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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

AND

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
BUFFALO GROVE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FIELDHOUSE

9:14 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: What a wonderful, wonderful group to be so patient and to just listen. I can't thank you enough for coming and waiting to hear me say an extra word or two.

I am impressed, as I said in there, with the fine facilities you have here at Buffalo Grove, the wonderful students and all the fine administration, including the faculty.

I will tell you, I will make a deal with you. Now be quiet. We will take four questions. Now wait a minute. They have to be from somebody that is close enough so I can hear it. Now wait a minute. We will take two over here, and we will take two over there. Now wait a minute. That young man with a good loud voice back over there. Go ahead.

QUESTION: (Inaudible)

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to speak louder. You were yelling louder than you speak.

QUESTION: (Inaudible)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, my wife Betty was out at Lamb, and Congressman McClory was there and, as I understand it, Betty was there two and a half hours and spent a great deal of time, I assume, with the students, the young people who were there, and I can't understand why she could not speak to the faculty or the members of the teaching group. But that was not a decision made by Betty. That was a decision made by somebody else, if it is true, and I just can't imagine that if she was there for two and a half hours she didn't have a chance to talk to some of the teachers.

Well, here is Bob McClory. Let Bob answer it. Well, Bob tells me that she spoke to the teachers, spoke to everybody.

Yes, sir.

MORE

QUESTION: I heard your remarks in there about trying to restore freedom back to the American people, and I think that is probably the most important thing. However, I know that right now at this very minute there are people back in Washington who are determining what kind of car I will be able to buy and determining whether my children will be able to attend the schools that I am paying for or whether they will have to attend some school not of my choice who are also attempting to dictate what type of home I will live in or where this home will be located.

Despite your wonderful goal, I am wondering what you are trying to do in terms of trying to accomplish in light of what I am proposing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the gentleman has questioned whether we have at the present time in the Federal Government the kind of freedom that I understand he would prefer, which would be the freedom to send his children to the schools of his choice, the freedom to buy the car that he would like, and one other I don't recall.

Well, I think the objectives of what he as indicated are what I would like. I don't agree with court ordered, forced busing to achieve a racial balance, period.

But under the Supreme Court is a co-equal branch of the Federal Government, and the President can't call up the Chief Justice and say, you decide it the way I want it decided. That is not the way our Government works. We can try to find a better answer than the answers that have been in Boston or some of the other communities, but you don't do these things overnight.

They weren't done over 200 years. We have to work at them. I have to work with you, and you have to work with me with 215 million other people.

Yes, sir.

MORE

QUESTION: If for some reason Ronald Reagan got the nomination, would you support him?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't deal in speculation, I deal in reality. I firmly believe we are going to get the nomination and so I deal in the facts of life. I have always supported the Republican candidate but in this case I think I am going to be the nominee.

Is there a young lady? There is one right there.

QUESTION: In the last several months there has been a 10 percent cut in State scholarships. I would like to know if there is anything you are going to do about it or can do about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, since it is a State matter, as I understand it, there is nothing that we in the Federal Government can do about it. It is a matter that involves your Governor and your State Legislature in Springfield, so there is nothing that we in the Federal Government can do about it except for those Federal programs where we have student loans, student grants. In those areas where there are student grants we have increased what they call basic opportunity grants but that is not a State program, that is a Federal program.

Your State programs--you should talk to your Governor and talk to your State Legislature.

One more question.

QUESTION: Whatever happened to energy independence?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a good question. A year ago in January I submitted a 13 point program to the Congress of the United States that would stimulate domestic production and bring about conservation. After one year Congress has passed four of the thirteen proposals that I recommended. It is a pretty dismal record, and even one of the proposals that they submitted to me was of marginal benefit. I hope that the Congress will get off of its dead center and do something in this area so we can have energy independence.

Thank you all very, very much.

END (AT 9:21 P.M. CST)