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September 7, 1983

Dear Mr. Strub:

I was delighted to greet you and to have the pleasure of being photographed with you when you came to the White House on July 14. Thank you very much for the copy of the book, Of Dreams and Deeds, and for the pin which you presented to me. I particularly appreciate these thoughtful remembrances of friendship from the Optimists International.

My thanks and best wishes to you and your membership.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Donald Strub
President
Optimists International
4494 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

RR:CMF:JEH:AVH:mds

cc: Morton Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PHOTOGRAPH WITH OPTIMIST, INTERNATIONAL LEADERS

DATE: Thursday, July 14, 1983
LOCATION: Oval Office
The White House
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
FROM: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

I. PURPOSE:

To show appreciation for this well-known Civic group.

II. BACKGROUND:

The Optimist International organization was founded in 1911 and has since grown to 3,600 local clubs with over 140,000 members.

Optimist International strives to promote programs that are consistent with today's rapidly changing society. Programs that the Club organizes include programs in such areas as citizenship (Youth Appreciation Week, flag display promotions); governmental affairs (R.S.V.P. = Read, Study, Vote, Participate; Respect for Law programs); community involvement (city beautification, conservation), and international relations (United Nations Day).

One particular program that you may want to cite is the "First Step" program. This program provides education and awareness on drug abuse for the community and offers guidance and hope for young people and adults.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Donald Edward STRUB,
International President
Optimists, International

Mrs. June Ann STRUB

Mr. William Mortimer WILLSON, Jr.

Mrs. Leota Melbra WILLSON

Mr. Juan F. WOODROFFE

IV. PRESS PLAN:

White House photographer.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

4:30 p.m. - Guests enter Oval Office

4:31 p.m. - Discussion and photographs

4:35 p.m. - Guests exit

Attachment:

1. Talking points

TALKING POINTS

FOR

PHOTOGRAPH WITH OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL LEADERS

July 14, 1983

- Welcome to the White House and first let me thank you for your support and for the support of your fine organization, The Optimist International. Your clubs have a very fine tradition of civic service and community involvement.
- As you may know, my administration has promoted the ideas of private sector initiatives and of volunteerism, and I would like to applaud especially your efforts in these areas.
- One concern which I share with your organization is a concern for the abuse of drugs among many of our young people. Nancy has been very active in this cause and I would like to commend the Optimists for such programs as the "First Step" program against drug abuse.
- I again thank you for your continued support. It is organizations like the Optimists which prove the government is not the solution to all our problems. People in voluntary organizations like yours work wonders every day.