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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 17, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: JACK C. COURTEMANCHE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Decade of Disabled Persons Draft Proclamation

The attached draft of the Decade of Disabled Persons proclamation appears fine to me.

MCB:mmk

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

#167882

November 16, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: BUD MC FARLANE  
KEN DUBERSTEIN  
FRED FIELDING  
CRAIG FULLER  
JACK SVAHN  
LEE VERSTANDIG  
FAITH WHITTLESEY

FROM: DODIE LIVINGSTON

SUBJECT: DRAFT PROCLAMATION/  
National Decade of Disabled  
Persons (1983-1992)

Attached for your review is the draft proclamation designating the period 1983-1992 as the Decade of Disabled Persons.

As you will recall, this proclamation did not come through the usual channels in Congress. In a memo circulated earlier, senior staff voted its wish to have the President take the initiative on this one and go ahead with it.

The proposed proclamation was drafted by HHS, and Ms. Mary Martin (245-7752), executive assistant to the chief of staff, is the contact person.

I rewrote the draft so it would not be so much like the 1981 International Year and 1982 National Year of Disabled Persons.

Please comment as you feel appropriate by COB, Friday, November 18, 1983, to 480 EOB (x2941).

NOTE: A signing ceremony for this proclamation is planned for Monday morning, November 28, 1983.

As always, many thanks.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

September 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MICHAEL J. HOROWITZ, *MSJ/MSRC*  
COUNSEL TO THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS

We are forwarding for your consideration a proposed proclamation which would designate the years 1983 through 1992 as the "National Decade of Disabled Persons."

The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution No. 37/53, February 18, 1983, which requested all Governments to proclaim this decade as a time to give higher priority to human resources development, in particular to training activities in the fields of prevention and rehabilitation and to enhance the equalization of opportunities and the participation of disabled persons.

The Congress of the United States, by House Concurrent Resolution No. 39, has requested that the President take all steps within his authority to implement, within the United States, the objectives of the U.N. Decade of Disabled Persons.

The proposed proclamation, which was forwarded to this office at our request by the Department of Health and Human Services, has been retyped in this office to reflect minor editorial changes and as to format.

The proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Enclosure

NATIONAL DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS

-----  
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
A PROCLAMATION

During the 1981 International Year and the 1982 National Year of Disabled Persons, we learned about the many accomplishments of disabled persons, both young and old. We also gained vast new insights into the significant role that access to education, rehabilitation, and employment has on their lives.

The progress we have made is a tribute to the courage and determination of our disabled people, to innovative research and development both in equipment and training techniques to assist the disabled, and to those -- whether in the private or public sectors -- who have given so generously of their time and energies to help in this important cause.

It is vital, now, that we continue our progress toward treating disabled people as fully participating citizens.

We must encourage the provision of rehabilitation and other comprehensive services which are oriented toward independence within the context of family and community. We must also broaden access and independent living, for only through opportunities to use the full range of their potential will our disabled citizens attain the independence and dignity that are their due.

In furtherance of the initiatives encouraged by observance of the International Year of the Disabled, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the years 1983 through 1992 as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The Congress of the United States has, by House Concurrent Resolution 39, requested the President to take all steps within his authority to implement, within the United States, the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 3, 1982.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the years 1983 through 1992 as the National Decade of Disabled Persons. I call upon all Americans in both the private and public sectors to join our continuing efforts to assist disabled people and to continue the progress made over the past two years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this            day of            , in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
November 17, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: RICHARD FAHN.  
US Chamber of C.

also Jack Suahn  
Bruce Chapman  
Joe Lupica (HDD)

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

SUBJECT: The Right of Public Housing Tenants to Buy  
Their Own Homes

As you and I have discussed, the Thatcher government has done a brilliantly successful thing in establishing, in law, the right of British public housing tenants to buy their own homes. It seems to me there is an obvious opportunity for us to follow her example.

As the recent election campaign in Britain ended, I saw a news story in which Labourite leftist Tony Benn lamented that, when he canvassed "council houses" there, he could tell by the new doors and shiny brass door knockers which houses were being purchased by their owners. He said the occupants were likely to be voting Tory.

Attached from my British friends are the following items:

1. The housing plank from the 1983 Tory election manifesto;
2. Remarks by Thatcher's Housing Minister, Ian Gow at the post-election Tory party conference;
3. A September 1983 summary of Thatcher's housing measures from the Conservative Party Central Office in London.

Hope this inspires some action.

MCB:jet

cc: Faith Whittlesey

Attachments a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
November 18, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK COURTEMANCHE

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MR*

SUBJECT: Telephones

I have reviewed our telephone situation. It is, with one exception, just what we need.

We have the right number of telephones, but in the small office which used to be Adis Vilas' there is no link with our main telephones. That telephone should have the same numbers on it as the telephone in my waiting room. That is:

456-2657--2658; 456-7120--7121.

At present, the telephone in our small office rings in Room #128.

MCB:jet

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 19, 1983

To: Joyce  
Mark  
Will

From: Morton *MB*

Subject: Delegated assignments

I was surprised to find in my In Box a number of items, undone, which I have assigned out more than a month ago. I have stayed here today taking care of most of them.

This must be corrected. Therefore, on Wednesday morning, November 30, when I return, please have on my desk all of the items, finished or unfinished, which I have routed to you. That is, each item with my notes of direction.

Put the drafts for my approval in one pile and the uncompleted items in another pile. Never again should I hear about "getting to the bottom of the file and finding long undone tasks."

*file this memo.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: DODIE LIVINGSTON  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*  
SUBJECT: Presidential Greeting

Mr. James M. Dunn, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has contacted me to request that a letter of congratulations from the President be sent to Dr. Vernon O. Elmore who will celebrate his 20th Anniversary as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Corpus Christi, Texas on December 4, 1983.

I think such a letter would be most appropriate. During Dr. Elmore's pastorate, the First Baptist Church of Corpus Christi has grown in membership to over 3,300. In addition to serving his church with distinction for over 20 years, Dr. Elmore has been a civic leader in Corpus Christi as well as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Seminary.

Attached is a brief biographic sketch of Dr. Elmore which may be of additional assistance to you in the drafting of an appropriate greeting from the President.

I would appreciate it very much if you could send a letter of congratulations to Dr. Elmore and his wife Peggy as they celebrate his 20th Anniversary as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Corpus Christi.

The letter should be sent to Dr. Vernon O. Elmore, in care of:

Mr. Joe A. McComb  
MAC TRANSFER & STORAGE COMPANY  
Post Office Box 1678-78403  
5142 Richter Street  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78415

Joe McComb is a Republican City Councilman who will present the letter to Dr. Elmore as part of a surprise celebration.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment a/s

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. VERNON O. ELMORE

Pastor, First Baptist Church  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Vernon O. Elmore was born at Cabool, Missouri, and lived in this Ozark town throughout his childhood.

He very early felt the call to the gospel ministry and entered Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Missouri, as a ministerial student in 1930. His college work was completed at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri.

Some honors he received during his college days included listing in "Who's Who Among American University Students," captain of the basketball team, and president of the Baptist Student Union of Missouri for two years.

His seminary training was received at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, from which institution he received the B.D., Th.M., and Ph.D. degrees.

During most of his college and seminary days, he was pastor of rural and village churches. In 1948, shortly before he received his doctorate, he was called to the pastorate of Baptist Temple, San Antonio, Texas.

Some denominational positions which Dr. Elmore has occupied are as follows:  
Six years as moderator of the San Antonio Baptist Association; moderator of the Corpus Christi Baptist Association; Vice-President of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Chairman of the Texas Baptist Hospital Commission; member of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; President of the Board of Trustees for San Marcos Baptist Academy, San Marcos, Texas; trustee of Baptist Memorial Hospital, San Antonio, Texas; trustee of Mexican Baptist Bible Institute, San Antonio, Texas; trustee of Mary Hardin-Baylor University, Belton, Texas; trustee of the University of Corpus Christi, and a member of the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission. Presently, he is a member of the State Missions Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He preached the annual sermon for the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1962. Chairman St. Missions Comm., 1983; trustee So. Bapt. Theological Sem., Louisville (present).

various/  
respons.  
in CCBA

Dr. Elmore has written numerous articles for Baptist publications, lessons for the Sunday School Board, has authored Broadman Comments, and recently published a book entitled, Following The Christian Way.

Dr. Elmore has traveled extensively, having led tour groups to the Holy Land and Europe. He has participated in revivals in Jamaica, Hawaii, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico, Brazil.

The Elmores have two children, Don and Joy.

Dr. Elmore was presented an Achievement Award by William Jewell College in 1963.

On December 1, 1963, after fifteen years at Baptist Temple, San Antonio, Texas, he began his work as pastor at First Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Teaches at Baptist Learning Center, C.C. (through Howard Payne Univ.)  
Has been long time member Kiwanis Club.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK COURTEMANCHE  
FROM: Joyce Thomann *Joyce*  
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credit Legislation

Pursuant to your request, I have checked with a good cross section of those groups interested in the Tuition Tax Credit legislation.

There is total unanimity of opinion as to the following:

1. The legislation should be brought up again early in 1984. They would like to have it brought to the floor for a vote in late February or early March.
2. There MUST BE A CHANGE IN THE SENATE FLOOR LEADER for the bill. The view most commonly expressed was that Senator Dole was not personally committed to the legislation and handled it accordingly.
3. Senator Gordon Humphrey has been suggested by many as the Senator who should be the floor manager for the legislation. He is committed to the merits of the legislation. Humphrey has been casually approached as to his willingness to take the lead on the tuition tax credit legislation and has responded favorably to the idea.
4. The group suggests that insofar as the Senate Finance Committee is concerned that Senator Grassley be asked by Senator Humphrey to help guide the legislation through the Finance Committee. (This is based on the presumption that Humphrey takes over as floor manager of the bill.) Additionally, a number of individuals whom I contacted expressed the view that because of the heavy Catholic population in Louisiana and because of his personal feelings on the legislation that Senator Long might be receptive to working for passage of the legislation and be helpful toward that end in the Senate Finance Committee.

I have talked to Bob Reilly about the Catholic segment of the coalition. He will contact you separately. However, his read-out so far indicates that the Catholic segment of the coalition is in agreement with the points raised by the majority of the coalition.

:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: ANNE HIGGINS

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to Rick Eilert

I would like to recommend that a letter from the President be sent to Mr. Rick Eilert. Mr. Eilert is the author of the just published book, For Self and Country. The book relates the experiences of himself and other seriously wounded Vietnam veterans.

The attached materials should provide what additional information you may need.

Thank you.

MCB:mmk



# ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

To: Faith R. Whittlesey, Assistant to the President for  
Public Liaison

James K. Coyne, Special Assistant to the President for  
Private Sector Initiatives

From: Thomas W. Pauken, Director, ACTION *Tom Pauken*

On September 26, the William Morrow Company will publish For Self and Country by Rick Eilert. Rick was the first program director of the President's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Chicago. He is a Marine who was wounded in Vietnam and has had 40 operations on his legs in the last eleven years. His inspiring story is one of great personal courage and the supportive community wounded veterans formed in the wards of military and veterans' hospitals. For Self and Country is the first book which tells the story of the recuperation of a wounded Vietnam veteran. The book has been chosen as a featured selection by the Literary Guild and the Military Book Club.

I would like to request your help in arranging the following:

- (1) A letter from the President to Rick acknowledging his service and thanking him for writing the book and telling his story (draft enclosed).
- (2) A brief meeting with the President during which time Rick can personally present the President with a copy of his book.

Please let me know if you need any further information or if you have any questions.

DRAFT

Rick Eilert  
577 Applegate Lane  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Dear Rick:

I want you to know that you have my warmest thanks and congratulations for telling your story in For Self and Country. In thanking you personally I'd like to extend my thanks on behalf of all Americans to all the thousands of other severely wounded Vietnam veterans who, like you, brought such great courage and dedication to the task of overcoming your wounds.

You have given of yourself on the battlefield, in the rehabilitation ward, in writing this book and still give of yourself as a volunteer helping other veterans in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. Your example is inspiring. In your life you have embodied the American ideal of service. It is central to our democratic way of life that individual citizens see service -- both in the military if necessary and as civilians in everyday life -- as a means of exercising individual responsibility. Without this essential element of service and responsibility, freedom becomes a hollow abstraction. America is a better place because of your service For Self and Country.

Again, thank you. You have my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

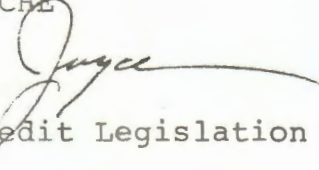
Ronald Reagan

DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK COURTEMANCHE  
FROM: Joyce Thomann   
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credit Legislation

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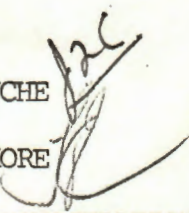
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:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK COURTEMANCHE   
FROM: THERESA A. ELMORE  
DIRECTOR OF  
WHITE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
SUBJECT: Travel Authorizations

Please remind all members of your staff that when planning a trip a detailed schedule of the traveler's activities must be submitted with the travel authorization before it can be approved. In light of the upcoming political season, a schedule of events allows our office to properly allocate political and official funds.

Thank you for your assistance.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: JACK C. COURTEMANCHE  
FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*  
SUBJECT: Outreach Working Group "Questionnaire"

The attached questionnaire is intended for the people who have attended our Wednesday Central America Briefings. This version of the questionnaire is based on the recommendations of the members of the Working Group at the Monday, November 28th meeting.

This questionnaire is being sent to you for your review and approval. I would appreciate it if you could advise me of your review today, so that the questionnaire can be included in our imminent mailing. Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

A Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

Please take a few moments to complete this questionnaire and return it to: The Office of Public Liaison, Room #191-OEOB, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500. Thank you.

- 
1. How many Wednesday Central America briefings, approximately, have you attended?
  2. Please comment on the usefulness of the briefings you have attended.
  3. What topics would be of interest to you for future speakers to address?
  4. Who would be of particular interest to you as a speaker?
  5. Would you recommend changing the format of the briefings? If so, how?
  6. Have the materials which have been distributed to date been useful to you?
  7. What additional types of materials/information would be useful to you?
  8. Has your organization engaged in any outreach activities? For example: speakers/programs on Central America, op-ed pieces, newsletters, articles in publications of your organization, etc. Please specify.

9. As a part of the White House Outreach program, we have established a Central America Speakers Bureau. Have you/your organization already used our Central America Speakers Bureau?
10. Would your group need a speaker for one of its future meetings?
11. Are there groups you believe should be invited to the White House to receive a special briefing on Central America? If so, please identify.
12. Please use this space for any additional remarks/comments/suggestions you would like to make.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Optional: If you wish, please identify yourself and your organization.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jack Courtenanche  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell  
SUBJECT: Pronunciation of Arnold de Borshg ve's name

Per our conversation, the correct pronunciation of our  
main speaker for today is:

ARNO -- de -- BORSH-GRAH-VE

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. Constantine C. Menges  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell  
SUBJECT: Meeting with Ambassador Gavin

I had a nice meeting with Ambassador Gavin in his office in Mexico City on Monday.

He asked me to ask you to return a call he has had in to you for some time.

We had a great ten days in Mexico, despite the hammer and sickle campaign signs of PSUM in Oaxaca.

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: Jack Courtemanche

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

SUBJECT: Vaughn Forrest

Cathi Villapando brought Mr. Vaughn Forrest to my office this afternoon so we could chat about his trips throughout El Salvador. In a short time, I could tell that he would be a definite asset as one of our Outreach speakers. I approached him with the idea and he was very receptive.

Attached is a memorandum to Ken Duberstein which I have prepared for your signature requesting his assistance in scheduling Mr. Forrest as one of our speakers.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO KENNETH DUBERSTEIN

FROM: FAITH WHITTLESEY

SUBJECT: Central American Outreach Working Group Meeting

Mr. Vaughn S. Forrest, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Bill McCollum has made repeated trips throughout El Salvador for Congressman McCollum and has arranged for funding, shipment and distribution of millions of dollars worth of humanitarian aid for displaced people in El Salvador. Mr. Forrest has insights which would be of great interest and benefit to the members of our Outreach Working Group on Central America.

I would appreciate your approval of our proposed invitation to Mr. Forrest asking him to speak to our Outreach Working Group on Wednesday, January 4, 1984, at 2:30 p.m. in Room #450.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: JACK C. COURTEMANCHE  
FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*  
SUBJECT: National Council of Churches Request

It would be counterproductive for the President to have a meeting solely with leaders picked by the National Council of Churches. We are planning a schedule proposal for a meeting with a wide range of Protestant denomination leaders.

The National Council of Churches is a left-wing pressure group which is by no means representative of the millions of members of the denominations it purports to speak for. It is far better to deal with the heads of the individual denominations. That way we can include all the major Protestant bodies including major ones such as the Southern Baptist Convention which have nothing to do with the National Council of Churches.

MCB:mmk

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jack Courtemanche  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell  
SUBJECT: Event for Americans for Viet Nam Veterans

While surely a good organization, this is not a major national outfit.

I think that this is not a necessary meeting for the President. There are too many requests that we cannot fill from the large veterans' organizations. I suggest that the acceptance be by Harry Walters, head of the Veterans Administration.

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jack Courtemanche  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell  
SUBJECT: National Endowment for Democracy

I think this is an appropriate event for the President. There is considerable disenchantment among conservatives about the project because they think it is not appropriate for the federal government to be channeling funds through the political parties, much less through the AFL-CIO or the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. But since it is done, a Presidential event is appropriate.

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jack Courtemanche  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell  
SUBJECT: My Memorandum to Bill Sittman

Please initial the attached and forward it, without the  
attachments, to Bill Sittman.

MCB:jet

Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO MIKE DEEVER

FROM: BILL SITTMANN

SUBJECT: Tax on Churches

Spoke with Morton Blackwell's office and the tax which they are talking about is a Social Security tax on their employees who are on the church payroll. In the past, all employees were exempt. The new law states that only the pastor is exempt from the payroll tax.

*Did  
Morton follow  
them if return  
this guy said?*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 28, 1983

*Bill*  
*What TAX*  
*is she*  
*talking about?*

TO: MIKE DEEVER  
FROM: KATHY OSBORNE  
SUBJECT: PHONE CALL TO THE PRESIDENT VIA DAVE FISCHER

*Encl - 1 - 1*  
*Low - 1 - 1*

Today I received a phone call directed at Dave Fischer but intended to pass on a message to the President. It was from Pastor Jim Lockwood in western New York. He said he recently learned of the taxes the President wants to impose on churches and wanted to make sure that the President was aware that he knows of at least 5,000 churches which will refuse to pay them and their pastors will go to jail before paying them. He indicated that a Dr. Little is heading up a large meeting in Dallas, Texas next week with pastors from all over the country to discuss what everyone plans to do about it.

I advised Mr. Lockwood that I would locate someone who was better informed on this matter and have them get back to him.

I checked with Morton Blackwell's office since churches are his area, and his secretary advised me he is out of town until Wednesday. She also advised me that Morton warned Faith Whittlesey three months ago about this major meeting in Dallas and warned her of the serious repercussions on the campaign, etc. and felt that the news media would make a big deal out of photos of federal marshals handcuffing pastors and hauling them off to jail because they didn't pay the church taxes.

Assuming this isn't something that should be taken lightly, I was sure you would know who could handle this phone call correctly.

Thanks.

*Church*  
*payroll*

*SS Tax*

*Kathy*

Mr. Jim Lockwood  
(716) 492-2203

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: BILL SITTMAN

THROUGH: Faith Whittlesey

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

SUBJECT: Impending Church Resistance to New Social Security Taxation

At 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, I received your note and attachments relating to the November 28 call of Jim Lockwood to Dave Fischer. Kathy Osborne got information on the issue Monday from Joyce Thomann of my office. Kathy did not give us Lockwood's number or suggest we follow-up.

Per your suggestion, Wednesday I tried to reach Lockwood immediately, but he was out. I will track him down as soon as possible.

The Dr. Little to whom Lockwood refers is Earl Little of the Christian Law Association, a group highly regarded in theologically conservative religious circles. This group specializes in defending religious rights. The Earl Little meeting in Dallas next week, to which Lockwood refers, is not a national meeting, but one of a series of local meetings Little is having to brief church and church school leaders on the new Social Security law.

In mid-October, Mrs. Whittlesey reported by memorandum to Jim Baker on the impending problem, suggesting the Administration back a repealer of the new Social Security taxation as it applies to previously uncovered church employees. At that time, I spoke with Jack Svahn, who said any exemptions might cause a disintegration of the Social Security reform package.

Earlier on Wednesday, eleven leaders of religious school associations and allied religious leaders had a meeting with Roscoe Eggers of the Internal Revenue Service about the problem. Eggers told them he had no choice but to apply the new law.

Here is how the situation now stands:

1. The Social Security taxation of previously uncovered, non-clergy church employees is scheduled to take effect January 1, 1984.
2. Senator Jepsen has proposed a bill which would delay for two years the implementation of taxation of this category of church employees.
3. Senator Dole has promised Senator Jepsen a one-day Senate Finance Committee hearing on his bill in mid-December.
4. Senator Jepsen has a study indicating that, because many churches already voluntarily have their employees in the Social Security system, the financial impact of exempting currently uncovered church employees is less than one-half of one percent of the new revenues expected to be brought in by the Social Security reform.

In my view, there is a serious political danger here. Lockwood's claim is that at least 5,000 pastors will go to jail rather than have their churches pay this new tax. That may be an exaggeration; at any rate, it cannot be proved now. At minimum, though, it is safe to say that across the country many hundreds of churches will refuse to pay. Since those refusing to pay will tend to be in the small employer category, they will fall under Social Security's quarterly payment schedule, and their first payments for many or most would fall due about April 15. Therefore, U.S. legal actions against church leaders would probably commence just when many conservative churches are now expected to be engaging in massive voter registration drives.

The constitutional argument (taxing churches), the biblical argument (taxing God to pay Caesar) and the fiscal argument (taxing already poor religious institutions) are an emotion-packed combination. Very unpleasant, newsworthy confrontations are certain if we don't back away from this tax.

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jack Courtemanche  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell  
SUBJECT: National Association of Postmasters Event

I really think the President should stay away from becoming identified with the U.S. Postal Service. It is, of course, a national enterprise, but its unreliability and frequent rate increases have made it the butt of jokes and the object of very successful, hard-hitting commercials from private enterprise delivery systems. In the absence of some dramatic announcement which would give the public hope that the Postal Service would be improved, I think the President should not devote time for an address to this group.

Twenty years ago, when Postmasters were often major political factors in the local community, this would have been an appropriate event.

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jack Courtemanche  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell  
SUBJECT: American Association of Engineering Societies

This is a very important gathering. The vast majority of the members of the various engineering societies are supportive of the President. I suggest that a taped message would be amply justified. In fact, I think this would be a very appropriate organization for the President to make a personal appearance. If he did so, we could arrange for a photograph to be taken with each of these major engineering societies, each of which has a national publication which would be delighted to run photographs of their presidents meeting with President Reagan.

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: JACK C. COURTEMANCHE  
FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL  
SUBJECT: National Council of Churches Request

It would be counterproductive for the President to have a meeting solely with leaders picked by the National Council of Churches. We are planning a schedule proposal for a meeting with a wide range of Protestant denomination leaders.

The National Council of Churches is a left-wing pressure group which is by no means representative of the millions of members of the denominations it purports to speak for. It is far better to deal with the heads of the individual denominations. That way we can include all the major Protestant bodies including major ones such as the Southern Baptist Convention which have nothing to do with the National Council of Churches.

MCB:mmk

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
December 2, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: ANNE HIGGINS  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*  
SUBJECT: Response to Henry L. Walther

Attached is a letter to the President from Henry L. Walther of the U.S. Defense Committee, one of the most supportive organizations helping on the Central American policy and the MX.

Attached also is my suggestion for a response.

Thank you.

MCB:jet

2 Attachments a/s

Draft

November 30, 1983

Mr. Henry L. Walther  
Executive Vice President  
United States Defense Committee  
3238 Wynford Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22031

Dear Mr. Walther:

I want to thank you, General Graham, and the members of the United States Defense Committee for your help in developing support in the Congress for both my Central American policies and for the budget items necessary to rebuild America's defenses.

By flooding Congressional offices with post cards and letters in support of a strong defense your members are having a direct impact. Together we've been able to win some important victories in the Congress.

But the battle is far from over.

With the continued support of people like you and General Graham, however, I'm confident we will prevail in our legislative battles to provide a strong national defense.

Please keep up the good work and God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan  
President

UNITED STATES  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE



Lieutenant General  
Daniel O. Graham  
United States Army, Retired

November 28, 1983

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

A little over a year and a half ago, the United States Defense Committee (USDC) was formed to help mobilize support -- both at the grass roots level and in Congress -- for your programs to rebuild America's defenses.

Even though we're not yet two years old, our nationwide membership has swelled to over 97,000 members, and USDC is starting to have real impact on Capitol Hill.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a memo sent to Morton C. Blackwell outlining some of USDC's activities over the past year.

As you can see, the first year and a half has been a busy one for USDC.

We realize that the battles we are fighting together are far from over, and I can promise you that we at USDC will continue our efforts to assure deployment of the MX and to restore freedom and peace in Central America, as well as continuing our efforts in the various other areas of vital importance to this nation's defenses.

If ever the United States Defense Committee can be of direct assistance to your efforts to rebuild a strong America, please don't hesitate to ask.

With best regards I am,

Sincerely,

Henry L. Walther  
Executive Vice President

HLW/tll

# UNITED STATES DEFENSE COMMITTEE



Lieutenant General  
Daniel O. Graham  
United States Army, Retired

November 10, 1983

## Memorandum

To: Morton C. Blackwell

From: Huck Walther

Re: United States Defense Committee  
Lobbying Effort

Morton, as I'm sure you know, the United States Defense Committee (USDC) has had a very active year.

Just to bring you up to date on more of the details I have outlined some of our lobbying efforts on the MX missile, Nuclear Freeze, Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense, and Central American Policy.

Our major efforts to help assure passage of legislation for deployment of the MX have included:

- o Careful research and evaluation to determine which Congressmen were waivering in their support or opposition of the MX,
- o A special mass mailing to our members in each of the 91 districts of waivering Congressmen, as well as a general mailing to all other USDC members, urging them to put the heat on their Congressmen. This mailing alone generated over 100,000 post cards and letters from USDC members to Congress,
- o A mass mailing in March 1983 urging our members to contact their Congressman in support of total funding for the Defense Budget, including full funding of the MX,
- o Three articles exclusively on MX published in

Defense Watch, USDC's membership publication received not only by our nationwide membership but by all members of Congress.

All of these efforts have made the MX issue a major one for our members; a battle that they are dedicated to win.

USDC has also been in the forefront of the fight against a so-called nuclear "freeze". Our projects have included:

- o Hard-hitting newspaper ads to alert the American people to the dangers of the Kennedy nuclear freeze proposal,
- o Two mass mailings to our members urging them to help us defeat the Kennedy nuclear freeze, by putting the heat on the politicians,
- o Hard-hitting personal letters to all the co-sponsors of the Kennedy and Zablocki nuclear freeze resolutions, urging them to change their position,
- o Special letters to select Newspaper Editors, asking them to run editorials praising Senator Garn's counter "freeze" resolution, S.J. Res. 74,
- o Five different articles in our publication, Defense Watch, warning Americans of the dangers of a nuclear freeze.

USDC has been working diligently for the deployment of a satellite-based defense system capable of destroying incoming ballistic missiles.

We followed the President's historic speech of March 23rd with:

- o A mailing to 91 Senators urging them to support S.R. 100, introduced by Senators Laxalt and Wallop, in support of an active missile defense,
- o A follow-up mailing to 86 Senators, urging them to join the 12 co-sponsors of S.R. 100 and to oppose S.J. Res. 28 which would ban all weapons in space,
- o A mailing to 304 members of the House urging

them to support H.R. 215, in support of an active missile defense, and to oppose H.J. Res. 120 which would ban weapons in space,

- o Personal visits to every Senate office urging their support for S.R. 100 and an active ballistic missile defense,
- o A survey of all House members on H.R. 215 and H.J. Res. 120,
- o A mass mailing to our members urging them to contact their representatives in support of S.R. 100 and H.R. 215 -- including a copy of General Graham's new book; We Must Defend America: A NEW STRATEGY for National Survival,
- o Four articles exclusively on High Frontier and ballistic missile defense in our publication, Defense Watch.

Of course, one of the most important issues over the past year has been U.S. policy in Central America. USDC has been particularly busy on this issue.

Among some of our activities:

- o A fact finding trip to El Salvador for three Congressmen, sponsored by USDC.

The Congressmen, Stan Parris (R-VA), Eldon Rudd (R-AZ), and Bill McCollum (R-FL) were accompanied by two senior staff members of the United States Defense Committee and inspected efforts by the Salvadoran army to halt Communism, and visited hospitals and teeming displaced persons camps in San Vincente and San Francisco Gotera,

- o Three action mailings to our members on Central American policy,

The first mailing succeeded in heightening the awareness of the issue to our members. While the next two mailings helped generate an estimated 140,000 post cards,

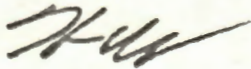
- o An exhaustive phone survey of every House office

to find exactly who would support and who opposed the Boland-Zablocki Bill (H.R. 2760) that would end aid to the Contra Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua,

These vote counts were then turned over to key House members and other conservative, veteran, and pro-defense groups,

- o Hard-hitting letters to Congressmen who were not committed or who we thought were likely to change their vote,
- o Letters of support to those Congressmen who opposed Boland-Zablocki,
- o Attendance at every White House Outreach Working Group meeting on Central America, by a USDC staff member.

As you can see, this past year has been a busy one for USDC.



HLW/t11