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

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Last Updated: 05/02/2024

### WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	5/7/86	ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. 5/8/86					
SUBJECT:	PRESIDENTIAL	REMARKS: ME	EDAL OF	FREEDOM LUNCHEON			
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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:** 

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

F. M. 125.17.7

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

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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.

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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.

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.

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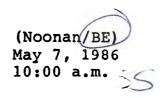
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Document No.	

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MARKS:	Please provid	de any commer	nts di	rectly to Ben Elliot	+ h	
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Thank you.

**RESPONSE:** 

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**Staff Secretary** Ext. 2702

Document No.	

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May 8, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: RODNEY B. McDANIEL & (~~

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

Document No.	3618

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ATE:	ACTION/CONCL	JRRENCE/C	OMMENT DUE BY:	m. 5/8/86	
BJECT: PRESIDENTIAL	REMARKS:	MEDAL (	OF FREEDOM LUNCHEON		
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RESPONSE:

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WASHINGTON

May 8, 1986

TO:

BENTLY ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND

DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JACK L. COURTEMANCHE

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.

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

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Thank you all, and God bless you.

(Noonan)
May 6, 1986
10:00 a.m.

Carol

# 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 <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

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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.

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### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BENTLEY T. ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND

DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

PETER J. WALLISON

COUNSEL TO THE PRESID

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."