

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

3-18-00

3-21-00

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: The President  
FROM: Mildred C. Alston  
SUBJECT: Recent Correspondence

copy to Nancy  
Hernandez?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Original to M.lli  
Alston?

Yes ☒

No ☐

**John H. Morrison** thanks you for your gift to the Association of American Rhodes Scholars. Your support means a great deal. (cc Missy Kincaid)

**Stanley M. Chesley** – Great seeing you on the 21<sup>st</sup>. He knows what it's like to be married to a successful spouse!

**Judy Rippeteau** – Their daughter Eva is a friend of one of the Wilson students gunned down by an unknown assailant. It has left her totally devastated. It's a sad commentary on our society when guns seem to solve a problem. Thanks for visiting Ballou Senior High School. The students really appreciated your visit. Her friend, George Gaudette, has been the one responsible for organizing the computer program and encouraging students to become involved in understanding the mechanics of a computer. DCPS is far behind in giving computer access to all children.

**Lloyd and B.A. Bentsen** – It was another unforgettable moment provided for Lloyd from his thoughtful friend. Your tribute to him on the economy was very touching. You are such a caring person. Would that all of our nation could see your generous unselfish acts as they have. Best to Hillary and Chelsea. She is getting more beautiful every day.

**Doyle Z. Williams** thanks you for recommendation for Stephen Warren Brandon for their MBA program. He wishes you the very best as you come to the close of eight years of service to the nation.

No to  
Missy  
Kincaid  
from  
Morrison  
Judy  
Rippeteau  
Morrison  
Judy  
Rippeteau  
Morrison  
Judy  
Rippeteau

Morrison  
Judy  
Rippeteau

*Staff Sec.***C O V E R****FAX****S H E E T****To:** Ms. Nancy Hernreich**Fax #:** (202) 456-6703**Subject:** James Cagle**Date:** 3-21-00**Pages:** 19 (including this cover sheet)**COMMENTS:** Personal & Confidential

3-21-00

*How should we  
handle?**Send to counsel**Carl*

From the desk of...

Dewey Neely

705 W. Johnson  
Osceola, AR. 72370

Home: (870) 563-2994

Fax: (870) 563-5460

March 20, 2000

Personal

Ms. Nancy Hernreich  
White House

Dear Nancy,

The following information is in reference to James Cagle. Hopefully, you will be able to relate my interests to President Clinton about obtaining a pardon.

Jimmy's mother is my first cousin. We grew up together in Caruthersville, Mo. I have known Jimmy all of his life.

I hope with a Presidential pardon, that Jimmy's life can be salvaged. Jimmy is thoroughly remorseful, and shamed by what he did to himself. He is even more sorrowful for what he has done to his mother and father (now deceased).

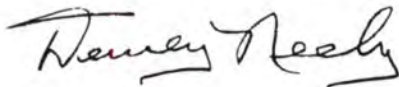
Please ask President Clinton to review the enclosed information about the case, and see his way clear to pardon Jimmy.

Jimmy is a model prisoner. He was recently given a bus ticket and sent to Texas from Forrest City unsupervised.

I would not ask such a favor if I were not one hundred percent sure that this man would be an upstanding, tax paying, family man upon his return. If there is anything else I can do or say to help Jimmy, please let me know. The Cagle family is like mine, all Democrats. Their hope is that a Democratic leader would see Jimmy's case as one to show humanity, and forgiveness.

Thank you in advance for you help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dewey Neely". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dewey" and last name "Neely" clearly distinguishable.

Dewey Neely

March 16, 2000

Dear Dewey:

With this letter I am sending you a letter I have written to President Clinton, a copy of a letter I had previously written on Jimmy's behalf and a copy of a letter Jimmy's attorney wrote to the Assistant U.S. attorney.

As you know, Jimmy fully cooperated with the government and received a reduction in sentence from 100 months to 60 months. He has served 31 months of this 60 month sentence.

I have worked for attorneys and judges since I was 18 years old. I have always believed in and defended our justice system. The drunk driver who killed my husband was sentenced to 36 months in prison for taking Joey's life and forever changing mine. Jimmy was originally sentenced to 100 months for destroying his own life.

Anything that you can do to help me restore my faith in our justice system and bring my little brother home to me will be forever deeply appreciated.

Love to you and your family,





February 19, 1999

Iris Cagle Russon  
776 County Highway 515  
Caruthersville, MO 63830

RE: U.S.A. v James E. Cagle, Jr.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Sometime in the near future, my brother, James Cagle, is due to appear before you on a Motion for Downward Departure.

Jimmy has been incarcerated since 9-2-97. We lost our father to cancer on 4-30-98. Due to the choices he had made, Jimmy was unable to be with us during our father's long hospitalization and was unable to attend Dad's funeral. The guilt from having let all of us down and not being able to be with us when we needed him most is something he will have to live with the rest of his life.

The numerous letters I have received from Jimmy & the many hours I have spent visiting him since his incarceration have shown me a remarkable change in my brother. I truly believe all Jimmy wants now is to be reunited with his family and prove to us he can be the son, brother, husband & father he was meant to be.

I am asking that you please consider granting the Motion for Downward Departure and hasten Jimmy's reunification with his family.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Iris Cagle Russon*

March 16, 2000

President William Jefferson Clinton  
United States President  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

Re: James Cagle, Inmate #27455-044

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing this letter to ask that you consider a Presidential pardon for my brother, James E. Cagle, Jr. Jimmy is currently in Federal Prison in Bastrop, Texas. He was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on August 25, 1997, and has been incarcerated since September 1, 1997. Jimmy pled guilty to a charge of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine on January 12, 1998, and received a sentence of 100 months, or 8 years, 4 months, and probation for a period of 5 years after serving this time. Jimmy has cooperated fully with the government, and after testimony given on an un-related case, he was given a sentence reduction to 5 years, or 60 months, and 5 years probation.

Enclosed are copies of various letters written on Jimmy's behalf. When first incarcerated, before sentencing, we wrote to Judge Catherine Perry, asking that he be allowed out on bond until sentenced, our requests were denied. Also enclosed are letters from two circuit judges in our county, for whom my sister and I were working, asking that Judge Perry be lenient with sentencing. Both judges know Jimmy and our family, and were certain there would be no cause for concern that Jimmy would ever make this kind of mistake again.

I have attached copies of a few letters Jimmy has written my family and me. You can see that he is very remorseful for his mistakes, and only wants to be able to prove that he has indeed learned from this, and will never do anything to jeopardize his freedom again. There is a letter here that Jimmy is telling my son, Casey, who is seventeen and had a minor problem with the law, that he should learn from his (Jimmy's) mistakes, and how something so seemingly harmless can effect your life, and your family's. I think that he has a lot to teach my children by telling them to obey the law.

Our mother is 74 years old, and while Jimmy was incarcerated, on April 30, 1998, we lost our father to cancer. Jimmy was not allowed to attend the funeral, but did one time get to come to the hospital to the intensive care unit to visit with Dad for about 15 minutes. This loss has been really hard on our family, especially on Mom. She really needs her son to be home.

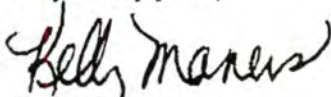
After spending time in several county jails, awaiting placement in a Federal Prison, Jimmy was sent to Forrest City, Arkansas. This is about 140 miles from Caruthersville, and someone from his family went to visit with Jimmy every weekend. When Jimmy was told of the Residential Drug Abuse Program (DAP), he signed up for it. The DAP is an 11 month program, which upon completion, would enable an inmate no more than 12 months early release (statute # 18 USC 3621 (E)) Jimmy qualified for the program, and was put on Greyhound bus to Bastrop, Texas, on September 21, 1999. As of this date, they have still not put Jimmy into the program, but keep "bumping" him back further on the list to work in other inmates. Had Jimmy known he would be there almost a year before entering the program, he would have chosen to stay close to his family so we could continue our visits. This problem is one that our family has been in contact with our local representative, Denny Merideth, and congressman Jo Ann Emerson; they are looking into this for us. Not only is Jimmy being bumped by other inmates who qualify for this program, but also by illegal immigrants who are only in Bastrop awaiting deportation. Why spend our federal tax dollars on these illegal immigrants that are only going to be sent back to Mexico? The Federal government has allotted \$27,900,000 for this program in 2000, and I am wondering if they aren't just trying to put as many through the program as they can to receive more money.

Jimmy has been a model prisoner, with no incident reports against him. He has always had a job in prison, and reports to work as expected. He has attended some classes as well.

Jimmy fully admits and regrets his mistake, and only wants to be able to prove to his family that he wants to make up to them and himself for these mistakes. He is a very deserving man, who has had very few "breaks" while in the federal system, but has still hope for some good to come of his incarceration. You would be doing our family and Jimmy an enormous service if you would consider this pardon.

I know this letter is rather lengthy, but I cannot be as brief as needed to talk about something I feel so strongly about. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and sincerely hope that you will take this into consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Kelly Maners  
200 County Highway 366  
Caruthersville, MO 63830



November 17, 1997

Kelly Maners  
Route 2, Box 68A  
Caruthersville, MO 63830

Honorable Catherine Perry  
United States District Court Judge  
United States District Court  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Re: U.S.A. v. James Earnest Cagle

Dear Judge Perry,

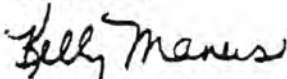
My brother, James E. Cagle is currently in the Perry County jail, and is scheduled to be sentenced on January 12, 1998. I am writing to you to respectfully request that he be released to my parent's custody until sentencing.

The main reason I am asking is for my parents. They are both in their seventies, Dad will be 74 in January, and it would mean so much to them and our whole family if we could spend this holiday season together. At their age, if Jimmy has to be away for very many years, this could be our last Christmas together as a whole family. Of course there are other reasons, I would like to see Jimmy spend some time with his wife and step-son and our families as well.

I know from talking to Jimmy and from his letters that he is truly remorseful for any wrong-doing that he was involved in. I can assure you that he is not a flight risk nor is he a threat to the community in any way.

I work at the Pemiscot County Courthouse as a Court Clerk and secretary to Judge Sidney Chaffin. Please believe that I would not ask this of you if I didn't sincerely believe in these statements about my brother.

Sincerely,



Kelly Maners





SIDNEY H. CHAFFIN  
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION 3—PROBATE  
COUNTY OF PEMISCOT • STATE OF MISSOURI  
PEMISCOT COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI 63830  
(573) 333-0152

KELLY MANERS  
CLERK, DIV. 3

January 7, 1998

Honorable Catherine D. Perry  
United States District Court Judge  
Federal Office Building  
339 Broadway  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Re: U.S.A. v James E. Cagle, Jr.

Dear Judge Perry:

James E. Cagle, Jr. is scheduled for sentencing on Monday, January 12, 1998. I have known Jimmy and his family for many years. His parents are well known and very well thought of in our community. His sister, Kelly, is my court clerk, and his other sister, Iris, has been the secretary to the Presiding Judge for 16 years.

Jimmy has plead guilty to a very serious charge, and I know you are bound by the Federal Law as to his sentencing, but I also felt the need to express to you that Jimmy is a young man of good moral character, and this encounter is his first major difficulty with the law. I believe that this is one instance where the Federal guidelines should not be strictly enforced.

This has been devastating to Jimmy and his family, and I know by talking with his sisters that given any type of consideration by the court, Jimmy will never find himself in a position like this again.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sidney H. Chaffin  
Associate Judge



## CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION I

County of Pemiscot - State of Missouri  
Pemiscot County Courthouse  
Caruthersville, MO 63830  
(314) 333-4153

Fred W. Copeland  
Circuit Judge

Andrew J. Crawford  
Circuit Clerk

January 8, 1998

Honorable Catherine D. Parry  
United States District Court Judge  
Federal Office Building  
339 Broadway  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Re: U.S.A. v James E. Cagle, Jr.

Dear Judge Perry:

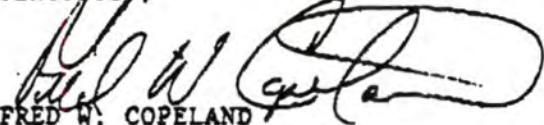
James E. Cagle, Jr. is to be sentenced on January 12, 1998. I have had the opportunity to know Jimmy and his family for a number of years. His sister, Iris Russon, has worked for this office for 16 years, and his younger sister, Kelly Maners, also works as a court clerk in our division. I have met his wife and step-son, in fact I performed their marriage. Jimmy and his family have a fine reputation and many friends in the community.

I know Jimmy has pled guilty to a serious charge, and I believe that he has learned a valuable lesson from this as it is Jimmy's first major encounter with the law.

This letter is not intended to diminish the seriousness of the crime for which Jimmy plead guilty, but I felt the need to say that I would not hesitate to personally recommend that Mr. Cagle be granted favorable consideration by the court.

If I can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
FRED W. COPELAND  
Circuit Judge



**GEORGE WEBER GILMORE, JR.**

Attorney At Law  
1100 North Main  
P.O. Box 1100  
Sikeston, MO 63801-1100

BOYD A. GREEN

G. Weber Gilmore, Sr.  
of Counsel

Suzanne Gilmore  
(1943 - 1992)

Telephone  
Area Code 573  
471-1100

Telecopy/Fax. No.  
573-471-4263

January 22, 1998

Honorable Paul W. Hahn  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
P.O. Box 2107  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

**COPY**

RE: U.S.A. v. James Earnest Cagle, Jr.  
Case No. 1:97CR00046 CDP

Dear Paul:

It is my sincere hope that this letter finds you convalescing toward a one hundred percent recovery from your recent surgery.

As you are probably aware, Judge Perry sentenced Mr. Cagle, as expected, to one hundred months (8 1/3 years) imprisonment for his part in the "Lawson methamphetamine manufacturing conspiracy". It was indeed a sad day for 38 year old Jimmy Cagle with the culmination of the offense being his first major brush with the law.

DEA Agent Herman Hogue advised me that the government was moving forward with Indictments on two of the individuals about whom Jimmy had provided intelligence in his proffer: Kirk Stewart, who has already been indicted, and Keith Michaels, against whom the government intends to seek an indictment.

The purpose hereof is to confirm that Jimmy stands ready, willing, able and anxious to assist the government in any way possible in pursuing the aforementioned convictions, by way of providing grand jury or trial testimony, or assisting the government in any other manner deemed necessary and appropriate by the government. His hope and prayer is that the government will call upon him for such assistance and that in turn your office will feel justified in filing a Rule 35 Motion for departure from the sentence imposed.

Jimmy comes from a long line of good, decent, hard-working and law-abiding citizens. His conduct regarding the offense was out of character and isolated when you consider that during the other 99% of his life he, too, has been a good citizen.

Jimmy looks forward to "doing his time" and getting on with his life.



November 17, 1997

Honorable Catherine D. Perry  
United States District Court  
319 U.S. Court and Custom House  
1114 Market Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Re: U.S.A. v. James E. Cagle, Jr.

Dear Judge Perry:

My brother, Jimmy Cagle, comes before you for sentencing on January 12, 1998. Jimmy has been incarcerated since September 2, 1997, in the Perry County jail at Perryville, Missouri.

This letter is to ask you to consider releasing Jimmy to the custody of my parents under house arrest if need be until the date of his sentencing. My family realizes that Jimmy will be away from us for a very long time and it would mean so much to us to be able to spend the upcoming holidays with Jimmy at our parents' house. We are allowed to visit Jimmy in Perryville every Saturday for 15 minutes and every Saturday, three or four of my family members drive to Perryville to see him because those 15 minutes mean so much to us.

I have been employed by the State of Missouri as Secretary to the Presiding Judge of the 34<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit for the past 16 years. Over the years I have read many letters to Judges in our Circuit like the one I am writing to you now. I never would have dreamed that one day I would be writing one myself. But, I love my brother very much and I know how much it would mean to my entire family to be able to spend the holidays with him at home.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

*Eric Cagle Russum*

March 17, 2000

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
Capitol Building  
Washington, D. C.

Re: James Cagle - Federal Prison Inmate No. 27455-044

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing this letter in regard to my brother James (Jimmy) Cagle, who is an inmate of the Federal Prison System. Jimmy is now in Bastrop, Texas, and has been there since September of 1999.

Prior to being transferred to Bastrop, Jimmy was in a low security satellite camp in Forrest City, Arkansas. His "level zero" security rating is what qualified him for this camp, rather than a prison. Bastrop is a minimum security prison.

Forrest City is approximately a two hour drive from my home town of Caruthersville, Missouri. During Jimmy's incarceration in Forrest City, at least one of his family members drove to see him every weekend unless the weather or some other, extreme or unusual circumstance prevented us from doing so. Staying in close personal contact with Jimmy is very important to him and his family.

Since Jimmy has been in Bastrop, I have only been able to visit him once. My mother, Jimmy's wife and I flew to Texas to spend the Christmas holidays with him. None of us are financially able to make that trip very often.

Jimmy was transferred from Forrest City to Bastrop for the sole purpose of attending the Residential Drug Abuse Program (DAP). Jimmy has now been in Bastrop for six months and has yet to be placed in this drug program. Whenever he checks, his name appears further and further down on the admittance list. There are currently people who arrived in Bastrop after Jimmy did that have been placed ahead of Jimmy on this list. Several of those people are not U.S. citizens and are to be deported upon completion of this program. As a taxpayer, I am greatly concerned about the fact that my Federal tax dollars are being spent to educate illegal aliens who are to be immediately deported, rather than being spent first on a U.S. citizen such as my brother.

As I stated previously, the sole reason for Jimmy's transfer was to be enrolled in and complete this program. Had he known this would not take place, Jimmy would not have requested a transfer so far away from his family. Our weekly visits meant too much to all of us.

My father was diagnosed with and died from cancer after Jimmy was incarcerated. Jimmy was not allowed to attend his father's funeral. On February 28, 1999, just 10 months after I lost my father, my husband and I were in an automobile accident. A drunk driver claimed my husband's life. Again, Jimmy was not allowed to be with his family when we so desperately needed him. And now he is so far away that even visiting him on a regular basis is impossible.

My mother is 74 years old. Jimmy's greatest fear is having yet another tragedy occur in our family while he is away. He says he can never forgive himself for the pain he has put us through. The punishment he heaps upon himself for having let us down is as great as the incarceration.

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration and beg you to please help reunite this family.

January 22, 1998  
Page Two

Again, please, call upon Jimmy for any assistance whatsoever that he might provide to the government in the investigation, arrest, prosecution or sentencing of others as you have my absolute assurance he will help in any way possible. I am confident he will be an asset and an excellent testifier if so called upon.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

Original Signed By

**George W. Gilmore, Jr.**

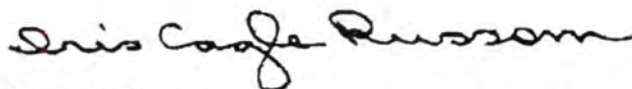
GEORGE W. GILMORE, JR.

GWG,jr:jlz

pc: Mr. Jimmy Cagle  
Ms. Debra Cagle  
~~Ms. Iris Cagle~~  
Mr. Hal E. Hunter, III



Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Iris Cagle Russon". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Iris Cagle Russon  
776 County Highway 515  
Caruthersville, Missouri 63830  
Phone - 573-333-4729  
Fax - 573-333-0458

Hi Kelly,

Hope you are doing fine. I'm doing alright except I'm in prison. <sup>HA!</sup> Tell Casey that it is no picnic being in here and if he don't sit back and take a good look at what happened to me, he may just get to find out. It starts out small and before you know what happened you are on your way and then it is way too late. The way some of these new laws are, you can be in prison just for being in the wrong company at the wrong time. I have seen a lot of people getting a lot of time for the simplest things. It don't seem fair, but there is nothing you can do about it. I love and care for Casey and can't express enough that what seems like just going out and having a little fun can turn into something that you wish had never happened. Then it's too late. Not only are you ~~is~~ taken away from family and friends, but you'll never get that time back. It's ~~gone~~

~~is~~ gone forever! Plus all the things you used to enjoy will probably be taken away too. I don't know if I'll ever be able to be around a gun, much less own one, and you know how much I loved to hunt. Tell Casey these things or let him read this card and tell him I love him and hope I can keep him from making any mistakes that you can't reverse. I love y'all Jimmy



Dear Mom + Dad,

I want you both to know I'm doing fine as can be expected. Dad said to call collect. HA:HA! That's a good one dad. I promise I will when I feel like I can call without making Mom + myself cry. I loved the card and letters from you both. I really love the picture of ya'll w/ the bad boy truck.

Dad I hope the dogs ain't cause'n any trouble. Debbie + Joey are both suppose to be working on pens. You may have to go supervise + hurry them along. Also if you would, please go get Babe and hunt her this season alot. She needs a little work still and I know your the man to show her. I believe she is going to make a great bird dog.

Mom I too have been asking alot of God, but it's not for me to be sent home, but for you and Dad to be happy and healthy when I do get home. Please be that for me O!  
I love and miss you both very, ve  
Very much

Proud to be yours



*Jimmy*  
"Bronko"

Kelly,

Sorry I haven't been writing you. I ~~enjoy~~ enjoy getting your cards and letters, they mean a lot to me even though I don't always show it, you know ~~how~~ how lazy I am when it comes to writing. I don't think I wrote one letter to you the whole time I lived in Houston, Tx. did I?

Not much to write about. Hope everything is going fine back home. Mom told Deb about how much you have done to help her through these tough times. I feel really bad that I wasn't there to help too. I want to thank you for everything you've done for me also. I'll never forget it and someday I'll make it up to you, I promise. Keep up the good work Sis. God bless you!

Love always,  
Jimbo.

MOSS CAMPION

PARTHUSIAN  
CARNATION

ALPINE BITTERSWEET

HORNED VIOLET

BLACK  
VANILLA ORCHIS

COMMON BUTTERWORT

Honorable Judge Catherine Perry

Dear Judge Perry,

I am writing in reference to James E. Cagle, my brother. I would like to ask that you consider releasing him until he is sentenced JAN. 12, 1998. My parents are older and not in good health and it would mean so much to them to have Jimmy home for the holidays. I appreciate your consideration on this.

Sincerely,  
Kim A. Cagle