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Series: I: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC FORM LETTERS
SIGNED BY ANNE V. HIGGINS

Folder Title: YA-80 – Hunger/Homelessness in the U.S.
(2 of 3)

Box: 29

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19-80 (Rev.)
AVH-Y80

(ENV)

RE: Hunger/Homelessness in the U.S.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1986 (XXXY80)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern shown by our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system makes so many good things possible. It permits us to keep our commitment to help those in foreign lands who suffer great poverty without detriment to the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able through efficient programs to maintain a strong defense for our nation without jeopardizing programs that exist to assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must provide shelter and nourishment for those who cannot provide for themselves. The President does believe, however, that we must revise or replace programs enacted in the name of compassion that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and drive entire communities into a bleak and heartless dependency.

In addition to the role of government, individual citizens in our nation have the responsibility to provide hope and help to others. In the past few years, we've seen an outpouring of private charity and goodwill. Last year alone, individuals, corporations, bequests and foundations gave nearly \$80 billion to good causes and 89 million Americans perform volunteer work every year.

Unfortunately, every society has its poor and homeless. But no country can match the goodness of the American people who will always reach out to those who are unable to provide adequately for themselves. You may be certain that this Administration has the interests of these Americans in mind and is doing everything in its power to help them meet their immediate needs and to find long-term solutions to the problems they face.

In his radio address to the nation on May 24, the President described in more detail his Administration's efforts to combat hunger and homelessness. A transcript of his radio talk is enclosed for you.

7/22/86

YA-80
~~AVH-80~~

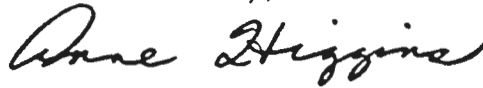
RE: Hunger/Homelessness in the U.S.

2

There is much you can do in your own community by personally reaching out to even one needy individual whom you might see or know about. Your letter shows how much you care, and the President is confident that you can be counted on to do your best to help.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,



Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

(7/22/86)

Mr. Michael Ortega
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Enclosure: 5/24/86 Radio Address to the Nation

9/30/86

Per Chuck Donovan:

The following letters are on HOLD:

AVH-180	YA-58
AVH-223	YA-66
AVH-245	<u>YA-80</u>
AVH-256A	
AVH-276	
AVH-308	
AVH-364	
AVH-405	
AVH-431	
AVH-442	

The following letters are OBSOLETE:

- * AVH-179
- AVH-204
- AVH-250
- AVH-252
- AVH-391
- AVH-404
- AVH-407
- AVH-416
- AVH-426

*The enclosure for AVH-179, "The Fiscal Year 1987 Budget and the Truly Needy," is also OBSOLETE.

Maureen

7-23-87
Per Lil changed AVH-480 to AVH-476
to move letter out. 172 letters were
group changed and put in strip.

To: Lillie

Sincerely
Lillie

OK

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 2, 1987 (XXXY80)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern of our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system makes so many good things possible. It provides so much abundance that we are able to help those in foreign lands who suffer great poverty, without detriment to the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able through efficient programs to maintain a strong defense for our nation, without jeopardizing programs that assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must encourage the provision of shelter and nourishment for those who cannot provide for themselves. The President believes, however, that we must revise or replace programs, enacted in the name of compassion, that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and drive individuals into lives of bleak dependency.

In addition to the role of government, individual citizens in our nation have the responsibility to provide hope and help to others. In the past few years, we've seen an outpouring of private charity and goodwill. Last year alone, individuals, corporations, bequests and foundations gave more than \$87.2 billion to good causes -- a 9 percent rise over 1985 -- and an estimated 89 million Americans perform volunteer work every year.

toward easing

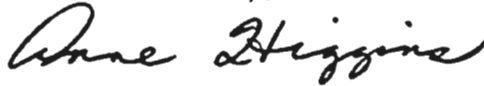
Unfortunately, no nation has been able to solve completely the problems of poverty and homelessness, and our country is no exception. But we can be heartened by the steady progress we are making to ease the plight of those in need. The U.S. Census Bureau has reported that the national poverty rate dropped for the third year in a row in 1986. The 1.6 percentage point drop over the last three years is the largest sustained improvement since 1970. In addition, median family income rose in 1986 -- the fourth straight year of increase. The President has asked the Congress to approve a series of welfare reform ideas designed to help people on public assistance acquire self-esteem and marketable job skills. In addition, the Administration continues to work on effective policies to assist the homeless and to address the root causes of homelessness. Most recently, President Reagan signed into law the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, which establishes a temporary program for emergency assistance in food and shelter.

Americans have always reached out to those who are unable to provide adequately for themselves. You may be certain that this Administration has the interests of these Americans in mind and is doing everything in its power to help them meet their immediate needs and to find long-term solutions to the problems they face.

There is much you can do in your own community by personally reaching out to even one needy individual of whom you are aware. Your letter shows how much you care, and President Reagan is confident that you can be counted on to do your best to help.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Higgins".

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Michael A. Ortega
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

(A)

Beginning of 4th para

Unfortunately, no nation has been able to solve completely the problems of poverty and homelessness, and our country is no exception. But we can be heartened by the steady progress we are making to ease the plight of those in need.

Yes.
paw

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

• August 26, 1987 (XXXY80)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern ~~shown~~ by our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system makes so many good things possible. It provides so much abundance that we are able to help those in foreign lands who suffer great poverty, without detriment to the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able through efficient programs to maintain a strong defense for our nation, without jeopardizing programs that assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must encourage the provision of shelter and nourishment ~~to~~ those who cannot provide for themselves. The President believes, however, that we must revise or replace programs, enacted in the name of compassion, that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and drive individuals into lives of bleak and heartless dependency.

In addition to the role of government, individual citizens in our nation have the responsibility to provide hope and help to others. In the past few years, we've seen an outpouring of private charity and goodwill. Last year alone, individuals, corporations, bequests and foundations gave more than \$87.2 billion to good causes -- a 9 percent rise over 1985 -- and an estimated 89 million Americans perform volunteer work every year.

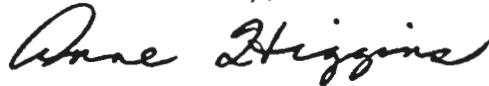
AAA (A) [Unfortunately, every society has its poor and homeless. But progress is being made toward easing their plight. The U.S. Census Bureau has reported that the national poverty rate dropped for the third year in a row in 1986. The 1.6 percentage point drop over the last three years is the largest sustained improvement since 1970. In addition, median family income rose in 1986 -- the fourth straight year of increase. The President has asked the Congress to approve a series of welfare reform ideas designed to help people on public assistance acquire self-esteem and marketable job skills. In addition, the Administration continues to work on effective policies to assist the homeless and to address the root causes of homelessness. Most recently, President Reagan signed into law the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, which establishes a temporary program for emergency assistance in food and shelter.

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With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Higgins".

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Michael A. Ortega
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Check
edits on the
prime

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1987 (XXXY80)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern of our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system makes so many good things possible. It provides so much abundance that we are able to help those in foreign lands who suffer great poverty, without detriment to the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able through efficient programs to maintain a strong defense for our nation, without jeopardizing programs that assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must encourage the provision of shelter and nourishment for those who cannot provide for themselves. The President believes, however, that we must revise or replace programs, enacted in the name of compassion, that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and drive individuals into lives of bleak dependency.

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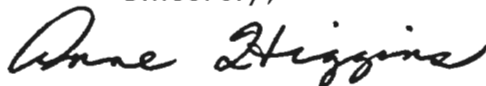
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With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Higgins".

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Michael A. Ortega
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Hunger/Homelessness in the U.S.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1986 (XXXY80)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern shown by our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system makes so many good things possible. It permits us to keep our commitment to help those in foreign lands who suffer great poverty without detriment to the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able through efficient programs to maintain a strong defense for our nation without jeopardizing programs that exist to assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must provide shelter and nourishment for those who cannot provide for themselves. The President does believe, however, that we must revise or replace programs enacted in the name of compassion that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and drive entire communities into a bleak and heartless dependency.

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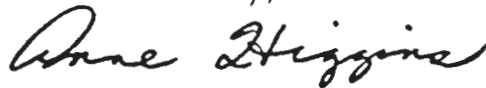
In his radio address to the nation on May 24, the President described in more detail his Administration's efforts to combat hunger and homelessness. A transcript of his radio talk is enclosed for you.

7/22/86

There is much you can do in your own community by personally reaching out to even one needy individual whom you might see or know about. Your letter shows how much you care, and the President is confident that you can be counted on to do your best to help.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Higgins".

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

(7/22/86)

Mr. Michael Ortega
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Enclosure: 5/24/86 Radio Address to the Nation

AVH/CGM/CAD/OPD/AVH

OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE
REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE - COMMENTS

TO: JUDY JOHNSTON/OPD

DATE DUE: open

TYPE OF RESPONSE: ☐ Multiple Mailing ☒ Form Reply ☐ One-Time Reply

SUBJECT: Hunger/Homelessness in the U.S.

REQUESTED BY/ADDRESSED TO: General Public / Children

BACKGROUND: This is a regular subject of children's letters to the President.

SIGNATURE: Charles A. Drown

DATE: 7/17/86

Presidential Messages
Old Executive Office Building
Room 94
(202) 456-7610

Your Recommendation/Comments:

OK.
B. Smith
7/21/86

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AVH/CGM/COO /d

Clear 2 OPD

July 15, 1986

AVHY80

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern shown by our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system makes so many good things possible. It permits us to keep our commitment to help those in foreign lands who suffer great poverty without detriment to the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able through efficient programs to maintain a strong defense for our nation without jeopardizing programs that exist to assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must provide shelter and nourishment for those who cannot provide for themselves. The President does believe, however, that we must revise or replace programs enacted in the name of compassion that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and drive entire communities into a bleak and heartless dependency.

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In his radio address to the nation on May 24, the President described in more detail his Administration's efforts to combat hunger and homelessness. A transcript of his radio talk is enclosed for you.

There is much you can do in your own community by personally reaching out to even one needy individual that you might see or know about. Your letter shows how much you care, and the President is confident that you can be counted on to do your best to help.

With the President's best wishes,

RE: Hunger/Homelessness in the United States

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 15, 1988 (XXXY80)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern of our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system provides so much abundance that we are able to help needy people in foreign lands, without hurting the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able to maintain a strong national defense, without harming programs that assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must encourage the provision of shelter and nourishment for those who, through no fault of their own, cannot provide for themselves. The President believes, however, that we must reform or replace programs, enacted in the name of compassion, that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and promote dependency.

Individual citizens in our nation have always taken the lead in providing hope and help to others. In recent years, we've seen an outpouring of private charity and goodwill. In 1987 alone, individuals, corporations, bequests, and foundations gave nearly \$93.7 billion to good causes -- more than the combined annual profits of the "Fortune 500" largest companies in the United States. In addition, "in-kind" gifts and volunteer services were at an all-time high.

Unfortunately, no nation has been able to solve completely the problems of poverty and homelessness, and our country is no exception. But we can be heartened by the steady progress we are making. The U.S. poverty rate has declined every year since 1983. Although it is still too high, the 1.7 percentage point drop over those four years is the largest sustained improvement since 1971. In addition, at the President's urging, Congress approved a tax reform bill in 1986 that, among other achievements, erased Federal income taxes for several million low-income Americans.

Finally, President Reagan has worked with the Congress on a series of welfare reform ideas designed to help people on public assistance acquire self-esteem and marketable job skills. The President was pleased to sign into law in October a landmark welfare reform bill called the "Family Support Act of 1988." The President also signed, on November 7, a bill authorizing the spending of more than \$1.3 billion over the next two fiscal years

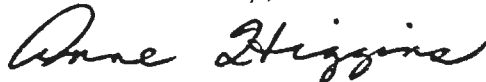
to assist the homeless. This measure ensures that the Federal Government, directly and through cooperation with State and local governments and the private sector, can address effectively the plight of people who do not have shelter.

Americans have always reached out to those who are unable to provide adequately for themselves. You may be certain that this Administration is doing everything in its power to help the poor meet their immediate needs and to find long-term solutions to the problems they face.

There is much you can do in your own community by personally reaching out to even one needy individual of whom you are aware. Your letter shows how much you care, and President Reagan is confident that you can be counted on to do your best to help.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Higgins".

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

(11/15/88)

Mr. Michael A. Ortega
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

AVH/CAD

AVHY80.881110 (new.)

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern of our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system provides so much abundance that we are able to help needy people in foreign lands, without hurting the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able to maintain a strong national defense, without harming programs that assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must encourage the provision of shelter and nourishment for those who, through no fault of their own, cannot provide for themselves. The President believes, however, that we must reform or replace programs, enacted in the name of compassion, that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and promote dependency.

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There is much you can do in your own community by personally reaching out to even one needy individual of whom you are aware. Your letter shows how much you care, and President Reagan is confident that you can be counted on to do your best to help.

With the President's best wishes,

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(San Diego, California)

For Immediate Release

November 7, 1988

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have today signed H.R. 4352, an Act "to amend the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to extend programs providing urgently needed assistance for the homeless, and for other purposes." The legislation authorizes appropriations of \$633.8 million for Fiscal Year 1989 and \$675.8 million for Fiscal Year 1990 for programs to assist homeless Americans. It ensures that the Federal Government, directly and through cooperative efforts with State and local governments and the private sector, can address effectively the plight of those who do not have shelter.

The funds authorized by the Act support a number of major Federal programs to assist the homeless. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds the work of nonprofit organizations and local governments in providing shelter, food, and supportive services for the homeless. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Emergency Shelter Grants Program provides funds to State and local governments for renovation of buildings for use as emergency shelters and for shelter operation. The Department's Supportive Housing Demonstration Program of grants for development of innovative approaches to providing transitional housing for homeless families with children and persons with physical or mental disabilities also will continue.

The Act authorizes funds for a program of particular importance that serves both the medical needs of the homeless and the national objective of a drug-free America -- the Department of Health and Human Services' Primary Health and Substance Abuse Services Program of grants to public or private nonprofit organizations for health and substance abuse services for the homeless.

The Act expands the scope of the path-breaking Job Training Partnership Act in which the private and public sectors cooperate to assist individuals in developing marketable skills that bring economic independence. This expansion of the Job Training Partnership Act should be administered in coordination with the work arrangements of the Family Support Act of 1988 that I signed last month.

Those provisions in this Act that purport to require the heads of departments and agencies to submit legislation or recommendations to the Congress must be implemented in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority and duty of the President to recommend to the Congress from time to time "such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." Also, ensuring orderly and effective representation of the interests of the United States in the courts will require implementation of section 1045 of the Act, which relates to legal representation for the Secretary of Agriculture, in a manner consistent with the authorities and duties of the Attorney General.

RONALD REAGAN

THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 7, 1988.

#

RE: Hunger/Homelessness in the United States

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1988 (XXXY80)

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern of our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system provides so much abundance that we are able to help those in foreign lands who suffer great poverty, without detriment to the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able to maintain a strong and efficient defense for our nation, without jeopardizing programs that assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must encourage the provision of shelter and nourishment for those who cannot provide for themselves. The President believes, however, that we must revise or replace programs, enacted in the name of compassion, that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and promote a bleak dependency.

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Unfortunately, no nation has been able to solve completely the problems of poverty and homelessness, and our country is no exception. But we can be heartened by the steady progress we are making. The U.S. poverty rate dropped for the third year in a row in 1986. The 1.6 percentage point drop over those three years is the largest sustained improvement since 1970. In addition, at the President's urging, Congress approved a tax reform bill in 1986 that, among other achievements, erases Federal income taxes for several million low-income Americans.

Finally, President Reagan has asked the Congress to approve a series of welfare reform ideas designed to help people on public assistance acquire self-esteem and marketable job skills. The Administration continues to work on effective policies to assist the homeless and to address the root causes of homelessness. Steps taken include the creation of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. The Council will report to Congress and the President on further actions needed to find a lasting solution to homelessness in our society.

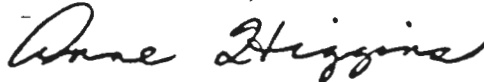
(7/14/88)

Americans have always reached out to those who are unable to provide adequately for themselves. Indeed, the amount of real Federal aid per person below the poverty line reached an all-time high in 1986 -- and it is still rising. You may be certain that this Administration is doing everything in its power to help the poor meet their immediate needs and to find long-term solutions to the problems they face. I'm enclosing some information that describes the President's pro-growth, anti-poverty policies in more detail. I hope you find it helpful.

There is much you can do in your own community by personally reaching out to even one needy individual of whom you are aware. Your letter shows how much you care, and President Reagan is confident that you can be counted on to do your best to help.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,



Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

(7/14/88)

Mr. Michael A. Ortega
Evening Supervisor
Correspondence Analysis Section
Room 60
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Enclosure: "A Union of Individuals"

AVH/CAD/DPC/AVH

AVHY80.880627

Label

AVH/CAD/

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On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for writing to him. The President is always encouraged by the concern of our young people for the less fortunate both at home and abroad.

We are truly blessed here in America because our free enterprise system provides so much abundance that we are able to help those in foreign lands who suffer great poverty, without detriment to the less fortunate in our own country. Likewise, we are able to maintain a strong and efficient defense for our nation, without jeopardizing programs that assist the poor. As families take care of their own, government must encourage the provision of shelter and nourishment for those who cannot provide for themselves. The President believes, however, that we must revise or replace programs, enacted in the name of compassion, that degrade the moral worth of work, encourage family breakups, and promote a bleak dependency.

In addition to the role of government, individual citizens in our nation have the responsibility to provide hope and help to others. In the past few years, we've seen an outpouring of private charity and goodwill. In 1987 alone, individuals, corporations, bequests, and foundations gave ^{nearly} ~~more than~~ \$93.7 billion to good causes -- more than the combined annual profits of the "Fortune 500" largest companies in the United States. In addition, "in-kind" gifts

and volunteer services were at an all-time high.

Unfortunately, no nation has been able to solve completely the problems of poverty and homelessness, and our country is no exception. But we can be heartened by the steady progress we are making. The U.S. poverty rate dropped for the third year in a row in 1986. The 1.6 percentage point drop over those three years is the largest sustained improvement since 1970. In addition, at the President's urging, Congress approved a tax reform bill in 1986 that, among other achievements, erases Federal income taxes for several million low-income Americans.

Finally, President Reagan has asked the Congress to approve a series of welfare reform ideas designed to help people on public assistance acquire self-esteem and marketable job skills. The Administration continues to work on effective policies to assist the homeless and to address the root causes of homelessness. Steps taken include the creation of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. The Council will report to Congress and the President on further actions needed to find a lasting solution to homelessness in our society.

Americans have always reached out to those who are unable to provide adequately for themselves. Indeed, the amount of real Federal aid per person below the poverty line reached

an all-time high in 1986 -- and it is still rising. You may be certain that this Administration is doing everything in its power to help the poor meet their immediate needs and to find long-term solutions to the problems they face. I'm enclosing some information that describes the President's pro-growth, anti-poverty policies in more detail. I hope you find it helpful.

There is much you can do in your own community by personally reaching out to even one needy individual of whom you are aware. Your letter shows how much you care, and President Reagan is confident that you can be counted on to do your best to help.

With the President's best wishes,