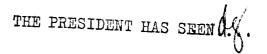
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REMARKS AT THE

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1975

THANK YOU, JOHN (DELLENBACK). AL QUIE IS A HARD MAN TO FOLLOW, WHETHER IN POLITICAL DEBATE OR AT A PRAYER SESSION. THERE ARE VERY FEW PEOPLE I KNOW WHO DEMONSTRATE BETTER THE TRUTH THAT TO BE A LEADER ONE MUST FIRST BE A SERVANT -- AND HE IS INDEED A DILIGENT SERVANT OF GOD AND OF HIS FELLOW MAN. AND I HAVE KNOWN

MANY OTHERS DURING MY YEARS HERE IN WASHINGTON.

THE PLATFORM ON WHICH WE ARE STANDING THIS MORNING --STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER, AS THE OLD SPIRITUAL GOES --IS BROAD ENOUGH AND STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD POLITICIANS OF ALL ELEMENTS OF ALL PARTIES MEN AND WOMEN OF MANY DIFFERENT CONVICTIONS, BOTH RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL CONVICTIONS. THE BEAUTY OF JOSEPH'S COAT WAS ITS MANY COLORS, AND THE BEAUTY OF THESE PRAYER BREAKFASTS IS THE MANY FAITHS THEY BRING TOGETHER.

WE ARE JOINED IN THE PROFOUND REALIZATION THAT NONE

OF US CAN GO IT ALONE, AND THAT WE DO NOT NEED TO GO IT ALONE

IF WE SEEK THE HELP OF GOD AND OF OUR FELLOWSHIP.

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WHILE I HAVE BEEN COMING TO THESE ANNUAL GATHERINGS FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS, I MUST ADMIT THIS ONE TAKES ON A LITTLE DIFFERENT MEANING, IN THE PAST I HAVE FOUND IT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION AND REDEDICATION, AND AN OCCASION TO PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY AND ITS LEADERS, FOR MY FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES, FOR THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND FORGIVENESS FOR MY OWN SHORTCOMINGS AND TRESPASSES. BUT SINCE WE LAST MET I HAVE DISCOVERED ANOTHER ASPECT

OF THE POWER OF PRAYER

IT IS TO HAVE PEOPLE PRAY FOR ME.

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IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT THE PRESIDENCY IS THE LONELIEST JOB IN THE WORLD. IN A <u>CERTAIN SENSE</u> <u>SUPPOSE IT IS</u>. YET, IN <u>ALL HONESTY</u>, I CANNOT SAY THAT I HAVE SUFFERED FROM LONELINESS THESE PAST SIX MONTHS. <u>THE REASON</u>, I AM CERTAIN, HAS BEEN THAT <u>EVERYWHERE I GO</u>, <u>AMONG OLD FRIENDS OR STRANGERS</u>, PEOPLE CALL OUT OF THE CROWD OR SAY QUIETLY TO ME: "<u>WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU</u>," OR "<u>YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS</u>." I READ THE SAME SENTIMENTS IN MY MAIL - OF COURSE THERE ARE SOME THAT ARE NOT SO INSPIRING. BUT THE <u>GREAT</u> <u>GROUNDSWELL OF GOODWILL</u> THAT COMES FROM THE <u>TRUE SPIRIT</u> OF AMERICA HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL SOURCE OF <u>STRENGTH TO ME</u> AS IT WAS, I AM SURE, TO <u>OTHER PRESIDENTS</u> BEFORE ME.

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BELIEVE ME, HAVING COUNTED THE VOTES AND KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE THEM IS A GREAT SATISFACTION. BUT THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THAT UNCOUNTED NUMBERS OF GOOD PEOPLE

ARE PRAYING FOR YOU IS INFINITELY MORE REWARDING.

PRAYER IS A VERY, VERY PERSONAL THING -- AT LEAST

FOR ME. YET TO ME, AS TO MANY OF MY PREDECESSORS,

IT IS A TERRIBLY IMPORTANT SOURCE OF <u>STRENGTH</u> AND <u>CONFIDENCE</u>. NOW A ABLE TO TRULY APPRECIATE THAT STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, WHO CONFESSED: ▲I HAVE BEEN DRIVEN MANY TIMES TO MY KNEES BY THE OVERWHELMING CONVICTION THAT I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
MY OWN WISDOM, AND THAT OF ALL ABOUT ME, SEEMED INSUFFICIENT
FOR THAT DAY.

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PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY SPOKE TO ONE OF THESE PRAYER

REMEMBER HIS MOVING CONCLUSION:

✤THIS MORNING WE PRAY TOGETHER; THIS EVENING APART.

BUT EACH MORNING AND EACH EVENING, LET US REMEMBER THE ADVICE

OF MY FELLOW BOSTONIAN, THE REVEREND PHILLIPS BROOKS:

'DO NOT PRAY FOR EASY LIVES.

PRAY TO BE STRONGER MEN!

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DO NOT PRAY FOR TASKS EQUAL TO YOUR POWERS.

PRAY FOR POWERS EQUAL TO YOUR TASKS.'"

ON THE DAY THAT I SUDDENLY BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AFTER ALL THE GUESTS HAD GONE, I WALKED THROUGH *fte White House*. THE EMPTY ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND STOPPED BY THE WHITE MARBLE MANTLE IN THE DINING ROOM TO READ THE WORDS CARVED IN IT -- WORDS THAT WERE A PRAYER OF THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO OCCUPY THE WHITE HOUSE.

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I AM <u>GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT ADAMS</u> FOR LEAVING ME THAT MESSAGE, AND TO ALL WHO HAVE SAID <u>"AMEN"</u> TO IT FOR NEARLY TWO CENTURIES. MY OWN PRAYER IS FOR GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSINGS AND GUIDANCE FOR OUR COUNTRY AND ALL ITS PEOPLE, WHOSE SERVANTS WE IN GOVERNMENT STRIVE TO BE. THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT

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