

# 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): Presidential Records  
**Folder Title:** Folder 182 (05/02/1985-05/15/1985)  
**Box:** 12

---

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: 03/18/2025*

335835  
T12123-01

May 85

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_  
335835

LAURENCE W. BEILENSEN  
1946 NORTH GRAMERCY PLACE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90068  
TELEPHONE (213) 467-6479

*Mo B...*

May 3, 1985

President Ronald Reagan

Dear Mr. President:

You were right to refuse to bend to the journalistic outcry against your visit to Bitburg Cemetery. Morally, Christianity enjoins forgiveness. Wise statecraft commands that if we accept the West Germans as a major member of the North Atlantic Alliance, we cannot treat them as pariahs.

The same voices which condemned your visit applauded:

Israel's acceptance of reparations from the West Germans;

Israel's extended hand to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who commanded a submarine in World War II under Hitler;

Nixon's toasts to Mao Zedong, whose hands were still dripping the blood of the millions of innocents he had slaughtered;

Tip O'Neill's visit to Gorbachev, who is still killing the Afghans;

Your prospective visit to Gorbachev, whose predecessors murdered more persons than Hitler.

If a nation is always to be held responsible for past horrors, let us not forget:

That the German pamphleteers first used the appellation "Huns" to describe the French, following Louis XIV's burnings and killings in the Palatinate, where Bitburg is located;

That Cromwell, while ruling England, killed off a third of the Irish;

That Turkey massacred Armenians plus all and sundry;

That from colonial times to the Civil War, Americans held the negro in slavery, not to mention what we did to the Indians.

May 3, 1985

I could go on endlessly. The pages of history are steeped in the blood of the innocents. Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.

We should remember humankind's inhumanity, but not to perpetuate it by wars of revenge. Good morals and wise statesmanship dictated your courageous stand.

Sincerely,

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

LAURENCE W. BEILENSON

LWB:dc

Dictated but not signed

End  
case  
File

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

*Mr. R. G. G.*

May 6, 1985

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on standing by your commitments in Germany. You were superb. History will applaud you in time; most Americans do already.

Love to Nancy and best to you.

As ever,

*Chuck*

(Lydia says the same thing)

Dictated in London  
Typed in Los Angeles

321204

End  
ASC  
File

304138

PR 614-12

#304138



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

CN 360

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

THOMAS H. KEAN  
Governor

RONALD J. FREEMAN  
Executive Director

EDWARD W. BRADLEY  
Chairman

W.R. "SKIP" MONYER  
Vice Chairman

May 8, 1985

Dear Mr. President:

I read with interest and delight the New York Times, " Washington Talk " column of May 6 in which " Reagan's Ant Joke " story was included.

Mr. President, it might interest you to know that I was the originator of that joke stemming from a true life incident of mine. The only difference was that I hit my ball in the rough, landing on an ant hill covered with ants. My golfing partner remarked, after I made one miss, " stop killing those ants " and I remarked, " well, if they are going to get out alive, they better get on the ball. "

Since 1951, when the incident happened, I finished all my speeches to physical education teachers, coaches and other dinner groups with that story and anecdote, " we as educators better get on the ball if we are to get out alive. "

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending me the copy of letter sent to Frank Woodson, Jr. who is making great strides with his athletic injury in the hospital. It was I who contacted The White House requesting a letter to this young man.

Also, I had the honored opportunity to talk with First Lady Nancy Reagan on April 15 in New York when she was honored by the Fitness Foundation. I informed Mrs. Reagan of our role in substance abuse in New Jersey.

I also would like to inform you, Mr. President, that I nominated Mr. Frank Acocella to our Governor's Council. He was the person you met

---

End  
Case  
File

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

RICHARD NIXON

26 FEDERAL PLAZA  
NEW YORK CITY

5-10-85

Dear Ron -

Welcome home!

The real test of the skipper of the ship of state is how he navigates the rough seas - not the smooth ones.

You have passed that test superbly. Your eloquence, grace, + patience despite meddling promotion was an inspiration to all your friends + admirers.

Some of our media "friends" may not agree but I believe history will reward that it was one of your finest hours - and Henry's too -

Smiley  
Rich

#204163

End  
Case  
File

EF

313714  
1110  
FG006-01  
PE009

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 10, 1985

Dear Mike:

*Comments* You know I've accepted your resignation orally, but I suppose I have to put something down on paper -- after all, this is Washington. The only place I haven't accepted it is in my heart, and there I never will.

I've come to the conclusion that Nancy and I will both agree you will bodily leave the West Wing. You will no longer bear a government title. You will not actually handle such things as schedule, trips, etc., but that's as far as we go. You will continue to be a part of our lives. We will have concern -- one for the other, and refuse surgery that would in any way remove you from a relationship that is part of our life-support system. In return, we will continue to be eternally grateful.

Sincerely,

*Ron*

The Honorable Michael K. <sup>x</sup>Deaver  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

*subj: Resignation as Deputy Chief of Staff  
of the White House*

Dear Mike

You know I've accepted your resignation ~~orally~~ orally but suppose I have to put something down on paper - after all this is Wash. The only place I haven't accepted it is in my heart and there I never will.

I've come to the conclusion that Nancy & I will both agree you will ~~physically~~ <sup>bodily</sup> leave the West Wing. You will no longer bear a govt. title. You will not actually handle such things as schedule, trips etc. But that's as far as we go. You will continue to be a part of our lives. We will have concern one for the other and refuse surgery that would in any way remove you from a relationship that is part of our life support system. In return we will continue to be eternally grateful.

Sincerely V-on

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 10, 1985

Dear Mr. President:

It is with sincere mixed emotions that I write this letter of resignation as Deputy Chief of Staff of the White House.

During these four and one half years I've experienced the most personally rewarding and satisfying time of my life.

Probably the most exciting part of this experience for me has been the thrill of seeing you, Mr. President, rise to the great challenges under difficult circumstances and achieve success.

To say I'm grateful for this opportunity falls way short of my true feelings. I'll always remember these years with fondness and pride.

Please remember, I'm always there if either you or Nancy need me.

God bless you both.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike", written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
Received 35

1985 APR 29 PM 6:50

April 29, 1985

NOTE FOR MICHAEL DEEVER

According to past protocol, letters of resignation from Assistants to the President and the President's acceptance letter have been released to the press.

Do you want your letters of exchange released.

Yes   C  

No           

  
David L. Chew

End  
Case  
File

314411

ME 001-0

May 85

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

10 DOWNING STREET

*Dobson*  
14 May

Dear Mr. President,

I was deeply touched  
and most honoured  
to receive your good  
wishes and those  
of Mrs. Reagan on my  
Birthday; 70 years  
is something of a  
land mark in anyone's

314411

Life.  
I send my best  
wishes to you and  
Nancy and hope  
forward to our next  
meeting

Sincerely yours  
Wm. O. Wheeler

End  
case  
File

315542

712125

ARMAND S. DEUTSCH

May 14, 1985

*No Reply*

Dear Mr. President:

The ability to perform well under adverse conditions is certainly a key mark of leadership. Never was this more evident than on your recent trip abroad. My own guess is that after the dust has cleared you will get high marks from almost everybody. The media has always found it very difficult to really lay a glove on you and, while they tried to make a field day of this one, it may turn out to be one of their finest failures!

In the letter you wrote me on the occasion of my 70th birthday you referred to the fact that you and Nancy were proud to call yourselves "long time friends." Harriet and I, of course, deeply reciprocate that sentiment and have never been prouder of it than at this time.

With affection.

Respectfully,

*Archie*

P.S. Thank you, Mr. President, for calling me and writing me about the charitable aspects of tax reform. All of us who labor in these vineyards appreciate your leadership; we would have been in terrible shape without it and the public would have been the losers.

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

End  
case  
File

314 74155  
17R011

My best wishes to Jeane Kirkpatrick and to all of you in the Cuban American National Foundation. Viva Cuba Libre.

Thank you ~~and~~ God bless you *Cuba Si - Castro No.*

~~How about this~~ ↗

? I understand  
this is a familiar  
battle cry for Cuban  
Americans.

case  
File

303895  
12

May 15, 1985

Dear Mr. Whittingham:

Thank you very much for sending me that special issue of Life magazine marking the 40th anniversary of the end of W.W.II.

Let me say first of all that all of you at Life did a magnificent job of capturing the feeling and emotion of that period. I was bathed in warm waves of nostalgia. It goes without saying that I don't want us to have to repeat the experience but I appreciate your journalistic masterpiece.

You were very kind and I'm most grateful.

Sincerely,

Mr. Charles A. Whittingham  
Time and Life Building  
Rockefeller Center  
New York, New York 10020

RR/lme Dictation



Time & Life Building  
Rockefeller Center  
New York, New York 10020  
JUdson 6-1212

303895

31

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

LIFE is marking the 40th anniversary of the end of the World War II issue with a special issue that draws heavily on our rich photographic record of the war and the home front. I have no idea whether it will sell out around the country but, ever the optimist, I am guessing it might be hard to find around Washington.

Here is your own copy, sent with my best wishes. I hope you enjoy this brief trek back into history.

Sincerely,

*Charles Whittingham*  
C. A. Whittingham  
Publisher ✓

April 30, 1985

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO: Anne Higgins

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE  
Personal Secretary  
to the President

DATE: 5-15-85

Can you please have these  
typed for me. Thanks.

314530  
TJL123-01

May 15, 1985

Dear Mrs. McNamara:

I hope you won't mind my answering your letter to Nancy. She asked me to give you her regards but that, since your letter concerned me and our recent trip, she'd let me respond.

First let me express my sympathy for your great loss. I know there are no words that can ease the pain. I wish there were.

In accepting the West German government's invitation to join in an observance of the end of the war, my only purpose was to recognize these 40 years of peace in which our one-time enemy has become a friend and ally at the same time it has admitted to the evil of the Hitler era. I learned that not only have they maintained the concentration camps with museums showing the full extent of their horror; they bring schoolchildren to them every year and impress on them that Germany must never allow such things to happen again.

I'm enclosing copies of the two speeches I made, one at Bergen-Belsen and, then, the one later in the day at Bitburg where our forces are based with the Germans on the NATO line. These explain what our purpose was in going there.

I appreciate very much your writing as you did and so does Nancy. I hope the enclosed transcripts can lessen your concern, which I fully understand.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mrs. Shirley Norwood McNamara  
7 Elmwood Road  
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02192

RR/AYH/DICTATION

Dear Nancy,

You remember me from the summer  
at the Bass Rocks Hunter. I have  
spent summer here and I expect  
it has been

A picture of me in my photograph  
looks like I am and I have seen of  
your daughter

I did try to say I was to go  
when we came to Williams, but  
was not yet near enough to go  
at the time

Our family have been all supporting  
your husband we are proud of all  
he has done

I hope you will understand that  
I have to write, asking him not to  
visit the graves of the men who killed  
my husband and make it necessary  
for my son to grow up and out of the  
Please ask him to reconsider this plan.

Congratulations on your wonderful  
work in Washington and my very best  
for the years ahead. Sincerely,

A MANVILLE CREATION

20031  
U. S. A.

April 18, 1955

Shirley Howard McNamee

Mr. Charles A. Whittingham - Time & Life Bldg.  
Rockefeller Center  
N.Y. N.Y. 10020

Dear Mr. Whittingham

Thank you very much for sending me  
that special issue of Life magazine marking the  
40<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the end of W.W.II

Let me say first of all that all of you  
at "Life" did a magnificent job of capturing  
the feeling & emotion of that period. I was  
bathed in warm waves of nostalgia. It goes  
without saying that I don't want us to have to  
repeat the experience but I appreciate your  
journalistic masterpiece.

Yours were very kind & I'm most grateful.

Sincerely

R.R.

To Mrs. Shirley Norwood Mc Namara 7 Elmwood Rd.  
Wellesley Mass.

Dear Mrs. Mc Namara

I hope you won't mind my answering your  
letter to Nancy. She asked me to give you her regards  
but that since <sup>your</sup> ~~the~~ letter concerned me & on recent  
trip she's let me respond.

I just let me express my sympathy for your  
great loss. I know there are no words that can  
ease the pain. I wish there were.

In accepting the W. Herman gent's invitation  
to join in an observance of the end of the war  
my only purpose was to recognize these 40 yrs.  
of peace in which our one time enemy has

become a friend & ally at the same time it has admitted to the evil of the Hitler era. I learned that not only have they maintained the concentration camps with museums showing the full extent of their horror; they bring school children to them every year and impress on them that Germany must never allow ~~such~~ such things to happen again.

I'm enclosing copies of the two speeches I made <sup>one</sup> ~~at~~ at Bergen-Belsen and then the one later in the day at Bitburg where our forces are based with the Hermanns on <sup>the</sup> ~~an~~ Nato line. These explain what our purpose was in going there.

I appreciate very much your writing as you did & so does Nancy. ~~I hope these~~ I hope the enclosed scripts can lessen your concern which I fully understand.

Sincerely RR

End  
Case  
File