



ADDRESS

OF

PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

TEXAS GOP STATE CONVENTION

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: TEXAS STATE CONVENTION

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] [COLOR]

I don't think I've ever felt it as strongly -- I'm proud to be a Texan. Barbara and I raised our kids here, I coached Little League here, built my business here, my campaign for the Presidency started here, and it will finish here. It is great to be back home because there is no place like Texas.

Today is not the time for long talk. November 3rd is but a few months away. The going is a little rough right now, but I'll let the world in on a secret you already know: I finish what I start. To finish the job the American people asked me to do, I need your help -- Texas, give me four more years as your leader.

I'll do my part -- by keeping my eye on the ball. A lot of glib talk won't get the job done. Let somebody else cozy up to the special interest crowd in Washington. Let somebody else pitch pie-in-the-sky promises, and babble sound-good sound-bites. Let somebody else become the darling of the talking heads on TV, I'll keep fighting to get something done for this country.

There's too much at stake for America to forget about trust and judgment and values -- too much at stake, as we say in Texas, to buy a pig in a poke.

And you can count on this: somebody else can spend the next five months being all things to all people -- nobody else is

going to stick closer to the values that made this Party great and this country great.

No matter what the polls say or the pundits want, nobody else is going to hang tougher on principle. And one more thing: nobody else is going to lead this country for the next four years. We will win in November, and we will win going away.

In just the last four years, the world we have known for the last forty years vanished. Our mission for the next four years is to shape our new world -- not just abroad -- but right here at home. It's a big job to set the course for the next forty years. It means solving big problems with a level head, tolerance, and good judgment. But that's why I want to be President -- because I am the right man for that job.

I understand America and her problems and I understand where we must go. I want for my kids and my grandkids -- for every one of America's children -- what we all want: families strong and united, good schools, safe neighborhoods, a job-creating economy, and a world at peace. Pretty straightforward, isn't it?

Since becoming your President, I've felt the heartbeat of this country in every single state. I've felt it closeup -- farmers, ranchers, city kids, teachers, truck drivers -- I know the American people, and they are with us. But they are angry -- angry at big government, small results, and big excuses. They are right -- government is just too big and spends too much.

This election must be a referendum on some big ideas. One of them is a government that works right without raising taxes.

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The American people know I proposed an amendment to force us to balance the budget. They know I fought for it -- the only Presidential candidate to support it. That's why in the fall they'll be with us -- America wants a Balanced Budget Amendment.

Government is too big and spends too much. The American people know that the President should have what forty-three governors have to control spending. They know I've called for it, fought for it. That's why in the fall they'll be with us -- America wants the President to have the Line-Item-Veto.

Government is too big and spends too much. The taxpayer knows how the budget gets busted. It's an arrogant, permanent Congress -- unaccountable to the people. The American people are with us -- it's time to limit terms for members of Congress.

Now, there are others out there who say they are the leaders of change. Maybe they can read polls -- but they haven't read the American people. You and I, we know each other. Throughout my life in Texas, you've seen me tested. When I sent our sons and daughters into battle, Texans anguished with me. When I defied the powerful broccoli lobby, you laughed with me. And when I agreed to pay a painful price for a deal on the budget, Lord knows, you argued with me. But through it all you knew I would never break with Texas values we hold most dear: freedom and faith, honor and decency, and most of all family.

You've seen these values change the world. The Cold War is over -- Eastern Europe is free. Imperial Communism is dead and buried. [Yeltsin insert] We all grew up with the specter of a

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nuclear holocaust -- but our children, these kids right up here, now go to sleep at night without fear of nuclear war. These are dreams come true for America, and I am proud of that record.

Let me warn you: for all the great triumphs freedom has made, the world remains a dangerous place. That's why a big idea in this campaign is defending America's interests abroad. The best way to keep America safe is to keep America strong.

The Soviet "bear" might now be a creature of the past, but there are still plenty of wolves out there -- you know who they are -- Khadafy, Castro, Kim Il Sung, Saddam Hussein. They better know: we're going to keep the wolves at bay. If any one of them threatens the peace, we will shut them down -- and we'll do it by the scruff of their neck if we have to.

Yes, our successes abroad have laid the foundation for stepping up our attack on our domestic problems. But we don't need to bring back the central planners or the social engineers. They're on the run in Russia -- they're not welcome here. The big government crowd has it backward: the people don't work for the government, the government works for the people.

Now, to set things on a new track right here at home -- we must start with a moral, even a spiritual revival across our nation, particularly when it comes to instilling values in our kids. So here is another big idea: fads may come and go -- but in the Bush Administration, the family will always be in fashion.

That's how we put first things first -- families united, fathers and mothers staying together, in spite of tough times,

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because they love their children and want them to grow up whole and strong. It all begins with the family.

Some of the ideas I've put forth for changing America unnerve those who cling to the old thinking of the status quo. Not everyone is ready for new ideas. So it will take time. And four years just haven't been enough to finish our mission.

On that one, give me a few more Phil Gramms -- a few more new thinkers in the Congress -- give me a new Congress, the kind my great predecessor, Ronald Reagan began with, and you just watch us get this country moving again.

Some people say, why can't you bring the same kind of purpose and success to the domestic scene as you did in Desert Shield and Desert Storm? Fair question. And the answer is I didn't have to get permission from the Congress to kick Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

Would I like to see our domestic agenda off and running? You bet. So I understand the feeling that's out there because I am frustrated with the same things you are: family values under siege, second-rate schools, too much despair and too much violence on too many streets. Think about the fifty-year old man laid off after thirty years with the same company when he asks, "What about me?" Or the parents who took on second jobs to provide a daughter with a college education, when they say, "Our daughter can't find a job, what about her?" Or the kids on the streets, whose only friend is crack, whose only family is the gang, when they ask, "What about us?"

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At this historic moment when political leadership is so necessary, we too must ask, "What about him, what about her, what about those kids?" To the American people their government is impotent and out of touch, still shuffling these painful protests to the waiting room of some Congressional subcommittee. We must change this. We must break this gridlock and recapture the trust of the American people.

We have much to do these next four years, but I know our strength is in our values, our determination, and our optimism about the future. There's a right way and a wrong way to set a new course. The wrong way is to give up -- and I will not give up on America -- not now, not ever. America will always be a rising nation -- but only if we continue to believe in ourselves.

After a tough recession, confidence is returning to our economy. Some good fundamentals are in place: low interest rates, and low inflation. Stronger growth in the first quarter. The United States is still the largest and most productive economy in the world. Don't ever forget that. The biggest mission -- the biggest idea of this campaign is to accelerate economic growth to create hope and opportunity for everyone. And with our exports still climbing -- there's solid proof that Americans can outcompete anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world.

[OIL AND GAS INSERT ?]

A rising nation educates her young people. Well, you wouldn't know it to read the papers, but all across America a revolution in education is bringing back excellence to our

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schools. Well, we were the ones to start it -- we are the ones that are leading it -- we'll be the ones to complete it. And before we're done, whether it's public, private or religious, parents are going to have the right to choose their children's schools.

You wouldn't know it to watch the network news, but there's another great and dynamic movement transforming our country. It is a movement of ordinary people solving problems right where they live -- millions of courageous people taking direct and consequential action on their own. This is how we help create whole and good communities. Lest anyone forget, under my Presidency this movement, this big idea, is a national crusade. The real heroes of America -- God bless them -- are the ones we call Points of Light.

Despite the odds, we've had some successes on Capitol Hill -- legislation like our Child Care Act -- which said parents raise kids, not government; the Clean Air Act -- linking a strong economy with a clean environment; the Americans with Disabilities Act -- guaranteeing the disabled their rightful place in the mainstream. And when it comes to stopping bad legislation with my veto pen, it's Bush 26, Congress 0.

So despite what you hear from the pundits, or the special interests, we are already setting a new course for America. But it is a very critical moment. To meet the tough issues of education, of crime, or the decline in the American family -- we must resolve not to once again walk down the old paths of the old

thinkers. The future of our country is at stake. The job is only half-done. We must finish what we started.

I'm proud of our record. We've had to make the tough calls -- every day and every week. Bigger government, higher taxes, moral relativism -- that's their way -- the old way -- and we've proposed a better way. A new track for America -- like Texas, it's a big idea. When Congress blocked the way -- stuck in the muck of the old thinking -- we kept the heat on -- kept pushing for change. And we're going to keep on pushing until we get the job done.

When the American people send me a Congress with a commitment to change -- we'll pass the laws, do the work the American people deserve. But with or without the Congress we are going to make our families stronger, our schools better, our streets safer, and build opportunity for all Americans. That's what the American people want, not excuses, but action.

This is an age of great change for America -- that's what makes November 3rd so important. Change can seem to threaten the most valuable legacies we hope to leave our children: good jobs, strong families, a nation at peace. Change breeds uncertainty and skepticism. I understand that. But we are the United States of America -- one nation under God.

The genius of America is everywhere. It's in a society that places a premium on performance, not glitz -- on service, not selfishness. A society that captures what Texas is all about.

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Let the skeptics say it can't be done. Let the optimists say,
let's get to work.

Yes, we are in the fight of our lives, but it's worth the
fight and we're in it to win.

I appreciate this warm Texas welcome. God bless you all.

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