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Last Updated: 08/07/2025

July 17, 1986

Dear Judge McDevitt:

Thank you very much for writing as you did and telling me of the moment with your mother. I'm happy that I played a part, even though it was by accident.

I understand your situation because in my mother's latter years in a nursing home she no longer recognized me or my brother. Sometimes she would tell me incidents about her son Ronald as if I were some new acquaintance. But, as I look back at those days, I wonder if this wasn't something of a God- given mercy. She was apparently contented in that little world into which she had retired. She would have been miserable if she had retained all her faculties and awareness and yet been physically helpless and restrained, no longer able to do the things she so much enjoyed.

Again, my thanks to you for your kindness in writing.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Leonard M. McDevitt District Judge Folcroft Regional Court 1555 Elmwood Avenue Folcroft, Pennsylvania 19032



FOLCROFT REGIONAL COURT 1555 Elmwood Avenue Folcroft, PA 19032

ANTHONY M. TRUSCELLO
Folcroft & Tinicum Twp.

LEONARD M. MC DEVITT
Darby Twp. & Glenolden

PETER P. TOZER, Esq.
Glenolden & Norwood

July 2, 1986

Hon. Ronald Wilson Reagan President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing this letter to you because as our President I realize that your days are very hectic, very stressful, and often filled with criticism. I hope this note will bring you a brief moment of pleasure in your busy schedule.

I recently visited my mother, Sadie McDevitt, who is now residing at Fair Acres Nursing Home in Lima, Pennsylvania because of her many illnesses. She is at the point now where she rarely recognizes me nor any of her other children even though we visit with her very often. In fact, on Flag Day, we were all together to celebrate her eightieth birthday.

I was also visiting with her on the night that you gave the Commencement Address at Glassboro High School. Well, sir, meaning no disrespect, I started talking to my mother when you were giving your address. At that point, she sat up in her bed and said, "Leonard, be quiet. The President is speaking. Isn't he just marvelous to be speaking to those high school students?" Well, sir, I wish to offer you my sincere thanks and gratitude. That was the first time my mother remembered my name in a long while. It brought a tear to my eye to hear her call me Leonard again. Thank you so very much.

I just felt that you might enjoy hearing a story such as this. Thank you for allowing me the time to tell you.

Respectfully,

Leonard M. McDevitt District Justice July 17, 1986

Dear Barney:

Thanks for telling me about your trip to Saint Lucia. I still find the Bermuda Triangle spooky. Why didn't that fellow tell you what they saw too much of when they were flying too low.

Thanks, too, for sending me the copy of George's speech. You remembered I knew him back when I was Governor I'm really impressed with what he's done for himself. That was a masterful address. You can be proud of Litton's part in that.

Incidentally, with regard to Grenada, I had occasion to go there recently. What a pleasure that was. There were no "Yankee Go Home" signs there, but an awful lot of Yankee come back signs. They really welcomed us.

Best Regards,

RON

Colonel Barney Oldfield, USAF, Ret. 360 North Crescent Drive Beverly Hills, California 90210



Col Barney Oldfield, USAF (Ret) (Consultant)

July 7, 1986

Dear President Ron:

When in Saint Lucia in June as part of the VIIth Inter-American Symposium for the Handicapped, they were still talking about how right you were on neighboring Grenada! So much for those who say "that was yesterday, what have you done for me today?" They still seem to marvel that it was done so decisvely and so well.

I was there with George Foreman, the former heavy-weight champion and Olympic Gold Medalist, who said he wanted to talk about a "self-inflicted handicap" about which he knew a great deal -- the handicap of a limited education. He exhorted parents to send their kids to school and the kids to stay in school. The Right Honourable John Compton, the Prime Minister, told me it was the most important speech ever made in Saint Lucia! It was recorded, video taped, and is being played back over and over. Congressman Jack Fields(Texas, 8th District) inserted it in the Congressional RECORD.

Incidentally, they find nothing spooky about the Bermuda Triangle and how people disappear. A Saint Lucian told me "they just flew too low, and saw TOO much."

Best wishes always,

President Ronald Reagan, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20500

WHORM: Presidential Handwriting File

FILE TRANSFER BY THE REAGAN LIBRARY STAFF

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To troop Servard W. Mc Devitt - Folcroft Regional Comt 1555 Elmwood and, Folcoft Pa. 19032

Dear Judge McDevitt

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again my thanks to you for your buildness in

Col. Barney Oldfield - 360 Mor. Bresent Dr.

O son Barrey Bereg Hill Cel. 90210

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July 18, 1986,

Dear Mr. Stahl:

Thank you for writing and for sharing the letter from Colonel Robert E. Lee. I can fully sympathize with him. You are right, some things just don't change! Secretary Weinberger will enjoy seeing the letter from Colonel Lee and I will send it along to him.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness and send my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

A

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Joe Stahl
Apartment 6
7723 Donnybrook Court
Annandale, Virginia 22003

RR:AVH:KCS:pps

Vcc: Kathy Osborne

WHCC: Sec'y Weinberger w/copy of incoming.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Mr. President:

I thought you might get a kick out of this one.

We can take care of a reply if you want.

Kathy

OK thank - Thom bets deliner are this to Cap. W. RR

T/Date 7/17/86	6 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:	
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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

TO: Anne Higgins

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE

DATE:

7-17-86

Can you please have Charley or someone reply to this and then send a cc along with incoming to Sec. Weinberger. Thanks.

Dear Mrs. Osborne: it will :

Little St. S. U. S. S. C. Li Checkeng for City S. C. 1 des 2 Cant. By refrieds we from Cafel I.M. Palmer 2 Cart Batterine The, hus Leveres de fur in accountains for his Competer has been sur years. He has interited 24 Min, 21 of whom he has free to hearful Bhs. The Corty transfectation of each man is & 8. which with this other esofuners has more Thun Consumed this for, funished him. A 700. for him, forwarder in some tetimate of remitting frenchs
for the 20 and, just the quarter landing 30 denne he remittent - Dumbighelf your Attent 18th 13thil Fran

J. : STAHL.

the This Demographics

Col. S. Cooper
Adjt Genl U.S.A.
Washington City, D.C.

Hdqrs 2 Cavy Louisville 12 May 1855

Col.

By reports recd from Capt . N. Palmer 2 Cavy Baltimore Md., his success so far in recruiting for his Compy has been very good. He has enlisted 24 men, 21 of whom he has forwd to Newport Bks. The cost of transportation of each man is \$8. which with his other expenses has more than consumed the \$300. furnished him.

I therefore respy request that the amt. of my requisition of \$700. for him, forwarded in my estimate of recruiting funds for the 2 Cavy., for the quarter ending 30 June be remitted to him as soon as practicable.

I am very respy your obt Sevt

R E Lee Bt. Col Lt Col 2 Cavy.

frem

JOE TIKHL

#6 7723 Dentischer !!

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The President bas seen \[\frac{1}{2} \]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1986

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RR Cornel man ?

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM:

PAT BUCHANAN

Your friends, the venture capital folks, (see charts) have come in <u>again</u> to raise concerns about the hike in the capital gains tax in the Senate bill -- from 20 to 27%, a 35% increase. (Because the capital gains exclusion would be wiped out, there would be commensurate increases in capital gains taxes at the state level.)

Their arguments are three:

- 1) The extraordinary rise in venture capital growth under the Steiger and Reagan tax bills. (1978 and 1981)
- 2) The dramatic rise in revenues from capital gains taxes -- as the rate fell from 49% to 20%.
- The competitive disadvantage America is imposing on herself, vis a vis her principal trading partners many of whom (Japan, West Germany, Korea, etc.) have no Capital Gains Tax.

Reconciled to an increase, the venture capital folks have a fall-back position, which is still confidential. They will propose -- in conference -- a 22% rate on Capital Gains after a two-year holding period, and 17.5% (our original rate) if the property is held for three years.

MOST OF OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS DO NOT TAX LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS

COUNTRY
(U.S. Trade Deficit
in Billions of Dollars)

MAXIMUM LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS RATE

U.S.A.

20%

JAPAN (49.7) NONE

CANADA

17%

TAIWAN (13.1)

NONE

WEST GERMANY

NONE

(12.2)

NONE

HONG KONG

.....

ITALY (5.8)

NONE

SOUTH KOREA

NONE

(4.8)

SOURCE: ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX <u>INCREASES</u> RESULT IN <u>REDUCED</u> REVENUES

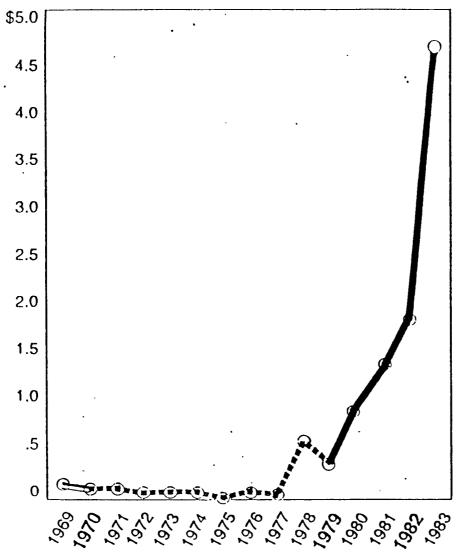
CAPITAL GAINS TAX <u>CUTS</u> RESULT IN <u>INCREASED</u> REVENUES

YEAR	MAXIMUM CAPITAL GAINS RATE	CAPITAL GAINS REVENUES (millions)
1968	25.9%	\$5,943
1969	27.5%	\$5,275
1970	32.2%	\$3,161
1971	30.8%	\$4,380
1972	45.5%	\$5,708
1973	45.5%	\$5,366
1974	45.5%	\$4,253
1975	45.5%	\$4,535
1976	49.1%	\$6,621
1 977 _.	49.1%	\$8,104
1978	49.1%	\$9,348
1979	28.0%	\$11,669
1980	28.0%	\$12,459
1981	20.0%	\$12,684
1982	20.0%	\$12,900
1983	20.0%	\$17,800

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury

CAPITAL GAINS TAX REDUCTIONS SPUR VENTURE CAPITAL GROWTH

(Net New Venture Capital in Billions of Dollars)



___ 1969

Maximum capital gains tax raised to 49%

**** 1978

Maximum capital gains tax reduced to 28%

1981

Maximum capital gains tax reduced to 20%

End Case File

July 21, 1986

Dear Mildred:

Forgive me for being so tardy in responding to your letter with the enclosure. I have no excuse other than a pileup on my desk that I let get out of hand. Then, thank Heaven, there came a clean-up day.

Both Nancy and I thank you for your generous words, and we'll try to be deserving of them. You were very kind to write as you did, and we are truly grateful.

Nancy sends her very best, as do I.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Edwin Hilson
The Waldorf Towers
Park Avenue and East 50th Street
New York, New York 10022

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

Mrs. EDWIN HILSON

Mrs. Edwin Silson

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Patriotism and pride, no one will

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Preside to the fore puckettes country to to

Rave you both in the best tonce—

hat commotion lecided Hilson

July 21, 1986

Dear Lorraine and Wag:

It was a great treat to see you and the family, but I've been feeling guilty ever since. In all the saying of good-byes and everything, I didn't properly thank you for my present. Once you were gone, I had a chance to really look at it and that's when I realized I hadn't really expressed my appreciation. I've looked at it a half-dozen times since you left, and it's almost as if I find something new each time.

Yes, I'll forgive you for the one bumper strip you saved, but thank you for telling me about it -- I never knew there was such a strip.

Nancy likes it, too, and sends her best. Give our regards to the family and, again, thank you.

. Sincerely,

RON

Mrs. Lorraine Wagner 2017 Nester Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19115

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

7/18/86 Leavest Nancy r Kon, my only regret in being cenable to present This to ...that also brings you personally is being de. med knowing your reaction! a wish for all I course we hope you of life's best things! like the beinger streker idenenjoy it! God Sin always torque me, but I could Lorone & loag not give up The one I displayed so promisely & groundly from 1976-80! "DON'T BLAME ME - I WROTE IN REABON'for indeed 2 diel! as he noted on the hatton, underneath - Some & devotion -

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Mrs. Forenie Wagner (I Think we have them address of Dear Formine & Wag

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Namey likes it too and sends her buit. Mine our regards to the family & again thank you.

To

+ argue me for being on tardy in responding to your letter with the enebene. I have no skense other than a fileup on my duck that I lat get out of hand. Then thanh Howen the came a emoposit. I's oth Nancy & I thank you for your gamens mords and we'll try to be deserving of Them, you me very leine to write as you did so me are truly quitalme.

Nevery sends har very best so de &. Sinesaly Rd

Mrs. Forcaine Wagner C& Think we have their advised Dear Forming & Wag

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you I'll fengure you for the one Irupa strip - ti tures em pullet ug nog hundt tul benes vrege . Just a would some some some a such a study.

"Namey bles it too and sends her best. Mire our regular to the family & again thenk you. Smany Kon

End 1959 File THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1986

Dear Juanita:

Thank you for your letter and for the information it contained. I'm most grateful.

Nancy and I want you to know you have our deepest sympathy and are in our thoughts and prayers. Light and I shared a lot of happy memories going back to our youth in Dixon and on the Rock River. It would be hard to remember Dixon without the part the river played in our lives.

Please give our sympathy and regards to Kent, Rick and Todd, and God bless you.

Sincerely,

Dutch

Mrs. Dwight K. Thompson R.R. 2
Princeton, Illinois 61356



Dear Juanita

Thank you for your letter and for the information I contained. I'm most gestioned.

Nomey & I wont you to have my home on despect to be tight & to the first on in our Ilagents of the home wind a secure of the first of our youth of our youth have a local of the to the have in Dison & to have the to the plant of he have.

Place give om sympathy & regarde to Kent, Rich & Todd and I God Blow you. I mainly Et Dutank.

Trancy and Lutch Hergan - Levo y Light's favorite people: Light would have wanted me to write you a special, personal note of thanks for the flowers you sent for his memorial. The basket iwas indeed lovely. To be Light's wish was to be cremated. Its held a memoral here as our home in the yard of sunset. Harald Steele delivered the memorial service and your flowers were a part of that service Sight's death came juddenly. Ite were assured that he ded not suffer. This was the way he always hoped his earthly life would close. It the you were greatly admired by light, and through his feelings, my some, their families, and I have come to share that admiration. Both of relative have done so very much topicspics and dignity to the Office of the Prendincy. The nation is deeply indebted to you. I am a teacher and shall continue working in my profession. Peaching Children (Ito me oler nations greatestresource) is not only challenging but gratifying is not only challenging but gratifying here son tent has the family business here in Princeton; son Rich is a building contractor, son Rich is a building Contractor, also in Princeton; Son

- .

Jodd is an attorney in Fawrence, Janear. Life goes on and I have a great family to help me over the trough spots. That's you again for honoring Light. Thay food quite and protect you always. Sincerely,

This note paper has been embossed with a design which was inspired by a detail from a white cotton embroidered coverlet (1770-1780) in the Colonial Williamsburg collection.

According to family tradition, the coverlet was made by Martha Hall from cotton grown and woven on her home plantation in North Carolina. She married Benjamin Waller of Williamshing in 1740. The coverlet is said to have been used for the first time at the christening of her grandson Littleton Tazewell (born 1774), to whom it was later given.

EATON INC

End (ase File

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 22, 1986

Dear Henry:

I'm sorry to say your letter arrived just two days after I signed off on Frank Shakespeare for the Vatican post. You are right about Bob Reilly's capabilities. I think highly of him.

We haven't announced the Shakespeare appointment yet. There is a little matter of finding out if he's acceptable to the Vatican and then, of course, the Senate approval. We hang onto all of the names until those hurdles are cleared. We aren't expecting any problem on this one but we play it safe.

I appreciate your interest and your taking the time and trouble to suggest Bob, and I'll keep your evaluation on hand.

I know if she were here, Nancy would send her love, but she's in England for the wedding. Love to Gracie and, again, thanks to you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Henry Salvatori 1901 Avenue of the Stars Los Angeles, California 90067 To Mr. Hanry Salaration 1901 and grade stime I.a. Ruj 90067

Door Harry

I'm sorry to say your letter arrived just a days often a signed off on Frank Shalourfaces for the Vaticons prot. You are right about Bab. Reilly's capabilities, I think beighty of him.

We haven't amounted the Shaharpane appointment yet. There is a little menter of finding out if he's acceptable to the Vatician and Thomog course the Senate apparel. We have onto all the manual until three hundres are closed. We aren't expecting any problem on this to one but me play it safe.

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I know if sole muchene Money would soud how have love lost also in Eng. for the worlding. Love to Massi and ogain thanks to you. I mind Kon

HENRY SALVATORI 1901 AVENUE OF THE STARS LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067 TELEPHONE 213-277-3444

July 18, 1987

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am informed that Robert R. Reilly is one of several individuals under consideration for the post of Ambassador to the Vatican.

I have known Bob for a number of years through my association, as a trustee, with the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. Bob Was formerly National Director of ISI. He impressed me during his years with ISI with the breadth of his knowledge, his concern for the critical issues facing the nation in domestic and foreign affairs, and the soundness of his analyses. In brief, Bob is bright, articulate, and gracious. A winning combination.

Bob is currently Senior Advisor on Public Diplomacy to Ambassador Faith Whittlesey in Bern. You will undoubtedly recall his earlier efforts in the Office of Public Liaison on the Outreach Working Group on Central America, and as the chief liaison officer to the American Catholic community. His work with the Catholic community and his knowledge of the issues in Central America would serve the nation well in the Vatican post.

I strongly recommend that you give your serious consideration to Robert R. Reilly for the post of Ambassador to the Vatican.

With my warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Henry

HS:jl

End case Fre