

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: White House Office of Records Management:
Presidential Handwriting File, 1981-1989 (COPY SET)

Series II: Presidential Records

Folder Title: Folder 153 (12/18/1984, continued)

Box: 11

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Last Updated: 06/12/2025

281805
F6023

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1984

Dear Ward:

Just a line re your letter of the 13th. We have no plans to terminate HUD. Maybe they are concerned about changes in some programs we question.

I'm really pleased to hear about the new building in the Bronx. This makes it all the more important that we get the House (read Tip O'Neill) to pass the Enterprise Zone program.

Love to you and Dorothy and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

RON

Mr. Ward L. Quaal
Suite 3140
401 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

70 Mr. Ward L. Quaal - 401 No. Michigan Ave. Suite 3140
Chi. Ill. 60611

Dear Ward

Just a line re your letter of the 13th. We have no plans to terminate H.U.D.. Maybe they are concerned about changes in some programs in question.

I'm really pleased to hear about the new bldg. in the Bronx. This makes it all the more ~~extra~~ important that we get the House (Read Tip O'Neill) to pass the Enterprise Zone program.

Love to you & Dorothy & Mary ~~Christine~~ ^{Christine}
Sincerely Ron

The Ward L. Duval Company

401 North Michigan Avenue

Suite 3140

Chicago, Illinois 60611

Ward L. Duval
President

Telephone
312/644-6066

December 13, 1984

The President of the United States
The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20505

Re: HUD and OMB

My dear Mr. President:

One of my most pleasant and rewarding experiences in business is my relationship with David T. Chase, President of Chase Enterprises, Hartford, Connecticut.

You will recall that I advised you that David and his company are now constructing a major unit, sixty-four storeys in the Bronx, almost exactly "on the spot" where you stood in the 1980 campaign and called for "Enterprise Zones." This is the first and only development in the effort to bring "new life" to that troubled area.

Mr. President, David Chase, along with two other good friends, Max Fisher and Al Taubman, of Detroit, have expressed their great concern that the Office of Management and Budget recommends termination of HUD, December 31, 1985.

You know, Mr. President, how very firmly I stand in behalf of your program on budgetary control. I do feel, however, that there are a multitude of reasons why HUD should be preserved.

Los Angeles, California 213/277-9399 714/493-3316

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
December 13, 1984
Page 2

I am contacting Mike Deaver in the hope that somehow your demanding schedule would permit a visit to your office late next week by Max, Al and David.

Mr. President, I will be most grateful for your consideration of these comments and also my feeling that the urgency merits a discussion with these three great patriots who have "stood tall" for Ronald Reagan at all times and who have such profound respect for all you do to strengthen in every way this great land which we all love so very much.

Ron, Dorothy sends her love and from both of us to Nancy.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ward L. Quaal". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ward L. Quaal

WLQ:cacz

End
case
file

EARLE M. JORGENSEN

10650 SOUTH ALAMEDA STREET

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90054

MAILING ADDRESS
P. O. BOX 54633

December 12, 1984

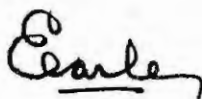
Dear Mr President:

In keeping with the holiday spirit and the warm friendship we share, Marion and I are delighted to send, in lieu of a Christmas gift, a donation in your name to Eureka College. We know this will be meaningful to you and will help further something dear to both our hearts...education.

We are proud of the fine job you are doing; you will always have the loyalty and encouragement of your loving friends.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to celebrating the New Year with you and Nancy. Marion joins me in sending our love to you both.

Sincerely,



The President 16690
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D C 20500

281803

65002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1984

Dear Marion and Earle:

Thank you very much for my Christmas gift. The little college (the oldest coeducational west of the Allegheny Mountains) lives in genteel poverty and recently faced quite a financial crisis.

When I was there, I saw professors go months without paychecks and yet the school made it possible for me and others in those Depression days to get an education even though we had no money. They allowed me to defer tuition until I graduated and gave me a job to pay for my board. You have done a worthy deed and I'm truly more grateful than I can say.

Bless you both and we look forward to seeing you.

Love,

RON

Mr. and Mrs. Earle M. Jorgensen
Post Office Box 54633
Los Angeles, California 90054

To Mr. & Mrs. Earle M. Jorgensen P.O. Box 54633
~~10050~~ L.A. Calif. 90054

Dear Marion & Earle

I thank you very much for my Christmas ~~gift~~ gift.
The little college (the oldest coeducational ~~in~~ west of the
Allegheny mountains) ~~has lived~~ lives in genteel poverty &
recently faced quite a financial crisis.

When I was there I saw Professors go months without
paychecks and yet the school made it possible for me &
others in those depression days to get an education even
though we had no money. They allowed me to defer tuition
until I graduated and gave me a loan to pay for my board. You
have done a worthy deed & I'm truly more grateful than
I can say.

Bliss you both & we look forward to seeing you.

Love
Rae

281792
H0016

Dear John
A Merry Christmas to you
& yours from Nancy & myself.

Sincerely
Ronald Reagan

The E

their
and t

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. President:

Do you want to sign a
Christmas card for John Kehoe?

It's signed.
RR

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. President:

Do you want to sign a
Christmas card for John Kehoe?

*It's signed.
RE*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: *Biff Hendry*

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE
Personal Secretary
to the President

DATE: *12-18-84*

*For your files &
please mail RNs
card -*

Thanks

December 10, 1984

Dear Mrs. President:

My family and I are deeply proud of your magnificent election victory! We know you will lead our nation and its people well in the four years ahead.

To you and Nancy go our warmest best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas, as well as a great 1985!

Sincerely,
John

End
Case
File

4

281800
H 0640

December 18, 1984

Dear Jeffrey:

Your letter has only just reached me, hence, the delay in responding. You brightened my day considerably. I share your feelings about this blessed land of ours and know how trips abroad can stir appreciation for all that we have to be thankful for.

May I say I'm more thankful than I can say for you and your comrades and the way you represent us. Nothing has made me more proud in this job than you young Americans in uniform. I hope you have a happy Holiday Season even though you are far from home. Thank you again and God bless you.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

PFC Jeffrey R. Price, USA
HHC 1BN 33 Armor
Box 748
APO 09091
Gehnhausen, F.R.G.

RR:AVH:NH:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

4 Nov. 1984

Dear Sir,

My name is Pfc. Jeffrey Price. I'm a soldier stationed in Gelnhausen, West Germany.

I'm writing to you to not only voice my opinion but because it's my right in this great country of ours.

I'm just a typical American guy from an uppermiddle class family in Oregon. I didn't have to join the Army. Although I felt that I owed something to my country. I'm no scientist or politician and the Army seemed like a good way to repay my country for all the freedom it has given me.

When I was 17 and still in high school I joined the Army National Guard. After graduation I attended the University of Oregon but my heart wasn't in to school anymore. I transferred to the regular Army over a year ago and was sent to Germany.

I've done quite alot of traveling since I've been here and my tour here has convinced me of one thing. That is, that America is the greatest country in the world and we should never be pushed around by any other country. I am by no means a war monger but I'm willing to go into combat to protect my country or our allies, Anytime you give the word. Of all the places and posts the Army has sent me I've found that more then just a majority of the other soldiers feel the same way.

Someday I want to find a good girl to marry, have a family, teach high school history and acquire the "American dream." Even though, I would willingly fight and risk death to protect my country, way of life, and family.

In closing, I want to say that even though our country is not

perfect, I don't want to see any outside forces try to change anything.

We have a good country, let's protect it. God bless America!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Price.

Pfc. U.S.A.

HHC 1BN 33 Armor

APO 09091 Box 748

Gehnhausen, F.R.G.

L. F. Ford

4 Nov. 1984

DEAR SIR,

My name is Pfc. Jeffrey Price, I'm a soldier stationed in Gelnhausen, West Germany.

I'm writing to you to not only voice my opinion but because it's my right in this great country of ours.

I'm just a typical American guy from an upper middle class family in Oregon. I didn't have to join the Army. Although I felt that I owed something to my country. I'm no scientist or politician and the Army seemed like a good way to repay my country for all the freedom it has given me.

When I was 17 and still in high school I joined the Army National Guard. After graduation I attended the University of Oregon but my heart just wasn't in school anymore. I transferred to the Regular Army over a year

Ago And was sent to Germany
I've done quite ALOT of traveling
since I've been here And my
tour here has convinced me
of one thing. That is, that
America is the greatest country
in the world And we should
never be pushed around by
anyother country. I Am by no
means a war monger but I'm
willing to go into combat to
protect my country or our
Allies, Anytime you give the
word. Of All the places and
posts the Army has sent me
I've found that more then just
A majority of other soldiers
feel the same way.

Someday I want to
find a good girl to marry, have
A family, teach High School History
and Aquire the "American dream."
Even though, I would willingly
fight and risk death to protect
my Country, way of life, And
family.

In closing I want to say
that even though our country
is not perfect, I don't want
to see any outside forces
try to change anything.

We have a good country,
lets protect it. God Bless America!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey K. Piro
DC, USA.

REDACTED

REDACTED

ACTED

REDACTED

R

REDACTED

REDACTED

ACTED

REDACTED

R

REDACTED

REDACTED

ACTED

To PFC Jeffrey R. Price - HHC 1BN. 33 Armor
APO 09091 Box 748
Germans F.R.G.

Dear Jeffrey

Your letter has only just reached me hence the delay in replying. You brightened my day considerably. I share your feelings about this blessed land of ours & know how trips abroad can stir appreciation for all that we have to be thankful for.

May I say I'm more thankful than I can say for you & your comrades and the way you represent us. Nothing has made me more proud in this job than you young Americans in uniform. I hope you had a happy holiday season even though you were far from home. Thank you again & God Bless you.
Sincerely
RR

281790
HVO/D

December 18, 1984

Dear Ms. Guillory:

Thank you for your letter of November 13. It has just reached my desk, hence this delay in responding.

I hope you won't think I'm taking advantage of you but your letter was so forthright and fair, I'm compelled to do a little soulbaring in reply. Nothing has been so frustrating to me in public life as the image that has been created of me -- a false image -- may I say, with regard to my approach to racial differences.

I grew up in an America that had yet to hear the term "civil rights." We lived in a small town in northern Illinois but segregation as a matter of course was in place to almost the same extent it was in the deep south. The only exception was the public school. We were poor but I was blessed with a mother and father who raised me and my brother to believe there was no greater sin than racial or religious prejudice and bigotry. My father being Irish had known and experienced in his youth the bitterness of bigotry. You know, there was a time in this country when you could find signs on certain establishments: "No dogs or Irish allowed."

Well, anyway, in my college football days I played in the line beside a young Black man. We fought and bled together and became the closest of friends, a friendship that lasted until his death just a few years ago. I thank God I was able to have him here in the White House before that sad day.

My first career was as a radio sports announcer broadcasting major league baseball -- the Cubs games out of Chicago. I had no Willie Mays or Don Newcombe to talk about. The Spalding Baseball guide said baseball was a "game for Caucasian gentlemen." I was one of a small group in the early 30's who editorialized and complained that the game should be opened to Blacks as it finally was.

When I became Governor of California, I discovered the civil service tests were rigged to keep Black State employees pretty much at the bottom of the ladder. I changed that. As Governor, I appointed more Blacks to executive and policymaking positions than all the previous California Governors put together.

Now, in my present job, I've continued that practice. We have opened government contracts to minority-owned businesses, and launched a program to preserve the historic Black colleges and universities among other things.

Forgive me for belaboring you with my frustration but please be assured I am and will be a President of all the people. Like you, I don't feel "freebies" are the answer. Equal opportunity is. Wherever in this land someone's Constitutional rights are being denied, it is the duty of the Federal government to enforce those rights at the point of bayonet if necessary. And your friend was right; the first President to do that was Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Again, thank you for writing as you did and for giving me the opportunity to sound off.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Ms. Dorothy J. Guillory
4909 Stacy Street
Oakland, California 94605

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

*and I am not the
RR but looking him a paper and
opposed of course in President's
abilities*

A

4909 Stacy Street
Oakland, California 94605

November 13, 1984

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am a Black American citizen, and I voted for Mondale in the past presidential election. I'm not making these pronouncements to annoy you, but to provide a frame of reference to assist you in comprehending this letter.

Initially, I was overwhelmed with a sense of despair and foreboding at the news of your reelection by such a dominating margin a week ago. At that time, I perceived the American people's endorsement of your administration as an indication that concern for the plight of vulnerable groups in our society is no longer a popular American sentiment. As a member of one of those vulnerable groups, the thought frightened me. I felt that my voice, along with the voices of other Black people in this country, was insignificant and inconsequential, considered more "whining" to be ignored.

Since that time, I have accepted the fact that through the democratic process, you have been chosen to serve as President of the United States, my country, for four more years. I congratulate you on this accomplishment and wish you success in executing the tasks which lie ahead.

Instead of remaining silent, wringing my hands, or discussing the state of the country within the confines of my own spheres of relatives and friends, I decided to shrug off the feeling of helplessness by exercising my right of free speech. I decided to write you a personal letter, conveying my feelings concerning an issue which I feel is of paramount importance.

As you serve as President of all of the people of the United States, please commit yourself to ensuring that equal

President Ronald Reagan

Page 2

November 13, 1984

opportunity for all is not just an ideal state, but a reality.

I am not a proponent of hand-outs or freebies. I firmly believe that in order to build strength, pride, and character in a people, the bonds of dependency must be broken. However, I am just as convinced that self-help and self-sustenance cannot be achieved unless the opportunity to uplift oneself is available, unfettered by the artificial barriers of prejudice, hatred, and discrimination. There are many Black people in this country who live by the credo that they can pull themselves up by their own bootstraps--that is, if a foot isn't on their necks. Oh, I know that all of us have our prejudices and preferences, and it is virtually impossible to change the way each individual thinks about and relates to another. I'm not asking you to attempt such an impossible undertaking. People will have to answer to their maker for the way they treat their fellowmen. But where that prejudice, discrimination and hatred rears its head in a deliberate, systematic manner to interfere with the constitutional rights of others to enjoy life, liberty, and to pursue happiness within the confines of the law, I am asking you to use all the resources at your disposal to stamp it out forthwith!

I was quite concerned to hear the recent news that a Black family was attacked by Whites in an apartment complex in Chicago. It is this mentality, this kind of blind hatred which must not be allowed to fester and grow. America should be a place where people are free to live where they choose, and according to their means. I want to be able to feel confident that my children won't have to refight the same battles which were waged in the sixties to advance, or just to maintain, the civil rights of Black people.

Do what you must do to ensure that all people in this country have the opportunity to partake freely of the Great American Pie. If your conviction to serve as President embraces this concept, then Black people in this country will have nothing to fear during the next four years. Someone reminded me the other day that it was Eisenhower who sent the troops into Little Rock.

I hope many more Black Americans in this country will write to you to express their feelings and opinions. I feel a little better after having done so.

Sincerely,

Dorothy J. Guillory

Dorothy J. Guillory

DJG:dg

To Mrs. Dorothy J. Guillory 4909 Stacy St.
Oakland Calif. 94605

Dear Mrs. Guillory

Thank you for your letter of Nov. 13. It has just reached my desk hence this delay in responding.

I hope you won't think I'm taking advantage of you but your letter was so forthright and fair I'm compelled to do a little soul baring in reply. Nothing has been so frustrating to me in public life as the image that has been created of me - a false image - may I say, with regard to my approach to racial differences.

I grew up in an America that had yet to hear the term "civil rights". We lived in a small town in northern Illinois but segregation as a matter of course was in place almost to the same extent it was in the deep South. The only exception was the public school. We were poor but I was blessed with a mother & father who raised me & my brother to believe there was no greater sin than racial or religious prejudice & bigotry. My father being Irish ~~to~~ had known & experienced in his youth the bitterness of bigotry.

You know there was a time ~~when~~ in this country when you could find signs on certain establishments; "No dogs or Irish ~~+~~ allowed."

Well anyway in my college football days I played in the line beside a young Black man. We fought & bled together and became the closest of friends, a friendship that lasted until his death just a few years ago. I think God & I was able to have him here in the White House before that sad day.

My first career was as a Radio Sports Announcer broadcasting Major League Baseball - The Cubs games out of Chi.

I had no Willy Maye or Don Newcombe to talk about. The Spalding Baseball guide said Baseball was a "game for Caucasian gentlemen". I was one of a small group in the early 30's who editorialized and complained that the game should be opened to Blacks as it finally was.

When I became Gov. of Calif. I discovered the civil service tests were rigged to keep Black state employees pretty much at the bottom of the ladder. I changed that. As Gov. I appointed more Blacks to executive & policy making positions than all the previous ^{LEAHY} Gov's. put together.

Now in my present job I've continued ~~that~~ that practice. We have opened govt. contracts to minority owned businesses, and launched a program to preserve the historic Black colleges & universities among other things.

Forgive me for belaboring you with my frustration but please be assured I am & will be a President of all the people. Like you I don't feel "freelibs" are the answer. Equal opportunity is. Wherever in this land some ones constitutional rights are being denied, it is the duty of the Fed. govt. to ~~go~~ enforce those rights at the point of bayonet if necessary. And your friend was right; the first Pres. to do that was Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Again thank you for writing as you did and for giving me the opportunity to sound off.

Sincerely
RF

End
case
File

282061
RM 020

December 18, 1984

Dear Ms. James:

I thank you for your letter and for your prayers. I believe deeply in the power of prayer not only when we pray for ourselves but when others pray for us.

I understand why you think we come from "opposite ends of the spectrum" and that I don't care for the community to which you belong. I understand, because ever since I've had this job, political demagogues and self-serving spokesmen have described me in those terms without ever bothering to check whether there is any truth in their statements.

Ms. James, I don't think anything has frustrated me so as this false image that has been created. In the first place, I was raised and grew up in poverty. But that didn't keep my mother and father from teaching my brother and me that bigotry and prejudice were the worst sins in the world. And at my age you know I'm talking about a time when no one had ever used the term civil rights.

From my boyhood on, I have been active in trying to right the wrong being done our Black citizens. As a sports announcer broadcasting big league baseball, I campaigned for an end to the rule that barred Blacks from organized baseball.

As Governor of California, I forced a change in civil service exams that were rigged to prevent Blacks from holding anything but the most menial of State jobs. I appointed more Blacks to executive and policymaking positions than all the previous California Governors put together.

And now as President, I've seen that we removed the barriers that were making it difficult for minority businesses to get government business, contracts, etc. We also have done a great deal to preserve the historic Black colleges and universities which have done so much for Black youth and which are now having financial problems.

Please believe that I intend to continue being the President of all the people. I thank you for your generous words and for giving me the chance to state my case.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Ms. Patricia James
Post Office Box 492
West Anna Street
Whitesboro, New Jersey 08252

RR:AVH:NH:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

November 13, 1984

Dear Mr. President,

In the coming months, I ask that you remember that you are the President of all the people. As a black American citizen and from all I've been able to observe and from the media, I happen to be a member of the community that you don't care about. I shudder to think of the reaction by you when it became clear that the black community voted so clearly for Mr. Mondale.

I myself voted very proudly for Mr. Mondale because I agreed to ed with what he stands for. *

Again from the media, you are a kind and likeable person. This I believe because but we are from opposite ends of the spectrum, never the two shall meet, so I'll never know from meeting you.

I live in a small town that you've never heard of. A black community where there are good people and bad ones, young people and old, working people and some that don't, teenagers good and some troubled. I'm proud to live here. I've managed to raise four children on my own since being divorced twelve years ago sometimes having to turn to the system. I'm saying these things so you'll understand that I'm proud to be an American.

And so, Mr. President, I will pray for your understanding for the less fortunate, hope with all my being that things go well in your quest for world peace and that the future will be better for all Americans.

God bless you and keep you in his care.

Sincerely,

Ms. Patricia James

Box 492

West Anna Street

Whitesboro, New Jersey 08252

11/13, 1984

Dear Mr. President, *

AK In the coming months, I ask that you remember that you are the President of all the people. As a black American citizen and from all I've been able to observe and from the media, I happen to be a member of the community that you don't care about. I shudder to think of the reaction by you when it became clear that the black community voted so clearly for Mr. Mondale.

I myself voted very proudly for Mr. Mondale because I agreed to it with what ~~he~~ he stands for.

Again from the media, you are a kind and likeable person. Thus I believe because ^{but} we are from

opposite ends of the spectrum and
never the two shall meet, so I'll
never know from meeting you.

I live in a small town that
you've never heard of. A black
community where there are good
people and bad ones, young people
and old, working people and some
that don't, teenagers good and
some troubled. I'm proud to
live here. I've managed to raise
four children on my own since
being divorced twelve years ago
sometimes having to turn to the
system. I'm saying these things
so you'll understand that I'm
proud to be an American.

And so, Mr President I will
pray for your understanding for
the less fortunate, hope with all
my being that things go well in
your quest for world peace and

that the future will be better for
all Americans

God bless you and keep you
in his care.

Sincerely
Mrs. Patricia James

281937

4000

WE001

PE008-0

PE009

PR002

JV

December 20, 1984

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

I am happy that you wrote as you did and that I have a chance to clear the air. In the recent political campaign, yes, there were people opposing my reelection who charged that I had all kinds of secret plans to reduce Social Security and to do other things to hurt our senior citizens. They were wrong.

We have not reduced benefits in Social Security, nor do we have any intention of doing so. — Nor will we do anything to reduce what you and others now receive from the Civil Service Retirement System. My order to those who are working on a budget balancing program is that we will not reduce benefit payments to current retirement recipients.

With regard to the cost-of-living increase, I believe you are referring to a rescheduling which makes your increase come at the same time as Social Security's. Both were delayed until January, 1985.

I assure you that you will get your 3.5% increase in January, the same as will be given under Social Security. I understand that your own expenses for heat in Wisconsin may have gone up more than that and be a special burden for someone living on \$544 a month, but the cost-of-living increases are based on inflation as a whole. Your increase is not bigger because our economic recovery program has kept overall inflation down, holding down costs for other things you must buy.

May I also say that the charge that the Republican Party favors the rich is a widely believed falsehood. I was a Democrat from 1932 on for 30 years. In those days, I believed the lie because the party kept telling me it was true. I know better now.

Thanks for letting me get this off my chest. Please don't worry, Mrs. Wilson. We are not going to reduce your payments.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mrs. Margaret H. Wilson
Box 211
Benton, Wisconsin 53803

RR/CAD/AVH/efr 12PMNC

841220

Nov. 19

Dear Mr. President:

I'm sure that this letter will never receive your attention but as a very worried senior citizen living on Civil Service benefits because of my deceased husband I am worried and very depressed. I read in the paper where your budget directors are proposing civil service retirement cuts. How much more can I be cut? I receive exactly \$544 a month to live on. Could your millionaire friends live on this - just a bad joke. Could Mrs. Reagan live on it, just another bad joke. And ah yes, Mr. Reagan, my share of my husband's retirement is taxable - and it will go up just like Mr. Mondale said. We didn't receive a cost of living raise last year yet Congress voted themselves a raise. The no cost of living raise was your or your advisors recommendation.

I fully realize the govt. spends too much money but maybe you could cut back on your staff or govt. workers. Of course that isn't going to help unemployment.

I'm not a rash person and it took a lot of nerve to write this letter but this is a very desperate situation for me. I'm living in Wi where we have cold cold weather - the cost of natural gas has gone up, electricity is up, property taxes are up, etc - I could go on and on. I wonder if life is worth living.

Why the arms race???

Who is going to benefit???

What future for my grandchildren???

The Republican Party slogan of taking from the poor and giving to the rich has never changed and never will.

Am I better off now than I was four years ago? Are you kidding? What a joke for some comedians in the future and I'm sure it will

-- I realize that there has to be cuts but why pick on poor widows like me? Why, Mr. President. Maybe Stockman could set up a budget for me and I could turn my heat up just a little so this winter I wouldn't have to freeze like last winter.

Please stop and think of the senior citizens on a low income living before you try something stupid.

I know that this is not the type of letter you're to write to your president but I feel so down and afraid. Afraid of the future and what will happen. Wish that I had some answers -- can only hope that Congress doesn't go along with this.

Sincerely,

Margaret H. Wilson

Box 211

Benton, Wisconsin 53803

11/27/77
CJ
Dear Mr. President: ★

I'm sure that this letter will never receive your attention but as a very worried senior citizen living on civil service benefits because of my deceased husband I am worried and very depressed. I read in the paper where your budget directors are proposing civil service retirement cuts. How much more can I be cut? I receive exactly \$544 a month to live on. Could your millionaire friends live on this - just a bad joke. Could Mrs. Reagan live on it, just another bad joke. And oh yes, Mr. Reagan, my share of my husband's retirement is taxable - and it will go up just like Mr. Mondale said. We didn't receive a cost of living raise last year yet Congress voted themselves a raise. The no cost of living raise was your or your advisors recommendation.

I fully realize the govt spends too

Much money but maybe you could cut back on your staff or govt workers. Of course that isn't going to help unemployment.

I'm not a rash person and it took a lot of nerve to write this letter but this is a very desperate situation for me. I'm living in WI where we have cold cold weather - the cost of natural gas has gone up, electricity is up, property taxes are up, etc - I could go on and on. I wonder if life is worth living.

Why the arms race ????

Who is going to benefit ????

What future for my grandchildren ???

The Republican party slogan of taking from the poor and giving to the rich has never changed and never will.

Am I better off now than I was four years ago? Are you kidding? What a joke for some conditions in the future and I'm sure it will

— I realize that there has to be cuts but why pick on poor widows like me? Why, Mr. President. Maybe Stockman could set up a budget for me and I could turn my heat up just a little so this winter I wouldn't have to freeze like last winter.

Please stop and think of the senior citizens on a low income living before you try sometime stupid.

I know that this is not the type of letter you're to write to your President but I feel so down and afraid. Afraid of the future and what will happen. Wish that I had some answers - can only hope that Congress doesn't go along with this.

Sincerely

Margaret H. Wilson

December 19, 1984

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

I am happy that you wrote as you did and that I have a chance to clear the air. In the recent political campaign, yes, there were people opposing my re-election who charged that I had all kinds of secret plans to reduce Social Security and to do other things to hurt our senior citizens. They were wrong.

We have not reduced benefits in Social Security, nor do we have any intention of doing so. Nor will we do anything to reduce what you and others now receive from the Civil Service Retirement System. My order to those who are working on a budget balancing program is that we will not reduce benefit payments to current retirement recipients.

With regard to the cost-of-living increase, I believe you are referring to a rescheduling which makes your increase come at the same time as Social Security's. Both were delayed until January, 1985.

I assure you that you will get your 3.5% increase in January, the same as will be given under Social Security. I understand that your own expenses for heat in Wisconsin may have gone up more than that and be a special burden for someone living on \$544 a month, but the cost-of-living increases are based on inflation as a whole. Your increase is not bigger because our economic recovery program has kept overall inflation down, holding down costs for other things you must buy.

May I also say that the charge that the Republican Party favors the rich is a widely believed falsehood. I was a Democrat from 1932 on for 30 years. In those days, I believed the lie because the party kept telling me it was true. I know better now.

Thanks for letting me get this off my chest. Please don't worry, Mrs. Wilson. We are not going to reduce your payments.

Sincerely,

May not be
P.O. Box.

→ Post Office Box 211
Benton, Wisconsin 53803

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 12-20-84

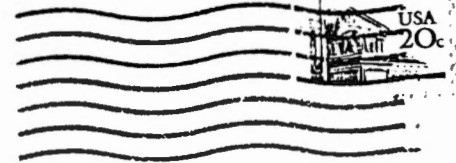
To: K.O.

I had this
rewritten to include
Civil Service Retirement
which is what
she says her husband
had —



ANNE HIGGINS
Special Assistant to the
President and Director
of Correspondence
Room 94, x7610

Margaret H. Wilson
Box 211
Benton, WI 53805



President Ronald Reagan
White House
Washington, D.C. 20515

To Mrs. Patricia James Box 492 West Anna St.
Whitesboro N.J. 08252

Dear Mrs. James

I thank you for your letter and for your prayers. I believe deeply in the power of prayer not only when we pray for ourselves but when others pray for us.

I understand why you think we come from "opposite ends of the spectrum" and that I don't care for the community to which you belong. I understand because ever since I've had this job political demagogues & self serving spokesmen have described me in those terms without ever bothering to check ~~the facts~~ ^{whether} there is any truth in their statements.

Mrs. James I don't think anything has frustrated me so as this false image that has been created. In the first place I was raised & grew up in poverty - But that didn't keep my mother & father from teaching my brother & me that bigotry & prejudice were the worst sins in the world. And at my age you know I'm talking about a time when no one had ever used the term civil rights. From my boyhood on I have been active in trying to right the wrong being done our Black citizens. As a sports announcer broadcasting ~~the~~ big league baseball & campaigned for an end to the rule that barred Blacks from organized baseball.

As Gov. of Calif. I forced a change in civil service exams that were rigged to prevent Blacks from holding anything but the most menial of state jobs. I appointed more Blacks to executive & policy making positions than all the previous Calif. Gov's. put together.

And now as Pres. I've seen that we removed the barriers that were making it difficult for minority businesses to

get Govt. business, contracts, etc. We also have done a great deal to preserve the historic Black colleges & Universities which have done so much for Black youth & which are ^{now} ~~are~~ having financial problems.

Please believe that I intend to ~~to~~ continue being the President of all the people. I thank you for your generous words & for giving me the chance to state my case.

Yours Truly
RR

9. Mrs. Margaret Wilson Box 211 Benton Wis. 53803

Dear Mrs. Wilson

I'm happy that you wrote as you did & that I have a chance to clear the air. In the recent pol. campaign, yes there were people opposing my re-election who charged that I had all kinds of secret plans to reduce Social Security. They were lying in their teeth. We have not reduced benefits in that program nor do we have any intention of doing so.

With regard to the cost of living increase I believe you are referring to a 6 month delay that came about when a bi-partisan govt. commission was put together to save Social Security from bankruptcy. This they have done & the program is safe & sound for as far ahead as we can see. In supporting the idea of the commission I made it plain they must not reduce the benefit payments to the recipients. That is still my order to those who are working on a budget balancing program.

May I also say ~~that~~ the charge that the Republican party favors the rich is a widely believed falsehood. I was a Dem. from 1932 on for ~~me~~ 30 yrs. In those days I believed the lie because the party kept telling me it was true. I know better now.

Thanks for letting me get this off my chest. Please don't worry we're not going to reduce your payments. Sincerely RR