

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Lavin, Franklin L.: Files

**Folder Title:** Biden

**Box:** 1

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

SENATOR DANIEL INOUE  
WASHINGTON, DC.

Dear Friend,

It would be smart politics, my friends tell me, to wait a while before declaring my support for one of the candidates for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination.

"Wait," they say. "Hold back until we see who's emerging from the pack."

But I'm not willing to wait.

I know already who the best candidate is. And that's why I've agreed to serve with Congressman Peter Rodino as Co-Chair of Joe Biden's Presidential Campaign Committee.

I've known Joe Biden since he arrived in the nation's capitol fifteen years ago as the youngest person ever elected to the U.S. Senate.

I've watched this remarkable man grow.

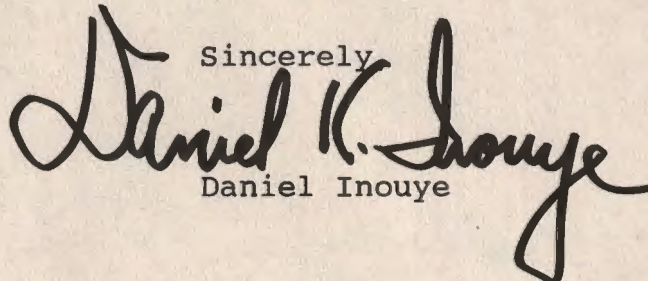
I've worked with him repeatedly -- he on the Foreign Relations Committee and I on Appropriations -- to sustain and strengthen the vital relationship between the United States and Israel. And for years I've greatly admired Joe's commitment as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the fight to defend our religious and civil liberties.

I am deeply impressed with Joe's passionate commitment to principle, with his integrity, with his quick, lucid intelligence. And now, I'm convinced that Joe Biden's time has come.

Joe Biden has my whole-hearted support.

I hope that he will also have yours.

Sincerely

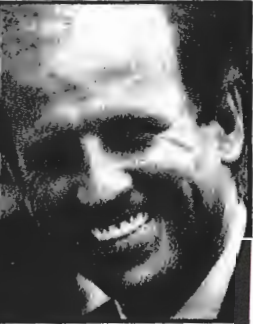
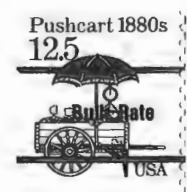
  
Daniel Inouye

STATION COPY

Biden for President  
P.O. Box 12050  
Wilmington, DE 19850

Would you believe me  
if I told you that I expect  
to be the next President  
of the United States?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Dear Friend,

Would you believe me if I said to you that I expect to be the next President of the United States?

Probably not.

You'd probably point out that right now, I'm not much more than an asterisk in the polls.

You might observe that I come from a small state -- that I do not have a ready-made national constituency.

True enough.

But I have a feeling -- call it an instinct -- about the direction in which the American people are moving.

I'm convinced that we've begun to realize in this country that it's not enough simply to feel good about America.

We need more and we know it.

We know that under Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union presents to us a challenge that goes far beyond the military.

We know that in far too many cases, our industries and our schools are not keeping up with the foreign competition.

And I think we've had more than enough of sleazy backroom operations in the name of national security -- of arms sales in the name of peace to the sworn enemies of democratic Israel -- of religious zealots who seek to rewrite the Constitution of the United States.

With these issues, I am intimately familiar.

As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee -- which I now chair -- I've been in the thick of the fight to defend the separation of church and state.

I've challenged the appointment by the current administration of federal judges like Daniel Manion, of Justice Department officials like William Bradford Reynolds and of Attorney General Ed Meese himself.

And you can be certain that if I am elected President in 1988, I will bring with me to the White House my passionate commitment to defending the civil rights and the civil liberties of Americans.

(over, please)

That's not all I'll bring.

If elected, I will also bring to the Presidency a set of very strong views on the directions in which our defense and foreign policies should be moving.

My views on foreign policy are no secret.

For fourteen years, I've served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

I've cast literally thousands of votes.

I've established myself as a leader in the Senate on issues as diverse as arms control and the Middle East.

And after all that experience, I like to think that I have my priorities straight.

Under President Biden, the United States will at last have a consistent policy in the Middle East.

We will consistently make clear to Arab states that Israel is a permanent presence in the Middle East.

We will consistently make clear that a close relationship with Israel is a permanent feature of American policy.

And we will not -- repeat, not -- compromise principle by providing weapons to countries that refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist.

A Biden Administration will bring to the issue of arms control the sense of urgency it deserves.

I am convinced that agreement is possible.

I'm convinced it can be reached in such a manner as to greatly enhance the national security of the United States.

And although I'm not one to make outrageous campaign promises, I say to you that if I am in the White House, we'll never have to say to our children and our grandchildren that America did not try to put an end to the exercise in insanity we call the nuclear arms race.

There's more -- much more -- I'd like to tell you about my positions on the issues. But all of that I'm sure will come out in the course of the campaign.

So maybe I should tell you about myself -- about who I am and about what makes me tick.

In the best sense of the word, my parents were political people.

They were formed by the Depression -- by the New Deal -- by our total national effort to defeat Adolf Hitler and his allies. Their interest was intense -- so much so that at our dining room table, eating was only incidental.

Always, discussion was the main course.

And always, my father sought to impress upon his children the absolute importance of standing up for what is right. He impressed upon us the fact that our country -- and yes, our church -- failed to act in time to prevent the wholesale slaughter of European Jewry.

He taught that each of us had a personal responsibility to ensure that no such horror ever be visited again upon Jews or upon anyone else.

Because of what my father taught me, I became active in the civil rights movement.

I was one of the many young people who were drawn by John Kennedy, by Robert Kennedy and by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. into the public arena.

And although it may sound corny, I'll tell you very frankly that for me, the dream has never died.

I remember the Dr. King who proclaimed himself "a drum major for peace, a drum major for justice."

I remember standing with my sister Valerie by a railroad track in Delaware weeping openly as Robert Kennedy's funeral train passed by.

Yes...I remember.

And in spite of what the cynics say, I know that my generation remembers.

I know...we're all supposed to have gone conservative.

We're worried about mortgage payments, orthodontist bills and college tuitions. In some cases, we're the horrified parents of "College Students for Reagan."

But please -- don't count us out.

We do care. And even though our heroes were murdered, we're still the same people who answered the call to serve justice and to aspire to excellence.

That's why I enter this race with confidence.

(over, please)

I think that I understand.

I think I have the message that all Americans -- especially those of my generation -- are waiting to hear. And I'm convinced that if I can get my message across, I can go all the way.

But that, of course, is the rub.

It is a fact of political life nowadays that campaigns are exceedingly expensive.

At the Senate level, for example, we've seen in recent years a \$25 million race in North Carolina and a \$26 million contest in California.

I'm not trying to raise \$26 million.

But if I am to stand a fair chance in this race, I must raise enough -- enough to make it possible for me to get my message out.

That's why I am writing to you.

I am writing to invite you to become one of my key early supporters.

I hope that I can persuade you to make a leap of faith and say to yourself, "This guy really could be President. And maybe he should be President."

Once you've said that, I hope that you will sit down and write a check to "Biden for President." And please, write that check for as much as you possibly can, whether it be \$250, \$100, \$50 or even \$30.

And I hope you will not delay.

The crucial time is now.

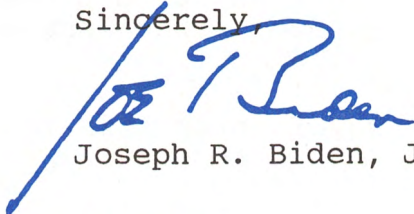
Now is the time when I must make my plans for the key early primary states. Now is the time when I am most in need of funds to support full-time organizers in Iowa, New Hampshire and across the South.

Now, in other words, is the time in a campaign when contributions mean the most.

I hope that you will be with me.

And I hope I've convinced you that I'm right in believing that together, we can win.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

# Biden: Israel a \$3 Billion 'Bargain'

ROSALIE ZALIS

*Jewish Daily Director of National Politics*

LOS ANGELES — Sen. Joe Biden, a probable contender for the 1988 presidential nomination and a favorite of the Jewish community, said that Israel's friends must never apologize for the close U.S.-Israel relationship and must never despair even when that relationship is strained or when Jerusalem faces its own internal problems.

Speaking at the first American Israel Public Committee (AIPAC) dinner held in Los Angeles, the Democrat from Delaware declared, "If there were no Israel, the United States would have to invent one to protect her interests on the Eastern flank of the Mediterranean." And he continued that were it not for Israel, "the pan Syrian movement along with the Soviet influence that backs it would have occupied that entire part of the region."

In view of the \$110 billion the U.S. spends on NATO and the constant worries Washington has regarding support from Greece and Turkey, the \$3 billion in aid given to Jerusalem is a bargain, according to Biden. "I never apologize to my constituents when I talk about aid to Israel," he averred, "because it is in the naked self-interest of the United States to spend this money for its own protection."

Biden alluded to the many problems facing Israel. In the U.S., congressional and the administration leaders who lived through the Holocaust are passing from the scene, he explained, and the next generation will only know of the greatest tragedy of the 20th century and the rebirth of the State of Israel through history books. Biden movingly recalled his own trip some 20 years ago to the Europe that Hitler plundered and to the shattered synagogues and concentration camps that epitomized the death of six million Jews and the termination of a vibrant community. He repeated that visit twice again, with each of his sons as they turned 15. "What happened was burned into my soul," he said, "and all the more so through years as you have 2,000 years of history flowing through your veins telling you there will always be a threat, a need to be on guard, a need to make sure history does not repeat itself."

Biden, a Roman Catholic, told the group that his father had imbued him with an overwhelming sense of guilt over what had not been done to avert the Holocaust by the people and government of the United States and the Free World. At the same time, he worried aloud that the next generation of U.S. leaders would lack this compassion and empathy for the very reasonable Jewish obsession with the security and strength of Israel.

Even today Israel is in for trouble, according to Biden, because the David has been transformed into a Goliath. "Israel's very success has brought on much of her difficulty," he explained, "as she is no longer viewed as a supplicant begging the world to defend her against a threatening Arab world but as the strongest military power in the region." "Israel has lost the automatic support reserved for the underdog," said Biden, "and is seen by many as overreaching." Yet, continued Biden, Israel remains a small nation of but three million people with only one dependable ally — the United States. And Biden warned that friends of Israel cannot be sanguine, even about that relationship. "U.S.-Israel relations are like a roller-coaster with euphoric highs and abysmal lows," he intoned, "and the degree and permanence of support are always tenuous."

Naming the greats who could invoke automatic support for Israel — even against a less than supportive administration — the late Jacob Javits, Hubert Humphrey and "Scoop" Jackson, Biden was apprehensive that future senate leaders would be their equal. Aside from the deteriorating support from other countries, Biden also enumerated internal problems facing Israel, including the net emigration of Jews and racial and religious conflicts. Nonetheless, he asserted "there is no need to despair." Biden recounted his first meeting with former Prime Minister Golda Meir who, after showing him maps of tiny Israel surrounded by 21 hostile Arab neighbors, looked him straight in the eye and said "but we never despair as we have a secret weapon against the Arabs — we have no place else to go."

Biden cautioned those who are overly optimistic about the prospects for peace in the Middle East in the near future. While praising President Reagan for being a good friend of Israel, Biden scored the U.S. for not having any valid Middle East foreign policy. For the last 15 years, he said, our policy has been dictated by four myths that if not revealed are likely to destroy us.

• MYTH NO. 1: Saudi Arabia could be a pillar of U.S.-strategic interests. Calling Saudi Arabia the "anachronism of the 20th century in the region," Biden said that Saudi Arabia would never go beyond the Arab consensus; that 50,000 Palestinians control the country's economic infrastructure and they are obligated to buy protection from the PLO.

• MYTH NO. 2: Peace could be negotiated if only we could find the "right members of the PLO" and "get Arafat to move." Biden scoffs at this wishful thinking declaring "that even if Arafat wished to — and he doesn't — he couldn't make an accommodation with Israel as the PLO yields to its lowest common denominator.

• MYTH NO. 3: Oil is a political weapon. Biden explained that the Arab States make oil decisions only based on their own economic needs, not because of foreign political policy.

• MYTH NO. 4: Peace could be achieved if the U.S. could get Jordan and King Hussein to step forward. That is an unreasonable expectation to Biden because "Hussein is not anxious to appear in the second edition of 'Profiles of Courage.' While Hussein knows that his security is guaranteed by Israel, he must pay lip service to the Arabs."

Biden, who by his own count has attended some 36 fundraising events for AIPAC in the last six years, called the lobby group "my biggest ally on the Foreign Relations Committee." AIPAC, he said, is so persuasive on Capitol Hill because it presents its case honestly, accurately and forcefully and he credited the organization for its assistance in pushing increased aid to Israel as well as in blocking the sale of sophisticated weapons to the Arab world. Noting that one Congressional amendment "sponsored by myself and Senator Alan Cranston gave more money to Israel that all the monies raised by all Jewish organizations together," he called donations to AIPAC "the biggest bang for your buck."

Other dinner highlights included a glowing tribute to Biden from California Rep. Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor in Congress and a former member of Biden's senatorial staff, as well as a surprise appearance by former Soviet Prisoner of Conscience and now resident of Jerusalem, Natan Shcharansky, who urged those present not to forget their 400,000 Jewish Refusenik brethren hoping to join them in the Free World.

In his remarks, Lantos also lauded AIPAC and warned that two factors could weaken the strong U.S.-Israel relationship: the increasingly powerful and sophisticated Arab lobby and the probability that in the future there will be a less friendly American administration and Congress. "Ronald Reagan is the last American President who was alive during the Holocaust and the rebirth of Israel, and I and Eli Wiesel will not be here to serve witness to the next generation of leadership," declared Lantos.

Biden, only 43-years-old, was elected to Congress at the age of 29. He is chairman of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee and the ranking Democrat on its Foreign Relations Committee.

One thing is certain. If Biden is elected President, he would serve according to Lantos, "in the tradition of the late Scoop Jackson and Frank Church as one of those most committed to the mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Israel."