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WASHINGTON

April 3, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Radio Talk: Easter

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed remarks. We recommend adding "Christians believe that" at the beginning of the second sentence of the second paragraph. This addition will help forestall criticism of the President for using Government funds to advance one particular creed.

cc: David L. Chew

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Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

5/81

Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/3/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: EASTER

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McFARLANE	\checkmark				

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 5:00 p.m. today, April 3rd, with an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

(Elliott) April 3, 1985 Noon

ReceivedSS

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: EASTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1985

My fellow Americans, this weekend, Jews the world over begin celebrating the festival of Passover, which each Spring commemorates the miraculous delivery -- the Exodus -- of their people from slavery. The message of Passover speaks to Jew and non-Jew alike. It resounds with bitter cries of slaves suffering inhumanity. And it rings forth with joyful cheers of a people set free, courageously undertaking the long journey to freedom and independence.

Tomorrow is Easter, a deeply holy day when Christians celebrate the victory of faith in a triumph of hope over despair and life over death. Through one magnificent act of pure and perfect love, Jesus left the promise sought since the beginning of time -- that there will never be a dark night that does not end. As it is said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

America was born and grew from a faith that has bound us in a communion of spirit, ever since our ancestors crossed the Atlantic, not to find soil for their ploughs, but liberty for their souls. When Daniel Webster visited the site at Plymouth Rock in 1820, he said, "...let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers brought hither their high veneration for religion. They journeyed by its light and labored

by its hope. They sought to...diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, and literary."

When we speak of faith and its importance today, it is not to impose our beliefs on others, but to ensure freedom of worship for all, so that America may remain one Nation under God, and in our institutions and daily lives, we may be the vessels of His wisdom, truth, and love.

All we have been and hope to be, all our power for good to make this world better, begin in the miracles of freedom and faith that God has placed in the human mind and heart. But these great gifts are not ours to enjoy in splendid isolation; they are the birthright of all His children.

We can be heartened by the great outpouring of generosity across our land from citizens sharing the bread of life with others in great need at home and in faraway lands. Charitable giving has surpassed \$65 billion, an all-time high and a sum greater than the national budgets of two-thirds of the world's countries. There has also been a sharp upsurge in contributions and voluntary activities in the last 4 years.

The response of our people to the crisis in Ethiopia has been miraculous. Almost \$75 million has been sent in donations for food by private individuals, with thousands of church groups donating time and resources. But millions of people remain desperately hungry, and they need our continued support.

I have spoken about our responsibility to help others' material needs. But can we commemorate Passover and Easter, can we celebrate this message of freedom and hope, and not remember, as well, the great spiritual needs of God's children who have no freedom and little hope?

There are over 100 million Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Soviet Empire. But they are forbidden to give religious instruction to their children, forbidden to study the Bible, or the Torah, or to worship Allah, or even to wear crosses on their necks. In Lenin's words, "Religion and communism are incompatible in theory and in practice. We must fight religion." And fight it they do with persecution ranging from intolerance, to ostracism, to imprisonment and torture in their infamous labor and prison camps and so-called psychiatric hospitals.

Dr. Ernest Gordon, President of an organization named CREED, Christian Rescue Effort for the Emancipation of Dissidents, noted that on a recent trip to Eastern Europe he spoke with a priest who had spent 10 years in prison. The priest asked him to deliver a message to the West: there is a war going on; it is not nuclear, but spiritual. The fall-out of the atheistic explosion is everywhere. But Dr. Gordon added, "Although the fall-out may be everywhere, God, too, is everywhere and not even tyrannies can keep Him out."

My friends, the cause of freedom is the cause of God. The United States will do everything humanly possible to work with the Soviets for a safer world. But to betray our deepest values is to betray ourselves; to ignore the prophet Isaiah's words, "bind up the broken-hearted...proclaim liberty to the captives of the world," is to make our own freedom a sham.

Page 4

It is time for believers of all faiths to unite in a crusade to help our brothers and sisters who cry out for freedom -- from the Mujhadin under fire in Afghanistan, to brave heroes like Scharansky, Sakharov, and Father Yakunin inside the U.S.S.R., to embattled churches from Poland to Nicaragua. Let us join hands, lift up our voices, and ask for God's help, remembering always that where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

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

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Radio Talk: Taxes

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

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Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Fleference, ext. 2590.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/10/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ____

SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: TAXES

(4/10 - 4:00 pm draft)

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REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President for his edits.

RESPONSE:

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David L. Chew Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

(Elliott) April 10, 1985 4:00 p.m.

Received SS.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: TAXES SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1985

My fellow Americans, I want to talk today about one of the most historic reforms our Administration will propose as a top priority for passage in Congress this year. Next month, we will unveil our plan to completely overhaul our tax code, changing it from a source of confusion and contempt to a model of fairness, simplicity, and incentives for work, risktaking, and growth.

For millions of us, this weekend marks the final countdown to April 15th -- the dreaded day we must bare our financial souls, account for every nickle earned, and deliver to the I.R.S. all taxes due. It is a legal obligation we must meet.

But paying taxes is painful nonetheless, not only because tax rates remain too high -- which they are, despite the reductions we've made -- but because over the years the entire tax system has come to mirror Washington itself: a complicated, frustrating, unfair mystery of legalistic gobbledygook and loopholes never designed, it seems, to help everyday wage earners, only those who can afford high-priced attorneys and accountants.

How many times have we heard about profitable companies paying little or no taxes; or seen advertising for sophisticated tax shelter schemes that enable individuals to avoid paying their fair share of taxes; or seen luxuries being written off that must eventually be paid for by somebody else -- that somebody, of course, being you. I wonder how many Americans realize that tax deductions are available for seminars and conferences held on cruise ships.

We know that our tax code is unfair. We know that it is complicated beyond belief -- millions of Americans need professional assistance just to complete their returns. And we know that it has bred another problem every bit as serious, the wasting of economic resources.

With all the special provisions in our tax laws, too many economic decisions are being made for tax reasons alone, rather than in response to the marketplace. And that causes precious investment to be diverted from areas that could make the United States more productive and competitive in world markets.

Let me cite one example. Have you ever heard of a see-through building? It's one that has no interior walls because it has no tenants. Between 1983 and 1984, only about half of the increase in available commercial office space was reflected in rentals. The other half resulted in vacancies. You see, the tax benefits for investment in some kinds of real estate deals are so generous that being able to rent space may be secondary. The result is overbuilding and high vacany rates in many American cities.

It's time for change, sweeping change, and when we return from the Economic Summit in May, we intend to move. Treasury Secretary Jim Baker has been meeting with congressional leaders and authors of other tax reform plans, and we expect to advance a proposal that can win bipartisan approval this year.

Historically, tax reform has become a code word for tax increases. But our reform will not be a tax increase in disguise, and it probably won't please Washington's army of high-powered lobbyists. What our plan <u>will</u> do is give the average family, and every American with courage to invest in a new idea, opportunities to make this economy the greatest miracle for growth and human progress the world has ever seen.

With your support, this will be the last year the American people face today's high tax barriers. We'll propose reducing sharply personal tax rates, bringing the top rate down to 35 percent or lower, and providing most Americans a tax cut. Our plan will mark an historic commitment to American families, for we intend to increase significantly the personal exemption which will be especially beneficial to low-income families, helping them leave welfare behind, find productive jobs, and join those now paying taxes and contributing to a bigger G.N.P.

We will lower personal rates by broadening the base -- in other words, eliminate the shelters that make tax evasion legal. But longstanding provisions like deductions for your home mortgage will be maintained.

As we lower rates on the people, we'll reduce corporate rates, too. In meeting concerns for fairness and neutrality, we must not jeopardize economic growth. My goal is to keep America the premier job-creating Nation on Earth, and we intend to unleash the full power of entrepreneurship.

Together, we can seize this historic moment; we can create a new tax code, clean, simple, and fair; we can make ours the land r. T

of the future, offering unlimited opportunity to all Americans who dare to live for their dreams.

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

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Presidential Radio Talk: Budget and Upcoming Debate

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed radio talk, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Fleference, ext. 2590.

5/81

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/17/85

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ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: Thursday, 4/18, 2:00 pm

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: BUDGET AND UPCOMING DEBATE (4/17 - 6:00 p.m. draft)

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REMARKS:

Please submit any comments or edits directly to Ben Elliott with a copy to me by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, April 18. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew **Staff Secretary** Ext. 2702

(Gilder/BE) April 17, 1985 6:00 p.m.

ReceivedSS

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: BUDGET AND UPCOMING DEBATE_ SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1985

My fellow Americans: I want to talk to you today about an historic opportunity that lies before our Nation. We have within our reach the opportunity to regain control of Federal spending for the first time in 25 years, halt the harmful growth of Government, and pave the way for strong economic growth into the 1990's and beyond.

This Monday, we are sending the Senate a compromise budget plan that could virtually eliminate the deficit by the end of the decade. We haven't simply slowed the Federal money machine; we've broken it down and remodeled it along the guidelines of fairness and efficiency. The bill will be officially known as "an amendment to Senate Concurrent Resolution 32," but I like to think of it as the Taxpayers' Protection Plan.

I'll get down to specifics in a moment, but first I want to address a related issue. One of the best things about this budget is that it will pull the rug out from under any tax increase anyone may be contemplating. Im fact, this budget plan will open the way for the tax reform bill we'll be sending to Congress next month -- a bill that will lower your tax rates even further and carry our economy upward on a new surge of growth, job creation, and real increases in personal income.

Unfortunately, there are those in Congress who still secretly want to raise your taxes. Their last hope is to sabotage our Taxpayers' Protection Plan and so force the Congress

into desperate measures. They certainly are out of touch -- not only with the mood of the country, but with the tide in Congress as well. Last Monday, I received a very nice present from Representative Connie Mack of Florida. He gave me a letter with the signatures of 146 House Republicans who have pledged to uphold my promised veto of any tax increase -- and that's more than enough.

The tax-increasers should understand that I'm ready and waiting to veto any tax increase they send up, however they disguise or package it. Is it too much to ask these tax hold outs to stop acting as spoilers? Why dom't they renounce their hidden agenda to raise taxes and join with the rest America by getting on board the Taxpayers' Protection Plan.

Still others in Congress, who want to avoid making the tough political decisions necessary to really reform our budget, have proposed a simple "freeze" instead. But a "freeze" would just keep us pouring billions of dollars into wasteful programs; it would cut so deeply into our defense budget as to endanger our national security; and in the end, it would simply not save enough. Worse, that same old Government spending machine would be left intact and unchanged, ready to be revved-up again next year by the next Congress.

Let me give you an example of why reform is a much fairer and better approach. When the Government originally took over Amtrak, its supporters assured the public that the rail line would soon be turning a profit. Instead, it's ended up costing us billions. Every time an Amtrak train leaves the station,

taxpayers have to shell out \$35 for each and every passenger. In many cases it would be cheaper just to hand all those passengers a free plane ticket. If we can't eliminate a program like that, we'll never be able to cut back on overspending.

Our Taxpayers' Protection Plan also protects basic benefits for Social Security while adding on a guaranteed 2-percent hike that isn't provided in current law. Special provisions have been made for the low-income elderly and disabled, who will get a full cost-of-living adjustment plus an additional \$10 or \$15 a month in Supplemental Security income. Likewise, safety net programs for the poor, such as food stamps and A.F.D.C., will stay fully funded.

We've compromised greatly on defense spending, paring it down to the absolute minimum necessary to protect our national security. The defense budget can no longer now be used as a whipping boy by those unable to face the tough job of cutting our domestic spending.

Such historic reform of Federal spending entails some hard choices, but they are important choices, and if we bravely make them now we will be ensuring ourselves a better and brighter future. In 1961, John F. Kennedy challenged our Nation in his inaugural address. "Ask not what your country can do for you," he said. "Ask what you can do for your country." Today our Nation is being challenged again -- challenged to accept greatness. Our Taxpayers' Protection Plan will give us a solid foundation on which to build a mighty economy powered by tax rate reductions and tax reform. We have always been a Nation that's

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dared to dream big, and I just don't think there's any reason to stop now.

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

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Radio Talk: Europe

Counsel's Office has reviewed the draft radio talk. The last sentence in the first full paragraph on page three should be deleted. Any reference to "banana republics" strikes me as extremely impolitic at the present time.

cc: David L. Chew

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Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

WASHINGTON

June 13, 1985

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MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

The President's proposed radio address discusses the Administration's civil rights policies and contains a push for Senate confirmation of Brad Reynolds. I have no objection to the remarks -- other than the minor ones noted in the attached memorandum -- but thought you would want to review them yourself.

Attachment

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WASHINGTON

June 14, 1985

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MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING FIRAH COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Radio Talk: Civil Rights

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed remarks. In the interest of strict accuracy, the "and" in line 5 of the first paragraph should not be included in the quotation from the Declaration of Independence; it does not appear in the text.

I would also delete the "and" in line 5 of the third paragraph. As written the sentence could be read to mean that employment, voting, and housing are the only areas covered by law, which is not correct. Deleting the "and" makes the list seem illustrative rather than exhaustive.

In recard to Brad Reynolds, unfortunately we cannot state literally that "no one questions...his character;" unfortunately, some have said he lied to the Committee.

Finally, the statue of Justice does not preside "over all our court rooms."

cc: Davić L. Chew

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WASHINGTON

June 13, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE BRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Radio Talk: Civil Rights

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed remarks. In the interest of strict accuracy, the "and" in line 5 of the first paragraph should not be included in the guotation from the Declaration of Independence; it does not appear in the text.

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Finally, the statue of Justice does not preside "over all our court rooms." I would chance "all" to "many of."

cc: David L. Chew

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DATE: 6/13/85	ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COM	AMENT DUE BY:	9:00 a.m.	tomorrow
SUBJECT: RADIO TALK:	Civil Rights			

Document No.

(6/13/85 - 2:30 p.m. - draft)

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 9:00 a.m. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

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David L. Chew Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

(Gilder/BE) June 13, 1985 2:30 p.m.

Rectived 55 3 C? PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: CIVIL RIGHTS SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1985

My fellow Americans, in less than 3 weeks we'll be celebrating the greatest blow ever struck in the cause of freedom -- the Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be "self-evident," our Founding Fathers declared, "that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights."

That Declaration inspired our Nation to reach new heights of human freedom, but its promise was never completely fulfilled until we abolished the shame of slavery from our land and -- in the lifetime of many of us -- wrote the civil rights statutes that outlawed discrimination by race, creed, gender, nationality, or color.

For the last 4-1/2 years this Administration has acted vigorously to defend and extend every American's fundamental rights to equal treatment. Under Attorney General Bill Smith and now under Attorney General Ed Meese, the Justice Department has worked to end discrimination in employment, voting, and housing -- in all the areas covered by law. We have targeted criminal civil rights violations as a special concern, and increased to an all-time high the number of cases filed in this area. We have a proud record on civil rights.

The principle that guides us, and the principle embodied in the law, is one of non-discrimination. I'm sure you've all seen the statue of Justice that presides over all our court rooms, the woman with the scales of justice in her hands and the blindfold covering her eyes. Her eyes are covered because true justice should never depend on whether you are rich or poor, whether the color of your skin is black or white, or whether you're Hispanic, Asian, or your ancestors came from Italy; Poland, Latvia, or any other country -- including Ireland, where my family is from.

Equal treatment and equality before the law -- these are the foundations on which a just and free society is built. But there are some today who, in the name of equality, would promote discrimination, who, in the name of fairness, ask for special privileges. They have turned the meaning of our civil rights laws on its head, claiming they mean exactly the opposite of what they say. These people say that we should discriminate in favor of some groups through hiring quotas, under which some people get particular jobs or promotions solely because of their race or sex, not because of their qualifications. They say the U.S. Government should be in the business of promoting and enforcing discrimination through quotas. Furthermore, they say this is what the civil rights laws tell us we must do.

Well, they couldn't be more wrong. When the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was being debated in the Congress, Senator Humphrey, one of its leading advocates, adamantly insisted that the Act would outlaw quotas. He said he'd "eat the pages" of the Act if it contained "any language which provides that an employer will have to hire on the basis of percentage or quota related to color." I think if Senator Humphrey saw how some people today are interpreting that Act, well, he'd get a severe case of

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indigestion. The truth is, quotas deny jobs to many who are better qualified but who weren't born the correct race or sex. That's discrimination, pure and simple, and it's exactly what the civil rights laws were designed to stop.

In 1980 and 1984, I ran for President and told you I was opposed to quotas. In response to your mandate, our Administration has worked to keep the civil rights laws true to their original meaning and to make the U.S. Government truly colorblind. The leader of our entire civil rights effort is William Bradford Reynolds, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Brad Reynolds is not only a tireless fighter against discrimination, he's a brilliant and dedicated lawyer.

Recently, I nominated Brad Reynolds to be Associate Attorney General, the number three job in the Justice Department. He deserves that promotion. But his nomination is being opposed by some who don't agree with him about civil rights -- by some who favor the discrimination of forced quotas. No one questions Brad Reynold's qualifications or his character. Indeed, everyone knows Brad Reynolds is an idealist, that he's firmly committed to the same vision of a colorblind society that I am. I've nominated Brad Reynolds to carry out my policies -- the policies for which you elected me, the policies that reflect our best principles as a Nation. I am confident that the Senate will confirm him.

Twenty-two years ago, Martin Luther King proclaimed his dream of a society rid of discrimination and prejudice, a society where people would be judged on the content of their character,

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and the second

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not by the color of their skin. That is the vision that our entire Administration is committed to, a society that keeps faith with the promise of our Declaration of Independence, a proud society in which all men truly are created free and equal under God.

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

WASHINGTON

August 22, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Radio Talk: Education

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/21/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10 :00 a.m. 8/22/85 SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: EDUCATION (August 21 6:30 pm draft) ACTION FYI **ACTION FYI** LACY **VICE PRESIDENT** ∇ Z McFARLANE REGAN V. V OGLESBY WRIGHT ROLLINS BUCHANAN $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$ **CHAVEZ** V RYAN Z CHEW P TSS. SPEAKES Z DANIELS SPRINKEL FIELDING **SVAHN** Q. FRIEDERSDORF THOMAS VZ J HENKEL TUTTLE ELLIOTT ∇ HICKEY HICKS KINGON J.

REMARKS: Please give your comments directly to Ben Elliott's office, with an info copy to my office by /0:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thanks.

1535 AUG 22 ... 1 8 00 **RESPONSE:** David L. Chew

Staff Secretary Ext. 2702 Recolutions

(Gilder/PJB) August 21, 1985 6:30 p.m.

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PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: EDUCATION SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1985

My fellow Americans:

As summer draws to a close, our thoughts naturally turn to the coming school year. Few things could be more central to the life and health of our Nation than the education of our children. Our schools hold the future of America in their hands; they will decide whether that future is enlightened, free, and informed, or shrouded in the darkness of ignorance.

From the beginning, our Administration has made excellence in education a number-one priority, and from the beginning, we have recognized that excellence is formed in the classroom -- by teachers, administrators, and parents working closely together to give their children the very best education possible -- not by bureaucrats in the far-off city of Washington. When it comes to education, it's the classroom, not Congress, where the real action is.

That's why, starting in the next couple of weeks, Bill Bennett, our Secretary of Education, will be traveling to eight elementary, junior, and senior high schools across the country and teaching a class in each one. Bill will not only be honoring the teaching profession and paying tribute to the art of teaching, he should be having something of a learning experience for himself as well. Now, I remember from my own school days the tough time we used to give substitute teachers, and I warned Bill he might be getting in over his head. But he said he's had a lot

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of practice dealing with unruly groups when he testifies before the Congress. Still, I'm going to ask all of you kids who may be in his class, as a favor to me, go easy on him.

A recent Gallup poll found that an overwhelming majority of Americans want their schools to do two things above all else: to teach students how to read, speak, and write correctly, and just as important, to teach them a standard of right and wrong. They want their schools to help their children develop, as Thomas Jefferson said, both an "honest heart and a knowing head."

Unfortunately, parents today all too often find themselves confronted with so-called experts and a large battery of liberal opinion that says their children's education should be what they call "value neutral." Well, to me, and I bet most Americans, a "value neutral education" is a contradiction in terms. The American people have always known in their bones how intimately knowledge and values are intertwined.

We don't expect every child to rediscover calculus on his own, but some would give him no guidance when it comes to the even more fundamental discoveries of civilization: our ethics, morality, and values. If we give our children no guidance here, if we give them only a "value neutral" education, we are robbing them of their most precious inheritance -- the wisdom of generations that is contained in our moral heritage.

Our Founding Fathers weren't neutral when it came to values. "We hold these truths to be self-evident," they wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "that all men are created equal, that are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable

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rights . . " Our forefathers found their inspiration, justification, and vision in the Judeo-Christian tradition that emphasizes the sanctity of life and the worth of the individual. It was certainly never their intention to bar God from our public life. And as I have said before, the good Lord who has given our country so much, should never have been expelled from our Nation's classrooms.

Around the country, the educational picture is improving: violence in schools is dropping and test scores are moving up. Most important, community pride and involvement in our schools is way up. My message to parents is simply this: your school system exists to serve you. Keep getting involved. The more parents get involved with their children's schooling and education, the better it will be, and the brighter the future of our country will be.

Finally, I'd like to address a few words to all you students. If you're anything like me when I was in school, you're looking forward to the beginning of the school year with mixed feelings. You've probably got those end-of-summer blues now, but soon you'll be wrapped up in the excitement of your classes. You too can help make America's educational system second to none. If your teachers don't give you homework, ask for it. If discipline is lax, see how you can help to make it better. It's your right to learn, your right to the opportunities that a good education can bring. Remember, you're not only studying for yourself, but for your family, your <u>73</u>

community, your country, and your God. So go for it, kids. Give it your best effort.

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