

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Fritz, Sara: Papers
**Folder Title: White House Notes – 04/09/1981-
04/30/1981**
Box: 1

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

TO: MLS, LT, BFP, JF, DR, GP, SJF, PA, PGE, JH, AT

FROM: RAK

RE: White House care for Reagan

Tight-lipped White House physician Dr. Daniel Ruge refuses to go into any detail about what measures will be taken to care for the President when he returns to the White House. In a phone conversation this morning, Ruge said he expects Reagan to be released sometime this weekend.

"He's not going to need much care when he goes home," says Ruge. "He's like the rest of us. When we go home, we don't expect to need much care." (We can quote Ruge because he declined to give me anything on background.)

Ruge does not expect to increase the number of nurses and doctors already assigned to the White House medical office. He said he has a staff of "seven or eight," but refused to say how many of those were doctors and how many were nurses, etc. "I'm not going into any of that nitty-gritty because we're going to be make some changes. And they have nothing whatsoever to do with" the shooting.

Nor does Ruge expect to move any new medical equipment to the White House, but he wouldn't tell me what kind of equipment already is on hand there. "We're well equipped." He describes the medical office as a "primary care situation" that does everything from dispensing aspirin to members of the White House staff to more serious cases, but he wouldn't go into any specifics. (I think we

(MORE)

can get much of this simple info from the press office

(ks.)

It remains to be seen whether Reagan will be able to walk regularly, or be wheeled, from the family quarters to the Oval Office. Ruge notes, however, that the distance is not great and that Reagan has been walking farther than that at the hospital, anyway.

We might want to consider doing a box on this new White House physician, who is about 65 years old and a longtime friend of Nancy Reagan's father, who also is physician. I don't believe Ruge was acquainted with Rawhide before the Inauguration. My impression is that Ruge doesn't do too much. Before the shooting, for example, he did not see the President every day. "I make it a point not to be stalking", says Ruge.

(END)

STORY:WEBS
MA:70 FMT:

QUEUE:TG-TG
HJ:

MSG:

INI:

OPR:TG ;04/09,11:32

SJF

April 9, 1981

MLS LT DR GP SJF JWM AOK RAB from TG

William Webster, FBI director, at Sperling breakfast.

FBI interview with Reagan. Webster wouldn't reveal the contents, except to say that Reagan recalled the March 30 scene as one of "mass chaos." Apparently the President had nothing surprising to report.

FBI and Secret Service. Webster maintains the FBI acted properly in not reporting Hinckley's Nashville arrest to Secret Service. The protective agency has never requested information on such cases, Webster said. Thus there was no reason to tell S.S. about Hinckley. Webster noted that there are 2,000 such incidents each year. If the Secret Service wants to hear about them, "the FBI is prepared to supply" the data, he says. The two agencies are now talking about whether the guidelines on information sharing should be changed. Webster noted that in any event, there's no chance that "all 2,000 [of the gun toters] would be put under surveillance."

Secret Service chief Knight complains that his agency is only getting a fraction of the intelligence information from the FBI than it used to, mostly because of guidelines restricting FBI domestic-security investigations.

Webster admits that Knight is correct. But he defends the guidelines.

"If people are advocating violence, the overthrow of the government and have the apparent means and intention, we would not hesitate to

(MORE)

make an inquiry," Webster says. But he doesn't want to go back to the days of infiltrating groups just because their political or ideological bent is opposed to those in power.

Webster notes that some changes are being made in the FBI guidelines on foreign counterintelligence, but he's not under terrific pressure from the Hill or elsewhere about other changes.

Hinckley. Most of the breakfast was concerned with details and tidbits about the case. Much was repetitive of the briefing last week on Devastator bullets, which I reported on at the time and won't go into here. About the only other points worth noting are that Hinckley has not been interviewed in depth by the FBI, at his attorneys' insistence, that there is no evidence of any conspiracy and that all signs point to the Jodie Foster connection as the only motive. Also, there is no evidence of a link between newly-arrested Richardson and Hinckley. Webster noted that Richardson had reported having a "cosmic relationship" with Hinckley.

Violent crime. Webster points to surveys indicating that "Americans are more and more in fear of crime...we are rapidly in some parts of the country falling into a grip of fear...this is what people--housewives--are talking about." Thus Webster agrees with William French Smith that the federal government must show more leadership in the area. At the same time, Webster thinks it would be a mistake to revive LEAA and try again to "throw money at the problem." What he favors is some federal program to take LEAA's place, but to finance more carefully-considered projects. Plugging his own agency, Webster:

(MORE)

thinks the FBI role in training selected state and local officers is vital and might be expanded, as might some other little-known FBI services such as a missing-persons unit that might be of help in such cases as Atlanta's.

Webster agrees that the budget outlook for law enforcement is relatively bleak, what with the New York City police force having been cut by one third in recent years and the FBI down from 8600 to 7800 agents. He holds out some hope for the "Figgie" survey finding that Americans would be willing to tax themselves more for protection.

FBI and Reagan administration. Despite all of the talk about violent crime, Webster hasn't run into any disputes so far with the new administration over FBI priorities.

Gun control. Webster wouldn't comment on proposals to ban or restrict handguns, but he did indicate that he favors the approach suggested by James Q. Wilson and others that we try first to enforce the gun laws we already have. Webster doubts that the "emotional responses" on guns spawned by the Reagan shooting are the best foundations for a new gun law. "The attempted assassination of the President is not a time to frame good solutions to tough problems," he said, noting that division in the U.S. on gun control is "profound."

Atlanta. Cautioning that he doesn't want to raise anyone's hopes unduly, Webster declared: "We have leads, we intend to see it solved...we are confident that it will be solved." He added that he

(MORE)

favours citizen anti-crime watches in Atlanta and elsewhere but opposes so-called "bat brigades" that "sanctify the use of violence by citizens and lend themselves to infiltration by violence-prone people...we have some evidence of that."

(END)

STORY:NOTES
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:CWF ;04/09,18:45

TO: MLS, LT, BFP, JF, DR, DXB, GP, JG, DCB, LH, JWM, SJF,
PA, PGH, JH, AT, FWF

FROM: RAK

RE: White House notes

Homecoming. Larry Speakes says the President is expected to return to the White House Saturday, but that possibly could slip until Sunday. He will walk out of the hospital and into his limo, then walk out of the limo at the White House and be greeted briefly by White House staff assembled at the door. Speakes does not expect Reagan to make any formal statement.

Next week, Reagan is expected to have two to four appointments a day, according to Speakes. But Rawhide probably will not leave the residence. He will work in his study or the solarium, avoiding the Oval Office. Bush is expected to continue chairing cabinet meetings and other sessions that the President normally attends.

Doctors from GW probably will make ``house calls,`` says Speakes, and White House physician Daniel Ruge will be on hand to supervise the President's recovery. There are no plans for extra nurses or for extra medical equipment to be added at the White House. The White House medical office apparently will have little to do with the nation's premier patient.

Brady. Jim Brady today placed a call to Pete Teeley, Bush's press aide, and the two ``had a discussion that

(MORE)

included hopeful plans for shark fishing this summer,"
s Speakes. Dr. Dennis O'Leary is quoted by Speakes as
saying that he is "extremely optimistic that Jim Brady
will be able to return to his profession." But all concede
that at least a year of recuperation will be needed.
Speakes also spoke to Brady by phone today and reported
that he could not detect any speech impediment, but Brady
was able to give only one-word replies.

Autos. The White House announced today that the special
task force on the auto industry has disbanded, without
negotiating with the Japanese on voluntary export
restraints. From now on, the Commerce Department simply
will monitor how many cars the Japanese ship to the U.S.--
something it always has done. My view is that Reagan so
es free trade that he is unwilling to press the Japanese
for restrictions. The outcome, I think, is that the
Japanese have won this battle, at least for now.

Regan. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, in a briefing for
reporters at the White House, predicted that if Congress
passes the President's economic program by August 1, "you
would start to see the effects of this program...in the
first quarter of '82 and considerably more progress later
in '82." Regan was brought in to respond to Representative
Dan Rostenkowski's alternative tax-cut plan. [I've sent a
text of Regan's defense to JG.]

(END)

mls lt dr jf bfp gpjg rak jwm dxb dcb pgh pa

From: sjf

Results of a background interview with White House Staff

Director David Gergen:

Ronald Reagan, the 9-to-5 president, is not expected to resume as hectic a schedule after his recovery. "You should not assume his presidency will be the same," says Gergen. "He's been engaged in a hell of an active schedule. Even before this, some people were urging him to cut back."

There also will be staff recommendations that the President reduce his public exposure. White House aides are "mindful" that the second attack on President Ford's life came only two months after the first.

No decision has yet been made whether the President's schedule will be announced daily after he resumes his regular activities. The decision to withhold the Vice President's schedule was made on a recommendation from the Secret Service after a clipping of Reagan's schedule was found in the hotel room rented by Hinckley. At the time of the attack, Secret Service were pressing Reagan aides to halt publication of the President's schedule--but no decision had been made on the matter.

Also in discussing the President's schedule, Gergen let drop a tidbit that has long been denied. When Reagan takes Wednesday afternoons off from work, according to Gergen, he sometimes goes to the residence for an "occasional nap."

Gergen is obviously bothered by the fact that Reagan has

(MORE)

lost weight during his hospital stay, apparently because it would make him look sick. He estimates Reagan's weight loss in the "range" of 10 pounds.

Reagan as Hero. Here's how Gergen describes the impact of the shooting: "It's established a public persona. It established his character as larger than life--an authentic hero. We have very few heroes in this country who have survived. He's one in our midst."

Autos. Gergen, who masterminded the autos task force at the White House, indicates they have not given up hope that the Japanese will voluntarily cut back on imports. But he insists that the administration discussed no numbers with the administration. He adds: "There is some indication that the Japanese would like to resolve this by May."

Haig. Gergen has become a strong defender of Haig, whom he describes as a "good man." He views the Haig controversy as the "most disappointing" thing that has happened to the administration since Reagan took office. But he admits: "There's a minority (in the White House) that can't find it in their heart to see this is a decent who's been victimized to a degree." None of the members of the triumverate are included in this group. He adds: "Neither side is entirely blameless." One unfortunate consequence of the shooting in Gergen's mind is that the President cannot meet three times a week with Haig as arranged.

Personnel. Gergen estimates they have filled all but 100 of 75 of the top 350 jobs that were identified by Meese

(MORE)

before January 20. Bush made another pitch in the Cabinet meeting last week for hiring women and minorities.

Footnote on History. Gergen says the administration originally planned to unveil the economic package before February 18, but the hostages forced them to delay it.

(END)

April 10, 1981

FROM: SJF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH

RE: White House Briefing by Larry Speakes, April 10

The President will not attend his daughter's wedding in California on April 24. George Bush will fill in for Reagan at a fund-raiser in Los Angeles on April 23.

Economic Package. Speakes dismisses the House and Senate Budget Committee actions on Thursday as no more than "a bump in a wide road." He adds: "It is not a serious setback in our regard. We expect some early losses on our side." He predicts that the President's program will be enacted once Congress realizes that public opinion is on the side of the White House.

Speakes says there is "an honest disagreement" between the White House and the three Republicans who voted against the President in the Senate Budget Committee.

French Wheat Sale. Speakes confirms that Secretary of State Alexander Haig informed the President of the French wheat sale to the Soviet Union during a "group discussion" in the Oval Office on March 27. Agriculture Secretary Block was not present.

Footnote. White House Staff Director Dave Gurgen[?] says Speakes has "earned his spurs" during the past two weeks, but no decision has been made about replacing Press Secretary Jim Brady. Gurgen notes that the goal of returning to work will be an important aspect of Brady's rehabilitation over the next few months. As for Karna

Small's inadequacies, Gurgen adds: "We did not want to
move on that until the problem became painfully obvious to
everyone. We did not ^{WANT} to be accused of discrimination."

(END FILE - JNM)

April 10, 1981

FROM: SJF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH

RE: White House Briefing by Dr. Dennis O'Leary

President Reagan's scheduled meeting with Mexican President José López Portillo on April 27 and 28 has been canceled. It will be rescheduled ''at the earliest mutual convenience'' of both Reagan and Portillo.

Reagan will be released from the hospital either Saturday or Sunday, depending on the outcome of his chest X-ray Saturday morning. At that time, the doctors want to make sure that the bullet track has begun to turn to scar tissue.

Although travel has been ruled out by the doctors for the next several weeks, there's apparently still some hope that the President can attend the wedding of his daughter, Maureen, on April 24. It has not been ruled out entirely, although chances for the trip are not good.

O'Leary disclosed that the greatest impact of Reagan's recent weight loss has been in his face and thus he looks drawn. The doctor says most people after chest surgery lose about ⁷⁰8-10 percent of their body weight, but Reagan has lost only about half that amount.

When he gets back to the White House, Reagan is ''not going to require a lot of medical attention,'' says O'Leary. Dr. Ruge will check his temperature, pulse, blood pressure and listen to his chest a couple of times a day. Chest X-rays will be done every other day or perhaps only

two or three times a week. He'll take penicillin orally for at least another ¹⁰ ~~ten~~ days.

At first, Reagan will spend some time sitting outdoors and work a couple of hours in the morning and afternoon in his study in the White House residence. He can begin spending half days in the Oval Office in two weeks.

Brady's Condition. O'Leary cautioned that it will be many months and "probably a year" before Jim Brady can return to work. Although his personality will be altered only slightly, according to O'Leary, he will have some physical impairment. At best, he will walk with a cane.

Brady will continue to be a regular hospital patient for two to four weeks. After that he will be a candidate for a rehabilitation ^{AT} program. Since George Washington University Hospital has a good one, according to O'Leary, Brady probably will stay there on an in-patient basis to begin rehabilitation. "His survival is extraordinary and his recovery is remarkable," said O'Leary, "but we must keep our expectations at a reasonable level."

Footnote. Reagan's evening meals in the hospital have been catered from the White House. Last night he had macaroni and cheese.

(END FILE - LC/JNM)

STORY:WHU2
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/15,09:23

To: mls lt bfp jf dr dxb gp jg dcb lh jwm sjf pa pgh jh

From: sjf

Interview with Craig Fuller, Cabinet secretary:

During his convalescence, President Reagan plans to hold private meetings with top "opinion leaders" to reassess the long-range objectives of his administration.

No names were mentioned, but Fuller suggests the list will include big names from the academia, business and labor. They will discuss "what's beyond the economic package," with heavy emphasis on foreign policy.

The President sees this as a time to do long-range thinking that might not have been done otherwise. "I think he is using the time to think conceptually about where he wants to go," says Fuller. "It's given him what he enjoys most--time to think and reflect."

With the President still unable to do much work, the Congressional recess is being greeted with a sigh of relief at the White House because it will take some of the pressure off everybody for the next two weeks. Fewer decisions have to be made with Congress gone.

On the other hand, the President will be returning to work full time about the same time that the Congress comes back to town. That means a crush of work at the White House. Not only will Reagan be behind in his work, but the return of Congress will create new chores.

Before the shooting, the President was scheduled to make a lot of public appearances during the recess to put the

heat on Congress members while they are at home. But the shooting forced him to cancel numerous events, including scheduled visits to four state legislatures.

Donald Regan's Role. The following information is intended for this week's profile of Treasury Secretary Donald Regan.

As Fuller sees it, the Treasury Secretary has recently hit his stride as a leading Cabinet officer after an extremely slow start. "He is probably more comfortable in his role than most Cabinet members, especially considering that he's had further to come," says Fuller.

Initially, Fuller says, Regan had difficulty adjusting to working in government (an environment that controls him) after years as a business executive (where he was in control). "Anyone who comes out of the business community finds this environment a unique challenge because there are demands on you from all directions," says Fuller.

To show how Regan has changed, Fuller recalls that the Treasury Secretary initially "needed a script" when he faced the news media. But that was not the case last Thursday when Regan held a news conference at the White House to answer Rostenkowski. Regan became impatient as his prepared statement was being typed. "Why don't we forget the statement--I'll just take questions," Regan said. Although Regan did wait for the statement to be typed, Fuller adds: "Clearly he's a man who needs no script."

(Note: Regan's performance at the news conference was outstanding--what Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes

(MORE)

described as "an appropriate balance of humor and information." The humor included one highly successful and extremely rare verbal jab at ABC's Sam Donaldson.)

Following the news conference, Regan was the first administration official who went to see Rostenkowski in his office. "He's our Number One tax policy spokesman, whether it's in public or in private," says Fuller. "He's become very good at taking pulses on the Hill."

Regan made his first political speech last week and, Fuller says, "he clearly enjoyed that." A joke in the speech that Regan repeated at the White House: "The IRS is the only branch of government that handicaps the hired."

Regan and Stockman also have overcome potential ideological differences between them. "There was the makings of a test between Stockman and Regan, but it never materialized," he says. Last week, Regan even offered a brief explanation of supply-side economics to a Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce group visiting the White House.

Selling the Economic Package. Regan is one of eight Cabinet members who will be going out across the country over the next two weeks to help sell the President's economic program. Although some of these speeches were scheduled before the shooting, many have been added since the President was forced to curtail his schedule.

No Tax Compromise. White House officials say Representative James Jones simply misunderstood what he thought was a proposed administration compromise on the tax

(MORE)

package. Fuller says he has talked to the three Treasury officials involved in the meeting with Jones, and all of them insist they never hinted that the administration was ready to compromise on the tax cut.

Haig. Haig's problem is that he doesn't fit into the Cabinet. "He clearly is different than other members of the Cabinet," says Fuller. "Most Cabinet members are used to board room style decision making. The difficulty is that Al Haig's approach has not been the same as every one else's."

White House Mistake. At least one matter fell through the cracks at as a result of the President's illness. Nobody remembered to issue a proclamation on Jefferson's birthday. Fuller says the proclamation prepared for this year will be issued in 1982.

Alarm Goes Off in Meese's Office. An alarm went off in Ed Meese's office last Saturday, prompting security guards to storm the room. What they found: A piece had fallen off a plastic model of the Columbia space ship that was sent to Meese by NASA.

(END)

STORY:WH3
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/15,10:26

To: mls lt bfp jf dr dxb jg dcb lh jwm rak tjf pa pgh jh
jbg mfd ldm rt pms

From: sjf

White House Stuff

A rift seems to be developing between the White House and Representative Jack Kemp over enterprise zones. White House advisers are beginning to back away from Kemp's original proposal on grounds that tax breaks ideally should be offered first by the states and municipalities.

Ed Gray, director of the Office of Policy Development, says this is a "sensitive subject right now." It should be noted that this disagreement comes at a time when the President is also under pressure from House Democrats to abandon his version of the Kemp-Roth tax cut proposal.

Gray, at a dinner with reporters on Tuesday night, also said that Reagan's domestic policy staff is "making good progress" on its proposed alternative to the Clean Air Act. Enterprise zones and the Clean Air Act appear to be the only major new items currently on the domestic policy staff's agenda right now. Most attention is still focused on selling the President's tax-budget package.

--The White House campaign to sell the President's economic package went into full gear this week. Not only are Vice President Bush and various Cabinet members making trips and speeches, many groups are being invited to the White House.

Three hundred Southern newspaper editors were invited to the White House Wednesday. About 70 of them actually showed

up to hear speeches by Bush and others. About 600 more editors have been invited next week. The turnout then should be good since the American Society of Newspaper Editors will be in town next week.

Trade association executives attended a White House briefing earlier this week. Corporate executives were on the agenda Wednesday afternoon.

(END)

STORY:WHU
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/15,20:33

mls lt bfp jg dr dxb jg dcb cas ms kj rab lh jwm rak
pa gph jh jbg mfd

From: sjf

Interview with Max Friedersdorf, chief White House
lobbyist, on the progress of the economic package.

Friedersdorf questions whether Representative Jim Jones ever seriously thought the administration was signaling a compromise on the tax package.

He says that Jones, who on television last Sunday suggested the administration was ready to compromise, knows too much about politics to think the White House would send three Treasury officials to suggest such a compromise.

"Jim Jones is a big boy and a very, very good politician," says Friedersdorf. "When there's talk of compromise, he knows it doesn't count for anything unless it comes from the President. If he was getting this from Regan, the President or Stockman he could believe it."

Compromise is not possible, says Friedersdorf. "The President's going to get his program or nothing," he says. "I don't see him compromising. Why give up? We can win a three year tax cut." He could go along with a three-year package including Rostenkowski's proposals, he says, but Rostenkowski is not likely to offer such a deal.

Friedersdorf predicts that three Republican defectors on the Senate Budget Committee will be back in the fold soon. He describes the situation as "retrievable." Although he insists the President is under no obligation to supply them

(MORE)

with a complete list of budget cuts for the next few years, he adds: "We'll show them whatever it takes."

President Reagan probably could not have saved the day, even if he had been well enough to call the three Republican Senators personally on the telephone before the vote. "If the President had been at the White House, I don't think it would have made much difference," he says. "It turned at the last minute. But the time Domenici grasped the fact that we had lost, there was no time to do anything." So far, he adds, the President has telephoned members of Congress only in cases where their votes were needed on the floor--not in committee.

He refuses to talk numbers when it comes to a House vote, except to say that he expects a "minimum" of Republican defections. "Our goal is almost 100 percent," he says, referring to the Republicans.

Friedersdorf says the administration would not object if the Congress agreed to additional spending cuts. But he rejected Jones' proposal on grounds it would spend 32 billion dollars more for social programs and 7 billion dollars less on defense than Reagan's budget. "It's a budget devised to accomodate public opinion," he says. "But it doesn't really change the course of events."

Publication of the latest right-wing congressional "hit list" does not necessarily help the administration's lobbying effort, according to Friedersdorf. "It cuts both ways," he says. "If you arouse the partisan juices up

(MORE)

there, sometimes they take it out on the President."

(END)

STORY:WHU4
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/15,20:33

: mls lt bfp jf dr dxb jg dcb lh jwm rak pa pgh jh

From: sjf

Background interview with David Gergen, White House staff

director:

Under strong pressure from his wife, President Reagan has agreed to maintain a very limited schedule for at least another week--possibly longer. "He's still in pain and his voice is not as strong as it was," says Gergen.

There are no plans as yet for Reagan's first public appearance. Although he has received a number of recommendations, he has^S not picked one. The alternatives include an interview with a newspaper or television network, or a broadcast speech. (I, of course, reminded him that we have been promised such an interview.)

Gergen admits some White House aides are unhappy with Nancy's decision to keep the President under wraps. But Gergen does not disagree with Nancy. "She naturally wants to protect him," he says. "We don't disagree."

Appointments. Jim Baker has undertaken a review that is designed to speed up the appointments process. "Some delays have been unconsonable," says Gergen. "He's put it on the front burner. Even though we all know that the process is cumbersome, it can be done faster."

There's also a battle going on between Secretary of State Haig and Senator Helms over the appointment of an assistant secretary for Latin American affairs. Haig's candidate, a fellow named Enders who served as ambassador to Canada in

(MORE)

the Ford administration, is currently doing the job without portfolio." Helms is pushing a fellow named Tambs from Arizona State. "The White House has not yet determined who is it's candidate," says Gergen.

Economic Package. Senators Baker and Domenici have made "some progress" in talks with at least two of the three Republicans who voted against the administration last week in the Senate Budget Committee. He identified the two as Grassly and Symms.

Like Friedersdorf, Gergen insists the President is under no obligation to supply Congress with a complete list of possible budget cuts over the next four years.

Nevertheless, David Stockman did try to dissuade the three Republicans from voting against the President by showing them some possible future cuts that were not contained in the official budget message.

Gergen says President Reagan was "irritated" by Representative Jim Jones report that the administration was proposing a tax compromise. Gergen thinks Jones intentionally misread the signals.

Press Secretary. It is now "conceivable" that the White House will appoint an acting press secretary to take over the job that Larry Speakes is doing. Larry apparently has lost out. It's also "conceivable" the acting press secretary will be someone currently on the White House staff. Although Nofziger's name comes to mind, it was not mentioned by Gergen.

(MORE)

In any case, Gergen insists, White House officials are looking for a permanent replacement for Brady. Gergen says Brady is currently ``depressed, angry and upset`` about his injury.

(END)

STORY:WHU5
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/16,17:44

. mls lt bfp jf gp dr dxb jg dcb lh jwm rak pa pgh jh

From: sjf

White House Report--Thursday, April 16

Secretary of State Alexander Haig says the administration will make an announcement "in the not too distant future" on resumption the Carter administration's talks with the Soviet Union over long-range atomic weapons in Europe.

The subject came up as Haig and NATO Secretary General Josph M.A.H. Luns were departing the White House after a meeting with the President--his first foreign visitor since the shooting. The meeting took place in the residence.

When Luns predicted a resumption of these talks soon, Haig confirmed it. But he cautioned there would be no announcement this week. "We're talking about the obligations incurred to proceed on two tracks: First, the modernatization of our theater nuclear capabilities in Europe and secondly, concurrent discussions with the Soviet Union with the view towards limiting long-range nuclear weapons on both sides with threaten Europe at large."

The Pardon. Larry Speakes says Felt-Miller pardon followed an extensive review of the trial record by Ed Meese and Fred Fielding and a discussion with their lawyers. "The President has reviewed the matter and he's made the decision that these men should not have to go through the lengthy, expensive trial process and that they acted as they should have," Speakes says. "As he said, to punish themn any further would not serve the ends of

(MORE)

justice, and he doesn't believe they acted with criminal intent."

About the FBI in the future: "Certainly there is no intention on the President's part to ever imply that any government agency should break the law--particularly a law enforcement agency."

Stockman on the Budget. Stockman predicts that Republican opposition to the President's budget proposals in the Senate Budget Committee will disappear after the recess. He says it was simply an "accounting argument"--a dispute over whether a deficit should be shown below the line in fiscal 1983 and 1984 without specific cuts being proposed. He says it can be handled with an "accounting solution." He also does not deny reports that he has showed the Republicans some possible additional cuts the administration could make in those years. Stockman adds that a four-year tax cut would be unacceptable to the administration.

The purpose of Stockman's visit to the White House press room was to answer the Congressional Budget Office report showing that many poor people will be deprived of their income by the Reagan budget. On the contrary, Stockman says, the CBO reports shows that 96 percent of the 16 million persons covered by the report will little or no loss of income.

Footnote: The President walked in the Rose Garden for 10 minutes Thursday. He also arranged for Joe Lewis to be

(MORE)

buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

(END)

STORY:WHUG
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/17,17:57

To: mls lt bfp jf dr dxb jg dcb lh jwm rak pa pgh jg

From: sjf

Next Week at the White House

_Larry Speakes advises that next week's schedule at the White House will be pretty much like this week--which, unfortunately, means boring. Speakes says Reagan will meet with staff and one outsider each day, but there are currently no plans to go to the Oval Office.

Reagan had a session on Friday with his chief speechwriter. They worked on possible commencement speeches at Notre Dame and West Point, which Reagan will deliver if he's well enough. They also discussed an ``economic message,`` which has not yet been scheduled.

Other items of interest from Friday's briefing:

* HHS Secretary Schweiker has been asked to submit a report on this guy Richardson, the Liberty Lobby man who's being considered for a post at HHS.

* The White House received a telegram of ``regret`` from Hinckley's father just a few days after the shooting.

(END)

DRY:WHU1
:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/21,09:20

To: mls lt jf dr lh gp rak jg dcb dxb jwm pa pgh

From: sjf

Moratorium on Flicks and Flacks.

President Reagan has imposed a government-wide moratorium on spending for new publications and audio-visual materials to publicize government programs.

Ed Harper, deputy director of OMB, estimates that the government spends billions of dollars each year on these materials. He says the cost of audio-visual materials alone comes to to 100 million dollars a year.

In an effort to get an exact estimate of these expenditures, the administration has asked all agencies and departments to submit a comprehensive report by July 15. Harper promises a followup by August 1.

Harper says the Office of Management and Budget has received numerous complaints about these government materials from outraged taxpayers who view them as wasteful and unnecessary. According to Harper, most of the following examples were supplied by taxpayers:

* A thick stack of pamphlets on rulemaking received in one day by one company from one agency, the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission. If the agency continues to churn out material at this rate, says Harper, the stack will be 20 feet high in one year.

A fat question and answer book published by the Environmental Protection Agency with huge blank spaces on each page. The government spent \$425,000 to produce 395,000

(MORE)

copies of this book, plus \$20,000 to mail them out to people free of charge.

* Two nearly identical films on espionage produced simultaneously by the Defense Department, one for \$70,000 and the other for \$100,000. The Defense Department library supposedly contains 22 other espionage films.

* A total of 647 pamphlets and magazines published by the Defense Department. Prior to a cutback in fiscal 1973, the Defense Department had 1,402 such publications.

* A slick consumers guide to car-buying, entitled the Car Book. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration produced 2 million copies at a cost of 1.2 million dollars, then promoted it on television and radio. The public service television spots cost \$70,000 to produce.

* A calendar produced by the Federal Trade Commission entitled "Do You Speak Credit?" In each month, the calendar explained a different credit term.

* A thick book of drug-related statistics mailed by the Health and Human Services Department to people who did not request it. In order to stop receiving these materials, a recipient had to check a box on an enclosed form and mail it back to the government.

* An expenditure of 68 million dollars over the past six years on very artistic television series to make minority students feel more comfortable in integrated classrooms. One was pegged to French-speaking children between the ages of 7 to 12.

(MORE)

* A very slick annual report by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

* ``Dial-A-Grant,`` a heavy cardboard contraption with a dial produced by the Education Department to help people figure out how much money they can get under the Basic Education Opportunity Grant. A simple table would have been just as useful, according to those who recieved it.

Note: Although no one knows how much of these materials are produced by outside contractors, Reagan's action obviously threatens a very lucrative group of private film makers and public relations consultants in Washington.

Selling the Economic Program. Larry Speakes estimates the President will have talked to ``a couple of dozen`` Congress members by telephone by the end of the recess. Former President Ford will make a speech on behalf of the program on Thursday, April 23, at Harding College.

(END)

SJF

STORY:MEMO
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:RAK ;04/21,16:44

TO: MLS, LT, BFP, JF, DR, DXB, JWM, GP, JG, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, JH

FROM: RAK

RE: Reagan calls on governors for help

With an air of great urgency, the President today enlisted the help of eight governors to sell his economic package to Congress during the Easter recess.

The governors--seven Republicans and wily Democrat Fob James of Alabama--were contacted by the White House on Monday and asked if they could meet with Reagan at 11 this morning. The hastiness with which the meeting was called suggests that perhaps White House strategists see trouble on the horizon. James insisted that is not the case, however. The President, he said, is just "taking inventory as he starts a real offensive to get his program through Congress."

Reagan asked the governors, in essence, to call members of Congress representing their states and urge them to vote for the tax and spending cuts as a package, without tampering with the elements of the plan. Governor Bill Clements stated bluntly what he intends to do on Reagan's behalf when he contacts Texas congressmen: "I'm going to twist their arms." Clements predicts that between two-thirds and three-fourths of the Texas congressional delegation will support the President's package in the end. Without any equivocation that Texas is totally

behind this program," said Clements.

Reagan himself made a phone call this morning to Representative Eugene Atkinson (D-Pa.) while Atkinson was on a television talk show on station WBVP in Beaver Falls. Governor Dick Thornburgh said that although Atkinson had been wavering on the Reagan package, the President "secured about as public a commitment to support his program as possible."

Ohio Governor James Rhodes warned in somber tones that if Congress rewrites Reagan's economic program, "we could be looking at 25 percent interest rates, 20 percent inflation and 15 percent unemployment."

Delaware Governor Pete du Pont said the governors, some of whom are former congressmen, discussed with Reagan strategies for bringing around swing votes. Said du Pont, "We're going to do what we can to show Congress the importance of acting on the plan as a package...We know an awful lot of them...The economy is still in trouble. I think next month's economic figures will show that."

Louisiana Governor David Treen noted that governors and local officials generally are sold on the notion that they can sustain budget cuts in exchange for block grants that give them more control over how federal money is spent in their regions. He cited as an example federal education expenditures, which Treen said could be cut by 25 percent without hurting the states, because the block-grant concept will enable states to cut administrative costs.

(MORE)

SJF

STORY:MEMOS QUEUE:CWF-CWF MSG:
MA:80 FMT: HJ: INI: OPR:RAK 04/22,16:25

TO: MLS, LT, DR, GP, JDN, SJF, PA, PGH, JH
FROM: RAK
RE: AWACS

Deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes read to reporters today this statement concerning Reagan's decision to sell the sophisticated radar planes to Israel:

"Let me state that we remain firmly committed to the security and well being of Israel, who is our long-time and very close friend. There's absolutely no weakening of the President's firm commitment and resolve to protect Israel's security. This sale would not be proposed were we to

believe it threatened Israel.

"We're in continuous discussions with the Israelis regarding their economic and security situation, and we're fully prepared to consider meeting any need which they perceive.

"It is important to emphasize that the decision to strengthen the defenses of Saudi Arabia benefits the entire region because it is directed at a common external threat faced by all countries in the area and one which none of them alone can handle."

In answer to a question, Speakes said the obvious threat he referred to in the statement is the Soviet Union.

(END)

April 23, 1981

FROM: SJF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, RAK, PA, PGH,

RE: White House briefing by Larry Speakes, April 23

President Reagan will address a joint session of Congress next Tuesday night at 9 p.m. Subject: His economic-recovery program. Speakes says Reagan considers it a "subject of utmost importance to the nation and one on which he feels he should communicate in person with members of the House and Senate at this time." Although there is scuttlebutt at the White House that Reagan intends to go to Camp David this weekend, the speech could well be his first formal public outing since the shooting. As such, it's a brilliant way to call public attention to the upcoming votes in the Congress.

On the grain embargo, Speakes made this statement: "The President has not made a decision on whether to lift the Soviet grain embargo. Obviously, the White House review and consideration of this issue is continuing as it has since January 20. It is still under review. But the President has not indicated a decision. No meeting is scheduled today on the subject of the grain embargo. But I do not rule out that it could ^{COME} up in meetings with staff. The President will base his decision on what he feels is in the best interest of the country."

Speakes repeated Ed Meese's statement earlier today before the ASNE ~~that~~ that "I have no basis to tell you when he might make a decision."

Page - 2

The subject probably will come up in tomorrow's cabinet meeting at 1 p.m. Speakes does not know whether Reagan intends to chair that meeting.

(END FILE -- rw)

STORY:WHY2
MA:80 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF

;04/23,17:57

To: mls lt jf dr jdn dxb jwm gp jg dcb lh rak pa pgh jh

From: sjf

The following comes from a background briefing by Richard Allen on the AWACs sale to Saudi Arabia. All material should be attributed to a White House official.

The Reagan administration clearly expects Saudi Arabia to become involved in the Camp David peace process as a result of the sale.

Although Allen emphasized he was not making a formal announcement, he said he would "imagine someone from Saudi Arabia" will be involved in the next round of "visitations" in the peace process. He also did not rule out the possibility that Jordan might become involved too.

Asked if the Saudis have dropped their objections to the peace process, he replied no. He continued: "Obviously the President and the Secretary of State hope very much the Saudis will come to support the Camp David peace process; we'll just have to wait and see."

About 410 American civilians and 30 U.S. Air Force personnel will be stationed in Saudi Arabia beginning in April, 1985, when the first plane is delivered. The Air Force personnel will help in flight training. The civilians will be employed by the manufacturer. Although the number of civilian and military personnel stationed there will decline over the years, some will remain for the life of the aircraft--until at least the end of the century.

The administration views the AWACs sale as a necessary

(MORE)

o to protect the long-range security of the Persian Gulf region against Soviet aggression--a hedge against ``the possibility of an adverse shift in the balance of power in that region.'' Allen mentioned Afganistan and the Iraq-Iran war, saying these were ``contributing factors.''

In the future, ``Our presence and interest in the Persian Gulf is going to be greater.''

The administration remains committed to the security of Israel, however. Allen warns that the situation could change in that region by the time the planes are delivered. Here, he's implying the possibility of a peace agreement.

He nonetheless admits the sale has touched off ``a classic political battle tending to mix heavy domestic political considerations with broad and long range strategic considerations of the United States. '' He does not rule out the possibility that the Israeli reaction is designed to obtain other concessions from the United States.

The schedule for introducing the proposal in Congress will depend on advice from Howard Baker, who may say something about it on television on Sunday.

President Reagan's decision to sell the planes was made during the week of April 2, while he was in the hospital. The decision should come as no surprise to Israel because ~~T~~ Amir was warned in advance. The Carter administration also had a ``basic disposition'' to sell the plane.

On deep background, Allen says that during the transition he was involved in meetings on this subject with top Carter

(MORE)

foreign policy people. During that time, the Reagan people were asked and declined on several occasions to associate themselves with the sale.

(END)

STORY:WHU3
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/24,13:17

To: mls lt jf dr lh bfp rak jg dcb dxb jwm pa phg jh

From: sjf

Backrounder with David Gergen, White House Staff Director.

President Reagan's economic speech to Congress on April 28 is viewed as the best way for him to cash in on favorable public sentiment created by the attempted assassination.

There's nothing new in the speech, but White House officials expect the "human drama" of the President's first public appearance since the shooting will be enough to sway Congress and the television audience. For this reason, the President is being kept under wraps until then.

But the speech should not be interpreted as the end of Reagan's convalescence. "He will not return to full-time activity after the speech. His convalescence will continue. He may go the Oval Office next week for limited visits."

There's no truth to the rumors that Reagan plans to go to California after his speech at Notre Dame on May 17. But White House officials are trying to reschedule the Mexican trip, which originally was scheduled for next week.

Public opinion. Optimism that the President's economic program will be enacted stems from polls provided by Richard Wirthlin showing that two-thirds of the nation supports the plan and three-fourths supports the President.

Women are not as enthusiastic as men, however. There's still "some apprehension" among women that Reagan will lead the country into war.

(MORE)

minorities and women. The President agrees with those who charge that minorities and women are being excluded from top jobs. "I'm aware that there is a problem. We all agree there is a problem. The President is not satisfied with our record in this area."

In order to find more women and minorities, administration officials have decided to ease up on the requirement that all appointees be long-time Reagan supporters. "The political test will not be as stern. Suppose you have two candidates, a woman and a man. If the woman is better qualified on paper, the overriding consideration should be qualifications and not whether she has supported Ronald Reagan for many years. He's now saying they don't have to be life-long Reganites."

(END)

STORY:GRAIN
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:RAK ;04/24,14:31

TO: MLS, LT, BFP, DR, JF, DXB, JWM, GP, JG, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, JH

FROM: RAK

RE: Grain embargo

Reagan's decision to totally lift the embargo on the sale of agricultural products to the Soviet Union was made with "no assurances" from the Soviets about their future course of action in Poland, Richard Allen said at a background briefing this afternoon. (Allen's statements should be attributed only to "an administration official.") However, Secretary of State Haig met with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin earlier in the week and "alerted" him that a decision on the embargo was imminent. The implication is that if Haig did not receive overt assurances from Dobrynin, the secretary of state at least was reassured that the Soviets don't intend to invade Poland in the near future.

Allen said Reagan's decision to lift the embargo--including removing restrictions on the export of phosphate rock--was based on an overall assessment of global conditions. It is clear, though, that Soviet restraint in Poland was the determining factor. Said Allen, at various times during the briefing: "I would not peg this decision to lift the embargo on any particular situation...The general lessening of tensions in Central Europe was probably a contributing factor...His decision was made solely on an interpretation

(MORE)

of the world situation...His decision is not directly related to the invasion of Afghanistan...The basis for this decision remains the President's [campaign] commitment to lift the embargo."

The administration will approve all future grain sales to the Soviets, said Allen, but the White House does not believe the Soviets will be able to purchase the 17 million tons allowed under the long-term contract that expires in September. Allen pledged total ignorance on such "technical details" as how much grain the Soviets likely will be able to purchase by September. I gathered that there is not enough surplus grain for the U.S. to fill a 17-ton order in just a few months.

New deal. Will the U.S. negotiate a new long-term contract when the present one expires? "I would think the U.S. wouldn't be disinterested in a new agreement," said Allen. But "no concrete steps have been taken to negotiate a new long-term contract." Has the President foreclosed the option of reimposing the embargo at some future date if the Soviets get out of line? "I shouldn't think so at all," said Allen, but it's clear the President has no intention of using this economic weapon in the future.

President's statement. In a statement (A copy has been given to PR.), Reagan said he opposed the embargo "because American farmers had been unfairly singled out to bear the burden of this ineffective national policy."

Reagan repeated his disapproval of the "Soviet occupation

(MORE)

of Afghanistan and other aggressive acts around the world. We will react strongly to acts of aggression wherever they take place."

The President decision to remove the embargo was delayed, he said, because "in the first few weeks of my Presidency, I decided that an immediate lifting of the sales limitation could be misinterpreted by the Soviet Union...I have determined that our position now cannot be mistaken."

Whisper? The White House insists that the President did not make the final decision to lift the embargo until this morning before the cabinet meeting. Reagan apparently was irked enough about this week's newspaper reports that he would lift the embargo, that he told the cabinet: "That is pure speculation. I'm the one to make the decision. The decision had not been made. Now, I have made a decision." Reagan's comments were read to reporters by Larry Speakes, who attended the cabinet session.

Reagan made the decision after "a full round of consultation" with U.S. allies, according to Allen. The National Security Council also was consulted, of course. Allen said he had no personal knowledge of any cabinet secretary dissenting from Reagan's decision, but Haig's opposition has been public for a long time. It is clear that Haig never had a change of heart.

Other measures. Allen noted that a "full range of denial measures" against the Soviets remain in place. He had trouble citing just what these other punitive measures are,

(MORE)

except to mention "reduced diplomatic contact" and other trade restrictions, presumably curbs on technology transfers.

Future impact. Allen made clear that there was no quid pro quo with the Soviets for lifting the embargo. But he added, "We will watch very closely and analyze their actions in response" to Reagan's decision. In answer to a question, Allen said the impact of the new grain shipments would not aid the Soviet economy enough to allow the Soviets to shift more resources into building armaments.

Footnote. The puzzling aspect about Reagan's decision is that there seems to be no good reason for it--except perhaps a stubborn desire to honor his campaign pledge. Certainly he wasn't being hurt politically by keeping the embargo in place. Although farmers were unhappy about the embargo, they weren't suffering hardship. Most of the advice the President was getting centered on the merits of keeping embargo, particularly with the Polish crisis far from over. The issue had largely disappeared until Reagan revived it. To me, this decision reveals a bit of the doctrinaire side of Reagan, his inclination to stick to dogmatic principles.

(END)

STORY:WHITE
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:RAK ;04/27,15:31

TO: MLS, LT, BFP, DR, JF, DXB, JWM, GP, JG, JDN, DCB, LH,
SJJ, PA, PGH, JH

FROM: RAK

RE: White House notes

After he returned this afternoon from Camp David, Reagan met with his chief speech writer, Ken Khachigian, to finish the economic message he will deliver Tuesday night on the Hill. The address, which Reagan worked on over the weekend, may run longer than the 15 minutes originally planned.

"The speech, as I've seen it in the past couple of days, has been steadily lengthened by [the President's] own hand," says Larry Speakes.

Speakes describes the "thrust" of Reagan's speech to Congress this way: "We were elected in November with a mandate to do something about the economy, and nothing has yet been done about the economy...The President feels the d of decision is near, and it's appropriate for the

(MORE)

Congress to act as soon as possible on his economic

package...Now is the time to act."

The vote. White House strategists believe the vote on the

Gramm-Latta substitute vs. the Jim Jones-Democratic

leadership's bill will be "very, very close. It's tough,

but doable," in Speakes' words.

Reagan continued over the weekend making phone calls to

lawmakers, mostly conservative Democrats. "I'm sure he

will continue his personal phone calls," Speakes says, but

he does not expect Reagan to bring many members to the

White House this week.

(END)

STORY:MEMO
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:CWF ;04/28,15:08

TO: MLS, LT, BFP, DR, JF, DXB, JWM, GP, JG, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, JH, JDN

FROM: RAK

RE: White House notes

Perhaps to avoid becoming overconfident, the White House and the House Republican leadership remained adamant today that the upcoming vote on Reagan's budget cuts will be very tight in the House. Says presidential spokesman Larry Speakes, "The situation on the House side remains very close. Quite frankly, our count shows that we do not have the necessary votes at this time." After meeting with Reagan this morning, House Minority Leader Bob Michel told reporters, "The President made the point that he thought it was going to be a close vote, that the votes are not there yet...Notwithstanding the speaker's comments, it will be a tough vote."

Meanwhile, the President is continuing his phone calls to wavering conservative Democrats, but he does not plan at this time to summon any lawmakers to the White House this week for face-to-face jawboning. He was to meet this afternoon with speechwriter Ken Khachigian to put the final touches on his address to Congress, which will run "13 to 14 minutes," according to Speakes.

Senate outlook. After the meeting of the House and Senate Republican leadership with Reagan this morning, Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker said he expects the Senate

(MORE)

Budget Committee to approve the first budget resolution
day, with the full Senate to take it up late this week or
early next. The Senate version, says Baker, will be
"substantially in accordance with [Reagan's]
recommendations." The Republicans who defected earlier
from the President's budget proposals are now back on
board, says Baker. "Some adjustments and accommodations
have been made to those members," Baker says. In the
Budget Committee, Reagan's cuts will win the support of a
"solid phalanx of Republicans, plus a few Democrats,"
Baker predicts.

The President's support in the Senate is so strong, says
Baker, that Reagan's appearance before Congress tonight is
not vital. "From the Senate's standpoint, I really don't
ink [Reagan's speech] is necessary, but it serves a lot
of purposes," the most important of which is to allow the
public to see how "robust" Reagan is, even though he
hasn't fully recovered from his gunshot wound, says Baker.

The majority leader predicts that the Senate Agriculture
Committee's vote approving higher dairy payments than
Reagan wants will be reversed.

Reagan's recovery. The President no longer is taking any
medication, according to Speakes, and his doctors have
raised no objections to his going to Capitol Hill tonight.

Reagan apparently was irritated last night by a report on
CBS saying he was limping slightly due to a broken leg he
suffered 30 years ago in a fall from a horse. That injury

(MORE)

still causes pain in the President's knee, according to the
CBS report. Speakes took pains today to quote Reagan
telling his physician, Dr. Daniel Ruge, "Oh, I should have
told you my knee doesn't hurt anymore." But Speakes said
the President still limps occasionally because of the old
injury.

The President will be spending half days in the Oval
Office this week, and his schedule will be gradually
lengthened next week, Speakes says.

(END)

STORY:BELL
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF ;04/28,10:47

To: mls lt jf dr lh bfp rak jg snw dcb dxb jwm pa pgh jh

From: sjf_

The following material comes from a dinner conversation with Education Secretary Terrel H. Bell last Saturday night at the White House Correspondent's Association gala:

Bell views Secretary of State Alexander Haig as an argumentative, immature man. "Something's bothering that guy," says Bell. "A sign of a maturity of is knowing how to disagree without being disagreeable. He does not know how to do that." He adds Haig also does not realize that you cannot go to the mat on every issue. As a result, Bell [↖]ns Haig is probably on his way out.

According to Bell, Reagan's most effective Cabinet officers are Donald Regan and John Block. He also gives Malcolm Baldrige high marks.

Bell disclosed that the entire Cabinet has been meeting once a month with Ed Meese for an off-the-record gripe session. Their biggest complaint has been the slowness of the appointments process. Bell is furious that he must testify in Congress without the help of a legislative aide or chief counsel, neither of whom have been appointed.

Education Department. Bell strongly opposes the idea of re-merging the Education Department with Health and Human Services. Reason: The HEW secretary never knew anything [↖]ut education.

Instead, Bell would like to convert the Education Department into an government-funded foundation similar to

the National Science Foundation. This would allow local schools to operate with a minimum of interference from the federal government.

Until then, Bell is trying to repeal federal regulations on a variety of subjects that he thinks are the sole responsibility of state and local school administrators. Last week, for example, he repealed the regulations prohibiting dress codes in the schools.

He says he's about to be held in contempt of court by a federal judge here in the District of Columbia. The issue in this case is whether schools must pay similar salaries to people who coach men's and women's athletics.

Bell also is prepared to challenge President Reagan's position on segregated colleges in North Carolina. Reagan wants him to side with North Carolina in favor of the schools. Bell is opposed to the segregated schools.

(END)

STORY:TALKS
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:RAK ;04/29,15:02

TO: MLS, LT, BFP, DR, JF, DXB, JWM, GP, JG, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, JH

FROM: RAK

RE: White House notes

The talks between Reagan and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo will be held in Washington on June 8-9. National Security Adviser Richard Allen, who made the announcement at the White House, said Reagan and Lopez Portillo will confer privately at Camp David after initial talks at the White House. (Allen's statements were on background only, and should be attributed only to "a White House official.)

The two presidents will spend the night at Camp David. Apparently the trip to Camp David is largely intended as rest and relaxation, and to give Rawhide a chance to lay on the charm for his Mexican counterpart. Allen left the impression that the serious talks, which will include "a range of bilateral issues...and have a global focus," will be held in Washington.

These talks originally were scheduled to be held this week in Tijuana, but were postponed after the shooting. Lopez Portillo agreed to come to Washington because "it wasn't convenient for the President to travel to the West Coast at this time," said Allen. He mentioned scheduling conflicts for Reagan, so the President's health is not the only reason for the talks not being held in Mexico as protocol would require.

(MORE)

Mike Deaver is overseeing the arrangements for the trip, which is being billed as a "working visit" instead of a state visit. (A state visit, I am told, has to be at least three days long, under the rules of protocol.) Last month, Deaver was put in charge of preparing the President for meetings with other heads of state after complaints from Meese and others that Reagan was not adequately briefed for the Canada trip in March.

Allen also said that no decision has yet been made on whether Reagan will attend the North-South summit scheduled for October in Mexico City. There is widespread speculation that Castro also will be invited to that summit. "The entire list of invitees will be carefully reviewed" before Reagan decides whether he will attend the summit, Allen said.

(END)

April 30, 1981

FROM: ³SAF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH

President Reagan suggested Thursday that the plight of Soviet Jewry would be a matter of discussion in any arms-control talks with the Soviet Union.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes later cautioned that Reagan's remarks do not reflect a new development in American foreign policy, even though Reagan previously promised that human rights would not be a public element in our approach to another nations. Thus we have yet another example of mixed signals by this administration.

Reagan, in a speech to a special ceremony marking the Holocaust, said: "Even at the negotiating table, never shall it be forgotten for a moment that wherever it is taking place in the world the persecution of people, for whatever reason -- persecution of people for their religious belief -- that is a matter to be on the negotiating table or the United States does not belong at that table."

Speakes insisted Reagan was describing a "longstanding policy of the administration," and "It was not intended to be a statement of new policy." He said that concern about persecution of people for religious beliefs would be "a backdrop" to any negotiations, but cautioned: "We are not saying this subject must be placed on the agenda of any meeting." He added: "I would not apply this to any negotiations that are in progress or any in the future."

Consulting with members of Congress. Also on Thursday, Reagan began meeting one on one with members of Congress whose votes are considered key to passage of his budget in the House. Names were withheld, according to Larry Speakes, because "We are not about to telegraph our legislative strategy." Reagan will meet with nearly two dozen Congress members this week and next.

(END FILE - CKM)

STORY:HELMS
MA:60 ~~IMP~~:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:RAK ;04/30,10:39

TO: MLS, LT, BFP, DR, JF, DXB, JWM, GP, JG, DCB, LH, SJF,
PA, PGH, JH, JDN, WLC

FROM: RAK

RE: White House notes

Jesse Helms. The White House views its problems with Senator Helms as solely a case of ideological friction between a President who must be pragmatic and a purist conservative senator who believes in keeping Reagan's feet to the fire.

Says White House staff director David Gergen, on background only: "Helms is not unlike a lot of conservatives in that he believes in keeping this place honest."

Gergen made a few other observations that he insisted not be attributed to anybody in the White House: "Some of these conservatives feel that if they're stormy enough, often enough, they'll keep us on the straight and narrow path...Helms commands a large army of followers out in the countryside, and he can raise a lot of money...He regards himself as the keeper of the flame."

Spokesman Larry Speakes claims not to know what was done to "satisfy" Helms enough for him to remove the hold he placed on the State Department nominations. But Speakes adds, on background: "Senator Baker carried a lot of water for us." Gergen says that Helms' suspicion of Haig has grown recently, after Haig earlier had succeeded in putting

to rest some of the doubts Helms had expressed about him.

The White House does not view Helms as a major problem, but rather sees him as a source of mischief who cannot be ignored for long. "Once we get through the appointments, I don't think we're going to have any trouble with him," says Speakes.

Helms, as chairman of the Agriculture Committee, could make trouble for the White House on the upcoming farm bill, Gergen points out. Reagan is concerned about the farm bill because much of his budget savings comes in the form of cutbacks in subsidy payments to farmers for various farm commodities, such as dairy products.

But the senator also has been an ally of Reagan's, and the White House insists there are no personal problems between the two men, nor between Helms and the senior White House staff. "Helms disagrees without being disagreeable," says Gergen. Helms has been raising money for television spots promoting Reagan's economic package and has been a help to the White House on the Foreign Relations Committee. Gergen points out that Helms is much closer philosophically to Reagan than committee chairman Charles Percy. To emphasize the positive side of Helms' relationship with Reagan, Gergen phoned the congressional liaison office to find out how many times the senator has been invited to the Oval Office--three. And it was Helms, Gergen reminds, who delivered North Carolina for Reagan in 1976, a victory that kept the Gipper in the battle for the nomination right up

(MORE)

to the convention.

Selling the cuts. The White House continues to insist that Reagan's appearance before a joint session of Congress Tuesday was not unnecessary, and that all the necessary votes are not yet in line behind the President. "Certainly the climate up there is better for us now, though," says Gergen, adding this note of caution: "All of the Republicans are not in the barn yet, but the number of defections will not be great."

Everyone at the White House is vaguely suspicious about Tip O'Neil's declaration that the Jones' bill didn't have a fighting chance. But no one can explain what the purpose of such a ploy would have been. "He's very shrewd," says Speakes.

When Reagan returned to the White House after giving the speech, he was so "elated," says Gergen, that he seemed reluctant to go up to the family quarters to go to bed. Instead, he loitered around the elevator laughing and talking and having his photo taken with some SS men. Any reservations Nancy Reagan might have had about Reagan undergoing the stress of the trip to the Capitol were allayed by Mike Deaver, says Gergen.

"We couldn't be better positioned politically," says Gergen, obviously savoring the President's current public stature. The White House feels that if it can get deep enough budget cuts, it will be in a better position later to battle for the tax cut on the grounds that the

(MORE)

Government can afford a big tax cut because it has pared spending so much.

The President. Reagan now is spending half days in the Oval Office and spending most of his afternoons resting. That pattern will continue next week, but Reagan will begin seeing many more visitors in the Oval Office. Wavering Republicans and conservative Democrats will be summoned to the White House next week for one-on-one encounters, and meetings in small groups, with the President.

Because of the shooting, Rawhide will not be travelling around the country much to sell the economic package, as originally was planned. He will make two speeches next month--at Notre Dame and West Point--but those addresses are expected to center on foreign policy. The tax-cut speech Reagan was to deliver on April 15 may still be given at a later date to push his tax cuts, says Gergen.

(END)