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[Speech Cards, Battery Consortium, 10/25/91]

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BATTERY CONSORTIUM \ SOUTH GROUNDS
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1991 \ 10:30 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

SEC. WATKINS. SEC. MOSBACHER. ADMINISTRATOR
REILLY. CHAIRMAN DELAND. SENATORS JOHNSTON AND
RIEGLE. ROBERT LUTZ, PRESIDENT OF CHRYSLER. ALEXANDER
TROTMAN, VICE PRESIDENT NORTH AMERICAN OPERATIONS AT
FORD, ^{Jim Johnston} ROBERT SCHULTZ, VICE CHAIRMAN GENERAL MOTORS.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

Johnston
Riegle

WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE -- AND TO AN EVENT THAT SHOWS HOW AMERICA'S GENIUS RESTS ON THE TIMELESS QUALITIES OF ENTERPRISE AND INGENUITY -- QUALITIES WHICH CAN MAKE THE NEXT CENTURY THE NEW AMERICAN CENTURY. //

((WHEN I FIRST HEARD I'D BE GETTING TOGETHER WITH AMERICA'S COMPETING BIG THREE, I THOUGHT IT WAS JENNINGS, RATHER, AND BROKAW. /

ACTUALLY, I THINK IT'S TERRIFIC THAT CHRYSLER, FORD,
AND GENERAL MOTORS WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER IN MUTUAL
COOPERATION. / IT DIDN'T EVEN TAKE JIM BAKER TO DO
IT.)) //

((EARLIER TODAY, I MENTIONED TO ONE OF MY GRANDKIDS
THAT I'D BE GIVING A SPEECH ABOUT ELECTRIC BATTERIES.
HE SAID, "I HOPE IT'S NOT INTERRUPTED BY THAT PINK
BUNNY WITH A DRUM.")) //

IT IS MY PLEASURE -- YOU MIGHT SAY I'M CHARGED UP -- TO
BEAT THE DRUM ABOUT A TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN HELP KEEP
AMERICA No. 1. //

SIX MONTHS AGO, CHRYSLER, FORD AND GM -- TOGETHER
WITH CALIFORNIA EDISON AND THE ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH
INSTITUTE -- FORMED A CONSORTIUM TO DEVELOP IMPROVED
BATTERIES FOR ELECTRIC AUTOMOBILES. //

THEY KNEW THAT WIDESPREAD USE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES
WOULDN'T BECOME A REALITY UNTIL SOMEONE BUILT MORE
POWERFUL, LESS EXPENSIVE ELECTRIC BATTERIES. //

TODAY, I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THIS CONSORTIUM AND OUR DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, SUPPORTED
BY UTILITIES AND BATTERY MANUFACTURERS, TO MOVE US
CLOSER TO THAT DAY. WE HAVE JOINED IN A FOUR YEAR,
\$260 MILLION RESEARCH PROJECT TO CREATE A NEW
GENERATION OF BATTERIES. //

OUR GOAL IS NOTHING LESS THAN TO MAKE ELECTRIC VEHICLES
COMPETITIVE BY THE YEAR 2000. //

THIS PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP WILL EMPLOY MARKET
FORCES TO PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES, AND POINT US
TOWARD A CLEANER, MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE. // IT WILL
HELP US REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL -- AND REDUCE
AIR POLLUTION.

IT WILL ALSO CREATE AMERICAN JOBS -- FOR ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS DURING THE R&D PHASE -- AND FOR BATTERY MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPORT INDUSTRIES AS THIS PROJECT MOVES INTO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION.

YOU KNOW, REGULATING INCREASED FUEL ECONOMY WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON UNCERTAIN SOURCES OF FOREIGN OIL. TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, WE NEED ALTERNATIVES TO GASOLINE -- AND THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE IS ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVES AROUND. /

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPETITIVE ELECTRONIC AUTO INDUSTRY WILL DO MORE TO REDUCE OIL IMPORTS THAN RIGID FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS THAT RISK JOBS AND PUBLIC SAFETY. // LET US REMEMBER: SENSELESS OVER-REGULATION IS ALWAYS A ONE-WAY DEAD-END. //

BUT WHILE BATTERIES HAVE BROUGHT US TOGETHER TODAY, BATTERIES ARE NOT REALLY ALL THIS DAY IS ABOUT. THE GROUP GATHERED HERE POINTS TO A NEW WAY OF DOING BUSINESS:

COMBINING INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT'S INTELLECTUAL AND PRODUCTIVE ASSETS TO SUSTAIN AMERICA'S COMPETITIVENESS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. ELECTRIC VEHICLES REPRESENT THE NEXT TECHNOLOGY MILESTONE IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY. WE INTEND TO BEAT OUR COMPETITORS TO THAT MILESTONE.

TODAY'S AGREEMENT EMBODIES AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME -- THAT GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS CAN HELP AMERICA OUTTHINK, OUTWORK, AND OUTPERFORM ANY NATION IN THE WORLD. //

EARLIER THIS YEAR, I ANNOUNCED A NATIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY -- A BLUEPRINT OF POWERFUL IDEAS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE. // THIS AGREEMENT FITS THAT BLUEPRINT TO A TEE. //

IT REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSIFY TRANSPORTATION FUELS, TO SAFEGUARD THE ENVIRONMENT, TO ADVANCE TECHNOLOGY -- AND TO INCREASE INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. //

THAT STRATEGY IS KEY TO ACHIEVING FOR ALL AMERICANS A SECURE, CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY FUTURE. / THE U.S. SENATE WILL SOON CONSIDER COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY LEGISLATION -- SENATE BILL 1220 -- INCORPORATING MANY OF THE PRINCIPLES THAT SHAPE OUR STRATEGY.

I URGE CONGRESS TO DO ITS PART BY ENACTING STRONG ENERGY LEGISLATION LIKE S.-1220. /// THIS LEGISLATION IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND -- BUT IT DOES NOT THREATEN TO THROW A LOT OF AUTOMOBILE WORKERS OUT OF WORK BY ENACTING OUTRAGEOUSLY TOUGH CAFE STANDARDS. //

IT WAS ONCE OBSERVED, "OUR UNION IS RIVER, LAKE, OCEAN, AND SKY."

IT IS ALSO PEOPLE DREAMING DREAMS OF ENDLESS
POSSIBILITY -- CARING, TOILING, CREATING, ACHIEVING.

//

LET ME THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THE WHITE HOUSE. /
IT IS NOW MY PRIVILEGE TO WITNESS THE SIGNING OF AN
AGREEMENT THAT REAFFIRMS THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA -- THAT
TOMORROW WILL BE EVEN BETTER, BRIGHTER, AND GREATER
THAN TODAY.

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