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**Folder Title:**

Medal of Freedom Luncheon (Noonan)(Hayes) 05/12/1986  
(2 of 2)

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## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/7/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. 5/8/86

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEDAL OF FREEDOM LUNCHEON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POINDEXTER <i>no</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BALL <i>none</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DANIELS <i>no e</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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HICKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
KING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COURTEMANCHE <i>att'd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:

(Noonan/BE)  
May 7, 1986  
10:00 a.m.

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

File 120107  
SES NY -7 PM 1:20

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 freedom. 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."

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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.

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"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 pretensions 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.

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"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."

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VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POINDEXTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	THOMAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSE:

OK!


*u. Riquena*

David L. Chew  
Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

3618

May 8, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: RODNEY B. McDANIEL *RBL (rr)*  
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Medal of  
Freedom Luncheon

The NSC has reviewed, and concurs with, the attached President's remarks at the Medal of Freedom luncheon.

Attachment

As stated

cc: David L. Chew

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**URGENT**

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1986

TO: BENTLY ELLIOTT  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JACK L. COURTEMANCHE *JLC*  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE FIRST LADY

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Medal of Freedom Luncheon

On the attached remarks, there should be a comment about Mrs. Reagan being present also.

(Noonan/BE)  
May 7, 1986  
10:00 a.m.

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

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 freedom. 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.

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"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.

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"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."

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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

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(Noonan)  
May 6, 1986  
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Carol

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Draft

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MEMORANDUM FOR BENTLEY T. ELLIOTT  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: PETER J. WALLISON   
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Medal of Freedom  
Luncheon

David Chew's staffing memorandum of May 7, 1986, requested that this office provide comments to you on the remarks to be delivered by the President on May 12, 1986, at a luncheon honoring the recipients of the Medal of Freedom. We have no legal objections or comments, except that the word "regulations" at the bottom of the first page should be "conventions."