

f ~~South Kingston~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: WILLIAM F. SITTMANN *WFS*

SUBJECT: NORMAN BAMPTON

I have researched the question you raised about Norman Bampton of South Succotash, Rhode Island.

The White House Political Office quietly questioned the County Republican Chairman who said that Mr. Bampton is the Town Engineer of South Kingston (a part of South Succotash), Rhode Island. He is an engineer's engineer who is extremely a-political.

Mr. Bampton is a very well-respected civil servant who is basically supportive of the President.

Mr. Bampton's reaction to the media was thought to be one that he really didn't want to get involved in commenting on the President's remarks. In other words, he felt this attention was one of "much ado about nothing".

I've also checked with Central Files. There is no correspondence from Norman Bampton.

I hope this answers your questions regarding this issue.

### COURT VOIDS BAN ON COMMUTER RAIL STRIKES

The Supreme Court created significant difficulty for the Administration's plans to remove the federal government from the commuter railroad business when it ruled that states must follow federal law in negotiating with railroad labor unions. The issue is particularly timely because New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Maryland are deciding whether to assume control of commuter lines operated by Conrail.

(Douglas B. Feaver, Washington Post, 3/25/82, A12)

### REAGAN ORDER EXPANDS UNITED WAY ROLE

The President has signed an executive order that is expected to greatly expand the role of the United Way of America in distributing much of the \$87 million donated annually by federal workers to the Combined Federal Campaign. The order was hailed as "good news and bad news" by other charity groups. While they are concerned about United Way's growing influence, they had feared the White House was about to announce stiffer eligibility standards aimed at prohibiting contributions to public interest and social action organizations, including abortion service and legal defense agencies.

(Karlyn Barker, Washington Post, 3/25/82, A14)

### U.S. CAUTIOUS ON GUATEMALAN COUP

The Administration uncertain about the effects of Guatemala's military coup on U.S. policy took a wary stance toward the junta while seeking a clearer picture of the new regime's likely political direction. State Department officials said privately that they have no sense of whether the military group that took over is sincere about its professed dedication to reform and democratization or whether it represents a continuation, in another guise, of rule by rightist military and business forces that traditionally have dominated Guatemala.

(John M. Goshko, Washington Post, 3/25/82, A22)

### SOUTH SUCCOTASH

Norman Bampton lives in the seaside village of Jerusalem at Succotash Point, he has been pursued by the national media this week as reporters search for someone to interview from "South Succotash," a place invented by the President to illustrate a point about the news media. Bampton said he declined an offer by ABC's "Good Morning America" to come to New York and appear on the program. He said that reporters were "digging around trying to make a big story out of nothing." Bampton added that the "press in general elaborates and tried to blow things up and accent little issues that are meaningless."

(AP)

Talk  
up  
line

### ITALIAN PRESIDENT VISITS WHITE HOUSE

The President views Italian President Alessandro Pertini's visit as a way to cement close ties between the two countries, Administration officials say. It is unlikely Pertini's visit will change Italy's opposition to some U.S. policies, including those on Central America and El Salvador.

(Lawrence L. Knutson, AP)