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BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

DALLAS, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1974

*Alan M. Cullough*  
*Gov. Carter*

I AM HONORED TO BE HERE TODAY AT THE INVITATION OF THE  
BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

SINCE THIS MEETING IS TO SET THE STAGE FOR YOUR DISCUSSION  
OF PLANS FOR GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY LAYMEN, I FEEL A STRONG SENSE  
OF IDENTITY. MY OLDEST SON IS A THEOLOGY STUDENT AND I AM NOT. BUT  
I FIND MYSELF CALLED UPON TO ADDRESS VARIOUS RELIGIOUS GROUPS. IT  
WOULD APPEAR THAT GOD HAS GIVEN EVERYONE A ROLE TO PLAY IN HIS SERVICE.



*Just six months ago, my  
role in Govt changed.*

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU THIS MORNING ABOUT WHAT'S RIGHT  
IN OUR COUNTRY. WE HAVE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT'S WRONG, THE TIME  
HAS COME TO TAKE A MORE POSITIVE LOOK -- A NEW ASSESSMENT OF OUR  
POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN GROWTH.



OUR GOOD FRIEND, BROOKS HAYS OF ARKANSAS, WHO SERVED  
AS MY COLLEAGUE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND WHO WAS  
PRESIDENT OF THIS GREAT CONVENTION YOU REPRESENT, HAS INFORMED  
ME THAT THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION IS THE LARGEST PROTESTANT  
DENOMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES. I MIGHT ADD THAT IT IS EVEN  
THE LARGEST IN TEXAS.





THE SOUTHERN BAPTISTS TODAY MAINTAIN CHURCHES IN EVERY  
STATE OF THE UNION AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. YOU HAVE COME  
A LONG WAY FROM THE TIME WHEN BAPTIST MINISTERS WERE IMPRISONED  
FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN VIRGINIA, BAPTISTS WERE A MINORITY  
GROUP. YET NO DENOMINATION GAVE MORE FERVENT SUPPORT TO THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION THAN THE BAPTIST PATRIOTS OF VIRGINIA.

AMONG THEM WERE MEN LIKE JOHN LELAND, A BAPTIST PREACHER.  
AND, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE, THE VIRGINIA BAPTISTS HAD A FORD IN  
THEIR PAST IN THE PERSON OF REUBEN FORD, AN ASSOCIATE OF LELAND.



BAPTISTS HAD NO HESITANCY IN EQUATING THEIR STRUGGLE  
FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WITH THE ONE FOR POLITICAL FREEDOM IN WHICH  
THE COLONIES WERE ENGAGED. WHEN VIRGINIA ADOPTED ITS OWN CONSTITUTION  
IN 1776, IT CONTAINED A GUARANTEE FOR FULL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR  
ALL --- A TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF BAPTISTS.



JOHN LELAND OWNED A FARM NEIGHBORING THAT OF  
JAMES MADISON. HE URGED MADISON TO INTRODUCE A SET OF RESOLUTIONS  
IN OUR FIRST CONGRESS TO GRANT MORE EXPLICIT RIGHTS TO THE CITIZENS  
OF THE NEW NATION. MY CO-RELIGIONISTS, THE EPISCOPALIANS, BEING  
INTELLIGENT PEOPLE, BY THAT TIME SAW THE LIGHT. THEY JOINED  
THE BAPTISTS AND OTHERS IN BACKING CONGRESSMAN JAMES MADISON'S  
RESOLUTIONS. THE MADISON PROPOSALS WERE ACCEPTED AND BECAME THE  
FIRST 10 AMENDMENTS OF OUR CONSTITUTION.





THE FIRST AMENDMENT, OF COURSE, PROVIDES THAT "CONGRESS  
SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, NOR  
PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF..."





IN THOSE VERY FIRST WORDS OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT, WE  
FIND THE CHARTER OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN AMERICA. ACROSS AMERICA  
RESOUNDED THE WORDS OF THE OLD HYMN, "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS LIVING  
STILL." IT WAS OUT OF THAT KIND OF FAITH THAT OUR NATION GREW STRONG.  
AS THE NATION GREW, SO DID THE BAPTIST CHURCH. YOUR SIMPLE AND  
DIRECT MESSAGE, YOUR HUMILITY AND CONVICTION, PROVIDED A CLEAR AND  
RESOUNDING TRUMPET. FOR WHO WOULD HAVE JOINED THE RANKS AND PERPETUATED  
THE FAITH IF YOU HAD SOUNDED AN UNCERTAIN TRUMPET.



THE CONCEPT OF SALVATION RELATES TO AWAKENING AND CHANGE.

I THINK THE TIME HAS COME FOR OUR ENTIRE NATION TO HEAR THE VIBRANT

NOTES OF A VERY CERTAIN TRUMPET CALL -- A CALL TO REAFFIRM THE

VALUES THAT HAVE MADE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE GREATEST

NATION IN THE WORLD, A NATION WITH MORE FREEDOM, MORE OPPORTUNITY,

AND MORE BELSSINGS. WE ALSO FACE MORE CHALLENGES AND IT IS IN

RESPONSE TO THAT CALL TO ACTION THAT YOU HAVE ASSEMBLED HERE IN

DALLAS.





I AM DELIGHTED TO LEARN OF THE NEW INVOLVEMENT OF THE  
BAPTIST LAITY IN MISSION ACTION IN YOUR VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND  
IN RESPONSIBILITIES THAT GO BEYOND THE CHURCH INTO THE AREA OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE. THE LAYMAN OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IS BECOMING NOT  
JUST A LISTENER ON SUNDAY BUT A DOER EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK. AND  
I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO EXPAND YOUR INVOLVEMENT,  
TO BROADEN YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS, AND TO INTENSIFY YOUR COMMITMENT  
TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND TO YOUR NATION.





THE CHURCH HAS COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT THE JOB IS  
TOO BIG FOR THE CLERGY TO DO ALONE. THERE IS MORE THAN A SUNDAY  
KIND OF FAITH. I HOPE THAT MANY MORE BAPTISTS OF THE CALIBER OF MY  
FRIEND, JOHN BUCHANAN, FIND THEIR WAY INTO POLITICS AND BECOME INVOLVED,  
BRINGING WITH THEM A NEW SENSE OF MORALITY AND PURPOSE. LAY PEOPLE  
OF ALL CHURCHES MUST SEE THE BROADER NEED TO APPLY THEIR FAITH WHERE  
IT COUNTS. WHEN THE LAITY MOVES OUT OF THE PEWS TO MEET THE REAL  
PROBLEMS OF OUR FELLOW MAN, THEN TRULY WILL THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS  
BECOME A LIVING FAITH.



THE BUREAU OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REPORTS THAT A  
MAJORITY OF AMERICANS FEEL THAT RELIGION IS LOSING ITS INFLUENCE  
ON OUR WAY OF LIFE. I PERSONALLY DON'T AGREE WITH THIS CONCLUSION,  
BUT IF IT IS EVEN HALF TRUE, THE TIME HAS COME TO REVIVE THAT  
INFLUENCE. THE PROPHETS OF DOOM AND GLOOM HAVE WRITTEN A SELF-FULFILLING  
SCENARIO OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC.



WE NEED A NEW SORT OF FAITH WHICH IS FAR OLDER THAN OUR NATION.

I REFER TO THE PROPHETIC VISION OF THE HOLY BIBLE AND THE WORD

THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN. WE READ

IN LUKE: "JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, RECEIVE THY SIGHT: THY FAITH

HATH SAVED THEE."





WE ARE CALLED UPON IN HOLY WRIT TO "STAND FAST THEREFORE  
IN THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE." HOW DO WE  
APPLY THIS TO THE REUNIFICATION OF OUR NATIONAL SPIRIT, THE RESTORATION  
OF OUR MORALE AS A PEOPLE, AND THE INSPIRATION TO REDEEM AND RENEW  
ALL THAT IS BEAUTIFUL AND GOOD ABOUT AMERICA?



WE MUST ACT BY CHOOSING. GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH  
THE BIBLE AND SAYS THAT "I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU LIFE AND DEATH,  
BLESSING AND CURSING: THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE, THAT BOTH THOU AND  
THY SEED MAY LIVE." AMERICA NOW STANDS AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT OF  
DECISION. WE CAN SURRENDER TO ANARCHY AND AGONY. OR WE CAN  
REJECT NEGATIVE THINKING AND GET OURSELVES TOGETHER TO MOVE FORWARD  
TO A HIGHER STATE OF MORAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACHIEVEMENT.



LAYMEN OF YOUR CHURCH AND OF ALL FAITHS CAN HELP GENERATE  
A HEALING SPIRIT OF LOVE, COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING THAT CAN  
SWEEP THIS NATION OUT OF THE DEPRESSIVE CONDITION THAT AFFLICTS  
TOO MANY OF OUR PEOPLE. I ENVISAGE A SORT OF DIVINE CONSCIOUSNESS  
IN WHICH THE POWER OF GOD IS PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED BY THE INDIVIDUAL  
WHO CHOOSES TO INVOLVE HIMSELF POSITIVELY WITH HIS COMMUNITY AND  
NATION. TO THE INDIVIDUAL WILL COME A UNIFICATION OF MIND, BODY,  
AND SPIRIT. TO THE NATION WILL COME A NEW AWARENESS OF THE DIVINE  
PRESENCE.





ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A THEOLOGIAN TO RESPOND TO THE  
PRESENCE OF GOD. MAN BECOMES WHAT HE THINKS UPON. THERE ARE  
ENOUGH MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH IN THE UNITED STATES TO THINK  
SPIRITUALLY AND TO THINK AFFIRMATIVELY AND TO PREVENT US FROM HAVING  
A NATIONAL NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AS THE FAINT OF HEART FEAR. WE CAN  
TRANSCEND. WE CAN CHANGE. WE CAN GROW. AND WE CAN INSPIRE OTHERS  
BY OUR EXAMPLE.



WE MEET THIS MORNING WHEN OUR PRESIDENT IS IN THE  
AREA OF THE HOLY LAND. REGARDLESS OF OUR VIEWS ON POLITICAL  
CONTROVERSIES IN WASHINGTON, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
SPEAKS FOR ALL OF US WHEN HE SEEKS PEACE ABROAD. BLESSED IS THE  
PEACEMAKER. THE PROVERBS TELL US THAT "WHEN A MAN'S WAYS PLEASE  
THE LORD, HE MAKETH EVEN HIS ENEMIES TO BE AT PEACE WITH HIM."



I FEEL IT APPROPRIATE TO OBSERVE THAT OUR PRESIDENT  
AND HIS SECRETARY OF STATE ARE ON A SACRED MISSION IN THAT REGION  
WHERE THE SON OF GOD OFFERED THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. IT IS AN  
AREA WHERE THOSE KINDRED PEOPLES, THE JEWS AND ARABS, HAVE SUFFERED  
THE TORMENT OF RELENTLESS WARS AND WHERE THE SUPERPOWERS OF THE  
WORLD HAVE COME TO THE BRINK OF ARMAGEDDON. IF PEACE CAN NOW BE  
BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE CRUEL CARNAGE OF SO MANY YEARS, WHO IS TO  
SAY THAT A DIVINE PRESENCE IS NOT AGAIN INVOLVED?





PRESIDENT NIXON INNOVATED A BOLD AND COURAGEOUS FOREIGN  
POLICY THAT HISTORY WILL CREDIT IN DUE PERSPECTIVE. IT WAS  
PRESIDENT NIXON WHO DESIGNATED SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, A MAN  
OF THE FAITH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, WHO HAS BROUGHT FORTH MODERN  
MIRACLES. THE DETRACTORS OF THESE TWO MEN WOULD DO WELL TO DWELL  
ON THE HIGH PURPOSE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
ARE PURSUING AS EMISSARIES OF PEACE. LET US ALL PRAY FOR THEIR  
SUCCESS. AND I KNOW THAT YOU SHARE MY FAITH THAT THEY CAN AND MUST  
SUCCEED.



THE TORMENTED PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST TURNED TO US  
AND TRUSTED US. THEY TURNED TO NO OTHER NATION OF THE WORLD TO  
ACT AS THE MEDIATOR OF PEACE. THIS FILLS ME WITH PRIDE ---  
RENEWED PRIDE --- IN BEING AN AMERICAN.



I AM ALSO PROUD THAT OUR PRESIDENT HAS VENTURED TO  
THE FAR CORNERS OF THIS EARTH IN PURSUIT OF PEACE. HE HAS ESTABLISHED  
AN ENTIRELY NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA. HE HAS EXTRICATED OUR ARMED FORCES FROM THE  
WAR IN VIETNAM AND LIBERATED OUR PRISONERS OF WAR. HE HAS BROUGHT  
US TO THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW ERA IN WORLD AFFAIRS.





PRESIDENT NIXON HAS THE FAITH TO BELIEVE IN  
TRANSFORMATION FROM WAR TO PEACE. WE AT HOME SHOULD HAVE THE  
FAITH TO BELIEVE IN HIS MISSION. I ASK THIS MORNING THAT THIS  
NATION STRENGTHEN HIS HAND WHEN HE IS ABROAD ON HIGH PURPOSE.  
LET POLITICS AND CONTROVERSY STOP AT THE WATER'S EDGE.



IF AMERICA IS TO BE TRANSFORMED, TO MOVE AHEAD AT HOME  
AND ABROAD --- AND I HAVE FAITH THAT IT IS --- WE MUST LISTEN FOR  
THAT CERTAIN TRUMPET. AND IF WE LISTEN WE WILL HEAR A FAMILIAR  
CALL. IT WILL BE A CALL TO THE OLD VIRTUES OF RESPECT FOR THE HUMAN  
INDIVIDUAL, OF REVERENCE FOR THE CREATOR OF US ALL, OF LOVE AND  
REDEMPTION OF THE FAMILY, AND OF A ZEAL TO ATTACK AGGRESSIVELY THE  
GREAT PROBLEMS OF OUR TIMES. IT WILL ALSO SUMMON US TO RENEW OUR  
UNCONQUERABLE FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY, THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
DALLAS, TEXAS  
JUNE 14, 1974

FOR RELEASE AT 7:30 A.M. FRIDAY

I am honored to be here today at the invitation of the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Since this meeting is to set the stage for your discussion of plans for greater involvement by laymen, I feel a strong sense of identity. My oldest son is a theology student and I am not. But I find myself called upon to address various religious groups. It would appear that God has given everyone a role to play in His service.

I want to talk to you this morning about what's right in our country. We have heard so much about what's wrong, the time has come to take a more positive look -- a new assessment of our potential for human growth.

Our good friend, Brooks Hays of Arkansas, who served as my colleague in the House of Representatives, and who was president of this great convention you represent, has informed me that the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant denomination in the United States. I might add that it is even the largest in Texas.

The Southern Baptists today maintain churches in every State of the Union and the District of Columbia. You have come a long way from the time when Baptist ministers were imprisoned for preaching the Gospel in Virginia. Baptists were a minority group. Yet no denomination gave more fervent support to the American Revolution than the Baptist patriots of Virginia.

Among them were men like John Leland, a Baptist preacher. And, I am pleased to note, the Virginia Baptists had a Ford in their past in the person of Reuben Ford, an associate of Leland.

Baptists had no hesitancy in equating their struggle for religious freedom with the one for political freedom in which the colonies were engaged. When Virginia adopted its own Constitution in 1776, it contained a guarantee for full religious freedom for all -- a tribute to the work of Baptists.

John Leland owned a farm neighboring that of James Madison. He urged Madison to introduce a set of resolutions in our first Congress to grant more explicit rights to the citizens of the new Nation. My co-religionists, the

(more)



Episcopalians, being intelligent people, by that time saw the light. They joined the Baptists and others in backing Congressman James Madison's resolutions. The Madison proposals were accepted and became the first 10 amendments of our Constitution.

The First Amendment, of course, provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

In those very first words of the First Amendment, we find the charter of religious liberty in America. Across America resounded the words of the old hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers Living Still." It was out of that kind of faith that our Nation grew strong. As the Nation grew, so did the Baptist Church. Your simple and direct message, your humility and conviction, provided a clear and resounding trumpet. For who would have joined the ranks and perpetuated the faith if you had sounded an uncertain trumpet.

The concept of salvation relates to awakening and change. I think the time has come for our entire Nation to hear the vibrant notes of a very certain trumpet call — a call to reaffirm the values that have made the United States of America the greatest Nation in the world, a Nation with more freedom, more opportunity, and more blessings. We also face more challenges and it is in response to that call to action that you have assembled here in Dallas.

I am delighted to learn of the new involvement of the Baptist laity in mission action in your various communities and in responsibilities that go beyond the church into the area of public service. The layman of the Baptist Church is becoming not just a listener on Sunday but a doer every day of the week. And I cannot tell you how important it is to expand your involvement, to broaden your consciousness, and to intensify your commitment to your community and to your Nation.

The church has come to the realization that the job is too big for the clergy to do alone. There is more than a Sunday kind of faith. I hope that many more Baptists of the caliber of my friend, John Buchanan, find their way into politics and become involved, bringing with them a new sense of morality and purpose. Lay people of all churches must see the broader need to apply their faith where it counts. When the laity moves out of the pews to meet the real problems of our fellow men, then truly will the Faith of our Fathers become a living faith.

The Bureau of Social Science Research reports that a majority of Americans feel that religion is losing its influence on our way of life. I personally don't agree with this conclusion, but if it is even half true, the time has come to revive that influence. The prophets of doom and gloom have

(more)

written a self-fulfilling scenario of the decline and fall of the American Republic. We need a new sort of faith which is far older than our Nation. I refer to the prophetic vision of the Holy Bible and the word that Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and man. We read in Luke: "Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee."

We are called upon in Holy writ to "stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." How do we apply this to the reunification of our National spirit, the restoration of our morale as a people, and the inspiration to redeem and renew all that is beautiful and good about America?

We must act by choosing. God speaks to us through the Bible and says that "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." America now stands at a crucial moment of decision. We can surrender to anarchy and agony. Or we can reject negative thinking and get ourselves together to move forward to a higher state of moral responsibility and achievement.

Laymen of your church and of all faiths can help generate a healing spirit of love, cooperation and understanding that can sweep this Nation out of the depressive condition that afflicts too many of our people. I envisage a sort of Divine consciousness in which the power of God is personally experienced by the individual who chooses to involve himself positively with his community and Nation. To the individual will come a unification of mind, body, and spirit. To the Nation will come a new awareness of the divine presence.

One does not have to be a theologian to respond to the presence of God. Man becomes what he thinks upon. There are enough men and women of faith in the United States to think spiritually and to think affirmatively and to prevent us from having a national nervous breakdown as the faint of heart fear. We can transcend. We can change. We can grow. And we can inspire others by our example.

We meet this morning when our President is in the area of the Holy Land. Regardless of our views on political controversies in Washington, the President of the United States speaks for all of us when he seeks peace abroad. Blessed is the peacemaker. The Proverbs tell us that "when a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

I feel it appropriate to observe that our President and his Secretary of State are on a sacred mission in that region where the son of God offered the Sermon on the Mount. It is an area where those kindred peoples, the Jews and Arabs, have suffered the torment of relentless wars and where the superpowers of the world have come to the brink of Armageddon. If peace can now be brought

(more)

forth from the cruel carnage of so many years, who is to say that a divine presence is not again involved?

President Nixon innovated a bold and courageous foreign policy that history will credit in due perspective. It was President Nixon who designated Secretary of State Kissinger, a man of the faith of the Old Testament, who has brought forth modern miracles. The detractors of these two men would do well to dwell on the high purpose that the President and the Secretary of State are pursuing as emissaries of peace. Let us all pray for their success. And I know that you share my faith that they can and must succeed.

The tormented peoples of the Middle East turned to us and trusted us. They turned to no other Nation of the world to act as the mediator of peace. This fills me with pride -- renewed pride -- in being an American.

I am also proud that our President has ventured to the far corners of this earth in pursuit of peace. He has established an entirely new relationship with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. He has extricated our armed forces from the war in Vietnam and liberated our prisoners of war. He has brought us to the threshold of a new era in world affairs.

President Nixon has the faith to believe in transformation from war to peace. We at home should have the faith to believe in his mission. I ask this morning that this Nation strengthen his hand when he is abroad on high purpose. Let politics and controversy stop at the water's edge.

If America is to be transformed, to move ahead at home and abroad -- and I have faith that it is -- we must listen for that certain trumpet. And if we listen we will hear a familiar call. It will be a call to the old virtues of respect for the human individual, of reverence for the Creator of us all, of love and redemption of the family, and of a zeal to attack aggressively the great problems of our times. It will also summon us to renew our unconquerable faith in the future of our beloved country, the United States of America.

# # #





OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

DALLAS, TEXAS

June 13, 1974

ADVANCEMAN: Jim Brock

MILITARY AIDE: Cmdr. H. Kerr

9:55 pm ARRIVE Andrews AFB. Board Air Force II

10:00 pm WHEELS UP en route Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, Dallas,  
Texas

[flying time: 2 hours, 50 minutes]  
[time change; +1 hour]

11:50 pm ARRIVE Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, Dallas, Texas.

Proceed to motorcade

11:55 pm DEPART via motorcade en route Statler Hilton, Dallas

[driving time: 35 minutes]

12:15 am ARRIVE Statler Hilton. Proceed to suite

Remain overnight



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

DALLAS, TEXAS

June 14, 1974

ADVANCEMAN: Jim Brock

MILITARY AIDE: Cmdr. H. Kerr

7:25 am DEPART suite en route holding room

7:28 am ARRIVE holding room

NOTE: You will be met by church officials

7:34 am DEPART holding room en route Ballroom

EVENT NO. 1      SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION      ATTIRE: Business suit

7:30 am ARRIVE Ballroom

Announcement

Proceed to head table. Be seated

7:32 am Welcome by Glendon McCullough, President,  
Southern Baptist Convention

7:34 am Invocation by D.A. Stevens

7:37 am Introduction of head table

7:41 am Welcoming remarks by Jim Carter

7:49 am Breakfast is served

8:10 am Breakfast concludes

8:13 am Vice President introduced by Glendon McCullough

8:15 am Vice Presidential remarks begin

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

Proposed schedule  
June 14, 1974  
page two

8:33 am Vice Presidential remarks conclude

8:35 am Benediction by Rev. J. Roy Weber

8:37 am DEPART Ballroom en route suite (holding room)

8:38 am ARRIVE suite

PERSONAL TIME 5 minutes

8:42 am DEPART suite en route motorcade

8:45 am ARRIVE motorcade

8:50 am DEPART via motorcade en route Dallas-Fort Worth  
Airport, Dallas, Texas  
[driving time: 35 minutes]

9:25 am ARRIVE Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. Board Air Force II

9:30 am WHEELS UP en route Chicago O'Hare International Airport.  
[flying time: 2 hours]



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We are called upon in Holy writ to "stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." How do we apply this to the reunification of our National spirit, the restoration of our morale as a people, and the inspiration to redeem and renew all that is beautiful *and* about America?

*good*



We must act by choosing . God speaks to us through the Bible and says that "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; ~~therefore~~ therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. " America now stands at a crucial moment of decision . We can surrender to anarchy and agony . Or we can reject negative thinking and get ourselves together to move forward to a higher state of ~~consciousness~~ <sup>moral responsibility</sup> and achievement .

Laymen of your church and all ~~churches~~ <sup>faiths</sup> can help generate a healing spirit of love, cooperation and understanding that can sweep this Nation out of the depressive condition that afflicts too many of our people . I envisage a sort of ~~Christ~~ <sup>divine</sup> consciousness in which ~~God~~ <sup>the power of</sup> is personally experienced by the individual who chooses to involve himself positively with his community and Nation . To the individual will come a unification of ~~the~~ mind, body, and spirit . To the Nation will come a new awareness of the divine presence .

One does not have to be a ~~clergyman~~ <sup>theologian</sup> to respond to the presence of God . Man becomes what he thinks upon . There are enough men and women of faith in the United States to think ~~enough~~ <sup>spiritually enough</sup> and to think affirmatively ~~and~~ <sup>as the faint of heart fear.</sup> to prevent us from having a national nervous breakdown . We can transcend . We can change . We can grow . And we can inspire others by our example .



We meet this morning when our President is in the area of the Holy Land . Regardless of our views on <sup>political</sup> ~~domestic~~ controversies in Washington , the President <sup>of the United States</sup> ~~he~~ speaks for all of us when he seeks peace abroad . Blessed is the peacemaker . The Proverbs tell us He that "when a man's ways please the Lord, ~~he~~ maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him . "

I feel it appropriate to observe that ~~the President~~ <sup>our President and his Secretary of State</sup> is on a sacred mission in that <sup>REGION</sup> ~~area~~ where the son of God offered the Sermon on the Mount . It is an area where those kindred peoples , the Jews and Arabs , have suffered the <sup>torment</sup> ~~effects~~ of relentless wars and where the superpowers of the world have come to the brink of Armageddon . If <sup>now</sup> peace can be brought forth from the cruel carnage of so many years , who is to say that a divine <sup>presence</sup> ~~presence~~ is not again involved ?

President Nixon innovated a bold and courageous foreign policy that history will credit in due perspective . It was President Nixon who designated Secretary of ~~State~~ <sup>State</sup> Kissinger, a man of the faith of the Old Testament, who has brought forth modern miracles . The detract<sup>ORS</sup> of these two men ~~who have been so instrumental in the peace process~~ would do well to dwell on the high purpose that the President and the Secretary of State are pursuing as emissaries of peace . <sup>Let us all</sup> ~~Let us~~ pray for their success . And I know that you share my faith that they can and must succeed .

The tormented peoples of the Middle East turned to us and trust<sup>ed</sup> ~~ed~~ us . They turned to no other Nation of the world to act as the mediator of peace . This fills me with pride -- renewed pride -- in being an American .



I am also proud that our President has ventured to <sup>the</sup> far corners of this ~~e~~arth in pursuit of peace. He has established an entirely new relationship with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. He has extricated our armed forces from the war in Vietnam and liberated our prisoners of war. He has brought <sup>us to the threshold of</sup> a new era in world affairs.



President Nixon has the faith to believe in transformation from war to peace. We at home should have the faith to believe in his mission.

~~It is easy to scoff and negate. It is difficult to believe in the goodness of a n individual who is created by the Father of us all and shares the same virtues and weaknesses.~~

I ask this morning that this Nation view our President out of a sense not only of Christian compassion but also of elementary American fairplay. Strengthen his hand when he is abroad on high purpose. Let politics and controversy stop at the water's edge.

~~And I pray for the President's success.~~

If America is to be transformed, to move ahead at home and abroad and I have faith that it is we must listen for that certain trumpet.

And if we listen we will hear a ~~strange~~ familiar call. It will be a call to the old virtues of respect for the human individual, of reverence for the Creator of us all, of love and redemption of the family, and of a <sup>zeal</sup> spirit to

attack aggressively the great problems of our times. It will also summon

<sup>us to renew our</sup> unconquerable faith in the future of our beloved country, the United States of America.

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