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Last Updated: 07/15/2025

201893
6I062

THE WHITE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1984

Dear Dr. White:

First off, my heartfelt thanks for your magnificent book so beautifully inscribed. It will be within reach, indeed is so now, at all times here in the White House.

Now let me say I don't know how to respond to your remembering our long ago meeting in Davenport, Iowa. I have a feeling young Davi Manning White would have found a way to get an education without that meeting at WOC. At the same time, however, I have a great pride and feeling of gratitude to God if I had even a small part in setting your course.

Again, my heartfelt thanks. I hope our paths will cross one day. Enclosed is the speech you mentioned.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Dr. David Manning White
4108 Crestwood Road
Richmond, Virginia 23227



Virginia Commonwealth University

*Let Indianapolis
Happen.*

December 10, 1983

Dear President Reagan:

I would like to express how moved I was by the excerpts I heard on a recent television news broadcast of some remarks you made to a meeting of the N.E.A., I believe, in Indianapolis or perhaps another mid-west city. I looked in vain, alas, for a more comprehensive coverage in our Richmond newspapers, for I would like to read the entire speech. But the brief excerpt I heard reaffirmed my conviction that you are a man with deep spiritual dimensions, and in the truest sense of the root word religio, a man with profound religious sensibilities.

Although it is virtually inconceivable for me to think that you remember meeting me (with the thousands upon thousands of people you've met during your lifetime) it is fact that you and I met, albeit briefly, 50 years ago this past November, if memory serves me correctly. The place was Radio Station WOC in Davenport, Iowa, where your brother, Neil (although none of us knew his given name, since he was always Moon to us) gave a struggling (and sometimes a little hungry) high-school senior a chance to make \$3 a week doing some chores around the station.

One afternoon when I came to the station Moon called me into his office and said, "David, I want you to meet my kid brother, Dutch. He's in Des Moines now and maybe he'll turn out to be a pretty good sports announcer." Then, he winked at me and said, "He's a lazy, care-free son of a gun, but I love him." So there you were, perhaps 24 years old and you shook hands and talked for a few minutes with me. You asked me what I wanted to do when I finished high-school later that year, and I said I had dreams of going to college somewhere, but that with our family's depleted resources it seemed pretty impossible. But you encouraged me to get to college somehow, somehow and that you and Moon had pretty much worked your way through Eureka College, and that if I wanted it badly enough I'd find a way.

I remember going home that night and telling my folks what you had said, that if I truly wanted it badly enough I would find a way to go to college and establish some basis for a good and meaningful life. So, armed with a full tuition scholarship at Cornell College I worked as a dormitory janitor, pots and pan scrubber in the dining hall, etc. for three years. By the time I graduated (magna cum laude) I was able to get fellowships in graduate school and, indeed, from the depths of the 1930's depression I began to work hard to achieve what has been, in truth, a wonderful life. So, 50 years later, quite belatedly I fear, I thank you most sincerely for your words of faith in America's future, as well as my own, that afternoon in Moon's office.

By the way, I hope someday when I am in the San Diego area that I can meet with Moon again and thank him personally for giving me a job when \$3 looked like \$3 thousand to me. I pray that he is in good health.

As I mentioned above, my own life has been a blessed one. I retired from academe in May, 1982, after a college teaching and administrating career that began in September, 1945, right after my war duties were completed. During that time I had the privilege of representing our country at many international conferences throughout the world and I published some 20 books.

It is my most recent one, published by the Macmillan Co. just this past week that I would like to send to you, and I am asking my publisher to send you a copy. It is titled The Search for God and reflects a life-time of reading all of the scriptures of the world's religions and commentaries by philosophers, poets, theologians, clergyman of all faiths and some statesmen.

I honestly believe that the collected wisdom of this anthology, perhaps with the observations I've made in the related essays in the volume, might find a place on your night reading table, where perhaps you turn for a little peace and tranquility before you sublimate, maybe for a few hours, the enormous responsibilities which you must deal with the next day. Although this may seem like vain presumption, I do hope that you will find in the collective vision of these profound God Seekers some spiritual gems that will give you greater strength in your own spiritual self.

Sir, if only we could get the various religious leaders of the world to meet in harmony and acknowledge that we are all children of One compassionate and loving God we would begin to remove the spectre of fear that grips all of us.

In any case, consider this book, The Search for God, a belated thank you for encouraging me to go on with my education and career that gloomy afternoon 50 years ago in Davenport. I pray that the Master of the Universe will grant you peace of mind and soul and the strength to lead our beloved country in the direction where "the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God" is an actuality and not merely an ideal.

Sincerely,

David Manning White

David Manning White
Professor Emeritus
4108 Crestwood Road
Richmond, Virginia 23227

Dr. David Manning White
Ronald Reagan 4108 Crestwood Rd.
Richmond Va.
23227

Dear Dr. White

First off, my heartfelt
thanks for your magnificent
book so beautifully inscribed.
It will be within reach—
indeed is so now, — at all
times here in the White House.

Now let me say I don't
know how to respond to
your remembering our long ago
meeting in Ovenspent town.

I have a feeling young
David Manning White would
have found a way to get
an education without that
meeting at WOC. At the same
time however I have a
(over)

great pride & feeling of gratitude
to God if I had even a
small part in ^{setting} ~~starting~~ your
course.

Again my heartfelt thanks.
I hope our paths will cross
one day. Enclosed is the
speech you mentioned.

Sincerely

R.R.

End
Case
File

201894
PE002-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1984

Dear Miss Benson:

Welcome aboard! I'm glad you have joined the administration and hope you'll be happy here.

Your Uncle Dan (my fraternity brother) had a great deal to do with my going to Eureka College and becoming a "Teke." I'll look forward to our paths crossing one of these days.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Miss Audrey D. Benson
1400 South Joyce Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202



RONALD REAGAN

Miss Audrey D. Benson
1400 S. Joyce St.
Arlington Va.

Dear Miss Benson

Welcome aboard! I'm
glad you have joined the
admin. and hope you'll be
happy here.

Your Uncle Dan (my
fraternity brother) had a great
deal to do with my going to
Emula College & becoming a "Tee".
I'll look forward to our paths
crossing one of these days.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely
RR

F-42

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 24, 1984

MEMORANDUM TO KATHY OSBORNE

FROM: LYNN ROSS WOOD *LRW*

SUBJECT: AUDREY D. BENSON

A month or so ago, the President handed Ms. Benson's (the great-niece of Mr. J. Dan Benefiel with whom the President went to school) resume to John Herrington.

The attached is self-explanatory. I believe the President will be pleased to know we were successful in placing her. Thank you, Kathy.

Attachments

January 24, 1984

Dear Audrey,

Welcome on board! I feel you are going to do a splendid job at the Department of Energy.

I have forwarded your letter to the President to Kathy Osborne, his personal secretary.

Thank you for writing and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Lynn Ross Wood
Presidential Personnel

Ms. Audrey D. Benson
1400 S. Joyce Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

cc: Katja Bullock

LRW/fbs

JAN 2 1981

1400 S. Joyce Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Ms. Lynn Wood
Presidential Personnel
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20012

Dear Ms. Wood:

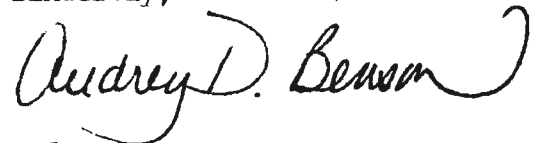
I would like to take this opportunity to extend, once more, my gratitude to you for all your efforts in aiding me in my career search.

As you know, I have accepted a staff position in Assistant Secretary Vaughan's office in the Department of Energy. I am confident that I will be a productive member of his staff in our efforts to support the President's policy interests.

I have also enclosed a letter which I have written to the President expressing my sincerest appreciation to him for his faith in my background. I am forwarding it on to you in the hope that you will be able to ensure that he receives it.

Again, your help has been invaluable to me. I feel privileged to have this opportunity to serve my President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey D. Benson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping "A" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Audrey D. Benson

1400 S. Joyce Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Mr. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20012

Dear Mr. President:

As the niece of J. Dan Benefiel, I am writing to express my grateful appreciation to you for referring my job resume to Ms. Lynn Wood for possible employment in your Administration.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Wood and members of her staff. As a result of the interviews I made through her office, I have accepted a position in the Department of Energy under Mr. William A. Vaughan, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Protection, Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

I assure you I will try in every way to make myself worthy of your confidence in me and of my Uncle Dan's faith in my heritage. I am still "pinching myself" to remind me that all this has really happened.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey D. Benson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Audrey D. Benson

End
Case
File

201895
64002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1984

Dear Miss Sam and Miss Bertha:

I'm so glad you decided to write on January 27. I had never received your December letter or the very beautiful leather pictures. Due to some mixup, your letter and the pictures had gotten into the regular mail flow which runs about half a million letters a month.

Maybe the problem was that Helene is no longer the one you should address things to. She is now our Ambassador to Austria. From now on the name is Kathy Osborne. When your birthday greeting arrived Kathy started tracing the Christmas package. We now have them and they are beautiful. Under separate cover I'm sending some pictures for Buzzy. When we're at the ranch we'll try to get some pictures of us and your beautiful art work.

You know our agreement is that your two beautiful leather engravings are for last Christmas and next Christmas. So we can say we've gotten our present a month late or eleven months early. Anyway, Nancy and I thank you very, very much.

Sincerely,

RONALD

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

840202

Ronald Reagan

Dear Miss Sam & Miss Bertha

I'm so glad you decided
to write on Jan. 27. I had
never received your Dec.

letter or the very beautiful
brother pictures. Due to some
mixup your letter & the pictures
had gotten into the regular
mail flow which runs about
half a million letters a month.

Maybe the problem was
that Helene is no longer
the one you should address things
to. She is now our ambassador
to Austria. From now on ~~and~~
the name is Kathy Osbourne,

(over)

When your birthday greeting
arrived Kathy started tracing the
Christmas package. We now have
them & they are beautiful. Under
separate cover I'm sending some
pictures for Buzz. When
we're at the ranch we'll
try to get some pictures of
us & your beautiful art
work.

You know our agreement
is that ~~the first~~ you 2
beautiful leather engravings
are for last Christmas & next
Christmas. So we can say we've
gotten our present a month late
or 11 months early. Anyway Nancy
& I thank you very, very much.

Smiles R

Healdsburg, Calif
Dec. 25-1983

Our thoughts are always
with our President Ronald Reagan
and Nancy Reagan.

May all your Christmas's be
happy ones and Best New Year ever.

Taya con Dios
Miss Sam - Miss Bentha and Buzzy.

May Christmas bring you
Love and cheer -
Enough to last all through
The year.

Misses Sam & Bertha Sisco
P.O. Box 148
Healdsburg, Calif 95448
January 27, 1984

A very good morning President Reagan:

First of all let us be among the early ones to wish you a most
Happy Birthday!

Second, we have become extremely concerned about your leather art
pictures we sent you at Christmas. We have never heard if they
were received, do let us know, again we state they were sent insured,
priority mail and something that large couldn't have gotten lost at
the White House.. Was sent to Helen von Damm's attention like always.

The concern this has placed on us, other arrangements will have to
be made to get our leather art to you....we have no desire to use
the White House to handle our art. Remember when our letter to you
about the Queen's belts was lost at the White House...boy....

Let us know what the problem is, if any.

Golly has it been windy here on our hill, drying everything out.
Wait until the rains start again! Least ways with rain it does
some good and we need the water. But the ones on the low lands
that get flooded, it must be terrible.

We could never be happy on the flats, imagine you are the same...
high on a hill and always looking off in the distance, the scenes
are constantly changing when living on a hill top.

Again HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY,

Vaya con Dios

Miss Sam - Miss Bertha & Buzzy
Miss Sam, Miss Bertha & Buzzy

*Kathy - can we get 4 or 5
photos of Nancy & me around
or on horses at the ranch
& send them to Buzzy Sisco?
They don't have to be signed
RR*

WHITE HOUSE GIFT UNIT

ID: 8390500 LOGGERS INITIALS: JFH DATES: LOGGED: 840128 ARRIVED: 831215

GIFT INTENDED FOR: PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY

CORRESPON. TRACKING: GU

DONOR: PERSONAL FRIEND

NAME: LAST: SISCO

FIRST: MISS SAM

PREFIX:

SUFFIX:

TITLE:

ORG:

STREET: POST OFFICE BOX 143

CITY: HEALDSEBURG

STATE: CA

ZIPCODE: 95448

COUNTRY:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

FORM:

DATE:

SALUTATION:

SPOUSE:

APPRAISED VALUE: 00090 OVER MINIMUM VALUE(O/U): U

ARRIVAL FORM: MAIL ROOM

DESCRIPTION

ARTWORK (EXC. PERSONAL LIKENESS) - M.E.C.

ARTWORK: TWO ITEMS, MEASURING 17" X 20," HAND-TOOLED LEATHER;

BOTH DEPICT OUTDOOR SCENES.

DISPOSITION: PRESIDENT

IF TEMP, DESIG FOR-

ARCHIVE BOX NUMBER:

COMMENTS ALSO INCLUDED AS DONORS ARE MISS BERTHA AND BUZZY SISCO.

VALUE BASED UPON SIMILAR WORKS PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED IN GIFT UNIT.

STAFF GIFT INFORMATION

STAFF MEMBER:

TITLE:

GSA #:

COUNSEL APPROVAL(Y/N):

DATE:

Miss Sam, Miss Bertha & Buzzy Sisco
P.O. Box 148
Healdsburg, Calif 95448
Dec. 6, 1983

phone: 707-433-9724

Merry Christmas President Reagan & Nancy:

Here are your 2 wild life pictures. Will Keep fingers crossed that they are what you and Nancy had in mind and are the precise size. Merry Christmas again!

You already know that any item made of leather, specially this kind of leather art, is never to be placed in direct sunlight. Tried something different with the antiquing by deeply outlining specific forms in the pictures. Is it any good this way, do you like or no like?

We would enjoy someday to do a picture for you that the width is longer than the height. Golly you always make me squeeze things together. How about trying something on this order, wider than it's higher, deal?

Sometime will you do this for us? You will! Boy that'll be great! When at your Ranch get some photos of you and Nancy with some of the leather art we've made you. We would like to preserve the photos in the 3 albums we're making. Nobody believes that you think that much of our leather art that you have it in your home.

Now little Buzzy, the dear boy he'll be 55 February 29th, he sure has not been feeling well at all lately. Doctors tell us there's nothing anybody can do for him, just to love and care for him, he's going down hill so fast and he just never-never complains. We're trying to make his Christmas the best ever this year. In Buzzy's manner he points to his desk and wall in his music room and tells us he wants more pictures of Ree-Can (no matter what we tell him to say President first all he can say in his way is Ree-Can) then he smiles and says Ree-Can and Nan-Nee (for Nancy) Any kind and amount for him would be super of you both. And since Buzzy could never ride, we know he would really enjoy you both around and on your horses....just any photos of you would really make him happy. Now for goodness sakes we know you can't do this for Christmas, just when you have time and think of Buzzy

Isn't it something, so many terrible things happens in this world to so many people, ones can't help but ask why? You being the President can you answer that question?

Our beloved Dar-Si-Ah still faces another operation, and would you believe that dear Dobie is so full of life, her and Doe-Ryius our other dear Dobie are always playing. You know it's been so cold here, yet we haven't had no frost but a blasted lot of wind here on our mountain top, that all our 7 dogs wear nighties to bed and get overcoats put on when they go outdoors. Bertha sleeps with one doggie, I sleep with the other 6...they come in mighty handy on cold nights. How can ones leave those dear little lives out side when they themselves are snug and warm inside...they must be a bunch of creeps.

Haven't caught any more predatory creatures....our motto is, if they leave us alone, we'll leave them alone.

Again Merry Christmas, and may all the days for you and Nancy be filled with everlasting love. Bless you for just being you. Let us know if the pictures are any good and if they are what you wanted.

Yours son Dean - Miss Sam - Miss Bertha & Buzzy

1.2 - Every you know the pictures, as in we formed up with some tracing - guess you glue or nail them where you want. How do you like our new name SAMBERT?

End
Case
File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1984 FEB -3 PM 3:20

February 3, 1984

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MICHAEL K. DEEVER *M*
SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal for Justin Dart, Sr.

I have reviewed Senator Tower's request that Mr. Justin Dart, Sr. receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom and I feel that it would more appropriate to confer on Mr. Dart the Presidential Citizens Medal posthumously. This medal is presented to citizens of the United States of America who have performed exemplary deeds of service to their country or fellow citizens.

You could present the medal with appropriate citation either at the White House or during a visit to Mr. Dart's home state.

Attached I have listed those individuals who have received this award.

OK RR

Presidential Citizens Medal Recipients

President Nixon

Roberto Clemente (Posthumously) - Athlete, Humanitarian

Adele Rogers - Premiere hostess and wife of former Secretary
of State William P. Rogers

President Ford

NONE

President Carter

NONE

President Reagan

Elmer B. Statts - civil servant - former Comptroller General
of the United States

Alan M. Lovelace - public servant - former Deputy Director of NASA

Hubert Dickey Ballantine - Humanitarian

Raymond Weeks - Father of Veterans Day

Samuel Jackson - (Posthumously) Civil Rights leader

Frank C. Carlucci - Public servant

Joseph Alton Delaney (Posthumously) - Professional football player
lost his life saving three children.

Johh A. Volpe - Public servant

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 2/13/84

NOTE FOR: MICHAEL K. DEEVER

The President has

seen ☐

acted upon ☐

commented upon ☐

the attached; and it is forwarded to you for your:

information ☐

action ☐

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x-2702)

cc: Original to files

End
Case
File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1982

Dear Betty and Bill:

Chit Thank you for my very handsome suede jacket. Believe me, I won't wear it while chopping wood. It's really the best looking thing I have.

The only thing that could have been nicer is if you'd wrapped yourselves up and popped out when I opened the box.

Nancy sends her love and, again, thank you.

Sincerely,

W. Ron

The Honorable and Mrs. William Wilson
10475 Pellagio Road
Los Angeles, California 90024

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CB17C
RM02
PR002

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

To: Ambassadors & Mrs. Wm. Wilson

Dear Betty & Bill

Thank you for my very handsome
seeds pocket. Believe me I won't wear it
while chapping my nose. It's really the
best looking thing I have.

The only thing that could have been
worse is if you'd wrapped yourselves up
& popped out when I opened the box

Nancy sends her love and
Again thank you.

Sincerely
Rm

The Hon and Mrs Wm. Wilson
10475 Bellegro Rd.
L.A. Calif.

700 New Hampshire Ave
Washington 25.
1119
Wash. D.C.

End
Case
File

VICTOR H. KRULAK

7 February 1984

Mo Ragan

Dear Campmates:

Paul Stewart, Hornsby Wasson, Pearly Browne and Bill Miller went to the Grove to check on the kitchen reconstruction project and found it well advanced. I enclose two pictures (courtesy of Paul Stewart and Hornsby Wasson) to give you an idea of what it will look like. As you see, the handsome refrigerators and dishwasher, gift of Jus Dart, have arrived.

To date, we have received a total of \$32,577 in the Moose Taylor anonymous fund, with the possibility of one more pledge. Paul Stewart estimates that the job will take it all and, probably a bit more.

We need to start preparing for the Work Week-end. May 18, 19 and 20 -- two weeks before the Spring Jinks -- seems logical. I hope as many of you as possible will come. We will need your muscle. Please let me know if you can make it.

Bill Goetze is back at work after a short-notice bout with the surgeon; feeling fine.

Cheers,

Dear Mr. President:

VHK:jm
Enclosures

Dear Mr. President:
My heart goes out to you on the Lebanon affair. By the time Assad, the Russians, Khomeini, Jesse Jackson and the House Democrats all did their thing, it's a wonder that Lebanon still exists! I would like to see you turn Gene Kirkpatrick loose on a couple of the House committees.

Warmest wishes,

Brutz

End
Case
File

296613

6J002

Santa .

February 8, 1984

Dear Harriett and Ardie:

Thanks very much for my handsome sweater -- it makes the day (the 34th anniversary of my 39th) much easier. I was worrying that someone might send a shawl and slippers -- I've already got a rocking chair.

No, seriously, it's very handsome and will get a lot of wear.

Bless you and thank you.

R_{ow}

Mr. and Mrs. Armand Deutsch
1117 North Beverly Drive
Beverly Hills, California

Mr. & Mrs. Armand Dauterch
Ronald Reagan 1117 N. BEVERLY DR.
Beverly Hills Calif.

Dear Harriett & Ardie

Thanks very much for my
handsome sweater - it makes
the day (the 34th anniversary of
my 39th.) much easier.

I was worrying that someone
might send a shawl & slippers -

I've already got a rocking chair.

More seriously it's very handsome
& will get a lot of wear.

Bless you & thank you.

Ron

Dear Mr. President,
Happy Birthday! This
comes to you with all our
love, admiration and
affection.

Harriet and Ardie.

End
case
file



The President has seen

Boston's Museum of Science
and Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston, Massachusetts 02114
Telephone (617) 723-2500

Bradford Washburn
Chairman of the Corporation

February 9, 1984

X-ting
Dear Elaine:

Here's a letter to show to R.R. It should give him a lift --- written by a friend of ours who escaped from a Russian camp in Siberia and has lived in the USA for a long time. She recently visited the USSR and wrote this letter to Bill Schwann (Schwann Record Catalogue) who the President knows. We both agreed that he should see it personally.

With best wishes to the President and Mrs. Reagan
--- and to you and Tina -

Sincerely yours,

Bradford Washburn

Ms. Elaine Crispin
Secretary to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Enclosure

End
case
File

206619

NP016

Santa Barbara

February 9, 1984

Dear Brute:

Thanks for your "Open Letter" column and for the one on Beirut. On the latter you'll be interested to know there was what I believe appropriate action taken -- reprimands, etc. In doing what I did I was moved by the belief that courts-martial were definitely not called for. The Long Commission's report indicated they did not believe the circumstances warranted such a course either.

I share your sorrow about Jus and have been in touch with Jane.

Again, thanks.

Ron

Lt. Col. Victor H. Krulak (Ret.)
3665 Carleton Street
San Diego, California 92106

and strategically bankrupt. Enclosed is a column on subject.

Sincerely,

Brute

1/27/84

Mrs. Cynthia Brown Dwyer
Ronald Reagan 425 Hopkins Rd.

Dear Bruce

Thanks for your "Open
Letter" column & for the one on
Bernt. On the latter you'll be
interested to know there was what
~~action I believe was appropriate~~
~~I believe was~~ ^(ACTION) appropriate taken - reprimands
etc. In doing what I did I
was moved by the belief that
court martial were definitely not
called for. The Long commissions
report indicated they did not
believe the circumstances ~~warranted~~
warranted such a course either.

I share your sorrow about
Jma and have been in touch
with Jane. Again Thanks
Ron

4
To, Gen. VICTOR H. KRULAK
3665 Carleton St.
San Diego Calif. 92106

27 January 1984

Is in "Open Letter to RR"
as a column

Dear Campmates:

It is my sad task to tell you that we lost Jus Dart on January 25th. He had been gravely ill for several weeks, most of which were in the hospital. He came home a few days before his death.

I have written to Jane in your behalf but did not send flowers, since the funeral service will be private.

I will be writing you separately about other matters.

Sincerely,

Burt

Dear Mr. President-

Jus was in bad shape as the end approached - became terribly thin and emaciated. Jane is doing well.

Your State of the Union address was distinguished. The vulture-like reaction of the TV and radio enraged me, and the pitiful reaction of the Democrats suggests them to be philosophically and strategically bankrupt. Enclosed is a column on the subject.

Sincerely,

Burt

1/27/84

VICTOR H. KRULAK

9 January 1984

Dear Campmates:

We have been moving ahead on our kitchen project and I hope it proves satisfactory to all of you. The structure is complete and work is going forward on the interior. A heavy duty dishwasher and two new refrigerators have been ordered -- a generous gift of Jus Dart. Bill Miller and Paul Stewart are going to take some pictures, which I will distribute, to give you an idea of what has been going on.

Our fund now stands at about \$28,000 with \$4,000 more in prospect. We have disbursed \$10,000 from the fund so far, and anticipate a substantial billing in the next month.

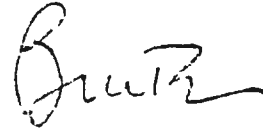
We should be thinking of the 1984 Work Weekend which, because of the kitchen work, will be long on work and short on weekend. After discussing it with a few of you, I will get out timely advice as to the date, and hope we can have a good turnout.

Happy New Year to all.

Dear Mr. President:

As you may know, Jus Dart is not well.

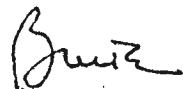
Sincerely,



I enclose a very sober column on the October tragedy at Beirut, with my thanks to you for your own brave actions.

Warm good wishes for 1984.

Sincerely,



V. H. KRULAK

President Reagan's action in taking ultimate responsibility for the October 23d Beirut tragedy was altogether proper. It emphasizes his Constitutional place as Commander-in-Chief of all the armed forces. It is his duty to tell them what to do and then to hold them accountable for getting it done. It follows that he takes the ultimate credit for their successes and the ultimate opprobrium for their failures. It is not a new or untested concept. President Lincoln did, after First Manassass, exactly what Mr. Reagan did after Beirut.

There is, however, some misapprehension as to the effect of the President's statement that the people on the ground "have suffered enough." While the President has spared them court martial there should be no thought that the careers of those officers directly charged with the care of the men at Beirut Airport that day will go on tranquilly undisturbed. The Marine system, in that regard, is inflexible and unforgiving. The men -- their care and their welfare -- are paramount.

The more obscure effect of the President's action relates to the several commanders between him and the people on the ground in Beirut. There was no absolution for them in the President's remarks, nor should there be. When Mr. Reagan said that the ultimate responsibility is his he might

have added that he cannot share that responsibility with anyone else. What he can share, and does share, is his authority. After First Manassass Mr. Lincoln took pains to absolve the men who fled in the midst of the battle but he was not equally generous with the various intervening commanders who had discharged inadequately the authority he had confided in them. Some faded from sight, others never advanced further. Mr. Lincoln's point was made: delegated authority is a precious thing and it carries with it most serious obligations.

In the Beirut tragedy the parallel is precise. President Reagan decided what he wanted the military to do and so directed the Secretary of Defense. That official, in turn, issued instructions to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and they to the Commander-in-Chief U.S. Forces in Europe. And so on down the line, through the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, Commander of the Sixth Fleet and the Commander of the naval task force immediately over the Marines ashore. Each of these intervening commanders was delegated a measure of authority commensurate with his mission and each was accountable to the next senior in the chain of operational command for getting the job done.

In the clarity of retrospect it is evident that each of these intervening echelons of authority was derelict in some respect. The situation in Lebanon changed greatly

in the months following initial commitment of the Marines, from one of a wholly neutral peace promotion force to one where our troops were perceived by the warring factions as being an active belligerent. Yet the results would suggest that the intervening commanders failed to evaluate the adequacy of security measures ashore in Beirut and to alter their own instructions to ensure that their subordinates were prepared to meet the changing conditions where terrorism was assuming progressively greater importance. One of the intervening commanders had not visited Beirut at any time during the Marines' presence there. Two others who did visit the area took no effective corrective action to improve the Marines' security.

The Department of Defense Commission convened to investigate the tragedy was clear in its criticism of the various commanders in Europe for their failure to "initiate actions to ensure the security of the forces (ashore) in light of the deteriorating political/military situation..." The Commission missed a key point, however, in confining its criticism to the commanders in the European Theater. The Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff are in the chain of command too and it would seem that they failed in some respect to exercise the authority entrusted to them by the President.

The massive bureaucracy called The Office of the Secretary of Defense is, by law, in direct command of the

American fighting forces. Presumably it has all the tools necessary to evaluate the military scene as it has changed in Lebanon and to ensure that every lower commander knew the facts and was in receipt of appropriate orders. The investigative Commission report gives no clue that this happened. It would seem that the bureaucracy did not do its job.

And the Joint Chiefs of Staff had an important and unique position in connection with the Beirut deployment. Not only do they convey the orders of the Secretary of Defense to the commands that do the fighting, as individual chiefs of the several armed services they are also charged with equipping and training the forces involved to meet the required combatant challenge. And in this critical area there is evidence of dereliction too. The forces were clearly not adequately oriented to the reality of terrorist war.

Despite the President's manful assumption of the blame for the tragic loss of life in Beirut, the commanders who were on the ground will be severely punished by conscience and service tradition. It is hoped that Mr. Reagan, like Lincoln before him, will also hold fully accountable every intervening echelon of command for its own role in the bitter tragedy.

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Santa Barbara

February 9, 1984

Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for the book and the photos. Nancy and I are delighted to have them. They add to the happy memories we have of that evening.

Nancy sends her best and from both of us to Bunny.

Sincerely,

Ron

Mr. Paul Mellon
Chairman
National Gallery of Art
Washington, D.C. 20565

To Mr. Paul Mellon - National Gallery of
Ronald
Reagan

Dear Paul

I thank you very much for the
book & the photos. Nancy & I
are delighted to have them. They
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Nancy sends her love & from
both of us to Bunny.

Sincerely

Ron

National Gallery of Art

Washington, D.C. 20565

Office of the Chairman

January 27, 1984


Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Reagan,

It was both an honor and a pleasure to have you attend the Andrew W. Mellon Dinner last January. Your presence made it an historic occasion for the National Gallery and a memorable one for our guests and for Bunny and me.

The Gallery has published an anniversary booklet commemorating that event and we would like you to have the enclosed copy, as well as a group of photographs made that evening.

Our best wishes to you both for continued success and personal fulfillment in serving the people of the United States.

Kindest regards,


Paul Mellon

The President
and Mrs. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Enclosures

End
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GI 002

2/
Gift
Unit



Santa

February 9, 1984

Dear Mrs. Ball:

Thank you very much for sending me the picture.
I'm delighted to have it. You were more than
kind to do this, and please give Herman my best
regards and also my thanks. I'm sure he'll
enjoy California.

Again, my thanks to you and very best to Allan.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Mrs. Katie Ball
R. 1 Box 1A-109
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

R. 1 Box 1A-109
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

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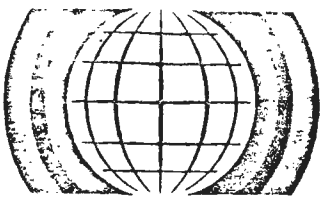
70 Mrs. Katie Ball R. 1 Box IA-109
Ronald Muscatine Iowa
Reagan 52761

Dear Mrs. Ball

Thank you very much
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this and please give Herman
my best regards and also my
thanks. I'm sure he'll
enjoy it.

Again my thanks to you
& very best to Allan.

Sincerely RR



REALTY WORLD®

REALTY WORLD® — Associates

1903 Park Avenue, Muscatine Mall, Muscatine, IA 52761

Telephone: (319) 264-0240

December 30, 1983

President Ronald Reagan

White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We had a home listed in Bennett, Iowa where the owner is a retired photographer. As we were looking at old pictures for the 1984 Bennett Centennial, we found this picture so we bought this one for you.

Allan, my husband, knew that his cousin Herman Ball had cut your hair when you lived in Des Moines. When Allan was up to see his cousin this summer he gave Herman this picture. Herman told Allan to send you the picture and for Allan to send his card too.

Herman is planning on retiring and moving to California next year with his son.

Enjoy the picture.

Respectfully Yours,

Katie

Katie Ball

R. 1 Box IA-109

Muscatine, Iowa 52761

THE RESULTS PEOPLE™

Each office independently owned and operated

End
case
File