

The Republican Party must go forward, not backward. We came to Washington with a confident vision of restoring opportunity and hope to the average citizen. We have creative ideas—enterprise zones, the CBI, the balanced budget amendment, regulatory reform, and criminal justice reform. All of them still await action. The opposition, even after 2 years of complaining and, in some cases, of obstructionism, has yet to offer anything other than what they've been doing for the last few decades and which got us into the mess we're in. The American people will remember who had a positive program and stood firm when the pressure was on.

So, as you know, I just returned from a trip to Latin America, and I found out one thing that did kind of make me serious on the way back. Over and over again there they expressed to me that they look to us for leadership in the world. And I'm convinced that our country can lead the way to lasting worldwide recovery if we remain true to our principles.

The solution for the unemployed autoworkers and the steelworkers is not a giant public works program financed by higher taxes or increased borrowing. America's challenge for the eighties is to invest more, invest wisely, to make workers and products more competitive in the world market, to unleash our pioneer spirit of innovation, and get this Nation back on the cutting edge of growth. That's where Washington failed the American people in the past. Compared to other major industrialized countries our rate of net private investment has been pathetically low. We've been eating our seedcorn for more than a year, and unless we break the habit, we won't keep pace with the emerging competitive forces throughout the world.

The new taxing and spending increases that are proposed by the opposition won't stimulate the economy. They won't reduce the deficits, and yet that's all they have to offer.

By working together as we have since our first meeting 2 years ago, by remaining true to our ideals, we can bring America back to health, if we have the camaraderie of spirit.

Victor Hugo once said, "It is through fraternity that liberty is saved." That was never more true than right now and never

more applicable than to those of us who are in this room.

Let me add how deeply grateful I am for all your guidance and cooperation over the last difficult year, especially, from Howard Baker. Sometimes we don't always agree, but I remain appreciative, because I trust Howard implicitly. And I can assure you—and I think Howard will attest to this—I'm listening, and I'm willing to go that extra mile to make certain we strengthen our partnership.

Now, we can leave a stronger America and a more peaceful world for the children, the Americans of the 21st century. All we need is faith, the courage of our convictions, and the common sense to work together. I have confidence in America's future, because I have confidence in each of you.

And with that, the best get-off line I can think of right now is, God bless you, and thank you for having us with you here tonight.

Note: The President spoke at 10:26 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress. He was introduced by Senate Majority Leader Howard H. Baker, Jr.

Defense Officer Personnel Management

Executive Order 12396. December 9, 1982

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by Section 301 of Title 3 of the United States Code, and in order to delegate certain functions concerning the appointment, promotion, and retirement of commissioned officers of the Armed Forces, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The Secretary of Defense is designated to perform, without approval, ratification, or other action by the President, the following functions vested in the President:

(a) The authority vested in the President by Sections 618(b)(1) and 628(d)(1) of Title 10 of the United States Code, to approve,

modify, or disapprove the report of a selection board.

(b) The authority vested in the President by Section 629(a) of Title 10 of the United States Code, to remove the name of any officer from a promotion list to any grade below commodore or brigadier general.

(c) The authority vested in the President by Section 624(c) of Title 10 of the United States Code, to appoint officers in the grades of first lieutenant and captain in the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps or in the grades of lieutenant (junior grade) and lieutenant in the Navy.

(d) The authority vested in the President by Section 5721(c) of Title 10 of the United States Code, to make certain temporary appointments to the grade of lieutenant commander.

(e) The authority vested in the President by Section 6323(a) of Title 10 of the United States Code, to approve the application of an officer of the Navy or the Marine Corps for retirement after the completion of more than 20 years of active service and to designate the month in which such retirements shall become effective.

(f) The authority vested in the President by Sections 3918 and 8918 of Title 10 of the United States Code, to approve the request of a regular commissioned officer of the Army or the Air Force to retire after at least 30 years of service.

(g) Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to delegate the authority vested in the President by Section 618(c) of Title 10 to remove a name from a selection board report.

Sec. 2. (a) The Secretary of Defense is designated to perform during a time of war or national emergency the following functions vested in the President, without the approval, ratification, or other action by the President.

(1) The authority vested in the President by Section 526 of Title 10 of the United States Code, to suspend the operation of any provision of Sections 523, 524, or 525 of Title 10 of the United States Code, relating to the authorized strength of commissioned officers.

(2) The authority vested in the President by subsections (a) and (b) of Section 603 of Title 10 of the United States Code, to make

or vacate certain temporary commissioned appointments.

(3) The authority vested in the President by Section 644 of Title 10 of the United States Code, to suspend the operation of any law relating to the promotion, involuntary retirement, or separation of commissioned officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps.

(b) The authority delegated to the Secretary of Defense by this Section may not be exercised during the time of a national emergency declared by the President, unless the exercise of any such authority is specifically directed by the President in accordance with Section 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631).

(c) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that actions taken pursuant to the authority delegated by this Section are accounted for as required by Section 401 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641).

Sec. 3. The authority delegated to the Secretary of Defense by this Order may be redelegated to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, any of the Assistant Secretaries of Defense, and to any of the Secretaries of the military departments who may further subdelegate such authority to subordinates who are appointed to their office by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Sec. 4. All actions taken by, for, or on behalf of the President with respect to the functions delegated by this Order, which actions would be valid if taken pursuant to this Order, are ratified.

Sec. 5. (a) Executive Order No. 10621, as amended, is further amended by revoking subsections (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), and (n) of Section 1 thereof.

(b) Executive Order No. 11390, as amended, is further amended by revoking subsections 2, 3, 9, 12, and 15 of Section 1 thereof.

(c) Executive Order No. 12239 is revoked.

Ronald Reagan

The White House,
December 9, 1982.

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