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MASTER

(Gilder/ARD) September 21, 1987 4:30 p.m. 55

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1987

Thank you. Thank you all very much and welcome to the Old Washington. It's wonderful to see you all have Executive Office Building. It's wonderful to have you in Washington. It makes me feel as if the reinforcements have just arrived.

First, I want to congratulate you on your fourth annual convention -- in just 4 years you've become the largest politically active women's organization in the Nation. A lot of the credit, of course, has to go to one woman. She's one of the powerhouses on the political scene today. One of the reasons that the "grassroots" are more and more a conservative province. Because of her, the great majority of women once again have a voice in the issues of the day -- they can no longer be ignored by the media or by their elected Representatives.

Beverly LaHaye is changing the face of American politics -- and she deserves our thanks, and our congratulations.

Thinking of this convention, and the agenda ahead of us these next months, I was put in mind of one of my favorite Churchill anecdotes. It was near the close of the Second World War. Churchill was visited by a delegation from the temperance league and chastised by one woman who said, "Mr. Prime Minister, I've heard that if all the whiskey you have drunk since the war began were poured into this room, it would come all the way up to your waist." Churchill looked dolefully down at the floor, then

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at his waist, and then up to the coiling. And then he said, "Ah, yes, madam, So much accomplished, and so very much more left to do."

Well, we too, have so very much more left to do. And with the help of the Concerned Women for America, we're going to get it accomplished. One of the first things we have to do is well, you might say the we have to make sure that justice is done -- that Judge Bork is confirmed by the Senate as our next Supreme Court Justice.

The Wall Street Journal called Judge Bork, and I quote,

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Before the hearings began, there was a lot of talk to the effect that Judge Bork was a political ideologue. On TV's across the Nation, those who tuned into the hearings saw something very different indeed. They saw a Judge who impressively argued against ideology — that is, against the current fashion in some legal circles that says a judge should bend the law to suit his own political agenda. Judge Bork clearly spelled out his philosophy: that a judge should keep his own views from interfering with an interpretation of the laws and the

Constitution according to the intentions of those who enacted them, consistent with precedent. In other words, a judge should interpret the laws, not make them. I think you'll agree, we need more judges like that. These same interest ground.

Before the hearings, it was also argued that Judge Bork was "outside the mainstream." But last week, in an article on the Op-Ed page of the Washington Post, President Carter's White House Counsel, Lloyd Cutler, threw that canard out the window.

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Now, I don't usually make predictions, but in this case I feel confident that reason will prevail over politics. So I'm going to make this prediction: not only that Judge Bork will be confirmed, but that he will go down in history as one of the finest Supreme Court Justices our Nation has ever known.

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"...there is no truth more firmly established," he said, "than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness..." America will prosper, America will succeed, he was saying, only so long as she is good, for the "propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order

and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

He reminded his countrymen that there is something more at stake here than our own advantage. That something is the "preservation of the sacred fire of liberty" which he said was "deeply, finally staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

Those words ring just as urgently true today -- perhaps even more so. And it is individuals and groups like yours who have

responded to that sense of urgency, who have taken up
Washington's call, who will keep America good -- and therefore
prospering. Working from the grassroots through all the branches
of Government, it is people like you who are keeping that sacred
fire of liberty alive.

Thank you all and God bless you.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Association of Independent Television Stations

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at a White House Briefing.

18 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 83

January 27, 1982

LENGTH: 2482 words

... myself on the late, late show, and I said it was like looking at a son I never knew I had. [Laughter] I appreciate that award and for what it says about communication. I'd say I'm at a loss for words, but then you'd take the award back. [Laughter]

I've been kidded a few times because I now and then praise silent Cal Coolidge. He was a real communicator. He was having his hair cut once in a one-chair barbershop up in Vermont, and the town doctor came in, sat down, and said, "Cal, did you take the pills that I gave you?" And Coolidge said nothing for a minute or two, and then in his usual, articulate style, he said, "Nope." And a little later the doctor asked, "Well, are you feeling any better?" Another long silence and then he said, "Yup." Well, his haircut was finished, and he started to leave. And the barber hesitantly said, "Well, aren't you forgetting something?" And an embarrassed Coolidge replied, "Oh, yeah. I'm sorry, I forgot to pay you. I was so busy gossiping with the doctor, it slipped my mind." [Laughter]

You probably haven't heard, but I tried some communicating just last night, and I hope the message finally got across. The message was that I want to reduce taxes, not raise them. You know, I sometimes think that government is like that definition -- an ...

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Public Papers of the Presidents

School Prayer Day

Remarks at a Candle-Lighting Ceremony.

18 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1214

September 25, 1982

LENGTH: 855 words

We want to welcome each of you to the White House. We gather together to draw attention to an issue that is as vital to the future of this country as any that we face. No one should doubt that economic and technological progress will have very little impact unless the spirit of our people remains strong.

Calvin Coolidge, a President whom I greatly admire, once said, "The government of a country never gets ahead of the religion of a country." Fostering the faith and character of our people is one of the great trusts of responsible leadership. I deeply believe that if those in government offer a good example, and if the people preserve the freedom which is their birthright as Americans, no one need fear the future.

Unfortunately, in the last two decades we've ...

... Senate to move directly on the constitutional amendment now awaiting action. But Senate action is not enough. The leadership in the House has the proposed constitutional amendment bottled up and has, thus far, failed to hold the appropriate hearings. Some suggest we should keep religion out of politics. Well, the opposite is also true. Those in politics should keep their hands off of the religious freedom of our people, and especially our children.

Earlier I quoted Calvin Coolidge. He had some other words I'd like to share with you. "It would be difficult for me to conceive," President Coolidge said, "of anyone being able to administer the duties of a great office like the Presidency without a belief in the guidance of Divine Providence. Unless the President is sustained by an abiding faith in the divine power, I cannot understand how he would have the courage to attempt to meet the various problems that constantly pour in upon him from all parts of the earth."

Well, after 20 months I can ...

Public Papers of the Presidents

Conservative Political Action Conference

Remarks at the 10th Annual Conference Dinner.

19 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 257

February 18, 1983

LENGTH: 5030 words

... first to acknowledge that there's a good deal left unfinished on the conservative agenda. Our cleanup crew will need more than 2 years to deal with the mess left by others for over half a century. But I'm not disheartened. In fact, my attitude about that unfinished agenda isn't very different from that expressed in an anecdote about one of my favorite Presidents, Calvin Coolidge. [Laughter]

Some of you may know that after Cal Coolidge was introduced to the sport of fishing by his Secret Service detail, it got to be quite a passion with him, if you can use that word about "Silent Cal." [[aughter]] Anyway, he was once asked by reporters how many fish were in one of his favorite angling places, the River Brule. And Coolidge said the waters were estimated to carry 45,000 trout. And then he said, "I haven't caught them all yet, but I sure have intimidated them." [Laughter]

Well, it's true we haven't brought about every change important to the conscience of a conservative, but we conservatives can take a great deal of honest pride in what we have achieved. In a few minutes I want to talk about just how ...

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Public Papers of the Presidents

Southern Republican Leadership Conference

Remarks to Participants in the Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

20 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 102

January 26, 1984

LENGTH: 2193 words

... out of the Treasury. They know who eventually ends up paying for all of those promises. I feel sorry for some of those Democratic Congressmen, though, at the same time. Can you imagine what it must be like, worn out after a day at the office? They go home. They try to go to sleep. And the first thing you know, they're having nightmares that the money they're spending is their own. [Laughter]

Calvin Coolidge once said that "Patriotism is easy to understand in America. It means looking out for yourself by looking out for the country." Well, the Republican message to voters this year is just that: When we vote, we should do it for America. When we choose on election day, we should think of the future of our children. It'll require hard work on our part. We have to get our message out, and that isn't so easy in America. There just does ...

Public Papers of the Presidents

Independent Insurance Agents of America

Remarks at the Association's National Legislative Conference.

20 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 432

March 27, 1984

LENGTH: 3612 words

... about their policies is that they didn't discriminate; they made everybody miserable. [Laughter]

In these last 3 years, we've done our best to reverse the policies of tax and spend and inflate that wrought such havoc on our country. At first, we were told that turning the situation around would be impossible. We were told, for example, that it would take 10 years to wring inflation out of the system. Well, I just kept in mind something President Coolidge reportedly once said. "I have found it advisable," he said, "not to give too much heed to what people say when I'm trying to accomplish something of consequence. Invariably they proclaim it can't be done. I deem that the very best time to make the effort." Well, now, contrary to some reports on my age, Cal didn't tell me that personally. [Laughter] I read it.

We didn't let the pessimists hold ...

Public Papers of the Presidents

National Association of Counties

Remarks at the Association's Annual Legislative Conference.

1985 Pub. Papers 250

March 4, 1985

LENGTH: 3214 words

... man had the idea that since money could buy anything, and Federal programs could provide everything, then more money and more programs were the answer to all our problems. But the dramatic increase of Federal participation in local government only complicated your problems.

To make matters worse, the shift of power toward Washington moved us away from the very principles that had kept our country on a sound footing for most of our history. Calvin Coolidge, one of our most underrated Presidents, put it well: -- Our country," he said, "was conceived in the theory of local self-government. It has been dedicated by long practice to that wise and beneficient policy. It is the foundation principle of our system of liberty."

When Cal Coolidge was President, taxes -- Federal, State, and local -- were taking a dime out of every dollar earned, and two-thirds of that dime went to State and local government. By 1980 taxes were up to 35 cents of every dollar, and three-fifths of that came to Washington.

No wonder communities had lost control of some of the most basic decisions affecting everyday hfe. As the Federal Government grew more intrusive, you became less ...

Insert 1.

There's one subject I wish the hearings had delt with more thorougly -- and that's crime. Nearly one-third of the court's time is spent on criminal cases. As a judge on one of our Nation's most important appelate courts, Judge Bork has handed down tough but fair decisions that have not only protected the rights of the accused -- but the rights of the victims as well. And I think you'll agree -- our Constitution requires no less.

And if people want a measure of how the American public feels on the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, they should ask this organization about the 72,000 petitions, pro-Bork petitions, that have flooded in over the last three weeks -- with more coming in all the time. (No Paragraph)

Insert 2.

(no Paragraph) Believe me, I know how much your organization has done in that cause -- setting up schools, medical clinics, and farms to help refugees fleeing Communist oppression. \$4 million of clothes in one shipment alone. And over the last few years, you've been vital in getting the message out to the American people -- (no paragraph)

Insert 3.

Thinking of this convention, brought back to mind one of my favorite stories about Calvin Coolidge. (Insert)

Well, there are only 535 Senators and Congressmen up on Capitol Hill. And as Beverly might say, we haven't caught them all yet -- but we've sure got their attention.

And one of the things we're going to keep their attention focused on is -- well, you might say it's making (no paragraph)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1987

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Thank you. Thank you all very much and welcome to the Old Executive Office Building. It's wonderful to have you in Washington. It makes me feel as if the reinforcements have just arrived.

First, I want to congratulate you on your fourth a few short convention -- in just we years you've become the largest politically active women's organization in the Nation. A lot of the credit, of course, has to go to one woman. She's one of the powerhouses on the political scene today, one of the reasons that the "grassroots" are more and more a conservative province. Because of her, the great majority of women once again have a voice in the issues of the day -- they can no longer be ignored by the media or by their elected Representatives.

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Thinking of this convention, and the agenda ahead of us these next months, I was put in mind of one of my favorite Churchill anecdotes. It was near the close of the Second World War. Churchill was visited by a delegation from the temperance league and chastised by one woman who said, "Mr. Prime Minister, I've heard that if all the whiskey you have drunk since the war began were poured into this room, it would come all the way up to your waist." Churchill looked dolefully down at the floor, then

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The Wall Street Journal called Judge Bork, and I quote,

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Before the hearings began, there was a lot of talk to the effect that Judge Bork was a political ideologue. On TV's across the Nation, those who tuned into the hearings saw something very different indeed. They saw a Judge who impressively argued against ideology -- that is, against the current fashion in some legal circles that says a judge should bend the law to suit his own political agenda. Judge Bork clearly spelled out his philosophy: that a judge should keep his own views from interfering with an interpretation of the laws and the

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Mr. Cutler wrote of Judge Bork, and I quote, "...his views were and are widely shared by justices and academics in the moderate center." It's clear now that the charges that Robert Bork is too ideological are themselves ideologically inspired, and that the criticism of him as "outside the mainstream" can only be held by those who are themselves so far outside the mainstream that they've long ago lost sight of that moderate center.

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The next item on our agenda -- and nothing we've done in the last 6-1/2 years has been so important -- is the survival of freedom in Central America. In the last few years, your organization has been vital in that cause -- but this is the crucial moment. Now is the time we must redouble our efforts to make sure that the hope for freedom in Nicaragua is not betrayed once again.

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In the latest issue of <u>Public Opinion</u> magazine they have printed the results of an extensive polling of American attitudes toward Central America. The numbers make it very clear: the message is getting across. The American public recognizes the great danger posed by an aggressive, Communist government in Nicaragua and, by a large majority, favors aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters battling to liberate their nation from Communist tyranny.

Of those who had an opinion, a huge majority described Central America as, "very important to the defense interests of the United States" and agreed that the situation in Nicaragua is a threat to the security of the United States. Huge majorities believe there is a danger of Nicaragua becoming another Cuba — an aggressive Soviet outpost exporting revolution to its neighboring countries.

And on the subject of aid to the freedom fighters, the numbers were impressive -- 58 percent for, only 29 percent opposed.

In the months ahead, as the Central American peace process undergoes its inevitable complications, it will be ever more vital to keep the central issue before the American people -- democracy in Nicaragua. We can accept nothing less. Only with freedom and democracy in Nicaragua will there be true peace and a chance for real, lasting economic development in Central America. Anything short of true democracy in Nicaragua will at best bring only a false peace to Central America. The wound will fester -- and the infection will break out once again.

to all; a free press; allow Radio Catalio, and the other radio stations, to broadcast once again; send the Soviets and Cubans home; open up the jails and let the political prisoners free; allow freedom of worship, labor unions, a free economy; dissolve the Orwellian "neighborhood watch committees;" give the people of Nicaragua back their basic human rights.

Anyone who demands anything less of the Sandinistas -anyone who does not insist on true democracy in Nicaragua -- is
not serving the cause of peace.

Well, I have talked long enough, but I would like to leave you with one thought. In this bicentennial year, I keep being drawn back to George Washington's first inaugural address.

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Washington's call, who will keep America good -- and therefore
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of Government, it is people like you who are keeping that sacred
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Thank you all and God bless you.

(Gilder/ARD) September 23, 1987 2:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA CONVENTION CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1987

Thank you. Thank you all very much and welcome to Washington. It's wonderful to see you all here. It makes me feel as if the reinforcements have just arrived.

First, I want to congratulate you on your fourth national convention -- in just a few short years you've become the largest politically active women's organization in the Nation. A lot of the credit, of course, has to go to one woman. She's one of the powerhouses on the political scene today, one of the reasons that the "grassroots" are more and more a conservative province.

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The next item on our agenda -- and nothing we've done in the last 6-1/2 years has been more important -- is the survival of freedom in Central America. Believe me, I know how much your organization has done in that cause -- setting up schools, medical clinics, and farms to help refugees fleeing Communist oppression, \$4 million of clothes in one shipment alone. And over the last few years, you've been vital in getting the message out to the American people -- but this is the crucial moment. Now is the time we must redouble our efforts to make sure that the hope for freedom in Nicaragua is not betrayed once again.

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Of those who had an opinion, a huge majority described Central America as, "very important to the defense interests of the United States" and agreed that the situation in Nicaragua is a threat to the security of the United States. Huge majorities believe there is a danger of Nicaragua becoming another Cuba --

an aggressive Soviet outpost exporting revolution to its neighboring countries.

And on the subject of aid to the freedom fighters, the numbers were impressive. Asked the question: should the United States aid the rebels to prevent Communist influence from spreading to other countries in Central America -- 58 percent said yes, only 29 percent were opposed.

Aid to the freedom fighter must -- and will -- continue.

The American people want it, justice demands it, and it's the only way to make the Marxist-Leninist in Managua sincerely talk peace. In the months ahead, as the Central American peace process undergoes its inevitable complications, it will be ever more vital to keep the central issue before the American people -- democracy in Nicaragua. We can accept nothing less. Only with freedom and democracy in Nicaragua will there be true peace and a chance for real, lasting economic development in Central America. Anything short of true democracy in Nicaragua will at best bring only a false peace to Central America. The wound will fester -- and the infection will break out once again.

There is only one path to peace: free fair elections open to all. The Sandinistas have promised to end all censorship.

That is a good beginning -- and we must hold them to it. But it is only a beginning. The next steps are obvious: open up the jails and let the thousands of political prisoners free; let the exiles come home; allow freedom of worship, free labor unions, a free economy; dissolve the so-called neighborhood watch committees; give the people of Nicaragua back their basic human

rights. And last, but not least, send the Soviet and Cubans home.

Anyone who demands anything less of the Sandinistas -anyone who does not insist on true democracy in Nicaragua -- is
not serving the cause of peace. We will not be satisfied with

mere show -- with "potemkin" reforms. Until these conditions are
met, "democratization" will be no more than a fraud. And until
they are met, we will press for true democracy by supporting
those who are fighting for it.

Well, I have talked long enough, but I would like to leave you with one thought. In this bicentennial year, I keep being drawn back to George Washington's first inaugural address.

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Thank you all and God bless you.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

| DATE: 9/21/87 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00PM 9/22/87 | |
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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA

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RESPONSE:

(Gilder/ARD) September 21, 1987 4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR CONCERNED WOMEN
FOR AMERICA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1987

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RESPONSE:

See minor changes on pages 4 and 5; otherwise, concur in /text.

cc: Dawson, R.

Grant S. Green
Executive Secretary
22 September 1987

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(man) changes (12,5)

(Gilder/ARD) September 21, 1987 4:30 p.m.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 22, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY R. DOLAN

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND

DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

ARTHUR B. CULVAHOUSE, JR/COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Dropby Briefing for

Concerned Women for America

Pursuant to Rhett Dawson's request, Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks. Subject to the following very minor suggestions, Counsel's office has no objection to these remarks.

Page 2, second full paragraph, sixth line: between "A" and "man" add the word "wise," in response to Andrew Young's line that Judge Bork is a scholar without wisdom.

Page 2, third full paragraph, first line: between "talk" and "to" add the phrase "by certain interest groups," to clarify that the attack has been mounted by partisans.

Page 3, first full paragraph, first line: replace the pronoun "it" with the phrase "these same interest groups," again to highlight the partisan and limited nature of the charges against Judge Bork.

Page 3, third full paragraph, line two: replace the word "so" with "more," to avoid any implication that the Bork confirmation is not as important as other matters.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

cc: Rhett B. Dawson

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RESPONSE:

I strongly recommend that we include a paragraph on the crime issue. This is a group of grass roots supporters of the President's conservative agenda, so we should make this point forcefully. You may want to lift from the President's remarks to law enforcement heads in Los Angeles (attached).

Yen

Rhett Dawson Ext. 2702

(Gilder/ARD) September 21, 1987 4:30 p.m.

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Now, I don't usually make predictions, but in this case I feel confident that reason will prevail over politics. So I'm going to make this prediction: not only that Judge Bork will be confirmed, but that he will go down in history as one of the finest Supreme Court Justices our Nation has ever known.

The next item on our agenda -- and nothing we've done in the last 6-1/2 years has been so important -- is the survival of freedom in Central America. In the last few years, your organization has been vital in that cause -- but this is the crucial moment. Now is the time we must redouble our efforts to make sure that the hope for freedom in Nicaragua is not betrayed once again.

IN Seit a paragraph on crime (possibly from the President's remarks in LA) In the latest issue of <u>Public Opinion</u> magazine they have printed the results of an extensive polling of American attitudes toward Central America. The numbers make it very clear: the message is getting across. The American public recognizes the great danger posed by an aggressive, Communist government in Nicaragua and, by a large majority, favors aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters battling to liberate their nation from Communist tyranny.

Of those who had an opinion, a huge majority described Central America as, "very important to the defense interests of the United States" and agreed that the situation in Nicaragua is a threat to the security of the United States. Huge majorities believe there is a danger of Nicaragua becoming another Cuba — an aggressive, Soviet outpost exporting revolution to its neighboring countries.

And on the subject of aid to the freedom fighters, the numbers were impressive -- 58 percent for, only 29 percent opposed.

In the months ahead, as the Central American peace process undergoes its inevitable complications, it will be ever more vital to keep the central issue before the American people -- democracy in Nicaragua. We can accept nothing less. Only with freedom and democracy in Nicaragua will there be true peace and a chance for real, lasting economic development in Central America. Anything short of true democracy in Nicaragua will at best bring only a false peace to Central America. The wound will fester -- and the infection will break out once again.

There is only one path to peace: free fair elections open to all; a free press; allow Radio Catolio, and the other radio stations, to broadcast once again; send the Soviets and Cubans home; open up the jails and let the political prisoners free; allow freedom of worship, labor unions, a free economy; dissolve the Orwellian "neighborhood watch committees;" give the people of Nicaragua back their basic human rights.

Anyone who demands anything less of the Sandinistas -anyone who does not insist on true democracy in Nicaragua -- is
not serving the cause of peace.

Well, I have talked long enough, but I would like to leave you with one thought. In this bicentennial year, I keep being drawn back to George Washington's first inaugural address.

"...there is no truth more firmly established," he said, "than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness..." America will prosper, America will succeed, he was saying, only so long as she is good, for the "propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

He reminded his countrymen that there is something more at stake here than our own advantage. That something is the "preservation of the sacred fire of liberty" which he said was "deeply, finally staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

Those words ring just as urgently true today -- perhaps even more so. And it is individuals and groups like yours who have

responded to that sense of urgency, who have taken up
Washington's call, who will keep America good -- and therefore
prospering. Working from the grassroots through all the branches
of Government, it is people like you who are keeping that sacred
fire of liberty alive.

Thank you all and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

(Los Angeles, California) Office of the Press Secretary August 28, 1987

For Immediate Release

. 1:

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT , IN MEETING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE BORK

Oak Room Century Plaza Hotel Los Angeles, California

11:05 A.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: It's a great pleasure to meet this morning with such distinguished law enforcement officials who've been active on the front lines of our fight against crime. I'm particularly pleased to have this opportunity to hear your views on a matter that will have a continuing impact on law enforcement and criminal justice long after my administration leaves office, the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to succeed Lewis Powell as a Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has had, always had a critical role in the administration and the criminal justice at both the state and federal levels. Criminal cases make up one of the largest categories in the highest court's decisions. I was surprised to learn it's almost one-third of all the cases it considers. And that's why when it comes to crime and safety of our citizens, it's so important for our courts to take a tough, clear-eyed look at the Constitution's purpose to establish justice and ensure domestic tranquility.

Judge Robert Bork, whom I nominated nearly eight weeks ago, would be just such a Justice. His guiding principle is one of judicial restraint. And Judge Bork believes that judges should not make the laws; their function is to interpret the laws based on the Constitution and precedent.

It's time we reassert the fundamental principle of the purpose of criminal justice is to find the truth, not to coddle criminals. The constitutional rights of the accused must be protected, but so must the rights of our law-abiding citizens.

During his distinguished career in law and public service, Robert Bork has demonstrated a genuine concern for the right of our citizens to live in safe communities and a clear understanding of the problems facing today's law enforcement professions. As Solicitor General, the nation's chief legal advocate before the Supreme Court, he argued the landmark cases that upheld the constitutionality of capital punishment -- a position maintained by Justice Lewis Powell in his years on the Court.

Last term, the constitutionality of capital punishment in cases of particularly brutal murders was narrowly reaffirmed with the support of Justice Powell, whose seat Judge Bork would fill. It's essential that capital punishment remain on the books if we're to protect innocent lives from the tragedy of victous criminal acts.

As Solicitor General, Bob Bork also advanced common-sense readings of the Constitution that would help, not hinder, the truth in criminal trials. He argued the Constitution was intended to assure real justice for all citizens, not to foster never-ending sparring matches between lawyers.

As a judge on one of our nation's most important appellate courts, Judge Bork has handed down tough but fair decisions that have protected the rights of victims in the society as well as the rights of the accused. And our Constitution we know requires no less.

Together, we've made great strides in the war on crime. A key reason for that progress has been the appointment of tough-minded judges. For the past seven years, federal criminal sentences have increased 30 percent overall. Judge Bork's nomination is a crucial opportunity to continue our progress in the war against crime.

The Supreme Court today is closely divided on many important criminal justice issues. The support given to Judge Bork's nomination by law enforcement professionals like you and the men and women you represent can help ensure that Lewis Powell's seat on the Supreme Court is filled by a judge who shares his support for the rule of law.

Q Mr. President, why are there no women supporters of Bork on law and order?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not sure there are not. Did you ask Nancy? (Laughter.)

Q You didn't invite any, so -- your own administration officials take up half the table.

THE PRESIDENT: The other half of the table are leaders of virtually all the law enforcement organizations in the United States.

Q Sir, what can you tell us about the Philippines? Do you think Mrs. Aquino is out of danger now?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, Sam. I'm not going to get into that. We've got another subject here. And, frankly, we're trying to keep track of what's going on there.

MR. WEINBERG: We've got to go.

THE PRESIDENT: He cut me off. See?

Q Would you ask Mrs. Reagan to take our calls so we can find out if she supports Judge Bork? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: She'll take your calls.

Q Mr. President, Admiral Poindexter wants to retire at his old rank of vice admiral. Will you support that?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not going to comment on that. I just learned that myself.

Q Is that something you'd consider?

THE PRESIDENT: No answers now.

Q It looks like the Russians are planning for a summit in either October or November. Does that please you, sir?

MR. WEINBERG: He said no answers. Let's go, please.

THE PRESIDENT: You know that I support the idea of a summit.

Q It looks good, doesn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not going to comment.

THE PRESS: Thank you.