

CRC

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/21/83 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12/22/83 - NOON

SUBJECT: REVISED LETTER FOR VERSTANDIG'S SIGNATURE TO REPUBLICAN
STATE LEGISLATORS RE MARY LOUISE SMITH/CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
(prepared by the Counsel's Office)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McFARLANE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McMANUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GERGEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HERRINGTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

May we have your comments on the attached revised proposed letter by Noon tomorrow, Thursday, 12/22. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

ADC
PI tell - Jan B

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

Revised Draft Response to
State Legislators' Petition
to Appoint Mary Louise Smith
to Civil Rights Commission
(Counsel's Office, 12/19/83)

DRAFT

Dear _____:

We have received the petition, signed by you and other Republican state legislators, asking that the President appoint Mary Louise Smith to the reconstituted Civil Rights Commission.

As you know, the legislation reestablishing the Commission provides that only half the members will be appointed by the President, with other members being appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Given this, the President considered it especially important that the four members he appointed fully share his commitment to a civil rights policy that emphasizes equality of opportunity for all Americans, under which individuals are judged on their merit, not their race or sex. He believes that each of his four appointees is a superbly qualified individual whose dedication to civil rights and equal opportunity cannot be questioned.

The President knows and appreciates the many contributions Mary Louise Smith has made to the Republican Party, as he pointed out in his recent letter to her. Your support for her appointment to the Civil Rights Commission was carefully considered. The President's decision to name four other persons to the new Commission was based, as described above, on his judgment that they shared his commitment to equality of opportunity and were the individuals best qualified to help the Commission further that goal. That decision was not intended, and should not be construed, as any criticism of Mrs. Smith and her record of service to the Republican Party and the Nation.

Obviously, in this and other important areas, men and women of good will can and do disagree on the best way to achieve our mutual objectives. The President recognizes this and, in making his appointment and other decisions, does not question the motives and good faith of those who may disagree with some of those decisions. It is his hope that, while acknowledging our occasional disagreements, we can continue to work together as Americans for our common goal of equality of all or our citizens. **[Please continue to keep in touch.]**

Sincerely,

(Note: The language in brackets above is suggested by Verstandig.)