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Folder Title: JGR/Challenger Shuttle (2 of 2)

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name Withdrawer

RBW 8/30/2005

File Folder JGR/CHALLENGER SHUTTLE (2 OF 2) FOIA

F05-139/01

Box Number COOK

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DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions	
1	LETTER	MICHAEL T. YOUNG TO PRESIDENT REAGAN RE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMIN. AND PERSONAL CHECK (PARTIAL)	1	1/29/1986	B6	471
2	LETTER	MICHAEL LEVIN TO PRESIDENT REAGAN RE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER AND PERSONAL CHECK (PARTIAL)	1	1/29/1986	B6	472
3	MONEY ORDER	FROM AN AMERICAN TO PRESIDENT REAGAN RE SPACE PROGRAM	1	1/30/1986	B6	473

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

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOF JOHN E. O'BRIEN

GENERAL COUNSEL

NASA

Orig. signed by FFF

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Money Mail Following Shuttle Disaster

The White House has been receiving numerous donations in the wake of the Space Shuttle disaster. A member of my staff discussed the appropriate handling of such donations with Helen Kupperman of your staff, and learned of the manner in which similar donations sent directly to NASA are being handled. I agree with Ms. Kupperman's recommendation that donations received at the White House be sent to NASA for processing. Attached is a copy of the memorandum I have sent to the White House Office of Correspondence, directing that office to send Space Shuttle donations it receives to the appropriate office at NASA.

Thank you for your assistance.

Attachment

FFF/JGR:jmk
cc: FFFielding
JGRoberts

subject chron.

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLES DONOVAN

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CORRESPONDENCE

Orig. signed by FFF

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Money Mail Following Shuttle Disaster

You have asked for guidance on handling the numerous donations the White House has been receiving in the wake of the Space Shuttle disaster. After discussion with the Office of the General Counsel at NASA, it is our view that donations sent to the White House because of the Shuttle disaster should be forwarded to NASA for handling. NASA will accept unconditional donations pursuant to its current statutory authority. Although NASA does not at present have authority to accept conditional gifts — and many of the donations in question fall into this category — legislation has been introduced to grant NASA such authority for this particular situation. Accordingly, NASA has established a special escrow account for receipt of conditional gifts, pending passage of the legislation. If the legislation does not pass, the conditional gifts will be returned.

You should forward donations sent to the White House to Richard J. Powell, Director of Financial Management Division, Code BF, NASA, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20546. NASA will correspond directly with the donor to acknowledge receipt of the donation, and process it as appropriate in light of the foregoing.

FFF/JGR:jmk
cc: FFFielding
JGRoberts
subject
chron.

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

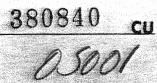
Money Mail Following Shuttle Disaster

The Office of Correspondence has asked for guidance on handling the dozens of checks they have been receiving in the wake of the Shuttle disaster. NASA has statutory authority to accept unconditional gifts, 42 U.S.C. § 2473(c)(4), and has been accepting donations that are not explicitly restricted to the shuttle program, depositing the donation into the fund already established for gifts.

NASA does not currently have authority to accept conditional gifts, and many of the checks both it and the White House have been receiving are earmarked for the shuttle program. Legislation has been introduced in both the Senate and the House, with impressive sponsorship, to permit NASA to accept conditional gifts for this purpose only. The legislation provides that if Congress does not authorize another shuttle, the funds would go to the unconditional gift account. In light of this legislation, NASA has set up an escrow account, for deposit of conditional gifts. If the legislation passes, the conditional gifts would be accepted pursuant to the terms of the bill. If the bill fails, NASA plans to return all the conditional gifts.

I discussed this question with the NASA General Counsel's office. It is the view of that office that checks received at the White House should be forwarded to NASA. NASA will handle the forwarded letters as it handles checks it receives directly, sending an appropriate response and depositing the funds either in the unconditional gift account or the special escrow account. I have no objection to this proposal, which can be implemented by your sending the attached memoranda to Charles Donovan and Jack O'Brien.

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.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

January 31, 1986

380840 Cm

TO:

WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL

FROM:

CHARLES A. DONOVANCIONE

Office of Correspondence

RE:

Money Mail Following Shuttle

Disaster

Attached are two samples of money mail that has been received at the White House in the aftermath of the Challenger disaster. Thus far, these contributions have tended to be substantial ones made out to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or to some specific purpose related to Challenger, as indicated by the second of the two copies attached. According to press accounts, NASA has indicated its ability to accept public contributions, but has stated that it cannot accept funds for designated purposes. The request Counsel's guidance on appropriate procedures to be used for handling these contributions.

It has also come to our attention via press accounts that a fund has been established in the private sector to receive funds in trust for the dependents of the crew of Challenger. The bank receiving the funds is American Security & Trust of Washington, D.C. We have received several pieces of mail addressed to this bank c/o the White House. These have been forwarded. We would appreciate guidance on checks addressed to the President but intended for the bank as well.

January 29, 1986

President Ronald Reagan The White House Washington D.C.

Dear President Reagan:

Enclosed is a check for \$100.00 for the exclusive use of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

This is my contribution to the construction of a new orbiter, my confidence in NASA and our space program and in tribute to the seven Americans who died for our nation.

With your leadership and support perhaps fifteen million other Americans would give \$100.00 as a sign of their support and appreciation. We would then have a new orbiter dedicated to those who lost their lives for us.

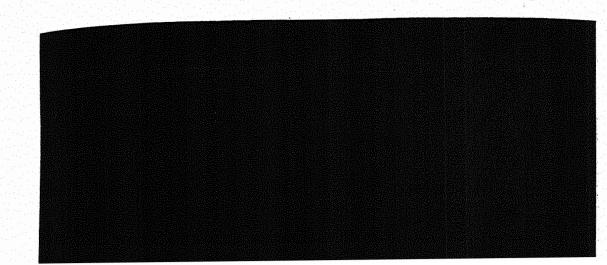
Thank you for your continuing support of space exploration.

Sincerely yours,

Michael T. Young 1148 South 300 Wes

Salt Lake City, Utah 84101





Michael Levin

145 West 45th Street / Penthouse New York, New York 10036 Tel. (212) 869-4580

Telex: 237078 BERNS UR

President Ronald Reagan The White House 1600 Pensylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500

Wednesday, January 29, 1986

Dear President Reagan:

As you must have been, I was saddened upon learning of the deaths the seven Americans and the destruction of the shuttle Challenger. We were all aware of the dangers in the exploration of space, but the reality of the sudden loss of life in a fire ball is a chilling reminder of the cost of progress.

I feel very strongly that the United States must stay in the fore front of space exploration no matter what the price. Each american must put in his share. To some that is his life, a husband or wife, to others a mother or father, but each of us must put something foward to prove our commitment to progress. Mr. President I prospose that the price of building the "challenger II"should be directly from the american people, not in taxes but personally. Each one of us should give something, five dollars, ten dollars or whatever we can. I enclose my personal check to start the ball rolling and make it out to the Challenger II challenge. I hope that enoughf Americans will do the same to cover the cost of this project.

At this time in history I am proud to be an American and thankfull for your leadership. We live in the most free land in the world, when we are confronted by the reality of the shuttle desaster or a terrorest attack we must be strong and know that all progress and privleege has a price, as I stated before the price is greater to some that to others but all of us must pay in some way.

ML/nrv enc (1)

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLES DONOVAN

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CORRESPONDENCE

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Anonymous Money Order

You have asked for guidance on an anonymous money order made out to "President Ronald Reagan and NASA." You stated that past experience indicates it is impossible to determine the identity of the donor in such cases.

The money order should be sent to NASA, consistent with the advice you recently received from this office on the general handling of donations received in the wake of the Space Shuttle tragedy. NASA will accept the donation as an unconditional gift.

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

382619 Cu

February 15, 1986

TO:

WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL

FROM:

CHARLES A. DONOVAN

Office of Correspondence

RE:

Anonymous Money Order

Attached is a piece of correspondence post-marked Van Nuys, California, which was received this past week at the White House. It is anonymous. Enclosed with the correspondence is a money order in the amount of \$100 endorsed to "President Reagan and NASA (space program)". Past experience with such anonymous postal money orders has shown that it is impossible to identify the purchaser in these cases. We have not contacted the Postmaster in this instance based on this past experience.

We would appreciate guidance on appropriate disposition of this monetary item.

cc: Pending File

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name ROBERTS, JOHN: FILES		Withdrawer RB 8/3/2005 W
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FROM AN AMERICAN TO PRESIDENT REAGAN		

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

RE SPACE PROGRAM

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

E.O. 13233

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Dear Mr. President of our space shuttle and crew. We dannot bring back our people, but have They died in vain?! We must press forward. WE CAN DO BETTER! I got to thinking, ... if every American gave \$5 or \$19 we could build & new and better Challenger. Please accept this check for the space program It's a start. In the future I will be able to do more. I believe most Americans feel the same way, please ask them?

My deepest sympathies for the families of the shuttle crew. They died in the service of our nation and in an effort to advance the knowledge of men. Please agree with me in phayer, that God will grant understanding and wisdom to their families to deal with the tragedy.

The technologies generated by the space program have the potential to benifit all nations. Our renewed and redoubled efforts are needed.

We can travel into space with aspirations to touch the hand of God.

Terhaps as we do we shall gain the perspective to find him in our hearts.

If we Americans have ought to give the World, this is our greatest asset.

An American

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1986

Dear Judge Rosenstein:

Thank you for your letter of January 29 to the President. In that letter you suggested that the Government pursue immediate plans to finance a replacement for the Space Shuttle Challenger through private contributions.

Donations for that purpose have been arriving at NASA and at the White House. The handling of these donations is somewhat complicated by the fact that at present NASA only has statutory authority to accept unconditional gifts, see 42 U.S.C. § 2473(c)(4). Those donations that are unconditional are being accepted. Many of the donations are conditional, however, in that they are earmarked for a replacement shuttle. Legislation has been introduced to permit NASA to accept such gifts under these limited circumstances. NASA is holding conditional gifts in a special escrow account, pending consideration of this legislation.

We appreciate your interest in this question and are grateful for the benefit of your views and suggestions. Please be assured that they will be given every appropriate consideration.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

The Honorable Samuel M. Rosenstein Senior Judge 2200 S. Ocean Lane Apartment 1508 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 03, 1986

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE SAMUEL M. ROSENSTEIN

SUBJECT: WRITES WITH SUGGESTION FOR MEMORIAL TO

ASTRONAUTS FOR AMERICANS TO CONTRIBUTE TO REPLACEMENT OF THE CHALLENGER SPACE SHUTTLE

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCF (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT-2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEFT ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

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UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FEDERAL BUILDING . U.S. COURTHOUSE

SUITE 403

299 EAST BROWARD BLVD FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301

JUDGE SAMUEL M. ROSENSTEIN 2200 S. OCEAN LN., APT. 1508 FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA 33316

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Medicale

CHAMBERS OF SAMUEL M ROSENSTEIN

Forward trade Jugar Cresident - Writer States of america

The White House

Washington, J. C.

dear m Trisident:

While our nation mourse the our traged of yesterdy and the death of the 5 men and I women - we must make plane for the financie o replacement of the Challenger.

think all americans of the world would like to establish a memorial for those for brave persons. What better way than to Contribute to a fund to build the replacent? then may 2 suggest you mention this in your address to the nation on February 4.# 2 think then would be an outpouring of contributionslarge + small from this one message. Imadiately a committee of the news media - T.V., Radio, newspipers, etc could keep the conscious of alivi by sending their gifts to a designated source in each State for transmitted to Washington - larmonded with a Tornet for this sole for some

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FEDERAL BUILDING - U.S. COURTHOUSE

SUITE 403

299 EAST BROWARD BLVD FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 3330)

JUDGE SAMUEL M. ROSENSTEIN 2200 S. OCEAN LN., APT. 1508 FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA. 33316

CHAMBERS OF SAMUEL M. ROSENSTEIN SENIOR JUDGE

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With expressions of my highest regards to esteem,

Corduilly,

Sam 1 M. Rosenstein

* Federal Reson Bank in each state.

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Memorial Service for the Challenger Crew

I have reviewed the above-referenced proposed remarks, and recommend deleting the paragraphs on pages 4 and 5 discussing the Challenger Seven Fund. I have no information on this Fund, and serious supplementation of appropriations problems may be raised by a private sector effort to fund aspects of the space program. At least until I learn more, the President should not endorse the Fund.

Likewise, I object to the term "Magnificant Seven"; I suggest the "Challenger Seven".

cc: Dave Chew

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Memorial Service for the Challenger Crew

Attached are the President's remarks for the Challenger memorial service. They touch briefly on a few personal points about each of the deceased astronauts, and move to a recommitment to the space program. In the carryover paragraph between pages 4 and 5, the remarks cite the Challenger Seven Fund, which apparently seeks to raise the money for a replacement shuttle through private donations. I have no information on this apparently private sector effort, and would delete mention of it at this point. On its face this approach raises serious supplementation of appropriations problems.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Memorial Service for the Challenger Crew

I have reviewed the above-referenced proposed remarks, and recommend deleting the paragraphs on pages 4 and 5 discussing the Challenger Seven Fund. I have no information on this Fund, and serious supplementation of appropriations problems may be raised by a private sector effort to fund aspects of the space program. At least until I learn more, the President should not endorse the Fund.

cc: David L. Chew

FFF:JGR:aea 1/30/86

bcc: FFFielding

JGRoberts

Subj

WASHINGTON

March 4, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW

STAFF SECRETARY AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT

TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Letter to Mr. Lazurus --

United Airlines

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential letter and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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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.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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REMARKS:

Please provide your comments to my office by 4:00 pm today. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

WASHINGTON March 3, 1986

Dear Mr. Lazurus:

Jack Anderson, Chairman of the Young Astronaut Council, has kindly let me know of United Airlines' outstanding display of public spirit before, during, and after the tragic accident at Cape Canaveral.

He said that United's fine staff, particularly Bruce Chambers and his crew, arranged and carried out roundtrips to and from Florida for the lll "Space Ambassadors" (the Teacher in Space Finalists), for the third grade class of Christa McAuliffe's son, and for the Washington staff of the Young Astronaut Council -- and that you did so with concern, generosity and efficiency under the tremendously distressing circumstances.

We will never forget the brave crew of CHALLENGER or their special spirit; neither will we forget your kindness at a time of sorrow for our nation. Please give my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Chambers, his staff, and everyone at United Airlines for fulfilling such great needs in such a special and capable way.

Nancy joins me in sending our deepest appreciation and very best wishes. God bless you, and God bless America.

Sincerely,

Mr. Monte Lazurus Senior Vice President United Airlines Post Office Box 66100 Chicago, Illinois 60666

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Document No.	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	2/28/86	ACTION/CONCU	RRENCE/COMP	MENT DUE BY	r: 3/2/86	*	
SUBJECT:	PRESIDENTIAL	THANK-YOU	LETTER TO	UNITED	AIRLINES		
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REMARKS:

Please draft an appropriate response, per the President's request, thanking United Airlines for its assistance rendered in connection with the Young Astronaut Program during the Space Shuttle Challenger accident. The draft should be sent to my office by Monday, March 3rd. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 24, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

Don Regan thought you would find the attached to be of interest.

David Chew

Should me furtish you?

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Young Astronaut Council • 1211 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 800 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 682-1985

Menorary Chairman Ronald Reagan

Henerary Vice Chelman Benetor Jake Garn Henerary Vice Chelman Benetor John Glenn Honorary Vice Chelman Rep William Nelson

Executive Committee:

Chairman
Jack Anderson
Vise Chairman
Hugh Downs
Secretary
Harold Burson

Executive Director T. Wendell Butter February 7, 1986

Mr. Monte Lazurus Senior Vice President United Airlines P.O.Box 66100 Chicago, IL 60666

Dear Mr. Lazurus:

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Our profound thanks go to you and the staff of United, particularly to Bruce Chambers and those working with him, who responded to the crisis with such understanding and sensitivity for the privacy needed by those so close to Christa and who moved swiftly and decisively on their behalf.

Please convey our appreciation to all those concerned for such superlative performances literally under fire.

Respectfully,

man

cc: Mr. Donald Regan for the President

Jim Juliana

George J. Aste

Date: 2-28-86
To: Fred Fielding

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ANNE HIGGINS
Special Assistant to the
President and Director
of Correspondence
Room 94, x7610

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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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

Date: 2-28-86
To: Fred Fielding

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ANNE HIGGINS
Special Assistant to the
President and Director
of Correspondence
Room 94, x7610

DRAFT/Date	February	28, 1	986	ر ر	/
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosures:

cc: Donald Regan

Other:

Return draft to Mr. Chew by 3-3-8

WHCC: Mr. Jack Anderson, Chairman Young Astronaut Council

Suite 800

1211 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Lazurus: Dear

AVH /

, Chairman of the Jung astronaut Council,

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3/2/86

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

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LACY

2/28/86

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RESPONSE:

Du Pag

Young Astronaut Council • 1211 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 800 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 682-1985

Monorary Chairman Ronald Respan

Monorary Vice Cheirman Benato: Jake Garn Monorary Vice Cheirman Benato: John Gierin Monorary Vice Cheirman Rep William Nelson

Executive Committee:

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Executive Director T. Wendell Butter February 7, 1986

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Respectfully,

man

cc: Mr. Donald Regan for the President

Jim Juliana

George J. Aste

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW

STAFF SECRETARY AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT

TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Response to

United Airlines' Assistance Following

Shuttle Challenger Accident

You have asked for our views on the advisability of a Presidential message to United Airlines thanking that company for its assistance, rendered in connection with the Young Astronaut Program, during the Space Shuttle Challenger accident. This office would have no objection to a brief, appropriately-worded message that discussed solely United's contributions and not any aspect of its commercial endeavors. This office should review any such message before it is sent.

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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2/28/86

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

2/27/86

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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 24, 1986

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David Chew

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Monorary Chairman Ronald Respan

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Executive Director T. Wendell Butler February 7, 1986

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Respectfully,

man

cc: Mr. Donald Regan for the President Jim Juliana

George J. Aste

WASHINGTON

June 10, 1986

cc: PJWallison NFJanes chron

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER J. WALLISON

FROM:

NANCY F. JANES

SUBJECT:

Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident

I have reviewed your comments on my memorandum on the reimbursement of expenses for members of the Space Shuttle Commission and have made the revisions you suggested.

Attached for your review and signature is a memorandum to Donald T. Regan on the subject.

The following is a discussion of the issues I considered in reaching the conclusions contained in the attached memorandum.

On February 3, 1986, the President signed Executive Order 12546, which created the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident. Since the Commission's inception, its members have found it difficult to remain within the \$75.00 per diem they receive for lodging and food. In response to a request from the Office of Cabinet Affairs, my office has researched the issue to determine whether there is a way for members of the Commission to have their expenses covered more fully, either from NASA's own funds or from contributions from private entities.

Executive Order 12546 provides that Commission members shall not be compensated for their work on the Commission. However, the members of the Commission who are appointed from among private citizens "may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, to the extent permitted by law for persons serving intermittently in the government service (5 U.S.C. \$\$ 5701-5707)." According to 5 U.S.C. \$ 5703, an intermittent employee of the government, who is serving without pay, is allowed travel expenses while on official business away from his home or regular place of business. Although section 5702 of 5 U.S.C. and the Federal Travel Regulations provide for a maximum per diem of \$50.00 for official travel within the coterminous United States, travel to certain high cost areas in the U.S. may be reimbursed up to \$75.00. All of the locations in which the Shuttle Commission meets are high cost locations so that memberts of the Commission have been receiving reimbursements for their actual daily expenses, up to \$75.00.

This is the statutory maximum daily rate, and individual agencies, such as NASA, do not have authority to reimburse

individuals for expenses in excess of that amount. (GSA Bulletin FPMR A-40, Supp. 1, Par. 1-8.2a(2)).

Since NASA lacks the authority to provide additional reimbursements, the remaining possibility is to have sources from the private sector pay all or a portion of the members' expenses. There are two possible approaches for doing this. The first approach is based on NASA's statutory gift acceptance authority, which allows it to accept "unconditional gifts or donations of services, money, or property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible." 42 U.S.C. § 2473(b)(4). If a nongovernmental entity would like to donate money or services to NASA to cover the Commission's expenses, that organization would have to make an unconditional donation to NASA. The funds would supplement NASA's appropriations, and NASA would have the right to use the funds for whatever purpose it deemed appropriate. However, since NASA's authority to reimburse its employees from its own funds is limited by statute, a contribution such as this would not help the members of the Commission, because even with the additional funds, NASA only has authority to reimburse its employees up to \$75.00 per day.

A second aspect of NASA's gift acceptance authority could possibly be used to supplement individual Commission members! travel expenses. NASA has the authority to accept from outside sources transportation, accommodations, and subsistence furnished in-kind by an organization. An appropriate organization may provide a NASA employee with a hotel room or meals, and those in-kind benefits may exceed \$75.00. According to 14 C.F.R. 1207.735-201(d)(9), when such arrangements are made, NASA will make appropriate deductions in the travel, per diem, and other allowances otherwise payable to the employee. In no case shall a NASA employee accept benefits which are "under prudent standards extravagant or excessive in nature." The difficulty with using this method is that neither NASA nor the employer may solicit the funds and the organization may not use funds from a NASA grant. It is not clear that the benefits from this type of arrangement would be significant, since all or part of the in-kind reimbursements may be deducted from the employee's travel allowance. Furthermore, this method can only be used prospectively so it will not provide any relief for expenses the members of the Commission have already incurred.

The only workable approach here is to have the private sector employers of the members of the Commission or some other private source make reimbursements directly to the individual Commission members. One limitation is that NASA's standards of conduct prohibit its employees from receiving anything of monetary value from an entity that does business with NASA. However, both NASA and the Office of Government Ethics agree that Commission members may request and receive reimbursements of expenses they incur from their private sector employers, even if those employers do business with NASA.

NASA's standards of conduct contain other restrictions on its employees' acceptance of funds from outside sources. The restrictions on the acceptance of gifts, entertainment, and favors at 14 C.F.R. § 1207.735-605(d) would apply to the acceptance of payments to cover travel expenses. The regulation states that a special government employee, while so employed or in connection with his employment, shall not receive or solicit from anyone having business with his agency, anything of value for himself or another person. (Emphasis added.) Another provision, 14 C.F.R. § 1207.735-100(e), provides that NASA employees must avoid any actions which might result in, or create the appearance of, using public office for private gain. Section 1207.735-100(d) prohibits a NASA employee from using his government position to coerce, or give the appearance of coercing, another person to provide a financial benefit to him.

The NASA standards of conduct suggest that it is inappropriate for NASA employees to solicit funds from private entities to cover the expenses they incur in the course of their government duties. Both NASA and OGE indicate that a Commission member who is not currently employed in the private sector, or whose employer does not wish to pay his expenses, could not accept payments from organizations that conduct business with NASA, because NASA's standards of conduct prohibit an employee from soliciting or receiving anything of monetary value from such sources. However, it might be permissible for the individual to accept unsolicited payments to cover expenses in excess of the \$75.00 per day he has already received, as long as the organization providing the funds does not conduct business with NASA.

When this is presented to the members of the Commission, they must be made aware of the limitations on the acceptance of funds so that they do not inadvertently violate NASA's standards of conduct. Any abuse of this use of private funds could lead to questions regarding the Commission's independence and integrity.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 10, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN

CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

PETER J. WALLISON

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident

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Executive Order 12546 provides that Commission members shall not be compensated for their work on the Commission. However, the members of the Commission who are appointed from among private citizens "may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, to the extent permitted by law for persons serving intermittently in the government service (5 U.S.C. §§ 5701-5707)." According to 5 U.S.C. § 5703, an intermittent employee of the government, who is serving without pay, is allowed travel expenses while on official business away from his home or regular place of business. Although section 5702 of 5 U.S.C. and the Federal Travel Regulations provide for a maximum per diem of \$50.00 for official travel within the coterminous United States, travel to certain high cost areas in the U.S. may be reimbursed up to \$75.00. All of the locations in which the Shuttle Commission meets are high cost locations so that members of the Commission have been receiving reimbursements for their actual daily expenses up to \$75.00.

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Since NASA lacks the authority to provide additional reimbursements, the remaining possibility is to have sources from the private sector pay all or a portion of the members' expenses.

The only workable approach here is to have the private sector employers of the members of the Commission or some other private source pay their expenses. Both NASA and the Office of Government Ethics agree that Commission members may request and receive reimbursements of expenses they incur from their private sector employers, even if those employers do business with NASA, as long as such reimbursement follows the employer's usual practices for reimbursing employees engaged in business travel.

There is also the possibility that Commission members who are not employed may be reimbursed by non-employers, but some limitations apply. The NASA standards of conduct suggest that it is inappropriate for NASA employees to solicit funds from private entities, other than their employers, to cover the expenses they incur in the course of their government duties. Both NASA and OGE indicate that a Commission member who is not currently employed in the private sector, or whose employer does not wish to pay his expenses, could not accept payments from organizations that conduct business with NASA. However, it might be permissible for the individual to accept unsolicited payments to cover expenses in excess of the \$75.00 per day he has already received, as long as the organization providing the funds does not conduct business with NASA.

Members of the Commission should be made aware of the limitations on the acceptance of funds described above, so that they do not inadvertently violate NASA's standards of conduct. Any abuse of this use of private funds could lead to questions regarding the Commission's independence and integrity.

June 6, 1986

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individuals for expenses in excess of that amount. (GSA Bulletin FPMR A-40, Supp. 1, Par. 1-8.2a(2)).

Since NASA lacks the authority to provide additional reimbursements, the remaining possibility is to have sources from the private sector pay all or a portion of the members' expenses. There are two possible approaches for doing this. The first approach is based on NASA's statutory gift acceptance authority, which allows it to accept "unconditional gifts or donations of services, money, or property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible." 42 U.S.C. § 2473(b)(4). If a nongovernmental entity would like to donate money or services to NASA to cover the Commission's expenses, that organization would have to make an unconditional donation to NASA. The funds would supplement NASA's appropriations, and NASA would have the right to use the funds for whatever purpose it deemed appropriate. However, since NASA's authority to reimburse its employees from its own funds is limited by statute, a contribution such as this would not help the members of the Commission, because even with the additional funds, NASA only has authority to reimburse its employees up to \$75.00 per day.

A second aspect of NASA's gift acceptance authority could possibly be used to supplement individual Commission members! travel expenses. NASA has the authority to accept from outside sources transportation, accommodations, and subsistence furnished in-kind by an organization. An appropriate organization may provide a NASA employee with a hotel room or meals, and those in-kind benefits may exceed \$75.00 ... According to 14 C.F.R. 5 1207.735-201(d)(9), when such arrangements are made, NASA will make appropriate deductions in the travel, per diem, and other allowances otherwise payable to the employee. In no case shall a MASA employee accept benefits which are "under prudent standards extravagant or excessive in nature." The difficulty with using this method is that neither NASA nor the employer may solicit the tunds and the organization may not use funds from a NASA grant. it is not clear that the benefits from this type of arrangement would be significant, since all or part of the in-kind reimburgements may be deducted from the employee's travel dlowance. Furthermore, this method can only be used suppositively so it will not provide any relief for expenses the reclairs of the Commission have already incurred.

The only workable approach here is to have the private sector aployers of the members of the Commission or some other private structure make reimbursements directly to the individual Commission makers. One limitation is that NASA's standards of conduct withit its employees from receiving anything of monetary value is a littly that does business with NASA. However, both NASA with the of Covernment Ethics agree that Commission members in the office of Covernment Ethics agree that Commission members and receive reimbursements of expenses they incure the private sector employers, even if those employers do with NASA.

MASA's standards of conduct contain other restrictions on its employees' acceptance of funds from outside sources. restrictions on the acceptance of gifts, entertainment, and favors at 14 C.F.R. § 1207.735-605(d) would apply to the acceptance of payments to cover travel expenses. The regulation states that a special government employee, while so employed or in connection with his employment, shall not receive or solicit from anyone having business with his agency, anything of value for himself or another person. (Emphasis added.) Another provision, 14 C.F.R. § 1207.735-100(e), provides that NASA employees must avoid any actions which might result in, or create the appearance of, using public office for private gain. Section 1207.735-100(d) prohibits a NASA employee from using his government position to coerce, or give the appearance of coercing, another person to provide a financial benefit to him.

The NASA standards of conduct suggest that it is inappropriate for NASA employees to solicit funds from private entities to cover the expenses they incur in the course of their government duties. Both NASA and OGE indicate that a Commission member who is not currently employed in the private sector, or whose employer does not wish to pay his expenses, could not accept payments from organizations that conduct business with NASA, because NASA's standards of conduct prohibit an employee from soliciting or receiving anything of monetary value from such sources. However, it might be permissible for the individual to accept unsolicited payments to cover expenses in excess of the \$75.00 per day he has already received, as long as the organization providing the funds does not conduct business with aASA.

when this is presented to the members of the Commission, they must be made aware of the limitations on the acceptance of funds so that they do not inadvertently violate NASA's standards of conduct. Any abuse of this use of private funds could lead to mustions regarding the Commission's independence and integrity.

June 6, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN

CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

F'ROM:

PETER J. WALLISON

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident

On February 3, 1986, the President signed Executive Order 12546, which created the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident. Since the Commission's inception, its members have found it difficult to remain within the \$75.00 per drem they receive for lodging and food. In response to a request from the Office of Cabinet Affairs, my office has researched the issue to determine whether there is a way for members of the Commission to have their expenses covered more rully, either from NASA's own funds or from contributions from private entities.

Executive Order 12546 provides that Commission members shall not be compensated for their work on the Commission. However, the meditions of the Commission who are appointed from among private witiness "may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in Lieu of subsistence, to the extent permitted by law for persons dervind intermittently in the government service (5 U.S.C. 37 5701-5707). " According to 5 U.S.C. § 5703, an intermittent exployee of the government, who is serving without pay, is an swed travel expenses while on official business away from his non-confrequent place of business. Although section 5702 of 5 .S.C. and the Federal Travel Regulations provide for a maximum regulation of \$50.00 for official travel within the coterminous hilterd States, travel to certain high cost areas in the U.S. may refridursed up to \$75.00. All of the locations in which the Charter Commission meets are high cost locations so that between of the Commission have been receiving reimbursements for presentational daily expenses up to \$75.00.

the statutory maximum daily rate, and individual selection, such as NASA, do not have authority to reimburse undividuals for expenses in excess of that amount. (GSA burnetin FPMP A-40, Supp. 1, Par. 1-8.2a(2)).

WASA lacks the authority to provide additional countries, the remaining possibility is to have sources the private sector pay all or a portion of the members'

The only workable approach here is to have the private sector employers of the members of the Commission or some other private source pay their expenses. One restriction on the use of outside funding is found in NASA's standards of conduct regulations, which prohibit NASA employees from receiving anything of monetary value from an entity that does business with NASA. However, both NASA and the Office of Government Ethics agree that Commission members may request and receive reimbursements of expenses they incur from their private sector employers, even if those employers do business with NASA.

The NASA standards of conduct also suggest that it is inappropriate for NASA employees to solicit funds from private entities other than their employers to cover the expenses they incur in the course of their government duties. Both NASA and OGE indicate that a Commission member who is not currently employed in the private sector, or whose employer does not wish to pay his expenses, could not accept payments from organizations that conduct business with NASA, because NASA's standards of conduct prohibit an employee from soliciting or receiving anything of monetary value from such sources.

However, it might be permissible for the individual to accept unsolicited payments to cover expenses in excess of the \$75.00 per day he has already received, as long as the organization providing the funds does not conduct business with NASA.

when this is presented to the members of the Commission, they must be made aware of the limitations on the acceptance of funds so that they do not inadvertently violate NASA's standards of conduct. Any abuse of this use of private funds could lead to questions regarding the Commission's independence and integrity.