

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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*Last Updated: 03/18/2025*

March 5, 1985

Dear Mr. Puleo:

Your letter has only just arrived at my desk, so forgive the delay in answering. Thank you for your kind and generous words. I'm most grateful. I'm sorry about the schedule changes in the Inaugural and hope they didn't spoil anything for you.

You asked at what time in my life did I even entertain the thought of the presidency. Well, I can honestly say that throughout my years in pictures and TV, the thought of public office never occurred to me. I always believed in paying my way, life had been good to me so I campaigned for people and causes I believed in. Then, in '64, I went all out for Barry Goldwater. Late in the campaign, I made a speech in his behalf on NBC TV. The speech rang a bell I guess and raised a lot of money, etc. In '65 with the California Governor's race coming up in '66, a group of Republicans called on me asking that I run against the incumbent Governor Pat Brown. The party was terribly split as a result of the '64 primary between Goldwater and Rockefeller, they cited my speech and said I could unite the party. I dismissed them out of hand. I was very happy in show business. They kept coming back until Nancy and I were worn down and thought maybe we did have a duty.

As Governor, I was asked to be a favorite son candidate for President to hold our California party together. I agreed on the condition that that was as far as it would go. I would not be a real candidate.

Well, to shorten this down, the first time I ever thought of seeking the presidency was in 1976 because I felt Jerry Ford could not beat Jimmy Carter whom I'd known as a Governor. In 1980, after 4 years of the Carter Administration, I decided to make the race again because I believed I would do some good. I can honestly tell you that until that 1965-66 period, I had never thought of public office at all.

Sorry to be so long about it, but that's the story. Please give my best to your wife.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mr. Dennis Puleo  
Leavitt Road  
Center Ossipee, New Hampshire 03814

RR:plr PM13

FOR POTUS TO SEE AND SIGN

To Mr. Norman Gulakian 518 Coral Run  
Bethpage N.Y. 11714

Dear Mr. Gulakian

Thank you for your very kind letter & good wishes of Jan. 21. As you can see it took a while for your letter to reach my desk. Yours was written on your 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary & I'm now replying ~~just~~ on our 33<sup>rd</sup>. ~~Now~~ So may I say on behalf of Nancy & myself we hope your 40<sup>th</sup> was a day of joy and assure you we're as happy as we were 33 yrs. ago.

And you are right - you & I are blessed with what Jefferson called the greatest of boons - "happiness by the fireside." Again Thanks.

Sincerely RR

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To Mr. Dennis Puleo Leavitt Rd. Ctr. Ossipee N.H.

Dear Mr. Puleo

03814

Your letter has only just arrived at my desk so forgive the delay in answering. Thank you for your kind & generous words. I'm most grateful.

I'm sorry about the schedule changes in the inaugural

and hope they didn't spoil anything for you.

You asked at what time in my life did I even entertain the thought of the presidency. Well I can honestly say that throughout my years in pictures & TV the thought of public office never occurred to me. I always believed in following my way, life had been good to me so I campaigned for people & causes I believed in. Then in '64 I went all out for Barry Goldwater. Late in the campaign I made a speech in his behalf on NBC TV. The speech rang a bell I guess & raised a lot of money etc. In '65 with the Calif. Governor's race coming up in '66 a group of Repubs. called on me asking that I run against the incumbent Gov. Pat Brown. The party was terribly split as a result of the '66 primary between Goldwater & Rockefeller, they cited my speech & said I could unite the party. I dismissed them out of hand. I was very busy in show business. They kept coming back until Nancy & I were worn down & thought maybe we did have a duty.

As Gov. I was asked to be a favorite son candidate for Pres. to hold our Calif. party together. I agreed on the condition that that was as far as it would go. I would not be a real cand.

Well to shorten this down, the first time I ever thought of seeking the presidency was in 1976 because I felt Jerry Ford could not beat Jimmy Carter whom I'd known as a Gov. In 1980 after 4 yrs. of the Carter Admin. I decided to make the race again <sup>BECAUSE I BELIEVE</sup> ~~BECAUSE~~

<sup>I could do some good.</sup> I can honestly tell you that until that 1965-66 period I had never thought of public office at all. Sorry to be so long about it but that's the story. Please give my best to your wife. I'm Mike RR

P. Frank

1/2/85

Dear Mr. President,

I thought today that it is a wonderful thing to have a positive impact on a persons life, and in an age when most people are so quick to criticize, I would like to simply thank you for what you do and who you are.

We both know your decisions and efforts affect thousands, millions and even the entire world. I am talking about one. . . me!

In 1966-1967 I joined the Marines and served in Viet Nam. After 3 Purple Hearts and bad injuries suffered at Khe Sah'n, I spent a year in the hospital and the next 6 years back and forth for treatment.

I have always been grateful for our free enterprise system, so I became an entrepreneur and started a business of my own. I married a high school sweetheart, raised 2 children and bought a home.

For 12 years I carried a chip on my shoulder, wouldn't discuss politics with anyone, distrusted politicians and in general had little faith in our government system. I did not vote in any election from 1968 to 1980.

Something unusual took place when you ran for President in 1980. I took notice. I listened, I believed and trusted again. My wife and I and many of our friends voted for you in 1980, and in 1984 because we felt confident in you.

You do that to people. One at a time. I thank you for your contribution to me and my family.

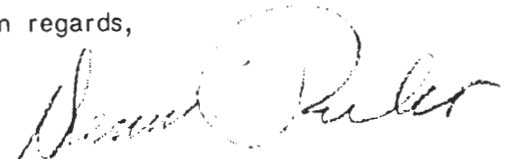
My wife and I are going to leave the White Mountains of New Hampshire to attend your Inauguration and will look forward to seeing you and Nancy in person.

I have one question that I would like you to answer please; at about what time in your life, or career did you even slightly entertain the thought or dream of actually becoming President?

Please respond, it would mean a lot to us.

May God Bless you and your family.

Warm regards,



DENNIS POLES  
LEAVITT RD  
CTR. OSSIPPE, NH  
03814

End  
Case  
File

5. 1  
175  
ERREN ZETZELIST, JR.

March 5, 1985

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you so  
very, very much for your  
incredible thoughtfulness  
in making time to write me.  
When we had to bow out of  
the inauguration because  
of my father's illness and  
you sent a wire of  
encouragement, I read it  
to him and he was so  
deeply touched (as was I)  
that he asked me to frame

298101

it, and of course I shall.

It's not just that I  
am thankful beyond words  
for your prayers and all  
your kindness, though,  
needless to say, I am that.  
It's rather the certain  
conviction that not since  
Lincoln has God raised up  
among us a leader of like  
quality, and I am very,  
very proud to be your  
friend.

Sincerely,

L. J. Brown

P.S. My dear love to Nancy

End  
Case  
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296304

WE005

March 5, 1985

Dear Dr. Anderson:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 20 which has just reached me, and thank you for sending your article. Thank you, too, for writing it.

You'll be pleased to know that I hear from many senior citizens offering to help with regard to the deficit. Of course, there are many we know who are totally dependent on Social Security and they are frightened when demagogues tell them someone is out to take their benefits away from them. I'm talking about politicians, not the author of a fine article like "The Best Years of Their Lives."

You are absolutely right that in recent years the elderly have moved up to where, as a group, they average higher incomes than the rest of our society.

Again, thank you and don't let the doom-criers get you down.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Teresa A. Anderson, D.D.S.  
Public Health Department  
555 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RR:plr PM14

FOR POTUS TO SEE AND SIGN

Teresa A. Anderson  
Public Health Department  
555 Cedar St.  
St. Paul, MN. 55101

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

January 20, 1985

Dear Mr. President,

The January 7th issue of Newsweek magazine contains an article I wrote, "The Best Years of Their Lives," which deals with our faulty perception of the elderly population and how this affects our private and public programs. I've received enormous response from individuals and the media and thought I should contact you in light of the upcoming debate over the budget and Social Security.

In the December 1984 issue of Scientific American, demographer Samuel H. Preston shows how the unexpected increase in the elderly population of America has led to greatly improved well-being for members of that group, including their level of income, health, educational achievement and reports of satisfaction with life. On the other hand, the drop in the birth rate has indirectly caused a deterioration in all these same categories for our younger citizens.

Yet, although 23% of our children now live in poverty (up from 16% in 1970) and fully half of one-parent families fall beneath the poverty line, the elderly still retain their grip on the heartstrings and pursestrings of the nation. Workers accept Social Security tax increases with virtually no complaint. To oppose senior citizens is considered political suicide.

As one person foolhardy enough to question this sacred cow, I understand the politics involved. I have had more than my share of hate mail from retirees who have plenty of time to mull over their choice of adjectives. I've been called contemptible, miserable, ungrateful and a "scum bag," all for printing a reasoned, factual article in a respected news magazine.

However, I've also received much support, much of it from people over sixty. Most people have describe it as a fair and even a positive viewpoint. I just wanted you to know that there are people out here who support the inclusion of Social Security in the budget-cutting agenda. Unfortunately, these are not the people who normally swamp your office with threatening letters, or have lobbyists to present their case.

Many of my correspondents mentioned that I should be ashamed for even broaching the subject. I'm certainly not ashamed of being concerned about the future of our country. Unlike special interest groups, I care not only about the aged, but about the poor of all ages and about the workers who are forced to participate in a shaky pyramid scam called Social Security. I hope that you will not be deterred from doing what is best for the majority of citizens by the threats and the finger wagging of a minority. At least you have bodyguards!

Thank you for your time,

*Teresa A. Anderson*  
Teresa A. Anderson, D.D.S.



# The Best Years of Their Lives

MY TURN/TERESA A. ANDERSON

**A** while back, when I traveled with my husband and son to attend a family gathering, my parents, who were in an identical room in the same motel, were billed \$5 less than I was. The reason? They are "senior citizens." Forget that they are both still very gainfully employed, have no dependents, own three pieces of property and had no intention of requesting a discount. In this country, anyone 62 or more is automatically entitled to a plethora of perks and subsidies, regardless of need.

The assumption now is that "old" equals "poor." But how needy are senior citizens? Families headed by a single woman, for example, have a per capita income less than half that of seniors. What's more, people 65

and older had a per capita after-tax income of \$6,299—\$335 more than the national average and more than any age group except those over 50. Their poverty rate, 14 percent, only mirrors that of the general population.

**Nest Egg:** Even that favorite phrase of politicians, "fixed income," has to be reconsidered. Retired persons often have stabilized, if not entirely rigid, expenses. Almost 70 percent own their own home; others have a sizable nest egg from its sale. Their fixed incomes do not decrease because of a company layoff or because of increases in FICA withholding. Medicare covers major hospital expenses and private companies offer supplemental coverage. Public transportation is cheap, or nearly

free. And virtually every amusement can be obtained for a discount.

Contrast this with the expenses of a year-old "Yuppie" couple. The typical monthly mortgage payment in 1984 reached \$741. Total home payments are higher. There is no rebate on your property tax, which many seniors in my city get on a bus that costs 75 cents, but seniors for a dime.

This doesn't take into account the deductions for social security—my husband alone paid \$3,600 into the system in 1984. That's just the amount deducted from paychecks, not the equal employer contribution that we also had to earn. If we'd been allowed to invest this \$3,600 each year in

IRA earning 10 percent for 45 years, we could save more than \$2.5 million dollars by retirement! Nausea prevents me from calculating the entire \$7,200.

How are older Americans faring today? Like bandits. U.S. News & World Report commented that "the typical retired person's monetary investment in these benefits is not very high." A married man whose wife did not work and who retired in 1982 at 65, got back all of his payroll contributions since 1937 in 14 months.

Why aren't young people speaking out, demanding fair treatment? Why aren't the genuinely disadvantaged complaining about money lavished indiscriminately on the old? Why doesn't someone question a travel agency that offers "poor" senior citizens a discount on a \$2,600 tour to Australia? Why don't workers bombard their legislators with pleas to reform social security before they're left holding an empty bag?

**Upbeat:** Like the emperor's new clothes, the problem seems to be one of perception. A Minneapolis Tribune poll in 1981 found that the elderly gave more upbeat answers about themselves than they did about other older people and had a more positive view about aging than did those under 65. Of the older Minnesotans surveyed, 47 percent answered that they were "very happy"; an-

other 46 percent claimed to "pretty happy." That's 93 percent! By contrast, people under 65 guessed that only 4 percent of the elderly could be "very happy." They also believed that 58 percent of senior citizens had financial problems and worries, while only 7 percent of seniors said they had money problems.

Please don't confuse this questioning with a lack of respect for the aged. We

These days we seem to assume that 'old' equals 'poor.' But how needy are our senior citizens?

should honor them for their wisdom and experience and attempt to meet their *real* needs. But senior citizens can't be lumped together into a homogenous blob of senile men and women eating cat food in lonely rented rooms. Some are bag ladies in need of a hearty meal and a safe house. But should Rose Kennedy and William Randolph Hearst Jr. also be eligible for subsidized

meals through congregate dining programs? Should a movie theater or restaurant be allowed to offer special rates to one population group? Would they get away with advertising "15 Percent Discount for Caucasians"? Why isn't it just as shocking to discriminate against the young as the old?

**Free:** Young people have to lead the way in reform, hand in hand with those many older people who are tired of being treated like beggars. People like my grandmother, who just died at the age of 84. She served others by cooking, cleaning, baby-sitting, dog-walking and even by entertaining in nursing homes until the very day of her death. Her activities in many senior groups sometimes made her wonder, "Why should we expect things to be free? It's our grandchildren who will have to pay."

We need to untangle our social structure and separate the programs for the poor (both young and old) from the programs for the elderly (both poor and rich). We must not confuse perception with reality. After all, isn't there something strange about believing that a 73-year-old man can be president, but that he can't pay for his coffee at McDonald's?

*A public-health dentist, Anderson, 30, lives in St. Paul, Minn.*

CONTAC  
SEVERE  
COLD

© Mearns & Janney 1985  
USE ONLY AS DIRECTED

295590  
PR 005

March 5, 1985

Dear Mrs. Blankenbeckler:

Thank you for your letter which I have only just received and bless you for the way you feel about our country and for your determination to visit Washington.

I wonder if you would write a letter to my secretary, Kathy Osborne - The White House, and let her know exactly when you'll be in Washington. Give her time to reply so she can tell you if it is possible for us to meet. I know I'll be out of Washington from Friday, April 5th to the 15th. But if that's when you'll be here she can at least offer some help with regard to a White House tour.

Again, bless you and give my regards to your husband and that 12-year-old.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mrs. Vicky Blankenbeckler  
Apartment 1  
316 Melrose  
Maryville, Tennessee 37801

RR:plr PM14

FOR POTUS TO SEE AND SIGN

296735  
WF007

March 5, 1985

Dear Mr. Newson:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 28 which has only just arrived at my desk.

I appreciate your suggestion about Social Security and agree that there are faults in the system. The most obvious is that the program was created with no provision for a means test. In the effort to portray it as an insurance program, the originators refused to limit it to people who would have no other way to provide for their retirement years.

Now our problem is that government has made a contract with the people and would be violating that contract if it said some who had contributed would no longer receive benefits. I've had an idea for a solution for some time, but believe it should come from the recipients themselves. There is a fund in the U.S. Treasury Department made up of voluntary contributions to reduce the national debt. People with no need for their benefits could contribute them to that fund and get some return for their generosity in that their contribution would be tax deductible.

If in our tax reform proposal we are able to get a reduction in pay for Government employees, I intend to use the procedure I've just described. I've learned that Presidents are prohibited by law from changing their salary, so I intend to contribute a percent equal to the cut to that fund.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Henry G. Newson  
Post Office Box 6113  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28207

RR:plr PM14

FOR POTUS TO SEE AND SIGN

To Mr. Henry H. Newton - P.O. Box 6113 Charlotte N.C.

28207

Dear Mr. Newton

Thank you very much for your letter of Jan. 28 which has only just arrived at my desk.

I appreciate your suggestion about Social Security and agree that there are faults in the system. The most serious is that the program was created with no provision for a means test. In the effort to portray it as an insurance program the originators refused to limit it to people who would have no other way to provide for their retirement years.

Now our problem is that govt. has made a contract with the people and would be violating that contract if it did not shed contributors would no longer receive benefits. I've had an idea for a health for some time but believe it should come from the recipients themselves. There is a fund in the U.S. Treasury Dept. made up of voluntary contributions to reduce the Nat. debt. People with no need for their benefits could contribute them to that fund and get some ~~return~~ <sup>return</sup> for their generosity in that their contributions would be tax deductible.

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Again thank you for your letter.  
Sincerely RR

To Mrs. Vining Rankenbacker 316 Melrose #1  
Dear Mrs. Rankenbacker, Maryville Tenn. 37801

Thank you for your letter which I have only  
just received and please you for the way you feel  
about our country and for your determination to visit  
Wash.

I wonder if you would write a letter to my  
sister, Kathy Greene - the White House and  
let her know exactly when you'll be in Wash.  
~~So~~ Then find her time to reply so she can tell you  
if it is possible for me to meet. I know I'll be  
out of Wash. from Fri. April 5<sup>th</sup> to Sat 15<sup>th</sup>. But  
if that's when you'll be here she can let about  
offer some help with regard to a White House Tour.

Again please you to give my regards to your  
husband & that I hope you will.

I'm very RR

To Mrs. Teresa A. Anderson - Public Health Dept. 555 Cedar St.  
Dear Mrs. Anderson  
Dr. Paul Mann. 55101

Thank you very much for your letter of Jan. 20 which has  
just reached me and thank you for sending you article. Thank you  
too for writing it.

You'll be pleased to know that I hear from many former  
critics offering to help with regard to the deficit. Of course there  
are many we know who are totally dependent on D.D. and they are  
frightened unless someone tells them someone is out to take their  
benefits away from them. I'm talking about politicians not the  
owner of a fine article like "The Best Years of Their Lives".

There are absolutely right that in recent years the elderly  
have moved up to where as a group they average higher  
income than the rest of our society.

Again thank you & don't let the drum chase get  
you down. I'm very RR

Vicky Blankenbeckler

316 Melrose #1

Maryville, Tennessee 37801

*Gunderson*

Dear Mr. President,

Recently our family; my husband, twelve year old son and I started saving our change in hopes of making a trip to Washington D.C. in early April. I really was proud of us, partially because it's really going to be hard to save the money since I'm laid off and my husband only works part-time and because I was proud to be going to our nation's capital.

The response I got from friends and family really upset me. Everyone wanted to know what on earth we wanted to go there for. It got to the point that I felt like yelling. "My God, don't you realize that D.C. is your history. I just can't imagine not wanting to see it.

So, Mr. President, I decided to write someone I thought would understand. I know I'll cry when I visit Arlington and when I enter Lincoln Memorial. I'm proud of my country and the people who helped make it what it is today, including you. I think you've done an excellent job of showing strength and wisdom.

Our trip will probably be for only two days but will cram as much in as possible. If we happen to see you at the White House, I'll be the lady crying and waving like crazy. I know that you won't see me and it's alright - because I'll just be proud of the fact that I waved at my President!

"Sincerely"

Vicky Blankenbeckler

Vicky Blankenbecker  
316 Melrose #1  
Maryville, TN 37801

Dear Mr. President,

Recently our family; my husband, twelve year old son and I, started saving our change in hopes of making a trip to Washington, D.C. in early April. I really was proud of us, partially because it's really going to be hard to save the money since I'm laid off and my husband only works part-time and because I was proud to be going to our nation's capital.

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"Sincerely"

Vicky Blankenbecker

**HENRY G. NEWSON & CO.**

**LAND DEVELOPER**

**P. O. BOX 6113 • CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28207 • (704) 552-5841**

January 28th 1985

Mr. Ronald Reagan, Pres  
United States  
Washington  
D.C.

Re: Reduction of Social Security  
Those who do not need it.  
Such as I

Dear Mr President:

It is ridiculous for those of us who do not need our payments from Social Security to receive them when the Country is in need of reducing this terrible budget.

My wife and I receive a total of over \$1200. per month from them.

My income is well in excess of \$100,000. per year and sometimes more. I am seventy eight years old and still working and paying into the system every year on my income tax, but the amount received is far beyond what any other retirement plan would pay under the same circumstances. Why should the government subsidize me?

Cut the payments for all of those like me, who have an income from any source of over \$60,000. per year.

I am a Republican. Don't let any promises made in the heat of a campaign freeze you into a course that will wreck the country- the same goes for the Military .

Sincerely  
  
Henry G. Newson

**DEVELOPMENTS**

WENDOVER / VALLEYBROOK / COUNTRY COLONY / BELLWOOD  
QUAIL VIEW / ABBOTSWOOD / PROVIDENCE PLANTATION

End  
case  
File

297325

AL

March 5, 1985

Dear Mrs. Schmid:

Your letter of January 6 has only just reached my desk, hence the lateness of my reply.

I hope you are aware now of the efforts we are making to alleviate as much of the problem as possible. Actually, only about 10% of our farms are in trouble, but, unfortunately, they are concentrated in the midwest farm belt in just a few states.

As for the long-range problem you mentioned having to do with prices, we are working to bring relief there also. In the economic summit this May in Germany, I am going to urge our allies to join us in a round of trade talks to end or reduce the subsidizing of farm produce among other things which hurts us in export of farm products. We are trying to get congressional help in a program to get our farmers back into the marketplace free of government regulation and interference.

One thing I can assure you, the farm situation has my "upfront attention."

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mrs. Susan Schmid  
Rural Route 1, Box 146  
Bellwood, Nebraska 68624

January 6, 1985

The President

The White House

Washington D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

Today, I am writing to you as a concerned citizen not only for Nebraska, but for the whole nation. I hope others are doing the same, because Mr. President, this crisis is growing and if it doesn't receive attention - will eventually (I believe) be the downfall of this United States. Our breadbasket may be lost.

I have so many thoughts I would like to express to you, but will try to keep my letter short and to the point.

Our state and particularly our area is having a financial crisis. Several banking institutions near here have been closed. The Federal Depositors Insurance Corporation has stepped in and are doing their part. The farm loans are being processed in what is the FDC's procedure - liquidation.

Mr. President, my point it is, we as farmers, small businessmen need help. And Mr. President, we don't need more farm credit, We need prices for our products. We are tired of subsidizing the cheap food policy of the nation.

As I stated earlier, this is just a few of my thoughts. I hope this issue gets your upfront attention.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Susan Schmid

R.R. # 1, Box 146

Bellwood, Nebraska 68624

January 10, 1935

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

cap Today, I am writing to you as a concerned citizen not only for Nebraska, but for the whole nation. I hope others are doing the same, because Mr. President, this crisis is growing and if it doesn't receive attention - will eventually (I believe) be the downfall of this United States. Our breadbasket may be lost.

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Mr. President, my point is, we as farmers, small businessmen need help. And Mr. President, we don't need more farm credit. We need prices for our products. We are tired

of subsidizing the cheap food policy  
of the nation.

As I stated earlier, this is  
just a few of my thoughts. I  
hope this issue gets your  
upfront attention.

Sincerely yours,  
Mrs. Susan Schmid

297308

1/1003

March 5, 1985

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thanks for your letter which has only just now reached my desk.

Mr. Bennett, I know the press and a number of special interest lobbyists paint a picture of budget cuts being aimed at those who need help the most. Let me assure you that is not the purpose of anyone in our Administration. What we are aiming at is waste in the administrative overhead of many programs where money which should be given to individuals like yourself is being wasted in bureaucratic extravagance. Also, of course, there are always some who will take advantage of a program and benefit from it although they are in no way eligible or deserving.

I'm very pleased and proud to have your support for the MX and the other defense systems we must have. I'll keep on fighting to get them. We need the support of the people to persuade some in the Congress who would unilaterally disarm us in the face of the Soviet military build-up, the greatest the world has ever seen.

Again, my thanks and best regards.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mr. J. O. Bennett  
Route 1, Box 260  
Williford, Arkansas 72482

Williford, Ark. 72482  
January 6, 1985

Ronald Reagan, President of the United States  
The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President,

Having been a prisoner of war of the Japanese for three and one half years, and being severely mistreated, I applaud your stand on 'Human Rights'. No human being should be degraded by beatings or by words. Yet, I am afraid that we have concentrated our efforts to uphold the 'Rights' of people in other countries to such a degree that we have failed to see the 'Inhumanism' that is being perpetrated on our own!

To prove my statement, I ask this question, every time that the question comes up of reducing the Federal Budget or reducing the Federal deficit to whom is the 'hatchet' directed. It is directed toward the veterans, welfare, Social Security, and food stamp recipients, mostly. People that are not living but just barely existing and who could, hardly, stand a cut in their livelihood at all. We have a constant fear of what our government is going to do to our livelihood. Is that not 'Inhumanism'?

I am a veteran, disabled receiving service-connected compensation, which I believe to be deserved, living in daily fear that the rights that have been promised to me and others will be taken away by an insensitive and inconstant congress.

Brother Reagan, I am a Democrat but I voted for you because of the stand you have taken concerning the Russians, abortion, school prayer and others. You are a good, loyal American that is not afraid to stand up for that which is right and not afraid to stand up against them that would give our country away. Mr. President, we need a good defense, we need the MX missile and the 'Star Wars' weapons. It looks as though you are going to have to stand toe to toe with those that are against them, and do battle! My prayers are for you!

Sincerely Yours,  
*J.O. Bennett*  
J.O. Bennett  
Route 1 Box 260  
Williford, Ark. 72482

296667  
WE

March 5, 1985

Dear Mr. Olona:

Thank you for your good letter and good wishes. Thank you, too, for what you are doing for those elderly ladies. The Lord says he expects us to give 10% of our earnings to him and you are certainly doing that with your help to those needy souls.

Please tell them we aren't going to let anyone take away or reduce their Social Security benefits. Some politicians are saying that things like that are going to happen, but they are playing cheap politics. We won't let it happen, tell them not to be afraid.

God bless you for what you are doing.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mr. Donald Olona  
1225 Paisano, N.E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

RR:plr PM13

FOR POTUS TO SEE AND SIGN

Dear Mr. Reagon President sir

How are you? I pray you are fine.

I'm writting this letter, and I hope it falls in to your hands. I have a problem I know only you can help me with.

There is a woman 64 years old widow named Dorthy A. She had turbrokulosus when she was young. Now she has only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a lung. She has only Social Security to live on. She's having a tough time making ends meat. She's a good person. Always helping someone all she can. She keeps her heat way down, her house is very cold, untill some one comes over, then she'll turn the heat up untill they leave. WShen she gets home, she goes into her bathroom turn the wall heater up, changes then hurrys up to her electric blanket. She has a ambent solar heater but her house is poorly insulated so once the sun drops, her heat also does.

Then my mother in law 63 years old widow had canser, living the same was as Dorthy. And my Grand Mother was one of those old people you were talking about, when Mondel was scaring them about Social Security cuts.

I'm glad your still President, and I'm always ready to stick up for you.

I'm 33 years old with a wife and two kids. But seeing you help people got me to start helping these 3 ladys, instead of giving 10% of my income to Godswork, I give it to them.

It's not easy but, with this over time, I can give them \$50 each.

Mr. President, Please don't make no cuts on Social Security. I agree with you on Building a better stronger defence. I agree with just about everything, but only you can help these older people out. They give so much, to live so sad.

I hope I never see Old age. There health are shot,  
there lives are in poverty. What ever happen to the golden ages.  
What's more important to us, to the U.S. then the wisdom of are  
old people. like your self, or are children.

The United States is a great country, but with out are elders,  
without are children, what is there to defend. I don't know whats  
harder. Seeing these old ladys going with out, or seeing my self  
with ill health.

All I'm asking is please if there has to be any kind of cuts.  
Let it be on those with 2nd or 3rd incomes, but these ones with  
only the one income, They are low enough I can't see how much  
lower they can get.

Thank you for the time you gave me.

God Bless you

Donald Olona

P.S. Please don't say over the air about cuts to the  
old needie, My Grandmother can't take to many more scares.

1225 Paisano N.E.

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

AK

Dear Mr Reagan President sir

How are you, I pray you are fine.

I'm writing this letter, and I hope it falls in to your hands. I have a problem I know only you can help me with.

There is a woman 64 years old widow named Dorothy A. She had Tuberculosis when she was young. Now she has only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a lung. She has only Social Security to live on. She's having a tough time making ends meet. With a cut on her Social Security I don't know how she's going to make it. She's a good person. Always helping someone all she can. She keeps her heat way down, her house is very cold, until someone comes over, then she'll turn the heat up till they leave. When she gets home, she goes into her bath room turn the wall heater up, changes then hurrys up to bed to her Electric blanket. She has a ambient Saker heater but her house is poorly insulated so once the Sun drops, her heat also does.

Then my Mother in law 63 years old Widow Had Cancer, ~~was~~ living the same way as Dorothy. And my Grand Mother was one of those old people you ~~were~~ were talking about, when Mondel was scaring them about Social Security cuts.

I'm glad you're still President, and I'm always ready to stick up for you.

I'm 33 years old with a wife and two kids. But seeing you help people got me to start helping these 3 ladies, In stead of giving 10% of my income to Godawork, I give it to them.

Its not easy, but, With This over time, I can give them \$50 each

Mr President Please don't make no cuts on Social Security

I agree with you on Building a better stronger defence.  
I agree with just about everything. But only you can help  
these older people out. They give so much, to live so sad.

I hope I never see Old age. Their health are shot, their  
lives are in poverty. What ever happen to the golden ages.  
Whats more important to us, to the U.S. Then the Wisdom  
of are old People. like your self. or are children.

The United States is a great <sup>country</sup> ~~country~~. But with out are elders,  
with out are Children, What is there to defend. I don't know  
what's ~~harder~~ harder. Seeing these old ladies going <sup>with</sup> out,  
or seeing my self with ill health,

all I'm asking is please if there has to be any kind  
of Cuts. Let it be on those with 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> other incomes.  
but these ones with only the one income. They are low enough.  
I can't see how much lower they can get.

Thank you for the time you gave me.

God Bless you

Donald Olona

P.S. Please don't say over the air about

Cuts to the old medicare, My Grandmother  
can't take to many more scares.

To Mrs. Susan Schmidt R.R. #1 Box 146 Salem, N.H.  
68624

Dear Mrs. Schmidt

Your letter of Jan. 6 has only just reached my desk hence the lateness of my reply.

I hope you are aware now of the efforts we are making to alleviate as much of the problem as possible. Actually only about 10% of our farms are in trouble but unfortunately they are ~~the~~ concentrated in the midwest from Dutton just a few states.

As for the long range problem you mentioned having to do with prices we are working to bring relief there also. In the 22. summit this May in January I am going to urge our allies to join us in a demand of Trade talks to end or reduce the subsidizing of farm products coming other things which hurts us in export of farm products. We are trying to get Congressional help in a program to get our own farmers back into the ~~free~~ market place free of govt. regulation & interference.

One thing I can assure you, the farm situation has my "highest attention". Sincerely RR

To Mr. J. O. Bonnett Rt. 1 Box 260 Willard Ark. 74482

Dear Mr. Bonnett

Thanks for your letter which has only just now reached my desk.

Mr. Bonnett I know the press and a number of special interest lobbyists paint a picture of budget cuts being aimed at those who need help the most. But me assure you that is not the function of anyone in our admin. What we are aiming at is needs in the administrative overhead of many programs where money

which stand the going to individuals like yourself is being  
needed in ~~the~~ Democratic resurgence. One of course  
there are always some who will take advantage of a  
program and benefit from it although they are in no  
way eligible or deserving.

I'm very pleased to found to have your support  
for the NK and the other defense systems we must have.  
I'll keep on fighting to get them. We need the support  
of the people to pressure some in the Congress who  
would undoubtedly disarm us in the face of the Soviet  
military buildup, the greatest the world have ever seen.

Again my thanks to Best Regards

Sincerely RR

To Mr. Donald Olson 1225 Paisano N.E.

Don Mr. Olson Allingworth N. & W. Mexico DT110

Thank you for your good letter & good wishes.

Thank you too for what you are doing for those already  
deaf. The Ford says he expects <sup>us</sup> to give 10% of our savings  
to him & you are certainly doing that with you help to those  
needy people.

Please tell them we aren't going to let anyone  
take away or reduce their Social Security benefits. Some  
politicians are saying that things like that are going to  
happen but they are playing chest politics. We won't  
let it happen, tell them not to be afraid.

Thank them for what you are doing.

Sincerely RR

Encl  
Case  
File

27111955  
FE 010-01

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 3/6/85

*to files*

NOTE FOR: Fred Fielding

The President has

seen ☐  
acted upon ☐  
commented upon ☒

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

information ☐  
action ☐

David L. Chew  
Staff Secretary  
(x-2702)

cc: Original to Files ✓

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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING

SUBJECT: FBI Release of McCarthy Era Documents

Attached for your information is a photocopy of an article which appeared early last week in the Miami Herald (Tab A). The article, written by Jack Sirica (son of Judge John Sirica) of Knight-Ridder News Service, entitled "McCarthy-era documents show FBI tracked Reagan," is based on documents (Tab B) recently released by the FBI in partial response to a Freedom of Information Act request. Those documents include a list of "sponsors" of the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy and a program from a dinner held by that organization in 1946. Your name is included in both lists.

The article attempts to contrast the appearance of your name on those documents with your testimony a year later before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It quotes the following exchange:

Mr. Reagan, there has been testimony to the effect here that numerous Communist front organizations have been set up in Hollywood. Have you ever been solicited to join any of those organizations or any organization which you considered to be a Communist front organization?

Well, sir, I have received literature from an organization called the Committee for a Far-Eastern Democratic Policy. I don't know whether it is Communist or not. I only know that I didn't like their views and as a result I didn't want to have anything to do with them.

The article concludes, however, that:

There is no evidence in the files that Reagan did anything for the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy other than to lend his name as a sponsor. And in 5,700 pages of testimony from the internal security subcommittee hearings, Reagan's name was never mentioned.

As the article notes, the White House Press Office has dismissed questions regarding this subject indicating only that it has been gone over numerous times before.

*Fred - anytime you  
can give my story out. I was  
a liberal when Dad was. I have  
lost many friends here like others  
I was forced into supporting causes  
It was the 1947-48 Hollywood  
scare that opened my  
eyes. I have some  
pictures of them.  
RR*

The FBI has submitted for our review the remaining documents from its files that are responsive to the Freedom of Information Act request (Tab C). Absent an objection from us, those documents will be released in the redacted form in which they were presented to us by the FBI.

Like the earlier release, the documents are from the McCarthy-era and consist of FBI and other investigative reports, newspaper clippings and portions of transcripts of Congressional testimony. Several refer to you favorably as an "anti-Communist." The last several pages concern an incident at a party at which you apparently came close to blows with another guest who had made anti-Semitic remarks. The penultimate page is taken from a 1943 FBI interview of you concerning that incident. You describe the incident and say that you "almost came to blows with subject, although [you] emphasized that considerable drinking had been done by all persons involved."

I find no basis for legal objection to the release of these additional documents in response to the pending Freedom of Information Act request, but wanted to bring them and this entire matter to your attention for your information.

End  
Case  
File

To ~~For~~ Rudolph Lee Harris 607 Savannah St. S.E.  
Wash. D.C. 20032

Dear Rudolph

I was pleased to learn of your grades. I have to tell you, you are doing better than I did. And while you didn't win at the science fair, an honorable mention isn't bad.

You asked about why the inauguration wasn't held on Sunday. It has always been a tradition that the inaugural programs, the parade & all should not be held on the Lord's day, interfering with Church services. The reason I had to be sworn in on Sunday though was because under the law I would no longer have been

President after 12 noon Sunday. There would have been 24 hours with no President of the U.S. Just between us I don't see why we can't amend the law to read that when Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday the President's term is extended 24 hours to noon Monday.

I've enclosed some photos of inaugural events with notes on the back as to what they are.

Please give your Mom & Dad my very best regards. Nancy sends her's also.

Sincerely RR

298168  
PR014-01

March 6, 1985

Dear Rudolph:

I was pleased to learn of your grades. I have to tell you, you are doing better than I did. And, while you didn't win at the Science Fair, an Honorable Mention isn't bad.

You asked about why the inauguration wasn't held on Sunday. It has always been a tradition that the inaugural programs, the parade and all, should not be held on the Lord's day, interfering with Church services. The reason I had to be sworn in on Sunday, though, was because, under the law, I would no longer have been President after 12:00 noon Sunday. There would have been 24 hours with no President of the United States. Just between us, I don't see why we can't amend the law to read that when January 20th falls on a Sunday, the President's term is extended 24 hours to noon Monday.

I've enclosed some photos of inaugural events with notes on the back as to what they are.

Please give your mom and dad my very best regards. Nancy sends hers also.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Rudolph Lee Hines  
607 Savannah Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20032

✓ Enclosures: 6 photo  
RR:plr PM14

✓ FOR POTUS TO SEE AND SIGN

850807

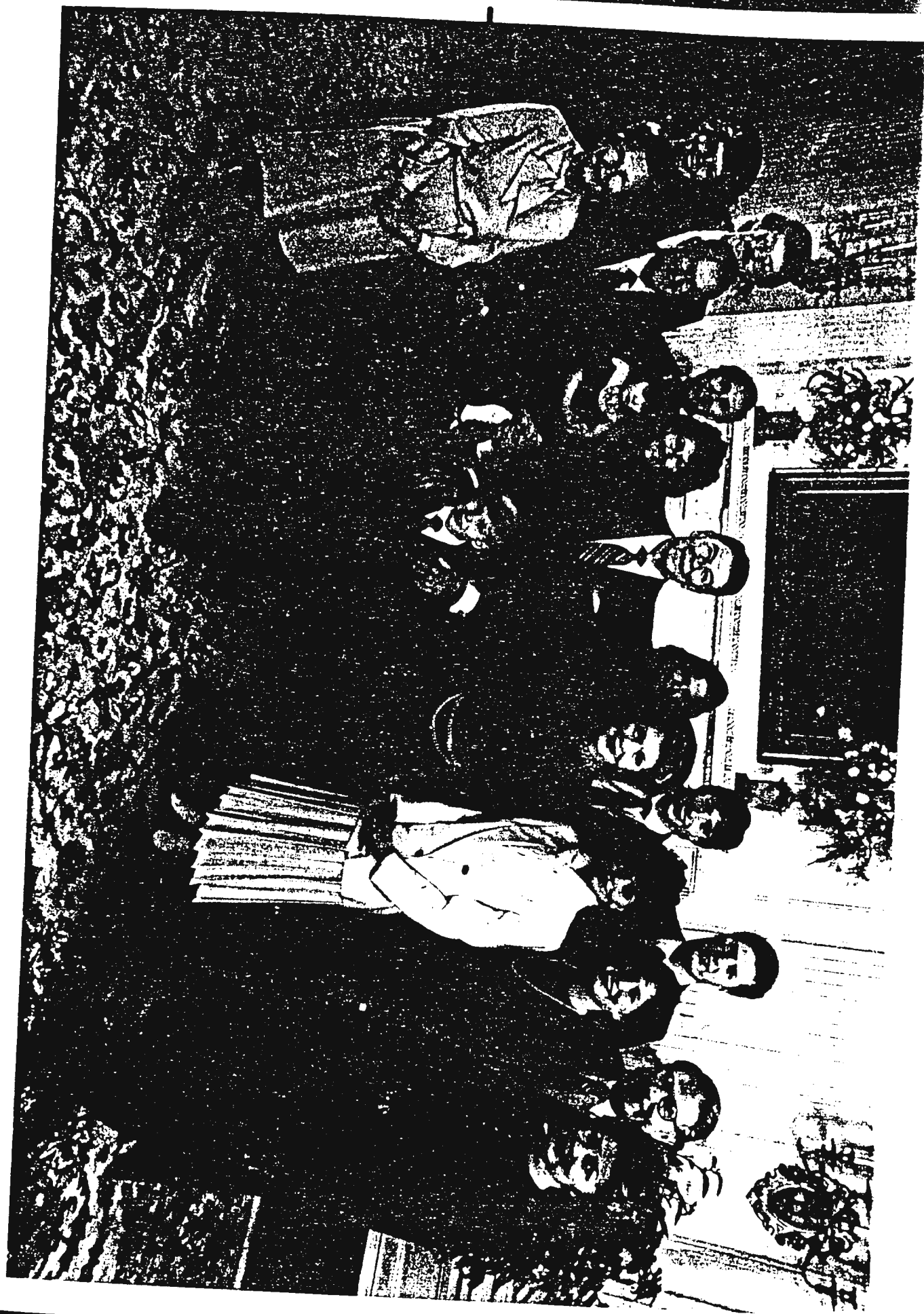


Dear Rudolph  
This is us with our new  
family member "Lucky".  
Best Regards  
Ronald Reagan



Her Paw Print.

Our Family - Many & more.



of the morning in.



The Prayer Service Sun. morning.



This is the meaning in the White House  
which lead to the fact according to Sam but which  
are reported the next day at the Capital.



Dancing at one of the Inaugural balls.



---

End  
case  
File

296897

PR016

Box R-4526  
A.P.O., NEW YORK NY 09283

*Mr. Brown*

6 March 1985

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you so much for your kind letter about the Spanish correspondent, José María Carrascal. A letter arrived from him which was ecstatic. He said that the fact that you had agreed to his request for an interview was not only a very kind and generous act, but was the highest point of his whole career as a reporter. I am confident his articles will reflect this appreciation.

It is good news to know that you have Patrick Buchanan with you in the White House. He is a topflight writer, thinks in a straight line, and is "Mr. Trenchant" himself when he expresses an opinion. The two of you should make a terrific team in your joint abilities to make yourselves understood. I'll think of you both as "the Potomac Express(ers)" of clearly put, sound ideas.

Did I ever tell you how glad I am for, among so many other things, that you have retained your sense of humor? That is really an achievement in Washington.

Again, love to Nancy, and my affectionate respects to you.

Yours,

*Alan Brown*  
Alan Brown

PS This does not require an answer. I am not trying to make you my Potomac Pen Pal!

End  
(ase  
File

294618  
F1010-02

March 6, 1985

Dear Billy:

It was good to hear from you. I did a little prying and can assure you the gentleman from the Houston area is not an "advisor" of anyone close to me. I'm sure he had a chance to speak his piece, but then a number with varying views have had that chance. We haven't gotten down to real discussion of the Treasury proposal as yet. We're still doing some spadework on the budget and now have had to turn our attention temporarily to the MX missile.

We expect to get around to the tax proposal very soon and I promise your views and a great many similar to yours will be on the table when we do. Senator Nichols and Representative Mickey Edwards brought a delegation of independents from Oklahoma in just the other day -- they were singing your song and all in tune.

All the best to you.

Sincerely,

RON

Mr. William D. Mounger  
Post Office Box 1200  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

RR:plr PM14

FOR POTUS TO SEE AND SIGN

To Mr. William D. Murrin P.O. Box 1200 Jackson Miss.  
39205

Dear Billy

It was good to hear from you. I did a little fessing  
and can assure you the gentleman from the Houston area  
is not an "advisor" of anyone close to me. I'm sure he had  
a chance to speak his piece but then a number with  
varying views have had that chance. We haven't gotten  
down to the real discussion of the Treasury proposal as yet.  
We're still doing some spadework on the budget and now  
have had to turn our attention temporarily to the MX missile.

We expect to get around to the tax ~~proposal~~  
proposal very soon & I promise your views and a great  
many similar to yours will be on the table when we do.  
Sen. Nichols & Rep. Mickey Edwards brought a delegation  
of Independents from Okla. in first the other day, they  
were singing your song and all in tune. It sounds good.  
All the best to you.

Sincerely  
Ron

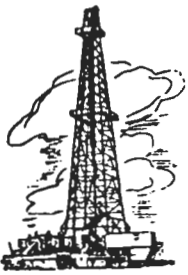
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1985

MR. PRESIDENT:

As Don Regan discussed with  
you this morning, attached is  
the letter you wrote to  
Billy Mounger with the one  
sentence "It sounds good."  
deleted.

  
David Chew



WILLIAM D. MOUNGER, Oil Producer

POST OFFICE BOX 1200

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

February 26, 1985

TELEPHONE (601) 354-2479

RE: 16691

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you most sincerely for your considerate response to my letter of January 29, 1985, which set out my perturbation concerning what was believed to be a misuse of my name. One of your "Kitchen Cabinet" Members, who attended the meeting in Charles Wick's home, stated, iterated, and reiterated to me that my name was used in exactly the manner I described. How the confusion came about is inexplicable; consequently, I, also, am very sorry this imbroglio arose.

However, you thoughtfully informed me that Don Regan did quote an unnamed independent from Texas whose name (Calaway) you revealed to me. Mr. President, the revelation of that name as an accepted advisor was almost as disconcerting as the belief that my name was improperly used. In checking with Jimmy Lyon, Reaganites, Republican Activists, Independent Producers, and others, the only independent producer named Calaway anyone can identify is James C. Calaway, of Southwest Minerals, Houston, Texas. All sources confirm that he is an ultra-liberal, New Deal, Fair Deal Democrat, who was Jimmy Carter's main supporter in the Houston Area. He has never done anything for any Republican - most particularly you. Asking his advice about your Administration's Tax Proposals would equate to Bill Casey's conferring with the KGB about how to run the CIA. Finding the "proverbial needle" is almost easier than finding an Independent Producer who did not support you; and, mirabile dictu, Don Regan not only accomplished that, but sought his advice and quoted him to your "Kitchen Cabinet."

Mr. President, please stay in concert with those who are conjoined with you in the principles which you espouse; and do not be deviated by those who do not share your world view.

Sincerely,

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