

INAUGURAL -- SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES TO FIRST DRAFT

Let us speak to ourselves, and to the world, a message of hope
and also of responsibility.

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These will not be easy times. We have had too much of easy
promises. But this can be a time of greatness, as we apply what
we have learned in two centuries as a Nation.

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Through the generations, we have shown ours to be a can-do
spirit.

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America today is a mature country, but not a finished one. We
are still in the process of becoming.

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Let us sieze the future by using the present.

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To us are entrusted the goals of a free people; the prospects of
a great Nation; the hopes of humanity.

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This is a time not for euphoria, but for rededication; a time
not for overpromise, but for realism.

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In the past, we have turned toomuch to government; we must
learn to turn more to ourselves.

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Let us remember that nothing government does, is done except by people -- and therefore whatever government can do, people can do, and frequently people can do it better without government.

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If we approach the future with a sense of responsibility, it may seem less glamorous than it otherwise might. But the tinsel of glamour is not the stuff of greatness.

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The challenges we face, we face together -- as a great people
who are one in our purposes as a Nation.

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What is greatness in a Nation? Not merely abundance, though
abundance makes great things possible. Not simply military might,
though strength is needed to preserve liberty. Not the false tinsel
of passing glamour, nor the trappings of fashion -- a nation achieves
greatness through the greatness of spirit of its people, through a
system that liberates that spirit, through a creativity that keeps it
moving ever onward, and above all through a sense of responsibility
in all that it does.

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Let us never be so foolish as to suppose that by trading off our freedom we can speed our advance. Let us not seek the seductive short-cut of supposing that new grants of power to government can relieve us of the need to build and create and achieve for ourselves.

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Government must change. Our expectations of government must change. So, too, must our expectations of ourselves.

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No age is like any other. And today, age follows age with increasing rapidity.

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Much remains undone; much will always remain undone, because the more we progress the more we aspire to. But let us

never again fall into the trap of confusing what is unfinished with what is unaddressed, or of despairing that the work remaining is a measure of failure rather than of promise.

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Those who despair, those who find evil in the fact of incompleteness, are those who deny the lessons of history.

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We have only to look at what has been done to see how far we have come -- and seeing how far we have come, we can see also how far we yet can go.

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We shall remain a strong America, not because we seek war or conquest, but because we seek peace and security for our Nation and for all nations.

We shall remain a striving America, not because we despair of what we are but because we seek the opportunities in what we can become.

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Whether we make real the promise of these years -- whether we become what we can be, and do what we can achieve -- that is up to all of us, and to each of us.

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Ours is a Nation always building, always becoming, never completed -- and like any living thing, a nation must continue to advance or else begin to decline.

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In these past four years, we have been putting old conflicts behind us and setting forth on new ventures that unite us.

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Let us declare our enmity against every form of oppression of the mind and spirit of man -- but let us keep clear the distinction between oppression on the one hand, and the decent order that makes freedom possible on the other.

It is not oppression to insist that neighbor should not lift his hand in violence against neighbor.

It is not oppression to insist that the Golden Rule has a place in our lives.

It is not oppression to regulate those instruments which, if unregulated, would reduce society to anarchy.

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Let us make this a day not only of inauguration, but of rededication.

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generous of spirit, realistic in our methods, committed to progress, with pride in our past and hope for the future. . . .

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we
As/begin these final years of the second American century,
we do so confident with hope for the start of the third American
century.

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This has been a time of conflict and uncertainty -- a time when
too often we consulted our fears rather than our hopes.

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With each advance in technology, new things become possible;
with each advance in understanding, new achievements become
possible.

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So let us take as our goal:

- To secure a structure of peace in the world that
can last for a generation and more.
- To deepen our understanding of America itself,
and of why it has succeeded.
- To press outward the bounds of the possible, not
only in technology but also in our human relations.

-- To bring the structure and functions of government
in tune with the needs and the realities of the final quarter of
the 20th century.

-- And so to embark on our third century as a Nation
strong and free and vital, at once young in spirit and mature
in wisdom.

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