



ROBERT D. RAY
GOVERNOR

Office of the Governor

STATE CAPITOL
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

February 22, 1982

SUE MITSCHKE
CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY
TO GOVERNOR RAY

Ray, Robert D.
✓

3/20

JC
What is this all about?

JAB

Mr. James Baker
Chief of Staff
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Baker:

Governor Ray asked me to drop these clips in the mail to you since he visited with you about this particular case while you were in Des Moines.

Sincerely,

Sue
Sue Mitschke

Enclosure

AA

Please take a look at these clips, then tell me what you think was said on this (JAB obviously doesn't remember) and what "the case" involves. Then let's discuss next step.

Thanks. → No response
JC per JWC.
(see other notes)

- The Des Moines Register received anonymous letter dated 12-26-81 from a man threatening suicide so his wife & 2 daughters would be eligible for ADC. (It's a "moving" letter)

-- the letter drew incredible response from all over country -- people offering help & "please don't do it" (open letters/pleas published in paper) "Frantic Hunt" to find him

-- also provided ~~extra~~ extra opportunity for debate about the Legislature ending ADC payments to families w/ two able-bodied unemployed parents in the home

-- at least 914 families have been broken-up by fathers who left home to make wives & kids eligible for ADC

-- at peak of ADC-UP program, the cost to state was about \$700,000 a month. State officials estimated that, when all fallout has been recorded, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the saving realized by dumping the program will be lost because of families that split, thereby boosting the regular ADC rolls.

-- this would cut the saving to about \$467,000 a month, but at the sacrifice of about \$585,000 a month in fed. funds that would be coming into the state through welfare recipients if the program remained intact (fed. govt. pays $\frac{5}{9}$ of cost).

ADC-UP → Aid to Dependent Children - Unemployed Parents

(2)

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- Des Moines Register received letter from anonymous father, 12-26-81, ~~the~~ saying he will commit suicide at 11:59 pm., 12-31-81, so that his wife and 2 daughters (who didn't have a C'mas - no \$) would be eligible for ADC... clearly a frustrated man who felt his back in a corner.

-- Register printed it because it represented ^{despair of} so many in similar circumstances

-- being C'mas season, too, it struck heartstrings nationwide -- the letter was not proved authentic, a search began, drawing all kinds of interest and sympathy, job offers, etc.

- Des Moines Tribune's editor responds by publishing (12-30-81) "open letter to despondent dad" -- before he even knew if it was for real -- "no one is cruel enough to pull a hoax of this sort in this C'mas season when so many are out of jobs & running out of hope."

- 12-31-81 Tribune headline: "Dad's letter tugs at nation's heart"

- 1-1-82 Register: "Frantic hunt" for dad

- letter writer surfaced -- Irvin Williams -- 36 yr. old Black Navy veteran -- "not proud of writing that letter" -- "all I really want is a job - I don't want no damn welfare"

-- there are jobs out there, but they're particular who they turn; - editor - "This shows that the alternative is not just 'get a job'."

-- another headline: "rape system that creates despair"

-- Register 1-1-82: "The measure of a nation's character is how it treats its least fortunate citizens. That treatment leaves much to be desired in the halls of govt. these days."

-- Register 1-7-82: "Jobless dad leaves state for new life"
-- he couldn't take the publicity

-- Tribune 1-7-82: "'Suicide dad' cited in food aid case"

-- Williams received food stamps from 3 offices, July '81 --
"was desperate"

(same article)

-- "There [was] suggestions from some sources today that the authorities were put on Williams trail by the White House."

"It was said that once the story broke, that White House charged into Williams' background 'to find out why a man would be so desperate' in these hard times."

"State & federal officials have denied knowledge of any pressure from the White House to prosecute Williams."

this is ridiculous.

-- Tribune 1-11-82: Williams pleads innocent to 18-count indictment for food stamp/food aid fraud in 13 cities/4 states

-- Register 2-6-82: Williams pleads guilty to 2 counts -- 16 related counts dropped on plea-bargaining -- max. 10 yrs., \$20,000 fine. He was not part of a "ring."

this feeds the growing sentiment of another Admin. think? ... don't you

*

*

The struggles of families that lost ADC because they stayed together

By **BILL LEONARD**

Of The Register's editorial-page staff



In the name of economy, the state of Iowa has broken up at least 914 families since April. That's how many unemployed fathers are known to have left their wives and children so the

latter could get welfare assistance.

In all, 4,170 Iowa families were dropped from the welfare rolls last May 1, when the state canceled the Aid to Dependent Children-Unemployed Parent program. By Dec. 1, 1,254 of those families were receiving ADC - 914 because the father left home, 216 by shifting to the ADC program for the incapacitated, and 124 to the ADC program for step-parents, although benefits to the latter were cut; aid goes only to the breadwinner's step-children.

The ADC-UP program began in Iowa in 1974. A year later, fewer than 200 families were on the rolls. Later in the decade, as unemployment grew, the ADC-UP caseload rose to 2,000 families by mid-1980 and to 4,200 by last March.

The ADC-UP grant was not a lot - \$419 for a family of four, unchanged since July 1979, despite inflation. But it was important, and it made recipients eligible for Medicaid, which saved some from disastrous medical bills.

The Legislature's answer to the growth - as suggested by Gov. Robert Ray - was to kill the program.

26 December 81

To Whom It May Concern:

After giving it serious thought I have decided on December 31 at 11:57 pm I will end my life.

In all of my thirty six years on Gods earth I have never had a year like 1981, a week like this past one, or a day like yesterday. I

I have decided on Dec. 31 I will end my life'

"We're just barely making it," a young Des Moines mother said. Her husband had found a few odd jobs since their aid was cut off, and they are getting food stamps to help buy groceries.

"With kids, you know, they've got to have clothes, and they've got to have shoes. It's getting cold out. Food stamps don't pay for those things."

Her family is among the 1,182 in the state still getting food stamps despite the loss of ADC-UP. Four hundred of those, plus 133 others not getting stamps, are getting free medical care for their children only, under the complicated eligibility rules of welfare.

The ADC-UP cutoff hit 304 Polk County families. Three of the four district welfare offices in the county kept track of 396 of those. Checking their November rolls, they found that 107 families had returned to regular ADC. In most cases because the father left home to work, ADC was allowed for step-children only. Of the remainder, 110 are receiving food stamps only.

What about the rest — the families fathers refused to leave?

In a door-to-door and telephone survey, The Register contacted or tried to contact more than 40 percent of the Polk County families who either had no further dealings with the welfare department after the demise of ADC-UP, or were getting food stamps only. They were promised anonymity; all the names that follow are fictitious.

• • •
"ALL I CAN do is flood the market

ADC
Continued on opposite page

The following unsigned letter was received this week by The Register. See editorial at left.

To Whom It May Concern:

After giving it serious thought, I have decided on December 31 at 11:59 p.m., I will end my life. In all of my 36 years on God's Earth, I have never had a year like 1981, a week like this past one, or a day like yesterday (Christmas). I know times are hard for many people now. In a funny sort of way, I think that is what has kept me

'On Jan. 1, 1982, my wife and two girls will become eligible for ADC [because] I will no longer be living in the home. Forgive me, Polk County, for the expense of my burial.'

going this long, knowing I'm not the only person in this situation. I see hundreds of other people at the food stamp office, at the vets center, and state employment office looking for work. I also see some of the same faces at the pawn shop paying radios, watches, etc., just to get a few dollars to buy gas to job-hunt some more.

Every day in the newspaper and on television I read and hear what "our wise, caring, wonderful president" is doing and trying to do to help us poor people help ourselves. Sir, you haven't done a damn thing for me except make things worse than they were. No, not worse — you have made it impossible for me. Never before have I been on any kind of welfare other than food stamps, but



with Christmas and all, I swallowed my pride and begged for "ADC."

What do they tell me? No more ADC for a family when the father is able-bodied and in the home.

To hell with your welfare. I didn't need it if any way. I went to vets, "Sorry, Mr. Reagan, we cut our budget. We can't help you any more." I went to the employment office to see Mr. Reagan found part-time work for me to take care of my wife and two girls. (The writer omitted the employment office's name.) I found out from my co-workers that he is not in a job. I know that himself, he is going to be laid off soon. Mr. Reagan has ordered a rubdown for me. "Sorry, kid, no Santa Claus this year. I can't afford it. I've been telling my kid (name omitted) to do expensive toys for Christmas. Let me know what Santa wants, I'll give to you." I have a couple of 75 dolls. I think my wife and two girls are going to be disappointed.

As I see it, I can no one of my wife, take a gun and go out and get some more somebody, or I can use it on myself. God knows I have thought about the first, but I know I know, knowingly bring pain to someone else because of my actions. Be my hell, I would sacrifice my soul or kill somebody. No way would I make time in prison, not even a day.

The hurt in my little girl's face because I forgot them this year, the thought of my jobless year, no way to pay the rent next week, I'm sorry, I can't deal with it anymore.

Well, Mr. Reagan, on Jan. 1, 1982, my wife and two girls will become eligible for ADC. I will no longer be living in the home. Forgive me, Polk County, for the expense of my burial.

May God forgive me.

1982 No Way

Welfare policy encourages family breakups

ADC

Continued from preceding page

with applications and hope," said Michael. "The jobs are out there, but they sure are particular about who they will hire."

THE VETERANS Administration is covering house payments and utilities for John; he and his wife also get food stamps, and his wife brings in \$30 a month from babysitting. His job search has been fruitless.

"IT GOT DAMNED hard, is what happened," Carl said of the end of the ADC-UP program. "They came out with shelter assistance, which helped. But as far as employment, it's as bad as ever. I fix cars, which helps a bit.

But it hurt. I know [the state] doesn't know how much it hurt, or they wouldn't have done it."

(When the Legislature cut off ADC-UP, it offered shelter assistance — a portion of rents and house payments — for three months to those eligible. Thus far, 59 Iowa families have taken advantage of that program.)

PAUL WAS HUNTING a job, and his mother spoke for him: "He's not doing too good. He is supposed to see about a job at a place, but who knows what will happen? He has two children in school, and they're really having a hard time of it." Paul is aware he could leave home and enable his family to get ADC, but "he's too much of a homebody. . . . I hope that kid can find something. It's really terrible."

"TRY LIVING on pancakes for two weeks," said Jim, a Vietnam veteran with three children. He had been a mechanic, but lost his job in July, 1980. His unemployment compensation expired later, and his ADC-UP in May. He worked at odd jobs and

mowed lawns last summer. After his family's two weeks of living on pancakes, "my mom came over to babysit and looked in the refrigerator." She managed to get some food for the family. Finally, he got a job at a rendering plant, then was laid off, but he expected to be called back.

BOB AND HIS family moved in with his wife's mother. He lost his job eight months before the ADC-UP program died; since then, he has had no steady work.

"WE CAN'T go anywhere or do anything," said Judy. "Every penny goes to paying the bills." She and her husband, who worked for Massey-Ferguson before being laid off, have three children. She took in extra children to babysit when the assistance checks stopped; he has found a few odd jobs.

TOM WAS WORKING on a car when the interviewers arrived. He had started in auto mechanics in his father's body shop when he was 7 years old, and he's good at his work: an album of "before-and-after" photos of old cars he has fixed up attests to that. The car he was working on cost him \$25; he had a buyer at \$450.

He put up a sign to advertise his services, but the city jumped on him because of zoning restrictions. He would like to work in a mechanics' shop but lacks formal training; hence, shop foremen are afraid to turn him loose with expensive tools and cars. "I tell them, 'I'll work for you for nothing for a week, just give me a chance.' But they don't want to take a chance."

After losing a low-paying job as a security guard, he and his wife and four children were on ADC-UP for eight months before the cutoff. Since then, his driveway "auto shop" —

which has drawn complaints from neighbors — has provided his only income.

GARY AND HIS wife provide a classic example of the games welfare recipients are sometimes induced to play because of the welfare eligibility rules. They were on ADC-UP about a year after he lost his job. When the program ended, he moved across town to live with his brother so his wife and two children could draw ADC. The state ordered him to pay child support; he couldn't.

After four months, he got a full-time job and moved back with his wife and children. Now the state deducts his back child-support payments from his paychecks and gives the money to his wife.

KIRK WAS ON ADC-UP just two months, and it helped him "very much. I don't think that I could have gotten by without it." Then he went back to work, but the plant at which he worked has since shut down. He's drawing unemployment compensation, but doesn't know what he'll do when that runs out unless he has another job.

Two of the personal stories have happy endings. Joe was out of work for a year when, last March, he learned that his small son needed eye surgery that he couldn't afford. At the same time, he learned of the ADC-UP program. He drew ADC-UP in March and April, and, as a result, Medicaid paid the \$1,500 bill for his son's surgery. He found a job one month after the ADC-UP cutoff.

The welfare program enabled Harry to go to technical school for the job training that will enable him to pay taxes instead of draw on them, he said. Not long after the end of the ADC-UP program, his wife, who was sidelined by pregnancy, was able to return to her job. Without ADC-UP and the job training it allowed him to receive, he said, he "might have been marginal" indefinitely.

Welfare policy encourages family breakups

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Continued from preceding page

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Handls reach out to letter-writer

By Bill Shearer
and Tom Clark

Harold Jackson believes it is fact, he believes he has talked to the desperate unemployed veteran who vows to kill himself here New Year's Eve.

But Jackson doesn't know which desperate unemployed veteran it might be.

The anonymous letter, which was published in today's Des Moines Register, contained a flood of calls from people offering help and jobs.

Jackson and other counselors and volunteers at the Vets Center, at Job Service, Polk County office and other agencies are monitoring computer records for a man who says he has decided to "end my life" sometime before the New Year.

"I definitely believe the man will do it. It's no prank," said Jackson, a part-time employee at the Vets Center, 2001 Cottage Grove Ave., and thankful holder of a full-time job as a janitor at the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The man they are seeking wrote a letter the day after Christmas to The Register describing his plight as an unemployed veteran. The writer vowed to kill himself to make his family eligible for Aid to Dependent Children. Unemployed fathers living at home automatically disqualify their families from welfare assistance.

If they reach him, they will tell him they will find food for his

family and a job for him. They will tell him that since his letter appeared calls from across Iowa have been received at The Register and Tribune and many state agencies.

There have been offers of jobs, extra clothing and toys for the man's two children.

One offer was from Bill Tate of Eagle Grove. Tate called the Tribune today to offer \$50 if it will help the man.

Tate knows something about economic troubles. He will lose his job in June when the Hormel plant where he works closes down.

Bob Mora of Waterloo called to offer the man a job at the restaurant he is opening.

Steve and Deb Johnson of Urbandale called to offer a part-time job.

Younkers department store here offered him full-time work, clothing and toys for his children to make up for those they didn't get at Christmas.

Colleen Shearer, director of Iowa Job Service, said today she has written an open letter to the man she will ask to be published in The Register.

"I couldn't let it go without a response," she said. "I told him I was glad he came to Job Service and to please return. We're placing people in jobs all the time in Des Moines."

Shearer said the letter-writer

Reaction —
Please turn to Page Four

The letter was written by
 a young & nervous thought
 I was shocked on December 31st
 I was a little out of my life
 In a state of my mind
 that month I have never had
 since late 1981, a week like this past
 in a day like yesterday, &

26 December 81

Search

Service of Iowa, made one last plea for the man to call her office at 201-5587.

"He might want to call me rather than Mike Gartner. He might be embarrassed, and I can assure him that if he becomes an applicant here, privacy laws would prohibit me from releasing his name without his approval," Shearer said.

Polk County Attorney Dan Johnston added, "The important thing to remember is that this is not a criminal investigation and that the individual's name need not be made public. We can guarantee that we will not release the name or let anyone know about his identity.

"A couple of times," said Johnston, "we thought we had identified who we thought it was but it didn't turn out to be the person. We ran the information we had through all the public assistance agencies mentioned in the letter. We came up with people who matched the profile. But the handwriting didn't match."

Thomas Searcy, a counselor at the Vets Center, 2091 Cottage Grove Ave., said a computer search of the center's records performed by the Veterans Administration in St. Paul,

Police records for a 36-year-old man living with his wife and two daughters.

The possibility exists that he may live in Indiana or somewhere and just came into Des Moines to search for work," Emery said.

Des Moines Police Sgt. Robert Howe, one of the officers assigned to the search, said at 10:30 a.m. "We don't feel very comfortable at this point."

Des Moines Police Chief Billie B. Wallace said that perhaps the man's wife will recognize the man from the description printed and broadcast.

Job Service director Shearer said that even if there is no official end to this story, and it does turn out to be a hoax, there still is validity in the message of the letter.

"It's a reflection of nearly 80,000 people without work in Iowa today."

Ailing parrots

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Newcastle disease, which can be deadly to poultry and other fowl, has been confirmed in parrots in Colorado Springs, Colo.

rather

and all have been identified as parrots. Personal experience has shown that almost everyone who commits suicide does try to tell people before-hand.

"My personal hope is that he has had time to reconsider and will change his mind," Searcy said.

Shearer said Division of Criminal Investigation handwriting experts compared the writing in the letter with Job Service application forms, but turned up nothing. One complication was that most of the material on the forms is printed, and the letter is in longhand.

Quantin Emery, Polk County Social Services director, said records of 4,000 food stamp recipients were checked Wednesday, but no match was found. The letter-writer said he had received food stamps at some point.

Because of the lack of a time frame in the letter, Emery said county workers today expanded their search to records from persons who had stopped getting food stamps six months ago and longer. Also, he said, social service agencies in surrounding counties have been asked to search

Dad's letter tugs at nation's heart

12-31-81
Tribune

By Chuck Hawkins
and Tom Alex

As government officials kept searching for an unemployed man who has threatened to commit suicide tonight so his family can receive welfare assistance, a nationwide torrent of offers to help poured into Des Moines.

No new leads have turned up in the case, but area law enforcement officials say their frantic search will continue up to the 11:59 p.m. deadline mentioned in a letter sent to The Des Moines Register and Tribune.

In the letter, the man described himself as a 36-year-old veteran who was turned down for Aid to Dependent Children assistance because he lives with his wife and two daughters. He apparently has been unable to find a job.

Officials of Job Service of Iowa, the Vets Center, the Polk County attorney's office, Des Moines Police Department and other agencies said they have been unable to match that description to anyone.

Officials have not ruled out the possibility that the letter is a hoax, but say they have to assume it is real.

"We'd all feel terrible if we threw the letter away and the guy really does kill himself," said Register and Tribune Editor Michael Gartner.

The story has gained nationwide publicity, and the newspaper has received calls from people in Seattle, Miami, Atlanta and Ithaca, N.Y., as well as numerous calls from Des Moines area residents, with offers of money and other aid.

NBC, CBS and ABC television news departments were attempting to get crews to Des Moines to report the story, although morning snow was hampering travel plans.

Clifford Horton of Los Gatos, Calif., called the Tribune from a telephone booth in the Imperial Valley of California to say that he once attempted suicide and that he wants to help.

Horton said he awoke in a hospital two days after a drug and alcohol overdose. "I did some thinking. Maybe my life isn't worth anything to me, but I'm still here. Maybe my life has value to someone else," he said.

"Now, every sunrise is a miracle." April Platt of Hollywood, Fla., called Des Moines police after hearing the story on a local television station. "He can have the apartment on the side of my house. I can get him a job and I'll give him my Christmas bonus money," she said.

"Tell him everyone in south Florida loves him and that no one wants to see him die. I've had times when I didn't have 83 cents, but that's no reason to kill yourself."

Gartner repeated the point he made in an open letter to the man carried in Wednesday's Tribune: "If he exists, he's been offered a new life."

Younkers Inc. executives have offered the man a job, clothes for his family and toys that he said he wasn't able to provide his daughters at Christmas.

Colleen Shearer, director of Job Search —

Please turn to Page Four

RITER TELLS STORY

Frantic hunt ends with call to counselor

Jobless man says he doesn't want charity

By NICK LAMBERTO
 Register Staff Writer
 Copyright, 1982, Don Messer Register
 and Tribune Company

The man who threatened to kill himself so his family would be eligible for welfare benefits said Thursday night that he doesn't want any charity.

"All I really want is a job — I don't want no damn welfare," said Lester Williams of Urbandale after he admitted writing an anonymous letter threatening to end his life because he couldn't care for his family.

Williams turned himself over to authorities Thursday morning after learning that news stories of his plight had triggered a flood of offers of help and an intense search for him.

Williams made his threat in a letter to The Register, which the newspaper printed on its editorial page Wednesday.

Many Calls

Law enforcement and welfare officials immediately launched a search for the man, and telephoning started ringing in offices of the newspaper and of various social agencies offering jobs, money, clothing and gifts for his children.

"I have a good, clean record," Williams said in an interview at the apartment of a friend and counselor.

"I was a good cop, I was a good truck driver and if I get a job now I'll be a good whatever-else."

Williams nervously puffed on a cigarette and reflected before answering a question.

"I don't really know why I wrote that letter to the newspaper," he said.

"Honestly, I don't know. All I want is a job and to be left alone."

"I sent my wife and two daughters out of town last Saturday. I'm not saying where. They don't know anything about this and I want to talk to my wife first."

Booie Day

The interview in the Des Moines apartment of Robert Oberbillig, director of the Legal Aid Society of Polk County, culminated a hectic day for Williams and for Oberbillig.

Things started moving in a positive way to prevent Williams from carrying out his threat when he contacted Oberbillig Thursday morning and asked for help.

Williams frequently stopped and held his head in his hands during an

MAN
 Please turn to Page 6A

Creates Despair

of another letter that he had written and enclosed his wife and ADC.

They tell me? No more family when the father end in the home.

with your welfare. I want if at all possible later he said.

an. 1967, my wife and I no longer be living in Missouri. Forgive me, Polk on the expense of my

d forgive me. indirectly criticized the at the news conference

hat the psychologist had that the man wasn't sick, said: "It's the political is sick, not this individ-

you have to face the reality kind of economic situation w, that sane people can be do things that may seem, circumstances, imbalanced, an is just one of thousands

sten all of this attention, it begrudge him of the But I do know that we can't problems by individual acts

ays Worked"

s was extremely reluctant many questions during the but at one point he said: ways worked, even when I gh school. My dad always at a man's supposed to d my first job when I was in e."

paused, inhaled deeply and ed before saying: in law enforcement. That's liked best. Five years I was orment. After my service y.

didn't get fired. I left volun- r my best friend got killed were making an arrest. 'I just wasn't strong enough ouldn't handle it." s sobbed heavily and tears down his cheeks.

when I had a nervous n," he said. "I was hospital- months. I resigned from the artment and went to work lines and worked there four eeks and then I got fired they found out about my ental problems. This is the I've talked about that."

Missouri

Williams said he had been in the hospital for a day before his sight returned to my eye. I had my arm in a cast because they thought my arm was broken."

Williams then said to speak privately with Oberhill, who said when the conference was over that his (Williams) basic concern all day long has been that he is embarrassed and upset about what happened and wants to keep his family out of the paper.

"He realizes after talking with me that he is finally pulling things together and that it won't help his family if he takes his life. "He wants to protect his family, it's his second family and he has sent them elsewhere for the time being. They know nothing about what's going on."

"He has every intention of talking to his wife about it this evening. He's concerned because he had this bout with mental illness, which is a matter of record, and which he feels had kept him from getting jobs and may keep him from getting other jobs. He wants to keep the stigma from that erased."

Can't Pay Rent

"I did lose one job because of that," Williams said. "I know I started all this by writing that letter, but I see nothing but harm for my wife and children if they read about this."

"And once my landlord sees this, we're out. I owe \$300 rent and I don't have it. It's due Jan. 1."

Williams said he had worked as a interstate truck driver for two different firms based in Missouri until about 1975 or 1976.

"I'm never too sure about dates and times," he said.

"Then I bought my own tractor and went into the trucking business on my own as an independent. Until about 2 1/2 years ago, I had damn good credit, my family was well-cared for and we had money in the bank."

"Then things just went to pot. I don't know why. I got into financial

Woman's call to radio talk show apparently helped avert suicide

A woman's call to the 11:30 p.m. radio talk show on WMO radio about midnight last night apparently played a part in helping Lester Williams change his mind about killing himself Thursday.

Williams has been the subject of the widespread appeals from the public to be helped and he heard his comments. Here is what she said:

"I like that man to feel that his children need him so badly, to stand beside them and to hear whatever comes. We have to work together to be better. We have a whole new political structure that's going to rise up in this country starting next year. And it's going to take people like him who have been their lives in the pits that are going to be the strength to bring this country out."

"If this man would just see the love that's been extended to him and to mine by his family and to do whatever he must do, that he must stay alive and be made into one of them."

"Whatever comes we've got to pray hard to God to give us strength to face it. ... and I do pray to God that this young man will see his responsibility to his family, and he'll stand beside them."

Sometimes doesn't run sometimes.

Williams said one daughter is in school and the other is at pre-school age.

"I'm worried about my little girls and what might happen if they're teased by others about what their daddy did," he said.

Made Me Think

"You say you're concerned. What have you got to say to that? That lady on the talk show made me think when she said what I might be doing to my little girls."

Earlier, at the press conference County Attorney Johnston said Investigator Cletus Leaning and Edwin Kracke, from his office, DCI Agent R.O. Hoffman and Des Moines Police Sgt. Robert Rote had worked continuously for two days to find the man who threatened suicide.

Johnston said he talked to the man for about 15 minutes but didn't even know his name.

"I was kind of embarrassed and told him that I hate to do this, treating you like a suspect, but I would like to have a sample of your handwriting. ... I have to be sure," Johnston said.

Deep Love

"He came across to me as a man with a deep love for his daughters and as a man who has a great desire to remain a private person."

Shanahan said the man's handwriting sample proved "without any doubt whatsoever that he is the person who wrote the letter to the newspaper."

Shanahan said investigators had examined about 100 Job Service and Social Service records in attempting to find the man's identity and had narrowed "it down to six or eight probabilities."

"We would have met the midnight deadline (the threat was to be carried out at 11:59 p.m.) but then we would

radio and television networks learned of the story, concerned people in other parts of the nation started calling, wanting to help.

Clifford Horton of Los Gatos, Calif., called the newspaper office from a telephone booth in the Imperial Valley of California, saying he had once attempted suicide and wanted to help.

April Platt of Hollywood, Fla., called the Des Moines Police Department and offered the man an apartment. "I can get him a job," she said, "and I'll give him my Christmas bonus money."

"Tell him ... that no one wants to see him die."

There were other calls from Florida, Washington, New York and Georgia.

Oakley man, 18, dies in crash

The Register's Iowa News Service CHARITON, IA. — An Oakley man was killed Wednesday in a collision of two pickup trucks near here.

Lucas County sheriff's deputies identified the man as Bill Gillaspay, 18. The accident occurred about noon Wednesday on a Lucas County gravel road three miles north of Chariton.

Authorities said Gillaspay's truck collided at an intersection with a pickup truck driven by Brad Pierschbacher, 17, of Chariton. Pierschbacher was treated for minor injuries at a local hospital and released.

Funeral services for Gillaspay will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Fielding Funeral Home here. Survivors include his parents, a brother, a sister, his maternal grandmother and his paternal grandparents.

Support for Zimbardo

... 15 cigarettes right down to
... about an hour.
... d a telephone call to a talk
... Des Moines radio station
... iped persuade him to change
... about the suicide threat —
... ek help.
... woman caller made me think
... something I hadn't thought of
... about what I would be doing
... o girls," Williams said.
... e identified woman who called
... to station about midnight
... ay said: "I'd like that man to
... t his children need him so
... o stand beside them and to
... stever comes."
... ents
... ms' letter to the newspaper
... d that one reason he decided
... d life was his inability to buy
... as presents for his two
... s because he had no money.
... hurt in my little girls' faces
... e Santa forgot them this
... ie thought of another jobless
... o way to pay the rent next
... m sorry, I can't deal with it
... re," the letter said.
... illing said Williams contacted
... he Legal Aid office Thursday
... and was "very concerned"
... s threat to commit suicide
... e a crime and that he might
... in jail or in a mental institu-
... illing said Williams, then un-
... d, told him he hadn't been
... of the concern he had caused
... heard the radio program day
... night and read a story
... himself in the newspaper
... ay morning.
... road Of"
... letter I wrote is not
... ing I'm proud of," Williams
... d during the interview at
... g's apartment.
... the last two years, the only
... work I've been able to find is
... or — unloading trucks, fixing
... hovelings snow, you name it.
... it really ticks me off is all the
... eople that think people are not
... because they don't want to
... ant a job so bad I can taste it.
... all I want. I haven't worked
... y this month. Don't think I
... tried.
... asked how we lived. Look at
... ds. You see any rings? I sold
... igs and watches. I sold my
... watches.
... used that money for things you
... et with food stamps — soap,
... gasoline for my clunker so I
... o look for a job.
... e I thought about starting a
... t, but it just went against me.
... You know, I almost stole a toy
... some kind of a...

... stolen anything and I hope to hell I
... never do."
... After Williams talked with Oberbillig
... Thursday morning, an interview
... was arranged with John Garfield, a
... Des Moines psychologist, who later
... informed Polk County Attorney Dan
... Johnston.
... Johnston said he phoned Garfield to
... see if he had any ideas of how to
... locate the missing man and was
... surprised when Garfield told him, "I
... think we have located him."
... Johnston and Gerald Shanahan,
... director of the Iowa Division of
... Criminal Investigation, had headed
... the search for the man since the
... newspaper had turned to letter over
... to Johnston.
... Search
... Shanahan and Johnston, at a news
... conference Thursday afternoon, said
... they believe they were close to
... locating the man before he sought
... help. They declined to give his name,
... as did Oberbillig and Garfield, but
... The Register learned his identity in-
... dependently.
... Williams, a 36-year-old Navy
... veteran, at first requested anonymity,
... but he later agreed to an interview on
... the condition that his address not be
... used.
... Michael Gartner, the editor of the
... Register and Tribune, said in an open
... letter to the then unidentified man
... that was printed in Wednesday's
... Tribune that "scores of thousands of
... Iowans... want to help you."
... Asking the man not to take his own
... life, Gartner wrote: "You will have a
... good job. A major company in Des
... Moines — Younkers — has said it will
... provide work — meaningful work
... for you. The company and the men
... and women who run it want to help
... you clothe your family so they can
... weather this bad winter. They want to
... provide toys so your little girls can
... have the Christmas you so much
... wanted for them."
... Williams, in the interview
... Thursday night said: "I'm going to
... look into the job offer at Younkers as
... quick as I can Monday."
... Gartner, after learning that the
... man had been located Thursday, said:
... "I'm happy for the man and his
... family, and I wish him well. I'm
... pleased — but not surprised — by the
... outpouring of concern and the offers
... of help from Iowans. And I'm sad that
... the combination of the economy and
... the Legislature made such a tragic
... situation possible."
... Welfare Cuts
... The Iowa Legislature eliminated
... the Aid to Dependent Children of
... Unemployed Parents program, and
... Williams apparently fell into that
... category. His letter to the newspaper
... said:
... never before have I been

... begged for 'ADC.'
... "What do they tell me? No more
... ADC for a family when the father
... is able-bodied and in the home."
... "To hell with your welfare. I
... didn't really want it anyway..."
... Later in the letter he said:
... "... on Jan. 1, 1962, my wife and
... two girls will become eligible for
... ADC. I will no longer be living in
... the home. Forgive me, Polk
... County, for the expense of my
... burial."
... "May God forgive me."
... Johnston indirectly criticized the
... Legislature at the news conference
... Thursday.
... Saying that the psychologist had
... determined that the man wasn't sick,
... Johnston said: "It's the political
... system that is sick, not this individ-
... ual."
... "I think you have to face the reality
... that, in the kind of economic situation
... we're in now, that some people can be
... driven to do things that may seem,
... under the circumstances, unbalanced,
... and this man is just one of thousands
... out there."
... "He's gotten all of this attention,
... and I don't begrudge him of the
... attention. But I do know that we can't
... solve his problems by individual acts
... of charity."
... "I've Always Worked"
... Williams was extremely reluctant
... to answer many questions during the
... interview, but at one point he said:
... "I've always worked, even when I
... was in high school. My dad always
... insisted that a man's supposed to
... work. I had my first job when I was in
... ninth grade."
... Then he paused, inhaled deeply and
... then exhaled before saying:
... "I was in law enforcement. That's
... the job I liked best. Five years I was
... in law enforcement. After my service
... in the Navy."
... "No, I didn't get fired. I left volun-
... tarily after my best friend got killed
... while we were making an arrest."
... "Maybe I just wasn't strong enough
... I just couldn't handle it."
... Williams sobbed heavily and tears
... streamed down his cheeks.
... "That's when I had a nervous
... breakdown," he said. "I was hospital-
... ized five months. I resigned from the
... police department and went to work
... for a van line and worked there four
... or five weeks and then I got fired
... because they found out about my
... earlier mental problems. This is the
... first time I've talked about that."
... Born in Missouri
... Williams said he was born and
... raised in Missouri, but he refused to
... name the city where he went to high
... school and where he worked for the
... Navy.

... lots of sorrow and radar to make sure
... thought about staying in the Navy
... but decided not to."
... Williams wore a leather jacket and
... tan trousers. He had some discolora-
... tion near his left eye, and he said he
... got it when he was "jumped by three
... men in Missouri" on Thanksgiving
... Day. He said the men "called me pig
... and then hit me with a board."
... "I don't know why they did it.
... Maybe they remembered me from
... when I was a cop. I was in the
... hospital for a day before the sight
... returned to my eye. I had my arm in
... a cast because they thought my arm
... was broken."
... Williams then asked to speak
... privately with Oberbillig, who said
... when the conference was over that
... "his (Williams) basic concern all day
... long has been that he is embarrassed
... and upset about what happened and
... wants to keep his family out of the
... paper."
... "He realizes after talking with me
... that he is finally pulling things
... together and that it won't help his
... family if he takes his life."
... "He wants to protect his family.
... It's his second family and he has sent
... them elsewhere for the time being.
... They know nothing about what's
... going on."
... "He has every intention of talking
... to his wife about it this evening. He's
... concerned... because he had this
... bout with mental illness, which is a
... matter of record, and which he feels
... had kept him from getting jobs and
... may keep him from getting other
... jobs. He wants to keep the stigma
... from that erased."
... Can't Pay Rent
... "I did lose one job because of that,"
... Williams said. "I know I started all
... this by writing that letter, but I see
... nothing but harm for my wife and
... children if they read about this."
... "And once my landlord sees this,
... we're out. I owe \$200 rent and I don't
... have it. It's due Jan. 17."
... Williams said he had worked as a
... interstate truck driver for two
... different firms based in Missouri
... until about 1975 or 1976.
... "I'm never too sure about dates and
... times," he said.
... "Then I bought my own tractor and
... went into the trucking business on my
... own as an independent. Until about
... 1 1/2 years ago, I had damn good
... credit, my family was well-cared for
... and we had money in the bank."
... "Then things just went to pot. I
... don't know why. I got into financial
... trouble and I sold my truck, mobile
... home and one car to pay off the bank
... paid off most of my debts."
... "I don't know why I can't
... get any credit. I have a
... good credit rating but I can't

People *do* want to help

When word came that the Polk County attorney had made contact with the anonymous, jobless letter-writer who said he intended to commit suicide, a Register staffer was on the phone talking to a Minnesotan who offered the young father a job. He did not want his name publicized, the caller said, but he wanted to help.

Earlier in the day, calls to The Register came from New York, Florida, Georgia, Washington, Missouri and California, all

The measure of a nation's character is how it treats its least fortunate citizens.

offering money or other help. Iowa callers by the dozens made similar offers Wednesday and Thursday.

The incident illustrates again the basic decency of Americans and their willingness to help those in need — particularly when evidence of that need hits home with emotional intensity.

The story appears headed for a happy ending. But there are others in desperate circumstances. They seldom make headlines; they are easily ignored.

When Iowa dropped its Aid to Dependent Children of Unemployed Parents program — which would have provided help for the letter-writer — it cut off

assistance to some 4,200 families. When we tried to contact many of those families to see how they were getting along, we often found empty houses. Neighbors didn't know the fate of those who were gone. The families simply moved on. They were the victims most injured by the state's insensitivity, but they made no waves, wrote no letters. What happened to them?

A few years ago, a young Des Moines mother was told she could not put a homemade headstone on her infant's grave; cemetery rules forbade it. The incident brought the largest avalanche of mail The Register had received on a single subject in years. It was an obvious injustice that was met with waves of indignation. Yet countless injustices of greater magnitude but less emotional impact are the daily lot of silent multitudes. They go unnoticed and unremarked.

The outpouring of concern for the anonymous letter-writer could have its greatest impact if it were directed to aiding all those who share his desperation if not his articulateness. The measure of a nation's character is how it treats its least fortunate citizens. That treatment leaves much to be desired in the halls of government these days.

Meanwhile, to those who offered their help, our appreciation. Their reaffirmation of conscience enhanced the hope with which to face the new year.

D.M. dad ¹⁻¹⁻⁸² *Tribune* angered by use of name

By Dick Brown
and Tom Alex

Lester Williams of Urbandale, the man who threatened to kill himself at a minute before the New Year began, was alive today after his desperate act prompted a hurried search and offers of help from around the country.

But Williams, 36, was angry because he no longer is anonymous.

"They weren't supposed to use my name," Williams said in a brief interview in the efficiency unit where he's staying. "I'm tired of you people bothering me."

However, David Witke, managing editor of The Des Moines Register, which published Williams' name this morning, said it was made "quite clear" to Williams that his name would be used.

"The arrangement was that his name would be used but that his

Williams —

Please turn to Page Three

Use of name angers D.M. dad

Williams —

Continued from Page One

address would not," Witke said. "It was quite clear."

Witke said he felt it was important Williams' name be used to assure the public the letter written to The Register and Tribune wasn't a hoax.

"The guy's name is important," Witke said. "(People were wondering) is he real?"

Besides, Witke said, Williams' name would soon be known in wider circles once he took a job offered by Younkers department store here.

That was just one of many offers of help that flowed into Des Moines from all of Iowa and around the country. People offered money, clothing, gifts for Williams' two daughters, even places to live for free.

Williams said this morning he would accept the job offer from Younkers and would refer any others he might get to the Vets Center so other unemployed persons could get work.

"I'll take any kind of job I can get," he said. "I've been so long without a job that I can hardly remember what it's like having a regular paycheck coming in."

It was the job offer and other offers of help — plus the concern expressed on a local radio show — that prompted Williams to come forward Thursday morning.

However, officials said Williams feared being identified because he didn't want "his personal grief and despair made public."

Williams, a black Navy veteran, said he regrets writing the letter because of all the publicity it generated.

"I had no idea this would happen," he said. "I watched ABC news last night and it was flashed out for everybody to see. I'm a private person and I like to keep to myself."

"I want to forget about this, get a job and go on with my life."

Williams said he was not the man out of Iowa after the story came out, and reportedly he still isn't aware that it was he who wrote the letter.

The dramatic story began when Williams wrote a letter to The Register, in which he said he would commit suicide at 11:59 p.m. Thursday.

Killing himself would make the members of his family eligible for welfare benefits, Williams wrote, and that was the only way he could find to support them.

"Never before have I been on any kind of welfare other than food stamps," his letter said, "but with Christmas and all, I swallowed my pride and begged for ADC."

"What do they tell me? No more ADC for a family when the father is able-bodied and in the home."

The Iowa Legislature eliminated the Aid to Dependent Children of Unemployed Parents program earlier this year, and state officials say at least 914 families have been broken up by fathers who left home to make their wives and children eligible for regular ADC payments.

Williams' letter was published Wednesday, spurring offers of help from around the country. The national wire services and television networks also carried reports on the story as the hours ticked away to the suicide deadline he had set.

Williams, however, apparently was unaware of the stir his letter had caused until he heard it mentioned on a WHO radio talk show.

A woman caller told host Jim Frye that Williams "must stay alive and he must take care of" his children because "they need him so badly."

She quoted portions of an open letter to Williams published in Wednesday's Tribune from Michael Gartner, editor of both papers.

Gartner begged Williams not to "throw away" the joy of seeing his children grow up and deprive them of their father.

At a press conference Thursday,

after it was learned that the then unidentified man had come forward, Polk County Attorney Dan Johnston said Williams told him Gartner's plea "struck a responsive chord" that, and the offers for help.

The call to the radio show came about midnight Wednesday, and by Thursday morning, Williams was ready to let authorities know it was he who had written the letter.

Williams was concerned, though, that his threat to commit suicide might be a crime, so he contacted the Legal Aid Society of Polk County.

Legal Aid Director Robert Oberbillerig talked with Williams and then arranged an interview with John Garfield, a Des Moines psychologist, who later informed Johnston.

Johnston and Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, told reporters Thursday afternoon that they were about an hour away from locating the letter writer when Williams contacted Legal Aid.

Shanahan said investigators had narrowed the possibilities down to six or eight persons after poring through Iowa Job Service and Department of Social Service records.

Four investigators from the county attorney's office, the DCI and the Des Moines Police Department had worked continuously for two days to find the man who threatened suicide, Johnston said.

Shanahan said Williams' handwriting sample "proved without any doubt" that he had written the letter.

Nurses to vote on end to long walkout

ASHTABULA, OHIO (AP) — Participants in the longest nurses' strike in U.S. history have decided to vote Monday on a proposal that could end their 18-month walkout. Ashtabula General Hospital's latest proposal would restore them to their pre-strike positions and shifts at an average of 12 percent.

1-7-82 Register

Jobless dad leaves state for new life

By RICHARD PAXSON

Register Staff Writer

Lester Williams, the unemployed father whose suicide threat brought offers of help from across Iowa and across the nation, left the state Wednesday with the promise of a job and hope for a new life.

Robert Oberbillig, director of the Legal Aid Society of Polk County, said Williams was offered "a very good job" by Youngers department stores in Des Moines. But he said Williams chose to leave Iowa "because of all the publicity. He didn't feel his family could avoid further publicity here."

Oberbillig said Williams was offered a job in another state by someone who learned of his case from the nationwide publicity attracted by his anonymous suicide letter to The Register and the dramatic search for his identity. Williams traveled there Wednesday and said he hopes his wife and two daughters — who have been in Missouri — will be able to join him in his new home.

Williams' family was ineligible to receive welfare benefits, and his case became a focus of the debate over a decision by the Legislature to end Aid to Dependent Children payments to families with two able-bodied unemployed parents in the home.

But Oberbillig, to whom Williams turned when he belatedly learned about the public concern his letter created, said the welfare program was never Williams' main concern.

"I don't think that was the issue as far as he was concerned," Oberbillig said. "Here was a man who was willing to do anything, including shoveling snow, and he couldn't get a job. No one could find him a job. There just weren't any jobs. I've never seen a person so willing to accept any job."

"This shows that the alternative [for people like Williams] is not just 'Get a job.'"

Williams' plight and the reaction of Iowans was one of the "good things" that happened, Oberbillig said. "The disappointment was the publicity."

Robert Oberbillig, chairman of the Legal Aid Society of Polk County, said Williams was offered "a very good job" by Younkers department stores in Des Moines. But he said Williams chose to leave Iowa "because of all the publicity. He didn't feel his family could avoid further publicity here."

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"I don't think that was the issue as far as he was concerned," Oberbillig said. "Here was a man who was willing to do anything, including shoveling snow, and he couldn't get a job. No one could find him a job. There just weren't any jobs. I've never seen a person so willing to accept any job.

This shows that the alternative [for people like Williams] is not just 'Get a job.'"

Williams' plight and the reaction of Iowans was one of the "good things" that happened, Oberbillig said. "The disappointment was the publicity. [Williams] was extremely disappointed, as was I [that there were] several violations of expressed promises not to use his name. They were totally ignored."

Williams' name was first used in a Register story two days after his letter appeared on the paper's editorial page. He later complained that he had been promised his name would not be used, which an official of the newspaper denied.

Williams "expressed his surprise and appreciation of Younkers. He said he never had been treated so well. He never expected them to do so much," Oberbillig said.

Despondent dad accused of lying

Williams —

Continued from Page One
complaint as the source of the information against Williams, declined comment.

He said in a telephone interview from his Minneapolis office "this is a sensitive matter."

State and federal officials here denied knowledge of any pressure from the White House to prosecute Williams.

Jeffrey Rush, a regional inspector general for the USDA in Chicago, said the Williams investigation began in October. He said there was nothing unusual about that.

Oberbillig said in defense of Williams, "I have nothing that would cause me to believe he got food stamps in several states except as the result of his not having money to buy food."

He said Williams had confided to him that he made applications for food stamps in Waterloo and Minnesota last year when he was looking for work in both those places. He said he knew nothing about an application in Wisconsin.

Oberbillig said he did not think Williams was trying to cheat the government.

He said Williams' family was eligible to receive ADC last April but never applied because they didn't want to go on welfare.

"Maybe there is some political overtones to this thing," Oberbillig said. He added, he had been trying to work out a restitution schedule for Williams with the USDA.

Then "suddenly we got a flurry of federal people working on this food stamp thing (with Williams) which happened a year ago.

"Somehow the White House got involved," Oberbillig said, Williams' letter was critical of the Reagan administration and its economic policies.

Williams made his threat in a letter

published on Dec. 31. The letter, which received national publicity, resulted in a cascade of calls and letters from Iowa and across the nation offering him love and prayers.

Law enforcement and welfare officials launched an exhaustive search for him, combing computer records for a man matching the clues in his letter.

They were under pressure to find him before the deadline he set for killing himself — a minute before midnight on New Year's Eve.

Michael Gartner, editor of the Register and Tribune, said in an open letter to the then-identified man that was printed in the Dec. 30 Tribune that "scores of thousands of Iowans... want to help you."

Gartner urged the man not to take his life. "You will have a good job. A major company in Des Moines — Younkers — has said it will provide work — meaningful work — for you," Gartner wrote. He asked the man to let caring Iowans help him start life again.

Williams called authorities the morning of Dec. 31 after learning of the offers of help and the intense search being conducted.

In an interview with The Register that day he said, "All I really want is a job — I don't want no damn welfare."

At another point, the chain-smoking Williams said: "You asked how we lived. Look at my hands. You see any rings? I sold my rings and watches. I sold my wife's watches.

"We used that money for things you can't get with food stamps — soap, clothes, gasoline for my clunker so I could buy gas to go look for a job."

In his letter, he described himself as a 36-year-old veteran with two daughters. He said they went without Christmas gifts this year because he couldn't find a job.

In the letter Williams vowed to kill himself at 11:59 p.m. on New Year's

Eve to make his family eligible for Aid to Dependent Families and Children. Unemployed fathers living at home automatically disqualify their families from welfare assistance.

"To hell with your welfare," he wrote. "I didn't really want it anyway."

The letter described his attempts to find a job through the local job service agency, only to learn his job counselor was job hunting due to state cutbacks.

He also wrote of "swallowing his pride" and applying for welfare, only to be turned down.

In the interview, he said he considered stealing to make ends meet, but rejected the idea.

"It just went against my grain," Williams said. "You know, I almost stole a toy — just some kind of toy — at the Sears store before Christmas, but I just couldn't do it."

"I have never stolen anything and I hope to hell I never do."

The story was first reported by your Sentinel with reports from Tom Alex, David Ebert, and Gordon and Rick Jost.

expected to be landed up this afternoon.

According to the complaint, filed in the U.S. magistrate's office in Minneapolis, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the food stamp program, said that Williams made the request in Clay County on July 20, 1981.

"He represented that neither he nor any member of his family had received food stamps," said the complaint.

Williams had said in his letter to the Des Moines newspapers that he had a wife and two daughters and that he could not collect welfare because he was able-bodied and living at home.

The USDA received records from other social service offices which "established that Lester J. Williams had in fact received food stamps from each of these three offices in July 1981," said the complaint.

Shortly after Williams' letter appeared, there was an outpouring of sympathy from across the nation. Williams objected to the attention and the use of his name, saying he wanted anonymity.

There was suggestions from some sources today that the authorities were put on Williams' trail by the White House.

It was said that once the story broke, that White House checked into Williams' background "to find out why a man would be so desperate" in these hard times.

Bryan Shields, a USDA official in Minneapolis, who is named in the Williams —

Please turn to Page Four

'Suicide Dad' cited in food aid case

An unemployed man, who wrote a letter to The Des Moines Register and Tribune saying he was going to kill himself because he couldn't find work, has been named in a complaint filed in Minneapolis Wednesday charging him with making "materially false statements" in an application for food stamps.

Lester J. Williams, 36, accused by the U.S. attorney's office of "knowingly, in connection with the completion of a request for food stamps, make a materially false statement respecting his eligibility."

According to the complaint, Williams had been collecting food stamps from Dane County, Wis., Black Hawk County, Ia., and Olstead County, Minn.

The information surfaced, the complaint said, when Williams applied for food stamps at the Clay County, Minn., Social Services offices. A subsequent check uncovered the three earlier applications, according to the federal complaint.

Robert Oberbillig, director of the Legal Aid Society of Polk County, who has acted as a spokesman for Williams, said Williams had told him he made the applications because he was desperate.

Williams, said Oberbillig, was on his way to Minneapolis today to answer the charge.

Federal authorities there declined comment on grand jury indictments

Letter-writing man pleads innocent

Lester Williams, who said in a letter to The Register last month that he would kill himself so his family could obtain welfare, pleaded innocent in St. Paul, Minn., Monday in food stamp fraud charges.

A federal grand jury in Minneapolis handed up an 18-count indictment last week accusing Williams of receiving stamps illegally in 13 cities in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. It also accused him of applying falsely for food stamps.

U.S. Magistrate Bryan Short released Williams on his own recognizance and scheduled a trial for Feb. 16.

Register 1-12-82

Suicide dad pleads innocent

By Frank Santiago

Lester Williams pleaded innocent today in St. Paul, Minn., to a series of food stamp fraud charges.

The 36-year-old Williams, who wrote a letter to the Des Moines Register and Tribune shortly after Christmas saying he was going to kill himself because he couldn't find work, was ordered by U.S. Magistrate Bryan Short to go on trial Feb. 16 in U.S. District Court in St. Paul.

Williams, who until recently had been living in Urbandale, has been released on his own recognizance.

Last Thursday, a federal grand jury in Minneapolis handed up an 18-count indictment accusing Williams of receiving stamps illegally from April to September in 13 cities in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

He also is accused of making false applications for food stamps.

Williams is represented by a public defender in St. Paul.

Williams pleads guilty of food stamp fraud

By WILLIAM PETROSKI

Register Staff Writer

Lester J. Williams, the out-of-work father whose suicide threat brought national attention, pleaded guilty on Friday in U.S. District Court in St. Paul, Minn., to two counts of food stamp fraud.

James Morrow, an assistant U.S. district attorney, said 16 related counts against Williams will be dropped as part of a plea-bargaining agreement. Sentencing is expected within four to six weeks.

Williams, 36, who now is working for a Plymouth, Minn., carpet distributing firm, faces a maximum of 10 years in jail and a \$20,000 fine. The U.S. Attorney's Office made no recommendation for sentencing, leaving the matter to District Judge Edward J. Devitt.

Williams remains free on his promise to appear in court for sentencing.

According to indictments issued by a federal grand jury on Jan. 7, Williams illegally received food stamps between April and September 1981 in a total of 13 cities in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Iowa cities included Cedar Rapids, Waterloo and Fort Dodge.

Williams pleaded guilty Friday of falsely stating his eligibility to receive food stamps in Austin and Rochester, Minn.

Morrow said investigators have determined that Williams had illegally

received approximately \$8,000 worth of food stamps just in Minnesota, and that he was not part of a welfare fraud ring.

Williams, a former Urbandale resident, wrote a letter to The Register saying he would kill himself on Dec. 31 because he was unable to find a job. He said his death would make his family eligible for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

Morrow, a Des Moines native, said the charges against Williams were not unusual. However, he said the nationwide news coverage of Williams' letter made the situation uncommon.

On New Year's Day, Morrow recalled, he saw a man resembling Williams being interviewed on television, but he said he didn't hear Williams' name.

"The next morning, the Minneapolis Tribune had his name, and I told my wife 'This is the guy we're indicting next week.'"

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 23, 1983

TO: JAB III

The attached response to
Clarke Reed is for your
signature/editing.

It has been reviewed by
Fielding, and includes a
change he suggested.

JC

Jc
I don't want to be the
first one in writing to say
this appointment would be made.
Copies of this would circulate, etc
JAB

DOES NOT
WANT TO
SEND



Republican National Committee.

Clarke Reed
Vice Chairman
Republican National Committee
Member for Mississippi
Post Office Box 894
Greenville, Mississippi 38701
(601) 335-5822

Reed, Clarke

February 15, 1983

Mr. James Baker, III
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20000

Dear Jim:

Ben C. Toledano, the Louisiana GOP leadership's recommendation for appointment to the Fifth Circuit Court, has been stalled at Justice since last summer. I have never contacted you in regard to appointments but this is important enough to be the exception.

Following the incredibly bad position we took in the Bob Jones University affair, and the uncertain trumpet in our approach to the Voting Right Act extension and regional application, there now seem to be an equally bad knee-jerk reaction of over-response when "black leaders" blast in our direction. Politically the latter can be as bad as the former. I'm afraid this is what is happening here.

Ben C. has absolutely impeccable political and intellectual credentials for the appointment. He has overwhelming local approval including the majority of the responsible black community in his area. He has intense GOP support throughout the region. I hope you can help expedite his clearance.

I am proposing to Dr. Cooper that your treadmill time be posted with the other stars on the Clinic wall for the max treadmill time for an overworked non-exercising physical degenerate. You look amazingly well. I hope something doesn't collapse or explode.

The next time I'm in town I need a few minutes with you about the RNC. I'll call Margaret ahead of time.

Sincerely,

Clarke Reed

enc.

Toledano's past haunts his ambition to be federal judge

By CHRISTOPHER DREW

As a young man a little more than two decades ago, Benjamin C. Toledano openly supported racial segregation. At one point, he spent five months traveling around Louisiana to survey the prospects for a political party advocating segregation and less federal intervention in state affairs.

Today, Toledano is a prominent New Orleans lawyer and, at 50, a man who renounces his segregationist past. He also is the choice of the state's Republican leadership for a seat on the prestigious 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a court revered by blacks for its pivotal role in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. Gov. David C. Treen recommended Toledano to President Reagan last May, and most local Republicans expected the president to nominate Toledano during the next several months.

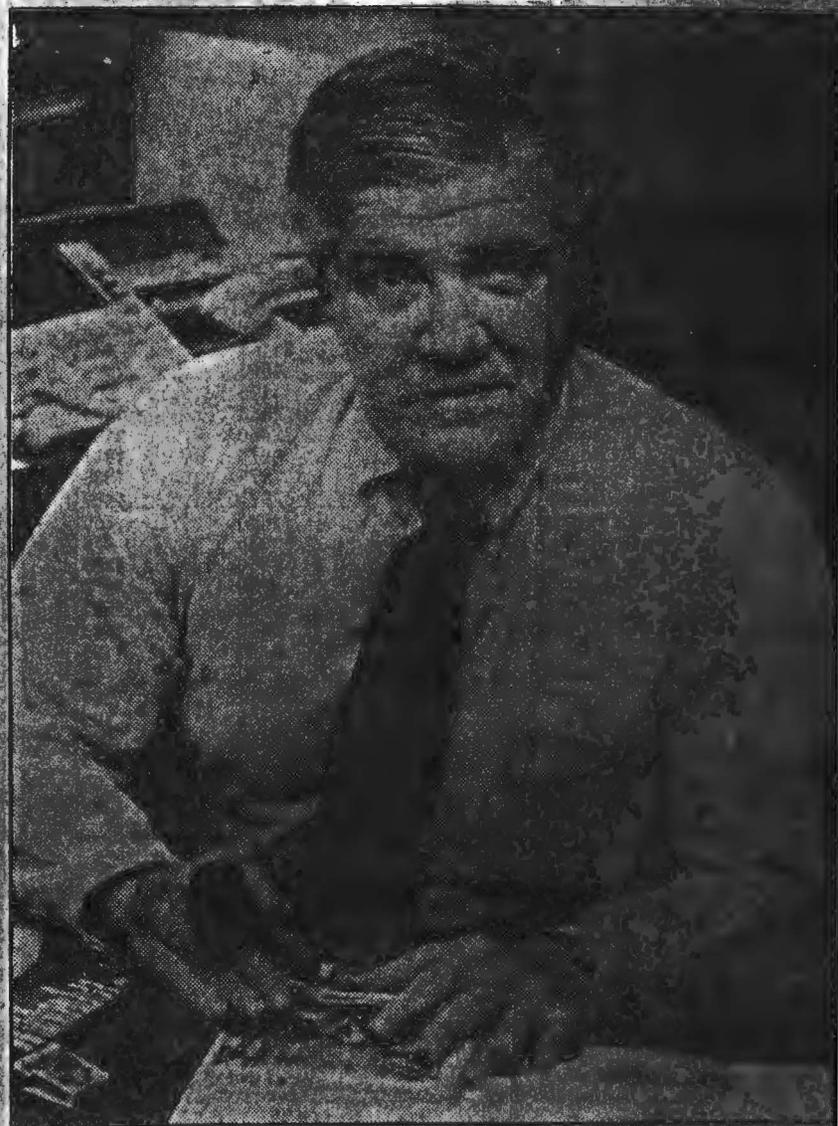
But last fall, Toledano's candidacy ran into opposition from black groups, and the White House has not gone forward with the nomination. The local and state chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a local society of black lawyers have opposed Toledano, citing remarks he made in favor of segregation in 1958. Leaders of the groups say they would be willing to go

to Washington to testify against Toledano if the White House decides to send his name to the Senate for confirmation.

Lately, Toledano, a conservative Republican, has rounded up a surprising amount of support from other prominent local blacks and from liberal white Democrats.

Black leaders such as Samuel DuBois Cook, the president of Dillard University, and Louisiana's two black state senators, William J. Jefferson and Henry E. Braden IV, have written letters of support to Justice Department officials reviewing Toledano's record. Former Mayor Moon Landrieu and other distinguished Democrats also have written letters expressing confidence that Toledano has moderated his views and saying they would feel comfortable with his appointment to the bench.

Nevertheless, Toledano is frustrated by the delay and fears that his chances for the nomination may be slipping. In an interview last week, Toledano said White House officials — conscious of the concerns of many blacks that the Reagan administration is insensitive to their needs — have said privately they would rather drop him as a candidate



—Staff photo by Bryan S. [unreadable]

Ben C. Toledano: Opposition has sidetracked judgeship

Turn to Section 1, Page 4

Mayor, Toledano disagree on loan

By CHRISTOPHER DREW

Though Mayor Dutch Morial says he has done nothing to block Benjamin C. Toledano's effort to become a federal judge, he said he knows what he could do if he wanted to get in Toledano's way.

Morial said he could hurt Toledano's chances for nomination to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by demanding immediate repayment of a \$1 million loan that Toledano and several partners have gotten from the city.

"If I wanted to oppose Mr. Toledano, I could call in his note . . . which I haven't done," Morial said. If Toledano sued to try to stop such a move, Morial said, that would cloud Toledano's candidacy.

A lawsuit or a claim for payment would not look well with the Justice Department or the White House," the mayor said. "Whether it was frivolous or not, it still would not look good, like the candidate can't pay his debts."

But Toledano said he and his partners have not received the loan money, which they plan to use to help finance a 130-room hotel on the edge of Central City.

"The bottom line is that we didn't get anything, and we didn't get anything because of his antagonism for me," Toledano said.

The mayor said he wasn't aware that the money had not been made available for the project. John Hammond, director of the city's federal-grant office, blamed the delay on federal officials administering the Urban

Development Action Grant program. He said he is waiting to receive more information from Toledano and his partners before forwarding documents for the mayor to sign.

The money will be used on hotel construction, under way in the 1300 block of Carondelet St.

Bob F. Wright, a lawyer from Lafayette, and several partners own 80 percent interest in the project. Toledano and his wife Roulhac each own percent.

Under the UDAG program, the city lends federal money to developers at low interest rate, to create jobs in disadvantaged sections. In the case of the Wright-Toledano project, the city also is to receive a percentage of the cash flow.

Morial said another indication that he has not been vindictive is that he signed the original loan agreement for the project last summer, after Toledano had publicly described his first term as mayor as a disaster, and he supported an opponent, Sen. William Jefferson, in the 1982 mayor's race.

But Toledano charged that at meeting in the mayor's office, Morial first threatened not to sign the document. Toledano said the mayor approved it only after screaming at him for opposing the mayor politically.

Morial said he does not remember making such a threat.

"I didn't scream at him," Morial said. "They all want to paint that picture — that the mayor screams at everyone."



Michael Bagneris

iven credit for now denouncing his va then as "ignorant and impru-

oledano said his financial support several black candidates during the 12 years is a good indication of much his views have changed. He he personally contributed \$500 to erson's mayoral campaign last r and raised a little more money. In last few years, he said, he also has tributed \$200 to Braden and \$500 to ncilman-at-Large Sidney Barthe- y, who also has written a letter to port Toledano's candidacy.

ut Toledano also said he believes best evidence that he has derated his views is the support he gotten from prominent local cks.

ook, for instance, said he has ked with Toledano on several civic jects and boards and is convinced t he has changed. "It seems uncon- nable to hold against a man things t happened 25 years ago," he said. denies a man a chance to grow, to ure, to change." He added, "Ben is ery sensitive man. He is very con- oed about social injustice and racial stice. I think he'd make a great st."

n an interview, Landrieu said Toled- o, as a conservative Republican, did not be his first choice for a jud- hip. But he said he would be will- to testify before Congress on Toled- o's behalf if he becomes Reagan's ice. Similarly, Jefferson and Barth- my said, in a letters to administra- officials, that they would prefer to Reagan nominate a black for the Circuit seat, but added that they ieve Toledano would make a fair l impartial judge.

ther blacks who have written let- s supporting Toledano are Judge sel Augustine of the state's 4th Cir- t Court of Appeal and Mitchell let, president of the local Teamsters on.



Sen. William Jefferson



Dr. Samuel Debois Cook

have not opposed him. . . . If I was opposing him, I'd be actively out front with my opposition."

In separate interviews, Morial and Bagneris said they discussed Toledano's candidacy and career before Bagneris spoke at a Martinet Society meeting in September, but both said Morial did not direct or encourage Bagneris to try to block the nomination. "I did walk away from the mayor feeling that his point of view was not diametrically opposed to mine," Bagneris said. He added that his decision to oppose Toledano was a personal one, based on the candidate's record on racial issues.

Morial said he has not talked to Coleman about Toledano. The mayor also said Hooks called him about Toledano and that it was Hooks who expressed "deep concern" about Toledano. Coleman was unavailable for comment last week, and Hooks did not return a call for comment.

Morial questioned the motives of some of Toledano's black supporters. He said Cook, a former Duke University professor who moved to New Orleans in 1974 to become president of Dillard, is "new to town," and the mayor said he wondered whether Cook had been asked by Toledano's friends on the Dillard board to back him. Morial noted that Jefferson and Braden are political opponents of his and that one of Jefferson's law partners, Trevor G. Bryan, has been named by Toledano to the state Mineral Board.

Concerning the Justice Department and the ABA committee, Toledano complained that they appear to have withered criticism by his opponents more heavily than comments by his supporters. He also said that they have not given him an adequate chance to respond to unfavorable information obtained from confidential sources. He said he also believes that Justice Department officials and the ABA committee work too closely together, and that the committee has gained too much influence in the selection pro-

cess. "It was to have been filled by U.S. District Judge Jack Gordon of New Orleans. But Gordon, who had the support of the state's Republican leadership, died of a heart attack in March 1982, shortly before he was officially nominated.

Toledano, who ran unsuccessfully as a Republican candidate for mayor and U.S. senator in the early 1970s, said he did not seek the nomination. He said Treen asked him, on short notice, to allow state party leaders to recommend him for the job to keep Texas Republicans from trying to gain the seat.

Toledano said the FBI completed its background check on him last July and that he submitted a personal-data questionnaire to the Justice Department and the ABA committee that same month. He said that in the questionnaire he described his affiliation in the late 1950s with the segregationist party, the States Rights Party of Louisiana.

Things seemed to be going so smoothly, he said, that he gave notice to his law firm — Porteous, Toledano, Hainkel and Johnson — on Sept. 14 that he would resign on Dec. 31, which he did.

But the day after he submitted this notice, he said, he learned through a phone conversation with an ABA committee member that old newspaper articles containing his statements in favor of segregation were being circulated. He said committee member Gene W. Lafitte, a New Orleans lawyer and the 5th Circuit representative on the committee, called that day and arranged to bring James C. Parham Jr., a committee member from South Carolina, to Toledano's house on Sept. 16 to discuss the articles.

Citing the same articles, the Martinet society had passed a resolution opposing Toledano in September, according to the group's president, Ernestine S. Gray, though Toledano said he did not learn of this action until late November. The state and local chapters of the NAACP also mentioned the articles in a joint press release issued Dec. 2 to oppose Toledano's candidacy.

Toledano disputes some of the comments made in the NAACP release and some of the procedures used by Martinet Society in polling members on the resolution. But leaders of both

that happened 25 years ago," he said. "It denies a man a chance to grow, to mature, to change." He added, "Ben is a very sensitive man. He is very concerned about social injustice and racial injustice. I think he'd make a great jurist."

In an interview, Landrieu said Toledano, as a conservative Republican, would not be his first choice for a judgeship. But he said he would be willing to testify before Congress on Toledano's behalf if he becomes Reagan's choice. Similarly, Jefferson and Barthelmy said, in a letters to administration officials, that they would prefer to see Reagan nominate a black for the 5th Circuit seat, but added that they believe Toledano would make a fair and impartial judge.

Other blacks who have written letters supporting Toledano are Judge Israel Augustine of the state's 4th Circuit Court of Appeal and Mitchel Ledet, president of the local Teamsters Union.

Toledano's critics, however, argue that his record as a segregationist remains the best evidence of his attitude toward blacks.

Bagneris said he does not think Toledano's contributions to a few black candidates can balance his activities for the States' Rights Party, which Bagneris said were "an affront to all people." Referring to Toledano's activities in recent years, Bagneris said he sees no other evidence that he is sympathetic to minority problems.

Gray, the wife of another of Jefferson's law partners, said she has no personal knowledge of Toledano's segregationist activities, so the old newspaper articles have been important to her in determining what kind of person he is. "My personal decision is that he is not the kind of person I would want on the 5th Circuit, if I have a voice on it."

Shirley Porter, New Orleans NAACP president and an employee at Dillard, said members of her organization are concerned that Toledano generally opposes busing and other things they favor.

Some leading Louisiana Republicans are optimistic about Toledano's chances. No matter what happens, Toledano said, he does not plan to withdraw his name, because he thinks

for anything. The problem is that the ABA has gotten much too involved in the judicial selection process. They're trying to pick judges."

Brookline, Mass., who heads the ABA committee, said she could not comment specifically on Toledano, but she generally defended the ABA's advisory role and its use of confidential sources. She also recalled that several years ago, one or two judicial candidates later disqualified by the ABA made similar complaints about the committee's procedures.

Born, a Washington lawyer, said many lawyers are reluctant to criticize a judicial candidate openly, out of fear that it could eventually hurt them in a court case. She said the committee collects information from these people on a confidential basis, and then tries to confirm the information from public sources. In any event, she said, the

mediation without giving a candidate the chance to rebut any damaging information, even if it does not tell the

Toledano said Born told him that the Justice Department asked the ABA committee late last year to delay making a recommendation on Toledano because administration officials were not ready to decide whether Reagan should nominate him. Born would not comment on this assertion or the status of the committee's review.

Mark Sheehan, a Justice Department spokesman, said the department does not comment on matters concerning

reflect the views of most of the group members.

□
Politics aside, the key question in the debate over Toledano's fitness for the appointment is the question of whether he has indeed moderated his views on race issues.

Toledano freely admits that he advocated segregation in the late 1950s as both a member and, for five months in 1959, the paid secretary of the States' Rights Party.

He acknowledged that a 1958 quotation cited by his opponents generally reflects the views he held at the time: "We of the States' Rights Party of Louisiana believe that it is to the mutual advantage and benefit of both the White and Negro people for there to be separation of the races in all matters which are essentially social in nature." He continued, "We believe that public education is essentially social in nature."

But Toledano also complained that his critics overlooked remarks in the same article in which he criticized groups advocating violence and hatred of minorities and said that constitutional issues concerning state and federal rights were "even more important" to him than the idea of segregation. He said he quit his job in the States' Rights Party because of its perceived one-issue orientation on segregation.

Toledano also argued that he was young and inexperienced when he made the remarks and said he should

unpleasant... has been the wait.

"Christ, if I wasn't going to make it, OK," he said. "But Christ, you wait eight months, and you never hear anything from the ABA, you never hear anything from the Justice Department, you never hear anything from the White House. In the meantime, your goddamn life is in limbo, and you're supposed to just sit there and smile. It just stinks."

GC
no resp
nec. (we
spoke on
the phone)
gc

Retters, Forrest
2/17



National Association
of Manufacturers

FORREST RETTGERS
Executive Vice President

February 16, 1983

Mr. James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Jim:

As you are aware, Circular A-122 and the proposed revisions to it from OMB and, specifically the OMB General Counsel, Michael J. Horowitz, have created quite a stir in the Association community.

The purpose of this letter is not to comment on the merits of OMB's case or the merits of the Associations' case. It is to inform you that I feel the Administration and the White House is being poorly served when Mike Horowitz, in a meeting on the 9th of February, at 9 in the morning, in Room 248 of the Old Executive Office Building, launches into a vulgar, verbal tirade. I am the first to admit that some of us may have over-stated the case and that Mike may have been goaded into the defense of OMB's changes in the Circular, but the language that he chose to use in the defense of the Administration's position, in a meeting that included several women, would certainly not be condoned by the President nor by you.

I, for one, am certainly not looking for an apology, but I do feel that the Administration and the business community do not need to be engaged in a verbal war at this particular time. I recommend that The White House call a conference between the general counsels of the major associations and the general counsel of OMB. It should be a working meeting to resolve problems, not a meeting where one lectures or threatens the other, but one where each attempts to rationally transmit the feelings and deficiencies of the other in a pragmatic fashion that will conclude this matter.

To you, Jim, I send my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

FIR/gc

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1983

TO: JAB III

Re the attached from COSSMHO, Sanchez met with Heckler on April 22. Thus, there is no need for further action.

Re his letter for help in meeting Baldrige sooner, I am having Aileen call him and tell him that we are confident that the Secretary scheduled him as soon as he could, and that we don't normally get into the details of a Cabinet officer's scheduling (she'll put it nicely).

JC



April 19, 1983

*Cicconi —
DOES NOT WANT*

A. Baker, III
of Staff and Assistant
he President
ite House
gton, D.C. 20500

im:

I called today, and I hope that I will have spoken to you by the time you receive a copy of the letter from the Department of Commerce to Congressman Michel. Recently I've met with Congressman Michel, Frank Fahrenkoph and Faith Whittlesey in most productive meetings regarding the meeting that we had in December. This coming Friday, April 22 at 10:30 a.m., I am meeting with Secretary Heckler. I appreciate the wonderful support of the White House, in particularly yours, in assisting me to obtain these meetings. While I am very grateful that a meeting has been set for June 17 at 11:00 a.m. with Secretary Baldrige, I would appreciate it if you would be so kind as to assist me in expediting this, since two months seems a rather long time considering the urgency of my presentation.

Please have your secretary inform me if there is anything you can do.

Your friend always,

from the desk of RODOLFO BALLI SANCHEZ

47

Asks JAB to contact Heckler
re: meeting

Sanchez, Rudy
(JAB)

1015 - 15th Street, N.W., Suite 402
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 638-0505

RODOLFO BALLI SANCHEZ
National Executive Director

R.F. 4/26
To JC
Can you please
help on this - if in your
opinion it has
merit?
JAB

Albert Vazquez, M.S.W.
Secretary
Chicago, IL

Nelba Chavez, Ph.D.
Treasurer
Tucson, AZ

Mario Anglada
New York, NY

Frieda Garcia
Boston, MA

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Santurce, PR

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Carmen Maymi, M.Ed.
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New York, NY

Ricardo Nuñez
Miami, FL

Jaime Ramirez
New York, NY

Reymundo Rodriguez, M.Ed.
Austin, TX

John Hale
General Counsel
Washington, D.C.

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

Dear Jim:

I wanted to let you know that my meeting this morning with Faith Ryan Whittlesey was very positive and rewarding. She's a most impressive person and will serve the President well as head of the Office of Public Liaison.

We discussed the challenges of reaching out to the Hispanic community, and we were in total agreement on the needs that exist and the measures that should be taken. Many of the points raised were topics we covered in our meeting last December. You can be assured that Mrs. Whittlesey will have COSSMHO's full support in establishing a strong working relationship with our Hispanic communities.

While I am pleased to report this progress, I am concerned that a final date has not yet been set for my meeting with Secretary Heckler. Among the issues I want to discuss are our plans for a National Hispanic Health Campaign, in follow-up to my meeting last December with then-Secretary Schweiker. Your assistance in communicating to her the importance and urgency of this initiative would be most helpful.

Subsequent to my meeting with Bob Michel in late March, I have also initiated a request to see Secretary Baldrige, in order to review our experience in developing Hispanic youth programs with the Minority Business Development Agency and suggest new opportunities for further action.

I hope that all is well with you and Susan and that the Easter holidays were restful and uplifting.

Sincerely,
Rudy
Rodolfo Balli Sanchez



November 3, 1983

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The Hon. Joseph C. Zengerle*

*Served in Vietnam

Affiliations noted for
purposes of identification only.

Jim Ciconi
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Jim:

This letter is a followup to my telephone call concerning the ceremony marking the first anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

We are sorry that President Reagan will not attend, but it is hope that we can have a brief message from the President to read at the ceremony. The ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Veterans Day at the memorial. The speakers include Congressman John Murtha, Newsweek Editor William Broyles, Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Clifford Olsen, Elliot Richardson, the National Adjutant of the American Legion and others. A crowd of 20,000 to 50,000 is expected.

If we can get a brief two minute message from President Reagan to read at the ceremony, we would be very grateful.

My best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jan C. Scruggs
President

JCS/caj

Send note.
to Dodie
11/7-am
JCS

ADC
PI talk w/ Dodie
and see if something
can be done. The group
had invited RR to attend.
The President has visited
the Memorial.
Thank
JC 11/4

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Scruggs Jan

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-2490

Sims, Edward H.

f GC (1982)

May 21, 1982

Dear Ed:

I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate your raising the pecan issue in your letter of April 30. I can assure you that we will look into it.

I also appreciate your encouragement on the budget. We knew all along that it would be a tough battle, but the negotiations are now beginning to look brighter.

Thanks also for the news clippings that you continue to pass along. It is always good to hear from you.

Hurriedly, but with best regards.

Sincerely,

James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President

Mr. Edward H. Sims
Publisher
Editor's Copy Syndicate
Post Office Box 532
Orangeburg, South Carolina 29115

P.S. I checked with the White House Press Office and you are on their mailing list. They recently sent a mailing that you should have received by now, though they advised me that these mailings are not done very frequently.

cc: Jim Cicconi & incoming--for follow-up
Kathy Camalier--for JAB files
JAB Chron

EDITOR'S COPY SYNDICATE

POST OFFICE BOX 532
ORANGEBURG, S.C. 29115
TELEPHONE: 803 534-1110

408 PARTRIDGE CIRCLE
SARASOTA, FL 33577

40 ST. MARY'S CRESCENT,
HENDON, LONDON, NW4 4LH
GREAT BRITAIN

30 April 1982.

Dear Jim:

Congratulations on the visit to the Hill and President Reagan has put the Democrats on the defensive in my view. (Of course you aren't getting fair treatment in the media, especially television, which really shapes public opinion too much, in its own way. We have a long editorial on that going out next week and I will see you get a copy.)

The small editorial on the grab to control another free segment of the economy, which doesn't need controls, might be of interest to the president. (He might want to tell the Agriculture Secretary to stay out, or ask him about it.) If you think not big enough issue, do nothing. Use your own judgment.

KC

5-12

Bests,



Edward H. Sims
Publisher

Can you please prepare a short thank-you note to Sims, saying we appreciate his raising the pecan issue and that we "will look into the matter." Then to me for OK and to draft memo to Fuller. Thanks JC

(summer house)

5/10

Ple. get into this & see what Ag. is doing
Send Sims a response. Why do we need to do this - counter to N's philosophy?



in Philadelphia. Not just for the survivors but for practically every American and Englishman, the night the luxury liner sank, in 1912, was indeed a night which has been rightly remembered--perhaps better than any other night in this century.

Stay Out!

One of the worst examples of a federal agency seeking more regulation where it's not needed is the Agricultural Department's proposal to begin issuing marketing orders for each year's pecan crop.

Some perhaps well-intended growers (who propose Washington levy a new tax--fee--on shellers to pay for it!) would have the department participate in a new board to exercise controls over, and advertise, pecans. That's already being done, in the free enterprise economy. And pecans have always brought a good price--better than nuts like almonds, now with a major storage problem after being subject to marketing orders for many years.

There are several objections to the new regulatory arm, which is directly contrary to the philosophy of the Reagan Administration. Some are:

Little farmers would very likely be at a disadvantage under decrees of a board dominated by big producers. The new tax would inevitably increase the price of pecans to consumers. Advertising--the stated purpose for this move for control has been done, and should be, by the industry.

Washington control over farmers in a sixteen-state area would create a costly, new bureaucracy. All pecan crops, unlike almonds and walnuts, have always been sold at high prices under the present free marketing system.

In short, the free market system is working well for pecans. It doesn't need "fixin' " (new taxes, control and regulation) from Washington.

Back Britain

The Reagan Administration tried, in the initial days, to play a neutral, or even-handed role, in the Falkland Islands confrontation between Great Britain and Argentina.

This was justified as the only hope for a negotiated settlement. But there should be no confusion over the question where primary U.S. interests lie. This country, in the final analysis, or showdown, must support Britain. The Organization of American States did itself no good in the eyes of the world recently by voting unanimously, with three abstentions, to support Argentina against British aggression!

The U.S. delegate at that meeting should have called a spade a spade and said quite clearly that Argentina was the aggressor. It was Argentina which seized the islands which have been British since before the American Civil War. How can a dictator's seizure of these islands, four hundred miles out in the South Atlantic, in a surprise military move, not be termed aggression?

Britain is the world's second oldest democracy (Iceland is the oldest) and an ally indispensable to U.S. interests in the third great industrial center of the

*Tippett,
W. Paul*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 25, 1983

Dear Mr. Tippett:

Thank you for your recent telegram with a further expression of your views on the auto import situation. I enjoyed the opportunity we had to chat on this subject, and am confident that your views will be kept in mind by Ambassador Brock as discussions continue on the issue.

Sincerely,

James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President

Mr. W. Paul Tippett
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer
American Motors Corporation
27777 Franklin Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034

JOHN TOWER
TEXAS

G.C.
(Ann't made by
Pres. on May 5)

Towin, John
(JHB)

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
CHAIRMAN
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 11, 1983

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

Dear Jim:

I am deeply concerned about the economic crisis in South Texas created primarily by the devaluation of the peso. The lack of action by the Federal government in this matter should be remedied as quickly as possible.

As you may already know, estimates of unemployment in the area range from 20 to 50 percent. Retail sales and wholesale trade are down 25 to 40 percent -- 60 percent in some border communities. This sharp rise in unemployment, coupled with a fall in business activity, has caused the tax base of these communities to erode rapidly. It should be noted that this tax base erosion is occurring at the same time as the affected local governmental entities are being required to shoulder the additional burden of educating alien children in Texas public schools.

Additionally, illegal immigration is up 50 percent over last year. It is estimated that fully one-third or more of the 2 million illegal entrants in 1983 will become permanent residents of the United States, and, in my view, many of these will find their way to Texas.

I agree with the Administration's assessment that an economic recovery in Mexico would be beneficial in mitigating some of the aforementioned problems; nonetheless, South Texas and other border areas cannot afford to wait for this economic recovery to take effect. Indeed, officials at the Department of the Treasury indicate that Mexico will need two to four billion dollars in additional assistance before the end of 1983 should oil prices continue to decline. Experienced and informed individuals in the Nation's financial circles estimate that the amount is closer to \$7 billion.

In either event, because of these exacting economic pressures, private and public sector experts foresee that there will arise even added pressure on Mexico for further peso devaluation. This will serve only to exacerbate existing problems in South Texas and create new ones.

Although there is considerable merit in continuing high-level negotiations regarding Mexico's external debt, it is readily apparent to me that the acute problems of South Texas have fallen by the wayside. I have been impressed by the well-coordinated, government-wide Mexican rescue plan whereby the Departments of the Treasury, State and Agriculture acted quickly and efficiently to ward off a major crisis. Yet, to the contrary, this same degree of coordination and commitment seems lacking in government to deal with the growing economic problems of South Texas.

The Honorable James A. Baker, III
April 11, 1983
Page 2

Additionally, it should be noted that the source and nature of these difficulties in border areas are considerably broader than regional or parochial concerns. It is a problem which has reached an international status, and, in my view, it is our responsibility in government to act as quickly as possible to prevent further ruination of border communities. Rebuilding efforts are required now.

Having given this matter considerable thought, it is my view that the President should appoint an emergency economic review team or task force comprised of representatives from selected Federal departments and agencies to visit South Texas, evaluate the situation, design workable solutions which can be implemented immediately by administrative means, and report their findings within 30 days. Following this evaluation, the group should meet with Cabinet officials and senior agency staff, including Commerce, Housing, Treasury, Energy, SBA, and EDA to devise a plan of assistance for individuals and businesses which have been adversely affected by factors and circumstances beyond their control, and, most assuredly, which are not of their own making.

This situation is becoming noticeably worse as each day passes, and we cannot afford to continue ignoring the problem in hopes that it will somehow mysteriously vanish.

I strongly urge that this matter be given immediate attention. I look forward to hearing from you soon in this regard.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



John Tower

JGT/fdm



DAVID C. TREEN
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Baton Rouge

MEMORANDUM

TO: James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff and Assistant
to the President

FROM: *DC* Governor David C. Treen

DATE: November 15, 1982

RE: United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit

As a result of the actions of one man, Mayor Dutch Morial of New Orleans, some opposition has been stirred up in the American Bar Association regarding the nomination of Ben C. Toledano to the bench of the United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit.

I do not believe this to be serious politically, and I know that it is without merit.

The suggestion has been made by Dutch Morial that Toledano is, or was, affected by some degree of racial prejudice. He has seized upon a statement made in 1958, almost 25 years ago.

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you and the senior staff at The White House that I am prepared to come to Washington and appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee, and to bring with me leading black community and political leaders who will vouch for Toledano's integrity and lack of racial bias. In addition, other well-known whites, with good credentials for this purpose, can be assembled. Here is a partial listing:

- 1) Samuel Dubois Cook, President of Dillard University, a predominantly black university, a recognized leader in the black higher education community.
- 2) Judge Israel Augustine, a respected black criminal judge.
- 3) Senator Bill Jefferson, a black state senator from New Orleans, and recent candidate for mayor of New Orleans.

- 4) Henry E. Braden, Jr., an outstanding black community leader (and perhaps his son, State Senator Henry E. Braden III).
- 5) Former Mayor Moon Landrieu, who was also Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Carter, and a well-recognized liberal, particularly on race questions.
- 6) Mrs. Rosa Keller, a community leader who was in the forefront of desegregation efforts in New Orleans long before they became accepted, a lady with impeccable liberal credentials.
- 7) Charles Ferguson, editor of the state's largest daily newspaper, The Times-Picayune, and also a recognized leader in progressive racial policy.
- 8) Russell Kirk, well known to you and, I believe, to the President.
- 9) George Gilder, author of the book, Wealth and Poverty, which I believe the President has read.

In addition, I believe that these people will also be supportive, although I have not confirmed that they would be willing to testify:

- 1) Former United States Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, a leading senate liberal during his years in the congress.
- 2) Sydney Barthelemy, a black councilman-at-large of New Orleans.
- 3) Judge Revius Ortigue, a black civil judge in New Orleans.
- 4) Nils Douglas, a black community leader in New Orleans who has been a prominent activist on behalf of black causes.

I understand the Justice Department is preparing a report which will be sent to The White House. I request the opportunity to visit with the appropriate members of the present staff should this report cause any concern.

Please understand that this is a matter of vital importance to me.



DAVID C. TREEN
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Baton Rouge

November 15, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I have recommended to you for appointment to the United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit a New Orleans attorney of impeccable integrity and outstanding legal competence. He is Ben C. Toledano.

I have known Ben Toledano for many years as a fellow activist on behalf of the Republican Party of Louisiana. However, I have recommended him to you for appointment to the federal judiciary for one reason: his firm grasp of constitutional principles and dedication to a strict construction of our constitution.

The purpose of this letter is to emphasize the importance of this appointment to me but, more importantly, to assure you that Ben will be a persuasive, effective judge who will have significant impact on the direction of judicial philosophy.

Sincerely,

David C. Treen

DCT/gl

Van Ness, Suzi

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1982

Dear Suzi:

Susan and I appreciate your letter, and understand the concern you and Dave share about the impact of budget cuts on programs that help with Jamie's education.

The cuts are being proposed in almost all federal programs, including programs authorized under the Education of the Handicapped Act, due to economic necessity--as you know, government spending has simply been growing faster than the means to pay for it. In this particular area, we anticipate that the budget reductions will not result in dollar-for-dollar service reductions because of our concurrent efforts to lessen costly regulatory burdens and reporting requirements. By reducing State and local administrative costs, more funds can be put into actual services.

Although education has traditionally been regarded as primarily a state responsibility, we recognize that the federal government also has a role to play in helping States educate the handicapped, and we will continue to devote federal resources for that purpose.

I truly hope that these very necessary budget cuts will not impair Jamie's education in any way. As far as suggestions as to who else you might contact, I think you have probably touched all the bases, especially in the Congress. I am sure the people you have written will look very carefully at our proposals (as they have promised) in order to assure themselves and their constituents that our proposals are both reasonable and necessary.

With regards,



James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President

Ms. Suzi Van Ness
Eaglebrook School
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

FEB 1, 82

Suzi Van Ness
Eaglebrook School, Deerfield, Mass. 01342

Dear Susan & Jim -

Dave and I need
your help concerning
some new budget pro-
posals coming from
Washington. These cuts
will drastically effect
programs which have
been very supportive
in helping us help
jamie with his
Cerebral Palsy.

- 2 -

These proposals are calling for drastic cuts in programs for handicapped children. There's a 55% cut in funding for P.L. 94-142, it will be block granted, the statute 94-142 is to be rewritten + weakened and deregulated, undercutting safeguards for janice's and other handicapped children's education.

I have written to the following people:
The Honorable Silvio O. Conte

- 3 -

Mr. Turrell Bell, Senator
Edward Kennedy and
Senator Paul Tsongas.

Can you tell me if
there is any one else
I can write to to
explain how important
it is that they DO NOT
change the regulations
of P.L. 94-142?

I'd appreciate any
help you can give us.

Thanks, Suzi ☺

draft

February 25, 1982

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your February 4 letter, cosigned by 284 of your colleagues, in which you indicated your concern about proposed reductions in the programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

We understand and share your concern for the disabled. We hope you will understand, however, that all programs must be reviewed in light of the Administration's goals of restoring health to the economy by, in part, reducing Federal spending, and returning to the people more say in the way government affects their lives.

Because of the overriding importance of slowing the rate of growth in Federal spending, budget reductions are proposed in almost all Federal programs including those authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

Federal administration of the many programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act has resulted in less efficient and effective programs because of the excessive administrative costs required to satisfy Federal regulatory and reporting requirements and because of decision making in Washington on issues best decided at the State or local level.

We anticipate that these reductions will not result in dollar for dollar service reductions because at the same time the Administration will seek to relieve State and local governments, as much as possible, of costly and burdensome Federal regulations and reporting requirements. Given this flexibility, the Administration expects State and local governments will continue to support effective programs which are focused on disabled individuals most in need of services.

While the Administration recognizes education as primarily a responsibility of the States, we envision a continuing Federal function to provide Federal resources for helping States educate the handicapped under the President's new Federalism initiative.

In closing, let me thank you for your letter and encourage your support of our economic recovery program.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Carl D. Perkins
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Jim Baker - FYI
KMD: OMB: CMP: KLR



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 25, 1982

Dear Senator Riegle:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your February 5 letter, cosigned by 58 of your colleagues, in which you indicated your concern about proposed reductions in the programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

We understand and share your concern for the disabled. We hope you will understand, however, that all programs must be reviewed in light of the Administration's goals of restoring health to the economy by, in part, reducing Federal spending, and returning to the people more say in the way government affects their lives.

Because of the overriding importance of slowing the rate of growth in Federal spending, budget reductions are proposed in almost all Federal programs including those authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

Federal administration of the many programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act has resulted in less efficient and effective programs because of the excessive administrative costs required to satisfy Federal regulatory and reporting requirements and because of decision making in Washington on issues best decided at the State or local level.

We anticipate that these reductions will not result in dollar for dollar service reductions because at the same time the Administration will seek to relieve State and local governments, as much as possible, of costly and burdensome Federal regulations and reporting requirements. Given this flexibility, the Administration expects State and local governments will continue to support effective programs which are focused on disabled individuals most in need of services.

While the Administration recognizes education as primarily a responsibility of the States, we envision a continuing Federal function to provide Federal resources for helping States educate the handicapped under the President's new Federalism initiative.

In closing, let me thank you for your letter and encourage your support of our economic recovery program.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Cc: Jim Baker - FYI

KMD:OMB:CMF:KIR

(Attn: Eileen Anderson)

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 4, 1982

059546 - 059549

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request your assistance in assuring continued support for P.L. 94-142, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, and its support programs. This Act guarantees that each handicapped child be provided a free appropriate public education. It is our understanding that the Department of Education has proposed significant reductions in federal funds for this program in fiscal year 1983. In addition, the Department has proposed substantive amendments to the statute which would seriously undermine the rights afforded handicapped children and their parents.

While concern has been expressed regarding excessive federal regulations, it has been documented that many of the administrative burdens associated with the implementation of P.L. 94-142 are a result of state and local interpretations of the federal statute. Our major concern is assuring the continuation of the effective federal, state and local partnership that presently exists to provide educational services to handicapped children.

In addition to the positive impact in human terms that this legislation has wrought for handicapped children and their families, the program has proven that it is cost-effective. At a recent press conference you presented a dramatic example of a chronically ill young girl from Iowa who could receive appropriate treatment at home for \$1,000 per month, instead of in a hospital for \$6,000 from Medicaid funds. You indicated that unnecessary hospitalization was a tremendous expense to the taxpayers and was not advantageous to the patient.

A similar situation exists with many of our handicapped citizens. According to the staff in the Health Care Financing Administration, in the Department of Health and Human Services, costs to provide basic maintenance care to an individual have risen from \$5,100 per year in 1974 to \$16,000 per year in 1980. The total cost of lifetime institutionalization, including maintenance, medical and rehabilitative services, ranges from an estimated \$1 million to \$4 million per person. It has been demonstrated time and again that institutionalizing handicapped adults at the taxpayers expense can often be prevented by providing an appropriate education to handicapped youth.

During the 1980 presidential election campaign, the Exceptional Parent magazine requested statements from the candidates regarding their position on the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. You responded by pointing out that the implementation of P.L. 94-142 was perhaps the greatest stride made to date toward a workable plan for the education of handicapped children. You went on to say that as President you would work to ensure that the Education for All Handicapped Children Act is a success. We hope that you will reaffirm your pledge by endorsing current levels of federal funding for P.L. 94-142 and its support programs, and opposing any substantive changes in the statute.

With best regards,

President Ronald Reagan
February 4, 1982
Page One

Carl D. Perkins

Austin J. Murphy

George Miller

Mario Biaggi

Paul Simon

William M. Brodhead

Frederick W. Richmond

John L. Burton

Robert W. Kastenmeier

Claude Pepper

Don Edwards

William Lehman

James L. Oberstar

Augustus F. Hawkins

Harold E. Ford

Antonio Borja Won Pat

Ted Weiss

Ed Jenkins

Julian C. Dixon

Thomas A. Daschle

William H. Gray III

Patricia Schroeder

While the Administration recognizes education as primarily a responsibility of the States, we envision a continuing Federal function to provide Federal resources for helping States educate the handicapped under the President's New Federalism initiative.

In closing, let me thank you for your letter and encourage your support of our economic recovery program.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Ken Kramer
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Jim Baker (Attn: Eileen Anderson) - FYI

KMD/OMB/CMP/Lpt(KMD-2:43)

February 25, 1982

Dear Ken:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your February 2 letter in which you indicated your concern about proposed reductions in the programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

We understand and share your concern for the disabled. We hope you will understand, however, that all programs must be reviewed in light of the Administration's goals of restoring health to the economy by, in part, reducing Federal spending, and returning to the people more say in the way government affects their lives.

Because of the overriding importance of slowing the rate of growth in Federal spending, budget reductions are proposed in almost all Federal programs including those authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

Federal administration of the many programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act has resulted in less efficient and effective programs because of the excessive administrative costs required to satisfy Federal regulatory and reporting requirements and because of decision-making in Washington on issues best decided at the State or local level.

We anticipate that these reductions will not result in dollar for dollar service reductions because at the same time the Administration will seek to relieve State and local governments, as much as possible, of costly and burdensome Federal regulations and reporting requirements. Given this flexibility, the Administration expects State and local governments will continue to support effective programs which are focused on disabled individuals most in need of services.

While the Administration recognizes education as primarily a responsibility of the States, we envision a continuing Federal function to provide Federal resources for helping States educate the handicapped under the President's New Federalism initiative.

In closing, let me thank you for your letter and encourage your support of our economic recovery program.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ cc: Jim Baker (Attn: Eileen Anderson) - FYI

KMD/OMB/CMP/Lpt(KMD-2:43)

February 25, 1982

Dear Carroll:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your February 2 letter in which you indicated your concern about proposed reductions in the programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

We understand and share your concern for the disabled. We hope you will understand, however, that all programs must be reviewed in light of the Administration's goals of restoring health to the economy by, in part, reducing Federal spending, and returning to the people more say in the way government affects their lives.

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While the Administration recognizes education as primarily a responsibility of the States, we envision a continuing Federal function to provide Federal resources for helping States educate the handicapped under the President's New Federalism initiative.

In closing, let me thank you for your letter and encourage your support of our economic recovery program.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable John P. East
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: ~~Jim Baker~~ (Attn: Eileen Anderson) - FYI

KMD/OMB/CMP/Lpt(KMD-2:43)

February 25, 1982

Dear Senator East:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your February 5 letter in which you indicated your concern about proposed reductions in the programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

We understand and share your concern for the disabled. We hope you will understand, however, that all programs must be reviewed in light of the Administration's goals of restoring health to the economy by, in part, reducing Federal spending, and returning to the people more say in the way government affects their lives.

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While the Administration recognizes education as primarily a responsibility of the States, we envision a continuing Federal function to provide Federal resources for helping States educate the handicapped under the President's New Federalism initiative.

In closing, let me thank you for your letter and encourage your support of our economic recovery program.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Bob Dole
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Jim Baker (Attn: Eileen Anderson) - FYI

KMD/OMB/CMP/Lpt(KMD-2:43)

February 25, 1982

Dear Senator Dole:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your February 5 letter in which you indicated your concern about proposed reductions in the programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

We understand and share your concern for the disabled. We hope you will understand, however, that all programs must be reviewed in light of the Administration's goals of restoring health to the economy by, in part, reducing Federal spending, and returning to the people more say in the way government affects their lives.

Because of the overriding importance of slowing the rate of growth in Federal spending, budget reductions are proposed in almost all Federal programs including those authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

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While the Administration recognizes education as primarily a responsibility of the States, we envision a continuing Federal function to provide Federal resources for helping States educate the handicapped under the President's New Federalism initiative.

In closing, let me thank you for your interest in sharing with us your constituent's concerns.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Robert W. Daniel, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Jim Baker (Attn: Eileen Anderson) - FYI

KMD/OMB/CMP/Lpt (KMD-2:43)

February 25, 1982

Dear Bob:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your February 4 letter in which you indicated your constituent's concern about proposed reductions in the programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

We understand and share Mrs. Isabel Brenner's concern for the disabled. We hope she will understand, however, that all programs must be reviewed in light of the Administration's goals of restoring health to the economy by, in part, reducing Federal spending, and returning to the people more say in the way government affects their lives.

Because of the overriding importance of slowing the rate of growth in Federal spending, budget reductions are proposed in almost all Federal programs including those authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act.

Federal administration of the many programs authorized by the Education of the Handicapped Act has resulted in less efficient and effective programs because of the excessive administrative costs required to satisfy Federal regulatory and reporting requirements and because of decision-making in Washington on issues best decided at the State or local level.

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 5, 1982

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

059504

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request your assistance in assuring continued support for P.L. 94-142, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, and its support programs. This Act guarantees that each handicapped child be provided a free, appropriate public education. It is our understanding that the Department of Education has proposed significant reductions in Federal funds for this program in FY 1983.

In addition to the positive impact in human terms that this legislation has wrought for handicapped children and their families, the program has proven that it is cost-effective. At a recent press conference, you presented a dramatic example of a chronically ill young girl from Iowa who could receive appropriate treatment at home for \$1,000 a month instead of in the hospital for \$6,000 from Medicaid funds. You indicated that unnecessary hospitalization was a tremendous expense to the taxpayers and was not advantageous to the patient.

A similar situation exists with many of our handicapped citizens. According to the staff in the Health Care Financing Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services, costs to provide basic maintenance care to an individual have risen from \$5,100 per year in 1974 to \$16,000 per year in 1980. The total cost of lifetime institutionalization, including maintenance, medical and rehabilitation services, range from an estimated \$1 million to \$4 million per person. It has been demonstrated time and again that institutionalizing handicapped adults at the taxpayers expense can often be prevented by providing an appropriate education to handicapped youth.

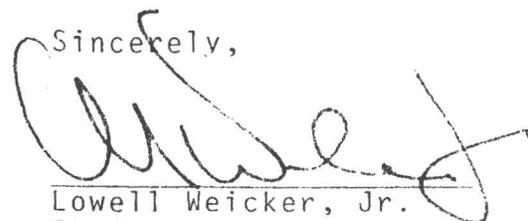
While concern has been expressed regarding excessive regulations, it has been documented that many of the administrative burdens associated with the implementation of P.L. 94-142 are a result of State and Local interpretations of the Federal statute. Our major concern is assuring the continuation of the effective Federal, State and Local partnership that presently exists to provide educational services to handicapped children.

During the 1980 Presidential election campaign, the Exceptional Parent magazine requested statements from candidates regarding their position on the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. You responded by pointing out that the implementation of P.L. 94-142 was perhaps the greatest stride made to date toward a workable plan for the education of handicapped children. You

went on to say that as President you would work to ensure that the Education for all Handicapped Children Act is a success. We hope that you will reaffirm your pledge by advocating full funding for P.L. 94-142, and opposing any changes in the statute which would dilute the effectiveness of the present program.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Lowell Weicker, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on the
Handicapped



Donald W. Riegler, Jr.



Jennings Randolph



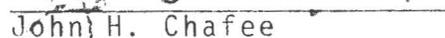
Nancy Landon Kassebaum



Mark O. Hatfield



Thomas F. Eagleton



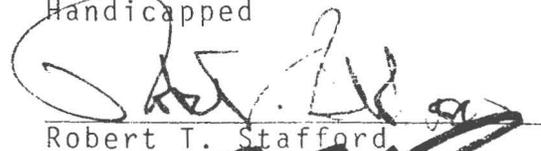
John H. Chafee



Claiborne Pell



Howard M. Metzenbaum



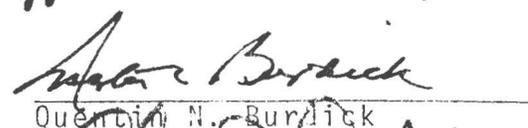
Robert T. Stafford



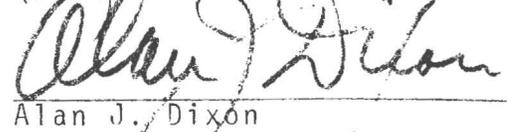
Edward M. Kennedy



Harrison A. Williams, Jr.



Quentin N. Burdick



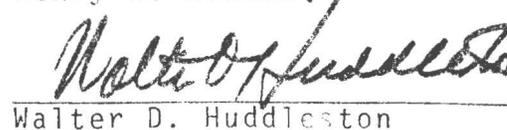
Alan J. Dixon



Daniel Patrick Moynihan



Henry M. Jackson



Walter D. Huddleston

Public Law 94-142

Budget proposals

Don Moran 3200 (referred me to ^{Bernie} Martin, by Ross)

Bernie Martin 3971 (referred me to Paul Fairley)

Paul Fairley 5880 (referred me to Greg Franc)

Greg Franc - Planning & Budget - Dept. of Education
245-8620

~~All programs under~~

Budget includes all programs under Handicapped Education Act as well as "others" under Elementary & Secondary Education Act:

'81 → \$1,177,856,000

'82 → ~~Current~~ Current Continuing Resolution: \$1,188,600,000

-- after rescind, left w/ \$899,668,000

'83 → proposed budget request: \$845,668,000

- Franc not sure where Ms. Van Ness got the "55%" cut figure

- Furthermore, he is "unsure" as to whether this statute will be strengthened or weakened, the, he did say that, in terms of what the Dept. is proposing to OMB, it would change it "drastically."

-- Inams said some 200+ Cong/mem & some 50+ Senators
have written in de favor of this PL 94-142.

-- tracked letters down to Reg. Affairs (opkr w/ Melanie
at 7500)

-- OMB is doing the run-down ... Melanie will
send me a copy -- in meantime, she will
send copy of letters from House & Senate

Melanie Blesse 7500

P.L. 94-142

Chris DeMuth 3864 (got ref'd to Jozgi)

Jim Jozgi 5897 (after talking to 3 women, got ref'd to Scurry)

Nat Scurry 6880

-- Susan(?) → passed me to Jazze

-- Jazze → said she'd check & call back or have "Lawrence" call me

Jim ... it is quite clear I'm getting the you-know-what...



U.S. Department of Justice

Wickert, Lowell

Civil Rights Division

(JAB/gc)

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 25, 1983

Honorable Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.
United States Senate
313 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Weicker:

Your letter to James Baker, dated April 14, 1983, raising the issue of the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to Medicare and Medicaid programs, has been referred to me for response.

As you know, the plaintiffs in American Hospital Association, et al. v. Heckler, in attacking the validity of the Department of Health and Human Services' "Baby Doe" regulation in federal district court in New York, alleged that Section 504 does not apply to Medicare and Medicaid programs. It was originally thought that a response to the legal arguments advanced in support of that contention would have to be made by the Administration and, in that connection, we had the matter under review. The recent decision of Judge Gerhard Gesell in American Academy of Pediatrics, et al. v. Heckler (D.C.D.C.), however, enjoining application of the "Baby Doe" regulation nationwide, has removed the immediate need to file a brief in American Hospital Association.

Nonetheless, we recognize that the courts will soon be required to address the Medicare/Medicaid issue under Section 504, necessitating a full response to the American Hospital Association's position. As you point out, existing regulations of Health and Human Services in this particular area are an essential component of the analysis. Also helpful are the views expressed in your letter.

Thank you for writing to us on this critically important matter.

Sincerely,

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

f B.C. (Weicker)
Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 22, 1983

Jim,

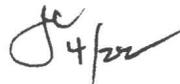
Here is a proposed response to the Weiker letter. While I have drafted it for my signature, I believe it can serve as a reply from Jim Baker or anyone else you might consider appropriate.

Please feel free to edit if you are at all uncomfortable with the draft.


Brad

JAB

I discussed response to Weiker's letter (att'd) w/ Brad Reynolds. He drafted the reply here; I thought it perfect, and asked him to go ahead and send it over his signature.





U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

Honorable Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.
United States Senate
313 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

DRAFT

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Thank you for writing to us on this critically important matter.

Sincerely,

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH, CHAIRMAN

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CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Needs an answer

RONALD F. DOCKSAI, STAFF DIRECTOR
KATHRYN O'L. HIGGINS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 14, 1983

Mr. James Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am writing in regard to a decision that I understand is pending this very afternoon concerning the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to Medicare and Medicaid programs. It is my desire to communicate to you in the strongest terms possible that I support the application of this important civil rights provision to both Medicare and Medicaid.

There is absolutely no justification for considering Medicare or Medicaid exempt from the intent of Section 504. These federally administered programs include extensive standards for State accountability, particularly as applied to programs for our disabled citizens. Consequently, the requirements under Section 504, as clarified in current regulation, are applicable to Medicare and Medicaid. Without such applicability, the civil rights protections afforded under this Section will be diluted so substantially as to render them meaningless to a significant number of disabled citizens.

I urge you not to disturb current practice regarding the application of Section 504 to Medicare and Medicaid, but to reaffirm the federal government's commitment to continue support for this essential civil rights legislation.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Lowell Weicker, Jr., Chairman
Subcommittee on the Handicapped

LW/lw

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1982

Dear Louie:

I appreciate receiving a copy of Houston's Regional Mobility Plan. It speaks well for the hard work and dedication of the many different people and groups involved in its compilation.

While my schedule here would make it very difficult to set up a formal briefing, I look forward to talking with you about the plan next time I am in Houston.

By the way, let me also offer my congratulations on your appointment to the Water Development Board. With water a growing problem for the cities of Texas, I cannot think of a more appropriate person for the job.

Sincerely,



James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Louie Welch
President
Houston Chamber of Commerce
1100 Milam Building
Houston, Texas 77002

25TH FLOOR
1100 MILAM BUILDING
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002
(713) 651-1313



March 26, 1982

LOUIE WELCH
President

The Honorable James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Jim:

Recently, Dan Arnold, Howard Horne and I led a delegation of Houstonians to Washington to brief the Texas delegation and other key Members of Congress on the contents of a comprehensive Regional Mobility Plan for the Houston area.

This plan was put together through the combined efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, the City and other local and regional transportation agencies. It presents a balanced and cost-effective 15 year plan for constructing new highways, streets and mass transit facilities capable of meeting the demands of the City of Houston in 1996. I know Dan and Howard share my pride in the quality of work that has gone into this plan and we also are hopeful that it will provide the catalyst for efforts at all levels of government, literally, to get our City moving again.

So far we have been delighted with the response the plan has received both in Washington among the Texas delegation and in Austin. Houston has long been recognized for its independence and local initiative. While the improvements called for in the Regional Mobility Plan set a tall order, we are set to do our share at the State and local level.

For your information, I enclose a copy of the plan which we distributed to the Texas delegation. Recognizing your busy schedule, we would nevertheless be honored to brief you on the basic outline of the plan at your convenience either in Washington or during your next trip home to Houston.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louie".

Louie Welch

LW: jr

Enclosures



Coalitions For America

Cicconi

- Weyrich, Paul*
- Officers**
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Dr. George Hajjar
Chairman | Richard B. Dingman
Chairman, Kingston Group |
| Addah Jane Hurst
Secretary | John F. Grecco
Special Assistant |
| Dr. Charles Moser
Treasurer | Padraic Buckley
Director of Operation |
| Paul M. Weyrich
President | Annette Richards
Administrative Assistant |
| Connaught Marshner
Vice President | Allison Freeze
Receptionist |

February 21, 1983

The Honorable
James Baker III
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jim:

I am writing to you with the authority of Joe Coors, Phyllis Schlafly, and Bob Perry to request a meeting at a mutually acceptable time to discuss the proposed OMB regulations on de-funding activist groups.

Such a meeting might also include Mike McKeivitt of NFIB and Chuck Fields of the Farm Bureau Federation, as well as one or two other appropriate people. We know that such a meeting will be hard to schedule, but we are compelled to make the request because of our strong views on these regulations.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,


Paul M. Weyrich
President

- cc: Morton Blackwell
Joe Coors
Phyllis Schlafly
Bob Perry
Mike McKeivitt
Chuck Fields

[Handwritten scribbles and signatures]

NOTE

Talked w/ Weyrich by phone; ref'd to Joe Wright at OMB.

Julie
2/25

PMW/agr



Coalitions For America

Weyrich, Paul
Officers

- | | |
|---|--|
| Dr. George Hajjar
Chairman | Richard B. Dingman
Chairman, Kingston Group |
| Addah Jane Hurst
Secretary | Padraic Burkelev
Director of Operations |
| Dr. Charles Moser
Treasurer | Barbara Coleman
Secretary |
| Paul M. Weyrich
President | Ella Dal Bello
Receptionist |
| Connaught Marshner
Chairman, Library Court | |

November 25, 1981

12/1 How handle?

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

Dear Jim:

Many thanks for your willingness to meet with us yesterday. I trust that if we are able to hold such a dialogue on a somewhat regular basis it will be productive for all of us.

I hope that you will give serious consideration to our views that the issue of budget cutting needs to be re-framed. The President can motivate the troops, shift the focus and put the liberals on the defensive if he will point to the massive conflict of interest on the part of hundreds of these groups which are his most vocal opponents and which receive federal funds. I am, as I suggested, perfectly happy to have this organization and others on the right singled out as other groups which should not receive federal funds so that the approach is balanced. Such a speech should be given major billing so that it is given major coverage. If something along these lines is not done, I hate to tell you what I think the losses will be in 1982, even if the economy picks up somewhat in the later part of the year. Many of those who are unemployed now were your supporters and it will take a strong case to make them forget their present troubles.

I also hope you will consider tough bargaining on continuing resolutions to get programs like legal services out of the resolution, even to the point of vetoing the bill if such programs are kept in. You seemed surprised when I suggested that such a veto could be sustained. I believe it could be, and if you are getting contrary advice, I would like to be able to personally discuss the situation with whoever is making that assertion.

Again, thank you for your time. We share many goals and objectives and we aim to be helpful. I hope you will give us the tools with which to turn on your hardest and most faithful workers.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Weyrich
President

No Resp Nec.

12/7/81
JC:
Anyway
should go
interview
speech that
we can
attach
this?
JMB