

File
Bradley
Patterson

BRADLEY H. PATTERSON, JR.
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April 3, 1999

Dear Melanne,

Having recently finished typing up our interview, I write to tell you how deeply I appreciate the opportunity to have met with you. Your graciousness, helpfulness and candor were so generously proffered -- you have made a tremendous contribution to the substance and integrity of the Second Edition of Ring of Power.

During our talk, you made only the most modest mention of your active pre-White House career here in Washington. But re-reading Karen Ball's piece about you in the November, 1997 Washington Post Magazine fills in the story. In our interview you speak frequently of how you reached out to the resources and institutions here in the city: scholars, experts, advocates, departmental officials, other colleagues on the Staff. No wonder, with you at her side, the First Lady has been able to undertake so many initiatives so effectively.

Your technique and your -- and her -- accomplishments cement a conclusion I have long harbored: White House principals are best served by staff who are thoroughly familiar with the Washington environment: the places to go, the people to talk with, the buttons to push, the strings to pull. I am going to make that statement strongly in the book -- with you as Exhibit A.

I am going to research/fill in a few of the facts, dig out some texts and perhaps chat briefly with a few AID and OMB people. But, Melanne, you will be very proud and pleased at how this chapter will come out -- and I will send you the draft of it during the summer.

Speaking of texts and research: you offered to dig up a couple of items for me, and I have listed them on the attached page. If one of your staff could find them, let me know (301-320-5840) and I can drop by and pick them up. *

With cordial and respectful regards, and with thanks for that autograph!

Brad