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084658
ID # FE258

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING
☐ H - INTERNAL
☒ I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 82106123

Name of Correspondent: Thomas C. Binkley

☒ MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Urges the President to appoint a Presidential Task Force to provide leadership and guidelines for the actions that already are being prepared to change the way we deal with the mentally ill in criminal proceedings and to address the broader national and human issues that are now in public debate.

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
PL - Kuan		ORIGINATOR	82106124CS		C 8219120
DOS		Referral Note: Re	82102101		A 82105169
		Referral Note:	1 1		1 1
		Referral Note:	1 1		1 1
		Referral Note:	1 1		1 1
		Referral Note:	1 1		1 1

ACTION CODES:
A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:
A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____
24 JUN 1982

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

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CLASSIFICATION SECTION

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Prime Subject Code: FG 258 Secondary Subject Codes: HE 001.04
IL 003
IL 003.01

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P. _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legal Policy

FLK/NF

Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 19, 1982

Mr. Thomas Binkley
National President
National Mental Health Association
1800 North Kent Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Mr. Binkley:

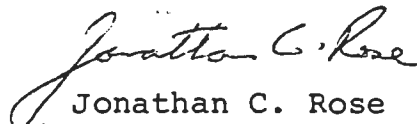
The President has referred to my office your letter of June 22, 1982, in which you advocate the appointment of a task force to study policies for the treatment of mentally ill persons who commit criminal acts.

We share your sense of shock and anger at the verdict in the Hinckley case. However, we do not feel that it is necessary to appoint a task force to study the way our criminal justice system deals with the mentally ill. Such issues have already been carefully considered by the Administration and by criminal justice experts from across the nation. The Administration has endorsed a proposal to limit the insanity defense to those persons who, solely because of mental illness, lacked the state of mind necessary to commit a crime. We have also developed proposals to assure that persons found by a court to be mentally ill will receive needed treatment and supervision whether they were found guilty of the crimes charged or acquitted by reason of insanity.

We believe that our proposals will provide the needed balance between the right of society to protect itself and our concern for the welfare of the mentally ill. These proposals have been the subject of hearings before both houses of Congress, and it is likely that there will be more hearings in the future. The National Mental Health Association is encouraged to share its perspectives with the Congress as it considers our proposals.

Thank you again for your expression of concern over the Hinckley verdict. We can only hope that the public outrage at the verdict will speed Congress toward passage of long overdue reforms in the way the criminal justice system treats mentally ill offenders.

Sincerely yours,


Jonathan C. Rose

Assistant Attorney General

27 AUG 1982

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JULY 1, 1982

TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 084658

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUNE 22, 1982

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. THOMAS C. BINKLEY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
1800 NORTH KENT STREET
ARLINGTON VA 22209

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A PRESIDENTIAL
TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND
GUIDELINES FOR THE ACTIONS THAT ALREADY ARE
BEING PROPOSED TO CHANGE THE WAY WE DEAL WITH
BROADER NATIONAL AND HUMAN ISSUES THAT ARE
NOW IN PUBLIC DEBATES

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

The attached should be directed to
the Department of Justice for reply.

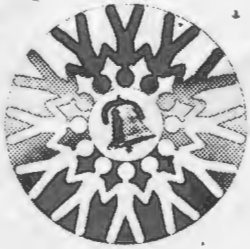
~~Howard:~~

I think this should
go to Justice and
be treated as a
"crime" - especially
in light of the Ancker
after death.

Billie -

Agree with Bob. Can WH correspon-
dence route this to DOJ?

AS



National Mental Health Association

1800 North Kent Street • Arlington, Virginia 22209 • (703) 528-6405

June 22, 1982

NATIONAL OFFICERS 1982

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THOMAS C. BINKLEY

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Secretary
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084658

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our Nation has lived with the shock, anger, frustration, and turmoil that resulted from the attempt on your life in March 1981. Yesterday's jury verdict, as well as the lengthy, well-publicized trial that preceded it, has kept that turmoil alive. Constructive action should now be taken to address the public's confusion and frustration about the complex social, legal and medical issues raised in the public's consciousness by this case.

The National Mental Health Association is the Nation's largest mental health consumer advocacy group with 850 active chapters in 42 states with more than one million volunteers/members. We ask you to appoint a Presidential Task Force to provide leadership and guidelines for the actions that already are being proposed to change the way we deal with the mentally ill in criminal proceedings and to address the broader national and human issues that are now in public debate.

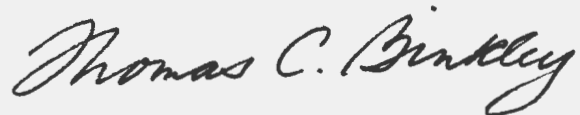
A task force like this should develop guidelines that would balance the need for protection of society from the occasional, but often tragic, violence perpetrated by the smallest percentage of mentally ill persons, with the need for fairness by society to such individuals and their families; find ways to reduce the stigma of mental and emotional illness and thus help to remove barriers to early and effective treatment; help to make certain that mentally ill offenders, regardless of adjudicated status, receive appropriate treatment for their mental illness - just as physically ill or injured offenders could be expected to receive; and affirm and renew the national goal of mental health promotion, the prevention of mental illness, and the goal of adequate community-based mental health services for every citizen in need of such services.

We urge that representatives from the major ethical, legal and mental health groups be appointed to such a task force. We stand ready as a national organization to assist in its design and implementation.

President Ronald Reagan
June 22, 1982
page two

Mr. President, it would be a compounding tragedy if the Nation focused only on the fear that arises from cases like this and ignores the fundamental issue of how we deal with the treatment and prevention of mental illness. We urge your immediate commitment to this constructive action.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas C. Binkley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas C. Binkley
National President

TCB:rfp