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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1982

Dear Mrs. McBride:

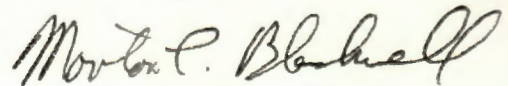
Herb Ellingwood has forwarded your letter requesting a tape of the . . . President to me.

Thank you for asking the President to participate in your service. President Reagan is deeply committed to ensuring that the religious liberties of American citizens are protected.

I have forwarded a copy of your request to Presidential Scheduling for their consideration.

Once again, thank you for asking President Reagan to share in what I know is a very significant occasion to you and those participating in the World Communion Service.

sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Mrs. Sharon McBride
Rhema Fellowship Church
5523 S. Alameda
Corpus Christi, TX. 78412

Dear Mr. Ellington,

Per our conversation this day, I'm enclosing this letter to the President. I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

I'm enclosing several scripts for your consideration. Please feel free to make any changes you deem necessary or write your own. Also please make one of them a general spot which can be used nation-wide. The Corpus Christi spot should time out to about :29 seconds and the general spot to about :25 or 26 seconds.

Again, I truly appreciate all your efforts.

Yours in Christ!
Sharon McBride

World Communion Service Live Via Satellite

July 22, 1982

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20419

Dear Mr. President:

In a world of crime and exploitation what would be more appropriate than a gathering of believers of all denominations uniting their faith in a world-wide communion service. Through the capabilities of satellite technology, Kenneth Copeland Ministries of Fort Worth, Texas will be hosting a World Communion Service live via Satellite. This service will be held August 28th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time. There will be a minimum of 150 host cities and 9 countries participating. Kenneth Copeland will be broadcasting live out of Fort Worth and Rev. Cho will be broadcasting out of Korea. Both will be viewed simultaneously using a split-screen effect. The purposes of this satellite Service are: 1) to unite the body of Christ around the world in faith; 2) to fulfill the commission of Jesus to partake in communion until He comes again; 3) to summon God to a people united over His body and calling upon His Name that healing, deliverance and the power of God be manifested.

As a member of the publicity committee for the Corpus Christi area, I am requesting your support for this historic event. We have obtained free time on every radio and T.V. station in the Corpus Christi area and would appreciate your recording a 30 second spot inviting the body of Christ to participate in this Communion Service. Enclosed you will find two scripts one of a general nature to be used nation-wide and the other naming the specific location in Corpus Christi. Please feel free to personalize these scripts as the Spirit leads. These spots can be recorded on reel-to-reel or cassette. For optimum exposure your expedient response will be greatly appreciated. Please mail to Rhema Fellowship Church, 5523 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412.

Thank you in advance for your participation and may God bless you richly.

Yours in Christ!

Sharon McBride
Sharon McBride



Enclosure

SM/nb

Cobee. Incorporated

512. 851-0021

AREA 512 - 854-3968

4626 FRENCH DRIVE

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78411

#1 A

I'm _____, _____ and I bring you good news and invite you and every other Christian to attend the first World Wide Satellite Communion Service when more than a half a million believers all over the world will take Communion at the very same moment. 150 American Cities and eleven foreign countries will participate. In Corpus Christi the meeting will be held in the Bayfront Plaza auditorium 7:30 pm Saturday August 28th. Kenneth Copeland will lead the service from Fort Worth. Come and Bring a friend and share the Blessings.

B

Tell your friends about the FIRST WORLD WIDE SATELLITE COMMUNION SERVICE. It will be held in 150 American Cities and 11 foreign Countries. Kenneth Copeland arranged this world wide gathering of Christians and there will be more than enough blessings for everybody.. I'm _____, _____ COME to the Bayfront Plaza Auditorium Saturday August 28th at 7:30 pm and bring a friend. You'll both be blessed.

C

At 7:30 pm Saturday August 28th you are invited to be in the Bayfront Plaza Auditorium and share with more than a half a million other Christians ALL OVER THE WORLD in the first Kenneth Copeland World Wide Satellite Communion Service. I'm _____, _____ inviting you come and bring a friend. THERE ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH BLESSINGS for everyone.

Cobee Advertising Company

AREA 512 - 854-3968

4626 FRENCH DRIVE

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78411

#2 A

When a half a million people gather at the same moment to share the blessings of the sacrament of Communion THAT'S EXCITING.

Hello, I'm _____, _____ and Saturday 7:30 pm August 28th the Kenneth Copeland World Wide Communion Satellite Service will be shared by eleven foreign countries...150 American Cities including Corpus Christi. The time again is 7:30 pm August 28th. The Place Corpus Christi Bayfront Plaza Auditorium. Come and bring a friend.

B

Corpus Christi will share THE FIRST KENNETH COPELAND Satellite Communion Service WITH THE WORLD as more than a half a million Christians take communion AT THE SAME MOMENT. I'm _____, _____ inviting you to come and bring a friend as people in eleven foreign countries and 150 American Cities join in sharing of a common Faith. There are more than enough Blessings...come and bring a friend to the Bayfront Plaza Auditorium 7:30 pm Saturday August 28th.

C.

~~If you miss the first Kenneth Copeland World Wide Satellite Communion Service in the Bayfront Auditorium in Corpus Christi... at 7:30 pm Saturday August 28th....We will ALL MISS YOU. I'm _____, _____ inviting you to come and bring a friend. THERE ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH BLESSINGS FOR EVERYONE.~~

Cobee Advertising Company

AREA 512 - 854-3968

4626 FRENCH DRIVE

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78411

#3 A

Saturday August 28th at 7:30 pm in the Bayfront :. plaza auditorium ^{thousands of} 2500 Christians in Corpus Christi will join with more than a half a million people in 11 foreign countries and 150 American Cities to take communion at the same moment. This is a first time event arranged by Kenneth Copeland ALL OVER THE WORLD by Satellites. Come and Bring a friend. I'm _____, _____ inviting you to share the Blessings.

B

When two ~~or~~ ^{more} gather in agreement in the service of the Lord THERE IS GREAT STRENGTH....and Saturday August 28th at 7:30 pm in the Bayfront Plaza Auditorium in Corpus Christi ^{thousands of} 2500 Christians will join with more than a half a million in eleven foreign countries and 150 American Cities to take Communion AT THE SAME MOMENT. This FIRST WORLD WIDE SATELLITE COMMUNION SERVICE was arranged by Kenneth Copeland , I'm _____, _____ inviting you to join in the ~~fulfilment of~~ BLESSINGS THE WORLD WILL RECEIVE.

C

Will you be in the Bayfront Plaza Auditorium in Corpus Christi FOR THE FIRST WORLD WIDE SATELLITE COMMUNION SERVICE Saturday August 28th at 7:30 pm? More than a half a million other Christians in eleven foreign countries and 150 other American Cities will Share with you the Blessings of the Sacrament of the Last Summer. I'm _____, _____ inviting you to come and bring a friend. Bayfront Plaza Auditorium 7:30 pm August 28th IN CORPUS CHRISTI.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1982

Mr. Mylio S. Kraja
Executive Director
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mylio:

Pursuant to your request, I spoke today to Oscar Reynolds of the Foreign Building Section of the State Department regarding the Pershing Building in Paris.

He is quite familiar with the situation you took up with me.

Mr. Reynolds informed me that he is having a meeting this afternoon with other State Department officials concerning a way to resolve the question of maintenance of this building.

So far as he knows, the responsibility of maintenance of this building, now that the American Legion has made its decision to withdraw from the previous arrangement, is unclear. He is working to resolve the matter.

He agreed to have his attorney, Linda Shenwick, get in touch with you promptly with a status report on their search for a solution to this matter.

Please keep me posted and let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist with this matter.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1982

Mr. Richard Wirthlin
Decision Making Information
1050 17th St. N. W., Suite 1100
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Dick:

Thank you very much for the cab ride this morning. I hope your appearance with Dave Broder and Allen Barron on the "It's Your Business" program went well.

Enclosed is the data on the Republican and Democratic Party committees fund raising I referred to. The figures are quite dramatic. Fred Biebel of the RNC told me that the \$80 million raised by the three big GOP committees in 1981 came from two million different people and that 75% of the dollar amount of the contributions came in checks for \$25 or less. So much for the "rich man's party".

Biebel also says that the \$8.3 million for the comparable three Democrat Party committees came in contributions of \$500 or more.

Enclosed also is an exchange of memoranda I had in November and December of last year with Jim Pinkerton, then of the White House Office of Policy Development and now on the RNC staff. In these memos I elaborated on my discussion of the growth in recent years of all the sources of activism which contributed in 1980 to the election of candidates of the winning Reagan coalition.

Please note that on page 3 I predicated my optimistic predictions about the 1982 election results on the assumption that the President would not "sound retreat on so many fronts that the sources of activism supporting him would conclude their past, present, and planned activism to be fruitless".

The basis of my analysis is that election results are largely determined by the strength and effectiveness of the sources of activism on the respective sides. As a result of our chat in the taxi, it occurs to me to go further and say that public opinion is more often the result of activism than the other way around.

With respect to the political impact of the corporate and trade associations political action committees, I believe it is certain that their impact favorable to our candidates will be much greater in absolute terms and as a percentage of their contributions in 1982 than it was in 1980. There are more business political action committees. Each election cycle they have given a greater percentage of their money to Republicans, a greater percentage to challenger candidates, and a greater percentage to candidates for open seats. Financially they are growing by leaps and bounds.

Their political impact is not just the dollars they give. Tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of individuals have been encouraged by their corporate or association PACs to make political contributions in this election cycle for the first time in their lives. Each contributor is thus more likely to be involved in campaigns in other ways.

In summary, I agree with your comment about 1980 being a watershed year. The recently-activated organizations and individuals will produce a lasting impact on our political system. The extent of that impact does depend on the rate of attrition through disillusionment and other causes but there is much momentum apparent in this grassroots activism.

I believe that Franklin Roosevelt created a new, normal, governing majority in American politics which we can profitably study. He had, I believe, four secrets of his success:

1. He retained the issue initiative. He kept the American people talking about his plans for solving the problems of our country. What was left of the Republican Party was reduced to complaining about Roosevelt's proposals. No one other than Roosevelt was viewed as having a credible plan to solve the Nation's economic woes. The economy did not improve before the 1934 elections, but the Democrats gained additional seats in the '34 elections.
2. Roosevelt held together his winning coalition, which contained many disparate elements. Again in 1934 Southern rednecks, unions with white only membership clauses, and liberal, anti-discrimination intellectuals continued to cooperate, for example.
3. To the extent of his ability, Roosevelt continued for the rest of his life to rerun the 1932 elections. He continued to hammer away at "economic royalists" and the "malefactors of great wealth". On every suitable occasion, he would drag the political corpse of Herbert Hoover out of the weeds and beat up on it.

4. Roosevelt used every power at his command to build up the strength of the major, non-party organizations in his coalition, organized labor. The gains in members, legal advantages, and resources of organized labor were staggering. More than any other new factor, this Roosevelt-fostered growth in political power of organized labor was, and still is, the keystone of the liberal Democratic coalition.

The Reagan Administration has done well in emulating Roosevelt's success in Category 1. The legislative battles thus far in this Congress have been almost entirely on grounds of this Administration's choosing. My guess is that your polls show that the Democratic Party is not viewed seriously as a source of solutions to the problems facing the United States.

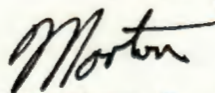
In Category 2, we have, until recently, done very well. All of the sources of activism which contributed to our sweeping victories across the country in 1980 were to one extent or another engaged in the legislative battles of 1981 and most of 1982. As you indicated, you are well aware of our current problems with respect to the pending revenue bill.

In the third category, we have yet to see an enunciation of a major national theme for Republican candidates in 1982. In my judgment, we need where possible to recapture and use our issues of 1980. The memory of Hoover has faded, but the memory of the malaise under Jimmy Carter is fresh and ought to be politically useful to us this year.

Finally, this Administration is doing nothing analagous to the Roosevelt Administration efforts to build up the strength of the non-party organizations which contributed significantly to their initial election victory. We need to pay a great deal more attention to this matter.

I apologize for this long letter but hope you will find some of it interesting and useful.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1982

Mr. Robert E. Baldwin
Citizens for Education Freedom
c/o LEARN, INC.
10369 B. Democracy Lane
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

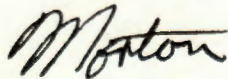
Dear Bob:

I want to thank you for your leadership on Tuition Tax Credit legislation. While all those who have worked with us have played a major role, your participation has been indispensable.

Without your extensive efforts to draw together the coalition, work with us in drafting the legislation, and help coordinate the legislative activity with the outside groups, Tuition Tax Credits would not have made the progress that we have to date.

We still have a long way to go but I am confident that, with leaders like you, we have launched a campaign that will not stop this side of victory.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 18, 1982

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DETERMINED TO BE
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect. 3.3(c)
BY NARA RW DATE 10/31/11

Mr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones
Editor, TULSA TRIBUNE
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Jones:

I read with interest your column in this morning's Washington Times. Clearly you are correct that the Soviet empire suffers from a "creeping malaise".

I had a discussion about this recently with a mentor and old friend, Dr. Fred Schwarz of the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade. Dr. Schwarz says the communist empire is like a cancer. And he offers more parallels than can be found in most analogies.

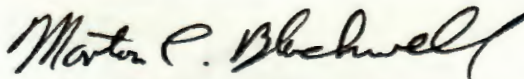
As a cancer grows larger and larger, it begins literally to rot at its center because the body's cleansing and nourishing processes are blocked. Indeed, he says, a massive cancer can keep growing vigorously at the edges even if completely putrid in the center.

While this rot may be bad news for the cancer, it is of little solace to the cancer victim.

Thus we cannot rely on its internal problems to arrest the spread of communism. What we do does matter.

We now lack adequate political mechanisms of offense and defense against communism. I am hopeful that the recent dramatic increase in organized grassroots conservative activism signals an imminent development of these mechanisms we have lacked for so long.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
For Public Liaison

The Kremlin's creeping malaise

LENINGRAD, U.S.S.R. — One common conviction held by Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin and even Nikita Khrushchev ("We will bury you" — remember?) was that time was on the side of international communism. The capitalist states would choke on their own contradictions, and communism, particularly Russian style, would deliver such a satisfactory life to the masses that the whole world would be swept along by the tidal pull.

Today, communism as it is practiced in Russia has been in control for just one year short of two-thirds of a century. The difficulties into which communist premise and prediction have fallen are one of the most important facts of current history, and they explain both the weakness and the dynamism of the Russian state.

Russia is aggressive because the power of communist evangelism has faded. In spite of rising grumbling among their own people the leaders are holding to a guns-over-butter policy because the basic failure of the system to capture the world by peaceful example makes military might and a revival of 19th century colonialism a necessity in their eyes.

On the world map, the campaign appears to be proceeding smoothly. The Eastern European satellites still are firmly in the grip of Soviet power. Cuba, on America's doorstep, was the chief factor in turning Nicaragua's anti-Somoza revolution into a Marxist triumph and the hope to extend this success to the whole of Central America is obvious.

Russia now has power bases in Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia, and these, with the support of the Soviet navy, could deny to Western nations important raw materials in the event of a protracted non-nuclear war. Her latest takeover, Afghanistan,

extended a Russian flank close to the oil-rich Middle East, and the dependency of the Vietnamese government on Russian arms has provided the Kremlin with a strategic naval stronghold at Camranh Bay.

That all of these conquests have been achieved while denouncing the "imperialism" of its enemies has been

"Nowhere is the bankruptcy of the ideology more plain than in Poland where a communist government is at war with the workers. But there are deeper difficulties within Russia itself."

no mean achievement in effrontery, and its success in getting its puppets accepted as "non-aligned" nations by the so-called Third World has been remarkable.

But Russia's basic problem is that while it has been vigorously adding new ells to its gigantic house, the plumbing is rusting and the wallpaper has been peeling off inside. The satellites looted so efficiently by the Red army in the postwar lockup are now economic basket cases, far overboard to the international bankers. Subtle revisionism allowing a slowly increasing amount of private enterprise nibbles at the perimeter of the empire.

Nowhere is the bankruptcy of the ideology more plain than in Poland, where a communist government is at war with the workers. But there are

deeper difficulties within Russia itself.

The religious fervor for Leninism which was to be blown into flame for each succeeding generation by the Young Pioneers, the Comsomols and other youth organizations has weakened. There is great cynicism toward the self-perpetuating ruling elite, heavy with perquisites and nepotism. The slogans and exhortations fall on deaf ears.

The curtain grows increasingly leaky and each new traveling troupe of players or athletes brings back tales that do not square with Pravda's picture of the outside world. Dissenters still are suppressed, hospitalized or packed off to labor camps, but not with the enthusiasm with which Stalin liquidated enemies of the state. Even the Gulag seems a little wary, and the Russian leadership is now in the egg-walking period that precedes a struggle for succession.

This creeping malaise has made more necessary than ever the drumming internal propaganda that Mother Russia is surrounded by enemies ready to pounce on her. How else can the incessant buildup of military forces be explained and the postponement of the more abundant life justified?

And patriotism is, indeed, a characteristic of the Great Russians, as opposed to the cooler loyalties of Ukrainians, Georgians, Armenians, Kazakhs, Uighurs, Tartars, Mongols and lesser breeds of this world's largest land. Counterrevolution is not in prospect, however much the grumbling in the queues.

But weariness is expressed in alcoholism, absenteeism, sloppy workmanship and a spirit of "nichevo." To counter this, expansionism may be the only answer.

As one of our nice Intourist guides said of Afghanistan, "After all, we must have friends on our borders."

Come to think of it, that's what Napoleon and Hitler thought, too.

Jenkin Lloyd Jones, editor of the Tulsa Tribune, is a syndicated columnist.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 20, 1982

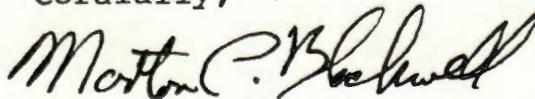
Mr. Clint Murchison, Jr
STEP Foundation
219-A "E" Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr Murchison:

Thanks for your kind invitation to join you in Dallas for the September meeting of the STEP Foundation. You have a fine organisation there that is doing a great job of following the Biblical principles for caring for the poor of our nation. This training meeting for pastors and laypersons on how their churches can initiate such a program will be very helpful.

Unfortunately, we do not have a travel budget even for such excellent and low cost meetings as this one. I do want you to know that my best wishes go with you for an excellent meeting which accomplishes all that you have set out to do.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
For Public Liaison

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1982

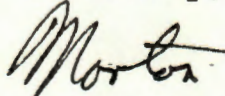
Mr. Paul M. Weyrich
Committee for Survival of a Free Congress
721 Second St. N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20012

Dear Paul:

This is a letter from a young student at one of our recent Leadership Institute seminars. He has just graduated from college and attended the school and Phyllis Schlafley's banquet as a graduation present from his parents.

The letter covers Oregon politics and right-to-life subjects, both of which are of interest to you.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Enclosure

August 2, 1982

Thomas G. Karter, Jr.
2516 N.E. 25th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97212
(503) 282-0357

Mr. Morton Blackwell
c/o The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Thank you for your recent call acknowledging receipt of your book. I dreaded losing your only copy of "Sexual Suicide," that rare book, after you were kind enough to loan it to me.

I have been wanting for several weeks to send you a report on political goings-on here in Oregon, but have shied away from doing this, because there is so much to say.

Of course, the elections are keeping us busy.

Some of the important races are these.

Executive Director, Metropolitan Services District.

The Metropolitan Services District (MSD, or "Metro") is a governmental body which was created by the Oregon legislature to provide services to the tri-county area around Portland. MSD is an experiment in regional government, and is unique in the entire United States. The man who now presides over Metro is Rick Gustafson, a liberal who has held the top post in MSD since its establishment. The man who will run against him is Dan Mosee, a conservative and a former Multnomah County Commissioner. (pronounced "Mo-ZAY")

Mosee is an old political veteran, and very outspoken. He is against MSD even existing, on the grounds that it duplicates services being provided by other levels of government, that it has had a tendency to usurp the powers of the cities and counties, and because it has been managed unresponsively. Dan is one of MSD's most prominent critics, and has been active in the movement to abolish Metro.

Mosee is accustomed to running a "poverty campaign" (he is famous for his old worn-out signs, which say, simply, "DAN MOSEE"), and will only be as extravagant as he's forced to be. I'm concerned that he doesn't have the political energy to run an effective campaign in an area which, in terms of population, is half as big as the state.

However, Dan is charismatic, in his own way. He is loved by many, and has a large following. In the primary,

Dan spent only a few hundred dollars (1/27th of Gustafson's amount), and his most of his campaigning in the course of his numerous petition drives. Even with this minimum of effort, he ran up a 35-percent total, and forced Gustafson into a run-off. I think that, if someone is there prodding him on, he'll come out on top in November. He is one of those unique characters who can snap his fingers and run anyone off the road, without exerting himself, but this is the biggest thing he's ever attempted. Gustafson is vulnerable (for example, Metro recently lost \$600,000!) and can be defeated, despite his superior organization.

Right now, I am helping Dan with several things, including precinct targetting (if I don't target the precincts, then it probably won't be done).

Multnomah County Executive.

Multnomah County is the biggest county in the state, with almost half of the state's population. It's been said that the County Executive (the "president" of the county) is the third most powerful elected official in Oregon. The two candidates for that post are Gordon Shadburne and Dennis Buchanan, both of whom are now county commissioners (Don Clark, the present County Executive, ran for governor as a Democrat, but was swamped by the tremendously charismatic Ted Kulongoski, more of which later). Buchanan is a liberal, who has served on the commission for about 8 years; Shadburne is a conservative, and a favorite of the New Right in Oregon, who has been on the commission for only about 4 years.

Shadburne is the underdog, for many reasons (such as Buchanan's greater name-familiarity, and his superior fund-raising potential, coming from Portland's wealthy west side). However, due to a large following, and the support of local churches, Shadburne was able to pull to within three points of Buchanan in the primary, last May. I think Gordon's got more "horsepower" behind him, with the volunteers and the talented young New Right strategists, and I am confident that he will win (I had a dream recently, where Gordon was elected with 53 percent of the vote). If our polls are any indication, the long-term trend has been favorable.

Shadburne is the number-one priority of the New Right in this part of the State. I am amazed at the imminent possibility of a New Right candidate coming to preside over one of the most liberal counties in the United States (Gordon's church support, though, has not been an issue).

Gordon's a fine gentleman, and a strong Christian. He'd make a good County Executive.

Governor

Vic Atiyeh, as you know, is Oregon's governor. He came through the primary without a scar, but will be meeting a strong Democrat this fall.

His opponent will be Ted Kulongoski, a State Senator from Junction City, near Eugene, and a very popular campaigner. Ted defeated Don Clark, who ran as a serious man with a well-thought-out program for Oregon (Kulongoski jumped into the race in the final months, and devastated poor Clark, who had been building for so long.)

Kulongoski has a good chance of being the next Governor of Oregon (polls by both campaigns have indicated that it could go either way).

The consensus in the Christian community here is that Atiyeh is better than Kulongoski, but, considering Atiyeh's liberal tendencies and the reasonably-good state of his campaign, he is just not worth the effort. We are better off putting our troops into other races, like Shadburne's, rather than putting our energies into a campaign where we don't stand to gain much, and where we are probably not really needed.

Conservative Christian activists in this area just aren't excited about Atiyeh.

Legislature

We lost a few of our supporters in the legislature, last May. Drew Davis, who was our insider in the capitol, was defeated by Anita McCloskey in the Democratic primary. The State Democratic leadership doesn't like "hornets," (conservative Democrats) and Drew was one of 'em. They did their best to discredit him.

However, McCloskey will run against Randy Miller, an attorney from Lake Oswego (Gabrielle Avery's city), who has run for the legislature in the past, and who is reasonably strong (Miller tells me that he would have to mess up to lose). Perhaps he will keep district 24 for the conservatives.

A leading feminist in the House of Representatives, Gretchen Kafoury (of the ultra-left "Kafoury dynasty"), was also defeated (she was put into the same district with Rep. Jane Cease, a friend and fellow feminist, by redistricting --it was a no-lose situation for us).

That's one thing about Oregon -- we have so many feminists in the legislature, it's pitiful.

Those are some of the big developments in Oregon's elections.

The Multnomah County Commission recently voted to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment (the Portland City Council had already endorsed it, 5-0). Gordon Shadburne was the only dissenter. The resolution endorsing ERA was submitted by none other than Dennis Buchanan, who knew full-well that Gordon would be the only one to vote against, and who intended perhaps to use it against Shadburne in the campaign. Every Commissioner, with the exception of Gordon, had either worked on behalf of ERA in the past, or had argued publically in favor of it. None of them had any intention of changing their mind, and we were aware of this.

Testimony was 3-to-1, in our favor. I have enclosed copies of two statements which were delivered to the Board (I wrote Ruth Hermance's). When Shadburne cast his NO vote, the room erupted into applause, which was sustained for about half a minute.

It was a futile effort, but we got on the record (by the way, if that was a typical legislative matter, Executive Shadburne could have vetoed it).

I am one of the co-founders of the Oregon Pro-Life Action League (OPAL), a non-profit corporation which is now being organized (I've been handling most of the legal material, with the advice of attorneys like Randy Miller) --it's good experience). OPAL is essentially devoted to "filling the gaps" and doing what other pro-life and pro-family groups are not doing. OPAL doesn't exist for the purpose of duplicating the work of other people.

For example, we will attack Planned Parenthood for its advocacy of abortion and its liberal, "do-it-but-avoid-the-consequences" approach to sex education.

We also plan to systematically infiltrate conventions and meetings held by such groups as Planned Parenthood, NARAL, ACLU, and so on, and to publish strategically-important information which is derived from these meetings.

Our local expert on Planned Parenthood's inner workings is Lin Ludwick, a college teacher from Gresham (which is to the east of Portland). I have been working with Lin on this project, and have become familiar with Planned Parenthood's financial operations. We hope to file a lawsuit against PP somewhere down the line, on any one of many charges, i.e. contributing to the delinquency of minors through its relativistic sex education policy, using public funds to lobby on behalf of liberal abortion laws, and so on.

Another project being worked on by the New Right locally has to do with the federal government's sex equity program, which is being demonstrated in Lincoln County, Oregon, as well as other sites throughout the United States. The sex equity program was established by Congress through the

Women's Educational Equity Act of 1974, and exists for the purpose of giving American feminists access to federal money. The sex equity program in Lincoln County, which began under Shirley Hufstedler, is an attempt by the federal government to infuse gender-free curricular materials into selected school systems. The program is dominated by feminists, and is devoted to gender identity in students and promoting the unisex, feminist agenda, at public expense.

(Paula Abbott, a local leader in the education field, says that the feminists are enacting their program through the schools, despite the defeat of the ERA.)

Carol Petrone, a housewife from Lake Oswego, is our resident expert on the sex equity program. Some people would like to challenge the program in court, alleging violation of the Hatch Amendment (to the ESEA law of 1978, which prohibits the use of federal programs to violate the privacy of students).

I am leery of this approach, since there are better and more secure ways of attacking the program. The program is scheduled to be discontinued very soon, because of a "sunset clause" in the original law, and I am not sure that we'd be wise to risk a defeat when it isn't necessary right now.

This is a brief overview of what's been happening politically in Oregon.

By the way, several months ago I sent you a letter suggesting a legal flaw in the Roe v. Wade ruling of 1973. I have since changed my mind, on that particular argument. I suggested that, by denying legal personhood to the unborn and then abridging the right of the states and localities to protect the unborn, the Supreme Court was, in effect, ruling beyond its legal reasoning (insofar as entities not regarded as legal persons may still be protected by law, under most circumstances).

This particular criticism was misguided, because the Supreme Court's ruling was predicated not on its finding of a lack of personhood in the unborn, but on its finding of a right of privacy in the 14th Amendment, which presumably protects abortion. The finding of non-personhood was, then, only incidental.

It was on the basis of the so-called "right to privacy" in the 14th Amendment that the Court affirmatively precluded the states and localities from abridging a woman's access to abortion. The finding of non-personhood, again, was only incidental.

Before signing off, let me leave you with an observation.

One of the arguments against the pro-life position is that

it amounts to the imposition of one person's religion or morality upon another. The appropriate response to this argument is to cite the Supreme Court's 1980 decision of Harris V. McRae, to wit:

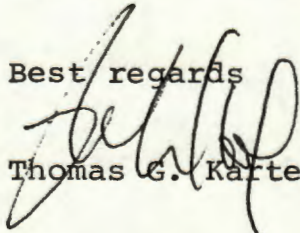
Several years ago, the Congress adopted the Hyde Amendment to the Medicaid law, which held that federal funds should be used for abortion subsidies only under certain limited circumstances. This law was taken to court, where the plaintiffs claimed, among other things, that the Roman Catholic Church has taken a stand against federal abortion subsidies, and that, insofar as the Hyde Amendment enacts into law this ban on federal abortion grants, it is an "establishment of religion." The Supreme court, in upholding the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment, ruled that, just because a particular law or public policy happens to coincide with the doctrine or policy of a particular church, it is not de facto unconstitutional. (To the extent that all law is the codification of religion, this interpretation is impossible to enact, and to the extent that religion is exclusively theistic, this would have the effect of making the state bitterly hostile to Christianity -- something the Founding Fathers never intended).

The Court was right. This applies as well to the pro-life legislative agenda in general.

What was so unsettling about the Supreme Court's Hyde Amendment ruling, though, was that it was only 5-4. One changed vote would have thrown it the other way. Can you imagine the implications?

All for now. I'll be glad to stay in touch. Thanks again for your kindness during my visit to Washington.

Best regards



Thomas G. Katter, Jr.

Encs: 2 testimonies re: ERA
copy of Argus article on creationism

Court should back creationism

By THOMAS G. KARTER JR.
Special to the Argus

PORTLAND—On Jan. 5, Federal Judge William Overton struck down Arkansas' Balanced Treatment of Origins Act which, had it been implemented, would have required that Arkansas' public schools give balanced treatment to the evolution and creation models of origins.

The verdict was probably obvious before the hearings even started. The attorney general of Arkansas, Steve Clark, was legally responsible for defending the state's case, although he had stated earlier that he had "personal qualms" about the law.

An effort was made by local supporters of the law to give Wendell R. Bird and John Whitehead, two of the most authoritative experts in the country on this specialized subject matter, official courtroom status (at no cost to the state), but their petition was rejected without a hearing.

For reasons which still are not clear, the attorney general insisted on going it alone, despite his conflict of interest.

It became clear, as the trial date neared, that Clark's team was very poorly prepared, having only a rudimentary understanding of the

legal material.

The American Civil Liberties Union, on the other hand, appreciating the significance of this case, enlisted the full-time assistance of several members of a huge New York City law firm.

Considering the circumstances, the invalidation of the law probably was inevitable.

But now the trail is history, and Judge Overton's opinion is a precedent for future cases. One of the more outstanding characteristics of this written decision was its constant appeal to a whole series of blatant "double standards," especially regarding the "scientificness" or "religiosity" of creationism and evolutionism.

No human witness was around when the universe and life began, whether this beginning was in accordance with the evolution or creation scenario.

So, being a historical question, the origin of the cosmos cannot be addressed by the scientific method, which requires that any phenomenon be repeatable and testable.

We can, however, formulate a "model of origins," which is a set of hypotheses and propositions as to how things began. Evolution and creation

are such "models."

We then can determine the logical predications which are made by these models (something that is often easier said than done), and then ascertain how well the facts of nature comply with the predictions of each model.

In other words, evolutionists and creationists can argue only from indirect, circumstantial evidences. No one disagrees on the serious factual matters. The difference is over the interpretation of these facts—which model explains them better.

Some interpret the natural evidences in general to uphold the evolution model; an increasing number of scientists, with just as much authority, interpret them to uphold creation.

Then there is the question of what is "religion" and what is not. There are many religions which are based upon the idea of creation, such as Protestant and Catholic Christianity, Mormonism, Judaism and Mohammedanism.

But let's not forget there also are many religions which are based upon evolution, such as Theological Liberalism, Secular Humanism, Unitarianism, Atheism, Reform Judaism, and Buddhism.

ACLU's plaintiffs consisted largely of persons who adhere to such evolution-based religions).

In other words, evolutionism and creationism are not, in themselves, "religions"—they are models of origins—but there are religions which are based upon each.

Judge Overton held that the inclusion of scientific evidences for creation in the appropriate curricula would serve to "advance religion."

Overton should have known that the present policy of presenting evolution as the only credible theory of origins serves to indirectly advance certain evolutionist religions, and that the Arkansas law was intended to ensure neutrality.

"Double standards" or not, Judge Overton's ruling is legal precedent, unless it eventually is reversed by a higher court.

The Arkansas Legislature's policy of requiring a neutral course in the presentation of the creation/evolution question was a good and proper one, which respected the sensitivities of all students and parents, and promoted a more adequate understanding of this important issue.

The higher courts definitely should

the case will not be appealed — with the state unable to submit further evidence it would just result in a disaster in the upper levels of the federal judiciary.

TESTIMONY BY
THOMAS G. KARTER, JR.
BEFORE THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 22, 1982
CONCERNING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Board.

My name is Thomas Karter, Jr., and I am a resident and voter in Multnomah County. I am a student, and will be attending the University of Oregon this fall.

I have come today to urge you to vote against endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment. I speak as a person who has studied the amendment in detail, and who has come to believe that it is not in the best interest of the country in general, or of women in particular.

Let me tell you why I have taken this position.

As you know, the Equal Rights Amendment has been offered as a means of ensuring for women such things as equal pay for equal work, equal credit opportunities, equal employment opportunities, and so on. But, it was surprising for me to find that a series of federal and state laws already ensure these rights. Governor Atiyeh's office has published a letter listing several of these laws and regulations, a copy of which will be provided to you in a moment. Also, the enforcement agencies for these laws are in place. The ERA, as now worded, can add nothing to these laws. I think the burden of proof is on the proponents to indicate what ERA can do for women.

(more)

Secondly, the ERA would deprive us of the opportunity to make reasonable distinctions in law based on sex. The most obvious example of this is the drafting of women. Whether you are for or against the drafting of women on an equal basis with men, just remember that we now have the opportunity to draft women or to refrain from drafting women, whichever seems appropriate. The point is, the ERA would deprive us of the option of not drafting women, because it would require that the government treat men and women as identicals.

Thirdly, section two of the ERA reads that "The Congress shall have the power to enforce through appropriate legislation the provisions of this article." And what the Congress has the power to enforce, the federal agencies have the power to execute and administer, and the federal courts have the power to interpret.

This means that the federal government would assume the power to legislate on every matter involving equality between males and females, such as marriage, divorce, child custody, marriage property law, inheritance, and so on.

The United States was founded by men and women who believed that government has a natural tendency to restrict the freedom of citizens, and that freedom is best served by keeping as many decisions as possible at the local level. The ERA is a repudiation of this historical ideal.

I believe there is absolutely no good reason to give the federal government these new powers.

For the second part of my testimony, I would like to respond to the argument that women receive only 59¢ for every dollar earned by a man, and that the ERA is needed to remedy this.

Before we can discuss this, we should know exactly what it is we are talking about. The 59-cent figure is obtained by taking the average wage paid to women and the average wage paid to men. The different wages are the result of the fact that most women work fewer hours per week, fewer weeks per year, and fewer years of their lives than men do, in building up seniority for a job. Also, women are eleven times more likely to voluntarily leave their job for family reasons. For these and other reasons, women have, on the average, half as much seniority in employment as men do. This is one of many reasons why women tend to earn less than men.

This isn't "sex discrimination" -- it's a natural result of the different career choices which men and women tend to make.

This isn't to deny that sex discrimination takes place. I'm only saying that the differences in earnings are better accounted for by the tendency of males and females to choose different career options.

But in the event that sex discrimination does take place, the aggrieved part has every legal recourse. A series of laws, executive orders and judicial rulings, at the federal and state levels, prohibit unequal pay for equal work, and enforcement agencies exist to implement these rules. The Equal Rights Amendment can add nothing to them.

Finally, let's remember that the ERA says "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." It applies only to laws passed by the federal government, the States, or any jurisdiction under them. But at this time, most wages and salaries in the United States aren't determined by law; they are determined by private market forces. This is one more reason why the ERA is incapable of ensuring equal pay for equal work, or of equalizing the earnings of males and females.

Let me close by saying that I'm not against women -- just bad legislation. Most of the people who defeated the ERA were women. They believed, with good reason, that the Equal Rights Amendment was not in the country's best interest.

I respectfully challenge anyone of you to inform me of a single advantage that the ERA would confer upon American women, that they do not already have. If now is not the time for you to respond, then I urge you to ask yourself this question in the privacy of your own chambers.

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With so much to lose and so little to gain, are you really willing to take a chance on the ERA?

I urge you to vote against endorsing the ERA.

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TESTIMONY BY
RUTH HERMANCE
BEFORE THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 22, 1982
CONCERNING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Multnomah County Commission.

My name is Ruth Hermance, and I am a precinct committeeperson in Multnomah County. I am a teacher, a homemaker, and a concerned citizen.

I would like to talk about the subject of ERA's popularity with the American public.

Public support is a highly-valued commodity in American politics. Advocates of different programs and policies, even those diametrically opposed, invariably claim to have the support of the public.

The proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment claim that independent and non-independent polls have indicated widespread -- and growing -- public support for the ERA. I would like to explain why I believe this is not the case, and why I believe ERA is rejected by most Americans.

The polls cited by the proponents usually involve less than a thousand respondents nationwide, and are usually biased in favor of the ERA position.

As an example of a slanted public opinion survey, let me refer

to the recent Lou Harris poll.

Several months ago, Americans learned of a poll conducted by the Lou Harris organization, which indicated that 63 percent of Americans are in favor of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. What they didn't hear about or read was the way in which the poll was conducted. The pollster, prior to asking the respondent for his or her opinion, had listed three pro-ERA arguments and had suggested that advocates of "women's rights" are in favor of the amendment. This was balanced off with a weak anti-ERA argument, which was carelessly and frivolously worded. The tactic was essentially to give a pep talk for ERA prior to asking the respondent's opinion. Under these circumstances, it's a wonder the poll didn't indicate 99 percent support. At least, I would have expected support greater than 63 percent!

Lou Harris himself personally visited several of the unratified states to lobby for the ERA. His poll was obviously a piece of political propaganda -- his contribution to the ratification effort.

We can argue about which polls are accurate and which ones are inaccurate, but let me make one point-- and I would like your undivided attention for this. There's a better way of determining the support enjoyed by the Equal Rights Amendment, and these are the various referenda which have been held during the past decade.

In every referendum on the ERA since 1975, it has been defeated. In 1975, the people of New York and New Jersey (two liberal states), voted against the ERA. In 1978, in Florida and Nevada, voters did the same thing. Two years ago, in 1980, voters in Iowa also voted down the ERA.

I believe these referenda are better indications of public opinion, because they have taken place after exhaustive public education campaigns, when the voters in general were better informed on the issue, and had been exposed to both sides.

What's so interesting about these referenda is that in every case, to my knowledge, the polls had predicted in advance that it would pass! The polls were consistently proven wrong.

Let me emphasize this: referenda since 1975, throughout the United States, have consistently indicated a lack of support for the ERA, and we believe these are more accurate and reliable than popularly-cited public opinion polls.

But there's more. In each of the above cited cases, with the exception of Nevada in 1978, the voters were voting on State ERAs, which would have applied to state constitutions, pending ratification of a federal ERA. There are ten times as many reasons to vote against a federal ERA. It seems

Page 4

reasonable to me, that had the voters been voting on whether or not to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment, the measures would have been defeated more thoroughly than they were.

The American people, when given the opportunity to hear both sides of the ERA argument, and when shown what its legal effect would be, have decided consistently that they would rather it was not ratified.

Most Americans are not sympathetic to the ideas of drafting women on an equal basis with men, transferring vast new powers to the federal government, or of eliminating the right of the people to make rational distinctions between males and females in the nation's laws.

In closing, I'd like to say I wish it were not necessary for me to come here today to testify on the ERA, because as you know, the proposal was defeated and proponents have acknowledged that they don't have the support to repass it in Congress. The County has better things to do right now, than spend its time ratifying old constitutional amendments. But, I felt that the public had to know the truth on the ERA.

I hope that, on the basis of public opinion as well as for other reasons, you will vote against endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment.

Thank you for your time.

* * *

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1982

Mr. Ralph Drollinger, Executive Producer
Athletes in Action Sports Magazine
Campus Crusade for Christ, International
Arrowhead Springs
San Bernardino, California 92414

Dear Mr. Drollinger:

This is in response to your letter to the President of
August 9 concerning the television program Athletes in
Action Sports Magazine.

I spoke with Colonel David C. Cole regarding your request to
include an offer to send a free copy of your magazine to
viewers of your television program which he has decided to
broadcast over the Armed Services Network.

Col. Cole said that he was impressed with your program and
is happy to run it. The only question relates to the offer
for people to write you for free copies of the magazine.
While there is no hard and fast rule on this subject, the
general practice has been to delete such messages from Armed
Services Network telecasts.

Col. Cole said that he had consulted his Chaplains Board
about your program. They responded that they did not consider
it to be religious material falling under their jurisdiction.
He also said that in conversation with you he had asked for
sample copies of your magazine but had yet to receive them.

Col. Cole suggested that you should send magazine samples to
him. He will then pass them by the Chaplains Board for their
comment and make a determination regarding the inclusion of
the free offer on the broadcast.

He said he would keep me informed with respect to your
request. I am hopeful that this matter can be properly
resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Cordially,

Morton C. Blackwell

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

cc: Dr. William Bright
Col. David C. Cole

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1982

Mr. Phelps Jones, Director
National Security and Foreign Affairs
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
V.F.W. Memorial Buiding
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Phelps:

This is in response to your letter of June 2, 1982, wherein you requested information concerning the Department of Energy purchase of Iranian crude oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

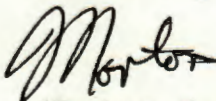
DOE informs me that, on April 22, 1982, a total of 6.25 million barrels of various crude oils were purchased for Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage from a number of sources. One source was an international crude oil trading firm which offered Iranian crude oil at attractive commercial terms in response to an ongoing competitive solicitation.

This offer represented a resale of crude oil previously purchased by the trading firm. The strictly commerical nature of this acquisition did not involve any direct dealings with the Iranian government or business elements and, therefore, does not reflect any change in the principles associated with the U. S. Government relations with Iran.

DOE points out that the purchase was also consistent with the removal of the ban on Iranian crude oil imports in January 1981 after the safe release of the U. S. citizens held hostage.

I hope this information adequately responds to the concerns you expressed, and I must apologize that it took so long to grind an answer out of the bureaucracy.

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Copy sent to:-

August 30, 1982

Tom Winter
Richard Dingman
Howard Phillips
Richard Thompson
Ed Feulner
John Rees
M Stanton Evans
Reed Larsen
John Lofton
F van der Linden
James Wheelan

Dear Tom:

Our old friend Buz Lukens gave me this packet of information.

What do you make of it?

Buz said he had backup material if anyone needs it. He can be reached at:

1110 Vermont Avenue, Suite 425
Washington, D. C. 20005
(202) 342-0770

or

Ohio State Senate
State House
Columbus, Ohio 43216
(614) 466-8072

I thought you would be interested in it.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 2, 1982

Mr. Jhoon Rhee
6210 Chillum Place
Washington, D. C. 20011

Dear Jhoon:

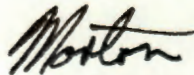
You were very kind to call back and make arrangements for our families to get together. I understand we are getting together on September 20.

Enclosed is a copy of an exchange of memos I had last year with Jim Pinkerton. At that time he was on the White House staff; now he works for the Republican National Committee. Our exchange of memos late last year gave me an opportunity to outline my views about trends in American political activism.

I hope you will find these interesting and would ask that you not make the contents public.

I look forward to getting together with you again soon.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1982

Mr. Harold Blechman
State ADjutant
Disabled American Veterans
Department of Illinois
5524 Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Dear Mr. Blechman:

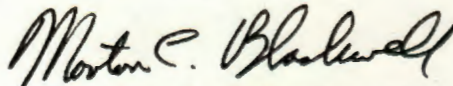
This is in response to your July 1 letter to President Reagan in which you expressed concern about the resignation of Charles Hagel as Depty Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

I can assure you that your attitudes, and those of your fellow members of the Disabled American Veterans, are taken very seriously here at the White House and by the Veterans Administration as well. But with regard to Mr. Nimmo's performance as Administrator of Veterans Affairs, we are concerned that you may be basing your information on distorted reports of his alleged attitudes and statements and not on the facts.

Mr. Nimmo addressed these allegations at the recent Disabled American Veterans convention in Las Vegas. Please find enclosed a copy of his speech.

Thank you for sharing your views with the President.

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

Enclosure

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL CONVENTION -- LAS VEGAS, NEVADA JULY 18, 1982

WHEN I APPEAR BEFORE THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, I FEEL I AM WITH A GROUP WITH A SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF VETERANS -- AND A SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR PROGRAMS SET UP FOR THEIR UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS.

WHEN I APPEAR BEFORE THIS CONVENTION, I AM AWARE OF WHAT D.A.V. IS ACCOMPLISHING -- FOR OUR VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, AND FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE COUNTRY.

YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN INDUSTRIOUS AND SUPPORTIVE OF VETERANS PROGRAMS. YOUR CONVENTIONS ARE ALWAYS LARGE, ACTIVE AND INTERESTING. SO -- AS USUAL -- YOUR AGENDA THIS YEAR IS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF, SOMETHING TO REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO.

D.A.V. IS AN EFFECTIVE AND RESPECTED VOICE IN MATTERS THAT AFFECT THE DISABLED -- BECAUSE PEOPLE REALIZE YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO SPEAK TO THE VERY SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE DISABLED.

IF YOU DID NOTHING MORE THAN SERVE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR DISABLED VETERANS, MEMBERSHIP IN D.A.V. WOULD STILL BE WORTHWHILE -- YOUR TIME AND EFFORT WOULD BE WELL SPENT. BUT THE FOUNDERS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION HAD A BROADER POLICY AGENDA.

SO I JOIN YOU TODAY IN THE PRIDE YOU FEEL AS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS -- WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR ALL AMERICANS.

I CAN APPRECIATE THE SATISFACTION YOU DERIVE FROM KNOWING THAT YOU ARE MEMBERS OF A GROUP THAT DOES THINGS TO MAKE YOUR HOMETOWNS BETTER -- BECAUSE YOU ARE PRODUCERS, ACHIEVERS, AND CITIZENS WITH GREAT CIVIC PRIDE.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE LONG ADMIRERD YOU FOR THE CAUSES YOU ESPOUSE. AND THEIR RESPECT IS BACKED UP BY THE GREATEST SYSTEM OF BENEFITS AND HEALTH CARE EVER PROVIDED BY A NATION FOR ITS VETERANS.

I CANNOT SAY -- AND I WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE ABLE TO SAY -- WE ARE MEETING THE NEEDS OF VETERANS FULLY. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO COMPLETELY SQUARE THE DEBT FOR LOST TIME, LOST OPPORTUNITY, LOST HEALTH. THESE LOSSES ARE THE UNFORTUNATE PRICE WE MUST PAY FOR LIVING IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY AND ENSURING ITS FUTURE.

WHAT YOU DO EXPECT -- AND WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE -- ARE PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ENJOY THE FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY YOU HELPED DEFEND. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO EXPECT PROGRAMS THAT ARE PLANNED WISELY AND ADMINISTERED SKILLFULLY.

LAST YEAR, I EXPRESSED TO YOU BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S AND MY OWN COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING THE VA'S INTEGRATED QUALITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. I TOLD YOU OF OUR RESOLVE TO CONTINUE DELIVERY OF AUTHORIZED VETERANS' BENEFITS.

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, I MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALL VA PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW; NOT A REVIEW DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE PROGRAMS OR BENEFITS. BUT RATHER ONE TO ENSURE THAT THE AGENCY WAS BEING MANAGED EFFICIENTLY. IT WAS MY GOAL THAT BENEFIT PROGRAMS -- BOTH MEDICAL AND NON-MEDICAL -- SHOULD PRODUCE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO VETERANS ...AT THE LEAST POSSIBLE COST TO TAXPAYERS.

I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT ON OUR REVIEWS -- WHAT WE FOUND, WHAT WE DID, WHERE WE ARE GOING...AND, TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE CONCERNS I'VE HEARD EXPRESSED, WHERE WE ARE NOT GOING.

I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT:

- * AGENT ORANGE.
- * THE VIETNAM VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM.
- * AFFILIATIONS.
- * RESEARCH.
- * OUR MEDICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.
- * VA PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT.
- * ...AND DATA PROCESSING.

AS A RESULT OF REVIEWS IN THESE AREAS -- SOME OF WHICH ARE STILL GOING ON -- WE HAVE MADE SOME FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES -- WHICH WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE DELIVERY OF VETERANS BENEFITS.

ONE OF THE FIRST PROGRAMS I REVIEWED WAS AGENT ORANGE. I FOUND OUR RESEARCH STUCK ON DEAD CENTER -- WITH GOOD INTENTIONS, BUT NOTHING MOVING.

SO I APPOINTED AN AGENT ORANGE TASK FORCE...CREATED AN AGENT ORANGE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OFFICE...AND BEEFED UP THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE. THESE OFFICES ARE NOW WORKING -- FULL TIME -- ON MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS TO HELP RESOLVE THE COMPLEX ISSUE OF AGENT ORANGE.

TOWARD THAT END, I RECENTLY APPROVED A 5-MILLION DOLLAR AGENT ORANGE BUDGET PROGRAM FOR THIS YEAR -- AND I WILL PETITION THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS FOR ANOTHER \$7.7 MILLION OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THE DETAILS WILL BE SHARED WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD TO SAY THAT THIS IS THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE AGENT ORANGE BUDGET PREPARED BY ANY ADMINISTRATION.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, DOZENS OF OTHER AGENT ORANGE RESEARCH PROJECTS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY IN THE VA -- AND THROUGHOUT GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WE SUPPORT AND WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH ALL THESE EFFORTS -- AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AS A MEMBER OF THE WHITE HOUSE AGENT ORANGE WORKING GROUP...AND ITS SCIENCE PANEL.

WE ARE ADVISED IN OUR ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH-RELATED EFFECTS OF HERBICIDES -- AN ADVISORY GROUP COMPRISED OF DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS AND CONCERNED VETERANS -- MANY BELONGING TO VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS.

STILL, IT MAY TAKE YEARS TO GET ANSWERS TO THE MANY QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE. BUT, WE SHOULD BEGIN TO SEE IMPORTANT RESEARCH RESULTS BY LATE 1983.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE ACTIVELY -- AND DILIGENTLY -- PURSUING ANSWERS, AND CONTINUING TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT TO VETERANS WITH PROBLEMS POTENTIALLY RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE.

WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED AT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WE HAD 90 VET CENTERS FUNCTIONING NATIONWIDE. THE SYSTEM WAS PLAGUED BY INSUFFICIENT MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS A GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM WITHIN THE AGENCY.

THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH STAFFING AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE-LEVEL TO MAKE THE PROGRAM COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE AND THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH STAFFING AT THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR-LEVEL TO PROVIDE PROPER PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.

THERE WERE NO SEPARATE FUNDING CONTROL-POINTS AT THE STATION LEVEL. AND THERE WAS NO DELINEATION OF VET CENTER RESOURCES IN THE DM&S BUDGET.

SO WE ESTABLISHED THE READJUSTMENT COUNSELING PROGRAM AS A SEPARATE SERVICE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY -- UNDER THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. WE ALSO CREATED A SPECIAL STEERING COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE PROPER PROGRAM GUIDANCE.

WE INCREASED CENTRAL OFFICE STAFFING IN THE MANAGEMENT AREA AND REGIONAL COORDINATORS RECRUITED PROGRAM MANAGERS TO PROVIDE BETTER PROGRAM DELIVERY IN THE FIELD.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE INSTITUTED SEPARATE FUNDING CONTROLS AT THE STATION LEVEL -- SO THAT OUTREACH FUNDS MUST BE USED FOR OUTREACH PURPOSES.

A NATIONAL READJUSTMENT COUNSELING CONTRACT PROGRAM HAS ALSO BEEN INSTITUTED. AS OF JULY 1, OVER 245 CONTRACTORS ARE AVAILABLE TO INCREASE THE READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES ACROSS THE NATION.

WE HAVE NOW OPENED MORE CENTERS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS. SOME 130 CENTERS ARE OPERATIONAL, WITH SIX MORE COMING ON-LINE SOON. THE VIETNAM VETERAN OUTREACH CENTER PROGRAM IS NOW BETTER MANAGED, PROPERLY FUNDED AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT IS PLAYING A VITAL, AND SUCCESSFUL ROLE IN THE REHABILITATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS.

IN THE AREA OF AFFILIATIONS BETWEEN MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND VA MEDICAL CENTERS THE VA WILL CONTINUE TO MEET ITS STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE THE NATION WITH VITAL MEDICAL EDUCATION RESOURCES. BUT I HAVE INDICATED THAT THESE NEED TO BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED. THE CARE OF THE VETERAN PATIENT MUST BE THE FOCUS OF AFFILIATION AND PUBLIC RESOURCES MUST BE USED TO SUPPORT THAT PHILOSOPHY.

THIS ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD IN STRENGTHENING POSITIVE EXAMPLES OF MEDICAL EDUCATION BEGAN WHEN PRESIDENT REAGAN SIGNED PUBLIC LAW 97-15. IN DOING SO, HE EXTENDED THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE VA COULD ADMINISTER GRANTS TO FIVE NEWLY ESTABLISHED STATE MEDICAL SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE MADE EXCELLENT PROGRESS. THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO COMPLETE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$133.8 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF THESE POSITIVE EXAMPLES OF AFFILIATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS.

A MORE RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS SUPPORT IS A PROJECT NOW IN PROGRESS UNDER VA'S SPECIAL MEDICAL ADVISORY GROUP. THIS PANEL OF DISTINGUISHED, INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXPERTS HAS BEEN WORKING FOR THE PAST YEAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS TO EVALUATE AFFILIATIONS AND ADVISE ME ON CRITERIA THAT CAN BE USED TO DETERMINE WHERE OUR MEDICAL EDUCATION RESOURCES SHOULD BE APPLIED TO IMPROVE OUR HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM.

WE CONTINUE TO REVIEW OUR MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR WAYS OF EXPANDING AND IMPROVING OUR EFFORTS -- IN BOTH PROSTHETIC AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH. WE MUST DEVOTE GREATER RESEARCH EFFORT TO DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH VETERANS, PARTICULARLY THE AGED. WHILE I CANNOT SPEAK TO EXACT FIGURES AT THIS TIME, I INTEND TO SEEK A FISCAL YEAR '84 MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH BUDGET SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE THE \$138 MILLION WE HAVE IN THE '83 BUDGET.

LAST DECEMBER, I ORDERED A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE MISSION AND AUTHORITY OF THE REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTER IN NEW YORK -- AFTER THE INSPECTOR GENERAL HAD FOUND SOME SERIOUS OPERATING PROBLEMS. BECAUSE OF GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT VA EFFORTS IN THIS AREA -- PARTICULARLY YOURS -- DOCTOR CUSTIS AND I ASKED THE REVIEW TASK FORCE TO DO TWO THINGS: (1) ASSESS THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER AND, (2) DESIGN LONG-RANGE PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING, TESTING AND DISTRIBUTING PROSTHETIC DEVICES FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

THE TASK FORCE HAS COMPLETED PHASE ONE. I HAVE RECEIVED THEIR REPORT WHICH RECOMMENDS TRANSFERRING THE SPECIAL CLINIC AT THE VA REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTER TO THE TOTAL HEALTH CARE SETTING OF THE LOCAL VA MEDICAL CENTER -- AND ESTABLISHING OTHER SPECIAL CLINICS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THIS REALIGNMENT WOULD ALLOW US TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE -- TO VETERANS WHO NEED IT -- IN PLACES CLOSER TO THEIR HOMES.

THE TASK FORCE ALSO RECOMMENDS SHIFTING THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION FROM A CENTRALIZED TO A NATIONWIDE EFFORT THAT WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PARTICULAR CENTERS OF EXPERTISE.

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS WERE KEPT APPRISED OF THE TASK FORCE'S PROGRAMS.

THE TASK FORCE HAS CAUTIONED, AND I AGREE, THAT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE VA REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THEIR CHARTER. THAT IS, TO COME UP WITH A SYSTEM -- AND A FUNDING LEVEL -- THAT WILL BRING THE VA BACK INTO THE FOREFRONT OF PROSTHETICS AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH.

WE ALL KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN EXPLOSION OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY -- IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND EVALUATION OF NEW AND UNIQUE PROSTHESES, ORTHOTICS, MOBILITY AIDS, AND TECHNIQUES AND CONCEPTS IN REHABILITATION. THERE ARE NOW OVER 300 BLIND SENSORY AIDS -- MOST DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST DECADE. REHAB DEVICES ARE NO LONGER JUST PASSIVE, THEY NOW HAVE INTERNAL CONTROLS RELYING ON COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS.

IN THE SECOND PHASE, THE TASK FORCE IS LOOKING FOR A MECHANISM TO PROVIDE STRONG CENTRAL LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE TO A DIVERSIFIED R&D AND EVALUATION PROCESS. I HOPE TO HAVE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS IN TIME FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE FISCAL YEAR '84 BUDGET.

CERTAINLY, VA SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH INTO DISEASES AND HEALTH PROBLEMS OF THE AGED.

WE ARE STEPPING UP OUR EFFORTS IN THE GERIATRIC RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND CLINICAL CENTERS WHICH WE HAVE IN EIGHT LOCATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. WE REPROGRAMMED FY 82 STAFF AND FUNDING TO BOOST THIS EFFORT AND IN FISCAL YEAR 83 WE HOPE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY POSTGRADUATE AND INSERVICE TRAINING SUPPORT FOR A CONTINUING GERIATRIC EDUCATION EFFORT.

WE INTEND TO ATTRACT OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONALS TO TEACH, TO CONDUCT BASIC AND CLINICAL RESEARCH ON AGING, TO PROVIDE EDUCATION IN GERIATRICS, AND TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR PROVIDING CARE TO THE AGED.

IN ADDITION, A VARIETY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AT THE AGING POPULATION ARE NOW GOING ON THROUGHOUT THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. ONE EXAMPLE IS A GERIATRIC PHYSICIAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM. ANOTHER IS THE NEWLY-INITIATED NURSE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -- WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED GERONTOLOGIC NURSING AS ONE OF ITS PRIORITY AREAS.

THERE WILL BE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON INVESTIGATION OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE AGED -- RESEARCH INTO SUCH AREAS AS DIABETES, CHRONIC FORMS OF HEART DISEASE, CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE LUNG DISEASE, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND IMPROVED SENSORY AIDS.

AS MANY OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THE VA HAS ALSO UNDERTAKEN A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES TO REFINE AND IMPROVE OUR CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING A REVALIDATION PROCESS FOR THOSE PROJECTS IN OUR FIVE-YEAR MEDICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PLAN WHICH REVIEWS THE NEED, JUSTIFICATION, WORKLOAD DATA AND DESIGN, FOR EACH PROJECT--PRIOR TO ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING.

THE PURPOSE OF THE REVALIDATION PROCESS IS TO ENSURE THAT THOSE PROJECTS WHICH ARE THE BASIS FOR OUR BUDGET REQUEST REFLECT THE BEST CONSTRUCTION RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF OUR VETERANS. IT HAS NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN TO ENSURE THAT WE MEET THE NEEDS OF VETERANS WITH THE RIGHT FACILITY, IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME.

THE REVALIDATION PROCESS -- LET ME ASSURE YOU -- IS NOT DESIGNED TO REDUCE BEDS. IT IS NOT DESIGNED TO DELAY VITALLY NEEDED MEDICAL FACILITIES. AND IT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT DESIGNED TO OPEN THE DOOR TO MAINSTREAMING -- A CONCEPT I STRONGLY OPPOSE.

FOR THE RECORD, LET ME ALSO -- ONCE AND FOR ALL -- CORRECT A MISCONCEPTION THAT OUR REVALIDATION PROCESS WAS A FREEZE, OR MORATORIUM, ON THE VA'S CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.

WE ARE ABOUT TO COMPLETE THE REVALIDATION PROCESS FOR THOSE PROJECTS WHICH ARE POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR FISCAL YEAR '84 CONSTRUCTION FUNDING. WE ARE TAKING A FRESH LOOK AT THESE PROJECTS, WHILE THEY CONTINUED TO BE DESIGNED. WE INTEND TO ASSURE YOU, AND ASSURE OURSELVES, THAT THOSE PROJECTS WE SELECT WOULD REPRESENT THE BEST CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM POSSIBLE. THAT THEY WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS -- AND BASED ON DEFENSIBLE AND ACCURATE CRITERIA.

OUR REVIEW OF THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM INVOLVES 57 PROJECTS WITH A COMBINED ESTIMATED COST OF OVER \$1 BILLION. EACH PROJECT WAS COMPREHENSIVELY REVIEWED BY A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY VA TEAM -- WHICH WAS DIRECTED TO REVIEW THE PROJECT FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

WE HAVE FOUND THE REVALIDATION PROCESS VERY PRODUCTIVE. WE WILL CONTINUE IT UNTIL WE HAVE MADE CERTAIN THAT ALL OF OUR PLANNED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS REPRESENT THE BEST AND MOST EFFICIENT PROJECTS THAT CAN BE PROVIDED...THAT THEY MEET OUR CONTINUED GOAL, AND COMMITMENT, TO DEVELOP, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN, A QUALITY, INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE, HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR THE VETERAN POPULATION.

CERTAINLY, YOU SUPPORTED US. THE D.A.V. COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH THE VA IN THE REVIEW AND REVALIDATION PROCESS. YOU WERE THERE, STEP-BY-STEP -- TO PROVIDE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE.

SO YOU KNOW THAT REVALIDATION MEANS BETTER, NOT LESS. IT MEANS PROGRESS, NOT DELAY...MOMENTUM, NOT MORATORIUM...EFFECTIVENESS, NOT FREEZE.

IN THE INTERNAL MANAGEMENT OF THE VA, I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD OF OUR PROGRAMS IN PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT. WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY TO ACHIEVING AN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH WILL TIE POLICY FORMULATION TO PROGRAM PLANNING AND BUDGETING -- AND AID POLICY-LEVEL OVERSIGHT OF PROGRAM DELIVERY AND FISCAL OPERATIONS.

THIS YEAR, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE A POLICY 'BASELINE' STUDY TO IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AND ALTERNATIVES -- AND TO ISSUE POLICY GUIDELINES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FISCAL YEAR '84 THROUGH '88 PROGRAM PLANS AND BUDGET ESTIMATES.

WITH SOUND STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS.

OVER THE YEARS VA'S DATA PROCESSING EFFORTS HAVE BEEN LESS THAN EFFECTIVE. WE WERE FALLING BEHIND IN THE USE OF MODERN DATA PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY -- ON THE MANAGEMENT SIDE AS WELL AS IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY. WE WERE NOT EVEN CLOSE TO USING MINI-COMPUTERS TO THE EXTENT WE SHOULD.

SO WE HAD TO REORIENT AND REORGANIZE OUR WHOLE DATA PROCESSING AREA.

NOW, A TOP AGENCY OFFICIAL OVERSEES OPERATIONS -- AND REPORTS DIRECTLY TO ME.

DEPARTMENTS AND STAFF OFFICES MUST NOW PLAN -- AND DEFEND -- ALL ADP INITIATIVES IN THE INTERNAL BUDGET PROCESS. PLANNING THEREFORE MUST BE MORE EXACT IN RELATION TO MISSION REQUIREMENTS.

WE ARE UPDATING PRESENT MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHIES, ALIGNMENT AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE LEASING TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT INSTEAD OF BUYING. WE ARE CONSOLIDATING ADP SERVICE CENTERS.

WE ARE STREAMLINING ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES -- INCLUDING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO RESEARCH NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY. ALL AGENCY POINTS -- LOAN GUARANTY, BIRLS, TARGET -- WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE TO ALL AGENCY USERS...THROUGH NETWORKING.

IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, I ORDERED ALL OUR HOSPITALS TO DETERMINE HOW THEY COULD USE MODERN ADP TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR OPERATIONS.

G.S.A. HAS APPROVED 2.9-MILLION DOLLARS TO BUY TERMINALS AND AUXILIARY GEAR TO MAKE 24 UNDERUTILIZED COMPUTER PROCESSING SITES AVAILABLE TO MEDICAL CENTERS. SIX OF THE 24 ARE ASSISTING HOSPITALS NOW -- IN A PILOT TEST.

TO DATE, WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN REORGANIZING OUR MANAGEMENT OF DATA PROCESSING RESOURCES. MOST IMPORTANTLY, VETERANS HEALTH CARE WILL BENEFIT FROM OUR ACQUISITION PROGRAM FOR MINICOMPUTERS -- FOR PATIENT REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING, PHARMACY AND LABORATORY SYSTEMS.

MEDICAL CENTER DIRECTORS ARE BEING GIVEN WIDE LATITUDE IN DEVELOPING LOCAL DATA PROCESSING APPLICATIONS TO MEET PATIENT NEEDS. AND WE WILL HAVE 11-MILLION DOLLARS PROGRAMMED FOR THIS EFFORT THIS YEAR.

IN THE AREA OF VETERAN'S LEGISLATION, THE PRESIDENT AND I BOTH SUPPORTED THE FORMER PRISONER OF WAR BENEFITS ACT.

JUST AS WHOLE-HEARTEDLY, WE SUPPORTED:

- * VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION, HOUSING, AND MEMORIAL BENEFITS AMENDMENTS.

- * VETERANS' HEALTH CARE AND TRAINING -- AND THE...

- * VA AND DOD HEALTH RESOURCES SHARING AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS / LEGISLATION.

I HOPE YOU KNOW, BY NOW, THAT I OPPOSE ANY LACK OF EQUITY FOR VETERANS. WHILE I ORIGINALLY SUPPORTED AN 8.1 PERCENT COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE FOR COMPENSATION RECIPIENTS, I AM WILLING TO ACCEPT 7.4 PERCENT -- AS LONG AS VETERANS ARE TREATED THE SAME AS ALL OTHER CITIZENS.

WE HAVE TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT OF A 7.4 PERCENT INCREASE IN COMPENSATION -- AS WELL AS HIGHER RATES FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED DISABILITIES...AND RATES FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS. THE ANNUAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE WOULD BE INCREASED -- AS WOULD D.I.C RATES TO SURVIVORS OF VETERANS WHOSE DEATHS WERE SERVICE-CONNECTED.

IN OUR VAST INSURANCE PROGRAM, WE HAVE REVIEWED THE USGLI PROGRAM. WE PROPOSED REGULATIONS DECLARING THE POLICIES FULLY PAID-UP. IF APPROVED, NO FUTURE PREMIUM PAYMENTS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

RIGHT NOW, THE VA IS GUARANTEEING 4.1 MILLION HOME LOANS WORTH 105.1 BILLION DOLLARS. BUT THE TYPICAL VETERAN IS STILL FACING TREMENDOUSLY HIGH INTEREST RATES -- AS WELL AS HIGH COSTS. THIS IS OUR CONCERN. SO WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO STAY UP WITH THE CHANGING ECONOMIC NEEDS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

IN APRIL, WE ANNOUNCED THAT VA-GUARANTEED GRADUATED PAYMENT MORTGAGES WERE AVAILABLE WITH LOWER DOWN PAYMENTS FOR NEW HOME PURCHASES. MANDATED BY CONGRESS LAST YEAR, THE GPM PROGRAM PROVIDES LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS THAN WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON A TRADITIONAL MORTGAGE FOR THE SAME AMOUNT.

IN JUNE, WE EXPANDED OUR SERVICES TO VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WITH ACCEPTANCE OF GROWING EQUITY MORTGAGES. UNDER THIS NEW CONCEPT, LOANS ARE ARRANGED TO MATURE MUCH EARLIER THAN STANDARD 30-YEAR MORTGAGES -- WITH NO INCREASE IN THE INTEREST RATES.

IN SOME CASES, THE LOAN CAN BE SATISFIED IN 11 YEARS, EVEN THOUGH EARLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE FOR A 30-YEAR LOAN. ANOTHER ADVANTAGE TO THE BORROWER IS THAT THE INVESTMENT IN THE PROPERTY GROWS RAPIDLY -- AT A RELATIVELY LOW MONTHLY COST.

EARLY THIS MONTH, WE PUBLISHED PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO OUR REGULATIONS WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY RESPONSIVE TO TODAY'S NEEDS.

IN ONE CASE, IT WILL ALLOW US TO PROVIDE LOAN GUARANTEES IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. IF ADOPTED, THIS WOULD AID LOW OR MODERATE INCOME VETERANS TO OBTAIN HOUSING.

IN THE OTHER CASE, VA GUARANTEED LOANS COULD BE USED TO OBTAIN HOUSING IN RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES -- OR OTHER DEVELOPMENTS WITH AGE RESTRICTIONS.

WE CAN'T GUARANTEE THESE LOANS AT PRESENT, BECAUSE OF THE RESALE OR AGE RESTRICTIONS.

SINCE OCTOBER 1981, VA-GUARANTEED MOBILE HOME LOANS HAVE INCREASED AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF OVER 12 PERCENT. THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO THE EXTENSION OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR GREATER PERIODS OF TIME.

THIS KIND OF HOUSING IS IMPORTANT TO VETERANS IN THEIR EARLY YEARS -- ESTABLISHING THEIR CAREERS AND FAMILIES -- AND TO THE GROWING NUMBER OF RETIRING VETERANS WHO RELOCATE IN THE SUNBELT STATES. SO WE ARE SUPPORTING EFFORTS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS OF RESTRICTED ZONING AND -- IN SOME CASES -- LACK OF PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE.

WE HAVE ALSO MOVED AGGRESSIVELY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BURIAL SPACE AT VETERANS CEMETERIES THAT ARE NOW CLOSED. ALTHOUGH THE REGIONAL CEMETERY CONCEPT HAS NOT BEEN ABANDONED, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MOST VETERANS WISH TO BE BURIED AS CLOSE TO THEIR HOMES AS POSSIBLE.

IT IS AN UNDERSTANDABLE DESIRE. AND WE ARE GOING TO ACCOMMODATE IT IN EVERY WAY WE CAN -- BY EXPANDING, OR ADDING TO OUR OLDER CEMETERIES.

IN CONSTRUCTION, WE HAVE THE INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETERY IN PENNSYLVANIA SCHEDULED TO OPEN THIS FALL. QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY -- 25 MILES SOUTH OF WASHINGTON, D. C. -- WILL OPEN IN THE SPRING OF 1983. AND FORT MITCHELL NATIONAL CEMETERY, IN ALABAMA, IS EXPECTED TO OPEN FOR BURIALS IN 1986.

IN ADDITION TO THESE CEMETERIES, WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT A NEW NATIONAL CEMETERY SHOULD BE BUILT IN FLORIDA -- TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THAT STATE'S GROWING VETERAN POPULATION.

THESE INITIATIVES CLEARLY INDICATE WE ARE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM -- WITH AN EYE ON EXTENDING THE UTILIZATION OF OUR EXISTING CEMETERIES -- AND FOCUSING ON BUILDING OUR NEW CEMETERIES WHERE WE SEE THE GREATEST NEED.

IN FEBRUARY 1982, I APPROVED THE ADOPTION OF A STANDARD GRAVESITE SIZE POLICY FOR OUR NATIONAL CEMETERIES WHICH WILL BE USED IN NEW NATIONAL CEMETERIES, AND IN THE NEW BURIAL SECTIONS OF EXISTING CEMETERIES. THIS WILL RESULT IN REDUCED DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE COSTS PER GRAVESITE. AND ULTIMATELY, IT WILL ALSO EXTEND THE LONGEVITY OF OUR CEMETERIES.

THE CONCEPT OF GARDEN NICHES IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES FOR THE INTERMENT OF CREMATED REMAINS IS ANOTHER NEW POLICY INITIATIVE. THIS WILL PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE USE OF CEMETERY LAND THAT IS OTHERWISE UNSUITABLE FOR THE INTERMENT OF CASKETED REMAINS.

AND AS WE STRIVE TO IMPROVE OUR PRODUCTIVITY, AND BENEFITS DELIVERY -- WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF MEMORIAL AFFAIRS -- I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ALL OUR ACTIVITY WILL FLOURISH IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CARE AND COMPASSION. WE CAN DO IT NO OTHER WAY.

WE ARE NOW IN THE EARLY STAGES OF PREPARING THE VA'S 1984 BUDGET. BUT BEFORE LOOKING AHEAD, I SHOULD BRIEFLY REVIEW OUR 1983 BUDGET:

AFTER REPEATED NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WITH OMB LAST FALL, WE PUT TOGETHER A VA BUDGET OF 25.6 BILLION DOLLARS IN BUDGET AUTHORITY -- WHICH THEN BECAME PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET...FORWARDED TO CONGRESS.

GIVEN THE CONSTRAINTS WE WERE WORKING WITH, IT WAS A GOOD BUDGET.

ALTHOUGH IT DIDN'T PROVIDE AS MUCH FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH -- OR CONSTRUCTION -- AS WE WOULD HAVE LIKED, IT DID PROTECT OUR VITAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AGAINST ANY EROSION. AND OVERALL, IT REPRESENTED ABOUT A 900-MILLION DOLLAR INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

WHILE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES HAVE NOT YET ACTED, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT CONGRESS WILL SUPPORT OUR BUDGET AS PRESENTED. TO DATE, THE BUDGET COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS HAVE REDUCED OUR REQUEST BY ABOUT ONE-BILLION DOLLARS.

WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO DISSUADE THE CONGRESS FROM MAKING ANY REDUCATIONS IN MEDICAL CARE. BUT EVEN IF WE ARE FORCED TO TAKE SOME REDUCTIONS -- GIVEN THE COST-CUTTING MOOD PREVAILING IN CONGRESS -- OUR FY 83 BUDGET REQUEST WILL STILL FAIR BETTER THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY EXCEPT DEFENSE.

AND WHILE I AM GENERALLY PLEASED WITH OUR 1983 BUDGET, I CANNOT BE COMPLACENT ABOUT OUR 1984 BUDGET WHICH IS NOW GETTING UNDERWAY. WE CANNOT DISREGARD THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT I WILL BATTLE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PROSTHETIC AND MEDICAL RESEARCH, TO FUND ESSENTIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, AND INSURE THAT OTHER VETERANS BENEFITS REMAIN INTACT.

THE PRESIDENT AND I ARE COMMITTED TO THE PROTECTION OF VETERANS BENEFITS -- AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR VITAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. AND WE MEAN TO KEEP THAT COMMITMENT.

AS DEMANDS GROW, AS NEEDS CHANGE, AS NEW MODES OF TREATMENT DEVELOP, THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO MAKE ALL OUR SERVICES THE BEST THEY CAN POSSIBLY BE. WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST FOR AS LONG AS THOSE WHO NEED US COME TO US -- AND, OF COURSE, FOR AS LONG AS THE SOLEMN ASSIGNMENT GIVEN US BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CONTINUES.

MY CHIEF CONCERN -- AND ONE I BELIEVE WE ALL SHARE -- IS TO ENSURE THAT BENEFITS REMAIN AVAILABLE IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WHEN THE VETERAN POPULATION DWINDLES...AND SUPPORT FOR VETERANS' PROGRAMS MAY WANE.

DESPITE OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES, THAT MAY AT TIMES DIVIDE US, I BELIEVE OUR MUTUAL RESPECT ENDURES. AND THIS RESPECT WILL ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, IN BEHALF OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS.

WE IN THE VA HAVE ALWAYS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS. AND WE HAVE ALWAYS APPRECIATED THE VALUABLE HELP YOU HAVE PROVIDED. WE WANT IT TO CONTINUE.

WE NEED YOUR WISE COUNSEL. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. WE NEED YOUR ENERGY. AND WE NEED THE KINDNESS OF D.A.V. VOLUNTEERS.

I LEAVE YOU WITH SINCERE THANKS -- FOR YOUR INVITATION AND FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. BEST WISHES FOR A COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION -- AND A HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE YEAR AHEAD.

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