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~~Barton Blackwell~~

Diana Lozano

File

Charlotte/Martha

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

1/11/82

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE

FROM: GREGORY *GJ* NEWELL

SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: Courtesy call by Jack Flynt, National Commander, The American Legion

DATE: February 16, 1982

TIME: 11:45 am

DURATION: 5 minutes

LOCATION: Oval Office

REMARKS REQUIRED: To be included in briefing paper

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House Photographer

FIRST LADY
PARTICIPATION: No

Martha

cc: A. Bakshian
M. Brandon
R. Darman
R. DeProspero
K. Duberstein
D. Fischer
C. Fuller
C. Gerrard
E. Hickey

L. Nofziger
B. Shaddix
L. Speakes
S. Studdert
N. Wormser
WHCA Audio/Visual
WHCA Operations
A. Wrobleski

Morton
Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 12, 1982

MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION

DATE: February 16, 1982
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 11:50 A.M. - 11:55 A.M.
FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole *ELL*

I. PURPOSE

To greet the new National Commander of the American Legion, Jack Flynt, and to receive the resolutions from the Legion's 1981 annual convention.

II. BACKGROUND

The American Legion with 2.6 million members is the largest veterans group. They actively supported your Administration's economic program and the AWACS sale.

You are a life member of the American Legion.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Jack Flynt, National Commander
Robert Spanogle, National Adjutant
Mylio Kraja, Executive Director
Jack Tancred, Aide to National Commander

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House photographer

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11:50 A.M. You greet your guests and exchange brief remarks.
11:53 A.M. You receive the resolutions from the Legion's convention from Jack Flynt, and pose for pictures in front of the fireplace.
11:55 A.M. Your guests depart.

Attachment: Talking Points

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH
THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

- Congratulations on your election as National Commander of the American Legion.
- I want to thank you for the Legion's active support of my Administration's economic program and the AWACS sale.
- Please extend my best wishes to your 2.6 million members. Our country is deeply indebted to them. I can assure you my Administration is committed to maintaining high quality health care for veterans.
- We have proposed an increase of \$530 million in the medical care budget for veterans in 1983. We have suggested the addition of 1259 new employees. These increases will provide for the activation of two new replacement hospitals, a new outpatient clinic and four new nursing homes.

**The
American
Legion**



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 K STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★
(202) 861-2711 ★

file ~~copy~~ in both Army and Vol. Service

February 18, 1982

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison
Room 191
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Thank you for all your help in arranging the visit for the National Commander to see the President of the United States. As you well know, National Commander Flynt had a productive visit with the President and on behalf of our entire membership I wish to thank you.

Enclosed is a copy of the volunteerism statement that was presented to the President which you requested.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Mylio S. Kraja
Executive Director

Enclosure

The American Legion--one of the world's largest non-profit, voluntary organizations--applauds the Administration's efforts at controlling federal spending through increased reliance upon volunteerism and community service. We believe the efficient use of volunteers and voluntary organizations is a potent alternative to inappropriate or unnecessary federal dollars. And we share the Administration's belief that the United States--more than any other country--is the land of private, voluntary initiatives for the public good.

This belief is reinforced by statistics which reveal fully three people in ten are presently engaged in volunteer activities--more than 40 million Americans. This translates into a work force of over 3.5 million persons working full time for a year. If these volunteers were to be paid for these efforts, one would be faced with a \$36 billion annual payroll.

The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary have made an important contribution to the Nation's volunteer effort. In the last year alone, many of the Legion/Auxiliary's 3.5 million members achieved the following through their volunteer efforts:

- *2,237,256 hours of volunteer service at Veterans Administration Hospitals
- *281,732 pints of blood donated to The American Red Cross
- *5,606,713 hours of volunteer service to the community
- *33,785 unemployed veterans successfully aided in finding jobs

Since The American Legion and its Auxiliary first began assisting American's children, they have expended almost \$500 million in direct assistance, plus support of 1,500 scouting units, Special Olympics Program, Legion Baseball, Boys & Girls State, Oratorical Contests and a host of others. In 1981, the Legion expended more than \$21 milion to support these programs.

Legionnaires and Auxiliary members have always been among the first to volunteer for the good of their Nation. We know that such service to our country will continue. We also feel that, if we are to succeed in increasing the impact of volunteerism on this Nation, some areas of federal policy will

require restructuring and renewed study.

As presently administered, many of the tax reforms realized in the Economic Recovery Program effect only individual contributors and do not address the tax-relief needs of large non-profit organizations whose primary objective is generating volunteer activities. We feel money raised by non-profit, volunteer oriented groups like ourselves should be considered for certain exemptions from the IRS, such as removal of severe restrictions on "unrelated business income" resulting from legitimate fund raising for community service projects. Taxation policies should also recognize expenses incurred by individual volunteers by allowing increased mileage deductions (at least as much as for business activities), deduction of membership dues, etc.

By far the greatest hindrance to The American Legion's altruistic mission are ever increasing, inconsistent postal rates; the effect of which reduces the ability of all non-profit, volunteer oriented organizations to communicate with their members. Continuous communication is vital to improving volunteerism; with skyrocketing costs, including postal service increases, our ability to communicate with our volunteers is seriously hampered.

Further, copyright (royalty) laws which require the payment of fees for the playing of music at local Legion posts reduces the funds proportionately that the Local Post would use in its community service projects. This is another example of federal laws which discourage non-profit, volunteer oriented organizations from filling the void left by federal budget cuts.

The 3.5 million members of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary represent a wealth of expertise on volunteerism that we believe can be of invaluable assistance. For we know, better than most, that the continued review of policies affecting volunteerism is essential if this Administration hopes to revitalize the ethics of fellowship and charity. The American Legion pledges its support and offers its assistance to the Administration's new direction on volunteerism in America.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 16, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID FISCHER

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*
SUBJECT: Gifts from the Reserve Officers Association
and the American Legion

Here is the information on the gifts presented by the two veterans groups to the President this morning:

Major General Evan Hultman of the Reserve Officers Association gave the President four ROA mugs, two of which read "The President" and two of which read "Nancy". His address is:

Reserve Officers Association of the United States
Minute Man Memorial Building
1 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

National Commander Jack Flynt of the American Legion presented the President with a bound copy of the resolutions from the 1981 National Convention of the American Legion in Hawaii. His address is:

The American Legion
1608 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Commander Flynt of the American Legion also spoke to the President about taxation of unrelated income for Legion auxiliaries and about increasing the mileage allotment from 9¢ a mile to 20¢ a mile for Legionnaires involved in private sector initiatives. The Legion officers will send me more information on these two issues, and I will work up through channels an appropriate draft response from the President to Commander Flynt.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

January 8, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE *EH*

REQUEST: To introduce the new American Legion Commander.

PURPOSE: To introduce the new National Commander of the largest veterans organization to the President, present the resolutions of the American Legion Annual Convention to the President, and to discuss matters of national security concern.

BACKGROUND: The American Legion, with 2.7 million members, is the largest and best known veterans' group. They actively supported the passage of the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution, the tax cut package, and the AWACS sale.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President is a life member of the American Legion. He was unable to attend the 1981 American Legion Annual Convention in Hawaii and has not met with the new National Commander.

DATE: February 15, 16, 17, or 18, 1982.

LOCATION: Oval Office DURATION: 10 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: National Commander Jack Flynt
Executive Director Mylio Kraja
Aide to National Commander, Jack Tancred

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President greets the new National Commander, receives a bound copy of the resolutions from the American Legion's annual convention.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Welcome and thanks for support.

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer.

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Ken Duberstein, Lyn Nofziger, Ed Hickey

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 6, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Schedule Proposal of American Legion Commander

Because of the problems relating to the American Legion which I discussed in my memo to you yesterday, I would appreciate you forwarding on to Greg Newell the attached memo to him.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 6, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR GREGORY NEWELL

THRU: ELIZABETH DOLE

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Schedule Proposal of American Legion Commander

Attached is a copy of the schedule proposal we submitted to you last month regarding a meeting between the President and the new National Commander of the American Legion, Jack Flynt.

As you can see from the attached memo to Mrs. Dole, we have had some difficulty meeting the request of the American Legion for a slot on the Presidential Commission, American Battle Monuments.

This does not amount to much in the great scope of world events, but it has endangered our very carefully cultivated relationship with this 2.7 million member organization.

As you know, the Legion broke all past precedent by actively campaigning in behalf of the President's economic recovery bill last year. Many members of the Congress are very responsive to the infrequent requests they get from this massive grass-roots organization. There will undoubtedly be times this year when the Legion will need to make decisions whether or not to support the President's program.

I think it very much in the President's interest that we accomodate their request for a mid-February meeting of their new National Commander with the President.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: American Legion and V.F.W. Problems

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

December 21, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To introduce the new American Legion Commander.

PURPOSE: To have the new National Commander of the largest veterans organization meet the President, present the resolutions from the American Legion annual convention to the President, and to discuss matters of national security concern.

BACKGROUND: The American Legion, with 2.7 million members, is by far the largest and best known Veterans group. They actively supported the passage of the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution, the tax cut package, and the AWACS sale.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President is a life member of the American Legion. He was unable to attend the 1981 American Legion Annual Convention in Hawaii and has not met with the new National Commander.

DATE: February 15, 16, 17, or 18 in 1982.

LOCATION: Oval Office DURATION: 15 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: National Commander Jack Flynt
Executive Director Mylio Kraja
Aide to National Commander, Jack Tancred

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President greets the new National Commander, receives a bound copy of the resolutions from the American Legion's annual convention.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole , Max Friedersdorf, Lyn Nofziger,
Ed Hickey

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON*Sent to
Red 12/22/81*

December 21, 1981

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To introduce the new American Legion Commander.

PURPOSE: To have the new National Commander of the largest veterans organization meet the President, present the resolutions from the American Legion annual convention to the President, and to discuss matters of national security concern.

BACKGROUND: The American Legion, with 2.7 million members, is by far the largest and best known Veterans group. They actively supported the passage of the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution, the tax cut package, and the AWACS sale.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President is a life member of the American Legion. He was unable to attend the 1981 American Legion Annual Convention in Hawaii and has not met with the new National Commander.

DATE: February 15, 16, 17, or 18 in 1982.

LOCATION: Oval Office **DURATION:** 15 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: National Commander Jack Flynt
Executive Director Mylio Kraja
Aide to National Commander, Jack Tancred

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President greets the new National Commander, receives a bound copy of the resolutions from the American Legion's annual convention.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Max Friedersdorf, Lyn Nofziger,

OPPOSED BY: *Ed Hickey*

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

December 8, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To introduce the new American Legion Commander.

PURPOSE: To have the new National Commander of the largest veterans organization meet the President, present the resolutions from the American Legion annual convention to the President, and to discuss matters of national security concern.

BACKGROUND: The American Legion, with 2.7 million members, is by far the largest and best known Veterans group. They actively supported the passage of the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution and have been very supportive and cooperative. *The tax cut package and the AWACS sale.*

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President is a life member of the American Legion. He was unable to attend the 1981 American Legion Annual Convention in Hawaii and has not met with the new National Commander.

DATE: February 15, 16, 17, or 18 in 1982.

LOCATION: Oval Office

DURATION: 15 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: National Commander Jack Flynt
Executive Director Mylio Kraja
Aide to National Commander, Jack Tancred

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President greets the new National Commander, receives a bound copy of the resolutions from the American Legion's annual convention.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1981

TO: Red

FROM: Morton

We checked with Gregg Newell's office and they asked for us to send them another schedule proposal with the new dates.

Mylio Kraja keeps calling from the American Legion and really hopes that the President can meet with their National Commander before the Commander leaves on his trip to the Far East.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

11/04/81

Morton,

Red got a call regretting this
invitation last night.

It wouldn't fly because the
veterans groups have just recently
met with the President.

Trane

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

November 2, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To introduce the new American Legion Commander.

PURPOSE: To have the new National Commander of the largest veterans organization meet the President, present the resolutions from the American Legion annual convention to the President, and to discuss with the President a trip that the National Commander is making to the Far East in November, 1981.

BACKGROUND: The American Legion, with 2.7 million members, is by far the largest and best known Veterans group. They actively supported the passage of the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution and have been very supportive and cooperative.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President is a life member of the American Legion. He was unable to attend the 1981 American Legion annual convention in Hawaii and has not met the new National Commander.

DATE: November 4 - afternoon; November 5, November 6 - all day

LOCATION: Oval Office

DURATION: 15 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: National Commander Jack Flynt
Executive Director Mylio Kraja
Aide to National Commander, Jack Tancred

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President greets the new National Commander, receives a bound copy of the resolutions from the American Legion's annual convention.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

Agree 6:55p 11/3/81
SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 23, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To introduce the new American Legion Commander.

PURPOSE: To have the new National Commander of the largest veterans organization meet the President, present the resolutions from the American Legion annual convention to the President, and to discuss with the President a trip that the National Commander is making to the Far East in November, 1981.

BACKGROUND: The American Legion, with 2.7 million members, is by far the largest and best known veterans group. They actively supported the passage of the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution and have been very supportive and cooperative.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President is a life member of the American Legion. He was unable to attend the 1981 American Legion annual convention in Hawaii and has not met the new National Commander.

DATE: November 4, 5, or 6.

LOCATION: Oval Office

DURATION: 10 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: National Commander Jack Flynt
Executive Director Mylio Kraja
Aide to National Commander, Jack Tancred

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President greets the new National Commander, receives a bound copy of the resolutions from the American Legion's annual convention.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Lyn Nofziger, Robert Nimmo

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

OCT 19 1981



**Veterans
Administration**

October 19, 1981



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

Dear Mrs. Dole:

I write to support the request of the American Legion for their new National Commander, Jack Flynt of Texas, to see the President prior to his trip overseas. Commander Flynt also wishes to present to the President a copy of the Legion's 1981-82 Resolutions.

There is a long tradition of the President of the United States receiving the Legion's National Commander before he leaves on his annual overseas trip to visit America's military installations and organizations. Commander Flynt leaves November 1 and would be available to meet with President Reagan anytime from October 26-October 29.

In light of this tradition and the Legion's recent action supporting the President's AWAC's position, it would be entirely appropriate and timely for this brief visit. The VA's Deputy Administrator Designate, Chuck Hagel, has discussed this matter with your Deputy, Red Cavaney.

Your consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated. I believe arranging this meeting would be particularly helpful to the President at this difficult time when he needs the enthusiastic support and understanding of all Americans, but especially veterans because of the national security issues at stake.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

ROBERT P. NIMMO
Administrator

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

SEPTEMBER 29, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To introduce the new American Legion Commander.

PURPOSE: To have the new National Commander of the largest veterans organization meet the President, present the resolutions from the American Legion annual convention to the President, and to discuss with the President a trip that the National Commander is making to the Far East in November, 1981.

BACKGROUND: The American Legion, with 2.7 million members, is by far the largest and best known Veterans group. They actively supported the passage of the President's Bipartisan Budget Resolution and have been very supportive and cooperative.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President is a life member of the American Legion. He was unable to attend the 1981 American Legion annual convention in Hawaii and has not met the new National Commander.

DATE: October 26, 27, or 28

LOCATION: Oval Office

DURATION: 15 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: National Commander Jack Flynt
Executive Director Mylio Kraja
Aide to National Commander, Jack Tancred

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President greets the new National Commander, receives a bound copy of the resolutions from the American Legion's annual convention.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Robert Nimmo, Lyn Nofziger

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

Copies to EHD
Red

Charlotte/Martha
Event File

Diana Lozano

Marion Edwards

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

1/28/82

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: Courtesy call by President of Reserve Officers Association

DATE: February 1, 1982

TIME: 11:40 am

DURATION: 15 minutes

LOCATION: Oval Office

REMARKS REQUIRED: No

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office, if any

FIRST LADY
PARTICIPATION: No

cc: A. Bakshian
M. Brandon
R. Darman
R. DeProspero
K. Duberstein
D. Fischer
C. Fuller
C. Gerrard
E. Hickey

E. Rollins
B. Shaddix
L. Speakes
S. Studdert
WHCA Audio/Visual
WHCA Operations
R. Williamson
N. Wormser
A. Wrobleski

Morton
Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 12, 1982

MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

DATE: February 16, 1982
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 11:45 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.
FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE *EL*

I. PURPOSE

To meet the National Officers of the ROA, and thank them for their constant support of your Administration's programs.

II. BACKGROUND

The Reserve Officers Association includes 127,000 reserve officers in all branches of the services. These officers will be the first to augment the active service in a time of emergency.

The ROA has been a strong supporter of the Administration's policies, including the 1981 budget cuts and tax cuts. This group played an especially important role in building support for the AWACS sale.

You are a lifetime member.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Maj. Gen. Evan L. Hultman, National President
Col. William C. Pfeiffer, Army Affairs Vice President
Capt. Bennett C. Sparks, Navy Affairs Vice President
Col. Carl Zimmerman, Air Force Vice President
Maj. Gen. J. Milnor Roberts, Executive Director

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographer

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11:45 a.m. You greet your guests and exchange brief remarks.
11:49 a.m. Pose for pictures in front of fireplace.
11:50 a.m. Your guests depart.

Attachment: Talking Points

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH THE OFFICERS
OF THE RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

- The Reserve Officers Association is one of the most patriotic groups in America. I deeply appreciate your efforts on behalf of my Administration. Your support of the AWACS sale was crucial to gaining our victory in Congress.
- A strong reserve force is a key component of our national defense program. We must do better in retaining qualified military personnel in the services.
- Please convey my best wishes to everyone attending the ROA Mid-Winter Conference at the Hilton. I regret my schedule does not permit me to attend your banquet tonight honoring my friend Congressman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 16, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID FISCHER

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*
SUBJECT: Gifts from the Reserve Officers Association
and the American Legion

Here is the information on the gifts presented by the two veterans groups to the President this morning:

Major General Evan Hultman of the Reserve Officers Association gave the President four ROA mugs, two of which read "The President" and two of which read "Nancy". His address is:

Reserve Officers Association of the United States
Minute Man Memorial Building
1 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

National Commander Jack Flynt of the American Legion presented the President with a bound copy of the resolutions from the 1981 National Convention of the American Legion in Hawaii. His address is:

The American Legion
1608 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Commander Flynt of the American Legion also spoke to the President about taxation of unrelated income for Legion auxiliaries and about increasing the mileage allotment from 9¢ a mile to 20¢ a mile for Legionnaires involved in private sector initiatives. The Legion officers will send me more information on these two issues, and I will work up through channels an appropriate draft response from the President to Commander Flynt.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

November 27, 1981

TO: Gregory J. Newell, Director
Presidential Appointments and Scheduling

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole

REQUEST: To secure a short meeting for the National President of the Reserve Officers Association, Evan Hultman, who is also a personal friend of the President.

PURPOSE: To give special recognition to this association, which has been the key supporter of the President in the veterans and service organization community.

BACKGROUND: With a hard-hitting, full page ad in the "Washington Post," the Reserve Officers Association began the lobbying effort in the veterans and service organization network in behalf of the President's crucial AWACS sale. The following day the V.F.W. joined the fray on the side of the President, followed by the American Legion and others. The ROA continued to function as the coordinator for AWACS support in this key network. Through ROA's effort, an Iowa ROA leader who was campaign treasurer for both Senator Jepsen and Senator Grassley had a critical influence on the decisions of both Senators to switch from opposition to support of the AWACS sale.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The National Officers of the Reserve Officers Association have met privately with all recent Presidents.

DATE: Open

LOCATION: Oval Office

DURATION: 5 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: Evan Hultman, National President
Gen. J. Milnor Roberts, Executive Director

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President will greet the ROA officers and express thanks for the support of ROA.

REMARKS REQUIRED: None

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Edwin Meese, Lyn Nofziger

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

*Memorandum
c to H to GN*



RECEIVED
DATE 11/24
TR

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
1 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NORTHEAST
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002
(202) 470-2200

J. MILNOR ROBERTS
MAJOR GENERAL, AUS (Ret.)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6 November 1981

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

Dear Mr. Meese:

As you may know, ROA was the earliest and largest of the military organizations which worked on behalf of the Administration in obtaining Senate approval of the AWACS transaction. We were very pleased to see a favorable outcome of the work we did along with a great many other people and organizations.

Our National President has asked me to inquire if it is possible to arrange a five minute meeting with the President at which time he could express his views of the ROA contribution to this important activity, and we might discuss several important subjects relating to National military strength with him.

We realize the many demands on his time, but in view of this special situation we would hope that you would lend your support to granting us a very brief visit to the Oval Office.

You may be assured that we could meet any time schedule which could be arranged but we would hope that sometime prior to the Thanksgiving holiday would be appropriate.

Cordially yours,

J. Milnor Roberts
J. Milnor Roberts
Major General, AUS (Ret.)
Executive Director

JMR/gw

*v 145
11-9-8*

13 November 1981

REC-11
DATE 11/24
TR

Dear General Roberts:

Thank you for your letter of 6 November and for allowing me the opportunity to thank you and all of ROA for its outstanding support during the AWACS quest. Your suggestion that the President might meet with ROA leadership to thank them for their support is a good one and I am taking the liberty of sending your letter on to Gregory Newell, Assistant to the President for Scheduling, for his attention.

Once again thank you for your aid in what was and will continue to be America's vital national interest.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

EDWIN MEESE III
Counsellor to the President

MG J. Milnor Roberts, USA (Ret.)
Executive Director
Reserve Officers Association
of the United States
1 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

cc: EMeese
cc w/cy of inc: Greg Newell
EM:mfs:es:emb-15a

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1982

THE PRESENTATION OF THE AMVETS
GOLD HELMET AWARD

DATE: February 23, 1982
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 11:45 A.M. - 11:55 A.M.
FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole

I. PURPOSE

To receive the AMVETS highest honor, the Gold Helmet Award.

II. BACKGROUND

The American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam (AMVETS) with 175,000 members are one of the "Big Four" veterans service organizations. They have actively supported your Administration's programs.

The AMVETS highest honor, the Gold Helmet Award, is being presented to you, "For Presidential leadership that has effused the Nation and the American people with a revived spirit of patriotic endeavor and accomplishment inaugurating a 'New Beginning' for these United States of America."

This award was given to Presidents Johnson, Nixon and Ford. However, the Gold Helmet was never presented to President Carter because the AMVETS felt he showed a lack of concern for U.S. national defense and veterans interests.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Donald Russell, National Commander
Ernest Pitochelli, Past National Commander
Morgan Ruph, National Executive Director
Gabriel Brinsky, National Service/Legislative Director
Robert Ashworth, National Programs Director

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographer

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11:45 A.M. You greet your guests and exchange remarks.

11:50 A.M. You are presented the Gold Helmet award by National Commander Russell and pose for photos.

11:55 A.M. Your guests depart.

Attachment: Talking Points

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE AMVETS
GOLD HELMET AWARD

- Thank you very much for presenting me with the AMVETS highest honor, the Gold Helmet Award. I regret my schedule did not permit me to meet with you earlier.
- I appreciate all of the support the AMVETS have given my Administration especially on the economic program and the AWACS sale.
- I well remember the warm reception I received at the 36th National Convention in Dallas in August 1980 during my campaign.
- Please let all of my fellow members of AMVETS know of my Administration's commitment to rebuilding our Nation's defenses and protecting the interests of veterans.
- Our fiscal 1983 budget proposes a number of needed improvements in veterans medical care. We are planning to activate two new VA replacement hospitals, a new VA outpatient clinic and four new VA nursing homes.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*This presentation
may not take place.*

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

June 8, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: AMVETS for presentation of the Gold Helmet Award,
highest of all AMVETS honors

PURPOSE: Recognition of AMVETS, one of the groups supporting
the President and his economic package. On May 1,
they released a press statement urging support of
the Reagan Bipartisan Budget Resolution.

BACKGROUND: This request was originally for the presentation of
the award to be made at the AMVETS Awards Banquet in
April and the shooting intervened. Sen. Orrin Hatch
had asked for the President to make a brief
appearance.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: AMVETS endorsed Governor Reagan for President.
The Gold Helmet award was never presented to
President Carter, as they put it "in view of
his lack of leadership and concern for the
national defense of the country and veterans'
interests in general." The award was given to
Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Ford.

DATE: Must be before the end of June, because that is when
the term of office is up for the current AMVETS
National Commander

LOCATION: Oval Office DURATION: 5 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: Ernest F. Pitochelli, National Commander
Leon Sanchez, National Executive Director
Robert Ashworth, Director of Public Relations

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President welcomes, accepts the award, and poses
for pictures

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks - welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer and AMVETS photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Senator Orrin Hatch

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

Red

Morton Blackwell

Diana Lozano

Charlotte/Martha

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

1/11/82

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE

FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL

SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: Presentation of AMVETS Gold Helmet Award

DATE: February 23, 1982

TIME: 11:45 am

DURATION: 10 minutes

LOCATION: Oval Office

REMARKS REQUIRED: To be covered in briefing paper

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY
PARTICIPATION: No

cc: A. Bakshian
M. Brandon
R. Darman
R. DeProspero
K. Duberstein
D. Fischer
C. Fuller
C. Gerrard
E. Hickey

L. Nofziger
B. Shaddix
L. Speakes
S. Studdert
N. Wormser
WHCA Audio/Visual
WHCA Operations
A. Wrobleski

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

APPROVED FOR
Date: 2/23/82
Time: 11:45 am
Length: 5-10 min
Date: 12/31/81 GJN

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

December 15, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE *EHD*

REQUEST: AMVETS for presentation of the Gold Helmet Award,
highest of all AMVETS honors.

PURPOSE: Recognition of AMVETS, one of the veterans groups
which has been supportive of the President's legislative
program.

BACKGROUND: This request was originally for the presentation of
the award to be made at the AMVETS Awards Banquet in
April and the shooting intervened. Senator Orrin Hatch
had asked for the President to make a brief appearance
at the banquet.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: AMVETS endorsed Governor Reagan for President.
The Gold Helmet award was never presented to President
Carter, as they put it "in view of his lack of
leadership and concern for the national defense of the
country and veterans' interests in general."
The award was given to Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and
Ford.

DATE: Open, but before the end of January

LOCATION: Oval Office DURATION: 5 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: Donald R. Russell, National Commander
Morgan Ruph, Executive Director
Robert Ashworth, Director of Public Relations
Ernest F. Pitochelli, Past National Commander

OUTLINE OF
EVENTS: President welcomes, accepts the award, and poses for
pictures.

REMARKS
REQUIRED: Brief remarks - welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Senator Orrin Hatch

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

MEMORANDUM

PENDING

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

December 19, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: The Legion of Valor of the U.S.A. for presentation of the award, Silver Cross for Valor, to Secret Service Agent Timothy J. McCarthy and Officer Thomas K. Delahanty.

PURPOSE: Recognition of McCarthy and Delahanty and the Legion of Valor, the nation's senior organization of war veterans. Membership is limited to those who hold the two highest decorations for heroism in combat.

BACKGROUND: This is a veterans group with small numbers but with high prestige. The Legion of Valor Silver Cross for Valor award was established in 1957 and first awarded in 1959 when presentation of the first three Crosses was made to the Unknowns of World War I, World War II, and Korea. Since 1959, sixteen awards have been made and five of these presented posthumously. The Legion of Valor wishes to recognize the great gallantry of these two men and feels that each clearly meets the basic criteria for the award - risk of life in saving, or attempting to save, the life of another.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: General Alexander Haig holds membership in the Legion of Valor.

DATE: Open (should coincide with Military Order of Purple Heart award)

LOCATION: Oval Office or Roosevelt Room DURATION: 10 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: Secret Service Agent Timothy J. McCarthy
Officer Thomas K. Delahanty
Brigadier General Robert J. Gaynor, Director of Awards
Neil Keltner, National Commander
Major James D. Doughtie, Past National Commander

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: President welcomes, presents the awards, and poses for pictures

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House Press Corps photo opportunity

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Max Friedersdorf, Lyn Nofziger, Ed Hickey

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

MEMORANDUM

PENDING

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

December 19, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: The Military Order of the Purple Heart for presentation of the "Peace Officer's" Award to Secret Service Agent Timothy J. McCarthy and Officer Thomas K. Delahanty, and to officially name President Reagan as their "Honorary National Commander-in-Chief."

PURPOSE: Recognition of McCarthy, Delahanty, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the veterans organization exclusively for combat wounded veterans.

BACKGROUND: The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to the common soldier. The Purple Heart was created by General George Washington. The special designation of "Honorary National Commander-in-Chief" is provided for in the Preamble to the Order's Constitution, but they did not choose to give this honor to President Carter.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:

DATE: Open (should coincide with the Legion of Valor award)

LOCATION: Oval Office or Roosevelt Room DURATION: 10 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: Secret Service Agent Timothy J. McCarthy
Officer Thomas Delahanty
Duane T. Brigstock, National Commander
Frank Athanason, Adjutant General

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: President welcomes, presents the awards, accepts the designation of "Honorary Commander-in-Chief," and poses for pictures.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House Press Corps photo opportunity

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Max Friedersdorf, Lyn Nofziger,
Ed Hickey

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

RELIGIOUS GROUPS
SCHEDULE PROPOSALS

RELIGIOUS GROUPS:

March 13 ✓

Memo - President

April 28, 1981 ~~X~~

- Voluntarism briefing, Presidential Task Force

July 13 ✓

- Washington area religious leaders - briefing by OMB and OPD

Sept. 15

- WH lawn reception for Adm. supporters

Sept. 22 ~~X~~

- G.L.U.S.A. Briefing - voluntarism

OCT, 6

- AWACS briefing by NSC and State

Dec. 18

- Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ, meeting with President

**

Feb. 4, 1982 ✓

- Dr. Robert Schuller, Crystal Cathedral, meeting with President

Feb. 9 ✓

- National Religious Broadcasters, Major speech by President.

Feb. 12 ✓

- Proclamation signing ceremony, President National Day of Prayer, major denominational religious leaders nationwide

** Jan. 26, 1982-

Meese briefing - tax-exemption for private schools, for conservative and religious organization leaders

Regret
Mar. 2 ✓

NA & com.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

file Veligian source

MEMORANDUM

DATE 2/24/81

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE *****
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL
SUBJ: Approved Presidential Activity

Please take the necessary steps to implement the following and confirm with Helene von Damm, ext. 2699. The appropriate briefing paper should be submitted to Dick Darman by 3:00 p.m. of the preceding day.

Meeting: with Spencer W. Kimball, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Mrs. Reagan Participation: No.

Date: Friday, March 13, 1981 Time: 10:00 am Duration: 15 mins

Location: Oval Office

Press Coverage: Coordinate with Press Office.

Purpose: To be covered in briefing ***** Background material attached.
paper.

Note: Following the President's meeting, please submit a confirmed list of actual participants, including staff or Administration attendees to me. Include full names and business titles for non-White House participants.

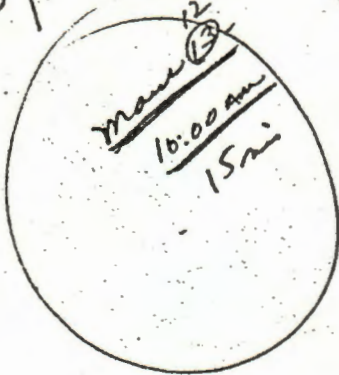
CC: Michael Deaver
James Brady
David Gergen
Joseph Canzeri
David Fischer
Richard Darman
Richard Williamson
Ken Khachigian
Larry Speakes

Elizabeth Dole
Craig Fuller
Peter McCoy
Nina Wormser
Jennifer Fitzgerald
Helen Donaldson
Mabel Brandon

Approved

10:00 AM

3/13



2406

our commutation on Thursday the 12th, I would
if the President could spend 10-15 minutes
y. Kimball, President of the Church of Jesus Christ
y Saints.
President Kimball wishes to extend his best wishes
let President Reagan know that he is remembered frequently
prayers of the Latter-day Saints.
Thanks so much for your help.

Cordially,

Richard B. Wirthlin
cc

Dr. Richard B. Wirthlin
President
Decision Making Information

cc: Greg Newell
RBW/cc

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 12, 1981

MEETING WITH SPENCER W. KIMBALL

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1981

THE OVAL OFFICE

10:00 A.M. (15 MINUTES)

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE 

I. PURPOSE

Spencer W. Kimball, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), will present you with genealogical records on your family.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. The genealogical records will include information on your paternal line in the U.S. back to the 1850's and information on your maternal line. (DeBretts Peerage in England is covering your paternal line before the 1850's.)
- B. The Church places great emphasis on families and genealogical research and encourages people not only to seek information about their ancestors but also to write their own personal and family journals and histories.
- C. President Kimball, who will be 86 on March 28, traveled 15,000 miles in the South Pacific February 9 to 23 and has been traveling since February 28. March 14 he will attend the funeral of his sister Alice Kimball Nelson, mother of 12, in Arizona. He is the only surviving child of his parents.
- D. Further background on the Church is attached.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Spencer W. Kimball
D. Arthur Haycock, Secretary to President Kimball
Gordon B. Hinckley, Council of the Twelve
W. Don Ladd, Regional Representative of the Twelve
Richard S. Beal, Deputy Assistant to the President

IV. PRESS PLAN: Photo opportunity.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- A. Photo of you and Spencer W. Kimball and genealogical records.
- B. Group photo.
- C. Discussion.

Attachment: Further Background

FURTHER BACKGROUND

- Welfare services and preparedness programs:

The personal and family preparedness standards stress: (1) Literacy and education, (2) career development, (3) financial and resource management, (4) home production and storage, (5) physical health, and (6) social-emotional and spiritual strength.

Needy members are encouraged to seek assistance from family and Church, rather than the government, and to work, as they are able, for assistance received.

Members are encouraged to plant gardens and also to store one year's supply of food, other necessities, and if possible fuel, as they are able, depending on local circumstances and laws.

- The Church was organized April 1830 through the Prophet Joseph Smith. President Kimball is the prophet today, the successor to Joseph Smith.

Current membership: 4,700,000 members worldwide (3,265,000 in the U.S.) and 12,591 congregations in 81 countries.

- Scriptures of the Church include: The Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

- Missionary program:

30,000 missionaries serve in 188 missions worldwide 24 months. Missionaries are supported by themselves or their families.

- Health code:

Members strive to live by good principles of nutrition, exercise, and physical fitness, including abstinence from coffee, tea, alcoholic drinks, tobacco, and harmful drugs.

- Family emphasis:

Members hold family home evening each week. Couples are married in temples for time and eternity. Nineteen temples are in operation, nine announced or under construction. The Washington D.C. Temple is the largest.

- Women's organization:

The women's organization, the Relief Society, was organized 139 years ago by Joseph Smith on March 17, 1842. It has 1,500,000 members (1,054,500 in the U.S.) and may be the largest women's organization in the world.

- Children's and youth programs:

The children's Primary has 650,000 members, and there are extensive programs for teenagers and Scouts.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS

*file Mormons
church*

SPECIAL AFFAIRS
Twenty-fifth Floor
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150
Phone (801) 531-3539

March 23, 1981

Morton C. Blackwell
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

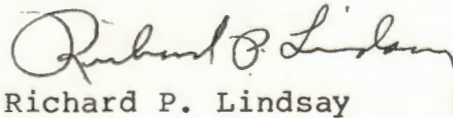
We appreciated very much your assistance to President Spencer W. Kimball and his party during the "Roots" presentation to President Reagan at the White House on March 13th.

It is our understanding that your White House staff role includes liaison with churches. In our role at Church Headquarters in Salt Lake City, we perform a similar function for the Mormon Church as the contact point with various governmental groups.

On any matters which involve a possible church position on an issue of concern to the religious community in general, we would be pleased to discuss such issues of common concern with you.

We wish you well in your new assignment.

Sincerely,


Richard P. Lindsay

RPL/cbe

September 29, 1981

It is a special honor for Nancy and me to extend our greetings and affection to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as you meet in your 151st Semi-Annual General Conference.

May we also extend our affection to President Spencer W. Kimball, your beloved leader. He has our prayers, and we hope he soon will be back in the church office building, pacing the Mormon world in the important work that you do.

I remember very well the morning President Kimball came to visit me in the Oval Office not long after Nancy and I had arrived in Washington. He brought me a very lovely gift which I have often referred to as the gift of my past. It was a book tracing my genealogy.

Now I realize that genealogy is something of great consequence to all of you. But I was never able to find out much about my lineage on my father's side because he was orphaned at an early age.

So, again, I thank President Kimball for his thoughtfulness, and I thank all of you, too, for I know that many of you here in Salt Lake City participated in this project. You have made me very happy, and now I am able to respond a bit more authentically to the letters I receive from long lost Reagans all over the country. I never knew there were so many ways to spell Reagan.

Your Mormon Tabernacle Choir was with us for the Inauguration, and I must say I envy you your proximity to this magnificent voice of the American spirit. It is no wonder that you go about your work with such cheerfulness and conviction.

One of my favorite scriptures is from the 106th Psalm, verses two through five, and I would like to share it with you:

2. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can shew forth all his praise?
3. Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.
4. Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto my people: O visit me with thy salvation;
5. That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance."

As you know, we in the United States today are faced with the very immediate challenge of returning our nation to economic health.

In the months and years ahead, the values which you Mormons hold so dear — the importance of your families and religion, prayer, love and support for this nation, hard work, personal discipline, and the tradition of neighbor helping neighbor — must be fostered and strengthened throughout the Republic.

I seek your help in this, for I believe, as you do, that our Heavenly Father set us here in this blessed and bountiful land to make the experiment of freedom work.

May God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

Sent via Express Mail to:

The President's Office
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints
47 East South Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

RR:Livingston:ba

cc: H. von Damm/ D. Livingston/M. Blackwell (FYI)/CF