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29/10/03

ID # 017034
J003-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING

☐ H - INTERNAL

☒ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/10/04 103

Name of Correspondent: Larry Pressler

☒ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Recommends increased safety measures for protecting the President and Vice President.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA FRIE</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8/10/04</u>	<u>MG</u>	<u>A 8/10/04</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comments
D - Draft Response
F - Fact Sheet

I - Info Copy/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: _____

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.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 1220 _____

Prime Subject Code: TD 003-01 Secondary Subject Codes: W4 006 _____

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 - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 -

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

May 22, 1981

Dear Larry:

The President has asked me to thank you for your March 31 letter setting forth your comments and suggestions for better protection of the President and Vice President.

It was good to know of your deep, personal concern, and you may be assured that your specific recommendations will be given most careful attention and consideration. Please know that your ideas and help are always welcome.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Larry Pressler
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MLF/CMP/las --

cc: w/copy of inc., Joni Stevens (Military Aide's Office) - FYI

CENTRAL FILES: PLEASE RETAIN ORIGINAL INCOMING IN FILES

5



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

LARRY PRESSLER
SOUTH DAKOTA

March 31, 1981

017034

m7
The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

After many discussions here on the Hill, it is my conclusion that the members of the Senate are extremely shocked and disturbed at the attempt on the life of President Reagan. It is a sad thing and we need to hold some hearings on how we can possibly make it safer for the President and the Vice President.

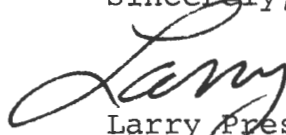
Since your safety and leadership are so valuable to us, I would make the following three recommendations:

- 1) That the President and Vice President limit their appearances before groups in public hotels and other places where security is a problem. It is my recommendation that such groups be addressed over closed circuit TV as much as possible. Also, if they could hold some of these meetings on the White House grounds or in smaller groups, it would be safer.
- 2) That the President and Vice President hold as many functions outside of Washington on Military Bases or in secure areas. This limits access to the public somewhat but we simply cannot have our President and Vice President so vulnerable.
- 3) That the President and Vice President should wear flak jackets when they appear in public. I know these jackets are bulky and detract slightly from an individual's appearance but it is essential that we take all steps to protect our President and Vice President.

In addition, we need to once again evaluate the issues of Saturday night specials, of the Secret Service performance and of the general causes in our society that lead people to commit such acts. Also, the leniency of punishment of crimes perpetrated with armed weapons needs to be reviewed at the Federal and State levels.

In short, as a United States Senator, I thought it appropriate for me to pass along my suggestions. I am very discouraged, since during my lifetime, four Presidents have been shot at at close range and one has been killed and one has been injured. We just cannot let this go on. I am sorry that we have this situation. We in the Congress must do everything we can to alleviate it. Meanwhile, I would recommend that the President and Vice President take at least the above steps to lessen the possibility of being shot at.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry", written in dark ink.

Larry Pressler
United States Senator

LP/lpa

ID # 017589
SL003-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING
☐ H - INTERNAL
☒ T - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/10/87

Name of Correspondent: Charles E Bennett

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

Subject: Views and question concerning events that occurred on March 30, 1981.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA Frie</u>		ORIGINATOR ^{CH}	<u>8/10/87</u>	<u>m7</u>		<u>8/10/87</u> ^{CS}
<u>99 Tres</u>	<u>9th US Secret Service</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>8/10/87</u> ^{CS}			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>
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No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 1230 _____

Prime Subject Code: JL 003-01 Secondary Subject Codes: WH 006 _____
PR 016 _____

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- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

June 9, 1981

Dear Charlie:

I regret that the volume of mail we have received has prevented me from providing you with a more expeditious reply to your April 6 letter concerning the assassination attempt made on the President.

Please know that the President deeply appreciated hearing of your views on this matter. I have taken the liberty of directing your comments and suggestions to the appropriate office for further review.

Thank you for your interest in writing and please do not hesitate to contact me whenever I can be of further assistance to you.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Charles E. Bennett
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF:CMF:ASR:asr

cc: w/copy of incoming, the United States Secret Service,
Public Affairs, 1800 G St., NW, Room 805, DC 20223.
For DIRECT response to Cong. Bennett, with copy of
response to Max L. Friedersdorf.

CHARLES E. BENNETT

MEMBER

3D DISTRICT, FLORIDA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN OF SEAPOWER
SUBCOMMITTEE

JACKSONVILLE OFFICE:

352 FEDERAL BUILDING 32202
TELEPHONE 904-791-2587

JOHN W. POLLARD, JR.
BRENDA DONALDSON

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 6, 1981

JOHN W. FARLEY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

THOMAS J. MILLER
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

SHARON H. SIEGEL
LAURA H. MACOMBER
PATRICIA A. GODDING
BARBARA L. FETHEROLF
DARLA E. SMALLWOOD
VIRGINIA J. FERGUSON
SECRETARIES

Mr. Max Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President for
Congressional Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

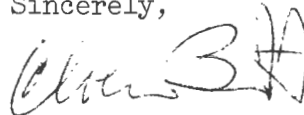
017589

Dear Mr. Friedersdorf:

I recently talked with Mr. John W. Bowden and others who were close to the President when the event occurred the other day. They tell me that in this particular instance the President was not escorted away before the crowd came out on the street. In all the instances I remember in the past and all of the instances Mr. Bowden remembers, the President has been allowed to go before the audience was allowed to break and this may have been the reason why he was endangered. I think this should be looked into.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Charles E. Bennett

CEB:ss

P.S.: Mr. Bowden tells me also that there were very few people in the immediate vicinity of the President who were sheltering him but there were large numbers of people (hundreds) who were not very far away from him who were just in the audience or gatherers. Also was

*the press not concerned in that only armed
press persons are there?*

800.3
Id #017589

017589

1230

JL 003-01

June 17, 1981

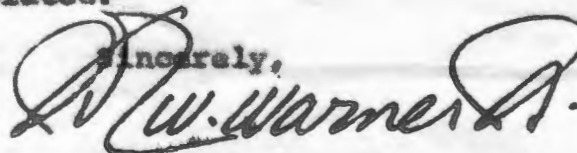
The Honorable
Charles E. Bennett
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Assistant to the President Max L. Friedersdorf has recently forwarded your letter concerning the March 30th assassination attempt to our office.

While investigations into the incident and litigation are still pending, we are not in a position to comment specifically on the security arrangements. Additionally, many of your concerns have undoubtedly been addressed to the media during the time lag between your initial correspondence and the receipt of your letter in this office.

We do assure you, however, that we are closely studying the events of March 30th to ascertain whether lessons learned from this incident might improve the future safety of those we protect. Your concern and your suggestions are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,


John W. Warner, Jr.
Assistant to the Director

CC: Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President
The White House

bcc: Deputy Director
White House CU

JWW:JL:jo

ID #

017589

JL003-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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

8/10/81

Name of Correspondent: Charles E. Bennett☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Views and question concerning events that occurred on March 30, 1981.

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ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA Tres</u>	<u>CH</u> ORIGINATOR	<u>8/10/81</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>8/10/81</u>
<u>99 Tres</u> <u>ATTN: US Secret Service</u>	Referral Note: <u>K</u>	<u>8/10/81</u>		<u>8/10/81</u>
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			

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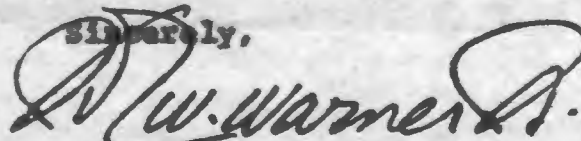
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Assistant to the Director

CC: Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President
The White House

bcc: Deputy Director
White House CU

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June 9, 1981

Dear Charlie:

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MEMBER

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BRENDA DONALDSON

Congress of the United States

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April 6, 1981

JOHN W. FARLEY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

THOMAS J. MILLER
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SHARON H. SIEGEL
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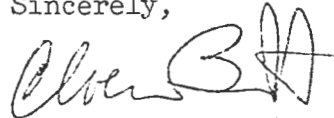
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*the press action checked to see that only-orded
press persons were there?*

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JUNE 15, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
ATTN: UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 017589

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 6, 1981

TO: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. BENNETT
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON DC 20515

SUBJECT: VIEWS AND QUESTION CONCERNING EVENTS THAT
OCCURED ON MAR 30 81

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 BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

EF

ID # 018013
JL003-01

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING

☐ H - INTERNAL

☐ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/13/13

Name of Correspondent: Gerald M Titus Sr

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: He feels the Secret Service is incompetent

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CNSTR1</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8/14/13</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8/15/13</u>
<u>Treasury - Secret Service</u>	Referral Note:	<u>8/14/13</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8/15/13</u>
<u>CN NEWS</u>	Referral Note:	<u>8/15/13</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>8/15/13</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				

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Prime Subject Code: JL 003-01 Secondary Subject Codes: FG 012-10
WH 006
BE 003

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
------	------	---------	------

C		Time:	P-
---	--	-------	----

DSP		Time:	Media:
-----	--	-------	--------

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- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

15 May 1981

Dear Mr. Titus:

Thank you for your correspondence.
I want to assure you that your comments
have been noted and that I appreciate
your interest in sharing your views.

Sincerely,

EDWIN MEESE III
Counsellor to the President

Mr. Gerald M. Titus, Sr.
P.O. Box 231
Ripley, WV 25271

cc: Ed Meese

EM:ES:ba
EM-9

Department
of the Treasury

to: ~~Leslie Sorg~~

United States
Secret Service

room:

date: 5/05/81

Per our conversation, no response
necessary.

Letter returned.

thanks
W. R. Hartwig
W. R. Hartwig

Ellen:

USSS called to say since Mr. Titus
did not ask any specific question
and basically just expressed his
views of the incompetence of the USSS,
they didn't believe they needed to
answer this. You might want to send
a Thanks for your views, etc.

Leslie

Assistant to the Director
Office of Public Affairs
John W. Warner Jr.

room 805
535-5708

TREASURY DOCUMENT PROFILE

DOC			RECEIVED			ACTION		LOG NUMBER
MO	DA		MO	DA	YR	SECRET SERVICE		81-NO 5580
4	10		4	14				

SOURCE/DESCRIPTION	TO:	FROM: <u>WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL/Sorg, Leslie</u>	CLASSIFICATION
	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESIDENT		<input type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED <input type="checkbox"/> SECRET
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SECRETARY (S)		<input type="checkbox"/> CONFIDENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TOP SECRET
	<input type="checkbox"/> D/SECRETARY (D)		<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify) <u>IC</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> U/SEC. (MA) (M)	REFS: <u>Titus, Sr., Gerald M.</u>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)	SUBJECT: <u>He feels the Secret Service is incompetent</u>	

DISTRIBUTION	COPY		DISTRIBUTION	COPY		DISTRIBUTION	COPY	
	ACT	INFO		ACT	INFO		ACT	INFO
1. SECRETARY (S)			ATF			EXEC ASST/SEC (S)		
2. D/SECRETARY (D)			CUSTOMS			CONF ASST/SEC (S)		
3. U/SECRETARY (MA) (M)			COMPTROLLER CURRENCY			EXEC ASST/D/SEC (D)		
4. U/SECRETARY (U)			ENGRAVING & PRINTING			WHITE HOUSE FELLOW (S)		
5. ADMINISTRATION (A)			FOREIGN ASSETS CONT (OF)			INSPECTOR GENERAL (SG)		
6. DOMESTIC POLICY (H)			FLETC					
7. ECONOMIC POLICY (E)			GOVT FIN OPERATIONS			EXEC SEC (SE)		
8. ENFORCEMENT & OPS (O)		XX	IRS			D/EXEC SEC (SE)		
9. FISCAL (F)						REVIEWERS (SE)		
10. GENERAL COUNSEL (G)			LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL (GL)			INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT (SEI)		
11. INTERNAT'L AFFAIRS (I)			MINT					
12. OASIA SECRETARIAT			PUBLIC DEBT					
13. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (L)			REVENUE SHARING (HR)			READ FILE		
14. PUBLIC AFFAIRS (P)			SECRET SERVICE	XX				
15. CORRESPONDENCE			SAVINGS BONDS					
16. TAX POLICY (X)								
17. TREASURER (T)			DISCLOSURE BRANCH (AAL)					

ACTION REQUIRED	DUE DATE <u>4/28/81</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> APPROPRIATE ACTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COME BACK COPY TO EXEC SEC (SE)
	MEMO TO: _____	REPLY FOR SIG. BY: _____		
	COMMENTS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS Please note log # and WH ID # on comeback copy. Please send comeback copy with incoming correspondence to Rm 3419 for transmittal to the White House. If this document has been misdirected, please return to Rm 3419, appropriately marked as to where it should be referred.			

DATE	FROM	TO	SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/REQUIRED	DUE	COPY TO
			Per Conversation with Ms. Sorg - no action to be taken.		
			HARTWICK		

DISP/FILE INSTRUCTION	DISPATCH TO: _____	NOTIFY: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> WHITE HOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> ALPHA
	SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> TREASURY <input type="checkbox"/> CONGRESS
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify) _____

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 10, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
ATTN: SECRET SERVICE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 018013
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 31, 1981
TO: EDWIN MEESE
FROM: MR. GERALD M. TITUS SR.
THE BURKE - PARSONS - BOWLBY
CORPORATION
POST OFFICE BOX 231
RIPLEY WV 25271

SUBJECT: HE FEELS THE SECRET SERVICE IS INCOMPETENT

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 BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



The BURKE-PARSONS-BOWLBY Corporation

P. O. BOX 231 • RIPLEY, WEST VIRGINIA 25271 • PHONE (304) 372-2211

ED
PRESSURE TREATED
WOOD PRODUCTS

March 31, 1981

EM-9

018013

Mr. Edward Meese
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Meese:

I am not going to go to great lengths to quality myself except to say that I am a successful business executive and I want your attention with this letter.

The prevailing attitude in this country is that the President cannot be protected. "If someone wants to shoot the President, they can." This is hogwash! The Secret Service is simply not doing their job.

The Secret Service needs a complete overhaul. They need an entire restaffing with competent, solid people who can get the job done.

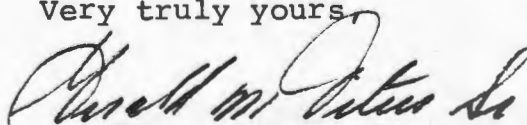
It is beyond my understanding how the media can classify these people heroes when six shots were fired at the President at close range from a small group of people in downtown Washington. One shot would have been a disgrace.

The Secret Service should hang up their trench coats and roll up their sleeves. If necessary, every second person the President shakes hands with should be an agent.

The entire incident, including the ensuing panic, shouting, and waving of machine guns, adds to our international image as bumblers.

Please make your number one priority the Secret Service. These people are incompetent!

Very truly yours,


Gerald M. Titus, Sr.

GMT/mes

PLANT LOCATIONS: SPENCER, WV • GOSHEN, VA • STANTON, KY • DUBOIS, PA • WILMINGTON, NC

Equal Opportunity Employer



ID # 018013
JL003-01

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- ☐ O - OUTGOING
☐ H - INTERNAL
☐ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/13/13

Name of Correspondent: Gerald M Titus Sr

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

Subject: He feels the Secret Service is incompetent

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CNSTR1</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8/14/13</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8/15/13</u>
<u>Treasury - Secret Service</u>	Referral Note:	<u>8/14/13</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8/15/13</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>R</u>			
	Referral Note:				
	Referral Note:				
	Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comments
D - Draft Response
F - Fact Sheet
I - Info Copy/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: _____

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.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4200 _____

Prime Subject Code: JL 003-01 Secondary Subject Codes: FG 012-10
WH 006
BE 003

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

<u>Code</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Form</u>
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 - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 -

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
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MEDIA CODES:

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



PRESSURE TREATED
WOOD PRODUCTS

The BURKE-PARSONS-BOWLBY Corporation

P. O. BOX 231 • RIPLEY, WEST VIRGINIA 25271 • PHONE (304) 372-2211

March 31, 1981

Mr. Edward Meese
The White House
Washington, D.C.

018013

Dear Mr. Meese:

I am not going to go to great lengths to quality myself except to say that I am a successful business executive and I want your attention with this letter.

The prevailing attitude in this country is that the President cannot be protected. "If someone wants to shoot the President, they can." This is hogwash! The Secret Service is simply not doing their job.

The Secret Service needs a complete overhaul. They need an entire restaffing with competent, solid people who can get the job done.

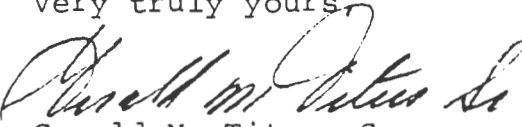
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The Secret Service should hang up their trench coats and roll up their sleeves. If necessary, every second person the President shakes hands with should be an agent.

The entire incident, including the ensuing panic, shouting, and waving of machine guns, adds to our international image as bumblers.

Please make your number one priority the Secret Service. These people are incompetent!

Very truly yours,


Gerald M. Titus, Sr.

GMT/mes

PLANT LOCATIONS: SPENCER, WV • GOSHEN, VA • STANTON, KY • DUBOIS, PA • WILMINGTON, NC

Equal Opportunity Employer



ID # 018013JL003-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD)8/13/81Name of Correspondent: Gerald M Titus SrCNSTR☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: He feels the Secret Service is incompetent

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CNSTR</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>CH 8/14/81</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8/16/81</u> MG
<u>Treasury - Secret Service</u>					
<u>CNMEES</u>		<u>CH 8/14/81</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>8/15/81</u> CH
		<u>8/15/81</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8/15/81</u> MG
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comments
D - Draft Response
F - Fact Sheet
I - Info Copy/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: _____

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: R Individual Codes: 4200 _____

Prime Subject Code: JL 003.01 Secondary Subject Codes: FG 012.10 _____
WH 006. _____
BE 003. _____

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
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CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 -

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- O - Memo
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- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

5586
MAY 28 1981

Dear Mr. Titus:

Mr. Meese has asked the Treasury Department to respond to your letter of March 31, concerning the conduct of the Secret Service with respect to the March 30 attempt on the President's life.

Secretary Regan has ordered an investigation of the performance of the Treasury Department in connection with the March 30 attack on the President. The report will be prepared by Treasury's General Counsel and will encompass all aspects of the Department's involvement in the events surrounding the assassination attempt. The report will include a thorough evaluation of the ability to determine the existence and seriousness of threats against the President and will assess the adequacy of the procedures, facilities, and personnel relating to the protection of the President. The findings and recommendations of the General Counsel's report will be made available to the public upon completion.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Steven L. Skancke
Acting Executive Secretary

Mr. Gerald M. Titus Sr.
The Burke, Parsons, Bowlby
Corporation
Post Office Box 231
Ripley WV 25271

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 10, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
ATTN: SECRET SERVICE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 018013

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 31, 1981

TO: EDWIN MEESE

FROM: MR. GERALD M. TITUS SR.
THE BURKE - PARSONS - BOWLBY
CORPORATION
POST OFFICE BOX 231
RIPLEY WV 25271

SUBJECT: HE FEELS THE SECRET SERVICE IS INCOMPETENT

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 BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PRESERVATION COPY

The BURKE-PARSONS-BOWLBY Corporation

P. O. BOX 231 • RIPLEY, WEST VIRGINIA 25271 • PHONE (304) 372-2211

PRESSURE TREATED
WOOD PRODUCTS

March 31, 1981

Mr. Edward Meese
The White House
Washington, D.C.

018013

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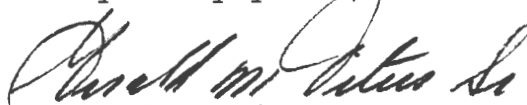
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Gerald M. Titus, Sr.

GMT/mes

PLANT LOCATIONS: SPENCER, WV • GOSHEN, VA • STANTON, KY • DUBOIS, PA • WILMINGTON, NC

Equal Opportunity Employer



ID # 018046JL003-01WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☒ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/10/09Name of Correspondent: L. C. Murphy☒ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Writes concerning the tragic event, which took place on March 30, 1981. States their community is prepared to make some recommendations to avoid circumstances which allow this kind of activity in this country.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>IA PEAC Rhodes</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8/10/09</u>	<u>JR</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8/10/09</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

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C - Comments
D - Draft Response
F - Fact SheetI - Info Copy/No Action Necessary
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S - For Signature
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B - Non-Special ReferralC - Completed
S - Suspended

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Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 2400 _____

Prime Subject Code: JL 003-01 Secondary Subject Codes: FG 006-01 WH 006
PP 012-04 LG TUCSD
JL 006-01 PR 003

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

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

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

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- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
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- n - 4 - Dutch
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- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

April 14, 1981

Dear Mayor Murphy:

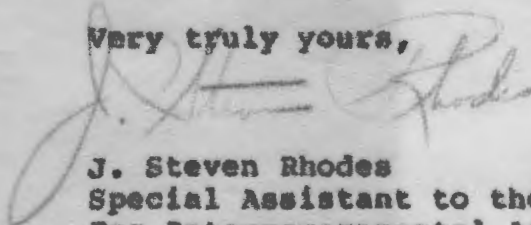
The President has asked me to acknowledge your kind letter of concern. We do appreciate your thoughtfulness in the wake of this horrible event.

You mentioned that Dr. Harold Russell, your police psychologist, has some recommendations that could prevent the recurrence of another violent act such as the one we saw on March 30th.

I would be more than happy to talk with you and the other appropriate people to determine what can be done. My telephone number is (202) 456-7150.

Thank you for your generous concern.

Very truly yours,



J. Steven Rhodes
Special Assistant to the President
For Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Lewis C. Murphy
Office of the Mayor
250 West Alameda
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, Arizona 85726

I would be more than happy
to talk with you and the
other appropriate people to
determine what can be done.

My telephone number is
(202) 456-7150.

Thank you for your generous
concern.

Very truly yours,

PRESERVATION COPY

Dear Mayor Murphy:

The President has asked
me to acknowledge your
kind letter of concern. We
~~all~~ do appreciate your
thoughtfulness in the wake
of this horrible event.

You mentioned that Dr
Harold Russell, your police
psychologist, has some
recommendations that could
prevent the recurrence of
another violent act such
as the one we saw on March
30th.



CITY OF TUCSON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 2, 1981

LEWIS C. MURPHY
MAYOR

250 WEST ALAMEDA
P. O. BOX 27210
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85726
PHONE: (602) 791-4201

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

018046

Dear Mr. President:

My community shares the nation's shock and outrage at the development of circumstances which have resulted in injury to you, Mr. Brady and two members of your law enforcement staff.

We, of course, are overwhelmed with joy that your injuries were not more severe but we suffer unmitigated frustration. Our philosophical approach is that you will be an even stronger, more effective president as a result of these happenings and that therefore somehow our nation will, in fact, have benefited.

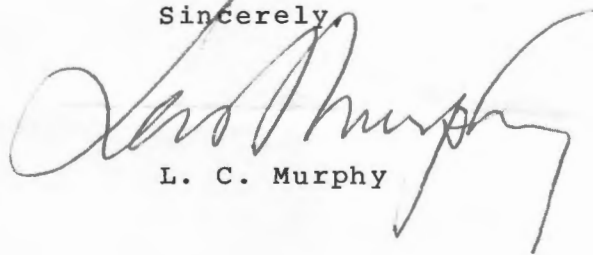
It occurs to me that there must be better ways than those which we are presently pursuing to avoid circumstances which allow this kind of activity in our country. In concert with Dr. Harold Russell, our police psychologist, our community is prepared to make some recommendations which we feel may have significant potential value. It is conceivable that we are so unhappy and so frustrated that we are grasping at straws. However, we feel that some positive steps can and must be taken at this time to properly identify and offer therapy under the concept of diagnosis and treatment of "dangerousness."

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
April 2, 1981
Page Two

If the foregoing makes any sense at all, I would appreciate hearing from the appropriate person on your staff in order that this concept might be thoroughly and professionally examined.

God bless you. You are in our prayers, as always.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. C. Murphy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

L. C. Murphy

LCM/bf

The President has seen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1981

WS

01916955
1220
52003-01
PU
PP002

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Max L. Friedersdorf *M. G.*

SUBJECT: Attached note from Senator Strom Thurmond

Senator Thurmond asked that I bring the attached note from him and clipping from The State newspaper in South Carolina to your attention.

Columbia



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

STROM THURMOND
SOUTH CAROLINA

Dear Mr. President:

I thought you would
like to see the excellent
coverage you are
receiving in South
Carolina.

Regards,
Strom

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections

This is not a presidential record. This marker is used as an administrative marker by the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential Library Staff. This marker identifies that there was an object in this folder that could not be scanned due to its size.

John

ID # 020586

JL 003-01

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING

☐ H - INTERNAL

☒ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD)

8/104/15

Name of Correspondent: H. William Whitehurst

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Enclose a copy of a mailgram from Mr. Robert Martin.
Requests information concerning if the White House is planning
any special honors to be bestowed upon the Secret Service agents
who protected the President on March 30, 1981.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA Free</u>		^{CH} ORIGINATOR	<u>8/104/16</u>	<u>MF</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8/106/26</u> ^{MG}
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
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C - Comments
D - Draft Response
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Code = "A"
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Comments: _____

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 1240 _____

Prime Subject Code: JL 003.01 Secondary Subject Codes: FG 012.10 _____
JL 006.01 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

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

SIGNATURE CODES:

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- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

June 26, 1981

Dear Bill:

With great regret for the delay, I would like to thank you for your April 13 letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Robert Martin, who has inquired as to whether the Secret Service agents who protected the President in the assassination attempt will be honored.

I have learned that the Secret Service does indeed plan to recognize the outstanding performance of the agents directly involved, and, in addition, will honor the Metropolitan police and other agencies.

I appreciate your interest in writing and hope this information will be helpful to your constituent.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable G. William Whitehurst
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF:CMF:MDB

MF
J. WILLIAM WHITEHURST
2D DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

READINESS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND
FACILITIES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

PROGRAM AND BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

U.S. DELEGATE TO
NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 13, 1981

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2469 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4215

JOHN P. MAGILL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICES:

815 FEDERAL BUILDING
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23510
(804) 441-3340

VERENA C. WASSERMAN
OFFICE MANAGER

ROOM 601, PEMBROKE ONE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23462
(804) 490-2393

BLANCHE M. BOYLES
OFFICE MANAGER

020586

Mr. Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President for
Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Max:

I am enclosing a copy of a mailgram which I have received from Mr. Robert Martin, 412 Lineberry Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452. I would appreciate it very much if you would advise me if the White House is planning any special honors to be bestowed upon the Secret Service agents who protected the President in the recent assassination attempt.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill

G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST

GW:RL
Enclosure

ROBERT MARTIN
412 LINEBERRY RD
VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23452



Mailgram



4-065473091 04/01/81 ICE IMMUTTZZ C9F WSHB
8044860203 MGM TDMT VIRGINIA BEACH VA 134 04-01 1008F EST

CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM WHITEHURST
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON DC 20515

APR 7 1981

SECRET SERVICE AGENT WHO PROTECTED PRESIDENT SHOULD RECEIVE HIGHEST
CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION POSSIBLE. INC DETAILS FOR DEVIOLS.

BOB MARTIN
412 LINEBERRY RD
VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23452

22110 EST

MGMCCMP INGM

April 17, 1981

521326

2600

JL003-01

PR013-02

LG LAUDE

Dear Miss Tolle:

I was delighted to receive the get-well message and resolution which you sent to me on behalf of the City Council of the City of Lauderdale Lakes. Knowing of your friendship encourages and helps me daily.

With best wishes to you and the members of the Council,

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN ^a

X

Miss Audrey Tolle
City Clerk
City of Lauderdale Lakes
Lauderdale Lakes, Florida 33319

RR/AVH/SRH/SW/EJH/smf--

810417

14
4-13-81

Dear ~~Mr~~ Miss Tille:

I was delighted to receive the get-well message and resolution
which you sent to me on behalf of the ~~Senate/House~~ ^{City Council} of the State/
~~Commonwealth of~~ ^(Lauderdale) City of Lauderdale Lakes. Knowing of your friendship
encourages and helps me daily.

With best wishes to you and the members of the ~~Senate/House~~ ^{Council,}

Sincerely,

RR

RR:AVH:SRH: *aw egt*

O.K.
aw

5-h
RESOLUTION #826

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE GRIEF OF THE CITY CONCERNING THE TRAGEDY WHICH HAS BEFALLEN PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, JAMES SCOTT BRADY, TIMOTHY J. MCCARTHY AND THOMAS DELAHANTY; PROVIDING FOR TRUE COPIES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council shares the country's shock and grief at the recent assassination attempt on the life of President Ronald Reagan, and

WHEREAS, the City Council is desirous of expressing the concerns of the citizenry of the City of Lauderdale Lakes relative to such events,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAUDERDALE LAKES, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: On behalf of the citizenry of the City of Lauderdale Lakes, the City Council hereby expresses its deep-felt shock and grief over the attempt to assassinate President Ronald Reagan and joins with the citizens of this great country in calling for a continuing and more intense vigilance regarding the protection of the country's values and institutions. Moreover, the City Council joins with the citizens of the City in wishing the President and those brave men who were wounded by his side, James Scott Brady, Timothy J. McCarthy and Thomas Delahanty, speedy and successful recoveries.

Section 2: True Copies. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to provide true copies hereof to President Ronald Reagan, Mr. and Mrs. James Scott Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. McCarthy and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Delahanty.

Section 3: Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAUDERDALE LAKES AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 31, 1981.

Afonso A. Herff
Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrey Telle
City Clerk

022080

JL 003-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1981

Dear Mr. Haun:

It was good of you to let me know of your support for President Reagan and his policies.

This administration is dedicated to streamlining the Federal government and restoring our nation's economic vitality. We count on the support of you and many other concerned citizens to help us in accomplishing these goals.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL K. DEEVER
Assistant to the President
Deputy Chief of Staff

Mr. C. R. Haun
P.O. Box 273
Ainsworth, Nebraska 69210

022080

ID #

022080

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD)

ET-1

Name of Correspondent:

C. R. Haun

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes:

(A)

(B)

(C)

Subject:

General
Assassination Attempt on Pres.
Reagan

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
Mike Deaver		ORIGINATOR	4/23/81	CD MD	A ^{TR}	8/10/81
Ann Higgins		Referral Note:	D	CD	C ^{TR}	8/10/81
DAVID ANDERSON		Referral Note:	A	8/10/81 ^{TR}	C ^{TR}	8/10/81
Central File		Referral Note:	1/1	A-MKD	5/4/81	
		Referral Note:	1/1			1/1
		Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comments
D - Draft Response
F - Fact Sheet

I - Info Copy/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

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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:

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

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000 _____

Prime Subject Code: TL 003.01 Secondary Subject Codes: PP 010.02
PR 003 _____

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 - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 -

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1981

Dear Mr. Haun:

It was good of you to let me know of your support for President Reagan and his policies.

This administration is dedicated to streamlining the Federal government and restoring our nation's economic vitality. We count on the support of you and many other concerned citizens to help us in accomplishing these goals.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL K. DEEVER
Assistant to the President
Deputy Chief of Staff

Mr. C. R. Haun
P.O. Box 273
Ainsworth, Nebraska 69210

Apr. 18, 1981

Mike Deaver
At the White House
Washington, D.C.

022080

Dear Mike:

Mike I dont know just how to get this across, I have wanted to write to mr President Reagan him self to let him know that Iam praying for him every day, and thanking our "God" that he wasent hurt any worse, I also hope & pray that the Judges will konow enough to give him the Chair, reather then A slap on the wrist, Then out on parole, like 4 others who will soon be up for parole, That did the same as Hinckley did, If the death Penalty was still in force and carried out, there would need no more Gun control, We need President Reagan to get This great Nation back to where our Founding Fathers Ment it to be, Iam A reg. ~~Republican, but voted for~~ Carter hopeing that he was Man enough to get the job done, and as you know he only made the mess worse I do feel, along with many others that in Reagan we can & will have A clean & Honest Gov. once again, Mr Reagan did such a good job while Gov. of Calif. And that is why He will need all the help he can get, Ijust hope & Pray that if Congress dosent go along with his plan that he will take it to the People, with that Iam hopping that you will read the little reprint Iam sending, and Please give one to Mr President himself, I along with many others think him 100% okey, Please let me know if you did read this your self thank you,

Sincerely

C. R. Haun

C. R. Haun

P.O. Box 273

Ainsworth, Nebr. 69210

The Way Washington *Really* Works

The sad fact is that it doesn't. And it won't until we have a government that can control our unresponsive bureaucracy

Condensed from
"HOW WASHINGTON REALLY WORKS"

CHARLES PETERS

THERE IS a permanent government in Washington whose power does not depend on election results. It includes the courts and military, as well as two unofficial but powerful branches, the press and special-interest lobbyists. But the largest part of the permanent government is the bureaucracy. With over 2.8 million federal civilian employees, it's no wonder that the bureaucracy's power is increasingly dominant in our lives.

Some bureaucrats do essential work: air-traffic controllers, Forest Service firefighters, nurses at Veterans Administration hospitals. But there are many others whose contribution to the public interest is less clear: employees with such titles as

Schemes Routing Specialist, Employee Suggestion and Incentive Awards Administrator or Confidential Assistant to the Confidential Assistant—all real titles.

I first encountered the federal bureaucracy when I moved to Washington in 1961. There I was exposed to a Civil Service system characterized by too much defensiveness, too little courage.

Of course, in many clerical jobs openness or courage is irrelevant. But as people climb the administrative ladder, they seek to avoid anything that could disturb their steady career progress. The result: Over the years, the bureaucracy has become lethargic and self-protective.

Consider the joke of performance evaluations within the bureaucracy. Early in the Carter Administration, Barbara Blum, deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection

CHARLES PETERS, a former Democratic legislator in West Virginia and Director of Evaluation for the Peace Corps 1961-68, is editor of *The Washington Monthly*.

"HOW WASHINGTON REALLY WORKS," COPYRIGHT © 1980 BY CHARLES PETERS, IS PUBLISHED AT \$10.95 HARDCOVER, \$5.95 PAPERBACK, BY ADDISON-WESLEY PUBLISHING CO., READING, MASS. 01867.

Agency, tried to institute performance evaluations in that agency. Back came the supervisors' reports: 97 percent satisfactory. Actually, Blum's supervisors were a bit more candid than most. Throughout the 1970s, 99 percent of all eligible federal employees got annual merit salary increases.

Because performance is not measured in realistic terms, the civil servant knows the only way he can lose his job is through a budget cut that affects his program. So as any new agency ages, more and more of its manpower and energy are devoted to obtaining funds.

In its annual struggle to protect or enlarge its budget, a government agency has a decisive advantage over its natural enemy, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which appraises budget requests. The OMB might assign half-a-dozen employees to size up a Cabinet-level department's budget, but the department will have up to 500 budget people whose job is to keep the OMB from finding out the truth.

One ploy often works even when the OMB spots it. Faced with a budget cut, the bureaucrat cuts funds where it will hurt a Congressman's constituents the most, not the least. In 1975, threatened with such a budget cut, Amtrak considered eliminating routes from Norfolk, Va., to Chicago—which just happened to run through the home states of Birch Bayh, then chairman of the Senate Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee; Vance Hartke, chairman of the Senate

Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Surface Transportation; Harley Staggers, chairman of the House Commerce Committee; and Robert Byrd, Senate Majority Whip. Senator Byrd promptly said he would "introduce an amendment providing sufficient funds or try to get language adopted that would guarantee funding for the route."

Simply put, the bureaucrat just doesn't want any reduction in programs or personnel. Indeed, he hopes to expand—rank is determined in part by the number of employees one supervises. Four popular expansion techniques help explain bureaucracy's uncontrollable growth:

1. *Inflated payrolls.* Besides their automatic "merit" increases, federal employees receive annual raises to maintain "comparability" with private industry. But the comparison places much too heavy emphasis on higher-paying jobs in big corporations, rather than on positions in small business. The result: Except for the very top jobs, federal civil servants generally make more than their counterparts in business.

2. *Inflated slots.* Suppose the country were being overrun by Albanian moths. The Department of Agriculture would ask the OMB and Office of Personnel Management (OPM), formerly called the Civil Service Commission, for authority to establish positions for, say, 200 Albanian-moth-control officers. Then suppose the moths were brought under control. Would the slots be abolished? Certainly not.

3. *Inflated grades.* In 1977, the Civil Service Commission—not one of the bureaucracy's most severe critics—found 154,000 workers whose salaries and ranks were higher than their required level of work. The commission estimated these workers were being overpaid a total of about \$780 million each year.

4. *Inflated job descriptions.* Even the smallest bureaucratic unit has at least one person skilled in writing the job descriptions that determine rank and salary. They try to turn typists into "word processors," and elevator operators into "vertical vehicle controllers"—ten-dollar words that produce thousand-dollar raises. An embellished job description can also give an employee the chance of becoming a supervisor with a staff of his own—which means hiring new people. Between 1965 and 1977, the number of GS-13s, the government's first supervisory grade, grew from 65,000 to 108,000.

Reducing all this inflation will not be easy. Civil servants have managed to get regulations and court rulings that make them next to impossible to fire. As one observed, "We're like headless nails. Once we get in, you can't get us out."

The result is a bureaucracy that is not only overstaffed, but overstaffed with unproductive employees who know that the Civil Service's rate of discharge for inefficiency has been only *one-seventh of one percent*. Translated into a small business with ten employees, that's a rate of firing

one person every 70 years; and President Carter's efforts at reform succeeded in improving that figure by only 15 percent.

Probably the greatest obstacle to Civil Service reform is that most people believe "merit" hiring to be better than political patronage. In fact, getting a government job has only the most modest relation to merit.

Veterans get five free points added to their Civil Service exam scores; disabled veterans get an extra ten. For non-veterans the trick is to get their names requested from the OPM by the agency filling the job—and the way to do that is to know someone inside the agency. People already in the system are the first to know about a job opening and can tailor the job description to fit the person they want to hire.

So the Civil Service merit system is actually a patronage system based on friendship instead of politics. Insiders call it the buddy system.

What, then, is the solution? It is widely assumed that a political-patronage system would result in a government run by unqualified people. But might not government jobs best be filled by politicians interested in putting together an Administration that will do a good enough job to get them re-elected?

There are reasons for not doing away completely with the Civil Service tenure system. Continuity is important. So perhaps only 50 percent of federal jobs, as they open up

through normal attrition, should be filled with political appointees who can be fired. Firing permits the hiring of people we want and the jettisoning of those we don't want.

The key here is accountability. If you don't deliver the goods, you can be thrown out. When the Post Office was political, it worked. Congressmen knew that if the postmasters they appointed didn't deliver the mail, the Congressmen would be blamed by the voters. Now they say it's out of their hands. And it *is*.

Congress has surrendered vast powers to independent federal agencies over which it and the President have little or no authority. Bureaucrats in such agencies feel beyond public control.

Recently, for example, the Library of Congress studied federal agencies' compliance with the Sunshine Act of 1976, which was supposed to open up government to the public. The study found that of 1003 government meetings listed in the Federal Register, 627 were either completely or partially closed to the public. One meeting held by the Federal Reserve Board to consider the design of its furniture was closed on the ground that "matters of a sensitive financial nature were being considered."

Bureaucrats aren't accountable to the people because they can't be fired by the elected representatives of the people. If elections are going to mean anything—and they often mean nothing now because they do

not change the permanent government—the Administration must be given the authority to hire and fire not just Cabinet members and agency heads, but enough other officials, high and low, so the President can move the machinery of government.

Power over federal appointments made within a Congressional district should be shared with the Congressman, or with local party officials when the Congressman is not in the President's party. That way the voters will know the Congressman shares responsibility for the performance of federal officials in his district.

With an accountable bureaucracy, Congressmen and the President—because they would share the appointing authority for federal officials working at the grassroots level—should finally be able to overcome the communication gap that can prevent those at the top from knowing what's going on down below, and therefore from knowing what actions to take to meet *the people's* needs and wishes.

Washington doesn't really work. The present system is designed to protect those within it, not to serve those outside. Until we have a government that can control the bureaucracy, we are not going to have effective government.

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500—\$35.00; 1000—\$48.00. Postage and handling charges included in orders of 1000 or less.
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REPRINTED FROM THE MARCH 1981 ISSUE OF READER'S DIGEST
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022228

ID #

JL003-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1Name of Correspondent: ROBERTA MENA☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Re. MARCH 30 day President was shot

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>MICHAEL K. DEAVEN</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>4/23/81^{TR}</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>A^{TR}</u>	<u>8/25/84</u>
<u>ANN HIGGINS</u>		Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>8/10/84^{TR}</u>		<u>C^{TR}</u>	<u>8/25/84</u>
<u>DAVID E. ANDERSON</u>		Referral Note: <u>A</u>	<u>8/10/84^{TR}</u>		<u>C^{TR}</u>	<u>8/25/84</u>
<u>CENTRAL FILE</u>		Referral Note: <u>-</u>	<u>1 1</u>	<u>A-MEN</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5-4-81</u>
		Referral Note: <u>-</u>	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note: <u>-</u>				

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D - Draft Response
F - Fact Sheet

I - Info Copy/No Action Necessary
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Comments: _____

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000 _____

Prime Subject Code: JL 003.01 Secondary Subject Codes: FB 006.01 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

<u>Code</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Form</u>
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 - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 -

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

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- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1981

Dear Mr. Melia:

It was good of you to share your special thoughts with me.

We're all very grateful to have been spared what initially looked like certain tragedy.

The President and Jim Brady and the others are doing very well, and business is returning to normal.

Again, many thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL K. DEEVER

Assistant to the President
Deputy Chief of Staff

Mrs. Roberta Melia
2026 R. St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

April 20, 1981

Dear Mr. Deaver,

022228

I'm sending along my
compelling thoughts the day
after that terrible day.

Incidentally, this was
rejected by the Washington Post
which I now consider a
"badge of honor."

Sincerely,

Roberta Mela

2026 R ST. N.W.

WASH. D.C. 20009

March 31, 1981
Dupont Circle

Today is not Yesterday. Yesterday the President was shot.

I found out when I tried to use the phone, and couldn't get a line. Thoughts of calling the phone company, waiting for service, having no phone and picking up a dead line on and off for the next few days seemed a big bother. There was also the phone bill sitting in a pile on the desk, unpaid. But, that's happened before...couldn't be.

Earlier at lunch, I heard the wind pick up. I looked out the window and saw the force hurl a solid, red metal chair across the length of the terrace as it crashed down on its side at the far end. It had happened before, many times. Boy, those old things were well made.

But now I had no phone, the rain was coming hard and I couldn't go outside.

Suddenly the phone is ringing.

A friend is on the line and we speak:

"I can't get a line. Something's wrong."

"No. Yes. The circuits may be overloaded. The President's been shot. Turn on the TV."

Today, I pick up the phone and the line is clear. So is the day. The wind is still and the red metal chair sits firmly beside the potted rose bush with its earliest, gently fluttering leaves.

Now the spring is so sour.

Roberta Melia
2026 R Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009
387-7474

022885

4200

51 065-01

1225-000

RR has seen

6

The President has seen _____

HB 248 (0430) (1-02104 10 090) PD 03/31/81 0416

ICS IPMBGF WSH

03391 03-31 0347A EST

PMS WHITE HOUSE DC

4-0007328092 03/31/81

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

3036747875 TDB N EVERGREEN CC 25 03-31 1241A EST

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS OUR SCORRY OVER THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF TODAY. WE
ARE PRAYING THAT GOD WILL COMFORT YOU WITH HIS LOVE, GRACE AND PEACE.

MR AND MRS JOHN ^X HINCKLEY, SR

2342 EST

022761

4400

JL 003-01

MG

23 April 1981

Dear Vern:

Your letter enclosing the text of your
speech to the Urban League of Champaign
County, Illinois, was much appreciated.

No one knows better than you what the
President has and is going through because
of the events of 30 March. Therefore,
your kind words hold special meaning for
both President Reagan and myself.

You have our best wishes.

Sincerely,

EDWIN MEESE III
Counsellor to the President

X
Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
President

X National Urban League, Inc.
500 East 62nd Street
New York, NY 10021

✓ cc to Meese
✓ cc with copy of incoming to Richard Williamson

EM:ES:rs(III-A49)

Dear Vern:

Your letter enclosing the text of your speech to the Urban League of Champaign County, Illinois, was much appreciated.

No one knows better than you what the President has and is going through because of the events of 30 March. Therefore, your kind words hold special meaning for both President Reagan and myself.

You have our best wishes.

Sincerely,

EM

cc to Meese

cc with copy of incoming to Richard Williamson

EM;es

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LISLE C. CARTER

Vice-Chairmen

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HENRY STEEGER



National Urban League, Inc.

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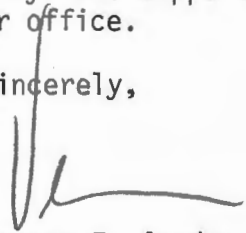
April 2, 1981

Dear Ed:

I thought you would be interested in seeing the text of a speech I am making, since it discusses Monday's tragedy and my strong feeling that all Americans must unite to prevent such incidents from happening.

I know these are difficult days for you, and I want you to know that you have my full support as you deal with the burdens of your office.

Sincerely,


Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
President

Mr. Edwin Meese, III
Counsellor to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

SPEECH

BY

VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.

PRESIDENT

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

AT

URBAN LEAGUE OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

ANNUAL MEETING

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

APRIL 3, 1981

I WAS PREPARED TO SPEAK TONIGHT ABOUT THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND ITS IMPACT ON BLACK AND POOR AMERICANS. I WAS PREPARED TO OUTLINE IN SOME DETAIL JUST HOW DEVASTATING THAT BUDGET WILL BE TO AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN FAMILIES THAT DWELL IN POVERTY.

BUT EVENTS HAVE OVERTAKEN THAT TALK. THIS IS NO TIME TO ARGUE WITH A PRESIDENT OVER HIS PROGRAM. FOR THAT PRESIDENT LIES WOUNDED IN A WASHINGTON HOSPITAL.

INSTEAD, THIS IS THE TIME FOR ALL AMERICANS TO AFFIRM THEIR UNITY, AND TO RALLY BEHIND THE SYMBOLS OF OUR NATION -- THE PRESIDENT, THE FLAG, AND THE CONSTITUTION.

AND THOSE ARE NOT EMPTY SYMBOLS. THEY ARE MEANINGFUL SYMBOLS THAT REFLECT THE REALITY OF OUR PRIDE AND INDEPENDENCE.

IF THE LEADER OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IS SHOT, WE CAN EXPECT TANKS TO BE DRAWN UP IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. WE CAN EXPECT TROOPS TO IMPRISON THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION. WE CAN EXPECT THE NEW LEADERS TO TEAR UP THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION.

BUT LAST WEEK, AMERICA'S RULES PREVAILED. THE VICE PRESIDENT STEPPED INTO THE BREACH. THE CABINET PULLED TOGETHER. THE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONED. SURE, THERE WAS CONFUSION. BUT IT WAS A CONFUSION REGULATED BY LAW AND WITH THE SURE KNOWLEDGE THAT OUR CONSTITUTION IS OPERATIVE AND DEMOCRACY WOULD SURVIVE.

SO EVEN AS WE ARE SHOCKED AT THE ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT WE MUST REALIZE THAT THE SAME FREEDOM THAT SENDS HIM INTO CROWDS AT SUCH GREAT RISK, PROVIDES THE LAWS AND ORDERLY STABILITY THAT PERMITS OUR GOVERNMENT TO FUNCTION WHEN THE WORST HAPPENS.

THANK GOD, THE WORST HAS NOT HAPPENED. THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE WAS SPARED. HE IS ON THE WAY TO RECOVERY. ALL OF US ARE UNITED IN THANKS GIVING FOR THAT. WE PRAY FOR HIS COMPLETE AND TOTAL RECOVERY AND FOR THE COMPLETE RECOVERY OF HIS PRESS SECRETARY, JIM BRADY, FOR THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND FOR THE POLICEMAN WHO WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.

BUT WHY IS IT THAT AMERICANS SEEM ABLE TO BE UNITED ONLY IN TIMES OF TRAGEDY OR CRISIS?

AN EXPERIENCE LIKE THE TERRIBLE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN BRINGS ALL PEOPLE TOGETHER IN PRAYERS FOR HIS RECOVERY AND OUTRAGE AT THE VICIOUS ATTACK ON HIS LIFE.

AND THAT FEELING CUTS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. EVEN THE MOST OUTSPOKEN OPPONENTS OF HIS ECONOMIC PROGRAM, INCLUDING MYSELF, LIKE HIM AS A HUMAN BEING, RESPECT THE OFFICE HE HOLDS, AND ABHOR VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND, ESPECIALLY VIOLENCE OF THE SORT WE WITNESSED IN WASHINGTON.

I WANT TO BACK HIM WHEN I THINK HE IS RIGHT. AND I WANT TO OPPOSE HIM WHEN I THINK HE IS WRONG. I WANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE HIM TO MY WAY OF THINKING, AND IF I FAIL, WANT TO KNOW THAT I MUST RESPECT HIS VIEWS WITH THE SAME TOLERANCE WITH WHICH HE MUST RESPECT MINE.

AND IN A DEMOCRACY, I DO NOT WANT A MAN WITH A GUN TO DEPRIVE ME OF MY PRESIDENT, FOR, RIGHT OR WRONG, HE IS MY PRESIDENT AND THE SYMBOL OF MY NATION'S AUTHORITY AND LEADERSHIP.

AMERICA CHOSE RONALD REAGAN TO BE ITS PRESIDENT, AND ALL AMERICANS WANT HIM TO SERVE HIS TERM IN THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

THE PRESIDENT IS PRESIDENT OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE, AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE HAVE A STAKE IN HIS ABILITY TO DISCHARGE THE FUNCTIONS OF HIS OFFICE. WE ALL HAVE A STAKE IN THE STABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT. WE ALL REALIZE THAT OUR FREEDOMS ARE ENDANGERED WHEN DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE WITH TWISTED MINDS REPLACE THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

AS ONE WHO HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF A SIMILAR ATTACK, I KNOW WHAT THE PRESIDENT IS GOING THROUGH, AND HE HAS MY PRAYERS AND HOPES FOR A COMPLETE RECOVERY.

THE WOULD-BE-ASSASSIN WHO WOUNDED THE PRESIDENT ALSO WOUNDED AMERICA. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK BACK AT THE PAST TWENTY YEARS OF ASSASSINATIONS AND ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATIONS WITHOUT SINKING INTO AN AWFUL FEELING OF DOUBT ABOUT OUR SOCIETY.

IT HAS BECOME A CLICHE TO TALK OF A "SICK SOCIETY" AND PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF THAT KIND OF TALK. BUT AFTER YET ANOTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WE HAVE TO FACE THE AWFUL TRUTH OF VIOLENCE AND MINDLESS BRUTALITY SO OFTEN DISPLAYED IN AMERICA.

WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT PRESIDENTS OF AMERICA ARE GUNNED DOWN WHILE THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN EUROPE AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES ARE NOT. WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT AMERICA HAS AS MANY GUNS AS PEOPLE, WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES DO NOT. WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT OUR SOCIETY PRODUCES MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE ROOTLESS, ANGRY AND ALIENATED, WHILE OTHER SOCIETIES DO NOT.

AND IT IS NOT JUST THIS ONE INCIDENT, OR EVEN THE CHAIN OF ATTEMPTS ON THE LIVES OF AMERICAN LEADERS THAT GIVE RISE TO THIS LINE OF THINKING. IT IS ALSO THE KILLINGS OF THE BLACK CHILDREN IN ATLANTA, AND THE SIMILAR EVENTS THAT HAVE OCCURED IN RECENT YEARS. MASS KILLERS HAVE WORKED THEIR EVIL IN CHICAGO, HOUSTON AND NEW YORK JUST IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

AND THERE IS MINDLESS VIOLENCE IN THE STREETS AS WELL. IT HAS BECOME A PART OF AMERICAN LIFE WE CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT ACCEPT.

ONE WAY TO EXPRESS OUR INDIGNATION IS TO PRESS FOR GUN CONTROL. BUT EVEN A SIMPLE SUGGESTION THAT HANDGUNS, WHICH ARE NOT USED FOR SPORTS, BE REGISTERED, HAS BEEN DEFEATED TIME AND AGAIN.

I KNOW THIS IS AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE. I KNOW WHAT GUNS MEAN TO PEOPLE. I GREW UP IN THE SOUTH, WHERE PEOPLE GO HUNTING AND WHERE HANDGUNS ARE COMMON. BUT SO TOO IS VIOLENCE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE FEARS PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION. BUT THOSE FEARS ARE OFTEN DERIVED FROM AN EARLIER SOCIETY THAT NO LONGER EXISTS. THE FRONTIER IS GONE. WE ARE NOW A MASS SOCIETY, FULL OF THE TENSIONS AND FRICTIONS A MASS SOCIETY PRODUCES. IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT, GUNS ARE GOING TO BE USED FOR PURPOSES MANY LAW-ABIDING GUNOWNERS DARE NOT IMAGINE.

WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY WHERE AN OSWALD CAN MAIL OFF A COUPON AND GET A DEADLY WEAPON; A SOCIETY IN WHICH A HINCKLEY CAN WALK OFF THE STREET INTO A PAWNSHOP AND BUY A DEADLY HANDGUN, A SOCIETY IN WHICH ANY PETTY HOODLUM OR DERANGED PERSON CAN EASILY GET HIS HANDS ON A WEAPON THAT CAN KILL.

YES, IT IS AN INFRINGEMENT ON OUR LIBERTIES TO HAVE ACCESS TO SUCH WEAPONS RESTRICTED. BUT THAT IS A LIBERTY I WOULD GLADLY GIVE UP TO SAVE LIVES. IT IS NOT A LIBERTY ON THE SCALE OF OTHERS WE TREASURE — THE FREEDOMS THAT PROTECT INNATE RIGHTS.

RATHER, IT IS AN EXPENDABLE LIBERTY, ON THE ORDER OF OTHER RESTRICTIONS THAT PREVENT US FROM SHOUTING "FIRE" IN A CROWDED THEATER OR SLANDERING SOMEONE.

PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO DECLARE FOR FULL AND COMPLETE DOMESTIC DISARMAMENT. I KNOW THE OLD LINE, "GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE, PEOPLE DO." BUT PEOPLE WITH GUNS KILL PEOPLE. TAKE AWAY THE GUNS AND YOU DRASTICALLY REDUCE THE CHANCE FOR SUCH LETHAL POSSIBILITIES.

BEYOND SUCH STEPS, WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE OUR SOCIETY LESS PRODUCTIVE OF MISFITS AND VIOLENCE-PRONE PEOPLE? A LONG HISTORY OF FRONTIER VIOLENCE, RACISM, AND MINDLESS SELFISHNESS MAY BE AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM.

HOW DO WE COUNTER THAT AWFUL HERITAGE TO ENCOURAGE TOLERANCE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE? THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS. NO ONE KNOWS HOW TO CREATE A CARING SOCIETY THAT VALUES THE LIVES OF ITS MEMBERS.

BUT IT IS A COPOUT TO BLAME THE VIOLENCE ON ISOLATED, ALIENATED INDIVIDUALS. WE MUST ASK WHY THERE ARE SO MANY SUCH PEOPLE, WHY THEIR SICKNESS TAKES THE FORM OF VIOLENCE AGAINST OTHERS, AND WHAT THERE IS IN OUR SOCIETY THAT ENCOURAGES THIS.

MY OWN FEELING IS THAT A SOCIETY THAT DIRECTS ITS ENERGIES TO SOCIAL JUSTICE, THAT DEVOTES ITSELF TO CARING CONCERN FOR THE LEAST OF ITS CITIZENS, AND THAT DEMONSTRATES RESPECT FOR LIFE BY TRYING TO MAKE ALL LIVES MEANINGFUL, WOULD BE A SOCIETY THAT HAS A BETTER CHANCE TO ESCAPE THE DESTRUCTIVE PATTERN IN WHICH WE SEEM TRAPPED TODAY.

I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT PHILOSOPHY, WHICH SUPPORTS THE URBAN LEAGUE'S ACTIVITIES. TOO OFTEN WE ARE BOGGED DOWN IN THIS PROGRAM OR THAT PROJECT TO KEEP THE BIG PICTURE IN MIND.

WHEN WE TRY TO PROVIDE A HOUSING PLACEMENT FOR A FAMILY OR A JOB TRAINING PROGRAM TO YOUNG WORKERS WE DO MORE THAN PROVIDE A SERVICE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS. RATHER, WE HELP TO BUILD A CARING SOCIETY THAT OPENS DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY. WE DEMONSTRATE RESPECT FOR OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. WE HELP TO BUILD A COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY.

AND WHEN WE ADVOCATE MEASURES BY FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WE ARE NOT ADDING OUR VOICES TO THOSE OF A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP. WE SPEAK IN SOCIETY'S BEST INTERESTS IN ADVOCACY OF PHILOSOPHIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WOULD BRING EVERYONE INTO THE COMMUNITY OF AMERICA'S MAINSTREAM.

AND WHEN WE URGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE STEPS LIKE TRAINING PROGRAMS, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS, OR SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, WE DO IT NOT AS ANNOYANCES TO BUSINESSES THAT OUGHT TO BE CONCENTRATING ON OTHER THINGS, BUT AS FELLOW-CITIZENS THAT SHARE THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S NEED FOR A STABLE, JUST SOCIETY.

WE OF THE URBAN LEAGUE ARE TRYING TO MAKE AN IMPERFECT SOCIETY WORK BETTER FOR ALL ITS PEOPLE. AND WE ARE ESPECIALLY COMMITTED TO A PRIVATE SECTOR ROLE IN THAT EFFORT.

WE INSIST ON STRONG GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROVIDE JOBS AND SOCIAL SERVICES. BUT WE INSIST NO LESS STRONGLY ON PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR SYSTEM WORK FOR EVERYBODY.

I THINK THE URBAN LEAGUE, THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ALL AGREE ON THE KIND OF SOCIETY WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE -- A SOCIETY THAT IS STRONG, FREE, AND OFFERS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL AMERICANS.

WE MAY DISAGREE ON THE MEANS. SOME PEOPLE MAY CHARGE THAT THE PROGRAMS I WANT ONLY LEAD TO TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT AND TO A SOCIETY HEMMED IN BY TOO MANY REGULATIONS. I MAY THINK THAT THE PROGRAMS OTHERS ADVOCATE WILL RESULT IN TOO MUCH MISERY FOR POOR PEOPLE AND A SOCIETY WEAKENED BY CONTINUED INEQUALITIES AND INJUSTICES.

BUT THIS IS A TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON ENDS -- ON AGREEING THAT WE ALL WANT TO SEE AN AMERICA IN WHICH MINDS CAN BLOSSOM AND NOT BECOME DERANGED AND VIOLENT; AN AMERICA IN WHICH A PERSON'S SKIN IS JUST THE COVER OF HIS BODY AND NOT THE CAUSE OF UNEQUAL TREATMENT AND UNEQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

THESE ARE DIFFICULT DAYS FOR OUR NATION, AND MORE DIFFICULT DAYS ARE AHEAD UNLESS WE CAN HELP UNITE ALL AMERICANS BEHIND THE BANNER OF A COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY THAT CARES FOR ITS PEOPLE AND ITS IDEALS.

YES, THIS WEEK'S TRAGEDY CALLS FOR A TEMPORARY TRUCE IN PUBLICLY FIGHTING THE PRESIDENT ON HIS PROGRAM. BUT WHEN IT ENDS, WE WILL PRESS OUR CLAIMS WITH ALL THE VIGOR AT OUR COMMAND, KNOWING THAT THIS IS THE WAY A DEMOCRACY OPERATES.

WE WILL WIN ON SOME ISSUES AND LOSE ON OTHERS. BUT BETTER TO LOSE IN A DEMOCRACY AND HAVE THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOM TO PROTEST WHAT WE DO NOT AGREE WITH, THAN TO WIN UNDER SOME OTHER FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND KNOW THAT OUR VICTORIES ARE EMPTY AND HOLLOW WITHOUT FREEDOM.

WE OF THE URBAN LEAGUE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR PRESIDENT, OUR CONSTITUENTS, AND OUR NATION, TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF BLACK, MINORITY, AND ALL POOR PEOPLE. WE HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO PRESS FORWARD WITH CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS. WE HAVE THE DUTY TO HELP EDUCATE THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL AMERICANS --

AN INTERDEPENDENCE THAT IS THE LIFELINE OF OUR PLURALISTIC SOCIETY, AND A MIRROR FOR AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD.

WE MUST SPEAK LOUD AND CLEAR TO A FORGETTING NATION WITH THE MESSAGE THAT THE ASPIRATIONS OF MINORITY PEOPLE IN AMERICA'S GHETTOS CANNOT BE DENIED. WE MUST NEVER LET IT FORGET THAT BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE, TOO, ARE AMERICANS; THAT LIKE OTHERS, OUR BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS BUILT THIS NATION, MADE IT GREAT, SUSTAIN IT TODAY, AND WILL REBUILD ITS GREATNESS TOMORROW.

BLACK PEOPLE KNOW WELL THAT AMERICA CAN CHANGE. IT CAN CHANGE BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN IT CHANGE; WE HAVE MADE AMERICA CHANGE.

YES, WE WANT AN AMERICA THAT IS CHANGED TO THE POINT WHERE LITTLE BLACK CHILDREN CAN WALK FREELY IN THE STREETS OF THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD IN ATLANTA WITHOUT FEAR. AN AMERICA IN WHICH OUR PRESIDENT CAN WAVE TO FRIENDLY CROWDS WITHOUT THINKING OF DANGER. AN AMERICA THAT IS FREE FROM THE CHAINS OF DISCRIMINATION AND INEQUALITY.

WE SEEK THE AMERICA OUR GREAT POET LANGSTON HUGHES SANG OF WHEN HE WROTE:

"O, LET AMERICA BE AMERICA AGAIN ---
THE LAND THAT NEVER HAS BEEN YET --
AND YET MUST BE ---
THE LAND WHERE EVERY MAN IS FREE.
THE LAND THAT'S MINE ---
THE POOR MAN'S, INDIAN'S, NEGRO'S, ME --
WHO MADE AMERICA
WHOSE SWEAT AND BLOOD, WHOSE FAITH AND PAIN,
WHOSE HAND AT THE FOUNDRY, WHOSE PLOW IN THE RAIN,
MUST BRING BACK OUR MIGHTY DREAM AGAIN."

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