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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *d.g.*

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.

*been privileged to know*  
AND I HAVE KNOWN  
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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.

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. I HAVE LEARNED HOW IMPORTANT

IT IS TO HAVE PEOPLE PRAY FOR ME.

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT THE PRESIDENCY IS THE LONELIEST

JOB IN THE WORLD. IN A CERTAIN SENSE I SUPPOSE IT IS.

YET, IN ALL HONESTY, I CANNOT SAY THAT I HAVE SUFFERED FROM

LONELINESS THESE PAST SIX MONTHS. THE REASON, I AM CERTAIN,

HAS BEEN THAT EVERYWHERE I GO, AMONG OLD FRIENDS OR STRANGERS,

PEOPLE CALL OUT OF THE CROWD OR SAY QUIETLY TO ME:

"WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU," OR "YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS."



I READ THE SAME SENTIMENTS IN MY MAIL -- OF COURSE

THERE ARE SOME THAT ARE NOT SO INSPIRING. BUT THE GREAT

GROUNDSWELL OF GOODWILL THAT COMES FROM THE TRUE SPIRIT OF

AMERICA HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL SOURCE OF STRENGTH TO ME AS IT WAS,

I AM SURE, TO OTHER PRESIDENTS BEFORE ME.

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 STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE.

NOW I AM ABLE TO TRULY APPRECIATE THAT STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED

TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, WHO CONFESSED:

W 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. W

PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY SPOKE TO ONE OF THESE PRAYER

BREAKFASTS A FEW MONTHS BEFORE HE <sup>tragically</sup> DIED. MANY OF YOU WILL  
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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!

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  
THE EMPTY ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR, *of the White House* 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.

"I PRAY HEAVEN TO BESTOW THE BEST OF BLESSINGS ON THIS HOUSE, AND ALL THAT SHALL HEREAFTER INHABIT IT," JOHN ADAMS WROTE. "MAY NONE BUT HONEST AND WISE MEN EVER RULE UNDER THIS ROOF."



I AM GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT ADAMS FOR LEAVING ME  
THAT MESSAGE, AND TO ALL WHO HAVE SAID "AMEN" 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