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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

REMARKS AT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, VICTORY 2004 RALLY WITH REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

Thursday, October 14, 2004

9:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Thomas and Mack Center

Indoors

Las Vegas, Nevada

Karl Rove

I. PURPOSE

To deliver remarks at a Republican National Committee (RNC) Victory 2004 rally.

II. BACKGROUND

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Las Vegas is the largest city in the state by population and is located in southern Nevada in Clark County, the state's largest county by population. According to the 2000 Census, Las Vegas had a population of 478,434, and Clark County had a population of over 1.37 million. Over the past 15 years, Las Vegas has been the fastest-growing metropolitan area in America. In 2000, you lost Clark County by 25,168 votes (44.7 percent to 51.3 percent) but won Nevada by 21,597 votes (49.52 percent to 45.98 percent).

Due to a rise in tourism and gaming, Clark County was the third-fastest growing county in the country during the 1990s, and Las Vegas was the fourth-fastest growing city in the country. Although Las Vegas' economy is primarily based on the tourism and gaming industries, the lack of any state, individual, or corporate income tax and very simple incorporation requirements have attracted other industries to the area, such as manufacturing, textile, and banking. The area's largest employers include the Bellagio, MGM Grand Las Vegas, and Mirage hotels and casinos, as well as Nellis Air Force Base, the U.S. Energy Department, and Rio Properties, Inc., a casino and resort operations company.

As of August 2004, Nevada's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent, 2.6 percentage points below its peak of 6.6 percent in January 2002. As of September 2004, the national unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

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Note: The Thomas and Mack Center is the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Rebels' basketball stadium. More than 27,000 students are enrolled at UNLV.

Note: This event is in Congresswoman Shelley Berkley's (D, NV-01) district, but she will not attend.

Note: In Las Vegas, a loaf of bread costs \$1.05, a gallon of milk costs \$2.23, and a gallon of gas costs \$2.14.

Note: Two Nevadans have died serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Three Nevadans have died serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Note: The last day to register to vote in Nevada was October 12. Nevada voters may begin early voting on October 16; early voting ends October 29. The last day to request an absentee ballot is October 26, and the last day to submit an absentee ballot to the County Board of Elections is November 2.

Note: Mrs. Bush and Senator Kerry will speak to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Convention today in Las Vegas.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Members of Congress

Senator John Ensign (R, NV), Bush-Cheney '04 State Campaign Honorary Co-Chair
(will deliver remarks in pre-program)

Senator John McCain (R, AZ), Bush-Cheney '04 State Campaign Co-Chair

Congressman Jon Porter (R, NV-03), Bush-Cheney '04 State Campaign Honorary Co-Chair (will emcee pre-program)

Statewide Officials

Governor Kenny Guinn (R, NV), Bush-Cheney '04 Nevada Campaign Honorary Co-Chair (will deliver remarks in pre-program and introduce Marc Racicot)

Governor Mike Huckabee (R, AR), Bush-Cheney '04 Arkansas Campaign Co-Chair

Governor Mike Johanns (R, NE), Bush-Cheney '04 Nebraska Campaign Co-Chair

Governor Dirk Kempthorne (R, ID), Bush-Cheney '04 Idaho Campaign Chair

Governor Linda Lingle (R, HI), Bush-Cheney '04 Hawaii Campaign Chair

Governor Judy Martz (R, MT)

Governor Frank Murkowski (R, AK), Bush-Cheney '04 Alaska Campaign Co-Chair

Governor Bill Owens (R, CO), Bush-Cheney '04 Colorado Campaign Chair

Governor George Pataki (R, NY), Bush-Cheney '04 New York Campaign Chair
Governor Tim Pawlenty (R, MN), Bush-Cheney '04 Minnesota Campaign Co-Chair
Governor Rick Perry (R, TX), Bush-Cheney '04 Texas Campaign Chair

Note: Governor Perry will attend this event, but he will not join the remainder of the tour.

Governor Mitt Romney (R, MA), Bush-Cheney '04 Massachusetts Campaign Chair
Governor Mike Rounds (R, SD), Bush-Cheney '04 South Dakota Campaign Chair
Governor Bob Taft (R, OH), Bush-Cheney '04 Ohio Campaign Chair

Other Governors Joining the Leadership Tour (not present at this event)

Governor Haley Barbour (R, MS), Bush-Cheney '04 Mississippi Campaign Chair
Governor Craig Benson (R, NH), Bush-Cheney '04 New Hampshire Campaign Co-Chair
Governor Jeb Bush (R, FL), Bush-Cheney '04 Florida Campaign Chair
Governor Donald Carcieri (R, RI), Bush-Cheney '04 Rhode Island Campaign Chair
Governor Robert Ehrlich (R, MD), Bush-Cheney '04 Maryland Campaign Chair
Governor Ernie Fletcher (R, KY), Bush-Cheney '04 Kentucky Campaign Chair

Local Officials

TBD

Other VIPs

Terry Branstad, former Republican Governor of Iowa
Lee Greenwood, singer (will perform the National Anthem in pre-program)
Desert Pine High School Band (will perform in pre-program)
Roberto Gutierrez (will deliver the Invocation in pre-program)

Participants Highlighted in Your Remarks

Dr. James Barber, Gynecologist, Women's Wellness OB/GYN (Medical Liability Reform Doctor)
Nicole Byrne (Medical Liability Reform Patient and Former Patient of Dr. Barber)

13,000 invited guests, including community leaders and grassroots supporters

White House Staff

COS: Joe Hagin, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Press: Scott McClellan, Press Secretary
Staff Secretary: Brett Kavanaugh, Staff Secretary

RNC Victory 2004 Staff

TBD

Bush-Cheney '04 Staff

Marc Racicot, Chairman; former Governor of Montana and former RNC Chairman (will introduce you)

Karen Hughes

Nicolle Devenish, Communications Director

Scott Stanzel, Press Secretary

Cary Evans, Northwest Regional Political Director

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Note: A pre-program will have concluded prior to your arrival. During the pre-program, each governor in attendance will be recognized individually.

- You arrive and greet the participants highlighted in your remarks.
- You proceed to greet governors in attendance.
- You conclude greeting and proceed to offstage announce.
- The governors are announced on to stage as a group.
- Governor Guinn and Marc Racicot are announced on to stage.
- You are announced on to stage.
- Governor Guinn introduces Marc Racicot.
- Marc Racicot introduces you.
- You deliver remarks.

Note: Governor Guinn, Marc Racicot, other governors, and **TBD** supporters will be seated behind you during your remarks.

- You conclude remarks, work rope line, and depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting

VII. ATTACHMENT

Background on Participants Highlighted in Your Remarks

BACKGROUND ON PARTICIPANTS HIGHLIGHTED IN YOUR REMARKS

Dr. James Barber, Gynecologist, Women's Wellness OB/GYN (Henderson, Nevada, and Newport Beach, California) (Medical Liability Reform Doctor)

- Dr. Barber was an OB/GYN in private practice at Women's Wellness OB/GYN in Henderson, Nevada, for five years. In March 2003, Dr. Barber stopped practicing obstetrics in Nevada because he could not afford the increasing cost of medical liability insurance.
- In 2001, Dr. Barber's premiums were \$27,000 per year. Even without a claim against him, in August 2002, his premiums increased to \$88,000 per year. In 2003, Dr. Barber's premiums would have increased 15 percent to \$101,200 per year. Dr. Barber discontinued his obstetrics practice before the rate increase went into effect.
- Dr. Barber remains a practicing gynecologist in Nevada, and his premiums in Nevada are \$17,000 per year. In April 2003, he opened a Women's Wellness OB/GYN in Orange County, California, where he also practices gynecology and obstetrics because California has Medical Liability caps of \$250,000 per case.
Note: Your medical liability proposal is modeled after the California law.
- Dr. Barber's premiums in California are \$33,000 per year.
- Some of Dr. Barber's patients are considering driving the four hours to California to have him deliver their babies, but some like Nicole Byrne were forced to find another doctor nearby.
- He says, "Medical liability reform would stabilize medical liability insurance costs for physicians. By stabilizing those rates, the number of physicians that are forced to leave their home states would decline significantly. We are underserved in Nevada with OB/GYNs, and this would help that situation greatly."
- Dr. Barber and his wife, Karen, do not have any children.

Nicole Byrne [BURN] (Henderson, Nevada) (Medical Liability Reform Patient and Former Patient of Dr. Barber)

- When Nicole called her previous OB/GYN in May 2002 to let her know she was pregnant, Nicole's doctor told Nicole that she had stopped delivering babies because she could not afford the increasing medical liability insurance.
- In search of a new OB/GYN, Nicole called six doctors that she knew of, and all of them turned her down. She called approximately six more doctors listed in the phone book, and they all said they could not take her on as a patient.
- Nicole was a disc jockey on a morning radio show, so she went on the air and explained her situation. She asked if any of her female listeners knew of an OB/GYN in the area. She received about 100 calls from women who had been experiencing the same difficulties finding an OB/GYN.
- Nicole was 38 years old and had recently miscarried, so she was a high-risk case. She needed medical verification that the pregnancy test was correct, and she could not find a doctor to perform the test. She also needed an ultrasound and pre-natal vitamins but was unable to get them. A listener referred her to a doctor in Las Vegas who could confirm the pregnancy test and give her a prescription for pre-natal vitamins, but this doctor could not take on additional patients requiring deliveries.

- Three months into her pregnancy, Nicole found Dr. Barber (after meeting Dr. Barber's wife), an OB/GYN who was delivering babies in Henderson. Dr. Barber has since stopped delivering babies in Nevada because of the high cost of insurance premiums.
- Nicole is pregnant again. Although Dr. Barber has referred her to another doctor in his practice, she feels like she is living through the same experience over again and says, "Here we go again!"
- In June 2002, she organized an event called "Keep Our Doctors in Nevada," where over 100,000 cards were filled out in support of tort reform that were sent to a special legislative session that occurred in August 2002.
- Nicole is married to Steve, and she has two children, Ashley Lytle [LIE-tul] (17, from a previous marriage) and Sydney (1). She and Steve are expecting their third child in April.