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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 3, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR HOWARD PHILLIPS

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL



SUBJECT: Requested Meeting with Dave Stockman

We've worked hard for several days to arrange the meeting you requested with Dave Stockman.

Mr. Stockman's office offered to set up a meeting with Mike Horowitz, but they said they are unable at this time to schedule a meeting for Mr. Stockman.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR RED CAVANEY

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: 4th National Indian Elderly Conference

I have investigated this group. Rev. Moffett is a responsible person. He used to be on the Board of the National Congress of American Indians.

I regret to say that the process of development of a Presidential statement on Indian policy is not sufficiently advanced for the President to make a major address on Indian policy at this time. Last week we had a good meeting and it appears that by October the Cabinet Council process will have ground out decisions on the current draft prepared by our Indian policy working group, chaired by Ken Smith.


Meanwhile, we will continue on the planning for our Indian economic development meeting, now tentatively set for late August.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK BURGESS

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits—Meeting
with Senator Dole

I understand there is to be a meeting of the Tuition Tax Credits Coalition with Senator Dole this morning at 11:00, pursuant to the Friday afternoon Roosevelt Room meeting.

Paul Weyrich was given a message about the meeting, but he called to tell me is obligated elsewhere at that time.

Sister Rene Oliver called at 9:15. She has not been invited to the Dole meeting despite her attendance at the Roosevelt Room meeting Friday.

Phil Morrison of Senator Dole's staff just called and requested that we provide him a list of those who will be attending. He wishes to be called at 224-4515 and asked that we tell his office to take the list to him in the hearing which he is attending.


If you have a list of those invited, I'll be happy to check with them and get back to Morrison.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 31, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR OPL PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

FROM: RED CAVANEY 
SUBJECT: Issuance of Memoranda

I want to reiterate that there is only one set of proper procedures to be used in issuance of memoranda by each of you. Those guidelines are as follows:

- a. Any memoranda to be forwarded to a member of the White House Senior Staff (Deputy Assistant to the President and above, or equivalent) is to be issued either "thru or via" Elizabeth or from her and carrying the tagline in the body " asked that I forward..." This same approach applies to correspondence sent to other departments and agencies for individuals at Level III and above.
- b. In preparing memos, you must list all the individuals who will receive copies. This is a common courtesy and assists in knowing who is in the "loop" on which issue.

We are held accountable for the actions of each of you, and it is difficult to react when queried about an issue, item or activity of which we are totally unaware.

Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 29, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*

SUBJECT: Draft of Presidential Speech to Knights of Columbus

This speech is not suitable for this occasion.

Fully a third of this speech should be devoted to issues which are given only three sentences on page 8. With every liberal Catholic heirarch in the country laying in wait to charge that this Administration is not serious about its attempt to pass a tuition tax credit bill, covering this topic in one sentence is an affront to the Knights of Columbus, whose Supreme Knight told the President they were making this bill their number one priority.

The following sentence on the abortion question is hopelessly inadequate as well. This is a deeply held conviction which has brought hundreds of thousands of normally Democratic Catholics to support the winning Reagan coalition. A much fuller discussion is warranted. Moreover, saying "we favor a human life amendment" without saying simultaneously that we favor a human life bill throws the President in the midst of the Hatch vs. Helms controversy. We should mention either all three remedies -- Hatch, Helms, and Hatfield -- or call again for (unspecified) action this year to end the tragedy of abortion.

The following sentence on school prayer is again inadequate and in fact inaccurate. There is no assurance that the Federal courts will protect the practice of prayer in the Houses of Congress any more than they protected voluntary prayer in the schools. Madelyn Murray O'Hair already has won a preliminary round in the Federal courts on this matter.

I hate to say this because under other circumstances this would be an excellent speech, but this speech before this audience could be worse than no speech at all. There is a real possibility that such a speech would result in strong censure in the Catholic media, overflowing to the general media.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 29, 1982

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to introduce Jim Thomson of Illinois.

Jim was the Reagan Chairman for the 18th Congressional District in Illinois in 1980. He is a long time conservative activist. He has a great deal of experience in management and labor relations.

I first met Jim and his wife Rosemary at the International Women's Year Convention in Houston in 1977. They are excellent people, pro-family activists.

You will not be disappointed with Jim if you are able to find a place for him.

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL K. DEEVER

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

SUBJECT: National Salute to Vietnam Veterans

Attached is a letter inviting President and Mrs. Reagan to serve as the Co-Chairmen of the "National Salute to Vietnam Veterans" that will take place from November 10 to 14, 1982.

I recommend that President and Mrs. Reagan accept this invitation. By accepting this honor, President and Mrs. Reagan will affirm their appreciation and respect for the thousands of Americans who sacrificed so much for the United States in the Vietnam conflict.

I would also like to point out that Mrs. Reagan presently serves on the National Sponsoring Committee for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.


Thank you for considering this request.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ED GRAY

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 
SUBJECT: Issue Update on Right-to-Life

I discussed with Bill Gribben the idea of an issue update on right-to-life. He believes that the issue is such that plowing new ground or attempting a projection of the President's views based on past statements is inopportune.

Gribben suggests that an issue update on right-to-life should consist of a summary of the President's major statements on this topic. I concur.

I think an issue update could begin with an introductory section which simply states that, because there are currently at least three remedies being proposed to the tragedy of abortion, leaders of most major pro-life organizations have encouraged the President not to express preferences for one remedy over the others.

However, the introductory statement could continue, this is a major public issue and one on which the President has strong views. Therefore we are supplying an updated summary of major statements and positions of the President on the abortion question.

Ed, Doug Martin of my staff has obtained all of the source materials suggested by Bill Gribben for use in preparing an issue update. Attached is all of that information. I hope you find it useful.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON C. BLACKWELL

FROM: DOUGLAS F. MARTIN *D & M*

SUBJECT: Information that you have requested on the subject of Right to Life

The materials which you have asked me for have been located, and copies of the material are provided for you. The only material included herein which must be returned is the book which must be returned to the OEOB Library.

ENCLOSURE A SINCERELY, RONALD REAGAN

ENCLOSURE B Letter to Nellie Gray

ENCLOSURE C Portions from President Reagan's press conference on March 6, 1981

ENCLOSURE D Transcript which President Reagan read from to tape message for the Right to Life Convention on July 12, 1982

ENCLOSURE E Memorandum for the Attorney General and Secretary Schweiker of April 30, 1982

ENCLOSURE F Letter to Senator Helms of April 5, 1982

ENCLOSURE G Message from President Reagan read by Secretary Schweiker for the 1982 Washington March for Life

ENCLOSURE H-1 Statement by then Governor Reagan on abortion

ENCLOSURE H-2 Policy Statement by then Governor Reagan and George Bush on abortion after the Republican Convention

ENCLOSURE H-3 Portions from President Reagan's press conference on January 19, 1982

ENCLOSURE H-4 Letter to Mr. Beckett of the Intercessors of America

ENCLOSURE H-5 Letter to Mr. Horan thanking him for a copy of the book New Perspectives on Human Abortion

ENCLOSURE H-6 Portions from Presidential Document
Series as of February 26, 1982

ENCLOSURE H-7 Letter to Mr. Sheehan of the Massa-
chusetts Citizens for Life, Inc.

ENCLOSURE H-8 Letter to Mr. Packard thanking him for
a copy of Life Lines

ENCLOSURE H-9 A Quote for Publication

ENCLOSURE H-10 Letter to Dr. Driesbach of the Cali-
fornia Pro-Life Medical Association

ENCLOSURE I Letter from President Reagan to Rep-
resentative Hyde concerning the
Bloomington baby

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM BARR

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: Peace Corps Meeting

On June 22, 1982 a group of conservatives met with Loretta Ruppe at the Peace Corps.

The attached letter may be of interest to you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ED GRAY

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Peace Corps Meeting

On June 22, 1982 a group of conservatives met with Loretta Ruppe at the Peace Corps.

The attached letter may be of interest to you.

John Houston
Executive Director

July 23, 1982

The Honorable Loretta Ruppe
Director of the Peace Corps
1806 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Mrs. Ruppe:

Pursuant to our meeting, several comments are warranted.

First of all, I appreciate your taking the time necessary to meet with myself as part of a larger group to discuss the Peace Corps.

Second, notwithstanding any statements made by you or your staff, I apologize for any comments which I may have made in response to those statements. I believe, however, that in a frank discussion such as this was supposed to be, half truths and mis-statements of fact by you and your staff were equally out of line. While the tape will show that there were two intemperate remarks in over a two hour span, this meeting was over all a healthy and constructive exchange of views. While conflicting opinions may distress you, I and all the other representatives that I spoke with afterwards, feel that our visit brought a breath of fresh air to the Peace Corps.

"When we asked her (Mrs. Ruppe) about 8(C), she expressed ignorance and when prompted by an aide, she said plans had been started some eleven months into the Reagan administration."

Evans and Novak
The Washington Post
January 1, 1982

Specifically, you stated in response to my quotation from the Evans and Novak column about your ongoing violation of the law that requires you to train all peace corps volunteers in the nature, danger, and "menace" of communism, that the newspaper interviewer confused you by referring to this section of the law as 8(C). The information in the column itself belies this statement. It states that when you continued to feign ignorance to your interviewer, one of your staff interceded to say that you were looking into it.

Moreover, the same column confirms that prior to this, Tom Pauken, Director of Action, had repeatedly requested that you comply with this provision of law.

It seems as of our meeting we have evidence of three different explanations of your policy in this matter. But what was even more disturbing was your statement that obeying this provision of law "could set off a firestorm." You repeatedly evidenced doubts that this law could or should be obeyed by you. Since you seem to be of more than two minds on this subject, perhaps we should conclude that until further notice, neither you, nor the Peace Corps will obey this law.

Moreover, the best effort you had made up to date was a tepid video tape which suggests that communism is an alternative to freedom and Western Civilization. The narrator states in your tape that after all, if Lenin were alive today he would just be another GS, 17. While this is a very telling statement about the state of mind of the Peace Corps bureaucrats, it hardly lives up to the mandate of the law to educate Peace Corps volunteers as to the threat of communism.

Following up on your "firestorm" analysis, I asked you who in Reagan's constituency would set off a firestorm because of a frank, factual, straightforward discussion of communism. You declined to identify any Reagan arsonists who would be offended. However, you did say that we had to be understanding of the kind of people who would care to serve under the adverse conditions of the Peace Corps.

This seems to represent an apology for what everyone at the meeting became convinced of. That is that the Peace Corps is led by people who either sympathize with the Carterites already in the Peace Corps, or do not understand with whom they are dealing. If a frank discussion of communism would offend any federal employee, then their boss ought to have little hesitancy in bidding them farewell to federal employ.

If the Peace Corps is run from top to bottom with anti-Reagan, pro-Carter people, as your "firestorm" statement indicates, this would demand the wholesale re-organization of the Peace Corps to return it to the mainstream of America. If a straightforward, factual presentation of the state of communism offends you or any of your employees, then the Reagan administration should look elsewhere for the management of the Peace Corps.

Pursuant to this, I asked your Associate Director, Nadine Plaster, if Peace Corps Volunteers were ever instructed in the history of the United States, its cultures, its institutions, its native religions, its essential qualities. Receiving a mumbled "yes" from her, I asked whether Peace Corps volunteers were ever supposed to relate anything about America of a positive nature, to people they lived among. I was told "no", that was not the function of the Peace Corps.

Yet, we are to believe your statement that the Peace Corps volunteers are ambassadors to the third world from America and are winning us friends abroad. What kind of friendship is based on a self-imposed black out of news about reality?

At the same time that nothing substantive about the U.S. is allowed to pass the lips of Peace Corps volunteers, how is that information which is critical of the U.S. handed out by the Peace Corps as its own information such as "Volunteers and Neo-colonialism - An Inquiry into the Role of Volunteers in the Third World " by Glyn Roberts? It would seem in the twisted values of the Peace Corps bureaucracy that what America stands for is bad, and what appears to be chicly opposed to America is good. Moreover, in this publication, Peace Corps volunteers are advised to mobilize native populations for political purposes. That would seem to be another illegal activity which you are acquiescing in.

Could you please explain how political activism against the established host governments is what the taxpayer's money is supposed to be spent for, while accurate information about the U.S. is somehow verboten. Your attitude on this reminds one of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, where historical events are made to disappear when they no longer serve the political purposes of those in power. Goebbels, the propagandist of the Third Rheim was at least loyal to his own patron.

Lastly, I asked how Plaster determined if someone would really represent the U.S. government or not. She assured us that interviewers took care of that. I then asked, "Well how do you know if someone is a communist or would like to overthrow our government?" Plaster stated that the questionnaire asked that information and in addition you screened people carefully.

In point of fact, the questionnaire contains no such question, or even alludes to it.

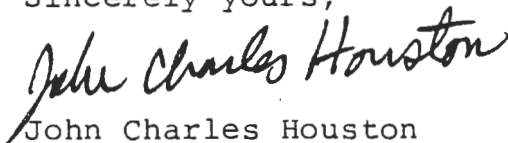
I asked how many people had been rejected for objectional politics. I was told there were some. What are their names, dates of dismissal, and stated grounds of dismissal?

In point of fact, the vast majority of the interviewers are holdovers from the Carter Administration. Your application itself is a holdover from the Carter Administration. You would seem to leave very little credibility in Republican circles anywhere that you had done much of anything to change the leftward slide of this agency. Indeed, your statement to Evans and Novak that the only thing you could think of

doing to improve the Peace Corps was to increase the "minority" volunteers, reveals that you perceive nothing objectionable in continuing your present staffing and policies.

I will appreciate seeing your documented response to these questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Charles Houston". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John Charles Houston
Executive Director

✓cc: Morton Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR T. KENNETH CRIBB, JR.

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: Complaints Regarding Peace Corps

Because your office was copied by Gary Curran of American Life Lobby in his exchange with Loret Ruppe, Mrs. Ruppe has asked that I send you copies of the exchange of correspondence between Mr. Curran and her office.

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Complaints Regarding Peace Corps

Because your office was copied by Gary Curran of American Life Lobby in his exchange with Loret Ruppe, Mrs. Ruppe has asked that I send you copies of the exchange of correspondence between Mr. Curran and her office.

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES W. CICCONI

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Complaints Regarding Peace Corps

Because your office was copied by Gary Curran of American Life Lobby in his exchange with Loret Ruppe, Mrs. Ruppe has asked that I send you copies of the exchange of correspondence between Mr. Curran and her office.

Enclosure

Peace Corps

Washington, D.C. 20525

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

FROM: Lore ~~Miller~~ Ruppe
Director

DATE: July 27, 1982

RE: Curran Correspondence

In the wake of our meeting with conservative group representatives, attached is a letter from Gary Curran of the American Life Lobby, setting forth numerous fallacious assertions and asking eleven questions involving sensitive and substantial issues.

Attached is the reply from John Nicholson, my new Communications Director.

Also attached is a second letter from Curran, complaining of delay. Nicholson spoke with Curran by telephone, discussed the delay, but Curran insisted he was going to send a letter of complaint anyway.

Curran sent copies of his complaint letter to Baker, Meese and Clark. I am sending copies of this memorandum and attachments to those offices. Could you make sure, please, that our responses catch up with Mr. Curran's submittal in those offices? Thanks.

CC: Edwin Meese III
James A. Baker III
William P. Clark

AMERICAN LIFE LOBBY INC.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 490, STAFFORD, VA 22554
OFFICES: ROUTE #6, BOX 162-F, STAFFORD, VA 22554
(703) 659-4171 METRO DC 690-2049

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TELEGRAM

July 27, 1982

Mrs. Loree Miller Ruppe
Director
Peace Corps
806 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20525

The July 22, 1982 letter, which has yet to be delivered and which I personally picked up at your office last night, is totally unacceptable.

You invited me to the meeting on June 23 at your office to discuss the Peace Corps. You asked me to put my questions (which you did not answer at the meeting) in writing.

Do me the favor of a personal reply.

Better yet I request an appointment to discuss these questions in detail in person.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Curran
American Life Lobby
6 Library Court S.E.
Washington, D. C. 20003



A.L.L. "... for God, for Life, for the Family, for the Nation"

AMERICAN LIFE LOBBY INC.

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June 24, 1982

Mrs. Loret Miller Ruppe
Director
Peace Corps
806 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20525

Dear Mrs. Ruppe:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the operation of the Peace Corps in the Reagan Administration.

Unfortunately from the presentations made yesterday I can discern no major change in the recruitment, training or policy of the Peace Corps from the way it operated under the direction of 60's radical Sam Brown. I would welcome information to the contrary.

Towards the end of the meeting I asked you several questions. You asked me to put them in writing, so here they are:

1. Of the 67 United Nations Volunteers (UNV) how many work for UN agencies whose head is a Soviet or other Communist country citizen?
2. Is the cost of these volunteers reflected in the U.S. contributions to these UN agencies?
3. How many UNV's work for UN health or population control agencies?
4. How many UNV's are involved in planning for or actually distributing the injectable abortifacient birth control drug Depo-Provera which is banned from sale in the U.S. by the FDA? How many other Peace Corps volunteers dispense Depo-Provera?
5. How do you justify Peace Corps involvement in this activity in light of the Young Amendment that bans use of Peace Corps funds for abortion?
6. What is the Peace Corps policy, if any, concerning dispensing to third world citizens drugs banned in the United States?
7. What is the Peace Corps policy, if any, concerning whether it is proper for volunteers to counsel that abortion is an acceptable method of birth control?

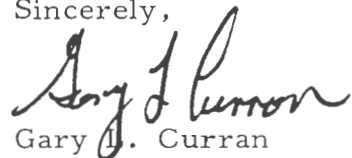


8. You indicated that notwithstanding the Young Amendment (banning Peace Corps dollars from being used for abortion) the Peace Corps pays for transportation and other ancillary costs so that the volunteer can obtain an abortion on her own. Why is it legal to aid and abet obtaining an abortion when paying for the abortion is a violation of the Young Amendment? Exactly what is the justification for paying such transportation and other costs?
9. You mentioned that the Justice Department was looking into this question exactly who at Justice are you consulting?
10. There are approximately 77 full-time and temporary Peace Corps recruiters how many were volunteers or trainees or employed as recruiters during Sam Brown's tenure? Without a change in recruiters how can you hope to get "new, more representative" volunteers?
11. Country directors are hired and fired in your sole discretion. How many are hold overs from the Sam Brown regime? Of those you have hired how many have identifiable Reagan-Bush credentials? Why don't the others have these credentials? How do you expect to get a change in policy if the "hands on" managers of your agency, the country directors, are not Reagan people?

Also you said that as a measure of your system for monitoring for political statements or actions contrary to this government's policy you would tell us how many volunteers and/or employees you have reprimanded or dismissed for such transgressions.

I look forward to an expeditious reply to these questions.

Sincerely,



Gary J. Curran
Legislative Consultant

GLC/sm

AMERICAN LIFE LOBBY INC.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 490, STAFFORD, VA 22554
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July 23, 1982

Mrs. Loret Miller Ruppe
Director
Peace Corps
806 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
12th Floor
Washington, D. C. 20525

hand delivered

Dear Mrs. Ruppe:

This will follow up my letter of June 24, 1982 to which I have not received an acknowledgement nor a response for a whole month.

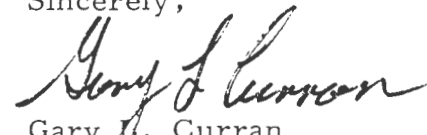
On June 22, 1982, at your invitation, I attended a meeting so that you could explain how the Peace Corps has changed since the tenure of 60's radical Sam Brown served as director.

I stress that I did not ask for the meeting, it was your initiative. Why has it taken you more than a month to answer questions that you did not answer in person and which you specifically asked me to put in writing?

Sam Brown probably answered his mail quicker than the present administration has answered me.

When can I expect a reply? Please telephone me at 546-5550 I will be glad to pick up your reply in person.

Sincerely,


Gary L. Curran
Legislative Consultant

cc: Judge Clark
Ed Meese III
James A. Baker III

GLC/sm



A.L.L. "... for God, for Life, for the Family, for the Nation"

Peace Corps

Washington, D.C. 20525

July 23, 1982

Mr. Gary Curran
Legislative Consultant
American Life Lobby
6 Library Court, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Curran:

Your letter of June 24 put into writing some of the questions raised at the White House meeting the previous day, initiated by Director Ruppe through the office of Morton Blackwell.

I apologize for the delay in responding to your request, but I intentionally asked Loret's permission for me to develop the replies as a "learning experience" (I joined the Peace Corps just weeks before your letter was received.) As we discussed by telephone, when you said you intended to write a letter of protest about the delay anyway, the issues you raised were sensitive and significant. Consequently, if the information in this letter is to be used other than for your own personal background, I ask that my replies be printed in their entirety so as to avoid misunderstandings which may arise if material is lifted out of context.

Here are our views on the topics you address:

A. Peace Corps relations with United Nations Volunteers. To the best of our knowledge, no Communist citizen is heading any United Nations agency involving United Nations Volunteers (UNVs). The costs of U.S.-supplied volunteers are shared jointly by Peace Corps and the host country. Of the 56 (currently) U.N. Volunteers supplied by Peace Corps, one volunteer is a health-related rural water and sanitation project specialist in Liberia, a second is a pharmacist trainer in Lesotho, and the third works on administrative matters for the U.N. Fund for Population Activities post in Turkey.

B. Peace Corps policies re abortions, abortifacants, and family planning. Peace Corps does not consider abortion to be a birth control method, so Volunteers neither educate others, nor receive information from Peace Corps, about abortifacants or abortions. That includes use of Depo Provera

as an abortifacient. As a practical matter, Volunteers operate primarily in rustic rural areas and handle few medicines other than aspirin, deworming medicine, chloroquine (anti-malarial prophylaxis) and other common substances. Peace Corps is required to pay travel and per diem for Volunteers who require "elective (necessary but not emergency) surgery of any consequence" including abortions. The Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, has verified this requirement pursuant to the Pregnancy Discrimination Act [42 USC 2000 e(k)], so long as Peace Corps continues to pay travel and per diem for comparable medical conditions.

C. Peace Corps' use of civil servants as recruiters. Less than two-thirds of the present recruiting force were associated with Peace Corps (or ACTION) during Sam Brown's tenure; primarily as Volunteers during that time. Congress requires by law to give preferential hiring treatment to returned Volunteers. Few others express interest in the part-time, low-pay, non-career-directed employment opportunity as Peace Corps recruiters.

D. Peace Corps personnel policy regarding Country Directors. Country Directors serve 30-month contracts. Since the beginning of the Director's term, May 28, 1981, seventeen Directors have been appointed, and five selected but not yet fully appointed. All final candidates must receive medical and security clearances in addition to clearances from White House Presidential Personnel. Of the twenty-two, ten have Reagan-Bush credentials, nine were previously employed (e.g., Federal government) in positions which precluded campaign activities, and three are non-political. All are committed to the Reagan Administration's policies.

You assert you can "discern no major change in the recruitment, training or policy" since the Sam Brown days. To make major changes would require legislative sanction. Except for minor technical changes, there have been no policy changes enacted by Congress since the first act in 1961. We are still required by law to pursue the initial three goals, to help others by effort of American volunteers, to help others understand Americans by example, and to help Americans understand others' cultures.

Under the Director's leadership, we have reinstated training about the Communist menace. We have deliberately sought out the older-Americans, in recruiting. We have reoriented our projects toward economic development and entrepreneurial training in marketing, distribution, accounting and management skills. We are seeking direct corporate involvement in Peace

Mr. Gary Curran
July 23, 1982
Page 3

Corps activities. And we have undertaken internal management procedures to achieve even greater operating economies and protection against waste, fraud and abuse. We have not publicized these activities, consistent with Peace Corps' belief that actions speak louder than words. Perhaps we should be educating Americans better about the Peace Corps, so enclosed is an article by the Director for use in one of your publications. We would appreciate receipt of a copy of your publication reprinting her article.

I apologize again for the delay in this reply, but you asked thought-provoking questions that have required some time to determine the answers.

I look forward to keeping open our dialogue. I urge you to seek support from your members for considering the potential of becoming Peace Corps Volunteers. It's a proven micro-economic way to help make stable the economies of developing countries by fighting poverty, hunger, disease, and illiteracy -- traditionally the breeding grounds for the menace of Communism.

Sincerely,



John B. Nicholson
Director of Communications

Enclosure

"Why a Conservative Reaganite
should support the Peace Corps"

By Loret Miller Ruppe

What's the best, most proven deterrent against Communist intrusion into developing countries around the globe?

Americans in action. Not words. Deeds. "Helping people help themselves."

And what organization has placed more everyday Americans into those developing nations -- to help stabilize their economies, day by day, spreading awareness of the American way of life by being and doing instead of orating about it?

The Peace Corps.

And it has been done at a most economical cost -- thanks to American's willingness to volunteer. Ordinarily, a corporation figures on at least \$150,000 to have a company representative in a foreign land. And the cost for an AID or State Department diplomat is high. Peace Corps' \$105 million budget supports approximately 5,000 Volunteers abroad.

Sen. Barry Goldwater's original concepts for the Peace Corps have not changed much over the past twenty-one years, but some new thrusts are taking place, under President Reagan's direction. Less than a year ago, in his Philadelphia speech on our Nation's willingness "to offer our hand in friendship as a partner in prosperity" to the developing nations, the President recalled the old proverb:

"Give a hungry man a fish and he'll be hungry tomorrow; teach him to fish and he'll never be hungry again."

That's what the Peace Corps Volunteers are now being trained to do -- they teach, they show by example, they get involved side-by-side with the people of the developing nations.

Twenty-one years ago, there was less concern about what the Volunteers were supposed to do. It was a time of heady idealism with little regard for what the host countries wanted. Eventually, host countries began demanding more specialized skills. Today, we are shifting the emphasis to business skills. Our hosts have come to realize that development and economic freedom go hand in hand. They are asking for Volunteers who can help provide business know-how. Business skills can make economic freedom a reality, so they seek to develop a climate where free enterprise can flourish -- their own free enterprise.

President Reagan stated it succinctly, from an ideological viewpoint: "This isn't a question of East versus West, or the U.S. versus the Soviet Union. It's a question of freedom versus compulsion, of what works versus what doesn't work, of sense versus nonsense." Peace Corps Volunteers come from a system that works, and they want others to recognize that fact by doing it, not talking about it.

The contrast in these developing nations, of East versus West, is remarkable. The Russians send thousands of propogandists, and without fail, they act out the folly of themselves by jostling to be first in line to buy American

appliances. Or the Soviet technologists come to town, not to serve people but to tinker with military machinery purchased to satisfy the ego of the prevailing politician.

Your Peace Corps Volunteers come to a host country quietly. They are trained to speak the language, to learn about the local taboo's and culture, and to work side-by-side with the everyday people whose focus is often just survival. Peace Corps is purposeful about isolating Volunteers from the diplomatic set, the U.S. intelligence operatives, and the governmentalsists. Volunteers are trained not to get involved in politics. They are there to help people, to educate for self-sufficiency, to teach business and agricultural methods.

Some of these Peace Corps principles we've learned from experience, and others reflect President Reagan's new directions. Here are some of the Reagan initiatives:

First, we are stressing in-country economic development projects leading toward self-sufficiency. Most of these are agricultural in nature because of need. Some involve AID-sponsored activities. This interagency coordination is cost effective and provides grass roots assistance. All have the common focus of developing businesses.

Second, also for the first time in any significant way, we are trying to weave the Peace Corps into the fabric of the major U.S. companies' personnel policies. Hiring the returned Volunteer, pre-retirement counselling to suggest a Peace Corps assignment, or revising the company's "public service sabbatical" program to include Peace Corps are but some of the ideas being pursued.

Third, we are deliberately encouraging senior Americans to join the Peace Corps. Our 300-plus of the approximately 5,000 Volunteers today "experienced in life" are consistently received very well. There's no limit on age (a 74-year-old just finished her second tour), and health requirements are flexible (though strict) depending on assignments. Without doubt, senior Americans know best how our free enterprise system of capitalism works the most good for the most people. (They are our most fervent missionaries of the American Way.)

Fourth, we are increasingly depending on private sector groups to make use of our Volunteers, so as to minimize our administrative oversight. For example, when the Salvation Army, or CARE, or Save the Children has a foreign project, we supply Volunteers and they provide project management, a mutually beneficial partnership.

Eventually, we hope, the stereotyped "long haired Peace Corps Volunteer" image that tends to cripple the President's new programs will stop being exploited by those who have no interest in the reality of a changed Peace Corps. While the new reality might not be as glamorous, today's Peace Corps is serious about being effective in stabilizing economies of developing nations. Peace Corps works. I welcome your help to keep it working better, under President Reagan's new initiatives.

Jr. Houston
Executive Director

July 23, 1982

The Honorable Loretta Ruppe
Director of the Peace Corps
1806 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Mrs. Ruppe:

Pursuant to our meeting, several comments are warranted.

First of all, I appreciate your taking the time necessary to meet with myself as part of a larger group to discuss the Peace Corps.

Second, notwithstanding any statements made by you or your staff, I apologize for any comments which I may have made in response to those statements. I believe, however, that in a frank discussion such as this was supposed to be, half truths and mis-statements of fact by you and your staff were equally out of line. While the tape will show that there were two intemperate remarks in over a two hour span, this meeting was over all a healthy and constructive exchange of views. While conflicting opinions may distress you, I and all the other representatives that I spoke with afterwards, feel that our visit brought a breath of fresh air to the Peace Corps.

"When we asked her (Mrs. Ruppe) about 8(C), she expressed ignorance and when prompted by an aide, she said plans had been started some eleven months into the Reagan administration."

Evans and Novak
The Washington Post
January 1, 1982

Specifically, you stated in response to my quotation from the Evans and Novak column about your ongoing violation of the law that requires you to train all peace corps volunteers in the nature, danger, and "menace" of communism, that the newspaper interviewer confused you by referring to this section of the law as 8(C). The information in the column itself belies this statement. It states that when you continued to feign ignorance to your interviewer, one of your staff interceded to say that you were looking into it.

Moreover, the same column confirms that prior to this, Tom Pauken, Director of Action, had repeatedly requested that you comply with this provision of law.

It seems as of our meeting we have evidence of three different explanations of your policy in this matter. But what was even more disturbing was your statement that obeying this provision of law "could set off a firestorm." You repeatedly evidenced doubts that this law could or should be obeyed by you. Since you seem to be of more than two minds on this subject, perhaps we should conclude that until further notice, neither you, nor the Peace Corps will obey this law.

Moreover, the best effort you had made up to date was a tepid video tape which suggests that communism is an alternative to freedom and Western Civilization. The narrator states in your tape that after all, if Lenin were alive today he would just be another GS. 17. While this is a very telling statement about the state of mind of the Peace Corps bureaucrats, it hardly lives up to the mandate of the law to educate Peace Corps volunteers as to the threat of communism.

Following up on your "firestorm" analysis, I asked you who in Reagan's constituency would set off a firestorm because of a frank, factual, straightforward discussion of communism. You declined to identify any Reagan arsonists who would be offended. However, you did say that we had to be understanding of the kind of people who would care to serve under the adverse conditions of the Peace Corps.

This seems to represent an apology for what everyone at the meeting became convinced of. That is that the Peace Corps is led by people who either sympathize with the Carterites already in the Peace Corps, or do not understand with whom they are dealing. If a frank discussion of communism would offend any federal employee, then their boss ought to have little hesitancy in bidding them farewell to federal employ.

If the Peace Corps is run from top to bottom with anti-Reagan, pro-Carter people, as your "firestorm" statement indicates, this would demand the wholesale re-organization of the Peace Corps to return it to the mainstream of America. If a straightforward, factual presentation of the state of communism offends you or any of your employees, then the Reagan administration should look elsewhere for the management of the Peace Corps.

Pursuant to this, I asked your Associate Director, Nadine Plaster, if Peace Corps Volunteers were ever instructed in the history of the United States, its cultures, its institutions, its native religions, its essential qualities. Receiving a mumbled "yes" from her, I asked whether Peace Corps volunteers were ever supposed to relate anything about America of a positive nature, to people they lived among. I was told "no", that was not the function of the Peace Corps.

Yet, we are to believe your statement that the Peace Corps volunteers are ambassadors to the third world from America and are winning us friends abroad. What kind of friendship is based on a self-imposed black out of news about reality?

At the same time that nothing substantive about the U.S. is allowed to pass the lips of Peace Corps volunteers, how is that information which is critical of the U.S. handed out by the Peace Corps as its own information such as "Volunteers and Neo-colonialism - An Inquiry into the Role of Volunteers in the Third World " by Glyn Roberts? It would seem in the twisted values of the Peace Corps bureaucracy that what America stands for is bad, and what appears to be chicly opposed to America is good. Moreover, in this publication, Peace Corps volunteers are advised to mobilize native populations for political purposes. That would seem to be another illegal activity which you are acquiescing in.

Could you please explain how political activism against the established host governments is what the taxpayer's money is supposed to be spent for, while accurate information about the U.S. is somehow verboten. Your attitude on this reminds one of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, where historical events are made to disappear when they no longer serve the political purposes of those in power. Goebbels, the propagandist of the Third Reich was at least loyal to his own patron.

Lastly, I asked how Plaster determined if someone would really represent the U.S. government or not. She assured us that interviewers took care of that. I then asked, "Well how do you know if someone is a communist or would like to overthrow our government?" Plaster stated that the questionnaire asked that information and in addition you screened people carefully.

In point of fact, the questionnaire contains no such question, or even alludes to it.

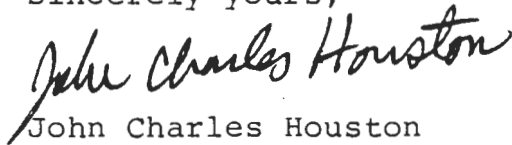
I asked how many people had been rejected for objectional politics. I was told there were some. What are their names, dates of dismissal, and stated grounds of dismissal?

In point of fact, the vast majority of the interviewers are holdovers from the Carter Administration. Your application itself is a holdover from the Carter Administration. You would seem to leave very little credibility in Republican circles anywhere that you had done much of anything to change the leftward slide of this agency. Indeed, your statement to Evans and Novak that the only thing you could think of

doing to improve the Peace Corps was to increase the "minority" volunteers, reveals that you perceive nothing objectionable in continuing your present staffing and policies.

I will appreciate seeing your documented response to these questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Charles Houston".

John Charles Houston
Executive Director

✓cc: Morton Blackwell

Morton - FYI.

You may want
to present the
other side of
this issue to
EAD, if you have
strong feelings
about it. Done

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: VIRGINIA H. KNAUER

SUBJECT: Widespread Negative Concern About President's
Position on 55 MPH Speed Limit

A July 10 UPI release from Santa Barbara reports that the President has asked for a study of possible lifting of the 55 MPH speed limit (See attachment.) There will be intense and prominent opposition to any change in position that will detract from the President's popularity, create considerable criticism of the motives behind the change, and challenge the compassionate and concerned image of the President.

We met this morning with representatives of the National Safety Council, General Motors, and the American Trucking Association. The message was very blunt -- if the President persists, he will incur the opposition of these groups, the medical groups dealing with trauma and emergencies, the Teamsters Union, the insurance industry, among others. The trucking industry says that 55 saves lives and fuel, and cuts the distances traveled in a day. The National Safety Council and others say that raising the limit will kill 5,000 - 8,000 people, augment the numbers of disabled, further tax acute health care facilities, as well as waste fuel. In addition, they point out that a number of prominent Congressional leaders endorse retention of the current 55 limit.

Basically, the National Safety Council, et al., are ready to criticize the President in "full page" ads in the leading newspapers and launch an aggressive defensive campaign. They see the suggestion of a change as being nothing less than another concession to extremist ideologies that cannot and should not succeed but will badly damage the President's image and standing in the meantime. They say that the information is available and definitive -- 55 saves lives and dollars -- and that even in the "open spaces of the West" the death rates per 100,000 miles traveled are considerably higher than in the East.

They want the President to confirm his support for the 55 limit because it makes sense, saves lives, avoids disabilities, and saves dollars. They suggested that the resources they are prepared to mobilize to criticize this "softening" of the 55 limit commitment by even suggesting that further study is indicated, could be used to praise the President for a prompt and appropriate affirmation of 55 as a reasonable limitation.

In light of some of the recent experiences where situations like this have only deteriorated with time, I suggest that you bring the urgency of an affirmation and clarification to the Senior Staff meeting at your earliest opportunity.

Pressure to Raise Speed Limit Eases

United Press International

Despite the Republican Party's call in 1980 for repeal of the national 55 mph speed limit, the Reagan administration is in no mood to push for scrapping the law. It is credited with saving 48,000 lives.

Furthermore, there are efforts in Congress to dampen attempts by some states to water down penalties for violating the national limit.

But despite talk of a rebellion, most state legislatures are reluctant to repeal the law. The reason: they face a mandatory cutback in federal funding if they do.

By law, states that do not have 50 percent of their motorists complying with the speed limit can be penalized by cutting 5 percent from their federal highway aid, excluding interstate monies. The non-interstate aid package amounted to \$3.7 billion in 1980 and is expected to rise to \$4.2 billion in 1981.

"Because of this," said Ralph Craft of the National Conference of State Legislatures, "I don't think there's much pressure from the states to repeal it anymore."

The 55-mph limit, first imposed as an emergency measure in January, 1974, in reaction to the Arab oil embargo, was made permanent by Congress in 1975.

Under 1978 legislation, states had to have a certain percentage of motorists complying with the limit or face the loss of federal aid. The percentage was originally scheduled to increase to 70 percent by 1983, but Congress last year froze the figure at 50 percent.

All states complied in 1981, but some legislatures were not particularly happy about it despite the fact that national polls have shown consistently since 1973 that three out of four Americans favor 55.

Only Montana has agreed to outright repeal—an action that has been blocked for two years in the state appeals court because of the federal sanctions.

Several other states have lessened the penalties for motorists caught speeding. The most prominent example, Nevada, has reduced the penalty to a \$5 ticket for driving between 55 and 70 mph.

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White House Officials Study Possible Lifting of Speed Limit

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., July 10 (UPI)—President Reagan has asked his aides to study the possible lifting of the 55-mile-an-hour speed limit.

The official said Reagan wants to keep his election campaign promise to abolish the national speed limit but there has been a "significant" saving of lives on the highways since it was passed by Congress.

Reagan opposed the speed limit during the campaign because it represents federal intervention, the official said.

Opposition to the speed limit also was stated in the 1980 Republican platform.

July 6, 1981


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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO
FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits

As discussed in my memorandum to you of July 16, attached, we do not yet have a meeting scheduled per the request of Bob Baldwin last week.

As I noted in my weekly report last Friday, the situation with respect to tuition tax credits is explosive.

We must get a serious legislative strategy in place and communicated to the outside tuition tax credits coalition. Otherwise, there will almost surely be a press conference in a few days in which supporters of tuition tax credits will give up the battle for passage this year and lay out for the news media the failures and inconsistencies we have displayed.

Red Cavaney told me a decision had been made last week to go forward with the meeting Bob Baldwin requested. Speed is now required.

Copies to

Bill Barr

Dan Oliver

Gary Bauer

Ed Gray

Rocky Rees

Jack Brown

2000

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 20, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MCB/c*

SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits

Per our discussion this morning, here is a summary of our situation and a suggested course of action.

Jack Burgess and I have been working closely with all elements of the coalition of organizations supporting tuition tax credits. Without exception, these organizations have had their confidence in this administration shaken by the way in which we have handled the tuition tax credit bill.

During the drafting of the President's bill, all of these groups were consulted on numerous occasions. As a result, the bill is one of which the Administration can be proud and which enjoys the determined support of all of the major organizations in favor of tuition tax credits.

Here are the principal sources of the growing lack of confidence in us on this issue:

1. At the Roosevelt Room meeting with the President and Vice President and leaders supporting tuition tax credits, Bob Thompson announced that the principal sponsors of the President's bill would be Senator Dole and Congressmen Gradison and Biaggi. For more than twenty-four hours after this meeting, all reports coming from the offices of these announced co-sponsors contradicted Bob Thompson's information that they would be co-sponsors. Many supporters called their offices to coordinate tuition tax credit activities only to be shocked by denials. Word spread through the coalition like wildfire.

2. Eventually the "principal sponsors" and their staffs were locked into sponsorship. However, despite Administration announcements to the contrary, and despite the news conference in which the President indicated his personal support of this bill, our effective support is questioned. Virtually every single supportive organization reports a prevailing view among members and staff on Capitol Hill that the Administration is not interested in fighting or bleeding in behalf of this bill.

3. On July 13 we had a meeting of leaders of the tuition tax credits coalition here. A dispute arose over the testimony Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy (Treasury) Buck Chapotin had given before the Senate Finance Committee on July 2. Bob Baldwin of Citizens for Educational Freedom insisted that Chapotin had specifically said the Administration does not favor placing tuition tax credits on the pending revenue bill. Bob Thompson, Legislative Affairs, just as stoutly insisted that Chapotin in fact said the Administration did want to have the tuition tax credit bill attached to the revenue bill. For some minutes the meeting degenerated into a "Yes he did" - "No he didn't" exchange. Subsequently Father Hoye of the U. S. Catholic Conference obtained an unofficial transcript of Chapotin's testimony which showed that Thompson was mistaken and Baldwin was correct.

4. Despite the dispute over the content of Chapotin's testimony, our July 13 meeting strove to reach an understanding of what the Administration's position was to be on this bill in the future. Thompson clearly and emphatically stated that our position is that we want this bill, if possible, in the revenue bill. Because Senator Dole clearly does not want it on the revenue bill in its initial passage battle in the Senate, Thompson's statement of our position came down to this:

(a) If it would be possible to attach the tuition tax credit bill to the revenue bill in the Senate, the Administration would favor it, but Dole's opposition makes this course unlikely.

(b) The Administration will fight hard to get tuition tax credits attached to the revenue bill in the House and to grease the way for Senator Dole to accept tuition tax credits from the House Bill during the conference negotiations.

Everyone left with this understanding of Administration policy. Bob Thompson gave everyone the clear impression that he was simply revealing our strategy to them.

5. Despite our assurance to the contrary, response to a question at the Finance Committee hearing July 16, Treasury Secretary Regan specifically said that the Administration does not favor adding tuition tax credits to the revenue bill.

The attached memorandum of July 20 from Bob Baldwin reports that "At this juncture leaders of the coalition are fearful that there is no White House strategy or that tuition tax credits is deliberately being sabotaged."

Surely these fears are warranted.

I suggest the following action:

1. SENATE BILL STRATEGY:

a. Get Secretary Regan to write the Finance Committee members a letter suggesting that the Administration would strongly support attaching the tuition tax credit bill to the revenue bill either in the Senate or from the House bill in conference.

b. Send Bill Barr of OPD, Dan Oliver of Department of Education, and Brad Reynolds of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department to meet separately with Packwood and Moynihan to assuage their concerns about the anti-discrimination provisions in our bill.

c. Have the President recruit either Senator Armstrong or Senator Grassley to move to attach the tuition tax credit bill on the upcoming debt limit bill. The President should also write to Senator Baker that he wants this accomplished. If we have lost this chance on the revenue bill, due to Senator Dole's opposition and/or our inability to communicate our position to the Finance Committee, we have only the debt limit bill option left to get tuition tax credits through the SENate on a piece of "must" legislation.

2. SIMULTANEOUS HOUSE STRATEGY WITH SENATE STRATEGY

a. There are two ways the tuition tax credits could be tied to the revenue bill in the House. First, Congressman Rostenkowski could be convinced to insert it in committee. Second, the tuition tax credits could be added to the revenue bill on the floor of the House through a bi-partisan coalition led by Congressman Michel.

b. The President should call Congressman Rostenkowski, urging him to put tuition tax credits on the revenue bill in the House. We should pass the word to all supportive groups that the President has urged Rostenkowski to take this step.

c. The President should contact Bob Michel, who will very likely be given a modified open rule on the revenue bill which would allow him a vote on one substitute to the forthcoming committee bill. The President should ask Congressman Michel to be sure to have tuition tax credits in his proposed substitute.

d. The President should contact Senator Dole to get him to agree specifically to support tuition tax credits in the House-Senate conference if it comes over in a House bill but is not in the parallel Senate bill.

3. WHITE HOUSE MEETING

We should schedule the meeting requested in Bob Baldwin's attached memo and explain to the tuition tax credit coalition that we have decided on the above strategies in both Houses.

We are very close to disaster on tuition tax credits. This disaster is entirely our own fault because we have given either mixed signals or no signals or late signals to outside groups, Republican congressional leaders, and tuition tax credits supporters in the rank and file of both houses of Congress.

Because both the revenue bill and the debt limit bill are so far advanced, we do not have much time to decide on a course of action. There are literally millions of people who if properly approached on this subject would communicate with their elected representatives in its behalf. These grassroots supporters will not move unless their leaders give them marching orders. Their leaders will not issue marching orders to their troops unless they see us seriously employing a strategy which can win.

Citizens for Educational Freedom

Suite 854 • Washington Bldg. • 15th and New York Ave., N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone (202) 638-6423

July 20, 1982

Executive Committee

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William Todla, Ohio
John J. Watson, Penn.

Mrs. Ann Richardson, Tx.

MEMORANDUM

TO : MORTON BLACKWELL
FROM : ROBERT BALDWIN
RE : TUITION TAX CREDITS

The testimony of Secretary Regan before the Senate Finance Committee on Friday, July 16 indicates to the members of the tuition tax credits coalition that there are two voices coming from the White House : one to strongly support tuition tax credits and attach it to the revenue bill and another to waffle for now and to let it work its own way through Congress - if possible. At this juncture leaders of the coalition are fearful that there is no White House strategy or that tuition tax credits is deliberately being sabotaged.

Regardless, we are convinced that unless key Congressmen are contacted personally and assured that the White House is indeed serious about passage of this legislation in this session, the coalition will explode.

For these reasons it is imperative that members of the coalition meet Ken Duberstein, James Baker and Edwin Meese today, July 20 before the House Ways & Means Committee begins discussing the revenue reconciliation bill. We are more than willing to consider strategy other than attaching tuition tax credits to the revenue bill, but we must know what that strategy is. However, it is the feeling of the coalition that the revenue bill is the last best hope.

Representatives of the coalition - Msg. Edward Spiers, Dr. Leonard Di Fiore, Sister Renee Oliver and I will be willing to meet with you at your convenience.

copy to Mr. Robert Thompson.


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits Legislative Strategy

I am pleased that the Senior Staff meeting this morning decided to act along the lines I suggested in my memorandum to you yesterday.

I must emphasize that time is of the essence if we are to take advantage of the remaining chances for legislative success for tuition tax credits. For instance, today the House Ways and Means Committee is marking up their version of the revenue bill.

The organizations committed to tuition tax credits are not political novices. They have been working for this legislation in some cases for a generation. They closely follow the legislative process. They know that any chance of Presidential action convincing Congressman Rostenkowski to include tuition tax credits in the revenue bill is slipping through our fingers.

It is of the utmost importance that we knock heads together, establish a precise strategy for winning, and expend significant efforts toward implementing that strategy.

The supporters of tuition tax credits, particularly the Catholic community, are on the verge of exploding against us.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR LEE ATWATER

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL



SUBJECT: Delays

A condemned felon once appealed to the King of France:
"If you let me live, I will teach your favorite horse
to talk within one year."

The amused king agreed to the arrangement.

When asked later about the arrangement, the felon explained,
"Within the year the King might die, I might die, or the
horse might talk."

Your two weeks are up today.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1982

MEMORANUDM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: 55 M.P.H. speed limit

Diana has sent me a copy of Virginia Knauer's memo to you on this subject.

A nationally enforced 55 m.p.h. limit is already viewed by most Americans in many areas as "another concession to extremist ideologies."

This should be a state's rights issue. The voters of New York should not set the speed limit in Montana. I have no doubt that the most liberal states will retain this 55 m.p.h. limit. Montana and other "wide open spaces" states would not

Virtually all the foes of the 55 m.p.h. speed limit are 1980 Reagan supporters, who now need a few things to cheer about.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: School Prayer

The attached memo from Gary Jarmin, who is co-chairman of the school prayer amendment coalition explains the critical situation we face on the school prayer amendment.

Even if we pass this amendment in the Senate, which is certainly possible, it will be bottled up in the U.S. House unless we implement the basic legislative strategy outlined in Jarmin's memo.

We are scheduling a meeting with Bob Thompson and the outside groups to discuss legislative strategy early next week. But if we cannot give credible assurances of White House commitment to fight fiercely to get signatures on a discharge petition, it is impossible to expect outside groups to expend major efforts to pass this amendment.

To date neither the President nor any major Administration figures have given the Congress any reason to believe that we are prepared to take vigorous action on this amendment this year.

*0 PL
memo*

Project Prayer

418 C Street, NE • Carriage House • Washington, DC 20002 • 202/546-7977

Coalition Members

Act Ministries Inc.
American Christian Cause
Americans for God
American Gold Star Mothers
American Life Lobby
Rev. Claud Logan Asbury
Dr. Ben Armstrong
National Religious Broadcasters*
Rev. Raymond W. Barber
Mr. George Benson
American Heritage Center*
Pastor Fletcher Brothers
John K. Bruchi
Mrs. Hill McAllister Burch
Catholics for Christian Political Action
The Christian Inquirer
Christian Service Corp.
Christian Voice
Christian Voice Moral Govt. Fund
Conservative Caucus
Conservative Victory Fund
Mr. Richard Ford
Enterprise Consultants
EPL Ministries
Family and Freedom Foundation
Family Life Seminars
Pastor Mrs. Carolyn Hill
Peter B. Gorman, Jr.
National Pro-Life PAC*
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Virginia Mason
Farm Bureau Federation*
Fidelity Fund
Rev. John G. Gaudin
Robert Heckman
Young Americans for Freedom*
Rev. Morton A. Hill, SJ
Morality Media*
Iowa Conservative Union
George B. Jones
Kentucky Heritage Foundation
KIM Ministries
Leadership Action
Rev. Tim LaHaye
Life Action Ministries
Life Amendment PAC
Rev. Ron Mair
Maryland Federation of Catholic Ladies
Maryland Interfaith Community to
Restore Optional School Prayer
Mid America Conservative PAC
Moral Majority
National Alliance of Senior Citizens
National Back to God
National Christian Action Coalition
National Conference of American
Ethnic Groups
Howard Phillips
Dr. William Powell
Protect America's Children
The Right Woman
Ron Robison
Young America Foundation*
Louise Ropog
Family America*
Ed Rowe
Roundtable Issues and Answers*
Southern Baptist Journal
Kathy Teague
American Legislative Exchange
Council*
Texas Eagle Forum
Trinity Communicators
John C. Webb
LaNeil S. Wright
Project Director
Gary L. Jarmin

July 20, 1982

TO: Morton Blackwell
FROM: Gary Jarmin
RE: School Prayer Amendment Strategy in Congress

We have encountered a critical situation which will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to get a vote in the House on the school prayer amendment. The following is based on my discussions with Virginia Chamberlain in Tom Kindness' office and with Dave Hoppe in Trent Lott's shop:

Because of the terribly late introduction of the amendment, we will only have 11 or 12 legislative days in late July and early August to acquire the necessary 218 signers on a discharge petition. Here are the reasons: (1) The discharge petition can not be filed until July 28th because of the required 30 legislative days it must sit in committee from the time the amendment was introduced until the petition can be filed; (2) The petition must sit for seven legislative days once it has acquired the 218 signers before it can be brought to the floor for a vote; (3) It can only be voted on the second or fourth Monday of the month; (4) The only Monday it can be voted on is September 13 (the House will not be in session on Sept. 27 and will be in recess as of October 11). Therefore, we have until August 13 at the latest to acquire the necessary 218 signatures -- at best 13 days to obtain 218 signers.

It will be virtually impossible to obtain the required 218 signatures in this short space of time unless we have the full and active support on the President, White House Congressional Liaison and Republican leadership in the House. We will, of course, maintain an aggressive, grassroots lobbying campaign, however, this alone will not do the job. I have been through discharge petition wars before and none have been successful unless key leadership forces in Congress and the White House combine to mount an aggressive campaign.

*C on listed for
io purposes only

Here, at a minimum, is what I and others believe must be done to make this discharge petition successful: (1) The President must give Duberstein's shop marching orders to pressure members to sign the discharge petition; (2) The White House must pressure Bob Michel to help lead the charge; and (3) The President must become personally involved to whatever extent is feasible; i.e., call Bob Michel, participate in publicity/media events, call other members of Congress, etc..

The primary reason we are in this predicament is because the White House waited much too long to get this legislation introduced. Thus, the Administration has placed upon outside pressure groups an almost impossible task to achieve. Had the White House initiated this amendment in March or April, we would have had more time to acquire signers. Instead we will only have 12 or 13 days to accomplish this difficult task.

Again, without some major backing by the White House, there will be no vote in the House. The best we can hope for is a vote in the Senate which looks almost certain. Should we fail to achieve a vote in the House, it will not be due to a lack of interest or effort on our part. But the White House must recognize the extremely difficult situation they have put us in and accept some responsibility to help apply pressure on Congress to move on this issue.

Please call me at the earliest possible convenience to discuss the above in more detail. Many thanks for your thoughtful consideration of the above.

cc: Connie Marshner