

MEMORANDUM

March 4, 1987

*TP 15
Hyatt Regency
Conference Theater
W. Dr.*

To: Senator Dole
From: Mark Bisnow
Re: Carpet and Rug appearance

You are scheduled to make brief remarks tomorrow morning before the Carpet and Rug Institute. They are hoping you will begin as close to 8:00 AM as possible, leave at least half of the time for questions, and be able to leave by 8:30.

Ned Hopper, Director of Government Affairs for the Institute, will be escorting you to the meeting.

I am told that this is the fourth time that you have addressed the Institute. This particular occasion is the "Presidents' Conference," consisting of about 70 CEOs of carpet manufacturing plants as well as of firms which supply products and services to the industry (e.g., fiber products, financial services).

Hopper says they would most like to hear about: your campaign, the state of the White House and Congress following the Iran affair, the economy, and possibly taxes and trade.

My suggestions:

1. Comment on President's Wednesday night speech on Iran, Baker appointment, need to get on with legislative agenda.
2. The state of your campaign, formation of exploratory committee, establishment of state organizations, emphasis on Super Tuesday (many of these people come from the South, and the Rug Institute is headquartered in Georgia).
3. Concern about economic slowdown (industrial capacity is below 80%, consumer and corporate debt at record levels, drop of dollar in world markets is making foreign investment in U.S. less attractive and putting upward pressure on interest rates, drop of dollar is making foreign goods more expensive and raising spectre of renewed inflation); therefore, need new determination to attack budget deficit.
4. Trade: Congress will be very active on this, and you will play a pivotal role as sponsor of Bentsen bill and introducer of Administration bill.