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Last Updated: 07/29/2025

January 29, 1986

To the Faculty and Students of Concord High School:

Today all America joins with you in paying tribute to the memory of a teacher, a friend, a wife and mother, a leader.

The shock and grief, the numbness, we all experienced at having Christa McAuliffe so suddenly taken from our midst Tuesday morning is beyond the power of words to express. But through the silence of sorrow we can say that your burden is not only the burden of all Americans, but of people throughout the world who saw in Christa what you who knew her best saw in her -- a woman of courage and caring, an educator of boundless energy and inexhaustible enthusiasm, an inspiration to young and old alike.

In 1961, when the first manned missions were flown into space, Christa McAuliffe was 12 years old, younger than virtually all of you gathered here. She said recently that at the dawn of the space age she was fascinated by the possibilities it opened to the imagination, but that she never considered becoming an astronaut because there were no role models. And when she herself became a role model for others, she characteristically looked back in American history to others who had challenged a trackless frontier. On her application for selection as the first teacher in space, she wrote that, like the pioneer travelers of the Conestoga wagon days, she intended to keep a journal of her passage.

We will never have the opportunity to read that journal, but all of us -- all of you -- will have the opportunity to write the history that follows. And as you move forward from this day, as its clouds and shadows give way to fresh sunlight, I know that you will ponder many times how best to honor the memory of your dear friend. You could hardly do better than to believe as she believed, that the lives and example of every citizen alike -- teacher, engineer, lawyer, policeman, mother, father -- have the power to change the course of human events for the good.

Robert Frost once wrote that, "We love the things we love for what they are." Christa McAuliffe was very emphatic and confident about who she was and the dream she and the crew of Challenger were pursuing. It is a dream older than mankind, as ageless as the universe into which the all-knowing God has placed us. And it is a dream which thrives only when we follow our destiny -- to labor, to explore, to seek, to discover, and to know.

We pray, then, that in granting Christa McAuliffe and her companions their eternal rest, God will fill each of us with the bounty of His peace and consolation.

Nancy and I are with you in thought and spirit. God bless you.

SENT TO:

Mr. Charles Foley, Principal
Concord High School
Warren Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RR:CAD:AVH:jz (1PMN)

Sent Express by Bob Anderson

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1986

NOTE FOR MR. REGAN

FROM: TOM DAWSON

The principal of the high school in New Hampshire reports their ceremony will be held tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. A student will read the President's letter at the ceremony and they request it not be released until the ceremony has concluded (around 3:00 p.m.). A copy of the letter is attached.

*Respectfully,
Tom Dawson*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

The school where Christa McAuliffe taught is holding a private memorial service for her tomorrow. We have been in contact with school officials, who have requested that no White House representatives attend the service in order to avoid publicity.

We have agreed with school officials, however, that you will send a message which will be read at the service. A draft of that message is attached for your review.

When you have had a chance to review the message, please give it to the Usher's Office to be returned to my office. It needs to be dispatched to New Hampshire this evening. Thank you.

David Chew

The President has seen *1/30*

36612455
NEEDLE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1986

RR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FR*

SUBJECT: Concord High School

This morning I spoke with Charles Foley, Principal of Concord High School where astronaut Christa McAuliffe was a teacher.

death

I conveyed your sympathies to him and the students of Concord High School and indicated your willingness to assist in any way. I specifically suggested the possibility of sending a prominent person (i.e. former astronaut, Cabinet member, etc.) to address the students about yesterday's events and to help ease their pain. The principal was very grateful for the offer, but declined, saying the school has been "badgered" by the Press and an outside visitor would probably just bring in more press.

The Principal explained that the Concord High School students are pulling together as a group to help each other deal with the sadness of their loss. He felt the Press had been cruel in the ways they played and replayed the film clips of the students before and after the tragic lift-off. Accordingly, he has closed the campus to press.

The school is planning a memorial service of its own for Thursday or Friday of this week. A special message from you will be sent to the ceremony.

Chasben

The Principal asked me to convey to you their deep appreciation for your efforts to console them at this time. He was sure that the knowledge that you are personally concerned will be of great comfort to the students.

memorandum

End
Case
File

36620 755
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PR 014-12

January 29, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your information is a memo from Fred Ryan responding to your question about White House assistance to Rosey Grier with his "Are You Committed" program for inner-city youth.

David
David Chew

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 27, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FR*
SUBJECT: Update on Assistance to Rosey Grier's
Program, "Are You Committed?"

For the past year your office of Private Sector Initiatives has provided ongoing assistance to Rosey Grier's inner city youth program, "Are You Committed?". I have visited his headquarters/youth center in Los Angeles and we have been involved in introducing him to several possible corporate members of his Board of Directors.

The Republican National Committee has worked with us to introduce him to significant GOP contributors. We have arranged to have him attend several Republican fundraising events and organized a fundraiser specifically for him in Washington on September 16, 1986.

We are continuing our efforts to help Rosey with this fine program.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 16, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

In addition to sending you the attached letter, Rosey Grier phoned you recently for no specific reason other than to applaud you for your tremendous impact on the Nation. A written response to his letter was prepared for your signature.

David
David Chew

*I signed just this
answer doesn't seem to
touch on part of his letter
I've underlined.
RR*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 15, 1986

Dear Rosey:

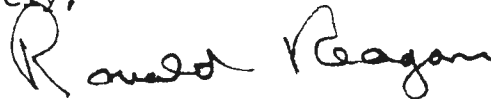
I'm sorry I missed your recent call but welcome this opportunity to send anniversary congratulations to you and everyone with "Are You Committed."

A little less than two years ago, you opened the doors of AYC's Training Center as an opportunity for the growth and development of our youth in preparation for the future. The young are the promise of America, and I am proud to salute you with the hope of many anniversaries to come for your contributions to the betterment of this nation.

I hope you will continue to be in touch with Linda Chavez as well as my office of Private Sector Initiatives who can help with arranging a White House briefing for your colleagues at "Are You Committed."

Nancy joins me in sending our appreciation to you and all of the members of AYC for the wonderful work you are doing. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

Mr. Rosey Grier
Chairman
"Are You Committed"
3005 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90007

P.S. -- Happy Anniversary!

ROSEY GRIER'S

"ARE YOU COMMITTED"

December 23, 1985

The President
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

RE: AYC Financial Support

Dear President Reagan:

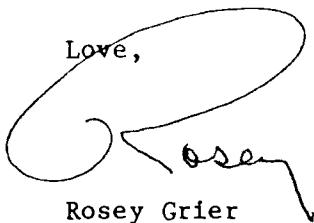
Thank you for your interest and enthusiastic endorsement of ARE YOU COMMITTED's work with inner-city youth. A few months ago when you and I discussed on the telephone the plight of those young people, I knew that it was not just talk. We agreed that something could be done. Subsequently, A. C. Lyles, Lee Khan of Working Partners, Fred Ryan, and other members of your staff visited the premises of "ARE YOU COMMITTED". They complimented our work, and we appreciated their support.

Since that time, however, there has been no real help in generating the funds that would enable us to meet the needs of inner-city youth. Mr. President, I believe in the direction that you are taking this country-I support you wholeheartedly. I know that you have a heart for the plight of the poor and needy. These people need to catch the spirit and vision that has made this nation great. "ARE YOU COMMITTED" has been, and can be an even greater channel to promote these ideals.

Therefore, I am asking you to identify individuals and companies that will help us by providing expertise and financial assistance to help train, motivate and place young people in the labor force. Like you, we need to overcome deficit spending (smile).

We are partners working for the good of our communities, country and the world. I will be calling you within ten days for your comments.

Love,



Rosey Grier
Chairman
"Are You Committed"

RG:ks

cc: Donald Regan
Doug Holiday

FOUNDING BOARD	Alfonzo Stakley, M.D.	Donald Clinton	Arthur B. Lattler	Bill Naylor
OF DIRECTORS	Cynthia Stakley	Holly Coors	Tom Landry	Don Newcombe
Rosey Grier	NATIONAL BOARD	Billy Davis, Jr.	Meadowlark Lemon	Dr. Frederick K. C. Price
Margie Grier	OF TRUSTEES	Don Dwyer	Marilyn McCoo	Andy Robustelli
Edward Holden, M.D.	Elgin Baylor	Keith Erickson	Scott McGregor	Dr. Robert Schuller
Ollie Holden	Pat Boone	Joe Gibbs	Lenny Moore	Jackie Slater

End
Case
File

36 75-965C

PR 011

Jan 86

The President has seen 1/30

OK
frc

(Rohrabacher/BE) 3675965c
January 29, 1986
6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: WHY THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET?
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1986

You've probably heard cynics say that my budget was dead before arrival on Capitol Hill. Well, as in the case of Mark Twain, reports on this death have been greatly exaggerated. Although it is Members of Congress who vote yea or nay on the budget in our Democracy, it will be the American people who make the ultimate decision. And this year, I think the American people are demanding much more than politics as usual.

The politics of the budget process has traditionally been "I'll vote for yours if you'll vote for mine." But, this must be the year when we think of our children's future and come to grips with the high level of deficit spending. It is only a question of whether our elected officials can, in the face of a major threat to our country's well-being, act responsibly instead of politically. Well, I think we've come to a moment when the gravity of the situation will impel America's elected officials to rise to the occasion.

The first example of this commitment was passage of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Amendment, which offers a reasonable, phased-in solution to the budget deficit. We've all seen the near hysteria in some circles over the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings targets, but there are always naysayers. The targets can be met. The problem of deficit spending can be brought under control, and don't let anyone tell you any different. It will only take a

recognition by Members of Congress of the fact that the time has come to bite the bullet and make tough decisions.

The reason I am confident that it can be done is that it has been done. I have submitted to the Congress a budget that meets our deficit reduction targets without undermining absolutely essential programs or undercutting national defense. Our budget keeps spending on defense to the bare minimum, and it doesn't touch Social Security. What it does is prune some of the budget items which are only funded because special interests have managed over the years to maneuver them through the system.

The budget I've submitted is fair and comes to grips with the deficit. It doesn't rely on raising taxes, which could knock our country back into recession. Instead, we are proposing a reasonable, phased-in spending reduction. Our budget is alive and kicking. It is time to get down to work.

End
Case
File

3675935C
PR011

The President has seen 1/30

OK
RE

(Rohrabacher/BE)

January 29, 1986

6:45 p.m.

367593 SC

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: THE FOUR COMPONENTS OF THE BUDGET
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1986

The budget challenge we are now facing was a long time in the making, yet we should not think it is insurmountable. A reasonable, phased-in solution will, in a few years, put any economic threat behind us without jeopardizing our country's security or undercutting our long-run potential for economic progress. Our Administration has taken the task of ending deficit spending seriously. We've proposed a budget that will reach the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings targets without gutting our national defense or cutting Social Security and other essential domestic programs. So don't let anyone tell you it can't be done.

We've proposed trimming from the Federal budget those items that are not essential to the well-being of the Nation as a whole. Over decades, special interests, using their political skills, have been able to secure for themselves a yearly stipend from the Federal Treasury. Some budget items are of questionable value even to direct recipients. Many programs, if they are within the legitimate sphere of Government, should be financed by those State and local governments that directly benefit.

Pruning non-essential spending need not undermine the viability of necessary and irreplaceable Federal programs. Social Security is an example of something so many people absolutely depend on. Keeping our country safe and at peace is something we can't afford to compromise. After all, if peace is not

maintained, or if we lose our freedom, all the other hotly debated issues become irrelevant. A top priority of our Administration has been ensuring that every dollar allocated for defense is absolutely necessary and that it is spent efficiently. But we can't cut back to the days of the late seventies and allow our country to become vulnerable again.

There are those who argue that raising taxes is the answer to bringing down our high level of deficit spending. That alternative is no alternative at all. Raising taxes will kick the legs out from under our economy and throwing us back into recession; that would actually increase deficit spending and taxes at the same time -- the worst of all worlds.

Today, we must face facts, do what is necessary, and move ahead. We must admit that the Federal Government is, simply, spending too much and have the courage to accept that, although we would like to do more, we cannot afford it. This is not a matter of being Republican or Democrat. It is a matter of being responsible or not being responsible.

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings will not dictate what programs are important, or where cuts in spending will be made. That effort is called the budget process. I wrote my budget and declared spending priorities, and now Congress, by law, is required to do the same. I hope all Americans will let their elected Representative know that now is the time to get serious. Now is the time to build for our children the foundation of a prosperous America at peace.

Fa
Ca
T.

36612555

LH002

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 1/30/86

NOTE FOR: TOM GIBSON

The President has

seen



acted upon



commented upon



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

information

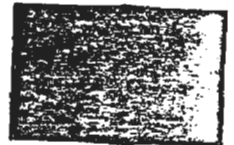


action



David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
(x-2702)

cc: Donald T. Regan
Pat Buchanan
~~original to files~~



The President has seen 1/30

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Received

100 JAN 28 11 06 11

January 29, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN *PJB*
FROM: THOMAS F. GIBSON *TFG*
SUBJECT: Jobs and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young

As you mentioned, Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit appeared on "Face the Nation" and "McLaughlin One-on-One" last weekend and made certain assertions:

- o Government-created "make-work" jobs could be a key solution to the problem of high unemployment in the black community.
- o "No one can seriously contend that there are enough jobs out there. Be reasonable, man."
- o Budget cuts in fiscal year 1987 "could throw the City of Detroit into a deficit."

We prepared a brief review of the employment picture in Detroit. Mayor Coleman remarks generally belie the recovery and job growth that currently exists there.

In the last two years, Detroit's unemployment rate was cut in half. The city unemployment rate fell to 12.1% in February 1985, about half the 22.6% rate in January 1983. (Most recent statistics, September '85, city unemployment was reported at 13.0%, 9.2% for the metropolitan area.)

In the first nine months of 1985, nearly 300,000 more residents of the City of Detroit were employed than in 1983. Total employment in Detroit has increased 7% since 1983.

Help Wanted

- o In the Detroit News on Sunday, January 26, 1986, there were 24 pages of "help wanted" ads, including:
 - 74 ads for auto mechanics and auto clerks;
 - 38 ads for general laborers;
 - 36 ads for tellers, clerks, and office help;
 - 34 ads for sales workers; and
 - 18 ads for bar and restaurant workers, many saying "no experience necessary."

- o Sunday's Detroit Free Press contained:
 - 70 ads for retail clerks, cashiers and tellers; and
 - 49 ads for office and clerical workers, seeking "self starting individuals."
- o According to the Conference Board survey of major Detroit area newspapers, the Help Wanted Index for Detroit stood at 67 in November 1985, the highest since October 1983 and the second-highest level in five years.

Hunger and the Homeless

- o The U.S. Conference of Mayors, of which Young served as president in 1982-83, claimed recently that the recovery has not helped urban poverty, hunger or homelessness.
- o In 1982, Mayor Young declared the city in a state of unemployment and hunger emergency. The federal government responded with massive donations of food products. Through mismanagement, the Young administration allowed over half a million pounds of donated USDA food to rot during 1983. In response to the public outcry and a federal investigation, the City of Detroit used more than \$400,000 in public and private funds to replace the spoiled food.
- o The residential rental vacancy rate for Detroit was 7.5% in January 1986, nearly double the nationwide average of 4%.

City Finances -- Side note

- o The City of Detroit collected \$35 million in federal revenue sharing funds in 1985. It also ran a \$40 million budget surplus.

Mayor Young's charges are the latest in a series of "reports" since Thanksgiving: The Democrat staff of the Joint Economic Committee claimed that American families worse off than before; the National Urban League said in its annual "State of Black America" that black Americans have been left out of the recovery; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors charged that hunger and homelessness remain widespread. The facts indicate otherwise.

The media give play to these reports because they say "on the other hand" to the successes of "Reaganomics."

With your approval we will respond to the issues raised by the Mayor and others and set the record straight.

RR Approve _____ Disapprove
By all means!

End
case
File

The President has seen 1/30
JANUARY 30, 1986

36760255

DROPBY G.O.P. HOUSE BREAKFAST 50001

GOOD MORNING. I HOPE YOU'VE HAD A GOOD
BREAKFAST. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HAVING SOME
GIVE-AND-TAKE WITH DON REGAN AND OTHERS/
AND I WANTED TO COME BY AND SEE IF YOU'VE
SOLVED ALL OUR PROBLEMS FOR THE YEAR.

1986 IS A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY AND
CHALLENGE FOR ALL OF US, BOTH LEGISLATIVELY
AND POLITICALLY. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT BY
WORKING TOGETHER/WE CAN SHOW THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE THAT THEIR ELECTED REPUBLICAN
OFFICEHOLDERS CONTINUE TO PRODUCE POSITIVE
RESULTS.

NEXT WEEK, I WILL SEND YOU MY BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1987 WHICH WILL MEET THE
REQUIREMENTS OF GRAMM-RUDMAN WITHOUT RAISING
TAXES OR THREATENING OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

I ALSO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I DO WANT
A RECONCILIATION BILL. HOWEVER, LAST YEAR'S
BILL WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF MANY
PROVISIONS WHICH INCREASED SPENDING OR MADE
ILL-ADVISED POLICY CHANGES. I AM HOPEFUL
THAT WE CAN WORK WITH THE CONGRESS TO
PRODUCE A RECONCILIATION BILL WHICH CONFINES
ITSELF TO PRODUCING SIGNIFICANT, NECESSARY
BUDGET SAVINGS.

ON TAX REFORM/ LET ME REITERATE THAT
I WOULD NOT SIGN THE BILL WHICH PASSED THE
HOUSE. HOWEVER, YOU HAVE HELPED TO KEEP THE
PROCESS ALIVE/ WHICH I DEEPLY APPRECIATE/
AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE SHALL WORK
CLOSELY WITH THE SENATE TO OBTAIN A BILL
WHICH ACHIEVES TRUE TAX REFORM.

ON THE FOREIGN POLICY FRONT, WE HAVE
A NUMBER OF VITAL ISSUES / AID TO FREEDOM
FIGHTERS IN NICARAGUA / ANGOLA AND ELSEWHERE /
DEFENSIVE ARMS FOR MODERATE ARAB STATES /
ISOLATING QADDAFI / AND, OF COURSE,
ISSUES RELATED TO THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT
WITH MR. GORBACHEV.

I IMAGINE YOU'VE ALREADY COVERED SOME
OF THESE ITEMS THIS MORNING / AND I REALLY DO
WANT TO HEAR WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND / SO LET'S
START THE DISCUSSION. / BOB, WOULD YOU LIKE
TO LEAD OFF?

(GENERAL DISCUSSION)

WELL, THANK YOU FOR COMING DOWN THIS
MORNING. / I INTEND TO CONTINUE OUR ONGOING
DIALOGUE / AND I APPRECIATE THE GOOD
DISCUSSION WE HAVE HAD TODAY.

#

End
case
File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

31-54755
P/K 014-16
flu Z14

January 30, 1986

BEN ELLIOTT:

The President today approved the attached text for the Lighting of America preface. Fred Fielding has asked to review the approved text. I have asked him to get back to me by Tuesday, February 4. I will let you know as soon as I hear from him. Call me if you have any problem with this time frame.

David Chew

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1986

FRED FIELDING:

Attached is the President's approved text for the Lighting of America preface. Speechwriters will not move on this until I hear back from you, by Tuesday if possible. Thanks.

David Chew

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your approval is a preface to a pictorial book entitled The Lighting of America. You approved of the idea in a memo from Fred Fielding attached at Tab A.

The text of the preface has been approved by your Senior Staff.

David
David Chew

It's just fine
Ronald Reagan

(Noonan/BE)

January 27, 1986

Received

4:00 p.m.

103 JAN 27 5 06 PM '86

PREFACE FOR THE "LIGHTING OF AMERICA"

President Ronald Reagan

The 1984 Olympic Torch Relay provided all Americans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share a bright and shining moment in both Olympic history and the history of our Nation.

From New York to California, Americans united together for a 12,000-mile hand-clapping, flag-waving parade in a celebration of Olympic pride and American patriotism. For 82 days and nights, from the tranquil beauty of New England country roads through sleepy Midwestern towns and, later, the bustling freeways of California, the historic flame witnessed all the beauty and diversity of America. Those who saw it cheered, and waved flags, and sometimes found themselves completely taken by emotion as the flame passed by.

Like most people, I couldn't "take time off" to follow the torch -- but I too experienced its journey and found myself swept up in it. So much so that when I was working on my acceptance speech for the Republican National Convention that August, my thoughts kept turning to the torch -- and the torchbearers. I hope the reader won't mind my repeating some of what I said:

...All along the way, that torch became a celebration of America. And we all became participants in the celebration.

Each new story was typical of this land of ours. There was Ansel Stubbs, a youngster of 99, who passed the torch in Kansas to 4-year-old Katie Johnson. In Pineville, Kentucky, it came at 1:00 a.m., so hundreds of people lined the streets with candles. At Tupelo, Mississippi, at 7:00 a.m.

on a Sunday morning, a robed church choir sang "God Bless America" as the torch went by....

In Richardson, Texas, it was carried by a 14-year-old boy in a special wheelchair. In West Virginia the runner came across a line of deaf children and let each one pass the torch for a few feet, and at the end those youngsters' hands talked excitedly in sign language. Crowds spontaneously began singing "America the Beautiful" or "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"....

And then, in San Francisco a Vietnamese immigrant, his little son held on his shoulders, dodged photographers and policemen to cheer a 19-year-old black man pushing an 88-year-old white woman in a wheelchair as she carried the torch.

My friends, that's America.

And it was, and is. That torch somehow brought out the best in us, the most generous and moving part of our natures. Only later did I hear about the 62-year-old runner from Seattle, Washington, who said, "I figure the torch is a needle, and that the cadre of runners carrying it is a thread sewing our Nation up again."

In the spring and summer of 1984, Americans shared in an Olympic dream for all the world to see. It was a memory that we'll cherish for the rest of our lives. The Lighting of America succeeds in recapturing the swelling of pride -- and joy -- inspired by the Olympic summer, and it will extend the legacy of the millions of dollars left to America's youth by those who carried the Olympic flame across our great Nation.

End
Case
File