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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Surplus Monies Raised by 50th American  
Inaugural Committee Donated to Child Find

John Gill of Children's Rights of New York wrote you, inquiring how Child Find of New Paltz, New York was chosen to receive surplus inaugural funds, and how much Child Find received. I recommended referring to Fred Ryan for response, but you preferred responding from Counsel's Office. Ryan's office has now advised me that (1) no information on specific amounts is being released, and (2) the charities chosen were chosen as good examples worthy of emulation, with geographic and type of charity diversity in mind. The attached draft reply incorporates this information.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1985

Dear Mr. Gill:

Thank you for your letter requesting information on the donation of surplus funds from the Presidential Inaugural Fund to various charities, including Child Find, Inc., of New Paltz, New York. You inquired how much money Child Find received, and how Child Find was selected as a recipient.

The Committee for the 50th American Presidential Inaugural decided not to release information about the specific amounts donated to each of the 23 charities that shared some \$2 million of surplus inaugural funds. (One million dollars of the surplus was paid to the United States Treasury to reduce the national debt.) The funds involved are private funds, and it was felt that releasing information about specific amounts might be misinterpreted as indicating that some of the charities were worthier or more deserving of support than others.

The charities chosen to receive surplus inaugural funds were chosen as good examples of charitable activity that should be encouraged and could possibly be duplicated elsewhere across the country. The recipients were selected to represent all geographic areas of the country, as well as a diversity of types of charitable organizations and activities.

I hope the foregoing is helpful.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding  
Counsel to the President

Mr. John E. Gill  
President, Children's Rights  
of New York, Inc.  
19 Maple Avenue  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

FFF:JGR:aea 10/21/85

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Surplus Monies Raised by 50th American  
Inaugural Committee Donated to Child Find

John Gill, President of Children's Rights of New York, Inc., has written to ask you for information on the gift from the surplus inaugural funds to Child Find, Inc., of New York. In particular, Gill wants to know how much Child Find was given and how Child Find was chosen. Gill's organization publishes a newsletter, is very pleased that the President has identified the missing children problem as important, and would like to publicize the gift.

I think this letter should be referred to Fred Ryan, whose office is familiar with these facts and has been following up on the donation of the surplus funds. A referral memorandum is attached.

Attachment

*Let's be in from Council's Office*

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS of NEW YORK, Inc.

19 Maple Avenue  
Stony Brook, New York 11790

(516) 751-7840

343436 *cu*

August 20, 1985

Mr. Fred Fielding Esq.  
Office of the Legal Counsel  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Fielding:

This letter concerns part of the surplus monies raised by the Committee for the 50th American Presidential Inaugural. We understand from the enclosed press release that some of those funds were donated to Child Find, Inc., of New Paltz, New York.

We would like to know how much money was donated to Child Find and how that group was selected to receive such funding. There is a newsletter, "Hotline", which we publish twice a year and we'd like to include information on that gift to Child Find in our next issue. The President's kindness towards a group dealing with missing children is appreciated and signifies that such an issue has received wide support and recognition. We'd like to circulate as much information as possible about that contribution. It would be encouraging to other groups dealing with missing children to learn that the White House has identified the issue as an important one.

Any information, then, about such a donation would be appreciated. We'd like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

*John E. Gill*

John E. Gill, President


JG/bs

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS  
AND SCHEDULING, DIRECTOR OF  
PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS   
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Inaugural Funds

You have asked for our views on a response to a letter to Tom Dawson from Robert Lawrence Balzer, concerning the participation of winemakers and restaurateurs in the Inaugural festivities. Mr. Balzer's letter also makes reference to the pending legal dispute concerning William Anton's claim for lost profits and other damages arising from the Taste of America. Since that matter is still pending in litigation, you should make no mention of it in any reply you might send. Indeed, I would recommend not sending the Presidential letter of thanks requested by Balzer. It has been well over a year since the Inaugural, and any letters from the President, however carefully crafted, could be seized upon by interested parties to the Taste of America dispute.



# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FG001-03  
J.R.

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

Name of Correspondent: Fred Ryan

☐ MI Mail Report

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

Subject: Inaugural Funds

## ROUTE TO:

## ACTION

## DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
CUHOLL	ORIGINATOR	8610127			1/1
	Referral Note:				
CUat 18	D	8610128		S	86102108
	Referral Note:				
		1/1			1/1
	Referral Note:				
		1/1			1/1
	Referral Note:				
		1/1			1/1
	Referral Note:				

## ACTION CODES:

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

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

## DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered  
B - Non-Special Referral  
C - Completed  
S - Suspended

## FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Comments:

Robert Lawrence Balzer

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1986

379953 *cu*

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED FIELDING

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FJR*

SUBJECT: Inaugural Funds

This letter was forwarded to me for a recommendation. What should we say regarding the \$72,094. claim? Would you advise sending the letters he is requesting?



*Robert Lawrence Balzer*

10551 HILLSBORO ROAD  
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92705

January 22nd 1986

Thomas C. Dawson, Deputy Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Dawson,

I am indebted to my friend Holmes Tuttle for your kind consideration of the long unresolved problems surrounding The Taste of America and its part in the Presidential Inaugural of 1985. As you may possibly know, my great-grandfather, G.A. Balzer catered the Presidential Inauguration Ball for the Second Inaugural of Abraham Lincoln in 1865, the menu for which is in the National Archives. So it was particularly significant for me in my appointment as the Chairman of the Food & Wine Selection for President Ronald Reagan's Inaugurals in both 1981 and 1985.

As the wine columnist for the Los Angeles Times for the past twenty-one years, and Food & Beverage Editor of Travel-Holiday Magazine, in charge of the Restaurant Dining Awards program for the last fourteen years, I have enjoyed the close friendship of our country's most prominent winemakers and restaurateurs. It became my role to extend them the invitation to participate in The Taste of America, for each of them a proud, but very expensive gesture of support for the President. This contribution from the private sector, 30 wineries and 40 restaurants, the costs varying from \$20,000 to as much as \$45,000 each, as you can see, amounts to a multi-million dollar contribution, which, to this very late date, one year after the event, has not been recognized in any way, despite the promise made to me by Bill Sittman, the Administrative Assistant of the Presidential Inaugural Committee, before I left Washington last January, that each of the participants would receive a letter of thanks from the President, as was most graciously done in 1981.

On my desk, as I write this sad letter, is a correspondence file on this matter one inch deep. In April of 1985, my good colleague, William Anton, who served as the Chairman of The Taste of America most capably, wrote to me of his optimism, that the deficit of this sanctioned Inaugural Event (detailed fully in Anton's letter of March 1, 1985 to Mr. Fred Hale, Chief Financial Officer of the Presidential Inaugural Committee) would be resolved from the \$3 million surplus of the PIC. This 5-page letter clearly demonstrated the facts accounting for the \$72,094.00 deficit of The Taste of America. As of April 30, 1985, a number of wineries contributed \$22,269.68 toward the retirement of this debt, BEYOND the amounts spent originally for their parts in the event in the Washington Convention Center.

*Robert Lawrence Balzer*

10551 HILLSBORO ROAD  
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92705

-2-

My memories of the wonderful Taste of America event of the 1981 Inaugural, held in the (non-union) restored Union Railway Station accounted for my enthusiasm in inviting my friends in the wine and food industry to participate in the 1985 Inaugural. It is tragic to relate that for many of them, the experience in the arbitrary union-operated Convention Center, with supposed 24-security was not only exorbitantly costly, but damaging; hundreds of cases of wine were stolen, valuable equipment including chef's knives, silver serving trays, chafing dishes, etc. which disappeared while the premises were occupied overnight only by security forces.

Mr. Anton and I were both so convinced that the 1985 Taste of America would be a great success, we were confident that the expenses of the New England Culinary Institute and their donation of the masterpiece cake reproduction of the National Capitol (similar to that provided for Lincoln's Second Inaugural by my great grandfather would easily be met, some \$10,000, and as well, \$5,000 for the professional services of Chef Louis Szathmary as guiding consultant-participant. These costs remain unresolved in the deficit, which, against the surplus of the PIC seem an almost barbarous inequity, especially in light of some of the arrogance accorded Mr. Anton by some of the members of the PIC. This despite the contributions not only to the staff and cast members of both Galas, and the evening in which the participants of The Taste of America hosted the black-tie visit of The Eagles, the main financial contributors to the Republican Party in this victorious moment.

The majority of the participants, winemakers and restaurateurs, responded to the expensive invitation to become a part of this historic event, upon my ardent and sincere personal urging, with of course, the promise that they would have a letter of gratitude from the President. Though I have had a wonderfully warm letter from President Reagan myself, in recognition of my participation, and for the generous contribution of artist James Paul Brown, no word has come from The White House to the 40 restaurateurs or 30 wineries. It is not too late, and on this anniversary date, one year after the Inaugural, I know each of them would still be pleased to have some recognition of their most generous contributions.

Thank you for your consideration of the matters taken up in this letter. Should you need any documentation of the deficit, and the reasons why it should not be resolved from the surplus of the PIC, I'm sure Mr. William C. Anton, now opening the Loyal Opposition Restaurant in Washington, D.C. (400 1st St. S.E. (202) 546-4545) can provide you with full records.

With the hope of an early resolution of this matter, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Robert Lawrence Balzer*  
Robert Lawrence Balzer

Bob Barber

← Tom Mann, associate. Prime Waterhouse friend called -  
wants opinion letter from counsel.

BS with  
draft

AETR problem referred to Tim Ryan, but  
not following. 1. no request for response,  
2. thought it was all at rest. Pete  
suggests not to respond, by lot of  
inquiries.

did contact  
auditors

← Torte of America. BS: talked to them, as drafted 3 1/2 weeks, no  
response

→ Proposed final report of AC office. left w/ FFF,  
→ hasn't heard back.

DGH → Personal Trust. Power to be revised. Fife filed 990  
tax return. To wind up the trust.  
Needs to be revised + sent back to banker.

- Sell

✓ - CJ : CA decision ?

→ - Good retreat letter (and am)



limited vehicles  
limited fuel + maintenance

GSA ←  
remains  
(isolated  
activity)

- no book, him  
think

(c.50)

- military aide: must remain  
(for + with FAMILY)  
(GOVS)  
(MRO and) → OFFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
PARTICIPANTS  
(SINATRA)

- OFFICIAL  
INAUGURAL  
PARTICIPANTS  
(SINATRA)

~~[no purely personal tasks: not suitable]~~  
[link to liaison]

NOT  
TERRORIST;  
FBI, DOT,  
SS

- [netis int: no]  
[80 rips a nobler]

~~to no problem~~

drives: auto,  
PIC if offroad

6. balls (red ink)  
7. accountants (4) for PIC