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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FRIENDS OF LUBAVITCH PATRON RECEPTION
FOR
HUGH SCOTT
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT MOTOR HOTEL

5:11 P.M. EDT

Mr. Speaker, Senator Scott, and lovely wife,
Marian, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am really honored and privileged to be
here with the American Friends of the Lubavitch.

Obviously, it is a great privilege and pleasure
for me to be here today to join with all of you in honoring
my very, very good friend, Hugh Scott, a colleague of mine
in the Congress for many, many years.

I am deeply grateful for the many, many instances
where Hugh has given me good counsel and fine support, and
there is no way that I can ever adequately repay him for
his friendship. I might even go so far to say that Hugh
is one of the first people I turn to when I have troubles.
(Laughter) And in the last few weeks, I have had troubles.
(Laughter)

Today it gives me a great deal of personal
pleasure to add my voice to yours as we say to Hugh
Scott on this very, very special occasion, Mazel Tov.

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I think we all recognize the countless ways in this great country, not the least of which is the quality and the character of the men and women to give life to America. The leadership of a great people in a democracy makes special demands on public officials.

We must have the desire to know what is on the people's minds, the wisdom to know what is in their heart and the courage to know what they do is right.

All of these qualities are possessed in abundance by the man we honor today. I have known Hugh Scott for 27 years. I have been, as I said earlier, his personal friend, and I have admired his professional integrity.

There are very, very few public officials who have so successfully combined the serious duties of statesmanship with the good humor and the good grace which are Hugh Scott's trademark.

We honor Hugh today for his staunch and steadfast support he has given to the state of Israel since its creation 27 years ago. It is an honor he richly deserves, and I know that he cherishes it. The rest of the Nation continues to honor him as a man of conviction with a talent for compromise; a man of experience who looks into the future; a man of integrity with a little twinkle in his eye; a man with intellect who can do battle with the best of them in the toughest struggle in the Congress, or in any other political arena.

This is the total man that I know as Hugh Scott, a man that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania dearly loves -- the man today that you honor and pay tribute to. The library center in Israel, which you are dedicating to his name, and that of his lovely wife Marian, is a fitting honor signifying as it does the wealth of knowledge which man has gathered through the ages and the use of that knowledge in constructive and purposeful purposes.

Nothing could characterize better Hugh's own life, nor reflect more accurately the philosophy of your movement. You are committed to preserving the deep and very abiding faith of the Jewish tradition for young and succeeding generations.

Your devotion has won the respect and the admiration, and I might say, the appreciation of thousands in this country and around the world. One reason is the leadership of Rabbi Schneerson, who is observing his 25th anniversary this year as the head of this movement.

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My wish for you tonight was best said by one of my predecessors in the White House, and I quote, "May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of other inhabitants."

And the quotation goes on as follows: "May the father of all mercy scatter light, not darkness, in our paths and make us all in our several vocations useful here and in his own due time and way, everlastingly happy."

The President who wrote those words was George Washington. The year was 1790. The spirit of what he said is as alive today as it was then.

My congratulations to Hugh Scott, to Marian, and my thanks to all of you for letting me join with you in paying this tribute to them.

May God bless you all.

END

(AT 5:23 P.M. EDT)