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SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20210

WILLIAM E. BROCK

January 30, 1986

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I know I am unusually sensitive to death at this time, but I do want to thank you for the special decency and grace with which you have led the people of a nation still beset by the shock of these past few days.

Your remarks after the loss of Challenger, and at the Memorial in Houston today, were beautiful. We are so blessed to have a President who can help us to recognize our oneness with each other and with God, and to share our grief, even as we raise again our eyes to the future.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



WILLIAM E. BROCK

WEB:cb

Doc. # 7 B

P.S. I hope me any to meet you face to
face

Mecklenburg County
North Carolina
Board of County Commissioners

J. Bach



January 28, 1986

374670

Dear Mr. President —

I listen to your words as you
spoke to the nation about
the tragic accident of the
Space Shuttle when seven

→

Great American deed! You
made me proud to be
an American. Even though
I disagree with many
of your policies and political
positions, you make all
Americans proud on such
an occasion. God bless you
and our nation. Rev. Bob Walker



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January 31, 1986

Mr. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
of America
The White House
Washington D.C.

Mr. President,

In your address to the nation on the occasion of the tragedy
at Cape Canaveral, you drew parallels between the loss of the lives
of the crew aboard the Challenger and the death of Sir Francis
Drake off the coast of Panama "390 years ago".

Sir Francis Drake was an English pirate, who delighted in the
slaughter of the civilian citizens of the colonial city of Porto-
belo. Gold and silver were stockpiled in this Atlantic port, a-
waiting shipment to Spain. It was therefore a prime target for the
greed-motivated expeditions of men like Drake. It was in an attempt
to loot, destroy and ravage the city and it's population of nuns,
women, children and missionaries, that Drake was happily annihilated.

Because the legends of English pirates have always been ro-
manticized in Anglo-American history books. I am not surprised to
occasionally encounter this misconception. However, to further the
credence of this gross inaccuracy in a presidential address, let
alone compare the ambitions of a pirate to those that motivated our
lost astronauts can only be the result of careless historical re-
search. I respectfully suggest you reprimand those responsible. !

*Feb 24 86 Buchanan memo to Allen Weinstein
Center for the Study of the Presidency*

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I find the portrayal of a pirate as a figure of history to be admired and eulogized in your speech on the occasion of the deaths of seven genuine heroes, to be insulting to the memories of those astronauts and offensive to their families, as well as to the memories of those people massacred on that day in Portobelo and to all the people of Panama.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles F. Brannan', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles F. Brannan
Photo Editor/NY

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