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GOVERNOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

APRIL 5, 1974

COLORADO

GOVERNOR VANDERHOOF, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND
FELLOW AMERICANS. I AM ^{happy} HONORED TO BE WITH YOU THIS MORNING.
I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE GOVERNOR'S INVITATION TO JOIN YOU IN
AN HOUR OF SPIRITUAL RE-DEDICATION.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, MY FAMILY AND I HAVE A SPECIAL
FEELING FOR THIS GREAT STATE. EACH YEAR WE MAKE OUR
PILGRIMAGE TO BEAUTIFUL VAIL ^{with its beautiful scenery &} ~~FOR WHAT HAS TO BE SOME OF~~



delightful summers.

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~~THE BEST SKIING IN THE WORLD~~ -- AND I CAN ASSURE YOU WE
WILL BE BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR.

AS I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I MIGHT SAY THIS MORNING, I
WAS REMINDED OF A STORY ABOUT A NEWLY ELECTED CONGRESSMAN,
THE MOTHER, FATHER AND SON WERE PACKING THEIR THINGS AND
PREPARING FOR THEIR JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON, WHERE THE
FATHER WOULD TAKE HIS SEAT IN CONGRESS. SOON IT WAS TIME
FOR THE YOUNG BOY TO GO TO BED, AND AS HE CLIMBED THE
STAIRS HIS FATHER REMINDED HIM TO SAY HIS PRAYERS BEFORE
GOING TO SLEEP. A SHORT TIME LATER HIS PARENTS PASSED



HIS ROOM AND HE WAS STILL TALKING -- (AS SON'S OF POLITICIANS SOMETIMES DO). AS THEY LISTENED THEY HEARD HIM SAY:

"GOD BLESS MOMMY, GOD BLESS DADDY AND ----- GOODBYE GOD, WE'RE GOING TO WASHINGTON."

I DON'T AGREE. IN THE 25 YEARS I HAVE SERVED IN WASHINGTON I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND KNOW SOME OF THE FINEST AND MOST DECENT AMERICANS YOU COULD FIND ANYWHERE -- AMERICANS REPRESENTING THE FULL POLITICAL SPECTRUM -- LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE, REPUBLICAN, DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENTS.



ALL OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN HAD THE CAPACITY TO SET
ASIDE THEIR PARTISAN DIFFERENCES AND JOIN TOGETHER IN
FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS, JUST AS WE HAVE DONE THIS MORNING,
FOR YEARS THE HOUSE AND SENATE HAVE MET IN PRAYER
BREAKFASTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE A BEING GREATER THAN ANY
MAN-MADE INSTITUTION.

THESE ARE GROUPS WHERE MEN WITH GREAT DIFFERENCES IN
RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL THOUGHT GATHERED TO MORE CLEARLY
DEFINE THEIR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR GOD.

YOU KNOW, THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF OUR COUNTRY WERE



TRULY INSPIRED MEN WHOSE VISION ALLOWED THEM TO CREATE
A MAGNIFICENT WORK, ONE WHICH HAS ENDURED LONGER THAN ANY
CONTINUING FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.
THROUGHOUT OUR 198-YEAR HISTORY WE HAVE LEARNED, THROUGH
JOY AND SADNESS, THE LESSONS OF HAVING A FREE AND
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

AS CARETAKERS OF THIS LEGACY, WE MUST SEEK TO MAINTAIN
AND REVITALIZE IT. BUT MOST OF ALL WE MUST DEFEND IT AGAINST
THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO DESTROY IT.

IN ACCEPTING THIS SERIOUS UNDERTAKING WE MUST FIND THE



BEST PEOPLE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE. THERE ARE SCORES OF GOOD AND DECENT AMERICANS LIKE YOURSELVES, WHO SHOULD HEED THE CALL OF LEADERSHIP, MEN AND WOMEN WHO REALLY WANT TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, BUT FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER HAVE PUT OFF THE OBLIGATIONS OF A PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY,

AMERICA IS FACING COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT TIMES WHICH TEST THE VERY PRINCIPLES OF THE REPUBLIC. WE CAN ONLY ENTERTAIN THESE GREAT CHALLENGES WITH GREAT LEADERSHIP.

AS I TRAVEL AROUND THE COUNTRY I FIND MANY DIFFERENT ATTITUDES. FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS THE ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACK --



THE FELLOW WHO SITS ON THE SIDELINES HIMSELF BUT CRITIZES
THE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS. BIGGIE MUNN, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AT
MICHIGAN STATE, ONCE SAID . . . 'THE GAME IS 90% PERSPIRATION
AND 10% INSPIRATION.' I BELIEVE THAT, WE NEED MORE PLAYERS.
LET'S GET INVOLVED. LET'S RESOLVE TODAY TO DO OUR ^{full} SHARE
FOR AMERICA.

WE HEAR TOO OFTEN THAT WE ARE A SICK PEOPLE, THAT LIFE
IS A SERIES OF CRISES, THAT OUR SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK, THAT
OUR SYSTEM IS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE. I FIRMLY BELIEVE



THAT NOTHING IS FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH, OURS IS -- AND
WILL REMAIN -- THE HEALTHIEST SOCIETY -- MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY
AND SPIRITUALLY — THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN. ANYONE WHO
WANTS PROOF OF THAT NEED ONLY LOOK AT THE DAILY LIVES OF
THE GREAT MAJORITY OF AMERICAN FAMILIES. THIS IS A STRONG
COUNTRY, A GOOD COUNTRY, AND IT IS OVERFLOWING WITH
HONEST, DECENT PEOPLE WHO TRY TO LEAD HONEST, DECENT LIVES.

AND LET ME ADD SOMETHING THAT ALL OF YOU HERE THIS
MORNING KNOW SO WELL. THE QUALITY OF AMERICAN FAMILY
LIFE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR DEEP NATIONAL BELIEF



IN THE TRADITIONAL VALUES, VALUES THAT FLOW FROM OUR
RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, VALUES THAT GIVE SHAPE AND SUBSTANCE
AND DIRECTION TO OUR DAILY LIVES -- IN SHORT, ---- MORAL
VALUES.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE ISSUE SEEMED IN DOUBT,
DURING THE FIFTIES, MANY OF OUR VERY FINEST YOUNG PEOPLE
EXPOSED TO THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ETHICAL RELATIVISM
THAT WAS THEN IN FASHION ON SO MANY CAMPUSES SEEMED
TO DROP OUT.



AND THEN IN THE SIXTIES, WE WATCHED MANY YOUNG PEOPLE DECIDE TO GET INVOLVED, BUT TO GET INVOLVED IN WAYS WHICH WERE NOT ALWAYS PRODUCTIVE. TOWARD THE END OF THAT DECADE, SOME EVEN TOOK TO VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS.

BUT TODAY A NEW MOOD SEEMS TO HAVE GROWN UP IN AMERICA. YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN TO ENGAGE AGAIN IN A PROFOUND AND SERIOUS SEARCH FOR FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS.



SOME OLDER AMERICANS HAVE BEEN A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS OF THEIR EXUBERANT ACTIVITIES. THIS NEW MOVEMENT AND ALL ITS VARIATIONS SEEMED LIKE IT MIGHT BE JUST ANOTHER FAD.

BUT IN MOST INSTANCES, IT WASN'T JUST ANOTHER FAD, INSTEAD IT REFLECTED THE RETURN OF YOUNG AMERICANS TO THOSE BASIC TRUTHS IN WHICH WE ALL BELIEVE -- THE ETERNAL TRUTHS OF RELIGION. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CONTINUE TO BE AMERICA'S GREATEST RESOURCE, AND WE CAN CONTINUE TO BE PROUD OF THEM.



MANY OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY HAVE BEGUN TO CHANNEL
THEIR ZEST AND THEIR ENTHUSIASM INTO THE STRUCTURES PROVIDED
FOR THEM BY THE TRADITIONAL CHURCHES AND DENOMINATIONS.
AND THE MEMBERS OF THIS AUDIENCE ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED
FOR ENCOURAGING THIS ASSIMILATION AND FOR PROVIDING SHAPE
AND STRUCTURE FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM

Some of you are aware,
AS ~~MANY OF YOU ARE AWARE,~~ I TAKE A VERY PERSONAL
INTEREST IN THE RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.



MY SON, MIKE, IS A DIVINITY STUDENT, AND HE INTENDS TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

MIKE HAS MADE HIS COMMITMENT, AND I THINK THE DISCOVERY HE MADE IS THE DISCOVERY THAT SO MANY OF HIS GENERATION HAVE MADE IN VARIOUS WAYS.

WE SEEM TO HAVE COME FULL CIRCLE, ONE LESSON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE LEARNED FOR THEMSELVES IS THAT HEAVEN CANNOT BE BROUGHT TO EARTH; MAN CANNOT BE MADE PERFECT,



THEY ARE LEARNING THAT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE OUT THERE,
SOMETHING BIGGER THAN EARTHLY THINGS TO EXPLAIN MAN'S
NATURE AND TO GIVE MEANING TO HUMAN LIFE. THAT SOMETHING,
OF COURSE, IS SPIRITUAL. THAT SOMETHING IS GOD.

THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS IS ALIVE AND WELL -- AND THAT
MEANS THAT OUR SOCIETY IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ALIVE
AND WELL. THIS IS A GREAT AND FREE LAND, WITH ITS MAGNIFICENT
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND THE DECENT DAILY LIVES OF ITS



CITIZENS BUILT UPON AN ENDURING FAITH IN GOD, THERE MAY
BE ABERRATIONS AND THERE MAY BE PERIODS OF FRUSTRATION
AND CONTROVERSY, BUT OUR FAITH WILL CARRY US THROUGH.

AS USUAL, THE BIBLE SAYS IT BEST... AND I QUOTE ---
"WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY."

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
GOVERNOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
COLORADO
APRIL 5, 1974

Governor Vanderhoof, distinguished guests and fellow Americans. I am honored to be with you this morning. I greatly appreciate the Governor's invitation to join you in an hour of spiritual re-dedication.

As you all know, my family and I have a special feeling for this great State. Each year we make our pilgrimage to beautiful Vail for what has to be some of the best skiing in the world -- and I can assure you we will be back again this year.

As I thought about what I might say this morning, I was reminded of a story about a newly elected Congressman. The mother, father and son were packing their things and preparing for their journey to Washington, where the father would take his seat in Congress. Soon it was time for the young boy to go to bed, and as he climbed the stairs his father reminded him to say his prayers before going to sleep. A short time later his parents passed his room and he was still talking --(as son's of politicians sometimes do). As they listened they heard him say: "God Bless Mommy, God Bless Daddy and -----goodbye God, we're going to Washington."

In the 25 years I have served in Washington I have had the opportunity to meet and know some of the finest and most decent Americans you could find anywhere. -- Americans representing the full political spectrum -- liberal to conservative, Republican,

Democrat and Independent.

All of these men and women had the capacity to set aside their partisan differences and join together in fellowship with others, just as we have done this morning. For years the House and Senate have met in Prayer Breakfasts to acknowledge a being greater than any man-made institution.

These are groups where men with great differences in religious and political thought gathered to more clearly define their personal relationship with their God.

You know, the founding fathers of our country were truly inspired men whose vision allowed them to create a magnificent work, one which has endured longer than any continuing form of government in the history of the world. Throughout our 198-year history we have learned, through joy and sadness, the lessons of having a free and democratic Republic.

As caretakers of this legacy we must seek to maintain and revitalize it. But most of all we must defend it against those who would seek to destroy it.

In accepting this serious undertaking we must find the best people for public service. There are scores of good and decent people for public service. There are scores of good and decent Americans like yourselves, who should heed the call of leadership. Men and women who really want to make a contribution, but for one reason or another have put off the obligations of a participatory democracy.

America is facing complicated and difficult times which test the very principles of the Republic. We can only entertain these great challenges with great leadership.



As I travel around the country I find many different attitudes. For instance, there is the armchair quarterback -- the fellow who sits on the sidelines himself but criticizes the active participants. Biggie Munn, Athletic Director at Michigan State, once said.. "the game is 90% perspiration and 10% inspiration." I believe that. We need more players. Let's get involved. Let's resolve today to do our share America.

We hear too often that we are a sick people, that life is a series of crises, that our system doesn't work, that our system is on the verge of collapse.

I firmly believe that nothing is further from the truth. Ours is -- and will remain -- the healthiest society -- mentally, physically and spiritually -- the world has ever known. Anyone who wants proof of that need only look at the daily lives of the great majority of American families. This is a strong country, a good country, and it is overflowing with honest, decent people who try to lead honest, decent lives.

And let me add something that all of you here this morning know so well. The quality of American family life would not be possible without our deep national belief in the traditional values, values that flow from our religious traditions, values that give shape and substance and direction to our daily lives -- in short, ---- moral values.

There was a time when the issue seemed in doubt. During the fifties, many of our very finest young people exposed to the social, cultural and ethical relativism that was then in fashion on so many campuses -- seemed to drop out.

And then in the sixties, we watched many young people decide to get involved, but to get involved in ways which were not always productive.

Toward the end of that decade, some even took to violence as a means of achieving their goals.

But today a new mood seems to have grown up in America. Young people have begun to engage again in a profound and serious search for fundamental truths.

Some older Americans have been a little suspicious of their exuberant activities. This new movement and all its variations seemed like it might be just another fad.

But in most instances, it wasn't just another fad. Instead it reflected the return of young Americans to those basic truths in which we all believe -- the eternal truths of religion. Our young people continue to be America's greatest resource, and we can continue to be proud of them.

Many of these young people today have begun to channel their zest and their enthusiasm into the structures provided for them by the traditional churches and denominations. And the members of this audience are to be congratulated for encouraging this assimilation and for providing shape and structure for their enthusiasm.

As many of you are aware, I take a very personal interest in the religious commitment of our young people. My son, Mike, is a divinity student, and he intends to devote his life to Christian service.

Mike has made his commitment and I think the discovery he made is the discovery that so many of his generation have made in various ways.

We seem to have come full circle. One lesson our young people have learned for themselves is that heaven cannot be brought to earth; man cannot be made perfect. They are learning that there is something more out there, something bigger than earthly things to explain man's

nature and to give meaning to human life. That something, of course, is spiritual. That something is God.

The faith of our fathers is alive and well -- and that means that our society is and will continue to be alive and well. This is a great and free land, with its magnificent system of government and the decent daily lives of its citizens built upon an enduring faith in God. There may be aberrations and there may be periods of frustration and controversy, but our faith will carry us through.

As usual, the Bible says it best...and I quote ----"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Thank you very much.



Vice President
Remarks by Gerald R. Ford

GOVERNOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

April 5, 1974

Colorado

Governor Vanderhoof, distinguished guests and fellow Americans. I am honored to be with you this morning. I greatly appreciate the Governor's invitation to join you in an hour of spiritual ~~re-dedication~~ re-dedication.

As you all know, my family and I have a special feeling for this great State. Each year we make our pilgrimage to beautiful Vail for what has to be some of the best skiing in the world -- and I can assure you we will be back again this year.

~~_____~~

As I thought about what I might say this morning, I was reminded of a story about a newly elected Congressman. The mother, father and son were packing their things and preparing for their journey to Washington, where the father would take his seat in Congress. Soon it was time for the young boy to go to bed, and as he climbed the stairs his father reminded him to say his prayers before going to ~~bed~~ ^{sleep.} A short time later his parents passed his room and he was still talking -- (as son's of politician ^{As,} sometimes do). ^{they heard him say:} They listened ~~as he said.~~ "God Bless Mommy, God Bless Daddy and ----- goodbye God, we're going to Washington."



With all ~~that~~ we've been reading and hearing over the
 last year, I imagine ^{that} like this young boy, many people feel
 that ~~our~~ ^{I don't agree} our Creator, has deserted the Capitol of this
 great Nation. In the 25 years ^{have} that I served in the Congress I had ^{Washington}
 the opportunity to meet and know some ^{of the finest and most decent} truly great Americans
 representing the full ~~range of~~ ^{Americans} political thought. Men like Sam

Rayburn, Everett Dirksen, Lyndon Johnson, John Rhodes and
 Richard Nixon. ^{liberal & conservative Republican}

All of these men ^{and women} with great capacity and responsibilities,
 had the ^{capacity} understanding to set aside their partisan differences
 and ^{with others} join together in fellowship just as we have done this
 morning. For years the House and Senate have met in Prayer
 Breakfasts ~~and bible study groups~~ to acknowledge a being greater
 than any man-made institution. ~~These are~~

^{These are} Groups where men with great differences in religious and
 political thought gathered ~~(together)~~ to more clearly
 define their personal relationship with their God.

You know, the founding fathers of our country were truly
 inspired men whose vision allowed them to create a magnificent
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 of government in the history of the world. Throughout our
 198-year history we have learned, through joy and sadness, the
 lessons of having a free and democratic Republic.

As caretakers of this ~~legacy~~ ^{we must}, we must
 seek to maintain and revitalize it. But most of all ~~to~~ defend
 it against those who would seek to destroy it.



the country I find

As I travel around ~~I have found~~ many different attitudes expressed about our country's plight. One which is particularly ~~interesting~~ is the armchair quarterback who suddenly realizes ~~he doesn't have any game experience~~. *the fellow who sits on the sidelines himself but criticizes the active participants.* The person who has been ~~passively watching~~ Biggie Munn, Athletic Director at Michigan State, once said .. "the game is 90% perspiration and 10% inspiration." *I believe that.* We need more players. Let's get involved. Let's resolve today to do our share for America. ~~I am an enthusiastic about this country and its people.~~ ~~I believe every crisis is a challenge and every challenge~~

We hear too often that we are a sick people, that life is a series of crises, that our system doesn't work, that our system is on the verge of collapse. I firmly believe that nothing is further from the truth. Ours is -- and will remain -- the healthiest society -- mentally, physically and spiritually -- the world has ever known. Anyone who wants proof of that need only look at the daily lives of the great majority of American families. This is a strong country, a good country, and it is overflowing with honest, decent people who try to lead honest, decent lives.

And let me ~~add~~ add something that all of you here this morning know so well. The quality of American family life would not be possible without our deep national belief in the traditional values, values *that flow from* ~~bequeathed to us by~~ our religious



traditions, values that give shape and substance and direction to our daily lives -- in short, ---- moral values.

There was a time ~~in the fifties~~ when the issue seemed in doubt. During the fifties, many of our very finest young people, exposed to the social, cultural and ethical relativism that was then in fashion on so many campuses, seemed to drop out ~~opting for a fashionable sort of agnosticism~~.

And then in the sixties, we watched many young people decide to get involved, but to get involved in ways which were not always ~~family friendly~~ productive. Toward the end of that decade, some even took to violence as a means of achieving their goals.

But today a new mood seems to have grown up in America. Young people have begun to engage again in a profound and serious search for fundamental truths.

Some older Americans have been a little suspicious of their exuberant activities. ~~We had become a little wary of too much enthusiasm in the sixties.~~ This new movement and all its variations seemed like it might be just another fad.

But in most instances, it wasn't just another fad. Instead it reflected the return of young Americans to those basic truths in which we all believe ~~and which underlie (which are the)~~ ~~eternal truths of religion.~~ The eternal truths of religion. Our young people continue to be America's greatest resource, and we can continue to be proud of them.

Many of these young people today have begun to channel



their zest and their enthusiasm into the structures provided for them by the traditional churches and denominations. And the members of this audience are to be congratulated for encouraging this assimilation and for providing shape and structure for their enthusiasm. ~~I know that these young people, in turn, can provide a healthy dose of ebullience which will revitalize many of the organizations that take them in.~~

As many of you are aware, I take a very personal interest in the religious commitment of our young people. My son, Mike, is a divinity student, and he intends to devote his life to Christian service.

Mike ^{has} made his commitment, ~~and college students~~ and I think the discovery he made is the discovery that so many of his generation have made in various ways.

We seem to have come full circle. One lesson our young people have learned for themselves is that heaven cannot be brought to earth; man cannot be made perfect. ^{They are learning} ~~This is a valuable lesson, eternally taught,~~ that there is something more out there, something bigger than earthly things to explain man's nature and to give meaning to human life. That something, of course, is spiritual. That something is God.

~~The National Religious Broadcasters are to be congratulated for transmitting this message during a period when it sometimes seemed that no one was listening. We know now that they were listening, and we know that they are listening now in ever increasing numbers.~~





The faith of our fathers is alive and well [^] and that means that our society is and will continue to be alive and well. This is a great and free land, with its ^{magnificent} system of ^{decent} government and the daily lives of its citizens built upon an enduring faith in God. There may be aberrations and there may be periods of frustration and controversy, but our faith will carry us through.

As usual, the Bible says it best... and I quote ---
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Thank you very much.