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**SERIES:** I: SPEECHES, 1981-1989

**Folder Title:** 02/04/1988 National Prayer Breakfast

**Box:** 365

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*Last Updated: 01/22/2024*

fyi=

A TRANSLATION OF A PRAYER FOUND ON A YOUNG RUSSIAN SOLDIER KILLED  
IN ACTION IN 1944. [REDACTED]

Hear me, O God; never in the whole of my lifetime have I spoken to you.

But just now I feel like sending you my greetings.

You know, from childhood on they've always told me you are not.

I, like a fool, believed them.

I've never contemplated your creation. And yet, tonight gazing up out of my shell-hole, I marvelled at the shimmering stars above me, and suddenly knew the cruelty of the lie.

Will you, my God, reach your hand out to me, I wonder?

But I will tell you, and you will understand.

Is it not strange that light should come upon me and I see you amid this night of hell?

And there is nothing else I have to say.....this, though:  
I'm glad that I have learned to know you.

At midnight we are scheduled to attack. But you are looking on, and I am not afraid.

The signal.....Well, I guess I must be going.

I have been happy with you.....

This more I want to say:

As you well know, the fighting will be cruel, and even tonight I may come knocking at your door.

Although I have not been a friend to you before, still, will you let me enter now, when I do come?

Why, I am crying, O God, My Lord. You see what happens to me:  
Tonight my eyes were opened.

Farewell, my God. I'm going and am not likely to come back.  
Strange, is it not? But death I fear no longer.

(Rohrabacher/ARD)  
January 28, 1988  
4:00 p.m.

John

SS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

I want to thank each of you for being here today and for sharing with us the spiritual message God has placed in your hearts. God's love shines through every word. His truth is the ultimate power source and it is always there. It is available to ministers of the gospel, presidents, and the local grocery clerk. His comforting hand... I could never carry the responsibilities of this high office without it. Our forefathers drew on the wisdom and strength of God when they turned a vast wilderness into a blessed land of plenty, called the United States of America.

God has truly blessed this country, but we should never fall into the trap that would detract from the universality of God's gift. It is for all mankind. God's love is the hope and light of the world. There is a letter that recently made its way to my desk. It wasn't to me. It was written by a young soldier many years ago.

"Hear me, O God; never in the whole of my lifetime have I spoken to you.

But just now I feel like sending you my greetings.

You know, from childhood on they've always told me you are not.

I, like a fool, believed them.

I've never contemplated your creation. And yet, tonight gazing up out of my shell-hole, I marvelled at the shimmering stars above me, and suddenly knew the cruelty of the lie.

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But I will tell you, and you will understand.

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And there is nothing else I have to say... this, though: I'm glad that I have learned to know you.

At midnight we are scheduled to attack. But you are looking on, and I am not afraid.

The signal... Well, I guess I must be going.

I have been happy with you....

This more I want to say:

As you well know, the fighting will be cruel, and even tonight I may come knocking at your door.

Although I have not been a friend to you before, still, will you let me enter now, when I do come?

Why, I am crying, O God, My Lord. You see what happens to me: Tonight my eyes were opened.

Farewell, my God. I'm going and am not likely to come back. Strange, is it not? But death I fear no longer."

This was sent to me by <sup>Wisconsin</sup> an Ohio family -- it was found on the body of a dead Russian soldier in 1944.

Thank you and God bless you.

The President has seen 2/2/88

(Rohrabacher/ARD)  
February 2, 1988  
10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

I want to thank each of you for being here today and for sharing with us the spiritual message God has placed in your hearts. God's love shines through every word. His truth is the ultimate power source and it is always there. It is available to ministers of the gospel, presidents, and the local grocery clerk. His comforting hand... I could never carry the responsibilities of this high office without it. Our forefathers drew on the wisdom and strength of God when they turned a vast wilderness into a blessed land of plenty, called the United States of America.

God has truly blessed this country, but we should never fall into the trap that would detract from the universality of God's gift. It is for all mankind. God's love is the hope and light of the world. There is a letter that recently made its way to my desk. *In it was a prayer - It was sent to me by a woman who lost her husband in W.W.II years ago.* ~~It wasn't to me. It was written by a young soldier many~~

"Hear me, O God; never in the whole of my lifetime have I spoken to you.

But just now I feel like sending you my greetings.

You know, from childhood on they've always told me you are not.

I, like a fool, believed them.

I've never contemplated your creation. And yet, tonight gazing up out of my shell-hole, I marvelled at the shimmering stars above me, and suddenly knew the cruelty of the lie.

Will you, my God, reach your hand out to me, I wonder?

But I will tell you, and you will understand.

Is it not strange that light should come upon me and I see you amid this night of hell?

And there is nothing else I have to say... this, though: I'm glad that I have learned to know you.

At midnight we are scheduled to attack. But you are looking on, and I am not afraid.

The signal... Well, I guess I must be going.

I have been happy with you....

This more I want to say:

As you well know, the fighting will be cruel, and even tonight I may come knocking at your door.

Although I have not been a friend to you before, still, will you let me enter now, when I do come?

Why, I am crying, O God, My Lord. You see what happens to me: Tonight my eyes were opened.

Farewell, my God. I'm going and am not likely to come back. Strange, is it not? But death I fear no longer."

~~This prayer was sent to me by a Wisconsin family -- it~~ *This prayer*  
~~was sent to me by a Wisconsin family -- it~~  
the body of a <sup>YOUNG</sup> Russian soldier killed in action in 1944.

Thank you and God bless you.

(Rohrabacher/ARD)  
February 2, 1988  
10:00 a.m.

*John  
R.D.*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

I want to thank each of you for being here today and for sharing with us the spiritual message God has placed in your hearts. God's love shines through every word. His truth is the ultimate power source and it is always there. It is available to ministers of the gospel, presidents, and the local grocery clerk. His comforting hand... I could never carry the responsibilities of this high office without it. Our forefathers drew on the wisdom and strength of God when they turned a vast wilderness into a blessed land of plenty, called the United States of America.

God has truly blessed this country, but we should never fall into the trap that would detract from the universality of God's gift. It is for all mankind. God's love is the hope and light of the world. There is a letter that recently made its way to my desk. It wasn't to me. It was written by a young soldier many years ago.

"Hear me, O God; never in the whole of my lifetime have I spoken to you.

But just now I feel like sending you my greetings.

You know, from childhood on they've always told me you are not.

I, like a fool, believed them.

I've never contemplated your creation. And yet, tonight gazing up out of my shell-hole, I marvelled at the shimmering stars above me, and suddenly knew the cruelty of the lie.

Will you, my God, reach your hand out to me, I wonder?

But I will tell you, and you will understand.

Is it not strange that light should come upon me and I see you amid this night of hell?

And there is nothing else I have to say... this, though: I'm glad that I have learned to know you.

At midnight we are scheduled to attack. But you are looking on, and I am not afraid.

The signal... Well, I guess I must be going.

I have been happy with you....

This more I want to say:

As you well know, the fighting will be cruel, and even tonight I may come knocking at your door.

Although I have not been a friend to you before, still, will you let me enter now, when I do come?

Why, I am crying, O God, My Lord. You see what happens to me: Tonight my eyes were opened.

Farewell, my God. I'm going and am not likely to come back. Strange, is it not? But death I fear no longer."

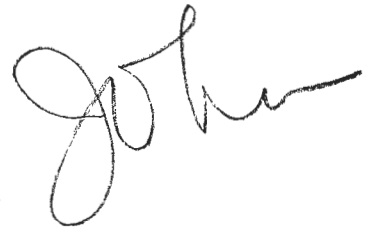
This was sent to me by a Wisconsin family -- it was found on the body of a Russian soldier killed in action in 1944.

Thank you and God bless you.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1988



MEMORANDUM FOR HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.

THROUGH: THOMAS C. GRISCOM <sup>3</sup>

FROM: JAMES L. HOOLE <sup>JLH</sup>

SUBJECT: THE 36TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST AT THE  
WASHINGTON HILTON ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

Attached is a proposed summary schedule.

EVENT CONCEPT

On Thursday morning, February 4, 1988, The President and Mrs. Reagan will attend the 36th annual National Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Every President since Dwight D. Eisenhower has attended the National Prayer Breakfast, which is sponsored by members of Congress.

Upon arrival at the Washington Hilton Hotel, The President and Mrs. Reagan will proceed to the Ante Room for a photo opportunity and brief prayer with approximately 20 international guests. The President and Mrs. Reagan will then greet the head table guests in the Cabinet Room and proceed into the International Ballroom for breakfast. After breakfast, the President will make remarks for 10 minutes to an audience of approximately 3,000 people.

An event concept and outline schedule will be forwarded to Rhett Dawson for submission to the President unless otherwise directed.

cc: K. Duberstein	W. Ball
J. Courtemanche	R. Dawson
T. Dolan	C. Powell
R. Range	F. Donatelli
F. Ryan	M. Fitzwater
J. Tuck	N. Risque
J. Kuhn	M. Weinberg

01/29/88 8:00 a.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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PROPOSED SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan proceed to motorcade for boarding.

7:35 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan depart the White House en route the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Drive Time: 5 mins.

7:40 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive the Washington Hilton Hotel, Presidential Entrance.

Met by:

Mr. William Edwards, Jr., General Manager,  
Washington Hilton Hotel

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan proceed inside to Ante Room via elevator.

Met downstairs by:

Senator Lawton Chiles (D-FL)  
Mr. Douglas Coe, Chairman, National Prayer  
Breakfast

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan, escorted by Senator Chiles and Mr. Coe, proceed to Ante Room for prayer and photo session with International Guests.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan, escorted by Sen. Chiles and Mr. Coe, conclude photo session and proceed into Cabinet Room.

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive Cabinet Room for prayer and photo session with head table guests.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

7:55 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan conclude photo session and proceed to holding room.

01/29/88 11:30 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive holding room.

8:00 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan depart holding room en route off-stage announcement area.

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive off-stage announcement area.

Announcement (off-stage)

8:00 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan proceed on-stage and are seated.

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

Opening Song

8:05 a.m. Opening remarks by Senator Chiles.

Opening prayer by Admiral Crowe, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Breakfast is served.

Welcome by Senator Chiles.

8:25 a.m. . Message from the U.S. Senate by Senator Paul Trible (R-VA).

Old Testament reading by the Mayor of Baltimore, Curt Schmoke.

Koran Reading by Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Saudi Ambassador.

Solo by Jim Nabors.

Message from the House of Representatives by Congressman Sonny Montgomery (D-MS).

New Testament Reading by The Honorable Diane Watson (State Senator-CA).

Prayer for National Leaders by Secretary James Baker.

Message by Senator William Armstrong (R-CO).

Senator Chiles introduces THE PRESIDENT.

9:10 a.m. THE PRESIDENT proceeds to podium and makes remarks.

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

9:20 a.m. THE PRESIDENT concludes remarks and returns to seat.

Closing song.

Closing prayer by Dr. Billy Graham.

9:30 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan proceed to holding room.

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive holding room.

9:35 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan depart holding room en route motorcade for boarding via elevator.

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan depart the Washington Hilton Hotel en route the White House.

Drive Time: 5 mins.

9:40 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive the White House and proceed inside.

*John*

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 01/28/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON Monday 02/01

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

(01/28 4:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GRISCOM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	POWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIBB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>DOLAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>COURTEMANCHE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan by Noon on Monday, February 1st, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

The schedule shows the President speaking for 10 minutes. In the past, the speeches have been at least five minutes. This seems to be a little short. If we are to make it longer - a mention of peace and democracy would be helpful.

*RR*

Rhett Dawson  
Ext. 2702

(Rohrabacher/ARD)

January 28, 1988

4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

I want to thank each of you for being here today and for sharing with us the spiritual message God has placed in your hearts. God's love shines through every word. His truth is the ultimate power source and it is always there. It is available to ministers of the gospel, presidents, and the local grocery clerk. His comforting hand... I could never carry the responsibilities of this high office without it. Our forefathers drew on the wisdom and strength of God when they turned a vast wilderness into a blessed land of plenty, called the United States of America.

God has truly blessed this country, but we should never fall into the trap that would detract from the universality of God's gift. It is for all mankind. God's love is the hope and light of the world. There is a letter that recently made its way to my desk. It wasn't to me. It was written by a young soldier many years ago.

"Hear me, O God; never in the whole of my lifetime have I spoken to you.

But just now I feel like sending you my greetings.

You know, from childhood on they've always told me you are not.

I, like a fool, believed them.

I've never contemplated your creation. And yet, tonight gazing up out of my shell-hole, I marvelled at the shimmering stars above me, and suddenly knew the cruelty of the lie.

Will you, my God, reach your hand out to me, I wonder?

But I will tell you, and you will understand.

Is it not strange that light should come upon me and I see you amid this night of hell?

And there is nothing else I have to say... this, though: I'm glad that I have learned to know you.

At midnight we are scheduled to attack. But you are looking on, and I am not afraid.

The signal... Well, I guess I must be going.

I have been happy with you....

This more I want to say:

As you well know, the fighting will be cruel, and even tonight I may come knocking at your door.

Although I have not been a friend to you before, still, will you let me enter now, when I do come?

Why, I am crying, O God, My Lord. You see what happens to me: Tonight my eyes were opened.

Farewell, my God. I'm going and am not likely to come back. Strange, is it not? But death I fear no longer."

This was sent to me by an Ohio family -- it was found on the body of a dead Russian soldier in 1944.

Thank you and God bless you.

(Rohrabacher)  
January 28, 1988  
2:00 p.m.

John

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

I want to thank each of you for being here today and for sharing with us the spiritual message God has placed in your hearts. God's love shines through every word. His truth is the ultimate power source and it is always there. It is available to ministers of the gospel, presidents, and the local grocery clerk. His comforting hand... I could never carry the responsibilities of this high office without it. Our forefathers drew on the wisdom and strength of God when they turned a vast wilderness into a blessed land of plenty, called the United States of America.

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Although I have not been a friend to you before, still, will you let me enter now, when I do come?

Why, I am crying, O God, My Lord. You see what happens to me: Tonight my eyes were opened.

Farewell, my God. I'm going and am not likely to come back. Strange, is it not? But death I fear no longer."

Thank you and God bless you.


THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



12/17/87

MEMORANDUM

TO: REBECCA RANGE (Coordinate with James Hooley)

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. 

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

MEETING: Attend Annual National Prayer Breakfast

DATE: February 4, 1987

TIME: 8:00 am

DURATION: To be determined

LOCATION: Washington Hilton Hotel

BACKUP LOCATION:

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Officer

FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: Yes

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

M. Archambault  
W. Ball  
J. Courtemanche  
E. Crispen  
R. Dawson  
F. Donatelli  
D. Dellinger  
A. Dolan  
J. Erkenbeck  
L. Faulkner  
C. Fuller  
M. Fitzwater  
T. Griscom

Advance Office  
J. Hooley  
J. Kuhn  
J. Lamb  
J. Manning  
J. McKinney  
N. Risque  
D. Johnson  
R. Shaddick  
G. Walters  
WHCA Audio/Visual  
WHCA Operations

December 15, 1987

Dear Senator Chiles:

Thank you for your letter inviting the President and Mrs. Reagan to participate in the 36th Annual National Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton.

This is to officially inform you that the President and Mrs. Reagan would be pleased to participate in the National Prayer Breakfast and it has been entered on their schedules for February 4, 1988. Mr. James Hooley, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Advance, will contact you concerning the specific details of this event.

Thank you once again for giving the President and Mrs. Reagan this opportunity and best wishes.

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.  
Director of Presidential Appointments  
and Scheduling  
Director of Private Sector Initiatives

The Honorable Lawton Chiles  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

FJR:sw:emp

bcc: Tom Griscom, John Tuck, Will Ball, Jack Courtemanche, Rebecca Range, Marlin Fitzwater, Jim Hooley, Speechwriters, Marylou Skidmore, Sandy Warfield, Edita Piedra, Helen Donaldson with incoming for the February 4, 1988 schedule

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

12/17/87

MEMORANDUM

TO: REBECCA RANGE (Coordinate with James Hooley)

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FR*

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

MEETING: Attend Annual National Prayer Breakfast

DATE: February 4, 1987

TIME: 8:00 am

DURATION: To be determined

LOCATION: Washington Hilton Hotel

BACKUP LOCATION:

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Officer

FIRST LADY

PARTICIPATION: Yes

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

M. Archambault	Advance Office
W. Ball	J. Hooley
J. Courtemanche	J. Kuhn
E. Crispen	J. Lamb
R. Dawson	J. Manning
F. Donatelli	J. McKinney
D. Dellinger	N. Risque
A. Dolan	D. Johnson
J. Erkenbeck	R. Shaddick
L. Faulkner	G. Walters
C. Fuller	WHCA Audio/Visual
M. Fitzwater	WHCA Operations
T. Griscom	

*Mariam Bell  
P.O. x6585*