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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III

FROM: Joyce Thomann *Joyce*

SUBJECT: Colonel Frank Phelps Jones, USAF (Ret.)

Phelps Jones has been the National Security/Defense Director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for as long as I have know him (which is over 10 years now). Phelps is dying of lung cancer. He is, at the moment, in Walter Reed Army Hospital and according to Cooper Holt may be released from the hospital on Thursday -- IF all the oxygen equipment he will require can be installed in his home in time.

Phelps knows he is dying. He has know it for sometime now, however, it appears that the end of his struggle against lung cancer is now very close.

I know Phelps would enjoy receiving a letter from you, Faith. Phelps has been a longtime warrior in the trenches to maintain the defensive strength of this great nation. He has served his country well and remains its dedicated servant even now. In talking with Cooper Holt this morning, I learned that Phelps is "chomping at the bit" to get back to the office to work on the Central American problem.

Yesterday I sent over our copy of the VFW magazine which ran the big article on Central America - Phelps was responsible for that article.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: State Dinner Invitation

This is per Cooper Holt's request. I suggest
you forward it on to Muffie.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MUFFIE BRANDON

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

SUBJECT: State Dinner Invitees

Morton Blackwell of my staff has asked that I pass along to you the names of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Currieo as being a high priority for invitation to a State Dinner.

Mr. Currieo is the new Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a long time Reagan supporter.

The V.F.W. broke all past precedent by endorsing President Reagan in the 1980 campaign. Moreover, they endorsed and fought for our budget cuts and tax cuts last year. This was the first time the V.F.W. had taken a major role in issues that were not primarily defense or V.A.

In the fights for both the budget cuts and the tax cuts, the decisions of the 1.9 million member V.F.W. to support the President were followed immediately by support from the 2.7 million member American Legion.

An invitation to a State Dinner for the new Commander-in-Chief of the V.F.W. would show the President's appreciation for their past and continued efforts on President Reagan's behalf.

The invitation should be sent to the following address:

V.F.W. Memorial Building
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Memo
from the desk of

COOPER T. HOLT

March 12, 1982

The enclosed letters are forwarded per our phone conversation. Anything you can do to persuade any of these individuals to attend our Congressional Dinner would certainly be appreciated.

As I indicated to you on the phone, we invited all the Cabinet Members and all have regretted.

Cooper

VFW

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE JAMES G. WATT

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Invitation to Attend the Annual Dinner of the
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Attached is a copy of a letter from V.F.W. National Commander-in-Chief Art Fellwock inviting you to be a head table guest at the V.F.W. annual dinner on March 30, 1982 at the Sheraton Washington hotel.

I strongly urge you to accept this invitation if your schedule permits.

As you may recall, the V.F.W. broke all past precedent by endorsing President Reagan in the 1980 campaign. Moreover, they endorsed and fought for our budget cuts and tax cuts last year. This was the first time the V.F.W. had taken a major role in issues that were not primarily defense or V.A.

It is significant as well that, in the fights for both the budget cuts and the tax cuts, the decisions of the 1.7 million member V.F.W. to support the President were followed immediately by support from the 2.6 million member American Legion.

As the White House liaison to the veterans groups, I have worked with the V.F.W. for over a year and I know first hand how supportive they have been of the President's legislative programs. This would be a good occasion to show Administration appreciation for their past and continued efforts on President Reagan's behalf.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE RICHARD SCHWEIKER

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Invitation to Attend the Annual Dinner of the
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Attached is a copy of a letter from V.F.W. National Commander-in-Chief Art Fellwock inviting you to be a head table guest at the V.F.W. annual dinner on March 30, 1982 at the Sheraton Washington hotel.

I strongly urge you to accept this invitation if your schedule permits.

As you may recall, the V.F.W. broke all past precedent by endorsing President Reagan in the 1980 campaign. Moreover, they endorsed and fought for our budget cuts and tax cuts last year. This was the first time the V.F.W. had taken a major role in issues that were not primarily defense or V.A.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE RAYMOND DONOVAN

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Invitation to Attend the Annual Dinner of the
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Attached is a copy of a letter from V.F.W. National Commander-in-Chief Art Fellwock inviting you to be a head table guest at the V.F.W. annual dinner on March 30, 1982 at the Sheraton Washington hotel.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE DREW LEWIS

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Invitation to Attend the Annual Dinner of the
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Attached is a copy of a letter from V.F.W. National Commander-in-Chief Art Fellwock inviting you to be a head table guest at the V.F.W. annual dinner on March 30, 1982 at the Sheraton Washington hotel.

I strongly urge you to accept this invitation if your schedule permits.

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As the White House liaison to the veterans groups, I have worked with the V.F.W. for over a year and I know first hand how supportive they have been of the President's legislative programs. This would be a good occasion to show Administration appreciation for their past and continued efforts on President Reagan's behalf.

February 5, 1982

The Honorable James G. Watt
Secretary of Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20540

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has scheduled its annual dinner honoring Members of Congress for Tuesday, March 30, 1982. This dinner, which will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel at 7 P.M., will be preceded by a reception at 6 P.M. Attending this function will be Members of Congress, government and military leaders, as well as national and state officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The total attendance will exceed 2,000 persons.

Highlighting the dinner this year will be the presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Congressional Award to the Honorable Samuel S. Stratton, U. S. House of Representatives, for his "outstanding service to our nation." The influence of Congressman Stratton stems from his reputation for intelligence and expertise. He is, without question, one of the hardest working members of the Congress, who, as you know, has always conducted himself with utmost dignity and, in our opinion, has added much prestige to the deliberations of the U. S. House of Representatives.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to attend this annual dinner as a HEAD TABLE GUEST. Your presence would add much to this important occasion and I know that Congressman Stratton and the national and state officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States would be most pleased if you are able to attend.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR J. FELLWOCK
National Commander-in-Chief



February 5, 1982

C
O
P
Y

The Honorable Drew Lewis
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has scheduled its annual dinner honoring Members of Congress for Tuesday, March 30, 1982. This dinner, which will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel at 7 P.M., will be preceded by a reception at 6 P.M. Attending this function will be Members of Congress, government and military leaders, as well as national and state officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The total attendance will exceed 2,000 persons.

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Sincerely,

ARTHUR J. FELLWOCK
National Commander-in-Chief



February 5, 1982

C
O
P
Y

The Honorable Richard Schweiker
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has scheduled its annual dinner honoring Members of Congress for Tuesday, March 30, 1982. This dinner, which will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel at 7 P.M., will be preceded by a reception at 6 P.M. Attending this function will be Members of Congress, government and military leaders, as well as national and state officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The total attendance will exceed 2,000 persons.

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Sincerely,

ARTHUR J. FELLWOCK
National Commander-in-Chief



February 5, 1982

C
O
P
Y

The Honorable Raymond Donovan
Secretary of Labor
Department of Labor
Washington, D. C. 20210

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has scheduled its annual dinner honoring Members of Congress for Tuesday, March 30, 1982. This dinner, which will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel at 7 P.M., will be preceded by a reception at 6 P.M. Attending this function will be Members of Congress, government and military leaders, as well as national and state officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The total attendance will exceed 2,000 persons.

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Sincerely,

ARTHUR J. FELLWOCK
National Commander-in-Chief



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 20, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL HINKLE

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL 
SUBJECT: Ohio Veterans Event

I have spoken to Mylio Kraja, Executive Director of the American Legion's Washington office, and Cooper Holt, Executive Director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars national office, regarding the rescheduling of an American Legion V.F.W. sponsored event in Columbus, Ohio, on Monday, October 4.

Both are optimistic that their national and Ohio organizations will agree to reschedule this event.

Kraja will get back to me this afternoon. Holt will call tomorrow morning.

There was a press inquiry to the Communications Office as to why just these organizations were invited by the White House to schedule this Presidential event. Our response was that the President had accepted speaking engagements this summer at both American Legion and V.F.W. national conventions, but the President's schedule had to be altered and he was not able to go to either national convention. Thus we felt it appropriate to offer the President to these groups.

Presuming that both groups agree to sponsor the October 4 event, their offices will leave it up to their respective state organizations to determine how other veterans organizations will be involved. So far as the White House is concerned, this will be jointly sponsored by the American Legion and V.F.W.

As soon as I hear back from Holt and Kraja, I will notify your office.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DIRECTOR
Cooper T. Holt
TREASURER
Al Poteet

V
F
W



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POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ted C. Connell, Texas, Chairman
John Stang, Kansas
Earl Muse, West Virginia
Ray Gallagher, South Dakota
Charles Kinney, New Jersey
Ernest Stratyckuk, Michigan

May 6, 1982

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS VFW-PAC, NATIONAL OFFICERS, NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS, PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, STATE COMMANDERS, STATE SR. VICE COMMANDERS, STATE JR. VICE COMMANDERS, STATE ADJUTANTS, STATE QUARTERMASTERS, STATE VFW PUBLICATIONS, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, VFW-PAC COORDINATORS, LADIES AUXILIARY PAC COORDINATORS, STATE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY OFFICERS

FROM: COOPER T. HOLT, DIRECTOR, VFW POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: UNSOLICITED ARTICLE REGARDING OUR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

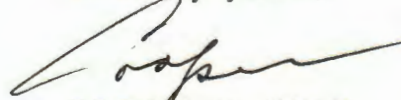
The enclosed article, extremely complimentary of our VFW Political Action Committee, was lead article in the "Campaign People," a national newsletter, published weekly for individuals and groups participating in America's political campaigns.

The author, Christopher J. Daley, in my opinion, has a very good handle on our VFW political action commitments. The article was extremely well written and conveys a message that should be called to the attention of every VFW and Auxiliary member in your state. We would certainly appreciate your cooperation in conveying this message to all with whom you come in contact.

In order to be successful in the 1982 Federal elections your VFW-PAC must have more members and certainly more contributors. This, you can help us accomplish with very little effort. --Speak favorably of your PAC and send your contributions today.

Remember, your VFW-PAC is the only way to go. We must keep our friends in the Congress.

Sincerely yours,


COOPER T. HOLT
Director, VFW-PAC

CTH/ket

Enclosure

Campaign People



The national newsletter for people in America's campaign industry

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

APRIL 19, 1982

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VFW'S PAC: A SLEEPING GIANT?

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In the summer of 1979, meeting at their annual convention, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars endorsed the creation of a political action committee.

That move, by one of the country's largest veteran organizations, sent shockwaves through the political community. It meant that the nation's more than 30 million veterans were moving beyond their traditional role of letter writing and lobbying and into a more direct involvement in the electoral process. The VFW, with more than 1.9 million members, backed by an auxiliary of 660,000 wives and mothers, is the second largest national veteran group. Though their PAC is now close to three years old, it is slowly growing into what soon may be one of the more formidable PAC's in the country.

Al Poteet, VFW PAC Treasurer, explains that the VFW PAC is still very much in the organizational process and is purposely not developing at an accelerated rate. Poteet notes that the VFW is taking this task "one step at a time", because of the necessity to educate the membership as to the role that the PAC will play, as well as the criteria that will go into the political endorsements.

While the VFW membership shares the common background of past military service, the fact is that these men and women now cover the entire spectrum of society. They include blue collar workers, white collar professionals and military retirees. Many members are diehard Republicans or Democrats and hold strong partisan feelings. For these reasons, the VFW's PAC educational process is quite thorough with strong emphasis on the fact that the PAC limits its political endorsements to the area of legislation dealing with national security and continuation of veteran benefits.

Getting the message to an organization with a membership as large and diverse as the VFW's has not been easy. The members were originally introduced to the PAC via the VFW MAGAZINE. This initial exposure was followed up with direct mail (though they have yet to reach all of the members), speakers working the VFW circuit, and exposure at state and national conventions and meetings. A network of PAC coordinators in each state will eventually serve to facilitate the flow of information and contributions. This same network will also be used to build up a "volunteer" organization which may eventually be used to back money with manpower in various campaigns across the country.

In 1980, the Veterans of Foreign Wars PAC backed President Reagan in the Presidential race, as well as 250 individual candidates in House and Senate contests. These endorsements were accompanied by total contributions of close to \$250,000. The endorsement process is quite cut and dried but as Poteet says, "it's pretty fair." The Board of Directors of the VFW (which makes all of the decisions regarding the PAC) choose some 14 key votes involving veteran or national security issues. The staff then plugs the issues into their computer and matches them against the incumbent legislator's voting record. Those members of Congress who score a 60% favorable rating get an automatic endorsement. Those who fall below the magic number find that their opponents are soon solicited for their views on the same issues. The endorsement does not always guarantee a check, but the odds are quite favorable that the VFW's "friends" will find some assistance with their campaigns. Too date, the VFW PAC has refrained from any endorsements in primary contests.

The latest quarterly report filed with the Federal Elections Commission showed that the VFW PAC has more than \$170,000 in cash on hand as of March 1st. Considering that their major fundraising push is still ahead, Poteet has little doubt that they will match, and hopefully far surpass, their 1980 activity.

Al Poteet came to his position as treasurer of the VFW PAC after six years in the organization's legislative office. He still serves under Cooper T. Holt, the VFW's longtime Capitol Hill lobbyist who also serves as Executive Director of the VFW PAC.

The slow development of the VFW PAC thus far has been very well planned in assuring a stronger, more viable PAC in the long run. If the VFW PAC increases its contributions to candidates this year by only 50% it will probably join the FEC list of the "Top Ten Trade/Membership/Health PAC Contributors" quite soon. How quickly it takes for the VFW membership to realize their clout, and how quickly their PAC moves to the top of that list, is only a matter of time.

It is worth noting that the Veterans of Foreign Wars is the only major veterans organization with a political action committee. The American Legion, with more than 2.7 million members and a million member women's auxiliary is chartered by Congress and as a result they are precluded from partisan political activity. The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has more than 650,000 members but has yet to organize them politically.

Further information: Mr. Al Poteet, Treasurer, VFW Political Action Committee, 200 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002 202/543-2239

VFW

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO
FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*
SUBJECT: Cooper Holt attack at Bob Nimmo

Last week in testimony before Senator Alan Simpson's Veterans Affairs Committee Cooper Holt, Executive Director of the VFW's Washington office, expressed displeasure with the conduct of the Veterans Administration Administrator Robert Nimmo and suggested Nimmo should resign.

Mr. Nimmo called immediately to alert me on this, and I was able to take the matter up with VFW officials during the course of the VFW mid-winter conference.

It appears that this is a matter of personal pique with Holt; it does not represent other high VFW officers. There has been no move toward a condemnation of Mr. Nimmo by any national VFW governing group.

Cooper told me that his problem with Mr. Nimmo arises from a visit between them when Mr. Nimmo took umbrage over a letter which Cooper had written to him.

Considering the strong assurances I received from others in the VFW hierarchy, it appears that Holt is at least for the time being alone in his complaint against Bob Nimmo.

I'll keep on top of this and try to help restore cordiality.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR FLO RANDOLPH

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL *M. Blackwell*
SUBJECT: Meeting of Veterans Groups
with Mr. Meese

The executive directors of the three largest veterans groups have requested a meeting with Ed Meese regarding their dissatisfaction with the Administration's handling of veterans' affairs. They are Mylio Kraja, American Legion; Cooper Holt, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Gabby Hartnett, Disabled American Veterans

I understand the coming week is impossible but would appreciate having them scheduled as soon as possible. They represent large constituencies which have been largely supportive of the President.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR *← file*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20210

March 23, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

FROM: Susan L. Summerall *Sumie*
Special Assistant to the Secretary

SUBJECT: Veterans of Foreign Wars Dinner

Regarding your memorandum of March 15th, I must regretfully tell you that I was unable to accept the invitation for Secretary Donovan to attend the Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual Dinner on March 30th.

I was called by Jim Ciccone in the Chief of Staff's Office and requested to have the Secretary speak on that same evening in Philadelphia to a meeting of the U. S. Conference of Mayors on the President's "New Federalism" program.

I have extended the Secretary's best wishes to them, and also explained what his conflict is. Thanks for your interest, and I hope we can do it next year!

05 FEB 1982

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 4, 1982

Merille

Master
MEMORANDUM FOR EDWIN MEESE III

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE *EH*

SUBJECT: VFW Washington Conference Invitation
March 29, 1982

I strongly urge you to accept an invitation you received from VFW National Commander-in-Chief, Art Fellwock, inviting you to speak at their annual D.C. meeting, March 29, 1982 (copy attached).

As you may recall, the VFW broke precedent by endorsing President Reagan in the 1980 campaign. Moreover, they endorsed and fought for our budget cuts and tax cuts last year. This was the first time the VFW has taken a major role in issues not primarily defense or VA-oriented.

It is significant that, in the fights for both the budget cuts and the tax cuts, the decisions of the 1.7 million-member VFW to support the President were followed immediately by support from the 2.6 million-member American legion.

Your appearance is very important to the VFW. They will give you a great welcome and be a very receptive audience.

Attachment

Char -

*This is a YES.
Glad to help.*

M.

2/17

*10 - 2145
- 142
2145 - 142
2145 - 142*

05 FEB 1982

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 4, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR EDWIN MEESE III

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

SUBJECT: VFW Washington Conference Invitation
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M.
2/17

10 - 2 hrs
- 1 hr
3:30 - 1 hr
4:50 - 50 min

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 13, 1982

TO: Charlotte Ellis
FROM: Morton Blackwell
RE: Ladies Auxiliary to the V.F.W.

I strongly recommend that Mrs. Dole accept the invitation.

During both the budget cuts and tax cut battles, the V.F.W. decision to support was the key to the immediate subsequent decision of the American Legion to follow suit.

We have just succeeded in getting a short private meeting between the American Legion National Commander and the President.

It is therefore very important that this office go out of its way to accomodate reasonable requests of the V.F.W., the other giant veterans organization.

Ladies Auxiliary to the V.F.W.

OF THE UNITED STATES

January 4, 1981

Mrs. Elizabeth Dole
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

TO: Morton/Dole 1/9
PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION/
COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING REQUEST
RETURN TO CHARLOTTE BY 1/12

Dear Mrs. Dole:

Our Patriotic organization of over 658,000 members AGAIN requests the opportunity of honoring you as an OUTSTANDING AMERICAN at our National Convention in the Los Angeles Civic Center, Tuesday morning, August 17 -- presenting to you our special "UNITED AMERICAN" AWARD.

Last year, due to a prior commitment, plus the illness of your mother-in-law, you were unable to participate in our National Convention.

Our National President, Mrs. Marion Watson of Louisville, Kentucky, admires your many projects and programs that UNITE AMERICANS in all walks of life, and strengthen our Country.

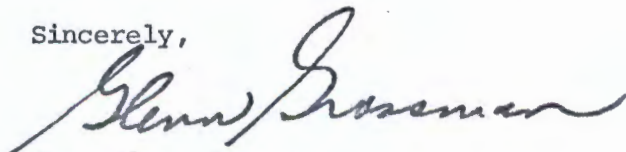
We would also hope that you would address our members at this Convention. Super doers in their communities, cities, and states, they represent women from all over the nation, plus members in France, Germany, Taiwan, Guam, Japan, Panama -- all races, ages, and creeds -- all PATRIOTIC AMERICANS!

Members include lawyers, restaurant operators, accountants, homemakers, teachers, secretaries, office workers, nurses, newspaper reporters, artists, elected county, state, and city officials -- a great cross section of America.

We know that your message will enthuse, inspire, and motivate our members to continue to STAND UNITED FOR AMERICA!

Over 3,000 members will be present to salute you as you are escorted to the platform with colors. We will, of course, provide first class air transportation. hotel suite, etc. We certainly hope you will say YES! It will be an HONOR to HONOR YOU!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Glenn Grossman,
National Secretary-Treasurer

GG:rw

CC- Marion Watson, National President



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File
VFW

October 9, 1981

TO: Elizabeth H. Dole
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*
RE: Additional Support on AWACS

Attached are two concrete examples, from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Non Commissioned Officers Association, of results from our AWACS briefing on October 6.

General Milnor Roberts has asked for a list of all the attendees at that briefing. He intends to work with them in the time available to convince the Senate to approve the sale. You may remember that General Robert's organization, the Reserve Officers Association was the first of the military and veterans organizations to take a leadership role on behalf of the AWACS sale.

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE

NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STRENGTH IN UNITY

110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Suite 304
Box 43
Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone (202) 546-7891
546-7892

October 8, 1981

Dear Senator:

The Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA (NCOA), representing more than 250,000 members, is convinced that the sale of the AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control Systems) aircraft is in the best interest of national defense.

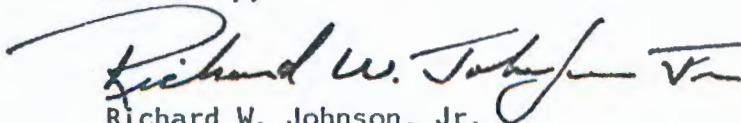
The Association has been reluctant to give its undivided support to the sale because it shared some of the concerns expressed by many members of the Senate and House. However, recent developments, coupled with the situation existing in the Middle East since 1978, have overshadowed the controversy demonstrating the need to move forward on the sale.

The United States has realigned its forces to provide permanent defense capability in that strategic area. It is imperative that we have full and equal participation with the Saudis in our efforts to maintain security in the region and, at the same time, recognize Saudi Arabian sovereign interest in their own defense as we have done for the Israelis.

The Association believes the President is offering the proper solution by providing the Saudis with their own defense capability— one that insures U.S. presence for some years yet to come. This can be done without jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel. Most importantly, it will offer the United States prepositioned facilities, equipment and weapons systems in the event our interests are openly threatened requiring the interdiction of U.S. Forces.

The Association urges your favorable consideration of the sale and extends appreciation for your commitment to an adequate defense of the United States and its vital interests abroad.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Johnson, Jr.
National Legislative Director

International Headquarters
NCO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 33610
San Antonio, Texas 78233
(512) 653-6161





Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS Release

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(7 OCTOBER 1981)

VFW TERMS AWACs SALE A "POLICY IMPERATIVE"

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- "Following the shocking, brutal assassination of President Sadat, it should be as clear to the 97th U. S. Congress, as it is to us, that a body of 535 individuals is spectacularly ill-equipped to 'fine-tune' American foreign policy initiatives in a turbulent and unpredictable world.

"I now describe the AWACs sale, which I earlier supported on a narrower basis, as a policy imperative and I urge the Congress to approve it promptly and by a generous margin."

Arthur Fellwock, VFW National Commander, continued by citing the following factors as adding up to a policy imperative on AWACs:

"(a) the clear need to extend clear support to a moderate Arab regime--Saudi Arabia--in the wake of the loss of Anwar el-Sadat, our best Arab friend;

"(b) the ungrudging support for the AWACs sale by all three living ex-Presidents, all six living ex-Secretaries of Defense, all five living ex-Presidential National Security advisors, two former Secretaries of State, and all three living former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shows the wide, bi-partisan support for this national security initiative; and, finally

"(c) a short two days before his death, President Sadat warned of a Libyan plan to invade the Sudan as part of a larger Soviet scheme to control the oil-rich Middle East. President Sadat termed the 36,500 Communist Bloc troops in Libya and Ethiopia

PAGE 2

a Soviet 'Rapid Deployment Force' in place for use in the Persian Gulf, North Africa or the Horn of Africa.

"Surely," Mr. Fellwock concluded, "this is no time for America to wobble or falter as we seek to build an area-wide strategic consensus to halt further Soviet encroachment.

"The AWACs sale was important before President Sadat's passing; it is an inescapable strategic necessity today."

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File/
June 11
W. H. recep
for Recan suggestions

TO: JACK BURGESS
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL
RE: White House reception June 11, 1981

The V.F.W. has requested that we issue an additional invitation for Cooper Holt, Executive Director, to attend the reception on Thursday evening.

Holt and National Commander Fellwock, who has been invited, are travelling together on V.F.W. business at this time.

I strongly recommend that we do make an exception in this case and invite Holt.

The V.F.W. was the first Veterans group to break ranks and support the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution.

Cooper Holt's date of birth is August 3, 1924

and his social security number is 415-14-0541.

Thankyou.

OK
[Signature]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

JUNE 2, 1981

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR PRESIDENTIAL
APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: 5 minute meeting for presentation

PURPOSE: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is
the only veterans organization with a political
action committee which supported the President's
candidacy for President of the U.S. in 1980.
This was totally unprecedented.

BACKGROUND: The VFW has 1.9 million members. They were
the first veterans group to come over to
support the Reagan Bi Partisan Budget in the
House.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: President Reagan has spoken often before 1980
to VFW meetings. He made a drop-by at the VIP
reception prior to the VFW national banquet in
March, 1981. But he did not appear at the
banquet.

DATE: July 17 June 3 or 4 DURATION: 5 minutes
(VFW Commander Fellwock will only be in town
June 3 and 4)

LOCATION: OVAL OFFICE

PARTICIPANTS: Arthur Fellwock, National Commander of the
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director, Washington
Office

OUTLINE OF EVENT: Presentation of Lladro porcelain sculpture of
elephants and handshake

REMARKS REQUIRED: Thank you for sculpture and continued support

MEDIA COVERAGE: Photo of presentation

RECOMMENDED BY: Dr. Donald Custis, Acting V. A. Administrator

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton C. Blackwell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE

July 2, 1981

Mr. James Baker, III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Baker:

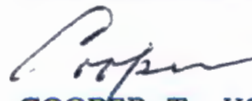
~~My office has been working with Mrs. Dole's office trying to arrange an appointment for our National Commander in Chief, Arthur Fellwock, to meet with President Reagan at his convenience. For reasons I cannot understand, that request has not been forthcoming.~~

I am sure you realize, Mr. Baker, our organization's Political Action Committee endorsed President Reagan last July when things were not as certain as they are today. Incidentally, ~~we were the only veterans organization to do so.~~ In addition, our organization took the lead so far as veterans organizations go in endorsing the Gramm-Latta Budget Amendment in the House of Representatives.

Finally, at a time when a few Vietnam Veterans are receiving much news media coverage demanding to see the President, it would appear to me it would be good politics for the President to see a national veterans organization leader whose membership presently boasts over one half million Vietnam veterans.

Your cooperation in obtaining this request would certainly be appreciated. I may be reached by phone at 543-2239.

Sincerely yours,



COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp



F: VETERANS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7 July 1981

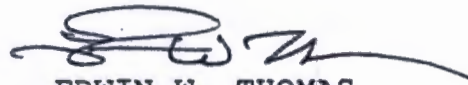
Dear Mr. Holt:

Thank you for your letter of 2 July 1981 to Mr. Meese, informing us that you are working with Mrs. Dole's office to try to arrange an appointment for your National Commander-in-Chief, Arthur Fellwock, to meet with President Reagan.

We have checked with the President's scheduling office and was informed that your request for an appointment with the President has been received and it is presently under consideration. Also, you will be hearing from their office shortly, or through Mrs. Dole's office in the very near future.

It goes without saying that your support of President Reagan has been outstanding and greatly appreciated. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



EDWIN W. THOMAS
Assistant Counsellor
to the President

Mr. Cooper T. Holt
Executive Director
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
V.F.W. Memorial Building
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

JUL 08 REC'D

7 JUL 1981

ET

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE

July 2, 1981

Mr. Edwin Meese, III
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Meese:

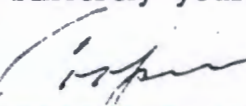
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I am sure you realize, Mr. Meese, our organization's Political Action Committee endorsed President Reagan last July when things were not as certain as they are today. Incidentally, we were the only veterans organization to do so. In addition, our organization took the lead so far as veterans organizations go in endorsing the Gramm-Latta Budget Amendment in the House of Representatives.

Finally, at a time when a few Vietnam Veterans are receiving much news media coverage demanding to see the President, it would appear to me it would be good politics for the President to see a national veterans organization leader whose membership presently boasts over one half million Vietnam veterans.

Your cooperation in obtaining this request would certainly be appreciated. I may be reached by phone at 543-2239.

Sincerely yours,


COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp





Veterans
Administration

JUN 2 1981



Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

We have been advised that Mr. Arthur Fellwock, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has requested an appointment with the President in order to present him with a porcelain elephant sculpture.

As you know, Mr. Fellwock was a strong personal supporter of the President during the campaign and presently represents the Veterans of Foreign Wars which for the first time in its long history took a position in support of a Presidential candidate.

We think this offers a splendid opportunity for the President to recognize the support of Mr. Fellwock and, through him, the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars during the campaign. This support has carried forward and was notable in the recent successful effort to obtain Congressional approval of the Gramm-Latta compromise.

We strongly urge that Mr. Fellwock's request be honored if the President's schedule will permit.

Sincerely,

DONALD L. CUSTIS, M.D.
Acting Administrator

William Baker
11504 Dundee Drive
Mitchellville, Maryland 20716

(Scott)

*these three
5/7/82*

Mrs. Marion Watson
President
Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW
3302 Allison Way
Louisville, Kentucky 40220

(Marion)

Arthur J. Fellwock, Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S.
2825 South Court Drive
Evansville, Indiana 47711

(Art)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1982

TO: PHOTO OFFICE

FROM: MAISELLE SHORTLEY/room 191 OEOB

I would appreciate obtaining three
copies of picture # 31MA82 C 7157-16,
as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help once again.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 29, 1982

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant
to the President
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mort:

I certainly would appreciate your kindness in having these pictures autographed and mailed to the individuals I have identified with a 3x5 card.

Also, Mort, if possible, I would like to obtain three more of the same pictures and have them autographed for the following individuals:

Mrs. Norma Fellwock (lady in red dress)
2825 South Court Drive
Evansville, Indiana 47711
(Norma)

James R. Currieo (gentleman behind VOD winner)
Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, VFW
P. O. Box H
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613
(Bob)

Clifford G. Olson, Jr. (gentleman on far left of picture)
Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, VFW
1019 Morton Street
Mattapan, Massachusetts 02126
(Cliff)

*Sent
5/12.*

Your cooperation regarding this request will certainly be appreciated.

Sincerely,

COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH/ket

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO *DL*
FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*
SUBJECT: American Legion and V.F.W. Problems

I received a call today from Mylio Kraja asking about appointments to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

You will recall that I forwarded through you the names of Mylio Kraja of the American Legion and Cooper Holt of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, both of whom had this commission as their first choice when I contacted them about boards and commissions per your request.

We received today, after my call from Mylio Kraja, the attached list of the eleven appointees who will fill this board. Neither Kraja or Holt is on the list.

This morning Kraja told me that it had been traditional for the Legion and other veterans groups to be represented on this commission. The previous American Legion representative was informed recently of his termination.

The failure of this office to obtain board or commission appointments for any of the people we recommend through channels, is made more conspicuous because we asked supporters in our constituency groups for their preferences.

This situation is exacerbated by the fact that we have just bumped off the commission the past National Commander of the American Legion, Alfred P. Chamie. Chamie was first appointed in November of 1971. I am told that he was chief counsel to the movie industry. He was also next door neighbor to the Reagans in California.

I am taking it upon myself to have Mike Farrell recommend an appropriate commission now for Chamie. Farrell had offered a slot on an advisory commission to the VA Administrator but Chamie was not interested.

ERD - attached is a history of some problems of a similar nature!

File VFW

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

December 29, 1981

The President today announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be Members of the American Battle Monuments Commission:

FRANCIS J. BAGNELL, is Resident Manager of Fahnstock & Company (investment bankers) in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. He was Senior Vice President, New York Stock Exchange, in 1967-70.

ESTHER "KITTY" BRADLEY, is an author and television writer. She is the widow of former General of the Army Omar N. Bradley. She resides in Los Angeles, California.

GENERAL MARK WAYNE CLARK, U.S. Army (Retired). He is President Emeritus of The Citadel Military College and was Commanding General of U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East in 1949-52. He resides in Charleston, South Carolina.

AUDREY O. COOKMAN, was formerly Director of Public Affairs, Universal Oil Products Company, Des Plaines, Illinois. He is currently retired and resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

REXFORD C. EARLY, is Secretary-Treasurer, Mid-States Engineering Company, Indianapolis, Indiana. He resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

WILLIAM E. HICKEY, is an attorney in Quincy, Massachusetts, specializing in Real Estate Law and Estate Planning and Probate Law. He resides in Quincy, Massachusetts.

ARTHISTEAD JONES MAUPIN, is Senior Partner, Maupin, Taylor & Ellis (attorneys) in Raleigh, North Carolina. He resides in Raleigh, North Carolina.

JOHN C. McDONALD, is Senior Partner, McDonald, Keller & Brown (attorneys) in Dallas Center, Iowa. He resides in Dallas Center, Iowa.

FREDA J. POUNDSTONE, is a homemaker in Englewood, Colorado. She is an active Republican and was involved in the Reagan for President Campaign in 1980.

MAJOR GENERAL EDWIN BLISS WHEELER, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired). He was Deputy Secretary of Health and Welfare, State of California, in 1972-74. He resides in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

LAURENCE A. WRIGHT, is Senior Partner, Gravel, Shea & Wright, Ltd. in Burlington, Vermont. He resides in South Burlington, Vermont.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION APPLIED FOR</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>BACKGROUND</u>
Holt, Cooper Wash., D. C.	American Battle Monuments; Air and Space Museum; Intelligence Oversight Board Advisory Board		Executive Director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the largest of all the veterans' organizations and supporter of the President during the campaign. He issued a formal endorsement of the budget resolution and worked actively on its passage and has been supportive of the tax package.
Kraja, Mylio Wash., D. C.	American Battle Monuments; <i>Should be hard</i> Armed Forces Museum Advisory Bd.; Air & Space Museum Advisory Bd.		Executive Director of the Washington office of the American Legion, one of the largest of the veterans organizations. He issued a formal endorsement of the budget resolution and worked actively on its passage and has been supportive of the tax package. He has been very cooperative & testified in favor of the VA Administrator, R. Nimmo.
Graham, Daniel O. (Lt. Gen'l) Wash., D. C.	Strategy Council		Heads a PAC and works with American Security Council, the largest pro-defense lobby. Former head of Defense Intelligence Agency.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1981

Presidential Personnel

1. National Transportation Safety Board

- J. J. O'Donnell of ALPA requests, in October 20 letter, assurance that NTSB will have some membership based on aviation experience and technical expertise.
- Elizabeth Dole, in October 30 memo to Pen James endorses O'Donnell request and asks sensitivity to his concerns, as a loyal supporter of the President.
- Press release of December 1 announces nomination of Eugene Lipp, individual with no apparent aviation experience/technical expertise. No advance notification made regarding this nomination.

2. Ken Moffett

- Announcement made that Moffett, a Carter Democrat, will head Federal Mediation and Reconciliation Service.
- Confusion ensues as to whether this is temporary or permanent appointment.
- No advance notice of appointment.
- Labor supporters upset at announcement, particularly without prior notification.

3. Arthur Flemming

- Merits of Flemming loyalties/qualifications completely lost in method used in replacing him.
- Staff telephone call advising him he was being dismissed.
- Irrespective of reasons, Flemming is a Republican who had served seven Presidents.

4. Nita Gibson

- President of W.I.F.E. (Women Involved in Farm Economics).
- Has been in "pipeline" for months regarding possible appointment (either full time or board/commission).
- When OPL called to inquire on status prior to EHD's trip to W.I.F.E. Convention, OPP had no record of Gibson; were informed she was "lost in the computer."

5. Robert Godoy

- Have been telling him he would be appointed to something, based on information received from OPP and his GOP background.
- Godoy was, in fact, slated for board of "Radio Marti" but removed from consideration to satisfy Cuban American community.
- Notation on OPP board/commission list indicated Godoy will not be considered for any appointment.

Also

- Complete lack of follow-through. Never know what happens to recommendations after we make them.
- Also, never notified in advance of appointments so we can comment/notify key constituents.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

TO: NATIONAL OFFICERS, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS, DEPARTMENT ADJUTANTS, DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS, NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

FROM: PHELPS JONES, DIRECTOR
NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DATE: 8 FEBRUARY 1983

SUBJECT: THE DEFENSE BUDGET: THE "CRUNCH" IS NOW

"It has never ceased to amaze me that the same Senators who stand on the floor and argue against increases for defense are just as likely to call me aside and ask for my personal support for projects or programs of interest in their states.

"Never in my 22 years in the Senate have I received a recommendation from any member for a reduction in defense spending from a program or facility located in his own state.

"But perhaps that's because I've never asked. Today I'm asking."

-- Senator John G. Tower (Texas), Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee and
1983 VFW Congressional Award Honoree

1a. The unblinkable fact of the matter is that when Defense Secretary Weinberger presented the President's Fiscal Year 1984 defense budget to the Senate Armed Services Committee on January 31st, he walked into a veritable firestorm of dissent from both sides of the aisle. Even such a defense stalwart as Senator John Warner (Va.) called for a 5 - 7% cut in the size of the active duty force -- a 100,000 to 140,000 decrease, not the 37,000 increase called for by the President. Michigan Senator Carl Levin put it bluntly, "the issue is not whether we're going to cut this defense budget but where and by how much."

b. Here is what Secretary "Cap" Weinberger requested for the year ahead:

(1) \$238.6 billion in spending for FY 1984, up \$29.7 billion over FY 1983 -- an increase of 14.2%;

(2) the military share of the total federal budget would rise to 28% from 25.9%;

(3) defense spending, as a percentage of the Gross National Product (GNP), rises from 5.4% (FY 1982) through 6.5% this year (FY 1983) to 6.8% in the new budget request; in sum, an increase of about one-third in defense spending since President Reagan took office two years ago.

c. The reasons for the dissent on the size of the defense budget are, of course, the poor state of the economy and the resultant cuts in non-defense spending.

(1) DEFICITS: the deficit will hit a record \$208 billion for the current fiscal year, almost twice the \$111 billion of last year. In fiscal 1984, the deficit is projected at \$189 billion and falls to \$118 billion in fiscal 1988, assuming passage of the President's proposed spending cuts and tax increases;

(2) REDUCTIONS: a package of 1984 spending cuts, including \$19 billion from a spending and pay freeze, \$8 billion less than the President originally proposed for the military, and another \$19 billion in so-called structural reforms, including the proposed payroll tax increases and cost-of-living delays for Social Security, cuts in Medicare and Medicaid benefits and a new tax on health insurance provided to employees. From 1984 through 1988, the Administration estimates this package will save a total of \$558 billion.

With the freeze on non-military domestic spending, some programs, including the subsidy for the Post Office, mass transit and Amtrak grants, and energy research and development, will be cut to below their 1983 spending levels.

2. What will the new defense budget buy? A lot of "high tech" hardware, for certain, and a slight increase in people:

Active duty military forces are expected to increase to 2,165,000 from the 2,127,000 authorized in the current year. The largest part of the 1.8% increase would go to the Air Force, which would swell to 613,000 people from 593,000.

Civilian Pentagon employment is expected to rise by about 1.6% to 1,072,000 from 1,056,000 this year.

Here is a listing of proposed spending in fiscal 1984 for the President's major weapons programs. The figures include funds for procurement and research and development, though most exclude the cost of related military construction:

MX MISSILE: the budget requests almost \$7 billion for this embattled program, despite continued uncertainty about how the missile will be based. Included in the request is \$2.9 billion for 27 missiles. Congress last year slashed procurement funds for the missile leaving only enough to build the first five "test" missiles while a bipartisan panel studies basing alternatives;

B-1 BOMBER: the Air Force seeks more than \$6.9 billion for the new strategic bomber program, up from about \$4.8 billion last year. Included in the funding would be almost \$6.2 billion for building 10 of the planes, as well as about \$750 million in development funds. Plans call for buying seven in the current fiscal year;

TRIDENT MISSILE SUBMARINE: the Navy proposes spending \$2.5 billion on the program and building one of these huge, nuclear-powered submarines. It had sought money for two this year, but Congress cut funds for one. The Navy also seeks \$596.7 million for 43 of the Trident I missiles, which submarines fire.

In addition, the Navy is asking for \$1.5 billion for further development of the new Trident II missile. The Navy plans to put the new, more accurate missile on the new submarine for which it is seeking fiscal 1984 funds, as well as on two Trident submarines previously authorized by Congress.

CRUISE MISSILE: the budget allocates about \$1.2 billion to develop and buy air, sea and ground-launched versions of this low-flying missile. That total is down from about \$1.5 billion being spent on the programs this year, largely because the current air-launched version is being phased out. Plans for the sea-launched program also are being scaled back;

PERSHING II MISSILE: funds for the Pershing program will fall slightly in the new budget as the Pentagon completes development of this medium-range nuclear weapon designed for use in Europe. The Army seeks \$456.4 million for the Pershing program, including \$434.6 million to buy 95 of the missiles and \$22.8 million for development costs. This year, the Army asked for a total of \$589.6 million for 91 of the missiles;

B-52 BOMBER MODERNIZATION: to improve the engines and electronics systems of B-52s and equip them to carry cruise missiles, the Air Force plans to spend \$719.5 million, up from \$621.8 million this year;

F-16 FIGHTER: the Air Force proposes acquiring 120 of these jets, the same as planned for this year. The total budget of the program would be \$2.2 billion, slightly less than the \$2.3 billion planned for this year;

F-15 FIGHTER: the new budget shows the Air Force is slowing down its earlier plans for purchases of these planes. The Air Force is asking for more than \$2.2 billion to buy 48 of the aircraft; it had once planned to seek 60 of the planes in the new budget. The Air Force is spending about \$1.6 billion for 39 planes this year. Current programs call for buying 408 F-15s by fiscal 1988, and the Pentagon said it plans to continue buying the jet into the early 1990s;

C-5 CARGO PLANE: the new budget includes funds for four of these huge transports, as well as additional money to strengthen the wings of existing C-5s. The Air Force seeks \$1.4 billion for the new planes, up from \$803 million being spent this year to revive the program and buy one plane. The Air Force has signed a contract to buy 50 new C-5s eventually. The new budget also includes a request for \$26.8 million to continue research into a new airlift plane called the C-17;

The Air Force also is seeking \$349.3 million to pay for modifications to strengthen the wings of 24 C-5s built in years past, up from \$297.6 million being spent for that purpose this year;

KC-10 CARGO PLANE: the Air Force wants \$813 million to buy eight of these military versions of the DC-10 jumbo jet in fiscal 1984. The Air Force also is buying eight this fiscal year;

AWACS RADAR PLANE: the budget does not call for the Pentagon to acquire any of these airborne warning and control system planes in fiscal 1984, although the Air Force had earlier planned to buy one. But the Pentagon still plans to buy 12 of these surveillance aircraft, at a rate of three a year, beginning in fiscal 1985. Thus, the new budget contains \$145.3 million in funds for the AWACS program. In the current fiscal year, the Air Force is buying two AWACS planes for \$216.5 million;

F-18 FIGHTER-BOMBER: the Navy wants almost \$2.8 billion to buy 84 of these fighter and attack jets. That request is up from \$2.6 billion being spent for 84 planes in fiscal 1983. The Navy plans to buy 562 of the planes from fiscal 1984 to fiscal 1988;

F-14 FIGHTER: for 24 of these fighters, the Navy seeks about \$1.2 billion. It is budgeted to buy the same number for roughly the same amount of money this year.

AV-8B BOMBERS: the Marine Corps wants to spend about \$1.2 billion to buy 32 of these British-designed advanced Harrier bombers. This year, about \$1 billion is being spent for 21 of the planes, which can land and take off vertically;

NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT CARRIERS: the Navy is seeking \$98.2 million for its nuclear carrier program. It is spending \$6.6 billion in the current fiscal year to build two huge Nimitz-class carriers;

NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINES: the budget allocates \$2.2 billion for three of these deep-diving vessels. This year, the Navy is spending \$1.7 billion and getting two of the submarines;

AEGIS CRUISER: the Navy wants three of these air-defense ships for \$3.7 billion. It is spending about \$3 billion for the same number this year;

BATTLESHIPS: the budget allocates \$72 million to continue the Navy's plans to reactivate four big battleships. One, the New Jersey, was recommissioned last month, and work on a second, the Iowa, has begun;

M-1 BATTLE TANK: the Army has cut back its plans for M-1 production. It seeks about \$1.8 billion to build 720 of the tanks. It had once planned to buy more than 1,000 M-1s in fiscal 1984. The Army is spending \$2.1 billion to buy 855 of the tanks this fiscal year;

INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES: the Army wants to buy 600 of these armored personnel carriers, the same number it is buying in the current fiscal year. The budget allocates \$877.7 million, down from \$920.9 million this year;

AH-64 ATTACK HELICOPTER: the Army has allocated nearly \$1.5 billion to buy 112 of these aircraft. The request is up sharply from this year's plan to spend \$928.8 million for 48 AH-64s.

3a. As forecast, the new budget does not include even a 4% troop pay raise -- let alone the 7.6% increase originally budgeted.

b. The Department of Defense terms this situation "a one year sacrifice" that will be made up for in next year's budget. Given the bleak economic situation throughout the country, little impact on recruitment is foreseen. Retention of skilled people could be another matter.

c. With support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Senator Tower is proposing a 4% increase to take effect on April 1, 1984 -- a six month delay.

Fearless forecast: there will be a pay increase probably along the lines put forward by Senator Tower.

4a. Two additional factors.

(1) the relentless Soviet drive for military superiority -- strategic and tactical -- continues undiminished.

Their sullen people are being required to pay the social and economic costs of their massive arms buildup -- and this they continue to do without any organized dissent, whatever they may think or prefer.

(2) It is well when the U. S. FY 1984 Defense budget is described as being "bloated," "record breaking," "massive," etc., to put these charges into some perspective over time. The figures that follow do just this:

ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL BUDGET DOLLARS

		<u>THE DECADE OF</u>				
		<u>1940's</u>	<u>1950's</u>	<u>1960's</u>	<u>1970's</u>	<u>1980's</u>
(1)	<u>DEFENSE</u>					
	PERCENT OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT	17.2	10.1	8.6	6.0	6.9
	PERCENT OF FEDERAL BUDGET	55.4	54.5	44.3	29.1	29.0
(2)	<u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u>					
	PERCENT OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT	3.4	4.1	6.0	10.4	11.7
	PERCENT OF FEDERAL BUDGET	19.2	22.6	30.2	48.2	49.5
(3)	<u>ALL OTHER FUNCTIONS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</u>					
	PERCENT OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT	4.4	4.1	4.8	4.4	5.1
	PERCENT OF FEDERAL BUDGET	25.4	22.9	25.5	22.7	21.5

The inescapable conclusion that jumps out is that it is "Human Resources" not defense, that can now be more fairly described as "bloated," "massive," "record breaking," etc.

The bottom line: a scant two years ago there was a clear electoral mandate to re-arm America. Today that mandate is under sustained assault.

Where does the VFW stand?

First, last, and always, a free, proud, and secure America.

Everything else is in second place; and we mean everything.

Cordially in comradeship,

Phelps
Phelps Jones, Director
National Security and Foreign Affairs

PJ/mmt

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

STATEMENT OF

DONALD H. SCHWAB, DIRECTOR
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR
1984 VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 16, 1983

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the privilege of appearing before this distinguished Committee to present the views of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

My name is Donald H. Schwab, and it is my privilege to serve the more than 1.9 million men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as their National Legislative Director.

The budget proposed by the President of the United States for the Veterans Administration is \$26.08 billion in budget authority and \$25.69 billion in outlays. Respectively these figures represent an increase of \$1.1 billion or 2.89 percent of the federal budget of \$900.1 billion in budget authority and an increase of \$1.3 billion or 3.02 percent of the federal budget of \$848.5 billion in outlays.

Permit me to state at the outset, Mr. Chairman, that in our opinion this proposed budget reconfirms the President's commitment to our nation's veterans as did his original budget submitted to Congress last year, but rejected by the Budget Committees of both the Senate and House of Representatives. This is not to say, however, that certain areas do not cause us concern.

The medical care portion of the budget is \$8.07 billion in budget authority, an increase of \$383 million, and \$7.98 billion in outlays, an increase of \$417 million over the current fiscal year. This additional funding provides for an increase in average employment of 2,306 personnel and raises the staff to patient ratio to 2.27 to 1 overall and in surgical bed sections to 2.97 to 1.

Although medical and prosthetic research at \$156 million in budget authority and \$153 million in outlays represents an increase of \$1.4 million in budget authority and \$1.3 million in outlays, it is regretted that budgetary constraints require a reduction in average employment of 170 personnel in this most important function.

Beneficiary travel for eligible veterans requiring treatment at VA facilities would be increased \$6 million for a total budget in this area of \$91.2 million which should be adequate.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed budget for major and minor construction at \$868.2 million in budget authority and \$673.6 million in outlays represents an increase of \$319.1 million and \$195.5 million respectively which is not only a substantial increase over the current year but the highest construction budget in the history of the Veterans Administration. Needless to say, we are delighted that the proposed budget includes funding for an 845 bed replacement hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, substantial modernization of the Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi facilities and nursing care homes of 60 beds at Loma Linda, California, 240 beds

at Lyons, New Jersey, 120 beds at Miami, Florida, 120 beds at Northport, New York, 60 beds at Providence, Rhode Island and 120 beds each at San Francisco and West Los Angeles, California. Not only will this construction remedy an untoward situation in Minneapolis and alleviate the rapidly increasing need for nursing care beds, but provide considerable employment in the areas listed.

Mr. Chairman, without question, the most sensitive portion of the proposed budget is the six month delay in cost-of-living increases in the compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and pension programs. It is proposed that the 5.1 percent pension increase be delayed until December 1, 1983, and that the 5.1 percent increase in compensation and DIC be deferred until April 1, 1984. In this one instance the President has asked veterans and their survivors, as all other beneficiaries of federally funded programs, to make this sacrifice and contribution to curbing the escalating annual deficit now projected at \$188.8 billion for the fiscal year 1984. These delayed cost-of-living increases will, without question, require a belt tightening on the part of some, but, in our opinion, our patriotic veterans who fought for this nation during periods of war and hostility will stand just as ready to do their share in fighting the anticipated huge deficits in this and the out years to maintain the integrity of their programs. However, Mr. Chairman, should any federal beneficiaries be exempted from the deferral in cost-of-living increases, then we would object in the strongest possible terms to our disabled veterans and their survivors being subjected to a delayed COLA.

Mr. Chairman, we are deeply concerned with the projected decrease in the average daily census in Veterans Administration hospitals of 100,000 patients. Although we realize that the average length of stay of patients in VA hospitals has been reduced over the years, the veteran population is rapidly aging and re-

quiring more care. We question also the wisdom at this time of reducing domiciliary care by \$4.1 million and 110 FTEE's, the outpatient fee program by \$9.6 million and contract hospital care by \$2.8 million. Again, we cite the increased need for all types of care by aging veterans and the growing number of women veterans who require specialized care not readily available in all VA facilities.

Another area of concern, Mr. Chairman, is the continual decline in average employment within the Department of Veterans Benefits which is to be reduced by 419 personnel from the current year down to 14,404. The reduction of personnel in DVB can only result in far less timely service to claimants at every stage from the initial application to resolution of the appeal.

One of the proposed cost-savings provisions is to eliminate correspondence training for some 22,000 Vietnam veterans to save \$4.9 million. We oppose this whittling away of a benefit for Vietnam veterans, particularly those who are severely disabled and housebound and those still on active duty in the Armed Forces who are stationed at sea or in remote areas and, therefore, unable to advance their education in any other way.

Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate no provision is made in the proposed budget to grant any cost-of-living increase to veterans availing themselves of educational benefits under the GI Bill. The last such increase was granted by Public Law 96-466 and was a two-step increase with five percent effective October 1, 1980, and five percent effective January 1, 1981. It is my understanding the Veterans Administration anticipates requesting a cost-of-living increase for GI Bill beneficiaries in the fiscal year 1985 budget but, of course, we would then be talking about the 1984-85 school year. It is also regrettable that the budget proposes the discontinuance of advanced payment of educational assistance allowances for

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a savings of \$15.6 million which will undoubtedly cause many students to undergo severe hardship.

Having stated the foregoing, Mr. Chairman, it is the VFW's position that, all things considered, the proposed budget is an extremely good one in view of the deep cuts proposed in other budgets. We realize federal spending must be brought under control or the cost of all federally funded programs will become prohibitively costly and eventually require severe reduction or even the termination of very worthy programs. The enormous growth of federal spending is most graphically illustrated when one considers the projected budget deficit for 1984 of \$188.8 billion exceeds the entire federal budget for 1969 which was \$184.5 billion in outlays.

This concludes my testimony, Mr. Chairman, and I will be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Thank you.