

Week Ending Friday, February 5, 1993

Remarks at a State Dinner for the Nation's Governors

January 31, 1993

You ever had the feeling you've been here before? [*Laughter*]

Governor and Mrs. Romer and distinguished Governors and spouses and our very special guests from around the Nation, Hillary and I are delighted to welcome all of you here to our first state dinner.

This is something that I have looked forward to for some time, and as I'm sure you know, I am delighted that this is the first official dinner we're having in the White House. I couldn't be more pleased to see you here.

Many of you were kind enough to come to the luncheon that I hosted, along with Hillary and Vice President Gore and Tipper, for all the Governors and former Governors with whom I had the honor to serve. And I would just like to say tonight on this occasion that I'm looking forward to getting to work with you tomorrow.

This country needs your involvement and your support to deal with the health care crisis, which is threatening to bankrupt many of you; to deal with the budget crisis, which is undermining the economic stability of every State in America; and to seize the opportunities that are out there.

The time I spent as a Governor and the time I spent working with you and those who preceded you was some of the best time I ever spent in my life. I look back on it with great pride and gratitude. And to all of you I say that I honor the work that you must do, and I look forward to being a real partner.

I'm delighted that you're here, and I hope you have a great time tonight as we move from the dinner into the entertainment. I want to say that I expect to have a special treat tonight for you in the entertainment. I think you'll all enjoy it very much.

But please know here that this house is your house, that I am well aware of the fact that I am just a temporary tenant, and that while here I intend to do my very best to be faithful to the lessons that I learned as a Governor, that most of what you do ought to be done by you and not by us. And I will try to be a good partner, and I hope you will be mine, as we get this country to face its problems and seize its promise.

I now propose a toast to the Governors and their spouses, friends and family members.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:13 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With the Super Bowl Champion Dallas Cowboys

January 31, 1993

The President. Jerry?

Mr. Jones. Mr. President.

The President. How are you doing, man?

Mr. Jones. Bill, I'm telling you, I appreciate this call so much.

The President. Congratulations.

Mr. Jones. Thank you.

The President. I'll tell you what, this is a lot bigger deal at home than me getting elected President. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Jones. I'll tell you this right now, you were an inspiration to us.

The President. Great.

Mr. Jones. I saw how to get out on a knee and come back up swinging.

The President. Thanks, man. This is great.

Mr. Jones. Well, I really appreciate this call. And I've got Jimmy standing by me.

The President. Thanks. I've got somebody who wants to say hi to you, and then I want to talk to Jimmy.

Mr. Jones. Okay, fine.

Governor Richards. Jerry, it's Ann Richards. Listen, I got to watch the ball game in the White House with Mario Cuomo.

Mr. Jones. Ann, you are wonderful for calling us.

Governor Richards. It was absolutely wonderful. And let me tell you, we gave him the hardest time in the world.

Mr. Jones. Well, you've answered my question: you didn't go easy on him then, did you?

Governor Richards. No, darlin', we did not let our foot off his neck.

Mr. Jones. Did you tell him you hadn't been to one we lost? [*Laughter*]

Governor Richards. Here's the President. We're so proud of you. You tell Emmitt Smith that he's number one for me.

Mr. Jones. Thank you, Governor. Thank you.

Hey, Mr. President.

The President. Yes, yes.

Mr. Jones. Thank you so much for calling. I can't tell you what it means.

The President. Thanks, Jerry.

Mr. Jones. And here's Jimmy. Here's Jimmy.

Mr. Johnson. Hello, Mr. President.

The President. Jimmy, how are you doing? Congratulations.

Mr. Johnson. Well, thank you. I think you understand how much we put into this thing and where we are. I'll tell you, it's a great feeling for all of our guys.

The President. Well, you've come a long way in a short time and with a lot of courage. And I'll tell you, I watched your team all year long just basically wear everybody down by hanging in there, and it was amazing what you did.

Mr. Johnson. Well, you know a little bit about perseverance yourself, so I understand.

The President. Well, I really admire what you did. And this is a great night for you, and I want you to get back to your players. I just wanted to say hello and we're proud of you.

Mr. Johnson. Thank you a lot, Mr. President.

The President. Goodbye, Jimmy.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:59 p.m. from the State Floor at the White House. Jerry Jones is

the owner and Jimmy Johnson is the head coach for the Dallas Cowboys.

Remarks Following Entertainment at a State Dinner for the Nation's Governors

January 31, 1993

The President. Ladies and gentlemen, first I think we ought to acknowledge the musicians: Peter Howard, John Beal, Martin Erskine, John Redsecker, and Wally Harper. Let's give them—[*applause*]. I'd also like to thank the people who put this wonderful program together: Marty Bell, Beverly Camhe, Phyllis Newman, and my good friend Barbara Handman, who's here with her husband, Len, tonight; and his daughter and son-in-law have been so instrumental in our political life, Harold Ickes and Laura Handman. Let's give all of them a hand. [*Applause*] I want to thank Ms. Handman and Ms. Newman, in particular, for writing this; and for Peter Howard for his musical direction tonight.

And now let me say that I hope that we can take good care of this house, but this house will always be a house of America's family. I don't want to embarrass Phyllis, but Phyllis and her husband, Adolph Green, who sang a little tonight—stand up—[*applause*—they're celebrating their 33d wedding anniversary. As you can see, he had to get not only her parents' permission but the law's as well to marry her. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Newman. That's the nicest thing you've said. [*Laughter*]

The President. I understand that this is Governor Dean's wedding anniversary tonight, too. And I want to acknowledge that. This is Governor Mickelson's birthday. This is also a very important birthday: Tonight is Carol Channing's birthday.

I want all of us to sing "Happy Birthday" to her in just a moment, but I want to tell you that she performed here with George Burns for President and Mrs. Kennedy; she performed here when President Johnson was here. She made President Nixon's hate list, so she didn't perform—[*laughter*].