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Called at 12:30

Viet Nam
Awar
Vomery

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Speech Clearances

Seth Cropsey - DOD

Rich Longworth - VA ^{handed to}
^{1:30} Nick at

Tony Dolan - ^{Hand delivered} WH Speech.

Mike Baroody - ^{Hand delivered} Comm. ^{with}

Karna Small - Pres

Brief cover note from
mt asking for comments
by COB.

for delivery in Wed.
look at for factual content
pleas ~~call~~ call me if there are
any problems

Not from
to forward

WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

Special Messenger
Mr. Clegg - DOD
Mr. Tamm - DOD
Mr. Tolson - DOD
Mr. Barrett - DOD
Mr. Quinn - DOD

Chief Clerk - Mr. Clegg
Mr. Clegg for account
of C.O.B.

P.6
Knox Small

ELIZABETH H. DOLE

63rd National American Legion Convention

Wednesday, September 2, 1981

Honolulu, Hawaii

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I want to thank the Legion for this opportunity to echo the warm greetings of President Reagan. I don't need to remind you that I feel very much among friends this morning. I remember attending another one of your conventions, in Seattle just a few days after my husband was nominated for Vice-President. Then and now, I was especially pleased to be among the Legionnaires and the members of the Legion Auxiliary. And, in this regard, I wish to offer a special salute to an eminent Kansan, Dora Seymour, and her distinguished leadership of the 939,000 women who serve in that Auxiliary.

Your husbands may have been privates or generals - but each of you deserve five stars in my book. As head of the President's White House Office of Public Liaison, it is my privilege to work with the leadership of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, and I look upon events like this as a chance for me to take the pulse of the American people - for reporting back to my boss.

We are a nation of organizers. It's my job to reach out and include organized Americans in the development of public policy - in a nutshell, to make millions of outsiders into Washington insiders. The American Legion and the Auxiliary are among the most important organizations with which I work. In the Office

of Public Liaison, we set out to reconcile individual concerns with institutional needs. We practice outreach, involvement, and coalition building. We provide inspiration, hopefully, and information, most definitely, about Administration policies and programs to organization leaders, many of whom have grassroots networks of their own. My personal role in all of this is simple, really - to make certain that numbers and statistics never crowd out individual Americans as the chief concern of this Administration.

The President himself 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 mastery and 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. Leaders point the way, and articulate the reasons for others to follow. And this, President Reagan has done with incomparable skill and personal grace.

I know he would have liked to be here in person, because you and he have a common vision of what makes America special. The Legion itself has never been more important than it is now - in this happy springtime of the American spirit. Because you have always stood up for values that millions of other citizens are just now rallying behind. When war interrupted our lives or endangered our freedoms - then you stood up. When we won the war but were in danger of losing the peace - then you stood up. Through the bleak years leading up to 1980, when

some Americans seemed to believe that good intentions alone could insure our survival in this dangerous world - then, too, the members of the Legion stood up.

What you told us then is what President Reagan is putting into action now. You told us that America was a great nation - and now we're once again behaving like one. You told us that the main threat to peace in this world comes from the Soviet Union - and now we're conducting our foreign policy on that basis. You told us that great nations have to be willing to spend dollars on their defense - and now we're committed to a military budget that reverses our long slide toward secondary status. Finally - and most important of all - you have stood like a beacon in the night, warning us against the dangers of international self-delusion.

Over the last decade, a lot of Americans turned inward. Having tasted the ashes of Vietnam, they had no taste for what they thought of as international crusades. And, leaders turned inward. We cut military spending. We pursued arms control as if one side alone could set a good example for others. Our armed forces got stiff in the joints. Cynicism took the place of faith. Apathy pushed aside patriotism. And we soft-pedalled the needs of our Vietnam veterans.

And all during those locust years, this organization swam against the tide. Because no one knows better than you the importance of sacrifice. Your values overshadow the fads and fashions of any season. They march, as you yourselves have, behind a flag that is both shield and defender to nations large and small. You were not the world's policemen - you were its protectors. You never served in the front line of any aggression - you stood your ground against the aggression of others. Your inheritance from previous generations was heroic - and you have every right to expect your government to live up to that historic tradition.

"The history of failure in war," Douglas MacArthur once wrote, can be summed up in two words: "Too late. Too late in comprehending the deadly purpose of a potential enemy. Too late in realizing the mortal danger. Too late in preparedness. Too late in uniting all possible forces for resistance. Too late in standing with one's friends."

What MacArthur said about war applies with equal logic to diplomacy, to the conduct of international relations, and to the state of this nation's defense. For years, the Legion has warned us to wake up to the danger and reassert our legitimate national interests before it was too late. Well, ladies and gentlemen: It isn't too late. Ronald Reagan is in the White House.

It isn't too late to rebuild this nation's economy, without which our defense will rest on a precarious house of cards.

It isn't too late to instill new vigor to old words like profit and incentive. It isn't too late to return to the great American idea that work should be rewarded - and that hard work and a dream or two should carry a man or woman a long way toward their highest hopes.

With President Reagan in the Oval Office, it isn't too late to make government what it was always meant to be - the servant of the people, not their master. It's not too late to rescue millions of our countrymen from hopeless street corners or unemployment lines - to bring all Americans into an economic system that disperses more and more wealth, rather than dividing up scarcity.

Most of all, with Ronald Reagan in the White House, it's not too late for America to be great again. Of course - it may be too late for a couple of Colonel Kadhafi's marauding pilots. It may be too late for the street mobs that grew accustomed in recent years to burning our flag and occupying our embassies. It may be too late for so-called revolutionaries who, up till now, have regarded this nation as a convenient target for their slogans and their frustrations.

Those days are over, my friends. America is back in the world. She intends to be herself once more. She intends to stand up - as you have done - to those who would challenge her vital national interests. Now, words alone mean little in the defense of freedom. We've all had more than enough words in the last few years - too many words and not enough defense. But when words are backed up by actions then they mean a great deal more.

Many of you served, as my husband did, in World War II. When you came home, America was in the infancy of her status as a great world power. We were the strongest nation on earth, not only for our military might, not only for our economy but because of our ideals. America back then was a nation with her hand held out to shattered lands and hungry people threatened by communism. We were the country whose economy was strong enough to finance the Marshall Plan - and whose military capacity was powerful enough to ward off North Korea's aggression.

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. Somewhere since, we seemed to lose that resolve. We compromised our principles. We gave no clear signals to our friends. Sometimes, we even abandoned old friends, and signed away a canal that stood as a monument to American ingenuity and American resolve.

We looked the other way as the Soviet Union outspent us by \$240 billion in military preparedness over the last ten years. They started work on a general purpose submarine once every five weeks. We built one every year. They constructed a formidable Navy - we cut ours back to half its 1968 size. They piled up huge advantages in men and material - they closed much of the technological gap that allowed us to offset such numbers - and still we stood by.

Last year, six of the Army's sixteen divisions were rated "not combat ready." The Air Force found itself 1,300 pilots short of what it needed. (The Army fell 14,000 short of attracting its manpower quota.) Most shameful of all, 10,000

were paid

The Navy has found
itself 20,000 short of the number of
 petty officers it needs.

we financially strangling the nation's defenses - we were putting the very men and women who defend our shores and uphold our values on a starvation diet.

That was then - and now is now. Look at this year's military budget - the Reagan budget - and you'll see an end to the neglect and the start of a new global leadership. You'll see more money for more hardware - for procurement and maintenance of new aircraft, tanks, missiles. *[You'll see the go-ahead for a long range bomber to fill the void left when the B-1 was cancelled.]* You'll find higher priorities given to the F15 and F16, the M-1 tank and a 600 vessel Navy. You'll find new aircraft carrier groups and bolstered strategic forces.

But look behind the shiny hardware, and you'll also find greater commitment than ever before to the people who make it work. Already, *in the current fiscal year* this year, our men and women in uniform have received an *11.7%* pay raise. At the President's behest, they will get an extra *5.3%* on top of this. *original* They will find their living and working conditions improved, a cost-of-living allowance for single personnel stationed overseas, and a series of bonuses designed to enhance the military as a career for topnotch men and women who wish to eat as well as serve their country.

[The Reagan defense budget is \$35 billion higher than the last of Jimmy Carter's.] But dollars alone cannot measure national commitment. This President has already established a reputation for keeping his word. He promised a sweeping reduction in both taxes and spending - and he delivered. If I were Colonel Kadhafi, I'd keep in mind what President Reagan said when asked about his reaction to the Libyan attack on our planes.

"If it's necessary to defend ourselves against the enemies of freedom," he said, "we'd do it again."

Pres. not made decision

In addition F48 14.3% - OMB looking this

Pres Reagan promised to improve Nation's

20.2% high nominal
OMB - Reagan 1st def budget more than 10% above
JCE even after adjusting 13% real

So when Reagan says he is determined to give our military men and women a living standard worthy of their sacrifice - I think you can count on him to do just that. And when he points the way toward American strength and determination instead of weakness and vacillation - then you can count on millions of others in this country taking their places alongside your own membership.

"People never remain the same after they come to Washington," Woodrow Wilson once observed. "They either grow or swell - usually the latter."

Well, Wilson was only half right. I've seen the President's growth since he took office, and he has truly become a President for all the people. And what is swelling all around the President is a sense of national renewal. We are telling the world that we are over our brief bout with national guilt and isolation. We are rebuilding our military so that freedom once more has a sentinel standing guard. We are restoring vitality to our economy - so that what we defend is in keeping with what the founding fathers created. We are conducting our relations with other nations as partners - not patsies. We are making old alliances stronger - and we are seeking out new friends. We have rediscovered our true mission in the world - to protect freedom at home and abroad. That is the rock on which we were founded more than 200 years ago.

Across the centuries, regardless of wars and depressions and revolutionary changes in other parts of the world, this has been America's mission. Whenever we lived up to our obligations then we were a nation to whom the world could turn. Now we are living up to them again.

There's an old joke in Army camps that says "the soldiers win the battles and the generals get the credit." Of course, no one knows better than you that armies are made up of G.I.'s as well as generals. And I can assure you after many talks with President Reagan that he regards himself as a General blessed with the greatest Army in the world - the Army of the American people - the Army of American purpose - an Army whose most reliable divisions are gathered in this hall.

So I bid you - take heart. Your long campaign for America to be herself has paid off. The days of decline are over. The days of leadership in the cause of peace through strength are in their place. It's not too late to be great again. Don't ever forget that - and don't ever cease to remind those elected or appointed to high office. For we are but individual reflections of the things you fought to preserve. And we in President Reagan's auxiliary are committed by his command to carry on that fight.

The fight - like the flag that commands our mutual loyalty - is something we have in common. With God's help and our own newfound resolve - both will be secure. It is that I came to tell you today - that you have more than a friend in the White House. You have an ally.

You have already given much of yourselves. Now your country demands even more. Help us keep steady on the new course we are embarked upon. Help the President in his own resolve to govern America in a way to earn your respect. Help him as he goes about the enormous task of restoring respect for America among our friends and foes alike. Help him achieve all this - and you will help keep your own children and grandchildren out of war.

For in the end, it all comes down to this: Who can doubt the challenge of defending peace and freedom in this modern age? Who can dare not to meet it?

To Red

Remarks by Sarah McClendon

Before The American Legion National Commander's Luncheon

Presidential Ballroom, Capital Hilton Hotel

February 17, 1982

Acceptance of National Commander's Public Relations Award for 1982

National Commander Flynt of Texas, Public Relations Commissioner Detweiler, Commander Boyle and all you good Legionnaires and friends, and especially our veterans from Canada.

I want to thank the Legion for this award. It is an honor to me to be mentioned by the Legion, which I have been acquainted with since its start. I was a child then down in East Texas, but as soon as we heard about the Legion, all the women in my family became auxiliary members.

We had knitted wristlets for two brothers overseas in World War I and sold war bonds and stamps and marched in parades. I guess you grow up to this.

So in World War II, I volunteered for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Later we were assimilated into the Army. Now I am proud to be a member of The American Legion Post No. 20 at the National Press Club. And my twelve-year-old granddaughter in Canada has just joined the Junior Air Cadets.

At the Press Club Post, we put on programs periodically to inform our colleagues and the public about national defense issues. I hope other Legion posts are doing the same.

I am glad that the Legion across the country has an enviable record of service to the nation in educating people on top priorities in our country. I am glad the Legion rehabilitates veterans and fosters a large number of programs to help the nation's youth. Nearly every post has a worthwhile program going, from stopping child pornography and child abuse to studying Reyes syndrome and cystic fibrosis, in addition to sponsoring many Boy Scout troops, youth athletics and government studies.

I wish the Legion members would not be so apologetic at times about war records. Bring them out and talk about them. Let's have more oral history. People today need this history to back up heritage and for national defense.

I have a daughter living in Canada who reminds me that in that country when they have a Veterans Day, they really put it on. And why do we not start calling it as our public affairs men at headquarters have proposed--why not Veterans Appreciation Day!

Now I am going to talk to you about the need for more of our citizens back in the cities and towns to be better informed about government. This is a developing project in teaching citizenship which I wish our Legion posts would undertake. We ought to have every high school used as a station for public forums on the issues with meetings weekly or monthly. If we did, we would not come up with another presidential election like the last one where 72 million Americans who could have voted did not vote for anyone for president.

As a newspaper reporter, I have kept particular watch over veterans programs and the problems of military women trying to stay in this man's army and desperately trying to keep our chances to serve our country. My friends, you may not have realized it but the country needs us women. Do you know that the military aged men by 1990 will be fewer than women! We want the chance to serve our country. We may not be able to lift heavy boxes of ammunition. But then I notice it sometimes takes two or three men to do this too.

Secretary Caspar Weinberger of the Defense Department had to call in his secretaries of the services recently and rap their knuckles because so many male chauvinists have been trying to downgrade women in the services and push us out. I had a chance recently to talk about this on the Donahue Show, for which I am grateful. The Army brought me to Washington by name orders in World War II. Army may have been sorry since.

We keep in touch with veterans. The other day I had a veteran call me from Texas to say, "You know of course why the Legion is giving you that award-- to shut you up. And if you don't get me out of this locked ward, I'll know you have been stifled."

Well, today he telephoned again.....

I wish Ronald Reagan were with us today. I think he might learn something that those three men around him, Ed Meese, Jim Baker and Michael Deaver, would not let him hear. They keep him so well insulated that the hundreds of people who come to White House receptions never get to tell him their real problems. They are shoved along the receiving line by the White House staff and the Secret Service.

I just want you to know that it is not true what Scottie Reston, New York Times columnist, wrote, that the President in answering a question of mine in sweet and humorous terms had "tamed" me. It ain't so.

Now I am going to tell you why so many of our citizens out there do not get all the communications they ought to get from Washington despite all the billions being spent on television and print media, and government and congressional press aides. Many of your billions of tax-payers' money in government go to make shining the image of the official in power and much of it goes to keep you from knowing what is actually going on in those agencies and departments.

That is why we today have to be minute men and women just like at Lexington. We in the press are your front line troops, daily watching government and dogging it to make it honest, respectable, more responsible.

Don't think it's easy for us. We have to take all those dirty looks, kicking around, not returning our telephone calls, keeping us from talking to the bosses, humiliating standing behind ropes, being cut off from entering rooms, insults. They say we only bear bad news. We tell it like it happens. They say we are out to get Reagan like we got Nixon, that we are the reasons Nancy has an image of being extravagant and that we forced National Security Advisor Dick Allen out of office.

Well, well--would you have us not tell you what is going on?

I hope when you go home that you turn against these uninformed persons who like to spread such rumors. Ladies and Gentlemen, I know there is a well laid campaign going against the outflow of information. This campaign is really directed against you and the welfare of our country.

The people who wrote the Constitution expected you to watch dog it to make government work. It won't work without it. To do this you and the other citizens must be informed.

From questions in the audience as I go out to speak across the country, I learn that this campaign has already sent down deep roots. I get it in the questions asked by high school students brought to Washington. They got it from their

parents. This campaign is as cancerous as that of the Ku Klux Klan in Maryland, the anti-Semitism in Illinois, and the war on civil and human rights now being conducted rather successfully in the U.S. Senate.

Here are some of the things you ought to know more about--what is really happening in El Salvador and Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras. Are you aware that some interpret the War Powers Act to mean the President can involve us in war there today and tell Congress about it tomorrow?

You were no doubt surprised when they brought home the Army officer recently for wearing two weapons. With much digging at the Pentagon we learned the rules laid down for these so-called military advisors of ours when sent to El Salvador. Had they been expected to wear more than one gun for defense they might very possibly lead us into war. This was the reason.

I think you ought to know that we are about to get a statement showing big involvement in Cuba. We are more involved in Saudi Arabia than you have ever been told about, possibly Jordan. We are still weak in our military arsenal at home for what we sent to Israel years ago and daily the demands for more weaponry and money are being heard.

You have not been told much about the Siberian pipeline bringing natural gas to businesses and homes in Germany, France and Italy. This pipeline could enslave Europe despite all our NATO investments. Just suppose some cold morning Leonid Brezhnev called up to say we are cutting off the gas unless you people turn in all your arms! Funny, France

But do you know that it is our U.S. technology that will build the line. They could not build it without this. This technology was exported from our Commerce Department in past administrations and some voices are crying out not to let us continue selling this abroad.

You may not know it but we are about to draft doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists for use in either peacetime emergency or mobilization. In Washington, new agencies you possibly have never heard of work daily on plans to take over executive powers over you in what would be called a national emergency. This is all tied up with the fiefdom of William P. Clark, the President's national security advisor in the White House.

Drafting of nurses will be a switch. There are more women nurses than men. Women will be drafted. It will take congressional approval but the Pentagon will get it when they ask for it. This will be the first time the country will have admitted publicly that they need women in case of national emergency.

But there are other memos in that Mobilization and Planning unit in the Pentagon. They are working closely with the Selective Service System.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency may amaze you with its powers to control, including a system of censorship.

We are not getting enough information out of the Pentagon to support the spending of so many billions of tax-payers' money on weapons. We need to know more about the precautions that the Pentagon is taking to overcome waste and fraud and they have taken some precautions. We ought to have this explained. I fear unless citizens have more explanation they are not going to support these weapons purchases and they are going to fight the draft, which many in government are planning for every day.

Are you sorry we are telling you these things? You could have your pipeline of information turned off if the press is further manacled. Already by the Reagan administration, the press has been shackled. This is being done under the guise of national security--a broad blanket that has often been used to keep the citizens from knowing what is in the plans for them, although you would be the ones to do the fighting and dying and you would be called on to pay for it.

My friends, this government we have--and it has been this way for some time, not just under Reagan--is actually the people's adversary. The press has been called the adversary--it is the government. Yet this is supposed to be our government and we own it.

Let's make it work right--let's make it respectable and efficient, otherwise people are not going to vote and our government will crumble.

Let me tell you about the real heroes of this war of words that is going on today. The heroes of this day are Helen Thomas, chief correspondent at the White House for United Press International, Sam Donaldson, White House correspondent for American Broadcasting Corporation. They are people like Dan Rather, Lem Tucker, Phil Jones, Leslie Stahl for CBS, Ted Koppel for ABC, Judy Woodruff, John Palmer for NBC, Steve Weisman, Howell Raines, Marty Tolchin for the New York Times, Al Hunt of the Wall Street Journal, Jack Anderson, Marty Shram and many good reporters on the Washington Post.

Yet Vice President George Bush, in speaking to an audience at Lubbock, Texas, said it was so good to get away from Washington, a city "where a very funny form of reality is defined by what the Washington Post and the New York Times say every morning." George, you ought to be ashamed.

My friends, you who are interested in national defense would not know what is going on in that five-sided building we know as the Pentagon unless it was for the uncovering of exclusive stories by George Wilson and on nuclear events, Walter Pincus of the Washington Post, nor would we know what the State Department, that enclave of imperialism and coverup, is negotiating without New York Timesman Bernard Gwertzman, or Barry Schweid of the Associated Press.

There are hundreds of others that ought to be mentioned for fine, dedicated work.

When I first came to Washington, reporters were not nearly so strong or so hard-working. They enjoyed a freeby junket to a distant city, or a drink before noon at the National Press Club bar, or a lavish buffet at a lobbyist's party. But not so today. The reporters' meat and drink is a good expose that reveals waste and fraud or uncovers a character weakness for gifts or tells how congressmen are trying to sneak another pay raise through a legislative ruse. Today, you can have a senator or lobbyist entertaining on the second floor of the Capitol and reporters at the press gallery on the third floor pounding their typewriters 'til 7 p.m., refusing to go downstairs to the party.

I'll never forget the reporter who asked good old down to earth Harry Truman if he would "entertain a question on such and such." Well, thank God Harry could answer directly. But today, you have reporters asking sharper questions--President Reagan, what is he going to do about high interest rates. They do not beat about the bush anymore, especially since they found they could be effective with direct action against a President--Richard Nixon. Gone are the days when reporters were too afraid to tackle President Eisenhower who was such a hero that editors and publishers intimidated most reporters from being hard on him. Not so anymore.

In this administration, President Reagan is holding few press conferences and far apart, preferring more the individual interview in his office. Whether this is the President's choice or the decision of some of those on his staff, I cannot say. To counter this situation, Helen Thomas initiated a system which Sam Donaldson has followed, and that is to ask the President some quick, sharp question on a vital pending issue as he walks to his helicopter or car. The President nearly always replies to these with some kind of enlightening answer. For this his staff ought to be glad. He can handle the questions well in this impromptu manner. But the staff is furious. Helen and Sam and other reporters also do this now in the brief few moments that the White House allows for photographing the President in his office. Especially do the staff deplore this tactic when a visiting head of state is present. The staff have talked the President into not replying to reporters on issues then. And the other day when Donaldson asked a question before the President of Egypt, the staff became infuriated and Larry Speaks, deputy press secretary, threatened to deny reporters access in the future to such meetings while Donaldson has been threatened with reprisals.

Indeed, under the rules laid down by the White House and signed in agreement when they pick up their White House pass, the reporter could have his press card pulled for failure to live by White House rules. So despite several warnings and dire looks from Michael Deaver, the next time there was a photo opportunity, another reporter asked a question. That required courage and planning. And so it will continue.

Then there is the really serious question of the White House now taking action to stop news leaks. That means any story which the Administration or government department has not clearly authorized. The White House has issued new regulations which it says must be followed to avoid threats to national security. For years national security has been a big blanket to cover policy in the making and to keep the people from knowing what is going on.

Reporters, sick from seeing the new rules of the Reagan administration, inquired who would decide when a question is national security or not, who would enforce the rules, would these restrictions carry over to domestic issues as well as international ones? The answers are that William P. Clark, the president's new assistant for National Security Affairs and his assistant, Major Kimmet, will be the czars. But already the Agriculture Department was denying reporters information that had no connection with national security. The Agriculture employees were just plain scared. A Washington radio station reported that when they called a Coast Guard station on the eastern shore of Maryland to inquire about the Canadian geese flyover, a guardsman replied, "We cannot talk to reporters."

My friends, a military unit can classify documents and thus put them under the label of national security which then restricts the press from access to information for you. I understand that in the past this ruse has been used to cover mistakes, weaknesses, or policy in the making that they do not wish to share for fear it would be questioned.

My dear friends, your national security is to know beforehand if President Reagan plans to send troops into El Salvador or Cuba or the Middle East. You need to know when he is twisting the screws so tightly on the Soviets that they may launch an attack on us because they are squeezed so heavily now when they need grain, meat, cash and are being more heavily burdened by our Polish defense.

We need to know if weaknesses in the Communications Center at the Strategic Air Command in Omaha, Nebraska, would invite a Soviet attack or if our missile system can truly defend us. We need to know more about the bidding on defense contracts.

Because someone advanced the information to The Washington Post, a leak, if you will, telling the American people that the defense spending program might cost far more than published estimates, the White House screamed and the top Pentagon officials asked that lie detector tests be given to such trusted aides as the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other top officials. Remember, they were being punished because someone told you what you needed to know as a citizen about your defense and your money. Don't you think you ought to have had that information?

Times are getting tough. I would not be surprised if some reporters are made to take lie detector tests, have their White House and Pentagon passes lifted and are sentenced to jail.

Leaks are not always the sin against national security that they have been painted to be by the White House in its new rules and in its messages to Congress requesting legislation. Leaks may be good for the country. Often they are used by the Administration to put forth propaganda on some pet program they want.

If we knew they were manipulating information to persuade us, advanced before the unknowing public, to their way of thinking, then we could make a better judgment as to worth. They may do the President some good at times by warning him of what his own subordinates are doing. The leak may come in time for him to stop some weak appointment, or mismanagement or harassment of the taxpayer. They may tell of danger or failure. Leaks were used heavily by the Kennedy administration as trial balloons to test public sentiment for some new program. Lyndon Johnson used this method of getting an idea across. I imagine nearly all administrations used this plan. Certainly FDR did. I like Bill Moyers' explanation on television recently. He said that leaks are often the truth that the government officials do not want the public to know.

In some ways, this administration is open to the press but very little. The Reagan administration has the nicest, most courteous, hard working press staffs I have ever seen in the lower echelon but one of the least revealing in the higher channels. We miss Jim Brady.

The fact that the President has so few press conferences makes it more difficult for both him and the reporters when he does have one. He could do it. His staff--especially the troika or what I call the "Three Insulators"--Ed Meese, Jim Baker and Michael Deaver, are so frightened for him that they do not let him have many press conferences. He would learn from reporters' questions what was going on and the questions would not be so general and pointless if they were put more frequently.

This press conference and the frequency with which it is held is of great importance to you, the citizens. You love it. It is watched from all over the world now. It provides a clear channel right from the reporter of the small as well as big papers, from the grass roots as well as the big cities, to the highest officer of the land. Ideas may be lodged, investigations started, action may be obtained right there.

Richard Nixon, surprised to hear there was trouble in administration at the Veterans Administration, started his inquiry in ten minutes after leaving the podium in the East Room following a question.

There is today so much staging of dramatic charm at the White House that the scarcity of real information is often overlooked. Reporters have no choice but to be props at these staged events. And reporters try to be positive about all this. They give you an account each day without telling you whether it is a damn farce or not. If they said so, it would be considered editorializing on their part, a matter of their own conclusions and opinion. They are not authorized to do that. Sometimes I wish they could

One of the whole areas blacked out from the public is who gets in to see the President, who gets his ear. The other night late, a whole bunch of utility heads went in. Seldom if ever are lists of names of groups going in provided. I always ask for lists. I seldom get them. If I do, no hometowns are given, seldom titles. Once after several days of asking, I was allowed to stand up and look at a list of around 1,000 persons. Few reporters went to the trouble to look. Only a few guests were not big shots.

Some Legionnaires come to me complaining that they cannot get local publicity for their activities.

If you go back home and organize a public information, non-partisan, forum to meet regularly in your local high school or convention hall, for the public, I guarantee you will get coverage in your local press. If they do not carry the notice of your meetings, have flyers printed and ask the grocery store if you can put these in the bags at the counter. You'll soon have the local news media asking you to let them cover it.

Let's let the Legion be the information center to build citizenship participation in this country.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 12-9-82

TO: M. Blackwell

FROM: GINA BESSEY

SUBJECT: American Legion
auxiliary mtg.

The attached is for your:

☒ Information

☐ Review & Comment

☐ Direct Response

☐ Appropriate Action

☐ Draft Letter

☐ Signature

☐ File

☐ Other

Comments:

Confidentially - W. Sadleir
will either have POTUS
at this event or their natl.
mtg later next year.

uf

bcc: Dee Depren

*American
Legion*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL SADLEIR

FROM: RED CAVANEY 
SUBJECT: American Legion Washington Conference
February 24-26, 1983

As a follow up to my earlier conversations with you and Fred, I am affixing a copy of our schedule proposal for consideration by you.

As you may recall, last August we were forced to cancel the President's scheduled appearance before a joint gathering of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The annual Washington conference of these two groups in late February provides us with an excellent opportunity to remove any remaining American Legion concerns about last year's cancellation.

If at all possible, I would recommend an early acceptance by you for the President to appear before a joint gathering of the Legion and its Auxiliary here in February. I'm reluctant to broach the subject of the two groups coming together again without an indication from you that such may be possible.

Could I please have your thoughts?

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

December 1, 1982

TO: WILLIAM SADLEIR, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE 

REQUEST: That the President briefly address the women of the American Legion Auxiliary at the Auxiliary Awareness Assembly.

PURPOSE: The American Legion Auxiliary is made up of concerned women around the country who are pro-defense and very supportive of this Administration. Earlier this year, the President had agreed to address their convention but had to cancel. It is my understanding that the President committed himself to address a future convention. They have requested that Ambassador Kirkpatrick address the group and a memo has been sent to her encouraging her to accept and address the defense issue. As an accomplished top-level woman she could communicate an issue which is misunderstood by a number of women. A Presidential visit would highlight the event for national press coverage.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of the Awareness Assembly is to focus in on key issues (strategic arms control, the nuclear freeze, criminal justice, jobs for veterans, and POW/MIA.

For the most part, the audience will be made up of women leaders from every state in the union as well Panama, Puerto Rico, and the Phillippines.

DATE: Thursday evening, February 24 at 7:30; or Friday afternoon, February 25; or Saturday morning, February 26.

LOCATION: Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D. C.

PARTICIPANTS: 400 - 600 women leaders

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President to present 10 - 15 minute remarks

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE: National press, cable to military

RECOMMENDED BY: Dee Jepsen

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Dee Jepsen



Accept, but
I may not
go.

It's a
mob scene.

National Commander Al Keller, Jr.

of

The American Legion

cordially invites you to attend

a reception

honoring the Congress of the United States

Tuesday, February 22, 1983, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Longworth House Office Building B-223

Washington, D. C.

R.S.V.P.

(202) 861-2716

Not Transferable

Informal

You are
free

The American Legion is looking forward to your attendance at our 65th Annual National Convention at Seattle. Distinguished Guest credentials will be held in your name by our Distinguished Guests Committee, whose headquarters will be at The Westin Hotel. These credentials can be acquired from that committee at your convenience, beginning, August 18, 1983.

In order for us to make your visit to our National Convention a memorable one, please complete the information on the card enclosed. All functions of the convention are indicated on this card — please indicate which convention events you wish to attend. A travel information card is also enclosed. Please complete by indicating your name and address — time of arrival and departure.

For your convenience, an airport shuttle bus operates to and from the Sea-Tac Airport — to the downtown area. The fare is approximately \$4.75 per person, each way.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Al Keller, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Al Keller, Jr.
National Commander*

Aug 19

no budget,
Regret



National Commander Al Keller, Jr.
requests the pleasure of your company
as a Distinguished Guest at the
Sixty-fifth Annual National Convention of
The American Legion
Seattle, Washington
August nineteenth to the twenty-fifth
Nineteen hundred and eighty-three

R. S. V. P.

regretted
7/5

to Marge

Acceptance of this invitation includes tickets for those functions listed below. Please indicate on the enclosed card those functions which you wish to attend. Additionally, please advise as to your housing requirements for your attendance at the Convention.

Sunday, August 21, 1983 11:00 a.m.
Patriotic and Memorial Service

Sunday, August 21, 1983 2:00 p.m.
National Convention Parade

Tuesday, August 23, 1983 9:00 a.m.
Opening Convention Session

Tuesday, August 23, 1983 7:30 p.m.
National Commander's Dinner
for Distinguished Guests

Wednesday and Thursday, August 24-25, 1983
Convention Sessions

Also enclosed is a postal travel card to be returned when your travel arrangements are complete.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
(please print)

I accept the National Commander's invitation to attend the 65th National Convention of The American Legion in Seattle, Washington.

My wife will _____ will not _____ attend.

I request assistance in obtaining the following accommodations at the Headquarters Hotel, The Westin.

Single _____ Double _____ Twin _____ Suite _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

I have made other arrangements to be housed at _____

I will
attend _____

My wife
will attend _____

_____	_____	Natl. Conv. Parade	Sun., Aug. 21	2:00 p.m.
_____	_____	Natl. Comdr's Dinner	Tue., Aug. 23	7:30 p.m.
_____	_____	Opening Session	Tue., Aug. 23	9:00 a.m.
_____	_____	Convention Sessions	Aug. 24-25	9:00 a.m.

(signature)

H.T.R. _____ Banquet Table No. _____

**Place
Postage
Here**

**National Adjutant
The American Legion
P. O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206**

(Name)

(Address)

My travel schedule in connection with attendance at The American Legion in Seattle, Washington is as follows:

Arrival Date _____ **Time** _____

Airline _____ **Flight No.** _____

Train or Bus _____ **Auto** _____

Departure Date _____ **Time** _____

Airline _____ **Flight No.** _____

Train or Bus _____ **Auto** _____

**Place
Postage
Here**

**NATIONAL ADJUTANT
THE AMERICAN LEGION
P. O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206**