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Last Updated: 02/05/2024

BB

0005**70** 4710 FG001-03 PR001 AR

January 26, 1981

#### Dear Fats:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to appear at the Inaugural Ball.

It was an evening we will always remember with pleasure and pride, and your appearance added greatly to the success of the occasion.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Ronald Reaga,

Mr. Ammon Tharp
Fats Ammon's Band
Apartment 9
210 81st Street
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

BB

January 26, 1981

000571 4710 FG001-03 PR001 AR

Dear Mel:

We want to thank you for helping to make the Inaugural Gala such a wonderful success. It is always such a pleasure to hear you sing. It was an evening we shall remember with great joy, and your appearance meant so much to us.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Mr. Mel Tillis
Mel Tillis Enterprises

RR/AVH/cbs--

1722 West End Avenue

Nashville, Tennessee 37213

January 26, 1981

000572 4710 FG001-03 PR001 AR PU HU013-30

Dear Ben:

We want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to appear at the Inaugural Gala. I want you to know that we were moved by your inspiring tribute to Bert Williams and your testimony to the agonies black artists of his day were forced to endure. While we shall look back on this evening with great joy in coming years, I shall keep before me the spirit of your performance throughout my Presidency.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Mr. Ben Vereen 17200 Oak View Drive Encino, California 91316

RR/AVH/cbs--

### William Raspberry

# Ben Vereen, Edited for Television

To many among Monday night's television audience it came as a shocker. There was this black man, in blackface, dancing his pickaninny heart out for President-elect Ronald Reagan. Reagan, for God's sake.

And while there was the thoroughly respectable contribution of opera star Grace Bumbry, there was also Charley Pride, the black country singer, smiling his "Thank you, Miz Nancy, for inviting me" to the soon-to-be First Lady.

What sort of commentary was this on the prospective relations between black America and the Reagan administration? Didn't Ben Vereen (the incredibly talented blackface trouper) in particular understand the hazard. implicit in reawakening this shameful stereotype? What was he trying to say?

'It's simple," he said in an interview two days after the routine that set black tongues: wagging across America. "I was trying to say that blackness didn't start with the Supremes. I was trying to show a part of our history that needs to be seen and heard. I'm very proud of my heritage."

He is especially proud, he said, of Bert Williams, the black Broadway pioneer whose act he re-created Monday night. "I wanted to pay my tribute to Bert and all those other black performers who had to go through that humiliation in order to make it possible for people like me to perform today."

The message didn't get through. At least not on television. The much-chagrined Vereen knows that now. "Due to television sabotage, you didn't see the entire piece," he told me. "You only got half of it." You only got half of it."

The missing half, he said, was his contextsetting statement at the beginning of the performance. In it, he reminded his Capital Centre audience that in the early days, stars like Bert Williams were allowed to perform for white audiences only if they donned black-

"What I had in mind was social criticism. You see, anybody can hide behind blackface. You become faceless. But the history of blacks in show business is that they try to keep us faceless even after the performance. I remember reading how Bert tried to buy a round of. drinks for the house after one of his performances, and they refused him because he was black. I was trying to say that we will no longer allow ourselves to remain faceless." - -

That's why he removed the blackface for the stanza of Williams' classic "Nobody":

I ain't never done nothing to nobody. I ain't never got nothing from nobody.

Until I get something from somebody, sometime,

I ain't gon' do nothing for nobody, no time.

in show business is that they try to keep us faceless even after the performance. I remember reading how Bert tried to buy a round of drinks for the house after one of his performances, and they refused him because he was black. I was trying to say that we will no longer allow ourselves to remain faceless." -

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I ain't never done nothing to nobody. I ain't never got nothing from nobody.

Until I get something from somebody, sometime.

I ain't gon' do nothing for nobody, no time

There's a strong statement there," he said, "and I was a little concerned that it might make the audience uneasy, but they understood. The president understood; he teared up."

Black members of his television audience didn't understand. They were furious, incredulous, shocked and dismayed. Troy Brailey, a member of the Maryland legislature, fired off a telegram to Frank Sinatra, producer of the extravaganza, protesting the "unappropriate" Vereen performance, which, he contended, "further stereotypes and typifies the perception of many white Americans about black Americans, even in 1981."

'I apologize," Vereen said, "for the fact that people didn't see the whole thing. But I think that people who know me should understand. that I would not demean or put down black

What he won't apologize for is his profound respect for his black predecessors, and especially Bert Williams, who died at age 46 in 1922-24 years before Vereen was born.

"Bert has performed for three presidents-Ford, Carter and now Reagan," he said of his re-creation. "Three times he's been on TV. You saw him with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops, and there was no problem.

"The problem Monday night is that [the television audience] didn't see the setup and the turnaround. All they saw was a guy in blackface, shufflin' and jivin'. I apologize for

and well he might. Millions more than will ever hear his explanation felt themselves demeaned by his out-of-context performance.

What he intended was a profound lesson in American history. What we saw was a throw porters Jan. 16, presidential co back darky, singing, grinning and cutting a rug : in answers to questions laid dov to the unrestrained delight of rich, powerful no retreat on all issues. That

Ben Vereen says television did him in.

Swiss paper reported. It was certainly ne band carefully groome back as Dec. 19, 1971, reported that "the opened the way for ma from practical training

Claire Sterling is who has just complet study of contempora Terror Network."

### Rowland Evans

The prospect of Reagani non-Reaganite officials-in was dramatized by the contr ral address and a backstage the nation's civil service chief Ronald Reagan's faithful f inaugural week to watch year become reality, were overjoy ing address that committed radical change. But their joy parent failure of one of their

vine, to become director of Management. OPM, successor to the old sion, certainly will not set the sophical course. Yet, continui scenes over whether Reagani represents the last sounding of those who so clearly share F been systematically excluded ministration.

That Reagan himself since mained faithful to his political tioned by his own followers: R. ponents and news commentator his election victory who have was about to abandon his ide beckoned and was embracing "I

It is mostly wishful thinking. inaugural address four days la "there will be no compromise."

To start out to brand stored the tiret of ogy contracts which are an increasing this wheat center Friday night to honmer president Richard Nixon will visit EMID, Okla., Jan. 22 (UPI) = For-

Oklahoma Speeches Nixon, Ford to Make

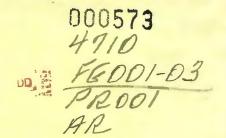
participate more fully in high technolto become more competitive and to esessinistic for minority businesses Dec. 19, he said, "This program offers new agencies. When Carter signed on memo extending the program to three months later, Schneider drafted the rained the one-agency limit. Three \* FINRITE TOOT TOOT TONTON

tou only go around once in life.



Bys

January 26, 1981



Dear Charley:

We want to thank you for helping to make the Inaugural Gala such a wonderful success. It is always such a pleasure to hear you sing. It was an evening we shall remember with great joy, and your appearance meant so much to us.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Roveld Reagan

Mr. Charley Pride Suite 104 5924 Royal Lane Dallas, Texas 75230

RR/AVH/cbs-

Sp

000574 4710 PRO01 AR

January 26, 1981

Dear Mr. Israel:

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to appear at the Inaugural Ball.

It was an evening we will always remember with pleasure and pride, and your performance added greatly to the success of the occasion.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Rosald Reagan

The Washington Jazz Battalion c/o Mr. B.XIsrael 11650 Debra Drive Potomac, Virginia 20854 pp

January 24, 1981

000575 4710 FG001-03 PR001 AR ND012-10

Dear Mr. Talley:

The excellence of the Navy Glae Club is a continual source of pride to all Americans and Nancy and I certainly share their feeling. Thus, we were moved by your inspiring performance at the Inaugural Gala and wish to thank you for doing so much to make it a wonderful success. It was an evening we shall look back on with great joy in years to come.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Braced Reagan

\*United States Naval
Academy Glee Club
c/o Mr. John'Talley
Mitscher Hall
Annapolis, Maryland 21402

Byon

January 24, 1981

000576 4110 PE001-03 PR001 AR

Dear Grace:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to appear at the Inaugural Gala.

We have long admired your beautiful voice and were truly inspired by your rendition of the aria, "Vissi d'arte," and the song "Natalie."

Both contributed so much to making the evening a truly memorable occasion.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

Bronald Reagan

Mrs. Grace Bumbry 200 East 72nd Street New York, New York 10021

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Dear Grace:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to appear at the Inaugural Gala.

We have long admired your beautiful voice and were truly inspired by your rendition of the aria, "Vissi d'arte," and the song "Natalie."

Both contributed so much to making the evening a truly memorable occasion.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

Smalet Keegan

Mrs. Grace Bumbry 200 East 72nd Street Wew York, New York 10021 April 1

January 26, 1981

000577 4710 DD <u>FG001-03</u> PR001 AR-

Dear Friends:

We are grateful for all the hard work and enormous talent that you provided at the Inaugural festivities.

It was a time we will always remember with pleasure and pride thanks in large part to the spirit and zest of the Osmond family.

With our affection and appreciation,

Sincerely,

Ronald Noagan

The Osmond Family c/o Osmond Productions 1420 East 800 North Orem, Utah 84057 DA

000578 4710 PROOF AR

#### January 26, 1981

Dear Friends:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to appear at the Inaugural Ball.

It is always a thrill to hear you perform, and your appearance added greatly to the success of the evening.

You are loved by the American people, and we share these feelings.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Tommy Dorsey Orchestra
c/o Willard Alexander Agency
660 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10021

January 26, 1981

000579 FG001-03 AR

DD

Dear Brian, Dennis, Carl, Mike, Alan, and Bruce:

We would like to thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedule to appear at the Inaugural festivities.

It was an evening we will always remember with pleasure and pride, and your performance added greatly to the success of the occasion.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Ponolet Reagan The Beach Boys 10880 Wilshire Boulevard

Number 306

Los Angeles, California 90024

bish

January 26, 1981

000580 4710 PE001-03 PR001

Dear Anita, June and Ruth:

We want to thank you for helping make the Inaugural Ball such a wonderful success.

Your presence added greatly to the happiness of this grand occasion, and we want to thank you for sharing your special talent and personality with us.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

The Pointer Sisters
Fourth Floor
9744 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills, California 90212

RR/AVH/cbs--

BB

000581 4710 FEDDI-03 PREDI

January 26, 1981

Dear Jerry:

The Inaugural Ball was an evening we will always remember with pleasure and pride, and we want to thank you for all you did to assure its success.

With deep appreciation and warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Nancy & Pon

Mr. Jerry Naylor 5308 Ambridge Drive

Agoura, California 91301

Dq , or

January 29, 1981

MG] 000664 4000 FC001-03 PR003

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lawless:

I want you to know how much your message meant to me. There is much to do, and I count on your support in our efforts to make that new beginning we all desire.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Lawless Post Office Box 4107 Odessa, Texas 79760

RR/AVH/DL/emu P-I



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000664

REAGAN BUSH
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS 901 SOUTH HIGHLAND
ARLINGTON VA 22204

PRESIDENT ELECT RONALD REAGAN AND NANCY

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION TO THE INAUGURATION HOWEVER WE WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND DUE TO ILLNESS WE HAVE BEEN BEHIND YOU ALL THESE MANY YEARS AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR PRESIDENCY

MR AND MRS M F LAWLESS ODESSA TX

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PRESIDENT ELECT FORELD READER AND MANCY

TO REPLY BY MAILBRAM! PRONE WESTERN DINION ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT:

OF YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter to President Reagan of January 21.

Ben Vereen is a fine and talented performer. He chose to pay a tribute to Bert Williams for reasons of his own, which were not discussed with the President prior to the performance.

I regret any discomfort caused you as a result of the performance, for it was the President's hope that the Inaugural festivities would be enjoyed by all.

Sincerely,

Red Cavaney
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

The Honorable Frank M. Conaway Chairman Maryland Legislative Black Caucus House of Delegates Annapolis, MD 21401

RC:td:c - 1

Come

#### DRAFT RESPONSE

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter to President Reagan of January 21, 1981.

The President is aware of the fact that Mr. Vereen's performance was considered distasteful by many Black Americans. However, while he understands the reason for the resentment of Mr. Vereen's performance, we do not feel we need to applogize for him.

Ben Vereen is a fine and talented performer. He chose to pay a tribute to Bert Williams for reasons of his own, which were not discussed with the President prior to the performance. It is unfortunate that Mr. Vereen's performance offended many Black Americans who watched it. However, the President was honored to have him as a guest at the Inaugural Gala. The Inaugural was one of the most exciting events of the Inaugural and it was not the intention of anyone to offend.

Sincerely,

I regret only discomfort coursed you as a recent of one performers, for it was the aresident's line that the management postivities would be enjoyed by all.

Sui

Dane



#### HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

000689

BUSINESS:

3758 W. BELVEDERE AVENUE BALTIMORE, MD. 21215 367-1500

ANNAPOLIS:

317-B HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21401 841-3277

January 21, 1981

President Ronald W. Reagan The White House Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Mr. President:

FRANK M. CONAWAY

40TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

BALTIMORE CITY

ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

VICE-CHAIRMAN, BALTIMORE CITY DELEGATION

Let me be one of the million who congratulate you on your tenacity, ability and political sagacity which led you to your election as our Chief Executive.

But, this letter is not one of orchards and roses; rather it is of onions and scallions. I am sure that I reflect the reaction of most black citizens when I inform you of my amazement and disgust at both you, Frank Sinatra and Ben Vereen for the despicable black-face exhibition Vereen perpetrated at your Inaugural Gala.

For Vereen's stupid introductory remarks, recalling segregation as a bland, innocuous historical event which some one (doubtless Sinatra and staff) prepared for Johnny Carson and added not only insult but also salt to the wounds of black citizens.

If you don't understand this, attempt to understand how the average Jew would feel being asked to collaborate some clownish institution devised for his forebearer's survival in the death camps.

Is this kind of blatent or blunder foolishness what we are to expect from the new Republican administration? If so, your party might as well forget forever about the black vote in this land.

1

The least you can do, Mr. President, is offer a public apology to black citizens for the stupidity of the Inaugural program planner. And of course, Mr. Vereen, a versatile actor which is another story I shall not deal with here.

Respectfully,

Frank M. Conaway, Chairman Maryland Legislative Black Caucus

FMC:tm

Pg

January 30, 1981

000823 4200 WS <u>F6 001-03</u> 3P 400 PR 003 BE 003-15

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

I want you to know how much your message meant to me. There is much to do, and I count on your support in our efforts to make that new beginning we all desire.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Sincerely,

### RONALD REAGIN

Mr. Philip Caldwell
Chairman of the Board
X Ford Motor Company
The American Road
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

RR/AVH/DL/ckb P-1

Inauguration

8101301835



Philip Caldwell Chairman of the Board Ford Motor Company The American Road Dearborn, Michigan 48121

January 22, 1981

Lawrell

Dear Mr. President:

Your inauguration was inspiring, and your eloquent speech was tremendously encouraging to every person who longs for a new beginning in America. You pointed to new directions for this country which promise a revival of our economic strength at home and our leadership abroad.

While expectations for your success are high, no one demands short-term miracles. And I want to assure you that Ford Motor Company will do everything it can to support you in pursuit of the principles you have established.

Sincerely,

The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

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January 30, 1981

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Dear Mr. Brown:

Nancy and I want you to know how much your message meant to us. There is much to do, and we count on your support and friendship in our efforts to make that new beginning we all desire.

With our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes,

Sincerely,

## RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Bob Brown

X Silvery Moon Studios
326-1/2 North La Cienega Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90048

RR/AVH/DL/sew P-2

Smile to Inauguration

8101301835



## Silvery Moon Music Group

January 21, 1981

President Ronald W. Reagan White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President,

Receiving hand scrolled invitations to all your inauguration activities, directly from you, was an honor beyond expectations. Being out of the country and down with the flu making it impossible to attend was sad beyond expression with words. However, watching the majority of the TV coverage made me proud to be an American especially with the new President being a long standing personal acquaintance. Everything seemed to flow so smoothly with the transition and our industry did an outstanding job in the hands of "Francis Albert" as you so appropriately mentioned.

There is no need to express what I, or the people of America, feel you will do during your tenure of office that magnitude of confidence was shown at the polls. I know what you did in our world of entertainment, as President of Screen Actors Guild, as Governor of California and without a shadow of doubt you will be a President long remembered.

If I can ever assist in any possible area please contact at your convenience. Your task will be monumental, but without doubt you will overcome. Please give my warmest personal regards to Nancy and hopefully something will come forward in the future whereby we can get together in Washington. I remain

Cordially yours,

Bob Brown
BB:mb

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To the state of

February 10, 1981

Dear Kathryn:

Thank you so much for your nice letter and your very kind and generous comments.

I thought the <u>Inauguration</u> was beautiful, too, and I still can't quite believe it has happened.

I appreciate more than I can say your offering me the present that you have. In today's world that's like giving up a child -- almost. Unfortunately, I have no use for anyone now. The White House is completely staffed with people who have been here for many, many, yearss They are all wonderful and there just isn't room for anyone else.

However, as I said, I do appreciate your thoughtfulness and I know that with his qualifications and your recommendations, he certainly won't have any trouble finding the right spot. I'm just sorry that the spot is not with us.

We haven't received the Bing Crosby roses yet, but I'll be on the lookout for them.

Fondly,

NANCY THE

Mrs. Bing Crosby 1200 Jackling Drive Hillsborough, California 94010 5300 WS FG001-03 PP005-01 WH005 GI002 Fisher, Alan January 24, 1981

President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan c/o White House Washington, D.C.

Dear First Lady and Mr. President,

How glorious you were during the Inauguration. Both of you looked splendid, and gave each of us the hope that we need for the future. My father, 82, was at your Inauguration, Mr. President, and as you made your speech and the applause kept breaking out, it was Daddy who was shouting "Way to go, buddy." I was simply crying, as is my wont.

Mrs. Reagan, you were exquisite at the Ball. You have by your very presence given us great reason to be proud. You will give so much in the next four years.

I would like to offer a gift to you, the best butler in the world. Alan Fisher worked for Bing and me from the time Nathaniel was born, nineteen years. He had to go home a year or so ago to be with an ailing sister but now he works for Jock Whitney, the former ambassador.

Alan is married to the perfect maid, Norma. She is as quiet as he is outgoing. The qualities that he showed in our home seem to me to be the ones that you need. He likes surprises but can keep to a tight schedule.

He first worked at Buckingham Palace for the Queen Mother. There he met Norma. They both worked for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. He has other references that are colorful and impressive but I think it's of significance to know that he cared for Bing's mother until she was ninety-two, that they helped rear our children, that most of his days off were spent on trips to Sausalito with our brood and assorted guests, that he handled formal dinners and picnics with equal aplomb and that even after he had left to go to England, he returned with Harry to bring Bing's body home and stayed with me touring on the road as my dresser until I could find my footing.

Let me include the letter that he wrote to me, I don't think that I am betraying a trust, but he really would love to serve you.

I am sending some Bing Crosby roses if you have a spot for them in California or Washinton. Do keep warm. I am so proud of both of you.

Very sincerely,

Kathryn Crocky

25 ST James's Race London S.WI. England (01-629.7905) December 307/1980

Dear MRs Crosby \_ I'm sorry I missed your Telephone call — we Recieved your Kind Thought Set Christmas — The Rose plant vill mean so much To so many many of Mr Crosby's loyal fans. In Anchual fact I was not quite honest when I discussed my chances of working for The Prince of Wales. The job was offered to me but to the was not be & London Residence, but for ho country home I declined - his presnel secretary said that I The PRINCE does

Ever Take to dondon Pusidence I would certainly be considered — of course it is on the capids that he may marry the some Thing may seen be dinnounced early in the New Year.

Some Time Ago I Thought That A Job to Butley Valet To Mr Reagan in The White House private gnarker (it seems The private + main house the Run quite segardly) Even Travelling Mes Reagan might sien Need Someone, with & Zipper - Now Mrs Crosby you know how good I Amost That! of This late stage I'm sure They the scheady Svited.

Feb 6 ! I leave here for nother 3 week strate State Greenther Solate in Man Hasset, The French Butter is going on a part of his Vacation.

3

So MPS Crosby if you did hear - Even on inkling about The Reagans I could Even dash down to Washington for In interview\_ oddly enough The Two Jobs I enjoyed most were the Results of my waiting & letter - your +Mr Crashy's position - and The Duke of Windsons - so I'm somy I did not write To MB Heafan soon After t was official he was Nominated to Resident.

Norman Tsed me Dr Sullvan
had lost his father-which Jourd Tsed
me was imment — I'm sure for made
his last days/hours pleasant one's to you
did so brillrandly for Bridget and I'm
Sure you were to sheat comfort To
Dr Sullvan. As I Tsed you - Journal
Your spectest when The Chips he down

For Someone else - you were failed. Should you have An ear to whisper mo Re The Reagans I can be headed at the Whitneys kan Feb 6th (before that here). GreenTake Tolephone Number 15-1. 516- MAT0306 or 0440. Mrs Kramer has Kindly toked me To go back to Ny with 3 months paid vacation - I Really like her - but There 15 it enough To do - like you Mes Crosby I'm To Tally happy in The mint of to "3 Ring Circus" - which is how ? descerbe my days - my happy days in Hicksborough. Ever Since Rely A

ly

#### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

I - INCOMING			ID #	001271		
Name of Correspondent: THE SEELIGSONS  FE 001-03						
	User Codes: (A)			(C)		
Subject: /NAVGURAL TR	CKET FOUL-U	PS, BIG DI	ONOR			
ROUTE TO:	ACTION		DISPOSITION			
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD		
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LYN NOFZIGER	Referral Note:	1/1021034				
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	C - Comments R - Director B - Draft Response S - For	o Copy ect Reply w/Copy Signature erim Reply	A - Answered B - Non-Special Referra			
		• 1	Type of Response = Its Code = " Completion Date = D	nitials of Signer		
Comments:						

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

DOTELL

### RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

		CLASSIFICATION	SECTION	
No. of Additional Correspondents:	Media: 🚣	72 Individual	Codes: 4.690	· ·
Prime Subject Code: EG	001.03	Secondary Subject Codes:	PU 0021 PU 005.01 FG 038.	
		PRESIDENTIAL	REPLY	
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SIGNATURE CODES			MEDIA CODES:	
CPn - Presidential n - 1 - Ronald \			B - Box/package C - Copy	
n - 2 - Ronald F			D - Official document	
n - 3 - n - 4 -			G - Message H - Handcarried	
n - 5 -			L - Letter	
CLn - First Lady's	Correspondence		M- Mailgram O- Memo	
n - 1 - Nancy R			P - Photo	
n - 2 - n - 3 -			R - Report S - Sealed	
,			T - Telegram	
	& First Lady's Correspo Reagan - Nancy Reagan	ndence	<b>V</b> - Telephone <b>X</b> - Miscellaneous <b>Y</b> - Study	



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February 19, 1981

Mr. Arthur Seeligson 1604 National Bank of Commerce Building San Antonoio, Texas 78205

Dear Arthur:

I wish there was something I could do or say that could erase the nightmare you suffered at hhe Inaugural. After the uncompromising loyalty you have shown throughout the years for President Reagan, it is appalling to me that you did not receive teh kind of treatment you deserved. While my sympathy and apology seem inadequate after the aggravations you suffered, they are sincere.

I have contacted the Inaugural Committee in order to facilitate the return of your monies. While I would have preferred to have had everything handled without troubling you furhher, there is - as always - a certain amount of paperwork necessary that only with your input can insure an immediate refund. If you will contact Marcy Head at the Inaugural Committee (2nd and T Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20599, phone 202/382-8250), she has been alerted to the situation and will be happy to speed up the process for you.

In the meantime, please extend my heartfelt apologies to your family. I'm sorry that a day that should have been a reward for your dedicated and loyal support resulted in nothing but bad memories.

Please let me know if you have any problems, or if there is anything else that I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Lyn Nofziger
Assistant to the President
for Political Affairs

Ce: Probytragisch Charles Wick THE SEELIGSONS
1604 NBC BUILDING
SANANTONIO TX 78205



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Back Commerce

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PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20005

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RE: REAGAN - BUSH INAUGURAL ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, TO WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1981

DESPITE INVITATIONS AND OFFERS OF AID FROM VICE PRESIDENT ELECT BUSH'S ORGANIZATION, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS, SENATOR
TOWER, AND PRESIDENT- ELECT REAGAN'S ORGANIZATIONS, I PAID
\$50,000 AND AGREED TO GUARANTY THE INAUGURAL ACTIVITIES SINCE THEY
AGREED TO INSURE MY THREE ADULT CHILDREN, MY WIFE, AND MYSELF
SPECIAL TREATMENT IN THE SELECTION OF BALLET TICKETS, PARADE
TICKETS, AND A BOX FOR THE INAUGURAL BALL AT THE WASHINGTON
SHERATON.

MY FAMILY AND I ARE THE ONLY FAMILY IN SAN ANTONIO WHO WERE MAXIMUM GIVERS AS SOON AS THE REAGAN FOR PRESIDENT EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE WAS SELECTED, OF WHICH I WAS A MEMBER, I WAS ALSO AN ELECTED REAGAN DELEGATE TO KANSAS CITY IN 1976. NEEDLESS TO SAY. I DEPENDED UPON MY \$50,000 GUARANTY TO INSURE MY FAMILY'S UNCOMP-LICATED AND HAPPY PARTICIPATION IN THE INAUGURAL ACTIVITIES. IN FACT, IT ACCOMPLISHED ABSOLUTELY ZERO. THERE WERE NO BALLET TICKETS AT UNION STATION WILL CALL. AFTER MANY WASTED HOURS ON THE PART OF MY CHILDREN AND CHAUFFEUR ALL DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MY CHAUFFEUR FINALLY OBTAINED THE WORST POSSIBLE BOX TICKETS FOR THE BALLET FROM THE BOX OFFICE AT KENNEDY CENTER WITH PEOPLE IN OUR BOX WHO HAD OBVIOUSLY NOT PAID \$200. THERE WERE NO PARADE TICKETS AT WILL CALL AFTER THREE DAYS OF INQUIRIES. WE FINALLY ACCEPTED THE WORST POSSIBLE TICKETS. AFTER THREE DAYS AT WILL CALL AT UNION STATION, WE DISCOVERED THEY HAD SOLD MY TICKETS FOR MY BOX AT THE INAUGURAL BALL AND HAD NO TICKETS OF ANY KIND, ONLY "A REFUND. AFTER COOLING MY HEELS FOR THREE HOURS MONDAY AFTERNOON AT THE UNION STATION, I FINALLY OBTAINED SOME NON- BOX TICKETS TO THE BALL WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, WAS CLOSED BY THE FIRE WARDEN AND MY GROUP WERE NOT ALLOWED IN.

THE ENTIRE MATTER WAS A DISGRACE AND A DISAPPOINTMENT TO ME AND MY FAMILY WHO HAVE BEEN ARDENT SUPPORTERS OF THE PRESIDENT SINCE HE FIRST RAN FOR GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA. THE CONFUSION OF THE FOUR DAYS AND THE CONSEQUENT EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENTS RESULTED IN MY CONTRACTING PNEUMONIA WHICH PREVENTED A LATE OPPORTUNITY WHICH SUPPOSEDLY WAS OFFERED TO ME TO ATTEND A WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. I EXPECT FOR ALL MY MONIES TO BE RETURNED FORTHWITH AND A FORMAL APOLOGY.

178100 TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, PHONE WESTERN UNION ANY TIME, DAT OR NIGHT: FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES OF YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY SEASON AND DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS AND AN AUGUST AND AUGUST. (EXCEPT IN NEW JERSEY 800-632-2271) AND ADDRESS OF A PARTY OF THE P OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S INFOMASTER SYSTEM DIRECTLY: BASST FRIENDS ON BURNES TORS FERSE THERE AND ALLERS THERE THE WORLD THE WAY WITH THE WARRY WITHOUT TO POTTER AND THE WOLLD THE TA ATTROPT DESIGNATION OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF PARTY OF TAXABLE PARTY OF DEFEND TA JUST LIVE TO STAR MARK DEFEND A LIVE BURN AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PR MAY TA YOU AN ADA STRUCT OF SIDE OF THE ROLL OF THEFT S FOR BY MOT AT THE NAMED IN THE OWNER OF THE OWNER OF THE OWNER OF THE OWNER. BALL AV NOVABRANT AVGROU EMPUN BARGAL BUR RARRE AN BUR TONG MELAY

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TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, PHONE WESTERN UNION ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT:

FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES

OF YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OR

DIAL (TOLL FREE) 800-257-2241

(EXCEPT IN NEW JERSEY 800-832-2274)

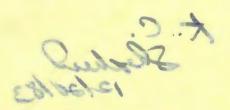
OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S INFOMASTER SYSTEM DIRECTLY:

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FG 001-03

February 2, 1981



Dear Mr. Baryshnikov:

Thank you for sharing your special talents with us and making the occasion of the pre-Inaugural Kennedy Center concert such a memorable event.

I want you to know that your thoughtful "good luck" hat now holds a prominent place among my fond souvenirs of an evening devoted to artistic excellence.

Again, my appreciation and thanks for your superb performance on January 18th.

Sincerely,

## RONALD REAGAN

X

Mr. Mikhail Baryshnikov American Ballet Theatre 888 Seventh Avenue New York, New York 10019 February 2, 1981

t. C. Slocher 12/20/83

Dear Mr. Baryshnikova

Thank you for sharing your special tolerats with us and making the accession of the pre-Inaugural Kenneth Center concert such e soemorable event.

won for "Soul bood" lubbipuorit rucy forit word at pay input I holds a prominent place among my rood souvenirs of an evening devoted to ortistic excellence.

Again, my appreciation and thenks for your rupush perfectionnes on Jonuary 18th.

Sincerelly,

# RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Mildrell Baryshnikov American Bollet Theatre 388 Seventh Avenue New York, New York 10019

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001276 4800 FG 001-03

February 3, 1981

Dear Mr. Davis:

Attending the Veterans Ball proved to be one of the special Inauguration Day highlights for Mrs. Reagan and me.

We particularly appreciated the chance to briefly visit with representatives from one of this country's finest patriotic organizations, and were deeply grateful for your unique display of support.

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes for future successes,

Sincerely,

# RONALD REAGAN

V

Mr. Charles W. Davis
President
Congressional Medal
of Honor Society
830 Pacheco Street
San Francisco, California 94116

Dear Mr. Davis:

Attending the Veterans Ball proved to be one of the special Inauguration Day highlights for Mrs. Reagan and me.

We especially appreciated the chance to briefly visit with representatives from one of this country's finest patriotic organizations and were deeply grateful for your unique display of support.

With heartfelt thanks and best wigshes for future successes, Sincerely,

RR

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PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, RPT DLY MGM

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20500

(DUPLICATE CORRECTED COPY OF MESSAGE Ø1-22 1158A EST)

PLEASE ACCEPT THE PROFOUND THANKS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY AND THEIR LADIES FOR INVITING US TO YOUR INAUGURAL. YOU AND THE FIRST LADY PAID US A GREAT HONOR BY YOUR VISIT TO THE VETERANS BALL ON THE EVENING OF YOUR FIRST DAY AS

OUR PRESIDENT. WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS AND TOTAL SUPPORT
CHARLES W DAVIS PRESIDENT CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY
830 PACHECO ST
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94116

1854 EST

NNNN

Dear Mr. Davis.

to be one of the special Grangeration and highlights for Mrs Reagan and me with the special of appreciately visit with the spresentatives of one of blas country's finest patriotic organizations, and were deeply greated for your arises display of support.

To h

February 3, 1981

001277 4900 FG 001-03

Dear Mr. Mecker

Thank you for your account of the way in which the Economic Club of Detroit shared inauguration Day festivities with its membership. Your description of the day's events evokes much pride in and appreciation of the patriotism it reflects.

The support and confidence of your organization will be a source of great encouragement in the days chead.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

### RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Theodore H. Mecke, Jr. President The Economic Club of Detroit 321 West Lafayette Detroit, Michigan 48226

# LISTED IN WHO'S WHO x organization executive

The Economic Club of Detroit 920 Free Press Building, 321 W. Lafayette, Detroit, Michigan 48226 Telephone: 313/963-8547 Theodore H. Mecke, Jr. January 20, 1981 President 001277 The Honorable Ronald Reagan President of the United States The White House Washington, D.C. Dear Mr. President: The Economic Club of Detroit honored you and Vice President Bush today at a special meeting in which the inaugural ceremonies, including your memorable address, were televised live to our membership on a giant screen in Cobo Hall. It was our pleasure to have you speak in person to our members last May in the very same hall when you attracted the largest luncheon audience in the 47-year history of the Club. We hope that some day you will have the occasion to visit us again. You would have been pleased with the warm response and the personal involvement of our members today. They arose for the singing of "America" and the invocation and they gave you a standing ovation at the end. It was the next best thing to being in Washington with you as you undertake the awesome responsibilities of your office. Serious as the moment was, we celebrated in a pleasant mood of confidence and optimism and in a joyful atmosphere that included such touches as California wines and jelly beans! Please accept our best wishes for a productive first term and our pledge of support in the very individual sense that you outlined in your splendid inaugural address. Sincerely, Thean It Wecke &. THM, Jr.:vc

# The Economic Club of Detroit

Founded 1934 - Our 47th Season

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 20, 1981 - Cobo Hall, Detroit

### SPECIAL MEETING -

The Inauguration of President Ronald Reagan
Giant Screen Live Telecast of the Inaugural Ceremonies and Address



President Reagan



Vice President Bush

### Program

11:00 a.m. Buffet Luncheon
(Standing rib of roast beef, vegetables, salad, rolls, Inauguration Day dessert and California wines)

11:30 a.m. Live telecast of inauguration ceremonies begins on 10' by 10' screen.

11:45 a.m. Vice President George Bush takes oath of office.

12 noon President Reagan takes oath of office and delivers the Inaugural Address.

12:30 p.m. Toast to the President of the United States

Meeting concludes

Buffet Luncheon Tickets - \$12.50

Guests are welcome

Places will be assigned in the order in which reservations are received. Reserved seats will be held until 11:30 a.m.

John

February 3, 1981

001278 001278 4710 FG 001-03 AR ME 001-03

Dear Mr. Serkin:

We were sorry that you became ill, but we want to thank you nonetheless for donating your special talents to making the occasion of the pre-Inaugural Kennedy Center concert such a memorable event. That so many gifted artists were willing to volunteer their time and efforts is deeply gratifying.

Nancy and I hope you are fully recovered, and we send you our best wishes.

Sincerely,

## RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Rudolf Serkin Rural Delivery 3 Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

001278

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 2, 1981

Somewhat the to

Dear Mr. Serkin:

Thank you for donating your special talents to making the occasion of the pre-Inaugural Kennedy Center concert such a memorable event. That so many gifted artists were willing to volunteer their time and efforts is deeply gratifying.

Nancy and I join in sending our appreciation for your superb performance on January 18th.

Sincerely, for the state of the

Mr. Rudolf Serkin Rural Delivery 3 Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 Curry Soul Pat Pleason 11/15/14

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