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American Legion Convention Schedule Proposal
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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 4, 1981

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

Sent over 6/4

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To address the delegates to the AMERICAN LEGION 63rd Annual National Convention.

PURPOSE: To give additional recognition to the largest Veteran group and to express thanks for the support that the American Legion has shown for the President's economic package.

BACKGROUND: The American Legion, with 2.7 million members, is by far the largest and best known Veterans group. They, immediately after the V.F.W. decision, actively supported the passage of the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution in the House. Despite substantial concern among veterans with various aspects of administration policy, the leadership has been, after an initial period of uneasiness, very cooperative in many ways. An additional aspect to be considered is that the Naval Rebuilding Program which the Administration is undertaking can be highlighted by a trip to Pearl Harbor.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President is a life member of the American Legion. The appearance of President Reagan as a candidate in 1980 before the 62nd Annual National Convention gave a big boost to the President's candidacy. (The Legionnaires interrupted Reagan 20 times with applause, while only applauding President Carter's speech 3 times at the same convention.)

DATE: September 1, Tuesday, opening session
or other sessions on September 2 and 3, 1981

LOCATION: Honolulu, Hawaii

DURATION: 1 hour - speaking 20 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: 3000 delegates, 3000 alternates, plus spouses, guests, plus Ladies' Auxiliary delegates numbering 2000; all together 21,000 people - largest convention in U.S.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: American Legion asked only for an address by President. They will arrange their session schedule to suit his schedule.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Speech - on foreign policy and/or national security

MEDIA COVERAGE: They know how to coordinate and work with White House press and know how to take care of press relations.

RECOMMENDED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

Sent to
Claudia
RM. 332

File ↓
THE AMERICAN LEGION

1608 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

get
suitable
letter —

Memorandum to: Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

DATE May 20, 1981

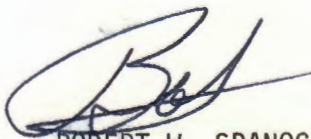
SUBJECT: Invitation to the President of the United States

Sorry I can't be with you today along with Bob Kruse, but I have another commitment this afternoon to the West Springfield Little League.

On March 30, 1981 I sent you the attached copy concerning an invitation to the President of the United States to appear at our 63rd National Convention to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii September 1-3, 1981. Naturally if the President cannot attend we would welcome the Vice President or the Secretary of State and/or Secretary of Defense. I am aware that our National Commander has both verbally and by letter of invitation asked Caspar Weinberger to be with us.

Morton, of great importance is a rapidly approaching deadline for a copy of Greetings to the Convention by President Ronald Reagan. We have a deadline of June 1, 1981 and I have enclosed a copy of last year's greetings by President Carter. Could you process this for me and have it sent to my attention?

I would welcome the opportunity to have you and Mrs. Dole join me and my successor Mylio Kraja for lunch prior to my departure for Indianapolis June 11. If this does not fit into your schedules, perhaps a brief meeting could be arranged. Along with introducing the new Executive Director, I have a gift of appreciation for Mrs. Dole which I would like to present to her at that time.


ROBERT W. SPANOGLE
Executive Director

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1981

TO: JUDY POND

Rm. 155

FROM:

MORTON BLACKWELL *Rm. 134*

RE:

SPEAKER FOR AMERICAN LEGION
CONVENTION Sept. 1-3

We have received this correspondence from the American Legion. From your letter of response, it looks as if the President cannot attend.

This is an excellent group and we hope that you will be able to get a suitable substitute.

Thank you.

P.S. It shouldn't be too hard to find someone willing to attend a meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii!

Schedule

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1981

TO: CHARLOTTE ELLIS

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

RE:

SCHEDULING A LUNCHEON WITH
MRS. DOLE AND THE AMERICAN
LEGION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Would you be able to schedule a date to accomodate this request?

Bob Spanogle # is 393-4811 and
861-2711

Thank you, and please let us know.

Pres. to Honor - AL

Purpose -

to show support

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1981

TO: CHARLOTTE ELLIS
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

RE: SCHEDULING A LUNCHEON WITH MRS.
DOLE AND THE AMERICAN LEGION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Per my original memo and request,
we hope that this luncheon can be
arranged next week.
The best date for me would be Tuesday,
June 9, but Monday, June 8 would also
be acceptable.
The luncheon would be for four people -
Mrs. Dole, myself, Robert Spanogle,
and Mylio Kraja.

As mentioned in the letter, if a
luncheon cannot be arranged, they would
like a meeting so they can present
a gift to Mrs. Dole.

Thank you and please let us know as
soon as possible what you can schedule.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1980

I send you my very best wishes as you gather for the Sixty-Second Annual National Convention of the American Legion.

You have a great deal to be proud of in the accomplishments of your distinguished organization. While it is tragic that Americans have been called to war four times in this century, it is commendable that veterans of those wars have dedicated themselves to a stronger nation and a better society. The American Legion boasts one of the finest and most consistent records in wartime service and peacetime devotion to our national well-being.

With this in mind, I wish you a successful convention and hope you will continue the leadership and service you have given so unstintingly for so long.

Jimmy Carter

National Headquarters
700 North Pennsylvania
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Info copy: Frank C. Momsen
William D. Jackson
Robert W. Spanogle
Fred Woodress
Rod Anderson
Bill Miller

March 19, 1981
17

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The 63rd Annual National Convention of The American Legion will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, August 29-September 3, 1981. I am pleased to extend this formal and most cordial invitation to you to address the delegates to our convention during the opening session on Tuesday, September 1. In addition to our delegates and guests, the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary will be in attendance at our opening session.

Additional sessions of our convention will be held on September 2 and 3. If either of these dates would be more compatible to your schedule, the time and date of your appearance on our program could, of course, be arranged at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL J. KOGUTER
National Commander

APR 20 1981

National Convention - Speaker

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 14, 1981

fib

Dear Mr. Kogutek:

Your request for a speaker has been forwarded to me with the recommendation that a surrogate be secured to speak to the 63rd Annual National Convention of the American Legion.

Your request is being considered, and I will be in touch with you at a time closer to the event to apprise you of its status.

Thank you for your interest, and I welcome the opportunity to work with you on this fine program.

Sincerely,

Judith Pond

Judith A. Pond
Deputy Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Michael J. Kogutek
National Commander
The American Legion
Post Office Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Info copy: Frank C. Momsen
William D. Jackson
Robert W. Spanogle
Fred Woodress
Rod Anderson

THIS COPY FOR

Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

March 30, 1981

SUBJECT: Invitation to the President of the United States

Attached is a letter sent over the signature of National Commander Michael J. Kogutak of The American Legion inviting the President of the United States to address the opening session of our 63rd annual National Convention to be held at Honolulu, Hawaii on Tuesday, September 1. As you and I discussed, if the President cannot attend we would welcome the Vice President and/or Secretary of State and/or Secretary of Defense.

I have also attached a copy of greetings brought to the Convention by James Earl Carter, President of the United States, and would like to request similar greetings from President Ronald W. Reagan for this year's convention program.

ROBERT W. SPANOGLE
Executive Director

Attachments

bcc E. Dole

June 19, 1981

I am delighted to send my greetings and warm regards to the American Legion as you gather for your 63rd National Convention.

Over the years, from the First World War to the present, the Legion has provided strong leadership for American veterans. It has contributed to the welfare and betterment of those who have served in our Armed Forces and has provided a forum for the expression of views on issues facing our Nation.

I am keenly aware of your strong support at the polls last fall and, more importantly, I am deeply grateful for all your dedicated efforts on behalf of freedom and a strong America. This Administration is committed to restructuring government spending to put our Nation back on a sound financial footing. At the same time, we are firmly committed to rebuilding our Nation's military strength and to providing for its defense. I pledge to you that any reductions in the Federal budget will not be made at the expense of a strong military posture.

Nor will there be any lessening of our basic commitment to provide for the men and women who have met their Nation's call -- who left their homes and families to serve, to fight, and sometimes to die for our precious heritage. That America stands today as the beacon of hope and liberty in a world of instability and bondage is the highest tribute to the dedication and sacrifice of our servicemen and veterans. Those who have served their Nation so well in time of need have earned and deserve no less than the full measure of gratitude and support of their Nation.

The Legion's goals and aspirations have always reflected the best in the American spirit. Truly, you have demonstrated what Thomas Jefferson called "the most noble of affections -- patriotism".

You have my best wishes for a productive and successful convention, and I join all Americans in commending you for your outstanding contributions to freedom and the Nation.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

SENT TO:
Mr. Robert W. Spanogle
Executive Director
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Enclosure: 8x10 glossy photo

RR:Wells:lrc
cc: H.vonDamm/J.Wells/A.Fairbanks/M.Blackwell/CF
DUE: ASAP (printing)
EVENT: SEPT. 1 (Honolulu)
Draft information provided by VA

Invitation

THE AMERICAN LEGION

1608 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

Memorandum to: Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

DATE March 30, 1981

SUBJECT: Invitation to the President of the United States

Attached is a letter sent over the signature of National Commander Michael J. Kogutek of The American Legion inviting the President of the United States to address the opening session of our 63rd annual National Convention to be held at Honolulu, Hawaii on Tuesday, September 1. As you and I discussed, if the President cannot attend we would welcome the Vice President and/or Secretary of State and/or Secretary of Defense.

Sept,

I have also attached a copy of greetings brought to the Convention by James Earl Carter, President of the United States, and would like to request similar greetings from President Ronald W. Reagan for this year's convention program.

Bob

ROBERT W. SPANOGLE
Executive Director

Attachments

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Headquarters
700 North Pennsylvania
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Info copy: Frank C. Momsen
William D. Jackson
Robert W. Spanogle
Fred Woodress
Rod Anderson
Bill Miller

March 19, 1981

17

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

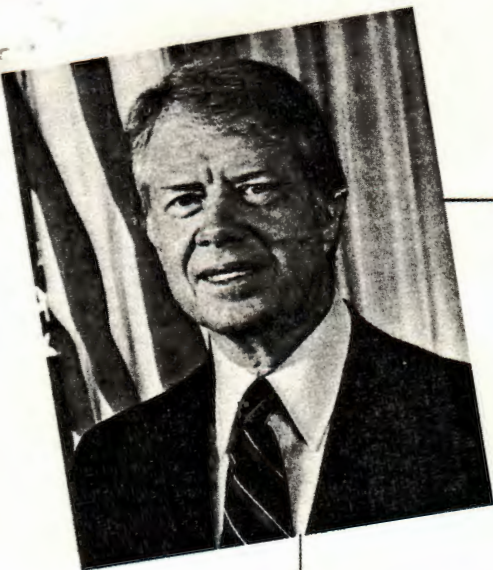
Dear Mr. President:

The 63rd Annual National Convention of The American Legion will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, August 29-September 3, 1981. I am pleased to extend this formal and most cordial invitation to you to address the delegates to our convention during the opening session on Tuesday, September 1. In addition to our delegates and guests, the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary will be in attendance at our opening session.

Additional sessions of our convention will be held on September 2 and 3. If either of these dates would be more compatible to your schedule, the time and date of your appearance on our program could, of course, be arranged at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL J. KOGUTEX
National Commander



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1980

I send you my very best wishes as you gather for the Sixty-Second Annual National Convention of the American Legion.

You have a great deal to be proud of in the accomplishments of your distinguished organization. While it is tragic that Americans have been called to war four times in this century, it is commendable that veterans of those wars have dedicated themselves to a stronger nation and a better society. The American Legion boasts one of the finest and most consistent records in wartime service and peacetime devotion to our national well-being.

With this in mind, I wish you a successful convention and hope you will continue the leadership and service you have given so unstintingly for so long.

Jimmy Carter

SUGGESTED REMARKS TO THE AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION

My warmest greetings to you Legionnaires and Auxiliary members meeting for your 63rd annual convnetion in beautiful Hawaii. I know you will enjoy your visit. Commander Kogutek. Congratulations Adjutant Bob Spanogle whom my staff worked with in Washington and to your former Adjutant, Frank Momsen, who just retired. Also greetings to Auxiliary President Mrs. Dora Seymour and National Secretary Mrs. Miriam Junge (Younge), delegates and friends.

As tourists to the islands, you are aware that tourism is the largest industry in Hawaii, but did you know that the military is the second. Hawaii is important to our defense. You know what happened December 7th, nearly forty years ago. Some of you may have visited the USS Arizona Memorial operated by our National Park Service.

We never intend to let something like Pearl Harbor happen again. That is why at your Boston Convention when I was seeking the office of President that I told you we must provide the defense spending and programs necessary to correct immediate and short-term vulnerabilities and deficiencies.

We are beginning to reverse the deterioration of our naval strength, and provide all of the armed services with the equipment and spare parts they need.

You heard specifics about this when Admiral Robert L. Long, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, spoke to you. Commander Long has an important mission as head of the largest unified command, an area which encompasses 100 million square miles, over 50 percent of the earth's surface, and about 320,000 personnel. He is responsible for collective defense arrangements in the Pacific.

Equipment is important to our armed services but so are the people who man this equipment. We must continue to provide resources to attract and retain superior people in each of the services. It will not be easy, nor will it be inexpensive. We must proceed from a basis of a strength in which we have confidence, a strength that our enemies will not be tempted to challenge.

I am glad you will have the opportunity to hear Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger as your next speaker.

Your enthusiastic support of a strong defense program by my administration means a lot to me and to the Congress. Defense is a bipartisan issue, an issue we must constantly address.

You, through your Commander Mike Kogutek, have helped me in so many ways. One of the White House aides saw your Commander at the White House so many times these past few months that he asked me who is that new employee wearing a red Legion cap.

I was happy to visit your inauguration banquet first for those brave Congressional Medal of Honor winners last January in Washington. Your Commander and I met again February 17th with the Arizona Legion people and the Arizona Congressional delegation for the signing of the proclamation for "Patriotism Week."

On March 16th, after The American Legion had honored Vietnam veterans at Arlington Cemetery, I met with Commander Kogutek and seven Vietnam veterans at the Oval Office to discuss problems facing veterans of that war. That was a fine group. So was the gesture by your organization to show Vietnam veterans your appreciation.

My interest in these veterans prompted me to support and sign a bill into law honoring Vietnam veterans on April 26th. Your ceremony at the site of the future Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington was a fitting tribute. My representative, Morton Blackwell, who appeared on the program, told me about the two Vietnam veterans who walked all the way from my home state of Illinois to Washington to help raise funds for the memorial. I admire their spunk, but I don't think I would try that long a walk.

I want to personally thank you as I did your Commander on July 11th at the White House. The American Legion was the first veterans organization to support my economic package. Thanks to your help and that of the American people, I see prosperous times ahead with the complete bipartisan economic package passed by Congress with the tax cuts we needed to fight inflation.

On July 17th, I received your mandates from Mr. Kogut at the White House and I understand you are updating, changing and adding new mandates at your sessions this week in Honolulu.

I know how concerned your organization is with the veterans benefits and the VA hospital system. Because of your Legion voices and leadership, we were able to restore VA benefits to the budget. I am sure my friend Congressman G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and one of your convention speakers, filled you in on the details. My assistant, Mrs. Elizabeth Dole, who has enjoyed working with you, is out there to get better acquainted with your people and bring a message from the White House.

Before I close, let me give you one bit of advice. Please see something of Hawaii before you leave the islands. It's a beautiful place with many attractions and breathtaking scenery. I know the tourist industry there will appreciate this plug.

Let me leave one thought with you today, fellow Legionnaires. I believe America's greatest moments have come when America dared to be great -- when we believed in ourselves and in our values and we reached out to do the impossible.

I said that to you in Boston at the end of my speech and it applies today. We are daring to be great as a nation, we are daring to take new approaches to our economics and a stronger defense. I need your help to do this and I appreciate your support. Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

David
Turner

33² - 0979

H

0 - 653-3328

245-2657

Writing EHD's
Speech for
Legion

DRAFT
REMARKS BY

ELIZABETH H. DOLE

AMERICAN LEGION)

SEPT. 2, 1981

Done - Turner 6533328(61)
3370979 (h)
1665-34th NW.
20007

To Ann - old pole
Storage

0 THANK YOU, COMMANDER KOGUTEK (KOH-GOO-TEK) FOR THAT VERY
KIND INTRODUCTION. AS PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID IN HIS
TELEVISED REMARKS, I BRING HIS WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE
LEGIONARIES AND AUXILARY MEMBERS OF THIS GRAND ORGANIZATION.

who
will
intro-
duce

IT'S A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE TO DISCUSS THE PARTNERSHIP
WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS WORKING TO ESTABLISH BETWEEN HIS
WHITE HOUSE AND THE AMERICAN LEGION. BUT ANY SPEAKER, NO
MATTER HOW DILIGENTLY HE OR SHE HAS PREPARED AN ADDRESS,
WOULD GET EDGY ABOUT HOW HER MESSAGE WILL COME ACROSS TO
AN AUDIENCE LIKE THIS.

0 I KNOW I CAN'T SHAKE A STORY ABOUT MY FELLOW REPUBLICAN
BILL SIMON.

BILL HAD JUST FINISHED GIVING ONE OF HIS POWERFUL, NO-NONSENSE
SPEECHES AND WAS BEING APPROACHED BY AN ELDERLY LADY WHOSE
BREATHLESS COMMENT WAS,

"OH, MR. SIMON, I ENJOYED YOUR SPEECH SO MUCH. I THOUGHT IT
WAS ABSOLUTELY SUPERFLUOUS.

SIMON, ALWAYS QUICK ON HIS FEET, REJOINED,

"I'M DELIGHTED THAT YOU LIKED IT. PERHAPS, I SHOULD HAVE
IT PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY."

"WONDERFUL!" SAID THE ADMIRER, "THE SOONER THE BETTER."

- 0 THERE ARE SO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS GOING ON IN WASHINGTON THAT I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU--WHITE HOUSE POLICIES AND REGULATORY CHANGES THAT WILL EFFECT EACH ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM.

FORTUNATELY, UNLIKE PEOPLE FROM WASHINGTON IN PREVIOUS YEARS, MY MISSION HERE HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH EXPLAINING NEW REGULATIONS THAT WE'RE WRITING FOR YOU.

WE'RE TRYING TO PUT THOSE DAYS BEHIND US.

- 0 ALTHOUGH HE'S NOT MY FAVORITE SAGE, NORMAN MAILER ONCE SAID SOMETHING ON THIS TOPIC WORTH KEEPING IN MIND. HE ADVISED AUDIENCES TO BEWARE OF WASHINGTON OFFICIALS BRAGGING ABOUT REGULATIONS. "HALF OF WHAT THE SPEAKER SAYS," MAILER WARNS, "IS PROBABLY INCORRECT, THE REST IS 75 PERCENT WRONG."

LEGION CONCERNS

- 0 BEFORE TALKING ABOUT EVENTS IN WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, I'D LIKE TO REVIEW THE CONCERNS SOME OF YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION SINCE I ARRIVED.

LIBYA

- 0 ON TOP OF EVERYBODY'S LIST IS A LITTLE ITEM FROM LAST MONTH INVOLVING NAVY ^{Commander} ~~LIEUT.~~ HENRY ^{Kleemann} ~~G~~, HIS SQUAD OF F-14'S, AND TWO LIBYAN PLANES.

I'M DEEPLY HEARTENED BY EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT YOU'VE OFFERED THE ADMINISTRATION. JUDGING FROM MY SURVEY, IT APPEARS AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS WOULD AGREE WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN WHEN HE SAID, "IF IT'S NECESSARY TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST THE

3 0 AND ONE COMMENT WHICH DIDN'T GET MUCH COVERAGE LAST MONTH,
BUT WHICH REALLY TOUCHED ME, WAS MADE BY THE WIVES OF LIEUT.
CLEMENS' CREW.

WHEN TOLD THEIR HUSBANDS HAD BECOME INSTANT HEROES, THEIR
ONLY RESPONSE WAS, "THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN HEROES TO US."

MEMORIAL DAY

0 LAST EVENING, ANOTHER INTERESTING ISSUE CAME UP DURING A
BRIEF VISIT WITH A LADY-- RETIRED AIR FORCE. SHE WONDERED
IF I HAD NOTICED THAT AMERICANS HAD OBSERVED THIS YEAR'S
MEMORIAL DAY WITH MORE ENTHUSIASM THAN THEY DID DURING THE
1970'S?

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, WE AGREED THERE'S BEEN A SIGNIFICANT
AND POSITIVE CHANGE IN FAVOR OF HONORING OUR SOLDIERS'
ACHIEVEMENTS.

0 LAST MEMORIAL DAY I PARTICIPATED AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN IN MY
OWN HOMETOWN. HOWEVER, WHEN I RETURNED TO WASHINGTON, I WAS
SADLY REMINDED THAT OTHER AMERICANS, AMERICANS MORE LIKELY
DRAWN FROM THE ELITE THAN FROM THE BLEACHERS, HAD NOT
OBSERVED MEMORIAL DAY. THEY RESENTED THE HONORS ACCORDED TO
WHAT THEY CALL "MILITARISM." AND THEY SEEMED WORRIED ABOUT
A CHANGE-OF-HEART THEY WITNESSED IN SO MANY OF THEIR FELLOW
COUNTRYMEN.

0 WELL, I SUSPECT THEY'VE BEEN GLOOMY FOR YEARS. COLUMNIST
EMMETT TYRRELL WRITES OF THESE FOLKS, "WITH EVERY SUNUP
THEY ARE REMINDED THAT THERE WILL FOLLOW A SUNDOWN...TO THESE
PEOPLE," SAYS TYRRELL, "RONALD REAGAN'S AMIABLE PRESENCE
ALSO IS A SOURCE OF PROFOUND CONCERN."

SOME OF THESE ELITE HAVE PUT THEIR TRUST--AND AS MUCH OF THE NATION'S REVENUE AS THEY COULD--INTO THE PALMS OF WELFARE BUREAUCRATS. "WHY," THEY LAMENT, "COULD NOT DEFENSE FUNDS BE SPENT TO SAVE OUR CITIES AND TURN OUR POOR INTO MEMBERS OF THE BOURGEOISIE?"

- 0 I'M REMINDED OF THAT MEDIEVAL LEGEND ABOUT THE WELL-INTENTIONED TOWNSPEOPLE WHO TORE STONES FROM THEIR CITY WALLS TO ENLARGE HOUSES FOR THE NEEDY. LATER, WHEN ENEMIES BREACHED THOSE WALLS, MOST OF THE KIND TOWNSMEN WERE SLAUGHTERED AND THEIR WOMEN ENSLAVED.

- 0 BUT I SUBMIT THAT IN THE NEXT DECADE THE ARMED SERVICES MUST BE ALLOWED ROOM IN OUR SOCIETY TO STRETCH, AND YES, FLEX A LITTLE. THIS CHANGE INVOLVES MORE THAN SPENDING DOLLARS TO DEVELOP WEAPONS...

IT INVOLVES PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND SYMBOLS.

- 0 AND IT MAY BE ONLY A SMALL SYMBOL. FOR EXAMPLE, ASK YOURSELF HOW DO YOU REACT TO THE YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN WEARING UNIFORMS OFF BASE?

YOU KNOW, AND I KNOW WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES WHEN PUBLIC REACTION IS FAVORABLE TO THOSE WEARING UNIFORMS IN THE CIVILIAN WORLD.

AND ISN'T IT WONDERFUL THAT IT'S BECOME ACCEPTABLE TO DO SO AGAIN?

VIGILANCE

- 0 ONE YOUNG LEGIONAIRE, A FORMER NAVY MAN, POINTED OUT SOMETHING TO ME WHICH I THOUGHT WAS QUITE PERCEPTIVE. HE WARNED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONLY GREAT POWER WHICH HAS NEVER ENDURED THE PAIN OF DEFEAT ON ITS OWN SOIL.

Mike
Barbary
← U.S. is
sensitive
legitimate

Food
stamp
situation
problems

get
Resolution from 1980
Dietary
Inst.

IN THIS LAND, ONLY THE AMERICAN SOUTH HAS KNOWN SUCH
DISASTER AND HAVOC.

- O THIS YOUNG CONVENTION DELEGATE WHO, PERHAPS, REPRESENTS
SERVICE PEOPLE OF THE VIET NAM AND THE FOLLOWING
GENERATION, URGED ME TO RETURN WITH A MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON.

"LET'S LEARN," HE SAID, "FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHER
COUNTRIES; COUNTRIES WHICH WEREN'T VIGILANT AND WHICH
REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN A PEACEFUL NATION IS
FOOLISH TO WEAKEN OR MALIGN ITS OWN SOLDIERS."

WOMEN'S ISSUE

- O ALL OF THIS LEADS TO A FINAL POINT WHICH SOME AUXILARY
MEMBERS RAISED WITH ME.

IF THE SERVICES ARE TO BE REVITALIZED, HOW WILL AMERICA'S
WOMEN INFLUENCE THAT GROWTH?

WILL THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT BLINDLY OPPOSE ANYTHING MILITARY?

- O CAN TODAY'S FEMINISM CONTINUE TO EMERGE ALONGSIDE
A BUDDING MILITARY?

- 0 I BELIEVE IT CAN, AND THAT MOST WOMEN WILL COME DOWN ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THIS ISSUE. OUR ARMED SERVICES MUST BE AS VITAL, AS MOTIVATED AND AS INSURMOUNTABLE AS ANY IN MODERN OR ANCIENT TIMES.

IT MUST BE IF WE ARE TO SUCCESSFULLY FACE AN ENORMOUS CHALLENGE FROM THE SOVIETS AND THEIR AGENTS LIKE COL. QADDAFI IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

- 0 TWENTY-THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE ATHENIAN PLAYWRIGHT EURIPIDIES (U-RIP-PIE-DEEZE) STRUGGLED TO DESCRIBE THE GRIEF OF THE TROJAN WOMEN WHO WERE SOLD AND DISPERSED AFTER THE FALL OF THEIR NATION. DESPAIRING OF HIS TASK AT THE PLAY'S END, HE SIMPLY WROTE, "SOME THINGS IN THE HISTORY OF WOMEN ARE SO HARD, WORDS CANNOT MAKE THEM DELICATE."
- 0 ALL AMERICANS, CIVILIAN AND SOLDIER, BLACK AND WHITE, MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD, HAVE A STAKE IN A STRONG NATION AND A STRONG DEFENSE.
- 0 THOSE ARE THE MESSAGES, THE CONCERNS WHICH INDIVIDUALS AMONG YOU HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME--HAVE MADE REAL FOR ME.
I THANK YOU FOR THEM, AND I PROMISE YOU I WON'T FORGET.

- 0 MY JOB AT THE WHITE HOUSE INVOLVES TRANSMITTING MANY SUCH MESSAGES. SOMEONE HAS SAID AMERICA ISN'T A MELTING POT SO MUCH AS A BOILING POT. IF THAT'S SO, THEN YOU CAN FIND ME SIX--OFTEN SEVEN --DAYS A WEEK IN THE THICK OF THE CAULDRON.

WE ARE A NATION OF ORGANIZERS AND IT'S MY JOB AS HEAD OF THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON, TO REACH OUT AND INCLUDE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL POLICY. THE AMERICAN LEGION IS A VAST POOL OF CONSTITUENT VIEWS AND THE REASON I'M HERE IS TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR COLLECTIVE VIEW IS WEIGHED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF POLICYMAKING.

HOPEFULLY, MY OFFICE ALSO INSPIRES AND INFORMS YOUR LEADERS ABOUT ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.

- 0 A LOT OF US HAVE MARVELED AT THE PRESIDENT'S SKILL AS A COMMUNICATOR--IT'S BECOME ALMOST A CLICHE'. BUT THE DRAMATIC GROUNDSWELL WE SAW FOR HIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE IS A TRIBUTE TO BOTH THE MESSENGER AND TO ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS YOURS.

WE DEPENDED UPON THE INTERNAL NETWORKS WITHIN THE LEGION TO HELP BUILD THE POPULAR SUPPORT WHICH WAS SO CRUCIAL IN THE TWO VOTES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

- 0 WHY WERE TWO ECONOMIC BILLS IMPORTANT TO THE LEGION-- IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO CAUSE YOU TO BREAK PRECEDENT AND PUBLICLY ENDORSE NON-DEFENSE LEGISLATION?

- 0 PRESIDENT REAGAN ANSWERED THAT QUESTION IN HIS TALK. HE SAID A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT A STRONG, VITAL ECONOMY.

*WFO -
% retirement
of volunteer*

*Note of meeting
w/ Vets
Notes from
what man said
to Regu tek*

*Is the
so?*

the message

- o I CAN TELL YOU HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE LEGION'S RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT.

PERHAPS, MORE THAN ANY SINGLE FACTOR, IT WAS THE GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR HIS PLANS WHICH CONVINCED DEMOCRAT REPRESENTATIVES TO BREAK RANKS AND VOTE FOR THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET AND TAX BILLS.

- o WE HEAR FROM CRITICS, IN JEST AND OTHERWISE, THAT GRASSROOTS SUPPORT TO CUT FEDERAL HANDOUTS IS ACTUALLY THE PASSIONATE DESIRE BY AMERICANS TO "CUT THY NEIGHBOR'S SUBSIDY."

BUT YOU AND I KNOW THIS CONSERVATIVE REVOLUTION GOES FAR DEEPER THAN THAT. IT'S A DEEP LOVE OF A COUNTRY BY PEOPLE WILLING TO CUT SUBSIDIES NOT JUST TO OUR NEIGHBORS, BUT TO OURSELVES. AMERICANS RECOGNIZE GOVERNMENT LARGESS SOLVES NOTHING.

- o AMERICA CAN TURN ITSELF AROUND--NOT JUST BECAUSE IT HAS TO, BUT, BY GEORGE, BECAUSE IT WANTS TO.

- o AND ABOUT OUR NEW PRESIDENT? JAMES BAKER, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF-OF-STAFF, MAY HAVE SAID IT BEST. JIM SAYS THE PRESIDENT'S BEEN SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF THE "DEEP-SEATED PERSONAL BELIEFS THAT HE BRINGS TO THE OFFICE--VIEWS THAT WERE ONCE PART OF THE AMERICAN CHARACTER AND NOW, UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, ARE BEGINNING TO SURFACE ONCE AGAIN."

ECONOMIC CHANGE

- o IN RECENT YEARS, AMERICA HAS BEEN ANEMIC INDEED. WE HAVE HAD THE LOWEST RATE OF SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT AMONG ALL THE WORLD'S MAJOR INDUSTRIAL POWERS.

*Would
things
thank
myio for*

FRENCH EXAMPLE

- o RECENTLY, I CAME ACROSS AN ARTICLE BY ECONOMIC HISTORIAN ANDREW WHITE DESCRIBING THE 1793 COLLAPSE OF AN INFLATION-WRACKED FRENCH ECONOMY. "COMMERCE WAS DEAD AND BETTING TOOK ITS PLACE," WRITES WHITE.

"SIGNS OF DISEASE SHOWED THEMSELVES. FIRST, AN OBLITERATION OF THRIFT FROM THE MINDS OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE. THE FRENCH," HE WRITES, "WERE NATURALLY THRIFTY; BUT WITH SUCH UNCERTAINTY AS TO THEIR CURRENCY'S FUTURE VALUE, THE ORDINARY MOTIVES FOR SAVING AND PRODUCING DIMINISHED; A LOOSE LUXURY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY."

Does ANY OF THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

- o IN 1980, THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WORKED FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR JUST TO PAY HIS TAXES. IF NOTHING HAD BEEN DONE, THE FEDERAL SHARE OF THE NATION'S OUTPUT WOULD HAVE CONTINUED TO RISE, UNTIL IT HIT 25 PERCENT BY 1936.

BUT SOMETHING HAS BEEN DONE, AND THE FEDERAL SHARE WON'T BE ANYWHERE NEAR 25 PERCENT. IT WILL BE AROUND 19 PERCENT. OTHER NUMBERS PROMISE EQUAL ENCOURAGEMENT;

- o 13 MILLION NEW JOBS BY 1985,
- o AN INFLATION RATE OF AROUND 5 PERCENT,
- o A GNP GROWING AT A STEADY CLIP OF 4 TO 5 PERCENT,
- o INTEREST RATES CUT IN HALF,
- o UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCED BELOW 6 PERCENT, AND
- o A NATIONAL STANDARD OF LIVING ONE-THIRD HIGHER THAN TODAY'S.

*omitted
but
this
is
good*

*Tell
story*

o SOMETHING HAS BEEN DONE, AND JUST ABOUT EVERY AMERICAN STANDS TO BENEFIT AS A RESULT. THE BUDGET HAS BEEN CUT--THROUGH BIPARTISAN ADOPTION OF \$35 BILLION IN REDUCTIONS. OVER THREE YEARS, THIS MEANS SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS IN EXCESS OF \$130 BILLION DOLLARS.

o AND THE PRESIDENT'S 25 PERCENT ACROSS-THE-BOARD TAX CUT, ACCOMPANIED BY SUBSTANTIAL INCENTIVES FOR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT, ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION AND CAPITAL FORMATION WILL SOON TAKE EFFECT.

ask
Betty
or to Ann
1976, Aug
in the
Senate
o CLEARLY, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN DOLLARS AND CENTS WHEN WE ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC ISSUE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY. NO OTHER ISSUE IN MY LIFETIME IS SO FRAUGHT WITH SIGNIFICANCE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

Battle of the Bulge?
AND NO GROUP WAS MORE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO EXPLAIN THE REALTIONSHIP BETWEEN A HEALTHY ECONOMY AND A SECURE NATION THAN THE AMERICAN LEGION. PERHAPS, SOME OF YOU IN THE AUDIENCE WILL KNOW WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY THIS CAMPAIGN WAS AS TOUGH AND RELENTLESS ~~AS WAS BUILDING THE LEDO ROAD~~ *as was* *Battle of the Bulge* IN THE CDI THEATER DURING WW II.

CONCLUSION

circled
with
W/ Power
+ Vets
o FINALLY, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT REAGAN IS FOND OF THAT GOOD VERMONTER, CALVIN COOLIDGE, OUR 30TH PRESIDENT. MOST PEOPLE, I BELIEVE, DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW UNFAIRLY COOLIDGE HAS BEEN VICTIMIZED BY HISTORY.

HE WAS A MAN WHO UNDERSTOOD HIS COUNTRYMEN AND WHO SUFFERED FEW ILLUSIONS.

I'D LIKE TO QUOTE TWO STATEMENTS WHICH REVEAL HIS
GOOD SENSE--AFTER WHICH I PROMISE TO SUBSIDE.

"THE MEANING OF AMERICA," SAYS COOLIDGE, "IS NOT TO BE
FOUND IN A LIFE WITHOUT TOIL. FREEDOM IS NOT ONLY BOUGHT
WITH A GREAT PRICE; IT IS MAINTAINED BY UNREMITTING
EFFORT."

TRUE, CALVIN COOLIDGE GOVERNED IN LESS PERILOUS TIMES.
AND YET, I BELIEVE HE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO THOSE
WHO IN TODAY'S WORLD ARE CONSTANTLY MAKING GLOOMY FORECASTS--
O PARTICULARLY THOSE QUARTERS WHICH PREDICT DOOM
WHENEVER WE STAND UP TO GUYS LIKE QADDAFI, OR
O WHEN AMERICA REFUSES TO SIGN UNREASONABLE SALT TREATIES.

BAD THINGS MAY COME, BUT, "REMEMBER," QUIPPED SILENT CAL,
"IF YOU SEE 10 TROUBLES COMING DOWN THE ROAD, YOU CAN BE
SURE THAT NINE WILL RUN INTO THE DITCH BEFORE THEY REACH YOU."

*American
Legion*

DRAFT REMARKS BY
ELIZABETH H. DOLE
BEFORE THE
AMERICAN LEGION'S
63RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
SEPT. 2, 1981
THE RENAISSANCE OF THE PATRIOT

O THANK YOU, COMMANDER KOGUTEK (KOH-GOO-TEK) FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION. AS PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID IN HIS TELEVISED REMARKS, I BRING HIS WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE LEGIONARIES AND AUXILARY MEMBERS OF THIS GRAND ORGANIZATION.

IT'S A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE TO DISCUSS THE PARTNERSHIP WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS WORKING TO ESTABLISH BETWEEN HIS WHITE HOUSE AND THE AMERICAN LEGION. BUT ANY SPEAKER, NO MATTER HOW DILIGENTLY HE OR SHE HAS PREPARED AN ADDRESS, WOULD GET EDGY ABOUT HOW HER MESSAGE WILL COME ACROSS TO AN AUDIENCE LIKE THIS.

O I KNOW I CAN'T SHAKE A STORY ABOUT MY FELLOW REPUBLICAN BILL SIMON.

BILL HAD JUST FINISHED GIVING ONE OF HIS POWERFUL, NO-NONSENSE SPEECHES AND WAS BEING APPROACHED BY AN ELDERLY LADY WHOSE BREATHLESS COMMENT WAS,

"OH, MR. SIMON, I ENJOYED YOUR SPEECH SO MUCH. I THOUGHT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY SUPERFLUOUS.

SIMON, ALWAYS QUICK ON HIS FEET, REJOINED,

"I'M DELIGHTED THAT YOU LIKED IT. PERHAPS, I SHOULD HAVE IT PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY."

"WONDERFUL!" SAID THE ADMIRER, "THE SOONER THE BETTER."

WHEN PRESIDENT REAGAN OKAYED MY REQUEST TO ATTEND THIS
63RD ANNUAL CONVENTION, HE TOOK A MOMENT FROM THE WHITE
HOUSE STAFF MEETING AND OFFERED ME SOME ADVICE;

"ELIZABETH," HE SAID IN THAT ~~HUSKY~~ ^{RKH} VOICE, "IF YOU GET A
CHANCE, LOOK BEYOND THE LEGION'S FORMAL RESOLUTIONS,
O FIND OUT WHAT NATIONAL CONCERNS ARE EATING AT THE VETS,
O WHAT TRENDS ARE CHEERING THEM AT THE GUT LEVEL,
O ^{Legionaires} ~~SOMEHOW~~, LET THOSE ~~MEN AND WOMEN~~ KNOW WE'RE LISTENING."

LEGION CONCERNS

RECALLING THIS ADVICE, I HAVE DECIDED TO SHORTEN MY REMARKS
ABOUT EVENTS IN WASHINGTON AND, INSTEAD, FOCUS ON THE
ISSUES SOME OF YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION SINCE I
ARRIVED.

LYBIA

ON TOP OF EVERYBODY'S LIST IS A LITTLE ITEM FROM LAST MONTH
INVOLVING NAVY COMMANDER HENRY KLEEMANN, HIS SQUAD OF F-14's,
AND A COUPLE OF LIBYAN PLANES.

I'M DEEPLY HEARTENED BY THE EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT YOU'VE
OFFERED THE ADMINISTRATION. JUDGING FROM MY SURVEY, IT
APPEARS LEGIONAIRES WOULD AGREE WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN WHEN
HE SAID, "IF IT'S NECESSARY TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST THE
ENEMIES OF FREEDOM, WE'D DO IT AGAIN."

AND ONE COMMENT WHICH DIDN'T GET MUCH COVERAGE, BUT
WHICH REALLY TOUCHED ME, WAS MADE BY THE WIVES OF COMMANDER
KLEEMANN'S CREW.

WHEN TOLD THEIR HUSBANDS HAD BECOME INSTANT HEROES,
THEIR ONLY RESPONSE WAS, "THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN HEROES TO US."

MORE COULD BE SAID ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARD
COL. QADDAFI IN LYBIA, BUT THERE'S A SAYING,
"WHEN YOUR WORK SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, DON'T INTERRUPT."

MEMORIAL DAY

LAST EVENING, ANOTHER ISSUE CAME UP DURING A BRIEF
VISIT WITH A LADY--RETIRED AIR FORCE. SHE WONDERED IF
I HAD NOTICED THAT AMERICANS OBSERVED THIS YEAR'S
MEMORIAL DAY WITH MORE ENTHUSIASM THAN THEY DID
DURING THE 1970'S?

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, WE AGREED THERE'S BEEN A SIGNIFICANT
AND POSITIVE CHANGE IN FAVOR OF HONORING OUR SOLDIERS.

ON MEMORIAL DAY 1981, THE SENATOR AND I PARTICIPATED IN
A GLITTERING WASHINGTON CEREMONY. HOWEVER, THAT SAME NIGHT,
AT A ^{FANCY} ~~DINNER IN GEORGETOWN~~, I WAS SADLY REMINDED THAT
OTHER AMERICANS, AMERICANS MORE LIKELY DRAWN FROM THE
^{BOX SEATS} ~~ELITE~~ THAN FROM THE BLEACHERS, HAD NOT OBSERVED MEMORIAL
DAY. THEY RESENTED THE HONORS ACCORDED TO WHAT THEY CALL
"MILITARISM." AND THEY SEEMED WORRIED ABOUT A CHANGE-
OF-HEART THEY WITNESSED IN SO MANY OF THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.

WELL, I SUSPECT THEY'VE BEEN GLOOMY FOR YEARS. ONE COLUMNIST
WRITES OF THESE FOLKS, "WITH EVERY SUNUP THEY ARE REMINDED
THERE WILL FOLLOW A SUNDOWN...TO THESE PEOPLE," HE CONTINUES,
"RONALD REAGAN'S AMIABLE PRESENCE ALSO IS A SOURCE OF PROFOUND
CONCERN."

"WHY," THEY LAMENT, "COULD NOT DEFENSE FUNDS BE SPENT TO SAVE OUR CITIES AND TURN OUR POOR INTO MEMBERS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS?"

TO THOSE PEOPLE, I HOLD FORTH AN ADMINISTRATION BUDGET DOGGEDLY DETERMINED--IN THE FACE OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS-- TO SHOW COMPASSION FOR THE NEEDY;

O I POINT TO A PRESIDENT DEEPLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OUR POOR WITH THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEED TO LIVE IN SAFETY, IN HEALTH AND IN DIGNITY.

FOR SOME, HOWEVER, EVEN THESE GUARANTEES ARE NOT ENOUGH.

I'M REMINDED OF THAT MEDIEVAL LEGEND ABOUT THE WELL-INTENTIONED TOWNSPEOPLE WHO TORE STONES FROM THEIR CITY WALLS TO ENLARGE HOUSES FOR THE NEEDY. LATER, WHEN ENEMIES BREACHED THOSE WALLS, MOST OF THE KIND TOWNSMEN WERE SLAUGHTERED AND THEIR WOMEN ENSLAVED.

BUT BEFORE WE CHANGE THE SUBJECT, ONE LAST POINT, ONE LAST QUESTION TO THAT ELITE SO LOUDLY PROFESSING TO SPEAK FOR THE NEEDY.

WHERE WAS THEIR CRY, OVER RECENT YEARS, WHEN OUR YOUNG MILITARY FAMILIES WERE SHOVED BELOW A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING?

DID THEY NOT SHARE OUR HUMILIATION AT SEEING AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES FORCED TO STAND IN WELFARE AND FOOD-STAMP LINES?

*Food stamps
& commissaries*

TODAY, NEARLY 55 PERCENT OF THE VOLUNTEER FORCE IS MARRIED. THERE ARE OVER 1.6 MILLION DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF MILITARY MEMBERS.

BUT, THROUGH SHEER NEGLIGENCE, THEIR NUMBERS WERE IGNORED. THEY JUST DIDN'T SEEM TO COUNT.

WOULD I BE MISTAKEN TO SUGGEST OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED? DID NEGLIGENT LEADERS SIMPLY ASSUME THE ARMED SERVICES WOULD BE THERE WHEN NEEDED?

CYNICISM IS ALWAYS CHEAPER THAN FAITH, AND APATHY LESS DEMANDING THAN PATRIOTISM.

THANK GOODNESS, NOW WE'VE GOT A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES A MAN OR WOMAN CAN BE PROUD TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST HONORED, RESPECTED AND NECESSARY PROFESSIONS.

PRESIDENT REAGAN KNOWS THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF MILITARY SERVICE--THE QUALITY OF LIFE--WILL DETERMINE THE READINESS, THE MORALE, THE DISCIPLINE AND THE RETENTION OF OUR ARMED FORCES.

ALREADY, THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED FOR A 5.3 PERCENT PAY RAISE FOR THE MILITARY--ON TOP OF AN 11 PERCENT INCREASE VOTED BY THE LAST CONGRESS. THIS TOOK EFFECT IN JULY.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO HAS CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN LIVING AND WORKING FACILITIES; A COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR SINGLE PERSONNEL STATIONED OVERSEAS, AND; A SERIES OF BONUSES DESIGNED TO ENHANCE OUR CHANCES TO ATTRACT AND KEEP TOPNOTCH MEN AND WOMEN IN THE SERVICES.

OF COURSE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO UPGRADE PAY AND OTHER INCENTIVES, BUT--AT LAST--CHANGES HAVE SIGNIFIED THAT AMERICANS HOLD THEIR ARMED FORCES IN HIGH ESTEEM, AND WILL OFFER A LIVING STANDARD WORTHY OF THE SACRIFICE BEING ASKED OF THOSE IN UNIFORM.

UNIFORM

ON A LESS SEVERE NOTE, DURING ~~THE~~ TRIP TO THE AIRPORT IN WASHINGTON, OUR YOUNG COAST GUARD DRIVER CONFIDED SOMETHING WHICH I BELIEVE IS WORTHY OF MENTIONING HERE TODAY.

WHEN HE LEARNED I'D BE ADDRESSING VETS, HE GAVE ME PERMISSION TO PASS ALONG TO "YOU GUYS" SOMETHING WHICH WAS ACTUALLY RATHER PERSONAL.

HE SAID THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS CAREER, HE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE SHARING THE FEELING YOU IN THIS AUDIENCE ONCE ENJOYED WHEN YOU WORE YOUR UNIFORM IN PUBLIC.

HE SAID HE HOPED YOU HADN'T FORGOTTEN THE PRIDE, THE ADMIRATION WEARING A UNIFORM OFF DUTY ONCE GUARANTEED.

IT WAS ONLY A SMALL INCIDENT; BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS A SYMBOL OF THE SPIRIT MANY OF US IN WASHINGTON ARE TRYING TO REKINDLE. AFTER ALL, SUCH SYMBOLS AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES CREATE SPIRIT.

I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A MINUTE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES WHEN PUBLIC REACTION IS FAVORABLE TO THOSE WEARING UNIFORMS.

I TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT IT'S BECOME ACCEPTABLE TO DO SO AGAIN.

PANAMA

YESTERDAY, ONE LEGIONAIRE FROM THE OLD PANAMA CANAL DEPARTMENT, POINTED OUT SOMETHING TO ME WHICH WAS QUITE PERCEPTIVE. HE WARNED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONLY GREAT POWER WHICH HAS NEVER ENDURED THE PAIN OF DEFEAT ON ITS OWN SOIL.

IN THIS LAND, ONLY THE AMERICAN SOUTH HAS KNOWN SUCH DISASTER AND HAVOC.

THIS CONVENTION DELEGATE URGED ME TO RETURN WITH A MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT LAST YEAR, THE LEGION PERMANENTLY RETIRED THE COLORS OF ITS PROUD PANAMA CANAL ZONE DEPARTMENT.

for
10/1/51
(OW)
"LET'S LEARN," HE COUNSELED, "FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHER COUNTRIES; COUNTRIES WHICH WEREN'T VIGILANT AND WHICH REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN A PEACEFUL NATION IS FOOLISH TO MALIGN ITS OWN SOLDIERS; FOOLISH TO HAUL DOWN THE FLAG WHERE BRAVE MEN HAVE FOUGHT AND BLED AND DIED TO RAISE IT."

WELL, I SAY ALL RIGHT TO YOUR BOYS FROM THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

(MORE)

THOSE ARE THE MESSAGES, THE CONCERNS WHICH INDIVIDUALS AMONG YOU HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME--HAVE MADE REAL FOR ME.

I THANK YOU FOR THEM, AND I PROMISE YOU I WON'T FORGET.

PUBLIC LIAISON

MY JOB IN THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON INVOLVES TRANSMITTING MANY SUCH MESSAGES. THE REASON I'M HERE IS TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR COLLECTIVE VIEW IS WEIGHED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF POLICYMAKING.

IN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON WE PROVIDE INSPIRATION, HOPEFULLY, AND INFORMATION, MOST DEFINITELY, ABOUT ADMINISTRATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO ORGANIZED LEADERS--MANY OF WHOM HAVE GRASSROOTS NETWORKS OF THEIR OWN.

AND MY PERSONAL ROLE IN ALL THIS; TO GO BEYOND THE NUMBERS THAT THREATEN TO SWAMP ANY WASHINGTON POLICYMAKER, AND TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THOSE NUMBERS NEVER CROWD OUT INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS AS THE CHIEF CONCERN OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.

ECONOMIC PACKAGE

A LOT OF US HAVE MARVELED AT THE PRESIDENT'S SKILL AS A COMMUNICATOR--IT'S BECOME ALMOST A CLICHE'. BUT THE DRAMATIC GROUNDSWELL WE SAW FOR HIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE IS A TRIBUTE TO THE MESSENGER, THE MESSAGE AND TO ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS YOURS.

WE DEPENDED UPON THE INTERNAL NETWORKS WITHIN THE LEGION TO HELP BUILD THE POPULAR SUPPORT WHICH WAS SO CRUCIAL IN THE TWO VOTES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHY WERE TWO ECONOMIC BILLS IMPORTANT TO THE LEGION--
IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO CAUSE YOU TO BREAK PRECEDENT
AND PUBLICLY ENDORSE NON-MILITARY LEGISLATION?

PRESIDENT REAGAN ANSWERED THAT QUESTION IN HIS TALK TO
YOU YESTERDAY. HE SAID A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE IS NOT
POSSIBLE WITHOUT A STRONG, VITAL ECONOMY.

I CAN TELL YOU HE WAS GRATEFUL TO THE LEGION FOR ITS TIMELY,
PUBLIC SUPPORT.

GENTLEMAN PRESIDENT

AND ABOUT OUR NEW PRESIDENT? IT'S MY BELIEF PRESIDENT
REAGAN'S BEEN SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF THE DEEP-SEATED
PERSONAL BELIEFS THAT HE BRINGS TO THE OFFICE--VIEWS THAT
WERE ONCE PART OF THE AMERICAN CHARACTER AND NOW, UNDER HIS
LEADERSHIP, ARE BEGINNING TO SURFACE ONCE AGAIN.

I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT A GENTLEMAN PRESIDENT
WHO HAS MET WITH DOZENS OF GROUPS AT MY REQUEST. TIME AND
TIME AGAIN, I'VE SEEN AWED VISITORS USHERED INTO HIS PRESENCE,
A LITTLE BEWILDERED BY THE AURA OF AUTHORITY AND TRADITION
ALL AROUND THEM.

AND JUST AS OFTEN, I'VE WITNESSED HOW THE PRESIDENT PUTS
THEM AT EASE. HE GENUINELY WANTS AN OPEN WHITE HOUSE. HE
HONESTLY IS ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT PEOPLE HAVE ON THEIR MINDS.
AND NO ONE IS BETTER AT SHARING HIS OWN RELAXED CONFIDENCE--
A SENSE OF VISION--THAN RONALD REAGAN.

THIS IS A SECURE MAN, WHO KNOWS WHERE HE WANTS THE COUNTRY TO GO, AND IS SAVORING THE EXPERIENCE OF LEADING IT THERE. FAR FROM LOOKING UPON THE PRESIDENCY AS AN AWESOME BURDEN, MR. REAGAN IS ENJOYING HIS ROLE AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD.

AT LAST, WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO POINTS THE WAY TO A STRONGER ECONOMY AND THE RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S ERODED MILITARY POSTURE. HE SEES THE WORLD IN REALISTIC TERMS.

IN RECENT YEARS, WE FOLLOWED A POLICY OF ^{Unilateral} ARMS RESTRAINT, AS WE HOPED BY SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE, WE MIGHT PERSUADE NATIONS TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD. RONALD REAGAN DOESN'T BELIEVE THE WORLD WORKS THAT WAY.

RENAISSANCE OF THE PATRIOT

THE FAILURE OF APPEASEMENT REMINDS ME OF THE SMALL GIRL WHO SAID, "MOTHER, YOU REMEMBER THE BEAUTIFUL JUG YOU SAID HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN TO US FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION?"

MOTHER REPLIED, "YES, ANN, WHAT OF IT?" AND ANN ANSWERED SOLEMNLY, "THIS GENERATION HAS DROPPED IT."

WELL, I KNOW A PRESIDENT WHO IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO PROVIDE AMERICA'S YOUNG WITH A SENSE OF MISSION, WITH THE LEADERSHIP TO PRODUCE A RENAISSANCE OF THE AMERICAN PATRIOT.

BY ~~George~~ AMERICA CAN TURN ITSELF AROUND--NOT JUST BECAUSE IT HAS TO, BUT BECAUSE IT WANTS TO.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION LET ME SAY THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A GREAT NATION, WELL WHY NOT START ACTING LIKE ONE?

IN THE PAST, WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES TOO OFTEN COMPROMISING WITH EVIL, OR VACILLATING IN THE FACE OF OUR ENEMIES.

IN 1948⁵, WE STOOD TALL IN THE WORLD, BECAUSE WE^{HAD} STOOD UP FOR WHAT WE BELIEVED, AND OTHER PEOPLE LOOKED TO US TO STIFFEN THEIR OWN FAITH IN FREEDOM.

A GREAT NATION PREFERS COMPETITION TO SURRENDER.

WASN'T IT THE AMERICAN LEGION WHICH SAID IT'S HAD ENOUGH WITH A DECADE-LONG DRIFT, THAT AMERICA HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO RESUME HER HISTORIC ROLE AS DEFENDER OF THE FREE WORLD, AND DEMOCRACY'S ARSENAL?

A PART OF YOUR LIVES WERE DEDICATED TO AMERICA ONCE. YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN. YOU HAVE NEVER LET US DOWN.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU DOWN.

NO GROUP DID MORE TO EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A HEALTHY ECONOMY AND A SECURE NATION THAN YOUR LEGION.

THIS, THE PRESIDENT KNOWS.

THIS PRESIDENT KNOWS THE COURAGE OF HIS CONVICTIONS.

THIS PRESIDENT KNOWS MUCH WORK IS NEEDED TO PUT BACKBONE IN OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM;

THIS PRESIDENT KNOWS WE MUST ONCE MORE PUT BACKBONE
IN OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN FORCES.

BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE GREAT PRICE AMERICA PAID FOR
FREEDOM, YOU KNOW IT CAN BE MAINTAINED ONLY THROUGH
VIGILANCE.

YOU ARMY KNOW HOW MUCH HE ASKS WHEN HE SAYS HIS
CAMPAIGN WILL BE AS RISKY AS CAMERON BAY, A LEDO ROAD
THROUGH TROUBLED TIMES.

AND ONLY YOU KNOW IF THE PRESIDENT CAN COUNT ON THE
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN THIS PERILOUS
STRUGGLE.

(1)

DRAFT of final speech

THANK YOU, COMMANDER KOGUTSK (KOH-GOO-TEK) FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION. AS PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID IN HIS TELEVISED REMARKS, I BRING HIS WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE LEGIONAIRES AND AUXILARY MEMBERS OF THIS GRAND ORGANIZATION.

IT'S A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE TO DISCUSS THE PARTNERSHIP WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS WORKING TO ESTABLISH BETWEEN HIS WHITE HOUSE AND THE AMERICAN LEGION. I ENJOY BEING THE PRESIDENT'S EMISSARY AND SPEAKING HIS MESSAGE.

SPEAKING OF MESSAGES, I'M REMINDED OF A STORY ABOUT MY FELLOW REPUBLICAN, BILL SIMON.

BILL HAD JUST FINISHED GIVING ONE OF HIS POWERFUL, NO-NONSENSE SPEECHES AND WAS BEING APPROACHED BY AN ELDERLY LADY WHOSE BREATHLESS COMMENT WAS,

"OH, MR. SIMON, I ENJOYED YOUR SPEECH SO MUCH. I THOUGHT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY SUPERFLUOUS.

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- O SOMEHOW, LET THOSE LEGIONAIRES KNOW WE'RE LISTENING."

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COL. QADDAFI IN LYBIA, BUT THERE'S A SAYING,
"WHEN YOUR WORK SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, DON'T INTERRUPT."

MEMORIAL DAY

LAST EVENING, ANOTHER ISSUE CAME UP DURING A BRIEF
VISIT WITH A LADY--RETIRED AIR FORCE. SHE WONDERED IF
I HAD NOTICED THAT AMERICANS OBSERVED THIS YEAR'S
MEMORIAL DAY WITH MORE ENTHUSIASM THAN THEY DID
DURING THE 1970's?

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, WE AGREED THERE'S BEEN A SIGNIFICANT
AND POSITIVE CHANGE IN FAVOR OF HONORING OUR SOLDIERS.

ON MEMORIAL DAY 1981, THE SENATOR AND I PARTICIPATED IN
A GLITTERING WASHINGTON CEREMONY. HOWEVER, THAT SAME NIGHT,
AT A FANCY DINNER, I WAS SADLY REMINDED THAT OTHER AMERICANS,
AMERICANS MORE LIKELY DRAWN FROM THE BOX SEATS THAN THE
BLEACHERS, HAD NOT OBSERVED MEMORIAL DAY. THEY RESENTED THE
HONORS ACCORDED TO WHAT THEY CALL "MILITARISM." AND THEY SEEMED
WORRIED ABOUT A CHANGE-OF-HEART THEY WITNESSED IN SO MANY OF
THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.

WELL, I SUSPECT THEY'VE BEEN GLOOMY FOR YEARS. ONE COLUMNIST
WRITES OF THESE FOLKS, "WITH EVERY SUNUP THEY ARE REMINDED
THERE WILL FOLLOW A SUNDOWN...TO THESE PEOPLE," HE CONTINUES,
"RONALD REAGAN'S AMIABLE PRESENCE ALSO IS A SOURCE OF PROFOUND

"WHY," THEY LAMENT, "COULD NOT DEFENSE FUNDS BE SPENT TO SAVE OUR CITIES AND TURN OUR POOR INTO MEMBERS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS?"

TO THOSE PEOPLE, I HOLD FORTH AN ADMINISTRATION BUDGET DOGGEDLY DETERMINED--IN THE FACE OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS-- TO SHOW COMPASSION FOR THE NEEDY;

O I POINT TO A PRESIDENT DEEPLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OUR POOR WITH THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEED TO LIVE IN SAFETY, IN HEALTH AND IN DIGNITY.

FOR SOME, HOWEVER, EVEN THESE GUARANTEES ARE NOT ENOUGH.

I'M REMINDED OF THAT MEDIEVAL LEGEND ABOUT THE WELL-INTENTIONED TOWNSPEOPLE WHO TORE STONES FROM THEIR CITY WALLS TO ENLARGE HOUSES FOR THE NEEDY. LATER, WHEN ENEMIES BREACHED THOSE WALLS, MOST OF THE KIND TOWNSMEN WERE SLAUGHTERED AND THEIR WOMEN ENSLAVED.

BUT BEFORE WE CHANGE THE SUBJECT, ONE LAST POINT, ONE LAST QUESTION TO THAT ELITE SO LOUDLY PROFESSING TO SPEAK FOR THE NEEDY.

WHERE WAS THEIR CRY, OVER RECENT YEARS, WHEN OUR YOUNG MILITARY FAMILIES WERE SHOVED BELOW A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING?

DID THEY NOT SHARE OUR HUMILITATION AT SEEING AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES FORCED TO STAND IN WELFARE AND FOOD-STAMP LINES?

I WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN THE COMMISSARIES TOOK IN \$22.7 MILLION WORTH OF FOOD STAMPS IN 1980. . . ALMOST DOUBLE THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

WOULD I BE MISTAKEN TO SUGGEST OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED? DID NEGLIGENT LEADERS SIMPLY ASSUME THE ARMED SERVICES WOULD BE THERE WHEN NEEDED?

CYNICISM IS ALWAYS CHEAPER THAN FAITH, AND APATHY LESS DEMANDING THAN PATRIOTISM.

THANK GOODNESS, NOW WE'VE GOT A PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES A MAN OR WOMAN CAN BE PROUD TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST HONORED, RESPECTED AND NECESSARY PROFESSIONS.

PRESIDENT REAGAN KNOWS THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF MILITARY SERVICE--THE QUALITY OF LIFE--WILL DETERMINE THE READINESS, THE MORALE, THE DISCIPLINE AND THE RETENTION OF OUR ARMED FORCES.

ALREADY, THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED FOR A 5.3 PERCENT PAY RAISE FOR THE MILITARY--ON TOP OF AN 11 PERCENT INCREASE VOTED BY THE LAST CONGRESS. THIS TOOK EFFECT IN JULY.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO HAS CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN LIVING AND WORKING FACILITIES; A COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR SINGLE PERSONNEL STATIONED OVERSEAS, AND; A SERIES OF BONUSES DESIGNED TO ENHANCE OUR CHANCES TO TO ATTRACT AND KEEP TOPNOTCH MEN AND WOMEN IN THE SERVICES.

OF COURSE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO UPGRADE PAY AND OTHER INCENTIVES, BUT--AT LAST--CHANGES HAVE SIGNIFIED THAT AMERICANS HOLD THEIR ARMED FORCES IN HIGH ESTEEM, AND WILL OFFER A LIVING STANDARD WORTHY OF THE SACRIFICE BEING ASKED OF THOSE IN UNIFORM.

UNIFORM

ON A LESS SEVERE NOTE, DURING THE TRIP TO THE AIRPORT IN WASHINGTON, OUR YOUNG ARMY DRIVER CONFIDED SOMETHING WHICH I BELIEVE IS WORTHY OF MENTIONING HERE TODAY.

WHEN HE LEARNED I'D BE ADDRESSING VETS, HE GAVE ME PERMISSION TO PASS ALONG TO "YOU GUYS" SOMETHING WHICH WAS ACTUALLY RATHER PERSONAL.

HE SAID THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS CAREER, HE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE SHARING THE FEELING YOU IN THIS AUDIENCE ONCE ENJOYED WHEN YOU WORE YOUR UNIFORM IN PUBLIC.

HE SAID HE HOPED YOU HADN'T FORGOTTEN THE PRIDE, THE ADMIRATION WEARING A UNIFORM OFF DUTY ONCE GUARANTEED.

IT WAS ONLY A SMALL INCIDENT; BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS A SYMBOL OF THE SPIRIT MANY OF US IN WASHINGTON ARE TRYING TO REKINDLE. AFTER ALL, SUCH SYMBOLS AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES CREATE SPIRIT.

I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A MINUTE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES WHEN PUBLIC REACTION IS FAVORABLE TO THOSE WEARING UNIFORMS

I TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT IT'S BECOME ACCEPTABLE TO DO SO AGAIN

PANAMA

YESTERDAY, ONE LEGIONAIRE FROM THE OLD PANAMA CANAL DEPARTMENT, POINTED OUT SOMETHING TO ME WHICH WAS QUITE PERCEPTIVE. HE WARNED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONLY GREAT POWER WHICH HAS NEVER ENDURED THE PAIN OF DEFEAT ON ITS OWN SOIL.

THIS CONVENTION DELEGATE URGED ME TO RETURN WITH A MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT LAST YEAR, THE LEGION PERMANENTLY RETIRED THE COLORS OF ITS PROUD PANAMA CANAL ZONE DEPARTMENT.

"EVEN A PEACEFUL NATION IS FOOLISH TO MALIGN ITS SOLDIERS," HE COUNSELED, "FOOLISH TO HAUL DOWN THE FLAG WHERE BRAVE MEN HAVE FOUGHT AND BLED AND DIED TO RAISE IT."

WELL, I SAY ALL RIGHT TO YOUR BOYS FROM THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE. THOSE ARE THE MESSAGES, THE CONCERNS WHICH INDIVIDUALS AMONG YOU HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME--HAVE MADE REAL FOR ME.

I THANK YOU FOR THEM, AND I PROMISE YOU I WON'T FORGET.

PUBLIC LIAISON

MY JOB IN THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON INVOLVES TRANSMITTING MANY SUCH MESSAGES. THE REASON I'M HERE IS TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR COLLECTIVE VIEW IS WEIGHED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF POLICYMAKING.

IN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON WE PROVIDE INSPIRATION, HOPEFULLY, AND INFORMATION, MOST DEFINITELY, ABOUT ADMINISTRATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO ORGANIZED LEADERS-- MANY OF WHOM HAVE GRASSROOTS NETWORKS OF THEIR OWN.

AND MY PERSONAL ROLE IN ALL THIS; TO GO BEYOND THE NUMBERS THAT THREATEN TO SWAMP ANY WASHINGTON POLICYMAKER, AND TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THOSE NUMBERS NEVER CROWD OUT INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS AS THE CHIEF CONCERN OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.

ECONOMIC PACKAGE

A LOT OF US HAVE MARVELED AT THE PRESIDENT'S SKILL AS A COMMUNICATOR--IT'S BECOME ALMOST A CLICHE'. BUT THE DRAMATIC GROUNDSWELL WE SAW FOR HIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE IS A TRIBUTE TO THE MESSENGER, THE MESSAGE AND TO ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS YOURS.

WE DEPENDED UPON THE INTERNAL NETWORKS WITHIN THE LEGION TO HELP BUILD THE POPULAR SUPPORT WHICH WAS SO CRUCIAL IN THE TWO VOTES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHY WERE TWO ECONOMIC BILLS IMPORTANT TO THE LEGION--
IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO CAUSE YOU TO BREAK PRECEDENT
AND PUBLICLY ENDORSE NON-MILITARY LEGISLATION?

PRESIDENT REAGAN ANSWERED THAT QUESTION IN HIS TALK TO
YOU YESTERDAY. HE SAID A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE IS NOT
POSSIBLE WITHOUT A STRONG, VITAL ECONOMY.

I CAN TELL YOU HE WAS GRATEFUL TO THE LEGION FOR ITS TIMELY,
PUBLIC SUPPORT.

GENTLEMAN PRESIDENT

AND ABOUT OUR NEW PRESIDENT? IT'S MY BELIEF PRESIDENT
REAGAN'S BEEN SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF THE DEEP-SEATED
PERSONAL BELIEFS THAT HE BRINGS TO THE OFFICE--VIEWS THAT
WERE ONCE PART OF THE AMERICAN CHARACTER AND NOW, UNDER HIS
LEADERSHIP, ARE BEGINNING TO SURFACE ONCE AGAIN.

I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT A GENTLEMAN PRESIDENT
WHO HAS MET WITH DOZENS OF GROUPS AT MY REQUEST. TIME AND
TIME AGAIN, I'VE SEEN AWED VISITORS USHERED INTO HIS PRESENCE,
A LITTLE BEWILDERED BY THE AURA OF AUTHORITY AND TRADITION
ALL AROUND THEM.

AND JUST AS OFTEN, I'VE WITNESSED HOW THE PRESIDENT PUTS
THEM AT EASE. HE GENUINELY WANTS AN OPEN WHITE HOUSE. HE
HONESTLY IS ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT PEOPLE HAVE ON THEIR MINDS.
AND NO ONE IS BETTER AT SHARING HIS OWN RELAXED CONFIDENCE--
A SENSE OF VISION--THAN RONALD REAGAN.

THIS IS A SECURE MAN, WHO KNOWS WHERE HE WANTS THE COUNTRY TO GO, AND IS SAVORING THE EXPERIENCE OF LEADING IT THERE. FAR FROM LOOKING UPON THE PRESIDENCY AS AN AWESOME BURDEN, MR. REAGAN IS ENJOYING HIS ROLE AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD.

AT LAST, WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO POINTS THE WAY TO A STRONGER ECONOMY AND THE RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S ERODED MILITARY POSTURE. HE SEES THE WORLD IN REALISTIC TERMS.

IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE FOLLOWED A POLICY OF UNILATERAL ARMS RESTRAINT, AS WE HOPED BY SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE, WE MIGHT PERSUADE NATIONS TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD. RONALD REAGAN DOESN'T BELIEVE THE WORLD WORKS THAT WAY.

RENAISSANCE OF THE PATRIOT

THE FAILURE OF APPEASEMENT REMINDS ME OF THE SMALL GIRL WHO SAID, "MOTHER, YOU REMEMBER THE BEAUTIFUL JUG YOU SAID HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN TO US FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION?"

MOTHER REPLIED, "YES, ANN, WHAT OF IT?" AND ANN ANSWERED SOLEMNLY, "THIS GENERATION HAS DROPPED IT."

WELL, I KNOW A PRESIDENT WHO IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO PROVIDE AMERICA'S YOUNG WITH A SENSE OF MISSION, WITH THE LEADERSHIP TO PRODUCE A RENAISSANCE OF THE AMERICAN PATRIOT.

AMERICA CAN TURN ITSELF AROUND--NOT JUST BECAUSE IT HAS TO, BUT BECAUSE IT WANTS TO.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION LET ME SAY THAT WE ARE A GREAT NATION, WELL WHY NOT START ACTING LIKE ONE?

IN THE PAST, WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES TOO OFTEN COMPROMISING WITH EVIL, OR VACILLATING IN THE FACE OF OUR ENEMIES.

IN 1945, WE STOOD TALL IN THE WORLD, BECAUSE WE STOOD UP FOR WHAT WE BELIEVED, AND OTHER PEOPLE LOOKED TO US TO STIFFEN THEIR OWN FAITH IN FREEDOM.

A GREAT NATION PREFERS COMPETITION TO SURRENDER.

WASN'T IT THE AMERICAN LEGION WHICH SAID IT'S HAD ENOUGH WITH A DECADE-LONG DRIFT, THAT AMERICA HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO RESUME HER HISTORIC ROLE AS DEFENDER OF THE FREE WORLD, AND DEMOCRACY'S ARSENAL?

A PART OF YOUR LIVES WAS DEDICATED TO AMERICA ONCE. YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN. YOU HAVE NEVER LET US DOWN. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU DOWN. IN THE BATTLE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM, FEW ORGANIZATIONS DID AS MUCH AS YOU TO EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A HEALTHY ECONOMY AND A SECURE NATION. YOUR SUPPORT WAS VITAL TO THE PRESIDENT'S VICTORY.

THIS, THE PRESIDENT KNOWS.

THIS PRESIDENT KNOWS THE COURAGE OF HIS CONVICTIONS.

THIS PRESIDENT KNOWS MUCH WORK IS NEEDED TO PUT BACKBONE IN OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM;

THIS PRESIDENT KNOWS WE MUST ONCE MORE PUT BACKBONE
IN OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN FORCES.

BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE GREAT PRICE AMERICA PAID FOR
FREEDOM, YOU KNOW IT CAN BE MAINTAINED ONLY THROUGH
VIGILANCE.

AND ONLY YOU KNOW IF THE PRESIDENT CAN COUNT ON THE
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN THIS PERILOUS
STRUGGLE.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1981

TO: Red Cavaney

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

I have just finished a phone conversation with Dave Turner, the speechwriter. He told me that he has all the necessary information to complete the revised speech and is on schedule for delivery of the speech tomorrow.

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

Marche

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY—

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Bill Coff

OF (Organization)

Military office

☐ PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT.

☐ FTS

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN

☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Col Buzz Randall

695-7402

RECEIVED BY

sn

DATE

8/21/81

TIME

63-109

☆ U.S. G.P.O. 1981-341-529/26

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

First time thru

copy of American Legion
resolutions from last year
Is it true that their endorsement of J/K DT
was their first public statement not
related to defense or Vet issues

DOD also people who
enter the service who
stay until retirement

something specific re
problems of ~~retirees~~
enlisted men who drop
out of service because of poor
pay & use food stamps

Rich Smith speech 224-6521
Joe Ann / Rosemary
D Mail to 3 best talks that Sen

Sole has delivered to military
organizations.

2) Aug 1976 Wash State w hat
convention [American Legion



MANPOWER,
RESERVE AFFAIRS
AND LOGISTICS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

August 24, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR Ms Maiselle Shortley
Room 191 Old Executive Office Bldg
Attn: Mr. David Turner
1665 34th St., NW, Wash DC

Attached is the information you specifically requested. You may also find the attached article on 'Quality of Life' useful for your project.

Howard W. Randall
Howard W. Randall
Colonel, USA
Military Assistant

Question 1: Percent of people who enter Service and stay until retirement (officer and enlisted).

Answer: About 12.2% of those who enter military service continue until retirement. Of all the officers entering military service, only 36% ever become eligible for retirement. Likewise, for the enlisted population, only 11% become eligible for retirement.

Question 2: Problems encountered by enlisted personnel (quality of life).

Answer: Quality of Life embraces a number of programs and individual projects designed to create an environment which recognizes that our Armed Forces personnel are our most important asset. These include military construction and operational funding programs for medical, housing, child care, education, religious, postal, recreational and other community facilities; job-related policies regarding tour lengths, officer-enlisted inequities, government housing assignment criteria, employment and deployment of women and single parents, privacy standards, financial counseling, a comprehensive system of compensation, recognition and awards; and an active public affairs program.

Progress has been made in improving military compensation, housing, personnel services and benefits. The Fair Benefits package passed by the Congress in the fall of 1980 is beginning to improve retention. Much remains to be done in areas related to the military family, particularly with regard to child care. The Services have established staff offices to address the needs of a predominantly married force. Nearly 55 percent of today's volunteer force is married. There are over 1.6 million dependent children of military members. Over the next decade we expect that the numbers of working spouses, single parents, and joint-Service parents (both in Service) will continue to increase. Family service centers are being established on larger bases to ease family relocation problems. Round-the-clock child care is being tested, as is satellited family day care. New initiatives in the 80's will be needed to improve the delivery of family and child care services on Department of Defense installations.

The human dimension of military service -- the job, living and recreational conditions of service life -- is generally regarded as a highly pertinent variable in the recruitment, retention, discipline, morale and readiness of military members. Efforts to improve the quality of service life epitomize the Department of Defense commitment to treat its military personnel equitably, with compassion, concern, and consideration.

* Redemption of food stamps in commissaries is increasing. Despite pay raises, food stamp redemption has grown from \$12.6M in FY 79 to \$22.7M in FY 80 and is expected to reach \$26.8M in FY 81.