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*Last Updated: 05/08/2023*

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** CANZERI, JOSEPH: FILES

**Withdrawer**

KDB 12/22/2011

**File Folder** LABOR DAY EVENTS 1981 - 09/07/1981

**FOIA**

F97-0066/21

**Box Number** 6

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27

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	MEMO	FROM STEPHEN STUDDERT RE SEPT. 7 TRIP TO NEW YORK (PARTIAL)	1	8/26/1981	B7(E)

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]

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Craig Fuller has

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20210

August 27, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Joseph W. Canzeri  
Deputy Assistant to the President

FROM: Susie Summerall

SUBJECT: Scenario for Labor Day, 1981, NYC

Joe, per our conversation.

1:20 pm EDT The President arrives Newark Airport (T)  
Newark, New Jersey

The President boards Marine I

1:25 pm The President departs Newark, New Jersey  
en route LaGuardia Airport

FLIGHT TIME: 15 MINS.

1:40 pm The President arrives LaGuardia, deboards  
Marine I and boards waiting motorcade

The President departs en route Gracie Mansion

DRIVE TIME : 15 MINS.

1:55 pm The President arrives Gracie Mansion and is  
met by Mayor Edward I. Koch

2:00 pm Presentation begins

Remarks by the President  
the Mayor  
the Governor (if in attendance)

2:40 pm Program concludes and the President boards  
the motorcade and departs en route LaGuardia Airport

FLIGHT TIME : 15 MINS.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20210

MEMORANDUM FOR: Joseph W. Canzeri  
Page 2

3:00 pm The President arrives LaGuardia airport  
and boards Marine I

The President departs en route Newark  
Airport, Newark, New Jersey

FLIGHT TIME : 15 MINS.

3:15 pm The President arrives Newark and boards  
Air Force I

3:20 pm The President departs New Jersey en route  
Washington, D. C.

FLIGHT TIME : 55 MINS.

4:15 pm The President arrives Andrews Air Force Base

Joe: I'd appreciate any consideration you could give to  
Secretary Donovan being manifested on Marine I and Air  
Force I - both to and from - New York. You can be sure  
that you'll get the same request the Department of Transportation.

Also, the Secretary mentioned that he is sure that Tom Kane,  
running for Gov in N.J. will want to meet the President on  
arrival in Newark. What do you think?

Governor Carey is in Greece on vacation, so we don't know whether  
or not he will be in attendance.

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

August 16, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

FROM: JOSEPH W. CANZERI  
SUBJECT: LABOR DAY EVENT - NEW YORK CITY

The Labor Day event in New York City suggested by Secretary Donovan has been approved.

The Governor of New York and Mayor Koch will participate in the Lower Manhattan event.

Secretary Donovan's office will advise as to a contact from the Secretary's office to assist the White House in coordinating this event.

The suggested scenario for the day is as follows:

Depart White House via Marine I enroute AAFB  
Depart AAFB via AF I enroute Newark Airport  
Depart Newark via helo enroute Lower Manhattan  
Arrive Lower Manhattan -- 30 MINUTE PROGRAM  
Departure will be the reverse of arrival

This event will probably take place late morning/mid-day.

cc: Hugh O'Neill

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20210

August 14, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: JOSEPH W. CANZERI  
Deputy Assistant to the President

FROM : JAMES L. ~~HOOLEY~~ *JLH*  
Executive Assistant and  
Counsellor to the Secretary

SUBJECT : Labor Day Event

Attached is a memorandum for the President from Secretary Donovan in regard to the proposal for a Labor Day appearance. If further information is required, the Secretary can be reached over the weekend at (305)368-2806. My residence is (703)683-4175, or I can be reached through Signal, of course.

I hope that you are successful in presenting this proposal, Joe. As the President demonstrated so well in his New York appearances last fall, he can win and hold the support of rank and file laborers -- particularly among the building trades -- through involvement in events such as this.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

SECRETARY OF LABOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C

August 14, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RAYMOND J. DONOVAN

SUBJECT: Labor Day Event

I have been asked to give careful consideration to a possible appearance for you on Labor Day in the Northeast. After discussions with friendly major union leaders and building trades people, I am strongly urging that you participate in an event in New York City as outlined below:

The President announces in New York, at the site of the proposed Westway Project, that, true to his pre-election promise in New York to have the Federal government "do all it can" to ensure the completion of Westway, the United States joins with the State of New York and the City in announcing the three governments' approval of the project. In addition, the President, with Governor Carey and Mayor Koch at his side, presents a facsimile check to New York from the Federal government of \$70 million in reimbursement for condemned land which will be used to build the Westway. (This money has already been approved by the U. S. Department of Transportation). Building Trades union leaders have assured me that several thousand "hard hat" types will be turned out, and will give the President an overwhelmingly friendly reception.

The reasons for this proposal are as follows:

1. The President promised before the election that, if elected, he would make sure that the Federal government did not impede--in fact, would do all it could to assist--the building of Westway. Now, 8 months into office, he is announcing the approval of the project by three governments--Federal, State and city.
2. Later that day in New York, Lane Kirkland is organizing an anti-Administration march, in which he will try to paint the Administration as uncaring and anti-labor. Westway will mean approximately 130,000 jobs for eight to ten years. This should effectively counter Kirkland's charges in the media.

The President's theme could be along the lines of (a) Administration faith in New York City in its attempt to mend its ways, (b) Koch is a great mayor who is attempting to bring the city to fiscal sanity and rebuild a great city; (c) Westway will encompass the building of parkland and industrial development areas along with the highway, and will revitalize the area.

The President could helicopter into New York to the Port Authority helipad, thereby cutting down the time needed in the City for the event. It is possible for the President to be in the City for as short a period as 45 minutes. Governor Carey and Mayor Koch should be invited to travel with, or at least attend with, the President.

I strongly urge you to consider this event as a means of demonstrating your faith in the ability of cities to rebuild; your support for the building trades and the creation of new jobs; and as a way of countering the Kirkland march which is sure to get heavy media play.



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1 MEMO

1 8/26/1981 B7(E)

FROM STEPHEN STUDDERT RE SEPT. 7 TRIP TO  
NEW YORK (PARTIAL)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 26, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MILITARY OFFICE  
USSS OPS  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

FROM: STEPHEN M. STUDDERT

RE: SEPTEMBER 7, 1981 TRIP TO NEW YORK

Rooms for the advance team have been blocked at The Waldorf Astoria in New York City for Aug. 29 to Sept. 8 as follows:

WHCA: 6 rooms



*b(7)(e)*

STAFF, AF1, etc: 10 singles, with necessary  
connecting offices. f

✓ cc: Joseph W. Canzeri  
WHCA OPS

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR DICK DARMAN

FROM: MAMIE McDONOUGH *M*

SUBJECT: LABOR DAY MESSAGE

Joe asked me to solicit your opinion on the attached note from Tricia Rodgers.

Thanks very much.

*no - were going  
to New York  
it's going to be  
a radio message  
& press release.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 18

TO: JOE CANZERI

FROM: TRICIA RODGERS

Tricia phoned this morning and said Elizabeth Dole and Allen Locke are questioning the value of bringing in 150 labor people to watch the President sign or give a Labor Day message.

(It was originally going to be a proclamation until Darman pointed out there had never been a Presidential Labor Day proclamation, so it was changed to a message.)

Dole wants to know whether to proceed with bringing in the large group.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

22 JULY 1981

TO: MICHAEL K. DEEVER  
FROM: GREGORY ~~U~~ NEWELL  
SUBJ: MEETING ON LABOR DAY.

The following recommendations were discussed:

- 1) Visit to Steubenville, Ohio, re. \$3 billion revitalization program.
- 2) Visit with Flint, Michigan unemployed met with during general election campaign.
- 3) Labor Day backyard picnic with union group such as the Truckers. Pennsylvania or West Virginia.
- 4) Meeting with non-rank labor members of outstanding merit.
- 5) Audio-visual taped message.
- 6) Radio speech.
- 7) Labor Day proclamation signed from a union hall in advance of Labor Day.
- 8) Washington Mall picnic.

cc: ✓ Joseph W. Canzeri  
Richard Darman  
Elizabeth Dole  
Craig Fuller  
Lyn Nofziger

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 9/14/81

TO: Joe Canzeri

FROM: Bob Bonitati

For your info  \_\_\_\_\_

Per our conversation \_\_\_\_\_

Other:

INSIDE LABOR

RELEASE ON RECEIPT/DISPACHED 9/10/81

BY VICTOR RIESEL

To Prove 'Real Clout' -- Unions

Going for Broke on Solidarity Day

WASHINGTON -- It's official. The national AFL-CIO will invite Ronald Reagan to take the podium at its New York November centennial convention. It's unofficial, but the president is also welcome to take to the streets with the organized proletariat on Solidarity Day, Sept. 19. He can march with the Screen Actors Guild, which decided against ousting him after all.

Say what you will about the labor movement -- and who hasn't -- it is far more imaginatively survival-conscious than the pundits think. It has, for example, rented the entire Metro subway system for the day "at about \$65,000." Between 8 a.m. and midnight that Saturday, all rides are free.

This is to accommodate the angry working class which is urged to park in the big satellite lots and take the subway into town to the Mall where speakers will ideologically maul the administration a bit down the holler.

Labor chiefs, irritated by reports that their combined membership loss of over 500,000 dues-payers in 1978 and 1979 reflects a loss of political clout, are determined to show they haven't organizational gout. Several members of the high command still believe they can mass almost half a million in the capital that day. They're certainly prepared for endless auto, bus, truck and van caravans. Intricate ground and aerial routes through Canada have been devised for West Coast delegates, because of airline boycotts.

From as far as Minnesota long lines of vehicles will start almost two days in advance, deliver their demonstrators and then pick them up 6 o'clock that evening for an immediate return trip. One of Reagan's advisers says privately the Oval Office expects at least a quarter of a million unionists to parade.

If the crowd turns out it will be handled like an army. Command posts with top labor men atop "cherry pickers" (cranes) will be stationed at regular points to direct what could be the most massive labor demonstration ever, anywhere. Labor president Kirkland is determined to prove to the other president, who may be on the White House balcony, that there is a movement. Kirkland isn't playing the numbers game -- but he is going for broke.

He's counting on support by his giant affiliates. They, too, need "face." In aggregate they've lost 552,000 members in two years according to the latest Labor Department figures. Also, many unions are losing money. The big United Steelworkers, for example, went down \$9 million during the six months ending Dec. 31, 1980.

But the Pittsburgh-based USW still has assets of \$174 million and "a combined fund balance of \$163 million." The United Auto Workers lost 142,000 members -- but still has almost \$350 million in its strike fund.

Grumpy labor chiefs point out that the total loss includes 31,000 musicians, 65,000 paper workers and other unionists affected by regional recessions, automation and imports. The labor men acknowledge that Bill "Winpi" Winpisinger's militant Machinists did lose 176,000 members. But, they add, all this hasn't meant the loss of clout.

They know that nothing fails like failure. And the impression that they are on the way out or can't deliver to their own people or prevent the layoffs or fight imports would dampen the many unionization drives now being planned by most of them, from Teamsters to toy-makers.

The labor people quickly refer to what has happened in Britain where their counterparts in the Trades Union Congress (TUC) lost 572,000 members last year in a far smaller work force. And the TUC expects to lose another half million dues-payers. The Americans say it's the trend of the times.

The Steelworkers are counting heavily on their campaign to unionize Du Pont. The ladies, garment workers led by Chick Chaikin and the men's apparel and textile union's co-chiefs, Murray Finley and Jack Sheinkman, have been eager to hit the Sun Belt. A "Southern drive" has been labor's legendary goal since Franklin Roosevelt momentarily considered the coal miners' John L. Lewis as a vice presidential running mate.

Thus Solidarity Day will be more symbolic for labor than the public perceives. Why? Labor's strategists lost a presidential election. Now they must prove that they haven't also lost the affection of their own people. Labor's high command knows that its "followship" knew that the topsiders had very little respect for Jimmy Carter. Some of what Kirkland said about the ex-president in 1976 and '77 is unprintable.

How then, in 1980, could the rank and file take seriously the whirlwind of pro-Carter literature whipped up by Al Barkan, director of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE)? It didn't matter that a hundred million pieces were printed. Or that millions of phone calls were made. Most of the membership took for granted that their chiefs were going through the motions.

But the extraordinarily organized campaign to draw hundreds of thousands of unionists into Washington is a personal appeal to the members. If they turn out, Kirkland and his colleagues will have passed the litmus test. If they don't, they will have proven to Ronald Reagan, the public and the unorganized that today's labor movement can't deliver -- even for itself.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 9/14/81

TO: Joe Canzeri

FROM: Bob Bonitati

For your info  \_\_\_\_\_

Per our conversation \_\_\_\_\_

Other:



INSIDE LABOR

RELEASE ON RECEIPT/DISPATCHED 9/8/81

BY VICTOR RIESEL

Labor Split Wide Over

War on President Reagan

NEW YORK -- High in the sky above parading, chanting thousands, Ronald Reagan had his own mini-labor rally in a Washington-bound Air Force One compartment on Labor Day.

After the president's political "upmanship," as Mayor Ed Koch called it, on Gracie Mansion's lawn, replete with white-collar dignitaries and sandhog and other hard-hat local union officials and the presentation of the \$85 million facsimile check, forerunner of about \$2 billion more for a superhighway, Reagan returned to his aircraft with those who had flown with him from the capital.

Among them were two significant men on what was a politically significant day. They were Robert Georgine, president of the 4.1-million-member AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, and Frank Hanley, the Operating Engineers International Union secretary-treasurer who for 10 years had been fighting the bureaucracy and environmentalists to have the Westway "constructed."

When they lifted off from LaGuardia Airport, they were in their assigned compartment with presidential labor liaison adviser Robert Bonitati, Secretary of Labor Ray Donovan and Mrs. Hanley. President Reagan, sans suit jacket, stepped in. The talk was of jobs, the vast project area below, and labor construction -- all studded with the president's two- and three-liners.

Nothing casual about all this. Bob Georgine and Frank Hanley are symbolic of the AFL-CIO establishment. They had accepted the president's invitation to fly with him to the Highway Trust Fund Check presentation in New York, which the media had billed and built as Reagan's own Labor Day "counter parade." There were about a thousand of us on the grass of the mayor's official mansion -- a goodly part of the crowd being the media.

And prominent up front on the platform among the hand-pumping politicians was another labor chief dissenting against the official AFL-CIO line cast by its president, Lane Kirkland. The dissenter was -- and is -- International Longshoremen's Association president Teddy Gleason. There wasn't a dockwalloper in the official labor march two miles south of Reagan's podium. Gleason is an influential force in the AFL-CIO maritime trades, which are for "giving Reagan a chance to prove his economics will work."

Obviously, the labor movement is split. They're playing a porcupine political ballgame. Most union chiefs want to needle the president. But they don't want a war to sting the hand the White House can open to make "Jobs. Jobs. Jobs."

Even Lane Kirkland won't call Reagan "anti-labor." There's nothing personal. It's mostly political. If it weren't for the PATCO issue and the air controllers striding in unison with clenched fists held high, in a burst of amateurish class consciousness circa 1930, chanting "Strike. Strike. Strike.," the Labor Day parade would have been noted mostly for its colorful balloons and Rockettes.

The ad hoc labor specialists misinterpreted the signals. It wasn't an anti-Reagan demonstration. The media made much of the fact that the sponsoring New York City Central Labor Council didn't invite Reagan to march. This misinterpretation disturbed Kirkland and the parade's sponsors. One of the latter's top command said "the media was looking for a confrontation while we wanted a parade on social issues to revive the traditional labor spirit."

This official source, who helped plan the parade added:

"In our tradition a U.S. president never has been invited. We never have gone higher than the governor, as we did with Nelson Rockefeller. When we had Hubert Humphrey in 1968 he was our presidential candidate. But the Central Labor Council in the five Labor Day parades of recent generations never even invited Jack Kennedy.

"We had (PATCO president) Bob Poli to show the strikers and their families. Poli is really saying please to the government. But this wasn't an anti-Reagan parade."

There are those inside labor who are charging Reagan with attempting to destroy unions. One of these critics is the liberal United Steelworkers' president Lloyd McBride. There are others. But there are also strong neutral and pro-Reagan blocs in the AFL-CIO high command.

There's an ideological fight, certainly. Reagan as a conservative Republican drew millions of white-collar as well as blue-collar union votes. He is reaching out for them with his "Jobs. Jobs. Jobs." motif.

Reagan will want his Republican administration to stay in power. Kirkland and his liberal coalition want it out. Reagan's thrust is wrapped in one sentence he told the Carpenters' Centennial convention last week when he warned the thousands of delegates "... organized labor shouldn't become the handmaiden of any one political party ...."

As the military men would say, that there is the long-term strategy. Conventional interim tactics are simple -- Reagan isn't going to bust unions, he's going to try to win over labor, union by union. Kirkland and his allies in the AFL-CIO high command realize that if Reagan's successful, it could devastate the Federation's political drive in 1984.

The hundred thousand Labor Day paraders with their dancers and floats were characteristic of what can usually be turned out by Chick Chaiken's ladies' garment workers, the municipal employees federation and the Central Council. But in Air Force One, floating high above was a labor gathering equally significant -- perhaps more.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 9/14/81

TO: Joe Canzeri

FROM: Bob Bonitati

For your info  \_\_\_\_\_

Per our conversation \_\_\_\_\_

Other:

*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

## Reagan's Labor Movement

NEW YORK—As big labor's high command was mobilizing members for next Saturday's anti-Reagan rally in Washington, what Mayor Edward Koch calls the president's "brilliant upmanship" in New York capitalized on the split in the labor movement.

Koch referred to President Reagan's Labor Day coup to which the Democratic mayor contributed significantly. While AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland led a Labor Day parade backing the unpopular air traffic controllers, Reagan was cheered by building trades union chiefs at the mayor's residence as he presented Koch with a ceremonial \$85 million check for the city's Westway project.

The presence of these labor leaders confirmed political division in the labor movement. Kirkland has declared war on Reagan, and New York City labor chief Harry Van Arsdale endorsed Koch's token liberal opponent for the Democratic mayoral nomination. But anti-Reagan, anti-Koch sentiment is concentrated among public employees; each has leadership and rank-and-file backing among blue-collar workers.

That this is not merely a local phenomenon was shown by the presence at Gracie Mansion of one of labor's brightest stars nationally: Robert Georgine, head of the building trades unions. "The labor movement won't like this," Georgine told a friend at the ceremony. Dissenting from Kirkland's warfare against Reagan, he has maintained relations with the White House on grounds that his first priority is jobs for his membership—building projects such as the Westway.

The Reagan-Koch upstaging of New York City's first Labor Day parade in 13 years began Aug. 27 with a telephone call from Secretary of Labor Ray Donovan to Koch. Would the mayor host a ceremonial presentation of the Westway check before some 1,000 guests? Koch immediately agreed, while suggesting Central Park might be more suitable for that many people.

But they were all crammed in, deflecting attention from the parade to which Reagan was not invited. "I think they made the dumbest error possible in insulting the president," Koch told us in his City Hall office four days later.

Democratic politicians not nearly so friendly to Reagan as Koch agree with the mayor's use of "brilliant" in describing the coup. "You can never again charge that Ronald Reagan has done nothing for New York," said one Democratic insider who called Kirkland's identification with the air controllers a political blunder.

The inevitable pickets at Gracie Mansion included environmentalists protesting the Westway, explaining why the project was yet to be approved when Reagan became president. "[Jimmy] Carter could have won over Koch and the building trades," a New York Democratic politician told us, "if he had been willing to stand the heat from a few hundred pickets. He wouldn't."

But Reagan's coup would have been impossible had it not been for Koch's quick agreement to the request from Donovan, currently getting a cold shoulder from the AFL-CIO high command. The mayor's cooperation was the admin-

istration's harvest reaped after planting seeds of more help than Koch ever received from fellow Democrat Carter. One such seed was planted by Interior Secretary James Watt when he came here this summer to consider Koch's longtime request, ignored by Carter, to recover methane gas generated as a by-product of the city sanitation dump. Koch was ready to give Watt a helicopter ride to inspect the dump, but Watt told him it was not necessary: the White House had instructed him to give Ed Koch anything he wanted.

So, on Labor Day, Koch praised union chiefs from "Samuel Gompers, George Meany to the leaders gathered here today," without mentioning Lane Kirkland. He then introduced Reagan as "a man who has had the courage to bring our country a fresh approach to government." As an advocate of enforcing New York's seldom-enforced Taylor Law against public employee strikes, he applauds Reagan for firing the striking air controllers.

But Reagan's infiltration of Democrats, organized labor and even the New York mayor's office is menaced by the economy. Like his fellow New Yorkers who work in Wall Street, Koch eyes the high interest rates and sees them ruining Reagan's plan. Reagan's revolution is menaced not by the labor leaders who marched in New York Labor Day and will march in Washington Saturday but by that unexpected economic poison that transcends any number of political coups engineered by the White House.