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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: MICHAEL EVANS
THROUGH: Louise Bell
FROM: Mark Klugmann
SUBJECT: Additional prints of photographs

Please send us additional prints of the following photographs in the designated quantities. These prints are needed for office use.

Nine (9) additional: 16 SE 83, 17038-26
Six (6) additional: 16 SE 83, 17040-27A
Fourteen (14) add.: 16 SE 83, 17038-21
Fourteen (14) add.: 16 SE 83, 17038-22
One (1) additional: 12 JY 83, 15985-13

Please send the prints to my attention, room 191, Office of Public Liaison (x 2657).

Thank you for all your help.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*

SUBJECT: Travel to San Antonio, Texas

Attached is a completed Travel Authorization for my trip to San Antonio. I have also attached a copy of your letter to Mr. Daniel Kuykendall which speaks to this matter.

MCB:jet

chk. sched.
ask Ron on Mon.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 1, 1983

Dear Dan:

I have asked Morton Blackwell, Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison to represent me at the September meeting at Trinity College in San Antonio.

Morton, who I am sure you know, is the Project Officer for our Central America Outreach Group. He can be reached at 202-456-2657.

I sincerely appreciate your interest in and effort on behalf of this cause.

Sincerely,

Faith

Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

#

\$60.00

{ Mr. Daniel Kuykendall
P.O. Box 408401
Washington, DC 20016

488-4295
Sept. 29th
10 am

(512) 736-7011 - Trinity College lunch

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OFFICIAL TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

No. 2706

(TRAVELER TO COMPLETE SECTIONS 1-8.)

Date of Request September 27, 1983

1. TRAVELER

Name: Morton C. Blackwell ☒ White House Staff
Extension: 2657 Room: 191 ☐ Other _____

2. PURPOSE(S) and DATE(S): To represent Faith Ryan Whittlesey at a meeting of the Caribbean Foundation of the Trinity College in San Antonio, Texas. September 29th, 1983.

3. ITINERARY See the attached itinerary.
(List all cities where stopover occurs.)

4. DEPARTURE:

RETURN:

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 1983 Date: Thursday, September 29, 1983
Time: 6:50 p.m. Time: 9:29 p.m.
Mode: Air - coach Round trip fare \$278.00 Mode: Air - Coach

5. NATURE: ☒ 100% Official ☐ 100% Political

6. SIGNATURES:

Traveler: Morton C. Blackwell
(I have read and agree to the terms set forth on the reverse side)

Department Head

Approving Officer
(Special Assistant to the President for Administration)

7. ESTIMATED COSTS:

SPECIAL EXPENSES:

No. of Days Per Diem One ☐ Registration Fee of \$ none
Hotel Name St. Anthony Hotel ☐ Commercial Car Rental
Hotel Daily Rate \$ 60.00 (government rate) ☐ Excess Baggage
Other _____ ☐ Other _____

8. TRAVEL ADVANCE REQUESTED: ☐ YES ☒ NO Amount: \$ _____

Signature of Recipient: _____ Date: _____

REPAID: Amount _____ Date _____ Schedule _____ Balance this trip _____

9. FOR TRANSPORTATION OFFICE USE ONLY:

GTR No. _____ Amount \$ _____

ITINERARY OF MORTON C. BLACKWELL

WEDNESDAY, September 28, 1983:

DEP:	Washington (National)	Delta Flt #211	6:50 p.m.
ARR:	Atlanta, Georgia		8:24 p.m.
DEP:	Atlanta, Georgia	Delta Flt #211	9:25 p.m.
ARR:	San Antonio, Texas		

THURSDAY, September 29, 1983:

DEP:	San Antonio, Texas	American Airlines #288	3:25 p.m.
ARR:	Dallas/Fort Worth		4:28 p.m.
DEP:	Dallas/Fort Worthy	American Airlines #268	5:15 p.m.
ARR:	Washington (National)		9:29 p.m.

HOTEL IN SAN ANTONIO:

St. Anthony Hotel, telephone: (512) 227-4392

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 warrier 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.

*Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6825 16th Street, N.W.
Ward 73
Wash, D.C. 20307*

*Envelope must be addressed:
Colonel Frank Phelps Jones, USAF (Ret.)
however, he goes by the name Phelps.*

Dear Phelps:

What is this I hear about you checking into the hospital? I'm sure that you are only there to check out whether or not they are in an appropriate state of readiness. In that regard, are the nurses still able to reach Mach II in the length of a corridor?

Phelps I need not tell you how busy people tend to get in their everyday lives and they don't get around to doing some of the most important things -- like writing to tell someone thanks for all their efforts. I wanted to take a moment of your time while I have you slowed up enough to give it to me to tell you how very much your efforts on our behalf have meant to me, personally, and to the Reagan Administration.

The article on Central America in the recent issue of the VFW Magazine was simply outstanding. As I am sure you know, it is precisely the type of information that we need to get out and the support we are hoping to generate by our outreach efforts. I would be very interested to hear from you regarding the type of feedback you get from your membership on it.

Phelps, I know you are not up to your usual speed right now, but when you feel like doing it, I would be grateful to receive some personal input from you as to what you think we should be doing in regard to the Central American question and our outreach effort on it. From our vantage point, it is often difficult to assess how we are perceived on the outside. I'm looking for your input regarding what

you think we are doing that is on track and what we are doing that you believe could be more effective if it were done in a different way.

I hope you will soon be out of the hospital -- although I know you will miss the gourmet food they usually have there. Get to feeling better SOON!

Best personal regards, and again, many thanks for all your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MLB*
SUBJECT: Replacement for Richard Vigilante

I've given some thought to the matter of replacing Richard Vigilante and have concluded that some different structural arrangement is needed.

Good organizational structure requires that a staffer report through a single person. Richard came expecting to work through me, primarily to write on Central America. For the Outreach Working Group, he was excellent, particularly at the difficult process of quickly and diplomatically dealing with changes requested by the complex clearance system. The Bible (Matthew 6:24) wisely points out "No man can serve two masters." The rest of that sentence was also amply borne out.

I suggest that any of the following arrangements should be adopted:

1. Assign Richard's replacement to report to me and hold me accountable for such speech writing as he/she is required to do.
2. Assign the replacement to report to Mary Ann and hold her accountable for the White House Digest papers. This would require her to take an active role on Central America.
3. Totally split the functions of the Central American writer and the speech writer, getting different people for each responsibility.

In any case, we should move quickly because the Central American writing must be continued.

MCB:jet

File Cy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credit, School Prayer and
Pornography Memorandum

Attached per your request is a revised copy of my original memorandum of the 26th. I have added the additional information to the portion on School Prayer as you requested.

MCB:jet

Attachment a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits, School Prayer and
Pornography

As you know, I am working on a longer paper relating to issues politically important to the 1984 elections. Here is a brief summary on the status of three of these issues:

TUITION TAX CREDITS:

This issue is of overwhelming importance to many traditionally Democratic parents who send their children to Catholic, Protestant and Jewish schools. Groups like the Knights of Columbus, Agudath Israel, and many fundamentalist Christian churches hinge their support of the President on this issue.

The President's recent Cabinet Room meeting with the leaders of the Tuition Tax Credit coalition was a smashing success. Even people like Paul Weyrich who tend to doubt our seriousness on this issue, left the meeting convinced the President had ordered a full court press on this issue now.

The story attached in the USA TODAY the following Monday has been devastating. The article claims the President misled the coalition, and the headline specifically says the issue is "low priority." The "Alice" column in the following day's Washington Times claimed that Ken Duberstein had been contemptuous of Weyrich as the Cabinet Room meeting broke up. Duberstein flatly denies this, although Weyrich staffer Greg Butler affirms the story.

To maintain our credibility with this broad-based coalition, there must be delivery on the commitment Senators Baker and Dole gave the President. That is, the tuition tax credit bill must come up for Senate floor action this fall. The President told the group, "I will settle for nothing less than a two-House strategy which can get this

long overdue bill on my desk for signature." This requires that the bill be added to a House-passed revenue measure, of which there are only a few in prospect.

If the past is any guide, the Senators in question will come up with reasons why each bill, in turn, should not be "encumbered" with the tuition tax credit issue. If we let this happen, there will be major explosions with unfortunate political fall out next year.

As a stop-gap measure, I suggest the President send the coalition members who met with him the attached letter to reaffirm his statements in the Cabinet Room.

SCHOOL PRAYER:

We have transmitted to the School Prayer Coalition the assurances repeatedly given to the Legislative Affairs Office by Senator Baker that the President's Voluntary Prayer Amendment will be brought up in October for Senate floor consideration. Based on these assurances, many groups are devoting major resources to this effort. Pat Robertson has spent two weeks visiting with religious leaders to generate grassroots support. Dr. Jimmy Draper, President of the 14 million member Southern Baptist Convention has officially written all 100 Senators and started large amounts of local activity directed at the Senators. Dr. Jerry Falwell has recently mailed out 800,000 letters to generate favorable mail. "Save Our Schools," a Viguerie client is mailing heavily on the topic.

The coalition supporting restoration of voluntary school prayer is united in opposition to the Hatch "silent prayer" amendment which was also voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The attached letter from Dr. Jimmy Draper is illustrative of their feelings. In fact, its strong criticism of the Hatch proposal is mild by comparison with other comments.

Dr. Ron Godwin of Moral Majority has spoken personally with Hatch and received a vague response to Falwell's request that the Senator withdraw his amendment. Hatch has declined to meet with Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network and the 700 Club. Robertson is outspoken in favor of the President's amendment and vigorously against Hatch's. In fact, we have not seen an indication of support for the "silent prayer" amendment from any religious organization in the United States. Those National Council of Churches groups which oppose the President's amendment also oppose Hatch's.

There have been no other prayer amendments voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. By a two to one vote, the Judiciary Committee did vote out a statute which would attempt to guarantee equal access for voluntary student prayer groups, on the same basis as non-religious groups, for the use of school facilities for meetings. The view of the coalition on this Denton bill is that it is only a supplement to the President's amendment. A statute might be struck down unless the Amendment were in place.

Based on the assurance from Senator Baker, all supportive groups are timing their grassroots efforts for a Senate vote in late October.

The danger here is that the Senate leadership will fail to do what they have promised, namely bring up the Amendment which was voted out by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The action required is for the White House to keep up maximum pressure on the Senators to bring up the proposal.

This situation is not unlike the tuition tax credit issue. Politically we win if we get votes on the Senate floor. It would be wonderful to win those votes, but a disaster if we get no record votes.

PORNOGRAPHY LAW:

The anti-pornography coalition was delighted with the initial results of their Cabinet Room meeting with the President. The subsequent lack of action leaves them bitterly upset.

We have formed a White House Task Force on enforcement of pornography laws. Steve Galebach of the Office of Policy Development is the White House coordinator. Due to other pressing demands on Galebach's time, there is little to show for the effort. The Justice Department has sent out one memorandum to U.S. Attorneys; this memo is described as totally inadequate by the coalition.

Postal Inspectors, U.S. Customs officials, and former FBI officials say nothing has been done to change the Justice Department's disinclination to raise the priority of anti-pornography law enforcement.

What is needed in this case is for the President to direct the Justice Department actually to increase prosecutions.

As the problem of pornography gets worse, the number of prosecutions goes down. A few well publicized busts and prosecutions will convince the coalition that the President is really serious about this. Without much more White House pressure, nothing will change on this topic at Justice.

MCB:jet

Attachment a/s

Tax credits for tuition 'low priority'

By Chris Collins
and Ann Devroy
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Although President Reagan is being portrayed as hard at work fulfilling his campaign promise to provide tax breaks for parents of private school children, neither Congress nor the White House expects those promises to be kept.

And while Reagan will continue pushing tax credits in highly visible ways, the issue is nowhere near the top of his legislative priorities.

That isn't the impression Reagan left with conservative and religious leaders in an Oval Office meeting last week. Conservative leader Paul Weyrich walked out of the session convinced, he said, that Reagan would work hard for the tax credits and that "there's a possibility" Congress would pass them this year.

"I'm convinced in my own mind that they are serious," he



By Mark Angeles, USA TODAY
WEYRICH: Still thinks tax credits 'a possibility.'

said.

That, indeed, is the White House's on-the-record position. But off the record, officials say they will not make any huge lobbying effort in Congress for tuition tax credits.

Even if the White House lob-

bied intensely, it is unlikely that the tax credits would pass this year, especially in the Democrat-controlled House.

From the view of Republicans in the White House, Reagan could still say he worked like heck to get the credits through Congress, but was stymied by House Democrats.

It will be tougher, however, to pin the blame on Democrats if the bill doesn't clear the Republican-controlled Senate. And it probably won't, White House officials concede.

"I don't think anything will happen," says Etta Fielek, an aide to Finance Committee member Bob Packwood, R-Ore., a co-sponsor of the tuition tax credit bill. "The senator's position all along has been that — if anything — support has been waning... We don't even talk about tuition tax credits anymore."

But the White House is still talking. According to a Senate aide, tax credit supporters were told Friday that the administration was "set" to take the bill to the Senate floor.

"If they tried to push it through, we'd fight it tooth and nail," vows Mike Fernandez, a spokesman for Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., a leading Senate opponent of tuition tax credits. "We can win it."

Republican aides agree. "It would die immediately" as a separate bill, Fielek said.

In theory, the issue could be attached to a popular "must-pass" bill. But there's a sticking point: For parliamentary reasons, it would have to be attached to a House-passed revenue bill. None are pending nor expected.

Draft letter from the President to Tuition Tax Credit Coalition members with whom he met in the Cabinet Room September 16, 1983.

Dear _____:

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me in the Cabinet Room September 16 on the topic of tuition tax credits.

As I said then, I spoke on September 14 with Senator Howard Baker and Senator Bob Dole on the urgent need for prompt U.S. Senate floor action on our bill. I urged them to help us get tuition tax credits as an amendment to a House-passed revenue bill this year.

Nothing less than a two-House strategy will get this bill on my desk for signature. We cannot settle for any one-House plan.

Senator Baker and Senator Dole gave me their pledge that tuition tax credit will come up for Senate action this fall. I suggested a bill which might serve as a vehicle. They had some other ideas and promised to come up with an effective legislative strategy. They will confer with me again soon on this.

Some people opposed to passage of this important measure have circulated stories to the media to the effect that somehow, despite my conversation with you, this matter is not viewed as urgent in my Administration. Let me again assure you that tuition tax credit is at the very top of my domestic legislation agenda.

We have worked together for years to get tuition tax credits written into law. I am in this fight to win. With your continued strong support, we will win.

Sincerely,

RR

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 26, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits, School Prayer and
Pornography

As you know, I am working on a longer paper relating to issues politically important to the 1984 elections. Here is a brief summary on the status of three of these issues:

TUITION TAX CREDITS:

This issue is of overwhelming importance to many traditionally Democratic parents who send their children to Catholic, Protestant and Jewish schools. Groups like the Knights of Columbus, Agudath Israel, and many fundamentalist Christian churches hinge their support of the President on this issue.

The President's recent Cabinet Room meeting with the leaders of the Tuition Tax Credit coalition was a smashing success. Even people like Paul Weyrich who tend to doubt our seriousness on this issue, left the meeting convinced the President had ordered a full court press on this issue now.

The story attached in the USA TODAY the following Monday has been devastating. The article claims the President misled the coalition, and the headline specifically says the issue is "low priority." The "Alice" column in the following day's Washington Times claimed that Ken Duberstein had been contemptuous of Weyrich as the Cabinet Room meeting broke up. Duberstein flatly denies this, although Weyrich staffer Greg Butler affirms the story.

To maintain our credibility with this broad-based coalition, there must be delivery on the commitment Senators Baker and Dole gave the President. That is, the tuition tax credit bill must come up for Senate floor action this fall. The President told the group, "I will settle for nothing less than a two-House strategy which can get this

long overdue bill on my desk for signature." This requires that the bill be added to a House-passed revenue measure, of which there are only a few in prospect.

If the past is any guide, the Senators in question will come up with reasons why each bill, in turn, should not be "encumbered" with the tuition tax credit issue. If we let this happen, there will be major explosions with unfortunate political fall out next year.

As a stop-gap measure, I suggest the President send the coalition members who met with him the attached letter to reaffirm his statements in the Cabinet Room.

SCHOOL PRAYER:

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^{Insert} ^A The danger here is that the Senate leadership will fail to do what they have promised, namely bring up the Amendment which was voted out by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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PORNOGRAPHY LAW:

The anti-pornography coalition was delighted with the initial results of their Cabinet Room meeting with the President. The subsequent lack of action leaves them bitterly upset.

We have formed a White House Task Force on enforcement of pornography laws. Steve Galebach of the Office of Policy Development is the White House coordinator. Due to other pressing demands on Galebach's time, there is little to show for the effort. The Justice Department has sent out one memorandum to U.S. Attorneys; this memo is described as totally inadequate by the coalition.

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MCB:jet

Attachments a/s

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JAMES T. DRAPER, JR.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 400
EULESS, TEXAS 76039

July 8, 1983

President Ronald Reagan
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

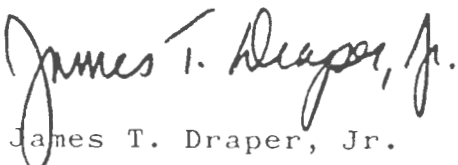
I regret that I could not meet with you, but am required to be at another meeting in the Midwest. I was privileged to meet with a group of Christian leaders today at the invitation of the Freedom Council. Your invitation came during our meeting this afternoon.

I strongly believe in the right of voluntary prayer in the public schools. I have traveled over 130,000 miles this past year. I have concluded that the overwhelming majority of our 14 million Southern Baptists favor voluntary prayer in the public schools. We are a theistic country. The Supreme Court has clearly ruled that such acknowledgment of our theistic faith in the public sector is our right by law. Voluntary prayer guarantees the same right to our children.

I have had some concerns regarding the proposed prayer amendment. I believe it must include clear language, disallowing any authority of the state to prescribe the content of such prayer. I urgently request that distinct language be employed by the proposed amendment to make this absolutely clear. If such changes are made, I would strongly support it.

May God bless you today and every day. You are constantly in our prayers.

In His love,


James T. Draper, Jr.

JTD/mn

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Mary Ann Meloy
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*
SUBJECT: The Fundamentalist and Evangelical Voters

Attached is a duplicate copy of the memorandum on Tuition Tax Credit, School Prayer, and Pornography which I had expanded as you requested.

Following is the other data you requested:

1. Approximately 85,000,000 Christians attend church in the United States on an average Sunday. About 125,000,000 consider themselves church-going Christians.
2. Sixty million (60,000,000) adult Christians consider themselves "born again."
3. Of the "born again" Christians, an estimated 14,000,000 are not registered to vote. In 1980, it was found that the more "fundamentalist" a congregation, the lower its percentage of registered voters tended to be. Fifty percent (50%) registered was a common finding.

The above figures are generally agreed upon by a wide variety of religious leaders. Dr. Jerry Falwell organized some significant registration drives through the churches in 1980. Most of the theologically conservative religious leaders are now receptive to suggestions that they work to get their congregations registered, but little organizational work has been done yet for the 1984 election period.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 29, 1983

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MCB:jet

Attachment a/s

Susan - Original to MAM; this FYI

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September 28, 1983

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Postal Inspectors, U.S. Customs officials, and former FBI officials say nothing has been done to change the Justice Department's disinclination to raise the priority of anti-pornography law enforcement.

What is needed in this case is for the President to direct the Justice Department actually to increase prosecutions.

As the problem of pornography gets worse, the number of prosecutions goes down. A few well publicized busts and prosecutions will convince the coalition that the President is really serious about this. Without much more White House pressure, nothing will change on this topic at Justice.

MCB:jet

Attachment a/s

Tax credits for tuition 'low priority'

By Chris Collins
and Ann Devroy
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Although President Reagan is being portrayed as hard at work fulfilling his campaign promise to provide tax breaks for parents of private school children, neither Congress nor the White House expects those promises to be kept.

And while Reagan will continue pushing tax credits in highly visible ways, the issue is nowhere near the top of his legislative priorities.

That isn't the impression Reagan left with conservative and religious leaders in an Oval Office meeting last week. Conservative leader Paul Weyrich walked out of the session convinced, he said, that Reagan would work hard for the tax credits and that "there's a possibility" Congress would pass them this year.

"I'm convinced in my own mind that they are serious," he



By Mark Angeles, USA TODAY
WEYRICH: Still thinks tax credits 'a possibility.'

said.

That, indeed, is the White House's on-the-record position. But off the record, officials say they will not make any huge lobbying effort in Congress for tuition tax credits.

Even if the White House lob-

bied intensely, it is unlikely that the tax credits would pass this year, especially in the Democrat-controlled House.

From the view of Republicans in the White House, Reagan could still say he worked like heck to get the credits through Congress, but was stymied by House Democrats.

It will be tougher, however, to pin the blame on Democrats if the bill doesn't clear the Republican-controlled Senate. And it probably won't, White House officials concede.

"I don't think anything will happen," says Etta Fielek, an aide to Finance Committee member Bob Packwood, R-Ore., a co-sponsor of the tuition tax credit bill. "The senator's position all along has been that — if anything — support has been waning. . . . We don't even talk about tuition tax credits anymore."

But the White House is still talking. According to a Senate aide, tax credit supporters were told Friday that the administration was "set" to take the bill to the Senate floor.

"If they tried to push it through, we'd fight it tooth and nail," vows Mike Fernandez, a spokesman for Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., a leading Senate opponent of tuition tax credits. "We can win it."

Republican aides agree. "It would die immediately" as a separate bill, Fielek said.

In theory, the issue could be attached to a popular "must-pass" bill. But there's a sticking point: For parliamentary reasons, it would have to be attached to a House-passed revenue bill. None are pending nor expected.

Draft letter from the President to Tuition Tax Credit Coalition members with whom he met in the Cabinet Room September 16, 1983.

Dear _____:

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me in the Cabinet Room September 16 on the topic of tuition tax credits.

As I said then, I spoke on September 14 with Senator Howard Baker and Senator Bob Dole on the urgent need for prompt U.S. Senate floor action on our bill. I urged them to help us get tuition tax credits as an amendment to a House-passed revenue bill this year..

Nothing less than a two-House strategy will get this bill on my desk for signature. We cannot settle for any one-House plan.

Senator Baker and Senator Dole gave me their pledge that tuition tax credit will come up for Senate action this fall. I suggested a bill which might serve as a vehicle. They had some other ideas and promised to come up with an effective legislative strategy. They will confer with me again soon on this.

Some people opposed to passage of this important measure have circulated stories to the media to the effect that somehow, despite my conversation with you, this matter is not viewed as urgent in my Administration. Let me again assure you that tuition tax credit is at the very top of my domestic legislation agenda.

We have worked together for years to get tuition tax credits written into law. I am in this fight to win. With your continued strong support, we will win.

Sincerely,

RR

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JAMES T. DRAPEL, JR.
(817) 267-3313

1983 SEP -6 PM 4:34

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 400
EULESS, TEXAS 76039

August 30, 1983

The Honorable Roger W. Jepsen
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Jepsen:

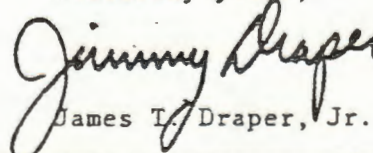
I am writing to you today concerning the President's revised amendment calling for voluntary prayer in the public schools, Senate Joint Resolution #73. When the President first proposed his amendment I was opposed to it because it would allow for state-composed prayers. While the vast majority of our 14 million Southern Baptists favor voluntary prayer in our public schools, we could not support such a proposal. However, when the President at the urging of many of us in the Christian community, added clear and precise language which forbids any agent of the state or nation to compose the words of prayer for our schools, I was elated.

I want to urge you to support this proposed amendment. It will allow the school children in America the same privilege that we cherish for our congress, courts and other public forums, namely the right to public prayer. We are not an atheistic country. We are a nation that was founded upon Biblical principles and upon a firm belief in God. Voluntary prayer acknowledges this cherished heritage.

I must also express my strong opposition to the alternative proposal which calls for silent prayer and meditation. Because of the wording it could open the door for the full removal of all religious acknowledgement from the schools and eventually from public life. It must not be accepted. I urge you to oppose that alternative proposal.

I would be interested in hearing from you concerning this matter. I assure you that the people of this nation will be watching this matter most carefully and that there are millions of us who will not sit idly by and watch our wonderful nation take on the atmosphere and posture of denying God by removing all opportunities for prayer from the basic education of our children.

Sincerely yours,


James T. Draper, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Mary Ann Melloy
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell
SUBJECT: Brendon Long

Per your request of Friday, I have checked out Brendon Long as a prospect for filling the writer-consultant slot.

Both of his recent employers, the Senate Republican Conference and the National Right to Work Committee are highly complimentary of him. People I know well and trust in both organizations say he is a very good writer and works well in a structured environment.

MCB:jet