

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

WHORM Subject File Code: FE002
(Federal Government: Declaration of Independence and the
Constitution)
Case File Number(s): 540313-END
Box Number: 3

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FE02

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 09, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MELVIN R. LAIRD

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN IN LEARNING RECENTLY OF
THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROMOTION
OF A FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ALAN KRANOWITZ	ORG	88/05/09		C 88/05/11 <i>TR</i>
<i>CARISA</i> REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>A</i>	<i>88/05/11</i>	<i>TR</i>	C 88/05/16 <i>TR</i>
<i>OPA/Donatelli</i> REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>A</i>	<i>88/05/16</i>	<i>TR</i>	C 88/05/16 <i>TR</i>
<i>NSC/Stevens</i> REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>I</i>	<i>88/05/16</i>	<i>TR</i>	C 88/05/16 <i>TR</i>
<i>Arroy CARD</i> REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>A</i>	<i>88/05/16</i>	<i>ACA</i>	C 88/06/16 <i>TR</i>

COMMENTS: FORMER CONGRESSMAN; FORMER SEC. OF DEFENSE

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1241
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

- *****
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY | | | * |
- *****

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

*DRAFT
5/18*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1988

Dear Mr. Laird:

On behalf of the President, I thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Balanced Budget Amendment.

Please be assured the President has not specifically endorsed a constitutional convention by call of the States. He has stated that he believes if thirty-three states passed a resolution for the sole purpose of seeking a balanced budget amendment it would force Congress to act and pass its own amendment for that purpose.

As you know, it takes 34 states for a convention call, as provided in the United States Constitution, and thirty-eight states to ratify any product such a convention might produce. It is the opinion of the Justice Department (summary enclosed), that a limited convention could be held for the sole purpose of seeking a balanced budget amendment. State calls might be the only tool left to force Congress to act in a responsible manner.

The President sent two letters to New Hampshire legislators expressing his views on the states actions. However, he did not make phone calls either to New Hampshire or Alabama addressing this issue. I have enclosed copies of those letters so you can be fully informed on his views.

I am sending you a copy of the speech President Reagan made to the American Legislative Exchange Council on April 22 where he makes his views very clear. Perhaps this will help to clarify the President's position.

If I can be of assistance in the future, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Andrew H. Card, Jr.

Deputy Assistant to the President and
Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Mr. Melvin Laird
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Suite 212
Washington, D.C. 20036

569373

MELVIN R. LAIRD
Suite 212
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

May 5, 1988

A.K.
PERSONAL ←

Dear Mr. President:

I was disappointed to learn recently of your involvement in the dangerous promotion of a federal Constitutional Convention. Like you, I favor a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. However, the threat of a convention and its eventual outcome, is coming dangerously close to overshadowing the concern of the people with our deficits.

Mr. President, three points should be made:

First, it would not be possible to limit a modern-day convention, any more than it was possible to limit the convention of 1787.

Second, you have been requested to write letters and make telephone calls to state officials seeking their involvement in either ensuring enactment of a convention petition or stopping a withdrawal, and those requests have been politically injurious to you personally as President, and the Republicans contacted. For example, in New Hampshire, after receiving your calls, the leadership was required to change its position publicly, an event subsequently used against them, and in Alabama last week, the Democrat controlled legislature was given its first opportunity to overwhelmingly override the veto of the first Republican governor since reconstruction. This issue, in both states, has galvanized Republicans and Democrats to work together against Republican leadership.

Third, in addition to its perils for the internal workings of our Nation, a Constitutional Convention would have serious, frequently overlooked, international repercussions. The United States is the oldest, largest and most stable republic in the world. It is also the cornerstone of the entire economic life of the Western world and a significant factor in the economy of almost every country on the globe.

If James Madison, father of our Constitution, was justifiably concerned over foreign policy implications of the Constitutional Convention in the 18th century, our concern should be multiplied by the infinitely more prominent world role our country plays in the 20th century. The potential disruptions to our vital foreign policy interests -- NATO is an example -- are disturbing to contemplate.

The President
May 5, 1988
Page Two

If a convention were called, our allies and foes alike would soon realize the new pressures imposed upon our Republic. The mere act of convening a Constitutional Convention would send tremors throughout all those economies that depend on the dollar; would undermine our neighbors' confidence in our constitutional integrity, and would weaken not only our economic stability but the stability of the free world. That is a price we cannot afford.

Mr. President, it is my hope that you will consider the points I have outlined above, and please be assured that I am available if you wish to discuss this very important issue further.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin R. Laird". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "L".

Melvin R. Laird

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FE 002

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 09, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MELVIN R. LAIRD

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN IN LEARNING RECENTLY OF
THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROMOTION
OF A FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ALAN KRANOWITZ		ORG	88/05/09		C 88/05/11
CARISA	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	88/05/11		C 88/05/11
OPA/Donatelli	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	88/05/16		C 88/05/17 TR
NSC/Stevens	REFERRAL NOTE:	I	88/05/16		C 88/05/18
Das	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	88/05/20	MAN (88/05/20) TR	C 88/05/20
D.J.	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	88/05/29	TR	C 88/05/29

COMMENTS: FORMER CONGRESSMAN; FORMER SEC. OF DEFENSE

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1241
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

- *****
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION | *OUTGOING | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | * CODE = A | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE * | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY * | | | * |
- *****

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

88 MAY 16 P 4: 09



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legal Policy

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 29, 1988

The Honorable Melvin R. Laird
Suite 212
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The White House has asked me to respond to your letter concerning constitutional conventions under Article V of the Constitution.

Although reasonable arguments can be made -- and have been made -- on both sides, I think that a better reading of Article V supports the view that a constitutional convention can safely be limited to a single topic or several specific topics.

Article V provides that three-fourths of the states must ratify constitutional amendments proposed either by the Congress or by a constitutional convention. This is the ultimate and most important "check" on the amendment process. It is the safeguard against the dangers that you mention in your letter. It is not the only check, however. The Congress and the federal courts also play significant roles in policing the integrity of the convention process, in my view. In addition, American political customs should not be underestimated in their ability to provide additional enforcement of the propriety of the convention process. In a recent analysis published in the Journal of Law and Politics, political scientist Paul J. Weber concluded that there are so many political constraints in an Article V convention that it is, in fact, what he calls "a safe political option."

My office has completed a study of the convention method under Article V. I enclose a copy for your consideration. In closing, allow me to concede again that there are excellent arguments on both sides of this issue. Despite our differences, I greatly admire your views and your efforts to persuade others.

Sincerely,

Stephen Markman

Stephen J. Markman
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

MAY 25, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 569373

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 5, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: THE HONORABLE MELVIN R. LAIRD
SUITE 212
1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20036

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN IN LEARNING RECENTLY OF
THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROMOTION
OF A FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



8816071

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 20, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ms. Sally Kelley
Director of Agency Liaison
Presidential Correspondence
The White House

SUBJECT: Letter dated May 5, 1988 from
The Honorable Melvin R. Laird
regarding the President's
Involvement in the Promotion of a
Federal Constitutional Convention
ID #569373

The attached correspondence was forwarded to the Department of State for appropriate action.

We have reviewed the correspondence and believe that action on this matter more appropriately rests with the U.S. Department of Justice.



Office of the
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

As stated.

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

MAY 20, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 569373

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 5, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: THE HONORABLE MELVIN R. LAIRD
SUITE 212
1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20036

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN IN LEARNING RECENTLY OF
THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROMOTION
OF A FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

569373

MELVIN R. LAIRD
Suite 212
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

May 5, 1988

PERSONAL



Dear Mr. President:

I was disappointed to learn recently of your involvement in the dangerous promotion of a federal Constitutional Convention. Like you, I favor a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. However, the threat of a convention and its eventual outcome, is coming dangerously close to overshadowing the concern of the people with our deficits.

Mr. President, three points should be made:

First, it would not be possible to limit a modern-day convention, any more than it was possible to limit the convention of 1787.

Second, you have been requested to write letters and make telephone calls to state officials seeking their involvement in either ensuring enactment of a convention petition or stopping a withdrawal, and those requests have been politically injurious to you personally as President, and the Republicans contacted. For example, in New Hampshire, after receiving your calls, the leadership was required to change its position publicly, an event subsequently used against them, and in Alabama last week, the Democrat controlled legislature was given its first opportunity to overwhelmingly override the veto of the first Republican governor since reconstruction. This issue, in both states, has galvanized Republicans and Democrats to work together against Republican leadership.

Third, in addition to its perils for the internal workings of our Nation, a Constitutional Convention would have serious, frequently overlooked, international repercussions. The United States is the oldest, largest and most stable republic in the world. It is also the cornerstone of the entire economic life of the Western world and a significant factor in the economy of almost every country on the globe.

If James Madison, father of our Constitution, was justifiably concerned over foreign policy implications of the Constitutional Convention in the 18th century, our concern should be multiplied by the infinitely more prominent world role our country plays in the 20th century. The potential disruptions to our vital foreign policy interests -- NATO is an example -- are disturbing to contemplate.

The President
May 5, 1988
Page Two

If a convention were called, our allies and foes alike would soon realize the new pressures imposed upon our Republic. The mere act of convening a Constitutional Convention would send tremors throughout all those economies that depend on the dollar; would undermine our neighbors' confidence in our constitutional integrity, and would weaken not only our economic stability but the stability of the free world. That is a price we cannot afford.

Mr. President, it is my hope that you will consider the points I have outlined above, and please be assured that I am available if you wish to discuss this very important issue further.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin R. Laird". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "L".

Melvin R. Laird

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



[Handwritten signature]

Commission on the Bicentennial of The United States Constitution

736 Jackson Place, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20503
202/USA-1787

581989
HAD40
164.2

MS

May 24, 1988

Warren E. Burger
Chairman

Frederick K. Biebel

Lindy Boggs

Herbert Brownell

Lynne V. Cheney

Philip M. Crane

Dennis DeConcini

William J. Green

Edward Victor Hill

Cornelia G. Kennedy

Edward M. Kennedy

Harry McKinley Lightsey, Jr.

William Lucas

Betty Southard Murphy

Thomas H. O'Connor

Phyllis Schlafly

Bernard H. Siegan

Ted Stevens

Obert C. Tanner

Strom Thurmond

Ronald H. Walker

Charles E. Wiggins

Charles Alan Wright

Mark W. Cannon
Staff Director

Mr. Donald Waggenheim
156 Independence Avenue
Apartment #2
Quincy, MA 02169

Dear Mr. Waggenheim:

Thank you for your letter to President Reagan addressing the possibility of a Freedom Train for the Bicentennial Celebration; it has been forwarded to my office for response.

Last summer American Express and The Council for the Thirteen Original States sponsored a program called Roads to Liberty. Roads to Liberty toured most of the United States displaying one of the original Magna Cartas and various documents pertinent to the states through which it was traveling. It was a huge success that gave Americans the chance to view documents that were instrumental in establishing our freedoms. The costs for underwriting such a project, however, meant that Roads to Liberty could only run through the summer of 1987. Presently there are not any plans to continue Roads to Liberty.

Thank you again for your letter and for your interest in the commemoration of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature: Sydney A. Lee]

Sydney A. Lee
Director,
Information Services

SAL/MDH

12
Sugg for Bicentennial of Const.

The White House
Washington, DC

Bicentennial
Commission

Dear Mr. President:

SR
In 1949 at the age 15 I was privileged to board the Freedom Train at South Station, Boston, Massachusetts and view some of our most precious state treasures, including the Bill of Rights, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and General Anthony MacAuliff's famous reply to the German Army at the battle of Bastogne. There were several other historical documents on that train that I am unable to recall.

May I suggest that in the year of the bicentennial celebration of the oldest ^{written} constitution in the world and the recent signing of the arms treaty with the USSR, the Freedom Train should be reassembled, and once again sent across this great land. I think that it would give the younger generation as well as all other Americans a renewed feeling of love of country and more importantly, what this great country stands for.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Waggenheim

*M - write note
re thanks for
suggestion*

ID # 582192 CU
FE002

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET



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

Name of Correspondent: Ronald K. Peterson

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

Subject: S.J. Res. 323, A Resolution amending the War Powers Resolution

ROUTE TO:	ACTION	DISPOSITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD
<u>cu hall</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>88,05,26</u>
<u>cuat (27)</u>	Referral Note: <u>D</u>	<u>88,05,27</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>88,06,13</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:	<u>1/1</u>

ACTION CODES:
 A - Appropriate Action
 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

DISPOSITION CODES:
 A - Answered
 B - Non-Special Referral
 C - Completed
 S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
 Type of Response = Initials of Signer
 Code = "A"
 Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: Dean has a copy of the bill.
Overtaken by events. No further action necessary.
C. Dean McGrath, Jr. WJG/CH 1-17-89

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: _____ Individual Codes: _____

Prime Subject Code: _____ - _____ Secondary Subject Codes: _____

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**



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

SPECIAL

May 25, 1988

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer -

*Department of State (Bachrach 647-4463)	25
*Department of Justice (Perkins 633-2113)	17
*Department of Defense (Brick 697-1305)	06
National Security Council	
Central Intelligence Agency	

SUBJECT: S.J.Res. 323, A Resolution amending the War Powers Resolution.

NOTE: The Senate leadership has expressed its intension to have hearings and floor action on S.J.Res. 323 this summer. *Please review the bill and those agencies noted by the asterisk should provide their views in the form of draft reports to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

A response to this request for your views is needed no later than MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1988.

Questions should be referred to **Annette Rooney/Sue Thau** (395-7300), the legislative analyst in this office.

Ronald K. Peterson

RONALD K. PETERSON FOR
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

cc: **A.B. Culvahouse, Jr.**

A. Raul
P. DuSault
B. Howard
J. Eisenhower
D. Gessaman

158 67.58

SPECIAL

88 MAY 26 P4: 26

ID # 588512 CU
FE002

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

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

Name of Correspondent: Rhett B. Dawson

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

Subject: H.R. 1939 -- Constitutional Heritage Act of 1988

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>White</u>	ORIGINATOR <u>88,09,15</u>	<u>C</u> <u>88,09,15</u>
<u>uat 35</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u> <u>88,09,15</u>	<u>C</u> <u>88,09,15</u>
	Referral Note: <u>Sept 15 88 PM B memo to Rhett Dawson</u>	
	Referral Note: _____	
	Referral Note: _____	
	Referral Note: _____	

- ACTION CODES:**
- A - Appropriate Action
 - 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

- DISPOSITION CODES:**
- A - Answered
 - B - Non-Special Referral
 - C - Completed
 - 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: _____ Individual Codes: _____

Prime Subject Code: _____ Secondary Subject Codes: _____

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
September 15, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR RHETT B. DAWSON
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

FROM: PATRICIA MACK BRYAN *MTB*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: H.R. 1939 -- Constitutional Heritage Act of 1988

Pursuant to your staffing memorandum of September 15, 1988, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced enrolled bill and has no legal objection to its approval.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/15/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB TODAY

SUBJECT: H.R. 1939 - CONSTITUTIONAL HERITAGE ACT OF 1988

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendaitons directly to my office by close of business TODAY Thursday, September 15, 1988. Thank you.

RESPONSE:



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

1988 SEP 15 PM 12:56
SEP 15 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill H.R. 1939 - Constitution Heritage Act of
1988
Sponsors - Rep. Vento (D) Minnesota and 40 others

Last Day for Action

September 26, 1988 - Monday

Purpose

Requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish The National Constitution Center to disseminate information about the United States Constitution.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of the Interior	No objection (Informally)
General Services Administration	No objection (Informally)

Discussion

H.R. 1939 provides for establishment of The National Constitution Center and specifies the functions of the Center, which will be to make information about the United States Constitution available to the American people. The bill's major provisions are described below.

H.R. 1939, which passed the House by a vote of 370-10 and the Senate by voice vote, would:

- require the Secretary of the Interior to establish the National Constitution Center at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to collect and disseminate information on the Constitution and its bicentennial;
- authorize the Secretary to establish and maintain a memorial to the Constitution at Independence National Historical Park;

- authorize the Secretary to make matching grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, or leases with, the National Constitution Center (currently a private, non-profit organization in Philadelphia), for operation of the Center established under this Act;
- require the Secretary to contract with the National Constitution Center and other qualified institutions of higher learning for research and other activities;
- allow the Secretary, through the General Services Administration, to provide, upon reimbursement, a site for the Center, by either using an existing structure or constructing a new one;
- require the Secretary to present to the public the history of the Constitution at Independence National Historical Park and at least 11 other units of the National Park System;
- authorize the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with other historic sites related to the Constitution and provide technical assistance in the preservation and interpretation of such sites; and
- authorize appropriations of such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act, and provide that appropriated funds may be made available to the Center only to the extent that they are matched by non-federal funds.

Conclusion

The Administration opposed H.R. 1939 during congressional consideration of the bill, because Interior's National Park Service is already carrying out a wide array of activities to commemorate the Constitution, and enactment of new legislation is unnecessary. These concerns do not warrant recommending a veto of the enrolled bill, however. Accordingly, we recommend approval of H.R. 1939.


James C. Miller III
Director

Enclosure

One Hundredth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight*

An Act

To provide for continuing interpretation of the Constitution in appropriate units of the National Park System by the Secretary of the Interior, and to establish a National center for the United States Constitution within the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Constitution Heritage Act of 1988".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that:

- (1) 1987 was the bicentennial of the signing of the United States Constitution;
- (2) commemoration of the Constitution's bicentennial included various events conducted by the Federal Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, and State and local bicentennial commissions;
- (3) bicentennial activities included important educational and instructional programs to heighten public awareness of the Constitution and the democratic process;
- (4) educational programs for the Constitution should continue after the bicentennial to document its profound impact on the political, economic and social development of this Nation, and in order to recognize those Americans instrumental in the history of the Constitution; and
- (5) units of the National Park System preserve and interpret key historic sites that document the history of the origins, subsequent development, and effects of the United States Constitution on this Nation.

(b) PURPOSES.—It is therefore the policy of the Congress to provide each of the following:

- (1) the necessary resources to develop a national resource center to undertake, on an ongoing basis, educational programs on the Constitution;
- (2) exhibits of, and an archives for, programs on or related to the recent bicentennial of the United States Constitution; and
- (3) interpretation of the United States Constitution at those units of the National Park System particularly relevant to its history.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall establish The National Constitution Center (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Center") within or in close proximity to the Independence National Historical Park. The Center shall disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-

partisan basis in order to increase the awareness and understanding of the Constitution among the American people.

(b) **FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTER.**—The functions of the Center shall include—

(1) serving as a center of exhibits and related materials on the history and contemporary significance of the Constitution;

(2) directing a national program of public education on the Constitution; issuing traveling exhibits, commissioning radio and television programs, furnishing materials for the schools, and providing other education services;

(3) functioning as an intellectual center, drawing both academics and practitioners to debate and refine constitutional issues and, at the same time, providing intellectual support for the Center's exhibits and public education program; and

(4) creating archives for programs on the bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

SEC. 4. ACQUISITION OF SITE FOR AND OPERATION OF THE CENTER.

(a) **PROVIDING A SITE.**—The Secretary through the General Services Administration, is authorized to provide, upon adequate reimbursement, a site, including necessary structures, for the Center by—

(1) using an existing structure or modifying an existing structure for use; or

(2) constructing a new structure to house the Center. The Secretary may acquire such land as is necessary to provide a site for the Center.

(b) **PROVISION OF FUNDS TO THE CENTER.**—The Secretary is authorized to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements, contracts or leases with the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which shall operate the Center as provided in this Act in order to carry out the purposes of this Act. Funds authorized to be appropriated under this Act may be made available to the National Constitution Center only to the extent that they are matched by such entity with funds from nonfederal sources.

SEC. 5. DIRECTIVES TO SECRETARY.

(a) **INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND OTHER UNITS.**—The Secretary shall interpret the origins, subsequent development, and effects of the United States Constitution on this country at Independence National Historical Park and at such other units of the National Park System as are closely associated with the Constitution. The Secretary shall select not less than 12 units of the National Park System for such interpretation, including Independence National Historical Park.

(b) **MEMORIAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to establish and maintain at Independence National Historical Park an appropriate memorial to the United States Constitution as a key document in our Nation's history.

(c) **PUBLIC MATERIALS.**—In coordination with the National Constitution Center, the Secretary shall develop and make available to the public interpretive and educational materials related to sites within the National Park System as referred to in subsection (a).

(d) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the owners or administrators of historic sites closely associated with the Constitution, pursuant to

H. R. 1939—3

which the Secretary may provide technical assistance in the preservation and interpretation of such sites.

(e) RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall contract with the National Constitution Center and other qualified institutions of higher learning for research and other activities including the distribution of interpretive and educational materials as appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(f) Nothing in this section may be construed to alter or waive the requirement that the Secretary maintain the historic integrity of units of the National Park System, including compliance with section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act (90 Stat. 1320) as amended.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

1120

FE002

FG018

FG999

HL140

COB TODAY FG038

FG006-11

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/15/88

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

COB TODAY

SUBJECT: H.R. 1939 - CONSTITUTIONAL HERITAGE ACT OF 1988

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendaitons directly to my office by close of business TODAY Thursday, September 15, 1988. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Rhett Dawson
Ext. 2702

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/15/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB TODAY

SUBJECT: H.R. 1939 - CONSTITUTIONAL HERITAGE ACT OF 1988

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendaitons directly to my office by close of business TODAY Thursday, September 15, 1988. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

1870

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/15/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB TODAY

SUBJECT: H.R. 1939 - CONSTITUTIONAL HERITAGE ACT OF 1988

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendaitons directly to my office by close of business TODAY Thursday, September 15, 1988. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

AD
Comment

—



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

1988 SEP 15 PM 12:56
SEP 15 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill H.R. 1939 - Constitution Heritage Act of
1988
Sponsors - Rep. Vento (D) Minnesota and 40 others

Last Day for Action

September 26, 1988 - Monday

Purpose

Requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish The National Constitution Center to disseminate information about the United States Constitution.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of the Interior	No objection (Informally)
General Services Administration	No objection (Informally)

Discussion

H.R. 1939 provides for establishment of The National Constitution Center and specifies the functions of the Center, which will be to make information about the United States Constitution available to the American people. The bill's major provisions are described below.

H.R. 1939, which passed the House by a vote of 370-10 and the Senate by voice vote, would:

- require the Secretary of the Interior to establish the National Constitution Center at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to collect and disseminate information on the Constitution and its bicentennial;
- authorize the Secretary to establish and maintain a memorial to the Constitution at Independence National Historical Park;

- authorize the Secretary to make matching grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, or leases with, the National Constitution Center (currently a private, non-profit organization in Philadelphia), for operation of the Center established under this Act;
- require the Secretary to contract with the National Constitution Center and other qualified institutions of higher learning for research and other activities;
- allow the Secretary, through the General Services Administration, to provide, upon reimbursement, a site for the Center, by either using an existing structure or constructing a new one;
- require the Secretary to present to the public the history of the Constitution at Independence National Historical Park and at least 11 other units of the National Park System;
- authorize the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with other historic sites related to the Constitution and provide technical assistance in the preservation and interpretation of such sites; and
- authorize appropriations of such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act, and provide that appropriated funds may be made available to the Center only to the extent that they are matched by non-federal funds.

Conclusion

The Administration opposed H.R. 1939 during congressional consideration of the bill, because Interior's National Park Service is already carrying out a wide array of activities to commemorate the Constitution, and enactment of new legislation is unnecessary. These concerns do not warrant recommending a veto of the enrolled bill, however. Accordingly, we recommend approval of H.R. 1939.


James C. Miller III
Director

Enclosure

Name	Date
Jennifer Quilley	2/2/88

1-2 11-31 same no cont. (pencil please)



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 599456 MAIN SUBCODE: FE002

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-10-26
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to FI001-02

[Change Status](#)

[Close Window](#)

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-10-26	dbarrie		Transferred to FI001-02

FE002

Ben

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

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

Name of Correspondent: Newton D. St. John, Jr.

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

Subject: Constitutional amendment repealing 22nd Amendment and other issues

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>cuhol</u>	ORIGINATOR <u>88108130</u>	<u>88109116</u>
<u>cut 34</u>	Referral Note: <u>R 8808131</u>	<u>BC A 88109116</u>
	Referral Note: _____	_____

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- 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

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- 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: _____ Individual Codes: 4640 _____

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

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

September 16, 1988

Dear Mr. St. John:

Thank you for your letter to President Reagan on pressing issues of constitutional law. The President greatly appreciates your strong expressions of support for such important steps as the balanced-budget, line-item veto, school prayer, and human life amendments. These important reforms are not evidence of the flaws of our Constitution; rather, they would revive important constitutional principles well-understood and respected at the time of the framing of the Constitution, which have been contravened by other recent developments. A notable example is Congress' recent practice of packing hundreds of billions of dollars of spending in omnibus continuing resolutions intended to deter the use of the President's constitutional veto power.

We also fully appreciate your concern over the threat posed by crime to our way of life. You can be assured that the Administration has committed our Nation's full resources to the eradication of crime and, in particular, the scourge of drugs.

Again, thank you for your encouragement and support.

Sincerely,



Benedict S. Cohen
Associate Counsel to the President

Newton D. St. John Jr. P.C.
Attorney At Law
619 Green Road
Post Office Box 518
Chatsworth, Georgia 30705

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: *a. B. Culvahouse*

FROM: Mail Analysis
Room 58, OEOB
456-6600

If you are unable to respond,
please return to:

Rm 58

NEWTON D. ST. JOHN JR. P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

619 GREEN ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 518
CHATSWORTH, GEORGIA 30705
TELEPHONE: (404) 695-7555

June 4, 1988

Reagan
White House

610009C4

The Hon. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States of America
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 2005

Re: Proposal: Constitutional Convention

Dear Hon. Mr. President:

We want to congratulate you on your very successful Moscow Summit. As a result of your trip, the perception is that world tensions are now reduced by the ratification of the INF Treaty. But, we are especially proud of your stand on Human Rights and visiting with the oppressed in the Soviet Union. That will be a lasting accomplishment.

During your trip to Moscow you made a comment to a Reporter in which you endorsed a Constitutional Amendment which would in effect repeal the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution which was ratified in 1951 restricting the term of the Office of President to two terms. This was in response to Gorbachav's statement that he thought the term of General Secretary should be limited to some unspecified time.

Your response To General Secretary's statement was absolutely correct when you said that all the People of the United States have the opportunity to vote for their leader but not so in the U.S.S.R.

Why If Congressional terms of office were so limited, would we have been blessed with leaders as: Richard Russell or Sam Nunn of Georgia? Would there have been the accomplishments of Senator and now Representative Claude Pepper of Florida, or Strom Thurmond of South Carolina? And, so many others too numerous to name?. [Please, note that I just mentioned only some Democratic Leaders]. You are absolutely right when you made the comparison with the U.S.S.R. We, the People of this Country should have the right to directly elect the President of our choice for as long as he is doing his job and the electorate approves of his performance.

In addition, I have heard you state in speeches that we need a Constitutional Amendment to "Balance the Budget" or to establish a Presidential "Line-Item Veto". Many Americans totally agree with this concept. Since Congress was given by the Constitution Power over the Budget, they have succeeded in furthering their own respective constituencies in expenditures (The term is porkbarreling) over the interest of the entire Nation. As a result our deficit is bankrupting us. Instead of having to sell off our National Parks in generations to come, to pay our indebtedness, most Americans would agree that in principle that a Constitutional Amendment is necessary to restore fiscal responsibility and not spend a dime more than is taken in from revenue.

Furthermore, I have heard you state on numerous occasions that we need a Constitutional Amendment to restore Prayer to the Public Schools. The majority of Americans would tell you "Amen" to that. On more than one occasion, I have heard you give a speech that there should be a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit Abortion on Demand except for instances of incest, rape or to protect the medical welfare of the mother. Most Americans agree with this principle as well.

Presently, we are engaged in an all-out battle with drugs in this Country. Most Americans would like to see a Constitutional Amendment -

88 AUG 30 P 1: 07

which would effectively repeal the 9th Amendment to the Bill of Rights which says: "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." When cruel and unusual acts of meyhams, malice murder and murders committed in drug trafficking, the punishment should be death by "public hanging" on the Court lawn where the acts were committed. The victim's family should have the absolute right to part of the execution of the convicted murderer.

The right of appeal should be restricted to two levels above the trial Court. The sitting trial Judge should decide after Hearing on whether the death penalty should be imposed. This should be done in consultation with the victim's family. Presently, in most jurisdictions, either a second trial by the same or different jury decides whether or not to impose the death penalty. The trial Judge steeped in the law should decide if there were mitigation factors in the imposition of the death sentence. Often times the juries are swayed by the appearance of the "clean cut" and well groomed convicted murderer and these emotional factors should be factored out completely.

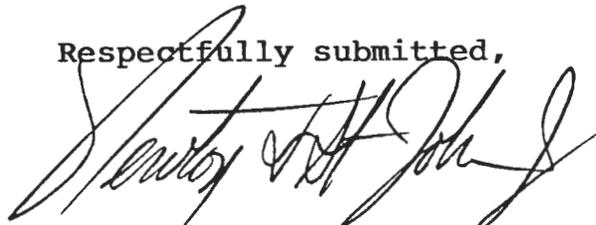
There is an old saying that: "Justice delayed is justice denied." We Americans are tired of this and tired of the erosion of the rights of victims and the coddling of murderers. We want law and order simply speaking. The 9th Amendment needs to be either repealed or revised to re-establish law and order which liberal courts have misinterpreted. Crime is costing we Americans. In order to house a convicted murderer on a non-paroled life sentence it costs on the average per year \$20,000.00. Living a normal life-span could cost up to a \$1,000,000 to the State or Federal Government. There should be therefore no debate about imposing the death penalty. Carrying out the death penalty should be done out in the open - public, demeaning and with the victim's family involvement if they so chose.

Perhaps, the Constitutional Convention should discuss whether or not Supreme Court Justices terms should be limited to 15 years so they cannot hang on to retire until they wait upon an Administration that will appoint a replacement who coincides with their own philosophy.

Going back to old sayings, Mr. President, we have all heard the notion that "If the thing ain't broke don't fix it". Our Constitution ain't broke yet but it is 201 years old this year. If some fine tuning is not performed on it in short order We as a Nation will not survive into the 21st Century because we will be financially and morally bankrupt.

I plead that you spend the remaining 7 months of your term until January 20, 1989, going to the People and stressing the need for having a Constitutional Convention to redefine our basic tenants and bring the Constitution into the 21st Century and the Needs of our Nation in order to survive.

Respectfully submitted,



Newton D. St. John, Jr.

Attorney at Law

Secretary-Treasurer of the Republican Party
Murray County, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 615042PD MAIN SUBCODE: AG

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-09-26
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to FE002

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-09-26	dbarrie		Transferred to FE002
2	Open	2010-09-08	swilliams		test
3	None	2010-09-08	swilliams		
4	Open	2008-05-12	mking		
5	Open	2008-04-17	ljones		Prior
6	Open	2007-03-01	ljones		Prior

THURGOODResponse to Justice Marshall

By Gary L. Bauer
 Assistant to the President
 for Policy Development

A.
 FE002
 FCLE1
 FC0061

In his May 6, 1987 address to the San Francisco Patent and Trademark Law Association, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall said it was "unfortunate" that in this 200th anniversary of the Constitution "patriotic feelings with surely swell, prompting proud proclamations of the wisdom, foresight and sense of justice shared by the framers." The Constitution wasn't "fixed" in meaning at Philadelphia, Marshall maintained, "nor do I find the wisdom, foresight and sense of justice exhibited by the framers particularly profound. To the contrary, the government they devised was defective from the start." Indeed "moral principles against slavery...were compromised." When contemporary Americans cite the Constitution, Marshall concluded, "they invoke a concept that is vastly different from what the framers barely began to construct two centuries ago."

As studies indicate great confusion about the Constitution and the founding documents among some Americans, any effort to cast light on these issues must surely be welcomed. Yet Justice Marshall does not give Americans a lesson; he gives them a tirade. He urges Americans to keep things in perspective while losing all sense of perspective himself. Far from cultivating among people a respect for our founding heritage, he scorns the legacy of Washington, Madison and Jefferson and implies that they

are hardly worth studying, much less emulating. Particularly disturbing and unfortunate is the way that Justice Marshall attempts to separate and alienate black Americans from the principles of their nation's founding -- after all, it was those very principles that formed the basis of the movement to extend the franchise and extend political and civil liberties to all Americans.

Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. understood this even if Justice Marshall does not. Lincoln argued that he was not breaking with the founding tradition but fulfilling it. He said he never had a political thought that lay outside the Declaration of Independence and its promise of equality under law for all. Lincoln argued that the principles of the Constitution were established so that the enforcement could follow as soon as was practicable. Lincoln rejected Marshall's notion that the founders compromised on principles. Rather, they held eternal principles above the imperfect conditions of the moment so that, far from merely reflecting the circumstances of the present, the Constitution could transcend them.

In his appeal for equal opportunity, Martin Luther King Jr. repeatedly cited the Declaration of Independence and the founding tradition. In his famous "I have a dream" speech of 1963 King said, "We've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were

signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was the promise that all men, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

In his June 6, 1961 speech "The American Dream" King observed, "America is essentially a dream, a dream as yet unfulfilled. It is a dream of a land where men of all races, of all nationalities and of all creeds can live together as brothers." The "substance of the dream is expressed in these sublime words," King noted, going on to quote the Declaration. He then remarked. "Very seldom if ever in the history of the world has a sociopolitical document expressed in such profoundly eloquent and unequivocal language the dignity and the worth of the human personality."

Here we seen an enormous appreciation for the wisdom and foresight of the founders. They were simply unable to get rid of slavery right then, so they erected this nation on ideals radically incongruous with slavery, so that as the incongruity became more and more glaring, future generations would act on principles earlier established. When King spoke of black Americans cashing the "promissory note" signed by the framers, he based his crusade for civil rights on the idea of claiming legitimate rights contained in the Constitution. But in order to claim the rights someone must have put them there. The framers did and subsequent amendments have simply built on them. The constitution is organic, as Marshall said, but in a way that is

consistent with the original document, not as a sharp departure from it.

The framers refused to let the existing evil of slavery contaminate the principles of their new order. Minorities have a right to be proud that these men had the vision and fortitude to rise above contemporary evils. They were pragmatic men who understood that a new order must be based on the circumstances in which people find themselves, but they also devised an instrument which would reflect higher ideals. Thus it has been possible for future Americans to claim the precious legacy of the framers without qualm, without embarrassment.