

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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*Last Updated: 03/18/2025*

321200  
TK123

May 85

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

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

*No Reply*

May 17, 1985

Dear Mr. President

Now that the European trip is over and time has passed to learn perspective, I want to let you know that I think your performance was particularly effective and the trip particularly important.

I remember that in some sports, scores are given in terms of the difficulty as well as the execution of whatever is undertaken. In light of the difficulties, your "10" is especially significant.

With my respect and  
admiration

*George*

, 321200

End  
last  
File

314932  
TR123

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1985

Dear Dorothy:

Your letter wiped out the effect of a large portion of the press that seem determined to make our trip seem about as triumphant as the first voyage of the Titanic. All of our team thought the trip had been very worthwhile and successful, then we came home and caught up with the press accounts. Well, as I say, your kindness in writing as you did has made us feel just fine. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

Mrs. Dorothy Davies  
1834 South Clovis  
Fresno, California 93727

DOROTHY DAVIES

1834 S. Clovis  
Fresno, CA 93727

(209) 251-8964

May 10 '85

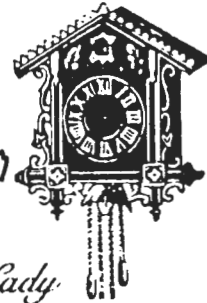
Dear Mr. President,

I'm not the letter writer  
that my daughter Ann is, but I will  
make an effort in your case.

In the past our family  
has always greatly admired you and  
Mrs. Reagan, but after this last fiasco  
that you have so nobly endured,  
we love and admire you both  
even more. Thank you for standing  
up to the opposition. Thank you  
for not letting the press get to you and  
Most of all thank you for being you.

P.S. thank for  
being so good  
to Ann and  
Anne

Your friends  
Dorothy  
and family



The Clock Lady



314710  
RF015

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1985

Dear Eunice:

Thank you for your kind letter. It was good to hear from you and to learn of the success of the Third International Games. Nancy and I are both appreciative of all that you are doing in this great cause.

Nancy sends her regards. God bless you.

Sincerely,

*R. Kennedy*

Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver  
Suite 500  
1350 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005



1350 New York Ave. N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 628-3630  
TELEX 440730

Eunice Kennedy Shriver  
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Hon. Sargent Shriver  
President

Rafer Johnson  
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Vice President

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April 24, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

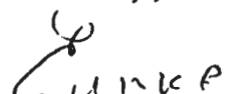
Thank you for helping to make the Third International Winter Special Olympics Games a landmark event. The ceremony which you and Mrs. Reagan so graciously arranged at the White House for the Washington area International athletes will be a highlight of their lives.

The public service announcement you recorded was seen and heard by millions of Americans, doing great honor to Special Olympians and their families. Your very moving Closing Ceremony remarks were telecast on giant screens to an audience of 10,000 in Salt Lake City's Salt Palace and were later seen by millions on the TBS Special on the Games.

For all your support and encouragement we are most grateful. Throughout America, indeed throughout the world, your recognition of Special Olympics has given great hope to mentally retarded individuals in their communities, homes and schools. Special Olympians are gaining greater acceptance as citizens who are Olympian in spirit and worthy of our respect and esteem.

The friendship you and Mrs. Reagan have extended mentally retarded people demonstrates to the world not only your own humanity but the true greatness of our nation.

Sincerely,

  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver



To Mrs. Dorothy Davies 1834 S. Clovis Fresno Calif.  
93727

Dear Dorothy

Your letter ~~wiped~~ wiped out the effect of a large portion of the press that seem determined to make our trip seem about as triumphant as the 1<sup>st</sup> voyage of the Titanic. All of our team thought the trip had been very worthwhile & successful then we came home & caught up with the press accounts. Well, as I say, your kindness in writing as you did has made us feel just fine. Thank you.

Sincerely  
RR

To Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver 1350 New York Ave.<sup>N.W.</sup>  
Suite 500 Wash. D.C. 20005

Dear Eunice

Thank you for your kind letter. It was good to hear from you and to learn of the success of the Third International Games. Nancy & I are both appreciative of all that you are doing in this great cause.

Nancy sends her regards. God bless you.

Sincerely  
Ron

End  
Case  
File

314934  
FR123-01

May 17, 1985

Dear Elsa:

Just a quick line to say a heartfelt thank you for your kind letter. I regret very much the media effort to raise a firestorm over the Bergen-Belsen, Bitburg trip. It actually turned out alright and certainly wasn't a big blunder in planning. From the first moment Chancellor Kohl asked me to do it, I felt it was the morally right thing to do.

Your letter was a very warm and kind reassurance and I'm most grateful.

Sincerely,

RON

Mrs. Elsa Sandstrom  
Apartment 112  
8860 Villa LaJolla Drive  
La Jolla, California 92037

RR:AVH:NM:pps

RR Dictation

# ELSA SANDSTROM

May 6, 1985

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 200

Dear Mr. President -

Being an early riser, I had the good fortune to catch the German cemetery ceremonies live on television. If your emotions ran high, ours were overwhelming! Tear-filled eyes and a lump in the throat! The memories will remain forever . . . we heard and saw our President in what, we are sure, history will record as one of his finest hours. HE was with you, as surely as HE was with that mother in that little German cottage.

May God continue to bless you and protect you and our First Lady. She was wonderful, too.

Sincerely,

  
Elsa Sandstrom (Mrs.)

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee . . ." (Isaiah 26:3)

"In quietness and in confidence shall be thy strength . . ." (Isaiah 30:15)

320975  
TR 123-01

May 22, 1985

Dear Beth:

I hope I haven't caused you any embarrassment, and if I have, I humbly apologize. You were more than kind and I'm truly grateful. Unfortunately, I didn't get to read your entire message until after my return from Europe which explains the out-of-context quote. One of our people, meaning to be helpful, forwarded the quote I used without reference to the rest of your telegram.

I want you to know that in truth I think I did what you intended -- laid the wreath in recognition of the peace that has existed for these 40 years and the friendship between former enemies. However, I have never suggested a forgive-and-forget attitude. We must never forget the Holocaust nor can I find it within me to forgive the actual perpetrators of that horror.

However, what I think we should all recognize is that modern day Germans do not ask us to forgive or forget. I was impressed by their maintenance of the camps so all can see. They bring their own school children every year to the camps and tell them the whole story and why they must resolve this shall never happen again.

It is true that I once said those buried at Bitburg were also victims of the hatred generated by the Nazi evil. But I included everyone who died because of that war; the victims of the bombings by both sides, etc. Never, however, did I equate them with those who endured the Holocaust horror.

Beth, you spoke of a harsh reality you now face. Do you know that John Adams, one of our founding fathers, wrote "The Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation."

I'm enclosing copies of the speeches I made that day, the first at Bergen-Belsen, the other at Bitburg.

Again, I thank you for your kind telegram. Please give my regards to your family and God bless you.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Beth Flom  
55 Church Road  
Morganville, New Jersey 07751

JOHN ADAMS QUOTE

"We may be reduced to hard necessity the two most powerful and enterprising nations that ever existed are now contending with us. The two nations to whom mankind are under mere obligations for the progress of science and civilization [show] to any others except the Hebrews. This consideration affects me more than the danger of either or both. I accepted the Hebrews, for in spite of Bollingbrook and Voltaire I will insist that the Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation. If I were atheist and believed in blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the most essential instrument for civilizing the nations. If I were an atheist of the other sect who believe or pretend to believe that all is ordered by chance, I should believe that chance had ordered the Jews to preserve and propagate to all mankind the doctrine of a supreme intelligent, wise, almighty sovereign of the universe, which I believe to be the great essential principle of all morality and consequently of all civilization. I can't say that I love the Jews very much neither. Nor the French, nor the English, nor the Romans, nor the Greeks. We must love all nations as well as we can, but it is very hard to love most of them."

-- Source: Letter from John Adams  
to Mr. Van der Kemp, Feb. 16, 1809



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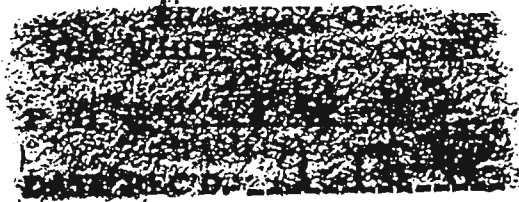
# JOHN ADAMS

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II

1784-1826

PAGE SMITH



GREENWOOD PRESS, PUBLISHERS  
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

the most complete and effective revelation of God, would triumph, reinforced by such elements of other religions as could prove themselves in the court of reason and common sense.

It was the Jews, even more than his beloved Greeks, Adams felt, who had done the most to civilize men. "If I were an atheist," he wrote Van der Kemp, "and believed in blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the most essential instrument for civilizing the nations." They had preserved and propagated "to all mankind the doctrine of a supreme, intelligent . . . almighty Sovereign of the Universe, which I believe to be the great essential principle of all morality and consequently of all civilization. I can't say that I love the Jews very much neither. Nor the French, nor the English, nor the Romans, nor the Greeks. We must love all nations as much as we can, but it is very hard to love most of them," he concluded.<sup>11</sup>

Adams was also much concerned with what might be called the sociology of religion—how religion worked to give order and purpose and dignity to man's common life. His forebears, for instance, had not been great men but they had been honest and upright ones. "What," he asked Rush rhetorically, "has preserved this race of Adamses in all their ramifications, in such numbers/ health, peace, comfort, and mediocrity?" It seemed to him it was religion, "without which they would have been rakes, fops, sots, gamblers, starved with hunger, frozen with cold, scalped by Indians, etc., etc., etc., been melted away and disappeared." It was the rigor and discipline of Calvinism that had preserved them in a hostile environment, that had given form and meaning to their lives and to those of all New Englanders.<sup>12</sup>

In the area of politics, although Adams had formally renounced them and no longer read political theory, he did not cease to speculate about the political behavior of man. He was reconciled at last to party bitterness and faction. "In the struggles and competitions of fifty or sixty years, in times that tried men's hearts and brains and spinal marrow, it could not be otherwise," he wrote Rush.<sup>13</sup> Parties provided a means of releasing, in a more or less systematic way, the passions generated in a democratic society.

Adams professed to see a pattern in party politics. There would be an alternation. One party, representing the more conservative side, would hold power for some twelve years and then there would be "an entire change in the administration," with the more radical side taking over for a similar period. Jefferson and his supporters, he thought, might hold power for sixteen years; but then, inevitably, there must be a reaction. "Our government will be a game of leapfrog of factions, leaping over one another's back about once in twelve years according to my computation," he predicted.<sup>14</sup> He observed that a party was frequently never so near defeat as when it had carried everything before it. Parties, like people,

6. December 30, 1800, *Works*, IX, 575-76.
7. December 13 and 25, 1800, *Tudor Papers*, MHS.
8. JA/Stoddert, Quincy, March 31, 1801, *Works*, IX, 582-83.
9. Berlin, November 25, 1800, APm.
10. January 3, 1801, APm.
11. December 26, 1800, MHS, *Proceedings*, XX, 361.
12. February 4, 1801, *Works*, IX, 96-97.
13. December 17, 1800, APm.
14. TBA/AA, January 24, 1801, APm.
15. January 20, 1801, *Tudor Papers*, MHS.
15. November 5, 1804, APm.
16. "The Adventures of a Nobody," written July 1840 and later, APm.
17. November 16, 1804, APm.
18. November 6 and 22, December 7, 1804, APm.

## CHAPTER LXXXV

## CHAPTER LXXXIII

1. APm.
2. Jefferson/Pierce Butler, August 11, 1800, Jefferson, *Writings*, ed. Ford, VII, 449-50.
3. To John Breckenridge, December 18, 1800, Jefferson, *Writings*, ed. Ford, VII, 468-69.
4. Hindman/McHenry, January 17, 1801, McHenry, *Correspondence*, 489-90.
5. Burr/Smith, December 16, 1800, quoted, *Breckenridge, Marshall*, II, 539.
6. January 15, 1801, *New Letters*, 262-64.
7. February 3, 1801, *New Letters*, 265-66.
8. February 3, 1801, APm.
9. AA/JA, February 13, 1801, APm.
10. AA/JA, February 21, 1801, APm.
11. January 26, 1801, *Works*, IX, 93-94.
12. February 4, 1801, *Works*, IX, 96.

## CHAPTER LXXXIV

1. Stony Field, March 24, 1801, APm.
2. JA/Benjamin Stoddert, March 21, 1801, APm.
3. JA/Mercy Otis Warren, July 20, 1807, APm.
4. April 16, 1801, APm.
5. September 9, 1801, APm.
6. May 23, 1801, APm.
7. May 8, 1801, APm.
8. May 30, 1801, APm.
9. May 31, 1801, APm.
10. September 15, 1801, APm.
11. July 13, 1801, APm.
12. August 20, 1801, APm.
13. JA/David Sewall, January 12, 1803, APm.
14. To Van der Kemp, March 3, 1804, APm.

1. February 27, 1805, APm.
2. January 22, 1817, APm.
3. June 5, 1812, APm.
4. APm, reel 188.
5. APm, reel 188.
6. To Van der Kemp, August 23, 1806, APm.
7. JA/Rush, September, July 23, 1806; February 2, 1807, APm.
8. JA/Rush, January 21, 1810, APm.
9. November 4, 1815, APm.
10. JA/JQA, November 15, 1816, APm.
11. JA/Van der Kemp, February 18, 1809, APm.
12. July 12, 1812, APm.
13. January 9, 1812, APm.
14. February 5, 1805, APm.
15. JA/Rush, May 1812, APm.
16. JA/Rush, August 1, 1812, APm.
17. JA/Rush, October 22, 1812, APm.
18. To Waterhouse, December 25, 1817, APm.
19. August 1, 1812, APm.
20. To Rush, June 12, 1812, APm.
21. December 19, 1815, APm.
22. JA/Madison, June 17, 1817, APm.
23. JA/Oliver Wolcott, November 17, 1823, APm.
24. To Noah Webster, February 6, 1816, APm.
25. To Judge Dawes, February 3, 1818, APm.
26. December 15, 1815, APm.
27. To Van der Kemp, April 20, 1812, APm.

## CHAPTER LXXXVI

1. February 6, 1805, APm.
2. Philadelphia, February 19, 1805, *Letters of Benjamin Rush*, II, 890.
3. September 16, 1810, APm.
4. July 24, 1805, APm.
5. April 15, 1808, APm.
6. February 25, 1808, APm.
7. JA/Rush, February 25, 1808, APm.
8. January 25, 1806, APm.
9. December 27, 1810, APm.
10. July 3, 1812, APm.
11. September 16, 1810, APm.

## Student letter-writer has Bitburg P.S. for Reagan

By TONY BURTON

Beth Flom, the 13-year-old Jewish girl quoted by President Reagan as supporting his controversial visit to the Bitburg cemetery in Germany, says she opposed the visit and that her words had been taken out of context.

Beth, of Marlboro Township, N.J., said, "I think the way he used it was not right. He used it out of context, without making it clear that I disagreed with him going to the cemetery. I'm disappointed in that."

But she added Tuesday, "I'm extremely happy that he mentioned my letter and I don't think that the way he used it was intentional on the President's part."

Reagan mentioned the telex from Beth during his speech Sunday after the wreath-laying at the cemetery that holds the bodies of 49 SS men.

BETH'S FATHER, Robert, a financial consultant and a Reagan supporter, said she was particularly concerned with the Holocaust because he had a step-brother and step-sister who had been in a Nazi concentration camp in Poland during the war. They survived.

In the letter to Reagan on April 21, Beth made it clear she disapproved of the Bitburg ceremony. She suggested that if he went through with it, the wreath should be laid "in honor of the future of Germany"—not the soldiers buried there.

During his Bitburg speech, Reagan said: "One of the many who wrote me about this visit was a young woman who had recently been bat mitzvahed. She urged me to lay the wreath at



Beth Flom says President quoted her letter out of context.

we have done."

"He gave people the impression that she approved of the visit," Flom said. "She didn't."

BETH, AN eighth-grader, wrote the letter after her social studies class discussed the controversy. Beth wrote in part: "Although I understand your position, I cannot bring myself to agree with your solution. I don't feel it will avoid more conflict with the survivors of concentration camps and the Jewish organizations who also disagree with your decision."

"I have read that you have tried to overcome the protests by also visiting a concentration camp. When that didn't still the protests, you then said you would lay the wreath in a cemetery in honor of the innocent Germans. However... How do you know

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

AFTER RECENTLY BECOMING A BAT-MITZVAH, I HAVE SUDDENLY BEEN FACED WITH THE HARSH REALITIES OF BEING A JEW. I HAVE REALIZED AND COME TO GRIPS WITH THE FACT THAT THIS IS A NON-JEWISH WORLD. THIS HAS PRIMARILY FOCUSED MANY OF MY RELIGIOUS INTERESTS ON THE HOLOCAUST.

THE OTHER DAY, DURING A DISCUSSION IN MY SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS, I BROUGHT UP WHAT I THOUGHT WAS AN INTERESTING POINT REGARDING YOUR FORTH COMING TRIP TO GERMANY. I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IT WITH YOU, AS A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE CONTROVERSY THAT HAS ARISEN.

ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION, I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO AGREE WITH YOUR SOLUTION. I DON'T FEEL IT WILL AVOID MORE

CONFLICT WITH THE SURVIVORS OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND THE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WHO ALSO DISAGREE WITH YOUR DECISION. I HAVE READ THAT YOU HAVE TRIED TO OVERCOME THE PROTESTS BY ALSO VISITING A CONCENTRATION CAMP. WHEN THAT DID NOT STILL THE PROTESTS, YOU THEN SAID YOU WOULD LAY THE WREATH IN THE CEMETERY IN HONOR OF THE INNOCENT GERMANS. HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE BURIED THERE ARE UNKNOWN SOLDIERS. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH SOLDIERS WERE INNOCENT AND WHICH WERE S.S. MEMBERS? ALTHOUGH IT WAS VERY CONSIDERATE OF YOU, IT HAS STILL LEFT MANY PEOPLE UNSATISFIED.

SINCE YOUR OTHER APPROACHES WERE UNSUCCESSFUL, MIGHT I RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE FITTING THAT YOU LAY THE WREATH IN HONOR OF THE FUTURE OF GERMANY. THIS WILL HELP TO PLACE THE PAST BEHIND THEM AND WILL ALLOW GERMANY TO DEAL WITH THE BITTER MEMORIES OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND,



IT WILL NOT DEGRADE THE FEELINGS OF ALL THOSE JEWS WHO SUFFERED  
THROUGH THE MANY YEARS OF TORTURE. WE MUST ALL REMEMBER SO THAT  
IT WILL NEVER OCCUR AGAIN.

I HOPE THAT YOU AGREE WITH MY SOLUTION AND ARE ABLE TO PUT IT TO  
GOOD USE. I FEEL IT WILL SATISFY ALL WHO ARE IN DISAGREEMENT  
WITH YOU, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE NOT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.



SINCERELY,

BETH FLOM

55 CHURCH ROAD

MORGANVILLE, NEW JERSEY 07751

TELEX 314 874 INT CPA (ROBERT I. FLOM, CPA)

1138 EST

1144 EST

*original*  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

**TO:** David Chew  
**FROM:** KATHY OSBORNE  
Personal Secretary  
to the President

**DATE:** 5-17-85

For you to see before it  
is mailed out. RR  
personally wrote.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1985

Dear Beth:

I hope I haven't caused you any embarrassment, and if I have, I humbly apologize. You were more than kind and I'm truly grateful. Unfortunately, I didn't get to read your entire message until after my return from Europe which explains the out-of-context quote. One of our people, meaning to be helpful, forwarded the quote I used without reference to the rest of your telegram.

I want you to know that in truth I actually did what you suggested -- laid the wreath in recognition of the peace that has existed for these 40 years and the friendship between former enemies. However, I have never suggested a forgive-and-forget attitude. We must never forget the Holocaust nor can I find it within me to forgive the actual perpetrators of that horror.

However, what I think we should all recognize is that modern day Germans do not ask us to forgive or forget. I was impressed by their maintenance of the camps so all can see. They bring their own school children every year to the camps and tell them the whole story and why they must resolve this shall never happen again.

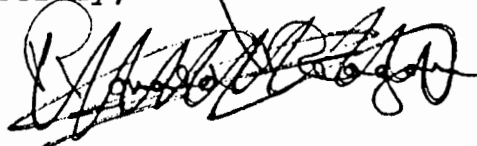
It is true that I once said those buried at Bitburg were also victims of the hatred generated by the Nazi evil. But I included everyone who died because of that war; the victims of the bombings by both sides, etc. Never, however, did I equate them with those who endured the Holocaust horror.

Beth, you spoke of a harsh reality you now face. Do you know that John Adams one of our founding fathers said, "The Hebrews have contributed more to world civilization than any other people who ever lived."

I'm enclosing copies of the speeches I made that day, the first at Bergen-Belsen, the other at Bitburg.

Again, I thank you for your kind telegram. Please give my regards to your family and God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Elie Wiesel', written over a large, faint 'X' that is drawn across the entire page.

Beth Flom  
55 Church Road  
Morganville, New Jersey 07751

5/22  
Anne,  
pls. re-do +  
return asap.  
the  
Lion

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1985

Dear Beth:

I hope I haven't caused you any embarrassment, and if I have, I humbly apologize. You were more than kind and I'm truly grateful. Unfortunately, I didn't get to read your entire message until after my return from Europe which explains the out-of-context quote. One of our people, meaning to be helpful, forwarded the quote I used without reference to the rest of your telegram.

I want you to <sup>intended</sup> know that in truth I actually did what you ~~suggested~~ -- laid the wreath in recognition of the peace that has existed for these 40 years and the friendship between former enemies. However, I have never suggested a forgive-and-forget attitude. We must never forget the Holocaust nor can I find it within me to forgive the actual perpetrators of that horror. <sup>I think I did</sup>

However, what I think we should all recognize is that modern day Germans do not ask us to forgive or forget. I was impressed by their maintenance of the camps so all can see. They bring their own school children every year to the camps and tell them the whole story and why they must resolve this shall never happen again.

It is true that I once said those buried at Bitburg were also victims of the hatred generated by the Nazi evil. But I included everyone who died because of that war; the victims of the bombings by both sides, etc. Never, however, did I equate them with those who endured the Holocaust horror.

wrote

Beth, you spoke of a harsh reality you now face. Do you know that John Adams, one of our founding fathers, said, ~~"the Hebrews have contributed more to world civilization than any other people who ever lived."~~

I'm enclosing copies of the speeches I made that day, the first at Bergen-Belsen, the other at Bitburg.

Again, I thank you for your kind telegram. Please give my regards to your family and God bless you.

Sincerely,

Beth Flom  
55 Church Road  
Morganville, New Jersey 07751

"the Hebrews have  
done more to civilize men  
than any other nation."

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PMS WHITEHOUSE DC

1-002985B111-001 04/21/85

ICS IPMWGWD WSH

RETRIEVAL REPLY: 1-002035I111 TWX ESL6283B120

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20020

ATTN: PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

FROM: BETH FLOM, AGE 13

RE: TRIP TO GERMANY, SUGGESTION

5 APR 21 All: 59



However what I think we should all recognize is that modern day Germans do not ask us to forgive or forget. I was impressed by their maintenance of the camps so all can see. They bring their own school children every year to the camps and tell them the whole story and why they must resolve this shall never happen again.

It is true that I once said those buried in at Bitburg were also victims of ~~the hatred~~ <sup>the hatred</sup> generated by the Nazi evil. But I included everyone who died because of that war; the victims of the bombings by both sides etc. <sup>HOWEVER</sup> Never and I equate, ~~however~~ <sup>THEM</sup> ~~them~~ with ~~the~~ <sup>WHO</sup> those who endured the Holocaust horror.

Both you spoke of a harsh reality you now face. Do you know that John Adams one of our founding fathers said, "The Germans have contributed more to world civilization than any other people who ever lived."

I am enclosing copies of the speeches I made that day, the first at Bergen Belsen the other at Bitburg.

Again I thank you for your kind letter. Please give my regards to your family & God Bless you.

Sincerely R R

To Mrs. Elsen Sandstrom 2860 Villa La Jolla Dr.  
#112  
La Jolla Calif. 92037

Dear Elsen

Just a quick line to say a ~~heartfelt~~ heartfelt  
thank you for your kind letter. I regret very  
much the media effort to raise a firestorm  
over the Bergen Belsen, Bittelburg trip. It actually  
turned out alright and certainly wasn't a big  
blunder in planning. From the first moment  
Chancellor Kohl asked me to do it I felt it was  
the morally right thing to do.

Your letter was a very warm & kind  
reassurance and I'm most grateful.

Sincerely Ron

To Miss Beth Flom 55 Church Rd.  
Morgantown N.J. 07751

Dear Miss Flom

I hope I haven't caused you any embarrassment  
and if I have I humbly apologize. You were more  
than kind ~~to send the message~~ and I'm truly grateful. Unfortunately

I didn't get to read your entire message until after  
my return from Europe which explains the out of  
context quote. One of our people meaning to be ~~helpful~~  
helpful forwarded the quote I used without reference to

the rest of your letter. I want you to know that in truth I actually  
did what you suggested - laid the wreath in recognition  
of the peace ~~that has existed~~ <sup>that has existed</sup> for these 40 years and  
the friendship between former enemies. However I have  
never suggested ~~that~~ a forgive & forget attitude. We  
must never forget the Holocaust nor can I find it within  
me to forgive the actual perpetrators of that horror.

---

End  
case  
File

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

FOR RELEASE: SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 18-19, 1985

ON THE RIGHT by William F. Buckley Jr.

CARE PACKAGE TO MOSCOW

Here is the kind of thing that happens to you when you get involved in politics. Brace yourself:

-- In 1983, Congress set up something called the National Endowment for Democracy. Never mind for the moment whether it was a good idea, but let's at least suppose that it is an organization designed to praise democratic practices and to stimulate in non-democratic countries an appetite for democracy.

-- The Association of American Publishers, which is what you think it is, sets up something called The International Freedom to Publish Committee. It is charged with occupying a stall or two at the annual Moscow book fair, so it addresses itself to the question: What books shall we include in the American catalog?

-- The National Endowment for Democracy steps forward and says, here is \$50,000 toward the hundred odd you need to consummate your Moscow operation. Go ahead and select books that illustrate the diversity of publishing in America,

MORE

~~The President has seen~~

325290

as also "the strength of its democratic institutions."

-- The publishers set up a committee to select the books, and name as its head Kurt Vonnegut. The name conjures up, of course, a writer highly talented, highly imaginative, and very much at odds with American foreign policy, in particular our policy of maintaining a nuclear deterrent force.

-- The Vonnegut committee reports in a list of 313 books. A draft of the list is examined by Carl Gershman, the head of the National Endowment for Democracy. He writes to the head publisher and says, hey, this is not a representative list. I'm not suggesting you cut out any of the books nominated by the Vonnegut committee, but I am suggesting that you add some books that will communicate to the Soviet readers daring enough to visit the American booth that there are actually a few American scholars and writers around who agree with such programs as Star Wars, such stands as nuclear deterrence.

-- The publisher's representative raises his hand in horror: Go away, he says to Gershman. The very thought of inspecting the list looking for balance sounds to me like

MORE

censorship. Keep it up and they will bury you in Bitburg. I demand an apology before we publishers will even deign to accept the balance due on your \$50,000 grant.

-- Whereupon Sen. Patrick Moynihan, who has written five books better than 50 listed in the catalog, none of which five is among the nominees, gets up on the floor of the Senate and says the craziest thing said on the floor of the Senate this, well, this month. He demands that Mr. Gershman apologize to the publishers for ''saying that the list was ideologically unbalanced.'' Now that is on the order of apologizing to the Arab sates for suggesting that their policies have been anti-Israel. The list is unquestionably unbalanced. A single reference point is sufficient to demonstrate this: Whereas Henry Kissinger's monumental and monumentally important memoirs are not listed, Seymour Hersh's criticism of Kissinger for everything from the fall of Adam to the assassination of Sadat is included. Mr. Vonnegut defended his list on the grounds that whatever failures there are in it are failures owing to ''fatigue and resignation.'' One is surprised he didn't say, ''fatigue and resignation owing to the Cold War and the certitude of

MORE

violent death for the whole planet.''

They are all now yammering about how it is impossible to come forward with a balanced list of books. Oh? Why? Doctors come out with balanced diets, portfolio managers come out with balanced investments, deans go to work and come out with balanced curricula. Why can't scholars and writers come out with balanced reading lists that deal, say, with defense policy, with the Vietnam war, with the life of Lyndon Johnson? Granted it would be hard to come out with a balanced reading list on the policies of the Soviet Union, unless you define balance as that position which lies halfway between the Daily Worker's and the National Review's. But Lincoln warned us against that kind of balance, did he not?

Senator Moynihan has fought ardently in the Senate to support the National Endowment for Democracy. And presumably his goal in asking it to apologize is to snuff out the controversy. But there ought to be controversy when people engage in so ostentatiously tendentious an act as the Vonnegut committee engaged in. And a little controversy when someone who behaved as proudly when he served in the United Nations in criticizing hypocrisy, asks an apology of Carl *Herzmann* *for telling the truth.*

~~MORE~~

*Journal News Syndicate.*

*5/18-19/85*



End  
Case  
File

320752  
TR123-01

May 20, 1985

Dear Mr. Purcell:

I can't tell you how much your letters meant to me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I read your words about your son Tim and the orchestra's reaction to some of my people here in the White House. I had difficulty getting through it because of the lump in my throat and the tears in my eyes.

Please thank Tim for me and ask him to give my warm regards to the other members of the orchestra. We are friends.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Thomas J. Purcell  
604 Oakland Place, N.E.  
Austin, Minnesota 55912

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

*As you*

HH

May 7, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

As you could guess from my previous letter of support to you in mid-April about your then planned visit to the German Military Cemetery in Bitburg, I was very physically and emotionally involved with the trial that some Americans put you through.

I wish there would have been some way for me to absorb a lot of the flack that was hurled your way from people who could not grasp the message you were trying to give the German people from the American people. "It's over! Let us shed our tears together for our fallen sons."

I was extremely proud of your speech at the American military installation at Bitburg and I shall keep it for as long as I live.

A few things happened to me in the last few weeks that I thought you might find interesting, and the incidents would serve as some evidence that a large group of American combat veterans were behind you.

The word got out here that I had written you a letter agreeing with your visit to Bitburg. I seemed to be, at that time, standing pretty much alone, and the local Commandant of the VFW and the leaders of the local American Legion unit took me to task. It really got me down until I started hearing, one by one, from combat veterans throughout our Southern Minnesota area.

A paratrooper who made a number of combat jumps and during his last jump beyond the Rhine and behind enemy lines was severely wounded at Haltun told me, "Tom, they weren't all SS. They weren't all Nazis. They were guys just like you and me. I am sorry so many of them had to die.". That was pretty typical of the reactions I got.

The MINNEAPOLIS STAR AND TRIBUNE ran some excerpts of my letter to you and also some additional thoughts that I gave them and that produced a few very hateful, almost maniacal letters that were very upsetting, but Mr. President, I received more letters from veterans who agreed. One Finlander from the Iron Range who lost most of his jaw in Europe told me, "I really feel sorry that the Jewish people are so upset, but I think I can understand their position. I wish they understood my position that I am ready to say, 'It's over! I wish we could have all come through it alive.'".

Finally, I have a very special son who plays French Horn in the Opera Orchestra at the Graz Opera House in Austria. He is one of two Americans in the orchestra and the international ensemble features dancers, singers, musicians from all over the world, but most of them are Austrians and Germans. He just called me from overseas a minute ago, and I was so touched that I had to write and tell you what happened in Graz when you gave your speech at the American Military Base in Bitburg.

He knew exactly how I felt because I sent him a copy of the letter I sent to you April 15th. He was trying to assure many of the Austrians and Germans that not everybody in the United States still hated them and that you, Mr. President, represented many Americans in wanting a true reconciliation to bring a final end to that old war. Tim told me that they felt that despite your stand, most of the American people still hated them and they wondered how long they would have to be held guilty for things that they didn't know anything about, or that they had not been born yet, they were considered by most Americans to be part of the Nazi madness.

Tim asked me, "Dad, did you hear President Reagan's speech at Bitburg?" I replied that I hadn't, because the networks had only chosen bits and pieces, but I had read it and I was going to keep it.

"Let me tell you what happened here."

Apparently, Mr. President, the Austrian national network had made plans to carry your speech in its entirety. And it was the number one topic of conversation for a number of days before

that. There was great anxiety, concern and an atmosphere of great tension and, as Tim put it, "They had almost a pleading hope that the President would say something that readmitted them to the ranks of the rest of the decent and honest people of the world."

Television sets were brought into the rehearsal hall to let the group see and hear your speech. The orchestra assembled in the hall and Tim said he had never seen nor heard that group so quiet and reserved.

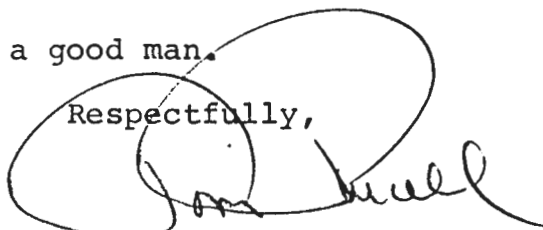
Prior to your speech, they showed the scene at the cemetery where General Ridgway shook hands with General Steinhoff. A number of the older members of the orchestra, who were veterans of the war, broke down and cried.

Then they started the live broadcast of your speech, and as your talk unfolded, the eyes of the German and Austrian members of the orchestra began to glisten and by the time you ended, Tim said, the rehearsal hall was filled with tears of joy.

One old musician said, "God bless that good man. Now I can die in peace."

God bless you Sir, you are a good man.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Purcell", enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

Thomas J. Purcell  
604 Oakland Place NE  
Austin, MN 55912

P.S. Tim said it was impossible to conduct a rehearsal. The joy of reconciliation had filled their hearts and emotions were running very high. Tim said he was very proud to be an American. He said, "There is a special kind of heart in this world, an American heart."

*Hang in there, kids ... you're doing great!*

*I.P.*

320974

06165

May 23, 1985

Dear Mr. Atkins:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 11. Anne Higgins saw that I got it.

You and I are tracking together on what should be said to Mr. Gorbachev. I've had the opportunity to say something of the kind to Foreign Minister Gromyko and Mr. Shcherbitsky when they were here. I look forward to saying it to the headman.

My dream is to take them to see some of our residential areas and farm country, and ask them why they think people who live as we do would ever want to go to war with them. I'd also like to ask when, if ever, they think their system can produce anything like what we have here.

Thank you again for your kindness in writing.

Best regards,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Warner L. Atkins  
Post Office Box 1927  
Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

WARNER L. ATKINS  
BOX 1927  
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA  
28374

May 11, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

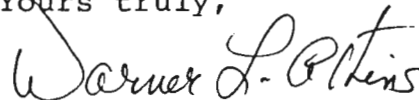
On your return from Europe, the newspapers were quoting Premier Gorbachov as saying the United States' actions were drawing us closer to war. Nobody has answered such a question by simply stating that the United States has no reason to go to war, we don't want to convert other nations to Communism like Mr. Gorbachov does. The Communist ideology is to take over the world for Communism, they vowed to do so when Kruschew made the statement "We'll bury you," meaning that the Russian nation will never give up until the world is converted to Communism.

So why don't we state clearly to Gorbachov that we've got nothing to fight for, we have no idea of taking over any nations but he has a motive for war. Nobody ever seems to answer him this way.

Mr. President, this may seem to you a very simplistic question but I can't see why we don't confront him with that kind of talk.

I would appreciate your answer.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Warner L. Atkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Warner" being the most prominent.

Warner L. Atkins

WLA/dN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1985

Dear Mr. Atkins:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 11.  
Anne Higgins saw that I got it.

You and I are tracking together on what should  
be said to Mr. Gorbachev. I've had the oppor-  
tunity to say something of the kind to Foreign  
Minister Gromyko and Mr. Sherbitsky when ~~[he was]~~ <sup>they were</sup>  
here. I look forward to saying it to the  
headman.

<sup>to see</sup>

My dream is to take them ~~over~~ some of our resi-  
dential areas and farm country, ~~in a helicopter,~~  
and ask them why they think people who live as  
we do would ever want to go to war with them.  
I'd also like to ask when, if ever, they think  
their system can produce anything like what we  
have here.

Thank you again for your kindness in writing.

Best regards,

*Ronald Reagan*

Mr. Warner L. Atkins  
Post Office Box 1927  
Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374



320753  
TR 123-01

May 20, 1985

Dear Monsignor Horan:

Thank you very much for your kind letter and generous words. I am truly grateful and particularly so for your approval of my recent visit to West Germany. I felt from the start that I was doing the morally right thing, and feel that even more so now that the trip is over. Your letter strengthens my conviction.

May I also thank you and your associates for the great, good work you are doing. I'll do my best to keep the "safety net" in place but government efforts are useless without the voluntarism of all our citizens.

My thanks again and very best regards.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Reverend Monsignor Kenneth T. Horan  
Diocesan Director  
Catholic Social Services  
Diocese of Scranton  
400 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES  
OF  
LACKAWANNA COUNTY

MOST REV. JAMES C. TIMLIN, D.D.  
PRESIDENT  
REV. MSGR. KENNETH T. HORAN, M.S.W.  
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR

400 WYOMING AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503  
(717) 346-8936

May 10, 1985

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20013

Dear Mr. Reagan:

I was very pleased and happy with the results of the 1984 election which served as a confirmation of the peoples' acceptance and approval of you personally and the policies you espouse.

I have long been concerned with the defense preparedness of our great country and the liberality of the Democratic office holders who seek to usurp from the people the obligation of solving problems at the local level.

What prompts me to write at this time is the sad events which have taken place in the last three weeks by an unforgiving group who seek only to promote their own heritage and opinion.

I was very proud of you and the manner in which you handled these difficulties by refusing to submit to their attempted direction of your travel plans. Your message given at Bitburg certainly underscored our Christian attitude of forgiveness and hopefully will serve, when things are calmer, for your opponents to put things in perspective.

Although there are some hardships being caused by your present policies, nevertheless, I see the need for the hard decisions you are making. Our office, which is dedicated to the care of the poor, is doing its best to support your efforts and making certain that your "safety net" is in place. So far, Thanks be to God and the programs you have made available, no one in our eleven county area has starved to death or frozen to death.



A United Way Member Agency

President Ronald Reagan

May 10, 1985

Page 2

Please continue your efforts on behalf of the good of the country and be assured that we at the local level are proud to be your supporter.

Asking God's blessings on you, I remain,

Sincerely,

*Kenneth T. Horan*

Rev. Msgr. Kenneth T. Horan  
Diocesan Director

KTH/hwo

~~To Mr. Edward J. Malouf 11226 Colleton Dallas Texas~~

To Mr. Thomas J. Purcell <sup>75228</sup> 604 Oakland P.O. NE  
Austin Minn. 55912

Dear Mr. Purcell

I can't tell you how much your letter meant to me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I read your words about your son Tim & the orchestra reaction ~~in Texas~~, to some of my people here in the White House. I had difficulty getting through it because of the lump in my throat and the tears in my eyes.

Please thank Tim for me and ask him to give my warm regards to the other members of the orchestra. We are friends.

Sincerely RR

To Mr. Warner L. Atkins Box 1927 Pinhurst N.C.

Dear Mr. Atkins

28374

Thank you very much for your letter of May 11<sup>th</sup>. Anne Higgins saw that I got it.

You & I are tracking together on what should be said to Mr. Harbach. I've had the opportunity to say something of the kind to Foreign Minister Gromyko and Mr. Shcharitzky when he was here. I look forward to saying it to the head man.

My dream is to take them over some of our residential areas and farm country in a helicopter and ask them <sup>THEY THINK</sup> why people who live as we do would ever want to go to war with them. I'd also like to ask when, if ever, they think their system can produce as much food as what we have here.

Thank you again for your kindness in  
writing.

Best Regards

RR

To Rev. Messr. Kenneth T. Horan 400 Wyoming Ave.  
Scranton Pa. 18503

Dear Rev. Horan

I thank you very much for your kind letter  
and generous words. I am truly grateful and particularly  
so for your approval of my recent visit to W. Germany.  
I felt from the start that I was doing the  
morally right thing and feel that even more so  
now that the trip is over. Your letter strengthens  
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May I also thank you & your associates for  
the great, good work you are doing. I'll do my  
best to keep the "safety net" in place but govt.  
efforts are useless without the volunteerism of  
~~you~~ all our citizens.

My thanks again & very best regards.

Sincerely RR

End  
Case  
File