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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

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File Folder: Folder 131 (6/19/84cont.-6/25/84) Box 9

Date: 1/02/01

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. letter	Pres. Reagan to Neil Reagan. 1p.	6/21/84	P6/B6 R 3/5/19 JSM
2. letter	Pres. Reagan to David Miller. 1p.	6/21/84	P6/B6 R 3/5/19 JSM
3. letter	handwritten draft of item #1. 1p.	nd	P6/B6 R 3/5/19 JSM
4. letter	handwritten draft of item #2. 1p.	nd	P6/B6 R 3/5/19 JSM
5. letter	Neil Reagan to Pres. 2p.	6/13/84	P6/B6 R 3/5/19 JSM
6. letter	David Miller to Neil Reagan. 2p.	6/10/84	P6/B6 R 3/5/19 JSM

RESTRICTIONS

P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
 P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].

P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
 B-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
 B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
 B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
 B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
 B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
 B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
 B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

2384M
LG

Speech text. F Y D
RR

The President has seen _____

PAUL HARVEY NEWS
JUNE 19, 1984
(WELFARE)

CITIES HELP THEMSELVES

Government money is much like a narcotic.

When government money was cut off for certain social programs the "withdrawal" was painful.

When there was less "money from Washington" you heard the outcries:

"Reagan ignores the poor ..."

"Homeless will perish ..."

"Cities will burn ..."

None of which happened.

Now in city after city, citizens, corporations and foundations have mobilized their resources. Neighborhood volunteers are doing for themselves things government used to have to hire done.

In my home-base city of Chicago 750 voluntary organizations are solving neighborhood problems more effectively than when they were leaning on allocations of tax money.

Philanthropic support is supplanting government support.

A local Initiatives Support Corporation, financed mostly by private grants and staffed mostly with volunteers, is helping fund low-income housing.

-2- Cities Help Themselves

The Latino Institute and the Community Renewal Society are training staff and otherwise assisting neighborhood organizations which have good intentions but lack expertise.

Lawndale residents are mobilizing their own response to the local area's gang violence -- and with demonstrable effectiveness.

It's been reassuring, exciting, to watch what homefolks can do when they have to.

In Chicago's diverse neighborhoods no "outsider" can comprehend the complexity of ethnic, emotional, economic and social problems.

But American Enterprise Institute, researching "the Reagan years," concludes that indigenous organizations are revitalizing distressed communities "dynamically."

Whole neighborhoods are being face-lifted with an infusion of private funds.

There is an acknowledged "ego involvement" in philanthropy. None would argue that it's mostly one man's ego which gave the organization PUSH it's push.

This "ego involvement" is convertible to community pride when any neighborhood responds to its own problems.

-3- Cities Help Themselves

De Tocqueville marveled at this phenomenon. I still do.

I'm watching Chicago -- a neighborhood at a time --
attack problems of drugs, pollution, housing deterioration,
unemployment, domestic violence, inadequate municipal
services.

No -- all these problems will not be resolved neatly and
promptly and completely. Maintaining a country, a city, a
neighborhood -- or a homestead -- requires ceaseless fence-
mending, renovation and repair.

But Americans are re-learning to do for themselves.

End
Case
File

238457
TR 110-02

June 21, 1984

Dear Mr. Mayor:

It was a great pleasure meeting you Wednesday. You were kind to come out to the airport and I'm most grateful. Thanks, too, for presenting me with the Key to the City. I'm proud to have it.

I hope our paths will cross soon again and in the meantime very best wishes and regards.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Thirman L. Milner
550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation



ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

Mayor Thurman L. Milner
550 Main Street
Hartford Conn. 06103

Dear Mr. Mayor

It was a great pleasure meeting you Wednesday. You were kind to come out to the airport & I'm most grateful. Thanks too for presenting me with the key to the city, I'm proud to have it.

I hope our paths will cross soon again and in the meantime very best wishes & regards.

Samuel
K'R



THIRMAN L. MILNER

MAYOR

CITY OF HARTFORD

(203) 722-6610

550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONN. 06103

End
case
file

C. F.

238458

JK 018

June 21, 1984

Dear Moon:

Just a quick line to let you know I got your letter and have arranged for the V.I.P. White House tour. I can't do the book foreword for David Miller but I'll write and let him know. I'm sorry because I'm a fan of General George Armstrong Custer. The problem is it would be commercializing the office, etc.

I'm sorry to hear about your hand. You know I've been thinking about an operation after the election on that one bent finger of mine. It's not curled over as much as yours but you're giving me some second thoughts.

Ireland was great. You can add "Mary Queen of Scots" to the family tree. They brought in a young man who is actually of our family line and it was a shock to all of us, there actually was a physical resemblance. All in all, it was a great experience. I saw the book and the original hand-written record of our great, grandfathers' baptism at age three days in 1829.

Nancy sends her love to you both as do I.

DUTCH

Mr. J. Neil Reagan
P.O. Box 413
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067

RR:AVH:pps

rr dictation

June 21, 1984

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Miller:

Neil sent me your letter regarding a foreword to your book. I can't tell you how much I regret having to say no and I'm honored that you would ask me. It seems that custom forbids it while I'm in this job. But I want you to know how real my regret is because I've been something of a Custer buff myself and not just because I once played him on the screen.

His image has been blurred and distorted over time but in truth he was a brilliant officer and not at all the boastful show-off his detractors would have us believe. And he certainly wasn't on a glory ride on that fateful day. He was carrying out his orders to the letter. It isn't well known that a brother, a nephew, and his brother-in-law died with him in that last battle.

I'll be looking for your book when it's published and I wish you success.

Again my regret and best wishes.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. David H. Miller
P.O. Box 1675
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

J. Neil Ragon P.O. Box 413
Rancho Santa Fe Calif. 92067

Dear Marn

Just a quick line to ~~say~~ let you know I got your letter and have arranged for the V.I.P. White House Tour. I can't do the book forward for David Miller but I'll write & let him know. I'm sorry because I'm a fan of Gen. George Armstrong Custer. The problem is it would be commercializing the office etc.

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Ireland was ~~great~~ great. You can add "Mary Queen of Scots" to the family tree. This brought in a young man who is actually of our family line and it was a shock to all of us, there actually was a physical resemblance. ~~It~~ All in all it was a great experience. I saw the book & the original hand written record of our great, grandfathers baptism at age 3 days in 1829.

Nancy sends her love to you both as do I.

Witch

To David H. Miller P.O. Box 1675
Rancho Santa Fe Calif. 92067

Dear Mr. Miller

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But I want you to know how real my regret is because I've been something of a Carter buff myself and not just because I once played him on the screen.

His image has been blurred & distorted over time but in truth he was a brilliant officer and not at all the boastful show off his detractors would have his believe.

And he certainly wasn't on a glory ride on that fateful day. He was carrying out his orders to the letter. It isn't well known that a brother, a nephew, and his brother-in-law died with him in that last battle.

I'll be looking for your book when it's published and I wish you success.

Again my regret & best wishes.

Sincerely,
RR

J. Neil Reagan
P. O. Box 413
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067

6/13/84

Dear Mr. President -

Hand me letter - hope you can read this. Am getting to where I can get about 10 words a minute on paper.

Now that you are back and have nothing to do ~~~!!?

I got a letter from a fellow, who at one time, was a manager of the L. A. office of McCann-Erickson. I guess you could say I was at least partly responsible for making him "available" to any other company. What he really wanted to do was write! He went back east and set up his own Publishing Co. Guess he has been making a living for the past 20 years.

Anyway - I get a letter from him (surprise) last month.

He and his wife VAL, a daughter and 2 grandchildren 10 & 12 in Washington July 14, 15, 16 & 17. Wants to know if the 5 of them could have a VIP tour of the White House?

All this can be fixed up have the folks in the

town office contact him direct re time
& date

Robert Garrison

Unit 11-B

85 Viscount Drive

Milford, Ct. 06460

Phone 203-877-2078

Now! The enclosed is self-explanatory.
Miller is one of the artists (a good friend of
Olaf Wieghorst) in the group of Tenors
(the "no purpose group") who meet for
lunch each Tuesday noon. I thought it
best to send you the letter he sent to me.
He brought the subject up a week ago in
front of all of them. About all I could say was
send me the info and I would pass it on.
He also said he wanted to do a pic
for you. His stuff doesn't "quite" reach
the price range that Olaf does but
I guess he does fair.

One more enclosure - I don't know the boy -
he also sent me one of the folders.
Calif. Rep. delegation held first mtg. in S. A. Sat.
No conclusion as to who runs - Ha!

Best regards and love to you & Nancy
Moon

DAVID H. MILLER
P. O. Box 1675
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067

June 10, 1984

Mr. Neil Reagan
P.O. Box 413
Rancho Santa Fe, CA

Dear Neil:

As we recently discussed the book I am writing, I am enthused as to the possibility of President Reagan writing a Foreword for it. It is especially appropriate for him as Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces, since my subject concerns the Battle of the Little Big Horn, also known as Custer's Last Stand. I have a vivid memory of Ronald Reagan as a young "Custer" in the film "The Santa Fe Trail" - (1940) - which lent added dimensions to Custer's character.

I feel the President would be interested in this. As a teenager of 15, I went to Plains Indian country in 1935 and found 72 old warriors who had fought Custer. I painted them from life over the next few years, learning their languages to get the true story of Little Big Horn, as only they could tell it.

The portraits I've kept together as a collection - one of a kind, in mixed media and of museum quality. As a third generation artist, I was able to capture likenesses, which I've been able to do since childhood.

The book consists of the Anatomy of the Battle and the 72 portraits in color with each Survivor's accompanying story on an opposite page. Each interview furthers the history of the battle. This results from my life-long study. I have known thousands of Indians and I've painted hundreds from life. My literary agent is much enthused about the book - plans to work for a Book-of-the-Month Club entry, a coffee-table edition, as well as a quality soft cover edition.

Life-long Republicans, we hope this would also be good for the President. He may remember my wife Jan who worked with him on "This Is Your Life," when he stepped in for Ralph Edwards. I met him then and later talked with him by phone when he was Governor and my wife and I collaborated on Joel McCrea's life. Jan flew to Sacramento to film his tribute to Joel. We are proud of the autographed photograph she has with him in our home.

DAVID H. MILLER
P. O. Box 1675
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067


June 10, 1984

Mr. Neil Reagan

Page 2

Naturally, I would expect to submit the completed manuscript for White House scrutiny and approval. Neil, I sincerely appreciate anything you can do to make this possibility a reality.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David", is written below the typed word "Cordially,".

End
Case
Fite

2532 40
SP

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 22 ~~No Reply~~

Dear Mr. President

Having served seven Presidents as a Marine officer at the White House, I want you to know that never have I heard a more compelling and articulate statement of purpose and principle than in your presentation yesterday to Prime Minister Gonzalez concerning your goals in Central America. Had our President had your grasp of the ideological, and

strategic stakes 15 years ago,
events would have turned out
differently.

Very Respectfully,
Buel F. Jarlane

End
Case
File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 22, 1984

r

Dear Herb:

It was so good to hear from you; it has been too long. I am warmed by your comments about Whittaker Chambers and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, and appreciate your support of my decision that they were individuals worthy of this public acknowledgment.

Herb, it was nice of you to take the time to write, and I also especially appreciate your good wishes for my re-election -- with such long-standing support and confidence.

Sincerely,

Ron

P.S. - My best to Barbara.

Herbert W. Kalmbach, Esquire
1056 Santiago Drive
Newport Beach, California 92660

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 21, 1984

K.O.

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

I recommend this letter go into the President's reading file. I intend to respond to Herb, but would appreciate knowing if the President sends a response.* I didn't know their prior personal relationship, but know it was a first-name basis, and to my knowledge this is the first correspondence he has tendered. I'm sure you know the name; he is a good man, despite reports and past indiscretions.

I signed. RR

* Suggested response attached.

HERBERT W. KALMBACH

1056 SANTIAGO DRIVE, NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92660

May 4, 1984

Hon. Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Along with wishing you all the best in your campaign for re-election, I want to personally thank you for your political courage and innate decency in posthumously awarding the Medal of Freedom to Whittaker Chambers. I have long thought Witness to be one of the great autobiographies of our time and that Whittaker Chambers, with courage of heroic proportions, provided the American people with the Truth at a time in our national history when it was sorely needed. Also, I was pleased that Norman Vincent Peale was among those being honored; he's a wonderful man who has been a tremendous force for good.

Barbara joins me in wishing you and Nancy health and happiness. You've both been great friends and we admire you.

Sincere regards,



End
Case
File

~~250415~~

250290

AR

x

6/84

J. N. SWANSON

Carmel Valley, California

PHONE 659-2616
(408)



"HEADING FOR THE CUT"

J. N. SWANSON

No Reply

WESTERN PAINTINGS
AND BRONZES

FINE REINED
STOCK HORSES

S
J

6-24-84

Dear Pres. Reagan -

I received the painting I loaned to you in good shape, & want you to know how pleased I was to have you hang the painting in the White House. It was a real honor & your letters regarding the painting are framed & hang in my studio.

You continue to be the president I knew you would be & now I have no doubt you will be known in history as our greatest.

If you have any desire to hang any painting of mine to further remind you of Santa Ynez, just say the word & I'll get one to you

Kindest regards to you & Mrs Reagan -

Jack Swanson

End
Case
File

238257

TR-105-83

June 25, 1984

Dear Kitty:

Thank you for your lovely letter and very kind words. You make me very proud indeed.

I can't describe the emotions that stirred within me as that day went on in Normandy. With all the horror war brings, if it has a purpose perhaps it is that men then reach their noblest heights. Certainly that was shining through the horror on that day in June 40 years ago.

You were so kind to write as you did. I'll be forever grateful. Nancy sends her love as do I.

Sincerely,

RON

Mrs. Omar N. Bradley
2359 Century Hill
10100 Galaxy Way
Los Angeles, California 90067

RR:AVH:CAD:pps

RR Dictation

Mrs. Omar N. Bradley
2959 Gordon Hill
10000 Anthony Way
Los Angeles, Calif. 90047

June 17, 1984

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your tribute to Omar on the beaches at Normandy on D-Day.

From my Tribunal at Utah Beach where I was seated with the American Battle and Monuments Commission I could see you standing straight and tall representing all that is good in America and the free world. You move so gracefully to the cadence of Duty, Honor, Country. Omar would be proud of you.

Please know how much I love you and the First Lady and how ready I am to serve you both in any way I can.

Respectfully,



Mrs. Omar N. Bradley

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

217142
F6055

June 25, 1984

Dear Judge Longobardi:

I'm sorry about our inability to be present at your oath of office ceremony. It doesn't seem that I have much to say about where I'll be these days. But Nancy and I appreciate your asking us.

Thank you very much for telling me about your father and his love for this country. I hope we will always realize how unique in all the world this blessed land is and that it is made so by people like your father who saw so clearly the opportunities it offered.

Thank you for writing as you did, and thank you for serving.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Joseph J. Longobardi
U.S. District Court
J. Caleb Boggs Building
844 King Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

RR:AVH:CAD:pps

RR Dictation

6/19/84

217/42

COURT OF CHANCERY
OF THE
STATE OF DELAWARE

JOSEPH J. LONGOBARDI
VICE-CHANCELLOR

COURT HOUSE
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

*Maybe we should check
to see if this is still his address.
NR
June 4, 1984*

37
*Scheduling
cc: [unclear]*

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
White House
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. President,

When you spoke to me on April 3, 1984, I was naturally overwhelmed. It is only afterwards that one reflects on what could have been said. Regrettably, I wish I had been more articulate in describing exactly what I felt. It was an extremely momentous occasion in my life. After all, it is not very often that one of us gets a call from our President about an appointment to a Federal District Court seat. I knew your time was valuable and I did not want to take more than I deserved. It was enough to have you call me and the joy and the pride will last a lifetime.

If I had the time, I would have told you how important your call was to me. My Dad came to this country when he was fourteen years old. Without his parents, he set about making a life for himself in a strange and novel environment. But it was not long before he realized that his future was tied inextricably to the United States and he came to love dearly his adopted land. He had dreams but they were primarily for his family, his wife and children. And he was content to firmly establish his roots and work for the American dream, an opportunity to earn a decent living, a house in which to be secure and to raise a loving and respectful family. He knew there would probably be success for him but he was convinced there would be success for his children. I am sure, however, that never in his most fanciful dreams did he think a son would be a Federal District Court Judge like the one who administered his oath of citizenship. He is gone now but, you see, your call was all part of making his dreams come true. Everything that he expected of the United States and more was realized when you made that call. For him, you made the American dream come true. I am sure that where he is, he knows and he is extremely proud.

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
June 4, 1984
Page Two

Thank you, Mr. President.

I know that you and Mrs. Reagan may find it impossible to attend my oath of office ceremony but I want you to know that you are welcome.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph P. Kamp". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed text "Very truly yours,".

JJL/ab

229746
RM030

June 25, 1984

Dear Norman:

I won't attempt to respond to the quotes you listed in your letter not knowing the context in which they were uttered. It does seem to me, though, that people of any persuasion urging their associates to participate in political activity is pretty much what democracy is all about. And I say this even though I'm sure I would disagree with the course they might be suggesting we follow.

But in mentioning one form of such activity, you referred to me as lobbying for government-mandated prayer readings. That is how the school prayer amendment was defeated. Its opponents made the argument that we were advocating mandated prayer. We were doing nothing of the kind; to the contrary, we opposed mandated prayer. We wanted nothing more than recognition that the Constitution does not forbid children from praying in school if they so desire.

Norman, my father moved around a lot in search of better opportunities. As a result, I attended six different schools in the eight years of elementary school. There was never one in which there was prescribed prayer yet we knew we could pray if we wanted to. You asked about the case I mentioned of a child not being allowed to say grace in the school cafeteria. Without looking it up, I believe the locale was New York and it was children not child. The school authorities thought they were required to forbid the practice. Evidently some parents made a case of it and the courts upheld the school authorities.

I am not using this office as a pulpit for one religion over all others, but I do subscribe to George Washington's remark regarding high moral standards, decency, etc. and their importance to civilization and his conclusion that to think we could have these without religion as a base was to ask for the impossible.

Obviously, when I'm addressing an audience who share my own religious beliefs -- indeed, a religious group -- I see nothing wrong with talking of our mutual interests. I can recall no instance where I have ever tried to proselytize others or impose my beliefs on those of other faiths. Madelyn Murray O'Hare demanded and got denial of anyone's right to pray in a school. I simply ask that children be allowed to pray if they so desire -- and that prayer can be to the God of Moses, the Man of Galilee, Allah, Buddha, or any others.

I said I would not take up the quotes of the clergy you brought to my attention, but isn't it possible those quotes were defensive rather than aggressive? Possibly they were in response to such statements as made in "The Humanist" by Paul Kurtz: "Humanism cannot in any fair sense of the word apply to one who still believes in God as the source and creator of the universe. Christian Humanism would be possible only for those who are willing to admit that they are Atheistic Humanists. It surely does not apply to God-intoxicated believers."

Then there is the statement by John J. Dunphy (same magazine) that the battle for humankind's future will be waged and won in the public school classroom and the new faith of Humanism will replace the "rotting corpse of Christianity."

Believing that both of us are arguing for individual liberty, I have to call to your attention that it is Humanist doctrine that "we must relinquish some of our liberties and that religious values are overridden by what government determines is the general welfare or in the public interest."

Well, I've gone on too long. It was good to hear from you.

Sincerely,

RON

Mr. Norman Lear
People for the American Way
1424 16th Street, N.W.
Suite 601
Washington, D.C. 20036

RR:AVH:CAD:pps

RR Dictation

Norman Lear

June 15, 1984

My Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for taking time to answer my recent letter. Your thoughtful response provoked a few concerns which I would like to pursue further.

I was surprised that you were unaware of the "Christian Nation" movement, since so many of the fundamentalist religious leaders to whom you have granted special attention have made a "Christian America" the centerpiece of their political activity. I refer primarily to Paul Weyrich and the Reverends Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, James Robison, and Jimmy Swaggart.

Were you aware, for example, that Rev. Robertson stated on one of his broadcasts:

"The Constitution of the United States is a marvelous document for self-government by Christian people. But the minute you turn the document into the hands of non-Christian people and atheistic people they can use it to destroy the very foundation of our society. And that's what's been happening."

Rev. Falwell has said:

"The idea that religion and politics don't mix was invented by the Devil to keep Christians from running their own country."

And Paul Weyrich has said:

"We are talking about Christianizing America. We are talking about simply spreading the Gospel in a political context."

Similar sentiments have been expressed by these men on other occasions as well.

President Ronald Reagan
June 15, 1984
Page two

I feel compelled to underscore to you this alarming kind of rhetoric because some senior staff members at the White House have apparently picked up this theme of contempt for non-fundamentalists. Mr. Bob Sweet of your staff described your lobbying effort for government-mandated prayer readings as:

"...an indication of what can be done if the Christian people in America join together on a particular issue. I believe that this is a test run."

And your liaison for religious affairs, Carolyn Sundseth, called for:

"all saved Christians" to pray that her fellow White House staffers "get saved or get out" of government.

Forgive me for quoting at such length, Mr. President. Because you care deeply about individual freedoms, I knew you would be troubled by these examples of religious intolerance -- and their association with your Presidency.

The issue is not, as you suggest, between atheists and believers. It is the imposition of a creed on citizens through the powers and public role of the government -- whether that creed be Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, or atheism. It is not the substance of what is imposed -- but the imposition itself -- that is objectionable to a free people.

Mr. President, without freedom from religion, we would have no freedom of religion. Because the very essence of freedom is the ability to say "yes" or "no." As Martin Luther said, man has only one freedom: to say no to God. Without the freedom to say no, there is no freedom to say yes. There is no freedom.

Mr. President, as I think you know, it is not only atheists who oppose government-supervised school prayer. While atheists may harbor hostility toward the whole notion of God, the United Methodist Church, the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., the United Church of Christ, and the American Jewish Congress, among others, bear no such hostility. Yet they do oppose government interference with their religious practices.

President Ronald Reagan
June 15, 1984
Page three

The First Amendment does not simply prohibit the establishment of an official state church, as we both agree. It means that government cannot prefer one religion over another in its actions, or even prefer religion. As James Madison wrote to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1785, "...the same authority which would establish Christianity in exclusion of all other religions could establish any particular sect of Christians in exclusion of all other sects."

I agree with you that the word "God" has a place on our coins -- but I also believe it is no accident that our coins, which bear the inscription, "In God We Trust," make another affirmation on the reverse side: "E Pluribus Unum" -- "Out of Many, One." Our strength as a nation stems from our respect for diversity. This principle is diminished when the Presidency becomes the pulpit for only one of those religious traditions, however sincere its adherents.

It is not a solution for the federal government to wash its hands of the matter and let local communities decide and divide which religious tradition should prevail -- as your recent School Prayer Amendment would have done. As you promised upon taking the oath of office, the President must "preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution and the individual freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights for all citizens. The spirit of liberty is not advanced by abdicating that role with respect to school prayer.

Until you mentioned it in your letter, Mr. President, I had never heard that any branch or level of government in our nation had decreed that a child cannot ask a blessing before lunch in the school cafeteria. Mr. President, I would appreciate knowing more about this. I would dedicate myself to protecting the right of that child to ask that blessing.

Please understand that the concerns I express in this letter are not directed at your efforts to speak out for decency; that is your duty as President. Nor are the concerns I express directed at your testimony of religious faith; that is your right as a free American citizen and what you consider a vital part of your faith.

What alarms me is your assumption of a governmental role of Evangelist-in-Chief. By this, I mean your use of the ceremonial and official powers of the Presidency to validate one set of religious beliefs over another. In so doing, you

President Ronald Reagan
June 15, 1984
Page four

say to those Americans who do not share your particular religious beliefs that they are second-class citizens. As you said in a recent newspaper interview:

"We have respected every other religion.
They're free to practice in our country..."

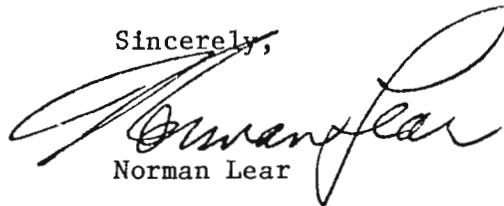
Mr. President, there are no "other" religions in "our" country. America belongs to all its citizens no matter what their religions. No faith has a special patrimony in the eyes of the Constitution.

In that vein, please do not denounce your political opponents by the terms of your faith -- and thereby imply that they are sinful. Call them mistaken if you must, but do not question their religious integrity.

I share your conviction that the "basic moralities" of civilization should be promoted. Sectarian beliefs should have no government sanction, however. Your record so far disappoints many of us who care so deeply about religious liberty for all citizens. We would welcome a more forthright reassurance that the Presidency does not play favorites with respect to America's religions.

Mr. President, I appreciate your patience in reading this far. In the hope that more Americans would consider these issues and let you know their feelings, I have taken the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to other citizens. I hope to hear from them, and I hope you will, too.

Sincerely,



Norman Lear

/ph

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

To Mrs. Omar M. Bradley 2359 Century Hill
10100 Galaxy Way L.A. Calif. 90067

Dear Kitty

Thank you for your lovely letter and very kind words. You make me very proud indeed.

I can't describe the emotions that stirred within me as that day went on in Normandy. With all the horror war brings, if it has a purpose perhaps it is that men ~~can~~ ^{then} reach their noblest heights. Certainty that was shining through the horror on that day in June 40 yrs. ago.

You were so kind to write as you did. I'll be forever grateful. Nancy sends her love as do I.

Sincerely Tom

To Judge Joseph J. Longobardi - Court House
Wilmington Delaware 19801

Dear Judge Longobardi

I'm sorry about our inability to be present at your oath of office ceremony. ~~But~~ It doesn't seem that I have much to say about where I'll be these days.

But Nancy & I appreciate your asking us.

Thank you very much for telling me about your father and his love for this country. I hope we will always realize how unique in all the world this blessed land is and that it is made so by people like your father who saw so clearly the opportunities it offered.

Thank you for writing as you did & I thank you for serving.

Tommy RR

To Mr. Norman Lear SUITE 601
1424 16th St. N.W. Wash. D.C. 20036

Dear Norman

I won't attempt to respond to the ^{quotes you} ~~statements~~ listed in your letter not knowing the context in which they were uttered. It does seem to me though that people of any persuasion urging their associates to participate in political activity is pretty much what democracy is all about. And I say this even though I'm sure I would disagree with

(over)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: *Patsy*
FROM: KATHY OSBORNE
Personal Secretary
to the President

DATE: *6.27*

T Leads
Kathy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Dick Darman
FROM: KATHY OSBORNE
Personal Secretary
to the President

DATE: 6-26-84

I thought you should see RR's letter to Norman Lear before it goes out. Also, do you agree with AVH that the last sentence in first paragraph should be omitted?

- ① No. Sentence thought seems OK w. me.
- ② not minor edit p. 1, 2.

Patsy -

Please prepare an alternative p. 1 of this letter, dropping lines 7-10 of paragraph 1, beginning "And I say this even"

OSB

(we'll send two versions back.)

(2)

the course they might be suggesting we follow.

But in mentioning one you referred to me as lobbying for govt. mandated prayer readings. That is how the school prayer amendment was defeated. It's opponents made the argument that we were advocating mandated prayer. We were doing nothing of the kind; to the contrary, we opposed mandated prayer. We wanted nothing more than ~~that~~ recognition that the constitution does not forbid some one from praying in school if they so desire.

Norman my father moved around a lot in search of better opportunities. As a result I attended 6 different schools in the 8 yrs. of elementary school. There was never one in which there was persecuted prayer yet we knew we could if we wanted to. You asked about the case I mentioned of a child not be being allowed to pray in the school cafeteria. Without looking it up I believe the locale was Mississippi and it was children not child. The school authorities thought they were required to forbid the practice. Evidently some parents made a case of it and the courts upheld the school authorities.

I am not using this office as a pulpit for one religion over all others. But I do subscribe to George Washington's remark regarding high moral standards, decency etc. and their importance to civilization and his conclusion that to think we could have these without ~~the~~ religion as a ~~basis~~ base was to ask for the impossible.

Obviously when I'm addressing an audience who share my own religious beliefs, indeed a religious ~~group~~ group I see nothing wrong with talking of our mutual interests. I can recall no instance where I have ever tried to proselyte others or impose my beliefs or those of other faiths. Madelyn Murray O'Hare demanded & got denied of anyone's right to pray in a school. I simply ask that they be allowed to if they so desire & that prayer can be to the God of Moses, the Man of ~~the~~ Hallika, Allah, or Buddha, or any others.

I said I would not take up the quotes of the clergy you brought to my attention but isn't it possible those quotes were defensive rather than aggressive? Possibly they were in response to such statements as made in "The Humanist" by Paul Kurtz; "Humanism cannot in any fair sense of the word apply to one who still believes in God as the source & creator of the universe. Christian Humanism would be possible only for those who are willing to admit that they are Atheistic Humanists. It surely does not apply to God-intoxicated believers. ~~Then~~ Then there is the statement by John J. Dumphy (same magazine) that; "The battle for humankind's future will be waged & won in the public school classroom & the new faith of Humanism will replace the "rotting corpse of Christianity."

~~Knowing~~ Believing that both of us are arguing for individual liberty I have to call to your attention that it is Humanist doctrine that "we must relinquish some of our liberties & that religious values are over ridden by what govt. determines is the general welfare or in the public interest."

Well I've gone on to long. It was good to hear from you.
Sincerely RR

End
Case
File