

April 21, 1984

PROPOSED REMARKS (Detroit)

MY HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME ON A  
HECTIC EASTER SATURDAY TO GIVE ME SUCH A MEMORABLE BIRTHDAY  
PARTY. IT'S REALLY GREAT TO BE ABLE TO PERSONALLY VISIT WITH SO  
MANY DEAR OLD FRIENDS AND TO HAVE MY FAMILY AND PEOPLE I  
CONSIDER FAMILY WITH ME.

I LEARNED IT WAS INITIALLY PLANNED AS A SURPRISE PARTY BY MY  
GOOD LONGTIME FRIENDS, DAMON, J.P. AND TOM. I BELIEVE IT BROKE  
ALL WASHINGTON RECORDS FOR KEEPING A SECRET. THE SURPRISE  
LASTED FOR A FULL 24 HOURS. YUP, IT WAS AT LEAST 24 HOURS  
AFTER THE MAILING OF THE INVITATION BEFORE THE "SURPRISE" WAS  
LEAKED TO ME INADVERTENTLY OR EVEN VERTENTLY.

I CALLED MARY AT HOME, WHO DEMONSTRATED SHE IS NOW A  
STALWART WASHINGTONIAN BY STONEWALLING IT. SHE AGGRESSIVELY  
ASSERTED "WHAT BIRTHDAY PARTY? WE ARE HAVING A LITTLE DINNER AT  
THE MASCHMEYERS."

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I SAID HOW IN THE HELL IS THAT HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE (AND I LOVE THEM) GOING TO IMPOSE ON 70 FRIENDS TO SHOW UP ON THE SATURDAY NIGHT BEFORE EASTER? MARY WISECRACKED -- " ALL YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE AT THE MASCHMEYERS -- WE ARE PLANNING A PARTY OF FOUR -- THAT INCLUDES US! PLEASE PARDON THIS QUIP BUT I COULDN'T RESIST SAYING "EVEN WASHINGTONIANS CAN'T HANDLE A BIRTHDAY PARTY ONE NIGHT AND A RESURRECTION THE NEXT MORNING." BUT THE BIRTHDAY SHIP WAS LAUNCHED, OUT OF OUR CONTROL, AND FORTUNATELY IN THE VERY CAPABLE HANDS OF TOM ANGOTT, DAMON AND J.P.

ACTUALLY, I WAS HOPING TO QUIETLY BY-PASS THIS PARTICULAR GOLDEN MILESTONE WITHOUT HERALDING MY ABSOLUTE CLAIM TO 24 KARAT SUPER SENIOR CITIZENSHIP! BUT IT WASN'T TO BE, AND NOW THAT YOU ARE ALL HERE WITH ME, I'M REALLY GLAD.

YOU SEE, I THOUGHT THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING BLESSED BY OLD FRIENDS IS THAT MOST COULDN'T REMEMBER HOW OLD YOU ARE. THE BIRTHDAY MAILING HIGHLIGHTING THE BIG "SEVEN O" BLEW THAT.

HOWEVER, IF YOU LOOK HARD ENOUGH YOU CAN STILL FIND SOME POSITIVE FACTS ABOUT REACHING 70. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME WASHINGTON-TYPE STATISTICS CONCLUSIVELY PROVE THAT FEWER PEOPLE DIE AFTER 70 THAN AT ANY OTHER AGE UP TO THAT TIME. THINK ABOUT IT AWHILE.

AND OLD BEN FRANKLIN ADVOCATED A RELAXED FATALISTIC APPROACH TO AGING WITH HIS FAMOUS QUOTE " ONLY TWO THINGS IN LIFE ARE CERTAIN --- DEATH AND TAXES." I SUPPOSE IT'S TRUE, BUT I RESENT THAT THEY DON'T COME IN THAT ORDER.

AND THEN THERE ARE ALL THOSE STORIES ABOUT " YOU KNOW YOU ARE GETTING OLD WHEN ---.

I'LL ADD ONE TO THE TIME-USED DOZEN ON THE PRINTED CARD -- YOU KNOW YOU ARE GETTING OLD WHEN YOUR LITTLE GRANDCHILD ASKS "WERE YOU IN NOAH'S ARK?" YOU ANSWER "HELL NO" --- AND LITTLE HE OR SHE THEN ASKS, "HOW COME YOU WEREN'T DROWNED?"

ANOTHER THING --- YOU DON'T FEEL PARTICULARLY THREATENED WHEN THAT DRASTIC PROPOSAL REAPPEARS THAT "THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO

CUT DOWN THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT IS TO SIMPLY MAKE ADULTERY A  
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT OFFENSE."

I DID FIND OUT ONE THING IN MY GOLDEN YEARS --- LIKE A  
FORMER PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED IN PLAYBOY, I CAN STILL LUST IN MY  
HEART AND MIND -- THE HELL OF IT IS THAT IT DOESN'T TRANSMIT! I  
CAN LOOK BACK NOW AND REGRET THE MISTAKES OF RESISTING  
TEMPTATION. ENOUGH OF THE LIGHT SIDE. TURNING SERIOUS FOR A  
MINUTE I WANT TO SHARE WITH MY YOU MY FAVORITE CLASSIC QUOTE ON  
A POSITIVE ASPECT OF AGING. IT WAS BY THE GREAT GERMAN  
PHILOSOPHER GOETHE AND IT EXPRESSES MY FEELINGS SIMPLY AND  
DIRECTLY. GOETHE SAID "IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO GROW OLD TO  
BECOME MORE CHARITABLE AND EVEN INDULGENT...I SEE NO FAULT  
COMMITTED BY OTHERS THAT I HAVE NOT COMMITTED MYSELF."

ANYWAY, I AM THE SENIOR COMMISSIONER IN AGE, SERVICE AND  
IDIOSYNCRASIES AND I'M HAPPY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR REAPPOINTMENT.

IT'S REALLY AN EXCITING AND CHALLENGING TIME TO BE AT THE  
COMMISSION WITH THE UNPRECEDENTED TECHNOLOGICAL EXPLOSION IN  
COMMUNICATIONS -- IN BROADCASTING, TELECOMMUNICATIONS,  
SATELLITES, DBS, MDS, ITFS, CABLE, CASSETTE, CELLULAR RADIO, --  
IT'S OUR JOB AT THE COMMISSION TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO  
ACHIEVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST IDEAL OF "THE BEST SERVICE TO THE  
MOST PEOPLE AT THE MOST REASONABLE COST." BUT, THAT IS ANOTHER  
SPEECH OR EVEN AN ENTIRE BOOK FOR ANOTHER OCCASION AND TIME.

TONIGHT, I'M GRATEFUL TO HAVE CHERISHED FRIENDS LIKE YOU TO  
SHARE THIS GOLDEN YEAR MILESTONE WITH ME. I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER  
THIS EVENING AND REMEMBER YOU.

THANK YOU AND MAY <sup>the Lord</sup> GOD BE WITH YOU, BUT NOT TOO SOON.