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**Folder Title:** American Legion II  
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 4/21

TO: Morton Blackwell

FROM: SUSAN GRAF-STROBEL

SUBJECT: Mylio Kraja

put on my  
schedule

The attached is for your:

- |                                          |                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information     | <input type="checkbox"/> Review & Comment              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Response | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Letter    | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                         |

Comments:

Morton -  
Finally got him on the phone.  
Scheduled for MAY 12 @ 11:00  
in FRW's office. Pls Advise  
who else should attend, and  
provide briefing -  
TKS J

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 13, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: Susan Graf

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell 

RE: Appointment request from Mylio Kraja.

As we discussed this morning, Mylio Kraja has repeatedly called me, asking for a courtesy visit with Mrs. Whittlesey.

Because of the uneasiness surrounding the American Legion's withdrawal from the operation of Pershing Hall in Paris, it is of particular importance that we accommodate this request very quickly.

I suggest that Mrs. Whittlesey and I offer to meet with him this afternoon or tomorrow.

I am free today between 2:00 and 4:00, and tomorrow from 1:00 to 4:00.

Mylio Kraja's phone number is 861-2711.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Personal Meetings with Individual Leaders

I think it appropriate that we schedule for you a number of one-on-one "get acquainted" meetings with a few key leaders of important national groups in my areas.

I suggest meeting with the following:

1. PAUL M. WEYRICH  
Paul is the conservative expert on coalition building who has, in addition, played a leading role in the creation of many major conservative organizations in Congress, in the D.C. area, and across the country.
2. MRS. CONNIE MARSHNER  
Connie is Chairman of the Library Court coalition of pro-family groups. She was Chairman of the Family Policy Advisory Board for the Reagan/Bush Committee. She is well regarded by the broad spectrum of social issue groups.
3. DR. RON GODWIN  
Vice President, Chief of Operations, Moral Majority. This organization is very supportive of the President and his legislative program. They are alerting the fundamental religious community to political awareness.
4. NEAL BLAIR  
With Howard Ruff of RUFF TIMES and a number of other conservative politically active organizations which take their lead from Howard Ruff. He is a key activist in the Mormon community.
5. MYLIO KRAJA  
Executive Director, American Legion. He was helpful in bringing the largest veterans group into support of the President's economic package.
6. COOPER HOLT  
Executive Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Dean of D. C. staffers of veterans. We have developed a strong working relationship with Cooper.

7. GENERAL MILNOR ROBERTS (AUS Ret.)  
General Roberts is a sophisticated leader of the veterans/  
military community; he plays key roles both as a public  
spokesman and as an organizer of pro-defense activities.

Unfortunately, General Roberts is retiring soon, but he is  
a contact you should have.

8. BOB DUGAN  
Bob has been very helpful in guiding us. He is very  
sensitive to the nuances of doctrinal differences among  
the various Protestant leaders, and he helps us avoid  
tripping over personality disputes which are common in  
this area.
9. DR. BILL BRIGHT  
Founder of Campus Crusade for Christ which is now worldwide.  
Has been most supportive of the President and very cooperative  
in working with other religious leaders. Is national chairman  
of 1983 Year of the Bible, of which the President is Honorary  
Chairman.
10. DR. PAT ROBERTSON  
Founder and host of 700 Club and head of Christian Broadcasting  
Network. Pro-defense, pro-voluntary prayer. Has organized  
Freedom Council, a grassroots lobbying group, which has people  
working in every state. Very supportive in broadcasting facts  
the grassroots need to know when there has been bad or nor  
publicity in the public media.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*American  
Legion*

May 11, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

FROM MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Mylio Kraja

Kraja is the Executive Director of the Washington office of the American Legion. With about 2.7 million members they have a million more members than the next largest veterans organization, the V.F.W.

Kraja works for the top staffer of the organization, National Adjutant Bob Spanogle. Spanogle runs the national office in Indianapolis.

While the rank and file legionnaires tend to be very conservative, most of the conservatives on the American Legion staff were removed by Spanogle some years ago. Although it is clear that the top American Legion staff are not enthusiastic republicans or conservatives, they know that their membership tends to be strongly supportive of the President. Thus they have proven in the last two and half years to be willing to support most presidential initiatives if other major veterans organizations such as the V.F.W. have declared for us first.

There is a special issue with the Legion, Pershing Hall in Paris. This building was built in the 1930s with federal funds but, by statute, has been operated by the American Legion. It houses American Legion Post 1.

In recent years the leadership of Paris Post 1 has been at odds with the national leadership of the Legion. There were allegations of financial mismanagement and vice operations in the building.

Last year the Legion top officers, including elected National Commander Al Keller, along with Kraja and Spanogle, met with Mr. Meese in an effort to get the federal government to assume responsibility for the operation of Pershing Hall.

The Justice Department advised Mr. Meese that it will take a change in the statute to relieve the Legion of its overall responsibility for Pershing Hall, which is now being operated by an ad hoc committee of Americans in Paris.

We have had many meetings with the Property Review Board, the Legion, and other interested veterans groups. The upshot is that the V.F.W. and the Reserve Officers Association have agreed to assume responsibility for Pershing Hall. A bill is being drafted which will authorize the V.F.W. and the Reserve Officers Association, under the general supervision of the Battlefield Monuments Commission to continue the operation of Pershing Hall as the center for U.S. organization activities in Paris. The Legion's position is that they want nothing further to do with Pershing Hall and they have indicated, at least to date, that they will not oppose the change in the statute.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD

To Mr. Blackwell  
Date 1/25/84 Time 2:25

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**

M J. Muss  
of \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone x 3030

Area Code Number Extension

|                   |  |                 |                                     |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| TELEPHONED        |  | PLEASE CALL     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CALLED TO SEE YOU |  | WILL CALL AGAIN |                                     |
| WANTS TO SEE YOU  |  | URGENT          |                                     |

RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐

Message \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Elaine Siverson  Operator



23-020

DATE: 1/25

TO: Morton Blackwell

FROM: JOSE Muss

Morton:

Please call  
me on the attached.



U.S. Department of Justice

DEpstein:p  
163-40-147

Telephone:  
202/724-7455

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 23, 1984

*file Am. Legion*  
*[Signature]*  
*Review [Signature]*

John F. Cooney, Esq.  
Assistant General Counsel  
Office of Management and Budget  
Room 465, Old Executive Office  
Building  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Re: Pershing Hall

Dear Mr. Cooney:

Per our recent conversation enclosed is a letter from P.B. Onderdonk, Jr., National Judge Advocate confirming the American Legion's intention to dissolve the Pershing Hall operating committee in the near future. Please notify Bruce Selfon and David Waller of this development.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

*David Epstein*  
DAVID EPSTEIN  
Director  
Office of Foreign Litigation  
Civil Division

Enclosure

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 46206

January 10, 1984  
3-89-3

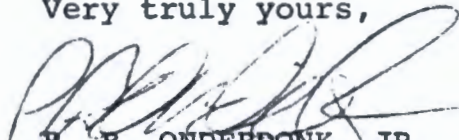
David Epstein, Esquire  
Department of Justice  
Office of Foreign Litigation  
550 11th Street, N. W., Room 1232  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Epstein:

This will confirm our telephone conversation of January 6, 1984. In it I advised you that it was possible that The American Legion would dissolve the Pershing Hall Operating Committee in May, 1984. Since this Committee has been functioning as a conservator of assets at Pershing Hall for the United States, I wanted to give you adequate notice.

It now appears that this action may be taken much more promptly.

Very truly yours,

  
P. B. ONDERDONK, JR.  
National Judge Advocate

