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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 12, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Radio Talk: Nicaragua

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced radio talk, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective. On page 3, line 21, should "the" be "them"?

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

ATE: 12/12/85 A	CTION/CONCURR	ENCECO	MMENT DUE BY: 3:00	F.M. TODAT
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REMARKS:

Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 3:00 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Elliott/NSC)
December 12, 1985
10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: NICARAGUA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1985

My fellow Americans, it is the season for joy, but my thoughts turn today to those who cannot share our spirit -- to millions of unhappy souls trapped by regimes that are at war with God and man. I'd like to speak about one such country close to our borders -- the communist dictatorship in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua today is an imprisoned nation; it is a nation condemned to unrelenting cruelty by a clique of very cruel men; dictators in designer glasses who are nothing more than modern-day fascists drunk with power and all its brutal applications. They stripped the Nicaraguan people of their rights with a state of emergency decree hast October 15th. Yet that decree only made official, and by their reckoning permissable, the theft of liberty that took place years ago.

During Hannukah and Christmas, we are mindful that no institution more deeply embodies or glorifies or seeks to perfect the moral and spiritual goodness of man than the church in all of its denominations. Yet, in Nicaragua, the church is the enemy.

In Nicaragua the tiny population of Jews was bullied and driven away. Protestant ministers and law people were recently arrested, interrogated, and tormented at secret police headquarters -- some forced to stand naked in freezing rooms for long periods. Among those threatened, the head of the Campus Crusade for Christ, National Director of the Bible Society, and Director of the Children's Bible Study Organization.

In Nicaragua, Cardinal Obando y Bravo, a rock of a man, a great hero of truth and courage, has been prevented from speaking freely to his flock; just this week, he was forbidden to read a letter from the Pope. Tomas Borge, one of the ruling communists, has told him, "...Nicaraguan priests will be dealt with severely... The revolution is eternal."

In Nicaragua, church officials were warned by the State

Police: we will expel foreign priests and draft the seminarians.

Foreign priests were expelled, seminarians were drafted and are serving as virtual prisoners in the Sandinistas armed forces.

And in Nicaragua, the Catholic Church's newspaper has been seized and Radio Catolica censored, sometimes shut down entirely. The same dictators who insulted Pope John Paul II, who refused to let Mother Teresa even visit Nicaragua, also stopped Radio Catolica from broadcasting the Beatitude: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for justice sake, for theirs shall be the reign of Kingdom." The truth is, these men are nothing but thugs, a gang of hard-line communists to whom the word of God is a declaration of liberation that must be stamped out.

Their denial of rights, their trampling of human dignity, their wrecking of an economy with suffocating socialist controls, hurt and deeply offend civilized people.

But there is another cause for deep concern -- the spectre of Nicaragua transformed into an international base for terror and subversion.

A Cuban contingent of over 3,000 military personnel now lead and advise the Nicaraguan forces down to the smallest combat

units. The Cubans fly the Soviet assault helicopters that gun down Nicaraguan freedom fighters and now kill-unarmed civilians.

In fact, over 7,000 Cubans, Soviets, East Germans, Bulgarians, Libyans, PLO and other communist bloc and terrorist groups are turning Managua into a breeding ground for subversion. We note with concern that a delegation of Nicaraguans is now in-Iran; and that Nicaragua is deadly serious about spreading its revolution: Cross border violations against peaceful Costa Rica continue; and the connection between communist Sandinistas and the recent terrorist attack against the Supreme Court in Columbia is undeniable.

What are we to do about such aggressions? What are we to do about Cuba's willful violation of the 1962 Kennedy-Khruschev agreement of which President Kennedy said, "...if Cuba is not used for the export of aggressive communist purpose, then there will be peace in the Caribbean."

The answer is, more than we are doing now. If Nicaragua can get material support from communist nations and terrorists to prop up a hated communist dictatorship, should not the forces fighting for democracy, which now number over 20,000, be entitled to more effective help for freedom? Shall we leave the defenseless before their enemies, the enemies of freedom?

I believe the answer to this question must be no. To reinforce this message this week, I sent my new National Security Advisor, Vice Admiral John Poindexter, om his first foreign trip, accompanied by Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, to

visit the Central American democracies to emphasize our commitment to a democratic outcome in Nicaragua.

Those who struggle for freedom look to America -- for inspiration -- and help. If we fail them in a time of need -- then we also fail ourselves -- as the last, best hope of liberty.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Radio Talk:

Legislative Achievements of 1985

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft radio talk. On page 2, line 7, "2" should be "9." Gramm-Rudman was signed on December 12.

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/18/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:30 P.M. 12/19/85

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1985

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Ben Elliott, with an information copy to me, by 1:30 p.m. tomorrow. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Robinson/BE)
December 18, 1985
7:00 p.m.

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PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1985 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1985

My fellow Americans, this week the Congress adjourned for the holidays, and today I'd like you to join me in considering the main legislative achievements of 1985.

None is more important than the passage last week in the House of a tax reform bill -- a bill which calls for the most sweeping overhaul of the income tax system in more than 40 years. The House bill is broadly based upon the proposal first put forward by our Administration. It includes sharp cuts in both personal and corporate income tax rates, a large increase in the standard deduction, and an enlargement of the personal exemption. To help the needy, the bill would remove some six million low-income workers from the tax rolls altogether.

It's clear that in working on this bill, the House took to heart what I said in my speeches and you said in your thousands of letters and telegrams: it's time to promote economic growth and give the family a break.

Historic as it is, the House bill unfortunately contains serious flaws. These the Senate must deal with when the Congress returns to Washington early in 1986. I know you join me in looking to the Senate to perform its work quickly -- and to make absolutely certain that the final bill is unequivocally pro-family, pro-jobs, and pro-future.

The passage of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Amendment -- a measure to bring Federal spending under control once and for

all -- represented a second historic achievement. This amendment mandates steady decreases in the Federal budget deficit every year for five years, with the result that in 1990, the Federal Government will have a balanced budget at last. All my political life I've urged the Government to stop spending more than it takes in, so it was with great pleasure that I signed this measure into law just 2 days ago. It's my hope that history will record that day as the moment when the relentless expansion of the Government was finally brought to a halt.

But although Gramm-Rudman-Hollings tells us that we must cut the deficit, it does not altogether tell us how to do so. And that means we still have our work cut out for us. Will we fund wasteful, pork barrel programs at the expense of our national defense? Will we kill off our prosperity with a tax increase?

No matter how intense the political pressures become, the answer to each of these questions must and will remain an unmistakable "No."

Defense spending must depend not upon this or that guideline, but one consideration alone: the size of the threat with which our adversaries confront us. To sacrifice our defenses in order to balance the budget would be to abdicate the paramount duty of the government to the people. As for a tax hike, the lesson is clear. When Government raises taxes, incentives for achievement are undermined and economic growth is stifled. My friends, I simply refuse to let that happen again. I want you to know that my veto pen is inked up and ready to go.

I'm just waiting for the first tax hike that has the temerity to come across my desk.

We intend to meet the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings requirements in the only proper way -- by seeing to it that Government fulfills its few and legitimate functions more efficiently at the same time that we eliminate Government wasta.

The final legislative achievement I want to mention concerns foreign affairs; it involves the emergence in the Congress of a new mood, a new point of view. During this past year, the Congress repudiated isolationism and weakness, and reasserted America's legitimate world role on behalf of human freedom. Indeed, in August Congress voted aid to the freedom fighters in Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua and repealed a ban on aid to the freedom fighters in Angola.

This effort marked the appearance in Congress of a sober-minded realism -- a new willingness to see clearly and to confront the dread effects of Communist expansion upon innocent peoples like those of Afghanistan and Nicaragua. And it's especially significant that aid to freedom fighters was also approved by the Democratic-controlled House. I'm convinced that a new bipartisan foreign consensus is emerging -- one based upon realism and which unites Democrats and Republicans alike in support of a strong national defense and help for freedom fighters around the globe.

As so many of us prepare to celebrate Christmas, we can take comfort in the knowledge that, despite the hurly-burly of politics, the legislative process established by the Founding

Fathers is still working. Yes, as 1985 draws to a close, we Americans can take stock of our Nation with pride: inflation is down, jobs are up, our country is at peace, and the American spirit is proud and bright. From the Reagan family to your family, Merry Christmas -- and until next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 20, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSE TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Radio Talk: Afghanistan

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

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/20/85 1 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: SIGNING STATEMENT FOR H.R. 2100, FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to my office by 3:00 P.M. TODAY. The statement will be signed at the Monday ceremony. Thank lyou.

RESPONSE:

Statement of the President Regarding H.R. 2100, the Food Security Act of 1985.

I have today signed H.R. 2100, the Food Security Act of 1985, into law. This legislation reauthorizes virtually all of our farm programs -- from the major commodity price support programs, to research, credit, export promotion and food stamps. It represents the culmination of a year-long effort to establish a sound policy to guide U.S. Agriculture for the rest of this decade.

Earlier this year, the Administration proposed a market-oriented farm bill designed to correct past farm policies which have often worked at cross purposes. We have, on one hand, encouraged farmers to produce more commodities by artificially propping up prices, while at the same time, forced farmers to set aside ever increasing acres as a condition of participation in government programs in order to dampen supply. As a result of years of counterproductive farm policies, the American farmer has become less competitive in the international marketplace, the cost of our farm programs has risen to unsustainable levels, and farm income has stagnated. Clearly, our past policies have failed.

The legislation which I have signed today contains some of the needed reforms sought by my Administration.

o Crop price support levels which essentially establish U.S.

market prices are reduced, thus helping make U.S. commodities more competitive in the international market-place;

- Planting decisions are partially decoupled from government program income benefits by making those benefits available if only 50 percent of a farmer's acreage is planted into a price supported commodity. Planting decisions on the remaining 50 percent of the land will be based on market signals, not government benefits;
- o Farmers are discouraged from increasing their planted acreage for the purpose of receiving greater Federal income payments; and
- o Mandatory referendums and 1985 program changes have largely been eliminated.

Unfortunately, however, the bill essentially continues our farm programs in their same direction. By failing to totally decouple farm income support prices from planting decisions, and by keeping farm income support prices artificially high, we will assure that program participation will increase even further -- thus making more and more farmers dependent upon our farm programs. In addition, the legislation includes several highly objectionable features which must be changed. These include:

- o A mandatory three-year payment-in-kind export promotion program utilizing \$2 billion worth of commodities to encourage U.S. grain exports. A program of this size and nature threatens to precipitate an agricultural commodity trade war with our allies. Moreover, it will be impossible to fulfill the \$2 billion goal over the next three years without subsidizing U.S. grain exports to the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries;
- A mandatory reduction in the size of the sugar quota which threatens to jeopardize our relations with Caribbean Basin countries and the Phillipines; and
- The inclusion of a dairy assessment tax. Rather than reduce support prices, which would cause less efficient producers to voluntarily liquidate their dairy herds, the conference agreement would tax all milk producers to fund a program which would force the government to pay farmers to liquidate their herds.

These programs represent the worst in the way of policy. My Administration will seek modifications of these programs next year.

Although I have serious reservations about these and other provisions of the conference agreement, I have signed this bill

into law because it represents a step in the right direction toward a sound agricultural policy. It promises to make American farm products more competitive in the imternational marketplace, and it begins to break the link between high government price supports and production decisions. Most importantly, the bill will assure adequate supplies of reasonably priced food for American consumers and the beginning of renewed hope for America's farmers and our rural communities. They have suffered far too long because of the mistakes of the past. Because I believe this bill represents a promise of a better future, I have today signed it into law.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 2, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS(

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Radio Talk: Mexico and Canada

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

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: RAD	DIO TALK: Mexi	co and Canad	a, Saturđay,	January 4,	L986
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REMARKS:

DATE: 1/2/86

Please provide comments to Ben Elliott's office by 3:00 pm TODAY, also send an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Robinson/BE)
December 31, 1985
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: MEXICO AND CANADA SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1986

My fellow Americans: Permit me to start today by wishing you and your families a happy and prosperous 1986. As we begin this year, we can be grateful that America is at peace, that our economy is growing, and that throughout the land there's a renewed sense of confidence in America and our future.

I'd like to speak to you today about two vital aspects of foreign policy -- our relations with our neighbors, Mexico and Canada. Just yesterday, I traveled to Mexicali, Mexico to meet President de la Madrid. This was our fourth meeting since his election, and my seventh with a Mexican president since my own election in 1980.

Today relations between the United States and Mexico are good -- there's no clearer proof than our cooperation in rescue efforts after an earthquake struck Mexico City last September -- and my talks yesterday with President de la Madrid were marked by an air of friendship. We made progress in a number of areas which concern our two nations directly, including pollution control along the border, the improvement of Mexican-American bridges and border crossings, and means for expanding our trade.

We paid particular attention to the fight against illegal drugs -- both drug production and smuggling. In the past, our cooperation in this effort has helped stem the flow of narcotics into the United States, but in recent months drug smuggling has been picking up. Well, President de la Madrid and I have agreed

to redouble our efforts to bring this illegal trade -- this trafficking in the warping and destruction of human life -- to an end.

We're of one mind about the need to eliminate drug crops, to provide heavy patrols on the border, and to step up the prosecution of those who deal in illegal narcotics. Both Mexican and American officials have given their lives in the battle against illegal drugs. For the sake of those brave men -- and every young person whose life is at stake -- we must and will continue the fight until victory is won.

In the international field, President de la Madrid and I expressed our own viewpoints, notably on the problems of Nicaragua and other countries in Central America. President de la Madrid stressed that the conflicts in Central America have in many cases arisen from social and economic injustices.

For my part, I agreed that the nations of struggling regions have for many years been beset by poverty. And I pointed out that the United States is currently providing some \$__ million a year to the region in economic aid.

But, I felt bound to add something else, something crucial: the answer to Central America's problems is political and economic freedom -- not Soviet tanks and ruthless regimes like the communist dictatorship in Nicaragua that wages war against its own people. This is why the United States will continue to support those fighting for freedom and democracy in Nicaragua. Whatever our differences, President de la Madrid and I agreed on

the need to promote democracy in Nicaragua and throughout Central America.

Permit me to turn now to Canada, our neighbor to the north.

Last March I traveled to Quebec City to meet Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. The Prime Minister and I agreed that relations between our two countries are excellent. Canada and the United States maintain the largest trade between any two nations on Earth. We cooperate in the defense of North America and are partners in the NATO Alliance. We share a tradition of democracy and political stability and a firm commitment to economic growth. We're not only friends and neighbors. We're cousins.

Since our March meeting, the Prime Minister and I have worked to improve our relations still further. Already, we've committed ourselves to joint efforts in defense, the environment, and space. With regard to trade, we'll soon begin negotiations on an agreement of historic significance to both countries. Our goal is to promote free and open economic competition and to reduce those few barriers to our trade that still remain. When Prime Minister Mulroney visits Washington this March, I believe the mid-1980's will already have taken shape as the most productive period in the long history of Canadian-American friendship.

During my 1980 campaign for office, I called for a North

American Accord -- a renewed spirit of friendship and cooperation

between the United States, Mexico, and Canada, the three great

nations which share this continent. I was delighted to see that

spirit so much in evidence yesterday in Mexicali. And I'm confident that this spirit of friendship between our three countries will mark 1986 and the years beyond.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 16, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Radio Talk: Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	1/16/86	ACTION/	CONCURREN	CE/COMMENT DUE BY:	3:00	p.m.	TODAY	

SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ACTION FYI				ACTION	FYI
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LACY					

REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 3:00 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Noonan/BE)
January 16, 1986
10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1986

The first national holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. will be celebrated this Monday -- but Dr. King's birthday fell this past week, on Wednesday. I spent a good part of that morning at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School in Washington and believe me, that was the place to be. I've got a pen pal at the school, 8 year old Rudy Hines, and he's kept me up on the doings at the school and what he and his friends are thinking about. So I wasn't surprised that in spite of their age the children at the King school knew all about his life, and why it had meaning for all of us.

Martin Luther King believed -- as I and so many Americans do -- that our country will never be completely free until all Americans enjoy the full benefits of freedom. It is now 17 years since his death -- and enough time has gone by to get a sense of the progress made by minorities in America -- and by America in the area of race -- since 1968.

I think it's fair to say that we've come a long way in the pursuit of racial fairness in our country. And I think it's an extraordinary tribute to America that we could pull off such an enormous social revolution so thoroughly and so quickly. We have a lot to be proud of -- but nothing to be complacent about. We still have a way to go.

Enforcement of civil rights laws continues. More employment discrimination cases were filed by the Justice Department during

our first Administration than during the previous 4 years. And more criminal civil rights cases have been brought in more parts of the country than at any time in history.

We're committed to a society in which all men and women have equal opportunities to succeed -- and so we oppose the use of quotas. We want a colorblind society -- a society that, in the words of Dr. King, judges people "not on the color of their skin but on the content of their character."

I agree with the late Dr. King that our country won't be free until we're all free -- but I'd take it a step further: our Nation won't really be prosperous until everyone in it enjoys a share of the fruits of prosperity.

What progress have we made in this regard? Still not enough. Record high employment -- lower tax rates -- low inflation -- dropping interest rates -- and continued economic growth have helped Americans, and that includes black Americans. The policies of the past 5 years have produced the biggest economic expansion since the 1960's. Because of these policies about 400,000 black Americans moved up and out of poverty from 1983 to 1984. A record 10.7 million black Americans are holding jobs. In fact, blacks have gained 41,000 new jobs a month for a total of 1.5 million, since the recovery began. In addition, the median family income of black Americans, adjusted for inflation, rose almost 2 percent in 1984.

Another measure of expanding opportunity is minority entrepreneurship, and there too the news is encouraging. The Census Bureau reports that the number of black-owned businesses

increased 47 percent between 1977 and 1982. Today, there are an estimated 656,000 minority businesses in America.

Now, none of this happened by accident. The economy is expanding because from the beginning we made it clear that one of the prime motivating intentions of this Administration was to get the economy going again. And it was clear the way to do that was cut tax rates, stop penalizing initiative -- and sit back and watch the fireworks. All of us have benefited. The poverty statistics show John Kennedy was right when he said, following his own tax cuts, "A rising tide lifts all boats."

So -- we've done some boat-lifting the past few years but it's still not enough, we can do better. We can reform our tax system, make it fairer and lower most people's tax rates in the bargain. We can also get spending under control and keep Government from demanding more and more of your money.

For years now we've been asking for Enterprise Zones in our ghettoes -- areas that would get tax breaks to attract the businesses that create jobs. And in the area of education we support the educational voucher system -- in which families that live in poor areas can use vouchers to send their children to any of a number of public schools, whichever they think is doing better. No reason parents shouldn't be given more freedom of choice -- and no reason schools shouldn't compete for students.

The answer to the question "How are blacks doing in America?" is a paradox: it's "better than ever before and still not good enough." There's work to be done.

But if we stay on the right course, continue to allow the economy to expand and stay "colorblind" -- well, then blacks and whites, and people of all colors and all races will prosper.

Which would, I believe, make Dr. King happy indeed.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 23, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Radio Talk: Preview to the State of the Union

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks. A technical point that you may take or leave: I would delete "annual" in line two. The President's responsibility in this regard is to "from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union" (emphasis supplied). Article 2, Section 3. The Constitution does not require an annual message, though that is the historic practice.

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/23/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:30 p.m. 1/23/86

SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: PREVIEW TO THE STATE OF THE UNION

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KINGON	V o			
LACY				

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Ben Elliott by 4:30 p.m. today, with an information copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Elliott)
January 23, 1986
12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: PREVIEW TO THE STATE OF THE UNION SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1986

My fellow Americans, in 3 days I'll be going up to the Capitol to fulfill my annual responsibility of reporting to the Congress on the state of our Union. So I'm spending this weekend finishing up some last minute work on my speech, dotting the i's, crossing the t's, taking time to look back and to reflect on the days and months ahead.

A piece of history trivia for you. After Washington and Adams, Thomas Jefferson discontinued the practice of delivering an annual State of the Union Address. He began a long custom of delivering written messages. It wasn't until 1912 that President Woodrow Wilson returned to the House Chamber to deliver a speech.

Wilson felt a President could do a better job reading his message than a clerk could. He said, "I am very glad to have this opportunity to address the two Houses directly and to verify for myself...that the President is a person, not a mere department of the Government hailing Congress from some isolated island of jealous power...that he is a human being trying to cooperate with other human beings in a common service."

"Cooperate in a common service" -- I guess that pretty much says it all. Next Tuesday will be my fifth State of the Union Address. It's almost getting to be old hat. In each address, I've been mindful of one unchanging fact: I may be a Republican President -- and be mighty proud of it -- but I need the help of

Republicans and Democrats in the Congress if we're going to solve the serious problems confronting our Nation.

I think back to 1981 -- to the terrible economy, the inflation and interest rates, the sense that, both home and abroad, everything had gone haywire and was slipping out of control. And I remember the first thing I did was to ask the Congress to pass an economic recovery program -- one that would not be my program, but our program.

By "our" I meant not just those of us who serve here in Washington, but we the American people. And so it was. We came together as a Nation; all of us cooperated to rescue a country in distress and bring America back.

So now we look ahead again, with high hopes that we can build on our success and work in bipartisan spirit to make 1986 the year of opportunities for America.

A year of opportunities to create a future of unlimited opportunity -- a year to unite for full employment from Harlem to Hawaii, so that every American who seeks work can find work; to build a floor of security beneath every family, but no ceiling of opportunity above any American's head; to act now so that our children can truly look forward to inheriting a land freed from runaway debt, prices, crime and drugs, and, yes, freed from the terror of nuclear attack.

We know the challenges we must meet. We must make sure that Government no longer stands as a roadblock to a stronger and smarter economy, an economy that becomes more sophisticated

technologically in both our new and traditional industries, so we can compete successfully with our trading partners.

We need to make sure that the weight of taxes and education, health and retirement costs doesn't crush those who will lead America into the 21st century with their risk-taking and hard work.

And we need to do all that's required of us to keep America secure. In this storm-tossed world of terrorists and totalitarians, America must always champion freedom, for freedom is the one tide that will lead us to the safe and open harbour of peace.

So let us join hands, Republicans and Democrats, and go forward together, vowing not to flinch from the difficult but wise decisions that await us to get Government spending under control, to make our tax system a model for greater simplicity, fairness, and growth, and to prepare America for a prosperous future in a world that is free and at peace.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Shays' rebellion, sparked by, among other grievances, a high land tax that weighed down on working people. Shays, a farmer and veteran of the revolution, had fought for the independence and freedom of our country.

Shays' protest was put down forcefully, but it helped lead to the adoption of the United States Constitution, a blueprint for freedom giving each of us the right to help direct the course of our Government -- to fight against injustice, if you will, without having to lead an armed revolution.

Our future can be as heroic and as exciting as we will it to be. Each day brings new opportunities for great dreams and great feats. Let's begin now, united, confident, and determined to get the job done.

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