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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Peoria, Illinois)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SHRINERS TEMPLE

9:10 P.M. CST

We have had a great day in the wonderful State of Illinois and this is the culmination of a great experience, particularly in Peoria. I want to thank Mayor Carver; I want to thank my very dear friend Bob Michel, your outstanding Congressman; most of all I want to thank the overly friendly and generous people of Illinois for making this day a wonderful one in my political career. I can't thank all of you enough.

But let me talk, if I could, Nobles and your lovely ladies, a little about my feeling about and my experiences with the Shrine. I come from Saladin Temple in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I am proud of it. My father was very , very active.

My first real personal exposure to the Shrine came in late December of 1934. I was selected to be one the East team of the Shriners East-West football game. We went out to San Francisco where the Shrine has an outstanding hospital for crippled children. It was a tremendous experience for us on an Eastern football team to go to that hospital to see what is done to help unfortunate people, primarily young people, and I learned at that point, not only what my father had sort of imbued in me, but I learned what great people like all of you do on a day-to-day basis to help those less fortunate than yourself.

I have been proud ever since having the experience and I thank you for inviting me tonight. I am deeply grateful for the association that I have had with my fellow Nobles, with Saladin Temple, and it is just nice to see all of you in this temple here in Peoria.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 9:14 P.M. CST)