

TEAMSTERS SPEECH - EHD - JUNE 1, 1981 - LAS VEGAS, -NEVADA

GENERAL PRESIDENT ROY WILLIAMS, GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER RAY CHOESSLING, DISTINGUISHED OFFICERS OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY REPRESENTING PRESIDENT REAGAN. THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO PASS ALONG HIS PERSONAL GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU, AND TO UNDERSCORE HIS ADMINISTRATION'S GRATITUDE NOT ONLY TO THE ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT BUT TO ALL THE WORKING PEOPLE OF AMERICA. IN SICKENESS THEIR CARDS AND LETTERS AND PRAYERS HAVE BEEN A COMFORT TO HIM. AND IN WORKING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM, THEIR SUPPORT HAS MADE POSSIBLE HIS SUCCESS WITH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ALIKE.

AS PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS OFTEN SAID, THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH AMERICA THAT WE CAN'T FIX. YOUR PATRIOTIC SUPPORT -- AND YOUR CANDID ADVICE -- ARE HELPING US TO DO JUST THAT.

IN THE BRIEF MONTHS THAT I HAVE SERVED AS THE PRESIDENT'S ASSISTANT OR PUBLIC LIAISON, I HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO MEET MANY PEOPLE AND MAKE MANY NEW FRIENDS. THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF OUR LIAISON OUTREACH PROGRAM IS TO ENSURE THAT THE REAGAN WHITE HOUSE IS AN OPEN WHITE HOUSE -- TO KEEP UP A CONSTANT, PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH EVERY SECTOR OF OUR SOCIETY. WE ARE NOT A PARTISAN OFFICE. IT IS OUR PURPOSE TO SERVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, BY BUILDING A SOLID LINK WITH LEADERSHIP GROUPS ACROSS THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF LABOR, BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE, VOLUNTARY AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS. WE'VE ALREADY MET WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AND HUNDREDS OF ORGANIZATIONS AND I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT AMONG THE FIRST -- WITHIN 10 DAYS OF ENTERING THE WHITE HOUSE -- WAS A DELEGATION OF LABOR LEADERS.

BOB BONITATI AND I CONSIDER WORKING WITH LABOR ONE OF OUR TOP PRIORITIES AND WE INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS AN ADMINISTRATION, A GOVERNMENT, OF ALL THE PEOPLE, AND THAT ORGANIZED LABOR HAS A FULL PARTNERSHIP ROLE TO PLAY. OUR DOOR WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN TO YOU.

THAT IS HOW WE CAME TO KNOW AND RESPECT FRANK FITZSIMMONS. ALTHOUGH WE
NEW HE WAS ILL, IT REALLY SEEMED HARD TO BELIEVE. "FITZ" WAS SO FULL OF
LIFE, SO FULL OF COMMITMENT, IN ALL OUR DEALINGS WITH HIM. HE NEVER PULLED
PUNCHES: IF HE DISAGREED WITH YOU, HE LET YOU KNOW. AND, MORE OFTEN THAN
NOT, EVEN THOSE APPARENT DISAGREEMENTS WERE PRODUCTIVE, BECAUSE "FITZ" HAD A
WAY OF HELPING YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE OTHER FELLOW'S POINT, OF SEEING THINGS
CLEARLY NOT ONLY FROM YOUR OWN PERSPECTIVE BUT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE
MEN AND WOMEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE. THAT'S A BIG PART OF OUR JOB.

BUT MOST OF THE TIME -- AND I HAVE TO CONFESS THAT THIS CAME AS A BIT
OF A SURPRISE AT FIRST -- WE FOUND THAT WE AGREED MUCH MORE THAN WE DISAGREED.
"FITZ" WAS, OF COURSE, A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR. HE NEVER FORGOT THAT HE WAS AN
AMERICAN AND THAT, AS AN AMERICAN, HE AND THE MAN IN THE OVAL OFFICE SHARED
MANY OF THE SAME IDEALS, THE SAME HOPES, FOR THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS.

THAT'S HOW THE PRESIDENT, BOB BONITATI AND I -- AND ALL OF THE OTHERS
IN THIS ADMINISTRATION WHO HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO KNOW "FITZ" -- WILL REMEMBER
HIM: FRANK FITZSIMMONS, A PATRIOTIC AMERICAN.

WE IN PUBLIC LIAISON HAVE ALSO HAD THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH RAY
SCHOESSLING AND MANY OTHER TEAMSTER LEADERS. WE'VE TALKED TOGETHER,
LUNCED TOGETHER AND VISITED IN THE OVAL OFFICE AND AT YOUR OWN MAGNIFICENT
HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON. AND ALWAYS I'VE COME AWAY IMPRESSED. IMPRESSED
WITH THE GENUINE COMMITMENT OF THE TEAMSTERS AND THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION
THAT THE RANK AND FILE MEMBERS MAKE IN SO MANY DIFFERENT FIELDS, TO THE
AMERICAN ECONOMY AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

THOSE MEETINGS, AND THE MANY OTHERS WE'VE HELD WITH GROUPS FROM ALL
WALKS OF LIFE, HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT SOMETHING NEW AND WONDERFUL IS
HAPPENING IN AMERICA. WE FINALLY HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO REALLY WANTS TO REACH
OUT, TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE. AND, AT THE SAME TIME, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE KIND
OF LEADER HE IS AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF A NEW SPIRIT ABROAD IN THE NATION, A
LOT OF THE OLD PREJUDICES AND PRECONCEPTIONS THAT SEPARATED PEOPLE FOR TOO

LONG ARE CRUMBLING INTO DUST. THAT'S A GOOD THING FOR ALL OF US.

AMERICANS ARE FINALLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT; THAT WE ALL WANT THE SAME THINGS FOR OUR COUNTRY; AND THAT WE CAN ONLY ACHIEVE THEM BY WORKING TOGETHER, NOT BY DIVIDING AMONG OURSELVES.

I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS HAPPENING. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A NEW SPIRIT OF UNITY IN THE LAND. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT LABOR, MANAGEMENT, CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT TODAY HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PULL TOGETHER FOR A TREMENDOUS REBIRTH OF AMERICAN GREATNESS, AMERICAN PRODUCTIVITY AND AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY.

THE MAN WHO DRIVES THE BIG RIG; THE AUTO WORKER IN DETROIT; THE SCIENTIST IN THE RESEARCH LAB; EVEN THOSE OF US WHO WORK IN THAT STRANGE NEVER NEVER LAND CALLED WASHINGTON.

WHEN WE PULL TOGETHER, IT WORKS. JUST LOOK AT THE SPACE SHUTTLE. COULD ANY OTHER NATION ON EARTH HAVE DONE IT? I DON'T THINK SO. AND THAT MAGNIFICENT TRIUMPH OF SCIENTIFIC BRILLIANCE, HUMAN COURAGE, AND SKILLED, DEDICATED LABOR PUT THE LIE FOR ONCE AND ALL TO THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT AMERICA IS A TIRED, SPENT FORCE; IT REFUTED FOR ONCE AND ALL THOSE WHO SAY AMERICAN WORKERS, WHATEVER THEIR FIELD OF ENDEAVOR, CAN'T COMPETE ANY MORE.

THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROVED NOT ONLY THAT WE CAN COMPETE, BUT THAT WE CAN COME IN FIRST ONCE WE'VE WHOLEHEARTEDLY PUT OUR MINDS AND BACKS INTO AN EFFORT.

I GET SO TIRED OF HEARING THE SAME OLD VOICES TELLING US THAT WE'RE THROUGH; THAT WE'VE GOT TO THINK SMALL; THAT, FROM NOW ON, IT'S A MATTER OF MAKING DO WITH LESS.

AMERICA HASN'T GROWN TOO BIG AND TOO BLOATED. GOVERNMENT HAS. AND WE'RE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE A NEW CLIMATE IN WHICH THE AMERICAN WORKER, THE AMERICAN MANAGER AND THE AMERICAN CONSUMER HAVE THE RESOURCES AND THE INCENTIVES THEY NEED TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN GOVERNMENT DOESN'T

TIE US UP IN RED TAPE. PRESIDENT REAGAN BELIEVES THIS. I BELIEVE THIS. AND I THINK THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE TEAMSTERS AND MILLIONS OF OTHER WORKING MEN AND WOMEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY BELIEVE THIS TOO.

WE HAVE THE HUMAN RESOURCES -- EACH OF YOU AND THE COUNTLESS OTHERS YOU REPRESENT ARE PROOF POSITIVE OF THAT. WE HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES UNEQUALED IN ANY OTHER INDUSTRIAL POWER. WHAT HAS BEEN MISSING IN RECENT YEARS IS THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AND POLICIES THAT FREE UP BOTH OUR HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES SO THAT THEY CAN BE USED PRODUCTIVELY.

BUT THAT'S CHANGING. LAST NOVEMBER, IN ONE OF THOSE HISTORIC TURNING POINTS THAT ONLY COME ALONG ONCE IN A GENERATION, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SAID THAT THEY'D HAD ENOUGH OF THE DEFEATISTS, THE DIVIDERS, THE NAY SAYERS. THEY VOTED FOR CHANGE, FOR A FRESH START, FOR A GREAT AMERICAN RENEWAL.

AND THE KEY TO THAT GREAT AMERICAN RENEWAL IS PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

PRODUCTIVITY AND GROWTH ARE ALSO THE KEY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S BIPARTISAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM.

IT'S A BIG JOB -- NO MISTAKE ABOUT THAT. IT ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY. BUT ANYONE WHO HAS EVER TRAVELLED ACROSS THIS VAST CONTINENT AND SEEN WHAT A STRONG, HARDWORKING AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO CARVE OUT OF A HOSTILE WILDERNESS KNOWS THAT WE'RE NO STRANGERS TO HARD WORK IN THIS COUNTRY.

ANYONE WHOSE GRANDPARENTS CROSSED THE ATLANTIC IN STEERAGE, PENNILESS, UNEDUCATED AND UNTRAINED, KNOWS WHAT MIRACLES THE AMERICAN SPIRIT CAN ACCOMPLISH.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT. WE BUILT A GREAT NATION AND THE GREATEST ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORY IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND BECAUSE AVERAGE PEOPLE BY THE MILLIONS SHARED A DREAM, AND HAD THE INITIATIVE, THE COURAGE AND THE STRENGTH TO MAKE THAT DREAM A REALITY.

WE DID IT ONCE. WE CAN DO IT AGAIN.

INFLATION IS NO ACCIDENT. IT IS HERE, IN STAGGERING DIMENSIONS, BECAUSE GOVERNMENT HAS OVER-SPENT, OVER-TAXED AND OVER-REGULATED THE AMERICAN WAGE-EARNER AND INVESTOR UNTIL THE FOUNT OF MUCH OF OUR PROSPERITY HAS BEEN DRAINED DRY.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS NO ACCIDENT. FOR TOO LONG, THE SAME POLICIES HAVE MADE IT HARDER AND HARDER FOR AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND AMERICAN WORKERS TO COMPETE ON A FAIR FOOTING WITH FOREIGN RIVALS.

IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT BUSINESSES LOSE IN PRODUCTIVITY WHEN THE INVESTMENT AND CREDIT THEY NEED TO EXPAND AND MODERNIZE ARE SOAKED UP BY A CREDIT-HUNGRY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT AMERICANS HAVE THE LOWEST RATE OF SAVINGS IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD WHEN THE SKYROCKETING COST OF LIVING LEAVES THEM LITTLE OR NOTHING TO PUT IN THE BANK, AND WHEN INFLATION MEANS THAT THE INTEREST THEIR SAVINGS WILL EARN WON'T EVEN KEEP UP WITH THE COST OF LIVING.

THERE'S NOTHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT IT. DEFICIT SPENDING HAS CAUSED RAMPANT INFLATION AND NO ONE HAS BEEN HARDER HIT THAN THE AMERICAN WORKER. BETWEEN 1970 and 1980 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME ROSE FROM \$9,750 TO \$19,950. BUT AFTER TAX INCOME FOR THE FAMILY ACTUALLY FELL FROM \$8,412 TO \$7,976.

THAT'S NOTHING SHORT OF HIGHWAY ROBBERY. TODAY, AFTER FEDERAL INCOME AND SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES, A FAMILY OF FOUR EARNING \$25 THOUSAND HAS ONLY \$20,566 LEFT. BECAUSE OF DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION, THAT SAME FAMILY HAS TO PAY ABOUT \$15 THOUSAND JUST TO COVER BASIC NEEDS LIKE FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING, MEDICAL CARE AND TRANSPORTATION. ADD A KID IN COLLEGE OR THE DREAM OF BUYING A HOME OF THEIR OWN AND IT'S NO WONDER THAT THE SAVINGS RATE HAS DIPPED TO THE LOWEST LEVEL IN 30 YEARS.

WHAT THE MISTAKES OF PAST GOVERNMENT POLICY HAVE ALREADY DONE TO WORKING AMERICANS IS BAD ENOUGH. WHAT THEY WILL DO IN THE YEARS AHEAD IF WE DON'T

TURN THINGS AROUND WILL BE FAR WORSE.

BY 1984, INFLATION WILL HAVE PUSHED THE \$25 THOUSAND FAMILY TO AN INFLATIONARY INCOME OF \$40 THOUSAND. BUT FEDERAL TAXES, SOCIAL SECURITY AND INFLATION WILL MEAN THAT THE FAMILY'S REAL BUYING POWER WILL HAVE DROPPED BY \$1,200!

HOUSING COSTS ALONE WILL GO UP ANOTHER 60% BY 1984 IF WE DON'T ACT -- AND ACT NOW -- TO PUT A STOP TO THE FAILED POLICIES OF THE PAST.

I'M SORRY IF I'VE SEEMED TO BORE YOU WITH TOO MANY STATISTICS. BUT THESE AREN'T JUST NUMBERS. THEY ARE FLESH AND BLOOD REALITY FOR THE TRUCKER, THE FACTORY WORKER AND THE HOUSEWIFE WHO DESPERATELY WANT TO MAKE ENDS MEET AND BUILD A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. I'M TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT NUMBERS -- THEIR HOPES, THEIR FEARS AND THE KIND OF LIFE THEY WILL FACE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

AND PEOPLE IS WHAT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS ABOUT. THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM HAS FOUR BASIC PILLARS. EACH ONE IS CRUCIAL; THE STRUCTURE MUST STAND AS A WHOLE OR IT CANNOT STAND AT ALL.

THE FIRST PILLAR IS REDUCING THE RATE OF INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING. UNLESS WE DO THAT, WE CANNOT REDUCE INFLATION, CREATE NEW JOBS, AND BALANCE THE BUDGET. WE'VE HAD TO MAKE SOME HARD DECISIONS. BUT THE ALTERNATIVE OF MORE INFLATION, MORE STAGNATION, MORE DASHED HOPES AND LAGGING PRODUCTIVITY WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR, FAR WORSE.

THE SECOND PILLAR IS THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED MULTI-YEAR TAX CUT AND ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION FOR BUSINESS. THE PURPOSE OF THE TAX CUT IS NOT TO GIVE ANY ONE GROUP OR SPECIAL INTEREST A FREE RIDE, BUT TO GIVE ALL AMERICANS A CHANCE TO EARN MORE REAL WAGES, TO SAVE MORE AND TO INVEST MORE.

HUMAN NATURE IS HUMAN NATURE. WHEN PEOPLE KNOW THAT WORKING THAT EXTRA OVER-TIME WILL SIMPLY PUSH THEM INTO A HIGHER TAX BRACKET AND ROB

THEM OF ANY REAL INCREASE IN EARNINGS, THEY HAVE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO WORK HARDER. PRODUCTIVITY LAGS.

WHEN PEOPLE KNOW THAT INFLATION WILL ROB THEIR SAVINGS, THEY SAVE LESS. THINK OF IT, THANKS TO INFLATION, IF YOU PUT \$1,000 IN A SAVINGS AND LOAN AT THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RATE IN JANUARY 1977 IT WOULD ONLY BE WORTH \$851 TODAY.

AND WHEN BUSINESSES FACE TAX, CREDIT, INVESTMENT AND REGULATORY BURDENS THAT DISCOURAGE EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION THEY, TOO, HAVE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO INVEST AND EXPAND.

NOW, I REALIZE THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW DOUBTING THOMASES WHO QUESTION THIS.

BUT FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW ANYONE CAN BELIEVE THAT IT IS INFLATIONARY TO LET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SPEND THE MONEY THEY EARN INSTEAD OF HAVING IT SPENT FOR THEM BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE FACTS ARE THE FACTS. THIS ADMINISTRATION, AND THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WHO VOTED FOR IT AND SUPPORT ITS POLICIES, DON'T HAVE BLIND FAITH IN OUR TAX PROGRAM. WE KNOW FROM HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE THAT IT CAN WORK.

WE KNOW BECUASE IT WAS TRIED AND TESTED BY JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY AND HIS SUCCESSOR, LYNDON JOHNSON, IN 1964 AND 1965. THEY MADE THE KINDS OF TAX CUTS WE ARE TRYING TO MAKE. THOSE CUTS WORKED AND THE RESULTS WERE DRAMATIC.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WHICH HAD BEEN ABOVE 5 PERCENT SINCE 1957 FELL SHARPLY BELOW 5 PERCENT IN 1965 AND WAS DOWN TO 3.5 PERCENT BY 1969. PEOPLE STARTED TO SAVE AGAIN, COMPANIES STARTED INVESTING AND EXPANDING AGAIN AND THAT FAMOUS RISING TIDE JOHN KENNEDY TALKED ABOUT REALLY DID LIFT ALL BOATS.

IT'S TIME -- A TIME LONG OVERDUE -- FOR ANOTHER HIGH TIDE OF PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA. AND THE ADMINISTRATION TAX CUTS CAN LAUNCH

SUCH A TIDE.

THE SAME APPLIES TO THE THIRD AND FOURTH PILLARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM -- THE ELIMINATION OF COSTLY, UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS AND A POLICY OF MONETARY STABILITY WHICH WILL LEAVE ALL AMERICANS FREER TO EARN, TO SAVE AND TO INVEST -- WHETHER THEIR GOAL IS A HOME OF THEIR OWN OR A NEW FACTORY TO PROVIDE MORE JOBS.

THAT IS WHAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WANTS FOR AMERICA AND WHAT I BELIEVE YOU WANT TOO. WE BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT'S RECOVERY PROGRAM CAN DO IT; CAN CREATE 13 MILLION NEW JOBS BY 1986; CAN REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT TO 5.6 PERCENT BY 1986; CAN INCREASE THE AVERAGE STANDARD OF LIVING BY ONE-THIRD BETWEEN NOW AND 1986; CAN DROP INFLATION TO 4.7 PERCENT BY 1986; CAN REDUCE INTEREST RATES BY 50% DURING THE SAME PERIOD AND WILL, MOST IMPORTANTLY, MAKE AMERICA A PLACE WHERE YOUR EFFORTS, YOUR INITIATIVES AND YOUR VISION WILL FINALLY PRODUCE THE REWARDS THEY SO RICHLY DESERVE.

LAST JANUARY ON INAUCURATION DAY, PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID, "OUR CONCERN MUST BE FOR A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP THAT HAS BEEN TOO LONG NEGLECTED. IT IS MADE UP OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO RAISE OUR FOOD, PATROL OUR STREETS, MAN OUR MINES AND FACTORIES, TEACH OUR CHILDREN, KEEP OUR HOMES AND HEAL US WHEN WE'RE SICK. THEY ARE PROFESSIONALS, INDUSTRIALISTS, SHOP KEEPERS, CLERKS, CABBIES AND TRUCKDRIVERS. THEY ARE, IN SHORT, "WE THE PEOPLE".

TODAY, MORE THAN FOR A LONG, LONG TIME, "WE THE PEOPLE" ARE UNITED AGAIN. WE ARE AT PEACE, AND WE ARE WORKING TO BUILD THE STRENGTH AND SECURITY THAT WILL KEEP US AT PEACE. WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO HAS SHOWN VISION AND COURAGE AND EARNED TRUST, RESPECT AND, YES, THE LOVE, OF THE PEOPLE HE SERVES. HIS PROGRAM IS OUR PROGRAM, AND I AM HERE TO THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, FOR THE HELP YOU HAVE GIVEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE TO MAKE OUR PROGRAM AND OUR VISION OF AMERICA A BRIGHT NEW REALITY FOR OUR NATION AND FOR POSTERITY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.