

Below is the text for a “Political Speech for a Hydra”. It must be delivered publicly, by a single orator, and must not be edited. It should be delivered in a manner consistent with political speeches, with gravity and purpose.

The orator must attempt to deliver the speech as smoothly and seamlessly as possible, in one voice, though the speech’s content is derived from multiple voices. (They are the voices of people who were present during assassinations or attempted assassinations of Presidents of the United States, specifically James G. Blaine, Floyd Boring, Jim Brady, Anton Cermak, John Connally, George B. Cortelyou, David Crockett, Albert H. Martin, Henry Rathbone, Mikheil Saakashvili, Oliver Sipple, as well as a description of a college football game between Auburn and Arkansas from October 29, 1994.)

The orator is allowed to dress themselves and the performance environment in anyway they see fit, using any accoutrements, costumes, effects, or props that they desire, or none at all, so long as the flow of the speech is not hindered, or the content obscured.

The orator may use a printed copy of the speech.

All errors are quoted verbatim and should be considered [*sic*]. Some simple stage directions are scattered throughout, denoted by brackets. I apologize for its length; a quick delivery should take between roughly 12-15 minutes, though there is no time limit or minimum.

Sources: *American Century*, *American Heritage*, *Amnesty International*, *BBC Monitoring*, *Biography of James G. Blaine*, *Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence*, *CBS Broadcasting*, *Daily Picayune*, *David Crockett: His Life and Adventures*, *Henry and Clara: A Novel*, *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett, Written by Himself*, *New York Times*, *Nixon White House Tapes*, *The Official Website of the President of Georgia*, *Republican Women’s Conference*, *Twenty Years of Congress: From Lincoln to Garfield*

[BEGIN]

My fellow countrymen, my fellow supporters, my fellow constituents, my citizens: greetings. [PAUSE]

I come before you today as not just another pretty face, but out of sheer talent. I did not ask for place or position, and was entirely without influence or the acquaintance of persons of influence, but was resolved to perform my vocal part in a struggle threatening the very existence of the Nation. The chances of being held up to nationwide ridicule and scorn are indeed great. I promise not to become a source of shame for you. The performance of that pledge cannot be intrusted to another. [PAUSE]

Words cannot express the deep sadness that we all share at this hour. All we can do is offer our prayers and support. It is time for all us to rededicate ourselves to protecting our children, our schools and our communities from this deadly epidemic. A shrink will tell you that denial plays a big part in this. You go along and delude yourself as long as you

can and one day you have to face it. The public will be kept fully advised. Each bulletin is carefully and conservatively prepared and is an authorized statement of the important features of the case at the hour it is issued. The people are entitled to the facts, and shall have them. This statement is intended to put at rest any idea that the official bulletins underestimate the conditions, and at the same time to give assurance the people shall have the facts. We had lived the happiest people under the sun for fifty years, governed by the Constitution and laws, on well-established construction: and when I saw the Government administered on new principles, I objected, and was politically sacrificed. I was glad it was me instead of you. It is hard to sit there on the sidelines, and see people make mistakes when you know you can suit up and get in there and do a better job. [PAUSE] That didn't quite come out right, did it? Sounded like a little hubris leaking out of me. It's true I didn't come over on the Mayflower, but I came over as soon as I could. [PAUSE FOR LAUGHTER]

Well, it's not classy to be bitter and I try to be classy as you know. I want you to know that my mother told me today she can't walk out of her front door because of the press stories. My sexual orientation has nothing to do with saving the President's life. The Democracy was placed everywhere on the defensive; its own declarations shotted every gun that was aimed against it; and its orators and organs could neither make effective reply nor divert public attention from its fatal commitment. The flash of metal caught my eye. I did not stop to think what I was doing and before I really knew it I had jumped over the side of the car and had my arm around the neck of a man I had hardly seen. Everything seemed to happen at once. There was a flash, the sound of a shot, and I was on the ground with the man. I threw one arm about his neck, and held him fast. At the same time I caught his gun hand with my free hand and wrenched the revolver from him. He struggles for a minute, but in spite of the fact that he was acting like a madman he did not keep up the fighting for long. It was remarked that even the little children in the streets wore no smiles upon their faces, so deeply were they impressed by the calamity which had brought grief to every loyal heart. I speak of police riots in New York City, polygamy in the Utah territory, and William Walker's self-coronation in the jungle of Nicaragua. We pretend that history is a snake charmer, a piper who will uncoil men's individual mysteries and set them marching in a straight line toward sunlight and progress. But only at our peril do we think of ourselves as domestic creatures. When we honestly reckon the intractable stirrings within men, we will speak more humbly about the future of Man. We claim the ability to undo history's repetitions, to turn history into civics, but if we are truthful and if we are strong, we will admit that history's whirlwinds are not ours to tame. We were outside on the steps when two gentlemen came up and one pulled out a gun and aimed it at me. I heard it snap, and I pulled out my gun and shot back. Then everybody was shooting. I saw Officer Coffelt fall, but first he shot and killed one of the men. It was all over in twenty seconds. It was thrilling. I realized later that the man aiming at me had forgotten to cock his Luger pistol. [LONG PAUSE]

My opponent must be dipping into the product. We should reject these insane, extreme positions. This candidate's positions on these issues are so outside the mainstream that he ought to have his head examined. His presence here is illegal. The extreme power of suspending the writ of habeas corpus now placed in the his hands was limited in time,

and would necessarily end, if not renewed, at the close of the next regular session of Congress. When he transcended that power, I put down my foot. I knew his popularity; that he had come into place with the largest majority of any one that had gone before him, who had opposition: but still, I did not consider this as giving him the right to do as he pleased, and construe our Constitution to meet his own views. He thus inherited Democracy of the most aggressive type. He scares me, cause he doesn't have 52 cards in his deck. He didn't the day that he shot at us. He got six rounds off and hit four of us. The worst reproach which lies against him is that of remaining too long a passive witness. It was feared that the country might be called upon to witness after the four years carnival of death on the battle field and in the hospital an era of "bloody assizes" made the more rigorous and revengeful from the peculiar sense of injury which he had realized in his own person. The physicians report that his condition is most serious, in spite of vigorous stimulation. The depression continues and is profound. Unless it can be relieved the end is only a question of time. He has one hour to come out and meet his people. If he does not do this, the people will go to him. For all of the chagrin, for all of the criticism that we've taken, for all the merits of the circumstances surrounding my opponent, whatever they might be, I think we can, we can feel a, a very poignant feeling of sadness about, about what's happened. But I think we also have to be realistic and say that, that this nation has suffered tragedies and traumas before, and they have been survived, and I can say to you that we will, we will indeed survive this one, survive it we must. [PAUSE FOR APPLAUSE]

We now need peace and calm. We need to start a new life. A new day is starting tomorrow, it is already starting. The great object with us all is to subdue the rebellion speedily, effectually, finally. In our march to that end we must crush all intervening obstacles. Perish all things else, the national life must be saved. We will fire for effect. And this means -they've got security. And, uh, they're doing some things that I think are a little strong-armed tactics, perhaps, in, uh, the organizing, uh. But, uh, I don't criticize. I hope to see our once happy country restored to its former peace and happiness, and once more redeemed from tyranny and despotism, which, I fear, we are on the very brink of. Because, Gentlemen, the true friends of liberty see the laws and Constitution blotted out from the heads and hearts of the people's leaders. I have advised my colleague, the Justice Minister-I want criminals both inside and outside prisons to listen to this very carefully-to use force when dealing with any attempt to stage prison riots, and to open fire, shoot to kill and destroy any criminal who attempts to cause turmoil. We will not spare bullets against these people. You can have the entire police department. I gave an order to start this operation and, if there is any resistance, to eliminate any such bandit on the spot, eliminate and exterminate them on the spot, and free the people from the reign of these bandits. Here's wishing the bones of tyrant kings may answer in hell, in place of gridirons, to roast the souls of Tories on. [LONG PAUSE]

It is your habits, and manners, and customs; your industry; your proud, independent spirits; your hanging on to the eternal principles of right and wrong; your liberality in prosperity, and your patience when you are ground down by legislation, which instead of crushing you, whets your invention to strike a path without a blaze on a tree to guide you; and above all, your never-dying, deathless grip to our glorious Constitution. These are

things that make me think that you are a mighty good people. Now it is time for the government to be afraid of people. [PAUSE]

The ancient maxim, that the voice of the people is the voice of God, is illogical in its direct statement, and like all adages it covers both a truth and an untruth. In a democracy, at one point or another, all of us must serve in the opposition. The people of reason, the people of logic, and the people of intelligence are going to have to emerge. They are not speaking and their voice is going to have to become the dominant voice of this country. Reasonable people don't need ridiculous weapons. Reasonable people voted overwhelmingly to protect themselves beyond the limits of the Law several years ago, and they don't want to move backwards. I recall when people would say that the rose revolution and the other "colour" revolutions were imposed upon their respective countries from outside and that they had nothing to do with the will of the local people. I am not the least fearful of any foreign enemy so long as we have within ourselves not hate, but human understanding, not passion and prejudice, but reason and tolerance, and not ignorance, but knowledge and the willingness to use that knowledge. [PAUSE]

Universal independence is an almighty idea, far too extensive for some brains to comprehend. It is a beautiful seed that germinates rapidly, and brings forth a large and vigorous tree, but we sometimes find the smaller plants wither and die in its shades. Its blooming branches spread far and wide, offering a perch of safety to all alike, but even among its protecting branches we find the eagle, the kite, and the owl preying upon the helpless dove and sparrow. Beneath its shade myriads congregate in goodly fellowship, but the lamb and the fawn find frail security from the lion and the jackal, though the tree of independence waves over them. Some imagine independence to be a natural charter, to exercise without restraint, and to their fullest extent, all the energies, both physical and mental, with which they have been endowed; and for their individual aggrandizement alone, without regard to the rights of others, provided they extend to all the same privilege and freedom of action. Such independence is the worst of tyranny. [PAUSE]

I am reminded of when Stephen Davis rushed for a career-high 246 yards and scored three fourth-quarter touchdowns to help Auburn rally to its 19th consecutive victory. Auburn trailed by 14-10 entering the fourth quarter, the 11th time the Tigers have fallen behind while compiling the nation's longest winning streak. Then Davis took over, doing his best Bo Jackson imitation and perhaps vaulting himself into Heisman Trophy contention. On the third play of the fourth quarter, the 223-pound junior powered over from the 1 to put Auburn ahead to stay against Arkansas. [PAUSE]

Confidence took the place of apprehension, the fear of punishment was removed, those who conscious of guilt had been dreading expatriation were bidden by the supreme authority of the Nation to stay in their own homes, and to assist in building up the waste and desolate places. This anticipation of catastrophe is like a closet closed off and bricked in, a silent, secret tomblike resting place within which lies a white satin dress, stained with blood, a deferred apocalypse. [PAUSE]

I blame myself. They have a cage over there for me and they have chains and a rack and

all kinds of other good things. They wear these black hoods and the Devil's Island motto is right there as you go in where the pain and torture is: 'Abandon All Hope Ye Who Enter Here.' There were people hiding behind the pictures on the wall, and the walls were hollow and contained spray apparatus that blew out dust and gas. [PAUSE]

It's a crusher. And next to, we have. On this side, more than ever. more than, the lives of innocent civilians. And if you, with the idea that, and in fact, when claimed, to live in constant fear and. Killer trees, killer trees. Because he was to leave, they wouldn't have a chance. Unless we are prepared, and all at the same time. And, uh, so I'm not, I wouldn't. Stop that man. And so—

[END]