

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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*Last Updated: 03/18/2025*

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

37 Joseph W. Namath

906 NORTH HILLCREST ROAD  
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

April 5, 1985

*Joe Namath*

*cc: KS*

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

Dear Mr. President,

I hope this letter finds you and Mrs. Reagan enjoying the best of health as well as good spirits. My wife, Deborah and I are healthy thank God and expecting our first child this October. We are both excited and looking forward to parenthood.

I was thrilled to receive your congratulatory letter on my election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. I thank you for your kind words. You and I know, however, that even the Hall of Fame election was because of a team effort. I'm sincerely thankful to the many players and coaches I have worked with and I know they are sharing the honor with me. As the man who heads up the main team, The United States of America, you have my respect, admiration, and loyalty.

Deborah and I are honored to accept your gracious invitation to attend the state dinner in honor of the President of Algeria. We also look forward to the arrival ceremony reception at 9:30 A.M. on the south lawn of The White House and would be honored and pleased to be in attendance at that time.

God Bless You.

Sincerely,

*Joe*  
JOE NAMATH

JWN:mjg

End  
Case  
File

323215

ME 001-03

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1985

Dear Mrs. Bruno:

I'm writing in answer to your letter of March 22. I'm sorry to be so late, but it takes awhile before mail reaches my desk. First, let me express my deepest sympathy for the loss of your son and the tragedy that has befallen your family. Please tell Gino's wife and children that Mrs. Reagan and I have them in our prayers.

Mrs. Bruno, I know how you feel about the man who so brutally committed this cold-blooded murder and the attack on Joseph and Sal, and I share your concern as to whether justice will be done. In recent years there seems to be a trend toward recognizing the criminals' rights more than those of the victim. I hope that won't be true in this case and that full consideration will be given to the fact that he had been paroled after committing an earlier crime.

In Washington we have been supporting new laws hoping to reverse the trend, but there are limits to what we can do. In our system of government, crimes such as this are tried under the state jurisdiction. The laws governing crimes such as murder and punishment for that are state laws and tried by state judges. Like you, I can only hope and pray that justice will be done. I'm sorry there isn't something I can do, particularly in this case.

God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Maria G. Bruno  
3005 Willow Pass Road  
West Pittsburg, California 94565



*Handwritten: Addressed to President*

# C. M. BRUNO & SONS, Inc.

## FAMILY MARKET

3005 WILLOW PASS ROAD • WEST PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA 94565 • TELEPHONE (415) 458-3574

March 22, 1985

HH

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

Dear Mr. President:

My name is Maria Bruno and my mother's name is also Maria Bruno. Since her command of the English language is limited, I am writing this letter for her.

About nineteen years ago, my husband and I, with our seven small children, moved from Sicily, in Western Europe, to California. We knew that this country was built on common-sense and great principles. Our move was made in order that we could offer our children a better way of life. Our desire was to ensure their future as adults. When we arrived in the United States, we all worked very hard. After five years, we purchased a French bread bakery where we worked as much as twenty hours a day, seven days a week. Five years later, we sold the bakery and purchased a grocery store, where we continue to work together as a family. Through the years, as the children married, the family grew in numbers.

Throughout our nineteen years as emigrants, we never applied for, or received, any type of state or government assistance. We have managed to survive through hard work and a 'spirit of togetherness'. We have done this by ourselves. We did not come to this great country to be a burden, but rather to have a chance for a better way of life. We are proud to be a self-supporting family.

During my life here, I lost one daughter in 1977, at twenty-two years of age, through an accidental death. In 1981, my husband (fifty-eight years old) passed away as a result of cancer. In the course of these sad times, my children and I comforted each other. We accepted these tragedies as God's will.

On the evening of February 26th, 1985, a shoplifter came into our grocery store. My thirty-four year old son, Gino, stopped him at the front door of the store and asked him what he had inside of his coat. The individual, who has been identified as Dennis Lee Stephens, pulled out a steak and gave it to my son. Since shoplifting has been excessive in recent months, my son asked him if he had anything more. At this time, Stephens pulled out a knife and stabbed my son to death. My two other sons, Joseph and Sal, ran to aid their brother. They too, were injured. Joseph was seriously injured with a stab wound in his side. Sal received a cut on his neck. Stephens was not alone. He came into our store with four other individuals. We do not know what they intended to do.

# C. M. BRUNO & SONS, Inc.

## FAMILY MARKET

3005 WILLOW PASS ROAD • WEST PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA 94565 • TELEPHONE (415) 458-3574

By now, you might be asking yourself, "Why is she telling me all of this?" It is because during your re-election campaign, you stressed the importance of the 'family.' My children and I identify with this, as we are a very closely knit family. Today, we number twenty in all. This includes my grandchildren.

I am now asking for your help. Dennis Lee Stephens has just been apprehended in Oklahoma (March 20, 1985). The authorities are telling me that the laws are so lenient that this man can get parole in a few years. This seems unbelievable to me. Especially, in the light of what it has done to my family. We are devastated.

Mr. President, this man has a long criminal record. He should never have been paroled before. How can we possibly have laws that allow this type of criminal to be free? When will he commit another crime? Who will be next? I am pleading with you. Justice must be done!

My son, Gino, left a wife and three small children, along with his loving sisters and brothers. I implore you, Mr. President, to give your utmost attention to this issue, and all other situations that are caused by crimes of violence. Words cannot express the horribleness of this tragedy. My family, as well as the community in which we live, are in a state of shock over this despicable incident.

Our business has suffered a tremendous loss of sales from this senseless happening. Our store is the sole support of our entire family (20 in number), as well as twenty other outside employees. We cannot afford to lose our business. Even though my son, Gino, was a well-loved member of the community, it must be recognized that when a shadow hangs over an establishment, it takes time before the public feels secure enough to bring back the happy-go-lucky atmosphere that prevailed.

In closing, I would like to state my major concerns: What can be done to insure that the suspect of this crime will not be released after a short prison term? Will he be judged according to the seriousness of his crime? What laws will protect my family in the future? What is my guarantee that the criminal will receive the appropriate punishment for the crime he committed?

Awaiting your reply, I am,

*Maria G. Bruno*

Maria G. Bruno,  
A grieving Mother M/B.

cc: Governor George Deukmejian  
Sacramento, California 95814

Congressman George Miller  
Washington, D. C.

# Community mourns killing of grocer

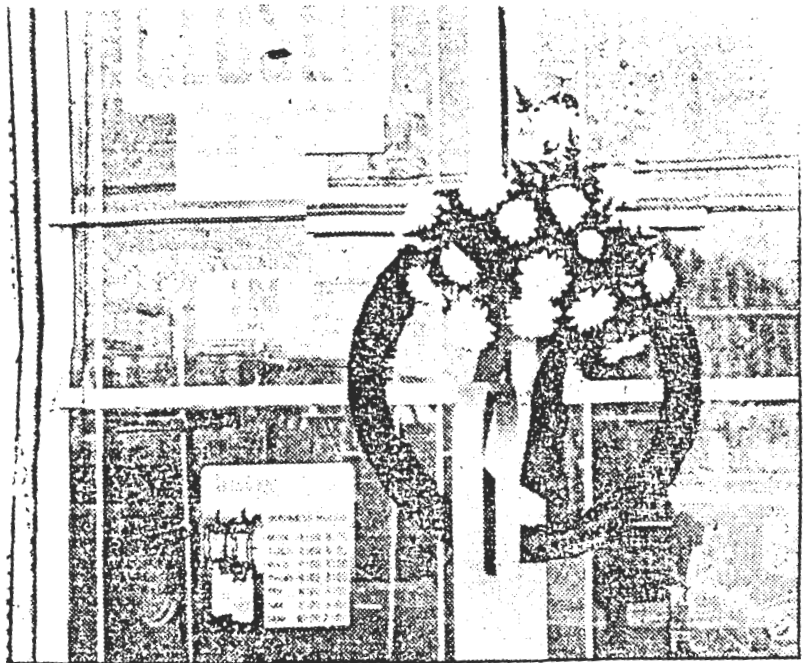
By Frank Woolfen  
The Tribune

WEST PITTSBURG — His many friends say that Gino Bruno was the last man you would need to steal from — if you needed something, all you had to do was ask for it.

So the residents of this working-class community of 12,000 are doubly saddened that 34-year-old Gino Bruno lost his life when he caught a shoplifter hiding a steak under his coat.

Gino Bruno and his brother, Joseph, 33, were stabbed Tuesday evening when they attempted to thwart three shop-

See GROCER, Back Page



By Ron Riesterer/The Tribune

A black wreath hangs on door of West Pittsburg market.

## Grocer February 28, 1985

Continued from Page A-1

lifters in the C.M. Bruno and Sons Family Market here.

Joseph, of Antioch, is in the intensive care unit in Los Medanos Community Hospital in Pittsburg with a deep stab wound in his left side.

Another Bruno brother, Salvatore, 38, of Pittsburg, who was in the back of the store and ran to assist his brothers, was cut slightly but did not require treatment.

"Life is too precious to take for one damn steak," said Robert Williams, who has become well-acquainted with the Brunos, who operated the city's biggest market.

"If the guy had said he was hungry, Gino would have given him the steak," Williams said.

The man who killed Bruno with his hunting knife got away in an old yellow panel truck with black pinstrips, said Sheriff's Lt. Larry Crompton.

Contra Costa sheriff's Capt. Stanley Garvin said a man and woman who were with the suspect are in custody and officers are running down several leads.

Billie Wayne Smothers, 46, will be charged with attempted murder and Mellony Kay Stephens, 21, will face an accessory to murder charge, Garvin said. Both gave West Pittsburg addresses.

The market — which the Brunos opened 11 years ago with their father —

died last year, and a fourth brother, John — was closed yesterday.

On the door hung a black wreath and a penciled sign that said, "Closed due to death."

Customers who hadn't heard of the slaying came, and all had words of praise for the family. Many said they were allowed to buy on credit when they had no money.

"I've come in and said I had no money and Gino or Sal would say, 'Go ahead and get what you need,'" Williams said. "I've walked out with \$35 worth of groceries. People appreciate that and when they get money they come back and pay."

"Now some idiot has taken his life."

Janie Maupin, who lives adjacent to the market, said, "Gino would have given the guy the shirt off his back if he had asked for it. Everybody knows that if you needed something, all you had to do was ask."

"He was a real friend, not just a store owner."

Varlerie Aragon said the family was "far too good to everybody. They couldn't be nicer to everybody (who) came here and gave them their business."

Gino, who lived in Antioch, leaves his wife, Lana, and three children, Cosimo Gino, 9, Karen, 7, and Giovanni 5.



To Mrs. Maria H. Bruner 3005 Wilson Road  
West Pittsburg Cal. 94565

Dear Mrs. Bruner

I'm writing in answer to your letter of March 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
I'm sorry to be so late but it takes a while  
before mail reaches my desk, I just let me express  
my deepest sympathy for the loss of your son & the  
tragedy that has befallen your family. Please tell  
mine <sup>wife & children</sup> ~~family~~ that Mrs. Reagon & I have them in  
our prayers.

Mrs. Bruner I know how you feel about  
the man who so brutally committed this cold blooded  
murder and the attack on Joseph & Roland & about  
your concern as to whether justice will be done. I'm  
scent upon there seems to be a trend toward  
recognizing the civil liberties more than there  
of the nation. I hope that won't be true in this case  
and that full consideration will be given to the fact  
that he had been paroled after committing an earlier  
crime.

Here in Wash. we have been suffering near laws  
hoping to reverse the trend but there are limits  
to what we can do. In our system of just. crimes  
such as this are tried under state jurisdiction. The  
laws governing crimes such as murder and punishment  
for that are state laws & tried by state judges. Like  
you I can only hope & pray that justice will be done.  
I'm sorry I haven't something I can do, particularly in  
this case.

God bless you & your family.  
Sincerely R W

323213

ME001-03

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1985

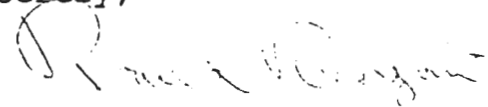
Dear Ms. Ross:

Thank you for writing as you did and for sharing your memories with us. It goes without saying that Lee's death was a great shock to us and a loss that has caused us great sorrow.

Thank you for telling us of his love for us and this place -- a love we share. I'm glad Clo wanted to scatter his ashes over these hills and fields.

Again, our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,



Ms. Margaret Ross  
3805 Center Avenue  
Santa Barbara, California 93110

To Mrs. Margaret Ross 3805 Center Ave.  
Santa Barbara Calif. 93110

Dear Mrs. Ross

Thank you for writing as you did and for sharing your memories with us. It goes without saying that Les' death was a great shock to us and a loss that has caused us great sorrow.

Thank you for telling us of his love for <sup>us &</sup> this place - a love we share. I'm glad Elor wanted to scatter his ashes over these hills & fields.

Again our heart felt thanks.

Sincerely RR

~~To Mr. Joseph A. Zeman~~

~~To Mr. Benjamin Mead - 122 W. 30th St. Suite 205  
N.Y. N.Y. 10001~~

~~Dear Mr. Mead~~

3805 Center Avenue  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
1 April 1985

Dear President and Mrs. Reagan,

It was November 1979 that I first visited Rancho del Cielo as the guest of Lee and Clo Clearwater. During the ensuing years I made many return trips as wildflower after wildflower bloomed and needed to be identified.

The trips were certainly very special - because of the beauty, the warmth, and the unusual pride of Lee in all that he had done there. In the many hours that we spent walking the fields of the Ranch - in search of a new wildflower that Lee could claim as an attribute of Rancho del Cielo - he never betrayed a confidence, or showed a trace of disloyalty, or, in fact, anything but love for both of you.

I visited the Ranch the last Saturday before Lee died. I found him that day concerned with how he could get the primroses under the oak tree to look optimal for your next visit, and whether enough snow was going to fall that day for him to be able to get a picture of the shooting stars in the snow.

God gives us some rare gifts; indeed, Lee was one of them.

Most sincerely,

*Margaret Ross*

Margaret Ross

End  
Case  
File

306545  
ME 601-0C

PAUL LAXALT  
NEVADA



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 11, 1985

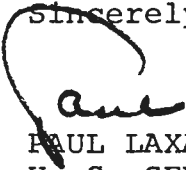
Dear Kathy:

Could you please make sure that the President receives the enclosed letter from Moya Lear.

She's a dear friend, and I would appreciate it if you could pass her note along.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

  
PAUL LAXALT  
U. S. SENATOR

Kathleen Osborne  
Personal Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

PL/ed  
Enclosure



*Central Files*

Box 60000  
Reno, Nevada 89506  
702-972-2600

Moya Olsen Lear

April 2, 1985

*M. Olsen*

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

Dear Mr. President:

It was an unbelievable pleasure to receive your letter on my birthday! It was more than thoughtful of you to take the time.

I'm starting a new decade and with no little apprehension, but with our prayers, I know that you will have the wisdom and the courage to guide us through this incredible turbulence that is looming up for us in the 90's.

I work constantly to help to improve our education for the young, and of course, I'm always in the Republican corner trying to help with their ongoing financial problems.

I send my love to you and Nancy, and pray daily for your protection.

Will be writing to Punky today - she's getting along fine.

Affectionately,

*Moya*

Moya Olsen Lear

306545

End  
Case  
File



310858  
61001

April 15, 1985

Dear Maxine:

Just a hasty line I'm dictating on Air Force One on our way back to Washington. I wish we were heading West instead.

I found your letter awaiting me and thank you very much. Maxine, I hope you won't mind but I learned that Clo was very attached to the painting of "Old Duke" so I transferred the "loan" to her. She was most appreciative and I think it was helpful to her at this particular time. Please don't think the picture didn't "talk to me," it did, very eloquently. I just couldn't deprive her of it.

Please give my regards to Nick and again thanks.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mrs. Maxine Jones Firfires  
1330 Pepper Lane  
Montecito  
Santa Barbara, California 93108

RR:AVH:NМ:SEV:pps

RR Dictation

# Maxine Jones Firfires

1330 PEPPER LANE

• MONTECITO, SANTA BARBARA

• CALIFORNIA 93108

Saturday, Mar.9th.'85

Dear Mr. President and First Lady:

Dear Ron and Mrs. Reagan:

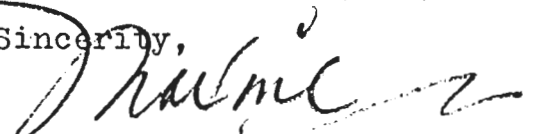
Clo called me yesterday as soon as she collected her composure to tell us of Lee's regretable death at the ranch. To lose such a friend, as you know, is a shocking blow. I had just visited Lee, at Rancho del Cielo, last Wednesday, the 6th. We had a great time and as always I take up a large bag of cut carrots for your gang of horses (Lee took several pictures of them and me, which are still in camera) and tell 'em their from "Kalico" (my horse) and of course, yummys for Vic, Millie, Taca and Free-bow.

I had arranged for Lee to be guest speaker at the Hope Ranch Riding and Trails Annual meeting at UCSB tomorrow evening. Nick and I were going to pick he and Clo and Cara plus projector and slides out to the meeting. So many reservations (60 to 70) that we felt the "show must go on". Cara and I will do our level best to answer any questions regarding Lee's slides. I know the horses and dogs--it's about all.

On a previous visit to the ranch last year, I finalized my selection and ordered my Sid Hill Australian Poly (saddle) with the grateful help and information I got from your Hill saddle. (I used to ride and loved one that my Dad played polo on). And at that time I should have written you a note to go with Nick's painting (I sure hounded him to do it for you) "The Presidents Duke". I took it up to show Lee and see how I could "loan" it to you, so you could have a piece of the ranch in D.C., without the "powers-that-be" getting involved. He hung it over his fire place for fun and later said you mentioned to keep it there for you. Now with undoubtedly a new manager coming and the FACT that you surely are not obligated to keep it if it dosen't "talk to you", please let me know and we'll take it from there.

Nick's busy in the studio along with some requests the Rancheros want for the May ride. Speaking of rides, Ron, I ride like my Dad, Buck, and know you both would enjoy riding--with me. I'd love to bring Kalico up when your "in ranch" and time permits, away from cameras etc, etc, etc.!

With Genuine Sincerity,



300432  
JL 001

April 15, 1985

Dear Russell:

I'm very late in replying to your letter of March 10, please forgive me.

I was shocked to learn of Larry's illness and must confess I'm trying to get the courage to call him. He always seemed indestructible in those days at Screen Actors Guild. I'm ashamed of myself and will call immediately. Thank you for letting me know.

I appreciate your information about the Reverend Moon case and am awaiting word from the Justice Department.

Please give my regards to Annette and, again, my thanks.

Sincerely,

*Ron*

Mr. Russell Kirk  
Piety Hill  
Mecosta, Michigan 49332

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation

Russell Kirk

PIETY HILL

MECOSTA, MICHIGAN

49332

March 10, 1985

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

Dear President Reagan,

A personal note: I have word from our friend Colonel Laurence Beilenson, in Los Angeles, that he is dying from inoperable cancer of the lungs. He continues to reside at his Norwegian villa there: 1946 North Gramercy Place, Los Angeles 90068. I believe that he is ninety-one years old now, still at the height of his powers intellectually, and until recent months in good shape physically. What a marvellous life he has led: the Hollywood writers' and actors' guilds, his triumphs over the Japanese forces in the heart of China, his books on counter-subversion and on the perils of treaties! And recently he has been writing two novels. You having known him well, I believe, I thought you might wish to receive this news, sad though it is. Larry Beilenson has been an amazing man--as lawyer, as soldier, as writer.

On another matter, I am writing to Mr. Meese and his people about the possibility of a pardon or a parole for Sun Moon--believing his conviction to have been a perilous invasion of church affairs by IRS, and Moon a victim of prejudice in New York. I mention this merely so that if the possibility of a pardon is called to your attention, you will know that such mercy has my endorsement; for I have made some study of the Moon case.

Annette and I pray for your continuing triumph in the exercise of your high duties.

Respectfully,

*Russell Kirk*

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REDACTED

To Mrs. Maxine Jones Firpias 1330 Pepper Lane  
Monterey, Santa Barbara Calif.

93108

Dear Maxine

Just a hasty line I'm dictating ~~to~~ on Air Force 1 on  
our way back to Wash. I wish we were heading West  
instead.

I found your letter awaiting me and thank you very  
much. Maxine I hope you won't mind but I learned  
that Elor was very attached to the painting of "Old Duke"  
so I transferred the "loan" to her. She was most  
appreciative and I think it was helpful to her at this  
particular time. Please don't think the picture didn't  
"talk to me", it did, very eloquently. I just couldn't  
deprive her of it.

Please give my regards to Nick & again thanks.  
Sincerely Ron

To Mr. Russell Kula - Piety Hill - <sup>MECOSTA</sup> ~~Michigan~~ Mich. 49332.

Dear Russell:

I'm very late in replying to your letter of March 10,  
please forgive me.

I was shocked to learn of Larry's illness & must  
confess I'm trying to get the ~~the~~ courage to call him.  
He always seemed indestructible in those days  
at Screen Actors Guild. I'm ashamed of myself and  
will call immediately. Thank you for letting  
me know.

I appreciate your information about the Rev.  
Moon case and am awaiting word from the  
Justice Dept.

Please give my regards to Annette & again  
my thanks.

Love,  
Ron

~~For James A. Zimmerman~~

End  
case  
File

312157  
PU

Apr 85



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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1985

TO: Kathy Osborne

The attached magazines were sent to Mr. McFarlane to forward to the President from Mrs. K. Neill AGRA(G), Managing Director, "Irish Genealogical Association."

In the past they were sent via Judge Clark.

I am sending Mrs. Neill's letter for your information in case you have any questions. Per RCM's decision, I will inform Mrs. Neill to continue sending the magazine through Mr. McFarlane's office. Also, sent copies to Judge Clark.

*Louise*  
Dona Proctor

*OK & give her Clark's  
Pres. address.  
RR*



VOLUME 2 No 2



SEPTEMBER 1984



# IRISH FAMILY LINKS



THE HUGH McVEIGH FAMILY, BELFAST, 1906.

Seated (left to right): William, Ruth Ellen, mother (Mary nee McWhir), Caroline, father (Hugh McVeigh) with Robbie, Wesley and Mary Jane (eldest sister). Standing (left to right): Hugh, James, Martha, David (eldest son), John and Annie.

(Photo courtesy of Rev. R. McVeigh)

when shall all men's good be each  
man's rule, and universal peace be  
like a shaft of light across the  
land.

alfred lord tennyson

312157

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End  
case  
File

27137355  
C0114  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 4/15/85

**NOTE FOR:** Patrick J. Buchanan

**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:** Files

Received S S

1985 APR 15 AM 8:57

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 12, 1985

*Very Good.  
RR*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PAT BUCHANAN *PB*  
SUBJECT: USE OF THE TERM "CONTRAS"

The other night, Arnaud de Borchgrave of The Washington Times urged us to cease not only using the term "Contras," but also to drop "Freedom Fighters," as this is associated with the Hungarians of 1956. He claims "The Resistance" -- the glamorous term forever associated with the French Marquis during World War II -- is the most appealing term we could use. We could apply it as well to the "Afghan People's Resistance," thereby taking from the Soviet Bloc the cachet of rebel and revolutionary against established oppression and tyranny.

For your information.

End  
Case  
File

311132  
HVO30

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1985

Dear Mrs. Stroschein:

It was good to see you again even if only for a moment. And, I appreciate this opportunity to hopefully clear the air with regard to the Genocide Treaty.

Our move to seek ratification doesn't represent a change in view. We are working with the Senate to ensure that the Treaty is fully consistent with the Constitution, as all agreements entered into by the United States must be.

Again, my thanks to you for all you've done and all you continue to do.

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

Mrs. Herbert Stroschein  
2226 Victoria Drive  
Santa Ana, California 92706

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


THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 18, 1985

MR. PRESIDENT:

In regard to the response you drafted to the letter which you were handed at the Nicaraguan Refugee Dinner re the Genocide Treaty, the NSC feels your comments go beyond your current public position and could jeopardize current legislative negotiations.

Accordingly, they have taken the liberty of preparing an alternative draft that you may wish to consider sending. The NSC feels this second draft which changes only the second paragraph makes the points you wanted, but does not tip-off your legislative strategy.

  
David L. Chew



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 16, 1985

Dear Mrs. Stroschein:

It was good to see you again even if only for a moment. And, I appreciate this opportunity to hopefully clear the air with regard to the Genocide Treaty.

Our move to seek ratification doesn't represent a change in view; we're offering an amendment to the agreement that eliminates the threat to our Constitution. Senator Jesse Helms authored the amendment. Without that amendment we will continue to oppose the Treaty.

Again, my thanks to you for all you've done and all you continue to do.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Herbert Stroschein  
2226 Victoria Drive  
Santa Ana, California 92706

~~15 Mrs. Bruni Magovern~~

To Mr. Herbert Strachein - 2226 Victoria Dr.  
Santa Ana Calif. 92706

Dear Mrs. Strachein

It was good to see ~~you~~ <sup>you</sup> again even if only for a moment. And I appreciate this opportunity to hopefully clear the air with regard to the genocide treaty.

Our move to seek ratification doesn't represent a change in view; ~~we're offering~~ <sup>we're offering</sup> an amendment to the agreement that eliminates the threat to our constitution. Sen. Jesse Helms authored the amendment. Without that amendment we will continue to oppose the treaty.

Again my thanks to you for all you've done & all you continue to do.

Sincerely RR

April 1985

Dear President Reagan and Nancy:

Please take just ten minutes for you and Nancy to read the text of the genocide convention attached.

Of course we are all opposed to genocide ("extermination of a national or racial group as a planned move") but this so called convention or treaty appears to be a trap or a "wolf in sheeps clothing".

Many who have studied the actual text see it as a threat to our Constitutional Republic and not as a way of peace.

Our Revolutionary ancestors who fought to establish our Constitutional government and the soldiers, sailors and marines who have fought and died under the banner of our flag would be betrayed to surrender our court system to an International Court of Justice (???) and organs of the United Nations.

Note that Article VII of this treaty exempts political crimes of Article III. This loophole gives the Soviet Union a way to continue their genocide in Afghanistan of in Cambodia. (See attached article by Senators Thurmond, East and Symms).

For 35 years our United States Senate has refused to ratify this dangerous treaty. We regret that someone has persuaded you to call for the Senate to ratify this real threat to our Constitution and our Bill of Rights.

We beg you to reverse your request for ratification and lobby for the defeat of this danger to our Republic. On March 5, 1985 Senator Richard Lugar stated in the hearings of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that the Senate should approve it for "symbolic reasons". It seems that he too does not understand it should be pronounced "dead" in his committee. Please protect our Constitution!

From friends who worked hard for you to be our Governor for two terms in California and as President for two terms.

Attachments

*Kyle Stroschein*

*I mailed your press releases to all Calif Republican Women the 4 years you were Governor — one for*

Address —

Mrs Herbert Groschman  
2226 Victoria Drive  
Santa Ana, Ca  
92706

End  
Case  
File

CABINET AFFAIRS STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: April 22, 1985 Number: 175368CA Due By: --

Subject: Correspondence from Mary R. Wells concerning the welfare program

ALL CABINET MEMBERS	Action	FYI
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HUD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
USTR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chief of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GSA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NASA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OPM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Action	FYI
CEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CEQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OSTP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deaver	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McFarlane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Svahn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chew (For WH Staffing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Secretary for:		
CCCT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCFA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCHR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCLP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCNRE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The President asked that the attached be forwarded to you.

Thanks.

RETURN TO:

☒ Alfred H. Kingon  
Cabinet Secretary  
456-2823  
(Ground Floor, West Wing)

☐  
☐  
☐

Associate Director  
Office of Cabinet Affairs  
456-2800 (Room 129, OEOB)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 4-18-85

To: Adele Gonzalez

Should this go through Mr. Kingon  
to Secy. Heckler.

Thanks.

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

64  
7H  
Dear President Regan;

I'm not sure if you are the person I should be sending this letter to, or not. I would like to see this letter reach the person in charge of the welfare department, but I don't know who that person is. Please assist me in getting this letter to the right person. I would trully like a reply from someone so I can know my letter was even read. Thank you very much for any help in this matter.

Thank You

*Mary R. Wells*

Mary R. Wells

#2 Palomar

St. Peters, Mo. 63376

*I believe Margaret Hadlan  
should see this.  
RR*



Dear Sir;

I'm writing because I'm frustrated with the welfare department. My husband and I have always been hard working taxpayers, and it angers me to see our tax dollars being wasted. I know every program has problems, and people who abuse it, but I don't understand how a man and women in the age bracket of ( 24-28 ) with only one child can live off welfare and have housing for 5 years ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  of which they weren't even married).

Neither one of them have ever even tried to work. They have a comfortable apartment they pay less than \$30.00 a month for, and they use the money they get from their welfare check to pay it with. They also get food stamps, and heat assistance every year. How are they able to receive all these things, all these years, when there is nothing wrong with either of them?

We make 41,000 dollars a year, and they live more comfortable than we do, and have never had to work a day in their life. They have all new furniture, a new color tv, and a new VCR. They don't ever want for food, or cigarettes, or even medical care. Everything is just given to them.

I am appalled that there are so many families living this way, off of our tax dollars. I know of three families out here that should never be able to receive welfare, that are currently on it, and have been for years. If the welfare department would drop even just these three, they'd probably save over \$12,000.00 a year just in welfare checks, and more in food stamps and medical cost the state is paying.

I know you can't possibly check out every thing every family tells you when they apply for aid, but couldn't you start appealing to the public for help in turning in these families. If you went on tv periodically and reminded them of how much of their tax dollars these lazy people are eating up, I know many people would turn in neighbors or relatives they know about. I think the government should start a vigorous campaign to retrieve some of our wasted tax dollars, or even to offer an amnesty program for one or two weeks for people who would turn themselves in. At least if they turn themselves in to be removed from aid (with amnesty), we could save the future dollars they would have been getting. Maybe if you let them know at the beginning of the amnesty program that for those who do not turn themselves in, that you would be putting out a small reward for people who would turn them in, there will always be a relative or neighbor who is fed up with seeing these people get a free ride, who would be willing to turn them in. I think the big thing is that you need to start really appealing to the tax payers for their support. Remind them of how much of their tax dollars are being wasted.

Maybe I don't know enough about the system to really know what I'm talking about, but I do know that there is something very wrong when two people never work, and have life so easy, and others of us work two jobs to make ends meet, and we still can't get ahead. They don't even have to worry about layoffs or strikes, with no pay. They know the government is always on time with their money.

Thank you for hearing the voice of a frustrated taxpayer. Please help us to crack down on these people.

End  
Case  
File



3 11686  
NP

April 22, 1985

Dear Mr. Eure:

I was delighted to get your letter. You have hit several nails squarely on the head. We are in an uphill battle with the Congress about our defense, but I am determined to do whatever I can to protect this nation.

I share your concerns about the media but, according to the mail I receive, many folks express the same sentiments you do. We can be grateful that the American people think for themselves.

Thank you for your support and your efforts on my behalf. Nancy joins me in sending our very best wishes.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mr. J. Bruce Eure  
711 North Madison Street  
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

RR:KCS:vml-4pmnd

DRAFT/Date 4/19/85

RR/ KCS / (Drafter) / (Rev. I) / (Rev. II)

AVH/ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosures:

Other:

*SPM*  
*MM*

Dear Mr. Eure:

I was delighted to get your

on the head of

def-

For President's sample

J. BRUCE EURE

ATTORNEY AT LAW

711 N. MADISON STREET  
WHITEVILLE, N.C. 28472

PHONES: OFFICE 642-3837  
RES 642-2003

March 22, 1985

*He's absolutely right*

Honorable Ronald Reagan, President  
United States of America  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am 91 years of age and therefore went through World War I and World War II. What happened immediately following World War I is what caused World War II. Immediately following World War I those in power in Washington let their guard down and forgot to keep our defenses up-to-date and therefore Hitler figured we would be no problem to him. I cannot understand why the Congress is playing politics with our defense. Then on account of the short sightedness, on our part, immediately following World War II, we did the same thing in dropping our guard and scuttling all of our main battleships and weakened the Army. Any true American knows that we must keep our defense up in order to deter those who might want to conquer the world as the Russians have been bent on doing. It is time that Congress must begin to think about our safety and forget politics.

Something else that worries me is why the News Media insists on telling the Russians everything we have done and what we propose to do in the way of defense. Therefore I must question the patriotism of the News Media when they put the News above our safety. I am very much of the opinion that the freedom of the press is being overworked and it is about time for a halter to be put on them. The whole world is depending upon us to keep the peace. I agree with your action with reference to Central America and I feel that Congress is being very shortsided in not going along with your opinion. Because of the News Media they are inciting, or attempting to, the public concerning our position. We permitted Cuba to arm right under our nose and immediately began to work with Russia. There is no question but what World War III will probably be the last one the earth ever sees. Therefore I want you to know that I agree with your action in these areas and I am doing what I can, as an individual, to help educate the public on the necessity of the buildup in our defenses.

Wishing success to you in your endeavor, and with all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

*J. Bruce Eure*  
J. Bruce Eure

JBE/phe

E  
C  
F



300901  
FI004

April 22, 1985

Dear Mr. Prentiss:

Thank you for writing and for sharing your experiences in Washington.

We are preparing a budget with over \$51 billion in cuts. I will take my case to the American people because their support is vital to getting the Congress to cooperate. The cuts must be made and I am firmly convinced that the people will understand and support me in this effort.

I am pleased that you had an enjoyable tour of the White House and I am grateful for your kind words.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mr. James H. Prentiss  
Chairman of the Board  
Shoney's South, Inc.  
Post Office Box 41379  
Memphis, Tennessee 38174

RR:KCS:AVH:vml-4pmnd

DRAFT/Date 4/19/85

RR / KCS / (Rev. I) / (Rev. II)

AVH /            /           

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosures:

Other:

*JK*  
*5/10/85*  
*JK*

Dear Mr. Prentiss:

Thank you for writing and for sharing your experiences.

We are

300901

*my Jackie*

# Shoney's South, Inc.

## OWNERS & OPERATORS OF

Shoney's Restaurants  
Hungry Fisherman Restaurants  
Captain D's Restaurants  
J.P. Seaford's  
Denver's International, Inc.  
Willie Mollat's  
Mid-South Restaurant  
Distributors, Inc.  
Insurex Agency, Inc.  
Mid-South Engineering &  
Equipment Company  
Spy Advertising Agency

## CORPORATE OFFICES

2158 Union Avenue  
P.O. Box 41379  
Memphis, Tennessee 38174  
Phone: (901) 725-6400

March 18, 1985

## AREA OFFICES

CHARLOTTE OFFICE  
3119 Freedom Drive  
P.O. Box 668068 (28266)  
Charlotte NC 28208  
(704) 394-2367

CHATTANOOGA OFFICE  
5916 Brainerd Road  
P.O. Box 8335  
Chattanooga, TN 37411  
(615) 892-7434

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Last week I was in Washington with a group of chief executives from the food industry. We spent two nights and one full day with senators and congressmen in regard to the deficit and the urgency in cutting the budget. Among those with whom we spent time personally--for up to one hour--were: Senator Bill Bradley; The Honorable Barber C. Conable; Carol G. Cox, President of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget; Senator Jesse Helms; Senator Ernest F. Hollings; Congressman Delbert Latta and Senator Alan K. Simpson.

I was most impressed with how scared the congressmen were regarding the budget deficit and the need to take drastic steps in every area. However, one could also sense they would not put their name on the line to cutbacks in entitlements, etc., without your help. Almost to a man, they expressed the feeling that to really cut the budget by fifty to sixty million dollars, it will be necessary for you to go on the "tube" and lay it out point-blank what has to be done and ask all Americans to write or call their congressmen to act quickly.

I honestly could not believe what I heard when Congressman William Gray, a black liberal from Philadelphia, said, "Our only chance is for The President to take this serious problem to the American public so that through them we will be forced to vote these cuts." There has never been another President, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, that has the American voters on his side and has the communication abilities to influence their thinking. I hope that you will act accordingly when you think the time is right.

It was also interesting to listen to Senator Bradley's position on the flat tax and how similar are the proposals being prepared by Senator Kemp and the Treasury Department. It looks like a real compromise might be worked out during the summer session.

One of your staff made it possible for us to go through the West Wing at 11:00 p.m. Thursday. This was quite an experience and one that I'll never forget.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

*James H. Prentiss*

James H. Prentiss  
Chairman of the Board

*We are performing a budget  
with our \$51 Bld. in cuts. And I  
will take care of the people.*

End  
CASC  
File