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Last Updated: 06/17/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

Dear Miss Sam and Miss Bertha:

Thank you very much for the belts -- they are beautiful. I'll do my best on the photo but I'm not too familiar with protocol where royalty is concerned. Some diplomat may tell me I can't ask for such a thing, but I'll try.

Now, since you won't listen to me, I'll have to say yes -- Nancy is unchanged -- so 26 is right if that's what you have for her. Now I'm unchanged, but maybe a little confused. My waist is 37½. The belts I have here in Washington (yours) measure from the bar on the buckle to the tip of the belt 40½ -- then, of course, there is the 2 or 3 inches folded under the belt when it's snapped to the bar. Now that's it if I haven't confused you.

Again, thanks and best regards to Buzzy.

Sincerely,

Ronald

Miss Sam and Miss Bertha Sisco
Post Office Box 148
Healdsburg, California 95448.

079867
Co 034-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

Dear Walter:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sending me the messages from the retired Ambassadors. I'm happy to hear that you are on the mend.

I hope you know that, regardless of the press stories, I have not and will not change my position on our long time friend Taiwan. It is true there are those in certain circles who think we must trade one China for another, but I don't subscribe to that. I'll be tactful and try to improve and maintain the relations with the People's Republic of China started by President Nixon, but there will be no lessening of our relationship with our friends on Taiwan.

I'm dropping a line to each of the Ambassadors to that effect. Take care of yourself and, again, thanks.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Walter H. Judd
3083 Ordway Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

WALTER H. JUDD
3083 ORDWAY STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

May 10, 1982

Dear Mr. President:

Here are copies of five letters to you from our Ambassadors to the Republic of China on Taiwan from 1950 to 1979. All of them urge you to continue support of that friend and ally by allowing it to purchase here defense articles for a "sufficient self-defense capability", as mandated in the Taiwan Relations Act.

We know you are under strong pressures to delay, even refuse, such sales. I felt impelled to ask Judge Clark to bring these letters to your personal attention in order to make sure that you have also the judgment and advice of those Americans with longest first-hand experience with that total situation.

Whose judgment and advice, Mr President, is likely to be sounder and wiser?

With highest esteem and good wishes,

Respectfully yours,



Walter H. Judd

p.s

Sorry that hospitalization and surgery a month ago prevented my getting these to you earlier. *I'm almost OK again!*

079867
Co 834-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

Dear Ambassador McConaughy:

Walter Judd forwarded your letter to me and I want to thank you for writing and for your sound counsel.

Let me assure you (the press notwithstanding) that I have not and will not abandon our friends on Taiwan. I will do my best to convince the People's Republic of China that we want to be friends, but we will not forsake one friend to acquire another.

Again, my thanks to you and best regards.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Walter P. McConaughy
1035 Somerset Drive N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30327

U.S. Ambassador to ROC on Taiwan 170077
Walter P. McCaughy
1035 Somerset Drive N. W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30327

April 6, 1982

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

Dear Mr. President:

At this time of considerable anxiety over our China/Taiwan policy, I want to reaffirm my strong conviction that the most honorable and prudent course for us to follow is one of unswerving friendship, encouragement and support for the Government and people of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

As you may recall, that was my policy position (as our Ambassador to the Republic of China) when you made your very helpful and felicitous visit to Taiwan more than a decade ago. The events of the intervening years have not altered my belief in the rightness of that course.

I believe you should know that in 1971 and 1972, President Nixon (in the course of conversations while I was home on consultations) authorized me to convey certain verbal assurances to the leadership of the Government on Taiwan. These assurances were to the effect that impending changes in our Mainland China policy were not intended to harm the Republic of China, and the changes should not be prejudicial to its essential interests.

Building on the enormous reservoir of good will accruing to our country from our vital role in the unprecedented post-war Chinese success story on Taiwan, I was able to use these informal Presidential assurances to good effect in my private conversations with President Chiang Kai-shek and then Premier Chiang Ching-kuo up to the time of my resignation and retirement in April, 1974. The assurances partially allayed their deep misgivings, and stability was maintained despite a long series of humiliating setbacks in the diplomatic and international organization fields.

The affronts to the Government and people on Taiwan which were embodied in the Carter policy reversal of December, 1978 shook the faith of Taiwan in the constancy of its American friend and in American fidelity to long-standing associations and understandings.

Fortunately the action of the Congress in passing the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 did much to limit the damage to our good name. But more needs to be done to demonstrate that our reputation for steadfastness is unsullied. Such a demonstration will also reinforce the already high morale on Taiwan and aid in preserving the present equilibrium in the Taiwan Straits area, which is important to all of East Asia and to our basic interests in that part of the world.

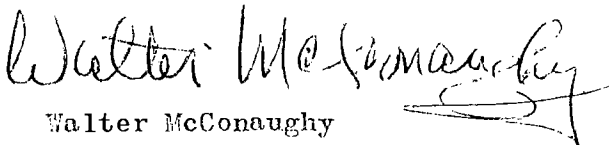
I would recommend as an appropriate step at this time the sale of a limited number of truly modern defensive aircraft with a capability sufficient to serve as a strong deterrent to Chinese Communist pressures. The symbolic and psychological effects of such an action could be of even more value than the direct military contribution.

Certainly we could live with the threats and bluster from Peking that could be anticipated.

Mr. President, I hope that we can make it evident by our handling of the Taiwan issue that we Americans do not fall into the perverse but not uncommon human error of inadvertently choking a small friend while seeking to embrace a large potential adversary.

With assurances of my deep feeling of solidarity and empathy with you, Mr. President, as you lead us through these trying times, I am with great respect,

Cordially and sincerely yours,


Walter McConaughy

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Co 034

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

Dear Ambassador Wright:

Walter Judd forwarded your letter to me and I want to thank you for writing and for your sound counsel.

Let me assure you (the press notwithstanding) that I have not and will not abandon our friends on Taiwan. I will do my best to convince the People's Republic of China that we want to be friends, but we will not forsake one friend to acquire another.

Again, my thanks to you and best regards.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Jerauld Wright
2706 36th Street
Washington, D.C. 20007

202-383-2

U.S. Ambassador to ROC on Taiwan 1703-65

ADMIRAL JERAULD WRIGHT, U. S. N. (RET.)
2706 36TH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20007

copy

January 21, 1982

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

My dear Mr. President,

Because of its importance to our country's security in the Western Pacific, I feel I should express to you my strong support of your announced intention to carry out fully the mandate in the Taiwan Relations Act to "make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability" -- the nature and amount of such assistance to be determined by your administration's appraisal of Taiwan's needs.

As a naval officer, I appreciate the value to ourselves of having Taiwan under the control of a courageous and proven friend, and not under the control of potential foes, such as the Soviet Union or the present government in power in Mainland China. I believe Communist control of Taiwan would endanger the stability of much of the whole area, including free use of the waterways and bases of Southeast Asia whose peoples and governments are already under pressure from both the PRC and the USSR. The Taiwanese are friends in a part of the world where friendships are of vital importance.

It was also my privilege to serve from 1963 to 1965 as United States Ambassador to the Republic of China on Taiwan, appointed by President Kennedy. I was impressed by the resolute dedication of its government and people to policies and relationships, internal and external, in substantial accord with our own. I know of no ally that has been more steadfastly loyal to the United States. It needs now some concrete acts of assistance from us, adequate

202-8333

ADMIRAL JERARD WRIGHT, U. S. N. (RET.)
2706 36TH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20007

- 2 -

but not necessarily large, as evidence that the United States is now and will be in the future a dependable ally. According to the press you have recently given that reassurance. I approve and applaud.

Please accept, Mr. President, my high esteem and good wishes.

Respectfully yours,

Jerard Wright

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982.

Dear Ambassador Rankin:

Walter Judd forwarded your letter to me and I want to thank you for writing and for your sound counsel.

Let me assure you (the press notwithstanding) that I have not and will not abandon our friends on Taiwan. I will do my best to convince the People's Republic of China that we want to be friends, but we will not forsake one friend to acquire another.

Again, my thanks to you and best regards.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Karl I. Rankin
1 Colony Point Drive, #21C
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

U.S. Ambassador to Republic of China on Taiwan, 1950-58

KARL LOTT RANKIN

ONE COLONY POINT DRIVE 21C PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA 33950

Dear Mr. President:

January 12, 1982

My morning newspaper carries a banner headline, "IN MOVE TO PLEASE CHINA, REAGAN REJECTS TAIWAN'S JET REQUEST." We can count on the media to present our policies in the worst possible light, and I trust that this headline is unfair to the Administration's policy. As one who spent over seven years in Taiwan (1950-58), and served as our first ambassador there, I venture a few comments.

Evidently, a decision whether to sell certain arms to Taiwan has both military and political aspects. Opinions will vary as to the need for particular items. Like the United States, Taiwan wants a defense establishment strong enough to dissuade its chief opponent from attacking. Without the United States support provided for in our now abrogated mutual defense treaty, and in view of our Vietnam record, Taiwan may well need a stronger defense of its own.

In any case, neither Mainland China nor Taiwan is expected to attack the other in the foreseeable future. Of more immediate importance than the nuts and bolts of Taiwan's defense needs is to correct the impression that Washington still takes orders from Peking. We are under no obligation to please a regime which remains avowedly Communist, which practically booted out our representatives in 1949, killed and wounded thousands of American soldiers in Korea, and would make a deal with the Russians against us tomorrow, if it suited their convenience. Fortunately, they need us far more than we need them.

The Republic of China represents an outstanding example of the success of our aid programs in fostering prosperity, democracy and freedom. I am hopeful that ways will be found to end any idea that we still take orders from Peking, and to confirm our loyalty to an old and trusted ally.

President Ronald Reagan

Washington, D. C.

Sincerely,

Karl I Rankin
Ambassador of the U.S.A.
Retired*1 Colony Pt. Drive
21C
Punta Gorda Fla. 33950*

079867
CO 034-01

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

Dear Ambassador Unger:

Walter Judd forwarded your letter to me and I want to thank you for writing and for your sound counsel.

Let me assure you (the press notwithstanding) that I have not and will not abandon our friends on Taiwan. I will do my best to convince the People's Republic of China that we want to be friends, but we will not forsake one friend to acquire another.

Again, my thanks to you and best regards.

Sincerely,
RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Leonard Unger
2209 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

NOTE FROM
LEONARD UNGER - continued

TO

page 2

cision, however reluctantly, if this long-delayed action is taken now in fulfillment of an American commitment of much earlier date.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Leonard Unger

LEONARD UNGER,
U.S. Ambassador (ret.)

US Ambassador to ROC on Taiwan, 1974-78

NOTE FROM
LEONARD UNGER

January 11, 1982

TO

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Dear Mr. President,

Among the many perplexing problems you face today one of the most troubling, I feel sure, is the question of whether or not to provide to Taiwan the arms and military spare parts for which the leaders of the Government in Taipei have been pressing.

Several months ago I put down a few thoughts on this and related subjects and sent them in a letter to the New York Times; a copy of the published letter is enclosed. May I urge you at this time, specifically, to carry through the commitment made some years ago to offer to Taiwan a follow-on aircraft in the form of a modest upgrading of the F-5E.

I attach the same importance which I am sure you do to our developing relations with the People's Republic of China but I believe that the Government in Peking should be ready to accept our de-

*2204 MASS. AVE.
LEXINGTON, MASS
02173*

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

Dear Ambassador Drumright:

Walter Judd forwarded your letter to me and I want to thank you for writing and for your sound counsel.

Let me assure you (the press notwithstanding) that I have not and will not abandon our friends on Taiwan. I will do my best to convince the People's Republic of China that we want to be friends, but we will not forsake one friend to acquire another.

Again, my thanks to you and best regards.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Everett F. Drumright
16418 Martincoit Road
Poway, California 92064

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Y

US Ambassador to ROC on Taiwan, 1958-62

February 8, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Reagan:

Take it from an "Old China Hand" of 50 years, the Chinese Communists, Teng Hsiao-ping included, born in the Communist womb of Marxism-Leninism, are no friends or potential allies of ours. They are devious, unreliable, opportunistic and even treacherous as history testifies. Witness even today their failure to indict Communist repression in Poland, their continued connections with Communist guerrilla forces in Southeast Asia, and their continued attempts to assert leadership of third world nations. And this, of course, pales against the backdrop of Korea and Vietnam where they either fought us head-to-head or actively aided our other enemies.

I am impelled to write to you, Mr. President, because Secretary Haig was quoted in last weekend's press as saying "extremely serious discussions" are under way with Peking over the Taiwan issue and he is "not in a position to predict the outcome".

All this suggests that the Chinese Communists continue to play wily games with us, using the Soviet threat as a lever to separate us finally and completely from Taiwan. In my book, such crude pressure is utterly impermissible and would in no way redound to our benefit. It would really amount to dumping one of the most successful experiments in freedom in East Asia, violating our own law (the Taiwan Relations Act), and going against the grain of most Americans who want a free Taiwan. Moreover, in terms of defense, we would be giving up the equivalent of several aircraft carriers and creating further instability in the Western Pacific.

Although clearly you are being subjected to various pressures to submit to Peking's outrageous demands, I am confident that you will give a clear rebuff. In this way you will justify the confidence of those Americans who elected you to your high office.

Sincerely,

Everett F. Drumright
Ambassador, Republic of China, 1958-62

16418 MARTINCOIT RD.
POWAY, CALIF. 92064

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PR 007-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

Dear Betty:

It was good to see you and Al, and I enjoyed the visit very much so don't have any worries.

I'm glad the tour worked out. Now you've both done something I haven't done -- visited the Washington monument. All I can do is look at it out the window.

Nancy sends her best, and give my regards to Al.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mrs. A. S. Meyers
695 South Eliseo Drive
Greenbrae, California 94904

8-20520

Miss Sam & Miss Barbara Lisco P.O. Box 148
Haddelsey Calif. 95448

Dear Miss Sam & Miss Barbara

Thank you very much for the belts - they are beautiful. I'll do my best on the photo but I'm not too familiar with ~~formal~~ protocol where regality is concerned. Some diplomat may tell me I can't ask for such a thing but I'll try.

Now since you won't listen to me I'll have to say yes Nancy is unchanged so 26 is right if that's what you have for her. Now I'm unchanged but maybe a little confused. My waist is $37\frac{1}{2}$. The belt I have here in Wash. (yours) measure from the ear on the ~~back~~ ^{waist} to the tip of the belt $40\frac{1}{2}$ - then of course there is the 2 or 3 inches folded under the belt when it's snapped to the ear. Now that's it if I haven't confused you.

Again I thank & best regards to Buzzy.

Samuel R

To the Hon. Walter H. Judd 3083 Ordway St. N.W.
Wash. D.C. 20008

Dear Walter

Thank you very much for your letter & for sending me the messages from the retired Ambassadors. I'm happy to hear that you are on the mend.

I hope you know that regardless of the press stories, I have not & will not change my position on our long time friend Taiwan. It is true there are those in certain circles who think we must trade one China for another but I don't subscribe to that. I'll be tough & try to improve & maintain the ^{with the P.R.C.} relations ~~with the P.R.C.~~ ^{BY P.R.C.} ~~with the P.R.C.~~ ^{BUT} there will be no lessening of our relationship with our friends on Taiwan.

I'm dropping a line to each of the Ambassadors to that effect. Take care of yourself & again thanks.

Samuel R

(over)

Send this letter to each of the 5
former Ambassadors.

Dear ~~Mr~~ Ambassador — — —

Walter Judd forwarded your letter to me
and I want to thank you for writing & for your
sound counsel.

Let me assure you (the press notwithstanding)
that I have not & will not abandon our friends
on Taiwan. I will do my best to convince the
P.R.C. that we want to be friends but we will
not forsake one friend to acquire another.

Again my thanks to you.

Best regards

RR

To Mrs. A. S. Meyers 695 South Elgin Dr.
Glendale Calif. 94004

Dear Betty

It was good to see you & Al and I enjoyed the
visit very much so don't have any worries.

I'm glad the tour worked out. Now you've
both done something I haven't done — visited the
Wash. monument. All I can do is look at it out
the window.

Nancy sends her best and give my regards
to Al.

Sincerely

RR

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

Dear Clymer:

I've just received a copy of your letter with the attached news articles and must tell you I'm very distressed. Yes, there is undermining of my efforts going on and, yes, there is sabotage of all I'm trying to accomplish. But it's being done by the people who write these articles and columns, not by any White House staff member and certainly not by Jim Baker.

Some in the media delight in trying to portray me as being manipulated and lead around by the nose. They do so because they are opposed to everything this administration represents. I could show you similar stories with only the name changed -- stories in which other staff or cabinet members are named instead of Jim Baker. Don't join that group Clymer -- you are helping them with their sabotage.

Clymer I'm in charge and my people are helping to carry out the policies I set. No, we don't get everything we want and, yes, we have to compromise to get 75% or 80% of our programs. We try to see that the 75% or 80% is more than worth the compromise we have to accept. So far it has been.

- 2 -

There has not been one single instance of Jim Baker doing anything but what I've settled on as our policy. He goes all out to help bring that about. I'm enclosing an article in this week's U.S. News & World Report. It is an interview with Paul Laxalt who remains as solid in his convictions as he has always been. Please note his comment regarding Jim Baker.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Mr. Clymer L. Wright, Jr.
7333 Harwin, Suite 115
Houston, Texas 77036

RR pers. dict.
RR:KO

To Clymer L. Wright Jr. ~~Room~~ 7333 Harwin Suite #115
Houston Texas 77036

Dear Clymer

I've just received a copy of your letter with the attached news articles and must tell you I'm very distressed. Yes there is undermining of my efforts going on and yes there is sabotage of all I'm trying to accomplish. But it's being done by the people who write these articles & columns not by any White House staff member and certainly not by Jim Baker.

~~There is no such thing as the press~~

Some in the media delight in trying to portray me as being manipulated & led around by the nose. They do so because they are opposed to everything this admin. represents. I could show you similar stories ~~to~~ with only the name changed. Stories in which other staff or cabinet members are named instead of Jim Baker. Don't join that group Clymer - you are ~~being~~ helping them with their sabotage.

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There has not been one single instance of Jim Baker doing anything but what I've settled on as our policy. He goes all out to help bring that about. I'm enclosing an article in this week's "U.S. News & World Report". It is an interview with Paul Laxalt who remains as solid in his convictions as he has always been. Please note his comment re - Jim Baker.

~~Very truly~~

Sincerely

RR

Interview With Senator Paul Laxalt

A President Under Fire— View of a Close Friend

How is Reagan bearing up in a period of crisis both at home and abroad? Does he get discouraged, worry about the polls, the fall elections, a second term in 1984? One of his oldest confidants in Washington gives a rare glimpse of the nation's Chief Executive in private moments.

Q Senator Laxalt, you're known as the President's closest friend in Congress. Just how much does he confide in you?

A We're in regular communication by telephone, and I go down to the White House for lunch from time to time. Sometimes I think I spend more time there than on Capitol Hill. They kid me down there that I'd better get a cot at the White House.

Our conversation isn't always heavy. We're just a couple of old buddies. I was governor of Nevada when he was governor of California. We've been together for many years, and we approach issues in basically the same manner.

Q Is Reagan discouraged as problems continue to pile up during this second year in office?

A It is absolutely amazing, but he's not. He continues to be supremely optimistic about the future. He has such great faith in the essence of his programs and feels it is just going to take some time to turn things around.

Q What about his drop in the public-opinion polls?

A He isn't overly worried about that, either. He understands it is part of the business he's in. Most of us understand that the second year is usually a slump year. In his case, it is particularly true because of the recession.

So he's aware but not upset that his personal popularity has come down. His concern now is how this will affect the Republican Party in the November elections.

Q Have you warned the President about the danger of heavy GOP losses this fall?

A Oh, yes. A lot of us have told him we could have difficulties if we don't get interest rates down and the economy continues in the doldrums. We've told him that unless things change for the better, the next two years could be long and miserable for Ronald Reagan.

But there's good news, too. Of our 12 Senate incumbents up for re-election this year, almost all appear to be in good shape, according to a recent poll we received.

Q Critics say Reagan is a stubborn ideologue. Is he flexible enough to adjust to the realities of domestic and foreign affairs?

A Sure. I think he has demonstrated that in the negotiations over the budget package. A lot of people cast him in this process as being standoffish and stubborn. But he was just waiting until something was laid before him.

On foreign affairs, he changed his mind and asked for a summit meeting with Soviet President Brezhnev. I personally wish he had done it last year.

Q Do you agree with those who say that too many Republicans in Congress show a lack of discipline by failing to support Reagan?

A I don't think that's totally accurate. I don't like the word *discipline*. I prefer to think in terms of loyalty. After all, the Congress should be independent.

Ron Reagan hasn't lost a single major initiative on our side yet. So I think you are hearing some complaints about policy differences, but it doesn't mean the Republicans won't be there when he needs them.



I do think you need some guidelines on loyalty. If someone sees fit to stray off and do his own thing, then he shouldn't look for help and support from the administration. Lyndon Johnson and Harry Truman certainly understood that game. Recently, we've become so sophisticated that no one knows what the guidelines are.

Q Is the President well served by his staff? There seems to be more disagreement and backbiting—

A There is always some backbiting, whether it is a state capital or the White House. That's part of the ball game.

The President hardly says a word about it—even over criticism from Republicans. There's no one in the world who is less of a headhunter than Ronald Reagan. In fact, he usually extends an olive branch to the complainers.

Q Did Reagan make a mistake and fill too many administration posts with moderates rather than conservatives?

A I hear this all the time—mostly from my fellow conservatives: "You've surrounded the President with all those moderates."

But look at the White House. I don't think you can find anybody better than Jim Baker as chief of staff. He's extremely loyal and an extremely competent man. You've got Mike Deaver, Ed Meese, Helene Von Damm, Ed Rollins, and Bill Clark has come in to help.

Certain elements of the right wing would never be happy unless you conform to the 100 percent litmus test. I just ask them to demonstrate to me where these people have been disloyal. They can't.

Q What about Vice President Bush?

A He's just been marvelous—supportive, low-key and handling his responsibilities in the Senate extremely well. If we made a right judgment in that convention, it was the selection of George Bush.

Q In your opinion, do you think that Reagan will run for a second term?

A I hope so. I think it has always been in his framework that he can't begin to do this job in four years and it has to be an eight-year shift.

I spend a lot of time with him. He's upbeat. I've never seen him depressed. He loves Camp David. After the shooting, it was a little tough. But he's in marvelous shape, and he really enjoys what he's doing.

Q What's the best single piece of advice you can offer your friend in the White House?

A Talk to the people, and as often as possible. I've been encouraging him for weeks and months, maybe to the point of being a nuisance, that he ought to get off the bench more and on the field. We've got the greatest communicator. Let's use him.

In the campaign, some worried that we would overexpose him. Overexposing Ronald Reagan as President is like overexposing Bo Derek. It is just not going to happen.

He's got to use the media—more particularly radio and television—to tell the people his side of the story. 11

May 14, 1982

Dear Friend of Ronald Reagan:

Our beloved President today stands alone under siege. His economic program is being undermined by White House Chief of Staff James Baker.

Examples of Mr. Baker's methods can be seen in the enclosed article published last December in the New York Post under the heading "Political Treachery in the White House"; this undermining of Reaganomics continues, in the enclosed Evans and Novak column "The Turning of the President" published April 23rd in the Washington Post. Please stop and read these two articles before proceeding.

Similar articles and comments are appearing with alarming frequency and this matter is a major topic of many private discussions, especially among President Reagan's long-time supporters in and out of Washington.

The result of this undermining is to create the image of Ronald Reagan as a vacillating President who can't formulate a program and stick to it. "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle."

Years of effort and hope helped to elect Ronald Reagan in 1980...and millions of Americans rejoiced that we now had our greatest opportunity to re-direct America on a true, bold course into the next century. And Ronald Reagan himself appears strongly and courageously committed to that course, maintaining the principles we support--a truly remarkable man.

But his image is being daily blurred and distorted, and his firmly stated, well-known principles are being consistently undermined and compromised by White House Staffers and spokesmen, constantly bargaining, hinting, explaining, re-stating and questioning the President's most basic policies. It is easy to see why media, international leaders, businessmen and the "average" American are uncertain about the outcome of his programs.

Quietly, steadily, the picture is forming of an amiable, uninformed, lazy, slightly confused politician...a far cry from the genuine, courageous statesman we know Ronald Reagan to be.

A failed economic program, an ambiguous social program, a deferred defense program, an uncertain foreign policy...any or all of these can demolish our nation's greatest opportunity for recovery. And history may well record a one-term Reagan administration as a bland, well-intentioned but ineffective interim between the disastrous Carter presidency and whatever comes next.

Why is this happening? What are the political qualifications of Mr Baker that embolden him to adopt the usurper's role?

He managed the 1976 Gerald Ford campaign which lost to Jimmy Carter.

He lost his own race for Texas Attorney General in 1978.

He managed George Bush's losing bid for the 1980 Republican nomination in a campaign that termed Ronald Reagan's program "voodoo economics".

And what is his expertise in economics that convinces him that President Reagan's program won't work? Why does he blame the recession on deficits when deficits always accompany a recession? Why does he advocate a tax raise during a recession?

Why do his allies in the Office of Management and Budget make five year projections that are not helpful to the success of the President's program? Normally the O.M.B. is supportive of a President's program in its projections.

A friend of mine in Washington told me this week, "Everybody in town knows that James Baker is working with Republican leaders in the Senate at cross-purposes with the President's economic program". In fact most of the President's opposition has come not from the media and Democrats as most suspect but from James Baker and Senate Republicans.

What chance does the President have of presiding over a successful administration in the midst of such disloyalty? None, I fear.

Although the situation is bleak, Ronald Reagan has faced such situations before and he has come away with victory at those times when he (1) ignored his advisors or (2) fired his advisors, and followed his own instincts. His instinctive concepts and policies are a large part of his appeal to the American public.

Following a string of early losses in the 1976 primaries, Mr. Reagan disregarded his advisors and roared to victory in North Carolina and Texas, stunning the incumbent president.

During the 1980 race, he ignored his advisors and agreed to debate Jimmy Carter - a decision that landed him in the White House.

After his disastrous loss in the 1980 Iowa caucus, he met his campaign staff in Chicago and personally took charge. He fired John Sears the day of the New Hampshire Primary and began his successful march to the nomination.

The situation in the White House today is Iowa revisited.

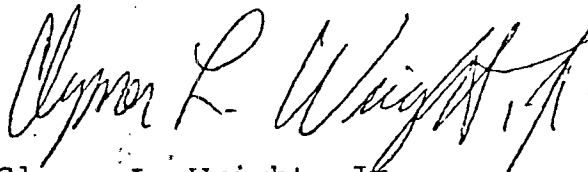
NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE ACTION! Now is the time for Ronald Reagan to ask James Baker for his resignation. Now is the time to replace James Baker with someone who is loyal to Ronald Reagan personally and to his programs. Now is the time for the man we elected to assume command of his own administration. It is essential that his key staff be philosophically in tune with the President; Mr Baker obviously is not.

It is vital that the President know what his key supporters think about this matter.

Please write to me TODAY and give me your answer to the question "SHOULD PRESIDENT REAGAN FIRE JAMES BAKER?"

All replies will be held in confidence.

Sincerely,



Clymer L. Wright, Jr.
1980 Texas Finance Chairman
Reagan for President
7333 Harwin Suite #115
Houston, Texas 77036

Rowland Evans

And Robert Novak

The Turning Of the President

Ronald Reagan, shielded from contamination by outside advisers for well over a month, reappeared before his congressional leaders April 20 looking like just another president. In embracing the compromise budget package shaped by White House chief of staff James Baker during discussions with congressional Democrats, President Reagan was following the trail blazed by his predecessors: futile bipartisan attempts to balance the budget by cutting defense spending and increasing taxes.

Rep. Jack Kemp, chairman of the House Republican Conference and the only dissenter that day among the GOP congressional chieftains, suggested the package was a terrible bargain for their party that would not be acceptable to rank-and-file members. His prophecy was fulfilled the next day when the conference shouted rowdy opposition to Baker's bargain. Actually, Democratic reluctance to accept anything less than a ripping apart of the Reagan tax cut (still resisted by the president) probably dooms the Baker package anyway. Nevertheless, the nature of Reagan's presidency has been subtly altered. He has shown for the first time a willingness to abandon deeply held principle for what the conventional wisdom perceives as something that will work.

This is a new triumph in the remarkable career of Jim Baker, who twice managed campaigns to keep Reagan from the presidential nomination and

then wound up managing Reagan administration policy. Since last September, he has stubbornly pressed upon a resisting president the doctrine of budget director David Stockman that only tax increases and defense cuts can cure the economy.

Baker's campaign for the last six weeks has quarantined the president from the likes of Kemp. Sen. William Roth somehow could not get time with the president for himself and 18 other Republican senators to pledge their loyalty to his tax program. Requests to see Reagan by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce were ignored by the president's senior staff.

The several dissenters on the White House staff, appalled at what was happening under Baker's direction, saw the president surrounded and pressured. They could not get word to him. Thus, Reagan tacitly approved Baker's package, repudiating the president's own principles and promises by advocating a surtax on "wealth," a doubled federal gasoline tax, deep defense cuts and reduced Social Security payments. Only Kemp protested at the April 20 meeting. But the next day showed that he was in closer touch with the House rank and file than his colleagues in the leadership. Such junior Republicans as Reps. Dan Lungren and William Dannemeyer of California and Newton Gingrich of Georgia opposed the shape of the emerging compromise at the House Republican Conference, producing cheers and applause.

Indeed, opposition to the surtax and higher gasoline taxes is so intense that the package would be supported by scarcely more than 70 out of 192 Republican House members. The regular Republican leadership in Congress, accustomed to both defeat and respectability, has insisted a deal with Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill is essential, even if the price is high. In permitting himself to be maneuvered into that posture, Reagan has followed an undistinguished presidential pattern.

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Political treachery in the White House

The conduct of President Reagan's chief advisers on questions about their political loyalty, about the way the White House is being run, and about the sense of collective responsibility which the President's chief advisers owe him.

Nowhere is this more clear than in the vexed area of whether tax increases should be imposed in next year's budget as a means of reducing future deficits.

Clearly the President and the majority of his economic advisers are against this course.

Managed leaks

Equally clearly the White House chief of staff James Baker, and the already discredited Budget Director, David Stockman, are for it. And, it seems, no matter what the President decides, they are determined, like querulous children, to get their own way, even to the extent of orchestrating damaging media leaks diluting the strength of the President's determination.

Take, for example the events just before Christmas. Reagan instructed Baker to announce that he was not prepared to countenance tax increases, selective or otherwise. Straightforward enough, you would think? Not so. Baker briefed his acolyte, White House communications director David R. Gergen, to add the following cryptic paragraph to what should have been an unequivocal announcement:

"It may be that proposals for selective tax increases . . . that would not conflict with the stimulative nature of his economic program will be presented by him to his advisers or by others, including the leaders of Congress."

That sounds and reads more like an attempt by the conspirators to prevail than a signal that all the President's men are now in accord.

Figure fiddling

How many times must Baker and Stockman be told the President's policy by the President himself before they stop leading to his demagogic opponents their distorted versions of what should be a confidential process?

The stratagems Baker and Stockman have been using to persuade Reagan he is wrong have been exposed here before. The pair simply fiddled with the basic assumptions of projected real growth and inflation to portray such soaring budget deficits that Reagan would have to capitulate.

Reagan has persistently refused to do so and, in the process, has been virtually unanimously supported by his economic advisers. This, specifically, was the position of those advisers at a White House meeting on Dec. 10.

It was not the position which Baker and Gergen leaked to "trusted" reporters. Indeed, the *New York Times* re-

port of the Baker-Gergen version was that "the more traditional economists" urged Reagan to increase taxes. In fact, only the long-retired Arthur Burns and Herbert Stein did so; all the others were opposed.

Reagan took the first opportunity to correct this distortion at his Dec. 18 press conference, saying:

"I sure can promise the American people that . . . I have no plans for increasing taxes in any way."

Not a man to give up easily, Baker promptly retallied. Within minutes, he instructed White House spokesman Larry Speakes to announce that Reagan had not meant what he said and did not mean to rule out all forms of "revenue enhancement" — a dreadful euphemism for tax increases.

Outright lies

What a treacherous masquerade! What a revelation of disloyalty! What do these self-important, unelected appointees to Reagan's staff, dressed in their brief authority, presume themselves to be? More to the point, what are they trying to do?

They are certainly not supporting the President. Are they already arranging their prospects for office three years from now?

The day after Reagan's press conference, Baker and Stockman, having made the President look foolish, proceeded to deliver the coup de grace.

Again declining to be identified, they leaked to their favorite snappers-up of ill-considered trifles that the tax increase was by now favored not only by Baker but also by the President's two other senior advisers, Michael K. Deaver and Edwin Meese.

That was pure disinformation. Meese was on the West Coast and had made no such decision, while Deaver, who looks after the President's appointments, is the man who constantly advises his chief to follow his instincts.

Baker and Stockman then overreached. They began suggesting that their dubious cabal included Treasury Secretary Regan. Thus the *Times*, next day:

"The new Administration economic forecast and tax proposal represents a growing consensus among the President's top advisers that tax increases are needed. It is significant, for example, that the Treasury Dept. supports the new forecast."

Time to end it

It does no such thing. Nor does it support a tax increase. And it certainly does not support the devious moves by Baker and Stockman to push one through.

This damaging diversion has gone on for too long. It should never have gone on at all.

Baker and Stockman are not running this Administration. How long before the President tells them their time is up?

Interview With Senator Paul Laxalt

A President Under Fire— View of a Close Friend

How is Reagan bearing up in a period of crisis both at home and abroad? Does he get discouraged, worry about the polls, the fall elections, a second term in 1984? One of his oldest confidants in Washington gives a rare glimpse of the nation's Chief Executive in private moments.

Q Senator Laxalt, you're known as the President's closest friend in Congress. Just how much does he confide in you?

A We're in regular communication by telephone, and I go down to the White House for lunch from time to time. Sometimes I think I spend more time there than on Capitol Hill. They kid me down there that I'd better get a cot at the White House.

Our conversation isn't always heavy. We're just a couple of old buddies. I was governor of Nevada when he was governor of California. We've been together for many years, and we approach issues in basically the same manner.

Q Is Reagan discouraged as problems continue to pile up during this second year in office?

A It is absolutely amazing, but he's not. He continues to be supremely optimistic about the future. He has such great faith in the essence of his programs and feels it is just going to take some time to turn things around.

Q What about his drop in the public-opinion polls?

A He isn't overly worried about that, either. He understands it is part of the business he's in. Most of us understand that the second year is usually a slump year. In his case, it is particularly true because of the recession.

So he's aware but not upset that his personal popularity has come down. His concern now is how this will affect the Republican Party in the November elections.

Q Have you warned the President about the danger of heavy GOP losses this fall?

A Oh, yes. A lot of us have told him we could have difficulties if we don't get interest rates down and the economy continues in the doldrums. We've told him that unless things change for the better, the next two years could be long and miserable for Ronald Reagan.

But there's good news, too. Of our 12 Senate incumbents up for re-election this year, almost all appear to be in good shape, according to a recent poll we received.

Q Critics say Reagan is a stubborn ideologue. Is he flexible enough to adjust to the realities of domestic and foreign affairs?

A Sure. I think he has demonstrated that in the negotiations over the budget package. A lot of people cast him in this process as being standoffish and stubborn. But he was just waiting until something was laid before him.

On foreign affairs, he changed his mind and asked for a summit meeting with Soviet President Brezhnev. I personally wish he had done it last year.

Q Do you agree with those who say that too many Republicans in Congress show a lack of discipline by failing to support Reagan?

A I don't think that's totally accurate. I don't like the word *discipline*. I prefer to think in terms of loyalty. After all, the Congress should be independent.

Ron Reagan hasn't lost a single major initiative on our side yet. So I think you are hearing some complaints about policy differences, but it doesn't mean the Republicans won't be there when he needs them.



I do think you need some guidelines on loyalty. If someone sees fit to stray off and do his own thing, then he shouldn't look for help and support from the administration. Lyndon Johnson and Harry Truman certainly understood that game. Recently, we've become so sophisticated that no one knows what the guidelines are.

Q Is the President well served by his staff? There seems to be more disagreement and backbiting—

A There is always some backbiting, whether it is a state capital or the White House. That's part of the ball game.

The President hardly says a word about it—even over criticism from Republicans. There's no one in the world who is less of a headhunter than Ronald Reagan. In fact, he usually extends an olive branch to the complainers.

Q Did Reagan make a mistake and fill too many administration posts with moderates rather than conservatives?

A I hear this all the time—mostly from my fellow conservatives: "You've surrounded the President with all those moderates."

[REDACTED] you've got Mike Deaver, Ed Meese, Helene Von Damm, Ed Rollins, and Bill Clark has come in to help.

Certain elements of the right wing would never be happy unless you conform to the 100 percent litmus test. I just ask them to demonstrate to me where these people have been disloyal. They can't.

Q What about Vice President Bush?

A He's just been marvelous—supportive, low-key and handling his responsibilities in the Senate extremely well. If we made a right judgment in that convention, it was the selection of George Bush.

Q In your opinion, do you think that Reagan will run for a second term?

A I hope so. I think it has always been in his framework that he can't begin to do this job in four years and it has to be an eight-year shift.

I spend a lot of time with him. He's upbeat. I've never seen him depressed. He loves Camp David. After the shooting, it was a little tough. But he's in marvelous shape, and he really enjoys what he's doing.

Q What's the best single piece of advice you can offer your friend in the White House?

A Talk to the people, and as often as possible. I've been encouraging him for weeks and months, maybe to the point of being a nuisance, that he ought to get off the bench more and on the field. We've got the greatest communicator. Let's use him.

In the campaign, some worried that we would overexpose him. Overexposing Ronald Reagan as President is like overexposing Bo Derek. It is just not going to happen.

He's got to use the media—more particularly radio and television—to tell the people his side of the story. □

E.
C.
F.

080800
ND 007

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 19, 1982

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Fleckenstein:

I'm sorry to be so late in answering your letter, but it has only just reached my desk. First, let me say I have placed your son's bracelet with the others. I did so with mixed emotions; pride in these splendid young men but sorrow at the tragedy these symbols represent and, yes, anger at those responsible.

I remember the affair at the Century as does Nancy, and have a vivid memory of that day in the office at Sacramento. I've met Todd recently -- a grown-up young man now.

I can only tell you that efforts continue, and every report or rumor of the kind you mentioned in your letter is checked out. I know there is a perception that little action is taking place but this is because the operations that are going on are of a covert nature. The communists now in charge in Vietnam offer no cooperation, so it has become necessary to follow another course.

HANDLING FILE

- 2 -

I will personally bring to the attention of the Secretary of Defense your son's case, and re-iterate my own position that we continue to resolve this situation with every resource available to us.

There are no words that can be helpful -- I wish there were. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Fleckenstein
Box 3508
Big Bear Lake, California 92315

RR per dict.

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

March 5 1982

Dear Mr. President

*After copy to Rep. Weinberger
sent to Sec. Rep. Weinberger
Cap. Ed. I've answered*

I am writing to call your attention to a subject which is very near and dear to my wife, Gladys, and to me. I refer to the men who served in Southeast Asia who did not return and whose names have never shown up on a death list. Our concern is caused by the fact that we are the mother and stepfather of L/CDR Larry James Stevens, a U.S. Navy pilot shot down on Valentine's Day in 1969 near Tchepone, Laos.

For a considerable length of time we were quite active in POW/MIA affairs, speaking to groups of all kinds and sizes, writing to newspapers and world dignitaries, talking to radio and TV personnel, etc. We met you and Mrs. Reagan and shook hands with you both at a POW/MIA function at a Century Center dinner. Nancy even hugged Gladys. Gladys was standing right next to you in your office as Governor when young Todd Hansen tapped you on the shoulder and asked to go to the bathroom during a press conference. She made several other trips to Sacramento, to Washington, D.C. 5 or 6 times, to Geneva, Switzerland to the International Red Cross Headquarters, and then to Paris, where, with a group of other POW/MIA family members, she stood across the street from the building where the peace talks were being held. Finally, she and a friend flew to Bangkok, Thailand and then on to Vientiane, Laos, where she met with Ambassador Whitehouse and was briefed by a Colonel Henry.

I detail this history to let you know how involved we have been and how concerned we are with this subject. After the POW'S came home, interest in the MIA'S diminished and the media refused to speculate on the MIA'S. Then Congressman Sonny Montgomery published his committee's report that there were no Americans alive as prisoners in Southeast Asia. Shortly thereafter, in what I have always believed was a premature and unwise decision, the services began sending Notice of Presumptive Finding of Death notices to the families. This decision has always rankled me for several reasons; 1--There were some 200 men who were reported, and in some instances, photographed alive on the ground after capture, who did not return home, their bodies were never accounted for, nor did their names show up on a death list. These accounts and photos appeared in both communist and neutral periodicals. 2--If the U.S. Government declared these and all other MIA'S dead, what pressure could be brought to bear on the Communists to release anyone who might be alive?

Recent reports indicate that aerial surveillance of sections of Southeast Asia by satellites have filmed men in locations where trained and skilled photo interpreters have stated that measurements of shadows indicate the photo subjects are too tall to be Asians and must be Caucasians. Them too, the "boat people" have told of seeing white men in their areas. It is possible some of these men may be deserters or perhaps, Americans who accepted discharge in Southeast Asia and remained there because they had Vietnamese wives or girl friends. But they could also be MIA personnel held captive. We have also heard reports that Hanoi holds many American bodies in a warehouse, perhaps as many as 400 or more.

-2-

We believe that there are some Americans, either with government or private connections and backing, who are attempting to investigate and check out these sightings and reports.

While we have no desire to be privy to any classified information on such happenings, we do request you personally, and your administration, to continue to pursue diligently any activity which might shed any light on the MIA personnel. Efforts to bring home the bodies of the men Hanoi holds should be made a top priority. Gladys and I attended the Mass and funeral for Captain Al Castro, an Army helicopter pilot, whose parents we met and grew to love almost as our own family. Some of Captain Castro's remains were returned home. Terribly sad as the ceremony was, as I told Al Castro Sr. after the funeral, "You do have a body, while the majority of the MIA families do not".

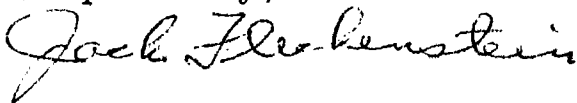
Frequently, at night, Larry comes to sit at his mother's bedside, talk to her and ask her to help him. You can well imagine the terrible effect such dreams cause to a sensitive and loving woman and mother.

It is my earnest belief that these terrible, racking dreams will only be stopped by some evidence that proves Larry is either dead or alive. I realize such evidence may never evolve. But if the efforts of yourself, your administration, or the military can bring relief to even one parent of an MIA, I believe these efforts will not have been wasted.

Last Sunday Gladys and I met Mrs. Ron Dodge, whose husband's remains were returned to the US recently. She told us of a ceremony in your presence and mentioned that she saw in the Oval Office a small display of POW/MIA bracelets. We are enclosing one of Larry's bracelets in the hope you may see fit to add it to your display.

I apologize for the verbosity of my letter, but it is my hope that this information and these thoughts may inspire you to increase your efforts on our behalf, and even more so, for the MIA'S.

Respectfully,



John A. Fleckenstein
Box 3508
Big Bear Lake CA 92315

File

FILES

T June 21 056008
PRO11

Thurs. Fred sent to Joanna Bistany.

May 19

Fred,

Eldon Haskell said he spoke with Bill Luton Jr., manager of KEYT, Key Television Inc., a TV station in Santa Barbara affiliated with ABC. Luton said the station would show the videotape locally and also put it on their nationwide network. Haskell was not clear on the details or arrangements or time. Luton also said he would make the videotape available to CBS and NBC if they wanted it.

Luton's phone number is 805-965-8533 if anyone wants to talk to him. Should Haskell ask him to keep it local?

Haskell's phone is 805-969-4117.

Regarding the patriotic program, they expect 20,000 to 25,000 people at the Santa Barbara City College stadium. They'd like a patriotic message or speech, any length the President chooses. The videotape will be shown on a large screen in the front of the stadium. In addition to this, there will be martial music, Air Force and Navy planes, Marine helicopters, and \$100,000 worth of fireworks.

Haskell asked for a photo and a message for the brochure saying "This will certainly be one of the largest patriotic events on the 4th" or something. Shall we send a photo quickly and skip the statement?

mailed photo 5/24.

Haskell talked to the President personally about the tape once, and he said he'd be happy to do it.

The tape should be sent to: Mr. Eldon Haskell
1224 Coast Village Circle
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Cristy

January 15, 1982

Dear Mr. Haskell:

On behalf of the President, I wish to acknowledge your letter of December 16, 1981, asking if he might do a tape for the 4th of July celebration you are working on with Mr. Bob Tuttle.

The President will be pleased to do a video tape for you, and I look forward to receiving the additional information you will be sending.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Eldon Haskell
Haskell Enterprises
1224 Coast Village Circle
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

GJN:mhr:ms--

cc and incmg to Helen Donaldson

info cys: Mr. Deaver; Mr. Canzeri; Larry Speakes; Speechwriters

*Tape
2/11/82*

APPROVE VIDEO

HASKELL ENTERPRISES

1224 COAST VILLAGE CIRCLE
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93108
(805) 969-4117

12/6/82

GJM

Mike D.
I'd be pleased to
do this.

December 16, 1981

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

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed find another letter from our mutual artist friend, Jack Swanson. I have always checked with Holmes before using your ZIP Code and I hope this meets with your approval.

Holmes also has approved my working with Bob Tuttle on a massive Fourth of July Celebration being put together by a very patriotic police officer named Edward A. Aasted who has already raised thousands of dollars for fireworks. We believe it will easily be the best exhibition in California at least.

I have already told the committee that it is not rational to have you make an appearance in the 20,000 crowd they are expecting due to security but I hope we might get a tape, video or otherwise, for a short patriotic comment from you. If so, we will arrange for National TV coverage.

I hesitate to try this since my experience where I arranged for the Thunder Birds, with their approval, and the approval of Major General Coy to fly over your Ranch before the inauguration. I was shot down by a Carter appointee at the last minute. I hope this one will be more successful.

Like most Americans, I wish to congratulate you on your unbelievable successes so far, and, as one of those who went into France in the invasion, I am also pleased to learn of the preparations for Cuba.

Respectfully yours,

Eldon Haskell

Eldon Haskell
EH:hk

End
case
File

May 17, 1982

Pres. MSG:

To the 1982 Graduates of The Thacher School:

Your graduation marks an important milestone in your lives and is an occasion for joy and celebration.

As graduates of a small, private school, you have been afforded opportunities that few are privileged to receive. Thacher's emphasis on the development of the mind and body — through programs like riding, camping and other physical activities — leaves you well-rounded and prepared for the future. Further, you have learned the invaluable lessons of self-reliance, respect for others, trust and cooperation. I can think of no higher qualities to possess as you enter the world and assume responsibilities.

Whatever course you follow on leaving the Thacher School, the overwhelming fact is that all of you have an essential role to play in America's future. What we do together, as fellow countrymen, will determine if our promise of freedom will remain a reality or simply fade. So, I hope that you will always remember to give your energies and your hearts to your communities, your fellowman and your country. Helping our fellowman is the tradition which shaped us and has enhanced us as a Nation. It is up to you to carry on that proud tradition — as long as you do, our generation, your generation and generations to come will always be able to dream, to grow and to become all that we want to be.

I am happy to join your friends, your families and faculty in congratulating you on your graduation. God bless you, and all my best for the fulfillment of your every goal in the years to come.

Sent to:

Dr. Willard G. Wyman
Headmaster
The Thacher School
Ojai, California 93023

RONALD REAGAN A

✓ bcc: Helene vonDamm

RR/PAG/KCS/ba

*Also attached are Greg Newell's letters to:
Dr. Willard G. Wyman: July 27, 81 and March 19, 82*

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THE THACHER SCHOOL

5025 THACHER ROAD • OJAI, CALIFORNIA 93023 • (805) 646-4377

April 1, 1982

Mr. Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Newell:

Thank you for your letter of March 19th. I have been following the President's plans and -- though I sighed to realize it -- it was becoming clear that the European summit meeting might edge out The Thacher School as his top priority for June 5th.

It was a wonderful possibility, however, and one that meant much to us simply because it was a possibility. We are delighted that he gave us the consideration he did, and I hope you will relay to him our thanks.

I'm sure President Reagan knows that we look forward to any message he can provide us for the graduation exercises. //

Sincerely,

Willard G. Wyman, Ph.D.
Headmaster

WGW:crw

March 19, 1962

Dear Dr. Pyman:

This is with reference to my letter of last July 27 to you concerning your invitation to the President to be the commencement speaker at The Thacher School on June 5 of this year.

The President is very sorry he now must have me tell you he will be unable to be with you on June 5. This comes at the time he will be in Europe for the Economic Summit, but he plans to send a personal message for your graduation exercises. In the meantime, the President sends you his kind regard and very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

X
Willard C. Pyman, Ph.D.
Office of the Headmaster
The Thacher School
Ojai, CA 93023

✓ cc and incoming to Pat Gleason, Room 94 for message

CJP:MHR:ds--

July 27, 1981

Dear Dr. Wyman:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of June 19 and for the very cordial and appealing invitation it conveyed to him to be the commencement speaker at The Thacher School next year on June 5.

While he very much appreciates your thoughtfulness in offering him this opportunity, the President knows you will understand he is unable to project his schedule for next June this far ahead. He has asked, though, that we carry your invitation forward for careful consideration as his calendar for late next Spring is under advisement and tell you that just as soon as it is possible to give you a definite response about joining you on June 5 we will let you know.

With the President's kind regard and very best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

Willard G. Wyman, Ph.D.
Office of the Headmaster
The Thacher School
Ojai, CA 93023

✓cc & inc: MRawlins for 6/5/82 pending files
GJM:mhr:emb-24a

The Thatcher School

(Incorporated 1902)

Office of the Headmaster

June 19, 1982

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

*Letter pending answer
J.R. - 19 November
7/19/81*

Dear President Reagan:

Betty Adams tells me that through Ike Livermore you know The Thatcher School well. Knowing about us I'm sure you understand why we would be so particularly honored to have you as our Commencement speaker next June 5, 1982. I know such a request must almost automatically be rejected, but it seems to me we share important things with this President of the United States -- with President Reagan -- that may make you consider joining us. Thatcher, after all, is the kind of home you would have loved.

What may mean the most to you is that we find much of our most effective education comes through young people caring for -- and working with -- horses. Each freshman is required to have a horse, and Sherman Thatcher's observation, late in the 1800's, that "there's something about the outside of a horse that's good for the inside of a boy" still guides much that we do. I know you have used that quotation yourself. From what Betty says, that indirect but basic way of learning and growing has meant much to you, and meant much during some difficult times.

I know you have great sympathy for what we do in other ways too. You particularly would like it that we have twenty-two percent of our students on scholarship. In fact several of these applied through "A Better Chance" (a group devoted to finding truly able minorities and culturally deprived youngsters and offering them a first-rate secondary school education). And we think we do a better job at integration than almost any school can. One of our ABC students put it well,

President Ronald Reagan

June 19 1981

saying "At Thacher there are no minorities." Our three ABC students this year are going on to Dartmouth, Stanford, and Claremont Men's College, and each has earned his way -- not been given a gift.

We are aware that the students educated here are privileged; but as Richard Lyman -- the President Emeritus of Stanford University and now President of the Rockefeller Foundation (which is deeply involved in worldwide problems of malnutrition) -- pointed out to this year's graduating class, being privileged is nothing to be embarrassed about. It's just something that means you have an obligation to society. His comment

"It isn't enough to drive defensively, to pay your income taxes, to keep your nose clean. You -- having had the privilege of this wonderful education, hard-earned as it might have been for each of you -- have an obligation now to help others."

We would be delighted to have you speak, and not only because you are the President of the United States, but because as President you are more one of the people -- simply nicer and more humble -- than almost any of the men who've ever held that office. And certainly you are one of the most Western: in your optimism; in your aspiration for our society; in your character.

I know that your schedule is busy, but if you give this your consideration, we will be deeply honored. You could easily arrive in moments from your ranch above Santa Ynez, make your talk, meet some of our students and parents, and be back within moments. It would be a marvelous experience for Thacher, and it would give you an opportunity to see a school -- slightly older than Stanford University -- that has a deep and abiding Western heritage.

I truly hope you'll consider this invitation; it is submitted most respectfully.

Sincerely,


Willard G. Wyman, Ph.D.

End
case
File

06513855
VA001

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1982

NOTE FOR ED MEESE
JIM BAKER
MIKE DEEVER
CRAIG FULLER

Please note the President
says we should talk about
this.

Richard G. Darman

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1982

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your consideration is a decision memo on whether the Administration should support H.R. 5600, a proposed bill that would recreate Social Security benefits for widows and orphans of all veterans who died of service-connected causes.

OMB opposes H.R. 5600, and suggests instead that new, more limited, legislation be drafted.

Mike Deaver, Ken Duberstein, and HHS support OMB's option.



Richard G. Darman

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM
CABINET COUNCIL ON HUMAN RESOURCES

SUBJECT: Benefits for Widows or Orphans of Veterans
Who Died of Service-Connected Causes

ISSUE: Does the nation owe something special to widows and orphans of service men who died as a result of their military service?

BACKGROUND:

A provision of the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 eliminated Social Security survivors' benefits for widows when their oldest child reached 16 years of age instead of 18. In addition, children from 18 to 22 years of age lost their Social Security survivors' benefits. In the past these benefits were available while attending college.

Survivors of veterans who die from service-connected causes receive a separate veterans' benefit. Widows receive a benefit until their youngest child reaches age 18, children receive benefits while attending college until age 22. Until the 1981 Budget Reconciliation Act widows and orphans received benefits from both the Veterans Administration and the Social Security Administration.

HR 5600 OPTION:

HR 5600 would recreate the Social Security benefits in the form of additional veterans' benefits for widows and orphans of all veterans who died of service-connected causes. The Cabinet Council on Human Resources decided to make no recommendation at this time.

Arguments for the HR 5600 Option:

- o Politically sensitive because of special status of veterans killed on duty or who died from service-connected causes.
- o These benefits could be considered part of the compensation package for members of the military service unlike Social Security survivors.

- o Congress may have taken into consideration available Social Security benefits when setting the current veterans' benefits.

Arguments Against the HR 5600 Option:

- o Cost would be \$50-60 million per year.
- o Possible precedent for the 1983 Veterans' Pension Program with a potential cost of \$11-13 million.
- o Would treat widows and orphans of veterans differently from other Social Security survivors.

OMB OPTION

OMB opposes supporting HR 5600 but offers an option limited to survivors of Vietnam veterans killed in or who died from combat causes. If this option is selected, OMB recommends that the Administrator of the Veterans Administration be asked to draft a legislative proposal creating a new set of benefits.

Arguments for the OMB Option:

- o Would limit program to survivors of Vietnam combat veterans.
- o Would not be an explicit reversal of prior Administration policy.
- o May be less costly.

Arguments Against the OMB Option:

- o Would not include survivors of non-Vietnam combat veterans and of all veterans whose death were service-connected but not the result of combat.
- o Because it would be a new program, benefits and coverage could be expanded by Congress resulting in more cost than HR 5600 which would recreate the old benefits.

DECISION:

1. HR 5600 Option.

_____ APPROVE

_____ DISAPPROVE

2. OMB Option.

PRR APPROVE

_____ DISAPPROVE

3. Other _____

But we should talk about this.
PR

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/17/82

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY

SUBJECT: H.R. 5600 - BENEFITS FOR WIDOWS OR ORPHANS OF VETERANS WHO DIED
OF SERVICE-CONNECTED CAUSES

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input type="checkbox"/> SS	WILLIAMSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WEIDENBAUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

May we have your comments by c.o.b. today. Thank you.

*we suggest
OMB KMD/B*

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/17/82 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY

SUBJECT: H.R. 5600 - BENEFITS FOR WIDOWS OR ORPHANS OF VETERANS WHO DIED
OF SERVICE-CONNECTED CAUSES

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input type="checkbox"/> SS	WILLIAMSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WEIDENBAUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

May we have your comments by c.o.b. today. Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
 Assistant to the President
 (x2702)

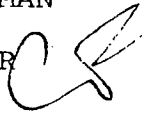
Response:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD D. DARMAN

FROM: CRAIG L. FULLER 

SUBJECT: HR 5600

I have reviewed the attached decision memo with Mike Deaver. He has no difficulty with the OMB option. HHS concurs and OMB obviously concurs. I suggest that the memo be sent forward to the President. It should be pointed out that new legislation will have to be proposed. Duberstein may want to assess the degree of difficulty associated with getting new legislation passed as opposed to HR 5600 which enjoys its own support group.

Let me know if I need to take any further action.

Associate Deputy Administrator
for Congressional and Public
Affairs

Washington DC 20420



April 26, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. John Dressendorfer
Special Assistant
Office of Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

*160
4/27*

5/11

SUBJ: H. R. 5600

Enclosed is a brief synopsis of H.R. 5600 for your information. In addition, I have ascertained that Congressman Montgomery feels that the bill was inappropriately referred to the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Therefore, he intends to schedule no mark-up on the bill. If Department of Defense were to fund it, he might back it and the feeling is that the bill will be reintroduced to the Armed Services Committee by Congressman Duncan Hunter.

My opinion is that the bill isn't going anywhere in its current status and would therefore be an inappropriate bill for the President to get involved with at this time.

Butch

FIELDING COCHRAN
Associate Deputy Administrator for
Congressional and Public Affairs

Enclosure

BRIEFING PAPER: H.R. 5600

1. The surviving spouses and children of veterans whose deaths are service connected are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits administered by the VA. These surviving children are also eligible for VA educational assistance payments. Rates are set by statute. These survivors are also eligible for Social Security benefits on the basis of the deceased's earnings during military service and otherwise.
2. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 eliminated two Social Security benefits as follows: The mother's insurance benefit, payable to a non-disabled non-elderly widow for each dependent child age 16 or 17, and the benefit payable to a college student age 18 to 21. These cutbacks recognized that mothers' full-time care is unnecessary when children reach age 16; also, Federal and other programs target assistance to meet the needs of low-income college students. Also, the cutbacks responded to the directive to achieve legislative savings.
3. The cutbacks affect those surviving spouse DIC recipients who have dependent children age 16 or 17 and college-student DIC and VA educational assistance recipients ages 18 to 21. H.R. 5600 proposes to restore the value of the lost Social Security benefits to these VA beneficiaries, if the veterans' deaths (or disability leading to death) occurred prior to September 1, 1981, by increasing VA payments by a like amount. The Social Security Administration would certify the exact amounts to be restored, and the VA would pay those amounts from appropriated funds.
4. For example, a mother with a child age 16 lost \$265 per month, and total family income (mother plus child) from Social Security and VA sources declined from \$1,020 to \$755; a college student lost \$286 and income declined from \$724 to \$438. H.R. 5600 would make up these lost amounts from VA appropriations.
5. No precise estimate can be made concerning the cost of H.R. 5600. Magnitude estimates range from \$25 to \$62 million for fiscal year 1983.

End
case
File