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TJ

July 31, 1986

434188
1220
FEDD2
PRDD7

TR

Dear Senator Laxalt:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting that the President meet with Phyllis Schlafly to discuss the Constitutional Convention.

We appreciate knowing of your personal interest in arranging such a meeting. Unfortunately, I regret to write that the President's schedule for the coming months is already heavily committed and we are unable to arrange an appointment at this time. However, please know that we will be glad to keep your request in mind for the future.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.
Director, Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling

The Honorable Paul Laxalt
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FJR:jaj:emp

PAUL LAXALT
NEVADA



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 16, 1986

RECEIVED

1986

SCHEDULING
OFFICE

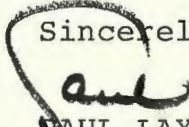
Dear Fred:

Phyllis Schlafly is very interested in meeting with the President sometime soon to discuss the Constitutional Convention, and I would personally appreciate it if something could be arranged.

Please let me know as quickly as possible if this is feasible.

Thanks very much for your help, Fred.

Sincerely,


PAUL LAXALT
U. S. SENATOR

Mr. Fred Ryan
Deputy Assistant to the President for
Appointments and Scheduling
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

PL/ed

TJ

ID # 434486 CU

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FE002

- ☐ O - OUTGOING
☐ H - INTERNAL
☐ I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1

Name of Correspondent: Peter J. Wallison

☐ MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Bicentennial of the Constitution

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>curroll</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>86107131</u>		<u>C 8610805</u> PY
	Referral Note:			
<u>cu wall</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>86107131</u>		<u>C 8610805</u> PY
	Referral Note:	<u>Aug 5 86 PJW note to Don Regan</u>		
		<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:			
		<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:			
		<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:			

ACTION CODES:

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C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

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C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: Jul 31, 86 incoming ltr from William A. Schreyer to Donald T. Regan also attached.

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOP).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8-5/86

Don-

I told you about
my discussion with
Bill Rogers. We still
need a finance chairman.

Pttr

434486 cu

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
One Liberty Plaza
165 Broadway
New York, New York 10080
212 637 8756



William A. Schreyer
Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer

July 31, 1986

Honorable Donald T. Regan
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Don:

I wanted to let you know that the Firm is going to be playing a significant role in the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. As the attached materials indicate, we plan to sponsor a "Ratification Celebration" in each of the 50 states, to commemorate the critical event in 1787 and 1788 that won the Constitution the acceptance of the American people, state by state. The American Bar Association, which has played such a vital role in Bicentennial efforts to date, will be actively participating in the celebration.

The centerpiece of the celebration will be a Ratification Ball held on the 1988 anniversary of each state's ratification of the Constitution or admission to the Union. Marking the moment when each state formally accepted the federal Constitution, the Ball or a specially designed event suited to the state's Bicentennial activities would honor government, civic and corporate leaders as well as commemorate the original "ratifiers" and state founders. Proceeds from each event would benefit an educational project aimed at increasing understanding of our Constitutional form of government. This project would be determined by the authorized or designated state commission or agency.

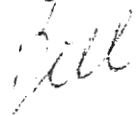
At the national level, we plan next week to formally announce our partnership with the American Bar Association and San Francisco public service station KQED in sponsoring a four-part public television series, entitled "WE THE PEOPLE." The series will examine the history of the Constitution and its role in contemporary American life. It will air in fall, 1987.

Last year, President Reagan agreed to the ABA and KQED's request that he open the television series (see attached). Chief Justice Burger will offer the conclusion. Negotiations with Peter Jennings to host the show are underway. This spring, the ABA received a Presidential Citation for outstanding community service for the "WE THE PEOPLE" program. Merrill Lynch became involved four months ago and only concluded contract negotiations with the ABA and KQED this week.

I wanted to let you know about this new effort personally.

We will be announcing the program on August 7 and will send you an advance copy of the press announcement early next week.

Best regards,



William A. Schreyer

Attachments

cc: Daniel P. Tully

1988

A RATIFICATION CELEBRATION

THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

FACT SHEET

"The period 1787-1789 was one of the most dramatic periods in world history....In 1988, the commemorative theme should be the great national debate following upon the adjournment of the Philadelphia Convention on Sept. 17, 1787."

(from the First Report of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution)

Building on the 1987 WE THE PEOPLE issues program, bicentennial activities in 1988 will celebrate the critical events of 1788 that won the Constitution the acceptance of the American people, state by state.

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. will sponsor a 50-state commemoration of the Year of Ratification, with the active participation of the American Bar Association.

Though in 1787 the Constitutional Convention succeeded in hammering out compromises, the document it framed was not overwhelmingly popular. Ratification by the requisite nine states was far from assured; indeed, the risks of rejecting it were immense. One Convention delegate wrote that the outcome of the debate would determine "whether or not we shall become a respectable nation, or a people torn to pieces by intestine commotions, and rendered contemptible for ages."

Historian Whitfield J. Bell Jr. has described the spirit of 1788 in these terms:

"At first each state had marked only its own adoption of the Constitution, but soon the successive states' ratifications became everywhere the occasion for Federalist rejoicing."

In 1988, the 200th anniversary of this tense, complex, and ultimately jubilant Year of Ratification will be appropriately observed. Activities will highlight the connection of each of the 50 states to the Constitution -- both the original 13 states and the 37 that accepted the Constitution and joined the Union in later years. Each state has its own unique story to tell of settlement and statehood, and governmental evolution under the U.S. Constitution. In the Midwest and Western states, the Ratification Celebration will be the natural kickoff for upcoming state centennial or sesquicentennial observances.

Ratification Celebrations, sponsored by Merrill Lynch in coordination with state bicentennial offices, will be distinctly local in flavor, reflecting local history and heritage. The celebrations will be historically authentic re-creations of the balls, parades, and demonstrations that took place when the states ratified the Constitution or entered the Union. Similar festivities took place during the Constitution's Centennial in 1888.

Proceeds from each Ratification Ball will benefit an education project chosen by the state bicentennial planning group.

WE THE PEOPLE

A COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

FACT SHEET

WE THE PEOPLE is a nationwide project that will recount the history of the Constitution during its Bicentennial, highlighting its durability, strength and significance in contemporary American life. The American Bar Association began planning this multi-faceted educational program in 1982, in association with KQED-TV, the San Francisco public television station. State and local bar association members are taking active roles in WE THE PEOPLE on the grass roots level.

Merrill Lynch & Co. is serving as exclusive corporate underwriter.

Television series

- o The cornerstone of the public affairs initiative will be the WE THE PEOPLE four-part public television series, to air during the fall of 1987. The series will be introduced by President Reagan; Chief Justice Warren Burger will provide concluding remarks.
- o The series will examine current events and recent American history: Marines landing in Lebanon, civil rights marches in Selma, Ala., and the arresting of protestors in front of nuclear power plants. In this way, the series will explain constitutional issues, including power to wage war, freedom of expression and criminal procedure.
- o During the next year, WE THE PEOPLE camera crews will travel the country to film the lives of individual Americans and document how the principles of the Constitution affect them at the close of the 20th century. This focus on contemporary events will underscore the Constitution's importance as an enduring framework within which the most important national policy decisions are made today.

Radio

- o A six-week, 30-part series of documentary shorts for National Public Radio will air simultaneously with the television series in fall 1987. This parallel television and radio programming marks a first in the history of public broadcasting.

FE002

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) .

☐ **MI Mail Report**

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Buying reprints of the Constitution from the Bicentennial Committee

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
cu holl		ORIGINATOR	86/07/31			@ 86/08/15
cuat 27		Referral Note:	A/C	86/07/31		@ 86/08/15
		Referral Note:	Jul 31, 86 ACR memo to letter Wallison			
		Referral Note:				
		Referral Note:				
		Referral Note:				
		Referral Note:				

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D - Draft Response
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to be used as Enclosure

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Comments:

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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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 31, 1986

✓
437573 CU

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER J. WALLISON

FROM: ALAN CHARLES RAUL

SUBJECT: Printing

I spoke again with Grant Moy, General Counsel of the Government Printing Office, regarding the question of government agencies buying reprints of the Constitution from the Bicentennial Committee "off the shelf". Neither he nor I see any problems with this.

Close Hold

ID # 450020 CU
FE0021

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- ☐ O - OUTGOING
- ☐ H - INTERNAL
- ☐ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 86109129

Name of Correspondent: David Chew

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Schlatly letter to Lopez

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>cuhol1</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>86109129</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8610107</u> WS
	Referral Note:				
<u>cuat28</u>		<u>D 86109129</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8610107</u> WS
	Referral Note:				
<u>cu wall</u>		<u>S 8610107</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8610107</u> WS
	Referral Note:	<u>Oct 786 EPN memo to David@chew</u>			
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				

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No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: 0 Individual Codes: _____

Prime Subject Code: EE 002 Secondary Subject Codes: FI 004 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C _____	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP _____	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO:

Peter / Will

FROM: DONALD T. REGAN
CHIEF OF STAFF

Lets' discuss

WJR

9/29/86

Case closed.

9-31-86

*Ref. to D. Regan
via Ball's eye
(game Moody)*

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 450020CU

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/27/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED., 10/1/86SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY TO SENATOR PAUL LAXALT

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MILLER - ADMIN.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POINDEXTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BARBOUR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WALLISON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MASENG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Attached is a letter (CLOSE HOLD) sent to the President by Senator Laxalt. Would you please prepare an appropriate response and forward to Chew's office for review?

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 7, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: PETER J. WALLISON
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PJW

SUBJECT: Response to Phyllis Schlafly Re Balanced
Budget Amendment and Constitutional Convention

The attached letter from Phyllis Schlafly to Senator Laxalt, which was forwarded to the President by Senator Laxalt, makes it clear that Mrs. Schlafly feels that her views are being kept from the President. This is obviously not the case, and there is no reason that the President could not address a personal note to her stating as much. At the same time, such a letter could correct her misperception of the White House position on a constitutional convention by enclosing the text of the official White House statement on this subject.

It is, of course, likely that Mrs. Schlafly will wish to pursue this matter with the President. For this reason, the letter should also lay the groundwork for further responses on the merits to come from this office, rather than from the President.

A letter for the President's signature, drafted to these specifications, is attached.



PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY
PRESIDENT
68 FAIRMOUNT
ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002
(618) 462-5415

EAGLE FORUM

LEADING THE PRO-FAMILY MOVEMENT SINCE 1972

316 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., S.E., SUITE 203, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003, (202) 544-0353 August 22, 1986

Senator Paul Laxalt
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Paul:

I really appreciate your good efforts to try to get an appointment for me with the President. Eileen kindly sent me the turn-down from Fred Ryan.

However, I believe this matter should be pursued because I think that the turn-down is due more to the topic I want to discuss than to me. (I know the President is very friendly toward me, and when I saw him in Chicago for Governor Thompson's luncheon last week, he told me he'd be glad to see me.) There are, apparently, highly placed persons on the President's staff who support the calling of a Constitutional Convention and are not letting him hear the persuasive arguments against it.

I believe that the Constitution which our Founding Fathers gave us is THE most wonderful document ever written by man -- and I think it would be a disaster for our country if we were plunged into chaos during the Bicentennial year by some special-interest groups forcing the calling of a new Constitutional Convention (colloquially called a Con Con).

That possibility is NOT far fetched! Under Article V, if 34 states request a Constitutional Convention, Congress "shall" call one. The problem is that 32 states have already passed resolutions asking for a Con Con, and the only reason it isn't 34 is that I and my associates worked like dogs in the fall of 1985 and the spring of 1986 and persuaded the Michigan, Connecticut, and Kentucky legislatures to vote down their Con Con resolutions.

I call your attention to the enclosed fundraising letter from one of the special-interest groups promoting the idea of a Constitutional Convention, in which they brag that "President Ronald Reagan delivered an ultimatum to both houses of Congress. He told the Representatives and Senators that if they fail to approve the [Balanced Budget] Amendment, he will join our campaign to win the two more states needed for a Constitutional Convention. ... For the first time ever a sitting American President is not only calling for a Balanced Budget Amendment but he is threatening to take the unprecedented step of going directly to the states ..."

The letter goes on to refer twice to President Reagan's personal lobbying in the states.

Now, I don't believe that President Reagan said those things. I've followed this matter closely, and there is no evidence that he said anything. But I do know that several important people on his staff in the White House are actively promoting a Constitutional Convention and leading (or misleading) the press -- and individual state legislators -- to believe that President Reagan wants state legislators to vote for a Constitutional Convention.

I really believe this is a matter of the greatest urgency to our country -- and to the good name of the President and his Administration. People are trying to use the President to plunge our nation into the chaos of a Constitutional Convention -- and that would be a calamity of the first magnitude.

The people promoting a Con Con have a variety of different motives. One motive, as the enclosed letter shows, is fund-raising. That group wants to raise \$830,000 to promote a Con Con. That's a lot of money to pour into just two states to get those additional state Con Con resolutions. And they can probably raise it -- especially because they are using (or misusing) the President's name. I happen to know that, last fall, when we fought the Con Con battle in Michigan, the pro-Con Con people poured nearly \$100,000 into just three state legislative districts! You would be amazed at the variety of different groups promoting a Con Con for their own purposes; they range all the way from the liberal, internationalist, Panama Canal-giveaway crowd to Pat Robertson, who is on record as favoring a Con Con.

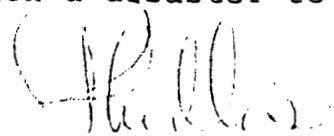
I think it is urgent that someone tell the President that he and our country canNOT afford to have his Administration torn apart by a divisive and unnecessary battle about a Con Con -- in which we would be debating whether our Constitution will endure at all, or whether it will be rewritten, instead of celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the greatest document in the world.

Of course, the President has no constitutional role to play in the amending process -- and I personally picketed the White House during both the Ford and the Carter Administrations when Ford and Carter misused their office to telephone state legislators and ask them to vote for ERA. It is just as offensive and a misuse of power for anonymous persons in the White House today to phone state legislators and say, "President Reagan wants you to vote for a Con Con," which is what happened in Michigan last year! And that is threatened in the enclosed letter!

I truly believe that logic and political imperatives are such that the President will ultimately have to oppose a Con Con, and it would be so much better for him and for everyone if he stops this loose talk now so that he doesn't have to reverse his public position. I urge you to urge the President immediately to stop his staff and everyone else from saying that he wants two more states to call for a Constitutional Convention.

Thanking you for reading this letter and for trying again. I truly believe that what I am telling you is not only good for our country, but good politics. If we ever are faced with having a Con Con, the American people will be outraged at the negligence of the conservatives who forced or allowed such a disaster to happen.

Faithfully,



PJW:CCC/RMK;jmy
PJWallison
CCCoX
RMKruger
Chron.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Phyllis:

Senator Laxalt has sent me a copy of your letter concerning the issue of a constitutional convention to adopt a Balanced Budget Amendment.

First, let me say that you are absolutely right: I consider you very much a friend, just as you stated in your letter to Senator Laxalt. I value your opinions, in particular on subjects so important as the arguments for and against the states calling a constitutional convention under Article V of the Constitution.

As for your concern that the topic of your letter is keeping your views from being heard, you needn't worry. My staff is not preventing me from hearing the arguments against the calling of a constitutional convention--not yours, nor those of anyone else. As a matter of fact, both the Counsel to the President and the Department of Justice have devoted a great deal of study to this issue. They share your concern that any Article V convention must not be allowed to stray from the single issue for which it is called. And while I must defer to my legal advisers on the specifics, I am advised that there is substantial legal authority supporting the limitation of a constitutional convention to the single subject of a Balanced Budget Amendment.

With respect to what the Administration has and has not said concerning a constitutional convention, I have enclosed the text of the White House statement of March 26, 1986, issued the day following the Senate vote on the Balanced Budget

Amendment. In that 66-34 vote, which fell one shy of the two-thirds majority needed to send the issue to the House, just 43 of the 53 Republican members of the Senate backed the amendment. Clearly, we need to turn up the heat on this issue in the Congress. That is why the statement urged the Congress to act promptly, "before the supporters of such an amendment have no other choice than to pursue petitioning the remaining state legislatures."

In the early 1900's, when the American people wanted to vote for U.S. Senators themselves, a constitutional amendment to permit this got bottled up in the Senate. But, one by one, state legislatures began calling for a constitutional convention to approve an amendment requiring direct election of U.S. Senators. When the number of states calling for a convention came within one of the necessary two-thirds majority, the Senate finally capitulated. Once the inevitability of a state-called convention became clear, most Senators wanted to be on the winning side. I believe the same political dynamics apply to the Balanced Budget Amendment. As set out in the enclosed statement, it remains my hope that Congress will act responsibly--thus avoiding the need for a constitutional convention.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Phyllis Schlafly
President
Eagle Forum
68 Fairmount
Alton, Illinois 62002

Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution

Statement by the Principal Deputy Press Secretary to the President. March 26, 1986

The failure of Congress to respond to the manifest desire of the American people for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution leaves the matter in the hands of the States. It remains the President's hope that Congress will act responsibly to pass a balanced budget amendment, avoiding the need for a constitutional convention. If Congress does not act soon, the States will have no choice.

The President urges Congress to set aside its free-spending habits and to promptly act to propose a balanced budget amendment before the supporters of such an amendment have no other course than to pursue petitioning the remaining State legislatures.

Note: Larry M. Speakes, Principal Deputy Press Secretary to the President, read the statement to reporters assembled in the Briefing Room at the White House during his daily press briefing, which began at 12:35 p.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

October 7, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER J. WALLISON

FROM:

C. CHRISTOPHER COX
ROBERT M. KRUGER



SUBJECT:

Response to Phyllis Schlafly Re Balanced
Budget Amendment and Constitutional Convention

As requested, attached is a memo from you to David Chew, together with a letter for the President's signature responding to Phyllis Schlafly's concerns.

Office of the President

July 29, 1986

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Lewis K. Uhler
President, Director

William H. Shaker
Director

David Copeland
Vice President

Donald L. Totten
Vice President

Jameson G. Campaigne, Jr.
Director

Robert Carlson
Director

William Craig Stubblebine
Director

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Chase Manhattan Bank)

M. Stanton Evans
(Author, columnist,
Broadcaster)

Allan Grant
(former President American
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James M. Hall
(of Counsel
Kuntel and Anderson)

Care Boutte Luce
(Author, columnist, former
U.S. Ambassador)

Vern I. McCarthy, Jr.
(President, Mid-America Institute
for Public Policy Research)

William A. Niskanen
(Chairman, CATO Institute)

Frank Shakespeare
(Vice Chairman, RNC)

General A. C. Wedemeyer
(U.S. Army Retired)

Dear Friend:

This is one of the most difficult letters I have ever had to write you.

NTLC is right now facing one of the most serious financial situations since we began our fight for a Tax Limitation/Balanced Budget Amendment eight years ago.

Unless you and I can immediately raise \$830,000 it will seriously jeopardize all our plans to win approval of the Amendment by Congress or 34 state resolutions.

Because you have been such a generous contributor to NTLC in the past, I feel I owe you an explanation as to why we are in this serious situation and why I need your immediate help.

In the past few weeks two sudden developments have presented us with some tremendous opportunities but they also put an unexpected drain on all of NTLC's financial resources.

First, President Ronald Reagan delivered an ultimatum to both houses of Congress.

He told the Representatives and Senators that if they fail to approve the Amendment, he will join our campaign to win the two more states needed for a constitutional convention to force our Balanced Budget Amendment on Congress.

NATIONAL TAX LIMITATION COMMITTEE

#5 Sierragate Plaza, Suite 309, Roseville, California 95678
500 North Washington Street, Suite 201, Falls Church, Virginia 22046

This is truly a historic moment. For the first time ever a sitting American President is not only calling for a Balanced Budget Amendment but he is threatening to take the unprecedented step of going directly to the states to force the Congress to pass a constitutional amendment.

We absolutely must be prepared to seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to convene a Balanced Budget Constitutional Convention if Congress fails to act.

Unless you and I lay the groundwork now, not even President Reagan's personal lobbying in the states will win our battle for us. We need to be able to mobilize our grassroots supporters on a moment's notice for the President.

And to make matters worse we must not only be ready to win the two additional states needed for the constitutional convention, but we must be prepared to make sure none of the states which have already approved our Amendment try to revoke their support.

With the prospect of Ronald Reagan's personal help I expect all the big spending groups to launch a new and potentially deadly attack on our Amendment in the states.

We blocked such an effort a few months ago in Florida and we've just been informed that the anti-Amendment forces in Florida are about to try again.

We can win each of these critical battles but it's going to be expensive and it will be an enormous drain on NTLC's budget.

But there's also been a second development which, although it will dramatically help our chance of passing the Amendment, it is severely aggravating NTLC's financial crisis.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole has indicated that the moment we have the 67 votes needed for passage he will bring our Amendment back to the floor of the Senate.

Right now, we are waging a massive grassroots voter education campaign to expose to the voters

each of the Senators who cast their vote against the Amendment.

If we are to expose each of the Anti-Amendment Senators and gain the one additional vote we need for passage we urgently need to carry out our full voter education program.

To be successful, NTLC must raise dramatically more money than we anticipated when we designed the original 1986 NTLC budget.

If we fail to raise these funds, it will pave the way for the Anti-Amendment forces to revoke the call for a constitutional convention in several of the state legislatures and it will all but destroy our chances of ever passing it in the Congress.

There's no way around it -- we're now in a serious financial bind and we simply must raise this money.

By August 20th, I must raise \$590,000 if NTLC is going to carry out our full voter education program to expose each of the Senators who are responsible for casting the vote which killed the Balanced Budget Amendment.

And no later than September 5th, I must raise an additional \$240,000 if we are to prevent the big spenders from repealing our Amendment in the state legislatures and lay the groundwork for a Presidential campaign in the states where the Amendment and call for the constitutional convention has not yet passed.

I want you to know that if there was any other way I could raise these funds without having to ask you to make another sacrifice, I would do it. But there simply is not.

I'm going to need your contribution in August to help keep our Senate campaign in full gear and an extra contribution in September to wage our battle in the state legislatures.

Here's what I hope you will do to help me. You will find 2 blank checks with my letter, dated August 20th, and September 5th.

page 4

Please take a few minutes now to fill out your checks and mail them back to me in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Feel free to use your own personal checks if it's more convenient.

I know how generous you have been in the past when I've needed your help. That's why I hope I can count on you to send me \$25 for each of the next 2 months to help us during these very critical days in our fight for the Amendment.

This amounts to a total of \$50 for August 20th and September 5th. If you can send more, please do. Every dollar will help. I trust you to send whatever you can afford.

Your checks won't be deposited until the date appearing on them. We'll keep them in a safe deposit box at the bank until the due date.

Of course, if you feel you can make out one check now for the entire \$50 that we could deposit immediately, it would be a big help.

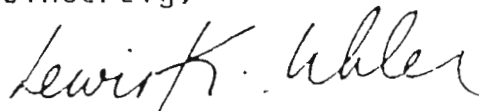
With your checks in hand, I'll be able to give the final go ahead now to our plans for the campaign to expose the Senators who are guilty of killing our Amendment and laying the groundwork for the President in the state legislatures.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of our voter education campaign. Our entire NTLC strategy is to put maximum public pressure on the Senators who voted against us and we can't do it without your immediate financial support.

If I don't hear from you in the next few days, I'll be forced not only to cut back on our Senate programs but I'll have to curtail some of our most critical phases in our campaign to protect the Amendment from attack in the state legislatures.

I'll be grateful for your help today so that I don't have to slash NTLC's budget and jeopardize our chances to pass the Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis K. Uhler".

Lewis K. Uhler, President
NTLC

LKU/jmg

453908 CU

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING

☐ H - INTERNAL

☐ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1

Name of Correspondent: Peter D. Keisler

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) (B) (C)

Subject: State Applications for a Constitutional Convention
Balanced Budget/Spending Limitation

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
cu hall		ORIGINATOR	86/10/15			C 86/10/22 TR
		Referral Note:				
cu at st		A/C	86/10/15			C 86/10/22 TR
		Referral Note:				
cu wall		R	86/10/15			C 86/10/22 TR
		Referral Note:				
			1 / 1			1 / 1
		Referral Note:				
			1 / 1			1 / 1
		Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
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to be used as Enclosure

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DISPOSITION CODES:

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B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

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.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: 0 Individual Codes: _____

Prime Subject Code: FE 002 Secondary Subject Codes: FE 004

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C _____	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP _____	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
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- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

453908 *CU*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 15, 1986

*Pls.
Thanks. Right
on target. P.*

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER J. WALLISON

FROM: PETER D. KEISLER *POK*

SUBJECT: State Applications for a Constitutional Convention

You asked me to determine what statements have been made by the Administration concerning the campaign for a constitutional convention to consider a balanced budget/spending limitation amendment. You also asked for a count of States that have formally requested such a convention. This memorandum responds to those inquiries.

Administration Position

I have located only one Presidential statement that addresses the issue of a constitutional convention. On March 26, 1986, one day after the Senate rejected a proposed balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution, Larry Speakes issued the following statement:

The failure of Congress to respond to the manifest desire of the American people for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution leaves the matter in the hands of the States. It remains the President's hope that Congress will act responsibly to pass a balanced budget amendment, avoiding the need for a constitutional convention. If Congress does not act soon, the States will have no choice.

The President urges Congress to set aside its free-spending habits and to promptly act to propose a balanced budget amendment before the supporters of such an amendment have no other course than to pursue petitioning the remaining State legislatures.

This statement did not expressly endorse the campaign for a constitutional convention. Nevertheless, by noting that the States might "have no choice," the statement strongly implied that if a constitutional convention became the only practical mechanism for enactment of a balanced budget amendment, the President would support it.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the only statement on the subject the President has made. In a memorandum to Fred Fielding dated January 27, 1984, John Rogers reported that "Mike Uhlmann advises that the Administration has scrupulously avoided taking a position on the question." Uhlmann was handling legal issues for

the Office of Policy Development at the time and had been doing so since the early days of the Administration.

The subsequent press accounts of the President's statement were imprecise and ambiguous. For example, the New York Times reported that "Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said the President may now turn to the states, campaigning for a constitutional convention on the matter." Senate Defeats Budget Measure, New York Times - 3/30/86. U.S. News and World Report stated that "[t]he White House promised to take the fight to the states to persuade them to call a constitutional convention to adopt the amendment. Yet White House political director Mitchell Daniels said there were 'no specific plans' for Reagan to hit the hustings." Constitutional Amendment's Last Rites?, U.S. News and World Report - 4/7/86.

I indicated at a staff meeting last week that it was my impression that the Attorney General had endorsed the idea of a constitutional convention. That impression was inaccurate. Shortly before a resolution applying for a constitutional convention was to be voted on by the Michigan legislature, the Attorney General traveled to that state to deliver a speech before the Federal Bar Association. It was this speech, delivered in September of 1985, that I had in mind. When I read the text of the speech, however, I discovered that the Attorney General did not endorse the convention campaign. Instead, he took exactly the same line that the President was to take seven months later. Indeed, the Attorney General was a bit more restrained. He said:

When the Michigan legislature reconvenes it will be taking up the question of asking Congress to call a new constitutional convention to consider a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. This would be a dramatic step. But in the past similar actions on the part of the states have persuaded Congress to move off center and propose needed constitutional changes. It is my hope that Congress does act, and act soon, to propose a constitutional amendment demanding a balanced budget.

Finally, I should mention that the idea was endorsed in the 1984 Republican Platform, which included the following passage:

We will work for the constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget passed by the Republican Senate but blocked by the Democrat-controlled House and denounced by the Democrat Platform. If Congress fails to act on this issue, a constitutional convention should be convened to address only this issue in order to bring deficit spending under control.

Current Status of State Applications

Under Article V of the Constitution, Congress is obligated to call a convention upon the application of two-thirds of the State

legislatures, i.e., thirty-four States. Thirty-two States have passed resolutions requesting a constitutional convention on federal spending: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming. It is not clear, however, whether all of these applications can be aggregated. The following questions remain unsettled:

(1) Can a State rescind its application? There are efforts to do so underway in several States. Moreover, some States have passed several successive applications for a convention on federal spending, and the most recent applications may arguably supercede the earlier ones. If the earlier ones would be more "valid" according to some counting methods than the later ones, Congress would be presented with the issue of implicit rescission.

(2) Even if not rescinded, can an application die of natural causes? Six of the thirty-two applications were enacted in 1975 or 1976. Some might suggest that they must be renewed in order to retain validity.

(3) How similar in wording and subject matter do the thirty-four applications need to be? No one has suggested that the applications requesting a convention on spending ought to be combined with those requesting a convention on abortion. Beyond that, the question becomes complicated. The spending limitation applications differ from each other in ways that some consider significant. Most call for a balanced-budget amendment, but provide varying language. Some would "prohibit deficit spending" (e.g., Colorado), some would forbid Congress to make any appropriation "if the resulting total of appropriations for such fiscal year would exceed the total revenues. . . ." (e.g., Mississippi) and some would forbid the federal government to "exceed its income during any fiscal year" (e.g., Delaware). Louisiana and Mississippi also would have the amendment require that the existing debt be payed off in one hundred years; Texas would require that it be amortized. Whether such applications "count" depends upon the level of generality at which you make the comparisons among applications.

This issue was discussed in a 1979 Memorandum Opinion for the Attorney General prepared by the Office of Legal Counsel. In that Memorandum Opinion, OLC took the position that if a State requests a convention for the "sole and exclusive" purpose of considering an amendment the text of which is included in the application (which Kansas, for example, has done), then that State's application cannot be added to any other applications unless the other applications contain the identical text. OLC is currently

preparing a new opinion on the subject, and the 1979 analysis may therefore be withdrawn. I will make sure to get a copy of the OLC opinion when it is issued.

It is my impression that the campaign for the final two States (if two are all that are needed) has faltered. No State has enacted an application since 1983 (Missouri), and recent efforts in Michigan, Kentucky and West Virginia have run aground. I will monitor the situation and let you know if things change.

pg

ID # 456251 CU

FE007

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING

☐ H - INTERNAL

☐ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1

Name of Correspondent: Warren Burger

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) (B) (C)

Subject: Two copies of the first draft of the Constitution,
which will be distributed by the Bicentennial
Commission, for the President and the Vice President

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>cu holl</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>86/11/10</u>		<u>C 86/11/20</u>
		Referral Note:			
<u>cu at 27</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>86/11/10</u>		<u>C 86/11/20</u>
		Referral Note:			
<u>cu wall</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86/11/20</u>		<u>C 86/11/20</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>See comments</u>		
			<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
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			<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
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Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: Nov 20 86 PGM memo to the President with
proposed reply to Chief Justice Burger and Nov. 20 86 PGM
memo to the Vice President

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FG 051
FG 038

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- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PJW:ACR:nge

cc: PWallison ✓
ARaul
Chron.

November 20, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PETER J. WALLISON
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: First Copy (Volume I, No. 1) of the Constitution
as Published by the Bicentennial Commission

I have the honor to transmit to you, on behalf of Chief Justice Warren Burger (Retired), the enclosed first copy (Volume I, No. 1) of the Constitution as published by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The date of Chief Justice Burger's inscription, September 17, 1986, was the 199th anniversary of the Constitution's signing.

I have attached for your consideration a proposed reply from you to Chief Justice Burger, thanking him for his courtesy in sending you this booklet.

Recommendation

That you sign the reply at Tab A.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PJW

FROM: PETER J. WALLISON
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: First Copy (Volume I, No. 2) of the Constitution
as Published by the Bicentennial Commission

I have the honor to transmit to you, on behalf of Chief Justice Warren Burger (Retired), the enclosed first copy (Volume I, No. 2) of the Constitution as published by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The date of Chief Justice Burger's inscription, September 17, 1986, was the 199th anniversary of the Constitution's signing.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Chief Justice:

You were most thoughtful to provide me with Volume I, Number 1 of the Bicentennial Commission's republication of the United States Constitution. This great document of "We the People . . ." has always been a tremendous inspiration to me and I am grateful to have a copy of the Constitution I can carry around in my pocket.

Thank you again for your courtesy in sending me this copy of the Constitution and for your kind inscription. I wish you every success in leading the Commission's efforts to proclaim the meaning and history of our Constitution in a celebration to be shared and enjoyed by all Americans.

Sincerely,


The Honorable Warren E. Burger
Chairman
Commission on the Bicentennial of
The United States Constitution
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 20, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER J. WALLISON

FROM: ALAN CHARLES RAUL 
SUBJECT: Memos for President and Vice President
Sending Copies of the Constitution as
Published by the Bicentennial Commission

Attached for your review and signature are a memorandum to the President and one to the Vice President on the above-referenced matter. Also attached is a proposed reply from the President to Chief Justice Burger thanking him for sending the above-referenced copies.

Attachments

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

450254 *CA*

CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER
RETIRED

November 5, 1986

Dear Peter:

I am enclosing two copies of the first draft of the Constitution, which is to be distributed by the Bicentennial Commission. I would be grateful if you would hand one to the President and one to the Vice President. The form of the special edition may change, but I thought that the President and Vice President should receive the first two copies.

Cordially,

WJB

Honorable Peter Wallison
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

ACK

☐

YOU WERE CALLED BY-

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YOU WERE VISITED BY-

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OF (Organization)

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PLEASE PHONE ►

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FTS

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AUTOVON

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WILL CALL AGAIN

☐

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐

RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Sending materials from
CT Burger. PTW wants you to
draft shrt note to Pres & VP
w/ booklet & reply from Pres
to Burger.*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

11/12

TIME

1:50

63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018

★U.S.GPO:1985-0-461-274/20008

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)

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FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

435-7
43653/36
FE002

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Sincerely,

Ron

The Honorable Warren E. Burger
Chairman
Commission on the Bicentennial of
The United States Constitution
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

The President has seen 12/1

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 20, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PETER J. WALLISON *PJW*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

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