

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Collection: Cicconi, James W.: Files

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File Folder: JW Cicconi Memos to Mr. Baker, Jan-Jun 1984[3 of 3]

Date: 2/17/98

~~OA 10792~~ Box 4

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. memo	J.W. Cicconi to James A. Baker III re President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, 1p.	5/8/84	P5
2. memo	Cicconi to Baker re Cop-Killer Bullets, 2p.	5/17/84	P5
3. memo	Cicconi to Baker re Raising the Drinking Age, 2p.	6/12/84	P5
4. memo	Frank J. Donatelli to J. Baker re Balanced Budget Amendment, 3p.	6/8/84	P5
5. memo	Lee L. Verstandig to J. Baker re Balanced Budget Amendment in Michigan, 1p.	6/13/84	P5
6. memo	Merrie Spaeth to Michael A. McManus Jr. re Questions for Upcoming Satellite Interviews, (p.1), 1p.	6/25/84	P5 CRB 10/18/00

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
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- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1984



MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI

SUBJECT: President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board

Anne Armstrong called and wanted you to be aware of several points regarding PFIAB:

1. Anne argued that the membership of PFIAB, now at 21, is already unwieldy, and she feels it would be unwise to expand it further. She is especially concerned about the potential Administration turnover when we (hopefully) begin a new term, and the tendency of senior people to seek a PFIAB appointment as they leave full-time jobs.
2. Anne said that, if new appointments to PFIAB are made despite the above, she would urge we increase the number of Democrats on PFIAB. The party balance on the Board has apparently been upset as a result of expansion.
3. Anne is concerned that some PFIAB members may be working on the campaign in an official capacity without taking the leaves of absence that had been privately agreed on. This is apparently not a legal issue so much as an appearance problem, and is perhaps one we might ask the Counsel's Office to monitor.
4. PFIAB's next meeting is July 11-12, and Anne wanted to invite you to attend their lunch, or to drop-by at any point during their meeting.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 15, 1984

TO: JAB III

*A much larger article was
in Saturday's Wash. Post.*

The attached is from Sunday's San Antonio paper. I am told that Abrams' comments got wide circulation in other Texas papers, also.

As you know, Mondale and Hart have already used Abrams' words against us while campaigning among Hispanics in California, and we can expect they will be cited in the Fall.

*No -
he has
said
something
in
explanation.*

To the best of my knowledge, however, Abrams has yet to issue any sort of apology for the implications contained in his remark. Shouldn't someone talk to him about this?

(I'll be happy to follow-up thru Fuller if you concur.)

Thanks.

JC

5/15 - JC

*I've asked Fuller to get me
(Abrams)
his remarks in explanation
of what he said. JAB III*

stainer,
" when

the teams were driven to El Salvador's international airport, 30 miles south of the capital, burns, said Col. Carlos Reynaldo Lopez Nalla, director of the National Police.

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HUD official says Hispanics 'don't mind' crowded living

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — A top federal housing official said many Hispanic families live in crowded conditions because of "cultural preference," the Washington Post reported yesterday.

they prefer, some prefer, doubling up.

the cy-
rea store
ampered

Undersecretary Phillip Abrams, the No. 2 official at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, was quoted as saying he does not believe Hispanics might be living in crowded homes because of poverty.

"That is, as I found out, a characteristic of Hispanic communities, irrelevant to their social (and) economic conditions. It's a cultural preference, I'm told."

as found
highway
Michigan

"I don't think so," Abrams said in a Post interview. "I'm told that they don't mind and

Abrams could not be reached for comment. Rep. Robert Garcia, D-N.Y., chairman of the congressional Hispanic Caucus, said, "That is really a racist remark. These people have no concept of what is going on in America. They really live in another world."

A GOP?



IES
mmit?

MOAMMAR KHADAFY
No. 1 terrorist

cialists still are optimistic.
Hafez el-Assad reportedly is dying from heart disease and other ailments. His illness may have a positive effect, this official said, "while he reevaluates his image in the eyes of his maker."
Syria, which is Iran's sole supporter in the Arab world, was said to be reassessing its ties to Iran, fearful that if Iran has to sue for peace, Syria will be isolated.
■ Libya. The fondest hope of all, of course, is for the demise of Khadafy, the man Reagan denounced as the world's No. 1 agitator of "state-sponsored ter-

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Pierre Cardin
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Peener's has been serving graduates over 10 years with experienced consultants to help in choosing quality tailored suits.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI *JW*

SUBJECT: Steel Industry Import Relief Request

For your information:

As you know, the U.S. steel industry is bringing a good deal of pressure to bear in pursuit of their goal of limiting foreign steel imports. I thought you should be aware of the timing of different aspects of that effort.

The industry is taking a two-track approach, with the first involving an ITC petition by the United Steelworkers and Bethlehem Steel. Filed on January 24, it seeks five years of import quotas on most categories of steel. If the ITC finds substantial injury, a recommendation for relief will be forwarded to the President by July 24; his decision on a remedy, if any, must then be made by September 24. (I have heard from good sources that Bethlehem calculated its petition filing date for maximum political pressure on the President at the time he will have to make a decision.)

The other track is congressional: the industry is pushing legislation that would limit steel imports to 15% of the U.S. market for five years. The House Ways and Means Committee began hearings last month, and on May 2, Baldrige, Brock, and McGrath all testified against the bill. We can probably expect an attempt at floor action before November.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 16, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI

SUBJECT: Domestic Volunteer Service Act

For your information:

It has been recommended that the President sign the recently passed reauthorization of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, under which ACTION's volunteer programs operate (these include VISTA, Foster Grandparents, etc.).

The appropriation levels in this bill are higher than our request in most areas, and Congress ignored our recommendation to terminate VISTA. However, the bill passed 369-25 in the House and by voice vote in the Senate, making a veto impossible to sustain. OMB and ACTION have thus recommended approval.

The President must sign the bill by next Tuesday, May 22.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI 

SUBJECT: Cop-Killer Bullets

Background

As you know, Treasury and Justice have been meeting under the auspices of OMB in an attempt to agree on legislation that would ban cop-killer bullets. Such a ban is being earnestly sought by DOJ and the law enforcement community, and has many supporters on the Hill.

At this point, the only legislation being considered is the Biaggi bill, which we feel is overly broad and which is opposed vigorously by the N.R.A. The Senate Judiciary Committee, has refused to support Biaggi, but has nevertheless expressed interest in whether a more limited ban can be drafted. This point was made clear in a recent hearing when Senator Thurmond agreed with a request by Senator Biden that the Administration work out a proposal that would be more acceptable than Biaggi. (I received a follow-up call from Thurmond's aide to underline that request.)

Analysis

From a policy standpoint, there is little reason for not supporting a limited ban on cop-killer (i.e. armor-piercing) bullets. Treasury has already secured some industry cooperation in a voluntary ban on such bullets, and it is a small step to write that same narrow ban into law. Such a ban would affect only one kind of ammunition: bullets designed to penetrate protective vests or armor. The purpose of such ammunition, obviously, is to kill police or others wearing vests; in fact, some bullets are even advertised on the basis of their ability to penetrate protective vests.

Another factor is the political situation: we have already seen charges in print that the President is "kowtowing" to the NRA by refusing to support a ban on cop-killer bullets. This would, of course, be a tailor-made rebuttal for Mondale to use against charges that he is too tied to special interests. The issue might also be used to undermine our strong law enforcement stance. Thus, I would argue that it should be neutralized.

Status

Treasury and Justice have now agreed on a proposal for a limited ban on armor-piercing bullets. It will shortly be forwarded to Dick Darman for circulation. The proposal is limited to the most blatantly threatening bullets, and contains an exemption for any ammunition with a legitimate sporting purpose. While the NRA will probably oppose any ban, both Treasury and Justice feel this proposal is limited, and thus defensible. We expect it would have the support of law enforcement groups, and we would hope that legislators like Thurmond would also be able to back it. This proposal would insulate the President on an issue where he has already been attacked, and on which he would otherwise be vulnerable in the Fall.

I might add one other point: if we decide to support the proposal, we can do so in a variety of ways. For example, we need not introduce legislation, but could instead convey our proposal in letter form or deliver it as testimony. The objective is not necessarily to pass "our" bill so much as to be able to state accurately that the President supports a ban on cop-killer bullets. The rest can be left to the Congress' deliberations.

I can go over specific details of the proposal with you at the point when a senior level White House decision is required.

Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI *JW*

SUBJECT: Meeting with Charles Walker

Per your request, I met with Charles Walker, who had Buck Chapoton's job under President Ford. He had some thoughts regarding our tax reform/tax simplification study. Letters we received from him are attached.

In short, Walker is concerned about the process we are using. He feels that any report Treasury comes up with will be picked apart quickly by Congress and the various special interests. He argues that the report should be an initial step which sets forth a framework, and should not go into excessive detail. Walker suggests that a bipartisan commission then be appointed to put Treasury's study into the form of a specific legislative proposal. Only in that way, Walker says, can we have a chance of success.

Walker struck me as being sincere in his desire to help, and asked that I pass on his thoughts to you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5/14

MDT:

CHARLES WALKER (not the lobbyist as you & I discussed last week) called again today. He really wants to see JAB. I have told him NO twice!! He wants 15 minutes to discuss tax policy.

I can easily say no again, but is this something that Jim Cicconi could/would do? If not important at all to JAB, then I'll say flat out NO.

Please advise.

KC

JAB'S REES SEE IF
CICCONI CAN SEE
FILM - JAB REALLY
DOESN'T WANT TO
NEED LUCK
THX

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5/14/84

File

Charles Walker requested a meeting
w/JAB 5/15 - 18. Per MDT, JAB
cannot do.

KC advised Mr. Walker at 212/888-
7000, rm. 2421.

DONE. FILE.

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

5/14 4:50 left message

Previous editions usable

TO:

Kathy

YOU WERE CALLED BY-- YOU WERE VISITED BY--

Charles Walker

OF (Organization)

212/888-7000 - rm 2421

PLEASE PHONE ▶ FTS AUTOVON

5-11 - 3:55 pm

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Got your message
re Tuesday & Wed.
Walker will rearrange
his schedule if JAB
could see him either

RECEIVED BY: Thursday or Friday

LAW OFFICES OF
PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER

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TELEPHONE (213) 451-2438

CABLE ADDRESS: PAULHAST

TWX: 910-321-4065

March 14, 1984

OF COUNSEL
LEE G. PAUL
ROBERT P. HASTINGS
CHARLES M. WALKER

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06901
TELEPHONE (203) 357-0100

OUR FILE NO:

James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff and Assistant
to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jim:

So as to refresh your memory and not to test it, let me say that during the last year and a half or so of the Ford administration while you were Assistant Secretary of Commerce and I was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy, we both attended numerous meetings of the Economic Policy Board. Incidentally, based upon my acquaintance with you at the time, I was delighted to have learned of your work on behalf of President Ford's campaign for re-election. Then, of course, during recent years, I have been admiring your role in the White House.

Although after the Ford administration you remained active in politics, I returned to my profession of practicing tax law. I am now retired (am of Counsel to my firm) and am able to devote time to one of my highest priorities--doing what I can to achieve a basic restructuring of our faltering tax system.

Although it is politically naive to do so, I have been impelled to address a memorandum to the Executive Branch, Tax Policymakers with a suggestion I hope they will find appealing and useful. A copy is enclosed. I do not presume to know who and how many policymakers there may be who would have an interest in these suggestions. I am, therefore, sending the memorandum only to you, to Mike Deaver and to Richard Darman.

James A. Baker, III
March 14, 1984
Page Two

I am in Washington frequently and would very much like to visit with you about this subject. May I call you?

Sincerely,

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

Charles M. Walker

CMW:pd
encl.

cc: Richard G. Darman
Michael K. Deaver

PAUL. HASTINGS. JANOFSKY & WALKER

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

MEMORANDUM

TO: EXECUTIVE BRANCH
TAX POLICYMAKERS

DATE: March 14, 1984

FILE NO:

FROM: Charles M. Walker, Esq.

COPIES TO:

SUBJECT: Tax Policy for 1984-1985

The suggestion set forth below comes from my perspective gained as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy under President Ford (1975-77), a tax lawyer of some 45 years' experience and a former Chairman (and other officeholder, council member, committee officer) of the Section of Taxation of the American Bar Association.

In his recent State of the Union Message, President Reagan asked Treasury for a plan of action by next December "to simplify the entire tax code, so all taxpayers, big and small, are treated more fairly. . . . Such a plan would result in that 'underground economy' being brought into the sunlight of honest tax compliance, and it could make the tax base broader so personal tax rates could come down, not go up."

Under date of January 17, 1977, the Treasury Department published Blueprints for Basic Tax Reform--a study and publication that received many hours of my own effort while Assistant Secretary. The forthcoming Treasury report doubtless will take Blueprints into account. I know that Assistant Treasury Secretary John Chapoton is well aware of it.

Blueprints did not produce any discernable explicit legislative response to simplification, let alone to basic restructuring of the tax system. If the new report is to have better results, something more is needed than thoughtful recommendations. A politically realistic approach to Congress must be devised.

Here is the suggestion:

Have the President, at some appropriate time (either during his 1984 campaign or after his re-election):

1. Urge upon Congress the critical need of a basic restructuring of the tax system. The case for this can be convincingly made but is beyond the scope of this memorandum.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
TAX POLICYMAKERS
March 14, 1984
Page Two

2. Acknowledge that decisions on the restructuring:

Report;

a. must await the December, 1984 Treasury

b. must be made in a suitable deliberative atmosphere;

c. Must afford opportunity to comment by affected taxpayers (individual and corporate) and others (such as charities);

3. Recommend that during the deliberative process (likely to require two or three years) Congress refrain from enacting any tax legislation except as needed:

a. to increase revenue, and to do that merely by raising rates across the board;

(i) This would avoid the addition of further complexities of the law which, like the current legislation being reported out by the House Ways & Means Committee, will bring the system ever nearer to collapse through non-compliance, unadministerability and inefficiency.

b. to address major deficiencies in the present law, for example, to revise the principles of taxation of life insurance companies, and to prevent glaring abuses in the tax shelter area, such as use of tax straddles by offshore commodity funds.

4. State to Congress that during the deliberative period he will veto any tax measure not in harmony with paragraph 3.

5. Appoint a commission to convene early in 1985 to develop and recommend explicit legislation to accomplish the basic restructuring. To assure that the commission's report and recommendations will receive congressional action, its membership should include key members of Congress, as did the Greenspan Commission on Social Security.

Charles M. Walker

Charles M. Walker

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March 14, 1984

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OUR FILE NO:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President and
Deputy to the Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Darman:

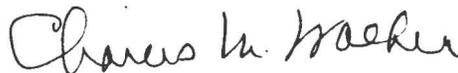
While you and I have not met, I would like to introduce myself initially at least by enclosing a copy of a letter of today's date I have written to Jim Baker. That will give you some brief background information concerning me.

Based upon what I read in the press, you are "involved," shall we say, with at least that part of the President's recent State of the Union Message dealing with restructuring of the tax system. It is on the strength of that perceived involvement that I am writing to you to enclose a copy of a memorandum I have written on the subject.

As you can gather from my memorandum, I feel strongly about the need to bring about a basic restructuring of the tax system. I have already devoted substantial effort to that end and am willing and able to continue the effort.

I am in Washington frequently and would welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

Very truly yours,



Charles M. Walker

CMW:pd
encl.

cc: James A. Baker, III
Michael K. Deaver

LAW OFFICES OF
PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER

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March 14, 1984

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OUR FILE NO:

Michael K. Deaver
Assistant to the President and
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Deaver:

When you were in Los Angeles February 17, I was scheduled to attend the dinner for you at the Century Plaza Hotel as a guest of John Henry Dudley. Due to an emergency that arose, I was unfortunately unable to attend.

During the reception period, Mr. Dudley spoke to you of my interest in finding a way to basically restructure our tax system. I understand from him that you were receptive to the idea of hearing from me on the subject.

It occurred to me that the most succinct way of presenting my thoughts was to prepare a memorandum on the subject. I have done this. A copy is enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of letters I am writing to Jim Baker and to Richard Darman. As mentioned in my letter to Jim I am in Washington frequently and would welcome a visit with you on this subject.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Walker

CMW:pd
encl.

cc: Richard G. Darman
James A. Baker, III

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI 

SUBJECT: Unitary Tax

For your information:

As I understand it, the Unitary Tax group formed by Treasury will issue its report by May 31. They will probably recommend that:

- a) The federal government, including the IRS, will assist states in making sure that corporations are not cheating;
- b) the states, in turn, will work to stop the international application of the unitary tax (i.e. it should not be applied beyond the "water's edge"); and
- c) there would be no federal law to require states to abandon use of the unitary tax.

Though its terms could change, the above represents a compromise which we hope will be accepted, especially by the 12 states now applying a worldwide unitary tax.

cc: Richard G. Darman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 21, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI 

SUBJECT: Advertisement Paid for by Donn Hopkins

Per your request, I checked into the background of Mr. Donn Hopkins and the problem with USDA he cites in his full page ad in the Fairbanks paper (attached).

According to Senator Stevens' office, Donn Hopkins is something of a gadfly in the Fairbanks area. He is a part-time developer and has run for a number of local offices. Several years ago, Hopkins began an effort to develop a resort in the Tongas National Forest; hence the advertisement designed to get the President's attention. Doug Riggs, who is from Alaska, points out that it is not uncommon for the state's many "ultra-individualists," like Hopkins, to express themselves through paid advertisements in the Alaska newspapers.

Senator Stevens' office assisted Hopkins for over two years in his efforts to secure USDA/Forest Service approval for his resort plan. The proposal, however, was repeatedly turned down by the Forest Service. Among their reasons were opposition by the local community, a potentially detrimental impact on local fishing, and concern that Hopkins did not have the financial resources to do the job properly.

The Forest Service's determination was appealed up through the agency, and eventually reached the Secretary. On September 7, 1983, Secretary Block wrote Hopkins a letter (copy attached) in which he declined to review the Forest Service's decision, thus ending the matter from USDA's standpoint. Senator Stevens' office has told us that they are convinced Mr. Hopkins was dealt with fairly throughout the department's consideration of his request.

Please let me know if you need any further information on this.

September 7 1983

Mr. John Hopkins
P.O. Box 89463
College, Alaska 99708

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

This is in response to your May 31, 1983, correspondence regarding letters to you from Assistant Secretary John B. Crowell, Jr. dated December 6, 1982, and May 6, 1983. The letters are, respectively, in response to your purported Notice of Appeal letter dated September 20, 1982, and your request for a stay of the January 20, 1983, decision by the Chief of the Forest Service, signed by Deputy Chief R. M. Housley, denying your application to build a resort at Bailey Bay Hot Springs on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

You contend the Assistant Secretary exceeded his authority by rendering these decisions not in accordance with the appeal regulation 36 CFR 211.19. 7 CFR 2.19 (d)(18) delegates from the Secretary to the Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment the authority to review decisions of the Chief of the Forest Service pursuant to 36 CFR 211.19 (j)(1)(iv) and 211.19 (j)(2). Therefore, in responding to your letters, the Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment acted within his authority as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations.

The January 20, 1983, Decision Notice denying your application for a lease was an initial decision by the Chief. The Secretary, or his delegate, has discretion under 36 CFR 211.19(j)(1)(iv) to review an initial decision by the Chief. I have decided not to review the Chief's decision of January 20, 1983. The January 20, 1983, decision is therefore the final administrative determination by the Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

John B. Hilmon
Secretary

AUG 31 1983
J. B. Hilmon,
Acting Deputy Chief

Sec. Cont. 02F93327
cc: LA, Sec. Rec., R-6
Asst. Sec Crowell
Robertson/Peterson
Hilmon/Housley
Haug
Svensen
FS:Rn:FFrieder:ob:6/15/83:447-7754
File Designation: 2720
Odessa Disk #4
Rewritten: 7/19/83
Rewritten: 8/29/83

PHB
Frieder
initialed
draft

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 21, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI *JW*

SUBJECT: Executive Order on Pay Adjustment

For your information:

An executive order has been forwarded to the President that would implement the 4% federal pay raise provided for in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act signed on April 18.

As you know, the President signed an order for a 3.5% pay raise last December. The reconciliation bill provided, instead, for a 4% raise retroactive to January.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI *Jim*

SUBJECT: African Development Foundation

For your information:

The board of the African Development Foundation today voted to remove Dr. Connie Hilliard as president of this semi-autonomous agency, effective immediately. Hilliard is a black woman and former Tower staffer who was recommended for the job by the White House.

As mentioned to you yesterday, Senator Tower had weighed in to urge that we prevent Connie's removal. White House Personnel and AID were already aware of the problem, and did their best to apprise the board of the Administration's feelings. However, the board chose to ignore our suggestion that any grievances be resolved quietly, and without recourse to an abrupt termination.

I have informed Tower's office of the above, and assured them that we would try to take care of Connie. (I was told the Senator may call you on this.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1984



MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI

SUBJECT: Conversation with Anne Armstrong

For your information:

Anne Armstrong called and wanted to convey that PFIAB has chosen Gary Schmitt as its new executive director. The current executive director, Fred Demech, is leaving in August.

Schmitt is described as a solid conservative who is completely in tune with the President's foreign policy. He formerly served on Moynihan's congressional staff. Anne said she had gotten very positive feedback on Schmitt from, among others, Goldwater, Wallop, the CIA, and the military. She intends to inform Herrington of the Board's choice shortly.

By the way, Anne is still anxious to either talk with you, or have an appointment to see you.

F

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 23, 1984

✓

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI 

SUBJECT: Edith Jones

Per your request, Tex Lezar contacted Edith Jones to explore with her the possibility of a judicial appointment other than the 5th Circuit.

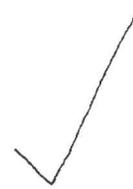
Edith emphasized that her real desire is for the 5th Circuit appointment in Houston. She is not interested in a District Court or Claims Court judgeship outside the Houston area, though Tex had the impression she might be interested in a Houston district judgeship, or perhaps something major like the D.C. Circuit.

Tex told Edith that she would be placed on the Justice Department's list with a very high priority recommendation in case a Houston district judgeship opens up. He promised she would also be considered if a new vacancy occurs on the 5th Circuit (we can argue that there is still a "Houston vacancy" on the 5th Circuit since Robert Hill is from Dallas).

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 25, 1984



MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI

SUBJECT: Cabinet Meeting

For your information:

At today's Cabinet meeting, the President was briefed on follow-up to the Grace Commission's report. In short, he was told that approximately one-fourth of the recommendations have been either implemented, or proposed in our FY85 budget. Of the remainder, most will require legislation and/or involve controversial policy changes. Examples of the "controversial" category include proposals to repeal wage protection laws (\$8.0 B over 3 years), reform federal retirement (\$30.0 B), and sell all federal power marketing administrations (\$19.8 B).

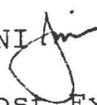
Please let me know if you would like more details on this subject.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 25, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI 

SUBJECT: Right-of-Way Cost Exemption for Rural
Electric and Telephone Cooperatives (H.R. 2211)

A bill is now before the President which would exempt REA-financed electric and telephone cooperatives from paying for the use of rights-of-way across Federal lands. Such entities would only be charged administrative costs. Under current law they are required to pay fair market value rental for such rights-of-way, with rental costs averaging below \$1,000 per year.

The legislation is sponsored by such people as Seiberling, Marlenee, Lujan, and Oberstar in the House; Senate sponsors include Laxalt, Hecht, Andrews, Pressler, Burdick, and Baucus. The bill was opposed by the Administration, but nevertheless passed both the House and Senate on voice votes.

USDA has recommended a veto, arguing that a special exemption is unfair to other right-of-way holders, and that rental costs to cooperatives are negligible. Interior and OMB still object to the bill, but recommend approval on the basis that:

- a) revenue loss from the exemption would amount to only \$4 million over four years;
- b) administrative costs can still be levied (thanks to an amendment); and
- c) the bill has overwhelming congressional support, making it difficult to sustain a veto.

Last day for action on this bill is Monday, May 28.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1984



MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI 

SUBJECT: Update on Federal Employee Reduction

According to current figures, non-defense federal government employment had been reduced by 72,300. Ralph Bledsoe of CCMA told me that, if traditional agency hiring patterns are followed, we may end up 5,000 short of the President's promised reduction of 75,000 in FY84.

Joe Wright and Don Devine are monitoring the situation, and will be working to see that agency goals are met. However, OPM is already broaching the idea of a hiring freeze--a move traditionally opposed by OMB on the basis that agencies generally "over-hire" before any freeze can take effect.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI

SUBJECT: Raising the Drinking Age

Realizing that a decision may have already been made, I would nevertheless like to offer a few thoughts on proposed legislation that would, in effect, compel states to raise their drinking age to 21. For the following reasons, I feel it would be unwise to support this measure, or, at very least, would not have the President "out front" on the issue:

1. The measure involves using federal funds to coerce the states into specific behavior. This is a blatant example of federal intrusion into yet another area traditionally left to the states. The Republican Party and this President are both on record as opposing such coercive use of federal funds; our position on the 55 mph speed limit is only one in a series of examples. Further, a citation of previous measures imposed on the states over our objection is no argument for accepting this bill.
2. This measure revokes a right now enjoyed by the 18 to 21 year old age group. While it is arguable whether the drinking age should have been lowered in the first place, it is very difficult to revoke such a right once it is conferred. By doing so, we as a party risk alienating a large segment of the young adult population.
3. The argument for raising the drinking age is tenuous. Even if we accept that drunk-driving accidents might be reduced, there is no rationale other than tradition for drawing the line at 21 - - why not raise it to 22, 23 or higher? (And if tradition itself is an argument, state decision-making in this area is an even longer-standing tradition.)
4. This measure circumvents a widespread state reassessment of drinking ages. A number of states, for example, have viewed high school drinking by 18 year olds to be the main problem, and have raised their drinking age to 19. A federal measure using highway funds as leverage will end this "laboratory of democracy" process which is typical of our federal system.

5. When the earlier report on this issue was released, the Administration declined to support a federally-imposed drinking age increase on the basis that such decisions should be left to the states. This measure amounts to the same thing, and our support at this stage would be viewed as a purely political action (and perhaps as a reversal).

On the whole, I feel Congressional support for this bill is typical of election year desires to sign on with the "cause of the moment." It is ill-considered, and its method is inconsistent with our philosophy of the federal government's proper role. If we cannot oppose it, I would prefer to see us acquiesce in the overwhelming will of the Congress rather than try to lead this parade.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 13, 1984

TO: JAB III

Attached is a memo from Frank Donatelli re the balanced budget amendment. I sent a copy to Lee Verstandig for his comments, which are also attached.

JC

(A "final word" note from Donatelli is at back of this.)

NOTE

Told FJD & LV that nothing was to be done on this till our budget package has cleared the Hill.

JWC
6/18

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1984

ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES A. BAKER, III
FROM: Frank J. Donatelli ()
SUBJECT: Balanced Budget Amendment

This is to recommend the direct involvement of the President in support of the Balanced Budget Amendment by making a phone call to Michigan State Representatives who are now considering a Resolution for a Constitutional Convention.

I. SCENARIO

As you know thirty-three states have already called for a Constitutional Convention for a Balanced Budget Amendment; two more are required. The Republican-controlled Michigan Senate has already passed a resolution calling for a Constitutional Convention and it is currently in the Michigan House, in Committee.

Sometime this week, the Committee should pass the Resolution and it will move to the full House for consideration. Here are two possible scenarios for a POTUS phone call:

- a) contact the Committee on a speaker phone just before or after passage of the resolution;
- b) phone a meeting of the State House Democratic and GOP leadership

Of course, there are other scenarios which could be used. The actual call will depend upon the President's schedule, the timetable of the Michigan House and thoughts Lee Verstandig and other relevant officers might have. This memo is simply to get the concept approved so we can aim towards a phone call later in the week.

II. ARGUMENTS FOR

1. The President Is For It

This is an issue the President has repeatedly stated he is in favor of.

2. It's A Winner

Simply put, the issue is a "winner" with the American people. A May poll by Market Opinion Research showed an astounding 83% of the American people favor a balanced budget amendment.

3. It Protects Us Where We Are Weak

The Democrats have been fairly successful in placing the blame for the deficits on the Administration. This has a number of serious implications for us this year. It is the one aspect of the economic record where we are on the defensive. It makes us appear hypocritical when we talk about federal spending. The President's direct involvement in the issue shows our concern about the deficit is not just talk and when push comes to shove, the Democrats will defend the deficits.

4. Strategic Importance of Thirty-Fourth State

The political battle in Michigan is not just one in a series of battles for the balanced budget amendment. Because it would be the 34th State, it assumes strategic importance. Although 35 States are required for a Constitutional Convention, the 34th approval makes a balanced budget a fait accompli. Three States have balanced budget initiatives on the ballot this fall and it is all but certain one of them will pass. Thus, if Michigan passes the resolution now, it will be assumed the Constitutional Convention will be called come November. There will be pressure on Congress to act before November to head off the Convention. The balanced budget amendment will receive major media attention and the Democrats will be put on the defensive.

III. CONCERNS

1. Bad Precedent

Some have expressed concerns about the President's direct involvement in an issue in a State legislature, citing state sovereignty and "opening the floodgates" of requests for issue involvement.

To the State sovereignty/federalism argument, I would respond this does not hold in the instance of a call to a Constitutional Convention. Rather than dealing with a State-specific issue a Constitutional Convention is indeed a federal issue. The President's interest is certainly legitimate in this instance. Secondly, the involvement would not be a heavy-handed arm-twisting (a la cutting off state highway construction funds should the states fail to pass the ERA), but would be the President expressing his views and soliciting support for them.

To the "floodgates" arguments, I point out this could be the President's only direct involvement in an issue before a state legislature during this Administration. Thus, the only precedent we will establish is one phone call per term, hardly an unmanageable goal.

2. Local Political Concern

We must be certain we do not needlessly give credibility to the local Democratic State Representatives, nor that we do not needlessly leave the local Republican leadership out in the cold. To make sure that does not happen, we should be certain that Intergovernmental Affairs is involved with this project as soon as possible to work on the final scenario.

3. Other States More Important

Montana, Washington, and California are the three states likely to have initiatives on the ballot this November and the odds on the initiative passing in at least one of these States is, as said before, all but certain. Thus, the argument goes, we could come up with an event in one of the other States -- why Michigan?

My response would be Michigan is the best target precisely because the vote will take place before the November elections. Thus, as we go into the election, the likelihood of a Constitutional Convention will be very high, and the President's balanced budget work will be of strategic importance. If we wait until November for thirty-four states, it will not be until after November that the issue would assume strategic importance.

4. What If We Lose

What if the President makes his phone call and the resolution is defeated, doesn't that make the President look bad?

No. The beauty of the situation is that a victory would bring us to thirty-four states and be viewed as significant, but a defeat would just be another of the many defeats the balanced budget amendment has suffered.

More importantly, the President wins by losing, for he shows it is the Democrats who are the obstructionists and opposed to doing anything about the deficits.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

That I work with Intergovernmental Affairs to present you with a specific phone call to be made by the President this week.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 13, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: LEE L. VERSTANDIG *lee*

SUBJECT: Balanced Budget Amendment in Michigan

Frank Donatelli and I have discussed the possibility of Presidential involvement in the campaign for ratification of the Balanced Budget Amendment in Michigan. I agree with Frank that Presidential involvement in this effort may well be desirable. The key elements of that involvement: timing and the nature of the involvement need to be determined.

Timing

I have met with Mike Busch, the House Minority Leader in Michigan to discuss his strategy for moving the Balanced Budget Amendment in Michigan. His strategy involves holding hearings on the subject and trying to move the Balanced Budget Amendment out of committee when the Michigan House reconvenes in September. The votes are very close in committee but if the votes are not there to pass the Balanced Budget Amendment out of Committee, Busch plans to move with a discharge petition to bring the issue before the full House. This action will not occur until September. I think it would be prudent for us to hold the President's involvement until later in the Summer when it can have a more immediate impact on the House's action.

Form of the President's Involvement

I think a Presidential appearance in Michigan in September could well be tied into the Balanced Budget debate. It would be very advantageous to the Balanced Budget Amendment effort in Michigan for the President to personally appear. If that is not possible, then other types of involvement, possibly including telephone calls could be considered at the appropriate time in September.

Frank has made the point that Michigan is the best target for Presidential involvement because its action will occur before the November elections. I agree with that and think that of the States considering the Balanced Budget Amendment at this time (Montana, Washington, California and Michigan), Michigan is the one needing the most attention. I plan to work with Frank on how fast to accomplish our strategy.

cc: Frank Donatelli

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A BAKER, III

FROM: Frank J. Donatelli 

SUBJECT: Balanced Budget Amendment in Michigan

I concur with Lee Verstandig's analysis as outlined in his June 13 memorandum to you. Let's aim toward a major on-site September event, such as an address to a joint session of the Michigan House.

cc: Verstandig

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1984



MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI *JWC*

SUBJECT: Today's CCEA Meeting

At this morning's CCEA meeting, two subjects were discussed:

1. GNP "Flash" Estimates: The Council had asked for a working group study on whether the release of GNP "flash" estimates should be discontinued due to their unreliability. In today's discussion, CCEA agreed that we should continue to release this data. All of the participants recognized problems with the figure. However, they felt it was useful data, and argued that since it is compiled anyway, the figure would inevitably leak even if it is not released. Further, with the recovery slowing, discontinuing the "flash" estimates would appear to be a politically motivated action.

2. REA Bailout Legislation: This bill, which involves forgiveness of around \$8 B in REA loans, continues to move on the Hill. It has already passed the House, and just recently passed the Senate Agriculture Committee by an overwhelming margin. At this point, our only hope is to keep the bill from reaching the Senate floor. Garn and Proxmire have requested concurrent jurisdiction for the Banking Committee, where we might be able to delay the bill indefinitely, but their request is stalled due to Huddleston's objections (as ranking Democrat on Agriculture, his concurrence is needed; Helms has already agreed). However, it should be pointed out that the measure could still be attached to another bill as a floor amendment. Secretary Regan wanted to be certain you were aware of the immediacy of this issue, and the difficulties it poses.

cc: Richard G. Darman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 15, 1984



MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI 

SUBJECT: Cop-Killer Bullet Legislation

Our legislation to ban cop-killer bullets, which was finally signed-off on last week, has been formally transmitted to the Hill by Justice and Treasury. Thurmond has agreed to be the prime Senate sponsor, with Biden, D'Amato, and Moynihan as key co-sponsors. In the House, Jack Brooks, Ham Fish, Dingell, and Conte are key sponsors. The National Rifle Association has indicated it will not oppose the legislation, and we have secured strong support from police and law enforcement organizations.

In short, it looks like we have achieved something very close to a consensus bill. Thurmond held a press briefing at noon today to explain the legislation, and the press turnout was reportedly heavy. Even more encouraging, as of this afternoon, 75 senators have signed on as co-sponsors.

Senator Thurmond feels he has a good chance of securing swift passage of our bill, and has set a hearing for next Thursday. On Wednesday, the President will travel to Connecticut to speak to the Sheriffs' Association, and we plan to include mention of the bill in his remarks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI 

SUBJECT: Meeting with Teddy Gleason

Teddy Gleason, President of the International Longshoremen's Association, has requested a meeting with you in order to discuss several subjects of interest to his union. Doug Riggs strongly recommends that such a meeting be scheduled, and I concur.

Gleason will be in Washington June 27-29 when, among other things, he will be addressing the Republican Platform Committee. If you agree, we will set up a meeting for that period next week.

Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1984

TO: JAB III

Thought you should be aware that MKD is apparently thinking of cancelling the satellite interview that Houston TV stations were planning with the President. The reason, of course, is that we will not be going to Houston after all.

However, I think we'd be losing a great opportunity for uncontested media coverage in a critical state, and would urge that we go ahead. Outside of the politics of saturation coverage in Houston, it should be remembered that the Houston TV stations will probably cover the President's visit to San Antonio as they did last year.

This local TV interview idea is an idea with great potential for the fall, and the Texas visit gives us a chance to test it in a major urban media market-- Houston.

JC

6/27 JC:
Sets a bad precedent to
do if not going to the city.
JAB

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 26, 1984

MEMORANDUM TO MICHAEL A. MCMANUS JR.
FROM MERRIE SPAETH
SUBJECT WHETHER TO CANCEL HOUSTON SATELLITE
INTERVIEWS FOR THURSDAY

Approximately \$1500 in planning costs and telephone rental costs have been incurred so far (plus satellite time which would probably have to be paid for). We could force the Houston stations to eat that or pay for it ourselves.

Both stations urgently plead with you to go ahead with the interviews and will agree to the following conditions in order to make the interviews worthwhile to us.

1) no questions about space

2) special packaging as a special feature interview with promotion. (Rationalizing that Texas is supposed to be one of the most important states to us: KHOU offered to use the interview when their brand new news format premieres in 10 days. They have 2 new anchors and Dan Rather will originate the evening news from KHOU that night. It's his old station. They estimate that because of the new format, which will be heavily promoted that night, and because of Dan Rather, they will double their nightly share.

KTRK was doing some hasty thinking to offer an equivalent.

(Recall that this was supposed to be a practice session so that we could see what you and Mr. Deaver thought of the whole idea. Given the technical complexities, that is still a critical element preceding Monday's interviews.)

I promise that if we proceed with these as one of the communications elements, that we will add the additional condition that if a city is removed from the travel plan, it loses its satellite interview claim.

Please advise.

Proceed _____ Cancel _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 25, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL A. MCMANUS JR.
FROM MERFIE SPAETH
SUBJECT QUESTIONS FOR UPCOMING SATELLITE INTERVIEWS
FOR HOUSTON

Attached are the questions for the upcoming interviews by satellite with the President on Thursday. KTRF and KHOU cover (as you see) the Houston television market. Both plan to promote the interview heavily.

Following, several observations from my own days in local television.

1) The anchors, doing the interviews, want to be thought of as serious journalists rather than actors chained to desks. It is critical to them to be seen asking serious questions. The President's answer may be as short as a sentence or phrase reassuring the viewers that he is concerned and aware.

2) These interviews will be played and re-played because each news show has a different producer. The news directors have reported that the producers are already fighting over who gets the first play.

3) The President could use the opportunity to (a) emphasize a topic which he feels strongly about (for example, jobs -- Texas is booming) or (b) be homey and personal with the interviewers. A comment or compliment to them on tackling these important questions would send them swooning. These are solid journalists, but they are excited about interviewing the President.

HOUSTON questions and information about satellite interviews

KTRK (ABC affiliate) - 713-663-4553 Jim Topping, News Director

interviewer: Sylvan Rodriguez (#1 rated personality in an news)

news at: 7:00 am, 6 pm, 7 pm, 10 pm

170,000 households (595,000 people) at 6 pm

275,000 households (962,000 people) at 10 pm

1) During the Texas primary, Democrats in Texas implied that during a 2nd term, you would be more hard-line in foreign policy because he would be free from the constraint of facing reelection; what will your attitude towards foreign policy be in your second term ?

2) Immigration is a hot issue in Texas. Will you sign the Simpson-Mazzoli bill if it reaches your desk ? Would anything cause you to veto it ? (Are you happy with it ?)

3) Mexican-American relations is important down here. You have encouraged support of the Mexican economy. Will you continue to urge positive, overt actions to help them through their economic troubles or will you wait for further developments ?

4) Continuing the focus on Latin American affairs, a recent Supreme Court Decision held that our government can send back illegal aliens unless they can show a clear and specific danger (such as threats against their own family). The Court said that just "I'm worried" wasn't sufficient justification for asylum in this country. We have a lot of illegals from El Salvador and Honduras because of the fighting there. Will you continue to take a liberal view of what constitutes danger to these people back home, or will you try to have them escorted back ?

5) Is this Hispanic vote going to be important in the coming Presidential election ?

6) As an oil rich area, we follow what's happening in the Straits of Hormuz. If there is an interruption in the flow of oil, what would our response be ?

7) Houston is "space center". What are your own personal feelings now about the space platform ? Will funding continue for the space programs ?

HROU (CBS affiliate) Tom Kuelbs, News Director 713-521-4383

interviewers: Chip Moody
Felicia Jeeter

(Felicia will ask the 1st question. Then it will alternate back and forth.)

1) How important is Texas to the Presidential campaign? (We understand that former Vice President Mondale is considering Senator Pentsen.)

2) Immigration is a hot issue here. The New York Times estimates there are 400,000 illegal aliens in Houston. Part of the Simpson-Mazell Bill would authorize hiring 800 more inspectors for INS. Is that enough? Can we really regain control of our borders now?

How will the huge task of identifying those qualify for amnesty actually work?

3) Hurricane Alicia hit us in August 1983. Although some businesses have received disaster funds, the city has not. What's the hold up and when can we expect to receive funds?

4) Houston 'will be to space what Detroit was to automobiles'. Are you as committed as ever to the space programs -- the space station, the lunar landing station?

5) We have a 19 year old drinking age. Your proposal for a 21 year old age is controversial here. Please explain why you decided on that.

HROU has news at : 6 pm (650,000 viewers)
30 pm (1 million viewers)
noon (360,000 viewers)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI *Jim*
SUBJECT: Federal Employee Reduction

At today's Cabinet meeting, the President heard a report on the status of efforts to reduce federal non-defense employment by his stated goal of 75,000.

Ed Meese noted that what was a major effort in the early years is now "falling apart," and said that we could finish the year short of our goal by 3,000 to 5,000.

In order to meet the goal, each agency will be required to submit monthly reports on their progress between now and October. Though some Cabinet members noted their difficulties, Don Devine pointed out that the government will hire 100,000 people between now and the end of the year; he stressed that if they just control that hiring, our goal will be met. The Cabinet will revisit the issue in one month.

During the discussion, the Vice President questioned whether we might file suit to challenge the constitutionality of employment "floors" enacted by Congress. Such provisions prevent reductions even though we might conclude that fewer people are needed to perform certain functions. His suggestion was not specifically addressed, but the implication was that such a suit might be helpful in other, similar areas and would also be well-received by the public.

cc: Richard G. Darman

f

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1984



MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: JAMES W. CICCONI *JW*

SUBJECT: Cuban-American Reaction to Jackson Trip

Per the request made this morning, Cathi Villalpando checked with several leaders of the Cuban-American community in south Florida for reaction to Jesse Jackson's trip. Jorge Mas Canosa, head of the Cuban-American Foundation, said that their community appreciated Jackson's success in securing the release of the 26 prisoners; however, there is also a widespread realization that Castro was using Jackson for his own purposes.

The Cuban-American Foundation is paying travel expenses so that the relatives of the released Cuban prisoners can meet them on their arrival. Mas Canosa expressed confidence that families would praise the Administration for its previous efforts, and for allowing the prisoners to enter the U.S.; he said the family members would probably not praise Jesse Jackson.

With regard to the 26 Cuban prisoners, Mas Canosa emphasized that they are a good group--genuine patriots who have been jailed for their criticism of Castro. He also mentioned that one of the prisoners has reportedly refused to fly to the U.S. on the same plane with Jackson. The Cuban-American Foundation has indicated willingness to pay flight expenses and provide employment assistance to any political prisoners released by Castro, including this group if necessary.