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[^0]KING: Did you watch last night's town meeting? state, it must be costing them millions of dollars. stubbornness right now more than anything else.

 became the legal holiday. which the Rules Committee did at her behest and my behest-It passed and




 going to get it made-

 KING: Were you involved in making his birthday a national holiday?
 25 of us went down and we sat right to the left of him as you look up. He
came over and shook hands with all of us. I've heard a million speeches in troit and Jim Roosevelt, who were members of Congress, got a bus, and about cause it was a tremendously hot summer's day. And Jim O'Hara from Dethere for the great speech that he made and IIl never forget it, either, beJr. - I know you knew him. And on this very auspicious occasion, the birthday of Martin Luther King, calls, if you want to talk with one of the legendary figures in American politi-
cal history - the Honorable Tip O'Neill. patriot. He'll be with us for the full hour tonight. We'll be taking your phone ago, he called Tip O'Neill a tough partisan. Far more important, he is a true rumpled, entertaining, passionate, and never above a good rhubarb. When
President Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom two months still rumbles through those halls. Like Congress itself, the man is hearty, such an icon - such a symbol of Government for the people - it's as if he Tip O'Neill no longer makes the trains run on time on Capitol Hill, but he's will be with us.
gram dealing with breast implants, and Wednesday night Cybill Shepherd America's capital city, the District of Columbia. all that programming. We're back in the friendly confines of our studios in town forum in Pittsburgh and a week in Los Angeles. We hope you enjoyed LARRY KING: Good evening. We're back in Washington after last night's sets his legendary political sights on the current scene. Now, here's Larry O'Neill. The Boston Irishman who made a career as the man of the House ANNOUNCER: Welcome to Larry King Live. Tonight: Mr. Speaker - Tip

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Air Date: January 20, 1992
LARRY KING LIVE Transcript \#478
 Mr. O'NEILL: I did. I appointed it.
KING: Stokes headed it.
Mr. O'NEILL: That's right.

KING: You appointed that committee, right?
Mr. O'NEILL: I did. I appointed it.
Mr. O'NEILL: -and, as a matter of fact, Congressman Stokes did a pretty spiracy and I always believed that there was somebody else-
KING: Then why don't you want to see the movie? Mr. O'NEILL: So from that time on, I always believed that there was a conto what I said to the FBI. No question I heard a bullet shot over thesaid, "Tip, I say the same thing today I said that night. That's in opposition nedy our conversation with Kenny and you. How do you feel about it?" He telephone. I said, "Dave, I'm going to put in my book on the chapter on Ken-

 testified that way in a million years. I'd have told them what I thought I family"." So he said, "I went in and testified." I said, "I never would have story. So Dave said, "Absolutely, a bullet came over the fence. The FBI said Mr. O'NEILL: Well, no, wait a minute. No, let me tell you the rest of the ily." I said-
KING: Now to us. They asked us to tell that story. They didn't want to disrupt the fam"You denied it. You said there was only one bullet." He said, "The FBI came "I'm absolutely in agreement with you." I said, You didn't say that in the bullet came over the fence. A bullet came over the fence." And Dave said, Mr. O'NEILL: And he said, "I'll always remember." He said, "There was a KING: He was. pened down there in Dallas and Kenny said, "I was in the sixth car with and his wife. And in the conversation we started to talk about what hapDave Powers and his wife, my Millie, Leo Deal and his wife, and Joe Maloney ran a fundraiser, got him off his $\$ 60,000$ - straightened it out.
 was a fundraiser and I was a leading figure in the party in Boston and Mas-
sachusetts in those days. Some of my friends came to me and they said, nomination quite easily and he had the debt of $\$ 50,000$ or $\$ 60,000$. Well, I
was a fundraiser and I was a leading figure in the party in Boston and Maswith Eddie McCormick and he- Eddie McCormick defeated him for the says, "The authenticity of the Warren report is absolutely correct." let. He said, "That's probably so," but he said, "There's no question." He talked to Hale Boggs about it. There was no question. One day I said to says, "He's dead. He's been shot." And so I'll never forget it. and the girl said, "Is this you, Tip?" I said, "Yes." She started to cry. She in. She had a word for me. She said, "I heard the President was shot. I can't
believe it." I called the Boston Globe. I said, "Let me speak to Bob Healy,"
 to straighten them out." Well, anyway, I remember the day. Of course, eve-
rybody remembers the day and where they were. I was in my office in Boston
Mr. O'NEILL: Because they haven't got any faith. They've lost confidence.〈ЧҰ! Mr. O'NEILL: Well, because-
 KING: Why aren't they? It's befuddling a lot of people. Why aren't they fellow next door lost his job. We can't afford it. We've got to hold on." A new need a new refrigerator? You're not going to buy a new refrigerator. "The People call it the pocketbook issue." It's the same thing: How's everything ately. He's got to straighten things out. I used to call it the "belly issue." Mr. O'NEILL: Well, he could be beaten by any candidate if it were immediMr. O'NEILL: Yes, he's beatable, and he's beatable-
KING: Not by any candidate, though? KING: Do you think he's beatable? anybody even thinking of running against him.
KING: Do you think he's beatable? this time at the end of the Persian Gulf he was 78 percent. We couldn't get Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, my golly, after all, you've got to think that just a year ago KING: But that is not what you would have heard a year ago. couldn't win." Well, that's one cab driver and I've asked probablyways ask them." He said, "It's a conversation piece." He said, "The President Mr. O'NEILL: -he said, "Everybody that gets into my cab - whether they KING: Against anybody? Mr. O'NEILL: Couldn't win. And he saidtomorrow," he said, "Bush couldn't win."
KING: Couldn't win? taxicab driver, "what know what he hears. He said, "If the election were
opinion. You want to kno
tomorrow," he said, "Bush couldn't win." taxicab driver, "What do you hear?" See, you don't want to ask him his Mr. O'NEILL: The O'Neill poll. I'm in Boston the other day. I said to a KING: The O'Neill poll. avid poller myself. I go to Chicago. I go to Denver. I ask the taxicab driver; I
ask the waiter; I ask the elevator operator; I askMr. O'NEILL: I'd say since they started polling back in the 40's I've been an beat him, but named Democrats still lose. How do you assess the presiden-
tial picture today? dent Bush's approval rating - is at 45 percent; an unnamed Democrat, would
 KING: This is Larry King Live in Washington. Our guest for the full hour is
Tip O'Neill. In a little while, we'll be going to your phone calls. King Live. Don't go away.
[Commercial break] and then take your phone calls. He's with us for the full hour. This is Larry
King Live. Don't go away. KING: We'll get a break and come back and talk politics with Tip O'Neill, Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, there's no question that he didn't do it by himself in my Mr. O'NEILL: I just can't-I just, really, I can't go emotionally.
KING: You believe there was a plot? dent getting hit I get sick. I had a love and an affection for the man and I-
KING: So you can't go emotionally?
Mr. O'NEILL: I just can't- I just, really, I can't go emotionally. KING: All right. Why don't you go see the movie?
Mr. O'NEILL: I just- You know, every time I see on television the Presi-
dent getting hit I get sick. I had a love and an affection for the man and IMr. O'NEILL: Well, I'm for that. I'm for that.䜌 with that?





 Mr. O'NEILL: -and friends, and they say, "Watch out for the Tsongas vote
 talked to people that have been up there - Boston writers and Boston Mr. O'NEILL: Well, the newspapers, of course, want Clinton. Now, I've Mr. O'NEILL: If he gets over 30, yes. It'll be a slap in the face for-
KING: Who's going to win the Democratic? KING: If he gets over 30? १૫әр Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, yes, that- Well, it'll be a slap in the face to the Presi--sя papriseax әq двч7 prio $M$ :ONTY Mr. O'NEILL: Well, I just think, the way it's going, that Pat's going to get KING: I know. What will Buchanan do there? How will he do? KING: You know New Hampshire.
Mr. O'NEILL: Yes, I know New He And only America, as the leader, is the one that can keep on top of that. sian situation is straightened out; that it just doesn't fall apart over there. so bad and he's got so many problems-He's got to make sure that that Rus-- and he's got an awful lot of friends out there, but right now the economy is The man appears to the public that he has no concern and no care of what been looking at the economy at home." iod of time when we should have been looking at Russia, and we should have USSR with the 12 countries over there. We were paying attention for a per-
 it is to straighten the economy of a nation. And they're thinking, "Well, you Mr. O'NEILL: He's got-It's easier to straighten out a beat-up country than KING: Well, he's gotten a pretty beat-up country lowed them to escape. A year later now, Saddam is in as good shape as he
was before we went there. He has no problems. was happy. He closed the gates and he- or he opened the gates and he alMr. O'NEILL: What went wrong was everybody was jubilant. Everybody Mr. O'NEILL: "-and I just think it's wrong." tions on the line the way you have, it's the end of the United Nations-"
KING: No, but whatget credit for it." And I said, "If you don't go in after putting the United Nabeliever in the United Nations. They've put out so many squalis around the way you put the United Nations together - all of them." I said, "I'm a firm
 remember I was in I said, "I want you to know, Mr. President, as a Democrat I'm with The President did a magnificent job on foreign affairs on the Persian Gulf. I Mr. O'NEILL: Well, it's a combination of things that did it, as I analyze it.
do a little advertisingMr. ONEILL: Oh, say, Im enjoying myself, you know. I do a little writing, Mr, O'NEILL: Oh, say, I'm enjoying myself, you know, I do a little writing, Mr. O'NEILL: I'll be 80 my next birthday in December. KING: Yes. How old are you now, Tip? he said, "You're not going to die of cancer." Makes me feel pretty good. Mr. O'NEILL: And the doctor told me only the other day - yes, Friday Mr. O'NEILL: For cancer.
KING: Did it lick it? KING: For cancer? radiation all summer.

Mr. O'NEILL: My health is pretty good. I've got a bit of a dry mouth. I took KING: How is your health? going to turn it around? You're going to turn it around only when there's conMr. O'NEILL: That was the Depression. Yes, this is a- And how are you KING: Oh, of course, but that was the Depression. Mr. O'NEILL: No, nothing like the ' 30 recessionKING: This one's lasting longer, though, isn't it? and we had a recession under Eisenhower. We had a recession under Jack Mr. O'NEILL: As a nation, and, well, of course I was in the great recession KING: As a nation. Mr. O'NEILL: Well, the nation's been through 40 recessions, you know. KING: How many recessions have you lived through? young sapling that'll wave in the breeze. I think it's the worst thing, but 30
years ago we went through the same thing. - and I'm telling you, when there's a storm out there I want an old oak, not a
 remove them? learning the problems that come before their committee, you're going to ing the ropes, when they're learning what the nation's all about, when they're man on the board and knock him off in eight years. Just when they're learnMr. O'NEILL: No question about it - the worst thing that we could abKING: Congressional limitations - The public seems to favor it. other issues, too, that are 3-percent issues along the line presidency of the United States that's really close, it's a factor. But there are turned out to be about a 5 -percent issue there. In an election for the [sp?] in lowa. It defeated the fellow that took his place afterwards, because it that type are what we look at in the state. That's a 3-percent issue. A 3Mr. O'NEILL: Meaning that no matter where you go- Isolated issues of Mr. O'NEILL: It's always a 3 -percent issue. court. They're expected to throw Roe versus Wade out. Is that going to be a hear the Pennsylvania law which could bring Roe versus Wade back into the KING: The Supreme Court is going to decide maybe tomorrow whether to You can't tell that, but I would say that he's got a long tough road ahead of ne years. Dnouia 1 say, 18 ne presiaential tumbre? Not in the eyes of the
American people, he's not presidential timbre. Would he ever be President?

 Mr O'NEILL: Well, you know, you have something there, as a matter of 4th CALLER: How would you suggest that ordinary voters go about regain'sox :TTIGN.O 'xW

 water and most of the people on the Hill- He was a very friendly sort of a
fellow. Yes.
KING: Yes.
Mr. O'NEILL: He got along with everybody, you know-
KING: But I mean, to see the-
Mr. O'NEILL: There was no animosity because of political philosophy.
KING: Wouldn't it be nice if we had had debates? Mr. O'NEILL: Well, you know, Goldwater and Jack Kennedy, and GoldMr. O'NEILL: Yes, it would have been.
KING: To have all futureKING: Boy, wouldn't that be nice, to see that again?
Mr. O'NEILL: Yea, it would have been.
 Mr. O'NEILL: Around the country. They had already agreed on it.
KING: That's a great ideawent to war. [laughs]
KING: He was going to debate Goldwater around the country? Mr. O'NEILL: That's right. We voted-We didn't vote for Goldwater. We KING: What was that old joke? They said, if you voted for Goldwater we'd
be in war. We voted for Goldwater and we went to war. Mr. $\mathbf{O}^{\prime}$ NEILL: WellKING: Turned out he won andthey would debate around the nation. And he said to me, "You know, Tip," he
says, "no question," he says, "he'll have us in war and-" water campaign and he had already made an agreement with Goldwater that of that nature and talk about that?" but we had been talking about the Goldthere was quite a do about it and they said, "Well, we don't find any evidence around on that subject. I recall when my book first came out four years ago Mr. O'NEILL: Well, that's very interesting. Most of them have turned swer the historians who say now that there is no historical evidence that he
was withdrawing and that it was a gimmick or a public relations ploy? that Kennedy said he was going to withdraw from Vietnam. How do you an3rd CALLER: Mr. Speaker, you weren't the only member of Capitol Hill meetings there, Larry 3rd CALLER: [Gambrills, Maryland] Hello. Let's have some more town would have surrendered en masse, had he not given them the out to escape.
KING: To Gambrills, Maryland - Hello. Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, I think he stopped the war too soon, sure. I think they body seems to be hoping or. and I don't think anybody is going to take him out from within, which everythink he should have closed the doors. I think he should have trapped the
army and broken the spirit of Iraq. Saddam today is the leader of the nation he made a mistake in Iraq - and I was with him all the way. I just don't
are already- are in the hands of the members of Congress.

What do you think of his handling of the event? 5th CALLER: Now, what do you think of George Bush's trip to Japan? Mr. O'NEILL: Thank you. tell you that-
Mr. O'NEILL:
5th CALLER: Mr. O'NEILL: [laughs] Good ol' Harry! I loved him. you give the term "politician" - like Harry Truman - class. Also, I want to Gilligan from Palm Beach Gardens. I'm retired and I just wanted to say that 5th CALLER: [Palm Beach Gardens, Florida] Hello, Tip. This is George But somewhere along the line we ought to be able to straighten that out. so it opened it up now and you can just spend as much money as you want. plus the number of votes that was cast in your district. It made it moot. And we originally had on the original bill. You could spend " X "-amount of money the Supreme Court - the Supreme Court ruled that a man could spend as Green went to court with it, but the Supreme Court - going all the way to Heinz-Green Senate fight, Heinz spent $\$ 9$ million of his own money and dollars or $\$ 600,000$ or $\$ 800,000$ ? I think we ought to restrict- When we
wrote the original act in 1976 , it was a good act. But as you will recall the Mr. O'NEILL: - and who is going to run against a fellow that has a million zation, but if you haven't got the money don't bother to run-
KING: Did you get a lot of PAC money? you know, it's all right to have the issues and it's all right to have the organiit's a wrong when a man in Congress or a woman in Congress can raise any-
thing over a half a million, $\$ 600,000$. If you're going to run for public office,

Mr. O'NEILL: -and then he came in with that tax bill, you know, giving
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Mr. O'NEILL: Well, they did well under-Well, it was a bit of a recession in KING: Probably the best under the Kennedy Administration, right? You Presidents. That was the history of that. businessmen of America never did better as they did under the Democratic Mr. O'NEILL: Well, let me tell you something. In the 60 's, through ' 68 , the KING: So why shouldn't he make it? -rsodord Mr. O'NEILL: A classic liberal - that's what I am - a classic liberal KING: That's a classic liberal proposal. "Right now, I say to you well cut 15 percent of the military budget, which is
around $\$ 300$ billion, and you get 40 or 60 billion dollars-" down the road some way on a tax, or some way by cutting," or I would say, the economy and move America." And then I would say, "We will get that appropriate $\$ 40$ billion to send back to the cities and the states to stimulate we're not going to break- to bust the budget. I'm asking you right now to As a matter of fact, if I were President of the United States the first thing public will buy the one that he would buy. Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, he will propose one, but I don't think that the American KING: Is he going to propose one? There's no question that if he-

Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, it's going to be a hard program. It's going to be debated. KING: Do you think we'll have some form of national health insurance? Mr. O'NEILL: -of vetoing everything that the House sends up to him. miss? He just can't keep going the route that he's goingkind of a program he's got. I mean, is he going to come out with a hit-andsumer buying. And you've got to show leadership. Now, I don't know what some type of a program that the American people are waiting There's no conhim out. I think he's been too relaxed and waiting too long to come out with Mr. O'NEILL: It's going to have to be the thing for him that's going to bail Mr. O'NEILL: Well, it's going to have to be-
KING: Will he turn this around? KING: Are you expecting a big moment for George Bush next Tuesday?
Mr. O'NEILL: Well, it's going to have to beMr. O'NEILL: Sure, it's a show. KING: So this is a bit of a show? of a kick out of it. absolute amazement. [laughs] And the Republicans-The nation gets kind mocrat to stand." And we gave him one heck of a hand and he looked at it in "When the cue line arises," I said, "I'm going to stand and I want every Deand many a time. I remember one day when Reagan was speaking and we Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, sure, absolutely - many and many and many and many Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, the leadership will tip it off.
KING: This is good. Take us into the inside here KING: The leadership will write that down?
Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, the leadership will tip it will have on the Republican side "The leadership applauds," "Applause. Mr. O'NEILL: You'll see some of them follow him. But some places they

Mr. O'NEILL: Why, certainly, I understand that. But they'll generate new KING: When you cut the military budget, people get out of work - right? the inflation, but you don't go wild, and over a period of five or six years you'd




 can't we bring out something and say, hey, we're going to raise it? We're Mr. O'NEILL. Well, of course we don't have the money. I understand that.
But we have the money for S\&LL, don't we? We have the money for S\&L, why KING: Yes, I think it's $\$ 3$ trillion - but we don't have the money, is what it education, heaith, or what-have-you - when yourre working with a $\$ 4$ tri-
lion deficit and the cupboard is bare? So I mean, how much manipulating
can you do in order toTuesday isn't it going to be somewhat difficult to try to allocate monies - be 6th CALLER: -I'm a Democrat and, with all due respect to Mr. Bush, next Mr. ONEILL: Yes. Do 6th CALLER: Mr. Speaker-
Mr. O'NEILL: Yes. KING: Thank you. Larry, thanks for an ACE award-winning evening last night. Enjoyed it im6th CALLER: [Montreal, Quebec, Canada] Good evening, gentlemen. KING: Montreal, hello. Mr. O'NEILL. No, I'd increase them over $\$ 100,000$ a year. But I think that KING: You'd increase taxes on who? People over $\$ 200,000$ a year? America. But I'd give them a capital gains. I think that the other two taxes
would evenput a tax on the wealthy of America and I'd put a reduction on middle-class
America. But I'd give them a capital gains. I think that the other two taxes It's just- It's just sad. But I would increase business. I would increasejust are looking at the quarterly profits. They merged and things like that. Mr. ONEILL: A cut. I believe that business- We took business from 70 KING: A cut. member me talking to them about it, but I believe in a capital gains tax for
about three yearsGeorge Bush about it one day. Maybe- I don't think any of them ever reI've talked to Dan Rostenkowski. I've talked to Tom Foley. I talked with Mr. O'NEILL: -I'm for the capital gains tax. I have my own tax program. KING: Would you go for that? Mr. O'NEILL: Well, I would probably say he'd go for the capital gains tax. Are we also going to see a tax cut from the President - a proposal of a tax
cut for the middle class? KING: This is Larry King, with Tip O'Neill. Cybill Shepherd on Wednesday. Don't go away. KING: We'll be right back with Tip O'Neill and more of your phone calls on

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tomorrow. WorldNews begins right after this.
 are generating lots with the United States, And in our wand half-hour, we'l

 BERNARD SHAW, "WorldNews": Larry, Tip, thanks for joining us.
at the top of the hour with a big special coming at the bottom of the hour. вмәи әча дочэив оп 8u against. It'll be lively. On Wednesday night, Cybill Shepherd will join us. We'll be with you on the radio on The Larry King Show in one hour.
Tomorrow night, a major discussion on breast implants - those for, those KING: Tip O'Neill, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives. We
hope you enjoyed that as much as we did in having him with us. Mr. O'NEILL: Thank you. KING: We'll call on you often - and long life. KING: Have a great winter.
Mr. O'NEILL: Thank you, Larry. Mr. O'NEILL: Delighted. KING: Always great seeing you, Tip. Mr. O'NEILL: No question in my mind. seen. I just think they're marvelous.
KING: So they will beat Buffalo Sunday? Mr. O'NEILL: This year, I think it's the greatest Redskins team I have ever a great team back in 1934 and King: Well, how about this year?
something like that. I've followed them all through the years. Gee, they had
a great team back in 1934 and ' 35 . about 3,000 people, and then he took the Redskins down here around 1935 or played for the championship the following week in Brooklyn and he drew is in the height of the Depression, of course. And he took the club out and he KING: George Marshall. seats to $\$ 1.00$ and the other seats to $\$ 2.50-$
KING: George Marshall. were a dollar and a half. And Marshall went up in the price of the bleacher bleacher seats were 50 cents and the other seats - the grandstand seats Mr. O'NEILL: -and the final game of the year was very interesting. The KING: They were the Boston Redskins - right. KING: Super Bowl, Tip - Who wins it?
Mr. O'NEILL: Oh, Washington wins it. You know, I saw the last game the
Boston Redskins ever played - 1934, '35, something like that-KING: This is the year?
ball game in 1920 and they've been disappointing me all through the years.


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