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(Elliott)
May 2, 1983
9:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ANNUAL CONVENTION
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1983

President Gaffney, officers, honored guests, and may I add with great pride and pleasure -- my fellow members of the National Rifle Association.

I'm delighted to be here in Phoenix, in this great, good neighbor state of Arizona. And I'm delighted to be with all of you. It does my spirit good to be with people who never lose faith in America, who never stop believing in her future -- and who never back down one inch from defending the Constitutional freedoms that are every American's birthright.

What an honor to be together on the one hundred tenth annual meeting of this great organization. Nowadays, I'm honored to belong to any organization that's been around longer than I have.

Not too long ago, I had a very memorable visit from your officials. They walked into the Oval office with some members of the "F" troop of the Texas army. Now when I saw how those fellows were dressed, and what they were packing, I didn't know whether to stretch out my hand, or make a run for it through the Rose Garden.

Well, it turned out they wanted to induct me into the Texas army, and to give me a beautiful, hand-crafted flintlock rifle. Thank you for taking such good care of it. And Cris Hirsch -- are you out there? -- I just want you to know again how much I appreciate it and look forward to using it someday.

Being a part of this group, you know that good organizations don't just happen. They take root in a body of shared beliefs. They grow strong from leadership with vision, initiative and determination to reach great goals. And what you've accomplished speaks for itself: more than 2½ million members and NRA's getting stronger every day.

We saw proof of that strength recently, many of you share a special blessing with me -- you're Californians. And you shocked California last November when you mobilized to help send Proposition 15 down to defeat. You pointed out that police would be so busy arresting handgun owners, they would be unable to protect the people against criminals. It's an annoying little truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun control laws. I happen to know that from personal experience.

So if I may just put in a little plug: I believe in your leaders, Harlen Carter and Warren Cassidy; and I think they deserve to stay right where they are doing their great job. A house divided cannot stand. May you remain united and strong.

You know, I've always felt a special bond with the members of your group. You live by Lincoln's words, "Important principles may and must be inflexible." Your philosophy puts its trust in people. So you insist individuals be held responsible for their actions. The NRA believes America's laws were made to be obeyed; and that our Constitutional liberties are just as important today as 200 years ago. And by the way, the Constitution does not say Government shall decree the right to keep and bear arms. The Constitution says ". . . the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

I believe you and I share the same goals: A strong America, carrying the banner of freedom, and secure from threats to her domestic tranquility, economic well-being and National security.

Now no group does more to promote gun safety and respect for the laws of this land than the NRA -- and I thank you for those efforts. Still, we've both heard the charge that by supporting gunowners' rights we encourage a violent, shoot-em-up society. But just a minute. Don't they understand that most violent crimes are not committed by decent, law-abiding citizens, they're committed by career criminals. Guns don't make criminals. Criminals use guns, and locking those criminals up and throwing away the key is the best gun control law we could ever have.

When I was Governor of California, we added 5 to 15 years to the sentence of any criminal who committed a crime with a firearm. I am even more convinced today that this is the right approach.

I've said many times that our Administration did not come to Washington to continue business as usual. Either we make fundamental reforms that change things for the better, or we aren't doing our job. We think it's time that our loved ones be able to walk the streets of America without being afraid. So we are making some changes.

We have declared war on organized crime and the career criminal element in America. More than 100 prosecutors' offices are working with special teams around the country to throw the book at career criminals in court. And we are determined to cripple the drug pushers who are poisoning the minds and bodies of our children. We want mandatory sentences, we want firm and

speedy application of penalties and we want tougher parole laws. But there is one thing we will never ask for: we will never disarm any American who seeks to protect his or her family from fear and harm.

We are making headway in our crackdown on crime, while continuing to protect the rights of legitimate gunowners. A recent U.S. News and World Report story said, "It may be no accident that the first dip in U.S. crime totals in 5 years coincides with a nationwide crackdown on "career criminals." Serious crime dropped by 4 percent in 1982, after rising more than 21 percent since 1977 and 254 percent since 1962.

Longer prison sentences and tougher treatment are beginning to pay dividends. Make no mistake: this is happening because you the American people are fed up with crime. You're the ones who are organizing neighborhood patrols, supporting your local police, insisting that justice be carried out -- and every time you do that the flame of democracy burns brighter across America.

We can't solve these terrible problems overnight; but we are on the right track. Since we established a Florida task force against drugs, under the Vice President's leadership, drug-related arrests have risen sharply. Just last week, our agents trailed and then landed behind a suspicious plane on a grassy strip, near LaBelle, Florida. Two drug smugglers jumped from the plane to run away. One of them swam across a canal and hid in the bushes. The alligators didn't get him, but our enforcement people did. They seized 625 pounds of cocaine valued at \$187½ million. The drug runners aren't sending up a white flag. But they're feeling the heat and that's what we want.

As we crackdown on criminals, we are trying to move forward on another front: to reform the firearms laws which needlessly interfere with the rights of legitimate gunowners like yourselves. We are working closely with your leadership and Congressional sponsors of firearms legislation, such as Senators Hatch, McClure and Volkmer. I look forward to signing a bill that truly protects the rights of law-abiding citizens, without diminishing the effectiveness of criminal law enforcement against the misuse of firearms.

Your leadership's support has been important to us. Just last year, I signed two amendments into law: one eliminated unnecessary recordkeeping requirements on 22 caliber rimfire ammunition; the other saved many custom gunsmiths from financial ruin.

Today I'm pleased to announce that the Department of Defense will be reissuing guidelines for our military ranges. The ranges will be open for civilian use, provided there are no conflicts with military priorities. I support this idea, because clear back to World War I, one of the great talents of American soldiers has been their marksmanship. And it turned they developed this from shooting at targets as young boys.

I'm also pleased to announce the he Department of the Army will be increasing the sale of M-1's to high power competitors.

Permit me to say a few words about conservation and a group I've always considered to be the foremost conservationists of our wildlife resources -- America's sportsmen -- hunters and fishermen. As Teddy Roosevelt recognized, "The free, self-reliant, adventurous life, with its rugged . . . democracy;

the wild surroundings, the grand beauty of the scenery, the chance to study the way and habits of the woodland creatures -- all these unite to give to the career of the wilderness hunter its peculiar charm."

Unfortunately, there has been a kind of elitist attitude in Washington, that vast natural resource areas must be locked up to save the planet from mankind. I'm proud to say that Secretary of the Interior Jim Watt and I have a different philosophy -- one based on respect for both man and nature. We believe in the concept of stewardship, caring for the resources we have for the benefit of mankind.

Now let us be clear about those words, stewardship for the benefit of mankind. Our Administration favors economic development -- but not within our National parks or within our wilderness areas. We have not and will never propose that. What we are saying is: when the last Administration arbitrarily ~~locked up~~ ^{closed} 40 million acres of Alaskan land -- ^{sports} ~~and recreation areas~~ to stay out -- then, yes, you bet we think that was wrong and we're trying to correct it.

We're trying to correct something else too. A 1980 General Accounting Office report warned of shameful health and safety health hazards in our national parks. The previous Administration had cut the National Park Service budget for restoration and improvement every year. We have doubled it.

With the active support of NRA, we have also addressed one of America's most neglected and serious environmental problems -- the destruction of our wetlands. We have introduced in the

Congress the most important wetlands protection legislative proposal in history.

Our National parks, national wildlife refuges, our coastal barriers, wetlands, national forests and public lands are better managed today than they were 2 years ago -- and I think that story merits more attention than its received.

Another point which should be better understood: the backbone of our conservation efforts begins with American sportsmen. For over 40 years, hunters have been paying a special excise tax on sporting arms and ammunitions through the Pittman-Robertson Act -- nearly 1.2 billion since 1939. State wildlife managers have used these funds to preserve and enhance valuable wildlife habitat. Such wild creatures are the white tail deer, ruffled goose, wild turkey and pronghorn antelope have been brought back from the edge of extinction, in some cases, to grant abundance today.

This past year along American hunters have paid more than \$107 million toward these conservation efforts. The money will fund important studies of game and their habitat; it will provide food and habitat projects for wildlife; and portions will go for hunter safety and education courses -- where our youngsters will be taught marksmanship, firearms safety and some of the values and ethics of hunting and the outdoors.

I deeply appreciate your contributions to preserving our national treasures for the benefit of our people and future generations.

The idea of
Stewardship--preserving and caring for what we have, ~~and~~

bringing ~~the~~ ^{our economy} back to health, so you tye people can make

A ~~is~~ ^{is} great again *that's also a concie part of keeping America free and making*
her secure, know the road to recovery has been long and hard.
~~to. I KNOW THE ROAD TO RECOVERY HAS BEEN LONG AND~~

Too many people are still out of work. But I believe with all my heqart that we have turned the corner, we're on our way back, and like that fighter, Rocky Balboa, America is getting strong now.

inflation and interest rates down
You know when I see ~~important information~~
dramatically, taxes being cut, savings up, industrial production *and*
productivity up, housing starts and auto sales up, and
~~up housing starts and auto sales~~

workers being called back I have to wonder about something. Now that our program is doing what we said it would, how come they don't call it Reaganomics anymore?

Yes, our critics say we can do nothing right. They oppose our budget savings, they oppose lur tax cuts. Despite the calamity they created, they oppose the need for reforms. Well their attitude reminds me of a comment a great American made about a simioar situation. ~~M~~ "Those who are frightened," he said, "by boldness and cowed by the necessity for making decisions all we have done is unnecessary and subject to complain that ~~all we have done is unnecessary and subject to~~ great risks. Now that these speople are coming out of their storm cellars, they forget that there ~~was~~ ever was a storm."

President Franklin

Those words were spoken by ~~Franklin D. Roosevelt~~ Roosevelt in 1934.

~~him~~ Well I haven't forgotten the storm that was raging against every ~~family~~ family in 1980. So with all due respect, may I remind our critics: ~~you~~ those who saddled this Nation with double-digit infaltion, 21 1/2 percent interest rates--the highest in more than 100 years--and th4e worst tax burden in our peace-time history, ~~our~~ they are the ~~last~~ ^{they are} people who should be giving sermonettes on fairness and compassion.

If inflation had continued as it was ~~before we took~~ ^{when they were in} office, a family of four on a fixed income of \$20,000 would be more than \$1,500 poorer in purchasing power today. ~~after all, nothing had stayed on the books, and our tax cuts had not been passed, national struggle to reduce infaltion, to bring down interest rates, and maintaining the right to lower your taxes so we could Federal income taxes this year.~~ ^{Well, if this is} ~~restore hope and build down incentive.~~ ^{If that's the liberals' idea of} ~~fairness and compassion.~~ ^{can} may the good Lord be with you ~~to put this economy back on a sound footing.~~ ~~we must~~ ^{get their trush up.} if Tip and Teddy ~~and Brian~~ ever ~~lose their tempers.~~

President John F. Kennedy said in 1963, "...the largest, single barrier to full employment...and to a higher rage of economic growth is the...heavy drag of Federal income taxes on private purchasing power, initiative and incentive." ^{Those wise} words are just as true today. I will ~~veto~~ ^{veto} any attempt to tamper with ~~the~~ the third year of your tax cut, or the indexing provision. Indexing is the best ^{security} ~~protection~~ middle-income families have against ~~inflation~~ ^{bracket creep--being pushed} ~~inflation~~ ^{inflation} pushing you ~~into~~ ^{into} higher and higher tax rates. ^{Those do it}

Alvarado
El Salvador is under attack. *Guerrillas* ~~are~~ *are* determined to shoot their way into power. We have asked the Congress for a modest package of assistance -- with twice as much economic aid, as military aid!

The people who disagree ~~with~~ *with* war side rebuilding its military security don't seem to understand: our side is the only side where people are permitted to disagree and that should ~~not~~ *not* make them ~~nervous~~ *nervous*. It is not America that ~~invades~~ *invades* and occupies other countries; we ~~conduct~~ *conduct* a worldwide campaign of *subversion* terrorism; we build no walls to keep ~~our~~ *our* people in, or use armies ~~secret~~ *secret* of police and ~~prison~~ *gulag/prison* camps to keep ~~them~~ *them* quiet.

We are a free people, a democratic people, we believe in God and we love peace. But let us remember what George Washington warned ~~us~~ in 1790: "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving the peace."

Now ten days ago, I addressed the Congress on the subject of Central America ~~where~~ where the United States has fundamental and far-reaching interests. El Salvador ~~is~~ *is 10 miles* probably ~~knows~~ *is* closer to Phoenix than Phoenix is to Washington. *They have made many mistakes, and suffered.* But the people of El Salvador are not perfect, ~~but~~ they are trying, with great *bravery* and against tremendous odds, to build *the dream of* a society like ours.

They understand *that government must rest on the consent of the governed; and* the essence of liberty and democracy *that* only when people are free to worship, create and build, only when they are given a personal stake in deciding their destiny, and benefitting from their own risks--only then ~~can~~ *will* their ~~society~~ *society* become dynamic, prosperous, progressive and free.

The question is: Will we give El Salvador ~~the opportunity~~ *her chance* to ~~have~~ *walk* beside us in ~~the sunshine of~~ *the sunshine of* democracy? *Or will we turn our backs on a friend, letting her slide into the clutches of tyrants as we console ourselves with a false morality.*

President Gaffney, officers, honored guests, and may I add with great pride and pleasure--my fellow members of the National Rifle Association.

I'm delighted to be here in Phoenix, in this great, good neighbor state of Arizona. And I'm delighted to be with all of you. It does my spirit good to be with people who ~~have~~ never ^{lose} lost faith in America; ~~people who have~~ never stopped ^{her} believing in America's future; and ~~people who have~~ backed never down one inch from defending the Constitutional freedoms that are every American's birthright. *You have taken to heart Lincoln's words regarding the important principle that may and must be inflexible*

What an honor to be together on the one hundred tenth annual meeting of this great organization. You know something: *Nowadays,* these days, I'm honored to belong to any organization that's been around longer than I have.

~~It wasn't too long ago that I~~ ^{Not} ~~had a visit from your officials. They~~ ~~accompanied by the members of the "F" troop of the Texas army. Now when I saw how those~~ ~~fellows~~ ~~were dressed and~~ ~~what they were packing, I didn't know whether to stretch~~ ~~out my hand, or make a run for it through the Rose Garden.~~

Well, It turned out they ^{wanted to} ~~not only~~ inducted me into the Texas army, they also ^{and to give} gave me a beautiful, hand-crafted flintlock rifle. ~~I hope you fellows are taking~~ ^{and to thank you for} ~~good care of it.~~ ^{such} And Chris Hirsch, ^{--all you} ~~if you're out there,~~ ⁷⁻⁻ I just want you to know again how much I appreciate it and look forward to using it someday.

Being a part of this group, ~~im~~ you know that good organizations don't just happen. They take root in a body of shared beliefs. They grow strong from leadership with vision, initiative and determination to reach great goals. And what you've accomplished speaks for itself: more than 2 1/2 million ~~NRA~~ ^{NRA'S} members and ~~you're~~ getting stronger every day.

We saw proof of that strength recently, Many of you share a special blessing with me--you're Californians. And you ~~sent~~ ^{shocked} ~~shockwaves~~ ^{involving that help} through California last November when you sent Proposition 15 down to defeat. ^{AL} So if I may just put in a little plug: I ~~happen~~ to believe in your leaders, Harlen Carter and Warren Cassidy; and I think they deserve to stay right where they are doing their great job. A house divided cannot stand. ~~always~~ May you remain united and strong.

You know, I've always felt a special bond with ~~sportsmen~~ ^{the members} and women and the gun owners of America. You live by ~~Lincoln's~~ ^{Lincoln's} ~~principles~~ ^{principles}, "important principles ~~may~~ ^{must} be ~~impossible~~." ~~liberty~~ ^{liberties} ~~that~~ ^{puts its} trust ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ people. ~~You~~ ^{se} insist individuals be held responsible for their actions. The NRA believes ~~in~~ ^{and that} American's laws were made to be obeyed. The NRA believes our Constitutional ~~principles~~ ^{just} are every bit as ~~valid~~ ^{important} today as 200 years ago.

And by the way, the Constitution does not say Government shall decree the right to keep and bear arms. The Constitution says "...the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

You pointed out that police would be so busy arresting handgun owners, they would be unable to probe the people against criminals. It's an annoying little truth but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun control laws. I happen to know from personal experience.

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for the laws of this land than the NRA--and I thank you for those efforts. Still, ~~some~~ ^{we've both heard the} charge that by supporting gunowners' rights we encourage a violent, shbot-em-up society. But just a minute. D~~O~~ont they understand that most violent crimes are ~~committed by career criminals, not by decent, law-abiding citizens?~~ ^{not committed by decent, law-abiding citizens, they're} committed by career criminals. ~~not by decent, law-abiding citizens?~~ Guns don't make criminals. Criminals use guns, and locking those criminals up and throwing away the key is the best gun control law we could ever have.

When I was Governor of California, we added 5- 15 years to the sentence of any criminal who committed a crime with a firearm. I am even more convinced today that this is the right approach.

I've said many times that our Administration did not come to Washington to continue business as usual. Either we make fundamental reforms that change things for the better, or we aren't doing our job. ^{We think it's about time that our loved ones be able to walk the streets of America without being a afraid.} ~~Well,~~ ^{SO,} in case you hadn't heard, we are making some changes.

We have declared war on organized crime, ~~and we are going~~ ^{and we want to} ~~root out~~ ^{element in America} after the career criminals. ^{More than 100 prosecutors' offices around the country are working with special teams courts to take the book out career criminal out in court} We are determined to cripple the drug ~~trafficking~~ ^{pushers who are} that is poisoning the minds and bodies of our children. ^{we want} We ~~are working~~ ^{we want} for mandatory sentences, firm and speedy application of penalties, and ^{we want} tougher parole laws. ^{we want} But ~~there~~ ^{will, men's ask for;} is one thing we ~~will never do:~~ we will never disarm any American who seeks to protect ^{his or her family} himself, herself ~~and their~~ family from fear and harm.

making headway

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ We are ~~making~~ ~~progress~~ ~~in~~ ~~our~~ ~~crackdown~~ ~~on~~ ~~crime~~, ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~protect~~ ~~the~~ ~~legitimate~~ ~~rights~~ ~~of~~ ~~legitimate~~ ~~gunowners~~. A recent U.S. News and World Report story said, ~~and~~ ~~I~~ ~~quote~~, "It may be ~~no~~ ~~accident~~ that the first dip in U.S. crime totals in five years coincides with a nationwide crackdown on "career criminals." They ~~went~~ ~~on~~ ~~to~~ ~~note~~ that ~~S~~ serious crime dropped by 4 per cent in 1982, after rising more than 21 percent since 1977 and 254 percent since 1962.

Longer prison sentences and tougher treatment are beginning to pay dividends. ~~But~~ ~~none~~ ~~of~~ ~~this~~ ~~would~~ ~~be~~ ~~possible~~ ~~without~~ ~~support~~ ~~from~~ ~~you~~ ~~the~~ ~~people~~. You're the ones who are organizing neighborhood patrols, ~~insisting~~ ~~that~~ ~~justice~~ ~~be~~ ~~carried~~ ~~out~~ ~~and~~ ~~when~~ ~~that~~ ~~happens~~ ~~I~~ ~~say~~ ~~democracy~~ ~~is~~ ~~alive~~ ~~and~~ ~~well~~ ~~in~~ ~~America~~.

We ~~know~~ ~~We~~ ~~re~~ ~~not~~ ~~going~~ ~~to~~ ~~solve~~ ~~these~~ ~~problems~~ ~~overnight~~; ~~they've~~ ~~been~~ ~~permitted~~ ~~to~~ ~~accumulate~~ ~~for~~ ~~years~~. But we are ~~on~~ the right track. Since we established a ~~Florida~~ task force against drugs, under the Vice President's leadership, drug-related arrests ~~are~~ ~~up~~ ~~sharply~~. ~~Just~~ ~~last~~ ~~week~~, our agents tailed and then landed behind a suspicious plane on a grassy strip, near La Belle, Florida.

Two drug smugglers jumped from the plane to run away. One of them swam across a canal and hid in the bushes. The alligators didn't get him, but our enforcement people did. They seized 625 pounds of cocaine valued at \$187 1/2 million dollars.

~~as I say~~, we haven't won ~~the~~ ~~white~~ ~~flag~~. But ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ ~~giving~~ ~~up~~. ~~That's~~ ~~what~~ ~~we~~ ~~want~~.

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as I say, we haven't won the white flag. But we are not giving up. That's what we want.

Now let us be clear about those words, stewardship for the benefit of mankind
Our Administration favors economic development -- but not within our national
parks or within our wilderness areas. ~~We have not and will never do anything that~~
~~last Administration arbitrarily locked~~
What we are saying is: when the last Administration arbitrarily locked up 40
million acres of Alaskan land -- telling hunters and recreation areas, "don't
to stay out" -- then, yes, you bet we think that was wrong and we're trying to
correct it. We're trying to ~~do~~ something else too.

Permit me to say a few words about conservation and a
group I've always considered to be the ^{foremost} finest conservationists
of our wildlife resources--America's ~~hunters, sportsmen and fishermen.~~
~~Sportsmen -- hunters and fishermen.~~

As Teddy Roosevelt recognized, "The free, self-reliant, adventurous
life, with its rugged...democracy; the wild surroundings,
the grand beauty of the scenery, the chance to study the
way and habits of the woodland creatures--all these unite
to give to the career of the wilderness hunter its peculiar charm."

Unfortunately, there has been ^{a kind of elitist attitude in Washington,} in Washington an attitude
that vast natural resource areas must be locked up to save
the planet from mankind. I'm proud to say that Secretary of
the Interior Jim Watt and I have a different philosophy--one
based on respect for both man and nature. We believe in the
concept of stewardship, caring for the resources we have

for the benefit of mankind. ~~and we believe in the concept of stewardship~~
A 1980 General Accounting Office report warned of shameful
health and safety health hazards in our national parks. The
previous Administration had cut the National Park Service budget
for restoration and improvement every year. We have doubled it.

~~And, we~~ already have approved or reviewed more endangered species
recovery plans in ~~more~~ two years than our predecessors did
four. ~~To help in the support of NRA, we have also addressed one of the most serious~~
in ~~environmental~~ environmental problems, ~~the destruction of our wetlands. We~~
have introduced in the Congress the most important wetlands protection legislative proposal in
history.
Our National parks, national wildlife refuges, our coastal
better
barriers, wetlands, national forests and public lands are ~~being~~
managed today than they were two years ago. ~~I believe that story~~

~~is a lie~~ more attention than it's received.
~~the past that I believe~~
Desire it.

Another point which should be better understood: ~~this~~
 our conservation efforts begins with ~~the~~ (The backbone of
 American sportsman, for over 40 years, hunters have been
 paying a special excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition
 through the Pittman-Robertson Act -- ~~Nearly~~ ^{Nearly} 1.2 billion
 since 1939. State wildlife managers have used these funds
 to preserve and enhance valuable wildlife habitat. Such wild
 creatures as the white tail deer, ruffed grouse, wild turkey and
 pronghorn antelope have been brought back ~~virtually~~ from
 the edge of extinction, in some cases, to great abundance
 today.

This past year alone American hunters have paid more than
 \$107 million toward these conservation efforts. The money will
 fund important studies of game and their habitat; it will provide
 food and habitat projects for wildlife; and portions of these
~~funds~~ will go for hunter safety and education courses --
 where our youngsters ~~can~~ ^{will} be taught marksmanship, firearms
 safety and some of the values and ethics of hunting and
 the outdoors.

~~I~~ ^{deeply appreciate your contributions}
~~So~~ I'm proud of what ~~we're~~ ^{you're} doing ~~together~~ to preserving
 our national treasures for the benefit of our people and
 future generations. ~~And we don't intend to see you~~ ^{looked out of the}
~~back~~ ^{to me}

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

3/31/83

MEMORANDUM

TO: WILLIAM HENKEL (Coordinate with Faith Whittlesey, who is
to do briefing paper)
FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FJR*
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

MEETING: Address Annual Convention of the National Rifle
Association

DATE: May 6, 1983

TIME: Depart approximately 11:00 am

DURATION: To be determined - following event, proceed
to California for weekend

LOCATION: Phoenix, Arizona

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY
PARTICIPATION: Yes

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

cc: A. Bakshian M. McManus
M. Brandon J. Rosebush
R. Darman B. Shaddix
R. DeProspero W. Sittmann
D. Fischer L. Speakes
C. Fuller WHCA Audio/Visual
W. Henkel WHCA Operations
E. Hickey A. Wrobleski

McMANUS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Contact of Ed Miller

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

MARCH 9, 1983

TO: FRED RYAN, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: FAITH WHITTLESEY *FHW*

REQUEST: *OK* President to address the National Rifle Association at their annual convention.

PURPOSE: *OK* The President's position on gun control won him the support of the NRA in 1980. His appearance at this event would strengthen support for 1984.

BACKGROUND: This is the largest organization of its type, with 2500 delegates. The President is the only candidate to receive an official endorsement from the NRA in its 112 year history. Their membership approaches the three million mark, and they are a very potent political force. Their constituency is blue collar/populist and very much a target constituency.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: President Eisenhower addressed their convention. Six former Presidents were, or are, members of NRA. President Reagan is a lifetime member. Elizabeth Dole spoke to last year's convention on behalf of the President.

DATE/TIME: May 6, 7, or 8, 1983 for 30 minutes.

LOCATION: Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix, Arizona

PARTICIPANTS: 2500 NRA delegates

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President will appear before the full convention; offer formal remarks; depart.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Prepared text.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Full press coverage.

RECOMMENDED BY: FAITH WHITTLESEY, EDWIN MEESE III, *Sen Laxalt*

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER MORTON C. BLACKWELL

APPROVED FOR

Date. *5/6/83*

Time. *APPROX 1:00 p.m. (Ar. 20th)*

Length. *TAD*

Date 7/30/17 FJR



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

March 2, 1983

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant for the President
Old Executive Office Building, Rm. 191
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. ~~Blackwell~~ ^{Morton}:

We were advised to reissue our invitation inviting the President to speak at our Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

I have attached a copy of that letter from Harlon B. Carter, Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association, once again extending the invitation to speak.

I thank you for your time. Anything you can do to assist us would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wayne LaPierre
Director
Governmental Affairs Division

WLP:ma
Attachment (1)



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INCORPORATED 1871

1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

HARLON B. CARTER
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

March 1, 1983

Dear Mr. President:

It is my extreme pleasure to once again extend to you a most cordial invitation to be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Members Banquet.

As you are aware, the NRA is the nation's oldest and largest sportsman's organization, and the voice of over two and one half million individual sportsmen and patriotic citizens. From twenty-five to thirty thousand of these members from all over the country will attend the 1983 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Phoenix, Arizona.

The NRA Members Banquet is an outstanding social event and traditionally the highlight of these meetings. We expect 2,500 members to attend. We would like to schedule the Banquet at 8:00 p.m. in the Phoenix Civic Plaza, Sunday, May 8, 1983. The reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. However, knowing of your extremely busy schedule, our second choice would be Saturday, May 7 and our third choice, Friday, May 6.

Each year, we take considerable pride in presenting to our speaker a silver mounted, traditional flintlock rifle and powder horn, both of which have received wide acclaim, not only for their beauty, but also for their fidelity to early American culture.

As the first presidential candidate ever endorsed by the NRA membership in its 112 year history, we would be highly honored to have you as our guest of honor. This would be an excellent opportunity for you to cover any area you feel will be of interest. More than anyone, you know the NRA, and you will certainly have no difficulty communicating in your usual splendid fashion.

It would be a great privilege to have you with us on this occasion. We will make all the necessary arrangements to assure you a comfortable and enjoyable stay in Phoenix.

Speaking on behalf of our two and one half million members, I assure you we would be deeply honored by your acceptance.

Sincerely,

Harlon B. Carter
Executive Vice President

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

MARCH 3, 1983

TO: FRED RYAN, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: RED CAVANEY 

REQUEST: President to address the National Rifle Association at their annual convention.

PURPOSE: The President's position on gun control won him the support of the NRA in 1980. His appearance at this event would strengthen support for 1984.

BACKGROUND: This is the largest organization of its type, with 2500 delegates. The President is the only candidate to receive an official endorsement from the NRA in its 112 year history. Their membership approaches the three million mark, and they are a very potent political force. Their constituency is blue collar/populist and very much a target constituency.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: President Eisenhower addressed their convention. Six former Presidents were, or are, members of NRA. President Reagan is a lifetime member. Elizabeth Dole spoke to last year's convention on behalf of the President.

DATE/TIME: May 6, 7, or 8, 1983 DURATION: 30 minutes

LOCATION: Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix, Arizona

PARTICIPANTS: The President; 2500 NRA delegates.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President will appear before the full convention, offer formal remarks.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Prepared Text.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Full press coverage.

RECOMMENDED BY: RED CAVANEY

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: MORTON C. BLACKWELL



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

January 11, 1983

Schedule
proposal?

Yes. Please draft
MB

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Rm. 191
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear ~~Mr. Blackwell:~~ ^{Morton}

I have attached copies of letters sent to President Reagan inviting him to speak at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Members Banquet in Phoenix.

We were also advised by the staff to send back up letters inviting Mrs. Ronald Reagan and Vice President Bush.

I believe this would be an excellent political appearance for the President prior to the 1984 campaign. Through this appearance he would reach a grass root network of well over 3 million gun owners and hunters including many labor union families. Many of these families feel strongly enough about guns and hunting to base their vote on this issue alone.

Our coverage of the President's appearance would include the cover of the American Rifleman and the American Hunter which are received in 3 million households. The appearance would also be picked up by the gun and hunting press throughout the country.

As you are well aware, President Reagan was the first candidate for President ever endorsed by the National Rifle Association. Gun owners and hunters worked the polls, manned the phone banks and stuffed literature for the President during his campaign.

President Reagan's appearance and the publicity surrounding his appearance offers the best opportunity to solidify his base with a key grass root network prior to the '84 elections.

The importance of this base of support was most recently demonstrated in last year's elections. Gun owners helped tip key Senate races in Minnesota, Virginia, Missouri and California, as well as numerous House races.

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
January 11, 1983
Page 2

I believe it would be a mistake for the President to pass up this opportunity.

Naturally, we would be honored by his acceptance. Anything you can do would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wayne LaPierre".

Wayne LaPierre
Director
Governmental Affairs

WLP:ma
Encls.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INCORPORATED 1871

1800 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

November 10, 1982

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. President:

It is my extreme pleasure to formally extend to you a most cordial invitation to be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Members Banquet.

As you know, the NRA is the nation's oldest and largest sportsman's organization, the voice of over two and one half million individual sportsmen and patriotic citizens. From twenty five to thirty thousand of these members from all over the country will attend the 1983 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Phoenix, Arizona.

The NRA Members Banquet is an outstanding social event and traditionally the highlight of these meetings. We expect 2,500 members to attend. We would like to schedule the Banquet at 8:00 p.m. in the Phoenix Civic Plaza, Sunday, May 8, 1983. The reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. However, knowing of your extremely busy schedule, our second choice would be Saturday, May 7 and our third choice, Friday, May 6.

Each year we take considerable pride in presenting to our speaker a silver mounted, traditional flintlock rifle and powder horn, both of which have received wide acclaim, not only for their beauty, but also for their fidelity to early American culture.

As the first presidential candidate ever endorsed by the NRA membership in its 112 year history, we would be highly honored to have you as our guest of honor. This would be an excellent opportunity for you to cover any area you feel will be of interest. More than anyone, you know the NRA, and you will certainly have no difficulty communicating in your usual splendid fashion.

It would be a great privilege to have you with us on this occasion. We will make all the necessary arrangements to assure you a comfortable and enjoyable stay in Phoenix.

Speaking on behalf of our two and one half million members, I assure you we would be deeply honored by your acceptance.

Sincerely,

Harlon B. Carter
Executive Vice President

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INCORPORATED 1871

1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

November 10, 1982

Dear Mr. Vice President:

It is my extreme pleasure to formally extend to you a most cordial invitation to be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Members Banquet.

As you know, the NRA is the nation's oldest and largest sportsman's organization, the voice of over two and one half million individual sportsmen and patriotic citizens. From twenty five to thirty thousand of these members from all over the country will attend the 1983 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Phoenix, Arizona.

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It would be a great privilege to have you with us on this occasion. We will make all the necessary arrangements to assure you a comfortable and enjoyable stay in Phoenix.

Speaking on behalf of our two and one half million members, I assure you we would be deeply honored by your acceptance.

Sincerely,

Harlon B. Carter
Executive Vice President

The Vice President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INCORPORATED 1871

1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

November 10, 1982

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I am very pleased to extend to you an invitation to be the keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Members Banquet.

As you know, the NRA is the nation's oldest and largest sportsman's organization, the voice of over two and one half million individual sportsmen and patriotic citizens. From twenty five to thirty thousand of these members, from all over the country, will attend the 1983 Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Phoenix, Arizona.

The 112th Members Banquet is an outstanding social event and traditionally the highlight of these meetings. We expect 2,500 members to attend. We would like to schedule the Banquet at 8:00 p.m. in the Phoenix Civic Plaza, Sunday, May 8, 1983. The reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. However, knowing of your extremely busy schedule, our second choice would be Saturday, May 7 and our third choice, Friday, May 6.

As you know, until your husband ran for the presidency, the NRA had never endorsed a candidate for such high office. In the NRA's 112 year history, Ronald Reagan became the first presidentially-endorsed candidate by our two and one half million membership.

As to your remarks, feel free to cover any area you feel will be of interest. You know the NRA, and you will certainly have no difficulty communicating in your usual pleasing fashion.

It would be a great privilege to have you with us on this occasion. We will, of course, make all necessary arrangements to assure you a comfortable and enjoyable stay in Phoenix.

Speaking on behalf of our two and one half million members, I assure you we would be deeply honored by your acceptance.

Sincerely,

Harlon B. Carter
Executive Vice President

Mrs. Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

TIMMONS AND COMPANY, INCORPORATED
1850 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 (202) 331-1760

March 1, 1983

RECEIVED

WILLIAM E. TIMMONS
President

TOM C. KOROLOGOS
*Executive Vice President and
Director of Legislative Affairs*

MICHAEL L. REED
*Vice President and
General Counsel*

HOWARD G. PASTER
Vice President and Treasurer

JOHN M. NUGENT, JR.
Vice President and Secretary

MARY A. SIDLEY
Vice President for Administration

MICHAEL J. BATES
Director of Research

MAR 4 1983

SCHEDULING
OFFICE

Dear Mr. Sadleir:

On January 10th, 1983, you wrote Mr. Harlon Carter, Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association, suggesting he renew his invitation to the President to address NRA's annual convention around ten to twelve weeks before the Phoenix event scheduled for May 7th.

Since we are within ten weeks now, may I ask you to consider the NRA convention?

I believe this is an extremely important function for the President. It has the support of Ed Meese and Lee Atwater.

While the NRA is a good support group for the President, I feel we shouldn't attend in 1984 because his opponents would say it's "political." 1983 is the best time for an appearance before the 2,500 national leadership delegates to the convention.

I hope the President can participate.

Sincerely,



William E. Timmons

The Honorable William K. Sadleir
Director, Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

MARCH 3, 1983

TO: RED CAVANEY
FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

*(Get Ed Allison
in Sen. Caxatti's
office (know))*

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Address the National Rifle Association of America's
Annual Convention

DATE: May 8, 1983

LOCATION: Phoenix, Arizona

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept ___ Regret ___ Surrogate ___ Message ___ Other ___
Priority ___
Routine ___

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

*Per phone call to FR. Red
recommends this.
- E. Doc was well received
last year.*

RESPONSE DUE 3-11-83 TO _____



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

*Staff to
Red Grancy*

March 2, 1983

Mr. Frederick J. Ryan, Jr.
Deputy Director of Scheduling
Old Executive Office Building, Rm. 188^{1/2}
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

*May 6. 7. a. 8
(preferably
may 8)*

Dear Fred:

We were advised by several of the President's political advisors to reissue our invitation inviting the President to speak at our Annual Convention in Phoenix.

I have attached a letter from Mr. Harlon B. Carter, Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association, once again extending the invitation to speak.

I thank you for your time. If you need any additional backup material, please give us a call.

Sincerely,

Wayne LaPierre
Director
Governmental Affairs Division

WLP:ma
Attachment (1)



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INCORPORATED 1871

1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

HARLON B. CARTER
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

March 1, 1983

Dear Mr. President:

It is my extreme pleasure to once again extend to you a most cordial invitation to be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Members Banquet.

As you are aware, the NRA is the nation's oldest and largest sportsman's organization, and the voice of over two and one half million individual sportsmen and patriotic citizens. From twenty-five to thirty thousand of these members from all over the country will attend the 1983 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Phoenix, Arizona.

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Speaking on behalf of our two and one half million members, I assure you we would be deeply honored by your acceptance.

Sincerely,

Harlon B. Carter
Executive Vice President

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

November 29, 1982

Dear Mr. Carter:

I have been asked to acknowledge your letter to the President and to thank you for inviting him to be the keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Members Banquet to be held in Phoenix, Arizona on Sunday, May 8, 1983.

Your thoughtfulness of the President is most appreciated but we are unable to project his schedule so far in advance. It is suggested, therefore, that you proceed with your plans at this time, not counting on his participation. Then, if you would like to renew your invitation to the President nearer the date -- I suggest around ten to twelve weeks ahead -- we should be better able to give you a definite answer.

With our best wishes,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM K. SADLEIR
Director, Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling

Mr. Harlon B. Carter
Executive Vice President
National Rifle Association
of America
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036.

WKS:MR:emu
WKS-18



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INCORPORATED 1871

1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

October 7, 1982

RECEIVED IN SCHEDULING

OFFICE

10/19/82
DMS

Dear Mr. President:

It is my extreme pleasure to formally extend to you a most cordial invitation to be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Members Banquet.

As you know, the NRA is the nation's oldest and largest sportsman's organization, the voice of over two and one half million individual sportsmen and patriotic citizens. From twenty five to thirty thousand of these members from all over the country will attend the 1983 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Phoenix, Arizona.

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Sincerely,

Harlon B. Carter
Executive Vice President

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

PAUL LAXALT

NEVADA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
315 RUSSELL OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-3542

CARSON CITY OFFICE:
705 NORTH PLAZA STREET
(702) 883-1930

LAS VEGAS OFFICE:
300 LAS VEGAS BLVD., SOUTH
(702) 385-6547

RENO OFFICE:
300 BOOTH STREET
(702) 784-5568

February 22, 1983

Dear Mr. President:

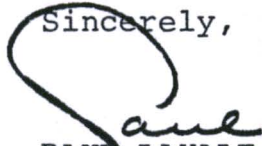
I was pleased to learn that you have been invited to be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association's 112th Annual Meeting scheduled for May 6-10, 1983 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Knowing of the heavy demands upon your schedule, it is not often that I would come forward and so strongly encourage you to accept an invitation. However, I believe that the NRA's Annual Banquet is an exceptional opportunity for you to address such a broad cross-section of Americans dedicated to preserving their individual rights under the Second Amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. President, I am sure it would be a privilege for the NRA to have you in attendance as their guest of honor. I urge you to give their request every consideration.

Many regards.

Sincerely,



PAUL LAXALT
U.S. Senator

PL:akp

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500