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**Collection:** Blackwell, Morton C.: Files  
**Folder Title:** Chron Memos June 1982-December 1982  
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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** BLACKWELL, MORTON: Files

**Withdrawer**

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**File Folder** CHRON MEMOS JUNE 1982-DECEMBER 1982 (6 OF 15)

**FOIA**

F06-0055/7

**Box Number** 59

POTTER

2

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
120505	MEMO	WILLIAM CLARK TO JAMES BAKER RE. NUCLEAR FREEZE	2	8/16/1982	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

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

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

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B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 1, 1982

Memorandum for Larry Dwyer

From Morton Blackwell

Subject Dinner Party at Robert Pittinger's  
Friday, September 17, 1982

Following are names and addresses for our table:

Miss M. C. Morris 644-5119  
5900-J Prince George Drive (O) 321-9820  
Springfield, VA 22152

Miss Lilli Dollinger 243-7660  
3128 N. 17th St. (o) 484-6527  
Arlington, VA 22201

Mr. Steve Antosh 354-2665  
7139 Wilburdale Dr. (o) 321-9180  
Annandale, VA 22003

Mr. Mark Loveday 546-2382  
317 C Street, S. E. (o) 456-7120  
Washington, D. C. 20003

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bocek (Margaret)  
3669 N. Military Road  
Arlington, VA 22207 528-0487

Mrs. and Mrs. Victor Sundseth (Carolyn)  
15 Silverwood Circle #7  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403 (301) 263-1593  
(o) 456-2657

Mr. and Mrs. Morton C. Blackwell (Helen)  
3128 N. 17th St. 243-7660  
Arlington, VA 22201 (o) 456-2657

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: Presidential Support for Cloture Vote on Helms  
Amendment

This is an excellent statement and letter to the Senate in support of cloture. It is precisely the sort of thing which the President must do to keep the faith with his pro-life supporters who have come to feel that Presidential words have not always been followed by comparable Presidential actions.

The statement is moderate in tone but very explicit regarding the necessity for voting for cloture.

We should recognize the fact that the Senate opponents of this pending Helms proposal have other parliamentary devices available to them. If they persist in the fight, as I have every reason to think they will, it will be necessary to have at least three successful cloture votes. It may not be appropriate for the President to refer to the need for more than one cloture vote, but I think we should all be aware that, before we succeed, there will be a minimum of three and perhaps several more cloture votes.

This is a great step forward!

DRAFT  
8.31.82

I am sending a letter today to all Senators urging them to bring debate to a close and pass the anti-abortion amendment to the federal debt ceiling bill. This amendment is a responsible statutory measure that affirms the humanity of the unborn child, bans federal funding and support for abortions, except to save the life of the mother, and provides a speedy opportunity for the Supreme Court to reconsider its often-criticized abortion decision of Roe v. Wade.

Although this amendment is a moderate step, it is a very important one. I have long been convinced that every abortion involves at least two people -- the mother and the child she carries within her. The starting point for a rational abortion policy must be a recognition of the humanity of the child.

The amendment now before the Senate writes into law the basic principle that unborn children are human beings and that all human life has intrinsic value. The amendment applies this principle logically to all operations of the federal government by banning federal funding and support for abortions, except those necessary to save the life of the mother. It also prohibits discrimination against medical students and personnel who conscientiously object to abortions.

These provisions will ratify and extend decisions Congress

May not be  
true per How about  
Planned  
Parenthood

has made repeatedly in the past. Recipients of federal funds are already barred from discriminating against medical personnel based on their views on abortion, and the Hyde Amendment already bans federally funded medicaid abortions unless they are necessary to save the life of the mother. The new amendment will apply these principles consistently to all aspects of federal spending.

It is especially important today to confirm the nation's commitment to protecting innocent life. At a time when respect for the value of human life is eroding in some parts of the medical and legal profession -- as we saw in the tragic case of Baby Doe earlier this year -- we need a firm statement of basic principle.

We also need to encourage the courts to reexamine past decisions in light of the express judgment of the elected representatives of the people. Despite its creation of abortion-on-demand, the Supreme Court has never expressly acknowledged whether or not unborn children are human beings. The amendment now before the Senate gives the Supreme Court a new opportunity to face up to this basic issue, without telling the Justices how they must decide the case.

Our respect for human life goes to the heart of who we are as a people. When our founding fathers declared the independence of our nation, they enshrined the principles that all men are

created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with the right to life. Protecting innocent life is the foremost duty of government. Protecting the most defenseless is the height of that duty. No issue could raise a higher demand for the attention of our legislators.

I realize that this legislation touches on the most sensitive kind of decision in the lives of many persons. We must therefore approach the issue of abortion with great compassion and understanding. But true compassion and understanding means helping a mother and her baby, not doing away with the baby.

The amendment before the Senate ~~is a moderate piece of legislation that~~ does not purport to solve the problem of abortion-on-demand. But it does take the crucial first step of affirming the humanity of unborn children and applying this principle to the operations of the federal government. I hope the Senate will finish a full and fair debate and come to a vote as quickly as possible.

DRAFT

Dear Senator:

I am writing to ask your support to close off debate and pass the anti-abortion amendment to the debt ceiling bill now pending in the Senate. This amendment is a responsible statutory approach to the problem of abortion on demand. It deserves a vote on the merits at the earliest opportunity.

As you are aware, this amendment will make permanent the Hyde Amendment ban on federal funding for medicaid abortions other than those to save the life of the mother. A permanent ban is far preferable to the annual appropriations battles over the Hyde Amendment in past years.

The amendment now before you will also apply the ban on abortion funding consistently to all operations of the federal government. This is a logical application of the principle I have repeated many times, that any abortion involves at least two people -- the mother and her child.

I believe it is vitally important for Congress to affirm, as this amendment does, the fundamental principle that all human life has intrinsic value. We are all shocked when the erosion of this principle leads to the death of a Baby Doe as in Bloomington. It falls to us now to stop this erosion and reverse it.



The amendment I urge upon you will not go against a Supreme Court decision -- as some earlier bills have been accused of doing -- but it will provide a speedy opportunity for the Supreme Court to reconsider its abortion decision of Roe v. Wade. A decision so sharply criticized as Roe should be reconsidered; the statements by Congress in this amendment provide a principled context for that reconsideration.

The Solicitor General recently filed a brief with the Supreme Court, arguing that policymaking concerning abortion is better left to legislatures than to courts. I agree. Control over federal funds is the special province of Congress, and we need a Congressional decision on the humanity of the unborn before we spend any federal funds on abortion.

I realize that this amendment reflects a moderate approach, which will not end abortion on demand, and I do not wish to impede any other anti-abortion measures that may come before you. But this is the first clear-cut vote in this Congress on the humanity of the unborn, and it is crucial that a filibuster not prevent the representatives of our citizens from expressing their judgment on so vital a matter.

Please lend your support to gaining cloture on this measure, and please give the closest possible attention to the cause of our unborn fellow humans when you vote your conscience on this amendment.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: WHITE HOUSE AND EOP STAFF

FROM: JOHN F. W. ROGERS  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: REVISED WEST WING TOUR POLICY

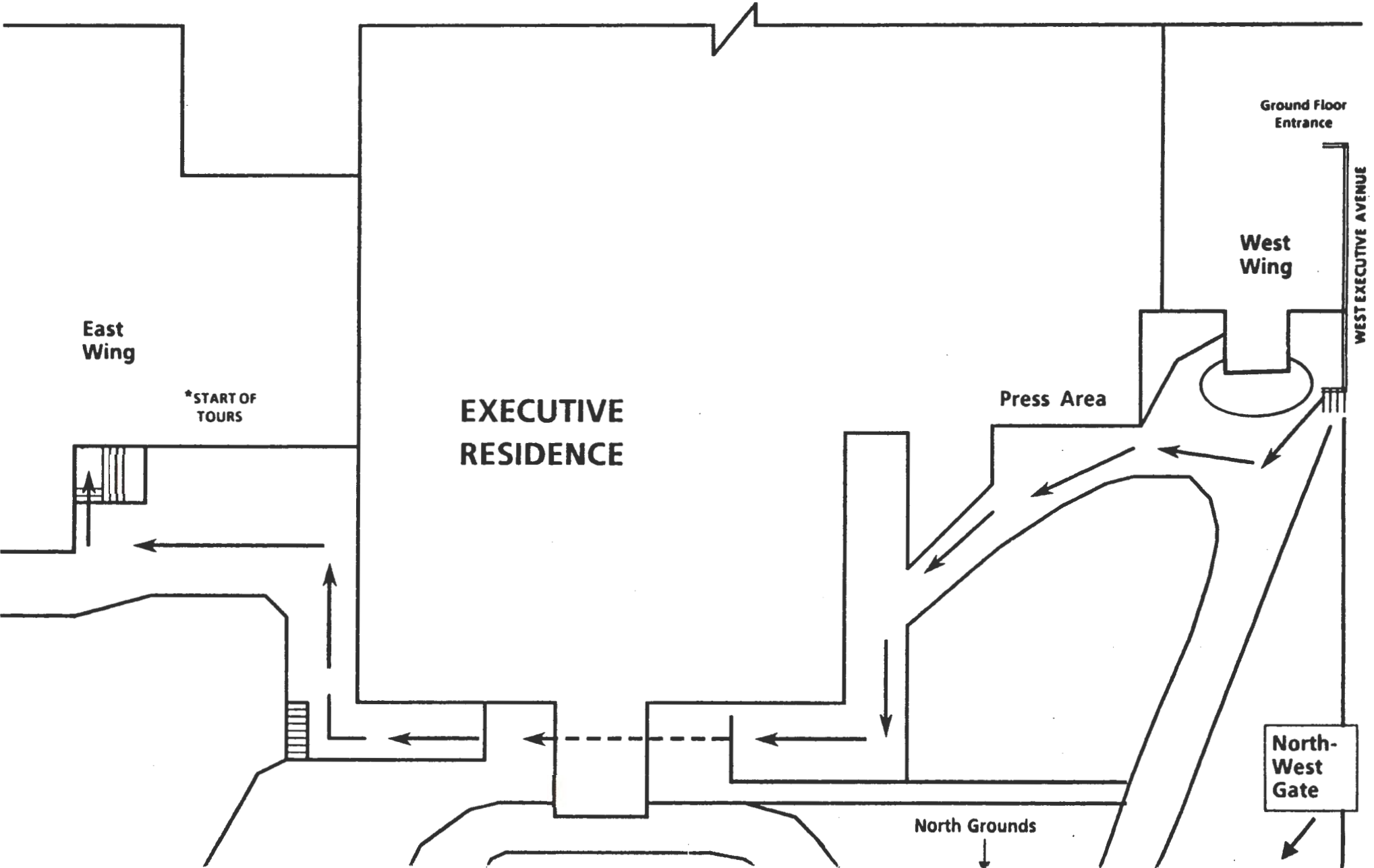
The West Wing of the White House is a restricted area with limited access. Due to the inordinate number of tours and the need to maintain security, the policy regarding West Wing tours has been revised as follows:

- Tours of the West Wing are only permitted after 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, weekends and Federal holidays. (Please note tours will be stopped any time the President or Vice President are in the area.)
- During business hours guests meeting with staff members that have offices in the West Wing must be escorted to and from their appointment. (No tours are to be given from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
- Staff members escorting guests to the morning White House tour must walk outside to the North Grounds through the outside kitchen area to the East Wing entrance by the Family Theater. Staff members will not be permitted to escort guests through the West Wing to join the tour. (See attached diagram)
- During the evening tours the Oval Office, Cabinet Room, Vice President's office and senior staff offices may be viewed from outside the room, behind the ropes.
- Staff members should be extremely circumspect in the selection of individuals for tours. (Guests should be limited to relatives and close personal friends in small groups.)
- The staff member who conducts the tour of the West Wing is responsible for the conduct and demeanor of their guests.

The Uniform Division has been instructed to immediately enforce this policy. Therefore, to avoid embarrassment to anyone and suspension of individual tour privileges, please adhere to the guidelines set forth in this memo.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to my office.

Tour Esc. Route



Ground Floor Entrance

West Wing

WEST EXECUTIVE AVENUE

East Wing

\*START OF TOURS

EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE

Press Area

North-West Gate

North Grounds

C. J. [unclear]  
[unclear]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*

SUBJECT: Administration Nuclear Freeze Battle

Thank you for sending me Judge Clark's August 16 memo to Jim Baker on this subject. This is a very important issue which we dare not ignore.

The pro-defense organizations are in close communication through a coalition, The Stanton Group, organized and chaired by Paul Weyrich. I strongly suggest that Judge Clark make a presentation on this topic at an early meeting of this alternate-Thursday coalition.

There are already many organizations with a wealth of resources and expertise interested in this topic. Just a clear expression of Administration cooperation would spur major efforts in outside organizations.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EHD  
Red

ATTACHMENT

Bill T.

Document No. 081456SS

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/27/82 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FREEZE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FULLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VON DAMM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

May we have your comments on the attached as soon as possible.  
Thank you.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ATTACHMENT

10/4/11

Richard G. Darman  
Assistant to the President  
(x2702)

Response:

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OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

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RB 10/4/2011  
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR DODIE LIVINGSTON

FROM:

MORTON C. BLACKWELL



SUBJECT:

Referral from Jim Baker for Presidential Message

Jim Baker's friend, Bob Pittinger, has requested a letter, draft attached, from the President to Dr. E. V. Hill on the occasion of their meeting in Dallas next month.

The STEP Foundation is an outstanding group of people, many of whom are close friends with the President and major contributors to Republican causes, as you will note from the STEP Foundation brochure.

These leaders have an excellent concept for concentrating private resources on the problems of the needy.

Dr. E. V. Hill, STEP Foundation President, is one of the members of the President's Private Sector Initiatives Task Force. Another Task Force member, Mrs. Roger Jepsen, is one of the founders of the STEP Foundation.

They have requested a letter from the President in time for a printing deadline of Friday, August 27, so I would appreciate it if you would expedite this request.

Enclosure

Dr. E. V. Hill, President  
STEP Foundation  
1300 - 1308 E. 50th St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Dear Dr. Hill:

Until recently Americans have been a people who personally cared for the needs of the underprivileged and poor. In 1935 over 50 per cent of social and human needs of our country were addressed by church people. Today less than one per cent of these needs are embraced by the Church. From my reading of the Bible I sense that compassion and responsibility for the poor lie in the hands of God's people. Government should only be a facilitator and ideally play a minimal role in response to this social concern.

I am deeply grateful for your leadership through the STEP Foundation to help channel spiritual and personal resources to our nation's poor from local churches. This effort can bring new vision and hope from our churches to millions of people within our inner cities.

My best wishes and prayers for your success.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR COOPER HOLT  
V. F. W.

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

SUBJECT: Speeches at VFW Convention

Enclosed is a copy of Judge Clark's speech given to your 1982 convention in Los Angeles. Mrs. Dole does not have a final copy of her speech -- in fact she asked that we check with you to see whether a tape was made from which she could get a final copy of her own talk.

We have asked Mrs. Dole about providing you with a draft copy for use in your publication and will let you know the outcome.


Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO  
FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL   
SUBJECT: Vietnam Veterans Memorial

This morning I was invited over to look at the artist's model of the statue for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Frederick Hart, the sculptor, has his studio in an office building on F Street. Attached is a Horizon magazine which includes an article on Page 28 about Hart. He has done important work at the National Cathedral.

I must say that the statue, a grouping of three Vietnam era soldiers, is outstanding. I think it highly unlikely, once the artist's conception is revealed to the public, there will be much difficulty in approving his rendering.

The group includes the first black soldier to be represented in any U. S. war memorial. It is a very clearcut, straightforward, and moving representation, without being pugnacious.

The model has been virtually completed but it has not been photographed. They did not want to invite premature criticism before it was ready to be unveiled.

Because the White House car I took over there had two drivers, I invited one of the sergeants, a Vietnam veteran, up with me to see the statue. He was as impressed as I and is quite enthusiastic. It looks like we have a winner here.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON  
September 16  
1982

MEMORANDUM FOR RED CAVANEY

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL  
THRU: DIANA LOZANO  
SUBJECT: The Agent Orange Program

Attached is a memo and attachments prepared for me by Mark Loveday setting out the current situation in the Administration regarding Agent Orange.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16  
1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON C. BLACKWELL

FROM: MARK LOVEDAY

SUBJECT: AGENT ORANGE PROJECT

Following this morning's press articles concerning the Agent Orange project at the Veterans Administration, I have set out the current situation below.

At present there are some 60 different studies being conducted by various govt. departments covering the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam and its effects on veterans exposed to the defoliant. The majority of these are based on animal and tissue sampling.

In December 1979 Congress mandated the Veterans Administration to undertake a major study on the subject. The study is divided into three phases- study design, pilot project and the main study- and would utilise between 600-800 and 12,000-18,000 men as a basis during the second and third stages.

The contract for the study design was signed between the Veterans Administration and the University of California at Los Angeles in May 1981 and has since been approved, with certain specific recommendations, by a number of groups including the White House Agent Orange Working Group. The protocol review process is scheduled to be completed within the next month.

The contract for the pilot project phase is due to be signed early next year. This period will continue for 18 months to 2 years before entering the main study project phase. The entire study is scheduled to be completed in 1987.

The dispute that led to the adverse press articles arose between the Veterans Administration and the Army. It would appear that this resulted from a lack of co-ordination.

The Army has been funded by the Defense Department to document the use of herbicides used in Vietnam and to select the groups of military personnel required for the Veterans Administration study. The selection process, known as "cohort selection" was the main point of controversy. The Army paper on cohort selection met with resistance within the Veterans Administration primarily as a result of its reliance on non-scientific data.

Page 2.

On June 10 this opposition was endorsed by the Agent Orange Working Science Panel, a board with both Veterans Administration and Army representatives which handles the scientific aspects of the project. The Science Panel orally asked the Army to suspend work on Cohort Selection at this meeting. On September 8 the attached paper was sent to the Army with scientific guidelines for selection, and the process can now resume.

It must be stressed that the dispute has not affected the time scale of the entire project. Cohort Selection is ancillary to the main planning process.

However, many of the press criticisms are to some degree justified. Some of our Veterans Administration sources consider the project has received a low priority there. The study still lacks qualified scientific staff and suffers particularly from the absence of an epidemiologist. In some instances staff requests have taken over 6 months to process.

Given the facts outlined above it may prove possible to advance the completion date by up to a year should greater support be forthcoming.

Also enclosed are the two press articles from this morning's papers and a background paper on the progress of Agent Orange research prepared by the Veterans Administration for the Vice-President's Office.

September 8, 1982

Captain Peter Flynn  
Special Assistant for  
Professional Activities  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
of Defense (Health Affairs)  
The Pentagon - Room 3E182  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Peter:

As you requested at the last meeting of the Agent Orange Working Group Science Panel, I am enclosing the draft of a Subcommittee Report for the development of cohorts for the VA Epidemiology Study. I am told by Dr. Keller that there is basic agreement with Dick Christian on the contents of this document. Please note on page 4 that the "low likelihood of exposure" units will not have been within 5 kilometers within 60 days. I believe this addresses your concerns about the 15 kilometer distance.

Even though this is a draft document, I believe it can be used to initiate the selection of the cohorts.

Sincerely yours,



Vernon N. Houk, M.D. gb  
Acting Director  
Center for Environmental Health

Enclosure

cc:

Ms. Maureen Corcoran

Mr. Maurice LeVois

Dr. Barclay Shepard

September 3, 1962

Status Report for Development of Exposure Cohorts  
to be used in VA Epidemiology Study

Of prime importance to the interpretation of any results from the proposed VA Epidemiology Study of Vietnam Veterans' Health Status which might be associated with exposure to Agent Orange or the "Vietnam Experience" will be an understanding of the process used to identify potential study subjects. It is understood that the procedures developed by the Army Agent Orange Task Force have been designed to make this selection both feasible and as efficient as possible, and entail a multistage process to minimize the very large number of records to be reviewed and data to be entered. Since one of the major goals of the pilot phase of this study is to determine whether and how meaningful exposure cohorts can be selected, the successful completion of the pilot phase will entail an evaluation of the cohort selection process as well as other aspects of the proposed study. In order to accomplish this goal, it is necessary that there be maintained a thorough documentation of the disposition of those units identified but not selected and the basis for inclusion or exclusion of all units considered. Furthermore, the procedures used to select study subjects for the pilot phase should mimic those to be used during the full study.

In order to insure a meaningful comparison of health outcomes among subjects "exposed" and "unexposed" to Agent Orange, cohorts should be similar with respect to other aspects of their Vietnam experience. Thus, the units from which individual subjects will be chosen should be "matched" in some ways. Sufficient similarity should be maintained if exposed and unexposed units are selected from the same branch of service and a similar type of unit, and operating in the same Corps

area, preferably in similar terrain. A more clearcut difference in exposure can best be assumed if unexposed units are selected from among those that were operating beyond the reasonable maximum drift for Ranchhand spraying and/or following a sufficient length of time for degradation of sprayed herbicide. Of course, it will be necessary to evaluate other potential exposures (e.g., perimeter spraying, dumps, etc.) for a final classification of both exposed and unexposed units.

Since the availability, completeness and accuracy of the various record systems is unknown at present, this will have to be determined during the pilot phase. This both prevents a more precise procedural guideline at this time and forces the AAOTF staff to make eligibility decisions at several steps in the cohort selection process. The detailed documentation of the basis for decision at each step in the selection of units from which subjects will be chosen will facilitate an evaluation of the cohort selection process for potential selection bias during the pilot phase and will be necessary for determining the feasibility of the proposed epidemiological study.

The following procedures are for selection of Vietnam service subjects with high and low likelihood of exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides while in Vietnam and do not include the selection of a non-Vietnam cohort. The outlined steps have been included in the guidelines supplied by the AAOTF and should provide a list of subjects who can be recruited for a pilot study. The documentation requirements should provide information for an evaluation of the feasibility of identifying adequate cohorts to be used in a large full-scale morbidity study among Vietnam Veterans.



- I. Prepare a map of Vietnam with Ranchhand spray tracks indicated for the period 1967-1968 (this has already been provided).
- II. Define geographically homogeneous areas with both Ranchhand tracks and ground troop activity during the 2-year period.

This step should include areas which might be selected and the rationale for choosing selected areas, including the presence or absence of ground troops as determined from Command Post locations (if available).

- III. a. Obtain appropriate station lists for each area selected.
- b. Determine potentially eligible units which were operating throughout all or most of the 2-year period in the same area.

This step should include documentation of all units identified from station lists determined to be potentially eligible and how this determination was made.

- IV. Determine availability and completeness of all eligible units' records of movement.

- V. a. Select units to be recorded as to daily movements.

This is a crucial step, and documentation of how and why a unit (or units) were selected should include the eligibility of all units which were potentially eligible and might have been selected. The potential for the selection of adequate numbers of units (or subjects) for a full scale study may depend on records' completeness and availability at this step.

- b. Record to machine readable format the daily location coordinates for selected units during the entire 2-year period.
- VI. Develop "enhanced" HERBS Tape by including information from herbicide applications not identified from Ranchhand missions. This will include perimeter sprayings, road clearings, helicopter missions, aborts and other identifiable applications. It should not be necessary to do more than those areas previously identified in Step II above and it will be necessary to include the entire period of study (2 years) for this effort in those areas to be studied.

A necessary part of evaluating the reliability of exposure estimates will be the assessment of errors in and completeness of the available records for herbicide applications. Documentation of the type and number of errors and changes as well as some method for assessing completeness will assist in this effort.

VII. a. Match daily location coordinates of selected units via computer with the "enhanced" Herbs tapes to determine the number and type of "hits" sustained by each eligible unit between January 1, 1967 and December 31, 1968. Each "hit" will be defined and recorded according to all of the following 5 parameters for each unit:

- i) Type of Agent (Orange, White, Blue, Unknown).
- ii) Date.
- iii) Type of application (Ranchhand, Helicopter, Aborts, Ground, incidents)
- iv) Time in days since application (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th through 60th).
- v) Distance from application site in km. (0-.49, .5-.99, 1.0-1.99, 2.0-4.99).

b. List the "hits" for each unit matched.

An index or weighting scheme will have to be developed (not by AAOTF) by this time. While it may not be possible to satisfactorily quantify exposure, at least a weighing rule must be developed in order to identify high and low exposure units. The last category in both time and distance parameters is intended to provide a buffer between exposure and non-exposure. A "hit" in either of these categories will not constitute an additional exposure in otherwise exposed units but will exclude otherwise unexposed units from being considered as unexposed. Thus, "low likelihood of exposure" units will not have been within 5 kms. within 60 days of a Ranchhand application target.

VIII. Select high and low likelihood of exposure units.

This step should be documented, but will depend on selection via the weighting system developed for the previous step. The rationale for selection should be indicated and should include other criteria for the type of units chosen as well

as herbicide exposure. Depending on the results of Step VII, it may be possible to identify "low likelihood of exposure" units with no "hits" of any kind. If this is the case, then a specific weighting system to discriminate between high and low exposed units will not be crucial for selection. "High likelihood of exposure" units can then be selected from among those units with at least several "hits" of various kinds (exclusive of buffer zone hits).

- IX. a. Obtain daily morning reports for the period January 1, 1967 to December 31, 1968, for each unit selected in the previous step.
- b. Track individuals through service with their respective units during this time period and record presence on "hit" days for their unit.

Some criteria for eligibility will have to be developed and documented, including the minimum number and quality of individuals' "hit" days, reliability of records for identification of individuals during this step, and their minimum length of assignment to the unit.

- X. a. Obtain service records for selected individuals and verify service information obtained via morning reports.
- b. Record personal information from service record and include location of medical record for each selected individual.

At this step, it may be desirable to retain the individual's identification as either exposed or unexposed during the period covered in these procedures. This should enable closer matching of the two groups based on individual characteristics obtained from the service record. It will be necessary to identify multiple tours of duty in Vietnam and perhaps other criteria pertaining to military service which will influence his final selection into either of the Vietnam service cohorts. Documentation of these inclusions and exclusions will be necessary in order to assess bias in the final selection.

# VA Is Prodded on Agent Orange

From News Services

The Veterans Administration was warned yesterday that unless it starts a pilot project on the health effects of Agent Orange within a month, legislation will be introduced to turn the project over to the federal Centers for Disease Control.

The warning came from Rep. Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) as a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee opened hearings on the VA's progress on the project.

VA officials recently said that it would probably take until 1988 or 1989 to complete a study comparing veterans who might have been exposed to the defoliant while serving in Vietnam to those who were not exposed.

In the meantime, the VA said, veterans cannot be compensated for disabilities attributed to Agent Or-

ange because research has not established that the ailments are service-connected.

Several lawmakers said that Congress may decide, without waiting for the research, to compensate veterans for certain disabilities, even if evidence is lacking that they were caused by Agent Orange.

Rep. Margaret Heckler (R-Mass.) said \$5 million on Agent Orange out of a \$140 million research budget "is an incredibly small amount."

Daschle accused the VA of "bureaucratic and bungling delays." Rep. Bob Edgar (D-Pa.) said the VA had been reluctant to act "until we hit them over the head with a two-by-four."

Dr. Donald L. Custis, chief of the VA's department of medicine and surgery, denied that the agency was purposefully delaying the studies.

- Washington Post

Sept 16 1982

USA Today Sept 16 1982

## VA blamed for Agent Orange delay

of the Center for Disease Control. "I would have proceeded more rapidly if I had the resources available."

Daschle and the experts said the Veterans Administration had failed to hire an expert on epidemiology. Also, the agency was slow in approving a plan developed by a California university and then changed the direction of the plan by proposing to add another feature to the study.

The plan is to study 6,000 veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and 6,000 who were in Vietnam but did not come into contact with the herbicide. In July, the VA proposed adding 6,000 non-Vietnam servicemen to the study, but a decision has not yet been made on that option. As a re-

sult, the earliest a study could be completed is 1987, said Bart Kull, an official from the Department of Health and Human Services who sits on a special White House committee on the Agent Orange issue.

At the hearing, representatives of several veterans groups asked that the study be removed from the Veterans Administration, or that Congress set a specific deadline.

Rep. Margaret M. Heckler, R-Mass., said she plans legislation allowing veterans to collect Agent Orange disability payments before the study is completed.

Examinations already have been given to 91,000 veterans by the VA to identify potential medical problems caused by exposure to the defoliant

By Tara Connell  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — America's 2.5 million Vietnam veterans won't see the results of a study on the effects of Agent Orange until at least 1987 — 18 years after the last spraying of the deadly herbicide in Southeast Asia.

The Veterans Administration admitted Wednesday during a House hearing that it has yet to begin key inquiries about the effects of the herbicide, used to defoliate suspected Viet Cong areas.

Suspensions about the herbicide first were raised 11 years ago, and Congress ordered the five-year study in 1979.

At the hearing Wednesday, Rep. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D.,

— a Vietnam veteran — said the study has been delayed because of "foot dragging." And Rep. Bob Edgar, D-Pa., said the VA had been reluctant to act at all on the Agent Orange issue "until we hit them over the head with a two-by-four."

The results of the study will determine whether the VA should compensate U.S. veterans for a wide range of health problems — including cancer, liver and kidney disorders, impotence and birth defects — that may be linked to the herbicide.

"I believe there are certain men inside the VA that are deliberately delaying the start of this study," Daschle said.

Dr. Donald L. Custis, the chief medical director of the Department of Medicine and

Surgery in the VA, denied the agency had been intentionally slow in developing the study.

"I categorically deny that the Veterans Administration ever purposefully sought to delay (the study)," Custis said.

The doctor said delays in starting the study were due to the slow process of determining how the study was to be done.

During the hearing, representatives from the Center for Disease Control, the Air Force and the Army testified that they were ready to proceed with their aspects of the study, but had been blocked by the failure of the Veterans Administration to approve a final plan.

"If I were directing the study" said Dr. Vernon Houk

*Maurice Levois*



Veterans  
Administration

September 8, 1982

Ms. Lilly Bailey  
Office of the Vice President  
Old Executive Office Building, Room 285  
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Ms. Bailey:

As you requested, please find enclosed questions and answers on Agent Orange.

I have also enclosed a fact sheet and a white paper for your information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Maurice Levois*

MAURICE E. LEVOIS  
Director, Agent Orange Research  
and Education Office

Enclosures (3)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. What is the government doing about Agent Orange?

Several government agencies are involved in Agent Orange research - the Veterans Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency are all involved in studies related to Agent Orange, to try to determine if exposure to Agent Orange causes health problems. Approximately 60 studies are now underway, or in the planning stage, including: the U.S. Air Force "Ranch Hand" Study; the VA Agent Orange Epidemiology Study; the VA Vietnam Veteran Mortality Study; the VA Vietnam Veteran Identical Twin Study; and the Centers for Disease Control Birth Defects Study.

2. Why won't the VA compensate Vietnam veterans who were exposed to/harmed by Agent Orange?

VA compensation may be awarded for documented service-connected disabilities. The VA is not compensating veterans with claims based solely on Agent Orange because, at the present time, there is no conclusive medical evidence that exposure to Agent Orange causes health problems.

NOTE: This question might be prefaced by a reference to the lawsuit brought against Norfolk & Western Railway by railroad workers who were exposed to dioxin, a contaminant that was also present in Agent Orange. 58 million dollars was awarded to 47 railroad workers, and the railroad plans to appeal. We are not aware of any new scientific evidence introduced in the trial. At this time we do not know how the jury's decision will effect the VA's compensation policy. (Copy of New York Times article attached.)

3. What can veterans do if they feel they have a health problem caused by exposure to Agent Orange?

Any eligible veteran who feels he has a health problem caused by exposure to Agent Orange can obtain a free physical exam at his nearest VA medical center. Also, Public Law 97-72, signed by President Reagan on

Questions And Answers:

November 3, 1981, authorizes the VA to treat Vietnam veterans for any health problem that could possibly have been caused by Agent Orange. If service in Vietnam can be documented, exposure to Agent Orange is presumed.

4. Why hasn't the VA started the Agent Orange study mandated by Congress? Is it true that the Agent Orange study won't be finished for 6 or 7 years?

Results are expected from the Air Force "Ranch Hand" study, the CDC Birth Defects study, the VA Mortality study, and the VA Identical Twin study within one to two years. The VA is progressing with the Agent Orange study mandated by Congress. The process has been complicated by legal challenges, which resulted in procedural delays, the need for independent reviews of the study protocol, and by the difficult task of identifying exposed and unexposed subjects. A pilot study to test and fine-tune the research methods will be completed in 1984. The expected completion date for the full scale study is 1987.

5. Is there any evidence that exposure to Agent Orange causes medical problems?

At present, there is no sound scientific evidence that exposure to Agent Orange causes health problems. One effect sometimes observed after dioxin exposure is chloracne, a skin disorder.

6. Does Agent Orange exposure cause birth defects?

There is no medical evidence to establish that Agent Orange exposure caused birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans. Industrial workers exposed to the ingredients of Agent Orange have not fathered an increased proportion of children with birth defects. A study of male mice treated with Agent Orange revealed no effect on fertility nor on the rate of birth defects. However, since some veterans are concerned about this possibility, the VA is providing one third of the funding for the Centers for Disease Control Birth Defects Study.

# Jury Awards \$58 Million to 47 Railroad Workers Exposed to Dioxin

By RICHARD SEVERO

Forty-seven railroad workers who were exposed to the deadly chemical contaminant TCDD, or dioxin, have been awarded a total of nearly \$58 million in damages by an Illinois jury.

The trial, in a suit brought by present and former employees against the Norfolk & Western Railway, began April 5 in Madison County Circuit Court and more than 700 exhibits were entered in evidence.

Albert E. Schoenbeck, attorney for the railroad, indicated that he planned to appeal the decision, but declined to comment further. Paul L. Pratt, attorney for the railroad workers, also declined to comment.

Spokesmen for veterans groups said yesterday they hoped that the award would influence the Federal Government to approve their claims for injuries caused by Agent Orange, a defoliant used in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

### Agent Orange Contained Dioxin

There is no direct legal connection between the two cases, but Agent Orange also contained dioxin. The dioxin became a critical point in hundreds of claims brought by veterans since the war. Thus far, all Agent Orange claims have either been rejected or placed in abeyance by the Veterans Administration.

The symptoms the railroad workers, as described to the Illinois jury, were similar to those described by veterans exposed to Agent Orange: cancer, liver damage, neurological problems, loss of sex drive, dizziness and problems in breathing.

The railroad case grew out of an incident on Jan. 11, 1979, when a tank car carrying 30,000 gallons of orthochlorophenol crude, a chemical solvent, ruptured near Sturgeon, Mo. The solvent was being shipped to a woodworking firm in Tacoma, Washington.

The orthochlorophenol was manufactured by the Monsanto Company plant at Sauget, Ill. Monsanto, along with Dresser Industries Inc., which made the tank car, and the General American Transportation Company, which made the coupling on the car, were originally named as defendants and recently settled out of court. A local news report said the settlement was for approximately \$8 million. However, the figure has not yet been publicly confirmed nor

is it known how the settlement money was divided.

### Each Plaintiff Gets Award

It remained unclear how the \$58 million awarded by the jury has been ordered paid, although 32 out of the 47 plaintiffs were awarded damages of at least \$1 million. The jury awarded something to each of the plaintiffs, with \$1.95 million as the highest individual award.

Among those receiving awards were Wid Smith, 43 years old, of Jacksonville, Mo., \$550,000; Dean Coleman, 31, of Huntsville, Mo., \$600,000; John Little, 28, of Clark, Mo., \$650,000, and Richard Tremblay, 36, of Mexico, Mo., \$650,000. The names of the other plaintiffs were not immediately available.

Lewis M. Milford, a lawyer at the National Veterans Law Center in Washington, D.C., said yesterday that he had not seen the decision, which was made late Wednesday.

"It is the first major award that I know of involving dioxin," Mr. Milford said. "It makes the Government's rejection of the Agent Orange claims even more absurd. The Veterans Administration has commissioned a study that will take decades to complete, while a jury of sensible Americans has shown the compassion that the Government lacks."

### Workers Called to Clear Tracks

Testimony in the Illinois case indicated that the Norfolk & Western Railway mustered laborers, yard men, engineers and other railroad workers to assist in clearing the tracks after the tank car ruptured. According to testimony in the trial, the rupture occurred when the yoke connecting the tank car to another car broke, forcing one set of wheels off the track and sending another set of wheels into the belly of the tank.

The 30,000 gallons of orthochlorophenol contained only a tiny amount of dioxin, which occurs as a contaminant in the manufacturing of certain chemi-

icals. The dioxin accounted for only 22 parts per billion of the total amount of material carried in the car. Lawyers for the railroad argued that the total amount of dioxin involved in the spill was less than half a teaspoon.

But in controlled experiments with laboratory animals, scientists have found that dioxin causes cancer in amounts as little as 5 parts per trillion. Matthew Meselson, a professor of biochemistry at Harvard, has called dioxin "the most powerful carcinogen known."

Although the accident occurred less than four years ago, one of the workers exposed to dioxin during the clean-up has developed cancer of the testicles and the skin.

### Called Deadlier Than Cyanide

The principal witness for the workers was Dr. Berthram Carnow, a professor at the University of Illinois School of Occupational Medicine in Chicago. He testified that, in his opinion, exposure to dioxin was 200,000 times more deadly than exposure to cyanide and that there was no safe exposure to it at any level. He said that exposure to dioxin could cause birth defects in children yet unborn.

The trial was conducted at the Circuit Court in Edwardsville under terms of the 1910 Federal Employee Liability Act, which allows any railroad worker to bring a personal injury claim to any court existing wherever the railroad's

tracks go. It is not known why Edwardsville in particular was selected.

Nor was it clear what effect, if any, yesterday's decision would have on the Agent Orange cases.

The Veterans Administration's announced study, which has been sharply criticized by veterans, is being conducted by Dr. Gary E. Spivey of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. Spivey's objectivity was questioned last year after veterans groups learned that he had appeared before a committee of the California General Assembly and said that he doubted that many troops were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, that there was little evidence of any adverse health effects from exposure to the chemical, and that "The fear which is generated by the current publicity is very likely to be the most serious consequence of the use of Agent Orange."

*X incorrect*



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

AGENT ORANGE FACT SHEET

History - Agent Orange was a herbicide, or defoliant, used in Vietnam to kill unwanted vegetation and to defoliate trees which otherwise would have provided cover from which the enemy could attack American personnel. Agent Orange was a reddish-brown liquid made of two chemicals, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Both chemicals have been used widely throughout the world since the 1940's. One of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a highly toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD), which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The herbicide was called "Agent Orange" because it was shipped to Vietnam in orange-striped barrels.

White House Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) - Reports to the White House Cabinet Council on Human Resources. The AOWG is chaired by a representative from DHHS and has the responsibility for monitoring and coordinating Federal research and information activities related to the possible health effects of Agent Orange. The AOWG Science Panel is a subcommittee of scientists responsible for reviewing research and advising the AOWG on technical and scientific matters.

VA Agent Orange Budget - \$12.6 million through 1984.

Government-wide Agent Orange Studies - There are currently over 60 government sponsored Agent Orange related studies: VA - 21; Agriculture - 8; Defense - 3; EPA - 7; and DHHS - 25.

Congressional Interest - Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA)  
Sen. Jim Sasser (D-TN)  
Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA)  
Rep. Don Bailey (D-PA)  
Rep. David Emery (R-ME)  
Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY)  
Rep. Jim Mattox (D-TX)  
Rep. Clarence Miller (R-OH)

## ORGANIZATION

### INTRODUCTION

- o Historical Overview
- o Major Studies
- o White House Agent Orange Working Group and Other Review Committees

### STATUS REPORT

- o VA Agent Orange Program Management
  - Agent Orange Research and Education Office
  - Department of Medicine and Surgery
  - Agent Orange Policy Coordinating Committee
- o VA Agent Orange Epidemiology Protocol
  - The review process and the third cohort
- o VA Agent Orange Program and Budget Initiatives

### VA AGENT ORANGE POLICY

- o Medical Care
- o Compensation

### ATTACHMENTS

(NOT ATTACHED)

- o Brief Agent Orange Chronology
- o VA Agent Orange Program and Budget Documents

## INTRODUCTION

### Historical Overview

Agent Orange was a herbicide, or defoliant, used in Vietnam to kill unwanted vegetation and to defoliate trees which otherwise would have provided cover from which the enemy could attack American personnel. Agent Orange was a reddish-brown liquid made of two chemicals, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Both chemicals have been used widely throughout the world since the 1940s. One of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a highly toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD), which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The herbicide was called "Agent Orange" because it was shipped to Vietnam in orange-stripped barrels.

Agent Orange became a prominent issue late in 1977 when a non-medical Veterans Administration (VA) employee became convinced that Agent Orange caused a wide variety of disabilities among Vietnam veterans and prompted several veterans to file claims for compensation. Early in 1978 a Chicago television program featured these and other veterans allegedly harmed by exposure to herbicides. A three part television series followed. It was of little scientific merit, but of enormous persuasive impact. That series appears to have been a catalyst which focused national attention on the problems of Vietnam veterans.

The VA responded by consulting with specialists on herbicides, providing instructions to VA hospitals to examine veterans and process claims, setting up a system to capture and correlate information obtained during examination of veterans, and encouraging research proposals among VA's medical researchers. A search of worldwide scientific literature on Agent Orange was completed with VA funding, and the Agency has contracted for the development of a design for an epidemiological study to determine what effects veterans might have suffered from exposure to Agent Orange.

In October 1978 the first Agent Orange Congressional committee hearing was held. Since then there have been 12 more hearings. Congress has mandated medical care and major epidemiological research in an effort to resolve this issue. (Public Law 96-151 and Public Law 97-72.)

In December 1979 the White House announced the establishment of an Interagency Work Group (IWG) to Study the Possible Long-term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants.

In July 1981 the White House Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) was established at the Cabinet Council level. This reconstituted committee was formerly designated as the IWG.

In August 1981 the Administrator of Veterans Affairs formalized an ad hoc Agent Orange Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC).

In November 1981 the Administrator testified before the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs concerning Agent Orange-related activities.

In February 1982 the VA created a new Agent Orange Research and Education Office (AOREO) to coordinate and oversee all VA activities and policy pertaining to Agent Orange.

In June 1982 the Administrator approved the first comprehensive Agency Agent Orange program and budget.

Attachment A summarizes in more detail significant events pertaining to Agent Orange.

### Major Agent Orange Studies

There are several important Agent Orange epidemiology research projects planned or underway at this time:

#### (1) VA Epidemiologic Study of Ground Troops Exposed to Agent Orange

Public Law 96-151 charged the Veterans Administration to "design a protocol for and conduct an epidemiological study..." In May 1981, the VA contracted with the School of Public Health of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), to design the mandated study. The UCLA contractor's first submission was severely criticized by peer reviewers. Although offering information and assistance, the VA has carefully avoided any attempts to influence the design. The recommended study protocol uses an historical cohort design comparing the health status of presumed highly and minimally exposed cohorts. The study cohorts are being defined through the use of Army and Marine Corps records for the period 1967-1969. All members of the final cohorts will be traced as necessary to determine current vital status, and will be examined by a standard protocol, including an extensive questionnaire, physical examination, and laboratory testing. Final results from this study are not to be expected for at least 4 to 5 years.

#### (2) U.S. Air Force "Ranch Hand" Study

The objective of this study is to determine whether there are or will be long-term health effects in "Ranch Hand" personnel, who handled and sprayed Agent Orange, attributable to occupational exposure to Agent Orange and its contaminant TCDD. The current health of this group is considered especially significant because its members were heavily exposed to the chemicals and they are among the few service members whose exposure to the chemicals is fully documented. Results are expected to be published late in 1983.

#### (3) Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Birth Defects Study

The objective of this study is to determine whether an unusually high proportion of fathers of babies born with birth defects served in Vietnam. This comparison will yield an estimate of the risk of siring a child with a defect for Vietnam veterans relative to the risk for non-veterans. If they are found to be at increased risk, it must be determined whether the increase is associated with Agent Orange exposure or with some other factor(s). Results in late 1983.

It should be noted that there is no medical evidence to establish that exposure to Agent Orange has caused birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans. Industrial workers exposed to the ingredients of Agent Orange have not fathered an increased proportion of children with birth defects. A study of male mice treated with Agent Orange revealed no effect on fertility nor on the rate of birth defects. However, some veterans have expressed concern about this possibility, and therefore the VA is providing part of the funding for this study.

(4) VA Vietnam Veteran Mortality Study

The objective is to analyze and compare death rates and cause-of-death profiles of veterans with service in Vietnam and comparable veterans with no service in Vietnam. Results in 1984.

(5) Australian Government Studies

The objective is to determine, through morbidity, mortality, and birth defects studies, whether or not there are or will be long-term health effects in Australian veterans attributable to exposure to herbicides used in Vietnam. Target dates have not been announced.

Review and Oversight Committees

Due to the complexity of the Agent Orange issue, and of the scientific methods required to provide objective data, several committees oversee government Agent Orange activities:

(1) The White House Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) is chaired by a representative from DHHS and has the responsibility for monitoring and coordinating Federal research efforts related to the possible health effects of Agent Orange and is charged with reporting to the public the results of such research. The AOWG Science Panel is a subcommittee of scientists responsible for reviewing research and advising on technical and scientific matters.

(2) The Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) and its Agent Orange Advisory Panel are responsible for reviewing and approving the Congressionally mandated VA epidemiology study protocol. The OTA is a non-member participant in all AOWG and Science Panel meetings. The OTA Advisory Panel is composed of both veterans and scientists.

(3) The VA Advisory Committee on Health-Related Effects of Herbicides provides policy recommendations based on its review of the VA epidemiology protocol and other significant herbicide information. Established as an ad hoc interagency group in April 1978, and later expanded, the committee continues to meet quarterly in open meetings at VA Central Office. This committee is composed of Vietnam veterans and veterans' service organization representatives, as well as scientists.

(4) The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is reviewing the VA epidemiology protocol under contract with the VA. The Academy has convened a committee of prestigious epidemiologists to review and comment on the protocol and all previous reviewers' comments. The VA should receive the NAS review comments in late August.

(5) Special independent scientific oversight committees will be established for the VA research studies to monitor the scientific progress of the studies and ensure objectivity, thus assuring the credibility of VA research.

## STATUS REPORT

### VA Agent Orange Program Management

Because of the importance of this sensitive issue a new office has been established at the VA, the Agent Orange Research and Education Office (AOREO). Its purpose is to ensure direct Agent Orange program oversight and policy guidance. Every VA office and department involved in matters related to Agent Orange now coordinates its activities through AOREO.

An Agent Orange Research Special Projects Office (SPO), within the Department of Medicine and Surgery (DM&S), will be established to consolidate the management of VA Agent Orange research. VA Agent Orange research activities have previously been conducted by several offices within and outside of DM&S.

The VA Agent Orange Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) provides a forum for soliciting the views of top VA managers, discussing current information and events, and disseminating the Administrator's policy guidance concerning Agent Orange.

### VA Agent Orange Epidemiology Protocol

Preliminary drafts of the UCLA protocol have now been reviewed three times by the review committees mentioned above, excluding NAS. Each time, the protocol was revised by UCLA and resubmitted. This completes the UCLA protocol contract, but not the review and revision process.

The AOWG Science Panel has recommended that the epidemiology study include a third cohort, composed of veterans of the same era who never served in Vietnam, in order to look at the broader issue of possible health effects resulting from service in Vietnam. This recommendation was made in part to address a revision, by Congress, of the original law to permit such a broadening of the scope of the study. The third cohort would serve as a comparison group providing a means to evaluate effects of the Vietnam experience.

It is important to note that extensive reviews of the protocol by OTA and the AOWG Science Panel have generated unexpected, and occasionally divergent, views. The AOWG recommendation to include a third cohort in the study design, for example, will require an additional round of revision and review before the pilot study can begin.

NAS will comment on the entire protocol, including the third cohort suggestion. Their review comments will also be incorporated into the final study design.

The VA will consolidate a small VA Central Office scientific staff to integrate and complete the UCLA protocol. While the protocol is being finalized, we will seek to identify potential investigators for the pilot study. We are currently developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) and a contract statement of work, so that we will be able to begin the pilot study as soon as possible after the protocol is finished and approved. We hope to commit FY 1982 funds to the pilot study and begin data collection early in 1983.

### VA Agent Orange Program and Budget Initiatives

Attached is the first VA Agent Orange Program budget (Attachment B). This budget provides for a balanced scientific research program supported by the VA and conducted both by government and non-government scientists. It also establishes a small staff of epidemiology specialists within the Department of Medicine and Surgery to provide the necessary scientific guidance for these activities. Funding for important scientific monographs and Agent Orange informational activities, designed to make timely and accurate information available to concerned veterans, is also contained in this package.

The VA is making every effort to begin many of these projects in FY 82. Accordingly, this will require fourth quarter spending on Agent Orange related activities.

The major VA scientific effort in FY 82 will be to award a contract for the conduct of a pilot study for the Agent Orange epidemiology research mandated by P.L. 96-151. Revisions in the protocol for that study may delay the start of the pilot study and will require special provisions in the contract to accommodate such a delay if it occurs. We expect to receive a final report on the results of the pilot study sometime in 1984 and to initiate the full study in 1985.

Other Agent Orange research activities contained in this budget package include a Vietnam veteran mortality study; chloracne review activities; developmental work on a Vietnam veteran identical twin study; other specially solicited VA Medical Center research projects; and collaborative support of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted study of dioxins and furans in adipose tissue of Vietnam veterans.

This budget package also provides for continued support of the CDC Birth Defects Study and the Agent Orange Registry; the placement of a Vietnam service indicator on the Patient Treatment File medical records of Vietnam era veterans; and a follow-up to the Review of Literature on Herbicides, Including Phenoxy Herbicides and Associated Dioxins.

We believe this is a comprehensive and ambitious program. These activities are warranted by the widespread concern among Vietnam veterans about possible adverse health effects caused by exposure to Agent Orange or other environmental health hazards present in Vietnam.

## VA AGENT ORANGE POLICY

### Medical Care

Public Law 97-72, signed by the President on November 3, 1981, authorizes the VA to "provide certain health care services to any veteran of the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975) who, while serving in Vietnam, may have been exposed to dioxin or to a toxic substance in a herbicide or defoliant used for military purposes. Health care services may not be provided, under this law, for the care of conditions which are found to have resulted from a cause other than exposure to these substances."

This is a very permissive law which now guarantees medical care for all but a few categories of diseases where the cause is well known and could not be associated with herbicide exposure. If the veteran can document service in Vietnam, exposure to Agent Orange is presumed. Veterans who obtain medical services under this law are given priority second to service-connected medical care recipients and equal to former Prisoners of War.

### Compensation

Public Law 97-72 provides for health care only. A determination that a veteran is eligible for care under this law does not constitute a basis for service-connected disability or in any way affect determinations regarding service-connected disability. The VA position on the Agent Orange compensation issue is consistent with prevailing medical and scientific opinion. At the present time there is no sound scientific or medical evidence establishing a cause-and-effect relationship between exposure to Agent Orange and health problems of Vietnam veterans, with the exception of chloracne, a skin disorder.

# # #

Prepared by: Maurice E. LeVois, Director  
Agent Orange Research and Education Office

Attachments




THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 20, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL HINKLE

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: Ohio Veterans Event

I have spoken to Mylio Kraja, Executive Director of the American Legion's Washington office, and Cooper Holt, Executive Director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars national office, regarding the rescheduling of an American Legion V.F.W. sponsored event in Columbus, Ohio, on Monday, October 4.

Both are optimistic that their national and Ohio organizations will agree to reschedule this event.

Kraja will get back to me this afternoon. Holt will call tomorrow morning.

There was a press inquiry to the Communications Office as to why just these organizations were invited by the White House to schedule this Presidential event. Our response was that the President had accepted speaking engagements this summer, at both American Legion and V.F.W. national conventions, but the President's schedule had to be altered and he was not able to go to either national convention. Thus we felt it appropriate to offer the President to these groups.

Presuming that both groups agree to sponsor the October 4 event, their offices will leave it up to their respective state organizations to determine how other veterans organizations will be involved. So far as the White House is concerned, this will be jointly sponsored by the American Legion and V.F.W.

As soon as I hear back from Holt and Kraja, I will notify your office.


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: Presidential Draft Remarks for San Gennaro  
Festival

These remarks are fine with one exception.

The sentence beginning at the bottom of Page 3 should be changed to read as follows: "One judge ruled against the right of children under his jurisdiction to say grace before they ate, even on their own in the school cafeteria."

The case referred to here is one in which the judge upheld a public kindergarten principal's regulation against saying grace in the cafeteria. Thus the original draft is a bit stronger than justified by the facts. The judge did rule against the right of voluntary prayer but was sustaining a principal's decision. My suggested revision is almost as strong and less open to criticism.

WHITE HOUSE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MEMORANDUM

NOON TUESDAY  
SEP 15 1982

DATE: Sept. 14, 1982 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS: San Gennaro Festifal, Flemington, New Jersey

September 17, 1982

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	WILLIAMSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VON DAMM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BAKSHIAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remarks: Please forward your comments directly to Aram Bakshian with a copy to my office.

Thank you.

Richard G. Darman  
Assistant to the President  
(x2702)

Response:

(Parvin/AB)  
September 14, 1982  
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SAN GENNARO FESTIVAL  
FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1982

I can't tell you how happy I am to be here at the San Gennaro festival. It's great to get out of the White House and have some fun once in a while. You know I once attended an Italian-American festival where everyone was having a joyous time. There was such life and vitality and all kinds of delicious foods, just like here. And I said to the man next to me, "If anyone felt lonely this is the place to be." "That's true," he said. "No one can be lonely while eating spaghetti -- it takes so much attention." When I think of Italian families, I never think of loneliness, but of warm kitchens and even warmer love.

By the way, I'm told Millicent Fenwick has a famous spaghetti recipe. I might add, I think she has a winning recipe for serving her constituents as well.

I heard a story the other day about a family that lived in a little apartment, but decided to move to a big house in the country. A friend said to the 12-year-old son, "Tony, how do you like your new house?" "Oh, we love it," he said. "I have my own room. My brother has his own room. My sisters have their own rooms, but poor Mom -- she's still in with Dad."

Well, the thing I like about Italian-American families is that no matter how many rooms they have, they're still together. The family bond is strong and loving. During the last campaign I spoke frequently of the crucial values of family, work,

neighborhood, religion and personal freedom. Some claimed this was an attempt to appeal to various ethnic and religious voting blocks. Well, in a way, they were right. I deeply believe in the values that so many of this Nation's ethnic groups hold dear. I believe in the family. I believe in prayer. I believe in tradition and I don't mind sharing those beliefs one bit.

Perhaps some of you remember that just a few years ago these basic values were being forgotten at the highest levels of our government. The machinery of government at times even actively opposed them. Government intrusion into the life of the family and the local neighborhood had reached unparalleled heights. By the time we came to Washington, Federal spending had tripled in the last 10 years and Federal taxes had doubled in only the last 5 years. But somehow all that taxing, spending, and regulating wasn't making our values any stronger or our people any better off.

Well, with the help of New Jersey citizens like Millicent Fenwick, Senator Brady, Secretary Donovan and others, we've tried to turn a few things around. The growth in Federal spending has been cut nearly in half. We brought down inflation -- the deadliest tax of all -- from 12.4 percent to 5.4 percent so far this year. Prime interest rates are also down from a high of 21.5 percent in 1980 to 13.5 percent today -- and we want to bring them down further. Leading economic indicators, which forecast future economic activity, have been up for 4 months in a row.

Now these statistics are cold comfort to someone who is still out of work. And every night when I turn in, I don't think anything is on my mind more than the people who want jobs but can't find them. Unfortunately, unemployment is just about the last indicator to perk up after a recession. Well, let me tell you, we are going to knock that unemployment rate down, just like we're knocking down interest and inflation.

But we must not only rebuild our economic integrity, we must restore the guiding values handed down from generation to generation. Our time tested values have never failed us when we've had the courage to live up to them.

One of our values is the right of parents to direct the education of their children in a way that best serves their individual needs. We need diversity and excellence in our educational system, and we need tuition tax credits. Our legislation will provide well-earned tax relief to millions of working families with children in independent schools. As economist Thomas Sowell has suggested, these credits are especially important "to those who are mentioned least: the poor and the working class." As the cost of education has skyrocketed, these groups have been particularly hard hit by the double burden of supporting private and public schools.

Or take another value -- the value of prayer. I believe in the healing, reflective, and uplifting power of prayer. But did you know that just about every right you can think of is protected in the classroom, except the right to take a few moments and silently and voluntarily pray? One judge ruled ~~that~~

against the  
right of

~~the~~ children under his jurisdiction ~~could not~~ say grace before they ate even on their own in the school cafeteria.

The First Amendment wasn't written to protect the American people from religion -- it was written to protect religion from Government tyranny. I believe the opponents of voluntary school prayer are unduly alarmed. What is so frightening about a small child's prayer? As I've so often said, I believe America's children have the right to begin their day the same way the Members of the U.S. Congress do -- with prayer.

Another issue which I know concerns you very much is crime. Many of you have written to me how afraid you are to walk the streets at night. And many older citizens are frightened to go out even during the day. Right now before the Congress is an Omnibus Anti-Crime package. In case you don't remember what omnibus means, let me make a very loose translation. It means big. It means we are serious about fighting crime. It means we are going to give the victims the break instead of the criminals. And I know Millicent backs me up on this.

What my Administration is trying to do with all our legislation is protect the American family -- the backbone of our Nation. What government must always keep in mind as it legislates and administers is the sanctity of the family, our basic social unit. If it is not sound, then society is not sound. The world at times may seem cold and dark, but the family is the light in the window. It guides us and offers warmth.

Family, faith and freedom are the cornerstones of American life. This festival today is a celebration of those very ideals

and a celebration of America's beliefs. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it and God bless you all.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1982

MEMORANDUM TO BILLIE SHADDIX

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *mcbs*

SUBJECT: Photographs for Use with Biography

Thanks for the 8 x 10 shots of 2AG82 C 9456-20. We have had a request for a smaller size. Could we have a dozen smaller ones, whatever size is most convenient for you to reproduce, for use in newspaper releases when I am speaking at various functions.

Thanks for your help.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Date: August 23 1982

ELIZABETH DOLE RECEIVES VETERANS' AWARD

WASHINGTON DC- Elizabeth H Dole, Assistant to the President for Public Liason, addressed the Ladies Auxilliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars August 17. She received the group's United American Award.

The 6000 delegates to the VFW Auxilliary heard her speak on President Reagan's economic and defense policies. The President's National Security Advisor, William Clark, also addressed the Convention the previous day.

Mrs. Dole, the wife of Senator Robert Dole (R-Kan.) ,said of President Reagan: "Thanks to his leadership -- and thanks to the vocal support of millions of citizens like yourselves -- we are giving this country back to the people who made it great, and defended it bravely."

"We have finally begun to tighten the belt on Washington," she continued, "while continuing to care for those in most need."

Mrs. Dole supported the President's 'zero option' proposals on nuclear arms reduction but warned: "We reject peace at any price- because we know it can become the first payment on an installment plan for war."

She also ridiculed the suggestion that the record Soviet arms build up was purely defensive. "Tell that to the people of Afghanistan...Warsaw and Gdansk," she said.

Her speech outlined President Reagan's five point plan to strengthen the nation's air, sea and land based nuclear weapons in the face of a recent \$85 billion Soviet lead in defense spending.

Mrs. Dole concluded with a special word for Vietnam veterans: "Because of you, the rest of us know the blessings of peace."

The inscription on the United American Award read as follows:

"TO ELIZABETH DOLE, Assistant to The President of the United States  
for Public Liason.

YOU LIVE PATRIOTISM EVERY DAY  
PROMOTE LOVE OF COUNTRY IN EVERY WAY  
UNITED FOR AMERICA.

Elizabeth Dole receives award/Cont.

YOUR DEDICATION, COMMITMENT, AND TOP LEADERSHIP IN FEDERAL  
POSITIONS HAVE BENEFITTED AMERICA AND AMERICANS.

PRESENTED BY NATIONAL LADIES AUXILLIARY VETERANS OF  
FOREIGN WARS OF UNITED STATES

1982 CONVENTION  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA."