

us. But it's more than a matter of helping our kids do their homework, teaching them how to read, or showing them through our own interests that learning is a lifelong pursuit. Our kids look to us for the moral values that guide and shape our lives.

And we know children look to us, and it's up to us to give our kids something to look up to. Ann Lynch is right on the mark when she says that "the difference between a good school and a great school is the parents."

And those of us in government, at the Federal level and in the statehouses and right down to the local school boards, have a responsibility to ensure that parents are at the center of educational reform. Together, let's work to meet a common challenge; let's find a way to help children who lack the advantages that come from a loving home and caring parents.

I am convinced that our efforts to improve our schools are at a critical turning point now. We here in the White House are committed to these national education goals. We've forged a real, working partnership with the Nation's Governors. And it is real; it's not just on paper. And we know real progress comes one school and one

student at a time. And that's why we see the PTA as a key partner in making certain that America's children receive an education that's second to none.

And once again, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the White House. And now I will sign the proclamation designating this National Parents and Teachers Association Week. And Congressman Kildee, if you'd join us here, too, sir, it would make it extra special. And the deed is done.

Q. Mr. President, does Saddam's no-surrender statement mean there's no hope of avoiding a ground war?

The President. He should have spent more time in the PTA. [*Laughter*]

Note: The President spoke at 1:16 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Dale E. Kildee; Ann Lynch, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers; Ted Sanders, Under Secretary of Education; Charles W. Stair, president of the ServiceMaster Co.; television cartoon character Bart Simpson; singer Paula Abdul; and professional athlete Bo Jackson. The proclamation is listed in Appendix E at the end of this volume.

Remarks on the Persian Gulf Conflict

February 22, 1991

Good morning.

The United States and its coalition allies are committed to enforcing the United Nations resolutions that call for Saddam Hussein to immediately and unconditionally leave Kuwait. In view of the Soviet initiative which, very frankly, we appreciate, we want to set forth this morning the specific criteria that will ensure Saddam Hussein complies with the United Nations mandate.

Within the last 24 hours alone we have heard a defiant, uncompromising address by Saddam Hussein, followed less than 10 hours later by a statement in Moscow that, on the face of it, appears more reasonable. I say "on the face of it" because the statement promised unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, only to set forth a

number of conditions. And needless to say, any conditions would be unacceptable to the international coalition and would not be in compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 660's demand for immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

More importantly and more urgently, we learned this morning that Saddam has now launched a scorched-earth policy against Kuwait, anticipating perhaps that he will now be forced to leave. He is wantonly setting fires to and destroying the oil wells, the oil tanks, the export terminals, and other installations of that small country. Indeed, they're destroying the entire oil production system of Kuwait. At the same time that

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that Moscow press conference was going on and Iraq's Foreign Minister was talking peace, Saddam Hussein was launching Scud missiles.

After examining the Moscow statement and discussing it with my senior advisers here late last evening and this morning, and after extensive consultation with our coalition partners, I have decided that the time has come to make public with specificity just exactly what is required of Iraq if a ground war is to be avoided.

Most important, the coalition will give Saddam Hussein until noon Saturday to do what he must do: begin his immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. We must hear publicly and authoritatively his

acceptance of these terms. The statement to be released, as you will see, does just this and informs Saddam Hussein that he risks subjecting the Iraqi people to further hardship unless the Iraqi Government complies fully with the terms of the statement.

We will put that statement out soon. It will be in considerable detail. And that's all I'll have to say about it right now.

Thank you very much.

Note: The President spoke at 10:43 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Lynn M. Martin as Secretary of Labor

February 22, 1991

The President. Thank you very much for that warm welcome. And Julia, thank you for the lovely prayer and invocation. I was privileged, as I went into the inevitable holding posture out here, to hear the Blacks in Government Gospel Choir. And thank you for adding to the majesty and wonder of this moment.

And it is really an honor to greet all of you today. A thousand apologies for keeping you waiting here, setting this program back. But as you know, we had an important announcement regarding the situation in the Gulf, and I simply could not delay it.

But here I am and delighted to be here. Let me just say how pleased I am to see so many members of our Cabinet here. And if it would not be remiss, I'd like them to stand and just let you know how many have come to pay attention and genuflect before Lynn Martin. That's somewhat incomplete because our Chief of Staff is here and the new Secretary of Education, about to be, and Secretary of Agriculture, about to be also. So now you three stand up, and we'll get this show on the road here.

It's getting to be a cabal out there with Skinner, Madigan, and now one more Illi-

noisan in this Cabinet. You're going to have to—[*applause*]

And I also want to salute the Members of Congress that are here with us today, coming, as I am, to pay our respects to our new Secretary of Labor.

I know that Secretary Dole wanted to be here; I don't think she made it. In marking this moment of transition, let's just begin by offering our congratulations to her for 25 years of exceptional service. And our best wishes as she tackles this new and terribly important task there as president of the American Red Cross.

We're here today to salute and introduce the new Secretary of Labor. And we're particularly grateful at this wonderful turnout from the Department and from all those in the labor movement and others who are here. It is for me a distinct, and I want to make it quite personal, a personal pleasure to welcome to Washington the family and friends of this exceptional woman.

The 16th District of Illinois has great historical significance, as I now see another dignitary, the former Governor, Jim Thompson, from Illinois, knows very well, indeed. It was the site of the Lincoln-Doug-