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Folder Title: JGR/BMW Correspondence

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DRAFI

March 28,

Dear			

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. I have alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and have also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

With respect to your comments on the particular make of automobile chosen by the individuals in question, I can only state that such decisions are matters of personal consumer preference which it would be inappropriate for the Government to regulate.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

F/ielding to the President

E May Mark of the same of the THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 28, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

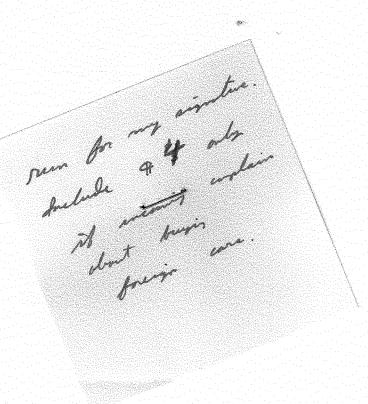
SUBJECT:

BMWs

Attached for your review is a proposed form response to letters on the BMW episode. The draft tracks the press conference response you prepared. Curiously, many of the letters we have received are more critical of the purchase by high government officials of foreign cars than the acceptance of a discount. (I assume I was assigned this matter because I am the only attorney who drives an Americanmade vehicle.) The penultimate paragraph of the draft responds to this complaint, and will not appear in letters complaining only about the discount.

As soon as you approve the form response, we will process the letters.

Attachment



## Supreme Court Decision--Selective Prosecution for Failure to Register for the Draft

- Court upheld the Federal government's policy of prosecuting those who publicly flouted their refusal to abide by the law and register for the draft.
- o We have been extremely successful -- over 98% eligible for draft are registered -- and we will continue our effort to promote registration and prosecute when warranted.

#### BMW Purchases

- o State Department regulations permit acceptance of such discounts.
- o Although clearly not illegal per se, White House had never reviewed the practice or given guidance on it to members of the staff.
- O Upon review, a decision was made to proscribe the practice in the future for White House staff (unless out of the country for 30 days or more).
- Other departments and agencies were advised by White House Counsel and the suggestion made that they review their policies.

NOTE: This was a discount offered directly by BMW, as well as other foreign car manufacturers, to all holders of U.S. diplomatic and official passports. (BMW has since discontinued the offer, due to U.S. distributors' complaints.)

The offering of such discounts by foreign car manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

WASHINGTON

March 28, 1985

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FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

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DRAFT

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With respect to your comments on the particular make of automobile chosen by the individuals in question, I can only state that such decisions are matters of personal consumer preference which it would be inappropriate for the Government to regulate.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

DRAFT

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Wray:

You recently wrote to Senator Barry Goldwater concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of a White House advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Senator Goldwater has referred your correspondence to the White House for a reply.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

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I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns.

John Tolk

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. Park Q. Wray 11813 N. Oakhurst Way Scottsdale, AZ 85254

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1985

Dear Mr. Deacon:

Thank you for your recent letter to Donald Regan concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

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Sincerely,

John G. Roberts
Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. A.E. Deacon 6721 West 66th Terrace Overland, Park, KS 66202

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### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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☐ H · INTERNAL				
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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. Omille Jusy

A E Deacon 6721 W 66th Terr Overland Park, Ks 66202

Mr Donald T Regan Chief of Staff White House

Dear Mr Regan:

I Urge you to discharge Mr Deaver and his three associates who agreed to purchase German made automobiles for

1. Atrorcious judgement.

2. Lack of Patriotism.

3. Adding to our balance of payments.

4. Employing German workers to build his automobile when unemployment in the United States exceeds 7%. and using White House dpllars to pay them. Boy!!!

I look forward to seeing the names of their replacements, who I feel sure will be able to serve you and our country to better effect. I appreciated your activities as Secretary of the Treasury, and am glad to see Best regards you in your present position.

Quite an improvement.

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1985

Dear Dr. Teperson:

. .

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

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Sincerely, Dollard

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

David S. Teperson, M.D. 409 South Federal Highway Hollywood, Florida 33020 Ag

### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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□ C - OUTGOING □ H - INTERNAL □ I - INCOMING □ Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) / /			A	
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DRS. JOSELL & TEPERSON, PA.

ROBERT JOSELL, M.D. DAVID S. TEPERSON, M.D.

PAUL A. HINENBURG, M.D.

ALAN D. LICHSTRAHL, M.D.

409 SOUTH FEDERAL HIGHWAY HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA 33020

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

TELEPHONE 920-5001

March 5, 1985

President Ronald Reagan c/o The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am appalled to discover that the very staff who recommended the disallowance of those high priced foreign cars has just ordered nine BMW's at discount rates because of their diplomatic status.

It is a shame that those elected to lead America exercise such poor judgment in their behavioral patterns. I have been a supporter of yours for years but frankly, I am getting very tired of hearing the complaints about and from your kitchen cabinet (Meese, Deever, et.al.) whose personal needs seem to transfer public service to personal service.

I am sure that their carryings-on' are nothing less than a great embarrassment to you and I am sure that you would not condone such actions. However, I must comment that the high road of public service must be impressed upon your staff. A swift and sure dismissal should be the punishment for any ethical violations. Frankly, it is a damn shame that a man such as yourself who has literally changed the tide of public opinion and hopefully the direction of Government in the future, should be publicly hamstrung in his efforts by a group of greedy little beggars whose own welfare seems to be more important than that of two hundred and fifty million Americans.

Respectfully yours,

DAVID S. TEPERSON M.D.

DST/es

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1985

Dear Mr. Salling:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

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Sincerely,

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. Carl J. Salling S.R. - 7963 Richard Drive Lucerne, CA 95458

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Comments:				

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REALTOR (Retired)

Kono Tayee Estates S.R. – 7963 Richard Drive Lucerne, California 95458 (707) 274-8122

March 5, 1985.





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

Dear Mr. President,

Last night's news about Michael Deaver and eight members of his entourage purchasing BMW's in Germany disturbed me very much.

Not only does it contribute to the trade deficit, which is already too high but it sets a very poor example for the people of this country.

My wife and I always look for "Made in U.S.A." labels and we have never purshased a foreign made car.

Maybe the purchases of these cars were not illegal. However I consider them immoral, unethical and un-American.

Sincerely

Carl J. Salling

P.S. I don't write you very often and maybe it's a waste of time. I never received an answer or acknowledgment to my letter June 20, 1983.

\_

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1985

Dear Mr. Gebhardt:

Thank you for your recent letter to Fred Fielding concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

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Sincerely,

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. Carl E. Gebhardt 1445 Dewberry Court McLean, VA 22101

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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. 1445 Dewberry Court McLean, Virginia 22101 March 12, 1985

Mr. Fred Fielding, Counsel The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fielding,

As a lifelong Republican as well as an officer of the Foreign Service, I am distressed by the controversy over the recent purchases of automobiles in Europe by members of the President's advance party.

The issue should not be whether the buyers were ethically entitled to diplomatic discounts equivalent to those offered to bona fide diplomats on permanent assignment abroad. Rather, it should be whether they (or even bona fide diplomats) should be purchasing any major items of foreign manufacture specifically for importation to our country at a time when we are fighting a foreign trade deficit, struggling to keep the automotive industry in a competitive position and attempting to reduce unemployment and balance the budget.

In itself foregoing the purchase of those nine or more BMWs would not, of course, have a significant impact towards solving those problems. But purchasing them certainly sets a bad example for many others: If senior Administration officials see nothing wrong with buying German or Japanese cars, why should the American public at large? And can the Administration be serious about wanting to stem the tide of imported cars? Those are the real issues, not whether Michael Deaver and others were entitled to the privilege because of the short duration of their trip.

When on permanent assignment abroad in five countries I consistently brought with me and drove American-made cars whenever possible and despite some inconvenience when it came to maintenance and I have always bought American-made cars upon my return to the United States despite bargains available from foreign manufacturers. Quite consciously I viewed it as an act of patriotism to do so -- a small way of showing the flag while abroad and supporting American industry when at home.

To turn the current furor to advantage both in a practical and public relations way, I believe our President might speak out to promote the purchase of American cars and other goods, citing his personal distress over the acts of his staff which brought the issue to his attention. I suspect this could yield faster, more palatable and more visible benefits than any restrictive tariff legislation. The American public does seem to respond properly when he makes direct appeals and I can see no major sector of our society that can be offended by such a plea to "Buy American" and help the cause.

Very respectfully,

Carl E. Rebhardt

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1985

Dear Mr. Morrill:

Thank you for your recent letter to Donald Regan concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

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Sincerely.

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

John Dolahut

Mr. William C. Morrill 2028 Illinois Avenue, N.E. St. Petersburg, Florida 33703 ) pg

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

DISPOSITION  Type Completion Of Date Response Code YY/MM/DD  / / /  S 85103/26  DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered C - Completed B - Non-Special Reterral S - Suspended  FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:	ID #	1058 1600 Solum		C
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C - Comment/Recommendation

to be used as Enclosure

D - Draft Response

Comments:

F · Furnish Fact Sheet

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

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

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

R - Direct Reply w/Copy

S - For Signature

X - Interim Reply

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Dear Mr. Regar,

I see in the morning paper that you have ordered an inquiry into the "diplomatic discount" purchase of 9 BMW automobiles by Mr. Deaver and other staff members - and I applaud your action.

Such staff members should take pride in being Americans by buying American products and showing these proudly to all the world.

People that I have talked to all feel that unwise, truly anti-American actions like this by people who are in the public eye should result such unthinking people being reprimanded or fired. These people obviously do not know the meaning of patriotism, or what it is to be an American.

Please do not whitewash this incident - take firm action.

Respectfully,

V. C. Corril

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Crawford:

Thank you for your recent letter to Senator Barry Goldwater concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

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John Dollbert

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. J. Palmer Crawford 350 Beach Road, Apt. 306 Tequesta, Florida 33458

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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.

J. Palmer Crawford 350 Beach Road, Apt. 306 Tequesta, Florida 33458

March 12, 1985

Hon. Ronald Reagan The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

You might remind your White House staff that mighty fine automobiles are made in the United States. You might also remind them that we have a very large foreign trade deficit and an unacceptable unemployment figure.

I am disgusted and very mad!

Sincerely,

J. Palmer Crawford

Wing.

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

With respect to your comments on the particular make of automobile chosen by the individuals in question, I can only state that such decisions are matters of personal consumer preference which it would be inappropriate for the Government to regulate.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

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Mr. Charles W. Baldwin 8344 Richland Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

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## WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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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.

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Dr. Shinefield:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

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I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

John Holobert

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

Maurice A. Shinefield, M.D. 1111 Crandon Boulevard, Suite B402 Key Biscayne, Florida 33149 10

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## WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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

From The Desk Of 306843 Ca

MAURICE A. SHINEFIELD, M.D.

)car Gr. Tresident: in guilty! Uses! They are Sipposed to set an example: Buy Hyerican - potour 14 to work, Keep the economyter in America. They are gooty High Tredson for for buchs The BULL is better from 2119 tuenca. Illavefriends ideo junto Bolles and are happy with our Cors. Spread the worl! incerde Marie Charles

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Schlaifer:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

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I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

John Dolbert

John G. Roberts
Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. Jack I. Schlaifer Bankers Property Group Warner Center 5850 Canoga Avenue, Suite 220 Woodland Hills, CA 91367

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Warner Center, 5850 Canoga Avenue, Suite 220, Woodland Hills, California 91367 • (818) 992-4142

March 7, 1985

OPEN LETTER

Mr. Ronald Reagan President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am currently reading the paper about the automobile discounts allowed to <u>Michael Deaver</u> and eight other members of your staff and find myself being upset over this matter.

My upset is not over whether or not they violated rules, which appears not to be the case, but over another moral issue. Should someone travelling at the expense of the United States Taxpayers, and being compensated with U.S. Taxpayers dollars capitalize on the opportunity to make a major foreign purchase? In a time when there is such concern with an out of balance foreign deficit, and a struggle for the American workforce to get back to a level of greater employment, shouldn't there be a greater conscious effort and spirit of loyalty expected from those individuals being employed by government to buy American made products?

The general attitude of the selfish American today who constantly strives to fulfill his individual wants without regard to the total needs of his fellow countrymen, will only serve to place greater burdens and problems upon our country tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Jack I. Schlaifer

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cc: Editor,

L.A. Times