

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: White House Office of Records Management:
Presidential Handwriting File, 1981-1989 (COPY SET)

Series II: Presidential Records

Folder Title: Folder 234 (03/20/1986-03/27/1986)

Box: 15

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Last Updated: 08/06/2025

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: PRESIDENTIAL HANDWRITING FILE: Records

Archivist: ggc

File Folder: Folder 234 (3/20/86-3/27/86)

Date: 6/9/99

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. Memo	Economic Policy Council to the President re Unfair Foreign Trade, 5p	3/24/86	P1, P5

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

396816
FO 003-02

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1986

Dear Brute:

God bless you! That column was great and I'm most grateful that our Senators will have a copy in hand. We're working like h--l to get a yes vote in the Senate and feel if we do there is a good chance of getting the House to reverse itself and go along in April.

I'm sorry to hear about the Grove. Maybe we ought to declare the Grove a state and then it would be eligible for disaster relief.

Best regards,

Ron

LtGen V. H. Krulak, USMC, Ret.
3665 Carleton Street
San Diego, California 92106

to Gen. Victor H. Krulak 3665 Carleton St.
San Diego Calif. 92106

Dear Brute

God bless you! That column was great & I'm most grateful that our Senators will have a copy in hand. We're working like hell to get a yes vote in the Sen. and feel if we do there is a good chance of getting the H. over to reverse itself & go along in April.

I'm sorry to hear about the Grove. Maybe we ought to declare the Grove a state and then it would be eligible for disaster relief.

Best Regards
Ron

VICTOR H. KRULAK

20 March, 1986

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

Dear Mr. President:

My syndicate got the enclosed column on the wire to 420 newspapers about three hours after the House vote. I hope it will do the cause some good in the next round.

I have sent the column to every senator, with the last paragraph underlined in red. It might just sound an alarm in a few offices.

Thank you for your steadfast behavior. In a telephone conversation with John Silber, President of Boston University, a few minutes ago, he asked to be joined in that sentiment.

Sincerely,

Burt

P.S.

The Grove took an immense beating from last month's flooding. Owl's Nest was not hurt as much as many other camps on Run Road.

B.

End
Case
File

396776
PV

March 24, 1986

Dear Bill:

Thank you for sending the Canadian article and thank you even more for your generous affirmation of the author's kind words. It certainly beat reading the Washington Post and the New York Times. Can I assume the magazine is a kind of effort at becoming a National Review?

Nancy sends her best and again thank you.

Sincerely,

RON

Mr. William A. Rusher
National Review
150 East 35th Street
New York, New York 10016

RR:AVH:PAG:pps

RR Dictation

^{Nat. Review}
To Wm. A. Rector 150 East 35th St. N.Y. N.Y.
10016

Dear Bill

Thank you for sending the Canadian article and
thank you even more for your generous affirmation
of the author's kind words. It certainly is a reading
the Wash. Post & the N.Y. Times. Can I assume
the magazine is a kind of effort at ~~being~~
becoming a Nat. Review?

Nancy sends her love & again thank you.

Sincerely
ROR

NATIONAL REVIEW • 150 East 35th Street, New York, New York 10016

Tel. 679-7330

WILLIAM A. RUSHER

Publisher

March 18, 1986

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

Dear Mr. President:

A Canadian subscriber to National Review sent me the enclosed column from a small conservative journal of opinion in western Canada, because of its kind reference to National Review.

However, the whole column (by a Canadian conservative) analyzes recent United States history, and above all your role in it, so perceptively that I thought you ought to see it. I am reasonably confident you will enjoy it. With my heartfelt admiration and best wishes for all you are doing, I remain

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. A. Rusher' in a cursive style.

William A. Rusher

enc.

End
Case
File

36631855

F6016-04

366318-25
The President has seen 3/25

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
March 24, 1986

Received
FEB 24 PM 7:13

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THE ECONOMIC POLICY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: The Davis-Bacon Act

RL

The Economic Policy Council is forwarding for your consideration several options for an Administration position with regard to the Davis-Bacon Act and its coverage. There is a tension between budget savings that could be achieved if the Davis-Bacon Act were significantly modified or repealed, and your commitments not to seek repeal of the Act. The Council has tried to craft a range of options that illustrate the tension.

BACKGROUND

The Davis-Bacon Act, enacted in 1931, requires that workers on Federal construction projects be paid at least the locally "prevailing" wage, which is based on what workers earn on similar projects in the area. The Act applies to all contracts of \$2,000 or more.

Davis-Bacon provisions have been incorporated into more than 50 other Federal laws covering construction in such areas as education, housing, and transportation, and virtually all other construction that is financed or assisted by Federal grants, loans, loan insurance, and loan guarantees. Under most of these related Acts the increased construction costs are paid with Federal funds, or with Federal/State matching funds. However, in some cases, such as FHA-insured multi-family housing projects, the increased costs are imposed on entirely private sources. In addition, many States have enacted "little" Davis-Bacon acts for contracts using State funds.

CURRENT ADMINISTRATION POLICY

During the 1980 campaign, you pledged to organized labor that you would not seek repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act, but specified that you would favor administrative reform. On August 11, 1981, you indicated that your position of not favoring repeal of Davis-Bacon would also apply to related Acts.

In a September 29, 1981 letter to Robert A. Georgine, President of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, you wrote:

"I want to assure you and your general presidents that I will continue to support my campaign pledge not to seek repeal of the Act."

You made a similar statement in a speech to the same group's Legislative Conference on April 5, 1982:

"May I reassure you today on legislation of importance to your organization: I believe there have been abuses of the Davis-Bacon Act, but as your President I have not and will not seek repeal of that Act."

These statements have guided Administration policy since 1981 and serve as the basis for the current Administration position of not seeking repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act.

ADMINISTRATION REFORMS

Consistent with your statements, the Administration did seek certain regulatory reforms in the operation of the Davis-Bacon Act. In 1982, the Department of Labor proposed several important reforms, including: (1) redefining how prevailing wage rates are determined to ensure that they more accurately reflect local conditions; (2) establishing a "helper" classification to give less-skilled laborers more job opportunities; and (3) eliminating certain paperwork burdens. It was anticipated that these changes would result in annual savings of nearly \$600 million, largely as a result of the proposed helper reforms.

These regulatory reforms were challenged, with the Federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruling against the proposed helper and paperwork reduction measures. The Department of Labor will propose new helper regulations later this year. Until those regulations are effective, the savings resulting from our other reforms are roughly \$150 million per year.

In addition, the Administration proposed in December 1985 a two-year test of the impact of raising the coverage threshold of the Davis-Bacon Act from \$2,000 to \$25,000 for selected contracts and sites.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST ACTION

There are essentially two arguments for taking action to modify or repeal the Davis-Bacon Act:

- o In the new Gramm-Rudman-Hollings environment, it is worthwhile to re-examine our position on the Davis-Bacon Act. Complete repeal would result in savings of approximately \$5 billion over 5 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. There are other less drastic actions that also would yield significant savings.

- o Despite the Administration's regulatory reforms, both proposed and enacted, the Davis-Bacon Act still has significant adverse economic effects, including increasing Federal, State, and local government construction costs; harming minorities trying to develop job skills and operate their own construction businesses; limiting competition for construction projects; and, creating a paperwork burden on the private sector.

The most powerful arguments against taking any action on Davis-Bacon are:

- o Our regulatory reforms appear to encompass all that can be done administratively to significantly improve the Davis-Bacon Act. With the helper provision, these reforms will save about \$500 million per year.
- o Any major change in your position probably will be interpreted by organized labor as violating your commitments in 1981 and 1982.

OPTIONS

The Economic Policy Council has developed four options for your consideration. These options range from maintaining the status quo to seeking repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act.

Option 1: Maintain the status quo.

Regulatory reform on behalf of helpers and the two-year test, if enacted, would go on, but the Administration would seek no additional legislative changes.

Advantages

- o Avoids any dispute as to whether you are fulfilling your commitments regarding Davis-Bacon.
- o About \$350 million in additional savings will be realized through the changes in the helper regulations.

Disadvantage

- o We lose the opportunity to achieve any savings through reforms in Davis-Bacon.

Option 2: Seek legislative changes to raise the threshold of coverage under the Davis-Bacon and related Acts.

Option 2a: Raise the threshold to \$40,000.

Option 2b: Raise the threshold to \$100,000. ✓

Option 2c: Raise the threshold to \$250,000.

Option 2d: Raise the threshold to \$1 million *for military only.*

(Note: In the case of non-Federally procured HUD housing programs, thresholds are stated in dwelling unit terms rather than dollar amounts. Revised thresholds would be stated in unit terms (e.g. construction of 25 units or more) or, in the case of rehabilitation or modernization, in terms of both units and dollar amounts (e.g. 25 units and \$250,000 project costs.)

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the following effects of changing the threshold (these are 1983 estimates):

Threshold	Percent of Contracts Exempted	Percent of Dollar Volume Exempted	Savings (Five Years)
\$ 40,000	52.2	2.7	\$190 million
100,000	73.9	9.6	500 million
250,000	86.5	18.1	940 million
1,000,000	96.1	37.3	3.7 billion
1,000,000 (military construction only)	95.0	40.0	800 million


Advantages

- o There are informal reports that organized labor may be willing to accept some change in the threshold.
- o Because the threshold has remained at the \$2,000 level for 51 years, it is reasonable now to increase it in recognition of the economic changes of the past decades.

Disadvantages

- o A proposal changing the Davis-Bacon and related Acts would be subjected to a number of Congressional committees, some hostile to any such reforms.
- o To many in organized labor, a substantial increase in the threshold, for example to \$1 million, would be tantamount to repeal.

Option 3: Provide extraordinary relief from the Davis-Bacon Act for military construction.

Option 3a: Raise the threshold for military construction coverage to \$1 million. 

Option 3b: Seek a permanent exemption from the Davis-Bacon Act for military construction.

Advantages

- o There has been considerable Senate support for relief from Davis-Bacon requirements for military construction -- last year the Senate voted to establish a \$1 million threshold.
- o Raising the threshold to \$1 million would save \$800 million over 5 years; an exemption would save \$1.5 billion over 5 years.

Disadvantages

- o Would be viewed by organized labor as a repeal of Davis-Bacon.
- o Would result in non-uniform application of the Davis-Bacon Act across the government.

Option 4: Seek repeal of Davis-Bacon and Related Acts.

Advantage

- o Would result in the greatest amount of savings -- approximately \$5 billion over five years.

Disadvantages

- o Would be viewed as a promise broken.
- o Stands very little to no chance of being adopted by the Congress.

DECISION

_____ Option 1: Maintain the status quo.

(Supported by Labor -- although willing to discuss a modest increase in the threshold)

Option 2: Seek legislative changes to raise the threshold of coverage under the Davis-Bacon and related Acts.

_____ Option 2a: Raise the threshold to \$40,000.

RR

Option 2b: Raise the threshold to \$100,000.

(Supported by USTR)

_____ Option 2c: Raise the threshold to \$250,000.

(Supported by Transportation and HUD)

_____ Option 2d: Raise the threshold to \$1 million.

(Supported by Commerce, OMB, and CEA)

Option 3: Provide extraordinary relief from the Davis-Bacon Act for military construction.

RR

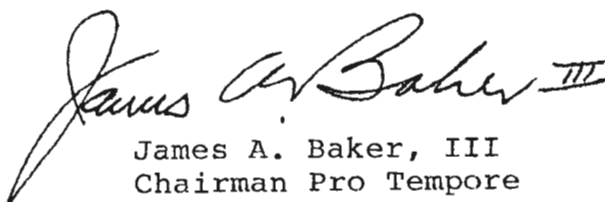
Option 3a: Raise the threshold for military construction coverage to \$1 million.

_____ Option 3b: Seek a permanent exemption from the Davis-Bacon Act for military construction.

(Supported by Defense)

_____ Option 4: Seek repeal of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts.

[Note: options 2 and 3 are not necessarily mutually exclusive.]


James A. Baker, III
Chairman Pro Tempore

End
Case
File

397068
61002

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 25, 1986

Dear Keith:

It was good to see you here at the White House, even if those affairs don't give us much time for a real visit.

I know I spoke to you about the picture of "Lady Nancy R," but I just had to drop this line to say thank you again. Nancy feels very honored and says thank you also. Day after tomorrow we're on our way to the ranch and I'll be hand-carrying that nicely framed picture to be hung in our ranch house -- the only home we own now.

Again, from both of us, our warmest thanks and regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the name "Ron" in a stylized, cursive script.

Mr. L. Keith Bulen
8323 Rahke Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46217

To Mr. L. Keith Benson 3323 Kahke Rd.
~~3323~~ Indianapolis Ind. 46217

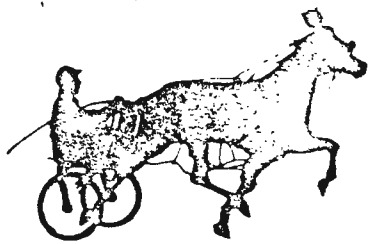
Dear Keith

It was good to see you here at the White House
even if those affairs don't give us much time for a
real visit.

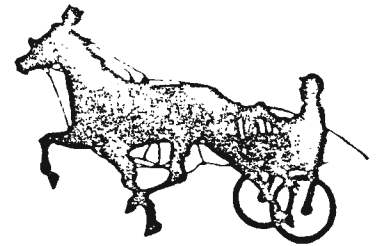
I haven't spoke to you about the picture of "Lady
Nancy R," but I first had to drop this line to say
thank you again. Nancy feels very honored and says
thank you also. Day after tomorrow we're on our way
to the ranch and I'll be hand carrying that nicely
framed picture to be hung in our ranch house - the
only home we own now.

Again - from both of us our warmest thanks
& regards.

Sincerely
Ron



L. KEITH BULEN
8323 RAHKE ROAD
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46217
(317) 639 - 4171 (317) 888 - 2405



28 February 1986

KS
The Honorable and Mrs. Ronald R. Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President and Nancy,

I am enclosing this letter in your anniversary card to say how much my lady, Sandra Donovan, and I, look forward to attending your dinner honoring Prime Minister Mulroney Tuesday, March 18th. The President's 1981 appointment of me to the International Joint Commission, U.S. and Canada, has allowed me to work closely and I hope meaningfully with many U.S.-Canada issues that I know have been of personal concern to you as originally pointed out in the "North American Accord" reference included in your 1979 announcement seeking the Presidency. Thank you again for allowing me to serve and participate not only then, but now as well.

In 1977 I bought an outstandingly conformed and well bred yearling filly that was too spirited for Castleton Farms to load and present in the sales ring at the fall yearling sale so I bought her upon recommendation and sight unseen. I named her Carole's Luck and she raced sporadically at two and three much as you might have expected from her early high spirits and independent personality.

She had blazing but uncontrollable speed taking a few decent wins and providing many headaches and other aches to all involved.

My partner in this particular adventure was a young Republican lawyer colleague named Gordon Tabor who was and is much like many of the Hoosier volunteers who worked at the '80 Detroit nominating Convention that I assisted in directing as the '79 and '80 Deputy Chairman of your presidential campaign.

Gordon again volunteered at his personal expense to join and assist me in Washington during the Transition Committee activities in December '80 and January '81 when I served as Associate Director of Presidential Personnel in charge of the political division.

The offices, as you recall, were located on M Street and we lived in a leased Skyline Towers apartment in Virginia where I had lived during the 80 fall campaign and served as your Regional Coordinator of seventeen eastern and midwestern states.

We felt that Carolø's Luck's real future was probably as a brood mare so retired her after her three year old campaign and bred her in the following Spring of 1980 to my World Champion and 1978 Horse of the Year, Abercrombie.

In 1981, she foaled a filly we named "Transition" who took a very nice time mark as a three year old.

In 1982, she foaled another Abercrombie filly we named "M Street Lady" who last year won the Canadian Challenge Filly Stakes and six wins in a row this year before losing.

In 1983, she foaled a Governor's Skipper filly we named "Skyline Skipper" who trained brilliantly as a two year old but was injured and is now back in training and progressing well as a three year old.

In 1984, she foaled her first stud colt by Governor Skipper named "Associate Director" that we retained and he is training very well also.

Which now brings me to the real point if anyone is still there.

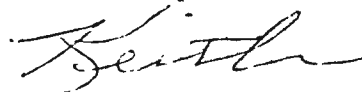
In 1985, the mare foaled a "Silent Majority" (Canadian Horse of the year, 1973 and the Sire of Abercrombie) filly, that we will retain and train. Her name is "LADY NANCY R."

We had attempted to name each of the four fillies for Nancy, however the United States Trotting Association name registration process on the first three occasions had rejected such submission as "The President's Lady, The First Lady, White House Lady, R.R.'s Lady, etc."

I will bring you a photo of "Lady Nancy R" to be taken this week at Lexington, Kentucky.

You may recall Mr. President, that I mentioned the filly to you in the airport receiving line at Indianapolis the last time you were here to address the National Junior Chamber of Commerce convention and drop in at a businessmen's local luncheon at Mooresville, Indiana. You asked me at that time if she were a trotter or a pacer.

As ever,



L. Keith Bulen

cc: Mr. Mitchell Daniels



Wishing you
the very best,
A wonderful day
and all the rest--
Good health, good cheer,
good luck, good friends,
And happiness
that never ends!

Happy Anniversary

Keith
Bruton

End
Case
File


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

317078CS
F6010-04

March 25, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your review are
background memos for today's
EPC meeting. You will not
be asked to make any
decisions at the meeting.


David L. Chew

RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

The President has seen 48
366468 SS
PR2014-08

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN *PJB*
SUBJECT: Presidential Article for Highlights Magazine

Attached, for your consideration, is a draft Presidential article for Highlights magazine. The editors have asked for a brief essay on "The Meaning of the Statue of Liberty" for inclusion in their special July 4 issue.

Highlights reaches an audience of approximately 2 million households per month. They accept no advertising and are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. Highlights offers an excellent vehicle for you to address millions of American parents and children, and adds to the range of publications selected for July 4 Presidential articles and interviews.

It's just fine - Thank you.
RR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW

FROM: TOM GIBSON *TG*
SUBJECT: Presidential Article for Highlights Magazine

Attached, with White House and agency comments included, is a Presidential article for publication in the July issue of Highlights magazine.

Thanks very much.

OK to you

March 25, 1986

PRESIDENTIAL ARTICLE FOR HIGHLIGHTS MAGAZINE

"The Meaning of the Statue of Liberty"

For 100 years Miss Liberty, that grand statue in New York Harbor, has been a symbol of the freedoms we enjoy in the United States -- freedoms which many people in the world are not allowed by their governments to have.

She has welcomed millions of immigrants to this country, perhaps even your parents or grandparents. The millions of new Americans who sailed past Miss Liberty were drawn here by the dream that with hard work and freedom there was no limit to what they could accomplish. To them, the Statue of Liberty was their first real glimpse of America, the land they chose as the place to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Our Nation was blessed by those who became citizens and whose energy and ingenuity helped build our country and protect our freedoms. They helped make our country great because they brought something special from every corner of the world. And we have been able to prove that people of all origins and religions can live together.

Miss Liberty has also seen our armed forces sail off to fight in foreign wars for the freedom and democracy of others and to keep our country safe. And she welcomed them home again as heroes.

For young Americans, Miss Liberty has a special meaning. She is the link from the past to the present, and she is the promise of the future. With her torch held high, she is lighting the way through "the golden door" of opportunity. Soon it will be your privilege to make certain that our country will always be the place where those who dare to dream can succeed.

Whenever you see the Statue of Liberty, remember what she means to us and to the world. She is standing guard over the promise of freedom and opportunity that is the real meaning of the American dream.

End
case
File

396168

ME001

FROM SIR PETER SAUNDERS

The President has seen 4/9

MONKSWELL,
CANONS CLOSE,
THE BISHOPS AVENUE,
LONDON, N2 OBH

Na B. Saunders
01-458 4266.

26th March 1986

Dear President Reagan

I thank you most gratefully for sending a congratulatory wire in respect of "The Mousetrap's" third of a century celebrations.

It was read out by Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent to a thousand guests and the enormous cheer and applause it received merely emphasised, if such emphasis was necessary, the esteem and affection in which you are held in this country.

It made my day to hear the reaction. My grateful thanks.

Yours sincerely

Peter Saunders

President Reagan
The White House
Washington

396168

End
(asc
file

— 36644255
F0003-02

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: March 26, 1986

NOTE FOR: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

The President has

seen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
acted upon	<input type="checkbox"/>
commented upon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

information	<input type="checkbox"/>
action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
(x-2702)

cc: Donald T. Regan
Original to Files ✓

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 26, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

Pat suggests that the attached quotations be mailed from the White House to editorial writers and commentators. Don Regan feels they may be more effective, however, if some of our outside friends distribute them rather than have them mailed out from here. You may wish to make this suggestion to Pat.


David Chew

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Recd: 100 -
1986 MAR 25 PM 5:17

March 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PAT BUCHANAN *PB*

Here are seven pages of "Quotations" from the Debate on aid to the Nicaraguan Resistance from the liberal Democrats. They more than justify your statement on "scurrilous personal attacks" to the New York Times. Added as well are some quotations from Speaker Tip -- over the past two years. With your permission, we will get them to columnists, commentators and editorial writers around the country.

RR? Go Ahead and Mail

 Hold Off

*Pat - wouldn't it be better if we
could get some others to do this or would they
just be ignored where the W.H. wouldn't?
If so - then go ahead.
RR*

Voices of Moderation

"A vote for Ronald Reagan in 1984
is a vote for war in Central America."

Rep. Michael Barnes
AP July 18, 1984

Rep. Ronald V. Dellums:

"...(W)hen Members stand up to assert their responsibility,
their responsibilities given to them in the Constitution of
the United States, press conferences are called, people are
challenged, they are pro-Communist, they are anti-American,
they are disloyal human beings because they do not walk in
lock step.

"I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that Nazi Germany of the 1930's
was a nation where people walked in lock step."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1334

"The only place where we are prepared to challenge communism is
in Third World countries where the people are black, brown,
yellow, and red, and where there are problems of poverty and
hunger and disease and starvation and death.

"That is the contradiction and that is the hypocrisy. We
raise this big red menace only where we can beat up on
nations like Grenada, 90,000 people."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1337

Rep. Les AuCoin:

"South Africa has a repressive regime. So does South Korea. If the use of subversive force is to be America's answer to all governments we find offensive, then why, for instance, are we financing no Contras in South Africa...(?)

"Is it because the administration is soft on racism?"

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1340

Rep. John Conyers:

"Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this resolution because its foundation is based on deceit, misrepresentations, and cover up..."

"Until Nicaragua has death squads like those of El Salvador, our claim to be fighting to restoring civil rights in Nicaragua is transparently disingenuous.

"Every premise about the need for a war against Nicaragua is based on lies and deceptions which provide a pretext for imposing the type of government that the administration wants to see in Nicaragua.

"Let us not fool ourselves as to what funding for the Contras really is; it is imperialism.

"The Contras have been a tragedy for the Nicaraguan people, who, according to every independent human rights group, have been systematically brutalized and murdered by the Contras."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page 1350

Rep. Mel Levine

"So let everyone here understand that if we pass this request we are committing ourselves to fighting a long, bloody, expensive war in Central America, a war with little or no public support in this country and a war with little or no support in Central America itself."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1361

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell:

"Tragically, we continue to follow a foreign policy based on militarism, interventionism, and misplaced support. Each time we have supported the wrong government, the wrong forces, we have ended up the loser -- China, Iran, and Marcos."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1365

Rep. Gerry E. Studds:

"Mr. Chairman, it is a tribute to the American political system that the United States can adopt and carry out a policy that is brutal, illegal, and ineffective and then devote 10 full hours debating whether to do more of it."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1365

Rep. Harry M. Reid:

"In some cases, one can hardly discern the harsh style of propaganda used by those who support aid to the Contras from that of even the Sandinista government itself."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1366

Rep. Edward S. Markey:

"Half of the problems in Nicaragua today come from President Reagan's attempt to put yesterday's people back in power there. Let there be no mistake that the military command of the Contras is packed with Somoza thugs.

"President Reagan's rhetoric hasn't convinced anyone that tiny Nicaragua is a real threat to our Nation. So the administration is attempting to end run -- using surrogates to do the dirty work for us.

"But if the President chooses to go on a binge with freedom fighter firewater, he's going to wake up with a nasty, real world hangover.

"Let me tell you a secret. The Contras aren't fighting to prevent arms getting out of Nicaragua. They aren't fighting to reform the Sandinista government. And they aren't fighting to lift censorship of La Prensa.

"They are fighting to take over the country, and they are doing it in a very brutal way. But they can't win without direct military involvement."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1366

Rep. Howard E. Wolpe:

"The people who are bringing us the Contras today are the very same folks who brought us Ferdinand Marcos -- both packaged and sold under the same deceptive label."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1367

Rep. Peter H. Kostmayer:

"The Reagan approach is a guarantee for more bloodshed and is guarantee inevitably that the presence of American troops from Allentown and Bethlehem and all over the Lehigh Valley will be called upon to die in Nicaragua."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H 1368-69

Rep. James L. Oberstar:

"The administration will not act frontally and openly because to do so would be to require the President to ask the Congress for a declaration of war which would manifestly be rejected."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1369

Rep. Donald J. Pease:

"If this resolution passes, the CIA will be back in business in short order -- training the Contras, serving as "bag men" with millions of dollars, directing the Contras, fighting alongside the Contras, putting out manuals on how to assassinate opposition leaders."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 19, 1986
Page H-1408

Rep. Austin J. Murphy:

"Our experience in Vietnam should have taught us of the limitations in trying to topple any regime that is deemed to be politically unacceptable. But the administration seems determined to lead us down that horrid road again."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 20, 1986
Page H-1452

Rep. Thomas J. Downey:

"The diplomatic option has never been fully tried. U. S. diplomats have offered lip service to the Contadora peace process, but the underlying commitment to support the Contadora nations has been lacking."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 20, 1986
Page H-1456

Rep. William V. Alexander:

"Mr. Chairman, President Reagan's proposal facing Congress today is the best example so far of his shoot-first-ask-questions-later diplomacy."

"Mr. Chairman, it is so sad to look at Nicaragua through the eyes of Latin America and see that it is the United States policies of militarization which are the instruments of chaos in Central America."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 20, 1986
Page H-1458

Rep. John J. LaFalce:

"And if the Nicaraguans import, say, Mig jets, would the United States feel compelled to call an air strike by our brand new B-1 bombers? It is not mere happenstance that the first B-1's delivered were based, not in the Dakotas to threaten the Soviets, but at Dyess Air Force Base, TX, just two hours away from Managua."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 20, 1986
Page H-1463

Rep. Major R. Owens:

"Nicaragua and the rest of the countries of Central America can be saved from outside interference and influence if the United States would accept greater responsibility for the well-being of all of the citizens of this hemisphere. The threat of gunboat diplomacy is obsolete. Financing right-wing rebellions is a waste of the American taxpayer's money.

"The eroded soil of Haiti stands as a stark symbol of the rewards of loyalty and friendship to the United States. Our approval and friendship with Somoza and our friendship with Duvalier are glaring examples of how not to conduct foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere.

"All Americans want security in this hemisphere. But the security we seek will not be gained by financing bandits."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 20, 1986
Page H-1469-70

The Speaker Speaks on Nicaragua

Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.:

"These people down there (the Contras) are marauders, they are rapists. To relocate these people with \$4 million would be a disgrace to this government."

FACTS ON FILE WORLD NEWS DIGEST

June 1, 1984

"There is nothing the president will not do to get money for this war in Nicaragua that he has his heart set on."

CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

June 23, 1984, Page 1522

"I just think it's getting out of hand completely...It's frightening...They (administration officials) aren't going to be happy until they have American boys down there in Nicaragua and El Salvador."

THE WASHINGTON POST

August 10, 1984

"He accused Reagan of 'hoodwinking the public' by referring to humanitarian aid and charged that the Contras were 'butchers' who were 'killing people out there, ravishing the villages.'"

FACTS ON FILE WORLD NEWS DIGEST

April 12, 1985

"...(T)he Contras, whom Speaker O'Neill has branded as
'butchers and maimers.'"

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

April 24, 1985

"I said to the President, 'I sincerely believe you're not
going to be happy until you're in Nicaragua.'"

CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

April 27, 1985, Page 779

"I just feel the president is determined, because of a
Class-B movie attitude, to get our boys down there."

WASHINGTON POST

June 5, 1985

"He is not going to be happy until he has our Marines and
Rangers down there for a complete victory...He can see
himself heading a contingent down Broadway, with paper
flying out of the windows and a big smile on his face, kind
of grade B motion picture actor, coming home the conquering
hero... Unbelievable. That's the way he talks and that's

the way he feels."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

June 13, 1985

"...The Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, warned, "The shame of our defeat...will bring our troops in there.'"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

February 24, 1986

"Quietly and successfully, the United States used its enormous prestige to allow the people of the Philippines themselves to make their own choices, to decide their own national destiny. It would be a disaster for America to drop from the high road of smart diplomacy to the depths of gunboat diplomacy."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

March 5, 1986

O'Neill told reporters he was "bitterly opposed" to Reagan's request, which he predicted would result in dragging the United States into a Vietnam-style war in Central America.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

March 11, 1986

"House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.) said that Sasser spoke 'for the average American parent. He cut

to the heart of the issue -- whether the United States should become militarily involved in the war in Nicaragua.'

"O'Neill added that Reagan's remarks 'sounded like a declaration of war against one of the smallest, poorest nations in the hemisphere.'"

THE WASHINGTON POST

March 17, 1986

"Expressing confidence that Reagan will lose, House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, D-Mass., declared, 'Fortunately, the American people are resisting this rush to war.'"

"O'Neill accused the administration of fomenting 'a frenzy the past few days to create the momentum toward further U. S. military involvement in Nicaragua.'"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

March 18, 1986

"House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, (said) 'Our role as arms supplier has escalated to the role of advisors in the field,'"

REUTERS NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE

March 19, 1986

"The shadows of Vietnam haven't left us,' Mr. O'Neill said."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

March 19, 1986

"The Speaker repeated his fears that military aid would lead to war in Central America and said, 'I see a quagmire down there.'"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

March 20, 1986

Rep. Cardiss Collins:

"These so-called freedom fighters are, in fact, terrorists.

"If these people can be characterized as freedom fighters, it is only because they built their careers fighting against freedom whenever it has tried to blossom."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 20, 1986
Page H-1475

Rep. Sidney R. Yates:

"President Reagan's policy in Nicaragua is a policy which looks to war -- to a military settlement."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 20, 1986
Page H-1475

Rep. Lee H. Hamilton:

"A vote for the President's request today will lift restrictions on CIA and DOD participation in the Contra war. It will bring American military advisers into Central America to train the Contras. It will put American soldiers shoulder to shoulder with the contras."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
March 20, 1986
Page H-1476

End
case
File

397110
FO003-02

March 27, 1986

Dear Max:

Just a hasty line as I take off for the ranch to thank you from the bottom of my heart for sending me the copy of your letter to the Congressmen and the quotes about and by the Sandinistas. Their disinformation network has been so effective very few Americans and especially those on Capitol Hill have any idea of what they are really like. You've struck a blow for freedom and you've really made my day.

Sincerely,

RUN

Mr. Max M. Fisher
Fisher Building
27th Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48202

RR:AVH:PAG:pps

RR Dictation

To Mr. Max M. Fisher - Fisher Bldg. 27th Floor
Detroit Mich. 48202

Dear Max

Just a hasty line as I take off for the ranch
to thank you from the bottom of my heart for
sending me the copy of your letter to the Congressmen
& the quotes about ~~the~~ & by the Sandinistas. Their
disinformation network has been so effective very
few Americans & especially those on Capitol Hill have
any idea of what they are really like. You've struck
a blow for freedom & you've really made my day.

Sincerely Ron

MAX M. FISHER
FISHER BUILDING
TWENTY SEVENTH FLOOR
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

March 20, 1986

Dear Mr. President,

I wanted you to know what has taken place. Enclosed find letter and information on the Contra issue.

Kindest regards,

Max

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

861111

End
Case
File