

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

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

Collection: Roberts, John G.: Files
Folder Title: JGR/Dozier, Gilbert (6 of 6)
Box: 18

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

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

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,
Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Leonard Knapp, Jr.
District Attorney
P.O. Box 3206
Lake Charles, LA 70602

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. John Perkins
9770 Regency Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Ms. Ruiz:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Ms. Gladys Ruiz
9987 E. Tampa Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Hollister:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

John A. Hollister, J.D.
622 Baronne Street
New Orleans, LA 70113

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Frank S. Kennedy, Esquire
Kennedy, Goodman & Donovan
1212 Mid South Towers
Shreveport, LA 71101

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mrs. Foreman:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mrs. Dorothy P. Foreman
222 W. St. Louis
Lafayette, LA 70506

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Slack:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. John S. Slack, III
214 Woodstone Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Gwin:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. John D. Gwin
17134 Chadsford Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Dr. Diamond:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Jack R. Diamond, M.D.
120 Westchester Place
Slidell, LA 70458

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH
Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. Stuart W. Young
4707 Old Boyce Road
Alexandria, LA 71303

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Landry:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH
Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. Percy J. Landry, Jr.
355 Napoleon Street
P.O. Box 305
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. Jay Williams
506 Woodbine
Shreveport, LA 71105

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Percival:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Percival
6 Patricia Drive
Covington, LA 70433

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON*

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Kent:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. Reuben Kent
16 Memory Lane
West Monroe, LA 71291

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1984

Dear Ms. Kelly:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Ms. Myrtle G. Kelly
546 Del Norte Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1984

Dear Ms. Nelson:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Ms. Alice R. Nelson
47 Julian Street
Dorchester, MA 02125

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1984

Dear Mr. Dimos:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. John Dimos
2134 Maywood Drive
Monroe, LA 71201

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1984

Dear Mr. Castaing:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. Charles E. Castaing
Castaing & Hussey
525 Weeks Street
P.O. Box 788
New Iberia, LA 70560

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1984

Dear Dr. Dreger:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Ralph Mason Dreger, Ph.D.
2106 Lee Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Dr. Ritter:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Dr. Robbins H. Ritter
Larkspur
P.O. Box 103
Roseland, LA 70456

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Ms. Williamson:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Ms. Carmen Williamson
1021 Rue Bordeaux
Slidell, LA 70458

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1984

Dear Mrs. Loewenstein:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the decision to commute the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier to six years imprisonment. In light of your expressed concerns about that decision, you may be interested in more information about the facts of the case and the procedures that were followed.

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of Federal law involving extortion and bribery. Dozier was convicted of soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 Dozier was also found to have committed additional criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000.

In January 1983, Dozier filed an application for Executive clemency with the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice. In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated pertinent information, reports, and advice concerning Dozier's application. The office recommended that Dozier's sentence be reduced, and on March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice advised the President to modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years imprisonment.

The Department of Justice recommendation was based on the disparity between Dozier's original sentence and sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for

similar offenses. The disparity became evident through an evaluation of relevant data compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts on sentences imposed in Federal courts. Not only was Dozier's sentence comparatively long, but the convictions for racketeering and extortion that made up the pertinent statistics generally involved behavior even more severe than the acts of extortion committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public officials in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed, and this review again demonstrated the disparity of Dozier's sentence.

The recommendation of the Department of Justice was also based on Dozier's cooperation with law enforcement authorities after his conviction. Such cooperation provided with respect to ongoing law enforcement efforts is, as I am certain you will understand, a very important consideration in matters of this kind. Also taken into account were the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, the fact that Dozier paid his fine, and the minimal additional deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.

The President accepted the advice of the Department of Justice and on June 22, 1984 reduced Dozier's sentence to six years. While the recommended sentence of six years imprisonment will permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after two years imprisonment, any actual release date will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six-year sentence, subject to statutory release procedures (including good time) applicable to all Federal prisoners.

It is important to recognize that the President has not pardoned Dozier for the very serious criminal conduct that resulted in his conviction and incarceration. The reduction of sentence, approved for the reasons outlined above, in no way minimizes the seriousness of the crimes committed by Dozier.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this matter with us. I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by RAH

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mrs. J.E. Loewenstein
616 Linden Street
Shreveport, LA 71104

RAH:JGR:aea 8/30/84

cc: RAHauser
JGRoberts
Subj
Chron