.
BUT FOR 4 DAYS NOW, YOU'VE BEEN MEETING
TO FURTHER THE REPUBLICAN CAUSE, AND I WANT
TO GIVE EACH OF YOU MY HEARTFELT THANKS.

YOUR HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION MAKE IT
POSSIBLE FOR US TO PUT OUR BELIEFS INTO
PRACTICE, HERE IN WASHINGTON AND ACROSS THE
COUNTRY. BECAUSE OF YOU, WE CARRIED THE
NATION IN 1980. AND I HAVE A HUNCH THAT,
IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT,
WE'LL DO IT AGAIN IN 1984.

I DON'T SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE TO GET
TOGETHER A GROUP LIKE THIS WITHOUT RECALLING
THE DRAMATIC STORY OF THE MILLIONS OF
IMMIGRANTS WHO MADE OUR COUNTRY GREAT.

IT WAS BARELY FOUR CENTURIES AGO THAT THE
FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLERS LANDED ON OUR
EAST COAST. THESE HARDY MEN AND WOMEN, AND
THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THEM, CAME FROM VIRTUALLY
EVERY NATION IN EUROPE. LATER, THEY WERE
JOINED ON THE WEST COAST BY THOUSANDS OF
IMMIGRANTS FROM ASIA.

THE IMMIGRANT PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD
WASN'T EASY. OCEAN VOYAGES PRESENTED
STORMS, ICEBERGS, SEASICKNESS, HUNGER,
AND CROWDED STEERAGE COMPARTMENTS. THE POET
CARL SANDBURG REMEMBERED HEARING HIS PARENTS
SPEAK ABOUT, QUOTE, " . . . THE STEERAGE TRIP
FROM SWEDEN, SIX TO TEN WEEKS ON A SAILING
SHIP, THEIR FOOD ONLY THE BLACK BREAD AND
CHEESE AND BALONEY THEY BROUGHT ALONG. . . " 41
MILLIONS LANDED IN AMERICA WITH NOTHING —
NO FURNITURE, NO SAVINGS, OFTEN NO CLOTHES
BUT THE RAGS ON THEIR BACKS. YET THEY FOUND
WHAT THEY HAD COME FOR -- OPPORTUNITY.

A MOMENT AGO, I SAID THAT THE
IMMIGRANTS CAME WITH NOTHING. LET ME CHANGE
THAT. THEY CAME WITH NOTHING BUT THEIR
BELIEFS. OUR FOREFATHERS BROUGHT WITH THEM
STRONG BELIEFS IN GOD, FAMILY, AND THE
GOODNESS OF THE EARTH. AND THEY BROUGHT
ANOTHER BELIEF, A BELIEF IN WORK -- HARD,
HONEST WORK. AND WORK THEY DID.

THEY TILLED THE RUGGED LAND OF
NEW ENGLAND. THEY FELLED THE TIMBERS OF
MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN. THEY OPENED THE
RANGES OF TEXAS. THEY PLOUGHED THE RICH
SOIL OF CALIFORNIA. THEY BUILT THE TOWNS,
HAMMERED OUT THE RAILROADS/ OPENED THE
MINES/ AND MANNED THE FACTORIES. AND AS
THEY WORKED TO BETTER THEIR OWN LOT,
THEY BETTERED AMERICA, MAKING HER THE ENVY
OF THE WORLD.

TODAY, WE HAVE TO BE THANKFUL FOR THE
WORK THOSE IMMIGRANTS DID, AND FOR THE RICH
ETHNIC HERITAGE THEY HAVE PASSED ON TO US.
AND WE CAN ONLY WELCOME THE IMMIGRANTS WHO
HAVE ARRIVED IN OUR OWN TIME -- FROM CUBA,
VIETNAM, AFGHANISTAN, AND SO MANY OTHER
NATIONS. LIKE THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE,
THEY HAVE FOUND FREEDOM. AND THEY HAVE
CONTRIBUTED TO OUR NATION'S RICH DIVERSITY.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY OUR IMMIGRANT FOREFATHERS PASSED ON TO US MUST BE CAREFULLY PRESERVED. ONLY 3-1/2 YEARS AGO, ALL THAT OUR FOREFATHERS WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE SEEMED TO BE IN DANGER.

BIG TAXING, SPENDING, AND BAD MONETARY POLICIES HAD LED TO SOARING INTEREST RATES AND INFLATION, ERODING OUR ONCE-VITAL ECONOMY. OUR DEFENSES HAD GROWN WEAK.

ALL OVER THE WORLD, AMERICA'S REPUTATION WAS NO LONGER ONE OF STRENGTH AND RESOLVE, BUT OF VACILLATION AND SELF-DOUBT.

IT SEEMED FOR A SAD SEASON AS THOUGH OUR NATION WAS IN PERMANENT DECLINE.

BUT IN 1980, YOU, THE PEOPLE, SAID IT WAS TIME TO PUT A STOP TO THAT LONG DECLINE — TIME TO GIVE OUR COUNTRY A REBIRTH OF FREEDOM AND FAITH, / TIME FOR A GREAT NATIONAL RENEWAL.

OUR ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE DETERMINED TO MAKE A NEW BEGINNING — A BEGINNING BASED ON THE VALUES OF FAITH, FAMILY, AND FREEDOM THAT MADE OUR COUNTRY GREAT. TODAY, AMERICA IS BACK.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE'VE BEGUN TACKLING ONE PROBLEM AFTER ANOTHER. WE'VE KNOCKED INFLATION DOWN, AND WE INTEND TO KEEP IT DOWN. THE PRIME INTEREST RATE IS DOWN SHARPLY FROM THE RECORD HIGH LEVEL IT HAD REACHED WHEN OUR ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE. ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, A SURGING ECONOMIC EXPANSION IS GAINING STRENGTH. DURING THE FIRST 12 MONTHS OF THIS EXPANSION, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPED MORE STEEPLY THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST 30 YEARS. AND OVER THE PAST 17 MONTHS, 5.4 MILLION OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS HAVE FOUND WORK. TODAY, MORE PEOPLE HAVE JOBS IN AMERICA THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE'VE BEGUN
REBUILDING OUR DEFENSES, NOT BECAUSE WE LIKE
SPENDING ON DEFENSE, BUT BECAUSE WE LOVE
FREEDOM ENOUGH TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE IT.
RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND READINESS IN OUR
ARMED FORCES ARE WAY UP, AND WE'VE RAISED
THE NUMBER OF BATTLE FORCE SHIPS IN OUR
FLEET FROM 479 TO 521, WELL ON THE WAY TO
OUR GOAL OF 600. AND AS WE'VE BEGUN TO GIVE
OUR MEN AND WOMEN THE PAY, TRAINING,
EQUIPMENT, AND RESPECT THEY'VE ALWAYS
DESERVED, MORALE IN THE MILITARY HAS SOARED.

TODAY OUR FOREIGN POLICY HAS A NEW
SENSE OF PURPOSE AND DIRECTION. IN GRENADA,
WE SET A NATION FREE. IN THE PACIFIC,
A TRIP TO KOREA AND JAPAN STRENGTHENED OUR
TIES WITH OUR ASIAN ALLIES. AND OUR RECENT
VISIT TO CHINA RESULTED IN NEW BONDS OF
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IN CENTRAL AMERICA, OUR ADMINISTRATION HAS FIRMLY SUPPORTED THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. THREE OUT OF FOUR DOLLARS OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO THE REGION HAVE BEEN FOR ECONOMIC AID, NOT MILITARY AID. AND AS I SAID IN MY TELEVISED ADDRESS TO THE NATION, THE UNITED STATES MUST NOT AND WILL NOT ALLOW THE FREE GOVERNMENTS OF THIS VITALLY IMPORTANT REGION TO BE OVERRUN BY SOVIET- AND CUBAN-BACKED GUERRILLAS.

IN EUROPE, WE AND OUR NATO ALLIES WENT THROUGH MONTHS OF SOVIET BLUFF AND BLUSTER, AND CAME OUT OF IT MORE FIRMLY UNITED THAN EVER. IN EASTERN EUROPE, WHEN THE SOVIET-BACKED JARUZELSKI REGIME IMPOSED MARTIAL LAW IN POLAND, WE GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO THE SOLIDARITY TRADE UNION AND IMPOSED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

WE'VE LIFTED SOME OF THOSE SANCTIONS AS THE SITUATION IN POLAND IMPROVED, ^{*}BUT OUR SUPPORT FOR LECH WALESEA, AND THE BRAVE MEMBERS OF SOLIDARITY REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER.

OUR ADMINISTRATION HAS RECOGNIZED THAT, THROUGHOUT EASTERN EUROPE, COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIPS PREVENT THE PEOPLE FROM HEARING THE TRUTH. FOR YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS BROKEN THROUGH THIS INFORMATION BARRIER BY BROADCASTING TO EASTERN EUROPE OVER THE VOICE OF AMERICA, RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY. BUT DURING THE LAST DECADE, OUR RADIO EQUIPMENT WAS NEGLECTED WHILE THE SOVIETS MARKEDLY IMPROVED THEIR JAMMING. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN STEPS THAT WILL ONCE AGAIN ENABLE US TO GET THE TRUTH THROUGH TO EASTERN EUROPE. WE'VE BEGUN A BILLION-DOLLAR PROGRAM OF MODERNIZATION.

WE'RE ACQUIRING NEW TRANSMITTER SITES,
BUILDING NEW TRANSMITTERS, TRAINING NEW
BROADCASTERS, AND RESEARCHING NEW WAYS OF
DEFEATING SOVIET JAMMING. COMPLETING THIS
PROGRAM WILL TAKE TIME, BUT WE HAVE ALREADY
MADE PROGRESS TOWARD THE NOBLE GOAL OF
ENABLING ALL THE PEOPLE OF CAPTIVE NATIONS
TO HEAR THE TRUTH.

OUR POSITION ON EASTERN EUROPE CAN BE
SUMMED UP VERY SIMPLY. WE BELIEVE THAT
PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ON EARTH HAVE THE
GOD-GIVEN RIGHT TO LIVE IN FREEDOM AND WE
LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN, FROM POLAND/
TO THE UKRAINE, TO THE BALTIC, THE IRON
CURTAIN WILL GIVE WAY TO THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF
HUMAN LIBERTY.

YES, FROM THE ECONOMY TO FOREIGN
POLICY, AMERICA IS GAINING NEW STRENGTH.
BUT WE STILL HAVE MUCH TO DO.

HERE AT HOME, TO KEEP THE NIGHTMARE OF
INFLATION FROM EVER COMING BACK, WE MUST
ENACT BUDGET REFORMS LIKE THE BALANCED
BUDGET AMENDMENT AND THE LINE-ITEM VETO.

TO GIVE NEW INCENTIVES AND A FAIRER TAX
SYSTEM TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WE MUST
DESIGN AND ENACT A SWEEPING REFORM OF THE
ENTIRE TAX CODE, AND FOR OUR CHILDREN,
AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN, WE MUST NEVER
STOP STRIVING FOR WORLD PEACE AND FREEDOM.

EACH OF YOU HAS PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN
OUR EFFORTS. YOUR PRAYERS, YOUR HARD WORK,
AND, YES, YOUR WILLINGNESS TO ENTER THE
POLITICAL ARENA TO STAND UP FOR WHAT WE
BELIEVE - ALL THESE HAVE BEEN CRUCIAL TO
PUTTING OUR BELOVED COUNTRY BACK ON THE HIGH
ROAD OF GOODNESS AND GREATNESS.

AS MEMBERS OF SO MANY ETHNIC GROUPS,
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD TO
YOUR COMMUNITIES, TO MEET WITH CANDIDATES,
AND BUILD THE CRUCIAL GRASS-ROOTS SUPPORT
THAT ENABLES US TO CONTROL THE BUDGET AND
CHALLENGE COMMUNIST EXPANSION. I DON'T NEED
TO TELL YOU THAT I COULD USE MORE HELP WITH
THE CONGRESS. COME TO THINK OF IT, I'D BE
HAPPY TO SEE YOU AND YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS
IN THE CONGRESS.

I KNOW THAT YOU'LL DO ALL YOU CAN TO
SUPPORT THE CAUSE THAT UNITES US, AND I'M
CONFIDENT THAT WITH YOUR HELP, WE'LL BE ABLE
TO STAY ON THE JOB FOR ANOTHER 4 YEARS.

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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