

**Georgia  
Tech**



**Research  
Institute**



---

**Examples of Performative Sentences  
in Presidential Records**

William Underwood

Working Paper ITTL/CSITD 09-01

September 2009

Computer Science and Information Technology Division  
Information Technology and Telecommunications Laboratory  
Georgia Tech Research Institute  
Georgia Institute of Technology

The Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) sponsor this research under Army Research Office Cooperative Agreement W911NF-06-2-0050. The findings in this paper should not be construed as an official ARL or NARA position unless so indicated by other authorized documentation.

## Abstract

Underwood [2008] argues that an archivist's ability to understand the acts carried out by records is fundamental to his capabilities to describe and review records for possible restrictions on disclosure. To support archivists in performing these tasks, he proposes an approach for automatically recognizing the speech acts performed by the sentences in electronic records. This method is dependent, in part, on the capability to recognize performative verbs and interpret performative sentences. Verbs like recommend, request, and promise whose action is accomplished merely by saying them or writing them are termed performative verbs. A performative verb has a performative use in a performative sentence if the form of the verb is first person (singular or plural), present tense, indicative, and active (or passive) voice. There are also performative sentences in which the verb is in the present continuous, in nominalized form, or in passive voice. In this report, 201 performative verbs are defined and examples are provided that were found in the *Public Papers of the Presidents*. These examples are being analyzed to determine syntactic and semantic features that will enable the implementation of that part of the speech act recognition method for recognizing and interpreting performative sentences.

## Table of Contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 <i>BACKGROUND</i> .....	1
1.2 <i>PURPOSE</i> .....	1
1.3 <i>SCOPE</i> .....	2
<b>2. PERFORMATIVE VERBS OCCURRING IN PRESIDENTIAL PUBLIC PAPERS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. ADDITIONAL PERFORMATIVE VERBS NOT DEFINED BY VANDERVEKEN .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>4. ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED PERFORMATIVE VERBS.....</b>	<b>79</b>
4.1 <i>ASSERTIVES</i> .....	80
4.2 <i>COMMISSIVES</i> .....	84
4.3 <i>DIRECTIVES</i> .....	85
4.4 <i>DECLARATIVES</i> .....	88
4.5 <i>EXPRESSIVES</i> .....	91
<b>5. CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>94</b>

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

According to Searle and Vanderveken, every sentence of spoken or written discourse carries out a speech act whose purpose is to make an assertion commit to something, direct an action, declare a state of affairs or express an attitude or emotion [Searle and Vanderveken 1985, p. 7]. Speech acts include common acts such as stating, promising, requesting, ordering, and congratulating. They also include acts that can only be performed by persons with the power, or knowledge or authority to do so such as proclaiming, declaring, directing, pardoning, appointing, nominating, and counseling.

Archivists who process Federal and Presidential records must read these records and understand these speech acts in order to describe these records and review them for possible restrictions on disclosure to the public. Given the increasing volumes of Federal and Presidential electronic records acquired by NARA, it will be decades, if not centuries, before these records are described. This is especially true of Presidential e-records as they must be reviewed page-by-page for restrictions on disclosure as provided by the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Underwood [2008] reported on an analysis of 120 Presidential records to identify explicit speech acts expressed with performative verbs, implicit speech acts that are not expressed with performative verbs and speech acts that are indicated by textual structure. Occurrences of 62 performative verbs used in performative sentences were found in this corpus. 41 of these verbs had been previously identified as performative verbs and defined by Vanderveken [1990]. Occurrences of 21 performative verbs not previously identified by Vanderveken were identified and defined by the author. A method was proposed for identifying the speech act performed by every sentence, or group of sentences in a record. It was shown how this information could be used to describe individual records and could provide information needed for archival review.

Vanderveken has defined 271 performative verbs, only 41 of which were found in the corpus of 120 Presidential records. In the larger collection of *Presidential Records – George Bush 1989-1993*, one would expect to find occurrences of the 231 other performative verbs defined by Vanderveken. Furthermore, the examples of the 61 performative verbs found in the corpus of 120 Presidential records exhibited only a few of the syntactic forms that can be used for performative sentences.

## 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the results of a search of the *Public Papers of the Presidents* for additional examples of the occurrence of performative verbs in performative sentences. Also to define performative verbs that were found in the *Public Papers* that are not defined by Vanderveken.

### 1.3 Scope

In section 2, examples are given of performative sentences using 111 performative verbs that have been defined by Vanderveken. In section 3, examples are given of performative sentences using 27 not defined by Vanderveken. In section 4, additional examples of performative sentences are given for 62 performative verbs for which only a few examples had been provided. In section 5, the results are summarized and the next steps indicated.

## 2. Performative Verbs Occurring in Presidential Public Papers

An online copy of *The Public Papers of the Presidents* was searched for occurrences of the 230 performative verbs defined by Vanderveken that were not found in the original corpus of 120 Presidential records. Examples were found for 111 of these verbs.

In the following list of performative verbs, the examples are organized by the illocutionary force (assertive, commissive, directive, declarative and expressive). Vanderveken's definitions of the performative verbs are quoted or paraphrased.

### Assertives

#### *reassert*

“To reassert is to assert for a second (or subsequent) time, often in response to hesitation or denial.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 170]

Q. Mr. President, you've repeatedly said that you have not encouraged the Kurds and the Shiites to rise up with the expectation that the U.S. would be in there fighting with them. And yet the Kurdish representatives this morning on one of the talk shows are saying that that's clearly the impression they got from listening to the Voice of Free Iraq, which they understood to be supported by the U.S. Would you clarify just what the role the U.S. played in running that radio station?

President Bush. No, I don't have the details on it. But I will reassert, I never in any way implied that the United States was going to use force beyond the mandate of the United Nations.<sup>1</sup>

#### *correct*

“To correct someone, maybe myself, is to presuppose that a mistake has been made in a previous assertion, and to assert a slightly different propositional content to replace it.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 170]

---

<sup>1</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference With President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico in Houston, Texas 1991-04-07

The President. May I correct an omission? Yesterday, far beyond the call of duty, Mr. Watanabe, the Minister, met with our people and came down and couldn't have been more hospitable to Mrs. Bush and me. And I'm very sorry I did not mention that in the beginning of my remarks.<sup>2</sup>

### ***claim(1), claim(2)***

Claim has two distinct assertive uses. To claim is to assert with a high degree of strength. To claim is also to assert one's right or title to. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 170] Claim also has a directive use.

We also want to recognize benefactors who, through vision and steadfast commitment, keep art alive. American art thrives because of arts administrators like our own J. Carter Brown, who has molded the National Gallery into a museum really for the entire nation. Volunteers enhance our arts: men and women like R. Philip Hanes, Jr., whose generous patronage has guided the regional and national growth of the Arts Council movement. It is unlikely, but Philip will not want to claim that he and I were classmates at college many years ago, but I claim it -- proudly, as a matter of fact. [Laughter]<sup>3</sup>

Mr. President, I, a refugee from Eastern Europe, am now a proud and loyal citizen of the United States. But spiritually I claim Israel's destiny as my own. I do not live in Israel, and yet I cannot imagine living without Israel.<sup>4</sup>

### ***affirm***

To affirm is to assert with a strong degree of strength. [Vanderveken 1990, p, 170]

I affirm the CBI's [Caribbean Basin Initiative] importance for achieving a more prosperous, democratic, and stable Caribbean Basin. The people of this region regard enhancement of the CBI program as a high priority. This is an objective which I enthusiastically support. I call on the Congress to act quickly to pass balanced legislation to extend and expand the CBI program in a way that is consistent with U.S. obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).<sup>5</sup>

We affirm that the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities will be protected and that persons belonging to national minorities have the right freely to express, preserve and develop that identity without any discrimination and in full equality before the law.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks With Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan to the Presidential Business Delegation in Tokyo, 1992-01-08

<sup>3</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the National Medal of the Arts, 1991-07-09

<sup>4</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the Elie Wiesel Foundation Humanitarian Award and an Exchange With Reporters, 1991-03-18

<sup>5</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Memorandum on the Caribbean Basin Initiative, 1989-11-17

<sup>6</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Text of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, 1990-11-21

*suggest(1)*

To suggest that something is the case is to assert something with a weak degree of strength and without a high degree of commitment to its truth. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 172] Suggest also has a directive use.

Graduations are coming up, and I know you're looking forward to the free advice you'll get from the parents. I suggest the response of one English schoolmaster: ``If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at this school, I'll promise not to believe everything he says happens at home." [Laughter]<sup>7</sup>

Q. Let's talk about Dan Quayle, the man, all right? Your support for him is undeniable. We have just heard it. What is it about Dan Quayle, the man, that prompts these jokes from Carson, Letterman, the ``piling on," as one Congressman put it the other day, and the impugning of this man's character? What is it about Dan Quayle, the man, that created these kinds of jokes?

The President. Hey, listen, you're talking to the number one butt of the jokes for Leno and Letterman and Johnny Carson for 8 years. I think I led the parade. Every once in a while, Ronald Reagan, popular as he was with the people, would take a couple of broadsides. But I led the parade. It goes with the territory. It has nothing to do with Dan Quayle's performance because his performance is superb.

Q. How did it start?

The President. Same way it started with me. Same way it starts with any Vice President. So, it just goes with the territory. Don't you remember what Herbert Hoover said -- I mean, who was it said -- Vice President Garner -- ``The Vice Presidency isn't worth a warm bucket of spit." Now, try that one on for size and see how Jay Leno goes with it.

Q. Are you suggesting that if Pete Wilson were Vice President he'd be the subject of just such jokes and barbs?

The President. I'm suggesting that when I was Vice President for 8 years, I was the subject of such barbs. It goes with the territory. So, look at it that way. And I tell Dan that. I say, hey, start the word with a B, not a Q, and put history in perspective. This isn't anything new. I admit they're piling on more. But it's so grossly unfair. But the only explanation I can give you to a very good question is, it goes with the territory. Some good things go with it, too.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks on Signing the Executive Order on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 1989-04-28

<sup>8</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Interview With Linda Douglas of KNBC, Jim Lampley of KCBS, and Paul Moyer of KABC in Los Angeles, California, 1991-06-15

Well, I'm afraid a lot of policies that have been coming out of Capitol Hill the past few years do that. All are designed to use Government to achieve great things on your behalf. But look closely, and I suggest that they just might not float in water.<sup>9</sup>

Mr. Perot. If you have time, go through NEXIS and LEXIS, pull all the old news articles. Look at what Ambassador Gaspie said all through the fall and what have you, and then look at what she and Kelly and all the others in State said at the end when they were trying to clean it up. And talk to any head of any of those key committees in the Senate. They will not let them see the written instructions given to Ambassador Gaspie. And I suggest that in a free society owned by the people, the American people ought to know what we told Ambassador Gaspie to tell Saddam Hussein. Because we spent a lot of money and risked lives and lost lives in that effort, and did not accomplish most of our objectives. We got Kuwait back to the Amir; but he still got his nuclear, his chemical, his bacteriological, and he's still over there, right? I'd like to see those written instructions. Sorry.<sup>10</sup>

### *guess*

To guess that P is to assert a P with a weak degree of strength with the preparatory condition that one presupposes its probability. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 172]

I'd also like to praise our other distinguished guests today, the leaders of the community and I guess that includes everybody here, or you probably wouldn't be here.<sup>11</sup>

It's great to be back here in Chicago. I was half tempted to call the Mayor while I'm in town. My guess is that he was pretty upset by his party's recent gathering in New York. He thought Chicago had the nickname "the Windy City." [Laughter]<sup>12</sup>

### *predict*

To predict that P is to assert P with the propositional content condition that the proposition represents a state of affairs future to the time of the utterance, and a preparatory condition that the speaker has reasons and evidence for P. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 173]

I can confidently predict that this treaty will be quickly ratified by the Congress.<sup>13</sup>

### *forecast*

---

<sup>9</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to AT&T Employees in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, 1992-09-18

<sup>10</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Presidential Debate in East Lansing, Michigan, 1992-10-19

<sup>11</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, September 12, 1991

<sup>12</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Fundraising Brunch for Rich Williamson in Rosemont, Illinois, August 2, 1992

<sup>13</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia in Moscow, January 3, 1993

“To forecast is to make a special kind of prediction in that it is based on relatively clear signs of how something (the weather, for example) seems to be shaping up (additional propositional content conditions).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 173]

Today, as required by law, I am releasing the midsession review of the budget that shows that our overall budget surplus this year will be \$211 billion, more than a \$700 billion improvement over where we projected to be in 1993. And we’re forecasting a surplus for the next 10 years that is over a trillion dollars larger than was forecast just 4 months ago.<sup>14</sup>

### **warn**

“‘Warn’ is systematically ambiguous between an assertive and directive use. I can warn that *P* where the proposition is future to the time of utterance as in the case of a prediction (propositional content condition) but where there is the additional presumption both that it somehow bodes badly for the hearer and that there is still some possibility of avoiding the misfortune (with the appropriate action on the hearer’s part) which brings us to the systematic presence of the directive. Thus, to warn the hearer that *P* is to assert that *P* with the directive purpose of suggesting that he do something about it.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 174]

To warn someone to do something is to suggest that he do it, while presupposing that it would be bad for him not to do it (preparatory condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 197]

But let me warn you, let me just put out this one word of warning. For all the great triumphs that freedom has made, the world still remains a dangerous place. That’s why a big idea in this campaign is defending America’s interests abroad. And the best way to keep America safe is to keep America strong.<sup>15</sup>

The blockade of Sarajevo must be lifted and the shelling of the town stopped in order to sustain a comprehensive relief operation. ...

We firmly warn the parties concerned, including irregular forces, not to take any action that would endanger the lives of those engaged in the relief operation. Should these efforts fail due to an unwillingness of those concerned to fully cooperate with the United Nations, we believe the Security Council will have to consider other measures, not excluding military means, to achieve its humanitarian objectives.<sup>16</sup>

### **caution**

Caution is systematically ambiguous being both an assertive and directive.

“To caution is to warn the hearer of a possible future danger that he should pay attention to (e.g. the bad state of the road).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 174]

---

<sup>14</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Midsession Review of the Budget and an Exchange With Reporters, June 26, 2000

<sup>15</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Texas State Republican Convention in Dallas, Texas, June 20, 1992

<sup>16</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Munich Economic Summit: Yugoslavia Communique, July 7, 1992

“To caution is to warn or advise the hearer to take care of something (propositional content condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 197]

Q. Well, what do you think should be done?

The President. I've decided, but I don't want to announce yet. I need to have something to say in the State of the Union that's new.

But let me say before I say that, I would like to just caution--we've had 5 great years, and we've always done better than we were predicted to do on the deficit. But I think I would still caution the Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress from passing some big 5-year program to spend money through spending programs or tax cuts that hasn't yet materialized. We do not yet have a balanced budget. We've worked so hard for so long to get this done; I sure hate to start counting our chickens before they hatch. So I would like to start with that. And then when I speak at the State of the Union, I'll say what I think ought to be done.<sup>17</sup>

We do not know what caused this tragedy. I want to say that again; we do not know as of this moment what caused this tragedy. We are beginning the painstaking process of piecing together what happened. Additional briefings to provide the latest details of what is being done will be coordinated by the Department of Transportation and will be given to you on a regular basis. We will determine what happened. But for now, I want to caution again the American people against jumping to any conclusions and ask that today, overwhelmingly, our people remember the families of the people who are on that flight in their prayers.<sup>18</sup>

But I also want to caution again, the job in Haiti remains difficult and dangerous. We still have a lot of work ahead of us. But our troops are keeping America's commitment to restore democracy. They are performing their mission very, very well with firmness and fairness, and all Americans are proud of them.<sup>19</sup>

The question of what we can do to get a peace in Bosnia, however, I want to caution you, goes far beyond that. That is, it depends upon the willingness of all the parties to agree to a reasonable settlement. And what may be appropriate in dealing with relieving the siege of Sarajevo may or may not actually hasten an end to the war. So we'll be discussing that in greater detail.<sup>20</sup>

### *describe*

“To describe something is to make an assertion or a series of assertions about it, in general in the context of a conversation where that thing is the subject of some discussion and more complete information on it is deemed relevant. Thus, often, a description is a

---

<sup>17</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Interview With Mara Liasson and Robert Siegel of National Public Radio, January 21, 1998

<sup>18</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Aircraft Tragedy in East Moriches, New York, and an Exchange With Reporters, July 18, 1996

<sup>19</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Address to the Nation on Iraq, October 10, 1994

<sup>20</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, The President's News Conference in Brussels, January 10, 1994

speech activity that involves more than a single isolated assertive illocutionary act.”  
[Vanderveken 1990, p. 175]

The efforts of the Justice Department help shape the kind of legacy that we leave for future generations. And our children must inherit a society that is safe, is sane and just. And I've also spoken of other meaningful legacies like jobs and a world at peace and certainly strong families. The American heritage which I describe is one where children can sit on their porch without the fear of getting caught in an ugly crossfire, where decent people don't have to hide behind locked doors while gangs roam the streets, where the message is clear: When it comes to the law, if you're going to take liberties, you're going to lose your own; you're going to pay.<sup>21</sup>

I'd like to say one more thing about my time with the Prime Minister. The meetings were important for what we discussed, but they were also significant for the tone of the discussions. Our time together can best be described as a consultation between close friends and strategic partners, one characterized by trust, warmth, and a commitment to meeting these common challenges. This is strategic cooperation at its very best.<sup>22</sup>

### *reveal*

“To reveal is to inform with the added preparatory condition that the information has been hidden, and that the revelation is removing the veil or cover that has hidden it from view.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 175]

Spring in the Bluegrass State, racing at Churchill Downs, and voting for Mitch McConnell - it doesn't get much better than that, wherever you are. Senator, your supporters have tonight given very generously to your campaign, and I know what it is that everyone here wants from me in return. Too late -- all six puppies are spoken for. [Laughter] But I'll let you in on a secret. The biggest secret in town is that Will Farish's springer spaniel - or English spaniel -- is actually Millie's boyfriend. [Laughter] Up to now we've tried to keep his name out of the press, though. [Laughter] I think it's okay now, though, to reveal his name -- Tug Farish III. [Laughter] Just what my elitist image name -- puppies with Roman numerals after their names. [Laughter]<sup>23</sup>

Maybe you read about Pauline Hord, 82 years old. I hope she'll forgive me for revealing that. And somebody at the Mississippi Penitentiary at Parchman had been talking about a prisoner there, saying he couldn't read a Bible if he'd had one. And so that's where she stepped forward. She goes about 100 miles each way to the prison, every Wednesday, to teach inmates how to read. She's taught nearly 140 of them, and now she's training them to teach others. And here's what she says, “I'm a teacher of teachers,” she says.<sup>24</sup>

---

<sup>21</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to State Attorneys General, 1992-03-30

<sup>22</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel in Kennebunkport, 1992-08-11

<sup>23</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Fundraising Reception for Senator Mitch McConnell in Lexington, Kentucky, 1989-05-13

<sup>24</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Commercial Appeal's Thanksgiving Celebration in Memphis, Tennessee 1989-11-22

*notify*

“To notify is to assert with the added mode of achievement to the effect that the hearer be put "on notice" with regard to *P*.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 175]

Therefore, pursuant to Section 1102(c) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, I am hereby notifying the Senate Committee on Finance [House Committee on Ways and Means] of trade negotiations with Mexico.<sup>25</sup>

Several provisions might be construed to impinge on the President's authority as Commander in Chief and as the head of the executive branch. Thus, section 1455 purports to impose a limit on the number of military personnel stationed in Japan, and section 406 purports to do the same with respect to military personnel stationed in Europe. Section 1455 permits a waiver of the limit should I determine that the national security requires it and I so notify the Congress. Section 406 permits a waiver under similar conditions, but limits the number of additional personnel that may be assigned. I shall construe these provisions consistent with my authority to deploy military personnel as necessary to fulfill my constitutional responsibilities.<sup>26</sup>

Pursuant to the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1330(c)(1), this is to notify the Congress that I have designated Don E. Newquist as Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective December 13, 1991.<sup>27</sup>

Pursuant to section 8(b) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (22 U.S.C. 1978(b)), generally known as the Pelly Amendment, I am notifying you that on July 31, 1992, in accordance with section 101(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Secretary of Commerce certified to me that a ban on the importation of yellowfin tuna and yellowfin tuna products from Canada, Colombia, Malaysia, the Netherlands Antilles, Singapore, Spain, and the United Kingdom has been in effect since January 31, 1992. This ban is the result of an order issued by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, which the Administration has appealed.<sup>28</sup>

In accordance with section 1103(a)(1) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 ("Act"), I am pleased to notify the House of Representatives and the Senate of my intent to enter into a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the Governments of Mexico and Canada.<sup>29</sup>

Pursuant to section 8(b) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (22 U.S.C. 1978(b)), generally known as the Pelly Amendment, I am notifying you that on November 3, 1992, in accordance with section 101(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Secretary of Commerce certified to me that a denial of an affirmative

---

<sup>25</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Letter to Congressional Leaders on Mexico-United States Free Trade Negotiations, 1990-09-25

<sup>26</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on Signing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, 1990-11-05

<sup>27</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Letter to Congressional Leaders on Naming Don E. Newquist as Chairman-Designate of the U.S. International Trade Commission, 1991-12-13

<sup>28</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Determination Not To Prohibit Fish Imports From Certain Countries, 1992-08-17

<sup>29</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Letter to Congressional Leaders on the North American Free Trade Agreement, 1992-09-18

finding and resulting embargo of yellowfin tuna and products derived from yellowfin tuna harvested in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) by Colombian flag vessels has been in effect since April 27, 1992.<sup>30</sup>

### *insist(I)*

To insist that P is to assert P with a preparatory condition to the effect that the speaker is in a position to give reasons for his belief in P with a high degree of strength. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 176] Insist also has a directive use.

We need a budget agreement to help maintain our economic vitality, our competitiveness, and our job creation. And that's why I continue to push the Congress to enact incentives for job growth; incentives that promote savings and investment, research and development; incentives that will help us sustain economic expansion and steer clear of recession. We need an agreement that contains real spending cuts and the means to enforce these real spending cuts. No more promises to spend now and save later. And finally, I insist on agreement that will reform the budget process itself. Let this be the last time that the American taxpayer is forced to witness a fiscal fiasco.<sup>31</sup>

The Middle East had, for time immemorial, been a region where all expectations to obtain a just and lasting peace floundered and were thwarted. A few days ago, you inaugurated a conference that has renewed the hope of a constructive dialog in the region when calling to the same negotiating table antagonists who seemed only yesterday to be implacably hostile. This is a really formidable progress, I insist, a formidable and spectacular progress. A new international order is being generated on the basis of peace, of justice, of reason, and under the guidance of God, our only source of reason and justice.<sup>32</sup>

Therefore, last year Peru presented a project which finally was turned into a bilateral agreement to carry this out in a different way. Unfortunately, the resources available are scarce. I have stated and I insist that this is a global problem. It involves not only the countries that produce the coca leaf, the commercializing countries, the consuming countries; it involves absolutely the whole world. And what our financing is devoted is not simply for Peru. Therefore, too, we must point out the need for more allocations. For example, in the case of Peru, I'm not talking about allocations for the Peruvian Government, no. This is an allocation for the struggle against drugs which would be applied in the battlefield which happens to be Peru. This is a global war. Part of that war is being waged in Peru.

Therefore, we require greater resources, which I am sure that the U.S. Government and also the governments of the international community will consider in its appropriate dimension. I insist and I repeat that we have had serious difficulties in this past year

---

<sup>30</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Determination Not To Prohibit Fish Imports From Colombia, 1992-12-10

<sup>31</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Fundraising Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate George Voinovich in Cleveland, Ohio, 1990-09-27

<sup>32</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Welcoming Ceremony for President Carlos Menem of Argentina, 1991-11-14

because we have had those cutbacks and those delays in the disbursements. We hope that such obstacles will not be repeated.<sup>33</sup>

And the other point I'll make on the mayors is, they came, the National League of City mayors came -- separate meeting -- and they said to me, the main cause of urban decay or decline is the decline in the American family. That was Tom Bradley of Los Angeles, it was a Republican Mayor out of Plano, Texas, and all across the spectrum. It wasn't liberals, it wasn't conservatives; it wasn't Democrats, it wasn't Republicans. He was talking about finding ways to strengthen the American family. I insist that we have to find ways. And mine are support for law enforcement, choice in child care and schools and whatever it is.<sup>34</sup>

At home, the material cost of our leadership can be steep. That's why Secretary of State Baker and Treasury Secretary Brady have met with many world leaders to underscore that the burden of this collective effort must be shared. We are prepared to do our share and more to help carry that load; we insist that others do their share as well.<sup>35</sup>

### *maintain*

To maintain P is to assert P with the preparatory conditions that the speaker is in a position to give reasons for his belief in P and that the assertion of P is a repeated assertion, and the mode of achievement of persistence. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 176] Maintain also has a declarative use.

Q. Just a minute on your thoughts about China, the direction they're going?  
The President. Well, I'll have to confess to a certain discouragement. And I would point - - a turning point, as what happened to the Ceausescus [former Romanian first family] in Romania and what happened to that Romanian revolution. But as you know, I was in a different posture -- a fairly lonely one -- with the Congress in terms of whether the way to handle the students in this country was through legislation or through Presidential Executive order. I maintain to this day that the Executive order that I signed and put into effect did more than the legislation, the Pelosi bill, would have done.<sup>36</sup>

Bill, both Barbara and I maintain the greatest respect and admiration for your accomplishments in public office. On behalf of all Americans, let me express our indebtedness to you for your service to the peace and health of this Nation.<sup>37</sup>

Q. Mr. President, you and members of your administration feel that you came here with a good record on the environment and a good case to make for the positions you've taken. If that's so, sir, how is it that the words, remarks of your critics seem to so dominate the atmosphere?

---

<sup>33</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference With the Drug Summit Participants in San Antonio, 1992-02-27

<sup>34</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Question-and-Answer Session in Columbus, 1992-10-28

<sup>35</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on the Persian Gulf Crisis and the Federal Budget Deficit, 1990-09-11

<sup>36</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at the Annual Dinner of the Business Council, 1990-02-21

<sup>37</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Letter Accepting the Resignation of William J. Bennett as Director of National Drug Control Policy, 1990-11-08

The President. Well, I don't know. I guess it's because all the banks that weren't robbed today don't make news. When Americans criticize America outside of America, that seems to make news. The positive accomplishments I think should make the news, and I maintain that we have the best environmental record in the world. And I think the people I talked to yesterday certainly would concede that we have been world leaders.<sup>38</sup>

Q. Mr. President, you keep on saying that you and Mr. Greenspan aren't that far apart on inflation, but he keeps on nudging up interest rates. Do you think it would be advisable if the two of you got together and sat down and hashed this out?

The President. Well, we have gotten together; we haven't hashed it out in total agreement. He hasn't done it exactly my way, nor am I about to change what I've said. Ask him; I don't think we're far apart at all. We've got a little difference of interpretation at this point as to how you read the indicators on inflation, and that's the only difference we've got. We share the common objectives of needing to get the deficit down. And I still maintain we are not far apart. And I think where we have total agreement is -- regardless of what the Fed has done and regardless if I would have done that or not had I been the independent Chairman of the Fed -- we have total agreement that we need to get the budget deficit down and that that itself would be the best way to lighten up on these interest rates. So, the areas of agreement far outweigh the nuances of difference, in my view.<sup>39</sup>

On the second anniversary of the Beijing massacre, we recall the disappointment, heartbreak, anger, and frustration that we all felt as our hopes and those of the people of China were raised and then dashed on Tiananmen Square. The brutal and arbitrary use of deadly force against the peaceably demonstrating people of China can never be forgotten.

When the Beijing Spring was crushed, I was the first leader of the free nations to condemn the violence, impose sanctions, and urge that China return to the path of reform. Today, we maintain more sanctions against China for its human rights violations than any other nation. Our goal is to remain engaged over the long term with China in order to foster its return to a pattern of reform.<sup>40</sup>

5. Our shared objectives are a sustained recovery and price stability. To this end, we are determined to maintain, including through our economic policy coordination process, the medium-term strategy endorsed by earlier Summits. This strategy has contained inflationary expectations and created the conditions for sustainable growth and new jobs.<sup>41</sup>

### ***assure(1)***

To assure someone that P is true is to assert P with a high degree of strength, with the preparatory conditions that the hearer has doubts as to the truth of P and that the speaker is in a position to give reasons for his belief in P, and with the mode of achievement of

---

<sup>38</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference in Rio de Janeiro, 1992-06-13

<sup>39</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference in Tokyo, 1989-02-25

<sup>40</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on China, 1991-06-04

<sup>41</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, London Economic Summit Economic Declaration: Building World Partnership, 1991-07-17

the perlocutionary intention of convincing the hearer that he can be *sure* of the truth of *P*. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 176] Assure also has a commissive use.

I assure you that there will be no secrets; as we find them we will let them be known.<sup>42</sup>

### ***vouch***

“To vouch or avouch is to assure with the added strength of “aver”, but the added strength comes from the mode of achievement not of one’s offering “proofs” but of one’s being personally convinced and of the assurance on personal authority.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 176]

As all of you know, and as I have given further evidence of here today, I was recently reminded the hard way that our doctors and medical care are the best in the world. That is certainly true. I can vouch for the doctors and nurses in the hospital in Florida that cared for me when I was recently injured. I’ve worked hard to give all America’s families access to quality health care, and as Governor Chiles and the Secretary have made clear, a critical part of that mission has to be to make sure that our system is free of fraud.<sup>43</sup>

[John Correnti, chief executive officer, Nucor Corp., stated that the philosophy of his company in tough financial times was that employees and managers would share in the pain of pay cuts or shortened work weeks together. He noted that the resulting employee trust and loyalty made turnover so minimal that workers practically had to be willed a job in one of the plants.]

The President. I can personally vouch for the truth of that last assertion. [Laughter]<sup>44</sup>

### ***attest***

“To attest to *P* is to assert *P* with a serious mode of achievement and with a preparatory condition to the effect that *P* is in question.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 177]

It has been a very emotional day for me. I understand that lost on the Iowa was the grandson of a Bismarck family, and if that family didn’t attend today’s services, I can attest firsthand how moving it was and what a wonderful job our Navy did in holding the loved ones close to them, giving them comfort that I know all Americans would want given to these families. It was a very moving day. And the flags I see at half-mast here are appropriate tribute to those young men who lost their lives. I’m also proud to see that POW and MIA flag flying, Governor, right here at this magnificent State capital, because we must never forget the POW’s and the MIA’s.<sup>45</sup>

---

<sup>42</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks by President Bush and President Boris Yeltsin in Joint Signing Ceremony, June 17, 1992.

<sup>43</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks Announcing Proposed Medicare and Medicaid Fraud Prevention Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters, March 25, 1997

<sup>44</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks During Panel I of the White House Conference on Corporate Citizenship, May 16, 1996

<sup>45</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Dedication Ceremony for the Centennial Grove in Bismarck, North Dakota, 1989-04-24

Let me diverge just a minute to point out that George Voinovich says I was responsive when he was mayor of Cleveland. I don't know, I guess I want to see him elected -- well, put that down as 100 percent -- but I'll tell you, when you elect him the next Governor, he will be a fighter for Ohio. I can attest to it. He was mayor of Cleveland, and he was in there every single day working for the interests of Cleveland when they interacted with the Federal Government. So, you'll have a bulldog here in Columbus, Ohio, to fight for the rights of the State, and somebody that I can work with and look forward to working with.<sup>46</sup>

In terms of U.S.-Spain bilateral relations, they are very, very good. We, of course, are excited about 1992, the quincentenary of Columbus' first voyage to America. That all can wait until after this visit, but nevertheless, we're here at the beginning of interesting times in terms of U.S.-Spanish relations which I can attest to are very, very good.<sup>47</sup>

### *swear(1)*

“[T]o swear is to attest with a high degree of solemnity to the mode of achievement — particularly high if one has already sworn (commissive) to tell the truth.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 177]

And I came into the airport in my modest little plane, and, coincidentally, the Seattle police force, under Mayor Rice, <Rice, Norman B.> who has been trying to pay me back ever since--[laughter]--they were practicing how to provide security and rapid transportation to dignitaries. So here I arrived, you know, as President Bush used to say, a Governor of a small southern State--[laughter]--in an airplane not quite as grand as the Boeing I fly in today. [Laughter] And I look up--I swear, there were more than 50 motorcycle police officers there. [Laughter]<sup>48</sup>

Well over a year ago, we had a meeting talking about the 1996 campaign. And a lot of these so-called experts said in this meeting in Washington that we had to target the States we won last time and just try to hold most of them, that we certainly couldn't expect to expand our base and we couldn't—I said, “Oh yes we can. There's two places we lost last time we're going to win this time.” And they said, “Where?” And I said, “We're going to win in Arizona, where no Democrat has won since 1948.” And they thought I had lost my mind. And I said, “We're going to win in Florida.” And they said, “You're nuts.” They said, “You know, Lawton Chiles won in Florida, but he has all that she-coon language and all that stuff”—or he-coon. [Laughter] And I said, “I can talk like that.” They said, “Yeah, but they won't believe you anymore. You've been living in Washington 4 years.” [Laughter] And I said—I swear this is true—we had this big argument, and it was that great story about how Abraham Lincoln had a meeting of his Cabinet and the vote was seven to one. And he said that seven of them wanted to do

---

<sup>46</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Fundraising Dinner for Gubernatorial Candidate George Voinovich in Cincinnati, Ohio, 1990-04-02

<sup>47</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain in Madrid, 1991-10-29

<sup>48</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Luncheon in Seattle, Washington, May 14, 1999

one thing, and he wanted to do the other thing, and he said, "The ayes have it."  
[*Laughter*] "Seven no's, one 'I,' the I's have it." That's the way it was.<sup>49</sup>

Q. Sir, I want to point out to you that for generation after generation, Democrats and Republicans have refused to face the problems of immigration on the Mexican border. And that's where people come through, not only from Mexico. A thousand a night at least get by at one place south of San Diego alone. And that's got to be faced up to. But people come from all over the world to Mexico to come in here. And they don't have to pay \$30,000, they just pay the--[inaudible]--about \$500.

Ms. Meissner. Well, obviously we have a--between the United States and Mexico is a border between countries with the largest income differential of any countries that have a single border. So there's going to be an effort for people to come to the United States. We obviously need to do border control, but we also need to be thinking about development to our south. And the NAFTA that is going to be debated in the next couple of months is a very, very important step in that direction, and I hope that we can support it.

The President. We did not rehearse this, but let me, if I might reinforce that. We have asked for more border guards. I asked for several hundred more in the jobs package that I asked the Congress to pass earlier. And we can do a better job. I think that's clear. We can do a better job if we have more people. But in the end, I think what Ms. Meissner said has to be looked at, the pure economic realities.

One of the arguments for having the right kind of trade agreement with Mexico is to raise incomes in Mexico and create more jobs there. They'll not only buy more of our products, but the incentive to leave home to make a decent living for one's family will go down dramatically. So that's another one of the very important benefits of NAFTA. And I swear we did not coordinate our responses. I didn't know she was going to say that.<sup>50</sup>

### *disagree(1)*

"The contrary of "agree" is "disagree". To disagree is to assert a proposition with the preparatory condition that other persons have previously put forward the negation of that proposition and the sincerity condition that one is in a state of disagreement with them."  
[Vanderveken 1990, p. 177]

We disagree on taxes. We disagree on government spending.<sup>51</sup>

So I would just respectfully disagree with you.<sup>52</sup>

I don't agree with that.<sup>53</sup>

---

<sup>49</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Dinner in Aventura, Florida, *March 13, 1997*

<sup>50</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Nomination of Doris Meissner To Be Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner and an Exchange With Reporters, June 18, 1993

<sup>51</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, September 23, 1992

<sup>52</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, April 10, 1992

<sup>53</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, December 5, 1991

So I don't agree that because some people jump up on one side or another of the spectrum that this means that there is an enormous problem out there.<sup>54</sup>

So I understand that, I just don't happen to agree with it.<sup>55</sup>

### *object*

“To make an objection is to assert a proposition with the additional preparatory condition that some other proposition incompatible with it has been put forward in the context of discussion. Whenever a speaker objects that P, he disagrees with someone else as regards a proposition Q that is implied by P.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 178]

I deeply object to and resent two statements to the effect that people were fired by the President when such was not the case.<sup>56</sup>

While I continue to object to the riders in the enrolled bill, some of the most highly objectionable provisions that would have intruded upon D.C. citizens' right to make decisions about local matters have been deleted or modified from previous versions of the bill. This bill is a fair compromise.<sup>57</sup>

### *recognize*

“To recognize is to assert that a proposition is true with a preparatory condition to the effect that it has been proposed by someone else and may run against what the speaker would otherwise have thought.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 178]

I think that it is important to be upfront in terms of scientific achievement, but also to recognize that what Sally Ride called a visit to Planet Earth, I believe, is important.<sup>58</sup>

DKE [Delta Kappa Epsilon] wishes to recognize the President's and your leadership and efforts for the Country over the past four years.<sup>59</sup>

I have had occasion frequently to reflect on the Jones case. In this consent order, I acknowledge having knowingly violated Judge Wright's<Wright, Susan Webber> discovery orders in my deposition in that case. I tried to walk a line between acting lawfully and testifying falsely, but I now recognize that I

---

<sup>54</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, December 5, 1991

<sup>55</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO REGIONAL NEWSPAPER EDITORS, October 3, 1990

<sup>56</sup> Bush Presidential Library, Bush Presidential Records, Office of Policy Development, Roger B. Porter's Files

<sup>57</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Statement on Signing the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2001, November 22, 2000

<sup>58</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT WITH REGIONAL REPORTERS ASSOCIATION, June 13, 1990

<sup>59</sup> PRESENTATION OF THE DELTA KAPPA EPSILON TEDDY ROOSEVELT ALUMNI ROUGH RIDER AWARD, December 3, 1992

did not fully accomplish this goal and that certain of my responses to questions about Ms. Lewinsky<Lewinsky, Monica> were false.<sup>60</sup>

### *admit*

“To admit to a state of affairs (e.g. a failure or an error) is to recognize it openly while presupposing that it is bad and is in some way connected to the hearer.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 178]

Admittedly, they were reasonably high, because remember, that period was a recession period.<sup>61</sup>

So its up there – not entirely – I’ll admit that – but quite a bit of it.<sup>62</sup>

### *confess*

“To confess is to admit one’s responsibility for a state of affairs (propositional content condition) while presupposing that this state of affairs is bad (usually very bad, e.g. to confess one’s sins).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 178]

Let me repeat a story which President Nixon himself enjoys -- I hope he enjoys it. One day, greeting an airport crowd, he heard a young girl shouting, “How is Smokey the Bear?” -- and at that time living in the Washington zoo. And the girl kept repeating the question. And not understanding her words, the President turned to an aide for translation. “Smokey the Bear,” the aide mumbled, pointing to the girl, “Washington National Zoo.” Triumphant, President Nixon walked over, extended his hand and said, “How do you do, Miss Bear.” [Laughter] I’d be the last to criticize verbal confusion. After all, I confess, some say English is my only foreign language. [Laughter] President Nixon -- the point is -- he was merely being kind, just as he mailed those handwritten letters to defeated rivals, like his friend Hubert Humphrey, or saw that when the POW’s returned home in early '73 to a White House dinner each wife received a corsage.<sup>63</sup>

That’s the wonderful thing about this system. And yes, I confess it’s been an ugly year. But that’s the wonderful thing, because it is your call on November 3d. Then the polls and all these deadly talking heads we see on these Sunday television shows, each getting 500 bucks to tell us what we think, it doesn’t matter anymore. They don’t matter anymore. It’s up to the American people.<sup>64</sup>

Q. Mr. Bush, thank you for calling on me. I have a regional question to ask you. Governor Thompson [of Illinois] is in Moscow to establish a trade bureau with the Soviets

---

<sup>60</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Statement on Resolution of Legal Issues, January 19, 2001

<sup>61</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO REGIONAL NEWSPAPER EDITORS, October 3, 1990

<sup>62</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, April 10, 1992

<sup>63</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Dedication of the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, California, 1990-07-19

<sup>64</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the Ace Hardware Convention in Denver, Colorado, 1992-10-26

there. I'd like to know if he went with your blessing, and do you encourage similar initiatives on the parts of other States? And why didn't the Republican Party support Ed Vrdolyak in the Chicago mayoral race?

The President. Very good questions -- somewhat unrelated, but let me try to help. [Laughter] I have absolutely nothing but admiration for those Governors that try to expand trade between their States, thus the country, and other countries. We have certain laws governing them and Jim Thompson is very familiar with them. I must confess that I personally did not bless this mission because I wasn't familiar with it. He's done other such missions that he's done on his own, as a Governor of a State should do. So that would handle the Thompson one. The other one was on Ed Vrdolyak?<sup>65</sup>

Q. Can you pledge that a certain amount of dollars from armament reduction be transferred as a reduction in the debt?

The President. No, I can't pledge that, but I am pledged to get the deficit down in accordance with the Gramm-Rudman targets. We will have that if we get our way with Congress, which doesn't exactly do things the way I want, I've found out. [Laughter] But if we get that done, I stated in my State of the Union Message that that should be an objective and to move right into it, the minute we are in balance, which would be in 3 years. Now, I expect there will be a lot of pressure on. You hear pressure today on what is referred to alluringly as a peace dividend. And it appeals to me. There are things that I'd love to be able to say -- we can put a little more in this research, or we can help this homeless person a little more, or whatever it is. The pressures will be on, but I think that it would be a very good thing to do because as a grandparent of 12 I must confess, like a lot of people here, you feel that we are burdening the generations to come with a debt that does nothing but click off at the beginning of each year an enormously high and even higher rate of interest that we're pledged -- interest account that we're pledged to pay on the national debt. So, yes, as I said in the State of the Union, that's what I want to do.<sup>66</sup>

### *concede*

“To concede something (e.g. an opponent's victory) is to acknowledge it with a certain reluctance (mode of achievement) while presupposing concession to pressure.”  
[Vanderveken 1990, p. 178]

We must guard against conferring benefits by government mandate and leaving employers to cope with the costs. I share your concerns about legislative efforts to mandate medical and parental leave. I also believe that choice in child care is best made by parents and not by government. And I know, because I've talked to Dick Lesher and others, that the Chamber supports the concept of choice. There are some child-care initiatives up on Capitol Hill -- well-intentioned, I would readily concede -- well-intentioned initiatives that would increase government intervention and crowd out parental choice.<sup>67</sup>

---

<sup>65</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at a White House Luncheon for Journalists, 1989-03-31

<sup>66</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at a Luncheon Hosted by the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, California, 1990-02-07

<sup>67</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the United States Chamber of Commerce, 1989-05-01

But we are, I will be the first to concede, a long way from total energy independence. Our imports of foreign oil have been climbing steadily since 1985 and now stand at 42 percent of our total consumption. Too many of those oil imports come from sources in troubled parts of the world.<sup>68</sup>

As these four have told you, our economic growth depends on free markets, and our trade agreements have got to open up these markets and provide rules for fair and free trade. I'll readily concede, and so will Carla and Bob, that we have further to go in terms of the fairness aspect. And we are going to continue to work on that. For many years, the Fast Track has allowed us to successfully negotiate the very important trade agreements in our history, reducing the barriers to trade and contributing to growth here and abroad.<sup>69</sup>

The third one, American students will be competent in core subjects. You'd have to ask the teachers how they're doing on that one, but I think it's one where we've got to make better progress; I'll concede that.<sup>70</sup>

I am pleased to be here. And I want to share with you just some observations. This is a year where you're hearing a lot of talk about change. And I would be the first to concede that we must make significant change in this country. I hear a lot of talk about it coming out of the political arena, but we've been trying to effect constructive change.<sup>71</sup>

### *criticize(1), criticize(2)*

“‘Criticize’ has two distinct assertive uses, one implying value judgment and the other not. In the latter use, to criticize is simply to make a series of assertions about the subject in question in an attempt to discern features judged relevant (as with literary criticism, but also in common parlance.” “In the other use, to criticize is to make an assertion about someone or something that highlights his or her faults. So there is a propositional content condition to the effect that the state of affairs represented is bad, and a sincerity condition to the effect that the speaker disapproves of that state of affairs.” [Vanderveken 1990 pp. 178-179]

I'll tell you what's going to decide this election, though. It is going to be character and trust. And here's my point: I will continue to criticize because I don't believe as Commander in Chief or as President you can be all things to all people. You have to make tough decisions.

And if you make a mistake, you do what you do: You say, ‘Hey, listen, was wrong on that one.’ And you keep on leading, and you can make the tough calls.

---

<sup>68</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Briefing on Energy Policy, 1991-02-20

<sup>69</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Briefing on Extension of the Fast Track Trade Negotiation Authority, 1991-03-05

<sup>70</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session in Hollis, New Hampshire, 1992-02-16

<sup>71</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Bush-Quayle Fundraising Dinner in Philadelphia, 1992-05-11

You don't do what Governor Clinton does, waffle and vacillate. We cannot make the White House into the waffle house. In the South he'll talk right-to-work; he'll go to the unions and is against it. Some places he's for free trade; other places, well, he's for it, "but." You can't have a lot of "buts" in the White House. Remember that. Term limits, "Oh, term limits have some good ideas," and then it doesn't.<sup>72</sup>

### ***blame(1)***

"To blame someone is to criticize him in asserting that he is responsible for something (propositional content condition), while presupposing that that something is bad (preparatory condition)." [Vanderveken 1990, p. 179] Blame also has an expressive use.

And the truth is, all our children are at risk. All of us share responsibility for the state of every school and each individual student -- here in Lewiston, and in a hundred thousand schools in cities and towns all across our great country. If our schools fail us, we can't blame Washington. We can't blame Augusta. We must blame ourselves for betraying our children.<sup>73</sup>

### ***denounce(1)***

"To denounce is to accuse a third party (special propositional content condition). Often the speaker who denounces purports to be a high moral authority attributing grave error to a moral inferior (special mode of achievement)." [Vanderveken 1990, p. 179] Denounce also has a declarative use.

We believe that Palestinian participation is vital to any successful process and that there are real opportunities for Palestinians in this process. We strongly hope that Israelis, Palestinians, and the Arab States will recognize these opportunities and take the necessary steps to create an environment in which a viable peace process can thrive.

We denounce violence in the area and call upon all parties to eschew violence and terror and opt instead for dialog and negotiation. We're prepared to continue working with the parties toward this end.<sup>74</sup>

Q. Sir, you campaigned in Louisiana for Buddy Roemer, and what is your political analysis of the kind of climate that would produce the number of votes that came in for a former Klan leader and a Nazi sympathizer, David Duke, who claims to be a Republican?

The President. I don't know. I didn't follow the issues that much down there to know why people that voted for him did that. We have -- I want to be positioned in that I could not possibly support David Duke because of the racism and because of the very recent statements that are very troubling in terms of bigotry and all of this.

---

<sup>72</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the Community in Strongsville, Ohio, October 28, 1992

<sup>73</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Students and Faculty of the Lewiston Comprehensive High School in Lewiston, Maine, September 3, 1991.

<sup>74</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference in Huntsville, Alabama, 1990-06-20

Having said that, I can't help you on the other questions that obviously influenced a lot of very plain, honest, decent voters down there. But there's a discontent amongst a lot of voters, and maybe he touched a chord on that. Having said that, to the degree it was attractive to voters because of race or bigotry, I would denounce that vigorously.<sup>75</sup>

Declaration of the United States, France, and the United Kingdom on Terrorism

The three states reaffirm their complete condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and denounce any complicity of states in terrorist acts. The three states reaffirm their commitment to put an end to terrorism.<sup>76</sup>

### ***boast(I)***

“To boast is to assert a proposition *P* while expressing pride that *P* (sincerity condition), and with the preparatory condition that *P* is good.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 181] Boast also has an expressive use.

Q. -- -- how you can boast of your economic plan's not increasing the deficit when your budget, sir, would result in the largest deficit in history?

The President. Well, I think I can boast of it because if we can get done what we want to do, we will begin to really put some checks on this deficit. There are some difficult things in my approach. For the first time, we're trying to control the growth, not cut but control the growth of these mandated spending programs. And that isn't easy, but it's a very important addition to the debate. And I'd like to see it done. So the program speaks for itself. And if we had more people like those around this table, we'd be able to make progress. It's just that clear.<sup>77</sup>

### ***complain(I)***

“[T]o make a complaint is to assert a proposition *P* while expressing dissatisfaction with *P* (sincerity condition), and with the preparatory condition that the state of affairs represented is bad.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 181]

I'm sorry I didn't get here in time to see David Trimble and John Hume off to get the Peace Prize. But I've had some good and good-natured talks with them both. I told David Trimble--I know you noticed this tonight--ever since he won the Nobel Prize, he's dressing a lot better. [Laughter] Now, that's a very good sign for peace, you know. [Laughter] And my only complaint with the Nobel committee is that they should have given it to more people involved in this process as well, and we'd have had even a bigger, broader--[inaudible]--of enthusiasm. I thank you all.<sup>78</sup>

## **Commissives**

---

<sup>75</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1991-10-25

<sup>76</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement Announcing Joint Declarations on the Libyan Indictments, 1991-11-27

<sup>77</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders, 1992-03-25

<sup>78</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on Receiving the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award, December 8, 1998

## *undertake*

“To undertake is to commit oneself to perform a clearly defined task that is at hand (propositional content condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 182]

We undertake to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations. In this endeavour, we will abide by the following:

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government. Respect for them is an essential safeguard against an over-mighty State. Their observance and full exercise are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace.

...

Determined to foster the rich contribution of national minorities to the life of our societies, we undertake further to improve their situation.

...

The human dimension mechanism has proved its usefulness, and we are consequently determined to expand it to include new procedures involving, inter alia, the services of experts or a roster of eminent persons experienced in human rights issues which could be raised under the mechanism. We shall provide, in the context of the mechanism, for individuals to be involved in the protection of their rights. Therefore, we undertake to develop further our commitments in this respect, in particular at the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension, without prejudice to obligations under existing international instruments to which our States may be parties.

...

The changing political and military environment in Europe opens new possibilities for common efforts in the field of military security. We will build on the important achievements attained in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and in the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-building Measures. We undertake to continue the CSBM negotiations under the same mandate, and to seek to conclude them no later than the Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE to be held in Helsinki in 1992.

...

Being aware that an essential complement to the duty of States to refrain from the threat or use of force is the peaceful settlement of disputes, both being essential factors for the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, we will not only seek effective ways of preventing, through political means, conflicts which may yet emerge, but also define, in conformity with international law, appropriate mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of any disputes which may arise. Accordingly, we undertake to seek new forms of co-operation in this area, in particular a range of methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes, including mandatory third-party involvement.<sup>79</sup>

26. Expanding markets for their exports are vital for the Central and East European countries. We welcome the substantial increases already made in exports to market economies and we undertake to improve further their access to our markets for their products and services, including in areas such as steel, textiles and agricultural produce. In this context, we welcome the progress made in negotiating Association Agreements

---

<sup>79</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Text of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, 1990-11-21

between the European Community and Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, as well as the Presidential Trade Enhancement Initiative announced by the United States, all of which will be in accordance with GATT principles. We will support the work of the OECD to identify restrictions to East/West trade and to facilitate their removal.<sup>80</sup>

Although we are encouraged by these achievements, we recognize that mutual cooperative efforts must be expanded and strengthened in all areas. We call on all sectors of society, notably the media, to increase their efforts in the anti-drug struggle. The role of the media is very important, and we urge them to intensify their valuable efforts. We undertake to promote, through the media, the values essential to a healthy society.<sup>81</sup>

We undertake these programs of assistance out of a commitment to increased security for ourselves, our allies, and the peoples of the new independent states. These programs will enhance our security through demilitarization and humanitarian and technical assistance.<sup>82</sup>

### *engage*

To engage oneself in a task or direction is to commit oneself to immediate action (as a propositional content condition). [Vanderveken 1990, p. 182]

So we're going to stay engaged and deal with what's there.<sup>83</sup>

### *promise*

A promise "is always made to someone (it is essentially hearer directed) and has the special preparatory condition to the effect that it is good for the hearer. Second, it involves a special kind of commitment, namely the explicit undertaking of an obligation." [Vanderveken 1990 p. 182]

A few of the many examples.

And, ladies and gentlemen -- and, yes, young people as well -- I promise you that the President hears you now and stands with you in a cause that must be won. God bless you all, and God bless life.<sup>84</sup>

And our mandate comes from the people, because as Abraham Lincoln said: "No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent." And so, now that the people have spoken, I'm coming to you as President and offering my hand in partnership. I'm asking you to join me as full members of our team. I promise to lead

---

<sup>80</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, London Economic Summit Economic Declaration: Building World Partnership, 1991-07-17

<sup>81</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Declaration of San Antonio, 1992-02-27

<sup>82</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on Signing the FREEDOM Support Act, 1992-10-24

<sup>83</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, December 5, 1991

<sup>84</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Participants in the March for Life Rally, 1989-01-23

and to listen, and I promise to serve beside you as we work together to carry out the will of the American people.<sup>85</sup>

I wasn't going to say anything, but since you mentioned that you didn't want any special treatment on your fishing trips, you should have told us that before you went down to the Everglades National Park -- [laughter] -- and we made arrangements for you to catch that 13-pound bonefish. [Laughter] We won't do it again, I promise.<sup>86</sup>

So, in closing, Mr. President, my commitment to you, my commitment to the folks from USDA who are here this morning, and my commitment to the folks out in farm country who are watching this program, is a very simple one: I promise you that we will put together a team at the top echelon of USDA that will be strong, competent, and energetic. And I promise you that we will provide leadership. You may not always agree with the leadership that we provide, but we're going to lead. And I hope that you'll be with us as we attempt to do that and as we work with you, Mr. President, over the next few years.<sup>87</sup>

The President has asked for total effort. He has asked for action on each and every front. He has asked for a sharp increase in funding to make that action possible. He has asked for an end to the petty bureaucratic bickering that has too often hampered Federal initiatives here in Washington. He has asked me to lead and to honor his mandate. Well, with your support, Mr. President, with your backing, much, indeed, can be done. I promise to give my all.<sup>88</sup>

### ***guarantee***

Guarantee is systematically ambiguous being both an assertive and a commissive. To guarantee that P is to assert P and to promise some compensation in the event that P turns out not to be true (or some commitment is not carried out). [Vanderveken 1990, p 183]

They'll be swarming all around the outside, I'll guarantee you.<sup>89</sup>

But we're not going to improve them by raising taxes and raising government spending, I'll guarantee you that.<sup>90</sup>

### ***vow***

---

<sup>85</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Members of the Senior Executive Service, 1989-01-26

<sup>86</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Manuel Lujan, Jr., as Secretary of the Interior, 1989-02-08

<sup>87</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Clayton Yeutter as Secretary of Agriculture, 1989-02-16

<sup>88</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks Following the Swearing-in Ceremony for William J. Bennett as Director of National Drug Control Policy, 1989-03-13

<sup>89</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, December 5, 1991

<sup>90</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT TRENTON/ROBBINSVILLE WELCOME, October 22, 1992

To vow to someone to do something is to commit earnestly (mode of achievement) to do something good for myself or someone else. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 183]

To the world, too, we offer new engagement and a renewed vow: We will stay strong to protect the peace. The offered hand is a reluctant fist; once made -- strong, and can be used with great effect. There are today Americans who are held against their will in foreign lands and Americans who are unaccounted for. Assistance can be shown here and will be long remembered. Good will begets good will. Good faith can be a spiral that endlessly moves on.<sup>91</sup>

Q. Mr. President, out of 535 Members of Congress, 62 supported you on this veto. Do you view that as a mandate for your policies?

The President. Yes, because you've got to give disproportionate weight to how the executive branch feels. We're an equal branch. So, you add to that the support on the Hill -- we come out more than equal.

Q. And does it give you any support for new initiatives toward China?

The President. The thing I like about it, given the mournful predictions of some a couple of weeks ago, is that it gives me the confidence that I'm going to go forward the way I think is correct here. And I've had a lot of chance to talk to people that voted with us and some that didn't, and I understand their sensitivities. And I vow to do a better job of informing them as these things develop, as to what it is we're intending. But I'm very, very pleased with the result, for reasons that I'm sure everybody out here can understand.<sup>92</sup>

This New Year also marks the beginning of a new decade. The 1990s hold many challenges and opportunities, both for the United States and for mankind. We are witnessing a global flowering of freedom. Along with this expansion of liberty has come renewed appreciation for the responsibilities it entails. Abroad, we vow continuing solidarity with our fellow democracies to ensure peace and security. We make this pledge with deep gratitude to the courageous men and women of our armed forces who selflessly sacrifice to defend freedom's cause. At home, more Americans are accepting the challenge to get involved in volunteer projects to assist the needy or in other ways to make a difference for good in their communities. They are also joining millions of people throughout the world in efforts to end poverty, violence, and hunger.<sup>93</sup>

Moods come and go, but greatness endures. Ours does. And maybe for a moment it's good to remember what, in the dailiness of our lives, we forget: We are still and ever the freest nation on Earth, the kindest nation on Earth, the strongest nation on Earth. And we have always risen to the occasion. And we are going to lift this Nation out of hard times inch by inch and day by day, and those who would stop us had better step aside. Because I look at hard times, and I make this vow: This will not stand.<sup>94</sup>

---

<sup>91</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Inaugural Address, 1989-01-20

<sup>92</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1990-01-25

<sup>93</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Message on the Observance of New Year's Day, 1989-12-27

<sup>94</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on the State of the Union, 1992-01-28

## *swear(2)*

“To swear is to commit oneself to future action in virtue of a solemn, public evocation of a sacred or revered person, object or institution. There is thus both a more heightened degree of strength and a more restricted mode of achievement than in the case of ‘avow.’”[Vanderveken 1990, p. 183] Swear also has an assertive use.

The President. The national stadium, exactly. And what you did was to go in there, everybody lined up behind their flag. And I'm saying to myself, I don't know what kind of reception I'm going to get -- the U.S. Stars and Stripes and the Vice President of the United States -- I know we've got good relations with Costa Rica, but a lot of other countries represented. I swear to God, to the day I die I'll never forget the reception for my country. It wasn't me -- they didn't know who the hell I was -- but marching in behind the Stars and Stripes with our little delegation, and people were cheering, and it was democracy. It overlooked any kind of regional differences, and it was so moving and touching. And when the Nicaraguan representative walked in there, they were whistling and giving it the old cheer that you give when some guy gives you a bad call in a soccer game.<sup>95</sup>

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."<sup>96</sup>

## *assure(2)*

“To assure (in the commissive use) is to commit oneself to something with the perlocutionary intention of convincing someone who has doubts. The presupposition of these doubts is a preparatory condition and the attempt to try to have the hearer "feel sure" of the commitment is, as in the assertive use, a special mode of achievement in giving assurance.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 184]

Among our special guests today, Mr. President, are people from all parts of this Department, from mailroom workers to our adopted Woodrow Wilson High School principal and students to security guards and secretaries, all of whom strive to excel in their daily work. Some of their contributions in the past may have gone unnoticed, but I can assure you that on my watch they will not.<sup>97</sup>

## *accept*

“To accept, in the relevant sense, is to respond favorably to an offer, an invitation, a request, etc. in committing oneself to a desired course of action. We can accept a suggestion or challenge (to combat, for example), we can accept a present or a gift or we can accept an offer on the part of the other to do something. In the latter instance, we commit ourselves to tolerating the action we have accepted. In general, to accept P is to commit ourselves to do P (or to permit that P be done) while presupposing (as a

---

<sup>95</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Interview With Latin American Journalists, 1989-10-25

<sup>96</sup> *United States Constitution*, Article Two, Section One, Clause Eight

<sup>97</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Bush Public Papers, Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for James D. Watkins as Secretary of Energy, March 9, 1989.

preparatory condition) that the hearer or some other person has requested P in previous conversation. In the special case of P representing a future action on the part of the hearer, accepting it is committing ourselves to allowing it while presupposing (as a further preparatory condition) that he has offered to do it.” [Vanderveken 1990, p 184]

I accept your hypothesis.<sup>98</sup>

### *agree(2)*

To agree is to P is to accept an offer, invitation, request, etc. with the added sincerity condition that one is in agreement with the content of P. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 184] Agree also has an assertive use.

We will work together to strengthen the free trading system and agree to cooperate closely for the progress of the Uruguay round negotiations.<sup>99</sup>

We agree to make effective use of the improved GATT dispute settlement mechanism and to make progress in negotiations for further improvements.<sup>100</sup>

### 6. Control of Financial Assets

The Parties agree to identify, trace, freeze, seize, and apply other legal procedures for the disposition of drug crime proceeds in their respective countries, and to attack financial aspects of the illicit drug trade. In accordance with their respective laws, each of the Parties will seek to adopt measures to define, categorize, and criminalize money laundering, as well as to increase efforts to implement current legislation. The Parties agree to establish formulas providing exceptions to banking secrecy.

In order to follow up on progress of agreements arising under the foregoing understandings, the Parties agree to hold a high level follow-up meeting within a period of not more than six months.

Note: President George Bush of the United States, President Virgilio Barco Vargas of Colombia, President Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia, and President Alan Garcia Perez of Peru met on February 15 in Cartagena, Colombia. This declaration was issued jointly by all of the participants in the summit. The declaration was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.<sup>101</sup>

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, building on the results of the current negotiations, agree to pursue new talks on strategic offensive arms, and on the relationship between strategic offensive and defensive arms. The objectives of these negotiations will be to reduce further the risk of outbreak of war, particularly nuclear war, and to ensure strategic stability, transparency and predictability

---

<sup>98</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO REGIONAL NEWSPAPER EDITORS, October 3, 1990

<sup>99</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of Japan, 1989-02-02

<sup>100</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Paris Economic Summit: Economic Declaration, 1989-07-16

<sup>101</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Declaration of Cartagena, 1990-02-15

through further stabilizing reductions in the strategic arsenals of both countries. This will be achieved by seeking agreements that improve survivability, remove incentives for a nuclear first strike and implement an appropriate relationship between strategic offenses and defenses.

. . .

Second. The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as is the case in the emerging START Treaty, will, in the new negotiations, seek to reduce their strategic offensive arms in a way consistent with enhancing strategic stability. In the new negotiations, the two sides agree to place emphasis on removing incentives for a nuclear first strike, on reducing the concentration of warheads on strategic delivery vehicles, and on giving priority to highly survivable systems.<sup>102</sup>

With these considerations in mind, The United States and the Soviet Union:

. . .

Agree to work closely together and with other members of the international community to develop and to put into action concrete measures against the proliferation of these types of weapons; and

In order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the United States and the Soviet Union:

Agree on the need for stringent controls over exports of nuclear-related material, equipment and technology, to ensure that they will not be misused for nuclear explosive purposes, and urge all other nations capable of exporting nuclear-related technology to apply similarly strict controls;

Agree to continue their regular, constructive bilateral consultations on nuclear weapons non-proliferation.

Agree to work to stop missile proliferation, particularly in regions of tension, such as the Middle East;<sup>103</sup>

We acknowledge some of the recent developments in China, but believe that the prospects for closer cooperation will be enhanced by renewed political and economic reform, particularly in the field of human rights. We agree to maintain the measures put into place at last year's Summit, as modified over the course of this year. We will keep them under review for future adjustments to respond to further positive developments in China. For example, in addition to existing lending to meet basic human needs, we will explore whether there are other World Bank loans that would contribute to reform of the Chinese economy, especially loans that would address environmental concerns.<sup>104</sup>

At the historic Education Summit, the President and the Nation's Governors, as elected chief executives, made a commitment to be held accountable for progress in achieving the national education goals. To fulfill this commitment, this Joint Statement establishes the process for identifying measures of performance and reporting on progress toward the goals, and reaffirms the decade-long partnership toward realizing the goals.

---

<sup>102</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Soviet-United States Joint Statement on Future Negotiations on Nuclear and Space Arms and Further Enhancing Strategic Stability, 1990-06-01

<sup>103</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Soviet-United States Joint Statement on Nonproliferation, 1990-06-04

<sup>104</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Houston Economic Summit Political Declaration: Securing Democracy, 1990-07-10

In order to provide the direction and support needed to instill public confidence and the full cooperation of Federal and state officials, the President and Governors agree to establish the National Education Goals Panel to oversee the development and implementation of a national education progress reporting system. The process for developing and establishing appropriate measures and reporting annually on progress will build on the constructive, bipartisan partnership between the President and the Governors initiated at the Charlottesville Summit.<sup>105</sup>

#### San Antonio Drug Summit 1992

We, the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and the United States of America, and the Minister of Foreign Relations of Venezuela, met in San Antonio, Texas, on the 26th and 27th of February, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two and issued the following

#### Declaration of San Antonio

. . .

The Countries also agree to exchange information on their experiences and to provide one another with technical assistance in detecting, monitoring, and controlling aerial drug trafficking, when such assistance is requested in accordance with the domestic laws of each country and international laws in force.<sup>106</sup>

#### *abide*

“To abide is to "put up with" a request of a very high degree of strength, generally in the sense of "abiding by" a ruling, and accepting a course of action or a decision. This is usually, but not always, with deep regret (sincerity condition). This latter depends on whether the ruling is general (in which case I may abide by it without much personal feeling at stake) or specially "ruled" in order to force my consent (in which, case the feelings of regret will be present).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 184-185]

I would like to reiterate here what I said to you in private: We shall make the greatest possible efforts to achieve peace, short of endangering the security of our state. We consider the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River, which is an objective of the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization], a mortal threat to our security. I have assured you that we would sit with anyone, anytime, anywhere, without preconditions if we thought it would advance the cause of peace. But we cannot lend ourselves to any steps that will result in a Palestinian state, which is a prescription not for peace but for war. I can assure you we will be forthcoming. We believe the Camp David accords based on Resolutions 242 and 338 are the cornerstone of peace in our region. We faithfully abide by your agreements, and we expect others to do so as well.<sup>107</sup>

---

<sup>105</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Joint Statement by the President and the Governors on a Process for Measuring and Reporting on Progress Toward the National Education Goals, 1990-07-31

<sup>106</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Declaration of San Antonio, 1992-02-27

<sup>107</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel, 1989-04-06

The Prime Minister. First, the President very kindly showed me the flash which he had received. And we discussed the matter, and we agreed the points which he has already made to you. The full facts are not yet known, and I would abide by the statement the President has just made.

...

The Prime Minister. I abide by the statement the President has just made. Yes, of course, we want reduction of tension so that discussion can start. And I have nothing further to add, dear.<sup>108</sup>

We, the Heads of State or Government of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, have assembled in Paris at a time of profound change and historic expectations. The era of confrontation and division of Europe has ended. We declare that henceforth our relations will be founded on respect and co-operation.

...

We undertake to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations. In this endeavour, we will abide by the following:

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government. Respect for them is an essential safeguard against an over-mighty State. Their observance and full exercise are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace.<sup>109</sup>

I'm not immune to the fact that they've been hurting, so I'd like to be helpful. But I've got to abide by the law. And if we can find ways to encourage forward movement on these credits or find ways to make it creditworthy any other way, so much -- market reform is a good way to do it. There are other ways that perhaps they could make the credit more secure.<sup>110</sup>

Q. Mr. President, is it now your policy not to lift sanctions against Iraq as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power? Is that a hard, fast position?

The President. We will abide by the United Nations resolutions, of course. It is our policy that there will not be normalized relations. And it is my view that only if the sanctions are complied with will we be willing to -- I mean, only if every provision of the United Nations resolutions are complied with would we, the United States, be willing to lift sanctions.<sup>111</sup>

### ***reject(1)***

“A rejection is the illocutionary denegation of the acceptance of an offer.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 185] Reject also has a declarative use that is not defined by Vanderveken.

---

<sup>108</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, News Conference of the President and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom in Hamilton, Bermuda, 1990-04-13

<sup>109</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Text of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, 1990-11-21

<sup>110</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, 1991-04-29

<sup>111</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference With Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, 1991-05-20

I reject the notion that individuals can't decide, no matter who they are. ... I reject it because it is fundamentally at odds with what has made this country great.<sup>112</sup>

I don't accept your premise at all and think the Congress does either.<sup>113</sup>

I would not accept the idea that this is the time to change our policy toward Fidel Castro.<sup>114</sup>

### *refuse*

“[A] refusal is the illocutionary denegation of the acceptance of a request.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 185]

I thank you, and I refuse to leave here without soliciting your help in sustaining my veto, if that is required. And I would also solicit your help for my parental choice child-care initiative that I think many would find far superior to the legislation that's being created on the Hill that would have the Government mandate to local communities, to churches, to whatever, all the standards. We cannot go that route in this country if we're to preserve the strength of the family and of the community in our social structure. So, I solicit your support for that. And again, looking over my shoulder, I thank you for all the support you've already given us. Thank you all very, very much.<sup>115</sup>

Q. Let me ask you specifically: Are we close to a resolution on the issue of the dissidents who are -- --

The President. I don't know the answer to that. They know my position, and it is one of adherence to human rights, I might add. The thing I object to about this whole one is the assigning of motives to the other person. You can question the tactics, but I refuse to let my political critics get me down in terms of they understand human rights and I don't.<sup>116</sup>

Q. Well, did you give him any advice, and do you have some for him if that happens?

The President. No, I have none at all. But I know exactly what he means, and I refuse to elaborate on it for fear of complicating his life. [Laughter] But remember 1984. I can't forget it. And he's entitled to his opinion. Maybe he's drawing on my experience.<sup>117</sup>

---

<sup>112</sup> Bush Presidential Library, Transcribed Remarks by Charles E.M. Kolb, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy to the American Legislative Exchange Council, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, February 20, 1991

<sup>113</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT WITH REGIONAL REPORTERS ASSOCIATION, June 13, 1990

<sup>114</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT WITH REGIONAL REPORTERS ASSOCIATION, June 13, 1990

<sup>115</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Members of the American Retail Federation, 1989-05-17

<sup>116</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1990-01-05

<sup>117</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1990-03-22

Q. Well, there's no suggestion of censorship here, just an appeal to more ethical campaigning.

The President. That would be fine. You might start with the Democrats in Texas. [Laughter] How come you didn't mention that one? I mean, I think there's a myth abroad, and people didn't want to look at the real issues. And I refuse to plead guilty to some of the charges made by, I think, rather biased sources suggesting that the campaign was something that was unique in its ugliness.<sup>118</sup>

My plan will not increase the deficit. It makes some tough choices on Federal spending because I refuse to mortgage our children's future for short-term political gain. My plan will not raise tax rates. I want to raise the child deduction on Federal income taxes by 0, and I want Congress to pass this permanent, long-term, profamily tax cut this year.<sup>119</sup>

The American people, and I can understand this, are rightly fed up with business as usual, a deficit that is a fiscal and a moral outrage, a permanent governing class oblivious to the national interest, and hundreds of self-perpetuating programs that don't even aid the people they were designed to help. Now, I refuse to believe that this is the legacy we'll leave our kids. But it will be if we don't reform. I'm talking here about perks. I'm talking about the gymnasium. I'm talking about fundamental reform of the United States Congress.<sup>120</sup>

Q. Mr. President, if the experience of your EPA chief in Rio to date is any indication, there's quite a reception committee of harsh critics of this administration and of you, sir, waiting for you down there. Under the circumstances, if that's what the reception is going to be in Rio, why go?

The President. Well, because we've got a sound and sensible environmental record and we have a strong role of international leadership.

I wonder if the American taxpayer knows that we have spent something like 0 billion in the last 10 years on cleaning up things, the atmosphere, environment, in many, many ways? It is estimated that it will be .2 trillion spent by the United States taxpayers and businesses over the next 10 years.

We have a superb record to take to that convention. I am not going to go down there and forget about people that need jobs in the United States of America. I'm going to take a strong record, the leading record on science and technology, the leading record on oceans, the leading record on forests, the leading records on protecting the elephant, the leading records on CFC's. We've got a good record. But because I will not sign a treaty that, in my view, throws too many Americans out of work, I refuse to accept that kind of criticism from what I consider some of the extremes in the environmental movement, internationally or domestically.<sup>121</sup>

---

<sup>118</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With Members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1990-04-06

<sup>119</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Radio Address to the Nation on the Economy, 1992-02-22

<sup>120</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the American Business Conference, 1992-04-07

<sup>121</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1992-06-04

We've made some progress in education, but we've got to do more. We have six national education goals that we've set out, and it ranges all the way from Head Start, support for that, all the way up to the fact that no one's too old to learn. Lamar talked me into demonstrating that no one is too old to learn, and I've learned now how to turn on my computer, and I am making dramatic headway. [Laughter] I refuse to take on any of these kids, however, in computer science. But we've got a good program, and it fits nicely into the values that I believe the church here epitomizes.<sup>122</sup>

Do you remember that old expression ``Sticks and stones hurt your bones, but names will never hurt you?" He called me a liar the other day, but that doesn't hurt. It's like being called ugly by a frog. It doesn't matter. I didn't invent the word ``Slick Willie." He got that long before I started running against him. I have a confession to make. I did say in the convention ``slippery when wet," and I refuse to take it back. Because look, he's on one side of an issue and then on the other side of the issue. And as President you simply cannot do that.<sup>123</sup>

The yearning for peace is ingrained in the national tradition and character of our people. We pray for peace three times every day. We despise violence and war. We refuse to believe that a military confrontation is a valid way to solving disputes, but we cannot permit our abhorrence of war to be used against us by terrorists and dictators to force us to submit to their demands. We want to devote and utilize the talents and skills of our people for creativity, for scholarship, for science, for medicine -- not for developing more and more sophisticated instruments of war. But until today we have had no choice. Therefore, in the absence of peace, we must be strong as you are.<sup>124</sup>

## **offer**

“To offer *P* is to promise *P* on condition that the hearer accept *P*.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 185]

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm offering something quite different than what the Congress is willing to do. And if, indeed, Governor Clinton and I are close on that and the nominating process disgorges him as the nominee, why, then we'll have common ground to take to the American people -- so much the better. And all Democrats that agree with us on this ought to start working on the Congress to get them to come forward with the funding for our new schools approach and whatever else it is. In the meantime, to his credit, Arkansas has joined the America 2000 program, and they're moving forward.<sup>125</sup>

## ***dedicate(1)***

“In the commissive use, to dedicate is to commit oneself to such and such a task or way of life with a propositional content condition to the effect that it is for a long time.

---

<sup>122</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Presidential Open Forum on Educational Choice in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1992-07-21

<sup>123</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the Community in Stratford, Connecticut, 1992-11-01

<sup>124</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Toasts at a Dinner Honoring Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel, 1989-04-06

<sup>125</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, April 10, 1992

Generally, there is a mode of achievement such that the commitment comes from an ethical or divine sentiment or motivation. That condition gives it a higher degree of strength than a commitment *per se*.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 186] Dedicate also has a declarative use.

This week, as we dedicate ourselves to fire prevention, let us also recognize all those individuals who are working toward the same goal. These include the members of the Congressional Fire Services Institute; the International Association of Fire Fighters; the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters; the National Volunteer Fire Council; the International Society of Fire Service Instructors; the Fire Marshals Association of North America; the National Association of State Fire Marshals; and all other public and private organizations that conduct fire safety education programs.<sup>126</sup>

I notice these signs, and let me simply say that, look, the Israeli elections underscore the dynamism of the Mideast's solitary democracy. They point out the dynamism of the process. And we are confident that we can work with that new Israeli government to deepen our partnership, to promote our common objective of peace with security for Israel. And I am dedicating myself to that.<sup>127</sup>

### ***bet(1), wager***

“To bet and to wager are ways of engaging commissives that are mutual between the speaker and hearer. In either case, the one party promises to pay the other party something if, for example, one team wins a match, while the other person pays if the other team wins. Betting can in fact be on the outcome of virtually anything, and the "payoff" can be virtually anything. There seems to be no significant difference of nuance between the two words — unless it is that "wager" is somewhat more informal. Both are joint conditional promises that are in general performed in the course of a two step speech activity. First, one speaker makes an offer of a bet with a performative use of the verb. Second, the other speaker makes the proposed bet binding by accepting the offer.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 185-186]

Mr. Rather. I know you don't follow basketball, but I'm willing to make you an offhand wager that North Carolina slaughters Arkansas.

The President. I bet they don't. I don't think they can slaughter them. We haven't lost too many games by a lot of points. Arkansas doesn't have any tall players. As you saw in the St. John's game where they played an incredibly talented, well-disciplined team, they often win by never quitting, a philosophy that I try to follow myself.<sup>128</sup>

### ***covenant***

A covenant is a making of mutual commitments by two or more parties (propositional content conditions). These commitments are reciprocal. If one party fails his commitment

---

<sup>126</sup> Proclamation 6338 -- Fire Prevention Week, 1991, 1991-09-23

<sup>127</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Fundraising Luncheon for Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato in New York City, 1992-06-29

<sup>128</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Interview With Dan Rather of CBS News, March 24, 1993

the other party is released from his (preparatory condition). The obligation is moral or religious (propositional content and mode of achievement). [Vanderveken 1990, p. 187]

As President, I take it to be an article of faith, a solemn covenant with those who serve this country: The United States will always make every possible effort, take every possible action to learn the fate of those taken prisoner or missing in action. Our aim remains a full accounting for every POW and MIA, nothing less. I'm grateful to Malcolm Toon for pursuing this important mission. He's home now. He's left some people there, and we are going to try to get to the bottom of this so we can allay the concerns of every family who might possibly be involved.<sup>129</sup>

Let the critics complain. We have got to get this job done. As President, I take it to be an article of faith, a solemn covenant with those who serve this country: The United States will make every possible effort always, take every possible action to account for those taken prisoner or missing in action. Our aim remains the fullest possible accounting for POW's and MIA's and nothing less. And I want you to know that comes to you with conviction.<sup>130</sup>

## Directives

### *question*

“To question is to ask for an answer that is often expected to include an element of explanation or even justification. I can ask you what the temperature is, for example, but I can then question your answer, and you would be expected to give more detail.”  
[Vanderveken 1990, p. 190]

And that brings me to my question: What are you going to do about the so-called tax bill that has aid for the cities in it?<sup>131</sup>

My question is, our Allegheny County Commissioner has written you asking you for permission to open military bases, underused or closed military facilities, to house some of these prisoners, especially the drug suspects that we're letting go. How will you respond to --<sup>132</sup>

My question to you is, how would you protect the Canadian Free Trade Agreement from that Mexican labor, from that cheap Mexican labor in the event of a deal?<sup>133</sup>

---

<sup>129</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With the Agriculture Communicators Congress, 1992-06-30

<sup>130</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia in Arlington, Virginia, 1992-07-24

<sup>131</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Internal Transcript October 6, 1992, INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT BY LEE MC CARTHY OF WTXF-TV (FOX - PHILADELPHIA)

<sup>132</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT REGIONAL MEDIA LUNCHEON, September 15, 1989

<sup>133</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT WITH REGIONAL REPORTERS ASSOCIATION, June 13, 1990.

My question to you, sir, would be: Do you think that what Mr. Yeltsin had to say about the POW-MIA issue defused that issue completely today? And what are your people telling you about the prospect or of Russian aid now in Congress?<sup>134</sup>

### *inquire*

To inquire is to question something with the expectation of an answer that is assertive (propositional content condition), and generally with the understanding that as a preparatory condition some reason has been given to doubt *P* and that an "inquiry" is in order. Vanderveken 1990, p. 190]

Q. A question for both Presidents, please. In your statement, you pledged to work individually and in concert to ensure full compliance with the U.N. sanctions against Iraq. May I inquire what, if any, specific and concrete steps you have agreed to take in furtherance of that?

President Bush. We didn't agree to specific and concrete steps. I think President Gorbachev in the contacts he's had with Saddam Hussein -- I mean with the Iraqis -- and if they continue, will be a step in that direction. Clearly, this message itself will be a step in the right direction. But we did not sit at this meeting and try to assign each other or ask each other to undertake specific measures in keeping with that particular paragraph.<sup>135</sup>

### *discourage*

“[T]o discourage a hearer from doing something is to request him not to do it with the perlocutionary intention of depriving him of the courage that is needed to do it (mode of achievement) while presupposing that he at the moment does have that courage (preparatory condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 191]

Some people in Congress want to take even more extreme steps that will hurt, not strengthen, families. They don't want welfare reform unless it cuts off all help to children whose mothers are poor, young, and unmarried. I want to discourage teen pregnancy. We have to do that, but not by hurting innocent babies. We should require teen mothers to live at home, stay in school, and turn their lives around so they and their children stay off welfare for good.<sup>136</sup>

Q. Mr. President, do you fear that a fear of terrorism in America might change the way of life that most Americans have, if this bombing proves to be terrorism?

The President. I certainly hope not. We've been very blessed in his country to have been free of the kind of terrorist activity that has gripped other countries. Even a country like Great Britain, that has a much lower general crime rate, has more of that sort of activity because of the political problems that it has been involved in.

I don't want the American people to overreact to this at this time. I can tell you, I have put the--I will reiterate--I have put the full resources of the Federal Government,

---

<sup>134</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BUSH AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN In JOINT SIGNING CEREMONY, June 17, 1992

<sup>135</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Joint News Conference of President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Helsinki, Finland, 1990-09-09

<sup>136</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, The President's Radio Address, July 1, 1995

every conceivable law enforcement information resource we could put to work on this, we have. I'm very concerned about it. But I think it's also important that we not overreact to it. After all, sometimes when an incident like this happens, people try to claim credit for it who didn't do it. Sometimes if folks like that can get you to stop doing what you're doing, they've won half the battle. If they get you ruffled, if they get us to change the way we live and what we do, that's half the battle.

I would discourage the American people from overreacting to this. It's a very serious thing. And I'm heartbroken for the people who were killed and their families and those who were injured. There was some significant business disruptions, too, as you probably know and as I'm afraid we'll find out more about in the next day or two, just by shutting down the World Trade Center and all the activities that go on there. But I would plead with the American people and the good people of New York to right now keep your courage up, go on about your lives. And we're working as hard as we can to get to the bottom of this.<sup>137</sup>

### *solicit*

“To solicit is to request in a way that meets certain formalities. We solicit committee membership, financial support, participation in one sort of venture or another. This formality or routine counts as a special mode of achievement.” [Vandereken 1990, p. 191]

I thank you, and I refuse to leave here without soliciting your help in sustaining my veto, if that is required. And I would also solicit your help for my parental choice child-care initiative that I think many would find far superior to the legislation that's being created on the Hill that would have the Government mandate to local communities, to churches, to whatever, all the standards. We cannot go that route in this country if we're to preserve the strength of the family and of the community in our social structure. So, I solicit your support for that. And again, looking over my shoulder, I thank you for all the support you've already given us. Thank you all very, very much.<sup>138</sup>

### *appeal(1)*

“An appeal is generally an earnest request for aid, mercy or support on grounds such as justice, common sense, humanity, etc. For example, we may solicit funds in a general campaign on behalf of charity, but in the case of disaster (flood, famine, etc.) we make an urgent appeal for funds. In law, to appeal is more precisely to solicit the review of a case in a higher tribunal.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 191]

The blockade of Sarajevo must be lifted and the shelling of the town stopped in order to sustain a comprehensive relief operation. We express our gratitude to all participants in the airlift to Sarajevo and the supply of its population. We appeal to all parties in Bosnia and Hercegovina not to imperil the humanitarian effort.<sup>139</sup>

---

<sup>137</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at the Adult Learning Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey, March 1, 1993

<sup>138</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Members of the American Retail Federation, 1989-05-17

<sup>139</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Munich Economic Summit: Yugoslavia Communique, July 7, 1992

### ***convene***

“To convene is to invite someone by declaration to the activity of the group, as in the special case of inviting members of, say, a committee to a meeting of that committee, or of inviting members of a family to a marriage. The preparatory condition is that the hearer is part of the group being convened, and in some cases the declaration is such that the option to refuse is greatly reduced. The obligations of those so convened often make it important that if the "invitation" is not accepted there should be good reasons.”  
[Vanderveken 1990, p. 191]

“To convene is to declare that members of a committee (for example) are expected at a given time and place. There is a systematic presence of a directive in that the declaration is accompanied by the directive that they be there.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 206]

I am proud to convene this 1995 White House Conference on Aging. This is the fourth of these Conferences in the history of our country, the first to be held since 1981, the last of the 20th century. I thank the Members of Congress and the citizens of this country from both parties who have supported this endeavor. These Conferences have a productive history, from the establishment of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act, as a result of the 1961 Conference, to the creation of the House Select Committee on Aging, coming out of the 1971 Conference.<sup>140</sup>

### ***beg(1)***

The verb "beg" has two distinct uses. In one, to beg is to request politely (mode of achievement) as in "I beg your pardon." In the other use, to beg is to request humbly as in the special case of the "beggar", who is one seen to be habitually begging. In both uses, the speaker expresses a strong desire for the thing "begged for". [Vanderveken 1990, p. 192]

The following are examples of the first sense of beg.

Q. Sir, as we move into a Presidential election, the Democrats think you are vulnerable on the economy, and there is a feeling around the country that you've decided to let Alan do it -- Greenspan, with the Fed Reserve lowering interest rates. That really is your only strategy, other than -- --

The President. I beg your pardon, I just gave you a strategy, John. You must have missed what I said about capital gains reductions, about IRAs, about R D extension. You see, these are things that would help stimulate the economy. And I don't know why people are tone deaf up on Congress about this. It would help. And it wouldn't bust the budget agreement.<sup>141</sup>

You know, in one of our debates Governor Clinton said it's not the character of the President, it is ``the character of the Presidency." And I beg to differ. I think they are

---

<sup>140</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks to the White House Conference on Aging, May 3, 1995

<sup>141</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1991-10-04

interlocked. I do not believe you can have a candidate who tries to be on all sides of all issues.<sup>142</sup>

*implore, entreat*

“To beseech, to implore, and to entreat are to beg earnestly that a request be granted.”  
[Vanderveken 1990, p. 192]

We have given them a good program. It is the right thing to do. And so I would like to ask all of you to help all of these Members of Congress on the stage and to tell the people in Washington, “Look, this is not a partisan issue.” You know, a lot of people say, “We don't want to do this. This is an election year.” Look, they can name this prescription drug program after Herbert Hoover, Calvin Coolidge, and Warren Harding. It's fine with me. [Laughter] I don't--put some Republican's name on it. I don't care. Just do it, because it's the right thing to do for the seniors of this country.

So I would just implore you, help us pass this. Write to your United States Senators. Tell them it's not a partisan issue. Tell them what life is like. Tell them it's not right for seniors in Ohio to pay 30 to 50 percent more for medicine than seniors in Canada pay for the same medicine that's made in America in the first place. Tell them it's not right for you to need something you can't have, so you get sick, but then when you show up at the emergency room, it gets paid for.<sup>143</sup>

So there are all these cultural issues. And then there's this big cultural issue of the gun and sport hunting culture. And I hope that--a lot of my folks at home might take offense at what I said today, but I'm trying to help explain them to you. And I felt comfortable taking on these issues, and I thought maybe I was in a unique position to take on all these gun issues all these years because of where I grew up and because I understand how people think who don't agree with this.

But I'm telling you, we've got to keep working until people start thinking about this stuff the same way they think about x rays and metal detectors at airports. That's the goal. We have to redefine the national community so that we have a shared obligation to save children's lives. And we've got to get out of this crazy denial that this won't make a difference. It's crazy; it won't make--just because it won't make all the difference doesn't mean it won't make a difference. It will make a difference.

I implore you to remember what these Members have said. I implore you to go out and get people going at the grassroots, as Carolyn McCarthy said. We need help. We can pass all this if the American people want it bad enough. We can pass it all if the American people want it badly enough. And we don't need to go through another Littleton for the American people to want it badly enough. You can help make sure that happens.<sup>144</sup>

There is nothing more important to the future of this country than our standing together against intolerance, prejudice, and violent bigotry. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act will

---

<sup>142</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the Community in Paducah, Kentucky, 1992-10-27

<sup>143</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks to the Community in Cleveland, March 13, 2000

<sup>144</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks Announcing Proposed Gun Control Legislation, April 27, 1999

lead the way in making all Americans more safe and secure. I implore you to move this vital piece of legislation through the Senate (House) without delay.<sup>145</sup>

So, many are getting the word out. But I'd like to enlist one other group in the L.A. area that has a special responsibility: those in the entertainment industry. Television, films, and music are a positive influence. And my advice to them -- my entreaty is: Use that influence wisely to do good. I know that many in the business are already concerned and active, but I never want to see a movie again that makes drug use into something humorous. It is time that they got behind this crusade. This community has raised your voices; you've raised your voices so effectively in the cause of so many issues. Can you not raise them once more in support of a cause so important? In the work you do and the lives you lead, help us send a strong message, the right message, to a new generation of Americans: We want a drug-free America!<sup>146</sup>

### *pray*

“To pray is to beseech God or some other sacred being (propositional content), usually with much deference. The preparatory conditions include those normal for requestives, such as the hearer being the one in a position to fulfill the request, but also the additional one that the sympathy of the hearer might be aroused by the expression of pleading and humility. [Vanderveken 1990 p. 192]

The grand experiment called America is but a recent manifestation of humanity's timeless yearning to be free. Only in freedom can we achieve humanity's greatest hope: peace. From the wisdom of Solomon to the wonder of the Sermon on the Mount, from the prophecies of Isaiah to the teachings of Islam, the holy books that are our common heritage speak often of the many blessings bestowed upon mankind, often of the love of liberty, often of the cause of peace. And so, I would like to close these remarks with a prayer.

Lord, bless us and keep us. Show us your way, the way of liberty and love. Soften the hearts of those who would do us harm. Strengthen the hearts of those who protect and defend us. Sustain the hearts of those at home who pray for our safe return. We rely upon your guidance and trust in your judgment, for we are one nation under God. Amidst this threat of war, help us find the will to search for peace. As was said upon the Mount: ``Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Amen.<sup>147</sup>

### *insist(2)*

“To insist is to direct in a persistent way. This mode of achievement increases the degree of strength.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 193]

---

<sup>145</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Letter to Congressional Leaders on Proposed Hate Crimes Prevention Legislation, June 24, 1998

<sup>146</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Law Enforcement Officers in Orange County, California, 1989-04-25

<sup>147</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks During a Thanksgiving Day Service on Board the U.S.S. Nassau in the Persian Gulf, 1990-11-22

The Republican tax plan drains billions of dollars from the surplus before we have done the hard work of strengthening Social Security. First things first. I will insist that we reserve the entire surplus until we have seized this historic opportunity to save Social Security, and veto any bill that doesn't meet that principle. While it is regrettable that this plan survived today, I am heartened by the strong commitment to fiscal discipline and Social Security shown by those who opposed it.<sup>148</sup>

The bill now before the Senate might be called the "Drunk Drivers Protection Act of 1995," for what it does is insulate drunk drivers and other offenders from paying appropriate amounts of punitive damages justified by their deeds. I insist that we hold drunk drivers fully responsible. When they cause injury and death to innocent adults and children, we should throw the book at them, not give them a legal limit on damages to hide behind.<sup>149</sup>

Second, the force must be able to protect itself. Over 2 years we have steadily decreased the number of our troops in Bosnia from about 27,000 Americans in IFOR in 1996 to 8,500 in SFOR today. I hope the follow-on force will be smaller, but I will insist it be sufficient in number and in equipment to achieve its mission and to protect itself in safety.<sup>150</sup>

To continue that path, let me say, there are some things we have to embrace on the homefront and on the international front. First, Congress must pass a balanced budget plan consistent with the agreement we made and with our values. The balanced budget must include a tax cut that is as fair as possible to middle class families and meets their real needs, providing help for education, for childrearing, for buying and selling a home. I will also insist that any tax cut be consistent with a balanced budget over the long run. We cannot afford time-bomb tax cuts that will explode in future years and undo our hard-won progress. This will be a crucial test of our will to continue the economic strategy that has produced American prosperity in the last few years: balancing the budget and investing in our people as we move into a new century.<sup>151</sup>

### *instruct*

“To instruct someone, in the directive sense, is to tell him to do something (e.g. "I instruct you to practice your parallel parking") while presupposing that one has the knowledge or information required (perhaps as an instructor) as to what needs to be done in the context of utterance. In this case, the peremptory mode of achievement is related to a preparatory condition to the effect that the speaker himself has the relevant instruction.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 193]

---

<sup>148</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Statement on Strengthening Social Security, September 26, 1998

<sup>149</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Statement on Proposed Legal Reform Legislation, May 4, 1995

<sup>150</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Peace Process in Bosnia and an Exchange With Reporters, December 18, 1997

<sup>151</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, The President's News Conference in Denver, June 22, 1997

Section 121 of the General Provisions applicable to the Department of the Interior, which requires the National Park Service to submit questions regarding valuation of certain mining claims to an independent panel of three arbitrators, raises constitutional concerns. Section 121(d) purports to require the National Park Service to make an offer to the claimant ``to purchase said claim for the appraised value." The process of determining the amount of money which the government will offer in exchange for a claim is an exercise of significant authority, which must be undertaken by an Officer of the United States, appointed in accordance with the Appointments Clause, Article II, sec. 2, cl. 2, of the Constitution. Appraisers selected pursuant to Section 121, however, must be appointed in accordance with the procedures of the American Arbitration Association. I instruct the Secretary of the Interior to consult with the Attorney General concerning the appropriate response to Section 121 of H.R. 5769.<sup>152</sup>

Entities that are neither clearly governmental nor clearly private should not be created. The establishment of such entities is unwise. It undermines the separation of powers principles of our Constitution, blurring the distinction between public and private entities in a way that may diminish the political accountability of government. Accordingly, I instruct the Attorney General and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to prepare legislation for submission to the next Congress that will cure the serious defects in this legislation.

I also note that Section 9(b)(1) of the bill purports to require that the Administrator of EPA receive advice concerning the execution of his functions under this bill exclusively from a specified advisory council. This requirement unconstitutionally limits the range of advice that one of my subordinates may receive in the execution of his duties. I instruct the Attorney General and the Administrator to prepare legislation that will cure this problem as well.<sup>153</sup>

In order to constitutionally enforce this program, I instruct the Task Force to promulgate its priorities list under section 303(a)(2) ``by a majority vote of those Task Force members who are present and voting," and to consider the State official to be a nonvoting member of the Task Force for this purpose. Moreover, the Secretary of the Army should construe ``lead Task Force member" to include only those members appointed in conformity with the Appointments Clause.<sup>154</sup>

In order to avoid this constitutional difficulty, I instruct all agencies affected by this Act to construe a State official's failure to concur as a statement of that official's views, but not as a bar to transfer of the property. Because the Act nowhere states the consequences of a failure to concur, a Federal agency may terminate operations on a property and dispose of it, in accordance with applicable Federal laws, regardless of whether a State official fails to concur in the identification of it as uncontaminated.<sup>155</sup>

## *demand*

---

<sup>152</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on Signing the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991, 1990-11-05

<sup>153</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on Signing the National Environmental Education Act, 1990-11-16

<sup>154</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on Signing the Bill on Wetland and Coastal Inland Waters Protection and Restoration Programs, 1990-11-29

<sup>155</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on Signing the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act, 1992-10-19

“To demand something (e.g. the payment of a debt) is to tell the hearer to do it, while expressing a strong will.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 193]

We, the Heads of State or Government, reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, our commitment to make no concessions to terrorists or their sponsors, and our resolve to continue to cooperate in efforts to combat terrorism. We demand that those governments which provide support to terrorists end such support immediately. We are determined not to allow terrorists to remain unpunished, but to see them brought to justice in accordance with international law and national legislation.<sup>156</sup>

We demand that Serbs and Croats extend their full cooperation to the U.N. peace plan and make every effort to bring the bloodshed in Croatia to an end.<sup>157</sup>

### ***claim(3)***

To claim something is to demand it as a right or as a due (e.g. to claim an estate by inheritance or to claim the payment of a debt). [Vanderveken 1990, p. 193]

Mr. President, I, a refugee from Eastern Europe, am now a proud and loyal citizen of the United States. But spiritually I claim Israel's destiny as my own. I do not live in Israel, and yet I cannot imagine living without Israel.<sup>158</sup>

### ***charge***

To charge (in its directive use) is to commission by way of invoking an effectively unquestioned authority (mode of achievement). For example, a court may charge persons to follow up on the implications of judgments rendered. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 195]

Well, the soldiers in the drug battle have been risking their lives. Too often bureaucratic conflict here in Washington has hobbled our national effort. So, this has got to end. No war was ever won with two dozen generals acting independently. And I have chosen Bill Bennett to be the commanding general in the drug war. It is his responsibility, working with the departments and agencies headed by those you see here with me and others, to develop a strategy for this war. So, I charge him with putting all the parts of the Federal Government in harness, pulling together in a life-and-death struggle against a deadly enemy. I will not tolerate, and the country cannot afford, bureaucratic infighting that forces us to fight this battle with one arm tied behind our back.<sup>159</sup>

### ***warn***

Warn is systematically ambiguous between an assertive and a directive use. See warn under assertive for a definition and examples.

---

<sup>156</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Houston Economic Summit Statement on Transnational Issues, 1990-07-10

<sup>157</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Munich Economic Summit: Yugoslavia Communique, 1992-07-07

<sup>158</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the Elie Wiesel Foundation Humanitarian Award and an Exchange With Reporters, 1991-03-18

<sup>159</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks Following the Swearing-in Ceremony for William J. Bennett as Director of National Drug Control Policy, 1989-03-13

### *caution*

Caution is systematically ambiguous, being both an assertive and directive. See definition of caution and example sunder assertives.

### *advise*

*Advise* is systematically ambiguous, being both an assertive and a directive. See *advise* in assertives for the definition and examples.

### *permit*

“To permit someone to perform an action is to perform the illocutionary denegation of an act of forbidding his doing it. In granting permission, the speaker presupposes as a preparatory condition that he has the power to forbid what he permits.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 197]

**JUDGE WRIGHT:** I overrule the objection. I will permit it. The nature of many of the responses has been he doesn't recall or he doesn't know, and so he has not outright denied it. This is discovery and I'll permit the question. Go ahead.<sup>160</sup>

So don't let anybody tell you that we have agreed to blow a big hole in the deficit. We have not done so, and we will not do so. And I will not permit such a bill to become law. The bill we agreed to is a good-faith compromise reached by Republicans and Democrats, but it validates the economic direction this administration took. And it would not have been possible--none of this would have been possible if we hadn't passed the economic package back in 1993, with only Members of our party supporting it and with no votes to spare--the Vice President broke the tie in the Senate, and as he says, “Whenever I vote, we win.” [Laughter]<sup>161</sup>

We passed this crime bill with bipartisan support. And I'd be the last person to say that it's the end-all and be-all, the ultimate answer to all the problems of crime in America. But I will not permit the crime bill to be undercut. It is just starting to make a difference in the lives of Americans. We have to keep going. We have to make a difference in the lives of everyone, but especially the women and the children we are called here today to pledge our allegiance to protect.<sup>162</sup>

So I just want to be clear about this. I very much want to work with the Republican Congress to get a balanced budget. But I will not, I will not, permit the repeal of guaranteed medical coverage for senior citizens, for disabled people, for poor children

---

<sup>160</sup> Testimony and Statements of President William Clinton Relating to his Impeachment Trial, [www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/clinton/clintontestimony.html](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/clinton/clintontestimony.html)

<sup>161</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at a Democratic Business Council and Women's Leadership Forum Dinner, May 19, 1997

<sup>162</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Appointment of Bonnie Campbell as Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, March 21, 1995

and pregnant women. That would violate our values. It is not necessary, and therefore, if it continues to be a part of the budget, if necessary, I would veto it again.<sup>163</sup>

### *allow*

“There is a performative use of "allow" in which that verb has approximately the same use as "permit".’ [Vanderveken1990, p. 197]

I will allow title III to come into force. As a result, all companies doing business in Cuba are hereby on notice that by trafficking in expropriated American property, they face the prospect of lawsuits and significant liability in the United States. This will serve as a deterrent to such trafficking, one of the central goals of the LIBERTAD Act.<sup>164</sup>

Now, the American people sent us here to make tough choices. But these are the wrong choices. I will not allow Congress to raise its own pay and fund its own pork-barrel projects and still make devastating across-the-board cuts in everything from education to child nutrition to the FBI. I will not sign any budget that puts special interests above the national interest.<sup>165</sup>

As we do this, we must not go back to the irresponsible practices of the past, back to trickle-down economics and exploding the deficit. Every single penny of the middle class bill of rights that I propose is paid for by dramatic cuts in the Government, which I have proposed. An important part of my New Year's resolution is this: I won't allow anyone to destroy the progress we have made in reducing the deficit.<sup>166</sup>

Today's vote by a House subcommittee to lift the moratorium on oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf would overturn a long-time bipartisan consensus on the need to protect the environment and economies of California, Florida, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, and other coastal States.

This action is a mistake, and I will have no part of it. I will not allow oil and gas drilling off our Nation's most sensitive coastlines on my watch. America's coastlines are simply too important to our economy and our way of life.

This is yet another example of the zealous efforts of the Republican Congress to roll back environmental laws. Those laws serve the American people well, and I will fight to maintain them.<sup>167</sup>

### *invoke*

---

<sup>163</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Budget and an Exchange With Reporters, December 8, 1995

<sup>164</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Statement on Action on Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, July 16, 1996

<sup>165</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Fiscal Year 2000 Budget and an Exchange With Reporters, October 25, 1999

<sup>166</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, The President's Radio Address, December 31, 1994

<sup>167</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Statement on House Action To Lift the Moratorium on Oil and Gas Drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf, June 20, 1995

To invoke is to request (to "call upon") God, or some other authority, to be present and to lend authority to a process or deliberation. There is the presupposition that the invoked person has the authority to grant what is requested. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 198]

As I thank you again for your gracious hospitality, I invoke, hoping you, Mr. President, the help of the Almighty, wishing you excellent health and full success in your endeavors. Long life to the United States of America. Long life for kingdom of Morocco.<sup>168</sup>

## **Declaratives**

### *repudiate*

“To repudiate something is to declare that one is terminating an earlier obligation or right relative to it. In ancient civilizations, a man could repudiate his wife by sending her away in certain ways as fixed by custom. Today, one can repudiate obligations such as debts, as well as rights such as an inheritance or a nationality. Thus a repudiation is a special kind of renunciation.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 200]

His [Milosevic, Slobodan] so-called ethnic cleansing has included concentration camps, murder, rape, the destruction of priceless religious, cultural, and historical sites, books, and records. This is wrong. It is evil. NATO, after the cold war, said that we would stand for the freedom and unity of Europe. This is occurring in the heart of Europe on NATO's doorstep. We must repudiate it. We must reverse it. And we intend to do that.<sup>169</sup>

### *deny*

Deny is a systematically ambiguous performative verb, it is both assertive and declarative. See the definition and examples under assertives.

### *yield*

“In its declarative use, to yield is to declare that one is prepared to give up at least part of what one has or is (propositional content condition) in the face of pressure of persuasion or force (preparatory condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 201]

Susan [Susan Spencer, CBS News], and then John [John Cochran, NBC News].

Q. Why?

The President. Because I don't want to raise taxes.

Q. Even on millionaires?

The President. I don't want to raise taxes.

---

<sup>168</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, oasts at the State Dinner for King Hassan II of Morocco, 1991-09-26

<sup>169</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks to the Community at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, May 5, 1999

Q. Now I'll get to my question.

The President. You've already had it. You've got now what they call a followup.

Q. That was her question.

The President. No, no. Now, wait a minute.

Q. I yield my followup.<sup>170</sup>

### ***approve(1)***

“To approve something in the declarative use is to declare that it is good or valid.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 201] Approve also has an expressive use.

Today I approve H.J. Res. 446, which waives the printing requirements of sections 106 and 107 of Title 1 of the United States Code with respect to H.R. 4210. I do so to avoid any confusion as to my ability to act on any form of that legislation presented to me after certification by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives that the form is a true enrollment. In signing the resolution, I express no view as to whether it is necessary to waive the provisions of Title 1 before I exercise my prerogatives under Article I, section 7 of the Constitution where the Congress has presented to me any form of bill it considers to be a true enrollment.<sup>171</sup>

### ***bless(1), bless(2)***

“To bless is to declare that one accomplishes the religious act of calling God's benediction upon someone or something (propositional content condition). The person, who has thus been blessed is in a state of grace. Normally, the act of blessing is performed by a person with a special authorization, such as clergy or the head of a family, etc.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 203]

Vanderven also identifies a second sense bless of bless. “[A]nyone may bless or curse someone or something, but these uses seem to be derivative, and only marginally declarative.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 203]

The following paragraph from President Bush's Inaugural Address contains an example of the second sense of bless.

There are young women to be helped who are about to become mothers of children they can't care for and might not love. They need our care, our guidance, and our education, though we bless them for choosing life.<sup>172</sup>

---

<sup>170</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1992-03-11

<sup>171</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on Signing Legislation Waiving Printing Requirements for the Tax Bill, March 20, 1992

<sup>172</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Inaugural Address, 1989-01-20

The following sentences, also from the Inaugural Address, contain examples of the first sense of bless.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.<sup>173</sup>

### ***dedicate(2)***

“To dedicate something is to declare it to be put aside for some special purpose (propositional content condition). I may dedicate my life to the pursuit of justice, or dedicate a building for use as a library, etc. In any case, the person, performing the act must have authority relevant to the context.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 203] Dedicate also has a commissive use.

But we are gathered here today not just to celebrate the joyous change of this past year but to celebrate it in a very special way. With us today are some of the young people whose countries were a part of this Revolution of '89. And each is proud of his country. And it's easy to understand why they believe in themselves and in their homelands. For the bold and brilliant light of freedom now illuminates their world. And so, to honor that shining faith in the future, I dedicate this day to this new generation of freedom and to future generations who will never have to bear the burden of tyranny. For some of this new generation this freedom means a whole new world in their own backyard. On that unforgettable morning when the East German borders fell, parents gathered up their kids and brought them to the Brandenburg Gate, the final symbol of tyranny in Berlin. And still in their pajamas, these children on this day of new freedom were passed up from friendly hand to friendly hand to have the thrill of sitting on top of the wall, looking across at the endless horizon of their dreams. And now, a new generation is coming of age in freedom.<sup>174</sup>

Barbara and I feel privileged, privileged to be with you on this day of ecumenical thanksgiving. There's one man, mentioned by Bishop Browning, who has gone before us, yet who is in so many of our hearts today, the late Episcopal Bishop of Washington, John Walker. Like many of you here, I treasured his friendship, and I valued his counsel. And were he still with us, the stone setting would be the culmination of his life's work and his life's dream. But tomorrow, on the first anniversary of his death, the very first service will be held in the completed cathedral. I'd like to dedicate these remarks to his memory.<sup>175</sup>

### ***disapprove(1)***

To disapprove is “to declare a denial or withholding of approval, as in disapproving someone’s request for a visa or a license.” [Vanderveken pp. 203-204] Disapprove also has an expressive use.

---

<sup>173</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Inaugural Address, 1989-01-20

<sup>174</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating Captive Nations Week, 1990-07-25

<sup>175</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Washington National Cathedral Dedication Ceremony, 1990-09-29

For all the reasons stated above, I am compelled to disapprove S.J. Res. 113.<sup>176</sup>

I am, therefore, compelled to disapprove H.R. 2990.<sup>177</sup>

### *name*

“To name something or someone is to stipulate either that a certain linguistic expression will apply as a designation of that person or thing (what we would call giving someone a name), or to designate someone as occupying a post or position (as in naming someone to chair an important committee, or to be a member of a Supreme Court, etc.).”

[Vanderveken 1990, p. 204]

Today it is with a great deal of pride that I name Bill Lann Lee to the post of Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and Counselor to the Attorney General for Civil Rights Enforcement. From this day forward, he will be America's top civil rights enforcer, serving at the helm of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.<sup>178</sup>

The President today announced the appointment of Joseph S. Laposata as Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

“I am happy to name Joseph Laposata as Secretary to the American Battle Monuments Commission,” the President said. “His career with the Armed Forces will provide the Commission with a wealth of experience that will certainly prove beneficial.”<sup>179</sup>

### *call*

“To call someone or something by a certain name is to give that name by declaration.”

[Vanderveken 1990, p. 204]

Some of you know that on every single day of the year except Sunday, I name as a Point of Light a person or a group serving their community somewhere in America, volunteers helping other people. I call them our Points of Light because their caring deeds shine like beacons of hope.<sup>180</sup>

And finally, my agenda won't be complete until we bring change to one of the most change-resistant institutions in America: the government. I call my idea right-sizing

---

<sup>176</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Message to the Senate Returning Without Approval the Bill Prohibiting the Export of Technology for the Joint Japan-United States Development of FS-X Aircraft, 1989-07-31

<sup>177</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Message to the House of Representatives Returning Without Approval the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990, 1989-10-21

<sup>178</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Bill Lann Lee as Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and an Exchange With Reporters, December 15, 1997

<sup>179</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Appointment for the American Battle Monuments Commission, May 17, 1994

<sup>180</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Point of Light Award Presentation Ceremony for the Henderson Hall/Barcroft Elementary School Adopt-A-School Program in Arlington, Virginia, 1991-03-11

government. But whatever we call it, I know you'll agree, government is too big and it spends too much.<sup>181</sup>

### *define*

“To define is to declare, by way of stipulating, the meaning of a word in a certain linguistic context (e.g. a text or a conversation). From the moment of utterance, the word or phrase defined is taken to have the meaning thereby given (propositional content condition). In a derivative sense, we can define a course of action, or define limits or boundaries to an argument, etc. A definition can fix the sense as well as the denotation of a linguistic expression. In law, definitions serve in general to fix the denotation of terms in such a way as to determine fully the parameters of the application of the law. In science, definitions also serve to fix the senses of terms such that theoretical analysis of concepts may proceed. Thus, as Carnap pointed out, certain definitions also play the role of explications.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 204]

The most important thing in politics is to have, first of all, the right ideas and then, secondly, the right people. And I define the right people as people who understand how ideas affect real peoples' lives and identify with them and then have the courage to fight for them.<sup>182</sup>

### *abbreviate*

“To abbreviate is to declare that one expression (a shorter one) will be used in the place of another (a longer one) in a certain linguistic context. The expression that has such a use, perhaps in an ongoing way (as in the case of Mr., Ms., Dr., etc.), is called an abbreviation of the longer expression. From a logical point of view, to make an abbreviation is to make a special kind of verbal definition.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 205]

Claire [Dwoskin, Lisa Claire] asked me if I'd be willing to answer a couple of questions, and I have to go on to another event tonight because we had to double up since we rescheduled, but what I think I'll do is abbreviate my remarks and then maybe answer some questions.<sup>183</sup>

The President. Thank you very much. Good afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen, I will try to abbreviate my opening statement and get right to the questions, because President Aznar has delayed his press conference so we could do this one first.<sup>184</sup>

### *establish*

---

<sup>181</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Job Corps Center in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, September 11, 1992

<sup>182</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at a Reception for Representative David E. Bonior, October 27, 1999

<sup>183</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at a Dinner for Hillary Clinton in McLean, Virginia, August 9, 2000

<sup>184</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, The President's News Conference in Madrid, July 9, 1997

“To establish, in the declarative use, is to declare operative and ‘stable’ certain defined principles, processes or an organization (establishment).” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 206]

Finally, I'm delighted to announce today that we will move immediately to establish a Peace Corps program for Estonia and Latvia and Lithuania.<sup>185</sup>

### *institute*

“To institute is to establish for the purpose of furthering some specific object (legal, literary, scientific, etc.).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 206]

Now, what are the problems the American people have? We have 20 years of accumulated insecurity in our work force, people not getting a wage increase, people losing their health insurance, people changing jobs rapidly. I can't stop them from having to change jobs rapidly, so I'm trying to institute a system of lifetime education and training.<sup>186</sup>

### *inaugurate*

“To inaugurate is formally to begin the life of an institution or a tenure of office. In this way it is more general than "install" (propositional content conditions), and it is typically more formal as well (mode of achievement).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 206]

I am very proud to be here to inaugurate this chair in peace studies. I have been privileged to come here at an important time in your history. I have been privileged to be President at an important time in your history and to do what I could on behalf of the United States to help the peace process go forward.<sup>187</sup>

I have been asked today to inaugurate the first Dodd center symposium on the topic of “50 Years After Nuremberg.” I am honored to do that. I was born just after World War II, and I grew up as a part of a generation of young students who were literally fascinated by every aspect of the Nuremberg trials and what their ramifications were and were not for every unfolding event in the world that was disturbing to human conscience.<sup>188</sup>

### *convene*

Convene is systematically ambiguous being both a declarative and a directive. See definition and example of convene under directives.

---

<sup>185</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, September 12, 1991

<sup>186</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Interview With Mike Siegel of KVI Radio, Seattle, Washington, November 3, 1994

<sup>187</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Inauguration of the Thomas P. O'Neill Chair for the Study of Peace in Londonderry, November 30, 1995

<sup>188</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, October 15, 1995

### *open*

“To open a meeting or a similar assembly is to declare that, as of the moment of utterance, the activities appropriate to the committee, group, etc. can commence (propositional content condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 207]

Secretary Salim said Africa lacks a strong constituency in the United States. Well, I open this National Summit on Africa with a simple message: Africa does matter to the United States.<sup>189</sup>

### *suspend*

“To suspend proceedings is to declare a temporary halt (propositional content conditions) to a process or deliberation (perhaps legal) or a meeting, generally so that some necessary and related activity can be accomplished (preparatory conditions) before resuming.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 207]

I hereby order, pursuant to section 252(a), that the following actions be taken effective October 1, 1989, to implement the sequestrations and reductions determined by the Director in that report:

(1) Each automatic spending increase that would, but for the provisions of the Act, take effect during fiscal year 1990 is suspended as provided in section 252. The programs with such automatic spending increases subject to reduction in this manner, specified by account title, are National Wool Act; Special milk program; and Vocational rehabilitation.<sup>190</sup>

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do by this proclamation suspend, as to all contracts entered into on or after the date of this proclamation and until otherwise provided, the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act of March 3, 1931, as amended, and the provisions of all other acts providing for the payment of wages, which provisions are dependent upon determinations by the Secretary of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Act, as they apply to contracts to be performed in the following jurisdictions: the counties of Broward, Collier, Dade, and Monroe in the State of Florida; the parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Martin, Assumption, Iberia, St. John the Baptist, Iberville, St. Mary, Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Lafayette, St. Charles, St. Tammany, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, East Feliciana, Point Coupee, Jefferson, Acadia, Avoyelles, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. James, St. Bernard, Vermillion, Allen, Calcasieu, Evangeline, Livingston, Rapides, St. Helena, St. Landry, Tangipahoa, and Washington in the State of Louisiana; and the islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, and Kahoolawe in the State of Hawaii;

And, as to such contracts to be performed in such jurisdictions, I do hereby suspend, until otherwise provided, the provisions of any Executive order, proclamation, rule,

---

<sup>189</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks to the Opening of the National Summit on Africa, February 17, 2000

<sup>190</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Initial Order for Emergency Deficit Control Measures for Fiscal Year 1990, 1989-08-25

regulation, or other directive providing for the payment of wages, which provisions are dependent upon determinations by the Secretary of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Act;<sup>191</sup>

*prorogue*

“To prorogue is to suspend a session or meeting (of the Parliament or similar body) and to fix by declaration for a future date the next session or meeting.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 207]

PROCLAMATION

TO OUR FAITHFUL, the MEMBERS elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of Alberta and to each and every one of you

Kurt Sandstrom  
Acting Deputy Minister of Justice  
and  
Acting Deputy Attorney General

GREETING

WHEREAS it is Our will and pleasure by and with the advice and consent of Our Executive Council of Our Province of Alberta to prorogue the First Session of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of Alberta:

WE DO hereby prorogue, effective February 9, 2009, the said Legislature; and

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient for certain causes and considerations to convene the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of Alberta for the Second Session of the Twenty-seventh Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on Tuesday, the 10th day of February, 2009, at the hour of THREE o'clock in the afternoon, at Our City of Edmonton, personally be and appear, for the despatch of business, to treat, act, do and conclude upon those things which, in the Legislature of Our Province of Alberta, by the Common Council of Our said Province, may, by the favour of God, be ordained.

HEREIN FAIL NOT

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of Alberta to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS: THE HONOURABLE NORMAN L. KWONG, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of Alberta, in Our City of Edmonton in Our Province of Alberta, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nine and in the Fifty-seventh Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND: ALISON REDFORD  
Provincial Secretary.<sup>192</sup>

---

<sup>191</sup> Proclamation 6491 - To Suspend the Davis-Bacon Act of March 3, 1931, Within a Limited Geographic Area in Response to the National Emergency Caused by Hurricianes Andrew and Iniki, October 14, 1992

<sup>192</sup> Legislative Assembly, Province of Alberta, VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, Second Session Twenty-Seventh Legislature, Tuesday, February 10, 2009

## *confer*

“To confer is to declare a status or title, etc., as given to someone. This is taken to be an honour (propositional content condition), and is usually more or less formally done (mode of achievement).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 208]

Today it is my privilege to confer America's highest civilian honor on a great statesman of the 20th century, the Federal Republic of Germany's longest serving Chancellor, Helmut Kohl.<sup>193</sup>

Over the past several years, the President and Mrs. Carter have received many awards, all of them well-deserved. Rosalynn has received more than a dozen just from children's organizations alone. President Carter has been knighted in Mali, made an honorary tribal chief in Nigeria and Ghana. There are at least three families in Africa he's met who have named their newborn child Jimmy Carter. [Laughter]

Now these are hard acts to follow. [Laughter] But today, it is my privilege, on behalf of a grateful nation, to confer America's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, on Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.<sup>194</sup>

I am honored to confer upon this wonderful group of Americans the National Medal of the Arts and the Charles Frankel Prize. First, the Medal of the Arts winners.<sup>195</sup>

## *bestow*

“To bestow is to confer something of great worth, e.g. a trophy (propositional content condition) from a position of great eminence.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 208]

And now, it is with great pride that I bestow the medal, previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King and President John F. Kennedy, Anwar Sadat, Mother Teresa. It is our nation's highest civilian honor. So, Mr. Walesa, if you'll come over here, let me read the citation:

To Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Lech Walesa has shown through his life and work the power of one individual's ideals when combined with the irresistible force of freedom. Through moral authority, force of personality, and demonstrated heroism, he has inspired a nation and the world in the cause of liberty. The United States honors a true man of his times and of timeless ideals: Lech Walesa, distinguished son of Poland, champion of universal human rights.<sup>196</sup>

---

[www.assembly.ab.ca/ISYS/LADDAR\\_files%5Cdocs%5Chouserrecords%5Cvp%5Clegislature\\_27%5Csession\\_2%5C20090210\\_1200\\_01\\_vp.pdf](http://www.assembly.ab.ca/ISYS/LADDAR_files%5Cdocs%5Chouserrecords%5Cvp%5Clegislature_27%5Csession_2%5C20090210_1200_01_vp.pdf)

<sup>193</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Former Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, April 20, 1999

<sup>194</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at a Ceremony Presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter in Atlanta, August 9, 1999

<sup>195</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on Presenting the Arts and Humanities Awards, October 5, 1995

<sup>196</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Lech Walesa and the Presidential Citizen's Medal to Lane Kirkland, 1989-11-13

## *pardon*

“To pardon is to declare that someone is released from the burden of payment of some moral or other debt (propositional content condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 210]

That brings me to another traditional moment involving our special guest over here today -- the guy in the cage there, who seems understandably nervous. [Laughter] It is my great privilege to receive the traditional Thanksgiving turkey. Millie has been put upstairs, looking wistfully out of the window, I'm sure. But let me assure you, and this fine tom turkey, that he will not end up on anyone's dinner table, not this guy -- he's granted a Presidential pardon as of right now -- and allow him to live out his days on a children's farm not far from here.<sup>197</sup>

Today I am exercising my power under the Constitution to pardon former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and others for their conduct related to the Iran-Contra affair.  
...

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, pursuant to my powers under Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, do hereby grant a full, complete, and unconditional pardon to Elliott Abrams, Duane R. Clarridge, Alan Fiers, Clair George, Robert C. McFarlane, and Caspar W. Weinberger for all offenses charged or prosecuted by Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh or other member of his office, or committed by these individuals and within the jurisdiction of that office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH<sup>198</sup>

## *forgive*

“To forgive is to pardon with the additional preparatory condition to the effect that forgiveness has been requested or humbly "begged" .” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 210]

And thank you, Larry King, <King, Larry> for being here. I forgive you for using this occasion to hit me up for our exit interview. [Laughter] I am not a very good story. You should be down in Florida doing interviews tonight. [Laughter]<sup>199</sup>

I want to say just a word about Dale. I have to forgive him, for one thing--I'm in this sort of forgiveness mode. [Laughter] Dale Bumpers never fails to introduce me and David

---

<sup>197</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks on Signing the Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, 1989-11-17

<sup>198</sup> Proclamation 6518 - Grant of Executive Clemency, December 24, 1992 John T. Woolley and Gerhard Peters, *The American Presidency Project* [online]. Santa Barbara, CA: University of California (hosted), Gerhard Peters (database). Available from World Wide Web: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=20265>.

<sup>199</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at the G&P Foundation Angel Ball 2000 in New York City, November 30, 2000

Pryor as the second-best Governors Arkansas ever had. [Laughter] And I forgive him, because it's probably true. He was an inspiration to David and me, as David said. And as I look back on his long public career, including his service as Governor and the 9,447 votes he cast in the United States Senate, votes for energy conservation, votes to preserve the ozone layer--people used to make fun of Dale Bumpers about the ozone layer, the way they used to make fun of Betty about Peace Links. Two days ago I got a report on the hole in the ozone over the South Pole; it's the biggest it has ever been, and its duration is longer than any we've ever measured. And we have at least made some progress on it, because he started griping about it so long ago.<sup>200</sup>

### ***absolve***

“To absolve is to forgive in, generally, a religious context. In the Catholic religion, the sins of the sinner are pardoned (propositional content condition) as absolution is given by God or in God's name at the end of his confession.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 210]

In 1990 I agreed to undertake a task force for the National Governors' Association, and I started by interviewing 900 people in my State who were involved in the delivery of medical care, including several hundred doctors. Some of them are in this room today. I thank them for their contributions, and I absolve them of anything I do which is unpopular with the rest of you. [Laughter]<sup>201</sup>

### ***cancel***

“To cancel an order or an authorization or any other speech act is to declare it to be no longer in effect. There is a preparatory condition to the effect that an act had been made and is in effect, and a propositional content condition to the effect that this is terminated.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 210]

In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the “Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1998” (Public Law 105-45; H.R. 2016). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.<sup>202</sup>

### ***abolish***

“To abolish is to cancel laws, sentences, rights, or other more general institutions (propositional content conditions).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 211]

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the United States, and as President of the United States of America, the Energy Research and

---

<sup>200</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at a Dinner Honoring Dale and Betty Bumpers, December 8, 1998

<sup>201</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks to Physicians and Supporters on Health Care Reform, September 20, 1993

<sup>202</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, [Volume 2][From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access][DOCID:pap\_text-243] [Page 1303]

Development Advisory Council established June 29, 1973, is hereby abolished and section 2 (4) of Executive Order No. 11827 of January 4, 1975, is hereby rescinded.<sup>203</sup>

*revoke, rescind*

To revoke or to rescind is to declare a previous decision or enactment (preparatory condition) to be withdrawn or cancelled (propositional content condition). [Vanderveken 1990, p. 211]

Sec. 4. Revocation. Executive Order No. 12532 of September 9, 1985, and Executive Order No. 12535 of October 1, 1985, which lapsed on September 9, 1987, pursuant to the provisions of sections 1622(d) and 1701 of title 50 of the United States Code are hereby revoked.<sup>204</sup>

Section 1. Executive Order No. 12723 and Executive Order No. 12725 are hereby revoked. This revocation shall not affect the national emergency declared in Executive Order No. 12722 to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the policies and action of the Government of Iraq.<sup>205</sup>

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, do by this Proclamation revoke Proclamation No. 6491 of October 14, 1992, as to all construction contracts for which bids are opened or negotiations concluded on or after fifteen (15) days after the date of this Proclamation, whether direct Federal construction or federally assisted construction subject to Proclamation No. 6491.<sup>206</sup>

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the United States, and as President of the United States of America, the Energy Research and Development Advisory Council established June 29, 1973, is hereby abolished and section 2 (4) of Executive Order No. 11827 of January 4, 1975, is hereby rescinded.<sup>207</sup>

*sustain(2)*

“To sustain is to declare that an argument or a judgment holds or still holds. There is a preparatory condition to the effect that such an argument or judgment has been made and stands to be either sustained, or not, in which case it would be rescinded.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 211]

---

<sup>203</sup> Executive Order 11915 - Abolishing the Energy Research and Development Advisory Council, May 10, 1976

<sup>204</sup> Executive Order 12769 -- Implementation of Section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, 1991-07-10

<sup>205</sup> Executive Order 12771 -- Revoking Earlier Orders With Respect to Kuwait, 1991-07-25

<sup>206</sup> Proclamation 6534 - To Revoke Proclamation Number 6491 of October 14, 1992, March 6, 1993

<sup>207</sup> Executive Order 11915 - Abolishing the Energy Research and Development Advisory Council, May 10, 1976

Q. Mr. President, there are growing strains in relations with Russia over the crackdown in Chechnya and the planned sale of nuclear technology to Iran. Does U.S. aid to Moscow give us any leverage on these problems? Is it time to consider an alternative to Boris Yeltsin, as Bob Dole says, that you've got too much invested in? And have you finally decided on the timing of a summit with Mr. Yeltsin?

The President. The answer to the last question is, no, we have not determined the exact date. As you know, we committed to meet with each other on a rotating and regular basis, so I have to sustain that commitment in the first part of this year. He asked me to come at the time they are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. There are some scheduling complications here. We're working through it. It shouldn't be long before you have an answer.<sup>208</sup>

## **Expressives**

### ***approve(2)***

“To approve, in the expressive sense, is to express positive feelings of approval or support (sincerity condition) for a state of affairs or an action with the preparatory condition that this is good. Insofar as what is approved of is caused by intentional action, the approval generally also extends to the person who is responsible for the action (propositional content condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 215]

The President. Well, the Secretary's had two good talks. At this juncture I gather he wants to go forward. But as President of the United States I'm taking the strong recommendation, and strongly approve of it incidentally, but from the Secretary of State that this be deferred. And I think farsighted Members of Congress understand exactly why it should be deferred. We don't need an acrimonious debate just as we're about to get this peace conference convened.<sup>209</sup>

### ***compliment***

“To compliment someone is to express approval of the hearer for something (additional propositional content condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 215]

And once again, I compliment John Sununu for the way he's handled all this.<sup>210</sup>

### ***praise(2)***

“To praise is to express a high degree of approval (increasing the degree of strength), while not necessarily being directed to the hearer. That is, I might praise the hearer or I might praise someone else in his absence.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 215]

I'd also like to praise our other distinguished guests today, the leaders of the community and I guess that includes everybody here, or you probably wouldn't be here.<sup>211</sup>

---

<sup>208</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, The President's News Conference, March 3, 1995

<sup>209</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Secretary of State Baker, September 6, 1991.

<sup>210</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, December 5, 1991

## ***laud***

“To laud is to praise the hearer (propositional content condition) in yet higher terms (degree of strength), verging on adulation (mode of achievement).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 215]

I say again, I laud what the Mayor has done here, but we cannot stop in our fight against crime and violence until every child has a chance to grow up safe and until when you turn on the television news at night and you see the reports of a crime, you are surprised. We have to make it the exception, not the rule again in America.<sup>212</sup>

## ***applaud***

“To applaud is to publicly to express praise (mode of achievement) for someone's accomplishments (propositional content condition), often by clapping hands (mode of achievement) in the context of a public performance.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 216]

And I would like to start today's conference by just a very brief comment on the significant change that's occurred in the Soviet Union. You see, we applaud President Gorbachev's meeting with the Baltic presidents. For some time, we've urged a peaceful resolution of this confrontation, one that will result in dialogue -- negotiation, of you will -- in lifting of this economic blockade against Lithuania.<sup>213</sup>

I applaud the Kansas City community for becoming the first major metropolitan area in the U.S. to achieve clean-air standards for ozone since passage of the new Clean Air Act. This designation is a fitting symbol of Kansas City's commitment over the past two decades to a cleaner environment.<sup>214</sup>

## ***acclaim***

“To acclaim is to applaud highly (degree of strength) often adding vocal cries of approval (further mode of achievement).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 216]

We are honored that Judge Breyer could share this day with his family, his wife, Joanna, a clinical psychologist who relieves the pain of children undergoing cancer treatment, and his children, Chloe, Nell, and Michael. We welcome them to the White House as we acclaim Judge Breyer's supreme, superb qualifications for the Supreme Court.<sup>215</sup>

## ***brag***

---

<sup>211</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, September 12, 1991

<sup>212</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks at the Dedication of the Nashville Wharf in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 18, 1996

<sup>213</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT WITH REGIONAL REPORTERS ASSOCIATION, June 13, 1990

<sup>214</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, Statement by the President, May 12, 1992

<sup>215</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on the Nomination of Stephen G. Breyer To Be a Supreme Court Associate Justice and an Exchange With Reporters, May 16, 1994

“To brag is to express approval of oneself (propositional content condition), along with a feeling of pride (sincerity condition). There is a preparatory condition to the effect that the propositional content is judged to be good for the speaker, and that it might be admired or envied by the hearer.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 216]

Mr. Prime Minister, it is traditional when visiting Italy for American leaders to note the millions of our citizens who claim an Italian background, so I will brag -- now 12 million and rising. And among the many Italian-Americans, there are Fiorello La Guardia -- some old enough to remember -- Joe DiMaggio in sports; Tony Fauci, now at the National Institutes of Health; and of course, our Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. And Italian-Americans are one link that binds the United States and Italy -- but only one. For we are united by our belief in individual liberty, human dignity, and the rule of law, and by the shared values of family, faith, and work.<sup>216</sup>

And again, it's great to be back in Raleigh. I bring you greetings from Barbara. Dot -- where's Dot? She sends you her special love. They're very good friends. To brag just a little bit, I'd like to point out what a great job my Barbara is doing to combat illiteracy in the United States.<sup>217</sup>

This highway bill is going to help; it's going to help New Hampshire a lot. Small business moves we've made are going to help. The new visa center is going to help. So I want to try to do the best we can. Somebody says, ``Hey, Bush is bragging about the highway bill helping New Hampshire." I've got to brag about something, and you're darn right I'm going to brag about the highway bill and all the jobs that go with it.<sup>218</sup>

### ***disapprove(2)***

“To disapprove, in the expressive use, is to express feelings of disapproval with a state of affairs (sincerity condition), while presupposing (preparatory condition) that the state of affairs is bad. It is not presupposed that the hearer is responsible for this state of affairs, but it is generally presupposed that an agent is responsible, and this is a propositional content condition that is not present in the case of "complain". "Disapprove" is the contrary of "approve".” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 216]

Q. -- -- gone overseas. So with the jobs having gone overseas and we've lost our manufacturing base, and a poll of many of these highfalutin, very big firms say they are not going to build another plant in the United States when they can go to Mexico and pay a dollar an hour and not have to bother with environmental regulations and safety regulations. So, how are you going to get these jobs increased?

The President. Because we're going to pass the NAFTA; the North American free trade agreement is going to increase jobs dramatically. And the more exports you have, the more domestic jobs you have.

---

<sup>216</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Toast at a Dinner Hosted by Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita in Rome, 1989-05-27

<sup>217</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Fundraising Breakfast for Senator Jesse Helms in Raleigh, North Carolina, 1990-10-10

<sup>218</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Davidson Interior Trim Employees in Dover, New Hampshire, 1992-01-15

Now, some labor unions disagree with that. Some politicians disagree with that. Some are sounding the siren's call of protection: Pull back and don't engage in foreign trade. And I disapprove of that. I'm going to keep fighting for open markets, more access to the markets of others, conclusion of the GATT round, a conclusion of the North American free trade agreement. And that's what I'll keep doing, and that will create jobs. It's exports that have saved this economy as it goes through these tough times, and it is exports that will lead an extraordinary growth in the future.<sup>219</sup>

### *blame(2)*

“To blame is to express disapproval with an explicit attachment of this disapproval (mode of achievement and propositional content condition) to someone, perhaps the hearer, for having done something judged to be bad (preparatory condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 217]

Q. Sir, when you say the army could do something about it, wouldn't you have a situation where a group that's accused of all these atrocities would be in charge?

The President. I blame Saddam Hussein for the atrocities, and I have made it clear to the Iraqi leaders long before the war started. You go back and take a look at what I said then, because I think it's apropos now -- we do not have an argument with the leadership. Our argument is with the brutality of Saddam Hussein and the orders he's given. Now, does that clear somebody that goes down and rapes a child in Kuwait? No, it does not. But for the most part, it does, because Saddam Hussein has been the major villain there. I would be willing to take a new look if the army took those matters into their own hands, as I've said before. But he's got to go, and he will someday. He can't survive.<sup>220</sup>

Ms. Douglass. Do you blame any of the policies of the Reagan administration for today's economic problems?

The President. No, but I blame the increasing Federal deficit and increasing Federal spending on everybody in the past. I mean, I have my responsibility to bear for that; Congress has a responsibility. But I do think that these extraordinarily high deficits, which result from well-intentioned legislation passed in the sixties, some of it, is a problem that we have to address. And we've tried to do that by a very unpopular budget agreement that put caps on spending. And now what I'm trying to do, Linda, is to hold the line on this spending. Because every time I turn around, in the side door, over the transom, comes new spending proposals by this Congress. And I have to sometimes say no to popular-sounding legislation.<sup>221</sup>

### *deplore*

---

<sup>219</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1992-03-11

<sup>220</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Question-and-Answer Session With Reporters in Hobe Sound, Florida, 1991-04-03

<sup>221</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Interviews With NBC Owned and Operated Television Stations, 1991-11-20

“To deplore is to complain with a high degree of strength and with the preparatory condition that someone is responsible for something bad, and the sincerity condition of deep discontent or deep sorrow.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 217]

I deplore the violence and repression employed in the Tiananmen events. I believe that China, as its leaders state, will return to the policy of reform pursued before June 3. I further believe that the Chinese visitors would wish to return to China in those circumstances, in which case I would hope that the knowledge and experience gained by the Chinese visitors temporarily in our country be applied to help promote China's reforms and modernization.<sup>222</sup>

Q. Representatives of that group say the contra forces have been known to operate in that area using those tactics, and perhaps they didn't recognize the pickup truck that they were driving in. What do we know about who may have killed those nuns, and what are you doing to communicate to the contra -- are you trying to call them off?

The President. Well, we're not calling them off because we don't know they were called on. And I'm interested in your hypothesis because you're telling me that some have concluded that it was the contras. The contras have denied that. Some have suggested it might be the other side. And the answer is: I deplore the loss of that nun's life. And similarly, there was another that I believe was killed that was a Nicaraguan there. And I deplore that loss of life. But it is murky. It is extraordinarily murky, similar to the situation in El Salvador.<sup>223</sup>

### *grieve*

“To grieve is to express deep sorrow over an important loss (propositional content condition) that may be, but is not necessarily one's personal loss. That is, one may grieve on behalf of someone else who has lost a friend or on behalf of people who are starving, etc.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 217]

But I was very pleased with the operation. Barbara and I are going over to the hospital in San Antonio on Sunday to pay our respects to those kids that are lying over there wounded. And I should say here and now: Of course we grieve at the loss of young American life. And frankly, I grieve at the loss of innocent Panamanian life, caught up in this battle. But at times, you have to make a decision: What is in the national interest? What is right? What is the right signal to send to the world?<sup>224</sup>

We've begun well, you might say; but we've only just begun. Look at Bedford Stuy or other communities across the country, the suburbs of any city, the broken canyons of Los Angeles, and there you'll see some of more than 12 million Americans who currently still use drugs and the 1.9 million of them who still use cocaine. We are not making the progress that we want to in this addictive group, younger than the teenagers, but certainly not old enough to be retired in any way. And we must make more progress

---

<sup>222</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Memorandum of Disapproval for the Bill Providing Emergency Chinese Immigration Relief, 1989-11-30

<sup>223</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1990-01-05

<sup>224</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Barbecue in Beeville, Texas, 1989-12-27

there. Worse, more than 1.3 million of our kids do use drugs. And I grieve for these families and these kids.<sup>225</sup>

### *lament(2)*

“To lament is to mourn openly and publicly (mode of achievement).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 217]

The success of the last 5 years owes much to the ideas and the work of the DLC and its grassroots leaders, going back to the mid-1980's, when a small handful of us organized it. Even then, the DLC was working to go beyond the stale debate and the false choices of Washington, DC, with modern policies, good ideas, mainstream values. Today, from time to time, I still lament the fact that we have not rid the rhetoric of our Nation's Capital of a lot of the old debate and a lot of the old false choices. But believe you me, out there in the real world where Americans live, we're a long way from where we were just 5 years ago, and you should be very proud of it.<sup>226</sup>

### *rejoice*

“To rejoice is to express a high degree of joy and gladness (sincerity condition) about a state of affairs that is of course judged to be very good for the speaker.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 217]

So, thank you all for being here with us on this very solemn and special occasion. And once again, I rejoice in your happiness, and we're so pleased you're here. And now I will sign this.<sup>227</sup>

The President. I'm not making gestures. I don't trade for hostages. I don't go “ante up” one step and one another. I rejoice at this release. And the American policy is sound, and it's not going to change. And I will thank those who facilitated the release, and that's exactly the way it's going to stay. And I feel the burden of these hostages -- and I mean it -- every single day. We say prayers about them every single night.<sup>228</sup>

I rejoice in the release of the last hostage, Terry Anderson, and those that preceded him. And I'm proud that I can represent to the American people that our policy -- although certainly this release took far too long in terms of strains on family -- was implemented; that there was no quid pro quo. Because in staying with that policy it seems to me we diminish the chance that others, seeing rewards having been granted for taking people prisoner, would do the same thing.<sup>229</sup>

### *cheer*

---

<sup>225</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Dedication Ceremony for the Drug Enforcement Administration's New York Field Division Office in New York City, 1992-06-29

<sup>226</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks to the Democratic Leadership Council, October 27, 1997

<sup>227</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks on Signing the Passover Message, 1990-04-04

<sup>228</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks on the Release of Former Hostage Robert Polhill and an Exchange With Reporters, 1990-04-22

<sup>229</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs in Ontario, California, 1991-12-06

“To cheer is to call to an individual or a group/team (mode of achievement) personal or collective cries of support and encouragement (sincerity condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 219]

And to those of you who are making the lives of the less fortunate a little easier, I offer my admiration and my thanks. “The young know the rules,” Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “but the old know the exceptions.” Many of you today already are exceptions -- and exceptional. And I cheer you on, and I encourage you. And I thank you for what you do to help others.<sup>230</sup>

The President. Because Americans are so free to dream, we feel a special kinship with those who dream of a better future. Here in Poland, the United States supports the roundtable accords and applauds the wisdom, tenacity, and patience of one of Poland's great leaders -- Lech Walesa. And again -- --

Audience members. Lech Walesa! Lech Walesa! Lech Walesa!

The President. And we cheer a movement that has touched the imagination of the world. That movement is Solidarnosc. And we applaud those who have made this progress possible: the Polish people. We recognize, too, that the Polish Government has shown wisdom and creativity and courage in proceeding with these historic steps.<sup>231</sup>

### ***boo***

To boo is to call to an individual or a group/team (mode of achievement) personal or collective cries of derision and/or hostility (sincerity condition). [Vanderveken 1990, p. 219]

THE PRESIDENT: Now, listen to this, because this is factual. My opponent disagrees. In Arkansas he's taxing everything he can get his hands on: groceries, beer --

AUDIENCE: Booo!

THE PRESIDENT: -- I knew you wouldn't like that one. Mobile homes, cable TV, used cars, airplanes, coal -- he was even taxing food stamps until the federal government forced him to stop.

AUDIENCE: Booo!<sup>232</sup>

### ***condole***

“To condole is to “send one's condolences” and it is to express sympathy (sincerity condition). There is a preparatory condition to the effect that something bad (generally a bereavement, and certainly a great misfortune) has befallen the hearer.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 219]

---

<sup>230</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Dedication Ceremony for the Michael Bilirakis Alzheimer's Center in Palm Harbor, Florida, 1989-04-27

<sup>231</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Solidarity Workers Monument in Gdansk, 1989-07-11

<sup>232</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, September 23, 1992

The President. Mr. Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen, let me begin by expressing once again on behalf of the American people the condolences on the passing of Emperor Showa, a most gentle man of great learning. And I look forward to calling on the new Emperor when I visit Japan later this month.<sup>233</sup>

Barbara and I extend our sincere condolences to the family and many friends of John J. McCloy. We share your loss. The American people join you in mourning the passing of one of the giants and true heroes of this country.<sup>234</sup>

### ***greet***

“To greet someone is to express courteous acknowledgement of his presence (sincerity condition) upon encountering him (preparatory condition).” There is no propositional content. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 219]

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone celebrating this St. Patrick's Day.<sup>235</sup>

## **3. Additional Performative Verbs not Defined by Vanderveken**

During the search of the *Public Papers of the Presidents* for examples of the performative verbs defined by Vanderveken, other performative verbs were discovered that he has not defined. These verbs include *reaffirm*, *bet(2)*, *counsel*, *argue*, *dispute*, *estimate*, *contend*, *conclude*, *point out*, *note*, *observe*, *subscribe(2)*, *commend*, *forswear*, *devote*, *exhort*, *bid(2)*, *plead*, *reject(2)*, *toast*, *waive(2)*, *condemn(2)*, *exempt*, *pride*, *bid(3)*, *resent*, *hope*, and *trust(2)*. In this section these performative verbs are defined and examples from the *Public Papers of the Presidents* are provided.

### **Assertives**

#### ***reaffirm***

To reaffirm is to affirm once again. Vanderveken does not define this performative verb.

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 1, 1991, as Helsinki Human Rights Day and reaffirm the United States dedication to the principles of human dignity and freedom -- principles that are enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. As we Americans observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, let us call on all signatories of the Final Act to fulfill their obligation to respect the rights and dignity of all their citizens.<sup>236</sup>

---

<sup>233</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of Japan, 1989-02-02

<sup>234</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement on the Death of John J. McCloy, 1989-03-21

<sup>235</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Message on the Observance of St. Patrick's Day, 1989, March 6, 1989

<sup>236</sup> Proclamation 6319 -- Helsinki Human Rights Day, 1991, 1991-07-31

Declaration of the United States, France, and the United Kingdom on Terrorism

The three states reaffirm their complete condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and denounce any complicity of states in terrorist acts. The three states reaffirm their commitment to put an end to terrorism.<sup>237</sup>

### ***bet(2)***

In the assertive use, to bet someone that P, is to maintain P as if it were a bet in the commissive sense. Vanderveken does not define this performative verb.

But you could go out and ask a question: Would you be willing to pay more taxes if you knew it would solve the problem of drugs? I bet you people would say yes. Would you be willing to pay more taxes if you knew you would never have the threat of nuclear war again? -- probably say yes to that one. And so, it depends how you ask it.<sup>238</sup>

### ***counsel***

“Counseling is very close to advising, and it could be characterized, informally, as professional advice.” [Wierzbicka 1987 p. 183] To counsel is to advise that P and the speaker is a professional (preparatory condition). Vanderveken does not define this illocutionary act.

Frustration on this sensitive issue is totally understandable, and I hear those who say more must be done. And if more can be done, then it will be. And understand this: I don't counsel a timid patience, I counsel a bold persistence. And our persistence is showing some results -- I should say your persistence. Since the Government embraced the goals of this organization, many more of you have found answers. Each answer has been another sad truth to learn. But every POW/MIA relative that I meet tells me that truth is preferable to the greater agony, that of not knowing. The task of learning more is daunting, but we can count on some powerful allies.<sup>239</sup>

### ***argue***

To argue that (for or against) P is to assert a proposition P, but the hearer does not believe P and the speaker wants hearer to believe P and the speaker believes that hearer believes Q (preparatory conditions), and the speaker believes that if he says Q implies P, the speaker will be convinced that they should believe P (mode of achievement).

---

<sup>237</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Statement Announcing Joint Declarations on the Libyan Indictments, 1991-11-27

<sup>238</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at a Luncheon for Regional Editors and Broadcasters, 1989-09-15

<sup>239</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks on Signing the National POW/MIA Recognition Day Proclamation, 1989-07-28

In a society like yours and mine and throughout the multiethnic expanse of Europe, democracy offers the best hope of protecting diversity and of making diversity a source of strength, harnessing it to a world in which diversity is perhaps the overwhelming fact of life. That is why I would argue to you that each of us, in order to protect your democracy and mine, has a personal responsibility to denounce intolerance and ethnic hatred and anti-Semitism and anything that undermines the ability of everybody who lives within our national borders to be as productive as possible. Because, keep in mind, in the world in which we live, if you make any decision that deprives anybody who lives in your country of the right to live up to the fullest of their capacities, you have weakened your own ability to be free and prosperous and successful.<sup>240</sup>

One of the things I have spent a great deal of time on in the last year, particularly, is trying to work with my economic advisers on issues that only peripherally involve the disability community but that you are a central part of resolving. And it is this: How can we continue to grow this economy and lift the standards of living of our people until we embrace everybody who has not participated in the recovery; keep the recovery going, which is already the longest peacetime recovery in history, and not have an explosion of inflation?

There are--if you think about it, there are only, I would argue to you, three possible answers to that. You either have to get more workers who are unemployed, generally, in the society, into the work force so that they not only are helping themselves but helping the rest of us by becoming consumers and taxpayers and growing the economy; you have to go to those discrete areas where whole areas have been left out of our economic growth; or you have to find more customers for America's goods and services around the world.<sup>241</sup>

There is more, I would argue, that we should do. In my balanced budget presented to the Congress, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit to help people with disabilities afford special transportation technology, which you've already heard about, or personal assistance needed to make the transition to work. And we must double our efforts to make assistive technology, such as voice recognition software, mobile telephones, braille translators, more widely available. So I ask Congress to move forward with both of these proposals in my budget.<sup>242</sup>

We've dramatically reformed the way the Government works. It's as small as it was--now--when President Kennedy was here. I would argue it's doing more with greater impact in a positive way. We're in the process of trying to create a system of lifetime learning in America, opening doors of college to all Americans and raising the standards of our schools and trying some different things that have not been previously done before.<sup>243</sup>

---

<sup>240</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks in a Town Meeting With Russian Citizens in Moscow, January 14, 1994

<sup>241</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on Presenting the President's Award for Furthering Employment of People With Disabilities, June 4, 1999

<sup>242</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks on Presenting the President's Award for Furthering Employment of People With Disabilities, June 4, 1999

<sup>243</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks Supporting Health Care Bill of Rights Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters, January 14, 1998

### *dispute*

To dispute a proposition P that has been claimed or concluded by someone else (preparatory condition) is to disagree with the putative claim or conclusion and to argue against P. This performative verb is not discussed by Vanderveken,

When I was here 12 months ago, in speaking to a Joint Session of the Congress, I referred to that thesis which had been gaining some currency: that this was a nation in some sort of relative decline. I said then that that was a thesis that I dispute, a concept that I reject, because all the evidence of recent times, in my analysis, points in the other direction. It is not merely a question of the continuation of your great economic might but, on all the evidence, of leadership that has been -- the courage of the previous administration of which you were such a leading part, and which you now, as President, have taken to new frontiers.<sup>244</sup>

### *estimate*

To estimate is to make an assertion that involves a numerical quantity with a special condition to the effect that the propositional content represents a numerical approximation and a preparatory condition such that the speaker is expected to have good reasons and evidence for believing what is estimated. Vanderveken does not discuss this performative verb.

This means realizing the fourth lesson reaffirmed by the past 18 days. Although the size of America's Armed Forces in the years ahead will be smaller because the threat to our security is changing, future American defense capacity must be even more ``a lean, mean fighting machine." And by 1995, we estimate that our security needs can be met by an active force 25 percent smaller than today's, the lowest level since 1950. And yet we must ensure that a reduction of numbers does not mean a reduction in American strength.<sup>245</sup>

Each of us has a role to play, so I am moving forward with steps I can take right now. You may remember I divided that State of the Union Message into steps I can take, short-term areas where we need legislation and then a longer term program. Right now, I have instructed every Cabinet Department to speed up progrowth expenditures. And we estimate that will be as much as billion worth in the next 6 months. We don't have to go to Congress to get them to do that; we just accelerate the spending plans to try to give this economy an extra kick.<sup>246</sup>

From biotechnology to banking to energy, we've made achievements that will lower costs and increase choices for American consumers. We've carried out reforms that will create and preserve good jobs for Americans and help us stay competitive in the world. We estimate that the reforms we've set in motion just since January 28th will save

---

<sup>244</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Toasts at the State Dinner for Prime Minister Robert Hawke of Australia, 1989-06-27

<sup>245</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Annual Conference of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Baltimore, Maryland, 1990-08-20

<sup>246</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, 1992-01-30

consumers about billion to billion a year. That's a savings of 5 to 0 per year for the average American family. And this is just a down payment on savings to come.<sup>247</sup>

### *contend*

To contend that P is to assert P with preparatory conditions that what one is asserting is a controversial view that is likely to be opposed by other people, and that the reasons one may have for asserting P may not be compelling evidence. Contend is similar to claim but has less strength. The verb *contend* is not discussed by Vanderveken.

You know, I will readily contend that I've never been too hot with words, and I think you know that. In fact, some of the more elite pundits say I can't finish a sentence. Well, they may be right from time to time. But I'll tell you something, though. I think you also know, I think especially the people here do, that I care very deeply about our Nation. And I believe that we must treat this precious treasure with great care. America is something that has been passed on to us. And we must shape it. We must improve it. We must help people and be kind to people. And then we must pass that on to our kids and to our grandkids.<sup>248</sup>

### *conclude*

To conclude (from Q) that P is to assert P with the preparatory condition that P was reached by a line of reasoning that included Q. The verb *conclude* is not discussed by Vanderveken.

You know, the longer I'm in the White House and privileged to serve as President of the United States, and the more Barbara and I discuss these enormous problems that Mayor Daley confronts in his excellent way every day, or Jim Edgar, the Governor of this State, confronts in his very effective way as Governor, the more we contemplate those problems and the more I look at this great country of ours that I'm privileged to lead at this point in history, and I must say it's a very exciting point, the more Barbara and I conclude that family is absolutely essential to our success. We have got to stay involved, we have got to stay fundamentally involved. And when I speak to this group, it's almost like preaching to the choir because I think if you exemplify one of the prime values and principles that this group and, indeed, Hispanic American culture all across our country exemplifies, is love of family and its faith and its conviction about our great country, the freest and fairest on the face of the Earth.<sup>249</sup>

### *point out*

To point out something P to someone is to assert P while presupposing (preparatory condition) that P bears some pertinence or import in the conversation and that the hearer

---

<sup>247</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks on Regulatory Reform, 1992-04-29

<sup>248</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Rally in Houston, Texas, 1992-11-02

<sup>249</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Annual National Convention of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Chicago, Illinois, 1991-09-20

should pay close attention to it. Syntactically, the verb often takes a *that-*, *how-* or *what-clause*. Vanderveken does not discuss this verb.

So, I hope that what you've heard today gives you some sense of how comprehensive our national strategy really is. I couldn't help but note that the minute I finished speaking there was the predictable response by some that we hadn't done enough. And that -- I try to be very tolerant and kind and gentle here -- [laughter] -- but nobody expected that the Members of the United States Congress, particularly from the other party, would stamp this enthusiastically. But I point out that I didn't hear one single substantive comment about the strategy itself that was critical. And so, what I'm saying is, maybe I'm just hearing what I want to hear, but I think there was a broad support for the coordinated strategy. And some are going to say you ought to put more emphasis on treatment or you ought to put more emphasis on education or you ought to put more emphasis on law enforcement, but the substance of the strategy has received very broad support.<sup>250</sup>

The President. But I think the State of the Union will give us a strong opportunity to get it across. Because we're in a political season, Ann [Ann Compton, ABC News]. And I point out what we've done in various areas, the benefits of a transportation bill, what we're doing in terms of a brand new education program. And it's pretty hard when you're out there getting hammered by the -- the only way for the opposition to win in the political season is to tear down the President. The American people see that.<sup>251</sup>

### *note*

To note something *P* to someone is to assert it while presupposing (preparatory condition) that *P* bears some pertinence or import in the conversation and that the hearer should pay close attention to it. *Note* is very similar to *point out*. Vanderveken does not discuss this verb.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a comprehensive report prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services, which explains the provisions of the Supplementary Agreement and the effect on social security financing as required by the same provision of the Social Security Act. I note that the Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services have recommended the Supplementary Agreement and related documents to me.<sup>252</sup>

---

<sup>250</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Meeting With Foreign Ambassadors and State and Local Leaders on the National Drug Control Strategy, 1989-09-06

<sup>251</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1992-01-22

<sup>252</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Message to the Congress Transmitting the Switzerland-United States Social Security Agreement, 1989-02-21

I note that military deconfrontation is the subject of one of the papers presented by the Turkish Cypriot community and that both sides have indicated agreement in principle with the concept.<sup>253</sup>

### *observe*

To observe that *P* is to assert *P* based on one's interpretation of personal observations and while presupposing (preparatory conditions) that the hearer may not have interpreted the situation in this way and that the hearer will find this an important interpretation of the situation. Vanderveken does not discuss this performative verb.

Well, the Russian people will now decide in two rounds of elections. My position is a very clear one. I support those political forces that pursue reform, that wish to open up Russia to the rest of the world, and that consider that to be a basic tenet of their policy. And I would support those who are pursuing a policy to build bridges, build bridges after all of the horrors that we have experienced, bridges to Europe but also to the United States of America and to the people of America.

And I think one simply will have to wait for the outcome of this election. I'm not one of those who reveres either of the candidates or any of the candidates as a sort of icon. I observe closely what is going on there, and I do hope--the outcome of that is I do hope that the present President will win the election.<sup>254</sup>

Q. Dr. Perry, do you think that with the return to conservative government in Moscow, that there's a possibility there may be a new cold war starting? I mean, it's early, but are there trends?

Deputy Secretary Perry. I would observe that we cannot control the events in other countries, including Russia, but we can influence them. And I believe the President has adopted a program to assist not just the Russians but many of the nations in the former Soviet Union to help stabilize their economy, and this is the most constructive thing we can do to minimize the chance of that unfortunate disaster occurring.<sup>255</sup>

### *subscribe(2)*

In its assertive use, to subscribe is to agree or concur with a belief. This verb is not discussed by Vanderveken.

But I also subscribe to the position taken by the G-7 that sooner or later--better sooner than later--the cycle of violence has to be broken. And ultimately, in any democracy, there has to be a political solution to people's differences. And so that is what we have urged.<sup>256</sup>

---

<sup>253</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Reporting on the Cyprus Conflict, 1989-03-01

<sup>254</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, The President's News Conference With Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany in Milwaukee, May 23, 1996

<sup>255</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks Announcing the Nomination of William Perry To Be Secretary of Defense and an Exchange With Reporters, January 24, 1994

<sup>256</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia in Halifax June 17, 1995

I'm very grateful to you personally, Mr. President, for the determination and the courage that you have documented in the last few weeks in standing by Boris Yeltsin. I underline and subscribe to every single word that you said on this one, that reforms are successful in Russia. And both of us are aware of the fact that any type of setback will in the end turn out to be much more expensive than any type of assistance we have the intention of granting right now.<sup>257</sup>

### *commend*

Vanderveken does not discuss the verb commend, but following Wierzbicka [1987, p. 200-201], to commend can also be defined as making an assertion about someone expressing approval of him or her. There is a propositional content condition that the proposition represents a human action. There is a precondition that the hearer is an audience and that the speaker has a public position which qualifies him as a potential judge in the matter. For example, "I commend the judgment of the Speaker of the House." Commend seems to differ from praise in that commending is a public act.

I commend the House and Senate for passing a version of the District of Columbia appropriations bill that I can sign. I am pleased that the Majority and Minority were able to come together on this legislation under the leadership of Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District's stalwart champion.<sup>258</sup>

### **Commissives**

#### *forswear*

To forswear a belief is to formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief. To forswear an action or behavior is to promise that you will stop doing something. This performative verb is not defined by Vanderveken

I have instructed the United States negotiating team in Geneva to implement my decisions at the next session which begins May 14. To demonstrate the United States commitment to banning chemical weapons, we are formally forswearing the use of chemical weapons for any reason, including retaliation, against any state, effective when the convention enters into force, and will propose that all states follow suit. Further, the United States unconditionally commits itself to the destruction of all our stocks of chemical weapons within 10 years of entry into force and will propose that all other states do likewise. We will offer technical assistance to others to do this efficiently and safely.<sup>259</sup>

#### *devote*

---

<sup>257</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, The President's News Conference With Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, March 26, 1993

<sup>258</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Statement on Signing the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2001, November 22, 2000

<sup>259</sup> Statement on Chemical Weapons, 1991-05-13

To devote oneself to a person, activity or cause is to commit oneself to that person, activity or cause. This performative verb was not defined by Vanderveken.

So we are, as an Administration, devoted to vigorous civil rights enforcement.<sup>260</sup>

## **Directives**

### ***exhort***

To exhort is to urge strongly. This performative verb is not defined by Vanderveken.

Let me leave you today with an exhortation: Make the most of your abilities. Question authority, but examine yourself. Demand good government, but strive to do what is good. Take risks. Muster the courage to be what I call a Point of Light. Also, define your missions positively. Don't seek out villains. Don't fall prey to obsessions about "freedom from" various ills. Focus on freedom's promise, on your promise.

### ***bid(2)***

In the directive sense, to bid someone to do something is to ask for or request earnestly. Vanderveken does not define this performative verb.

The American people are your friends. Friendship must be built upon three pillars: fairness, trust, and respect. We expect nothing less, and we ask for nothing more. Today marks a turning point for us in many ways. Together, we face the next millennium, a new order for the ages, a new world of freedom and democracy. We stand as the world's powers with the future presenting us with a decision. The United States has made its choice against isolationism and in favor of engagement, against protectionism and for expanding trade. Today we bid Japan to do the same because engagement and open trade are in your best interest.<sup>261</sup>

### ***plead***

To plead is to appeal for aid, mercy or support on grounds such as justice, common sense, humanity, etc. This verb is synonymous with appeal. This verb is not discussed by Vanderveken.

I would discourage the American people from overreacting to this. It's a very serious thing. And I'm heartbroken for the people who were killed and their families and those who were injured. There was some significant business disruptions, too, as you probably know and as I'm afraid we'll find out more about in the next day or two, just by shutting down the World Trade Center and all the activities that go on there. But I would plead with the American people and the good people of New York to right now keep your

---

<sup>260</sup> Bush Presidential Library, Transcribed Remarks by Charles E.M. Kolb, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, American Legislative Exchange Council, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, February 20, 1991

<sup>261</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Text of Remarks at the Japanese Welcoming Committee Luncheon in Tokyo, 1992-01-09

courage up, go on about your lives. And we're working as hard as we can to get to the bottom of this.<sup>262</sup>

## **Declaratives**

### *reject(2)*

In the declarative use, to reject(2) is the illocutionary denegation of approve(1), that is to declare that something is not good or valid. Vanderveken does not define this sense of the verb.

The environmental movement has a long history here in this country. It's been a force for good, for a safer, healthier America. And as a people, we want and need that economic growth, but now we must also expect environmental responsibility and respect the natural world. And this will demand a national sense of commitment, a new ethic of conservation. And I reject the notion that sound ecology and a strong economy are mutually exclusive. So, last week I outlined five points of a new environmental philosophy: one, to harness the power of the marketplace; two, to encourage local initiative; three, to emphasize prevention instead of just cleanup; four, to foster international cooperation; and five, to ensure strict enforcement -- polluters will pay.<sup>263</sup>

When I was here 12 months ago, in speaking to a Joint Session of the Congress, I referred to that thesis which had been gaining some currency: that this was a nation in some sort of relative decline. I said then that that was a thesis that I dispute, a concept that I reject, because all the evidence of recent times, in my analysis, points in the other direction. It is not merely a question of the continuation of your great economic might but, on all the evidence, of leadership that has been -- the courage of the previous administration of which you were such a leading part, and which you now, as President, have taken to new frontiers.<sup>264</sup>

As a partner, let me pledge to you: Our administration will listen. I meant it when I said earlier Washington doesn't know best, the people do. For I reject implicitly the notion of Federal mandates -- Federal mandates back telling the State legislatures or the Governor what they have to do. I reject Federal mandates, Federal bullying, in education. Instead, what we need and what I'm asking for are local ideas, local creativity, and more local autonomy.<sup>265</sup>

### *toast*

To toast is to propose a drink (toast) in honor of a person or event or to the health of a person.

---

<sup>262</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at the Adult Learning Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey, March 1, 1993

<sup>263</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks Announcing Proposed Legislation To Amend the Clean Air Act, 1989-06-12

<sup>264</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Toasts at the State Dinner for Prime Minister Robert Hawke of Australia, 1989-06-27

<sup>265</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the Five-State Legislators Conference in Helena, Montana, 1989-09-18

And so, tonight I would like to toast those who have heard the call and followed it -- those who have sacrificed so much in order that America might enjoy a sure foundation of freedom and happiness. And I toast our teachers -- those who taught us, those who sacrifice to teach our children, and those among us who have been members of this proud profession, the 6 members of my Cabinet -- 6 -- and the 13 Governors present who are former teachers. And just to give a small plug for alternative certification, there is one person present who has never held a teaching position, yet has been a leader in the fight against illiteracy, and that is my wife, Barbara.<sup>266</sup>

Mr. President, I toast with you and with all of those present here to the permanent friendship between two democracies united by their common faith in liberty and the dignity of mankind. Thank you.<sup>267</sup>

### ***waive(1), waive(2)***

*Waive* has two declarative senses. To waive one's rights is to relinquish those rights. To waive an obligation or portion of a law is to dispense with the obligation or portion of the law. Neither of these senses are defined by Vanderveken.

The following are examples of the second sense, *waive(2)*.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (hereinafter ``the Act"), I hereby determine, pursuant to section 212(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2702(b)), that the designation of Nicaragua as a beneficiary country under the Act will be in the national security interest of the United States. Accordingly, I waive the application of paragraph (7) of section 212(b) of the Act.<sup>268</sup>

Consistent with section 8105(d)(2) of the Department of Defense Appropriation Act, 1991 (Public Law 101 - 511; 104 Stat. 1856), I hereby waive the limitation in section 8105(b) which states that the end strength level for each fiscal year of all personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in Japan may not exceed the number that is 5,000 less than such end strength level for the preceding fiscal year, and declare that it is in the national interest to do so.<sup>269</sup>

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 402(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (``Act") (19 U.S.C. 2432(c)(2)), which continues to apply to Romania pursuant to section 402(d), and having made the report to the Congress required by section

---

<sup>266</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Toasts of the President and Governor Terry Branstad of Iowa at the Education Summit Dinner in Charlottesville, Virginia, 1989-09-27

<sup>267</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Toasts at the State Dinner for President Violeta Chamorro of Nicaragua, 1991-04-17

<sup>268</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Presidential Determination No. 91 - 8 -- Memorandum on the Liberalization of Trade and Investment With Nicaragua, 1990-11-07

<sup>269</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Memorandum on United States Armed Forces in Japan, 1991-05-14

402(c)(2) of the Act, I hereby waive the application of sections 402(a) and 402(b) of the Act with respect to Romania.<sup>270</sup>

### *condemn(2)*

In its expressive use, to condemn is to express strong disapproval of. This performative verb is not defined by Vanderveken.

Q Well, I'm just wondering since there's one candidate, Duke, who's already making race an issue and since he's positioned to take votes away from you, how you plan to handle this?

THE PRESIDENT: In the first place, I'm not sure -- I haven't analyzed it enough to know where David Duke takes votes away from. When you look across the spectrum in Louisiana and who voted for what candidates before and what parishes the votes came from -- and, you know, we'll wait and see on that. But I think -- I don't care whether it's good politics or not, I condemn bigotry and I condemn racism, and this man is a racist and he is a bigot. I don't believe that costs votes anywhere for me to take that position in opposition to an extreme.<sup>271</sup>

I condemn in the strongest possible terms this horrendous act of terrorist violence. Once again, the enemies of peace have struck down innocent people in an evil effort to destroy the hopes of peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Arabs.<sup>272</sup>

### *exempt*

To exempt someone from P is to declare that a rule or requirement P does not apply to someone. There is a preparatory condition that the speaker has the authority to exempt someone for P, and a propositional content condition the P is a rule or requirement. This verb is not discussed by Vanderveken or Wierzbicka.

I find that it is in the paramount interest of the United States to exempt the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, (the subject of litigation in *Kasza V. Browner* (D. Nev. CV-S-94-795-PMP) and *Frost v. Perry* (D. Nev. CV-S-94-714-PMP)), from any applicable requirement for the disclosure to unauthorized persons of classified information concerning that operating location. Therefore, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6961(a), I hereby exempt the Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, from any Federal, State, interstate, or local provision respecting control and abatement of solid waste or hazardous waste disposal that would require the disclosure

---

<sup>270</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Executive Order 12772 -- Waiver Under the Trade Act of 1974 With Respect to Romania, 1991-08-17

<sup>271</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, Press Release, PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT, December 5, 1991

<sup>272</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Statement on the Terrorist Bombing in Israel, January 22, 1995

of classified information concerning that operating location to any unauthorized person. This exemption shall be effective for the full one-year statutory period.<sup>273</sup>

## **Expressives**

### *pride*

To pride oneself is to be satisfied with one's (or another's) achievements.

Q. Mr. President, Philip Terzian, the Providence Journal. In your Inaugural Address, you called for a higher level of cooperation between the executive and legislative branches. And I was wondering: In the past year I realize the House leadership had some unexpected turmoil, but have you been pleased, distressed, surprised by the character of White House-Capitol Hill relations?

The President. Well, being somewhat of a realist, I can't say I was surprised, but -- and there have been some negative and highly partisan comments. I pride myself on the fact that I don't believe anybody can point to a personal observation on the negative side by me about any of the Democratic leaders, and I am going to continue that way.<sup>274</sup>

Q. You indicated in the beginning of your statement that you feel you do have a mandate now on this China policy. A lot of people have criticized it as a secret policy. You also indicated that perhaps you might do more to keep Congress informed. Why not keep them informed of these secret missions, and what do you plan to do in terms of keeping them informed?

The President. Well, I think we do. We bend over backwards to keep people informed in the Congress. And I think once in a while there is something that is done quietly, and then when it is proper, why, we'll give a thorough and full briefing. And I think in this one, when this matter was disclosed by us, we immediately briefed Congress on what it was we had intended to do, why we did it. And so, I don't think there's any real lack of consultation. In fact, I pride myself on the fact that we have had outstanding consultation. And I've had these leaders down here over and over again -- bipartisan -- and I'm going to continue to do that.<sup>275</sup>

Q. Well, perhaps I can ask both of you: Is Britain America's most important ally in Europe?

The Prime Minister. I think you might put it more tactfully. [Laughter] America has allies throughout Europe and throughout the free world. I would like to think that we pride ourselves of being among the foremost of United States friends, and we will always be. I

---

<sup>273</sup> Presidential Determination No. 99-37, September 20, 1999, Presidential Determination on Classified Information Concerning the Air Force's Operating Location Near Groom Lake, Nevada

<sup>274</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With Newspaper Editors, 1989-12-11

<sup>275</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference, 1990-01-25

think it's quite wrong that because you have one friend you should exclude the possibility of other friendships as well. And I'm sure the President doesn't, and I don't. We both have many friends in Europe.<sup>276</sup>

Q. What will be your course of action, sir, toward Indonesia now that, through the witness of two American journalists, it has become apparent that there are problems with the human rights in East Timor? And what would be your advice, sir, to the Government of Portugal as the administrating power and the future chairman of the EC to actually rectify the situation in East Timor, sir?

The President. Well, a lot of discussion is going on, on the tragedy in East Timor. We have expressed ourself in terms of the pure human rights part of it. And I don't know that on this trip we will be directly involved in any way in that particular question. We pride ourselves, and I think properly so, on standing up for human rights, and I think we've made clear to the parties that are interested there the U.S. position. I don't know how it will come out, frankly, at forthcoming meetings. I just can't help you on that.<sup>277</sup>

Now, this has been a triumph for the 28 nations united against aggression. But as I said in my address to the Nation the final night of Kuwait's liberation, this is not a time to gloat or it's not a time to brag. It's a time to be proud, fiercely proud -- proud of our troops, proud of our friends who stood with us, and proud of our people. Their strength and perseverance endured that our success was as certain as our cause was true.<sup>278</sup>

### ***bid(3)***

In the expressive sense, to bid somebody something is to express a desire concerning their future or fortune. Vanderveken does not define this performative verb.

The President. Well, first, my respects to the former Secretaries of Labor who are here. Secretary Usery I know is here and Secretary McLaughlin, Secretary Brock, and I hope I'm not missing others -- maybe they're there. So, I bid welcome to all of you, certainly to our new Secretary Elizabeth Dole and her mother and others that are here with us today -- certainly to her husband, Bob Dole, who is with us up here.<sup>279</sup>

Mr. President, ties have never been stronger, our friendship never deeper. And for now, I bid you an affectionate farewell. I wish you well up there at the United Nations. And I hope and believe we will see much of each other in the months and the years ahead. Thank you for coming our way.<sup>280</sup>

### ***resent***

---

<sup>276</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session Following Discussions With Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London, 1989-06-01

<sup>277</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, The President's News Conference With Foreign Correspondents, 1991-12-19

<sup>278</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Veterans Service Organizations, 1991-03-04

<sup>279</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Elizabeth H. Dole as Secretary of Labor, 1989-01-30

<sup>280</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks Following Discussions With President Turgut Ozal of Turkey, 1990-09-25

To resent is to express a feeling of bitterness or indignation about something. This performative verb was not defined by Vanderveken.

I deeply object to and resent two statements to the effect that people were fired by the President when such was not the case.<sup>281</sup>

### *hope*

To hope is to express optimism toward some future state of affairs. This performative verb was not defined by Vanderveken.

We hope that the Florida News Network, through their town meetings, has helped you make an informed choice on November 3d.<sup>282</sup>

### *trust(2)*

To trust a person is to believe in the honesty and reliability of the person. Vanderveken does not discuss this verb.

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. This is a very special occasion for me because, as most -- I'd say please be seated, but -- [laughter] -- I don't think that would go over too well back there. What a wonderful, wonderful turnout for our new Secretary. But this is a special occasion, Bob Mosbacher and I have been friends for a quarter of a century -- more. And I trust his advice; I respect what he's accomplished in business. And I know he will be a very valuable member of our economic team.<sup>283</sup> Not far from here is the hometown of a great former Indiana Senator who, in my view, has been an even greater Vice President -- a man I trust, a Hoosier I rely on, Dan Quayle. He is serving our nation very well, thank you.<sup>284</sup>

## **4. Additional Examples of Previously Considered Performative Verbs**

Additional examples are needed for the 62 performative verbs for which examples were found in the corpus of 120 records from the Bush Presidential library. This is because only one or two examples were found for most of the verbs, and these do not represent the variety of modes of expression for these verbs, e.g., active voice, passive voice, possessive pronoun plus nominalized verb, etc. This section provides such examples from the *Public Papers of the Presidents*.

---

<sup>281</sup> Bush Presidential Library, Bush Presidential Records, Office of Policy Development, Roger B. Porter's Files

<sup>282</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Question-and-Answer Session in Miami, October 23, 1992

<sup>283</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Robert A. Mosbacher as Secretary of Commerce, 1989-02-03

<sup>284</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at a Tree-Planting Ceremony in Indianapolis, Indiana, 1990-04-03

## 4.1 Assertives

The illocutionary point of an assertive is to express an actual state of affairs of the world.

### *assert*

“The primitive assertive in English is ‘assert’, which names the force of assertion.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 169] There are no propositional content conditions. The preparatory condition is that the speaker has reasons to support the proposition. The sincerity condition is that the speaker believes the proposition.

We have a lot in common. We both began our careers as State attorneys general in our home States at a relatively young age. And just as I am the first President from Hope, I am reliably informed that I can assert today that Fritz Mondale is our Nation's first Ambassador to Japan from Elmore.<sup>285</sup>

Illicit trafficking and diversion of military equipment are also serious concerns. We will continue to exercise particular vigilance with regard to exports of small arms and light weapons. We adopted a joint declaration on “Common Principles on Small Arms and Light Weapons”, on December 17, 1999, which encompasses these standards. We support the Moratorium and the Code of Conduct adopted by ECOWAS in 1999 and assert our intention to respect the Moratorium's principles when examining export applications at the national level.<sup>286</sup>

### *deny*

“‘Deny’ is systematically both assertive and declarative. In the assertive sense, to deny a proposition is to negate that proposition by asserting the contrary or opposite proposition. There is generally, perhaps always, a preparatory condition to the effect that the denial is a denial of something that has been affirmed. Further, while virtually any claim may be negated, denial seems to be related to matters of some importance and perhaps also related to accusation (further preparatory conditions).” [Vanderveken 1990 p 170]

### *state*

To state is to assert. “State” has a nuance of entering into a larger or more formal discourse as a “statement”. There is an additional preparatory condition to the effect that what is asserted is a matter of some importance. [Vanderveken 1990 p. 171]

### *declare(1)*

---

<sup>285</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Remarks Announcing the Nomination of Walter Mondale To Be Ambassador to Japan and an Exchange With Reporters, June 11, 1993

<sup>286</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Declaration by the United States and the European Union on the Responsibilities of States and on Transparency Regarding Arms Exports, December 18, 2000

“The verb ‘to declare’ while being the primitive declarative, also has an assertive use very like that of ‘assert’. This is why grammar calls ‘*declarative sentences*’ those that are in the indicative mood and which generally serve to make assertions. In its assertive use, to make a declaration is to affirm publicly a proposition that directly concerns the speaker with the perlocutionary intention of making this known.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 171]

### *tell(1)*

“To tell in the assertive sense that something is the case is generally to make a strong assertion in a rather peremptory way (mode of achievement) that presumes (preparatory condition) virtual certitude and hence implies no reasonable option of critique.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 171]

### *report*

“To report is to assert with the propositional content condition to the effect that the propositional content is about either the past in relation to the time of utterance, or in some cases, the present.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 173]

I hereby report to the Congress on developments since the last Presidential report of April 6, 1989, concerning the national emergency with respect to Panama that was declared in Executive Order No. 12635 of April 8, 1988. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).<sup>287</sup>

### *advise*

*Advise* is systematically ambiguous, being both an assertive and a directive. Assert takes both infinitives and *that*-clauses. To advise someone that P is to assert P where it the proposition is in the future (propositional content condition) and P is good for the hearer (preparatory condition) and the directive purpose is to suggest the hearer do something about it. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 174]

Advise, in its assertive use, “is an official speech act, often performed (in writing) by institutions addressing individuals. It is also characteristic of lawyers, agents, and other professional people, who need to convey information to their clients and other members of the public, implying that they are acting in the addressee’s interest.” [Wierzbicka 1987, p. 182]

So, many are getting the word out. But I'd like to enlist one other group in the L.A. area that has a special responsibility: those in the entertainment industry. Television, films, and music are a positive influence. And my advice to them -- my entreaty is: Use that influence wisely to do good. I know that many in the business are already concerned and active, but I never want to see a movie again that makes drug use into something humorous. It is time that they got behind this crusade. This community has raised your

---

<sup>287</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Message to the Congress Reporting on the Economic Sanctions Against Panama, 1989-10-19

voices; you've raised your voices so effectively in the cause of so many issues. Can you not raise them once more in support of a cause so important? In the work you do and the lives you lead, help us send a strong message, the right message, to a new generation of Americans: We want a drug-free America!<sup>288</sup>

Q. I'm about to graduate from college in journalism. And you started out by saying "Annoy the Media. Vote for Bush," and that sort of thing. What exactly is your problem in detail with the media, and what advice could you have for me as I start out in that field?

The President. My advice to you in the field is be objective if you want to be a journalist, if you want to be a journalist. If you want to be a columnist or an editorialist, then, of course, that's a different ball game. But I think be objective. I have never seen media having these programs at night analyzing each other, saying, are we being fair? They know very well they wouldn't be having these programs if there was some question about that.<sup>289</sup>

It is with deep respect and heartfelt gratitude that I advise you of my wish to resign as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy at the end of November.<sup>290</sup>

### ***remind***

“To remind someone of something is to assert it while presupposing (preparatory condition) that he knew it and may have forgotten. Generally there is the additional assumption that *P* bears some pertinence or import (conversationally) that it may not have had when it first came to the hearer’s attention. Reminding is essentially hearer directed.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 174]

### ***inform***

“To inform is hearer directed that it is to assert with the preparatory condition the hearer does not already know *P*.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 175]

### ***certify(1)***

---

<sup>288</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to Law Enforcement Officers in Orange County, California, 1989-04-25

<sup>289</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session in Lafayette, Louisiana, 1992-10-24

<sup>290</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Letter Accepting the Resignation of William J. Bennett as Director of National Drug Control Policy, 1990-11-08

“In the assertive sense, to certify is to assure that a proposition is true, in a formal way with the perlocutionary intention of having the hearer feel ‘certain’ of the truth of the proposition.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 176]

I can certify to the American people with total confidence that we have the finest intelligence capability in the world.<sup>291</sup>

### ***agree(1), concur***

In an assertive sense, “to agree is to assert a proposition P while presupposing that other persons have previously put forward this proposition and while expressing one’s accord or agreement with these persons as regards P.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 177]

*Concur* names the same illocutionary force as *agree(1)*. To concur or agree with someone that P is the same thing.

Mikhail Gorbachev has written: “Universal security rests on the recognition of the right of every nation to choose its own path of social development and on the renunciation of interference in the domestic affairs of other states. A nation may choose either capitalism or socialism. This is its sovereign right.” In principle, I agree, but I might well have said that the people of a nation may freely choose either a free-market economy or socialism -- that is their right. And so, the West works not to disrupt, not to interfere, not to threaten any nation's security but to help forge closer and enduring ties between Poland and the rest of Europe.<sup>292</sup>

We agree that increasing energy efficiency could make a substantial contribution to these goals. We urge international organizations concerned to encourage measures, including economic measures, to improve energy conservation and, more broadly, efficiency in the use of energy of all kinds and to promote relevant techniques and technologies.<sup>293</sup>

### ***acknowledge***

“To acknowledge is to recognize openly (mode of achievement).” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 178]

### ***praise(1)***

To praise is to make an assertion about someone or something while expressing approval of him, her or it. There is a propositional content condition that the state or affairs

---

<sup>291</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Robert Gates as Director of Central Intelligence, 1991-11-12

<sup>292</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Remarks to the Polish National Assembly in Warsaw, 1989-07-10

<sup>293</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Paris Economic Summit: Economic Declaration, 1989-07-16

represented by the proposition is good and a sincerity condition that the speaker approves of that state of affairs. For example, “I praise his devotion to peace.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 178-179]

I honor and praise the courage of the Secretary-General and the United Nations for acknowledging just a few days ago the grievous error of the U.N. in waiting so long to act, and that wait being responsible in part for the travesty of Srebrenica.<sup>294</sup>

### *salute*

To salute is to commend (express approval of) something or someone for their action. *Commend* and *salute* seem to designate one and the same action. Neither Vanderveken nor Wierzbicka consider this verb.

### *amend*

To amend is to presuppose (preparatory condition) that there has been a prior assertion or declaration and to assert a proposition that adds to or revises the prior proposition (propositional content condition). Vanderveken and Wierzbicka do not discuss amend as a speech act.

## **4.2 Commissives**

The commissive illocutionary point is to commit the speaker to doing something.

### *commit*

“The performative pronominal verb ‘commit’ names the primitive commissive force.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 182] The propositional content condition is that the proposition represents a future course of action for the speaker. The preparatory condition is that the speaker is capable of carrying out that course of action. The sincerity condition is that the speaker intends to carry out that action.

Ms. Liasson. Mr. President, moving to domestic policy and the budget surplus, Republicans and Democrats on the Hill have already said what they want to do with it, either cut taxes or pay down the debt or spend more money on social problems. But so far, you've been silent on this. And I'm wondering if you are ready to make a commitment to using whatever surplus there might be to shoring up the Social Security Trust Funds, making sure that safety net is there for the baby boom generation when it retires.

---

<sup>294</sup> Remarks at the Opening of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Summit in Istanbul, November 18, 1999

The President. Well, I'll make a commitment that--in my State of the Union Address, I'll announce what I think should be done.<sup>295</sup>

### *pledge*

“To pledge is to commit oneself strongly to doing something. Thus the illocutionary force of a pledge is obtained by increasing the degree of strength of a commitment.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 182]

### *accept*

“In general, to accept *P* is to commit ourselves to do *P* (or to permit that *P* be done) while presupposing (as a preparatory condition) that the hearer or some other person has requested *P* in previous conversation.” [Vanderveken 1990, p 184]

### *welcome(1)*

To welcome *P* is to accept *P* gladly. Proposition *P* represents a state of affairs other than the arrival of a person(s). As preparatory conditions, the hearer might expect that the speaker would not accept the condition gladly, unless the speaker said so. Vanderveken does not define this meaning of the performative verb, but does define welcome for the expressive meaning of greet.

### *tender(1), tender(2)*

There are two performative senses of tender. First, “to tender is to put in or submit a bid in the formal context of a contract (as in construction, for example). Again, there are rules that determine the ‘winner’ (preparatory and propositional content conditions).” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 186]

Second, to tender is to offer or present for acceptance a resignation. A preparatory condition is that the speaker holds an office, and a propositional content condition is that the proposition refers to a resignation. This sense of tender is not defined by Vanderveken.

## **4.3 Directives**

The directive point is to try to get other people to do things.

### *direct*

---

<sup>295</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, William J. Clinton*, Interview With Mara Liasson and Robert Siegel of National Public Radio, January 21, 1998

“The verb direct names the primitive directive illocutionary force. It is generally used in the passive form as in “You are hereby directed to...” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 189] The propositional content condition is that the proposition represents a future course of action of the hearer. The preparatory condition is that the hearer is capable of carrying out that action. The sincerity condition is that the speaker wants or desires the hearer to carry out that action.

### *request, ask(1)*

To request someone to do P is to direct them to do P while allowing them the possibility of refusing to carry out the action represented by P. Requests are usually accompanied by the modifier “Please”. [Vanderveken 1990 p. 189]

“‘Ask’ has two distinct directive uses. One can ask someone to do something or ask him questions (e.g., ‘ask whether’, ‘ask why’, ‘ask whom’). In the first use, ‘ask’ names the same illocutionary force as ‘request’. To ask or request that someone do P is the same thing.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 190]

### *ask(2)*

“To ask a question is to request the hearer to perform a future speech act that would give the original speaker a correct answer to his question. The logical form of an answer to a question is determined by the propositional content of that question, and need not be an assertion. Thus, for example, the question “Is John in Paris?” expects an assertion or a denial that John is in Paris as possible answers. On the other hand, the question “Do you promise to come?” expects a promise or the denegation of a promise.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 190]

### *urge*

“The primary use of ‘urge’ is as a directive which advocates a particular course of action with a mode of achievement of some strength on account of the preparatory condition that it is important, or a matter of some ‘urgency’. A speaker who urges a hearer to do something must therefore presuppose that he has reasons for the course of action urged.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 190]

### *encourage*

“To encourage, in the directive sense, is to request that the hearer do something with the perlocutionary intention of inspiring him with courage (mode of achievement) while presupposing that the course of action advocated requires courage and that the speaker must somehow lend or inspire this needed courage.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 190-191]

### *call on*

To *call on* is to appeal for help with the understanding that there will be public pressure for the addressee to provide the help (mode of achievement). A sincerity condition is that the act is earnest. A propositional content condition is that P represents something that the hearer believes should be done. Vanderveken does not define *call on*.

### ***invite***

“To invite is to request someone to become party to something, perhaps a group or a process, and this is a propositional content condition. Generally speaking there is a preparatory condition to the effect that it is something the hearer will be happy about and that is perceived to be good for him. There is an option of refusal in this mode of achievement.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 191]

### ***order(1)***

“To give an order is to demand of the hearer that he do something while invoking a position of authority or of power over him.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 194]

An order, like a request, can take an action noun as its direct object, as in “I order an investigation.” An order can also be expressed in the form “I order you to verb.”

### ***block***

To block is to forbid the transfer of property or a financial transaction (propositional content condition). A preparatory condition is that the transfer or financial transactions were previously allowed. Vanderveken does not define this performative verb.

### ***prohibit***

To prohibit is “to forbid not only here and now but also more generally at other places and over a longer period of time (special propositional content conditions). Some prohibitions are made by way of declarations.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 195]

### ***suggest(2)***

“In the directive sense, suggest is just to make a weak attempt to get someone to do something” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 195]

### ***propose***

“To propose that a hearer carry out some action is to suggest that he accept doing that action.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 195]

### ***advise***

Advise is systematically ambiguous having both an assertive and directive use. “To advise a course of action is to suggest that someone perform that action while presupposing that it would be good for him to do it.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 197] See advise in Assertives for examples.

### *recommend*

“To recommend is to advise while presupposing that the future action recommended is good in general, and not only for the hearer. When one recommends a person or thing to a hearer, one recommends that he favor that person or thing.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 197] The direct object of recommend is usually an object, person or action.

### *authorize*

To authorize is both directive and declarative. “To authorize an action is to permit someone to perform that action while also declaring his authority or official power to do it.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 197] See the section on declaratives for an example.

## **4.4 Declaratives**

The declarative point is to change the world by saying so.

### *declare(2)*

“The primitive declarative verb is ‘declare’, which names the illocutionary force of declaration. ‘Declare’, as we have noted also has an assertive use, but in its declarative use it exemplifies the characteristic features of the set in that the speaker purely and simply makes something the case by declaring it so. Most other declarative illocutionary forces are formed by adding special propositional content conditions determining corresponding preparatory conditions.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 199] There are no propositional content conditions for declare. The preparatory condition is that the speaker has the power or authority to bring about the state of affairs represented by the propositional content. The sincerity conditions are that the speaker believes that he brings it about and that he desires to do so.

### *resign*

“To resign is to renounce one’s tenure of a position, thus making it the case by declaration that it is terminated. This special propositional content condition determines the preparatory condition that one in fact occupies the position and has the power to relinquish it.” [Vanderveken 1990 p 199]

### *retire*

To retire is to resign a position because of reaching the age of retirement. That one has occupied the position and has reached the age of retirement are preparatory conditions.

Vanderveken and Wierzbicka do not discuss retire.

### ***deny***

“Deny’ has, as we have seen, a use that is both assertive and declarative. To deny is to make a declaration, to the effect that a putative claim is void. We can therefore deny the truth of statements, access or rights to claims or to a course of action, and I can deny my faith, but in all cases with the systematic use of both assertive and declarative forces.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 201] See *deny* in the section 3.1.1 on Assertives for an example.

### ***proclaim***

To proclaim is for somebody with the power to do so to declare to a wide audience a new desirable state of affairs (propositional content condition). The preparatory condition is that the speaker has the power or authority to bring about the state of affairs represented by the propositional content. The sincerity conditions are that the speaker believes that he brings it about and that he desires to do so. Vanderveken does not define the performative verb proclaim.

### ***confirm***

“Whenever one confirms P, one makes “firm” or more firm a previous declaration of P. Thus to confirm is to approve while presupposing that a declaration with the same propositional content has already been performed.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 202]

### ***nominate***

“To nominate is to declare that someone is a candidate for a position that is to be filled by a person chosen from nominees by a process of selection, appointment or voting. There is a preparatory condition to the effect that such a process is under way and a propositional content condition to the effect that the person’s name be put forward. The successful candidate is declared successful after the appropriate process, and in some way or other (appointment, installation, licencing, etc.) authorized to fulfill the function in question.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 205]

### ***appoint***

“To appoint is to name someone to a position of status of some authority.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 205]

### *authorize*

“To authorize is systematically both declarative and directive. It is directive in that it is the granting of permission, while its declarative force comes from its mode of achievement. That is, one declares (from a position of appropriate authority) that a person or group of persons has the granted authority to exercise power in a way pertinent to the context. For example, ‘I authorize you to sign these documents on my behalf.’” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 205]

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President by the Food Security Wheat Reserve Act of 1980 (the ``Act'') (7 U.S.C. 1736f - 1), I hereby authorize the release in fiscal year 1991 of up to 300,000 metric tons of wheat from the reserve established under the Act (the ``reserve'') for use under Title II of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), to meet relief needs that exist in developing countries of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, which I hereby determine are suffering major disasters. The wheat will be used to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the peoples in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia who are suffering widespread hunger and malnutrition.<sup>296</sup>

### *delegate*

To delegate is to declare that the authority to perform a function is transferred to another person. A preparatory condition is that the speaker has the authority to exercise that power. Neither Vanderveken nor Wierzbicka discuss *delegate*.

### *designate*

To designate is to assign a task to (a person) or to name a person to perform a task. A preparatory condition is that the speaker has the power to assign the task. Neither Vanderveken nor Wierzbicka discuss designate as a performative verb.

### *terminate*

“To terminate is to declare that a committee, a process or the like is ‘ended’ or has ‘come to its term’. One ‘terminates’ something that has previously been ‘established’.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 207]

### *veto*

“To veto is to declare a process, proposed bill or enactment defeated by virtue of one’s own singular vote. This is a case of a very special context and mode of achievement unique to persons of great power, such as a president. A veto is therefore a special kind of vote.” [Vanderveken 1990, p 208]

---

<sup>296</sup> *Public Papers of the Presidents, George Bush*, Presidential Determination No. 91 - 38 -- Memorandum on the Use of Wheat Reserve for Disaster Assistance, 1991-05-31

### ***determine, find***

To determine (or find) is to declare a determination or decision. A determination (or finding) is based on the power and discretion (preparatory conditions) of the person making the determination and a clear authority in the mode of achievement. Neither Vanderveken nor Wierzbicka discuss determine or find.

### ***revoke***

To revoke is to declare “the formal, usually legal, calling back or drawing back of a former decision or enactment. There is a preparatory condition to the effect that this reality is in place, and a propositional content condition to the effect that it be withdrawn.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 211]

## **4.5 Expressives**

The illocutionary point of expressive verbs is to express feelings and attitudes.

### ***approve(2), endorse***

“To approve, in the expressive sense, is to express positive feeling of approval or support for a state of affairs or an action with the preparatory condition that this is good.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 215]

“Endorse” names the same illocutionary force as approve(2). To endorse or approve a state of affairs or an action is the same thing. Vanderveken does not discuss this verb.

### ***mourn***

“To mourn is to grieve [express sorrow] deeply over personal loss, usually the death of someone close.” [Vanderveken 1990 p. 217]

### ***congratulate***

“To congratulate is to express happiness for some good fortune that has come the way of the hearer.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 219]

### ***thank***

“To thank is to express gratitude. There is a preparatory condition to the effect that the hearer is responsible for a state of affairs that is good for the speaker.” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 219]

Thanking persons in responding (replying) to their letters is formulaic and does not seem to express any warm feelings. Furthermore, a letter as a whole, even though opening with an expression of thanks, might better be considered to be an act of replying or responding to a letter.

### ***apologize***

“To apologize is to express sorrow or regret (sincerity condition) for something judged bad and that the speaker is responsible for (preparatory condition).” [Vanderveken 1990, p. 219]

### ***welcome(2)***

To welcome someone is to express courteous acknowledgement of his presence (sincerity condition) with the preparatory condition that it is the hearer who has “arrived”, and the sincerity condition that one is genuinely happy to see him. The act is hearer directed and is a marginal expressive speech act since there is no propositional content. [Vanderveken 1990, p. 219]

### ***appreciate***

Expressing appreciation is a speaker-oriented means of expressing gratitude for some action of the hearer. Thanking and appreciating are like two sides of the same coin. To appreciate is to express that the speaker is grateful for what the hearer has done. As with thanking, there is a preparatory condition to the effect that the hearer is responsible for a state of affairs that is good for the speaker. Vanderveken and Wierzbicka do not discuss this verb.

### ***regret***

The point of regretting is to express remorse, sorrow or contrition (sincerity condition) for a bad situation (preparatory condition). Vanderveken does not discuss this verb.

### ***trust(1)***

To trust that P is to hope or desire that P. Vanderveken does not define this illocutionary force.

### ***believe***

To believe P is to express a belief that P. There are no preparatory or propositional content conditions. The sincerity condition is that the speaker believes P. The strength of the sincerity condition corresponds to the speaker’s degree of belief in the proposition.

Recall that the illocutionary force or act *assert* has only two conditions. The preparatory condition is that the speaker has reasons to support the proposition. The sincerity

condition is that the speaker believes the proposition. Consequently, if a speaker asserts P, then the speaker also expresses a belief P.

If a speaker believes P, it can be because the speaker has reasons (proof or evidence), but that is not necessary. A speaker can believe P without proof or evidence, for example, on faith or because it is one of his basic principles or values. Consequently, it is not the case that if a speaker believes P, then the speaker also asserts P.

### *desire, want*

To desire P is to express a feeling of desire for a state of affairs designated by P. There are no preparatory or propositional content conditions. There is a sincerity condition that the speaker desires the content of the proposition. *Want* names the same illocutionary force as desire. To *want* or *desire* that P is the same thing.

### *intend*

To intend P is to express an intention P. The propositional content condition is that the proposition represents a future course of action for the speaker. The sincerity condition is that the speaker intends to carry out that action. There is no preparatory condition.

Recall that the illocutionary force *commit* has three conditions. The propositional content condition is that the proposition represents a future course of action for the speaker. The preparatory condition is that the speaker is capable of carrying out that course of action. The sincerity condition is that the speaker intends to carry out that action. Consequently, if a speaker commits to P, then the speaker also expresses an intention P, that is intends P.

If a speaker intends P, then the speaker may not have the capability of accomplishing P. Consequently, it is not the case that if a speaker intends P, then the speaker also commits to P.

## **5. Conclusion**

In the *Public Papers of the Presidents*, examples were found [1989-2005] of approximately 152 of the 271 performative verbs defined by Vanderveken. Some of the remaining 119 performative verbs defined by Vanderveken were not found because they are verbs that would only be used by legislators, members of the judiciary, or members of the clergy. For instance, the verbs *ratify*, *enact*, *legislate* and *repeal* are most likely to be used by legislators or legislative bodies. The verbs *sentence*, *acquit*, *clear*, *homologate*, *adjudge*, *condemn*, *disculpate*, *exonerate* and *rule* are most likely to be used by the judiciary. The verbs *baptize*, *christen* and *excommunicate* are used by the Christian clergy or ecclesiastic bodies.

Records that are preserved in Presidential libraries include not just those created by the Executive Office of the President, but documents that are received and saved as records

that were created by legislators, the judges, and clergy. Furthermore, federal records that are preserved by NARA include records of federal departments and agencies, the federal judiciary and the Congress.

To develop a robust method for speech act recognition, a still larger set of documents is needed that contains examples of performative sentences containing the remaining 119 performative verbs defined by Vanderveken, and performative verbs he has not defined.

The next step is to perform a lexical analysis of the examples to determine the syntactic and semantic features that will enable the recognition and disambiguation of these performative sentences. The results of this analysis will be used to implement a method for recognizing the explicit speech acts being carried out by the records and to translate them into a logical representation that can be used for automatic description and support of PRA and FOIA review.

## References

[Public Papers of the Presidents 1991-2005] U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/pubpapers/search.html>

[Searle and Vanderveken 1985] J. R. Searle and D. Vanderveken. *Foundations of illocutionary logic*. Cambridge University Press, 1985.

[Underwood 2008] W. Underwood. Recognizing Speech Acts in Presidential E-records, Technical Report ITTL/CSITD 08-03, Georgia Tech Research Institute, October, 2008.

[Vanderveken 1990] D. Vanderveken. *Meaning and Speech Acts*, Volume 1: *Principles of Language Use*, Chapt. 6, "Semantic Analysis of English Performative Verbs" Cambridge University Press, 1990.

[Wierzbicka 1987] A. Wierzbicka. *English Speech Act Verbs: A semantic dictionary*. Academic Press, 1987.