

Feulner: Wow. Wow, that was terrific. I'm sure all of you join me in thanking and expressing our appreciation to the President for his endorsement of ISI and our programs. Our prayers and best wishes are with him during this tumultuous time in world history. Now ladies and gentlemen, it's my pleasure and honor to turn the ceremonies over to a good friend of everyone in this room, T. Kenneth Cribb Jr., a friend I met through ISI many years ago. Ken and I both to a large extent were molded into the people we are today through our involvement with ISI. But don't hold that against ISI. Ken has served as ISI's president now for 14 years. During his tenure, ISI has seen a period of remarkable growth. When he took the reigns as president in 1989, the Institute operated with an annual budget of about a million dollars. By 2001, the budget had grown to six million. During a downturn in the economy, a time when many other nonprofit organizations were slashing their budgets and their programs, ISI's budget has continued to grow, last year to eight million dollars, this year to a projected eleven million (applause). I got so excited about those numbers, I started throwing my speech around. This budget growth has been accompanied by even faster program growth, including the launch of a new publishing imprint, ISI Books, the acquisition of the Collegiate Network of independent student newspapers, and a massive growth in the Institute's traditional membership, lecture, conference, and fellowship programs. There are several reasons that help explain this impressive growth. First, the reaction: the dominance of anti-American radicals on campuses in recent decades has meant that thoughtful students have been looking for alternatives. They've been looking for some of the longtime truths, and they've found them in the ISI program. The second reason has to do with what I call the three "I"s: institutions, ideas, and individuals. ISI is clearly a vital institution, it has the right ideas, and what came in 1989 was the individual who could lead it going forward. That's the man you're about to hear from. Before coming to ISI, Ken Cribb was a senior movement conservative in the Reagan White House, where he served as Chief of Domestic Affairs to the President of the United States. In this capacity he was, as President Reagan's top advisor on domestic matters, he oversaw four specific White House units: the Office of Policy Development, the Office of Cabinet Affairs, the Office of Public Liaison, and the Office of Welfare Reform. Earlier in the Reagan Administration, Ken held the position of counselor to the Attorney General of the United States, our good friend Ed Meese. For his exemplary service in this capacity he received the Department of Justice's highest honor, the Edmund J. Randolph Award. I can tell you, as president of Heritage, that the conservative movement had no better friend in the highest councils of state during the Reagan era than Ken Cribb. But political success never turned his head. Ken always remained true to the bedrock principles of freedom that brought him to work for Ronald Reagan in the first place. The fact that this man was willing to take his career as a highly trained lawyer—I might add a highly paid Wall Street lawyer immediately before he went in the Reagan Administration—and devote his whole life, really, to building ISI, to sharing this vision with so many college students all over the country is that magic component that has made ISI into the force it has become here as we celebrate its 50th anniversary. You need all three of these "I"s—you need the institution, which is now firmly grounded and has a permanent presence at its beautiful campus in Delaware; you need the ideas, and ISI has always had the ideas, the permanent things that undergird ISI; and now you've got that great individual who's leading it, ladies and gentlemen, Ken Cribb.