

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY  
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YOUNG REPUBLICAN NATIONAL FEDERATION  
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Thank you, Marilyn for that very kind introduction. I am delighted to be with you and of course, with Marilyn Hudson, fellow Kansan. Marilyn and I share something else: She is the first woman to head the Young Republican National Federation and I am the first female Secretary of Transportation. I hasten to say that if I get my way, that \$27 billion budget will drop to \$21.5 billion next year -- a \$5 billion cut.

What a joy it is to be with you today -- with Young Republicans -- the present and future of our party. And what a future!

Young Republicans will play a pivotal role in American politics for decades to come. According to White House pollster Dick Wirthlin, a recent survey shows that people, ages 18-24 -- long considered solidly in the Democrat column -- now prefer Republicans over Democrats by a 51 percent to 32 percent margin. For the first time in memory, the majority of young voters are identifying themselves as Republicans.

America in 1986 is experiencing the rebirth of our economy and our national spirit. Five years ago, when Ronald Reagan became President, our country was in both economic shambles and psychological doldrums. Double digit inflation, interest rates the highest since the Civil War, and the lowest annual rate of growth in productivity of any major industrial nation. All that has changed.

Thanks to our Republican policies, we're enjoying a new wave of popular support all across this country. The Republican Party is a growing party across America because it favors growth and opportunity for all Americans. And Americans of all walks of life are finding a new home in the Republican Party.

Let me tell you why I think this is happening. I won't forget a Cabinet meeting at which I spelled out the political costs of pursuing a line of policy. The President looked at me and thanked me for doing my job, trying to protect him insofar as I could. He said something that goes to the heart of our mission and our mandate. "Elizabeth, forget what's the best thing to do politically. What do you think is the right thing to do?"

Wasn't easy to bring inflation under control in two years instead of ten -- it was the right thing to do... we Republicans did it!

It wasn't easy to create over nine million new jobs, nearly half filled by working women -- it was the right thing to do... we Republicans did it!

Wasn't easy to cut taxes across the board so all Americans could keep more of what they earned -- it was the right thing to do... Republicans did it!



It wasn't easy to bring justice to the thugs who hijacked the Achille Lauro -- it was the right thing to do... our Republican president did it!

We've done a lot. Much remains. For the sake of America, it's not whether our new direction should be carved in stone, but how. It's not whether we should reduce the federal deficit, but how.

The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation imposes some darn tough discipline. It mandates that Congress reduce the federal deficit to zero by 1991. That's a tall order. And it closes the escape hatch, by threatening across-the-board cuts if we don't reach those deficit goals. Gramm-Rudman-Hollings gives everybody an opportunity, a choice. Two roads. One puts the government on automatic pilot, with these across-the-board cuts in nearly every program, cutting both the fat and the meat. That's the garden path to disaster.

The "road less traveled," is a more difficult course, requiring more courage, more imagination, longer hours of grueling work... but it's the right way to go.

We've charted a course: Make taxes simpler so that all Americans know that they are paying their fair share; eliminate the complexities that confuse us; get rid of the preference that enrage many of us; and most of all, achieve fairer taxes.

And that's just the beginning. We have the opportunity, the obligation, to get the government out of businesses that should be run by the private sector. The word "privatization" -- an awkward word at best -- was associated with Margaret Thatcher's splendid program in Great Britain. The time has come to use the British model here. I am presiding over the sale of Conrail, our government freight railroad, and it's the flagship for privatization. Norfolk Southern will give us the equivalent of 10 percent of what Gramm-Rudman-Hollings requires for fiscal year 1986 and bring great strength to Conrail, a fragile entity with marginal profitability. We've already transferred the Alaska Railroad to the state. We're asking Congress to approve the sale of the last two federally owned airports, Washington National and Dulles, to an independent regional commission. We'll sunset the Interstate Commerce Commission, like we did the Civil Aeronautics Board and complete deregulation of the trucking industry and others.

I believe the Department of Transportation's budget is a model of how federal responsibilities can be maintained while the deficit is reduced. We've had to rethink the federal role in transportation -- we can't continue to do all we've been doing -- Amtrak and mass transit operation subsidies, and overcapitalization. The Department will be able to function in fiscal year 1987 with a budget request of \$21.7 billion. As I mentioned, that's \$5 billion less than last year -- an almost 20 percent reduction.

Ninety two percent of fatalities are on our highways. There are approximately 44,000 deaths per year on our highways. The Department of



Transportation's highway safety campaign is directed at three integral elements.

Since 1983 spending has increased by about 50 percent for repair and rehabilitation of our infrastructure. Just last week, I testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, on our proposed highway reauthorization bill.

The design of the vehicle is the second element of our three-pronged approach for improving highway safety. Cars manufactured after last September 1, are required to have a new rear stop lamp, which will supplement the two lower brake lights. You may have seen them on the highways already. Once all the vehicles are equipped with a third lamp it is estimated it will cut the number of rear-end collisions significantly, eliminate 40,000 injuries, save \$434 million in property damage and prevent 900,000 accidents. I was flattered that someone called it the Dole light -- it's an honor to be associated with such a positive safety device.

And three, our campaign for safer drivers extends to the drunk driver, public enemy number one, as far as I'm concerned. In 1984, we strongly supported legislation encouraging states to set 21 as their legal minimum drinking age. A uniform drinking age, as the President said, will do away with today's "crazy quilt" of different state drinking laws, resulting in what have been called "blood borders" -- where teenagers have a positive incentive to drink and drive, to cross state lines to take advantage of lower drinking age. Americans today are no longer willing to tolerate lax laws and lenient judges when it comes to drunk driving offenses. And we are going to keep working until every last drunk driver is off the roads and highways of this country.

I can't emphasize enough that the best defense against the drunk driver is the safety belt. Safety belts are proven lifesavers. Studies show that safety belts can cut moderate to serious injuries in half. But, for people who won't wear them, their effectiveness is zero. When you get in a car, please remember -- safety belts do save lives.

Popular singing star Barbara Mandrell credits safety belts with saving her life and the lives of her children in a head-on crash -- at a combined speed of almost 100 miles an hour -- in Tennessee almost two years ago. She has become a leading advocate of safety belts.

Railroad safety is another major concern of mine and our alcohol-drug rule for the railroads ended 12 years of debate and will prohibit on-the-job drug and alcohol abuse.

I am equally concerned about air safety. Each day in the U.S., some 15,000 scheduled flights carry an average of one million passengers, and 99.999 percent of these flights reach their destination without accident. However, even one accident is one too many and I assure you that we will continually strive to make the safest system in the world even safer.



While I feel very strongly that the United States has the best aviation security system in the world, we are always striving to improve it. Through international teams we will continue our monitoring of airports around the world. And I will work with Congress to get expeditious enactment of my legislation that would --for the first time -- make it a federal crime to enter airport secured areas without authority. The bill would also provide authority for criminal background investigations for employees having access to secure airport areas.

We've got some big challenges ahead of us, some tough choices. With them comes the opportunity to put our stamp on history. Within our grasp are permanent solutions to problems that have plagued us for decades. You are working with us to achieve the Reagan agenda. And I for one am deeply grateful. You are most effective.

In November of 1984, the American people set the course for this country by overwhelmingly endorsing our party's message of hope and opportunity. The message was bold enough, believable enough to attract a solid majority of women, a significant number of minority voters and over 60 percent of the young.

In the 1984 election, the American people affirmed the direction in which this country is headed, and they signalled a fundamental realignment of political loyalties which has brought us closer than at any time in the last half century to true majority party status.

Which brings me to the 1986 election. For the Republican resurgence to continue, for economic expansion and deficit reduction to continue, it is absolutely crucial that Republicans maintain control of the Senate. If we fail, it will bring about profound changes in the Senate; changes that none of us want to see. I heard one Senator say recently on the Senate floor, "Gentlemen, let me tax your memories." Ted Kennedy then leapt to his feet and said, "Why haven't I thought of that before?" If we lose control of the Senate, Ted Kennedy becomes Chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, Joe Biden becomes Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Claiborne Pell becomes Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

It is in our power to gain a Republican majority in both Houses of Congress in the not-too-distant future. It's incredible that of all the votes cast in the 1984 Congressional races, Republican candidates for contested House seats won nearly half a million more votes than their Democrat counterparts. However, these Republicans won 31 fewer contested seats than the Democrats. In California alone, Democrats won 27 out of 45 seats -- 60 percent -- even though we Republicans actually received more votes statewide than Democrats. This inequity clearly resulted from unfair partisan jerrymandering and the creation of Congressional districts following the 1980 census.



In the 1990 census, officials predict as many as 19 House seats will be added in the South and West, which will increase our opportunities to become the majority party in the House of Representatives.

In the last two years Republicans have wrested control of 10 state chambers from the Democrats while losing only three. In the 1984 Reagan landslide the GOP picked up state Senate chambers in Connecticut and Ohio and House chambers in Connecticut, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota and Delaware. That year Republicans lost control in only three chambers; the senate chambers of Montana and Vermont, and the Alaska House. Last year Republicans won control of the New Jersey Assembly from the Democrats with a margin of 50 to 30 seats. Republicans also became the majority in the New Mexico Senate and gained a tie in the Nevada state Senate. These victories are a major step for our Party.

Indeed, there isn't a single state in the Union that we can't win --nor a single state the Democrats can take for granted.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the past five years, our party has established a benchmark of leadership that will require those who follow not merely to piece together a mosaic of political and special interests, but to assemble a constellation of ideas that weave together the aspirations of the people themselves. And to get the job done, we must renew our moral commitment to that spirit of service and selflessness that "flows like a deep and mighty river through the history of our nation."

Recently, a Washington cab driver was taking some tourists past the National Archives Building, where words carved over the door read, "What is Past is Prologue." A little girl asked her father what it meant. Before he could reply, the cabbie said, "Honey, that means you ain't seen nothing yet."

I suggest that we ain't seen nothing yet! Together, we Republicans, young and old and in between, can secure the promise we made back in 1980, to give America back to the American people, to restore her will, to raise her spirits, renew her sense of destiny and reach out to all those who have yet to share in her abundance.

The future of our party and our nation begins here and now. Sometimes it seems as if the challenges are insurmountable -- it's at times like this I think of President Reagan's comment about his early days as Governor of California. "Each morning began," he said, "with someone standing before my desk describing yet another disaster. The feeling of stress became unbearable. I had the urge to look over my shoulder for someone I could pass the problem to. One day it came to me that I was looking in the wrong direction. I looked up instead of back. I'm still looking up. I couldn't face one day in this office if I didn't know I could ask God's help!" Let us never forget the source of our strength and our courage.

Yes -- together, we face many issues of local, national and international importance. Some stretch you to the very limit of your being. Certainly we need the best and the brightest, our young people, to ensure that America stays on her path of growth and opportunity, strength and compassion. Young Republicans stand in the reflected light of a rising sun. Your day is just dawning. I wish you every success. And may God be with each of you.

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