

# 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 246 (07/01/1986-07/06/1986)

**Box:** 16

---

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*

406728  
HU 010

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 1, 1986

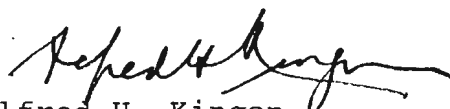
Dear Mr. Wilson:

The President has asked me to respond to your recent letter on the proposed changes in the Executive Order on Affirmative Action. We are very interested in the success of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and appreciate the excellent standards of academic achievement that you have maintained at Norfolk State University.

As you are aware, the Affirmative Action Executive Order that you refer to in your letter has been under discussion and review within this Administration this year. I appreciate your concern that retention of provisions calling for flexible goals and timetables be incorporated in the future, thus enabling more opportunity for graduates to move into corporate America.

Discussions are taking place on this issue, and your comments are important to us in our effort to resolve this issue. Thank you again for your leadership among HBCU's and the fine work they have done for students across America.

Sincerely,



Alfred H. Kingon  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Mr. Harrison B. Wilson  
President  
Norfolk State University  
Norfolk, Virginia 23504

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**DATE: 6/20/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/25/86SUBJECT: LETTER FROM HARRISON B. WILSON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MILLER - ADMIN.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	POINDEXTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BARBOUR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>SS</del>	THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WALLISON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>RECORDS</u> MANAGEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MASENG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Al Kingon:

Would you please respond to the attached.

**RESPONSE:**David L. Chew  
Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 19, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

The attached letter from Harrison Wilson, president of a group representing black colleges, was forwarded to Don Regan by Rep. Bill Whitehurst. Don thought you would like to read it. No need for you to respond; the staff will handle that for you.

DAVID

David L. Chew

OK RR



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23504

RR

Office of the President

June 18, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Reagan:

The Presidents/Chancellors of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) have asked me to express to you their appreciation for your consistent and unwavering support of these institutions. Your strong leadership in articulating support for our institutions has paved the way for greater involvement by both federal and private sectors with the HBCU's.

Given your demonstrable friendship and concern for HBCU's, the Presidents/Chancellors thought you might wish to be informed of the favorable effect that the affirmative action programs, goals, and timetable requirements of Executive Order No. 11246 have had on our institutions as you consider the most appropriate method of preventing such flexible programs from being distorted into rigid quotas. The existence of the strong Executive Order on Affirmative Action with goals and timetables, significantly benefits the HBCU's, the students they serve, and the private sector.


Over the years, since (then) Secretary of Labor George P. Schultz instituted these affirmative action requirements, they have directly contributed to increased recruitment efforts on our campuses by major corporations. These expanded efforts have encouraged students to excel because of the visible evidence that their initiative will be rewarded with the opportunity to compete and to progress as far as their vision, talents, and hard work will combine to take them without being frustrated by the barriers that existed during the pre-affirmative action era.

The increased involvement of our students in corporate America, made possible by the Executive Order on Affirmative Action, has also paved the way for greater involvement of the total black college or university community with the private sector.

Letter to President Reagan  
June 18, 1986  
Page 2

In light of our favorable experiences with this Executive Order on Affirmative Action, we sincerely hope, Mr. President, that as you review it, you will retain it with the provisions calling for flexible goals and timetables which are responsible for its effectiveness.

Sincerely yours,

  
Harrison B. Wilson  
President

HBW/j

TO:

*David*

FROM: DONALD T. REGAN  
CHIEF OF STAFF

*Learned to read*

*to read*

*Ed*

G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST  
2D DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
READINESS  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND  
FACILITIES

MORALE, WELFARE, AND RECREATION PANEL

STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 18, 1986

JOHN P. MAGILL  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2469 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON DC 20515  
(202) 225-4215

CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICES:  
815 FEDERAL BUILDING  
NORFOLK, VA 23510  
(804) 624-9124

EILEEN D. MANDEL  
OFFICE MANAGER

SUITE 801  
ONE COLUMBUS CENTER  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462  
(804) 490-2393

MORLEY J. HOWLE  
OFFICE MANAGER

The Hon. Donald T. Regan  
Chief of Staff to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Don:

This morning I met with Dr. Harrison Wilson, the president of Norfolk State University, with regard to Executive Order No. 11246. I have known Harrison for a number of years, and I count him as a good personal friend. That his colleagues share my high regard for him is underscored by the fact that he is serving as their spokesman on behalf of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

He left the enclosed letter with me, asking that I make every effort to ensure that it is brought to the President's personal attention. The Executive Order on Affirmative Action has had a major, positive impact on the HBCUs, and I share Dr. Wilson's earnest hope that the President will see fit to extend it and retain its vital provisions.

Thanks so much for your consideration. I'll be deeply grateful for your assistance in conveying this message to the President.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Cordially,



G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST

GWW/jfw

Enclosure



End  
Case  
File

430529  
SP 386

Jul. 86

Robert E. Day - Precinct #16  
Republican Committeeman  
Jacksonville, Fla. 32250

Opinions/Glances Into The Past/Letters

## Jacksonville Journal Courier



Serving the heart of Lincoln-Douglas  
country since July 30, 1831.

John R. Power, Publisher & General Manager  
Buford Green, Managing Editor  
Oliver Wiest, City Editor  
William S. Kilby, Farm/Business Editor  
Bob Byers, Sports Editor  
John M. Peterson, Advertising Director  
Jim Ringle, Circulation Manager  
Lloyd Summers, Production Manager

### Reagan at his best at news conference

President Ronald Reagan gave another great accounting of himself and his administration during his news conference at the White House last night. It warms our heart to think that we are being led by such a caring, committed and capable man, and we should all be thankful the course of our nation and the safety of the Free World rests in his hands.

There are some among us who would dispute what we have just said, but they must have forgotten what sort of shape our nation and our government was in when Jimmy Carter and his inept band held sway in Washington. It is hard to imagine a greater contrast than the one there is between Reagan and Carter and between the governments they headed.

Reagan's approach on practically every subject touched upon during last night's news conference seemed to us the appropriate one. This stretches from proposed aid to the Contras fighting the Communist menace in Nicaragua to the

terrorist activities of Libya's Khadafy to the absolute necessity that Congress finally get its act together and participate in government instead of obfuscate the issues and denigrate the process.

Not since the days of Dwight Eisenhower have we been so inspired by the words and deeds of the President as has been the case with Ronald Reagan. We are, indeed, truly fortunate that so talented and clear-thinking a man as Reagan has been willing to sacrifice his later years and his treasured privacy for the benefit of his fellow Americans and of those who would live free throughout the world.

Reagan's will be one of the toughest acts anyone ever had to follow. Where will we find such a man to lead us once Reagan's term is complete? Troubling thoughts, but at least we won't have to come to terms with them for a few more years as this great and good President continues to carry out his duties and to provide

End  
Case  
File

390319  
HE006

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Jack:

It was good to see you and to hear from you. I've been trying to follow up and can report at least some interesting information. I've just reviewed a memo from the Department of Health and Human Services. Let me share some of it with you.

The Food and Drug Administration acknowledges meeting with you several times. It knows of some anecdotal reports of the success of Dilantin for some few patients but is unaware of scientific studies supporting the claim. Because FDA staff believe there may be additional uses for Dilantin that are not being pursued, however, FDA has encouraged drug firms to further test the drug, and FDA has provided grant support for the study of two potential uses: treating a rare skin disease called recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa and treating patients with violent behavior disorders. Results of these studies are not yet available.

FDA emphasizes the need for scientific studies (original research or published literature) supporting uses of Dilantin other than the approved indication for treating seizures. FDA is prepared to evaluate any application for additional uses. I grant you it doesn't sound as if you should schedule a celebration, but I hope you will find this information encouraging. I did find that the plastic staples (my father-in-law's idea) have been approved and are in use.

I'll keep asking for reports to keep apprised of any progress.

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

Mr. Jack Dreyfus  
Dreyfus Medical Foundation  
767 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10153

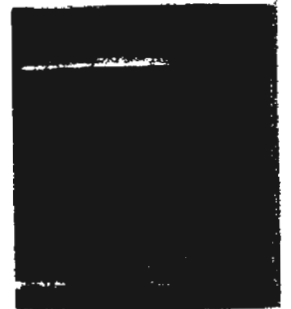
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

6/11/66

Maureen Hudson —

Would you please have  
both these letters typed in  
final, and returned to  
David Chu's this afternoon.  
Thanks!

Katharine



To Mr. Jack Dreyfus - 767 #5<sup>th</sup> ave.  
N.Y.-N.Y. 10153

Dear Jack

It was good to see you & to hear from you. I've been trying to follow up and can report at least a little movement. I've just received a memo from the Dept. of H.H.S. Let me share some of it with you.

F.D.A. acknowledges meeting with you several times and then describes your ~~presented~~ evidence as anecdotal reports with no scientific studies supporting the claim. Well you & I know better.

But then the F.D.A. staff does a little better and acknowledges, "a belief there may be additional uses for Dilantin that are not being pursued. They have encouraged drug firms to further test the drug; and F.D.A. has provided grant support for the study of ~~for~~ 2 potential uses: treating a rare skin disease called recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa and treating patients with violent behavior disorders."

They then add that they are prepared to evaluate any application for additional uses. I grant you it doesn't sound like we should schedule a celebration. I did find however that the pediatric staples (my father in law's idea) have been approved & are in use.

I'll keep asking for progress reports to keep the subject from disappearing.

Best Regards  
RR

DREYFUS MEDICAL FOUNDATION

767 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10153  
212-752-6383

TOP

May 28, 1986

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

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for our gracious meeting.

I will summarize what we discussed: The greatest medicine ever discovered (leaving antibiotics aside) is being neglected because of a flaw in our system of bringing medicines to the public. In this extraordinary circumstance, the procedures of our Departments of Health, which are set up to help the American public, are doing the opposite.

The opportunity that you have to help with the health of the people of this world is remarkable. It would be foolish of me to expect you to accept this just because I said it. But after you have had this matter looked into carefully I think you will agree.

With warm regards,

*Jack Dreyfus*



End

Case

File

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 2, 1986

40606655  
PU

100-100  
KID JUL -2 11 0 10

MEMORANDUM TO: DAVID CHEW  
FROM: LARRY SPEAKES



Donald Regan indicated that this should go to the President.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

The President has seen 7/8

July 7, 1986

MR. PRESIDENT:

Larry Speakes thought you would enjoy the attached article on preparations, from the reporter's perspective, for an Oval Office interview.

The article was written by Robert Timberg of the Baltimore Sun.

*David*  
David L. Chew

*Thanks very much.*  
*RR*



# Oval Office Interview

---

## *Orchestrating the Script*

By Robert Timberg

On March 12, four members of the Baltimore *Sun*'s Washington bureau interviewed President Reagan in the Oval Office. The interview produced four hard-news stories for the next day's newspaper. All the stories were legitimate, each one advancing what was then known about the president's thinking on four separate issues: aid to the Nicaraguan contras, arms control, U.S.-Soviet summitry and the space shuttle Challenger tragedy. The wires picked up all four stories and the interview was mentioned at least once on the network news shows that evening.

The timing of the interview, over which we reporters had little control, worked to our advantage. We talked to the president during an especially intense news period. The House was struggling with his request for military assistance for the contras. A renewed chill had entered U.S.-Soviet relations. The Challenger probe was in full swing. Marcos had recently left the Philippines. The budget battle, under the shadow of Gramm-Rudman, was heating up. But timing was not the only reason the interview was productive. Preparation played a major role—coming up with a gameplan and sticking to it.

That seems obvious enough now, but it wasn't at the time, at least not to me. Fortunately, the *Sun*'s deputy bureau chief, Ed Goodpaster, was an old hand at presidential interviews. He had never taken part in one personally and he wasn't going to be in the room this time,

but Goodpaster had been through the preparation process before as *Time*'s deputy Washington bureau chief and as the *Washington Post*'s deputy national editor. He had seen interviews go well and seen them fall flat. More important, he seemed to know what would work and what wouldn't.

"We've got to orchestrate this thing," Goodpaster said after I told him that we finally had been given a date to interview the president. I was mildly troubled by his reaction. I wanted a free-wheeling, no-holds-barred exchange, not an orchestrated interview. I had been covering Reagan for three years and for most of that time had been frustrated by my inability to get beyond the public figure to the private man. What did he think of members of his staff? Who, if anyone, did he call at night to share his private thoughts? Did he like living in the White House or did it drive him nuts? F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote that in the dark night of the soul, it was always 3 o'clock in the morning. Was that true for presidents, too, for this president in particular?

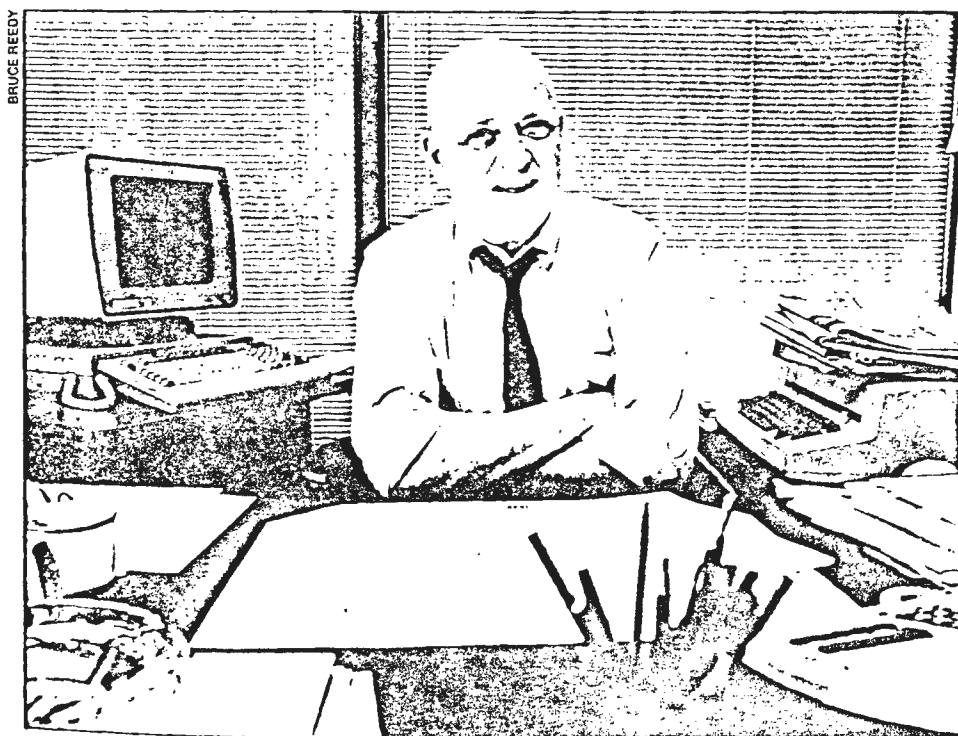
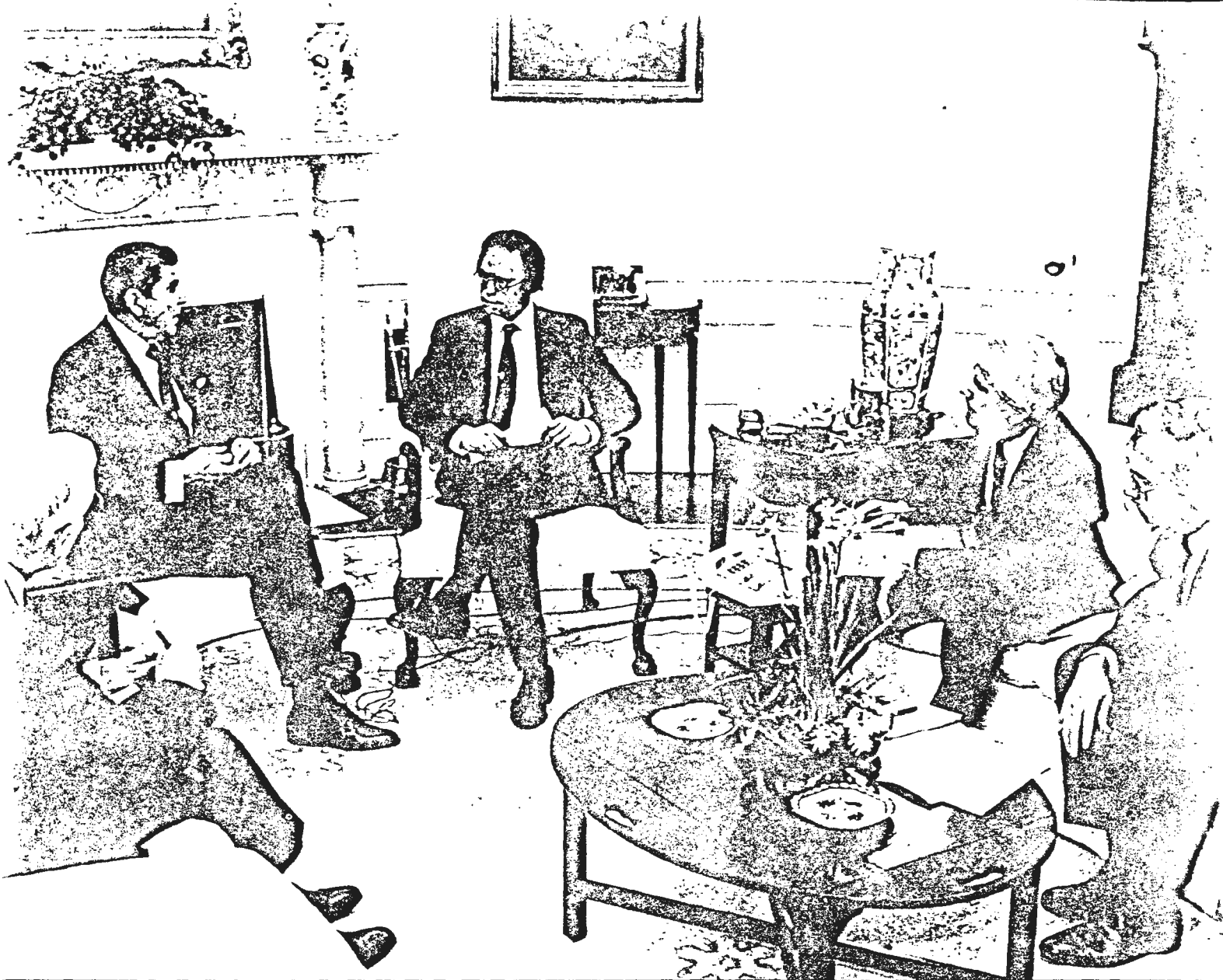
I had the vague notion that we might be able to strip away the surface affability to see what lay beneath (steel? more surface affability?), to provoke the unguarded comment that's a mirror of the soul, as violinist Itzhak Perlman described James Watt's remark about blacks, women, Jews and the handicapped. The more I thought about it, though, the less promising the idea seemed. You don't schmooz the president of the United States in the Oval Office the way you do state legislators at a bar in Annapolis dur-

ing the Maryland General Assembly session. Maybe Goodpaster was right.

Pat Furgurson, our bureau chief and a veteran of numerous presidential interviews, was to lead the *Sun* delegation to the White House. The team also included Charles Corddry, our military-affairs writer, and Steve Broening, the new diplomatic correspondent. Three days beforehand, we sat down together to try to devise a scheme of maneuver. "We've got to be prepared or this thing is going to get away from us," warned Goodpaster. "We've got to be prepared," I countered, "but we don't want to overdo it. This is our shot. We don't want to immobilize ourselves." Broening gave me a puzzled look. "I want to know if he ever sends out for Chinese food," I said.

My response, however facetious, raised a question that had to be answered before we could go much further: were we looking for hard news or soft? The president clearly wasn't going to open up to us as though we were old drinking buddies, but he might be willing to discuss in a general way the manner in which he lived and coped with the presidency, which seemed different from other chief executives'. Two years before, I had looked into this by interviewing present and former members of Reagan's staff. Two things that came up back then continued to fascinate me. First, several people told me that most of the men seen as among the president's closest friends were in fact close to him because they were the husbands of Mrs. Reagan's friends. Second, no one seemed to know who, other than Mrs. Reagan, the presi-

*Robert Timberg covers the White House for the Baltimore Sun.*



*On stage at last: Players in place, cue cards in hand, with 30 minutes and 20 questions to go. Unrehearsed seating plan finds mop-up man Timberg unexpectedly next to the President. Others, left to right: military-affairs writer Charles Corddry; bureau chief Pat Furgurson, and new diplomatic correspondent Steve Broening. Below: Sun deputy bureau chief and interview choreographer Ed Goodpaster.*

dent's best friend was. Few would even hazard a guess. One who did mentioned the actor Robert Taylor, which was chilling—Taylor had been dead for a dozen years. So there were a lot of things my colleagues and I wanted to know about the private Reagan. In the end, however, the timing of the interview determined our course. There was simply too much going on at the time, too many questions that needed answers.

We quickly decided that we wanted to question the president about contra aid, Marcos, U.S.-Soviet relations, "Star Wars," the budget, tax reform, the November elections and Pentagon waste. "We've got to ask clean questions," I said. "We can't ask anything that clicks on a taped message." Broening agreed. "We can't let him take us down the Ventura Freeway," he said. He meant the Pacific Coast Highway, the road the president spoke of so glowingly in his rambling and aborted summation during the second presidential debate of 1984. Broening may have gotten his road signs mixed up, but he had put his finger on a problem faced by all reporters covering Ronald Reagan.

The point was that not only did we want to avoid provoking predictable responses, we had to steer clear of words and phrases that would trigger a canned answer from the president. Every White House reporter recalls the dark days of late 1983 and early 1984, when any question to the president about the continuing use of American Marines in Beirut invariably evoked a time-consuming, at times muddled recitation of the history of U.S. involvement in Lebanon that did little to clarify the issues or advance the story. We thus decided at that first meeting to keep our questions simple and straightforward, avoiding preambles as much as possible so that we didn't inadvertently use a word or phrase that would give Reagan an excuse to sail away from our question. The test for every question became whether or not it stood to elicit an interesting answer. At that point, Goodpaster suggested that we adjourn and prepare questions individually, then reconvene the next day and present them to the group for fine tuning.

At the second and last meeting, we exchanged questions, then went over them one by one. We had been told we'd have a half-hour with the president, which meant—judging from past interviews—at most 20 questions (counting follow-ups, we managed to ask 37, including 15 of our prepared questions). Questions that seemed likely to generate a defensive response, and hence a filibuster, were to be held until the end, such as a question on waste, fraud and abuse at the Pentagon. Nearly all the others were slimmed down or reworked so that the point of the question was unmistakable. Then we agreed on a sequence of questions and questioners. This meant that some of us were asking questions written by one of the oth-

ers. Finally, to avoid getting dazzled by our own footwork, I was assigned to the mop-up detail, meaning I was to step in as necessary with a follow-up question if I saw a loose end dangling or a promising new direction beckoning. Any of us could have done it, but time was a factor and the last thing we needed was a babel of voices.

About an hour after our strategy session ended, Goodpaster provided each of us with what, for lack of a better term, can only be called cue cards. The order of questions was delineated on them along with a key phrase from each question and the questioner's name. Thus, "1. 60-75 days. Timberg" meant I was to ask the first question, which was about a possible compromise on contra aid involving a delay of perhaps 60 to 75 days between congressional action and the actual delivery of weaponry. The list ran down to "19. Life in the White House. Furgurson," a question that never got asked. There were also four questions in what Goodpaster labeled "Ready Reserve," to be used on the off chance that the president enjoyed our company so much that he cancelled his next appointment and asked us to stick around a while longer. The last question in Ready Reserve was "4. Chinese food. Timberg."

Our interview was scheduled for 11:30 the next morning. As the time approached, I began to feel slightly rattled. I told myself this was just another interview, but quickly realized I was kidding myself. The fact is, the White House has skillfully created the impression that Reagan is very accessible to the press, but that is more illusion than reality, unless a news conference every few months or throwing a question at the president during a photo session qualifies as access. During Ronald Reagan's first five years in office, the *Sun* had not been granted any interviews, although on a few occasions we had been part of small groups that met with him. Many of the other major dailies covering the president on a regular basis have never had a private interview with him. It was thus hard to escape the conclusion that this might be our half-hour in the Reagan presidency and we could not afford to squander it.

Looking back, I wish I had checked out the set-up of the Oval Office beforehand. Getting the lay of the land is basic, but I neglected to do so and that led to a brief and embarrassing episode. I thought the session would be relatively private, with perhaps a press aide sitting in along with a stenographer. Instead, a small army was waiting for us, including three press secretaries, two still photographers, a film crew and White House communications people. I also expected the president to be seated at his desk during the interview. Instead, the Oval Office was arranged as it is when heads of state and other dignitaries come to call, with two Queen Anne chairs together in front of the fireplace under the picture of George

Washington and two couches arranged at right angles to the chairs. One of us, I suddenly realized, was going to have to sit in that chair next to the president. "Pat, why don't you sit there?" I said to the bureau chief, nearly tripping over his feet as I tried to ease him into the seat. "No, you sit there," said Furgurson, always the courtly Southern gentleman, clearly thinking he was doing me a favor. I cocked my right elbow to poke in Furgurson's ribs and was about to mutter, "Pat, I don't want to sit in that goddam chair!" when I realized the president was watching my slightly (I hope) bizarre behavior with amusement. I sat in the chair.

"Mr. President," I began, getting down to business, "some members of Congress are proposing a delay in military aid to the contras. . . ."

We were off. I asked the first two questions, Broening the next two, then Furgurson and Corddry, then around the horn again. The pace was brisk, almost cinematic. Bing, I thought, that's a story. Bing, bing. Two more. Bong. Another. It went like clockwork, with no trips down the Ventura Freeway. As planned, I stepped in here and there to pin down a point or request elaboration, but basically we were doing exactly what Goodpaster had programmed us to do. The president, for his part, seemed fully engaged in the interview. At one point, for example, after a question concerning the difficulty in coming up with a date for the next U.S.-Soviet summit—the president wanted June or July, Mikhail Gorbachev was holding out for September—we asked as a follow-up if he might consider November or December, after the election campaign was out of the way. A light seemed to go on as he thought about the idea, seemingly for the first time. "I don't—," he began, then paused. "We haven't—," he started again, paused again. Finally, he said, "We'd listen to that and look at it. I hadn't thought about anything after that time," meaning June or July. A winter summit abruptly had become an option.

The interview ended precisely 30 minutes after it began. As we were saying our farewells, I asked Reagan, "Have you ever sent out for Chinese food in this place?" What I hoped the president would say was something like this: "No, but I tried once. One night about a year ago, I told Nancy I was sick of macaroni and cheese and would really like some Chinese food and she said did I want some shark's fin soup or some of that other stuff we had in China and I said, no, I want some sweet-and-sour pork, fried rice and egg rolls, and I want it in cardboard containers. But she said the White House chef would probably get upset and the Secret Service would have to check it out, so finally I said forget it, just forget it."

What the president did say was, "No," that he just went upstairs and ate whatever they put in front of him. Goodpaster was right. ●

# Many Call, Few Chosen

The White House is unapologetically calculating in deciding who gets to interview President Reagan. "We use two criteria," says presidential spokesman Larry Speakes, "one, what suits us, and, two, kind of when your turn comes up and so forth.... We make a choice based on our needs, but we also try to get as many people in as possible to see the president."

Speakes says decisions on interviews normally are based on the likely impact on "the constituencies we may be trying to reach at a given time." Thus, he says, "If you're doing budget, you talk to financial publications. If you're doing something where you want to hit on Congress, you talk to Washington and Baltimore, you know, something you want read immediately tomorrow morning by every member of Congress. At other times, we want to influence key members of Ways and Means and we bring in newspapers in Ways and Means districts."

Journalists, especially influential ones, who come up with what Speakes calls "unique ideas" can sometimes see the president on short notice. "If Les Gelb [of the *New York Times*] is working on a story called 'The Mind of Ronald Reagan,' we think it's important that he sees the president, so he gets in. We know someone like Hugh Sidey [*Time* magazine] has a real flair and taste for color, or the decision-making process, so we'll have Hugh come in and say, 'How'd you arrive at the decision to do thus and such?'"

Speakes says that in considering interview requests, the White House does not penalize news organizations for unfriendly coverage. "We don't put anybody in the penalty box because they don't like us and they write bad editorials," he says. "We have never done that. Otherwise, the [*Washington*] *Post* and the *Times* would never have gotten an interview." He agreed that a publication's reach, as measured by its circulation, and its influence are important factors. In other words, even if you have a unique idea, it still helps to be Les Gelb or Hugh Sidey.

In general, Speakes says, he and one of his deputies, Peter H. Roussel, decide which of the many media outlets clamoring for interviews get to see the president. His advice: "Persistence pays. Back-channeling backfires with us." He describes "back-channeling" as a reporter going to Donald T. Regan, the White House chief of staff, and complaining that Speakes and

Roussel won't arrange an interview. "Regan usually sends it over here and says, 'What's up?' and I write back saying there are 19 people over here ahead of him and more deserving of an interview and he says, 'Fine.'"

Even so, one freelance correspondent has wangled two interviews with the president by doing end runs around Speakes and Roussel, the first time getting to Michael K. Deaver when he was deputy chief of staff, the second time going directly to Regan.



Gatekeeper Larry Speakes

Roussel says he and Speakes have developed a variation on the traditional Oval Office interview. Under this formula, the publication submits written questions, members of the White House staff prepare suggested answers and the president okays them. Finally, reporters are invited to the Oval Office to have their pictures taken with the president and to ask one or two additional questions: "We're doing a lot of that, particularly with foreign press," says Speakes. "They're content with that."

At times, the White House goes the extra mile for foreign journalists, particularly when the president is preparing to participate in a major international event such as last November's summit meeting in Geneva with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev. "Europe was the public-opinion battleground for the summit and we took great pains with European television and media," Speakes says.

The White House often gets requests for interviews when the president travels to one city or another for a speech and has at times allowed the

correspondent from the local paper to interview Reagan aboard Air Force One. Speakes, however, thinks this practice can be counterproductive. "Say the president's going into Indianapolis on Wednesday," he says. "Thursday's morning papers are going to be full of the president's speech, so if we did an interview going out on Wednesday, you're just stepping on your story."

Speakes says his basic philosophy is to make the president as accessible as possible, especially to reporters who cover him regularly, but admits to continuing frustration in his search for what he calls "the perfect format," one that serves the needs both of the White House and the press. Speakes believes that greater contact between Reagan and the press—even if it produces an occasional presidential gaffe—works to the advantage of the White House because reporters develop a better sense of the president's commitment on certain issues as well as the way he handles himself in more intimate surroundings. To that end, in 1984 Speakes briefly instituted small, off-the-record cocktail parties lasting 45 minutes to an hour, at which eight or nine reporters sat down with the president to solicit his views on a variety of issues. Those sessions were curtailed as the re-election campaign heated up, but Speakes recently resumed them.

The quest for the perfect format has had its ups and downs. For example, Speakes at times has invited correspondents for up to four publications into the Oval Office for a joint interview, a procedure that seemed to work well. But he was infuriated at the response when he tried a variation on that theme. That was about two years ago, when he hatched the scheme of having six radio reporters interview the president in the Oval Office while piping the proceedings to the rest of the press corps in the White House briefing room.

"Everybody started poking each other in the ribs and yucking it up and said the man didn't know what he was talking about," Speakes recalls, his anger unabated many months later. "They [the radio reporters] didn't see any problem in the Oval Office, but down in the briefing room, somebody said, 'Hey, look what he said, hah, hah, hah,' and they wrote it, that Reagan was rambling and disjointed, so forget it." Speakes never tried it again. *R.T.*

Enl  
Case  
File



430053  
F6052

July 2, 1986

Dear Nackey:

I wish there were editorials like yours and columns like Mel's in every Senator's district. What we are seeing in this Manion case is another lynching in which some Senators are trying to bring down a better man than themselves. And, of course, as always, there are some deluded souls who believe the falsehoods of the lynchers and go along with the mob.

Nackey, our dog situation is one of youthful exuberance, on the part of the dogs -- not us. We were well along in training Lucky before she took residence at the ranch, but, even so, she forgot her lessons when the helicopter (which meant Camp David) was on the lawn.

Now we're doing a repeat -- in spades. Rex is still only a pup and, when that chopper comes in, he just tunes us out. I think he believes "MARINE I" is his personal dog basket.

You know there is always a crowd on the South Lawn, not just the press, both when we leave and when we return, and Rex does get excited with the clapping and waving, etc. I have a sneaking feeling he'll still be doing this when we take our final lift-off in January 1989. From then on he better quiet down, because there will be horses in his life.

Again, thanks for the clippings.

Sincerely,

RON

Mrs. William Loeb  
Post Office Box 780  
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

To Mrs. William Loeber 35 Oakmont St. P.O. Box 781  
Manchester N.H. 03105

Dear Mackay

I wish there were editorials like yours & columns like Mel's in every Senators district. What we are seeing in this Marion case is another lynching in which some Senators are trying to bring down a better man than themselves. And of course ~~it~~ as always ~~some~~ there are some deluded souls who believe the falsehoods of the lynchers and go along with the mob.

Mackey our dog situation is one of youthful exuberance, on the part of the dogs - not us. We were well along in training Lucy before she took residence at the ranch but even so she forgot her lessons when the helicopter (which meant Camp David) was on the lawn.

Now we're doing a repeat - in spades. Rex is still only a pup and when that chopper comes in he just throws us out. I think he believes "Marine I" is his personal dog basket.

You know there is always a crowd on the S. Lawn, not just the press, both when we leave & when we return and Rex does get excited with the clapping & waving etc. I have a sneaking feeling he'll still be doing this when we take our final lift off in Jan. 1989. From then on he better quiet down because there will be horses in his life.

Again thanks for the clippings.

UNION LEADER CORPORATION · 35 AMHERST ST., P.O. BOX 780 · MANCHESTER, N.H. 03105 · 603 668-4321

 SUNDAY NEWS

William Loeb, President and Publisher, 1946-1981  
Nackey Scripps Loeb, President and Publisher

June 24, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
#16691  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ron:

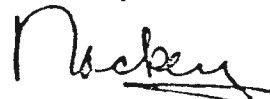
I thought you would like to see a column by your friend, Mel Thomson, from our Monday paper and my front page editorial for today supporting your nomination of Dan Manion. I hope this will help although I already have a great deal of confidence in the two Senators from New Hampshire. At any rate, I thought you might like to see these.

Now, to more important matters. I am very worried about your image and especially Nancy's as I watch some of the TV network news. Over the years we have been treated to pictures of Nancy going full speed across the screen being dragged by one dog or another. May I make a suggestion that you introduce Rex to a good dog trainer who will teach him to lead properly. It is hard on Nancy's image to see her being pulled around in this way and I am sure it is hard on her arm as well.

As someone who has dogs myself, I understand the problem; and, if that is the most serious criticism I have as far as what you both are doing, you must be doing very well, so keep it up.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Mrs. William Loeb

NSL:Miss B. Dziura

Enclosures

End  
Case  
File

41563  
PA 001

July 2, 1986

Dear Mr. Boyce:

Thank you very much for your letter, the snapshots and the rubbings. I'm most grateful.

Please do the work you outlined, the resetting of the four individual markers and replacing the base of the monument. Send me the bill or let me know if you want payment in advance. I'm returning the snapshots in case they are of use to you.

Again, my thanks.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Mr. Dean W. Boyce  
Post Office Box 3082  
Clinton, Iowa 52732

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

Encls: (5) Snapshots

BOYCE MONUMENT COMPANY  
P.O. BOX 3082  
CLINTON, IOWA 52732

To Mr. Dean W. Boyce - ~~PA 35-41-2nd 22~~

P.O. Box 3082

Clinton Iowa 52732

Dear Mr. Boyce

I thank you very much for your letter, and the snapshots and the rubbings. I'm most grateful.

Please do the work you outlined, the resetting of the four individual markers and replacing the base of the monument. Send me the bill or let me know if you want payment in advance. I'm returning the snapshots in case they are of use to you.

Again my thanks.

Sincerely RR

End  
Case  
File



438055  
ME 001-03

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 3, 1986

Dear Nedda:

Just a hasty line before diving into that celebration in New York. We have a schedule that looks like it should be for 3 weeks, not 3 days.

Thank you for your nice letter and for that clipping about Mr. Asner. What's that old line, "if you lie down with lice you get lousy?" I thought he just had a thing about me -- now I can see he has a thing about our whole system.

Nancy and I are sorry to hear about Josh's ill health and hope he'll cut it out of the picture. Nancy sends her love to you both, and so do I. Again, our thanks.

Sincerely,

RON

Mrs. Josh Logan  
Fourteen B  
435 East 52nd Street  
New York, New York 10022

To Mrs. Josh Logan 14-B 435 East 52<sup>nd</sup> St.  
N.Y. N.Y. 10022

Dear Nodda

Just a hasty line before diving into that celebration in N.Y. We have a schedule that looks like it should be for 3 weeks not 3 days.

Thank you for your nice letter and for that clipping about Mr. Caven. What's that old line "if you lie down with lice you get lousy"? I thought he just had a thing about me now I can see he has thing about our whole system.

Nancy & I are sorry to hear about Josh's ill-health and hope he'll cut it out of the picture. Nancy sends her love to you both & sends h. Again our Thanks.

I mean Ron



23 June 1986

Dear President Reagan and Nancy:

How kind you were to send us the telegram when we received the award from Aging in America. They certainly chose the right people! As you must know, we well qualify, or at least I do. It was a beautiful evening and your telegram was so appreciated.

I discovered this in last Saturday's Post and am sending it along as I thought it might interest you. I can see why you and Ed Asner are not buddies.

Josh has not been so well. He has a neurological problem that keeps him pretty close to home, so we have not been in Washington lately, but we follow everything you do with enthusiasm and keep on congratulating you all the time.

Our best always to you both from  
Josh and me.

Sincerely,

End  
Case  
File

403087  
HE 00105

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 3, 1986

Dear Dr. Causse:

Your kind letter has just reached me by way of our mutual friend, Dr. House. There was some delay, but not through any fault of his. Somehow your letter became entangled in the bureaucratic maze here and has only just now arrived at my desk.

Thank you for your very generous words. I hope I can be deserving of them.

By the time you receive this I will have been with your President Mitterrand in New York for the 100th birthday of our Statue of Liberty. Americans will always be grateful to France for that magnificent gift.

Again, my thanks to you and warm regard.

Sincerely,

**RONALD REAGAN**

Dr. Jean-Bernard Causse  
2 Avenue Alphonse-Mas  
B.P. 4225  
34325 Beziers  
France

To Dr. Jean-Bernard Causse 2 Ave. Alphonse-Mas  
B. P. 4225  
34325 Bagiers France

Dear Dr. Causse

Your kind letter ~~and generous words~~  
~~had~~ just reached me by way of our mutual  
friend Dr. House. There was some delay but  
not through any fault of his. Some how your  
letter became entangled in the bureaucratic maze  
here and has only just now arrived at my desk.

I thank you for your very generous words.  
I hope I ~~can~~ can be deserving of them.

~~However~~ By the time you receive this I  
will have been with your Pres. Mitterand in  
N.Y for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Statue of Liberty.  
Americans will always be grateful to France  
for that magnificent gift.

Again my thanks to you & Warm  
Regards.

Sincerely RR

Jean-Bernard Cauode

2. Av. Alphonse Mass

Tél. 67-76-90-15

34500 Béziers

(France)

23 april 86.

To John House and family.

Dear friends,

I feel sad and guilty to  
be french! You are a fantastic  
country; and you Americans can be  
proud of your clever and marvellous  
president Ronald Reagan

Sincerely

Jean Bernard.

would you, please send this letter —  
D.L. 11 11

Jean-Bernard Causse

2. Av. Alphonse Abas-  
Tél. 67-76-90-15  
34500 Béziers  
(France)

" april 23, 1986

to President Ronald Reagan.  
White House.

Dear President,

The whole world must be  
proud of you.

Thank you to be the best  
example ever given of courage, cleverness  
and human qualities.

It is difficult to understand  
France to day.

I admire and love your country and



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 3, 1986

Dear John:

Your letter with the enclosure from Dr. Causse has just reached my desk. Yes, I know you sent it on May 8th, but it apparently went through the general mail process here which means it had to battle its way through a half million other pieces of mail. That must never happen again, so here is a little secret. On the outside of the envelope, if you write again, add "c/o Kathy Osborne." Your letter will skip over the bureaucratic jungle and be on my desk the day it reaches Washington.

I've answered Dr. Causse's letter with an apology for my tardiness. Now, as to your question. I assume you were asking about the new hearing aids designed to cut down on background noise? I wear them for affairs such as State dinners and such and they are a big help. For regular wear I'm using the small ones I was fitted with. They are more comfortable than the larger ones and a little less conspicuous. So all in all, I'm very happy with both sets and depend on them completely.

I look forward to seeing you.

Best regards,

**RON**

Dr. John W. House  
2122 West 3rd Street  
Los Angeles, California 90057

25  
202-1-1

JOHN W. HOUSE, M.D.  
OTOLOGY & NEUROTOLOGY  
2122 WEST THIRD STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90057

KS  
May 8, 1986

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

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on your recent and very successful Economic Summit in Japan. I am enclosing a copy of a letter written to me by Jean-Bernard Causse and a letter which he has sent to me to forward to you. Dr. Causse is the most outstanding ear surgeon in all of France and a very good friend of mine. He is one of your greatest fans in France. He is very appreciative of the autographed picture which you sent to him.

I hope you can take the time to read his note to you and respond directly to him. His return address is on the correspondence.

How are your new hearing aids working? I would appreciate a brief note from you regarding the comparison of the new aids with the previous hearing aids.

Thank you very much for your attention to these matters and congratulations on your outstanding job.

Sincerely yours,

John W. House, M.D.

JWH/br  
Encl.

To Dr. John W. House 2122 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
L.A. Calif. 90057

Dear John

Your letter with the enclosure from Dr. Cause has just reached my desk. Yes I know you sent it on May 8<sup>th</sup> but apparently it went through the general mail process here which means it had to battle it's way through a half million other pieces of mail. That must never happen again so here is a little secret. On the outside of the envelope if you write again add, "C/o Kathy Osborne." Your letter will skip over the bureaucratic jungle & be on my desk the day it reaches Wash.

I've answered Dr. Cause's letter with an apology for my tardiness. Now as to your question. I assume you were asking about the new hearing aids designed to cut down on background noise? I wear them for affairs such as State dinners & such and they are a big help. For regular wear I'm using the small ones I was fitted with. They are more comfortable than the larger ones and a little less conspicuous. So all in all I'm very happy with both sets and depend on them completely.

I look forward to seeing you.

Best Regards  
Ror

End  
case  
file

430003  
ME00102

73 EAST 73RD STREET  
NEW YORK 10021

no Beer  
RR

Dear Mr President

I was thrilled to  
receive my birthday telegram. It is  
finally placed into my book of "Special  
Things". That was so very nice. and  
I am deeply touched.

He reluctantly decided  
against the Kennedy and the Jovine  
as my hip doctor put me back on  
a cane for a week but we watched  
you and Nancy every day of the  
way - you were superb - I was  
alternately sobbing with emotion  
or clapping for sheer joy. We  
really enjoyed them, the rest of the

430003

world, with this one - You set the  
tone so beautifully - you said I all -  
Thank you.

When I put your telegram in the  
book I started looking over pictures  
of you and Nancy in Barbados and  
in Samford. We miss you both.  
Thank you also for being such a  
good spot about, "The White House Press".  
Bill and I had been slightly nerve  
wacked upon seeing the fairy photos -  
Oh, dear Lord.

Have a glorious time at the ranch.  
I hope the saddle is a huge success  
has it extra padding for that minute  
seat! - With love and gratitude  
Bet.

Sunday, July 6th.

End  
Case  
File