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**Collection:** Correspondence, Office of: Records

**Folder Title:** AVH-198D – Pornography with Mention of  
“Cable-Porn” or “Dial-A-Porn” (1 of 2)

**Box:** 12

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 26, 1985 (XXX198D)

10/18/85

Dear Mr. Ortega:

Thank you for your message to President Reagan regarding the problem of pornography in the cable television industry, as well as "dial-a-porn" operations. I regret the delay in this reply, but I can assure you that the President shares your concern about these issues. He has spoken out forcefully against the degrading of human dignity by obscene materials distributed in our country, and he will continue to do so.

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On March 8, the FCC released a Second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking designed to comply with the Court's ruling and to obtain public comment on the "time-channeling" method of restricting minors' access to "dial-a-porn." The Notice also requests comment by the public, telephone companies, dial-in message companies and others on several other alternatives considered but initially rejected by the FCC to implement the will of Congress as defined by the 1984 legislation. For more information on this rulemaking issue, please write to: The Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

(7/25/85)

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In December 1983, the President personally addressed the United States Attorneys at their annual conference in Washington, D.C. He told them that pornography degrades human dignity for women, children and men alike. He urged them, as the front-line enforcers of Federal criminal laws, to step up their enforcement of the Federal anti-obscenity statutes.

The Justice Department, in May 1984, held the first-ever training seminar for Federal prosecutors and investigators on how to pursue anti-obscenity cases. At the same time, the United States Customs Service has increased by over 200 percent its seizures of obscene materials illegally coming into the country. By using "controlled deliveries" to the addressees of child pornography, in cooperation with the Postal Service, Customs has seized materials leading to arrests and indictments of persons who had been engaged in producing child pornography and molesting children.

To further tighten the Federal laws against child pornography, the Administration supported and the President signed the Child Protection Act of 1984. This legislation closes any and all loopholes that might have been open to child pornographers in the past, and dramatically increases the criminal penalties.

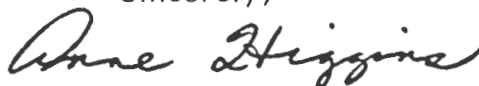
Also, the Administration announced the membership of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography on May 20, 1985. The establishment of the Commission fulfills the commitment the President made last year to form an advisory body of experts from public and private life who represent a wide range of fields related to law enforcement, social sciences and community services. The Commission will investigate the full dimensions of the pornography problem, review the additional data that has become available since the report of the 1970 Presidential Commission, and make recommendations for public policymakers.

The Commission has also scheduled six public hearings in Washington, D.C. (June 19-20), Chicago (July 24-25), Houston (September 11-12), Los Angeles (October 16-17), Miami (November 20-21) and New York City (January, 1986). President Reagan looks forward to reviewing the Commission's findings and recommendations when they are submitted next year.

In sum, the Administration is making real headway and we are determined to do even more to defeat pornography and its assault on basic values in our society. We certainly appreciate your support. Thank you for your concern.

With best wishes from the President,

Sincerely,



Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

(7/25/85)

Mr. Michael Ortega  
Evening Supervisor  
Correspondence Analysis Section  
Room 60  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500

AVH/CAD/CV/DE/AVH

AVH-198D (4th Rev.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RE: Pornography <sup>with</sup> mention ~~of Senator Helms' S2769~~  
as "Cable-Porn" or "Dial-a-Porn" issues

Note new  
title.

ph

July 24, 1985

AVH198D

AVH/CAD/ CV/DE/

Thank you for your message to President Reagan regarding the problem of pornography in the cable television industry, as well as "dial-a-porn" operations. I regret the delay in this reply, but I can assure you that the President shares your concern about these issues. He has spoken out forcefully against the degrading of human dignity by obscene materials distributed in our country, and he will continue to do so.

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Also, the Administration announced the membership of the <sup>1985-</sup> Attorney General's Commission on Pornography on May 20. The establishment of the Commission fulfills the commitment the President made last year to form an advisory body of experts from public and private life who represent a wide range of fields related to law enforcement, social sciences and community services. The Commission will investigate the full dimensions of the pornography problem, review the additional data that has become available since the report of the 1970 Presidential Commission, and make recommendations for public policymakers. The Commission has also scheduled six public hearings in Washington, D.C. (June 19-20), Chicago (July 24-25), Houston (September 11-12), Los Angeles (October 16-17), Miami (November 20-21) and New York City (January, 1986). President Reagan looks forward to reviewing the Commission's findings and recommendations when they are submitted next year.

In sum, the Administration is making real headway and we are

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With best wishes from the President,

AVH-198D (3rd Rev.) (REISSUED to correct bill number)  
RE: Pornography and mention of Senator Helms' S.2769 on Cable-Porn

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1985 (XXX198D)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

Thank you for your message to President Reagan regarding the problem of pornography in the cable television industry, as well as "dial-a-porn" operations. I regret the delay in this reply, but I can assure you that the President shares your concern about these issues. He has spoken out forcefully against the degrading of human dignity by obscene materials distributed in our country, and he will continue to do so.

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(6/10/85)

With regard to pornography in the cable television industry, the interpretation of the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Justice is that the existing Federal law against obscene and indecent broadcasting applies only to broadcasting over the airwaves, not to cable transmissions. Federal regulation of cable television would require new action by the Congress. But there's no question that local and State authorities already have the power to regulate indecent materials that have an impact on their communities, and the efforts of citizens like you and groups organized against pornography are vital if this power is to be exercised to stop pornography.

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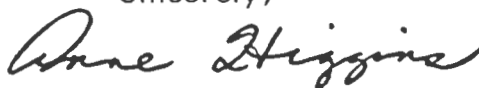
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With best wishes from the President,

Sincerely,



Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

(6/10/85)

Mr. Michael Ortega  
Evening Supervisor  
Correspondence Analysis Section  
Room 60  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500

AVH/CAD/AVH

RE: Pornography and mention of Senator Helms' S.2679 on Cable-Porn

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1985 (XXX198D)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

Thank you for your message to President Reagan regarding the problem of pornography in the cable television industry, as well as "dial-a-porn" operations. I regret the delay in this reply, but I can assure you that the President shares your concern about these issues. He has spoken out forcefully against the degrading of human dignity by obscene materials distributed in our country, and he will continue to do so.

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(5/29/85)

RE: Pornography and mention of Senator Helms' S. 2679 on Cable-Porn

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RE: Pornography and mention of Senator Helms' S. 2679 on Cable-Porn

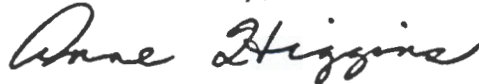
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Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
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(5/29/85)

Mr. Michael Ortega  
Evening Supervisor  
Correspondence Analysis Section  
Room 60  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500

AVH/CAD/AVH

AVH/cao/ab

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1985

AVH198D

Thank you for your message to President Reagan regarding the problem of pornography in the cable television industry, as well as "dial-a-porn" operations. I regret the delay in this reply, but I can assure you that the President shares your concern about these issues. He has spoken out forcefully against the degrading of human dignity by obscene materials distributed in our country, and he will continue to do so.

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AVH-198D (2nd Rev.)

RE: Pornography and Mention of Senator Helms' S.2679 on Cable-Porn

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1985 (XXX198D)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

Thank you for your message to President Reagan regarding the problem of pornography in the cable television industry, as well as "dial-a-porn" operations. I regret the delay in this reply, but I can assure you that the President shares your concern about these issues. He has spoken out forcefully against the degrading of human dignity by obscene materials distributed in our country, and he will continue to do so.

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(5/17/85)

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Also, the establishment of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography was officially announced on March 4, 1985. The Commission will study the effects of pornography on American society and will make recommendations to the Attorney General about this serious national problem. The Commission will consist of 11 members from public and private life who have a wide range of expertise in fields related to law enforcement, social sciences and community services.

AVH-198D (2nd Rev.)

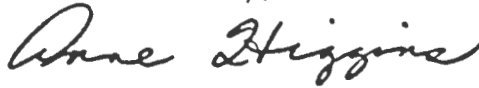
RE: Pornography and Mention of Senator Helms' S. 2679 on Cable-Porn

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Higgins".

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

(5/17/85)

Mr. Michael Ortega  
Evening Supervisor  
Correspondence Analysis Section  
Room 60  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500

AVH/CV/DE/CAD/OPD--Anderson/RDC/AVH

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 15, 1985

TO: Judy Johnston

ACTION:

- ☒ Review/Approval
- ☐ Recommendation
- ☐ Information Copy
- ☐ Draft Reply
- ☐ As we discussed

P/S  
delete line  
on p. 3

Reviewed by  
Carl Anderson

DATE ACTION NEEDED: ASAP/ The attached drafts  
COMMENT: were sent to OPA for review  
in mid-March. Volume on  
the EEOC post-65 benefits  
rule is relatively high.  
Thmka

CHARLES A. DONOVAN  
Presidential Correspondence  
Room 94, OEOB - x7610

CARE:

P/S review +

Return to

Me Monday

Jake Johnston

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

3-14-85

TO: JUDY JOHNSTON/OPD  
FROM: CHUCK DONOVAN *CD*  
Office of Correspondence

The attached draft form reply is submitted for review by the appropriate staff member. This issue is running in current mail and the volume justifies use of a form response. I can be reached at x7610 if any information on the incoming mail regarding this issue is required by your office.

Thank you very much.

cc: Pending File

AVH198D.850312

Thank you for your message to President Reagan regarding the problem of pornography in the cable television industry, as well as "dial-a-porn" operations. I can assure you that the President shares your concern about these issues. He has spoken out forcefully against the degrading of human dignity by obscene materials distributed in our country, and he will continue to do so.½

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The Administration recognizes the special difficulties posed by the appearance of "dial-a-porn" operations, which open a new front in the pornography area and are highly accessible to children. Last year, the Congress adopted legislation which imposes fines on those who use telephone facilities to transmit obscene or indecent messages to those who are under 18 years of age. The law required the Federal Communica-½ tions Commission (FCC) to promulgate regulations that would, in effect, restrict access of minors to this type of por-½ nography. The FCC responded to this Congressional directive and promulgated a regulation on June 4, 1984 which banned the operation of "dial-a-porn" between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. daily to maximize the opportunity for parental super-½ vision of minor children. On November 2, 1984 the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit found that the FCC had failed to justify the regulation and ordered further proceedings by the Commission to determine if the method of "time-channel-½ ing" the operation of "dial-a-porn" was the best available

alternative for meeting the intent of Congress without harm to any constitutionally protected activity.¼

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On March 8, the FCC released a Second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking designed to comply with the Court's ruling and to obtain public comment on the "time-channeling" method of restricting minors' access to "dial-a-porn." The Notice also requests comment by the public, telephone companies, dial-in message companies and others on several other alternatives considered but initially rejected by the FCC to implement the will of Congress as defined by the 1984

legislation. *For more information on this rulemaking* ~~Interested parties may provide the FCC with~~

*issue, please write to:* ~~comments on or before May 14, 1985 and reply comments on or~~

~~before June 11, 1985. — The address is,~~ Federal Communica-¼  
tions Commission, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.¼

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With regard to pornography in the cable television industry, the interpretation of the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Justice is that the existing Federal law against obscene and indecent broadcasting applies only to broadcasting over the airwaves, not to cable transmis-¼  
sions. Federal regulation of cable television would require new action by the Congress. But there's no question that local and State authorities already have the power to regu-¼  
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munities, and the efforts of citizens like you and groups organized against pornography are vital if this power is to be exercised to stop pornography.¼

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Let me share with you some of the progress President Reagan has made in addressing the overall pornography problem at the national level. Although the enforcement of the Federal laws against obscenity had declined to very low levels by the beginning of the 1980s, we have begun on the path back to a sound enforcement policy.¼

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In December 1983, the President personally addressed the United States Attorneys at their annual conference in Washington, D.C. He told them that pornography degrades human dignity for women, children and men alike. He urged them, as the frontline enforcers of Federal criminal laws, to step up their enforcement of the Federal anti-obscenity statutes.¼

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The Justice Department, in May 1984, held the first-ever training seminar for Federal prosecutors and investigators on how to pursue anti-obscenity cases. ~~This is a necessary first step in improving enforcement of the laws.~~ At the same time, the United States Customs Service has increased by over 200 percent its seizures of obscene materials illegally coming into the country. By using "controlled deliveries" to the addressees of child pornography, in cooperation with the Postal Service, Customs has seized materials leading to arrests and indictments of persons who had been engaged in producing child pornography and molesting children.¼

1/4

To further tighten the Federal laws against child pornography, the Administration supported and the President signed the Child Protection Act of 1984. This legislation closes any and all loopholes that might have been open to child pornographers in the past, and dramatically increases the criminal penalties. 1/4

1/4

Also, the establishment of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography was officially announced on March 4, 1985. The Commission will study the effects of pornography on American society and will make recommendations to the Attorney General about this serious national problem. The Commission will consist of 11 members from public and private life who have a wide range of expertise in fields related to law enforcement, social sciences and community services. 1/4

1/4

In sum, the Administration is making real headway and we are determined to do even more to defeat pornography and its assault on basic values in our society. We certainly appreciate your support. Thank you for your concern. 1/4

1/4

With best wishes from the President, 1/4

2/4

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

3-14-85

TO: JUDY JOHNSTON/OPD

FROM: CHUCK DONOVAN *CD*  
Office of Correspondence

The attached draft form reply is submitted for review by the appropriate staff member. This issue is running in current mail and the volume justifies use of a form response. I can be reached at x7610 if any information on the incoming mail regarding this issue is required by your office.

Thank you very much.

cc: Pending File

CARE ? Could you pls review &  
return to me  
July photo 3/15

Concurrence

*[Handwritten signature]*

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