

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 306 (08/12/1984-08/18/1984)

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/>

(ROHRBACHER)

The President has seen _____
AUGUST 16, 1984

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD SUPPORT

21806386
27907

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME JOIN YOU.

THIS SYMPOSIUM IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE
COMMITMENT WITH WHICH SECRETARY HECKLER AND
THIS ADMINISTRATION ARE APPROACHING THE VERY
IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF CHILD SUPPORT

ENFORCEMENT. WITH YOUR HELP, WE HOPE TO PUT
THE NEW AUTHORITY FOR CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT PROVIDED BY H.R. 4325 INTO
PRACTICE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

THE ADVICE FROM THIS SYMPOSIUM SHOULD HELP
US GET THINGS OFF TO A RUNNING START.

OF COURSE, ADVICE FROM ON-HIGH ISN'T
ALWAYS AS PLEASANT AS THE GUIDANCE YOU ARE
GETTING HERE. MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THAT
FELLOW WHO FELL OFF A CLIFF AND HALF WAY
DOWN MANAGED TO GRAB HOLD OF A LIMB.

DANGLING 500 FEET ABOVE THE ROCKS BELOW --
HE LOOKED UP AND YELLED, "IS ANYONE UP
THERE?"

WHEN NO ONE ANSWERED, HE YELLED, "LORD, IF YOU'RE UP THERE, TELL ME WHAT TO DO!"

A LOUD BOOMING VOICE CAME THUNDERING BACK, "IF YOU BELIEVE, LET GO."

HE TOOK ANOTHER LOOK AT THE ROCKS BELOW, THEN LOOKED UP AND ASKED, "IS ANYONE ELSE UP THERE?"

WELL, WE'VE HAD SOME CHILDREN IN THIS COUNTRY WHO HAVE BEEN DANGLING ABOVE THE ROCKS WAITING FOR HELP. TODAY WE SIGN INTO LAW LEGISLATION THAT WILL GIVE THEM THE HELPING HAND THEY NEED.

IT IS AN UNFORTUNATE FACT OF OUR TIMES THAT ONE IN FOUR AMERICAN CHILDREN LIVES IN A SINGLE-PARENT HOME AND MILLIONS OF THESE CHILDREN ENDURE NEEDLESS DEPRIVATION AND HARDSHIP DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT BY THEIR ABSENT PARENT.

THE FAILURE OF SOME PARENTS TO SUPPORT
THEIR CHILDREN IS A BLEMISH ON AMERICA,

AS A DECENT AND CARING PEOPLE, IT BEHOOVES
US TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE DEVIL-MAY-CARE
ATTITUDE OF SOME OF OUR CITIZENS THAT HAS
LEFT TOO MANY CHILDREN IN DIRE STRAITS.

UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION, WE'VE
ALREADY MOVED FORWARD TO DO WHAT WE CAN.

IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HAS PUT A SPECIAL
EMPHASIS ON THE FEDERAL-STATE CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.

IN 1983, THIS PROGRAM
COLLECTED SOME \$2 BILLION IN SUPPORT FOR
CHILDREN.

YET THIS IS STILL ONLY A PORTION
OF WHAT IS OWED.

WITH BILLIONS OF DOLLARS
STILL UNPAID EACH YEAR, OUR CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM NEEDS NEW TOOLS, NEW
MUSCLE, AND NEW COMMITMENT THROUGHOUT THE
NATION.

THAT IS WHAT THIS LEGISLATION IS
ALL ABOUT.

LAST YEAR, I PROPOSED WE BOLSTER OUR FEDERAL-STATE CHILD SUPPORT SYSTEM BY MANDATING EFFECTIVE AND PROVEN COLLECTION PRACTICES. I BELIEVED WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE SERVICE TO ALL CHILDREN, WELFARE AND NON-WELFARE ALIKE; AND IMPROVE INCENTIVES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT TO GET THE JOB DONE. THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENTS BILL CONTAINS ALL THESE FEATURES.

THIS LEGISLATION REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT BREAK FROM THE TRADITION OF SIMPLY THROWING TAX MONEY AT A PROBLEM. INSTEAD OF CREATING MORE DEPENDENCY ON GOVERNMENT, WE ARE REQUIRING RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR BY OUR CITIZENS. THIS IS THE KIND OF INNOVATIVE AND PRINCIPLED APPROACH TO PROBLEM-SOLVING THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

IT WILL NOT ONLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN, BUT FOR SO MANY WOMEN WHO'VE BEEN FORCED, THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN, ONTO WELFARE ROLLS DUE TO ABANDONMENT. LEFT WITH THE FULL LOAD TO BEAR, THEY OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES TRAPPED IN A CYCLE OF UNHAPPINESS AND DESTITUTION.

THE GOAL OF OUR EFFORTS IS NOT JUST THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS. WE ALSO HOPE TO DISCOURAGE ABANDONMENT, AND, IF FAMILIES DO SPLIT UP, TO ENCOURAGE THE ABSENT PARENTS TO INVEST TIME AND LOVE IN THEIR CHILDREN. PERMITTING INDIVIDUALS TO IGNORE PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS AND GIVING THE BILL TO THE TAXPAYERS IN THE FORM OF HIGHER WELFARE COSTS HAVE BEEN TANTAMOUNT TO A STAMP OF APPROVAL. THAT IS NOT THE KIND OF MESSAGE PUBLIC POLICY SHOULD BE SENDING OUT.

THERE'S BEEN MUCH TALK OF LATE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY AND TRADITIONAL VALUES IN OUR SOCIETY. THAT'S A WELCOME CHANGE FROM THE DAYS WHEN THE SIMPLE VIRTUES OF GOODNESS AND DECENCY WERE OFTEN LAUGHED AT, EVEN RIDICULED. BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN: IT'S DEEDS, NOT WORDS, THAT COUNT. MANY POLICIES OF THE PAST WERE ANYTHING BUT SUPPORTIVE OF THE FAMILY. PROGRAMS LIKE THIS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE NOT ONLY AIMED AT JUSTICE FOR THE CHILDREN, BUT ALSO AT ENCOURAGING ETHICAL BEHAVIOR AND BOLSTERING VITAL SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE FAMILY. WE HOPE THAT BY PLACING THE RESPONSIBILITY WHERE IT SHOULD BE, ON THE PARENT, PEOPLE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE MORAL DECISIONS. OUR ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO BRING THIS KIND OF SPIRIT TO ALL ITS ENDEAVORS.

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE EVERYONE
CONCERNED WITH THIS EFFORT. BY PASSING THIS
LEGISLATION, THE CONGRESS HAS ACTED
HONORABLY, IN THE BEST BIPARTISAN MANNER,
FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHILDREN WHO REALLY NEED
THE HELP.

MANY PEOPLE DESERVE THANKS ON THIS
OCCASION FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO MAKE THIS
POSSIBLE. THOSE OF YOU HERE ON THE PLATFORM
HAVE EARNED A SPECIAL WORD OF APPRECIATION.

SINCE THE CONGRESS IS IN RECESS, MANY
OF THE MEMBERS WHO WORKED LONG AND HARD ON
THIS BILL CANNOT BE WITH US. I WANT TO
EXPRESS MY SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO SENATE
FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BOB DOLE, AND
SENATORS BILL ARMSTRONG AND RUSSELL LONG,
UNDER WHOSE ABLE MANAGEMENT THE LEGISLATION
PASSED IN THE SENATE.

IN THE HOUSE, DAN ROSTENKOWSKI, CARROLL CAMPBELL, BARBARA (KEN-EL-EE), AND BARBER CONABLE WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN STEERING THE BILL THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN A POSITIVE FORCE, AND I BELIEVE THIS LEGISLATION UNDERSCORES A CHANGE THAT'S TAKEN PLACE IN THE WAY WE DO THINGS.

AS DEMONSTRATED BY THIS SYMPOSIUM, WE'VE DEVELOPED NEW WORKING PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND, IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, THAT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WILL BE PUT TO USE TO CARRY OUT THIS NEW LAW WITH MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS.

I CAN'T RESIST ADDING A PIECE OF HISTORY HERE. IT WAS CALIFORNIA THAT PIONEERED REFORM IN THIS AREA. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT WAS A KEY PART OF AN OVERHAUL OF CALIFORNIA'S WELFARE SYSTEM ALMOST 15 YEARS AGO. I REMEMBER THAT WELL, BECAUSE I WAS GOVERNOR AT THE TIME.

- 9 -

OUR SUCCESS MOVED ME TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF A
NATIONWIDE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM.
SO AS YOU CAN TELL, I TOO HAVE A VERY
SPECIAL REASON TO CELEBRATE TODAY.

WITH THAT SAID, LET ME SIGN H.R. 4325,
THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENTS OF
1984. [SIGN]

#

(Rohrabacher/BE)
August 15, 1984
4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD SUPPORT
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1984

Thank you for letting me join you. This symposium is an example of the commitment with which Secretary Heckler and this Administration are approaching the very important problem of child support enforcement. With your help, we hope to put the new authority for child support enforcement provided by H.R. 4325 into practice quickly and efficiently. The advice from this symposium should help us get things off to a running start.

Of course, advice from on-high isn't always as pleasant as the guidance you are getting here. ^{MAYBE YOU'VE ABOUT THAT} There ~~is a story of~~ a fellow who fell off a cliff and half way down managed to grab hold of a limb. ~~There he was,~~ ^{ROCKS BELOW} dangling 500 feet above the ~~rocky canyon~~ ~~below~~. He looked up and yelled, "Is anyone up there?" When no one answered, he ~~called out,~~ ^{YELLED HARD} "God, if you're up there, tell me what to do!"

~~Then~~ ^A loud booming voice came thundering back, "If you believe, let go."

^{TOOK ANOTHER LOOK AT THE ROCKS BELOW} He ~~glanced down at the canyon floor and~~ then looked up and asked, "Is anyone else up there?"

Well, we've had some children in this country who have been dangling above ~~a rocky canyon~~ ^{THE ROCKS} waiting for help. Today we sign into law legislation that will give them the helping hand they need.

It is an unfortunate fact of our times that one in five American children lives in a single-parent home and millions of

these children endure needless deprivation and hardship due to lack of support by their absent parent.

The failure of some parents to support their children is a blemish on America. As a decent and caring people, it behooves us to come to grips with the devil-may-care attitude of some of our citizens that has left too many children in dire straits.

Understanding the situation, we've already moved forward to do what we can. In this Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services has put a special emphasis on the Federal-State child support enforcement program. In 1983, this program collected \$2 billion in support for children. Yet this is still only a portion of what is owed. With billions of dollars still unpaid each year, our child support enforcement system needs new tools, new muscle, and new commitment throughout the Nation. That is what this legislation is all about.

Last year, I proposed we bolster our Federal-State child support system by mandating effective and proven collection practices; by emphasizing service to all children, welfare and non-welfare alike; and by improving incentives for State government to get the job done. The Child Support Enforcement Amendments bill contains all these features.

This legislation represents a significant break from the tradition of simply throwing tax money at a problem. Instead of creating more dependency on Government, we are requiring responsible behavior by our citizens. This is the kind of innovative and principled approach to problem-solving that will make a difference. It will not only make a difference in the

lives of the children, but for millions of women who've been forced, through no fault of their own, onto welfare rolls due to abandonment. Left with the full load to bear, they often find themselves trapped in a cycle of unhappiness and destitution.

The goal of our efforts is not just the transfer of funds. We also hope to discourage abandonment, and, if families do split up, to encourage the absent parents to invest time and love in their children. Permitting individuals to ignore parental obligations and giving the bill to the taxpayers in the form of higher welfare costs have been tantamount to a stamp of approval. That is not the kind of message public policy should be sending out.

There's been much talk of late about the importance of family and traditional values in our society. That's a welcome change from the days when the simple virtues of goodness and decency were often laughed at, even ridiculed. But one thing is certain: It's deeds, not words, that count. Many policies of the past were anything but supportive of the family. Programs like this, on the other hand, are not only aimed at justice for the children, but also at encouraging ethical behavior and bolstering vital social institutions like the family. We hope that by placing the responsibility where it should be, on the parent, people will be encouraged to make moral decisions. Our Administration is trying to bring this kind of spirit to all its endeavors.

I want to congratulate everyone concerned with this effort. By passing this legislation, the Congress has acted honorably, in

the best bipartisan manner, for the benefit of children who really need the help.

Many people deserve thanks on this occasion for what they've done to make this possible. Those of you here on the platform have earned a special word of appreciation.

Since the Congress is in recess, many of the Members who worked long and hard on this bill cannot be with us. I want to express my special appreciation to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole, and Senators Bill Armstrong and Russell Long, under whose able management the legislation passed in the Senate. In the House, Dan Rostenkowski, Carroll Campbell, Barbara Kennelly, and Barber Conable were instrumental in steering the bill through the legislative process.

State governments have also been a positive force. And I believe this legislation underscores a change that's taken place in the way we do things. As demonstrated by this symposium, we've developed new working partnerships with State and local government, and, in the months ahead, that working relationship will be put to use to carry out this new law with maximum effectiveness.

I can't resist adding a piece of history here. It was California that pioneered reform in this area. Child support enforcement was a key part of an overhaul of California's welfare system almost 15 years ago. I remember that well, because I was Governor at the time. Our success moved me to testify before the Senate Finance Committee in support of a National Child Support

Page 5

Enforcement system. So as you can tell, I too have a very special reason to celebrate today.

With that said, let me sign H.R. 4325, the Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984. [SIGN]

The President of the United States

(ROHRBACHER)

AUGUST 17, 1984

20809/SS
50003

LUNCHEON FOR POLISH-AMERICAN LEADERS

YOUR EMINENCE, VETERANS OF THE POLISH HOME ARMY, MEMBERS OF THE POLISH-AMERICAN CONGRESS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

(JEN DOE-BREE).

WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. AND BEFORE CONTINUING, I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER OUR APOLOGIES FOR HAVING TO POSTPONE OUR PROGRAM LAST MONTH. I KNOW MANY OF YOU HAD MADE ADVANCE TRAVEL PLANS, AND THAT THE CHANGES IN MY SCHEDULE CAUSED YOU SOME DIFFICULTIES. I AM, HOWEVER, DELIGHTED THAT WE ARE HERE TOGETHER TODAY FOR THIS IMPORTANT COMMEMORATION.

IT IS ALWAYS AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE WITH INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOURSELVES WHO UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF FREEDOM. I'M REMINDED OF A STORY ABOUT A CONVERSATION BETWEEN AN AMERICAN AND A SOVIET CITIZEN.

THE AMERICAN DESCRIBED THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH WE HAVE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE RUSSIAN REPLIED, "WE ARE FREE TO SPEAK IN THE SOVIET UNION JUST LIKE YOU ARE IN THE UNITED STATES. THE DIFFERENCE," HE SAID, "IS THAT IN THE UNITED STATES YOU ARE FREE AFTER YOU SPEAK."

TODAY WE PAY TRIBUTE TO A NATION WHICH, FOR TWO CENTURIES, HAS STRUGGLED FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. FROM THE UPRISINGS IN 1794, THE NOVEMBER UPRISING IN 1830 AND THEN AGAIN IN 1863, THE PEOPLE OF POLAND DEMONSTRATED COURAGE AND A COMMITMENT TO HUMAN LIBERTY THAT INSPIRED FREE MEN AND WOMEN EVERYWHERE.

THIS 200-YEAR RECORD OF PERSEVERANCE AND BRAVERY COINCIDED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR OWN PRECIOUS LIBERTY HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. AND THAT IS NO MERE COINCIDENCE.

OUR TWO PEOPLES DRANK FROM THE SAME WELL OF FREEDOM, HELD DEAR THE SAME JUDEO-CHRISTIAN VALUES, RESPECTED THE SIMPLE VIRTUES OF HONESTY AND HARD WORK. EVEN TODAY, IT IS OFTEN NOTED THAT, UNLIKE MANY OTHERS, OUR TWO PEOPLES TAKE THEIR RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS SERIOUSLY. THESE HEARTFELT CONVICTIONS HAVE KEPT THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM BURNING IN OUR HEARTS, ESPECIALLY DURING TIMES OF GREAT ADVERSITY. POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS SAID, "FREEDOM IS GIVEN TO MAN BY GOD AS A MEASURE OF HIS DIGNITY..." AND, "AS CHILDREN OF GOD," HE SAID, "WE CANNOT BE SLAVES."

I KNOW YOU FEEL AS I DO THAT WE ARE TRULY BLESSED IN THIS TIME OF GREAT NEED TO HAVE A SPIRITUAL LEADER LIKE JOHN PAUL II.

THE CONTINUING SUPPRESSION OF THE POLISH NATIONAL IDENTITY BROUGHT WAVE AFTER WAVE OF POLISH IMMIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES. FOR THAT WE CAN BE GRATEFUL.

WE ALL KNOW THE LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND
THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO ROSE TO PROMINENCE,

BUT JUST AS IMPORTANT ARE THE MILLIONS WHO
CAME HERE AND WITH THEIR HARD WORK AND MORAL
STRENGTH HELPED SHAPE THE AMERICAN
CHARACTER.

DURING THIS CENTURY, AMERICANS AND
POLES HAVE STOOD SIDE-BY-SIDE IN THOSE TWO
CONFLAGRATIONS THAT SWEEPED THE WORLD,

THE FIRST WORLD WAR, UNFORTUNATELY, DID NOT
END ALL WARS, BUT IT DID RESULT IN THE
REESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLISH STATE.

THIS MONTH, WE COMMEMORATE A DESPERATE
BATTLE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, AN HEROIC
ATTEMPT BY FREE POLES TO LIBERATE THEIR
COUNTRY FROM THE HEEL OF NAZI OCCUPATION,
AND TO PROTECT IT FROM POST-WAR, FOREIGN
DOMINATION. FOR YEARS, THEY COVERTLY
RESISTED THE OCCUPATION FORCES.

THEN, IN 1944, FOR 63 BRUTAL AND AGONIZING DAYS, ILL-EQUIPPED AND OVERWHELMINGLY OUTNUMBERED, THEY HELD OFF THE NAZI WAR MACHINE. IT IS FITTING THAT WE AND ALL FREE PEOPLE TAKE SPECIAL CARE TO REMEMBER THIS OCCASION. OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM, OF THOSE WHO HAVE PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR HUMAN LIBERTY, I CAN THINK OF NONE WHO SHOULD BE PROUDER THAN THOSE WHO CAN SAY: I FOUGHT IN THE POLISH HOME ARMY.

TODAY WE HONOR THREE INDIVIDUALS, HEROES OF THE POLISH HOME ARMY NEVER GIVEN THEIR DUE AFTER THE ALLIED VICTORY. IT IS MY GREAT HONOR TO NOW PRESENT THE LEGION OF MERIT TO THE FAMILIES OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE MEN.

LET US SALUTE GENERAL STEFAN (RO-VET-SKI), WHO LED THE RESISTANCE UNTIL HE WAS CAPTURED AND EXECUTED BY THE GESTAPO.

[PRESENT AWARD]

NEXT, GENERAL (BOOR KO-MOR-OFF-SKI), LEADER OF THE WARSAW UPRISING, WHO LATER DIED IN NEAR POVERTY IN EXILE IN LONDON,

[PRESENT AWARD]

AND FINALLY, GENERAL LEOPOLD (OH-KOO-LĒĒT-SKI), WHO WAS LURED INTO A TRAP AND DIED UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN MOSCOW,

[PRESENT AWARD]

THESE BRAVE MEN AND THE COURAGEOUS INDIVIDUALS WHO FOUGHT UNDER THEIR COMMAND REPRESENT THE BEST OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT. THEY RISKED ALL FOR THEIR IDEALS, FOR THEIR GOD AND COUNTRY, AT A TIME WHEN THE ODDS WERE SO MUCH AGAINST THEM. THEY ARE NOW PART OF THE INSPIRING LEGACY OF THE POLISH PEOPLE.

IF THERE IS A LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS, IT IS THAT POLAND MAY BE BEATEN DOWN, BUT IT IS NEVER DEFEATED.

IT MAY BE FORCED INTO SUBMISSION, BUT IT
WILL NEVER GIVE UP. IT MAY BE PRESSURED TO
ACQUIESCE, BUT IT WILL NEVER ACCEPT FOREIGN
DOMINATION AND THE SUPPRESSION OF GOD-GIVEN
FREEDOM. AFTER TWO DECADES OF BRUTAL
FOREIGN DOMINATION, WE WITNESSED, JUST A
SHORT TIME AGO, A RESURRECTION OF THE
INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE.
I ASSURE YOU, WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN AND WILL
NEVER FORGET SOLIDARITY AND THE FREEDOM OF
THE POLISH PEOPLE.

THERE ARE SOME, OF COURSE, WHO SEEM ALL
TOO WILLING TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO SOVIET
TRANSGRESSIONS, OSTENSIBLY TO IMPROVE THE
DIALOGUE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. BUT THOSE
WHO CONDEMN FIRM SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM AND
DEMOCRACY — WHO, IN ORDER TO PROVE THEIR
SINCERITY, WOULD PROJECT WEAKNESS — ARE NO
FRIENDS OF PEACE, HUMAN LIBERTY, OR
MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE.

OUR POLICIES TOWARD POLAND AND OTHER CAPTIVE NATIONS ARE BASED UPON A SET OF WELL-ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES. } FIRST, LET ME STATE EMPHATICALLY, WE REJECT ANY INTERPRETATION OF THE YALTA AGREEMENT THAT SUGGESTS AMERICAN CONSENT FOR THE DIVISION OF EUROPE INTO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE.

ON THE CONTRARY, WE SEE THAT AGREEMENT AS A PLEDGE BY THE THREE GREAT POWERS TO RESTORE FULL INDEPENDENCE, AND TO ALLOW FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ALL COUNTRIES LIBERATED FROM THE NAZIS AFTER WORLD WAR II. THERE IS NO REASON TO ABSOLVE THE SOVIET UNION OR OURSELVES FROM THIS COMMITMENT. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FULL COMPLIANCE WITH IT, AND WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS GUARANTEEING FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

PASSIVELY ACCEPTING THE PERMANENT
SUBJUGATION OF THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE
IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. IN 1981,
WHEN IT APPEARED THAT POLAND WOULD SUFFER A
SIMILAR FATE TO THAT OF HUNGARY IN 1956 OR
CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968, WE RAISED OUR VOICES
IN SUPPORT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE. AND WE DID
NOT REMAIN PASSIVE WHEN UNDER INTENSE SOVIET
PRESSURE MARTIAL LAW WAS IMPOSED ON THEM.

MANY CREDIT, TRADE, AND FISHING
PRIVILEGES EXTENDED TO POLAND DUE TO ITS
SOMEWHAT BROADER DEGREE OF FREEDOM THAN
OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE
SUSPENDED. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE
ASSISTED VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE
HUMANITARIAN AID THROUGH THE POLISH CHURCH
TO AVOID HURTING THE VERY PEOPLE WE WANT TO
HELP.

I WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO COMMEND THE
WORK OF AL (MA-ZEFF-SKI) AND THE POLISH
AMERICAN CONGRESS,

IN COOPERATION WITH THE CHURCH, THEY HAVE PROVIDED OVER \$40 MILLION WORTH OF FOOD, CLOTHING, AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE PEOPLE OF POLAND. AND I KNOW THAT NANCY IS THRILLED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED HONORARY CHAIRMAN FOR THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS'S INFANT CHARITY DRIVE. WE BOTH WISH YOU THE BEST ON THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT.

I'VE PLEDGED THAT OUR SANCTIONS CAN BE LIFTED, ONE BY ONE, IN RESPONSE TO MEANINGFUL IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN POLAND. FOR EXAMPLE, A COMPLETE AND REASONABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT'S AMNESTY DECREE WOULD CREATE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE THAT WOULD ALLOW REACTIVATION OF POLAND'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE'VE AGREED, ALONG WITH OUR ALLIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, TO HELP FUND A POLISH CHURCH PROGRAM TO ASSIST INDIVIDUAL FARMERS. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT I AM SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR A \$10-MILLION AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE PILOT PHASE OF THE CHURCH'S PROGRAM. WE WILL FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF THIS PROGRAM CAREFULLY TO DETERMINE WHETHER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THING WE CAN DO IS LET THE POLISH PEOPLE AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN. THAT'S WHY WE ARE MODERNIZING RADIO FREE EUROPE, RADIO LIBERTY, AND VOICE OF AMERICA. OUR RADIO PROGRAMMING IS BECOMING THE MIGHTY FORCE FOR GOOD THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO BE. AS THE SCRIPTURES SAY, "KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE."

WELL, OUR BROADCAST WILL CARRY THE TRUTH TO
CAPTIVE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THE FREE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD ARE IN
IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION WITH THE FOLLOWERS
OF A DOCTRINE THAT REJECTS THE BASIC TENETS
OF FREEDOM AND DECLARES THE WORSHIP OF GOD
TO BE A SOCIAL EVIL. AS IMPORTANT AS THIS
COMPETITION IS, UNTIL RECENTLY THE
DEMOCRACIES -- INCLUDING THE UNITED
STATES -- SEEMED PARALYZED BY UNCERTAINTY
AND LACKING THE WILL TO COMPETE.

IN THE LAST 3-1/2 YEARS, WE'VE QUIT
APOLOGIZING AND, AT LONG LAST, WE ARE
STANDING UP AND BEING COUNTED. AS OUR
UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADOR JEANE KIRKPATRICK
SAYS, WE'VE TAKEN OFF OUR "KICK ME" SIGN.
WE ARE PROUD OF OUR WAY OF LIFE, WE ARE
CONFIDENT THAT FREEDOM WILL PREVAIL, BECAUSE
IT WORKS AND BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT.

WE BELIEVE THE FREE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD SHOULD SUPPORT ALL THOSE WHO SHARE OUR DEMOCRATIC VALUES. THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY, WHICH I FIRST PROPOSED IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT IN LONDON 2 YEARS AGO, HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ENCOURAGE THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREE INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ITS CONCERNS INCLUDE NONVIOLENT, DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENTS LIKE THAT OF SOLIDARITY IN POLAND.

THE RISE OF SOLIDARITY IS A MATTER OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE. IT CONTINUES TO BE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL FREE PEOPLE THAT THE MARXIST-LENINIST MYTH OF INEVITABILITY IS CRUMBLING. COMMUNISM HAS BROUGHT WITH IT ONLY DEPRIVATION AND TYRANNY. WHAT HAPPENED IN POLAND IS ONE SIGN THAT THE TIDE IS TURNING.

- 14 -

THE POLISH PEOPLE, WITH THEIR COURAGE AND
PERSEVERANCE, WILL LEAD THE WAY TO FREEDOM
AND INDEPENDENCE NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES,
BUT FOR ALL THOSE WHO YEARN TO BREATHE FREE.

THE BATTLE CRY OF THE POLISH HOME ARMY
STILL RINGS TRUE: "POLAND IS FIGHTING.
POLAND WILL LIVE.) POLAND WILL OVERCOME."

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US, GOD BLESS
YOU.

#

~~The President has seen~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 17, 1984

*Some changes on
p. 2 & 3*

MR. PRESIDENT:

This draft radio talk incorporates material on the Urban Institute's Reagan Record as you suggested -- but it does so within a larger framework, and with a tie to the spirit of the Olympics.

We feel that this is a less defensive way to treat the Urban Institute material than devoting an entire talk to it -- and that devoting a whole talk to it would end up giving it (and its negative material) far greater visibility than it could get on its own. We also feel that the very positive and popular spirit of the Olympics is a theme worth building on this week.

If, however, you would like to devote the entire radio talk to the Urban Institute report, we can have a complete draft on that subject alone by the time you leave for Camp David tomorrow.



Richard G. Darman

The President has seen _____

(Elliott)
August 16, 1984
7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: OLYMPICS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1984

218092 SC
SP832-33

My fellow Americans, something very bright and happy and hopeful has been happening across our country in recent days. We've watched a grateful Nation shower its affection on those who showered us with glory -- our Olympic athletes. Theirs was a triumph of faith and hope. In honoring them, ours has been a celebration of The New Patriotism.

Nancy and I saw our athletes in Los Angeles the day after the Olympics ended. You could just feel their joy and energy. And when our famous gymnast, Mary Lou Retton, stood on her toes to give me a hug and words of welcome, I couldn't help thinking: How can anyone not believe in the dream of America?

Now, I've been accused of being an optimist. And it's true. All my life, I've seen that when people like Mary Lou have a dream, when they have the courage and opportunity to work hard, when they believe in the power of faith and hope, they not only perform great feats, they help pull all of us forward as well.

Somehow, the idea that American progress begins with spirit and a willingness of the heart was ignored during the 1970's. The intellectual establishment was so busy demanding more power for government -- more bureaucracy, regulation, spending, and, oh yes, more and more taxes -- they forgot all about the secret of America's success: opportunity for people, for all people.

When the economy reached the point of collapse by the end of the seventies, they began talking about our crisis of spirit,

about our malaise. But we hadn't given up hope, we just hadn't been allowed to hope.

So when we came to Washington in 1981, we said, "Let us renew our faith and our hope. We have every right to dream heroic dreams." We put together an economic recovery program that made a radical break with past policies. For the first time since the administration of John Kennedy, we cut the tax rates for every working American. We told the people, America's destiny is back in your hands; if you work harder and earn more than before, your reward will be greater than it was.

But, from the beginning, the old guard establishment -- people who still make policy from abstract statistics, theories, and models, rather than looking at the reality of human behavior -- have filled the airwaves with gloom, predicting our program couldn't meet our goals. And, from the beginning, they've been wrong -- when they said inflation and interest rates wouldn't come down; when they said recovery wouldn't come; when they said the expansion wouldn't last; and when they said the deficit wouldn't come down.

Recently, many liberal analysts have been reviewing our record and our prospects. Their message remains: hasn't worked, can't be done. ^{SO WHEN THE URBAN INSTITUTE CAME OUT WITH A STUDY A FEW DAYS AGO} ~~An Urban Institute study was largely interpreted this way by the press, but when I looked at it, I saw some other~~ ^{IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT SOME OF THE PRESS WOULD LOOK FOR THE SAME OLD DOOM & GLOOM!} ~~conclusions as well.~~ ^{EVEN IF THEY HAD TO IGNORE THE REAL SENSE OF THE REPORT.} ^{REPORT STUDY} ~~THEY DIDN'T REPORT THAT THE REPORT~~

For example, ~~we~~ said elderly Americans have clearly done better under our policies, with real gains in disposable incomes. ^{NOR} ~~it said~~ ^{THAT} the social safety net is still largely intact for the

^{THE STUDY ALSO}
nonworking poor, ~~it~~ said there is no evidence that working welfare mothers who have been eliminated from the rolls are quitting their jobs to requalify for benefits; and ~~it~~ ^{THAT} said, despite all the furor, it finds surprisingly few changes from 1980 with respect to the environmental, public lands and water resources activities of the Federal Government.

And, ^{NO ONE SEEMS TO} ~~their study didn't~~ ^{THAT} mention ~~the most important point of all:~~ The centerpiece of our policy, the tax cut, was not fully in place until 1983. Our program has just begun. But let's look at the record since it has: over 6 million jobs created; a surge in investment and productivity; a record 600,000 business incorporations; the biggest increase in real, after-tax personal income since 1973, and, perhaps most important, a new spirit of optimism and confidence about America's future.

It's clear that once people got a chance to show what they could do, America got well and got strong. What isn't clear is why those pessimists with so little faith in people, so little understanding of incentives, and so many bad predictions, are not more humble, and not treated a little more skeptically by the media. If they were doctors, they would be up for malpractice.

In 1984, we face an historic choice: Will we heed the pessimists' agenda of higher taxes, more bureaucracy, and a bigger welfare state leading us right back to runaway inflation and economic decay; or, will we continue on our new road toward a true opportunity society of economic growth, more jobs, lower tax rates, and rising take-home pay?

I believe the spirit we've seen during and after these Olympics reveals something very important about America: We believe in ourselves, we're hungry for real opportunity, and we're up to any challenge. This is no time for would-be coaches who say it can't be done.

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

(Elliott/RR)
August 17, 1984
5:00 p.m.

1004 AUG 17 PM 5:25

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: OLYMPICS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1984

My fellow Americans, something very bright and happy and hopeful has been happening across our country in recent days. We've watched a grateful Nation shower its affection on those who showered us with glory -- our Olympic athletes. Theirs was a triumph of faith and hope. In honoring them, ours has been a celebration of The New Patriotism.

Nancy and I saw our athletes in Los Angeles the day after the Olympics ended. You could just feel their joy and energy. And when our famous gymnast, Mary Lou Retton, stood on her toes to give me a hug, I couldn't help thinking: How can anyone not believe in the dream of America?

Now, I've been accused of being an optimist. And it's true. All my life, I've seen that when people like Mary Lou have a dream, when they have the courage and opportunity to work hard, when they believe in the power of faith and hope, they not only perform great feats, they help pull all of us forward as well.

Somehow, the idea that American progress begins with spirit and a willingness of the heart was ignored during the 1970's. The intellectual establishment was so busy demanding more power for government -- more bureaucracy, regulation, spending, and, oh yes, more and more taxes -- they forgot all about the secret of America's success: opportunity for people, for all the people.

When the economy reached the point of collapse by the end of the seventies, they began talking about our crisis of spirit,

about our malaise. But we hadn't given up hope, we just hadn't been allowed to hope.

So when we came to Washington in 1981, we said, ". . . let us renew our faith and our hope. We have every right to dream heroic dreams." We put together an economic recovery program that made a radical break with past policies. For the first time since the administration of John Kennedy, we cut tax rates significantly for every working American. We told the people, America's destiny is back in your hands; if you work harder and earn more than before, your reward will be greater than it was.

But, from the beginning, the old guard establishment -- ² people who still make policy from abstract statistics, theories, and models, rather than looking at the reality of human behavior -- have filled the airwaves with gloom, predicting our program couldn't meet our goals. And, from the beginning, they've been wrong -- when they said inflation and interest rates wouldn't come down; when they said recovery wouldn't come; when they said the expansion wouldn't last; and when they said the deficit wouldn't come down.

Recently, many liberal analysts have been reviewing our record and our prospects. Their message remains: hasn't worked, can't be done. So when the Urban Institute came out with a study a few days ago, it was only natural that some of the press would look for the same old doom and gloom.

For example, they didn't report that the study also said elderly Americans have clearly done better under our policies, with real

gains in disposable incomes; nor, that the social safety net is still largely intact for the nonworking poor. Even the Urban Institute said there is no evidence that working welfare mothers who have been eliminated from the rolls ³ are quitting their jobs to requalify for benefits; and that, despite all the furor, it finds surprisingly few changes from 1980 with respect to the environmental, public lands and water resources activities of the Federal Government.

And, no one seems to mention that the centerpiece of our policy, the tax cut, was not fully in place until 1983. Our program has just begun. But let's look at the record since it has: over 6 million jobs created; a surge in investment and productivity; a record 600,000 business incorporations; the biggest increase in real, after-tax personal income since 1973, and, perhaps most important, a new spirit of optimism and confidence about America's future.

It's clear that once people got a chance to show what they could do, America got well and got strong. What isn't clear is why those pessimists with so little faith in people, so little understanding of incentives, ⁴ and so many bad predictions, are not more humble, and not treated a little more skeptically by the media. ~~If they were doctors, they could be up for malpractice.~~

In 1984, we face an historic choice: Will we heed the pessimists' agenda of higher taxes, more bureaucracy, and a bigger welfare state leading us right back to runaway inflation and economic decay; or, will we continue on our new road toward a true opportunity society of economic growth, more jobs, lower tax rates, and rising take-home pay?

I believe the spirit we've seen during and after these Olympics reveals something very important about America: We believe in ourselves, ~~we're hungry for real opportunity,~~ and we're up to any challenge. ~~This is no time for would-be coaches who say it can't be done.~~

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