Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

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

Collection: President, Office of the: Presidential

Briefing Papers: Records, 1981-1989

Folder Title: 12/02/1981 (Case File: 051411)

(1)

Box: 10

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

ID# 05/4//

DR (

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET

	Referral Note:				
RMMATT	_ RSZ	81,1209		81,12,09	
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD	
ROUTE TO:	A	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
				*	
			50	003.	
Privato Lector	nitial	arco	WE		
Muter and the	to be	ico en		258.14	
Council wich					
Theetingwith AFL.	-C10 Gp	ecutive	- LA		
se for succe					
Subject: Meeting with agric	utural	laders	_ AG		
PRESIDENT'S SO APPOINTMENTS	FOR L	EC018.	L		
Name of Document: BRIEFING PAPER			PR	ubject Codes:	
☐ H · INTERNAL			21	shipet Codes	

BCF

UNPUBLISHED
December 1, 1981
5:00 pm

Residence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE Wednesday, December 2, 1981

9:00	ovar	
9:00 am (30 min)	Staff Time 9:03 - 9:33 (Baker, Meese, Deaver) 9:20 - Figure - 9:27	Oval Office
9:30 am (15 min)	Senior Staff Time NIFZIGGE 9:34	Oval Office
9:45 am (15 min)	Personal Staff Time	Oval Office
10:00 am (30 min)	Meeting with Farm Leaders 10:05 - (Elizabeth Dole)	Cabinet Room
10:30 am (30 min)	Personal Staff Time	Oval Office
11:00 am (20 min)	Meeting with AFL-CIO Executive Council (Elizabeth Dole) 11:00 - 11:57	Cabinet Room
(30 min)	of Bush's Office - Time MAG. PHOTO	Oval Office
12:00 m (75 min)	Lunch with Private Sector Initiative Task Force 12:06 - 1:20 (James Rosebush/Muffie Brandon)	State Dining Room

To Private Quarters for Personal Time

for remainder of the day

1:15 pm

1:27

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON December 1, 1981

MEETING WITH AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

DATE December 2, 1981

LOCATION Cabinet Room
TIME 10:00-10:30 am

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

PURPOSE To discuss the Farm Bill with the leaders of the major agricultural and commodity groups in the U.S. and to enlist their support for a bill that meets your budget requirements.

House/Senate Conference. The main issues are the high commodity price support levels contained in the House version. Senator Dole and Secretary Block have requested that you meet with the leaders of all the major agricultural and commodity organizations to convince them of the need for fiscal restraint and to enlist their support in persuading the Conferees to produce an acceptable bill that meets your budget goals.

The agriculture community has been particularly hard hit by high costs, high interest rates and low farm prices for the past several years. Most of the agriculture organizations have been quite supportive of your economic recovery program but now their individual interests are at stake. You will have to appeal to their overall sense of national responsibility.

- III. PARTICIPANTS See attached list
- IV. PRESS PLAN Press/photo pool
- V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

10:00 am

You enter the Cabinet Room and shake hands with each of the participants at the table. They will have been briefed by Secretary Block as to the general purpose of the meeting. You take your place at the table.

10:05 am The press pool will enter for a photo opportunity.

With the departure of the press pool, you discuss the purpose of the meeting with the group as per the talking points and welcome any questions. (Sec'y Block will answer specifics).

10:30 am. You thank your guests and depart the Cabinet Room.

Attachment: Talking Points

List of Participants Questions & Answers

GUESTS

President President American Farm Bureau Federation Warsaw, Virginia

Mr. Edward Andersen Master National Grange Washington, D.C.

Mr. Marvin Meek President American Agriculture Movement Plainview, Texas

Mr. George Stone President National Farmers Union Denver, Colorado

Mr. Charles Hamon President American Soybean Association Valley Falls, Kansas

Mr. Jim R. Billington President National Association of Wheat Growers Altus, Oklahoma

Mr. J.W. Swan President National Cattlemen's Association Rogerson, Idaho

Mr. William Mullins President National Corn Growers Association Shabbona, Illinois

Mr. Fred Butler Treasurer National Milk Producers Federation Martinsburg, West Virginia

Mr. Robert Hughes President Hawaii Sugar Planters Association Aiea, Hawaii

Mr. William Lehrer President Ad Hoc Five State Rice Producer Group Garwood, Texas Mr. John Saunders President National Pork Producers Council Osborn, Missouri

Mr. Joe Hatfield Chairman of the Board National Broiler Council Baldwin, Georgia

Mr.Emmett Reynolds President Ad Hoc National Peanut Growers Group Arabia, Georgia

Mr. Don Meike President National Wool Growers Association Caycee, Wyoming

Mr. Frank Mitchener President National Cotton Council Sumner, Mississippi

ADMINISTRATION

Secretary Block
Edwin Meese III
James Baker, III
Elizabeth H. Dole
Max Friedersdorf
Jack Burgess, OPL
John McClaughry, OPD
Fred Khedouri, OMB
David Wright, CL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON November 30, 1981

MEETING WITH AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

DATE: December 2, 1981 LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole



I. PURPOSE

To emphasize your willingness to listen to and work with the labor community and to demonstrate your interest in the concerns of working people. This meeting will also serve to counter the claim of the AFL-CIO leadership that you are ignoring their interests and concerns.

II. BACKGROUND

The AFL-CIO has been quite critical of your Administration since February. In particular they are critical of your economic policy, claiming that "it hurts the poor and helps the rich". While the AFL-CIO can be expected to disagree with Administration policies, there is strong evidence that the leadership of the AFL-CIO is conducting a very partisan campaign to make it appear that you are ignoring the interests of workers and have not consulted with organized labor.

While there is a healthy low-key dialogue between Administration policy makers and many individual unions in the AFL-CIO (maritime unions, building & construction unions, airline unions), very little dialogue has taken place with the AFL-CIO leadership. This has led to media characterizations of the Administration ignoring organized labor.

This meeting is designed to show visible evidence of your interest in consulting with the labor community and to attempt to establish a continuing dialogue with them. It has been billed as a "listening" session.

Among the topics that may arise during the meeting are: the need to show some compassion for the 11,000 former air traffic controllers, the Administration position on the proposed amendment of the Hobbs Act, the economic and tax policies of the Administration, the impact of budget cuts on social programs, the quality of NLRB nominees, the rising unemployment rate, Administration trade policies, and the need to establish a business, labor and government Commission to reindustrialize the nation.

Your guests will have assembled in the Cabinet Room at 10:45 a.m. for a welcome and discussion involving the Vice President, Elizabeth Dole, Secretary Donovan and Bob Bonitati. AFL-CIO President, Lane Kirkland, will be seated to your left in the Cabinet Room.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Aforementioned briefers, Ed Meese, Jim Baker, Ambassador Brock and attached guest list.

PRESS PLAN IV.

Press Pool Photo Coverage.

v. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11:00 a.m. You enter the Cabinet Room and greet each guest as you move around the room prior to taking your seat.

The press pool will enter for photos and depart. 11:03 a.m.

11:05 a.m. You offer brief remarks and ask for questions and comments.

11:25 a.m. You thank your guests and depart. The meeting will continue following your departure.

Attachments

List of Participants Talking Points Questions and Answers

BUSH DOLE,
JB, BROCK
EM SPEAKES

GREEN MACK LOVELE, AS SEC LABON
FRIEDERS DONE

BOUNTAGE

R. CAVANGE

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AFL-CIO Executive Council

December 2, 1981 11:00 a.m. Cabinet Room

Mr. Lane Kirkland President AFL-CIO

Mr. Thomas Donahue Secretary-Treasurer AFL-CIO

Mr. Kenneth Blaylock President American Federation of Gov't Employees

Mr. Sol Chaikin
President
International Ladies' Garment
Workers Union

Mr. Frank Drozak President Seafarers International Union

Mr. Murray Finley
President
Amalgamated Clothing & Textile
Workers Union

Mr. David Fitzmaurice
President
International Union of Electrical
Radio & Machine Workers

Mr. Angelo Fosco President Laborers' International Union

Mr. Douglas Fraser President United Auto Workers

Mr. Teddy Gleason
President
International Longshoremen's
Association

Mr. Wayne Glenn
President
United Paperworkers International
Union

Mr. Robert Goss
President
Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers
 International Union

Mr. Edward Hanley President Hotel & Restaurant Employees Union

Mr. James Hatfield President Glass Bottle Blowers Association

Mr. Alvin Heaps President Retail, Wholesale & Dept. Store Union

Ms. Barbara Hutchison Director Women's Program American Federation of Gov't Employees

Mr. Richard Kilroy President Brotherhood of Railway & Airline Clerks

Mr. William Konyha President United Brotherhood of Carpenters

Mr. John Lyons
President
International Association of Iron
Workers

Mr. Lloyd McBride
President
United Steelworkers of America

Ms. Joyce Miller
Vice President
Amalgamated Clothing & Textile
Workers Union

Capt. J. J. O'Donnell President Air Line Pilots Association

Mr. Frederick O'Neal
President
Associated Actors & Artistes of
America

Mr. Charles Pillard President International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Mr. S. Frank Raftery
President
International Brotherhood of
Painters

Mr. Albert Shanker President American Federation of Teachers

Mr. Vincent Sombrotto President National Association of Letter Carriers

Mr. John Sweeney
President
Service Employees International
 Union

Mr. J. C. Turner
President
International Union of Operating
Engineers

Mr. Martin Ward
President
United Association of Plumbing
& Pipe Fitting Industry

Mr. William Wynn
President
United Food & Commercial Workers
Union

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 25, 1981

MEETING WITH TASK FORCE ON PRIVATE

SECTOR INITIATIVES

DATE:

Wednesday, December 2, 1981

LOCATION:

State Dining Room 12:00 -- 1:00 P.M.

FROM:

TIME:

JAMES S. ROSEBUSH

I. PURPOSE

٠.,

To give the Task Force your charge. To stress the importance you place on this effort. To underscore the reason you formed the Task Force - to stimulate greater private sector leadership to address community problems. To thank them for accepting this challenge.

II. BACKGROUND

December 2, 1981 is the inaugural meeting of this Task Force. The group will be sworn in and have an organizational meeting in the morning and continue it's discussion through the afternoon.

III. PARTICIPANTS

(See attached list)

IV. PRESS PLAN

Press pool only during Presidents remarks.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

You will proceed from the Oval Office to the State Dining Room accompanied by Jim Rosebush where your guests will already be seated. Jim will introduce you to the guests at your table and then lunch will be served. At approximately 12:45 you will step to the podium to make your prepared remarks and at the conclusion thank the group, wish them success in their meeting, which will continue, and then depart from the dining room.

PARTICPANTS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

William Aramony President United Way

William J. Baroody, Jr. President
American Enterprise Institute

Helen G. Boosalis Mayor City of Lincoln

William R. Bricker National Director Boys Clubs of America

Barber B. Conable Congressman U.S. House of Representatives

J. Richard Conder President National Association of Counties

Terence Cardinal Cooke Archbishop of New York

Kenneth N. Dayton Chairman of Executive Committee Dayton-Hudson Corporation

Walter G. Davis Director of Community Services AFL-CIO

Hon. Pierre S. duPont Governor State of Delaware

Hon. David Durenberger Senator United States Senate

Luis A. Ferre Former Governor of Puerto Rico John H. Filer Chairman Aetna Casualty & Life Co.

Max Fisher

John Gardner Chairman Independent Sector

Daniel Gilbert President Eureka College

Dr. Jean L. Harris Secretary of Human Resources Commonwealth of Virginia

James S. Henry
President
Center for Public Resource

E. V. Hill
Pastor
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Dee Jepsen Advisory Board Member Steppe Foundation

Michael S. Joyce Executive Director John M. Olin Foundation

Edward H. Kiernan President International Union of Police

Arthur Levitt, Jr. Chairman American Stock Exchange

Robert D. Lilley Chairman Local Initiatives Support Corp. Dr. Henry Lucas, Jr.
Chairman
New Coalition for Economic
 and Social Change

Mrs. Leslie L. Luttgens Chairman Council on Foundations

Richard W. Lyman President Rockefeller Foundation

Cornell C. Maier
Chairman
Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical
Corporation

Elder Thomas S. Monson The Mormon Church

Robert Mosbacher, Jr. Vice President Mosbacher Production Co.

Franklin D. Murphy Chairman of Executive Committee Times Mirror Co.

William C. Norris Chairman and CEO Control Data Corp.

Frank Pace, Jr.
Chairman and CEO
National Executive Service
Corporation

Tom Pauken Director ACTION

George Romney Chairman National Center for Citizen Involvement

James W. Rouse Chairman The Rouse Company Andrew C. Sigler Chairman and CEO Champion International

Ellen Sulzberger Straus President WMCA Radio

Reverend Leon Sullivan
Founder
Opportunities
Industrialization Center

Alexander Trowbridge President National Association of Manufacturers

C. William Verity, Jr. Chairman Armco Steel, Inc.

William S. White Presisent C.S. Mott Foundation

Jeri J. Winger First Vice President General Federation of Women's Clubs

Thomas H. Wyman President CBS, Inc.

Administration Officials and Invited Guests

The Honorable Malcolm Baldrige

/ Edwin Meese, III

- James A. Baker, III

- Michael K. Deaver

Joseph W. Canzeri

Richard G. Darman

Elizabeth H. Dole

Max L. Friedersdorf

Craig L. Fuller

Richard S. Williamson

James S. Rosebush

Michael P. Castine

Patrick Butler Communications Director, Task Force

Jack Albertine Acting Staff Director, Task Force

Allen Cooper Assistant to Mr. Verity

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON December 1, 1981

MEETING WITH AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

December 2, 1981

LOCATION TIME

Cabinet Room

10:00-10:30 am

FROM:

ELIZABETH H. DOLE



- I. PURPOSE To discuss the Farm Bill with the leaders of the major agricultural and commodity groups in the U.S. and to enlist their support for a bill that meets your budget requirements.
- II. BACKGROUND The Farm Bill is currently deadlocked in the House/Senate Conference. The main issues are the high commodity price support levels contained in the House version. Senator Dole and Secretary Block have requested that you meet with the leaders of all the major agricultural and commodity organizations to convince them of the need for fiscal restraint and to enlist their support in persuading the Conferees to produce an acceptable bill that meets your budget goals.

The agriculture community has been particularly hard hit by high costs, high interest rates and low farm prices for the past several years. Most of the agriculture organizations have been quite supportive of your economic recovery program but now their individual interests are at stake. You will have to appeal to their overall sense of national responsibility.

- IIT. See attached list PARTICIPANTS
- IV. PRESS PLAN Press/photo pool
- V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

10:00 am

You enter the Cabinet Room and shake hands with each of the participants at the table. They will have been briefed by Secretary Block as to the general purpose of the meeting. You take your place at the table.

10:05 am The press pool will enter for a photo opportunity.

> With the departure of the press pool, you discuss the purpose of the meeting with the group as per the talking points and welcome any questions. (Sec'y Block will answer specifics).

10:30 am You thank your guests and depart the Cabinet Room.

Attachment: Talking Points

List of Participants Questions & Answers

AGRICULTURAL LEADERS' MEETING

GUESTS

Mr. Robert B. Delano President American Farm Bureau Federation Warsaw, Virginia

Mr. Edward Andersen Master National Grange Washington, D.C.

Mr. Marvin Meek
President
American Agriculture Movement
Plainview, Texas

Mr. George Stone President National Farmers Union Denver, Colorado

Mr. Charles Hamon President American Soybean Association Valley Falls, Kansas

Mr. Jim R. Billington President National Association of Wheat Growers Altus, Oklahoma

Mr. J.W. Swan President National Cattlemen's Association Rogerson, Idaho

Mr. William Mullins President National Corn Growers Association Shabbona, Illinois

Mr. Fred Butler Treasurer National Milk Producers Federation Martinsburg, West Virginia

Mr. Robert Hughes President Hawaii Sugar Planters Association Aiea, Hawaii

Mr. William Lehrer President Ad Hoc Five State Rice Producer Group Garwood, Texas Mr. John Saunders President National Pork Producers Council Osborn, Missouri

Mr. Joe Hatfield Chairman of the Board National Broiler Council Baldwin, Georgia

Mr.Emmett Reynolds President Ad Hoc National Peanut Growers Group Arabia, Georgia

Mr. Don Meike President National Wool Growers Association Caycee, Wyoming

Mr. Frank Mitchener President National Cotton Council Sumner, Mississippi

ADMINISTRATION

Secretary Block
Edwin Meese III
James Baker, III
Elizabeth H. Dole
Max Friedersdorf
Jack Burgess, OPL
John McClaughry, OPD
Fred Khedouri, OMB
David Wright, CL

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH AGRICULTURE LEADERS

- -- I felt it was important for us to meet together today to discuss the 1981 Farm Bill.
- -- I want you to know that I want a four year farm bill. None of us looksforward to the possibility of not having new legislation before the end of the year and thus returning to the permanent legislation.
- -- I consider myself a strong supporter of American agriculture and
 I believe my actions since taking office have proven this. These
 actions include:
 - o Lifting the Soviet grain embargo as I said I would.

 As a result, we extended the Five Year Grain agreement which resulted in the USSR purchasing an additional 8 million tons of grain. And, we have authorized the purchase of 15 million more tons on top of that should they wish to do so.
 - o Passed a tax bill which will greatly benefit the American farmer. The estate tax laws will help preserve and strengthen our nation's family farms and the accellerated depreciation allowance will provide incentives for the purchase of new equipment and the construction of new buildings.
 - o Actively promoted agricultural exports, an area in which Secretary Block has taken the lead and played a most active role.
 - o My Administration has committed itself to contestingthe use of unfair trade practices on the part of other countries especially the European Community. We have developed a strategy whose objective is to counter the use of export subsidies that result in a loss of markets to U.S. farmers.

- o Believing that high interest rates and inflation are what hurt farmers and ranchers most, we remain strongly committed to our economic program which to date has resulted in inflation dropping from 14% to below 10% a year and interest rates coming down from 21½% when we took office to 15 and 3/4% today.
- o Establishing a Regulatory Task Force to review many of the regulations which have placed unnecessary burdens on our farmers and ranchers.
- -- Before the House and Senate Conferees reach agreement, I wanted to express my deep concern to you over what appears to be decisions that may lead to a farm bill that will be both budget-busting and bad agricultural policy.
- -- Rapidly escalating income support levels, such as target prices based on increases in production cost, will lead to excessive budget exposure and a return to the agricultural policies of the 1950's and 1960's.
- -- I have already come a long way from our original Administration position in trying to accommodate the needs of farmers and others.
- -- But I am convinced that farmers' and ranchers' major concerns are high interest rates and inflation, something this Administration as I noted earlier, has done something about: Both have been reduced drastically.
- -- I urge each and everyone of you to support our efforts to obtain responsible farm legislation. Without your support, the prospects of a farm bill this year are grim.
- I know that most of you and your organizations have expressed support of our program for economic recovery. We all agree, I hope that it is necessary to restore a sense of fiscal responsibilit to this government.

Q&A'S FOR PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH FARM GROUPS

Question: Conditions are not good in farm country. Commodity prices are depressed while high interest rates and other costs have caught many farmers in a tight financial bind. Some will not survive. What is the Administration doing about this serious problem?

Answer: I share your concerns about the problems facing farmers. It was these and other national economic concerns that motivated my efforts to bring the Federal budget under control and to reduce taxes in order to arrest inflation and restore a sustainable prosperity for this Nation's farmers and businessmen. We have already seen a sharp reduction in the rate of inflation and a significant drop in interest rates. These improvements plus a pickup in economic activity next year point to better markets for farmers and ranchers.

Question: Why hasn't the Administration taken a positive attitude in developing a 1981 Farm Bill that will help farmers during these difficult times?

Answer: This Administration has taken a positive approach in dealing with farmers' problems. One of my first actions affecting farmers when I took office was to lift the Soviet grain embargo so that farmers could be free to sell their products anywhere in the world. Additionally, we have recently opened up the farmer-owned grain reserve and taken aggressive steps to help expand agricultural exports. In fact, the ability to keep our agriculture competitive in world markets will be far more important to the long run well-being of farmers than the level of targets and loan rates being debated by the Farm Bill Conferees. High artificial price supports cannot provide a viable long-term solution to the farm problem, expanding and competitive markets are the solution to prosperity.

Question: Why has there been so much emphasis on holding down the cost of the farm bill at the expense of providing farmers protection against declining prices and incomes?

Answer: Expensive Federal farm programs have not solved the farm problem over the years. Limiting Federal budget costs is the only way we can restore prosperity and reduce inflation in the long run.

UNPUBLISHED
December 1, 1981
5:00 pm

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE Wednesday, December 2, 1981

9:00 am (30 min)	Staff Time (Baker, Meese, Deaver)	Oval Office
9:30 am (15 min)	Senior Staff Time	Oval Office
9:45 am (15 min)	Personal Staff Time	Oval Office
10:00 am (30 min)	Meeting with Farm Leaders (TAB A)	Cabinet Room
10:30 am (30 min)	Personal Staff Time	Oval Office
11:00 am (20 min)	Meeting with AFL-CIO Executive Council (Elizabeth Dole) (TAB B)	Cabinet Room
11:30 am (30 min)	Personal Staff Time	Oval Office
12:00 m (75 min)	Lunch with Private Sector Initiative Task Force	State Dining Room
	(James Rosebush/Muffie Brandon) (TAB C) (draft	remarks attached)
1:15 pm	To Private Quarters for Personal Time for remainder of the day	Residence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON December 1, 1981

MEETING WITH AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

DATE December 2, 1981

LOCATION Cabinet Room 10:00-10:30 am TIME

ELIZABETH H. DOLE

I. PURPOSE To discuss the Farm Bill with the leaders of the major agricultural and commodity groups in the U.S. and to enlist their support for a bill that meets your budget requirements.

II. BACKGROUND The Farm Bill is currently deadlocked in the House/Senate Conference. The main issues are the high commodity price support levels contained in the House version. Senator Dole and Secretary Block have requested that you meet with the leaders of all the major agricultural and commodity organizations to convince them of the need for fiscal restraint and to enlist their support in persuading the Conferees to produce an acceptable bill that meets your budget goals.

The agriculture community has been particularly hard hit by high costs, high interest rates and low farm prices for the past several years. Most of the agriculture organizations have been quite supportive of your economic recovery program but now their individual interests are at stake. You will have to appeal to their overall sense of national responsibility.

IIT. PARTICIPANTS See attached list

FROM:

- IV. PRESS PLAN Press/photo pool
- V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

10:00 am

You enter the Cabinet Room and shake hands with each of the participants at the table. They will have been briefed by Secretary Block as to the general purpose of the meeting. You take your place at the table.

10:05 am The press pool will enter for a photo opportunity.

> With the departure of the press pool, you discuss the purpose of the meeting with the group as per the talking points and welcome any questions. (Sec'y Block will answer specifics).

10:30 am You thank your guests and depart the Cabinet Room.

Attachment: Talking Points

List of Participants Questions & Answers

AGRICULTURAL LEADERS' MEETING

GUESTS

Mr. Robert B. Delano President American Farm Bureau Federation Warsaw, Virginia

Mr. Edward Andersen Master National Grange Washington, D.C.

Mr. Marvin Meek President American Agriculture Movement Plainview, Texas

Mr. George Stone President National Farmers Union Denver, Colorado

Mr. Charles Hamon President American Soybean Association Valley Falls, Kansas

Mr. Jim R. Billington President National Association of Wheat Growers Altus, Oklahoma

Mr. J.W. Swan President National Cattlemen's Association Rogerson, Idaho

Mr. William Mullins President National Corn Growers Association Shabbona, Illinois

Mr. Fred Butler Treasurer National Milk Producers Federation Martinsburg, West Virginia

Mr. Robert Hughes President Hawaii Sugar Planters Association Aiea, Hawaii

Mr. William Lehrer President Ad Hoc Five State Rice Producer Group Garwood, Texas Mr. John Saunders President National Pork Producers Council Osborn, Missouri

Mr. Joe Hatfield Chairman of the Board National Broiler Council Baldwin, Georgia

Mr.Emmett Reynolds President Ad Hoc National Peanut Growers Group Arabia, Georgia

Mr. Don Meike President National Wool Growers Association Caycee, Wyoming

Mr. Frank Mitchener President National Cotton Council Sumner, Mississippi

ADMINISTRATION

Secretary Block
Edwin Meese III
James Baker, III
Elizabeth H. Dole
Max Friedersdorf
Jack Burgess, OPL
John McClaughry, OPD
Fred Khedouri, OMB
David Wright, CL

Q&A'S FOR PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH FARM GROUPS

Question: Conditions are not good in farm country. Commodity prices are depressed while high interest rates and other costs have caught many farmers in a tight financial bind. Some will not survive. What is the Administration doing about this serious problem?

Answer: I share your concerns about the problems facing farmers. It was these and other national economic concerns that motivated my efforts to bring the Federal budget under control and to reduce taxes in order to arrest inflation and restore a sustainable prosperity for this Nation's farmers and businessmen. We have already seen a sharp reduction in the rate of inflation and a significant drop in interest rates. These improvements plus a pickup in economic activity next year point to better markets for farmers and ranchers.

Question: Why hasn't the Administration taken a positive attitude in developing a 1981 Farm Bill that will help farmers during these difficult times?

Answer: This Administration has taken a positive approach in dealing with farmers' problems. One of my first actions affecting farmers when I took office was to lift the Soviet grain embargo so that farmers could be free to sell their products anywhere in the world. Additionally, we have recently opened up the farmer-owned grain reserve and taken aggressive steps to help expand agricultural exports. In fact, the ability to keep our agriculture competitive in world markets will be far more important to the long run well-being of farmers than the level of targets and loan rates being debated by the Farm Bill Conferees. High artificial price supports cannot provide a viable long-term solution to the farm problem, expanding and competitive markets are the solution to prosperity.

Question: Why has there been so much emphasis on holding down the cost of the farm bill at the expense of providing farmers protection against declining prices and incomes?

<u>Answer</u>: Expensive Federal farm programs have not solved the farm problem over the years. Limiting Federal budget costs is the only way we can restore prosperity and reduce inflation in the long run.