

REMARKS

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# President Timothy F. Geithner's State of the Union Address

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*Remarks as prepared for delivery.*

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Thank you very much. Tonight, I have a very high distinction of my own—as the first President in a very long time to give a State of the Union message in front of America's perhaps greatest Speaker in history. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to again thank everyone for the warm welcome you've given me as I've stepped into this new role, and all the challenges that with it come.

Mr. Speaker, Vice President Joe Biden, members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens:

As President Bush said in 2007, we are called at these defining hours by a rite of custom—a rite as old as our Republic itself. This rite demands that I deliver to you a message on the State of our Union.

We enter the year 2018 with challenges we haven't faced before but at the same time with grit to meet them head on. We need to, however, be honest with ourselves about the past year. So, I say this without hesitation: Mr. Speaker, the State of our Union is not good.

In the past year alone, we've seen seven presidents and eight vice presidents—six presidents and seven vice presidents too many. We've watched as our very institutions of

government have begun decay while we sit and do nothing but grovel on social media; campaign after campaign, we claim to have the solutions, but each chance to provide them that comes our way turns into a wasted opportunity through partisanship and sustention of the status quo.

As we enter the sixth year of our Republic, I call on the Congress—and the government writ large—to join me in the task that is fixing our Union. For a future of hope and opportunity begins not with the winning of a campaign but when we can honestly say to one another that this time we raised the bar—this time we left America better off than it was when we started. If we can say that, we will have succeeded.

Tonight, I want to discuss three things: (1) where we are, (2) what my administration has done in the two weeks since I was sworn in, and (3) what I believe deserve to be priorities for this Congress.

I begin with a memory: it was March, 2016. I was on spring break, home from my school, and was independently contracted by President SuddenRush12G to help plan his re-election campaign—yes, three months in advance. I was added to a TeamSpeak call—that was what we used at the time. And I remember a dozen of us being in this call discussing the general politics on the ground.

The Democrats were busy fighting fierce Plutocratic opposition, but the Executive was thriving; Congressional elections were receiving hundreds of votes; and, overall, our country

had a vibrancy to it, a vigor unmatched by any nation in the community. It seems to me that we've lost that energy.

But we can get it back, America. We've already begun. When I was sworn in on January 30, I immediately assembled the previous President's cabinet; I told them that it was time to set aside differences in opinion and former experiences. I told them it was time to get to work. In the two weeks since, this administration has delivered unprecedented amounts of work to the American people.

We've sent over thirty names to the Senate for confirmation to appointments. We've drafted and I've signed over five Executive Orders that have begun to plug the holes in the White House that have been left open for over a year. For example, I saw the problems federal employees were having with holding their bosses accountable. To remedy this, I cut the red tape surrounding our adverse-employment claim system and centralized it into one smaller, but more efficient, Office of Government Ethics.

Or take our Intelligence Community. Since President TheySinned maliciously leaked all of their files one year ago, our intelligence employees have been kept underground by administrations fearful of letting them do, well, their jobs. No longer. My Executive Order that restructures the Intelligence Community also gives them, again, power to conduct operations. We will use the information they collect lawfully to better our foreign policy and keep Americans safe at home and abroad.

Because the challenges we face are not just at home: we face unprecedented problems on the world stage. That is why I made the first live address from the Oval Office in over a year to discuss with the American people my plan for diplomacy. My diplomatic policy is simple: America first. We will not waste time making deals that don't benefit us or giving "allies" our resources for nothing in return. That's why I hosted the British and the French for a trilateral summit and made clear that the American foreign policy is going to start putting America first. Let me put it simply: I won't spend more time working abroad, as so many Presidents have, than I do working at home for the people.

America needs to get back to the basics. And that starts at home. This Congress in just two weeks has passed two historic acts of legislation, increasing sentences for rogues and legalizing open carry. But that is just the beginning.

Our task, my fellow Americans, is to build a better America that raises the bar, recognizes the expertise of our employees who know better than elite politicians, and manages an ever-expanding bureaucracy without curtailing the constitutional freedoms afforded to all Americans. But above all, we must bring back our energy. That is why this term needs to be the most productive and transformative in our Union's history. And so tonight, I propose the following—

First, we need to begin enforcing all of our laws. America is a nation of law not desire; all laws must be enforced and applied equally and without hesitation. We have amazing legislation that can unleash the American dream so long as it is

used—legislation like America Works, which if implemented will provide Americans an easy path toward employment. I pledge to have it up and running by the end of March.

Second, we need to fix our institutions of government. That starts by reducing the presidential term length to four months. If the past year has taught us anything, it's that six months is too long and confers too much power into one individual. We Republicans believe government's job is to protect liberty, life, and property—not to amass unmatched levels of power over the people.

Third, we need to make our military heard and strong again. For too long they have been cast aside; we must fix our Armed Forces. I intend on devoting the next five months to comprehensive national-security reform, and that starts with restoring our military to a first-rate status. Critical to that effort will be providing incentives. I call on this Congress to give members of the military a fast track to employment in federal agencies. We can't call ourselves America if we don't take care of those charged with the duty of protecting our interests at home and abroad.

And lastly, most importantly, we need to make American government accessible to the people once again. That means we interact again with our constituents through in-game events, press conferences, and town halls. Most importantly, however, is that we begin running advertisements again. We have over 800,000 ROBUX in the group's treasury—earned by our visits to our cities—that has gone unused. It's on us

to, as a people, demand from Pauljkl that he run advertisements.

We are a group of 180,000 yet could three times that size. An advertising campaign for even 100,00 ROBUX would result in a much-needed breath of fresh air to our country. We all need to stand up and make our voices heard.

America, at the end of the day, we are good because we are great. And one need only look as some of our own to confirm it. Take, for example, the Sheriff of the Las Vegas Police Department, SirReginaldii. SirReginaldii started his career in America in November 2016. Then, he joined the LVPD and began to work his way up the ladder, investigating criminals and stopping crime. For over a year, SirReginaldii never took no for an answer, and showed that nobody—regardless of position or ability—is above the law.

With ruthless efficiency and commitment to the rule of law, he carried out his solemn duty and now leads the LVPD as Sheriff. His story is the perfect example of the American story: it says if you work hard and put in the time, you'll too find success. It is our task to bring back this story—to make it a reality, not a distant fiction. It is, my friends, our task to all be like SirReginaldii.

In his spirit and determination, we see the underlying fabric that makes America the greatest nation on Earth. We've been through a lot over the past year, America, but I know this term will be the term during which we come back. If we can go forward with confidence, if we can remember our

values and our strengths, and if we can put America— not special interests and foreign nations— first, then we can create a Union stronger than ever. If we do those things, we can say proudly that the State of our Union is good.

As Private Martin Treptow said, repeated in President Reagan's first inaugural address: "I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone." We must all be Private Treptow.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.