

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** White House Office of Records Management:  
Presidential Handwriting File, 1981-1989  
(COPY SET)

**Series:** III: PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHES

**Folder Title:** Folder 295 (06/20/1984-06/21/1984)

**Box:** 16

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

(NOONAN)

JUNE 20, 1984  
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY

237388 SC  
SP 894

RIVER DELL HIGH SCHOOL DRUNK DRIVING FORUM

THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK  
YOU MR. (PUH-NEE-KO) FOR THAT VERY WARM  
INTRODUCTION.

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW IMPRESSED I AM BY  
WHAT I HAVE SEEN HERE TODAY. ALMOST 4 YEARS  
AGO, WHEN I ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION OF MY  
PARTY TO RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, I TALKED  
ABOUT OUR NATION'S FUTURE, AND I SAID:

"WE NEED A REBIRTH OF THE AMERICAN TRADITION  
OF LEADERSHIP AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT  
AND IN PRIVATE LIFE AS WELL. THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA IS UNIQUE IN WORLD HISTORY  
BECAUSE IT HAS A GENIUS FOR LEADERS. MANY  
LEADERS ON MANY LEVELS."

WELL, TODAY I HAVE SEEN THAT GENIUS.  
I HAVE SEEN REAL LEADERS AND REAL  
LEADERSHIP.

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

YOU IN THIS AUDIENCE — PARENTS AND  
TEACHERS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, STUDENTS, AND  
LOCAL GROUPS — HAVE FUSED YOUR CREATIVITY  
AND CONCERN TO DEAL WITH A GREAT NATIONAL  
PROBLEM. AND IN DOING THIS YOU'VE BECOME  
PART OF A MOVEMENT THAT HAS LITERALLY SWEEPED  
THIS COUNTRY — THE MOVEMENT AGAINST DRINKING  
AND DRIVING.

THIS IS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AT ITS BEST. AND I  
DON'T MIND SAYING THAT IT ISN'T WASHINGTON  
THAT LED THE WAY — IT WAS A GRASSROOTS  
MOVEMENT. WELL, SO WAS THE BOSTON  
TEA PARTY, SO WAS THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT,  
SO WAS THE TAX-CUTTING MOVEMENT THAT HAS  
SWEEPED VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY THE PAST  
FEW YEARS. THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY IS  
THE HISTORY OF GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS —  
BECAUSE AMERICANS KNOW THAT THE PUREST FORM  
OF LAW IS THE ONE THAT SPRINGS DIRECTLY FROM  
THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE.

YOU LED THE WAY AND IN LEADING, YOU HAVE  
CHANGED THIS COUNTRY. YOU HAVE SAVED LIVES.

YOU HAVE SHOWN US WHAT YOU ARE DOING.  
PERMIT ME TO TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT WHAT WE  
ARE DOING IN WASHINGTON.

TWO YEARS AGO, I APPOINTED A  
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON DRUNK DRIVING.

AND THE COMMISSION LAID OUT IN IRREFUTABLE  
DETAIL THE SCOPE AND EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM.

THEY TOLD US ALCOHOL-RELATED AUTOMOBILE  
ACCIDENTS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF TEENAGE  
DEATHS IN THIS COUNTRY. IN FACT, IN THE

PAST FEW DECADES MORE PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN  
ALCOHOL-RELATED AUTO ACCIDENTS THAN IN ANY  
WAR SINCE WORLD WAR II. AND THE COMMISSION  
STRONGLY URGED FEDERAL ACTION TO REQUIRE A  
21-YEAR-OLD DRINKING AGE.

NOW I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHY THE  
AGE-21 LAW IS GOOD, AND WHY WE'RE SUPPORTING  
IT. WE KNOW THAT DRINKING AND DRIVING IS A  
KILLER.

AND WE KNOW THAT PEOPLE AGED 18 TO 20 ARE MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN AN ALCOHOL-RELATED ACCIDENT AS ANY OTHER AGE GROUP. SOCIETY HAS A CLEAR STAKE IN SEEING THAT THESE YOUNG LIVES SO FULL OF PROMISE ARE NOT ENDED OR CRIPPLED.

SO WE KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS WE KNOW THAT SOCIETY HAS A STAKE IN SOLVING IT AND WE KNOW OF A SOLUTION RAISING THE DRINKING AGE TO 21. THIS ISN'T SOME FAD, SOME EXPERIMENT. IT'S A DEMONSTRABLE SUCCESS. IN STATES IN WHICH THE DRINKING AGE HAS BEEN RAISED, TEENAGE DRIVING FATALITIES HAVE GONE DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY.

HERE IN NEW JERSEY, WITH THE SUPPORT OF MY FRIEND TOM KEAN YOU RAISED THE DRINKING AGE TO 21 IN 1983. AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. YOU HAD A 26-PERCENT REDUCTION IN NIGHTTIME SINGLE-VEHICLE FATALITIES AMONG 19-20 YEAR OLDS THE FIRST YEAR ALONE.

WELL -- WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A 26-PERCENT DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TEENAGERS NEEDLESSLY KILLED ON OUR HIGHWAYS, THEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT WORKS. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S NEEDED.

LAST YEAR WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON DRUNK DRIVING RECOMMENDED THAT EVERY STATE RAISE ITS DRINKING AGE TO 21, I WAS DELIGHTED AND HOPEFUL. I MADE SPEECHES TO SUPPORT IT. AND THERE WAS MOMENTUM, FED IN PART BY GROUPS SUCH AS MADD, AND MORE STATES STARTED RAISING THE DRINKING AGE.

I WAS DELIGHTED, AGAIN, BECAUSE I HOPED THAT THE STATES WOULD --(AS THEY SHOULD)-- TAKE THIS ACTION THEMSELVES, WITHOUT FEDERAL ORDERS OR INTERFERENCE. WELL, IN THE PAST 8 OR 9 MONTHS, 4 STATES HAVE DONE IT.

IN ALL, 23 STATES HAVE AGE-21 LAWS. BUT NOW IT APPEARS THAT THINGS HAVE STALLED.

AT THIS POINT ABOUT HALF THE STATES  
HAVE AGE-21 LAWS AND HALF DON'T. AND IT'S  
LED TO A KIND OF CRAZY-QUILT OF DIFFERENT  
STATE DRINKING LAWS AND THAT HAS LED TO WHAT  
HAVE BEEN CALLED "BLOOD BORDERS"  
WITH TEENAGERS LEAVING THEIR HOMES TO GO TO  
THE NEAREST STATE WITH A LOWER DRINKING AGE,  
AND THEY DRINK --(AND GET DRUNK)--  
AND CAREEN ON HOME AND GET INTO TROUBLE  
OF ALL SORTS, INCLUDING AUTO ACCIDENTS.

THIS SLAUGHTER HURTS US AS A PEOPLE  
IT TEARS UP THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY BY  
BRINGING GRIEF TO FAMILIES, GUILT TO  
FRIENDS, LOSS TO THE COMMUNITY. WE JUST  
CAN'T TOLERATE THIS ANYMORE.

AND SO I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE  
DECIDED TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO WITHHOLD  
5 PERCENT OF A STATE'S HIGHWAY FUNDS IF IT  
DOES NOT ENACT THE 21-YEAR-OLD DRINKING AGE.  
THE CARNAGE MUST END, AND NOW.

SOME MAY FEEL THAT MY DECISION IS AT ODDS WITH MY PHILOSOPHICAL VIEWPOINT THAT STATE PROBLEMS SHOULD INVOLVE STATE SOLUTIONS AND IT ISN'T UP TO A BIG AND OVERWHELMING GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON TO TELL THE STATES WHAT TO DO. YOU'RE PARTLY RIGHT. BUT THE THING IS, THIS PROBLEM IS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A STATE PROBLEM IT'S A NATIONAL TRAGEDY INVOLVING TRANSIT ACROSS STATE BORDERS. BEYOND THAT, THERE ARE SOME SPECIAL CASES IN WHICH OVERWHELMING NEED CAN BE DEALT WITH BY PRUDENT AND LIMITED FEDERAL INFLUENCE. AND IN A CASE LIKE THIS WHERE THE PROBLEM IS SO CLEAR CUT AND THE BENEFITS ARE SO CLEAR CUT THEN I HAVE NO MISGIVINGS ABOUT A JUDICIOUS USE OF FEDERAL INDUCEMENTS TO ENCOURAGE THE STATES TO GET MOVING RAISE THE DRINKING AGE, AND SAVE PRECIOUS LIVES. THE CHOICE REMAINS WITH THE STATES. BUT I HOPE THEY'LL ACT WISELY, AND ACT SOON.



LET ME REMIND YOU THAT THERE ARE  
23 STATES THAT HAVEN'T NEEDED THIS  
INDUCEMENT. NEW JERSEY IS A STUNNING  
EXAMPLE. YOUR GOVERNOR, TOM KEAN, HAS  
PROVIDED TERRIFIC COOPERATION AND  
LEADERSHIP, SO THAT NEW JERSEY IS LEADING  
THE WAY ON SOLVING THE DRUNK DRIVING  
PROBLEM. YOU'VE RAISED THE PENALTIES  
AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS, YOU'VE INCREASED  
ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS, YOU'VE ADDED TOUGH  
NEW LEGAL AND FINANCIAL SANCTIONS AGAINST  
DRUNK DRIVERS, YOU RAISED THE DRINKING AGE.  
AND WHAT YOU GOT IN RETURN IS CLEAR AND  
UNDISPUTED. BETWEEN 1981 AND 1983, DRUNK  
DRIVING FATALITIES DECLINED ALMOST  
31 PERCENT.

YOU HAVE SAVED LIVES, AND ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS HAVE QUALIFIED YOUR STATE FOR ALMOST \$800 THOUSAND IN ALCOHOL INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDS TO PAY FOR PROGRAMS THAT GIVE YOUR STATE NEW TOOLS TO COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING AND ENSURE HIGHWAY SAFETY.

SO YOU HAVE A LOT TO BE PROUD OF.

BUT, THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER.

I'M GOING TO DEPART FROM THE MAIN THEME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT NANCY AND I DISCUSSED WHAT I WOULD BE SAYING HERE TODAY — AND WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE AWARE THAT THE PROBLEM WE HAVE ON OUR HIGHWAYS ISN'T JUST DRINKING AND DRIVING. IT'S ALSO DRINKING AND DRUGGING. WE KNOW THAT A LOT OF ALCOHOL-RELATED ACCIDENTS INVOLVE DRUGS, TOO.

YOU KNOW OF NANCY'S CONCERN ABOUT THIS,  
SHE WANTED TO BE HERE TODAY, BUT SHE'S AT A  
BIG MEETING OUT IN NEVADA WHERE SHE'S  
DISCUSSING DRUG ABUSE WITH PARENTS AND  
TEACHERS.

OUR ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN MANY  
ACTIONS TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG USE  
AMONG CHILDREN. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT DRUG  
USE IS DRUG ABUSE, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST  
CALL IT THAT. BUT WE KNOW THAT NO MATTER  
HOW EFFECTIVE WE ARE AGAINST THE PUSHERS AND  
DRUG SMUGGLERS, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO YOU.

AND THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO SAY TO  
THE STUDENTS HERE TODAY, AND I SPEAK AS A  
MAN WHO HAS LIVED 73 YEARS AND WHO HAS SEEN  
A LOT. I LIVED A GOOD PART OF MY ADULT LIFE  
IN HOLLYWOOD AND LOS ANGELES, AND I SAW  
A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WERE LIVING FAST LIVES.  
AND I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU, DON'T TAKE  
DRUGS. DON'T ABUSE YOUR MIND AND YOUR BODY  
THAT WAY. ... ONLY SET-MACHINERY ... GET

DON'T FALL FOR THE LINE THAT DRUG USE IS  
DARING AND FUN AND FEARLESS. <sup>STUPID</sup> IT'S FLIRTING  
WITH ADDICTION, FLIRTING WITH SICKNESS AND  
THE WASTE OF A LIFE. DON'T FALL FOR THAT  
STUFF ABOUT "LIFE IN THE FAST LANE." THAT'S  
WHERE ALL THE WORST CRASHES ARE.

MANY OF US WHO ARE OLDER HAVE LOST  
FRIENDS TO ONE ADDICTION OR ANOTHER.  
AND SOME OF YOU HAVE LOST, OR WILL LOSE  
FRIENDS TO DRUGS, TO THE ADDICTIONS THAT  
WILL SQUEEZE THEM TO DEATH OR THE IMPAIRMENT  
THAT WILL MAKE THEM MAKE THE WRONG MOVE IN A  
FAST CAR. YOUR GENERATION HAS LOST SOME OF  
ITS FAVORITES LIKE JOHN BELUSHI AND SO MANY  
OTHERS.

I LOOK OUT AND SEE YOUR BRIGHT, YOUNG  
FACES AND I JUST WANT TO SAY, DON'T WASTE  
THE HEALTH AND YOUTH GOD GAVE YOU.  
DON'T TAKE DRUGS.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO END ON A SAD NOTE.  
FOR EVERY PERSON WHO FALLS IN THIS COUNTRY  
THERE ARE A HUNDRED PEOPLE THERE TO PICK HIM  
UP. THAT'S ONE FACT THAT IS AT THE HEART OF  
THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. AND I WANT TO SAY  
TO ALL OF YOU, TO MADD AND TO CAARD, AND  
OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE GREAT NATIONAL EFFORT  
AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING - YOU ARE THE GRASS  
ROOTS. YOU ARE THE PEOPLE WHO CHANGE THIS  
COUNTRY AND ALWAYS HAVE. YOU ARE THE MAKERS  
OF CHANGE, THE IMPROVERS OF OUR NATIONAL  
LIFE. YOU DESERVE A LOT OF CREDIT. AND SO  
LET ME SAY TO YOU AS I LEAVE HERE TODAY  
I TIP MY HAT. YOU'RE TERRIFIC. GOD BLESS  
YOU, AND MAY YOUR GOOD WORK CONTINUE.

###

(DOLAN)

JUNE 20, 1984

ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

234947SC  
EP 895

I WANT TO BEGIN BY SAYING HOW MUCH I'VE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS CHANCE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. IN AMERICA'S FRONTIER DAYS, THE SHERIFF'S BADGE WAS A SYMBOL OF OUR NATION'S QUEST FOR LAW AND JUSTICE; AND TODAY THAT BADGE STILL STANDS FOR COMMITMENT TO THE LAW AND DEDICATION TO JUSTICE. THOSE OF YOU IN THE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ARE IN THE FOREFRONT OF AMERICA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY; ALL OF YOU HAVE FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROBLEM OF CRIME AND LAWLESSNESS IN OUR SOCIETY: THE JOBS YOU HOLD ARE DANGEROUS AND DIFFICULT ONES. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW. I MEAN NO IRREVERENCE WHEN I MENTION THAT I ONCE PLAYED A SHERIFF ON T.V. WHO THOUGHT HE COULD DO THE JOB WITHOUT A GUN. I WAS DEAD IN THE FIRST 27 MINUTES OF THE SHOW.

SO MAY I SAY TO ALL OF YOU TODAY WHAT MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WOULD SAY IF THEY HAD THE CHANCE: THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR THIS NATION'S DREAM OF PERSONAL FREEDOM UNDER THE RULE OF THE LAW; THANK YOU FOR STANDING AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD TRANSFORM THAT DREAM INTO A NIGHTMARE OF WRONGDOING AND LAWLESSNESS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITIES, TO YOUR COUNTRY, AND TO THE CAUSE OF LAW AND JUSTICE.

NOW I KNOW MANY OF YOU AT THIS CONFERENCE HAVE SERVED THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR LENGTHY PERIODS OF TIME AND THAT YOU LIVED THROUGH THE GRIM YEARS OF THE 60'S AND THE 70'S WHEN CRIME BECAME AN EPIDEMIC IN AMERICA. IN THOSE DECADES, SERIOUS CRIME MORE THAN TRIPLED. BY THE START OF THE 80'S, CRIME WAS COSTING MORE THAN \$10 BILLION IN FINANCIAL LOSSES, TOUCHING 30 PERCENT OF AMERICA'S HOMES, AND TAKING THE LIVES OF ALMOST 25,000 AMERICANS A YEAR.

ALONG WITH THE RISE IN CRIME CAME A DANGEROUS AND WIDESPREAD LOSS OF FAITH BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THEIR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF AMERICANS WERE SAYING THE COURTS IN THEIR HOME AREAS WEREN'T TOUGH ENOUGH ON CRIMINALS; AND 75 PERCENT WERE SAYING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM JUST WASN'T DETERRING CRIME.

---

THE REASON WAS SIMPLE: THE AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WAS FAILING AND FAILING BADLY. WHILE OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM WAS WEIGHED DOWN WITH EXCESSIVE LITIGATION AND THE COURTS WERE BECOMING ARBITERS OF DISPUTES THEY WERE NEVER INTENDED TO HANDLE, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WASN'T CARRYING OUT ITS MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION: THE PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY AND PROTECTION OF THE INNOCENT. IN SOME JURISDICTIONS AND MAJOR CITIES, 3 PERCENT OR LESS OF REPORTED CRIMES WERE ENDING IN PRISON TERMS FOR OFFENDERS. A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF REPEAT OFFENDERS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF CRIMES COMMITTED; ONE STUDY SHOWED THAT 23 PERCENT OF ALL MALE OFFENDERS ACCOUNTED FOR 61 PERCENT OF ALL VIOLENT FELONY CRIMES.

---

THIS RISE IN CRIME CAUSED BY A HARDENED CRIMINAL CLASS WAS FOSTERED PARTLY FROM A LIBERAL SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY THAT TOO OFTEN CALLED FOR LENIENT TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS. BECAUSE THIS MISGUIDED SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY SAW MAN AS PRIMARILY THE CREATURE OF HIS MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT, IT THOUGHT THAT THROUGH EXPENSIVE, GOVERNMENT SOCIAL PROGRAMS IT COULD CHANGE THAT ENVIRONMENT AND USHER IN A GREAT, NEW, EGALITARIAN UTOPIA. YET EVEN WHILE GOVERNMENT WAS LAUNCHING A RASH OF SOCIAL ENGINEERING SCHEMES IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO REMAKE MAN AND SOCIETY, IT WASN'T DEALING WITH THE MOST ELEMENTARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS LIKE RISING CRIME.

---

INDIVIDUAL WRONGDOING, THEY TOLD US, WAS ALWAYS CAUSED BY A LACK OF MATERIAL GOODS, AN UNDERPRIVILEGED BACKGROUND OR POOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. AND SOMEHOW -- I KNOW YOU'VE HEARD IT SAID -- I HEARD IT MANY TIMES WHEN I WAS GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA -- IT WAS SOCIETY, NOT THE INDIVIDUAL, THAT WAS AT FAULT WHEN AN ACT OF VIOLENCE OR CRIME WAS COMMITTED. SOMEHOW, IT WASN'T THE WRONGDOER -- BUT ALL OF US -- WHO WERE TO BLAME.

---

IS IT ANY WONDER THEN THAT A NEW PRIVILEGED CLASS EMERGED IN AMERICA; A CLASS OF REPEAT OFFENDERS AND CAREER CRIMINALS WHO THOUGHT THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO VICTIMIZE THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS WITH IMPUNITY? AND TODAY WE STILL PAY THE PRICE FOR THOSE YEARS OF LIBERAL LENIENCY. I MEAN THE GROWTH IN THE RANKS OF CAREER CRIMINALS, CRIMINALS WHO ARE CONTEMPTUOUS OF OUR WAY OF JUSTICE, WHO DO NOT BELIEVE THEY CAN BE CAUGHT AND, IF THEY ARE CAUGHT, ARE CONFIDENT THAT ONCE THE CASES AGAINST THEM ENTER OUR LEGAL SYSTEM THE CHARGES WILL BE DROPPED, POSTPONED, PLEA BARGAINED AWAY, OR LOST IN A MAZE OF LEGAL TECHNICALITIES THAT MAKE A MOCKERY OF OUR SOCIETY'S LONGSTANDING AND COMMENDABLE RESPECT FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES.

---

WELL, AT LAST WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS AGAINST THESE CRIMINAL PREDATORS IN OUR MIDST. REPORTED CRIME DROPPED 4.3 PERCENT IN 1982, THE FIRST DECLINE SINCE 1977. AND REPORTED CRIMES FOR LAST YEAR SHOWED AN EVEN MORE REMARKABLE 7 PERCENT DECREASE. THIS WAS THE SHARPEST DECREASE SINCE 1950. INDEED, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1950 THAT THE SERIOUS CRIME INDEX DECLINED 2 YEARS IN A ROW.

---



NOW I KNOW THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ATTRIBUTE THE ENCOURAGING DOWNWARD TREND IN CRIME TO A STATISTIC -- THE FACT THAT FEWER MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION ARE NOW IN THE CRIME-PRONE AGE GROUP. WELL, A COINCIDENCE ISN'T A CORRELATION. THE TRUTH IS THAT CRIME SOMETIMES HAS RISEN WITH POPULATION GROWTH AND SOMETIMES NOT; THERE'S NOTHING HISTORICALLY INEVITABLE ABOUT IT. FOR EXAMPLE, BETWEEN 1970 AND 1982, THE NUMBERS IN THE CRIME-PRONE AGE GROUP DID DROP SLIGHTLY BY ABOUT 1 PERCENT, BUT SERIOUS CRIME WENT UP 40 PERCENT.

---

SO I THINK THE REAL EXPLANATION FOR THE RECENT DROP IN CRIME LIES ELSEWHERE THAN IN MERE STATISTICS; TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THAT EXPLANATION IS RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME TODAY. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY QUESTION THAT AMERICA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY AND HER COURTS ARE NOW CARRYING OUT A NEW MANDATE FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THROUGHOUT THE NATION THERE IS A NEW CONSENSUS ON THE CRIME ISSUE, WHICH YOU'VE HELPED FORM. IT'S A CONSENSUS THAT UTTERLY REJECTS THE COUNSELS OF LENIENCY TOWARD CRIMINALS AND THE LIBERAL PHILOSOPHY THAT FOSTERED IT.

---

THE INCREASE IN CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHTING CRIME THROUGH SUCH INITIATIVES AS THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS SPEARHEADED BY THE SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION, THE TOUGH, NEW STATE STATUTES DIRECTED AT REPEAT OFFENDERS, THE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC OUTCRY AGAINST LENIENCY IN OUR COURT SYSTEM, AND THE SWEEPING NEW STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL SHOW THAT THE YEARS OF THE PSEUDO-INTELLECTUAL APOLOGIES FOR CRIME ARE NOW OVER.

---

THIS MORNING IN NEW JERSEY I WITNESSED A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING AND I SAID TO THE GROUP THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY IS A HISTORY OF SUCH MOVEMENTS, " . . . BECAUSE AMERICANS KNOW THAT THE PUREST FORM OF LAW IS ONE THAT SPRINGS DIRECTLY FROM THE PEOPLE." IT IS THIS SURGE OF PUBLIC OPINION THAT HAS BROUGHT US INITIATIVES LIKE THOSE I'VE JUST DESCRIBED, WHICH WERE LONG OVERDUE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INSIST TODAY THAT JUDGES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE WHAT COMMON SENSE HAS ALWAYS TAUGHT: THAT RIGHT AND WRONG MATTERS; THAT INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS; THAT RETRIBUTION MUST BE SWIFT AND SURE FOR THOSE WHO PREY ON THE INNOCENT.

IT'S INTERESTING, TOO, TO NOTE THAT COMMON SENSE ABOUT CRIME IS MAKING ITS IMPACT IN THE VERY FIELD WHICH ONCE ACCOUNTED FOR SO MUCH OF THE MISGUIDED ADVICE ABOUT CRIME, THAT OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. THE WORK OF ONE PSYCHOLOGIST, STANLEY SAMENOW, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS WON WIDE ATTENTION AND CONFIRMS WHAT MANY OF US HAVE BEEN SAYING ABOUT THE CRIME PROBLEM FOR MANY YEARS: CHOOSING A CAREER IN CRIME IS NOT THE RESULT OF POVERTY OR OF AN UNHAPPY CHILDHOOD OR OF A MISUNDERSTOOD ADOLESCENCE; IT IS THE RESULT OF A CONSCIOUS, WILLFUL, SELFISH CHOICE MADE BY SOME WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES ABOVE THE LAW, WHO SEEK TO EXPLOIT THE HARD WORK, AND SOMETIMES THE VERY LIVES, OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT REASON FOR THE DECREASE IN CRIME THEN IS TIED DIRECTLY TO THIS GROWING TOUGHNESS TOWARD CRIMINAL OFFENDERS. IN THE 60'S THE PROBABILITY OF BEING ARRESTED FOR A CRIME FELL OFF DRAMATICALLY; IN THE 60'S AND MOST OF THE 70'S THE PROBABILITY OF BEING SENT TO JAIL FOR A CRIME ALSO FELL OFF DRAMATICALLY. BUT IN THE 80'S, THESE TWO CRITICAL TRENDS HAVE BEEN REVERSED. FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS, BOTH THE PROBABILITY OF ARREST AND THE PROBABILITY OF INCARCERATION HAVE BEEN INCREASING. SO CRIME IS COMING DOWN, BECAUSE -- AND THANK HEAVENS FOR THIS -- THE PUBLIC'S DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE ARE FINALLY BEING HEEDDED; MORE CRIMINALS ARE BEING ARRESTED; AND MORE CAREER CRIMINALS ARE BEING PUT BEHIND BARS. AND LET'S NOT FORGET THAT TAKING THESE CAREER CRIMINALS OFF THE STREETS DOESN'T JUST MEAN THEY'RE PREVENTED FROM COMMITTING OTHER CRIMES; IT ALSO MEANS THAT THEIR PUNISHMENT ACTS AS A STRONG DETERRENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT CHOOSE A LIFE OF CRIME.

NOW, OBVIOUSLY, THOSE STATISTICS ARE HARDLY WORTH CELEBRATING. NONE OF US LIKES THE IDEA THAT OUR PRISON POPULATION IS INCREASING. BUT WE CAN AND WE MUST TAKE LEGITIMATE SATISFACTION IN THE FACT THAT MORE WRONGDOERS ARE BEING BROUGHT TO JUSTICE: NOT OUT OF A SENSE OF VINDICTIVENESS OR REVENGE, BUT BECAUSE INCARCERATING THESE CRIMINALS MEANS THAT FEWER AND FEWER INNOCENT AMERICANS ARE BEING VICTIMIZED BY CRIMINAL WRONGDOING.

I BELIEVE OUR ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO THE WAR ON CRIME HAS DEFINITELY HELPED TO BRING DOWN THE CRIME RATE; AND I ASSURE YOU TODAY, OUR COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING CRIME WILL CONTINUE TO GROW. LET ME JUST BRIEFLY REPORT TO YOU ON OUR EFFORTS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, AND WHY I THINK THEY'VE HELPED TO COMPLEMENT YOUR CRUCIAL WORK AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS.

FIRST: FROM DAY ONE OF OUR ADMINISTRATION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND I HAVE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF APPOINTING RESPONSIBLE JUDGES TO THE FEDERAL BENCH, INCLUDING THE SUPREME COURT. I'M TALKING ABOUT JUDGES WHO WILL NOT ONLY UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED, BUT THE RIGHTS OF THE INNOCENT AND THE RIGHT OF SOCIETY TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM CRIMINAL WRONGDOERS. I KNOW ALL OF US HAVE BEEN PLEASED BY RECENT COURT DECISIONS THAT SHOW COMMON SENSE ONCE AGAIN RETURNING TO LEGAL DELIBERATIONS ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS.

---

IN ADDITION TO HELPING BRING SANITY BACK TO THE COURTROOM BY APPOINTING SOUND JUDGES, WE HAVE ALSO MOVED TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL AND STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. OUR U.S. ATTORNEYS HAVE SET UP LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEES IN EVERY FEDERAL DISTRICT AND I'M PROUD THAT SOME OF YOU ARE NOW SERVING ON THEM. THROUGH OUR SURPLUS FEDERAL PROPERTY PROGRAM, WE'VE HELPED STATE AND LOCALITIES IN EXPANDING PRISON SPACE; WE'VE STRENGTHENED AND BROADENED TRAINING FOR STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS BOTH AT THE F.B.I. ACADEMY AND AT A FEDERAL FACILITY IN GLYNCO, GEORGIA.

---

AND TODAY, I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TWO NEW INITIATIVES TO ASSIST LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT. FIRST, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS ESTABLISHING WITH THE F.B.I. A NEW NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF VIOLENT CRIME, WHOSE MISSION WILL BE TO WORK WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY AND TRACK REPEAT KILLERS -- THE SO-CALLED "SERIAL KILLERS" -- WHO PREY ON INNOCENT CITIZENS. THIS MEANS THE LATEST COMPUTERIZED TECHNOLOGY FOR DETECTIVE WORK IS MOVING FROM THE RESEARCH PHASE TO THE OPERATIONAL PHASE.

---

9

SECOND, IN ORDER TO HELP ELIMINATE A THREAT TO THE LIVES OF AMERICA'S SHERIFFS AND POLICEMEN, LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED LAST WEEK TO BAN THE MANUFACTURE AND IMPORTATION OF BULLETS DESIGNED TO PENETRATE THE SOFT-BODY ARMOR WORN BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. WE WORKED HARD ON THAT ONE -- AND IN THE END PRODUCED A BILL WHICH HAS BROAD, BIPARTISAN AND INCREASING SUPPORT. I EXPECT TO BE SIGNING A COP-KILLER BULLET BILL BEFORE THIS CONGRESS ADJOURNS.

---

OUR THIRD MAJOR EFFORT AGAINST CRIME HAS BEEN A FULL-SCALE OFFENSIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING. FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE'VE BROUGHT THE F.B.I. INTO THIS FIGHT. WE'VE INCREASED OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET BY 50 PERCENT AND ADDED 1,768 NEW INVESTIGATORS AND PROSECUTORS -- MOST OF THIS AS A RESULT OF OUR EFFORTS IN DRUG-RELATED FIELDS.

---

OUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SOUTH FLORIDA INTERDICTION TASK FORCE HAS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCES IN 12 OTHER REGIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THESE TWELVE TASK FORCES HAVE ALREADY INITIATED SOME 620 CASES AND INDICTED MORE THAN 2,600 INDIVIDUALS. AND ONE HUNDRED FORTY OF THESE INDICTMENTS HAVE BEEN UNDER THE NEW "DRUG KINGPIN" LAW WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE.

---

FOURTH, WE HAVE DECLARED WAR ON ORGANIZED CRIME IN AMERICA. I'M PROUD TO TELL YOU THAT ORGANIZED CRIME CONVICTIONS ARE UP FROM 515 IN FISCAL 1981 TO 1,331 IN 1983; WE ARE GETTING LONGER PRISON SENTENCES AND FOR THE FIRST TIME MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT TO CONFISCATE THE FINANCIAL ASSETS OF THE MOBSTERS. OUR NEW ORGANIZED CRIME COMMISSION HAS BEGUN ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE MOB TODAY IN AMERICA AND ITS MONEY-LAUNDERING TECHNIQUES; AND ITS WORK WILL BE GREATLY BROADENED WHEN IT RECEIVES SUBPOENA POWERS IN THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS.

---

I REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE: WE HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO SHATTER THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SYNDICATES THAT MAKE UP ORGANIZED CRIME IN AMERICA. THIS ADMINISTRATION SEEKS NO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, NO DETENTE WITH THE MOB. OUR GOAL IS TO CRIPPLE THEIR ORGANIZATION, DRY UP THEIR PROFITS, AND PUT THEIR MEMBERS BEHIND BARS WHERE THEY BELONG. IN THIS EFFORT, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUST PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE. FOR ONLY WHEN THE MOB IS BEING HURT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL -- WHEN THE REVENUE FROM ILLEGAL GAMBLING, PORNOGRAPHY, DRUG PUSHING, AND OTHER KINDS OF RACKETEERING IS DRIED UP WILL THE MOB BE PERMANENTLY PUT OUT OF BUSINESS.

---

FIFTH, THROUGH A SERIES OF PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCES, WE HAVE BROUGHT MUCH-NEEDED ATTENTION TO CRITICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS. OUR TASK FORCE ON VIOLENT CRIME IN 1981 LED TO A WIDESPREAD SERIES OF PROPOSED REFORMS -- MOST OF WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN IMPLEMENTED. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE APPOINTED A TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE, A PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN BADLY IN NEED OF FULL NATIONAL AIRING FOR MANY YEARS.

---

SIXTH, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS BROUGHT LONG OVERDUE ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME. I KNOW THIS IS AN AREA OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ALL OF YOU, AND I COMMEND YOU ON THE SPECIAL ATTENTION YOU HAVE BEEN PAYING THIS WEEK TO WAYS OF AIDING VICTIMS OF CRIME. MANY OF YOU HAVE SEEN OUR VICTIMS OF CRIME TASK FORCE REPORT, AND YOU HAVE HEARD ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LOIS HERRINGTON REPORT ON HOW OUR ADMINISTRATION HAS IMPLEMENTED MANY OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

---

WE'RE ESPECIALLY PROUD THAT OUR VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE ACT IS NOW APPROACHING PASSAGE IN THE SENATE. THIS IS AN ACT THAT WILL ASSIST THE STATES IN HELPING COMPENSATE THE VICTIMS OF CRIME BUT -- AND THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT -- THIS ASSISTANCE WILL BE PAID FOR BY CRIMINAL FINES, NOT BY HARD-EARNED TAX DOLLARS.

---

THE MENTION OF THIS LEGISLATION BRINGS ME TO THE SEVENTH AND FINAL POINT ABOUT THIS ADMINISTRATION'S CRIME PROGRAM: OUR ALL-OUT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT TO GET THOSE IN FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO DEAL WITH THE CRIMINAL THREAT. WE HAVE ALREADY SCORED SOME IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGHS: WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MODIFYING TAX LAWS THAT MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE I.R.S. TO ASSIST IN ORGANIZED CRIME AND DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS; AND WE HAVE CHANGED THE POSSE COMITATUS LAW TO PERMIT THE MILITARY TO ASSIST US IN CRACKING DOWN ON THE DRUG SMUGGLING. AND, AS I JUST MENTIONED, WE ARE PUSHING AHEAD WITH VICTIMS OF CRIME LEGISLATION.

---

BUT OUR LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT INITIATIVE REMAINS WHERE IT HAS BEEN FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS -- BECALMED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THIS VITAL CRIME PACKAGE INCLUDES BILLS CALLING FOR BAIL REFORM, TOUGHER SENTENCING, JUSTICE ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND LOCALITIES, IMPROVEMENT IN THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE AND THE INSANITY DEFENSE, AND MAJOR REFORMS AFFECTING DRUG TRAFFICKING, PRISON CROWDING, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, AND FORFEITURE.

---

ALL OF THESE REFORMS ARE BADLY NEEDED AND CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND. IN FACT, OUR CORE CRIME PACKAGE HAS ALREADY PASSED THE SENATE ONCE -- BY A VOTE OF 91 TO 1; BUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE LIBERAL LEADERSHIP KEEPS IT BOTTLED UP IN COMMITTEE; ONE MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE THERE EVEN CLAIMED THE PACKAGE WAS "DEAD ON ARRIVAL."

---

WELL, FORGIVE ME, BUT THOSE WHO ARE HOLDING THIS UP IN THE HOUSE ARE OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY, AND THEY'RE OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THIS IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HOW AMERICANS ARE FORCED TO SUFFER ILL EFFECTS OF CRIME BECAUSE TOO MANY OF OUR POLITICAL LEADERS STICK TO OLD, DISCREDITED, LIBERAL ILLUSIONS ABOUT CRIME.

---

AMERICANS OVERWHELMINGLY FAVOR CHANGES IN THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE, THE INSANITY DEFENSE, THE RE-INSTITUTION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, AND THE TIGHTENING UP OF PAROLE AND BAIL PROCEDURES. AND OF ALL PLACES THE PEOPLE'S VOICE DESERVES TO BE HEARD, IT IS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. SO TODAY I'M ASKING YOU TO CONTINUE TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE WITH YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

---

LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'RE TIRED OF WAITING, AND THAT, AT THE VERY MINIMUM, THE LIBERAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OWES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A FLOOR DEBATE AND A VOTE ON THIS VITAL CRIME PACKAGE. IF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE FEEL OUR PACKAGE IS UNWISE LEGISLATION, LET THEM HAVE THE COURAGE TO STOP HIDING BEHIND PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVERS AND SAY SO PUBLICLY; LET THEM VOTE AGAINST THESE MEASURES IN FULL VIEW OF THE PEOPLE; AND LET THEM EXPLAIN WHAT GIVES THEM THE RIGHT TO IGNORE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE -- THIS THEY SHOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO.

---

NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DURING THE LAST 3-1/2 YEARS THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS FACED THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF REBUILDING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC STRENGTH HERE AT HOME, AND RESTORING OUR PRESTIGE AND STATURE ABROAD. TODAY, WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A SOUND AND STRONG ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY HAS BEEN RESTORED AND ENHANCED.

---



12

BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE RECORD I HAVE JUST PRESENTED TO YOU SHOWS THAT, WHILE THIS ADMINISTRATION WAS COPING WITH THE CRISES OF OUR ECONOMY AND OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, WE WERE ALSO MAKING GREAT EFFORTS TO HELP YOU AND ALL OUR FELLOW CITIZENS DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF CRIME IN AMERICAN SOCIETY.

---

I BELIEVE I CAN SAY THAT IN DOING THIS, ALL OF US SOUGHT ONLY TO SPEAK FOR A NEW CONSENSUS IN AMERICAN POLITICS: A CONSENSUS THAT SAID GOVERNMENT HAD INVOLVED ITSELF IN AREAS WHERE IT WAS NEITHER COMPETENT NOR NEEDED, WHILE IT HAD WRONGLY IGNORED ITS TRADITIONAL AND MOST FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATION: THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER AND THE PRESERVATION OF DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY.

---

TODAY THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME CONTINUES BUT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, WE CAN SAY THAT WE ARE STARTING TO MAKE HEADWAY. THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO; THERE STILL IS MUCH TO DO. BUT ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICA, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE, AND ARE DOING, TO MAKE POSSIBLE A SAFER SOCIETY. I PLEDGE TO YOU MY CONTINUED SUPPORT EVEN AS I SEEK YOUR ASSISTANCE IN CONTINUING TO ERADICATE THE DRUG MENACE, FIGHT ORGANIZED CRIME, MAKE OUR STREETS AND HOMES SAFE AGAIN, AND RETURN AMERICA TO THE DAYS OF RESPECT FOR THE LAW AND FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE INNOCENT.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

---

###

(ELLIOTT)

6/20/84

GOOD MORNING. THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT HAS JUST RELEASED A REVISED FIGURE INDICATING OUR ECONOMY GREW BY 9.7 PERCENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER WITH INFLATION AT ONLY 3.9 PERCENT. AND THE FLASH ESTIMATE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER INDICATES REAL GROWTH AT 5.7 PERCENT AND INFLATION OF ONLY 2.8 PERCENT.

THIS IS REMARKABLE NEWS THAT SHOULD GIVE US CONFIDENCE WE ARE SETTLING INTO A PATTERN OF STRONG AND STEADY ECONOMIC GROWTH WITHOUT RENEWED INFLATION.

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 20, 1984

MR. PRESIDENT:

At Senior Staff this morning,  
we agreed it would be  
desirable for you to stop  
on your way to the helicopter  
to highlight the attached  
statement on the economic  
figures.

*Dick*

Richard G. Darman

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

215114 SC  
PAC003

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

(NOONAN)

JUNE 21, 1984

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS DROPBY

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT'S VERY NICE TO  
BE HERE AND TO SAY HELLO TO ALL OF YOU.

IT'S GOOD IN PARTICULAR TO SEE HERE TWO  
WOMEN WHO ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THIS  
ADMINISTRATION, ELIZABETH DOLE AND KATHERINE  
ORTEGA.

BEING HERE WITH BROADCASTERS REMINDS ME  
OF MY OWN BACKGROUND IN BROADCASTING, AND I  
WAS THINKING ON THE WAY IN HERE OF HOW I  
FIRST DISCOVERED SOMETHING YOU ALREADY KNOW  
ABOUT: THE POWER OF THE SPONSOR. I FIRST  
STARTED OUT ON THE AIR AT WOC-WHO IN  
DAVENPORT AND DES MOINES. THIS WAS BACK  
DURING THE DEPRESSION. I WORKED ON AN  
EVENING SHOW THAT WAS A PROGRAM OF ORGAN  
MUSIC. THE MUSIC WAS FURNISHED BY A LOCAL  
MORTUARY. IN EXCHANGE FOR THE FREE MUSIC,  
THE MORTUARY WAS SUPPOSED TO GET A FREE PLUG  
EVERY NIGHT. WELL, NO ONE TOLD ME THE PLUG  
WAS A BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT.

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A WAY OF BEING POLITE.  
ANYWAY, ONE TIME MY DRAMATIC INSTINCT  
REBELLED AT MENTIONING A MORTUARY RIGHT  
AFTER WE'D PLAYED "DRINK TO ME ONLY WITH  
THINE EYES." } SO I DIDN'T DO THE PLUG.

THE SPONSOR WAS NOT AMUSED. } MANAGEMENT  
DECIDED TO REPLACE ME WITH A LOCAL TEACHER.  
THEY EVEN ASKED ME TO BREAK HIM IN.

BUT THERE'S A BRIGHT SIDE OF THE STORY.  
THE TEACHER DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE REALITIES  
OF BROADCASTING MUCH BETTER THAN I DID.

SO HE MADE A MISTAKE. } HE ASKED FOR A  
CONTRACT. } I WAS BACK ON THE AIR WITHIN A

WEEK. *I was called into office  
to install.*

I KNOW I'M NOT DIVULGING ANY STATE  
SECRETS WHEN I SAY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF BROADCASTERS IS A VERY IMPORTANT GROUP.  
THE MEMBERS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION ENTERTAIN  
US, INFORM US AND TELL US WHAT IS HAPPENING  
IN THE WORLD. } IN A DEMOCRACY, THAT'S A GREAT  
PUBLIC SERVICE.

I KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU ARE VERY BUSY THIS ELECTION YEAR ATTEMPTING TO INFORM VOTERS ON WHAT THE ISSUES ARE ABOUT AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO VOTE. THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT, FOR IN A DEMOCRACY ONLY AN INFORMED CITIZENRY CAN MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES.

NINETEEN-EIGHTY-FOUR WILL BE AN HISTORIC ELECTION YEAR. THE ISSUES ARE BIG AND CLEAR CUT. THEY WERE IN 1980, TOO, BUT THIS YEAR THE FACTS OF THE ELECTION ARE DIFFERENT. THAT'S BECAUSE THE FACTS OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE ARE DIFFERENT. FOUR YEARS AGO, IN MY OPINION, AMERICA WAS IN DECLINE, GOING FROM STRENGTH TO WEAKNESS, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. WHEN WE CAME TO OFFICE, INFLATION WAS 12.4 PERCENT, THE PRIME WAS AS HIGH AS 21-1/2 PERCENT, UNEMPLOYMENT WAS RISING. A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT WAS HOLDING OUR DIPLOMATS HOSTAGE AND AMERICA'S STANDING IN THE WORLD WAS VERY LOW.

NOW, NEARLY 4 YEARS LATER, THINGS HAVE  
TURNED AROUND. IN FACT, THEY'VE TURNED  
AROUND SO MUCH THAT NOBODY EVEN MENTIONS THE  
"MISERY INDEX" ANYMORE. AMERICA HAS COME  
ALIVE AGAIN WITH ENERGY, PROGRESS AND HOPE.  
TODAY INFLATION IS <sup>LESS - 4%</sup> ~~4.5~~ PERCENT, INTEREST  
RATES HAVE FALLEN, OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE IS  
STRONGER AND MORE COMPETITIVE, AND MORE JOBS  
ARE BEING CREATED IN THE UNITED STATES THAN  
IN ANY OTHER MAJOR, INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY.  
MAYBE THAT'S WHY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE  
MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE THAN AT ANY  
TIME IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

CHANGE HAS NOT COME EASY BUT I FEEL  
THAT THE PROGRAMS WE HAVE PUT INTO PLACE,  
AND THE PHILOSOPHIES BEHIND THEM, HAVE BEEN  
VINDICATED THE PAST 4 YEARS.

---

NOW THAT'S MY POINT OF VIEW. YOU MAY  
OR MAY NOT AGREE. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THE  
CHALLENGE FOR YOU, AS YOUR STATIONS AND  
NETWORKS COVER THE PERSONALITIES AND ISSUES  
OF THIS ELECTION YEAR, IS TO TAKE INTO  
ACCOUNT THE NEW REALITIES AMERICA IS  
IMMERSED IN, EXPLAIN THEM AS BEST YOU CAN  
AND GIVE AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE A READING ON  
THESE EVENTS.

---

I THINK IT MUST BE VERY HARD TO BE A  
JOURNALIST, TO TRY, (IF YOU ARE TRULY  
PROFESSIONAL) TO REMOVE YOUR OWN VIEWS FROM  
THE REPORTING OF THE NEWS, TO KEEP YOUR  
OPINIONS SEPARATE FROM THE FACTS AND EVENTS  
YOU'RE REPORTING.

---

THAT'S A GREAT CHALLENGE, A ~~DIFFICULT~~  
~~TASK~~, AND I ALWAYS AM IMPRESSED BY THOSE WHO  
MEET IT.

---



JUST ONE MORE THING: I WANT TO  
COMPLIMENT THE N.A.B. FOR ITS HELP IN THE  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING. YESTERDAY I  
WAS IN NEW JERSEY, WHERE I VISITED A HIGH  
SCHOOL THAT HAS A DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS  
PROGRAM THAT'S SIMPLY SENSATIONAL. AND THE  
PEOPLE THERE REALLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY,  
AS CITIZENS, CONSIDER DRUNK DRIVING TO BE A  
NATIONAL MENACE, AND THEY'RE PREPARED TO DO  
A GREAT DEAL TO STOP IT. YOUR PART IN THAT  
CAMPAIGN IS TIMELY AND NEEDED, AND MOST  
APPRECIATED.

---

AND NOW I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE  
WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN LEADING THE DRUNK DRIVING  
EFFORT FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION --  
OUR SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, ELIZABETH  
DOLE.

---

# # #

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

(Noonan/BE)

June 20, 1984

3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROBY BRIEFING FOR THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS  
THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1984

Thank you very much. It's very nice to be here and to say hello to all of you.

It's good in particular to see here two women who are very important in this Administration, Elizabeth Dole and Katherine Ortega.

Being here with broadcasters reminds me of my own background in broadcasting, and I was thinking on the way in here of how I first discovered something you already know about: the power of the sponsor. I first started out on the air at WOC <sup>-WOC</sup> ~~in~~ DAVENPORT <sup>7</sup> Des Moines. This was back during the depression. I worked on an evening show that was a program of organ music. The music was furnished by a local mortuary. In exchange for the free music the mortuary was supposed to get a free plug every night. Well, no one told me the plug was a business arrangement. I thought it was just a way of being polite. Anyway, one time my dramatic instinct rebelled at mentioning a mortuary right after we'd played "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes." So I didn't do the plug. The sponsor was not amused. Management decided to replace me with a local teacher. They even asked me to break him in. But there's a bright side of the story. The teacher didn't understand the realities of broadcasting much better than I did. So he made a mistake. He asked for a contract. I was back on the air within a week.

I know I'm not divulging any state secrets when I say the National Association of Broadcasters is a very important group. The members of your organization entertain us, inform us and tell us what is happening in the world. In a democracy that's a great public service.

I know that all of you are very busy this election year attempting to inform voters on what the issues are about and encouraging them to vote. That is very important, for in a democracy only an informed citizenry can make the right choices.

Nineteen-eighty-four will be an historic election year. The issues are big and clear cut. They were in 1980, too, but this year the facts of the election are different. That's because the facts of our national life are different. Four years ago, in my opinion, America was in decline, going from strength to weakness, both at home and abroad. When we came to office, inflation was 12.4 percent, the prime was as high as 21-1/2 percent, unemployment was rising. A foreign government was holding our diplomats hostage and America's standing in the world was very low.

Now, nearly 4 years later, things have turned around. In fact, they've turned around so much that nobody even mentions the "misery index" anymore. America has come alive again with energy, progress and hope. Today inflation is less than 4~~5~~ percent, interest rates have fallen, our industrial base is stronger and more competitive, and more jobs are being created in the United States than in any other major, industrialized

country. Maybe that's why the American people are more confident about the future than at any time in the last several years.

Change has not come easy but I feel that the programs we have put into place, and the philosophies behind them, have been vindicated the past 4 years.

Now that's my point of view. You may or may not differ. But it seems to me the challenge for you, as your stations and networks cover the personalities and issues of this election year, is to take into account the new realities America is immersed in, explain them as best you can and give as fair as possible a reading on these events.

I think it must be very hard to be a journalist, to try, if you are truly professional, to remove your own views from the reporting of the news, to keep your opinions separate from the facts and events you're reporting.

That's a great challenge, a difficult task, and I always am impressed by those who meet it.

Just one more thing: I want to compliment the N.A.B. for its help in the campaign against drunk driving. Yesterday I was in New Jersey, where I visited a high school that has a drunk driving awareness program that's simply sensational. And the people there really made it clear that they, as citizens, consider drunk driving to be a national menace, and they're prepared to do a great deal to stop it. Your part in that campaign is timely and needed, and most appreciated.

And now I would like to introduce the woman who has been leading the drunk driving effort for this Administration -- our Secretary of Transportation, Elizabeth Dole.