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Last Updated: 05/01/2024

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1986

MEDAL OF FREEDOM LUNCHEON

DATE:

Monday, May 12, 1986

LOCATION: East Room TIME:

12:00 noon

FROM:

Frederick J. Ryan, Jr. 747

I. PURPOSE

A luncheon to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to seven outstanding Americans.

II. BACKGROUND

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor given in the United States, is awarded to persons who have made especially meritorious contributions to (1) the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. The award was established in 1963, replacing the Medal of Freedom initiated by President Truman in 1945 to reward meritorious, war-connected acts or services.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Honorable Walter Annenberg, former Ambassador to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for his contributions in the fields of education, public service, philanthropy and especially as the pioneer in the use of television for educational purposes;

Colonel Earl H. Blaik, former head football coach at Dartmouth and the U.S. Military Academy, for his contributions in the field of education and public service:

Honorable Barry Goldwater, U.S. Senator, for his contributions in the field of public service and national interests of the United States; Helen Hayes MacArthur, actress, for her contributions in the field of the arts and entertainment and other significant public endeavors; General Matthew Ridgway, distinguished military hero, for his contributions to the security and national interests of the United States; Mr. Vermont Royster, journalist, for his contributions in the field of journalism and communications:

Dr. Albert Sabin, physician and scientist, for his contributions in the field of science and medicine.

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographers Open Press Coverage

٧. **ATTACHMENTS**

See Attached Scenario

Table 8

THE PRESIDENT
Mrs. Helen Hayes MacArthur
Colonel Earl H. "Red" Blaik
Dr. Albert B. Sabin
Senator Barry Goldwater
MRS. REAGAN
Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg
Mr. Vermont Royster
General Matthew B. Ridgway

Table 1

The Secretary of Education (Host)
General William Quinn (Goldwater)
Colonel Vince Ford (Blaik)
Mr. Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Mrs. William Quinn (Goldwater)
General Bennie L. Davis (Blaik)
Mr. William L. Ball III
Mrs. Robert M. Blaik (Blaik)

Table 2

The Secretary of Defense (Host)
Mrs. Vermont Royster
Dr. Leon Eidels (Royster)
Miss Shelley Hutton (Royster)
Mr. Jack L. Courtemanche
Ms. Frances Royster
'Mr. Frederick J. Ryan, Jr.
Mrs. Leon Eidels (Royster)

Table 3

The Secretary of State (Host)
Mr. Barry M. Goldwater, Jr.
Mrs. Robert Clay (Goldwater)
Mr. Robert Goldwater
Mr. Donald T. Regan
Mrs. Carolyn Erskine (Goldwater)

Mr. Michael Goldwater
 Miss Joanne Goldwater

Table 4

The Secretary of HUD (Host)
Mrs. Harry Walters (Blaik)
Mr. Thomas C. Dawson
Mr. Harry Walters (Blaik)
Mrs. Robert Chanock (Sabin)
Mr. David L. Chew
Dr. Robert Chanock (Sabin)
Miss Carol Krugman (Sabin)

Table 5

The Secretary of HHS (Host)
Mrs. Sylvia Krugman (Sabin)
Captain J. S. Claypoole (Royster)
Mr. Alfred H. Kingon
Miss Sylvia Sidney (Sabin)
Mr. Robert L. Bartley (Royster)
Ambassador Vernon A. Walters
Mrs. J. S. Claypoole (Royster)

Table 6

The Vice President (Host)
Mrs. Leonore Annenberg
Mrs. Enid Haupt (Annenberg)
Dr. George Gerbner (Annenberg)
Mrs. Melville W. Hall (Annenberg)
Mrs. James S. Hooker (Annenberg)
Mr. William J. Heinrich, Jr. (Annenberg)
Mrs. Joseph Hazen (Annenberg)
Ms. Wallis Annenberg

Table 7

The Secretary of the Treasury (Host)
Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgway
Mr. W. Dennis Thomas
Mrs. Amy Horn (Sabin)
Mr. Howard Bradbury (Ridgway)
Ms. Deborah Sabin (Sabin)
Ambassador Clayton K. Yeutter
Mrs. Howard Bradbury (Ridgway)
Mrs. Albert B. Sabin

Table 9

Mr. William M. Blaik
Mrs. Catherine Blaik
Mr. Will Blaik
Mr. James C. Miller III
Mrs. William M. Blaik
Mr. William J. Casey
Mr. Robert M. Blaik

Mrs. Bush (Hostess)

Table 10

The Secretary of Agriculture (Host)
Miss Vera Benlian (Hayes)
Admiral John M. Poindexter
Mrs. H. B. Duntz (Hayes)
Mr. Robert Clay (Goldwater)
Ms. Alexandra Warfield
Mr. Christopher Hicks
Mrs. Michael Goldwater

Table 11

The Secretary of Communice (Host)
Miss Mary MacArthur (Hayes)
Mr. Ted Graber
Mrs. Elizabeth Killay (Hayes)
Mr. Charles MacArthur (Hayes)
Mrs. Donald T. Regan (Hayes)
Mrs. James MacArthur (Hayes)
Miss Katherine Anthone (Hayes)

EHB

June 26

Mr. Frederick J Ryan 47. Diroctor - Presidential approntments of pakeduling: have heard and read to much atomit the others who were awards the Presidential medal of fredom we are rather commen place. But I am indebited to ym In your finhearance. The photographs of the l'evident and me superiorly the one remain the expression of total esteen our family has for our Marie dut and First Lady. My Charles to you, San Rad BlaiteEARL H. BLAIK
2735 SPRINGMEDE
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80906

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	Document No.	
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: _4,	/24/86	ACTION/CONCURRE	NCE/COMMENT DUE BY:	Mon., 4/28/86
SUBJECT:	MEDAL OF	FREEDOM CITATIONS	(revised)	

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations on the attached citation language directly to Ben Elliott's office by Monday, April 28, with an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:



Reselvation of 6 103 APR 22 FM 2:58

MEDAL OF FREEDOM CITATION BARRY MORRIS GOLDWATER

Barry Morris Goldwater has stood at the center of American history. Respected by both ally and adversary, Barry Goldwater's celebrated candor and patriotism have made him an American legend. Hailed as a prophet before his time -- selfless in the service of his nation, Barry Goldwater has earned the unbounded affection and admiration of his countrymen and the enduring gratitude of every future generation of Americans.

Kim:

Linda F. called to let Fred know that Mrs. Reagan approved the June 2 luncheon for the VolunteerAction Awards.

Fred is looking for this response ie please let him know the first available opportunity.

SW

mna AFR 22 | 11 2 17

MEDAL OF FREEDOM CITATION

WALTER HUBERT ANNENBERG

Following a brilliant career in publishing, Walter Hubert
Annenberg was in 1969 appointed Ambassador to the Court of St.

James, where he served with extraordinary diligence, bringing the governments and people of the United States and United Kingdom closer together. Since returning to private life, Annenberg has devoted himself to the philanthropy for which he has always been renowned, providing support to countless institutions. Today our Nation repays his lifetime of achievement with its gratitude.

(Gilder/Be) April 22, 1986 11:00 a.m.

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MEDAL OF FREEDOM CITATION

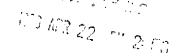
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EARL HENRY BLAIK

A soldier of the gridiron, Colonel Henry ("Red") Blaik led the West Point team he coached into the pages of the history books. He rallied the "Black Knights" from a record of devastating defeats and carried them on to some of their greatest victories, winning the esteem of his cadet players and the admiration of his vanquished rivals. One of America's great coaches, he brought a winning spirit to his team, honor to his branch of the service, and pride to his Nation.

(Gilder/BE) April 22, 1986 11:00 a.m.

MEDAL OF FREEDOM CITATION



VERMONT ROYSTER

For over half a century the writings of Vermont Royster have illuminated with keen moral insight the political and economic life of our times. With humor and common sense he has exploded the pretentions of "expert opinion" and with compelling eloquence he has warned us of the evils of a society loosed from its moorings in faith. The voice of the American people can be heard in his prose -- honest, open, proud, and free.

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GENERAL MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY

When a soldier rising sword in hand reaches to protect an idea -- freedom, liberty, human kindness -- the world is, for a moment, hushed. Greatness is often born in quiet, in stillness: so it was that night in June of 1944 when General Matthew B. Ridgway prayed the words God spoke to Joshua: I will not fail thee nor forget thee. D-Day saved a continent, and so, a world; Ridgway helped save D-Day. Heroes come when they are needed; great men step forward when courage seems in short supply. World War II was both: and there was Ridgway.

(Noonan/BE)
April 24, 1986
5:30 p.m.

173 MR 24 MEDALGOF FREEDOM CITATION

1 . 1 . 1 . 1 .

HELEN HAYES

Many are admired but few are beloved, and fewer still are both. But Helen Hayes is, and has been for almost all the years of this century. Peerless actress, peerless star, she has excelled in stage, screen, and television playing everything from virtuous young ingenues to Victorian Queens. Helen Hayes is that rare thing -- a true original. She is also, demonstrably, a great actress, a great patriot, and a great soul.

(Robinson/BE)
April 22, 1986
11:30 a.m.

MEDAL OF FREEDOM CITATION ALBERT BRUCE SABIN APR 22 2 2 2 2

When as a boy Albert Bruce Sabin came to the United States from Russia, no one could have known that he would number among the most prominent immigrants of our century. From an early age Sabin devoted his life to medicine, and by the late 1950's, his research had resulted in a breakthrough. In the years since, the Sabin vaccine has helped virtually to eliminate the scourge of poliomyletis. I award this medal to Dr. Sabin on behalf of a proud Nation and a grateful world.

Document No.		

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	5/7/86	ACTION/CONCURR	ENCE/CO	MMENT DUE BY: 10:0	0 a.m. 5/8/86
SUBJECT:	PRESIDENTIAL	REMARKS: ME	DAL OI	F FREEDOM LUNCHE	ON
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REMARKS: Please provide any comments directly to Ben Elliott by 10:00 a.m. Thursday, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

5/7/86

Row Lord Co

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEDAL OF FREEDOM LUNCHEON MONDAY, MAY 12, 1986

1303 1117 -7 61 1:23

Thank you all. It's very good to have you all to the White House for this happy occasion. On days like this at lunches like this I sometimes find myself looking up and thinking: what a wonderful job I have.

We are here today to present the Medal of Freedom to seven Americans. This medal is the highest civilian honor our Nation can bestow, and I have always thought it highly significant that we call it not the medal of talent, or the medal of valor, or the medal of courage or genius, but the medal of <u>freedom</u>. I think that says a lot about our values, and what we honor, and what we love.

Freedom is important to all of us. As someone who's spent many years making speeches I have quoted many definitions of freedom, some very moving and eloquent. But I've always liked George Orwell's blunt and unadorned statement. He said freedom is the right to say "no."

There's something kind of happily rebellious about that definition. And I thought of it this morning because I decided this year's recipients of the Medal of Freedom are distinguished by this: you're a group of happy rebels.

In your careers and in the way you've lived your lives, you've all said "no" -- a most emphatic "no" -- to mediocrity, to averageness, to timidity. You've said "no" to the rules of the game and the regulations of the day, you've said "no" to the

conventional wisdom, "no" to the merely adequate, "no" to the limits and limitations of yourselves and others.

But it's probably true that there's little point to freedom unless it's accompanied by a big "Yes." And each of you has uttered a resounding, Whitmanesque "yes" to many things — to excellence and risk and reach, to courage and the untried and the supposedly impossible. You've rebelled against the artificial and embraced the authentic. You have achieved a great deal, and your creativity itself has been life affirming, for creation is a profoundly faithful act, an act that says I trust in the future, I trust in life itself.

You're all originals, you've all made America a better place and you've made it seem a better place in the eyes of the people of the world. And this, today, is just our way of saying: thanks.

Without further ado I'm going to read the citations on the medals now and award them to the recipients.

Vermont Connecticut Royster:

"For over half a century, as a journalist, author, and teacher, Vermont Royster illuminated the political and economic life of our times. His common sense exploded the pretentions of "expert opinion," and his compelling eloquence warned of the evils of a society loosed from its moorings in faith. The voice of the American people can be heard in his prose -- honest, open, proud, and free."

Vermont, congratulations to you...and the rest of New England.

Earl Henry Blaik:

"A soldier of the gridiron, Colonel Earl "Red" Blaik led the West Point team he coached into the pages of the history books. He rallied the Black Knights from a record of devastating defeats and carried them on to some of their greatest victories, winning the esteem of his cadet players and the admiration of his vanquished rivals. One of America's great coaches, he brought a winning spirit to his team, honor to his branch of service, and pride to his Nation."

Red, here you go and well deserved.

Walter Hubert Annenberg:

"Following a brilliant career in publishing, Walter Hubert
Annenberg was in 1969 appointed Ambassador to the Court of
St. James, where he served with extraordinary diligence, bringing
the governments and people of the United States and United
Kingdom closer together. Since returning to private life, Walter
Annenberg has devoted himself to the philanthropy for which he
has always been renowned, providing support to countless
institutions both in the United States and abroad. Today our
Nation repays his lifetime of achievement with its gratitude."

Walter my friend, front and center. Congratulations.

Helen Hayes -- I can't resist pointing out that Helen was married to a happy rebel named Charley McArthur. A wonderful playwright and a man of natural style. Helen, today I was remembering your story. When she first set eyes on Charley it was at a party, and he was eating from a bag of peanuts. He looked at her and asked if she'd like some peanuts, and as he

poured them into her hand he said, "I wish they were emeralds."

Years later as a famous and celebrated playwright he bought Helen what she'd asked for as an anniversary gift: a handful of jewels. And as he poured the emeralds into her hand you know what he said. "I wish they were peanuts!"

Helen Hayes:

"Many are admired but few are beloved and fewer still are both. But Helen Hayes is and has been for almost all the years of this century. Peerless actress, peerless star, she has excelled on stage, screen and television playing everything from virtuous young ingenues to Victorian Queens. Helen Hayes is that rare thing -- a true original. She is also, demonstrably, a great actress, a great patriot and a great soul."

Helen, congratulations.

General Matthew B. Ridgway:

"When a soldier rising sword in hand reaches to protect an idea -- freedom, liberty, human kindness -- the world is, for a moment, hushed. Greatness is often born in quiet, in stillness: so it was that night in June of 1944 when General Matthew B. Ridgway prayed the words God spoke to Joshua: I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. D-Day saved a continent, and so, a world; Ridgway helped save D-Day. Heroes come when they are needed; great men step forward when courage seems in short supply. World War II was such a time: and there was Ridgway."

General, thank you and God bless you.

Barry Morris Goldwater:

"Soldier and statesman, Barry Morris Goldwater has stood at the center of American history. Respected by both ally and adversary, Barry Goldwater's celebrated candor and patriotism have made him an American legend. Hailed as a prophet before his time -- selfless in the service of his Nation, Barry Goldwater has earned the unbounded affection and admiration of his countrymen and the enduring gratitude of all future generations of Americans."

Here you go, Mister Conservative.

And Albert Bruce Sabin:

"When as a boy Albert Bruce Sabin came to the United States from Russia, no one could have known that he would number among the most prominent immigrants of our century. From an early age Sabin devoted his life to medicine, and by the 1950's his research had resulted in a breakthrough. In the years since, the Sabin vaccine has helped to make dramatic advances against the scourge of poliomyelitis. This medal is awarded to Dr. Sabin on behalf of a proud Nation and a grateful world."

Doctor, thank you for everything.

There's nothing to add to achievements such as these, no praise that can add any more luster to these great names. May I say to you simply: thank you just for being, for doing what you've done -- and do.

Thank you all, and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1986

MEDAL OF FREEDOM LUNCHEON

DATE:

Monday, May 12, 1986

LOCATION: East Room TIME:

12:00 noon

FROM: Frederick J. Ryan, Jr. 747

I. PURPOSE

A luncheon to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to seven outstanding Americans.

II. BACKGROUND

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor given in the United States, is awarded to persons who have made especially meritorious contributions to (1) the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private The award was established in 1963, replacing the Medal of endeavors. Freedom initiated by President Truman in 1945 to reward meritorious, war-connected acts or services.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Honorable Walter Annenberg, former Ambassador to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for his contributions in the fields of education, public service, philanthropy and especially as the pioneer in the use of television for educational purposes;

Colonel Earl H. Blakk, former head football coach at Dartmouth and the U.S. Military Academy, for his contributions in the field of education and public service:

Honorable Barry Goldwater, U.S. Senator, for his contributions in the field of public service and national interests of the United States; Helen Hayes MacArthur, actress, for her contributions in the field of the arts and entertainment and other significant public endeavors; General Matthew Ridgway, distinguished military hero, for his contributions to the security and national interests of the United States; Mr. Vermont Royster, journalist, for his contributions in the field of journalism and communications;

Dr. Albert Sabin, physician and scientist, for his contributions in the field of science and medicine.

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographers Open Press Coverage

V. ATTACHMENTS

See Attached Scenario

METRO STARTS ON PAGE 5B

CAPHAINE

BETTY On Monday

hose Russians who came over on the Aeroflot flight were a cliquish lot and so different from us. At Clyde's chic bar and restaurant, they quickly sat together at tables in the garden room and made no effort to get to know the Americans who were with them. That seems strange to those of us who believe the key to any foreign country is its people.

The group of Intourist, civil, aviation and transportation officials are spending seven days in America as a result of renewed Aeroflot service to the United States.

The Izvestia man in the group, who landed at a table with only Americans, talked a little. When asked when the war in Afghanistan would end, he replied - believe it or not - "When the Pakistani invaders leave."

The group followed strict protocol. Their leader, Michail Timofeev, deputy minister of civil aviation, always had a separate table from the rest, with the second-in-command and an interpreter beside him. On their first night here at the Park Terrace Hotel, when Mr. Timofeev got up from his dinner table to retire without eating dessert, all the rest immediately followed, leaving their desserts behind.

One thing is certain. Those who watch TV news learned more about the nuclear catastrophe at Chernobyl than the people in Russia, but they acted as though it was none of their business.

ohn Jacob Astor VIII, who was reared in Hever Castle where Henry VIII courted Anne Boleyn, gave a luncheon talk at Montpelier, Va., last Sunday. He intrigued his listeners with the story of the colorful, super-rich Astor family. The slim, young, good-looking Lord Astor of Hever was the drawing card for a beautifully arranged, seated luncheon on the lawn of James and Dolley Madison's elegant yellow mansion.

The fund-raiser was for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which has owned the house since 1982. Though its renovation will take years, it will be in the bicentennial celebration of the U.S. Constitution next year because of Madison's role in forming the Constitution. Incidentally, the house contains 11 bathrooms, three of them in a row.

- Mr. Astor held his audience from the moment he said, "I am the sixth-generation descendant of John Jacob Astor, an impoverished German butcher's boy born in 1764." He made a fortune in America and bought so much land in in Manhattan, his descendants could walk down Fifth Avenue exclaiming, "It's mine, all mine!"

Lord Astor was stopping with the Charles Seilheimers of Warrenton, Va., who were there, along with the Clement Congers, Billy Abel-Smith, and about 130 others.

t the cocktail party hosted

by Helen Hayes in the Octagon House, towering Ed Herrmann, who must be 6-feet-6 and played young Franklin Roosevelt in "Eleanor and Franklin," insisted on having one picture taken with TV's Roger Mudd. "He's my hero," he said. . . . A cameraman sought out superchic chanteuse Karen Akers, because, at 6 feet or so, she was the only lovely tall enough to pose with

Mr. Herrmann. Mingling were Vincent Price and his chic wife, Carol Browne; Eli Wallach and wife Anne Jackson; Eva Marie Saint and her husband of 35 years, Jeffrey Hayden; Robert Prosky of "Hill Street Blues," etc. Before all went on to the National Theatre for the Helen Hayes Awards, Lady Marjory Wright, actress-wife of the British ambassador, told the assemblage, "Washington is going to be the nation's capital of culture." So eat your heart out, New York.

On stage, Vincent Price said when he played Prince Albert with Helen Hayes in "Victoria Regina," his moustache wasn't big enough, so a false one was added. When he kissed his queen, alas, a piece of the false one stuck to Helen's upper

t Lady Marjory's tea at the British Embassy, Baroness Ewart-Biggs spoke about her book, "Pay, Pack and Follow," about her diplomatic life with her husband. Now a widow, she was made a life peer along with others when former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan decided to put some life in the sleepy House of Lords. "It's a friendly place," said the attractive baroness. "We don't hate each other so much as they do in the House of Commons." Whereas U.S. Foreign Service wives think some remuneration is due them for all the work they must do on post, the Dip-Iomatic Service Wives Association in Britain decided, she said, against payment. - Betty Beale





Walter H. Annenberg (left), Vermont Royster.





Nation's highest civilian award to be presented at White House





Left: Col. Earl H. "Red" Blaik, former head football coach at Dartmouth and the United States Military Academy, in 1955. Above: Dr. Albert B. Sabin, developer of the oral polio vaccine.

By Jim Watson and Diana West

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

or these seven Americans, accolades are commonplace. Over careers showered with honors, this group has amassed countless awards, from the Pulitzer Prize to the Academy Award, from the National Medal of Science to induction into the Football Hall of Fame. Today, they add another award to their trophy troves, the Presidential Medal of

Top: Retired Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, one-time Army chief of

staff. Above: Helen Hayes, "First Lady of the American Stage."

Freedom. Unlike their other honors, this one comes from outside their individual professional circles, from the president himself. For that reason the award takes on national and even historic dimensions.

"To me it has a special significance because it represents who the president of the United States thinks has made outstanding contribu-

tions," said Dr. Albert B. Sabin, the man who developed the oral polio vaccine, and one of this year's recipients.

Considered the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom was established in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy to recognize meritorious contributions to world peace or "cultural or other significant public endeavors." Mr. Kennedy selected the first recipients but was assassinated before he could make the presentations.

In effect, Mr. Kennedy was extending the scope of an award instituted in 1945 by President Harry S. Truman, intended to recognize "a meritorious act of service which has aided the United States in the prosecution of a war against an enemy."

Joining Dr. Sabin for today's awards luncheon at the White House will be the other six medalists selected by President Ronald Reagan:

Retired Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, one-time Army chief of staff; Walter H. Annenberg, educator, publisher and former ambassador to Great Britain; Col. Earl H. "Red" Blaik, former head football coach at Dartmouth and the United States Military Academy; Sen. Barry Goldwater, Arizona Republican; actress Helen Hayes; and Vermont Royster, former editor of the Wall Street Journal and two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

WALTER H. ANNENBERG

Editor, publisher, philanthropist, diplomat and pioneer in educational television, Mr. Annenberg's curriculum vitae reads like the collected accomplishments of several successful

see MEDAL, page 2B

POINT MAN / Richard Grenier

The great Podhoretz-Vidal war

orman Podhoretz and his wife, Midge Decter, have written things displeasing to America's homosexual community in its organized form. Gore Vidal, although he deplores the word "gay" and says he far prefers "faggot," has retaliated by attacking Mr. Podhoretz as an "Israeli Fifth Columnist." For his attack, which has been called "ugly," Mr. Vidal has in turn been labeled an "anti-Semite." Why all the venom? What has been going on here?

Curiously enough, I have known Gore Vidal longer than I have known Norman Podhoretz. For those interested in historical footnotes, I gave the dinner party not cocktail party, as reported in The Washington Post — at which the two last met in the Bel Air district of Los Angeles. It will surprise no one that I do not consider Mr. Podhoretz an Israeli fifth columnist and consider the charge to be kind - phantasmagorical. I will astonish the world, however, by declaring that I do not consider Gore Vidal an anti-Semite. How he worked himself into the position he's in without himself being anti-Semitic is what makes the whole thing so interesting.

I once wrote a magazine article about Gore Vidal, which he told many people was the best piece ever written about him, although it included statements on my part and on his that he had a special attitude toward Jews, considering

see POINT, page 3B



Norman Podhoretz



Gore Vidal

Haifa's theater of issues

By Hap Erstein THE WASHINGTON TIMES

n the same way that Washington has been under the cultural shadow of New York, so has the tiny Israeli city of Haifa taken a back seat to the arts center of Tel Aviv. But things are changing, due to the 25-year-old Haifa Municipal Theatre, which has grown in prominence as it has grown in controversy.

The Haifa company arrives here at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater tomorrow night, the newest entry in the American National Theater's Major International Companies Series, following an acclaimed two-week engagement at the Chicago International Theatre Festival. The group brings with it "Ghetto"

see HAIFA, page 4B



Photo by Kevin T. Gilbert/The Washington Times Director Gedalia Besser (left) and General Manager Noam Semel of the Haifa Municipal Theatre

New leaf for PEN/ Faulkners

By Colin Walters THE WASHINGTON TIMES

he PEN/Faulkner Awards for Fiction came of age and entered a new era Saturday evening at the Folger Shakespeare Library when the sixth annual award was made to Peter Taylor for his "The Old Forest and Other Stories."

In its early years, the awarding of the PEN/Faulkner fiction prize seemed to some observers eclectic, verging on eccentric. The works nominated tended to include a mixture of well-known writers and notso-familiar names, with the award often going to the least-known of the six. This was the case last year, when the award went to Tobias Wolff for a

see AWARDS, page 2B

AWARDS

From page 1B

book that had received virtually no

reviews. This year's award of the PEN/-Faulkner to Peter Taylor brooks no such criticism. An acknowledged master of the American short story. Mr. Taylor's literary roots reach back to the tutelage of Allen Tate and John Crowe Ransom, and his personal reminiscences include Robert Lowell and Jean Stafford's defending him against his relatives' complaints when he put them into his stories and then the two other writers' complaining when they discerned characters much like themselves in other Taylor tales.

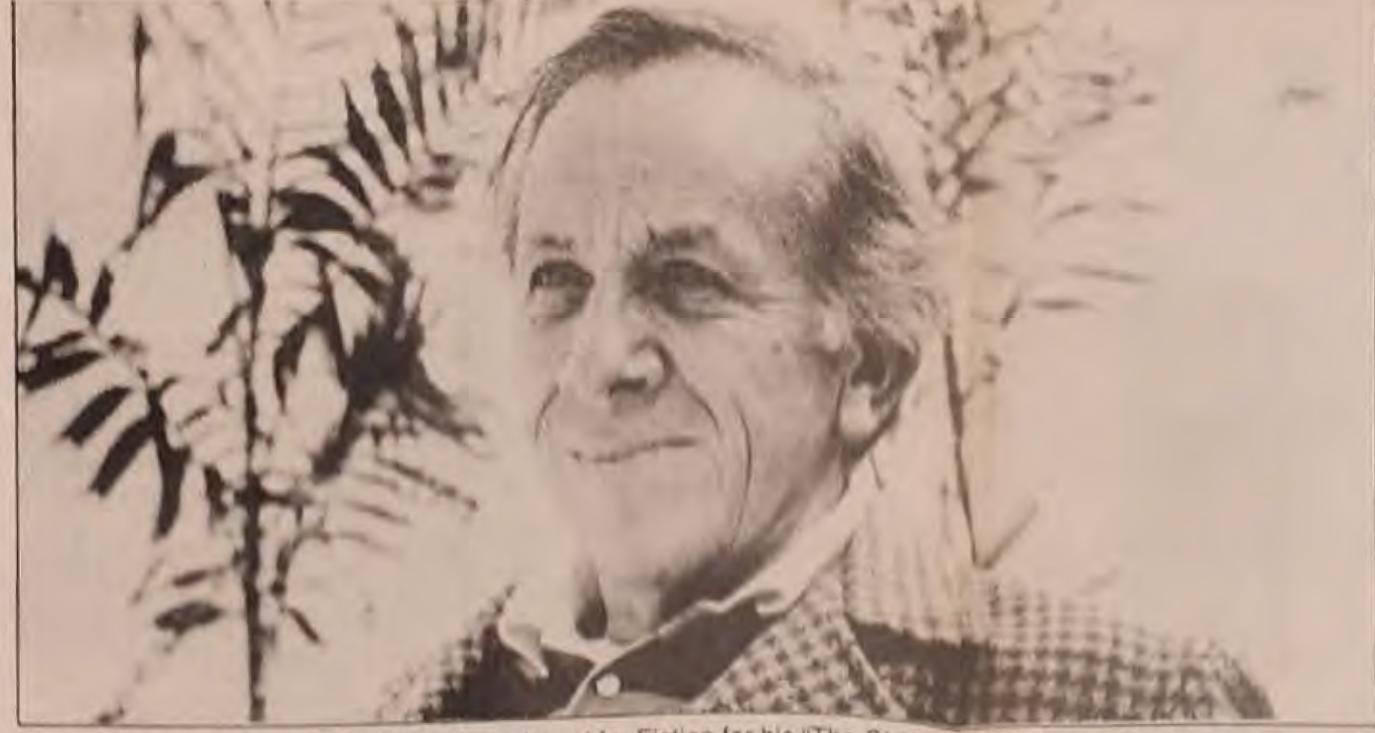
Mr. Taylor, born in Trenton, Tenn. in 1919, recalled some of those memories Saturday for the Folger's large audience - tickets were \$35 apiece. He also read briefly from one of the stories that he is writing at present — stories, appropriately enough for a PEN Faulkner winner. about relationships he has had with other writers.

It is striking, in light of the PEN-Faulkners' new Washington home on Capitol Hill, that the awards remain a writer's property, judged by writers and, until recently, financed by the winners' literary peers.

Mary Lee Settle mothered the PEN Faulkners into infancy on the campus of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, before bringing to them to the Folger. The original idea was to create a prize to replace the defunct National Book Awards and to offer an alternative to the new American Book Awards, which were thought to be too much a creature of the publishing indus-

Miss Settle has now severed formal ties with the birth of the PEN/-Faulkner Foundation, for fear, she says, that the awards would come to be known as "Mary Lee's" award. She was present at the Folger Saturday, seeming as excited about the awards as usual.

This year's three judges - writers Alice Adams, Richard Bausch and Beverly Lowry - also were there Saturday, reading citations and otherwise introducing the winner and nominees. More than 230 works of fiction were considered



Peter Taylor won this year's PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction for his "The Old Forest and Other Stories."

this year. Each judge, Miss Lowry said, had read at least some portion of every book. Miss Lowry characterized this labor of love as something like a part-time job for four months. This year, for the first time, the judges received a modest honorarium (\$1,000 each) for their pains.

Among the five other nominees, who also received \$1,000 each, Larry McMurtry ("Lonesome Dove") and Hugh Nissenson ("The Tree of Life") could not be present. The three others came and obligingly performed. Helen Norris (nominated for "The Christmas Wife") read most movingly from her story "The Love Child." Grace Paley ("Later the Same Day") read "Mother," a short story as whimsical and feisty as the writer herself seems to be.

William Gaddis ("Carpenter's Gothic") demurred, but explained "why I don't give readings" with sufficient panache to make for an equally graceful, if different, entertain-

This was the first year that the awards have been under the aegis of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation. The ceremonies, in the Folger's main reading room and presided over by Hodding Carter III, also marked a major step forward for the city of Washington's aspirations to be not only the nation's political center but

also to provide a national home for American arts and letters,

The location at the Folger and the establishment of the foundation places the PEN/Faulkner Awards firmly at the center of capital life. Even Mr. Taylor, a writer's writer, all crooked smile and merry eyes moments after receiving his prize, told a reporter Saturday night, "I'm so old, I have a nephew who is a senator. And he's here [Sen. John C. Danforth, Republican from Missouril"

The recent appointment of Robert Penn Warren to be poet laureate - a post administered through the poetry office of the Library of Congress, next door to the Folger and steps from the U.S. Capitol - has triggered comment regarding the proper relations between America's writers and politicians. Messrs. Warren and Taylor, both Southerners, have responded to the issue of honors, publicly or privately bestowed, in about the same way. Mr. Taylor was reported as remarking. upon learning of his PEN/Faulkner Award, that "like Robert Penn Warren said when he became laureate, 'It can't hurt, I suppose."

Unlike the poet laureate's position, which is supported by federal tax dollars, the PEN/Faulkners are privately funded. The PEN/Faulkner Foundation, set up last year to assure permanent financial support for the awards, adds to the trusteeship of PEN American Center members representatives from the Washington community. The printed program for Saturday's ceremonies carried a list of more than 500 indi viduals who contributed to the PEN/-

Washingtonians - including Conrad Cafritz and Peggy Cooper Cafritz, chairman of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities - testifies to the wisdom of the arrangement, made three years ago, to have the annual PEN/Faulkner Awards twinned with, and to occur on the day following, the city's own Larry Neal Writers' Awards, also held at the Folger, As a result, the PEN-Faulkner, a distinguished, national literary prize, now has a strong foundation of support in the Washington

There was a buffet supper after ger's Great Hall. All in all, this year's PEN/Faulkner Awards were unprenational cultural institution now is firmly established in the capital; Peter Taylor, bless him, goes home \$5,000 richer; and American writers everywhere, not to mention our own Washington cultural community, can

Phil Donahue, LaRouche follower fight at airport

NEW YORK hil Donahue scuffled with a supporter of Lyndon LaRouche at LaGuardia Airport yesterday, hours before Mr. Donahue's wife, Marlo Thomas, was to receive an award for adovcacy of nuclear disarmament, police

Police said the television talkshow host and the unidentified Larouche supporter agreed to settle their differences in the New York City Conflict Resolution Center instend of pressing criminal charges.

"It appears Phil Donahue and a LaRouche supporter had words and slight physical contact," said Lt. Michael Koretzky of the airport police. But Port Authority Police Officer Mitchell Kaufman said, "The fists were flying. Several officers responded, and they had to pull them apart."

Police said the argument occurred at 12:15 p.m. in front of a stand where LaRouche supporters hand out pro-nuclear-power leaflets in the center terminal of LaGuardia. The LaRouche supporter yelled,

"Donahue and his wife ought to be

murdered," police added. Mr. Donahue responded, the two began shouting and a fight ensued.

an officer said. Mr. Donahue and Miss Thomas were scheduled to attend a dinner last night in Boston, where Miss Thomas was to receive the Helen M. Caldicott Leadership Award from Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, a leftist group.

The award recognizes "outstanding contributions to increasing public awareness of major humanitarlan issues in the nuclear age," according to the anti-nuclear group.

An Associated Press reporter who happened to be in the terminal said Mr. Donahue's face was bruised and the other man was taken away in handcuffs after the fight. Police did not immediately identify the man.

Both men filed harassment complaints against each other, Mr. Kaufman said.

Mr. Donahue is host of "Donahue," a weekday morning talk show syndicated nationwide.

- From combined dispatches

Writer of Qaddafi song says chorus was prophetic

BALTIMORE former Catholic priest has mounted a one-man attack on Col. Muammar A Qaddafi with his song "Qaddafi: We Don't Need You!" and from recent indications, it's been catching on with the nation's radio listeners.

Tom Adamski of Salisbury, Md., says his chorus turned prophetic, because he set down these words weeks before the U.S. attack on Trip-

"He's got missiles in his eyes while making up those lies

Wears his laundry on his head,

coming across the deep blue sea From the halls of the Pentagon to the shores of Tripoli."

Interest in the novelty song has grown since the attack, he says, and he'd like to see it go further.

"I would just like for the entire United States to hear this song," says the 32-year-old plumber's apprentice, father of five, and lead singer of the Eastern Shore bluegrass band "Country Grass."

Mr. Adamski became so enraged about Mr. Qaddafi's campaign of state-backed terror that he retreated to his home music room last Jan. 10 and turned his anger into song.

- Associated Press

MEDAL

From page 1B

Mr. Annenberg, now 78 and a resident of Wynnewood, Pa., took over as president of Triangle Publications in 1940, then proceeded to turn the old family business into a sprawling publication empire.

Former editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer and publisher of the Daily Racing Form and Seventeen magazine, Mr. Annenberg scored his greatest publishing victory with TV Guide, now the second-largest magazine in the country with a weekly circulation of 17 million.

Triangle Publications expanded during the late 1940s to include a number of radio and television stations. For more than a decade, Mr. Annenberg's television-broadcast "University of the Air" brought college-level courses to students unable to attend class. The series was awarded the first Alfred I. DuPont

Award in 1951. Always keenly interested in education, he founded The Annenberg School of Communications and developed programs at the universities of Pennsylvania (1959) and Southern California (1971).

In 1969, President Richard M. Nixon named Mr. Annenberg ambassador to the Court of St. James's in London. Despite criticism from some who complained that as a businessman he had little knowledge of foreign affairs, Mr. Annenberg's nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and he served until 1974.

Five years ago, he created the Annenberg School of Communications/Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which pledged \$10 million for 15 years to broadcast educational programs such as "The Brain" and "The Constitution: That Delicate Balance."

Even his critics agree that Mr. Annenberg, now chairman of Triangle Productions, is as openhandedly generous as he is successful, having contributed extensively to numerous charitable, cultural and educational organizations.

"There are a lot of men with a lot of money, but there are very few who use it as wisely as he does and with the same sense of dedication," said Merrill Panitt, editorial director of TV Guide, who worked with Mr. An-

nenberg for 40 years. "To me, the honors are not as important as what he does and what he has always done," Mr. Panitt said. "He just gives. His philosophy has always been that you should give to others in direct proportion to what you have received."

EARL "RED" BLAIK

He is without question the most famous football coach in the history of the United States Military Academy, having left West Point with an impressive legacy of 121 victories,

33 losses and 10 ties. Although the teams themselves and their records have long belonged to history, the winning spirit of Col. Earl "Red" Blaik lives on. Also thriving is the tradition of personal excellence that Col. Blaik, now 89, instilled in his players, as well as

the respect he has for them. Many of the young men who passed through his tutelage have

ers in their own right - men like Gen. Charles A. Gabriel, Air Force chief of staff; Gen. Winfield Scott, current superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy; and retired Gen. Bennie Davis, former comman der-in-chief of the Air Force's Strategic Air Command.

about my career," said Col. Blaik from his home in Colorado Springs, Colo., "that so many men have been outstanding in their business and professional lives." Three of his players won the Heisman Trophy, and a number of them joined their former coach in the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame.

ball coach at West Point for seven years, left in 1934 to be head coach at Dartmouth College, then returned to the academy in 1941 to take over as head coach there. In 1948 he became athletic director and stayed there, coaching all the while, until his retirement in 1959.

about 35 of Col. Blaik's ex-players gathered at a Washington hotel to wish their former coach well and present him with a hand-made greeting card. It read, in part, "You led us to the testing ground, and there we earned our fondest fame and learned to spurn defeat. And when the score was totaled, you gave us your great blessing of being worthy of your nod ...

"That's all we ever got from him, an affectionate chuckle, "rarely words of outright praise. . . . He was stern."

BARRY GOLDWATER

They call him the Godfather - of modern conservatism, that is. In fact, when Vice President George Bush attended a recent tribute to the 77-year-old senator from Arizona, he said he "felt like a character out of a Mario Puzo novel coming to pay tribute to the Godfather."

Goldwater is retiring from the Senate later this year - but not before having steered the most sweeping Pentagon reform bill since 1947 through the Senate, an achievement he called "the only . . . damned thing I've done in the Senate that's worth a

don Johnson in the 1964 presidential election, Mr. Goldwater in effect blazed the path for Republican conservatism, ultimately leading to the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980.

And Mr. Goldwater himself has said, "It was me who got Ronald Reagan into politics. If it hadn't been for me, he would still be chasing cows

"Since he first came to the Senate in 1953, Barry Goldwater has, through his judgment, integrity, candor and leadership, become one of the most respected voices on national security that our nation has ever had," said Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, who serves as the ranking

gone on to become outstanding lead-

"That's the remarkable thing

About his reaction to the Medal of Freedom, Col. Blaik said, "I was really pleased, because you don't expect it for someone in athletics." Will it change his life? "I don't think so. Tell me how you change an 89-yearold man."

Col. Blaik served as assistant foot-

Last night, Col. Bert Aton and

After 30 years in public life, Mr. damn."

In spite of a crushing loss to Lyn-

over the horizon."

Democrat on the Senate Armed Ser-

Faulkners' support. That this list included so many

arts community.

the awards ceremonies in the Folcedentedly gratifying. An important feel proud.

uses sandbags for his bed 'Cause he knows the Yanks are

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, established in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy.

vices Committee chaired by Mr. Goldwater.

"He has exemplified freedom and the philosophy of freedom for two generations of Americans," said Heritage Foundation President Edward Feulner. "I think [the Medal of Freedom] is a splendid recognition of the contributions he's made over many years to the United States and to the free world."

HELEN HAYES

When people think of Helen Hayes, they think of the First Lady was a nod," recalled Col. Aton, with of the American Theater, that tiny, bold and graceful being whose presence on and off the stage, screen and television has enriched the arts in America.

> As Miss Hayes returns to her native Washington to accept the Medal of Freedom, she returns not only to the scene of her stage debut at age 5 but also to the site of some of her lesser-known contributions to the public: her fund-raising work for the Georgetown Immunology Center. one of the medical causes with which Miss Hayes has been associ-

> "She had to retire from the stage. because she was told she was allergic to the dust and molds that you find in the theatre," said Jacqueline Bellanti, whose husband, Dr. Joseph Bellanti, is director of the Immunology Center. "But it turned out that she was suffering from asthma and didn't know it."

> Dr. Bellanti initially diagnosed Miss Hayes' condition, "and she was so grateful," continued Mrs. Bellanti, "she became the honorary chairwoman of my husband's immunology board," donating her services toward fund raising and educating the public about the importance of immunization.

"We have been very protective of her, simply because she will never say 'no' to any good cause," she added.

"It's this great quality of giving that she has," said Richard L. Coe, chairman of the Helen Hayes Awards and critic emeritus of The Washington Post, "and I suspect that that is very much what this award is all about.

"She has this feeling that if she's been kept alive and kicking, there must be some purpose," Mr. Coe continued, "and so she goes out and does these things. She feels it's her duty, in exchange for her longevity. For a woman of 85 — for anybody — she leads an incredibly active life."

MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY

Gen. Matthew Ridgway hadn't "the slightest intimation" that he would receive the Medal of Freedom until the White House called him about a week ago.

Born and raised with the Army, the 91-year-old general has had a long and highly decorated military career. Perhaps best-known for his successful military campaigns during World War II, he planned and executed the attack on Sicily in July 1943, the first airborne assault in the history of the nation's armed forces.

As commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, he sent his paratroopers into Normandy during the 1944 invasion, and later led the 18th Airborne Corps in action in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

Assuming command of the 8th Army in Korea during the Chinese Communist offensive of 1950, he rallied the United Nations forces in the counteroffensive that drove the enemy out of South Korea.

A year later, he succeeded Gen. Douglas MacArthur as overall Allied commander in the Far East, continuing the defense of Korea and assisting in the rehabilitation of Japan. In 1952, Gen. Ridgway was made supreme commander of the Allied forces, succeeding Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, before being appointed Army chief of staff the following

Long after he left the military, he continued to be involved as an outspoken member of the Association of the U.S. Army, fighting for acceptance of his "limited strategy" position on America's role in Vietnam. In the 1960s he tried to persuade the Johnson administration to limit American involvement in the Vietnam War, and by 1970 he backed a

total planned withdrawal. More recently, he accompanied Mr. Reagan on the president's 1985 trip to Bitburg, West Germany, where, in a symbolic gesture, the American general shook hands with retired German Air Force Gen. Johannes Steinhoff.

When asked to comment about receiving the Medal of Freedom, the spry old soldier replied, "There could be no greater honor. It's unique - nothing can match it."

VERMONT ROYSTER

"It was March 1936, and as a 22year-old I had joined the Wall Street Journal's Washington bureau. Low man on the totem pole, of course," wrote Vermont Connecticut Royster this past March, announcing he was giving up his weekly Wall Street Journal column of 24 years, bringing to a close an association of 50 years.

"I demand a correction," wrote The New York Times' James Reston,

"It was me who got Ronald Reagan into politics. If it hadn't been for me, he would still be chasing cows over the horizon."

- Sen. Barry Goldwater

echoing the sentiments of countless readers. "Nay, a retraction."

A native of North Carolina, Mr. Royster has held, among other jobs, the positions of Wall Street Journal editor and Washington bureau chief. winning a couple of Pulitzers along the way.

"One of those Pulitzers," recalled Warren H. Phillips, chairman of Dow Jones & Company Inc., which owns the Journal, "said he had an ability to discern the underlying moral issue in public matters and to write about it in a style that was

marked by warmth and simplicity and understanding."

"His columns are models to everyone," said Journal columnist Suzanne Garment. "And seeing him on his visits to New York or at events like the presidential conventions reminded us why American journalism, with all its imperfections, is very much worth defending."

"I consider it a great honor with which to top off a career," said Mr. Royster, when asked about his Medal of Freedom. "In my 50 years as a journalist, I won two Pulitzer Prizes, a Lifetime Award from the National Press Club, among others. But the Presidential Medal of Freedom is an award that comes not from my colleagues but from the nation."

Mr. Royster comes from a family with a tradition of naming children after states, the idea being to keep them from being confused with any other Roysters in the neighborhood. Over the years, there has been an Iowa Michigan and Georgia Louisiana - even Nathaniel Confederate States Royster.

"It's either a name to live down or a name to live up to," said Mr. Phillips, "and he's certainly lived up to

ALBERT SABIN

Everyone who has ever swallowed one of those vaccine-spiked sugar cubes just may have been saved from polio by Dr. Albert B. Sabin, developer of the oral polio vaccine.

A resident of Washington, the 79year-old scientist continues to recuperate from his own bout with paralysis that struck him down, temporarily, a couple of years ago. Today, vastly improved, he now walks about and continues to work at the National Institutes of Health.

When asked about receiving the Medal of Freedom, Dr. Sabin replied with undue modesty, "I wonder how I got into that crowd. Then I discovered apparently that Sen. Strom Thurmond from South Carolina where I was from 1974 to 1982 - was kind enough to recommend me to the president.

"I'm sure there must be tens of thousands of others who deserve it more, or as well as I do, but I'm especially happy to be one of those to receive it.

"When I was very sick," the doctor continued, "I didn't want to live any more. Now that I am living, I am enjoying every minute of it. These awards are good medicine for my old heart."

Dr. Sabin recalled that he met one of his fellow-medalists, Helen Hayes, nearly 30 years ago.

Miss Hayes, whose only daughter died of polio before the development of either the Jonas Salk or the Sabin polio vaccines, became a staunch supporter of polio research and attended the 1957 International Congress on Polio in Geneva, Switzerland. Arriving at one of the Congress' events without a ticket, the actress accepted an extra ticket Dr. Sabin had, posing as "Mrs. Sabin" for the evening.

"That's over 30 years ago," said Dr. Sabin, "and I'm not sure she remembers it. But I'll remind her when I see her at the White House."

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

LUNCHEON/AWARDS CEREMONY

1986 Medal of Freedom Recipients

Monday, May 12, 1986

TIME:

11:30 a.m. - 1:40 p.m.

LOCATION:

East Room

NUMBER OF GUESTS:

91

FROM:

Linda Faulkner 7. 4.

Guests begin to arrive Southeast Gate on East Executive Avenue and are escorted to State Floor via Diplomatic Reception Room and Grand Staircase. (Parking on Lower South Grounds.)

Refreshments will be served in State Dining Room.

11:15 a.m. The following recipients of the 1986 Presidential Medal of Freedom are escorted to Blue Room for briefing:

- 1. The Honorable Walter Annenberg
- 2. Mr. Earl H. "Red" Blaik
- 3. Senator Barry Goldwater
- 4. Mrs. Helen Hayes MacArthur
- 5. General M.B. Ridgway
- 6. Mr. Vermont Royster
- 7. Dr. Albert B. Sabin

11:40 a.m. At conclusion of briefing, Blue Room guests are escorted to Red Room for receiving line.

11:50 a.m. Guests are prepared for receiving line.

Receiving line will feed from South door of State Dining Room into Red Room, from South door of Red Room into Blue Room, past THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN in front of the fireplace, out Blue Room into Cross Hall, and into East room to be seated for lunch.

MONDAY, MAY 12, 1986

12:00 noon '

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN arrive State Floor via elevator and proceed to Blue Room via Cross Hall.

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN take their places in front of fireplace in Blue Room for receiving line.

Medal of Freedom recipients, followed by remaining guests, proceed through receiving line.

12:15.p.m.

At conclusion of receiving line, THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN hold briefly in Blue Room to allow all guests to be seated.

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN then proceed to East Room via Cross Hall.

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN proceed to their table

Luncheon is served.

1:10 p.m. At conclusion of dessert, members of the press are escorted into East Room.

1:12 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN proceed to podium on platform (East wall).

Remarks by THE PRESIDENT.

At conclusion of his remarks, THE PRESIDENT will then name the first recipient - The Honorable Walter Annenberg, followed by the other recipients in alphabetical order.

As his/her name is announced, each Medal of Freedom recipient will individually step up to platform and take a position to THE PRESIDENT's left.

THE PRESIDENT will read each Medal of Freedom citation and then present the Medal.

Military Aide will hand medals to THE PRESIDENT.

As each individual receives his/her Medal, recipient then moves to designated position on platform.

MONDAY, MAY 12, 1986

Following last presentation, THE PRESIDENT will make concluding remarks.

(Photo opportunity)

1:30 p.m

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN depart East Room via Cross Hall enroute elevator.

Recipients may depart platform.

Social Aides will present each recipient with Medal of Freedom citation.

1:40 p.m.

Guests begin to depart East Room via Cross Hall and proceed via Grand Staircase and Diplomatic Reception Room to South Grounds.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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PRESIDENTIAL RÉMARKS: MEDAL OF FREEDOM LUNCHEON MONDAY, MAY 12, 1986

Thank you all. Nancy and I want to welcome you all to the White House for this happy occasion. On days like this at lunches like this I sometimes find myself looking up and thinking: what a wonderful job I have.

We are here today to present the Medal of Freedom to seven

Americans. This medal is the highest civilian honor our Nation

can bestow, and I have always thought it highly significant that

we call it not the medal of talent, or the medal of valor, or the

medal of courage or genius, but the medal of <u>freedom</u>. I think

that says a lot about our values, and what we honor, and what we love.

Freedom is important to all of us. As someone who's spent many years making speeches I have quoted many definitions of freedom, some very moving and eloquent. But I've always liked George Orwell's blunt and unadorned statement. He said freedom is the right to say no.

There's something kind of happily rebellious about that definition. And I thought of it this morning because I decided this year's recipients of the Medal of Freedom are distinguished by this: you're a group of happy rebels.

In your careers and in the way you've lived your lives, you've all said no -- a most emphatic no -- to mediocrity, to averageness, to timidity. You've said no to the rules of the game and the regulations of the day, you've said no to the

conventional wisdom, no to the merely adequate, no to the limits and limitations of yourselves and others.

But it's probably true that there's little point to freedom unless it's accompanied by a big Yes. And each of you has uttered a resounding, Whitmanesque yes to many things -- to excellence and risk and reach, to courage and the untried and the supposedly impossible. You've rebelled against the artificial and embraced the authentic. You have achieved a great deal, and your creativity itself has been life affirming, for creation is a profoundly faithful act, an act that says I trust in the future, I trust in life itself.

You're all originals, you've all made America a better place and you've made it seem a better place in the eyes of the people of the world. And this, today, is just our way of saying: thanks.

Without further ado I'm going to read the citations on the medals now and award them to the recipients.

Walter Hubert Annenberg:

"Following a brilliant career in publishing, Walter Hubert
Annenberg was in 1969 appointed Ambassador to the Court of
St. James, where he served with extraordinary diligence, bringing
the governments and people of the United States and United
Kingdom closer together. Since returning to private life, Walter
Annenberg has devoted himself to the philanthropy for which he
has always been renowned, providing support to countless
institutions both in the United States and abroad. Today our
Nation repays his lifetime of achievement with its gratitude."

Walter my friend, front and center. Congratulations. Earl Henry Blaik:

"A soldier of the gridiron, Colonel Earl "Red" Blaik led the West Point team he coached into the pages of the history books. He rallied the Black Knights from a record of devastating defeats and carried them on to some of their greatest victories, winning the esteem of his cadet players and the admiration of his vanquished rivals. One of America's great coaches, he brought a winning spirit to his team, honor to his branch of service, and pride to his Nation."

Red, here you go and well deserved.

Helen Hayes -- I can't resist pointing out that Helen was married to a happy rebel named Charley MacArthur. A wonderful 'playwright and a man of natural style. Helen, today I was remembering your story. When she first set eyes on Charley it was at a party, and he was eating from a bag of peanuts. He looked at her and asked if she'd like some peanuts, and as he poured them into her hand he said, "I wish they were emeralds." Years later as a famous and celebrated playwright he bought Helen what she'd asked for as an anniversary gift: a handful of jewels. And as he poured the emeralds into her hand you know what he said. "I wish they were peanuts!"

Helen Hayes:

"Many are admired but few are beloved and fewer still are both. But Helen Hayes is and has been for almost all the years of this century. Peerless actress, peerless star, she has excelled on stage, screen and television playing everything from

virtuous young ingenues to Victorian Queens. Helen Hayes is that rare thing -- a true original. She is also, demonstrably, a great actress, a great patriot and a great soul."

Helen, congratulations.

Barry Morris Goldwater:

"Soldier and statesman, Barry Morris Goldwater has stood at the center of American history. Respected by both ally and adversary, Barry Goldwater's celebrated candor and patriotism have made him an American legend. Hailed as a prophet before his time -- selfless in the service of his Nation, Barry Goldwater has earned the unbounded affection and admiration of his countrymen and the enduring gratitude of all future generations of Americans."

Here you go, Mister Conservative.

General Matthew B. Ridgway:

"When a soldier rising sword in hand reaches to protect an idea -- freedom, liberty, human kindness -- the world is, for a moment, hushed. Greatness is often born in quiet, in stillness: so it was that night in June of 1944 when General Matthew B. Ridgway prayed the words God spoke to Joshua: I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. D-Day saved a continent, and so, a world; Ridgway helped save D-Day. Heroes come when they are needed; great men step forward when courage seems in short supply. World War II was such a time: and there was Ridgway."

General, thank you and God bless you.

Vermont Connecticut Royster:

"For over half a century, as a journalist, author, and teacher, Vermont Royster illuminated the political and economic life of our times. His common sense exploded the pretentions of "expert opinion," and his compelling eloquence warned of the evils of a society loosed from its moorings in faith. The voice of the American people can be heard in his prose -- honest, open, proud, and free."

Vermont, congratulations to you...and the rest of New England.

And Albert Bruce Sabin:

"When as a boy Albert Bruce Sabin came to the United States from Russia, no one could have known that he would number among?" the most prominent immigrants of our century. From an early age Sabin devoted his life to medicine, and by the 1950's his research had resulted in a breakthrough. In the years since, the Sabin vaccine has helped to make dramatic advances against the scourge of poliomyelitis. This medal is awarded to Dr. Sabin on behalf of a proud Nation and a grateful world."

Doctor, thank you for everything.

There's nothing to add to achievements such as these, no praise that can add any more luster to these great names. May I say to you simply: thank you just for being, for doing what you've done -- and do.

Thank you all, and God bless you.