

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

GEORGIA REPUBLICANS' PRESIDENTS DAY DINNER

*MARCH 6 - 1987  
ATLANTA, GA*

- o THANK YOU PAUL (COVERDELL). IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE IN THE COMPANY OF SO MANY FINE SOUTHERN REPUBLICANS.
  
- o JUDGING BY THE SELECTIONS MADE BY BOTH NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES, THE SOUTH HAS RISEN AGAIN. CHOOSING NEW ORLEANS AND ATLANTA FOR THE CONVENTION SITES IN 1988 SHOWS THAT BOTH REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS UNDERSTAND THE

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IMPORTANCE OF THE SOUTH IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. AND IT UNDERSCORES THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S WILLINGNESS, INDEED DESIRE, TO LISTEN TO YOU.

o I'M PROBABLY MORE FORTUNATE THAN MOST OF THE POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS. I ALREADY HAVE MY SOUTHERN STRATEGY.....ELIZABETH.

o THIS HAS BEEN A PRETTY BIG WEEK IN WASHINGTON -- I WOULD SAY A PIVOTAL WEEK FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION -- FOR THIS PRESIDENCY.

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o FOR MONTHS NOW, THE WHITE HOUSE, THE MEDIA, POLITICIANS, HAVE BEEN CONSUMED BY, MIRED IN, THE IRANIAN/CONTRA AFFAIR. BUT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS -- HOWARD BAKER AND WILLIAM WEBSTER -- AND HIS EXCELLENT SPEECH WEDNESDAY NIGHT -- I THINK WE ALL ARE EMERGING FROM THE FOG.

o WHERE WE'RE GOING -- WELL, WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO IN CONGRESS. A LOT THAT HAS BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY THE IRAN STORY. LIKE THE BUDGET, TRADE, CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE, WELFARE REFORM, AID TO THE CONTRAS. ALL OF THE ISSUES THAT I BELIEVE YOU..EVERYONE...CARE ABOUT.

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o I DON'T HAVE ANY DOUBT THAT THE PRESIDENT IS GOING TO GET IN THERE AND MIX IT UP. HE'S GOING TO BE ENGAGED, INVOLVED. HE'S NOT GOING TO BECOME A DIFFERENT MAN. BUT I THINK HE IS READY, AND ABLE TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE LAST TWO YEARS OF HIS PRESIDENCY. AND GIVING HIM SUSTAINANCE, IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU, ALL OF US WANT HIM TO SUCCEED.