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Last Updated: 03/01/2023

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF THE: Records
Presidential Briefing Papers

Archivist: mjd

File Folder: March 19, 1984 (casefile 292219) CFA 861

Date: 5/13/99

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. schedule	re: March 19, 1984 (partial), 1p	3/16/84	P6/F6 86
2. schedule	copy of item # 1 (partial), 1p	3/16/84	P6/F6 86 LCB 12/12/00

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].
- C Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-5 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(5) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

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Referral Note:

THE SCHEDULE OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

The President's Office



Monday, March 19, 1984

9:00 am (30 min)	<u>Staff Time</u> (Baker/Meese/Deaver)	Oval Office
9:30 am (15 min)	<u>National Security Briefing</u> (McFarlane)	Oval Office
9:45 am (15 min)	<u>Senior Staff Time</u>	Oval Office
10:00 am (45 min)	<u>Personal Staff Time</u>	Oval Office
10:45 am (15 min)	<u>Cabinet Affairs Briefing</u> (Fuller)	Oval Office (TAB A)
11:00 am (15 min)	Receive 1984 Report on State of Small Business (Fuller)	450 EOB (TAB B) (remarks distributed previously)
11:45 am (15 min)	Drop by Briefing for Cuban-American Leaders (Whittlesey)	East Room (TAB C) (remarks distributed previously)
12:00 m (60 min)	<u>Issues Briefing Lunch</u> (Darman/Fuller)	Cabinet Room (distributed separately)
1:00 pm (60 min)	Meeting with Joint Chiefs of Staff (McFarlane)	Situation Room (distributed separately)
2:00 pm (1 hr 15 min)	<u>Personal Staff Time</u>	Oval Office
3:15 pm (45 min)	<u>Congressional Meeting</u> re School Prayer (Oglesby)	OVAL OFFICE Cabinet Room (TAB D)
4:00 pm (30 min)	<u>Private Meeting</u> (Deaver)	Oval Office
4:30 pm (2 hrs)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
7:30 pm (5 min)	Phone call to Ed Rollins' Birthday Party (Tutwiler)	Residence (distributed separately)

UNP 03/16/84
4:00 pm

Received SS

THE WHITE HOUSE 1984 MAR 19 PM 7:35
WASHINGTON

March 19, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR Richard Darman

FROM: Dennis ~~Thomas~~ *YB*

SUBJECT: Congressional Attendance at Cuban-American
Leaders event on March 19, 1984

The following members of the House of Representatives attended
the East Room reception for the Cuban American Leaders on
Monday, March 19:

Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr.

Congressman Robert J. Lagomarsino

Staff in attendance:

Thomas R. Donnelly, Jr.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 19, 1984

TO: DICK DARMAN
FROM: PAM TURNER *PT*
SUBJECT: Attendance at Meeting

The following attended a meeting at 3:15 p.m. in the Oval Office for 45 minutes on March 19, 1984 with the President:

Secretary of Education Terrel Bell

Senator Howard Baker
Senator Paul Laxalt
Senator Dennis DeConcini
Senator John Chafee

Staff

James Baker
John Svahn
M.B. Oglesby
Pam Turner

JCH

THE SCHEDULE OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Monday, March 19, 1984



9:00 am (30 min)	<i>9:04 - with</i> Staff Time <i>9:05</i> (Baker/Meese/Deaver) <i>9:20 FOUSA</i>	Oval Office
9:30 am (15 min)	National Security Briefing <i>9:35 - 10:06</i> (McFarlane), <i>McFarlane, Oglesby, Fonderick, SM, MKD</i>	Oval Office
9:45 am (15 min)	Senior Staff Time	Oval Office
10:00 am (45 min)	Personal Staff Time	Oval Office
10:45 am (15 min)	Cabinet Affairs Briefing (Fuller) (TAB A)	Oval Office
11:00 am (15 min)	Receive 1984 Report on State of Small Business (Fuller) (TAB B) (remarks distributed previously)	450 EOB
11:45 am (15 min)	<i>11:20 pers. time</i> Drop by Briefing for Cuban-American Leaders (Whittlesey) (TAB C) (remarks distributed previously)	East Room
12:00 m (60 min)	Issues Briefing Lunch <i>12:09 -</i> (Darman/Fuller) (distributed separately)	Cabinet Room
1:00 pm (60 min)	Meeting with Joint Chiefs of Staff (McFarlane) (distributed separately)	Situation Room
2:00 pm (1 hr 15 min)	Personal Staff Time <i>2:21 -</i>	Oval Office
3:15 pm (45 min)	Congressional Meeting re School Prayer (Oglesby) (TAB D)	Cabinet Room
4:00 pm (30 min)	Private Meeting <i>4:06</i> (Deaver) <i>Holmes, Tuttle, Jack Hume, for Coors, Jerry Milbank</i> <i>MKD</i>	Oval Office
4:30 pm (2 hrs)		
9:00 pm (5 min)	Phone call to Ed Rollins' Birthday Party (Tutwiler) (distributed separately)	Residence

UNP 03/16/84
4:00 pm

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 19, 1984

MEETING WITH JAMES SANDERS, ADMINISTRATOR
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DATE: March 19, 1984
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 10:45 A.M.

FROM: Craig L. Fuller *CS*

I. PURPOSE

To brief you on the "1984 Report on the State of Small Business."

II. BACKGROUND

A fact sheet on the report is attached.

III. PARTICIPANTS *Bush*

Jim Sanders, ~~Jim Baker~~, Dick Darman,
Jack Svahn and Craig Fuller. *MKD*

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House photographer only.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Jim Sanders will be prepared with a short briefing.

March 19, 1984

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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Jack Svahn and Craig Fuller.

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House photographer only.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

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Fact Sheet

U.S. Small Business Administration

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS

- 1983 was a good year for small business. The strong performance of the small business sector during 1983 continued from its relatively strong performance during 1982. Small business showed an ability to adapt and grow in times of both economic stress and prosperity.
- Between 1980 and 1982, small businesses generated all of the 984,000 net new jobs in the United States. Small business produced 2,650,000 new jobs, more than offsetting the 1,664,000 lost by larger businesses. The service sector accounted for about half the employment increase.
- Small business also is leading the way in job creation during the recovery. In six major industries for which small and large business-dominated sectors can be identified, small business-dominated industries registered a net employment gain of 2.6 percent from September 1982 to September 1983. Large business-dominated subsectors showed an employment gain of only 1.2 percent.
- Small business dominated the fastest growing industries in the number of new enterprises between 1980 and 1982. New enterprises with fewer than 100 employees in many of the service sectors, such as education, legal and social services, increased between 10 and 15 percent annually.
- The service industry continued to be the fastest growing job generator between 1980 and 1982, accounting for about 52 percent (1.2 million jobs) of the total increase in new jobs; small firms accounted for 89.6 percent of this growth. Together, the finance and mining sectors accounted for 30 percent of the total 1980-1982 employment increase; the trade, transportation, construction, and agricultural sectors accounted for the remainder.
- Small business employs 47.8 percent of the private non-farm work force, contributes 42 percent of sales; and generates approximately 38 percent of our Nation's gross national product.
- Business bankruptcies declined 14.7 percent during 1983 compared to 1982. For the six-month period from July through December, bankruptcies declined 30 percent from the similar 1982 period.

- Small business proprietorship and partnership income grew 19 percent in 1983, compared to 1982. In contrast, wage and salary income increased 6.1 percent.
- There are 14.3 million non-farm businesses in the United States. Approximately 99.7 percent of these businesses are small by the U.S. Small Business Administration's size standards.
- Self-employed workers, who comprised 7.6 percent of the civilian work force in 1983, have made a disproportionately large contribution to the economic recovery. The number of self-employed workers increased by 497,000, representing a 6.6 percent rise, compared to a 3.7 percent rise in wage and salary employees.
- From 1980 through 1982 larger firms lost 1.7 million net jobs; most of these losses were concentrated in manufacturing (-1.5 million), retail trade (-0.2 million), wholesale trade (-0.3 million), and transportation (-0.1 million). Employment gains by large businesses in the mining, finance, and service sectors partially offset these losses.
- Eighty-five percent of the new jobs created between 1980 and 1982 came from three regions of the United States: the Mountain States of Montana, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Wyoming; the Pacific States of Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska and Hawaii; and the West South Central States of Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.
- During 1982 and 1983, business starts increased faster in deregulated industries than in the overall economy, rising 33 percent in the deregulated financial services sector, and 15 percent in the transportation and communications sector, compared to 13 percent in the general economy. In non-bank credit agencies, starts rose 68 percent during 1982 and 1983; no major increases had occurred prior to 1982.
- In 1983, new business incorporations rose by a record 600,000, indicating that more and more Americans are going into business for themselves. The previous record, 580,000, was set in 1981. Between January and September 1983, business starts increased 12.9 percent over the same period in 1982, another sign of the increase in small businesses.

- Ninety percent of the approximately 400,000 businesses that dissolve each year do so for voluntary reasons, such as retirement of the owner. Ninety-nine percent of failed businesses have fewer than 100 employees; over 80 percent are less than 10 years old.
- Younger workers, older workers and female workers are more likely to be employed by small firms than by large firms. A major reason is that small firms are able to provide more part-time work opportunities. Large businesses are more likely to hire prime-age workers 25 to 54 years old.
- New workers entering the work force are more likely to be women than men. Women are projected to increase from 42 percent of the civilian labor force in 1982 to 48 percent in 1995 and will probably account for nearly two of every three additions to the labor force over the next decade.
- Establishments with 20 or more employees have a 20 percent greater chance of surviving than establishments with fewer than 20 employees.
- In Fiscal 1982, the Federal Government purchased approximately \$159 billion in goods and services from the private sector. Small businesses received \$27.1 billion, or 17 percent of the procurement total.
- About one-third of federal prime contract dollars received by small firms are through small business set-aside competition.
- From 1977 to 1980, the number of female-owned sole proprietorships increased 33 percent.
- From 1980 to 1982, the number of self-employed women rose from 2,096,000 to 2,309,000, a 10-percent gain.
- In 1982, nearly half of all women who worked had preschool children, compared to 10 percent in 1948.
- Most women-owned businesses are in the retail trade and service industries.

-more-

Page Four

- Blacks and other minorities are expected to account for nearly one-fourth of the growth of the labor force during the next decade.
- The future growth of minority-owned small firms will be propelled by the fact that younger and better educated minority men and women are increasingly going into business for themselves.
- The number of minority self-employed workers grew 42.8 percent in the 1972-82 decade -- from 332,000 to 474,000. By comparison, the number of whites going into business for themselves over that decade grew 35 percent, to a total of 6.8 million.

March 1984

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1984

Signing Ceremony for the 1984 Report on the State of Small Business

DATE: March 19, 1984
LOCATION: Room 450 OEOB
TIME: 11:00 A.M. (15 Minutes)
FROM: Craig L. Fuller *CS*

I. PURPOSE

To sign the "1984 Report on the State of Small Business" and to make public the positive findings of the report.

II. BACKGROUND

P.L. 96-302 mandates that the President report to Congress annually on the state of small business. This year's report shows that 1983 was an excellent year for small business. Small business optimism and faith in the future is demonstrated in the economic record the report details. Some significant findings of the report are outlined below:

- Between 1980 and 1982 small enterprises with under 100 employees generated all of the 982,000 net new jobs in the United States.
- New business starts reached a new record of about 600,000 for the first six months of 1983, with the fastest growth in recently deregulated industries.
- Business bankruptcies, most of which occur in small business, declined 10.3 percent in 1983 compared to the previous year.
- Small business income was up 19 percent in 1983 compared to a 6.1 percent increase for wage and salary income.

III. PARTICIPANTS

James Sanders, Administrator, Small Business Administration; Frank Swain, General Counsel, Small Business Administration; Timothy McNamar, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; and Martin Feldstein, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers.

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Press

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Prior to your arrival Martin Feldstein will speak on the economic outlook; Tim McNamar will speak on taxes and small business; and Jim Sanders will brief the group on the report.
- You will make remarks and sign the report.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1984

MR. PRESIDENT;

Copies of these remarks were
sent to you at Camp David.
These are here only in case
you missed them at Camp
David.

Richard G. Darman

Received SS
1984 MAR 16 PM 5:34

(Robinson/BE)
March 16, 1984
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 1984 REPORT ON STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1984

Good morning. It's a real pleasure to welcome Jim Sanders, head of the Small Business Administration, Frank Swain, S.B.A.'s chief counsel for advocacy, and you, the representatives of small businesses across America. You know, the White House is a lot like a small business -- Nancy and I live over the store.

Small businesses play a vital role in American life. They make everything from ice cream to shoes to computers. Small businesses are the biggest providers of new jobs, give the most employees the freedom to work part-time, and hire the most women, young people, and senior citizens. They embody innovation, provide economic diversity, and chart our path toward the products, markets, and jobs of the future.

To remain engines of hope and prosperity, small businesses need a healthy economy. Just 3 years ago, the American economy was anything but healthy. We all remember those days: Government was growing like Goliath, wrecking the economy with punishing inflation and interest rates, a growing tax burden, and Government regulations that were smothering economic growth.

When an enterprising man or woman wanted to borrow money to start their own business, 21-1/2 percent prime interest rates shut the door in their face. When a small business wanted to buy a new plant or materials to expand, 12.4 percent inflation put opportunity beyond its reach.

When we took office, we made restoring economic vitality our top priority. We reduced the growth rate of Government spending, pruned needless regulations, cut taxes, and passed an historic reform called tax indexing. Indexing means the Government can never again profit from inflation at your expense.

Today we're seeing a surging economic recovery from Maine to California. Housing starts, factory orders, and real income are up. The stock market has come back to life. Between the end of 1982 and the end of 1983, net private savings shot up nearly 50 percent to over \$230 billion, making more funds available to the risk-takers and innovators who give small businesses their drive. Small businesses have led the way in creating new jobs, and today more Americans have jobs than ever before in our history. Since the beginning of the recovery 15 months ago, nearly 5 million Americans have found work, and the unemployment rate has fallen to 7.7 percent, marking the steepest drop in more than 30 years.

Now this isn't a Keynesian recovery produced by big-spending bureaucrats tinkering with aggregate demand. In fact, I don't know of a single Keynesian who predicted it. Instead, this recovery was created by the incentives of tax rate reductions, which shifted resources away from Government back to American producers, savers, and investors.

Small business has responded to the recovery with new vigor. Last year alone, there were some 600,000 new business incorporations, virtually all of them small businesses. That's an all-time high and half again as many incorporations as there

were each year during the early 1970's. At the same time, bankruptcies declined some 30 percent in the second half of 1983 compared to the same period in 1982, and small business income, as measured by proprietorships and partnerships, grew by a remarkable 18 percent.

But we must go forward toward new goals so we can keep the nightmare of inflation from ever coming back. We must enact constitutional reforms like the line-item veto and the balanced budget amendment. And to make taxes more simple and fair, and to provide greater incentives for growth to our people, I believe we must press for tax simplification -- a sweeping, comprehensive reform of the entire tax code.

And, as you may have heard, I have just reached agreement with the Republican leadership in the Congress on a deficit reduction package totalling some \$150 billion over the next 3 years. Just Thursday night, shortly after we reached agreement, the Senate Finance Committee concluded its work on a major portion of our package. I'm hopeful the entire package will be passed promptly by the Republican Senate.

This \$150 billion down payment deserves bipartisan support because it will reduce the deficit in a way that is effective, responsible, and fair: by targeting \$43 billion of savings in non-defense spending, \$57 billion in defense authority reductions, and by raising some \$48 billion in revenues, primarily from closing certain tax loopholes of questionable fairness. Make no mistake, the defense cuts would slow our defense build-up somewhat, but not to a point of unacceptable

risk. There will be no increase in tax rates on American families, and no tax increases that would threaten the economic recovery.

Permit me to mention a few of the inspiring small business success stories I've heard. Back in 1978, Ginnie Johansen of Dallas was in college. She needed a belt to wear with casual slacks and, since she didn't like anything she saw in the stores, she made a few belts of her own. Several students offered to buy Ginnie's belts, and soon Ginnie decided to try her hand at business. Today Ginnie's company grosses \$8 million in annual sales, manufactures 57 different accessories, and, best of all, employs 65 people, most of them young women. By the way, Ginnie is now 24 years old.

Roberto Ruiz of Tucson was born in Mexico and moved to the United States as a teenager. In 1977, he founded a construction company and an engineering corporation. Between 1979 and 1983, sales for Roberto's companies grew from \$1.4 million to \$7.2 million -- an increase of more than 500 percent. Roberto's companies do a great deal of work in the Arizona border area, a section of the country hard-hit by the devaluation of the peso, and Roberto has always made an effort to hire local workers. Last year alone, he hired 100 employees, and today his firms account for more than 200 jobs.

And then there are Frank Huggins and Dean Robinson of Champaign, Illinois. Less than 2 years ago they founded Disk-Tec, a firm that makes components for computer disc drives. From March 1983 to February 1984, Disk-Tec recorded \$3 million in

sales, and the company projects sales of \$15 million for the calendar year 1984. Today Disk-Tec employs about 230 people -- that's 230 jobs created by two talented entrepreneurs in less than 2 years.

Cervantes once said, "Many littles make a much," and as small businesses spring up across the country, they add up to products we've never dreamed of, new standards of excellence, and jobs for millions. It's small business people like you who remind us of the enterprise that made our Nation great. You show us that Americans have just as much pluck as ever, and you prove that our country's best days are still to come. On behalf of all Americans, I commend you.

Thank you, God bless you, and now let me sign the report.

1945

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES

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C

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1984

ADMINISTRATION BRIEFING FOR CUBAN AMERICAN LEADERS

DATE: March 19, 1984

LOCATION: East Room

TIME: 11:45 a.m.

FROM: Faith Ryan Whittlesey *FRW*

I. PURPOSE

For Administration to continue on-going dialogue with leaders of the Cuban American community by apprising them of policies that are of special concern to this community.

II. BACKGROUND

These very influential community leaders represent civic, social and business interests and come primarily from the State of Florida. These leaders are united by their common concern for the defense of freedom in the world especially in the Caribbean and Central American regions. They are also very supportive of the President's economic policies.

III. PARTICIPANTS

List is attached. (Approximately 220)

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House pool coverage for President's remarks only.

V. REMARKS REQUIRED

President's speech has been prepared by Speechwriter's Office.

VI. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Social Office

Attachment: List of participants

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1984

MR. PRESIDENT:

Copies of these remarks were
sent to you at Camp David.
These are here only in case
you missed them at Camp
David.

Richard G. Darman

Received SSI
1984 MAR 16 PM 7:18

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BEN ELLIOTT *Be*
SUBJECT: Cuban-American Leaders Remarks

Attached is Dana Rohrabacher's draft for your drop-by briefing for Cuban-American leaders Monday. Dana wanted you to see the enclosed letter from Carlos Perez, whom you mentioned in the State of the Union. If you need a lift, this will do it, especially the second paragraph.

Thank you.

Carlos Perez
4414 Granada Boulevard
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

March 13, 1984

Mr. Dana Rohrabacher
Presidential Speech Writer
O.E.O.B.
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 102
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dana:

The party held for the unification of the Republican Party, last Friday at my home, was a real success. At one point, over 700 persons, most of them distinguished members of the Republican Party, were present, and I think that in the middle of all the fragmentation that exists in Dade County among Republicans, we were able to accomplish our objective, and that was to establish the spirit of unity and that deep in their minds they understood the words that were said in the various speeches, and that was that President Reagan, now more than ever, needs a unified Republican Party, otherwise we will fall into the hands of the Democrats and Liberals. Everyone agreed that this was the largest and one of the best parties ever held in a private home in Dade County.

To give you an idea of how highly President Reagan is thought of, and of how deeply rooted he is among the Cuban-Americans, let me tell you what happened minutes after my party was over: It was around 2 a.m., and only about three or four couples remained, when my oldest brother, Evelio, decided to leave, and while he was walking towards his car parked across the street, he was hit by a speeding car. I was inside my house when I heard the screaming, so I ran outside and found my brother bleeding profusely and lying unconscious in the street. Minutes later, when he regained consciousness and after I reassured him, eventhough I thought he was dying, that he was going to be all right, the first question he asked was - "Do you think that I'll be able to make it to Washington and see President Reagan on the 19th?". This incident shows you that eventhough he thought that he was dying, his first concern was whether he would be able to see President Reagan.

By the way, we took him to the nearest hospital, and after plastic surgery on his face, his condition is now stable and we think that his wish will come true and he will be able to meet the President after all.

All I have left to say, is that after the success of the party and after seeing my brother's reaction, I can only feel great optimism as to the outcome of our campaign and the next elections.

Sincerely,


Carlos Perez

(Rohrabacher/BE)
March 16, 1984
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR
CUBAN-AMERICAN LEADERS
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1984

Buenas dias. It is certainly a pleasure to have so many friends here today. As I see you, I'm reminded of the warm welcome you gave me when I visited you in Miami to commemorate Cuban Independence Day -- "El Veinte de Mayo" [the 20th of May].

I'm especially glad to see my friend Tirso del Junco, famous vocalist Celia Cruz, Carlos Salman, Manuel and Alicia Casanova, and Carlos Perez. Carlos Salman in Florida and Tirso in California have been on many a campaign with me. Carlos Perez, like so many from Cuba, came to this country with little money, but, with the opportunity afforded him in our blessed land, he has done well.

Cuban Americans, perhaps better than others, appreciate what opportunity and economic freedom mean to people who are struggling to better themselves. Many of you arrived here in the early 1960's, when America was enjoying high growth and low inflation. In that environment, everyone had the chance to better themselves.

But during the 1970's, this shining land of opportunity, once so vibrant and vital, was ravaged by inflation and economic stagnation. By 1980, it was painfully clear to all Americans that something was seriously wrong.

So, we set out to make some long-overdue changes. By reversing unwise policies of over-taxing and spending, we've put America back on track. And I'm mighty proud that when the heat

was on, and the advocates of the failed policies of the past tried to get us to reverse course before our program had a chance to take hold, we stuck to our principles. I think the country is beginning to understand why we did.

I firmly believe what's best for all Americans, especially those who want to improve their condition, is a policy of low inflation and strong growth. America needs jobs and opportunity, not make-work and handouts.

The Cuban community, especially in Florida and other Gulf Coast States, has become a center for commercial activity, much of it with Latin America. This has boosted our economic potential and has been a boon to our neighbors to the south. I'd like to thank you for the vital role you are playing.

You know how significant our struggle is, not only for our neighbors to the south, but for the United States as well. I can assure you today that our Administration fully recognizes the vital importance of the economic, political, and military struggle going on in Central America and the Caribbean. We do not intend to let the Soviet Union, through its Communist Cuban proxies, take over that region.

Central America and the Caribbean are of the utmost strategic importance to the United States. If we don't give friends so close to home the means to defend themselves against Soviet-supported insurgents, who will trust us anywhere in the world, especially in the faraway Middle East and Europe?

To those who would spend time focusing on the flaws of our friends -- and they are far from perfect -- let me just say we

all are concerned about human rights. But I believe it is being either naive or downright phony to profess concern for human rights, while pursuing policies that lead to the overthrow of less-than-perfect democracies by Marxist dictatorships, which systematically crush all human rights. We've seen it happen in countless countries, including Afghanistan, Vietnam and, yes, Cuba. In these countries, there are no human rights, nor any debates about human rights. There is only brutal suppression by the Communist Party. Because such regimes are at war with the basic laws of human nature, invariably they inflict great economic misery on their people. That is why it's both logical and necessary for them to conquer other lands to obtain the resources they cannot produce themselves.

What we are witnessing to the south is a power play by Cuba and the Soviet Union, pure and simple. Cuba, after nearly 25 years of so-called revolution, is an economic basketcase. It cannot supply even its own needs without massive and costly Soviet subsidies. Like a roving wolf, Castro's Cuba looks to its peace-loving neighbors with hungry eyes and sharp teeth. Our challenge is to avert a crisis before it happens -- to help our neighbors build strong economies, democratic governments, and give them weapons to counter Soviet-backed insurgency.

A few months ago, we saw this very process unfolding on a small island in the Caribbean -- Grenada. Massive stores of military supplies were being stacked high in the warehouses there. The island was living under virtual Cuban occupation. The lives of American students, as well as the islanders, and,

indeed, Grenada's peaceful, freedom-loving neighbors, were all being put in jeopardy. We had no choice but to join with our neighbors, at their request, and to free the people of Grenada -- and that's exactly what we did.

I just have to tell you, one of my most heartwarming memories will always be of a reunion we had on the White House lawn. Students, many of whom had negative attitudes about the military before, threw their arms around the young soldiers, sailors, and Marines who risked their lives to save them. Then the students introduced these military men to their parents as heroes. Americans are a great people and nobody should ever sell us short.

We have every reason to be confident, but if freedom is to prevail, if peace is to be preserved, we Americans cannot be complacent. Our greatest strength is truth, because truth is on our side and with it we can and will turn the tide. Saint John said, you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. I am very proud that, after a long and difficult struggle, Radio Marti is scheduled to begin broadcasting this spring.

Already there are blistering attacks against Radio Marti by the Castro regime. Well, if things are so good down there, what are they so worried about? Their ranting and raving just confirms that one of the most effective things we can do is give the Cuban people another point of view. Unlike the Communists, we respect people, and we're confident they can make up their own minds.

But one thing is certain: We will not be deterred by threats. Radio Marti will broadcast the truth to Cuba.

Before I close, please permit me to ask you a favor. That great Cuban patriot, after whom our efforts are named, a man who also found refuge here, Jose Marti, once said, "Tyranny is the same in all its shapes, even though sometimes it dresses in handsome names and grand deeds." Well, we are struggling against a foe who knows how to dress up tyranny so that many find it hard to recognize. Some of our fellow citizens do not fully understand the threat we've spoken about today. You are uniquely qualified to open up communication with all Americans. I hope I can count on you.

Muchas gracias and vayan con Dios.

D

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF SENATORS CONCERNING SCHOOL PRAYER

DATE: Monday, March 19, 1984

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 3:15 p.m. (45 minutes)

FROM: M.B. Oglesby, Jr. *h*

I. PURPOSE

To seek the support of this bipartisan group of Senators for S.J. Res. 73, your school prayer amendment on which the Senate will vote tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

II. BACKGROUND

The Senate has completed its second week of debate on school prayer. Senator Baker called up your proposed voluntary oral school prayer amendment, S.J. Res. 73, as the vehicle for debate. For several days, Senator Baker actively consulted with his colleagues concerning possible language changes which would encourage additional votes for a voluntary oral prayer amendment. After considerable discussion, the final vote next Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. will be on S.J. Res. 73 as modified by the Senate Judiciary Committee to prohibit Federal or state officials from composing the words of any prayer to be said. Therefore, despite considerable debate about other language, the Senate ultimately will vote on your amendment as modified in Committee. Two votes occurred during this past week. The Senate first voted 96-0 to adopt the Committee amendment. Yesterday, the Senate voted to table, by a vote of 81-15, Senator Dixon's silent prayer/equal access amendment. This substantial vote in favor of tabling resulted from a coalition of those who support oral prayer, those who oppose any prayer amendment whatsoever, and those who agreed to vote with you and Senator Baker on procedural votes. The consensus is that S.J. Res. 73 remains several votes short of the requisite two-thirds needed for passage of a constitutional amendment. In order to achieve passage in the Senate, most of the Senators at this meeting will have to vote in favor of S.J. Res 73 on Tuesday.

III. PARTICIPANTS

List attached

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographer only.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. Opening remarks by the President
2. Comments by Senator Baker
3. General discussion with meeting participants

Attachments: List of Participants
Talking Points

PARTICIPANTS

The President
The Vice President

Secretary of Education Terrel Bell
Attorney General William French Smith

Senator Howard Baker (R-Tennessee)
Senator Richard Lugar (R-Indiana)
Senator Paul Tribble (R-Virginia)
Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minnesota)
Senator William Cohen (R-Maine)
Senator John Chafee (R-Rhode Island)
Senator Dave Durenberger (R-Minnesota)
Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Arizona)
Senator Mark Andrews (R-North Dakota)
Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-New York)
Senator Robert Packwood (R-Oregon)
Senator John Heinz (R-Pennsylvania)
Senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nevada)
Senator Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming)
Senator Joseph Biden (D-Delaware)
Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-Arizona)
Senator Edward Zorinsky (D-Nebraska)
Senator Russell Long (D-Louisiana)
Senator Sam Nunn (D-Georgia)
Senator Alan Dixon (D-Illinois)

Staff

James Baker
Michael Deaver
Richard Darman
John Svahn
Faith Whittlesey
Fred Fielding
Larry Speakes
M.B. Oglesby
Nancy Risque
Pamela Turner
Robert Kabel

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH BIPARTISAN
GROUP OF SENATORS ON SCHOOL PRAYER

- I am pleased that you all could be here today to talk about school prayer and the vote tomorrow on S.J. Res. 73.

- Howard, I am pleased that the Senate has devoted a considerable period of time to debate this issue of great importance.

- As you all know, I have advocated for many years the return of oral voluntary prayer to public schools. The amendment which I suggested, S.J. Res. 73 on which you will vote tomorrow merely permits oral voluntary prayer in public schools. It specifically states that no one will be required to participate. It is written in such a way as to permit significant latitude to school systems, parents and students as to what form, if any, school prayer might take.

- As you know, every poll indicates that the majority of Americans favor the reinstitution of school prayer. I think it is very important for the Senate and the House to pass this proposed constitutional amendment and then let the state legislatures decide ultimately whether it will become a part of the constitution.

- Howard, the Senate has been debating this issue now for two weeks, and I would like to turn to you for any comments you might have.
- I would like to hear what the rest of you have to say.