

MICHIGAN TALKING POINTS

***THANK YOU. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE BACK IN MICHIGAN. AS YOU MAY KNOW, I SPENT TWO AND A HALF YEAR IN BATTLE CREEK AFTER THE WAR...AND I WILL NEVER FORGET THE OUTSTANDING CARE I RECEIVED HERE.**

***I PROMISE TO KEEP MY REMARKS BRIEF. I'VE BEEN DOING A LITTLE STUDY OF PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL ADDRESSES, AND DISCOVERED AN INTERESTING COMPARISON BETWEEN THE ADDRESS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THAT OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.**

***WASHINGTON GAVE AN ADDRESS OF LESS THAN 200 WORDS, AND WENT ON TO BECOME ONE OF THE GREATEST PRESIDENTS IN HISTORY. WHEN HARRISON WAS SWORN IN 1841, HE SPOKE FOR TWO HOURS IN A RAINSTORM, CAUGHT PNEUMONIA, AND DIED A MONTH LATER. AND STROM THURMOND SWEARS TO THIS DAY, THAT HE TOLD HARRISON TO KEEP HIS REMARKS SHORT.**

***HAPPY TO FOLLOW THAT ADVICE, BUT I DO WANT TO SHARE A FEW THOUGHTS WITH YOU ABOUT WHERE I WOULD LIKE TO LEAD AMERICA.**

***BEFORE WE LOOK AT WHERE AMERICA IS GOING, WE NEED TO CONSIDER WHERE WE'VE BEEN UNDER THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION.**

***CANDIDATE CLINTON PROMISED CHANGE, BUT PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS GIVEN US THE BIGGEST TAX HIKE IN HISTORY, AN INEPT FOREIGN POLICY, INCREASES IN CRIME AND DRUG USE RATES, AND AN ATTEMPT TO TURN YOUR HEALTH CARE OVER TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

***I HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT VISION FOR AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY.**

***AS PRESIDENT, I WOULD CONTINUE THE WORK OF THIS HISTORIC CONGRESS--DOWNSIZING GOVERNMENT, BALANCING THE BUDGET, AND RETURNING POWER TO THE**

STATES AND TO THE PEOPLE, LIKE WE DID WITH THE HISTORIC WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION THE SENATE PASSED LAST WEEK.

* ANOTHER BUREAUCRACY THAT NEEDS REFORMING IS THE IRS. I WILL MAKE OUR TAX SYSTEM SIMPLER, FLATTER, AND FAIRER.

* AS PRESIDENT, I WILL ALSO RECONNECT GOVERNMENT WITH THE CONSERVATIVE VALUES WHICH MADE THIS COUNTRY THE GREATEST ON EARTH.

* YOU KNOW THE VALUES I'M TALKING ABOUT. LOVE OF GOD, LOVE OF COUNTRY, LOVE OF FAMILY. HONESTY, DECENCY, AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

* AS YOU MAY KNOW, A FEW MONTHS BACK I GAVE A LITTLE SPEECH IN HOLLYWOOD. IN THAT SPEECH, I SIMPLY SUGGESTED THAT THOSE IN CHARGE OF OUR ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY HAVE A DUTY TO BALANCE

COMMON DECENCY AND THE INTERESTS OF OUR CHILDREN WITH THEIR DESIRE TO MAKE A PROFIT.

*** AFTER THAT SPEECH, I ALSO RECEIVED A LOT OF LETTERS FROM AMERICANS WHO DON'T LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD. AND THEY MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOSS OF ANY SENSE OF SHAME OR STANDARD OF DECENCY IN OUR POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT.**

*** OUR GOAL IS NOT TO IMPOSE OUR MORALITY ON ANYONE ELSE. IT'S TO STOP THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FROM IMPOSING A DEBASED MORALITY ON THE REST OF US.**

*** BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY THAT'S THE PROBLEM. IT'S ALSO OUR GOVERNMENT, OUR COURTS, AND OUR SCHOOLS. LET ME GIVE YOU SOME EXAMPLES.**

*** ACCORDING TO RECENT STUDIES, DRUG USE AMONG KIDS IS UP--WAY UP. BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS SCALED BACK ENFORCEMENT AND PREVENTION. WHEN OUR PRESIDENT WARNS ABOUT SMOKING, HE'S TALKING ABOUT CIGARETTES. SMOKING WILL KILL YOU, AND KIDS SHOULDN'T DO IT. BUT WHAT'S THE MESSAGE OF AN ADMINISTRATION IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT THINKS WE OUGHT TO REGULATE TOBACCO, BUT HIS SURGEON GENERAL THOUGHT WE OUGHT TO LEGALIZE DRUGS?**

*** CRIME IS MORE RANDOM AND MORE VIOLENT, BUT OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE DOESN'T SEEM TO KEEP ANYONE IN JAIL. WE SHOULD PUT AN END TO PAROLE FOR VIOLENT OFFENDERS. PUT LIMITS ON THE ENDLESS APPEAL PROCESS. AND TEENAGERS WHO COMMIT SERIOUS, VIOLENT CRIME SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE JUVENILE COURTS AND TRIED AS ADULTS.**

*** GOVERNMENT POLICIES INTENDED TO BRING US TOGETHER ARE INSTEAD TEARING US APART. THE FAILED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT PREFERENCES AND SET-ASIDES KNOWN AS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION MUST END. WE SHOULD STOP DIVIDING AMERICANS BY RACE AND GET BACK TO THE SIMPLE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL.**

*** BUT PERHAPS NOWHERE IS THE FAILURE OF LIBERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY MORE EVIDENT THAN IN THE CLASSROOM.**

*** OUR SCHOOLS SHOULD REFLECT THE VALUES OF AMERICA AND TEACH AGAIN THE VALUE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM. WE MUST GUARANTEE THE RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO ENJOY RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE. AND WE MUST GUARANTEE THE RIGHT OF OUR CHILDREN TO VOLUNTARILY PRAY IN SCHOOL. AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WE NEED TO**

**CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO ENSURE THAT PARENTS CAN
SEND THEIR CHILD TO THE SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE.**

*** AND WITH ALL THE DIVISIVE FORCES TEARING AT
OUR COUNTRY TODAY, WE NEED THE GLUE OF LANGUAGE
TO HELP HOLD US TOGETHER. IF WE WANT TO ENSURE
THAT ALL OUR CHILDREN HAVE THE SAME
OPPORTUNITIES, WE NEED TO INSIST THAT ALL CHILDREN
BE TAUGHT ENGLISH IN OUR SCHOOLS, AND ENGLISH
SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED ONCE AND FOR ALL AS THE
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

*** WE ALSO NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL REASSERT
AMERICA'S ROLE AS LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD.**

*** IF I AM PRESIDENT, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE
AMERICAN ARMED FORCES WILL NOT BE ASKED TO RISK
THEIR LIVES FOR ADVENTURES DREAMED UP BY BOUTROS
BOUTROS GHALI.**

***I WILL PUT A STOP TO POLICIES WHICH DISMANTLE
OUR DEFENSE AND HOLLOW OUT OUR MILITARY.**

***LET ME CLOSE BY SAYING THAT YES, AMERICA HAS
PROBLEMS. TOUGH PROBLEMS. BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT
THAT WE CAN SOLVE THEM.**

***I HAVE SEEN AMERICANS PERSEVERE THROUGH THE
DUSTSTORMS OF THE '30S AND THE POVERTY OF THE
GREAT DEPRESSION. I HAVE WITNESSED THE COURAGE
OF AMERICANS IN WAR, AND THE STAGGERING SPLENDOR
OF OUR PRODUCTIVITY IN PEACE.**

***I HAVE WATCHED AS THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN
TESTED AND TESTED AND TESTED AGAIN. AND YOU
CAN'T COME THROUGH ALL OF THAT WITHOUT BECOMING
AN OPTIMIST ABOUT AMERICA.**

***I'VE SEEN OUR COUNTRY OVERCOME TOO MUCH
ADVERSITY NOT TO BELIEVE THAT OUR BEST DAYS ARE
YET TO COME.**

***TOGETHER, WE CAN RENEW THE FOUNDATIONS OF
OUR SOCIETY. AND IF WE PUT OUR FAITH IN GOD AND
OUR TRUST IN FREEDOM, IT WILL ONCE AGAIN BE WITHIN
OUR POWER TO BUILD AN AMERICA AS BIG AS OUR
DREAMS...AS STRONG AS OUR HEARTS...AND AS GREAT
AS OUR HISTORY DEMANDS.**