

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 – 06/16/1981-  
06/30/1981**  
**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](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

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

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

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection:** Sara Fritz Papers  
**OA/Box:** Box 1  
**File Folder:** White House Notes – 06/16/1981-01/30/1981

**Archivist:** jsm  
**FOIA ID:**  
**Date:** 3/28/2018

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. transcript	Notes from Cabinet meeting (1 pg partial and 3 pp)	6/29/81	C
2. transcript	Gergen off the record comment (1 pg partial)	6/30/81	C

### RESTRICTIONS

- 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-7a Release could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings [(b)(7)(A) of the FOIA].
- B-7b Release would deprive an individual of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication [(b)(7)(B) of the FOIA].
- B-7c Release could reasonably be expected to cause unwarranted invasion or privacy [(b)(7)(C) of the FOIA].
- B-7d Release could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source [(b)(7)(D) of the FOIA].
- B-7e Release would disclose techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines which could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law [(b)(7)(E) of the FOIA].
- B-7f Release could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual [(b)(7)(F) 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].

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

STORY:GUY  
MA:65 FMT:

QUEUE:CASX-CAS  
HJ: INI:

MSG:

OPR:CAS ;06/16,11:03

June 16, 1981

To: MLS LT BFP DR JG GP DCB JWM TJF DXB SJF RAK RAB KJ MS PGH MW  
JH

From: CAS

Backgrounder with Representative Guy Vander Jagt (R-Mich.), Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, on June 15 after Vander Jagt and other Republican leaders discussed tax bill strategy with President Reagan at the White House.

REAGAN'S HEALTH: "After meeting with us for an hour, it required an effort for President Reagan to get up," Vander Jagt volunteered. He said Reagan appeared to feel "as I feel at the end of a very hard day of work."

IMPENDING PRESIDENTIAL ATTACK ON O'NEILL: President Reagan is bothered by Speaker Tip O'Neill's saying the Reagan tax cut program is a rich-man's tax cut and Reagan is anxious to lash back at O'Neill, according to Vander Jagt. Seventy-three percent of the tax cut dollars will go to the low and middle income groups which O'Neill says would be shortchanged, Vander Jagt claimed.

Vander Jagt ridiculed the assertion of Democrats that the GOP tax bill would result in larger deficits. "O'Neill obviously doesn't care about huge federal deficits" if they result from inefficient programs, "but if a working man gets a few more dollars from a tax cut and that causes a deficit, then O'Neill is upset."

President Reagan, Vander Jagt reported, is overjoyed that the Democrats have sponsored a lowering of the tax rate on unearned

income from 70 to 50 percent. Vander Jagt recalled that the Republicans originally took that cut out of their package so they could not be accused of favoring the wealthy. "The President's eyes were virtually dancing and he said, 'I deserve an Oscar for that performance'."

Vander Jagt predicted that the Reagan tax cut bill would win in the House. At the same stage in the battle over expenditure cuts, the Republicans had the support of only 12 of the 63 Democrats who ultimately supported Reagan, but there are now over 20 who will join the Republicans on the Reagan tax bill, he said. There were said to be a dozen or so northeast and mid-west Republicans who have to be massaged to go along with the Reagan program.

Republicans are considering revising their tax package, i.e., finding a better way of structuring the estate taxes, Vander Jagt said.

It will be impossible for the House Ways and Means Committee, of which Vander Jagt is a member, to finish its markup of a tax bill by July 8, and thus Congress will not be able to approve a tax bill before the August recess, he predicted.

PREDICTS GOP VICTORY ON EXPENDITURE CUTBACK VOTE: As for the upcoming House reconciliation vote on the \$36 billion in expenditure cutback, Vander Jagt said that about 40 of the 63 Democrats who went along with the original Gramm-Latta bill would stick with the Republicans on the reconciliation vote. Only 27 Democrats are needed for passage if all the Republicans stay together as they did on the first vote.

(MORE)



TARGETING OF DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVES IN 1982 ELECTION: While insisting that no Democrat would be given a free ride in next year's election if he voted for Reagan's programs, Vander Jagt admitted that "if a guy in a conservative district has voted the right line on Reagan programs, he probably is not going to be vulnerable and show up on the GOP target list."

The bottom line for Republicans, Vander Jagt said, was whether Democratic conservatives would again stay with their party and vote for O'Neill for speaker after the 1982 election. "No matter how conservative a congressman is, when he votes to put O'Neill in power, he does the most damage." If O'Neill were to step aside, Vander Jagt said that someone of O'Neill's ideology would become the Democratic leader because the balance of power in the Democratic caucus remains with liberals.

"I can envision a Hance or Gramm fighting for political survival in a district overwhelmingly for the President saying they would vote for someone to replace an obstructionist like O'Neill."

LATEST HARRIS POLL DISPUTED: The latest Harris Poll which showed Democrats would retain control of the House in 1982 by a 50 to 44 percent margin was poohpoohed by Vander Jagt. "Harris is the one pollster who was consistently wrong last year." Also, he said, the Harris poll doesn't take account of redistricting, which could give the Republicans a gain of 12 to 15 seats. Vander Jagt did acknowledge that Reagan's social security proposals "did have a temporary impact countrywide."

STORY:NOTES  
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF  
HJ:

MSG:  
INI:

OPR:SJF ;06/17,11:32

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

From: sjf

Press conference postmortem at the White House.

\_ Larry Speakes insists that President Reagan meant to say ``defensive``--instead of ``offensive``--when he was discussing the Syrian missiles at the news conference.

Asked to explain Reagan's statement that ``there's no question about the direction in which they're aimed,`` Speakes replied that the President meant they were aimed in a ``defensive direction at Israeli planes.``

How did Reagan discover his mistake? When he emerged from the press conference, both Speakes and Richard Allen quickly told him ``You said offensive, but you meant defensive.``

A White House press staff shakeup will be announced later today. Speakes will move into Brady's office. Baker's friend from Texas will take Speakes' job. Gergen will have more sway over the whole operation. But reports that Karna will be farmed out to a cabinet department are being denied. For the time being, she'll continue to be shoved to the side at the White House.

White House officials waited until Brady was clearly improving before making these moves. The shakeup coincides with the end of medical briefings on Brady's conditions. Speakes seems to be maturing as a press spokesman. Karna's fatal flaw was her extreme haughtiness, which made people want to see her fail. The shakeup also shows that Baker is

(MORE)

firmly in control. Nofziger and his buddies are not getting into the act, even though they tried.

(END)

STORY:NOTES  
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF  
HJ:

MSG:  
INI:

OPR:RAK ;06/17,14:56

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

FROM: RAK

RE: White House notes

Jim Baker today announced the following reorganization of the White House press office:

\* Staff Director David Gergen becomes assistant to the President for communication. He will oversee the press office, the office of communications and the speechwriting office. The title of staff director lapses. This change broadens Gergen's already considerable influence in the way the White House projects Reagan to the public. (Gergen is Baker's top deputy.)

In addition, Gergen will share responsibility for briefing reporters from time to time. Since March 30, Larry Speakes has been the only White House spokesman to brief reporters.

\* Speakes now becomes deputy assistant to the President and "principal deputy press secretary." This is a promotion for Speakes only in the sense that he gets a pay raise of about \$5,500/year, and has been conferred the additional title of deputy assistant to the President. Previously, only Karna Small had this title and salary. Now she and Speakes both have the same title and salary. But Speakes will no longer necessarily will be the chief briefer. He will report to Gergen. When Baker was asked who would be the chief spokesman for the administration, he

(MORE)



replied: "The President." Speakes will be "a major spokesman for this administration."

Baker denied the persistent published reports that the White House is trying to squeeze out Small, who by everyone's reckoning is a disaster. Baker announced that Small would "play a larger role" in providing information on domestic matters. (He didn't mean that as a joke, but many took it that way.) I still believe her days are numbered. But the White House is very sensitive about the prospect of removing one of the few women with a top job in the administration.

\* Pete Roussel, a longtime associate of Baker and George Bush, has been hired on a consultant basis for 60 days.

His duties will primarily be administrative in nature and he will report to Mr. Speakes," said Baker. But Roussel is being brought in because Baker wants to improve the press operation. He was Baker's press secretary in his ill-fated campaign for attorney general in Texas.

Baker and Gergen took great pains today to stress that Jim Brady is still the press secretary and that the President expects him to return to the White House. Baker discussed the staff changes with Brady at the hospital on Friday.

Brady approved them and recommended one change, which Baker made but he declined to say what the change was. The White House is arranging for a speaker hook-up at the hospital so

t Brady can hear the daily briefings from the West Wing briefing room. Brady also is doing some very limited paper

(MORE)

work at the hospital. Said Gergen, "It is our hope that as his recovery continues, he will get more and more involved...All of us here fervently are looking forward to the day when he returns." Baker delayed making these staff changes until Brady's doctors were sure that Brady would not "misinterpret" the shake-up.

White House-Hill feud. The President called Tip O'Neil this morning to smooth the ruffled feathers created by Tuesday's exchange of barbs. Speakes would not say that Reagan called to apologize, but he said that Reagan believes he has too good of a relationship with O'Neil to let it deteriorate because of Tuesday's exchange.

"Certainly there are no hard feelings here," said Speakes. (I will try to get more on this from Speakes in private.)

(END)

June 18, 1981

FROM: SJF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH, <sup>76</sup>

White House aides acknowledged Thursday that the President's campaign promise to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court is creating problems.

"It's a delicate issue," says Dave Gergan[?], White House Communications Director. "A lot of people feel that sex should not be a criteria." Gergan spent a great deal of the afternoon touring the White House press room Thursday telling reporters that the President is seeking the "best qualified" appointee -- which could or could not be a woman. (In fact, as a result of this, our appointment with him has been delayed until Friday).

Reagan told reporters earlier in the day that he is "always" looking for a woman (whatever that means). He indicated his appointee would be a "~~Constitutionalist~~" like himself. Asked if he had a list of candidates, he replied: "We have been for some time just basically preparing for any future appointment and there will be an announcement shortly. We won't leave that vacant."

Gergan said there is yet no timetable for announcing the appointment or the nomination. He says that Reagan must consult with the Senate leadership on timing and on the potential nominee. He also wants the Attorney General to consult with the American Bar Association and other such groups.

"There is no list," insists Gergan. "There is no

litmus test on particular issues, either.''

The process for choosing a candidate has not yet been determined, according to Gergan. The Attorney General will report to the President sometime soon on his search for qualified candidates. White House Counsel Fred Fielding[?] also knows a number of potential candidates who have been under consideration for other federal <sup>E</sup>judgships.  
^

Budget Reconciliation. Gergan says the President is very close to deciding whether he will negotiate budget items on a piece<sup>I</sup>meal basis with House Democrats or simply propose a substitute. David Stockman and Max Friedersdorf were up on Capitol Hill Thursday meeting with the Republican leadership to plot strategy. Gergan says the Democrat<sup>I</sup>s current version would exceed the original budget resolution by billions of dollars over the next three years.

(END FILE - JNM)



STORY:SPEAKES  
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF  
HJ:

MSG:  
INI:

OPR:RAK :06/18,10:19

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

FROM: RAK

RE: Background ivu with Larry Speakes

Speakes' comments are on background only:

Reagan-O'Neil feud. Speakes says the President was not at all bashful about making it public that he called the Speaker on Wednesday to smooth over their sharp exchange. The call projects Reagan as being above personal name-calling, in the view of the White House. Speakes quotes Reagan as saying to O'Neil, "We're good friends and its nothing personal." (Speakes was not present when the call was made, so he can only paraphrase Reagan.) The speaker agreed that there was nothing personal in what he said about Reagan, according to Speakes.

Clearly, Reagan wanted to minimize the damage from the exchange of barbs, but he also was not reluctant to scold O'Neil publicly. Reagan rarely ducks a partisan fight. His comment at the press conference obviously was calculated, and he has no regrets over what he said. Speakes complains that O'Neil always has talked harshly to Reagan in private, and although both men seek to present a public image of personal friendship, their relationship is really more businesslike than personal--one of President to speaker of the House, not affable Irishman to affable Irishman.

Says Speakes, "Frankly, I've been shocked at how Tip

(MORE)

talks to a President. I remember how he would come down to talk to Ford and be downright ugly with the President. Then they would go out and play golf together and everybody said how well they got along. He hasn't changed. I remember one of the times we were up at the Capitol [with Reagan] and when we got in there Tip started berating the President for not having the budget cuts ready. Some of his talk was pretty strong."

Speakes describes O'Neil as being a bit surly most of the time with Reagan. So, there are personal strains between them, but Reagan recognizes the importance of not letting them get out of hand. "I'm continually amazed at how he [Reagan] knows how to get along with members of Congress." The White House, for obvious reasons, doesn't trust O'Neil much and the Reagan high command is always wary of what O'Neil might have up his sleeve. "He's a shrewd politician. In the briefings, I've always had the good sense not to get into a battle with him," says Speakes.

Press conference reviews. Speakes quotes Baker as acknowledging that Reagan "was a bit rusty" in Tuesday's press conference. But that was to be expected, says Speakes, after Reagan's three-month hiatus. Baker still intends for Reagan to hold press conferences about once a month, and have sessions with smaller groups of reporters and editors more often. Although Reagan was not as sharp this week as he has been in previous press conferences, the White House still believes his performance was

(MORE)



satisfactory. "The benefits exceeded the risks," says Speakes.

The Sequoia. The White House has no connection whatsoever with the group that has purchased the presidential yacht and is moving it to Washington. There are no plans for Reagan to use the boat. But Speakes predicts that "maybe sometime next year" the President might wind up using the Sequoia. "I think the public would buy it." But Speakes was only voicing a hunch.

Staff shakeup. Pete Roussel, the man Jim Baker is bringing into the White House press operation, has been given the option of staying on after his 60-day consultant's contract expires. Speakes believes Roussel will stay on permanently, but no decision regarding this will be made for several weeks.

Speakes claims to be fully satisfied with the new arrangements, but he concedes that things have not developed as he had envisioned. David Gergen may brief reporters as much as half of the time, but Speakes does not really know what to expect from Gergen. [He questioned me as much about Gergen's intentions as I questioned Speakes.]

Despite the public expressions of hope that Brady will return to the press secretary's job, no one really expects him to, says Speakes. "This [reorganization] is the beginning of the acknowledgement that Jim Brady won't come k full time."

Nor does Speakes expect Karna Small to last. It is only

(MORE)

because of the news leaks that Baker is trying to get rid of her that she has not yet been removed, says Speakes.

The search for a chief speechwriter is progressing slowly because Reagan insists on finding someone with the right "temperament." "It takes a special person to work with him." Reagan does not readily accept drafts prepared for him by speechwriters. The White House now refers to speech drafts as "speech materials," because Reagan is so prone to throwing the drafts away and starting over with his own gooey, banal, patriotic prose. I noticed during the press conference that Reagan was a bit defensive about the criticism he received for the West Point speech, which he wrote almost himself after discarding the speechwriter's draft.

(END)

SQ7

STORY:STEWART  
MA:70 FMT:

QUEUE:TG-TG  
HJ:

MSG:  
INI:

OPR:TC

;06/18,13:14

June 18, 1981

MLS LT DR GP DXB LJL SJF from TG

Potter Stewart's retirement--preliminary thoughts--

Stewart's unexpected decision gives Reagan an earlier chance than anyone had thought to start reshaping the Supreme Court. Five Justices are over 70 (Stewart is not), and it has been widely assumed that the first vacancies would come from that group.

Stewart has been a "swing vote", so it's likely that a Reagan nominee would swing the Court slightly to the right. Without establishing a "litmus test," Reagan has indicated that he wants judges who are hard line on crime issues and antiabortion. At the same time, he has said that he is likely to make a woman one of his first nominees. Interestingly, Stewart himself predicted to reporters in 1979 that a woman would be appointed to the Court while he was still on the bench.

Looking at the President's record, two of his three choices for the California Supreme Court were lower-court judges. One of those men is William Clark, now deputy Secretary of State. One would have to guess that he would be a judicial candidate again. If Reagan sticks to judges, we could scour the federal appeals or district courts for possibilities, as well as such former jurists as the FBI's Webster. Many of Reagan's California appointees were former prosecutors. Thus one must consider the likes of Ed Meese for the new job. Obviously, Meese, a former prosecutor, is expected to have a heavy hand in the selection process whether or not he is interested in the job.

(MORE)



As for women, there are not many prominent conservative women judges or lawyers. Carla Hills has been mentioned, but she's a moderate ex-Ford appointee. Phyllis Schlafly is a self-nominated candidate, but she has no experience whatever.

Reagan could also go the law-professor route. University of Chicago professor Philip Kurland, a well-known conservative, is a possibility. Then there's Robert Bork of Yale Law School, the Nixon solicitor general who bounced Richardson and Cox during the Saturday Night massacre.

I've heard no speculation on this yet, but one must consider the Hill as an outside possibility. The two Senate Judiciary members most of Reagan's stripe are Paul Laxalt and Orrin Hatch. One would think that even if they're not interested in the slot, they'll have their pet candidates.

Back to the likely impact of Stewart's leaving, because he tended to the conservative side, there probably won't be a decided shift visible right away. Take this week's cotton-dust ruling: Stewart dissented, so a Reagan appointee presumably wouldn't change the 5-3 split. But take the military-reservist case (no employment privileges for them): Stewart wrote the majority opinion and Rehnquist agreed. However, dissenters included Burger, Blackmun and Powell. It's unclear whether a conservative Reagan appointee would have been in the Stewart/Rehnquist corner or the Burger/Blackmun corner.

(END)

STORY:COURT  
MA:60 -FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF  
HJ:

MSG:  
INI:

OPR:RAK ;06/18,14:36

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

FROM: RAK

RE: Supreme Court vacancy

The selection of a nominee to replace Potter Stewart presents President Reagan with a volatile political dilemma. To an unusual degree, Reagan is straightjacketed by political considerations:

First among these is his pledge to nominate a woman to the Supreme Court. Secondly, Reagan has endorsed the Republican Party platform stipulating that any candidate for the court must be pro-life. Also, the President will come under heavy pressure from his New Right supporters to nominate a very conservative justice. And, of course, Reagan must find a candidate whose views reflect the President's belief that the Supreme Court should interpret the Constitution strictly and not assume the "activist" stance that has characterized some recent court decisions.

Finding a nominee who fits all of these qualifications will be difficult. Consequently, the White House is gingerly walking a tightrope in an effort to prevent the search itself from turning into a political imbroglio.

Last October 14 in Los Angeles, Reagan made this campaign pledge: "I am announcing today that one of the first Supreme Court vacancies in my administration will be filled by the most qualified woman I can possibly find."

(MORE)

The White House today did all it could to soften that commitment. Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said the White House is not giving special consideration to women candidates. Said Speakes, "He is looking at all qualified candidates...We're not singling out any particular segment of the population....We're going to look for the best person for the job from all segments of the public...We'll certainly give every consideration to women in our selection process."

Speakes was asked whether Reagan would abide by the GOP platform requirement on abortion. "The President certainly is trying to adhere to the platform in all of its aspects." But a candidate's views on abortion alone would not necessarily exclude him from consideration, said Speakes.

The President will rely on these criteria, according to Speakes: "Excellence, competence and judicial temperament...He will not seek only candidates who necessarily agree [with him] on every position but rather those who share one key view: The role of the courts is to interpret the law, not enact new law by judicial fiat. With these conditions, he will be seeking candidates from all sections of the public...He wants justices who interpret the law, who don't go beyond the intent of Congress...He's looking at all qualified candidates."

Reagan was informed by Justice Stewart of his intentions during a private Oval Office meeting on May 18. Stewart

(MORE)



handed the President a letter explaining his decision to resign at the end of the current court term, on July 3. Stewart ``requested that both the meeting and his intentions be kept confidential'' until he announced it himself, Speakes said. Speakes declined to say why Stewart did not make his decision public in May, but he said Stewart is going to meet the press on Friday. At 10:45 this morning, Reagan telephoned Stewart ``to once again wish him well.''

After the May 18 meeting, Reagan directed Attorney General Smith to informally begin compiling names of potential candidates, but Smith has not yet approached any candidate, Speakes said. The selection process ``is now beginning in earnest'' and will be formalized with participation by the White House. Speakes mentioned Meese, Baker, Deaver, Nofziger and White House Counsel Fred Fielding as people who would have a say in finding a nominee. Members of Reagan's Kitchen Cabinet also will have a chance to present their views to the President, of course. And Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Strom Thurmond's conservative views will not be overlooked.

Smith also will seek the views of the American Bar Association. Smith himself complicates matters because he has been mentioned in the past as a possible Supreme Court nominee. Speakes could not say today that Smith will not be considered for the vacancy.

The President intends to name a nominee in time for the

(MORE)

Senate to act on his confirmation by the time the next term of the court begins in October.

Perhaps this is worth a one-page story looking to the future, outlining the political problems confronting Reagan and exploring the kind of candidates he named to the California supreme court.

(END)

June 19, 1981

FROM: SJF - White House

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

RE: Results of a background briefing with David Gergen, White House  
Communications Director

Gergen says Ed Meese, William French Smith and William Clark should be considered to be "'within the circle'" of candidates whose names have been mentioned for the Supreme Court by "'Washington insiders.'"

He says he does not know whether Meese would want a position on the Supreme Court, but he does not rule out the appointment of a Reagan "'crony'" as long as that person is qualified.

Although Gergen insists <sup>"</sup>there is ~~no~~ "no short list" of candidates officially under consideration at the White House, he himself has been keeping a list of names mentioned in the media. His list includes Cornelia Kennedy, Carla Hills, William French Smith, William Clark, Robert Bourk[?], Joan Dempsey Klein (who is Lyn Nofziger's candidate), Dallas Oates[?], Rex Lee[?], Ed Meese, and Elizabeth Dole. Gergen ruled out Dole as too weak and Hills as too liberal.

Gergen says the appointment of a woman would have some political advantages for Reagan. But he quickly adds, "'It could backfire if it were only someone who was a woman and not the best qualified person.'"

Also on the subject of a woman nominee he added: "'It's clear to me that Justice is looking through a list of

women. It is not clear to me what they've found.'

Generally, Gergen seemed to be steering us away from the possibility of a woman Supreme Court appointee, but he did not rule it out<sup>T</sup> entirely.

He advised us to look slowly at the kinds of court appointments that Reagan made in California, suggesting that it might be someone with experience in the lower courts. 'He (Reagan) has a lot of respect for the courts,' Gergen said. But he added, 'I don't think it's a prerequisite to sit on the bench.'

(END FILE - JNM)

June 19, 1981

FROM: SJF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH, T6

RE: Results of a background briefing with David Gergen, White House  
Communications Director

Gergen says Ed Meese, William French Smith and William Clark should be considered to be "within the circle" of candidates whose names have been mentioned for the Supreme Court by "Washington insiders."

He says he does not know whether Meese would want a position on the Supreme Court, but he does not rule out the appointment of a Reagan "crony" as long as that person is qualified.

Although Gergen insists there is ~~no~~ "no short list" of candidates officially under consideration at the White House, he himself has been keeping a list of names mentioned in the media. His list includes Cornelia Kennedy, Carla Hills, William French Smith, William Clark, Robert Bourk[?], Joan Dempsey Klein (who is Lyn Nofziger's candidate), Dallas Oates[?], Rex Lee[?], Ed Meese, and Elizabeth Dole. Gergen ruled out Dole as too weak and Hills as too liberal.

Gergen says the appointment of a woman would have some political advantages for Reagan. But he quickly adds, "It could backfire if it were only someone who was a woman and not the best qualified person."

Also on the subject of a woman nominee he added: "It's clear to me that Justice is looking through a list of

women. It is not clear to me what they've found."

Generally, Gergen seemed to be steering us away from the possibility of a woman Supreme Court appointee, but he did not rule it out <sup>T</sup>entirely.

He advised us to look slowly at the kinds of court appointments that Reagan made in California, suggesting that it might be someone with experience in the lower courts. "He (Reagan) has a lot of respect for the courts," Gergen said. But he added, "I don't think it's a prerequisite to sit on the bench."

(END FILE - JNM)



STORY:WHUS  
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF  
HJ:

MSG:  
INI:

OPR:SJF

;06/19,17:54

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

From: sjf

President Baker?

Jim Baker continues to expand his power at the White House, eclipsing Ed Meese in many ways. Early talk of "President Meese" now seems like ancient history. Baker has been directing negotiations with Capitol Hill on both the tax cut bill and the budget reconciliation. Plus, Baker also took firm control of the press operation this week in the shakeup. Gergen, Speakes, Rousel--all loyal Baker people. Pendelton James, a Meese man, meanwhile is being pushed aside as personnel chief. My guess is that we'll see a number of additional changes at the White House as Baker continues to reorganize and get a firmer grasp on things.

Baker's appeal. Steve Hess of Brookings, whom I interviewed this week for a story on cabinet government, made the following observation about the relationship between Baker and Reagan:

None of Reagan's long-time aides--Meese, Deaver, Nofziger--are actually friends of the President. The Reagans look upon these people as the help--people whose careers depend upon them. But Baker is different. He's did not come up the ranks with Reagan. He's also similar to Reagan's own friends--an independently wealthy man with ties to a big law firm. As Hess says, "Baker represents something in his own right."

Meese's future. In light of these developments, it's

(MORE)

interesting that White House officials are not ruling out Ed Meese as a possible Supreme Court nominee. People who know Meese from bygone days have often said that he would like to be Attorney General or Supreme Court justice.

Yet it's probably too early for Meese to make such a move. My guess is that Reagan's first Supreme Court nominee will be a man with judicial experience, his second will be a woman and his third will be a crony such as Meese.

Meese himself could be the biggest stumbling block to the appointment of a woman to replace Potter Stewart. While Baker and other White House aides insist that the Reagan administration is not biased against minorities and women, Meese continues to argue that race and sex should not even be considered in the hiring process. Meese is a strong opponent of reverse discrimination. Like Meese, many White House officials fear they will be accused of overlooking qualified male candidates to choose a less qualified woman.

Reagan-O'Neill. Gergen disagrees with Speakes' analysis of the Reagan-O'Neill relationship. Gergen says it's not strictly a business relationship. He says they are bound to disagree because, "They're both strong willed people." But he says they get along because, "They are both Irish, both enjoy politics, both enjoy a good laugh."

Press conference. Gergen concedes that Reagan screwed up some of the foreign policy questions at the news conference this week. "On some of the foreign policy questions, he may have been a bit tentative," says Gergen. "But

(MORE)



overall, he made a good impression." He says Reagan did not get the foreign policy briefing papers as early as the domestic ones. Also, he did not sleep well the night before because the air conditioning was on the blink. "He was tired at the press conference," says Gergen. "He had a restless night."

Day in the Life. One event added to the president's schedule for Tuesday: A meeting with Benjamin Hooks.

(END)

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

From: sjf

Here are some leftover items from our day in the life of the President:

Davis-Bacon. Craig Fuller, cabinet secretary, predicts the administration will soon begin to tighten up on the administration of Davis-Bacon. But he expects President Reagan to oppose any repeal of the act. There seems little doubt that Reagan would prefer repeal, but Fuller notes that he's still bound by a campaign pledge to oppose repeal. This pledge was made in exchange for the endorsement of the Teamsters, a union whose members enjoy the benefits of Davis-Bacon. White House officials consider the subject of Davis-Bacon so sensitive that we were ushered out of the Cabinet room as soon as they began to discuss it last Tuesday. A source who sat through the Cabinet discussion of Davis-Bacon says the administration will do away with the "30 percent rule," which refers to the complicated formula used to compute the prevailing wage. (It's this formula that sets the "prevailing wage" closer to the "prevailing union wage.") President Reagan remarked during the Cabinet debate that elimination of the 30 percent rule would return enforcement of the Davis-Bacon Act to the original intent of the law.

Shoe Imports. Orderly marketing agreements restricting shoe imports from Taiwan and Korea will be permitted to expire on June 30, according to White House Domestic

(MORE)

# RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1 LISTED ON THE  
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.







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

From: sjf

The following comes from a background interview with David Gergen, White House Communications Director:

Cabinet ratings. No cabinet member gets a 10 in Gergen's view. He rated Regan and Stockman at 9. Weinberger got an 8. After that, Gergen stopped playing the game. He said he did not want to indulge in "negative comments," leaving little doubt that most other cabinet members--with the exception of Watt--rank very low in his estimation. He flatly refused to rate Haig. Here's what he had to say about each one of them:

Regan--"The rising star. Steady, a team player with a great deal of class. Meshes well. Doesn't play games with the White House. He's well liked by the White House staff. He has done a good job for us on The Hill. At first, he was left following in Stockman's trail. He was supposed to be the sickman, but he wasn't. He handled that with a good deal of grace."

Stockman--"The same score for different reasons. He has almost singlehandedly written and put a budget into law. I don't think that can be said of any other budget director. He came in here with his own ideas. He had a blueprint, which has changed over time, but is fundamentally what has been adopted. That is an unusual achievement. He is a little brash. He's omniverous in the way he devours facts and figures." Gergen recalls a recent chat with the

(MORE)

publisher of National Journal, who said: "Stockman is the only person who's ever told me he reads our magazine from cover to cover--and I believe him."

Weinberger--"Less in the limelight, but will in the limelight more. Very steady. He's less involved at the White House, but shows a mastery of his own department. He has the trust of the President, a knowledge of government, a strong personal fiber. He's a force to be reckoned."

Watt--"No numbers. He gets stars not points. He doesn't fit into the usual rating system. He's forceful, articulate and does a good job. He ranks high for sheer ability to take the heat on environmental matters. But he's probably got a short political life."

(Here Gergen ends what he describes as the "upper reaches" of his rating system.)

Kirkpatrick--"She came up a point or two" as a result of her work on the United Nations' vote after the Israeli bombing of Iraqi.

Lewis--"He recently won points for the PATCO settlement."

Haig--The Haig-Kirkpatrick controversy is "still simmering." Gergen suggests Haig's days will be numbered if there's another incident. "If anything else happens," he says, "it will blow in the press." (He adds that Fischer and Burt have assured him they "weren't dumping" on Kirkpatrick, only trying to make Haig look good.)

Lonovan, Block, Bell and Baldrige are named by Gergen in

(MORE)

a single breath. No additional comment. He says Block's star has fallen. "He's a nice fellow. He represents the interests of farmers." He thinks Donovan is finally imposing "some order on the chaos" in his department.

Edwards--"I don't know how long he's going to be here."

Schweiker--"A good soldier" who's "born a disproportionate share of the blame for the Social Security proposal."

NAACP reception. The President was "saddened" by his reception at the NAACP convention. "He went there wanting to open a dialogue," says Gergen. "He's still committed to having a dialogue. But the events of yesterday made it somewhat more difficult." He says that Reagan, like many conservatives, does not like being portrayed as a racist. "I'll probably seek another forum to speak on this subject."

Foreign policy. Richard Allen is being encouraged by other top White House aides to take a more visible role in the discussion of foreign policy. CFF THE RECORD:

~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~  
~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~ ~~Redacted~~

Shoe imports. Although Gergen denied it in Tuesday's formal briefing, the White House does have assurances from the Taiwanese that they will not flood the U.S. market with shoes as a result of the lifting today of orderly marketing agreements with Taiwan and South Korea.

(MORE)



Sequoia. The Sequoia is a very touchy subject at the White House. Talk of a presidential yacht stirred so much negative editorial reaction that everyone is jumpy about it. Not only has the President declined all invitations to use the boat, but his aides also have decided to steer clear of the Sequoia. Several top White House aides have been invited to sail on it, but as Gergen says: "All of them--to a man--has declined." Since Gergen originally leaked the story that the White House was looking for a yacht, I now think he did it (on Baker's behalf) intentionally to scotch the plan. "This is not the time--not when we're asking sacrifice from others," he now says.

Supreme Court. Pay no attention to last weekend's Washington Post story suggesting that Elizabeth Dole is a leading candidate. Gergen says she's not in the running. The unnamed White House official quoted in the Washington Post (probably Deaver) was trying to create the impression that women are being considered. He also was trying to point out that Reagan has a woman on his staff.

Gergen. In his new role as communications director, Gergen intends to do the noon briefings about twice a week. Most White House reporters, including me, think he's making a big mistake. First, he's treading on Speakes toes. Second, he's diminishing his own position within the White House. Previously he was viewed as an insider. Now he's viewed as a flack. Most people think is doing this simply because he wants to be in the limelight.

~~██████████~~ #



June 25, 1981

FROM: JWM - Los Angeles

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

Economic program: The White House said it was "extremely pleased" at the report of the House vote on the rule in which the administration won by a narrow margin. There had been talk last night among some White House aides that the vote was close and they might lose.

Reagan made 16 phone calls last night for one hour to Democrats who apparently were reported to be wavering in their support, and another three calls this morning just prior to the vote on the House floor.

Reagan will probably have something more to say about the turn of events in his speech later this morning to a taxpayer group in Los Angeles.

Haig: The Secretary of State, returning from a visit overseas, will see Reagan this afternoon and then have a meeting with reporters. An item sure to come up will be the criticism of U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick by White House aides reported earlier in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. It is difficult to believe that that criticism from two aides came without Haig's knowledge or direction.

Bush: The Vice President will also be stopping here on Saturday on a return trip to Paris and London. He is meeting with Reagan prior to leaving for the Philippines and the inauguration there.

Trudeau: The White House announced that Prime Minister

Page - 2

Pierre Trudeau of Canada will visit Washington on July 10. He is scheduled to meet with Reagan on issues coming up in the Ottawa summit on July 20 and 21.

(END MEMO - CKM)

June 25, 1981

FROM: JWM - Los Angeles  
TO: DXB (MLS, LT, JG, DR, GP, SJF, BFP)  
RE: Tomorrow

The dog days of summer are shaping up as trying ones for President Reagan after his clear victories and domination of events in th<sup>e</sup>/winter and spring. Although Reagan won an important procedural victory in the House on his budget cuts on June 25, Democrats are in a fighting spirit now. Also, the President will be forced to bolster Southern Democrats who are reportedly playing more hard to get in recent days.

Congress is also balking in big numbers at support of the administration's plan to sell AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia. (Note to DR for Whisper we talked about: Even on background, no White House official will talk about any change in strategy. It is full speed ahead. "We are committed to go forward on this one," said one aide, even in the face of heavy numbers against the plan.[])

In foreign policy there is some backbiting going on in the State Department, typified by the sniping at U.N. Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick. In addition, the Ernest Lefever episode was another embar<sup>R</sup>assing setback.

Reagan has a few other difficulties to contend with. His approval rating is slipping in the polls, down nine points in the Gallup survey. In public appearances he has been rusty and tired looking, a point even admitted by his associates. Aides, however, say the dip in the polls is

only temporary and Reagan will surge back as the economic battle continues. On his platform performances, aides admit Reagan hasn't had his old snap, but are confident he will regain it in the days ahead.

[ ( ) Note to DXB: The victory today in the House for the administration takes the edge off an otherwise gloomy section on Reagan, but I still think it is worth pointing out that there are some tough days ahead.)

(END FILE - CKM)

STORY: I EAGAN  
NA: 75 INT:

QUEUED: RANK-LAX  
HJ:

MSG:  
INI:

OFF: RAK 488/25, 28:53

TO: NLS, LT, DR, JF, GP, SJF

FPCP: RAK

RE: Reagan's longest day

Reagan's day on Tuesday actually began around 4:30 a.m. when, according to Mike Deaver, the President got up because he couldn't sleep, worked on some papers in the residence until about 6 o'clock, then went back to bed.

Deaver says it is not common practice for Reagan to get up during the night and work, but others at the White House have said that Reagan has had trouble sleeping lately. One of the excuses given by David Gergen for the President's lackluster performance at last week's press conference was that Reagan had had a restless night the preceding night.

There are several factors contributing to Reagan's sleeping difficulties. His gunshot wound kept him from sleeping soundly during his recovery and still may be a problem. Gergen says the President has not slept well on some recent nights because the air conditioning system in the family quarters was not working properly. Reagan has an allergic reaction to air conditioning, and that could cause him to be restless at night, too. Reagan's age may also be a factor. I doubt that he is having trouble sleeping because of pressing national concerns. Deaver also suggests that Reagan may not sleep as soundly when Nancy is away. "They don't like to be apart," says Deaver. Nancy went to California on Monday to remove the rest of the Reagans' belongings from the Pacific Palisades house, which finally has been sold.

General impressions. One of the most striking characteristics of Reagan's approach to the presidency is his day-to-day detachment from issues and controversy. Even when he is being briefed by aides or listening to

(MORE)



Arguments being hashed out in a cabinet meeting, Reagan is very passive. He says little, is always polite and relaxed, does not take command of the discussion or raise probing questions. He strikes me as always being above the fray. Carter demonstrated the pitfalls of getting ensnared by the details and losing sight of the big picture. Reagan, on the other hand, seems vulnerable to making judgments based on a shallow grasp of the facts, by falling back on a set of beliefs firmly fixed by past experience. This trait also makes Reagan predictable--a virtue Carter never mastered.

Reagan is very dependent on his cabinet and staff, of course, as all presidents are, but he seems especially docile when it comes to being told what to say or do next. He apparently prefers spending most of his day performing ceremonial duties, meeting people, savoring the ego trip of being President. He reserves little time in his day for reading and studying. But he sometimes gets impatient when his schedule is too crowded--as it was Tuesday. "He loves people, but I think he's frustrated that he doesn't have time to get at the desk," says Deaver.

The pace Reagan kept on Tuesday--although it was not typical day--certainly demonstrated his extraordinary vigor, his age and gunshot wound notwithstanding. The most obvious indication of his age is that he often has trouble hearing. Several times during the day, I noticed him discreetly cupping his hand to his left ear in order to hear better. Reagan is constantly saying "Huh?" because he doesn't hear what is said to him. Gergen says Reagan sometimes has trouble hearing in the Oval Office because the acoustics there are bad.

One other point that is of no major consequence but worth noting: The President has declared a thousand times that ever since he became governor

California has never allowed anyone in meetings to bring up the political ramifications of an issue in making a decision. As absurd as the claim sounds, Reagan seems in his own mind to believe it. An example of how absurd the claim is came during the afternoon meeting of the cabinet council on commerce and trade. Special Trade Representative Bill Brock was urging Reagan not to continue import restraints on nonrubber footwear. Said Brock, "I caution you, you will get some political heat," if restraints are not continued. Then there followed discussion of how to minimize the political damage of a decision not to continue restraints. [We agreed in advance that the contents of the meeting were off the record.] A few minutes later, political adviser Lyn Nofziger entered the Cabinet Room to take part in a discussion on the Davis-Bacon Act.

The day. At 7:30 each morning--while the President is still sleeping--Jim Baker, Ed Meese and Deaver meet over breakfast at a long conference table in Baker's office. They are the only three White House officials who get daily door-to-door chauffeur service. Baker sits at the head of the table and conducts the meeting as he leafs through material in a file folder.

The Big Three go over Reagan's schedule for the day and Deaver constantly raises the need to brief or otherwise prepare the President for each event. During Tuesday's session, for example, there was discussion of Benjamin Hooks' upcoming meeting with Reagan. "We better get Mel in there [the Oval Office] before the meeting," said Deaver, referring to Melvin Bradley, the White House liaison to blacks. Later in the day, Bradley briefed Reagan for 10 minutes before Hooks was led into the Oval Office.

The morning meeting is informal as the three joke back and forth. [Meese told a Ted Kennedy joke after first stipulating that it was off the record.] Tuesday was no average day in the life of Ronald Reagan. The

(MORE)



chedule was perhaps the heaviest of any day since January 20. Nevertheless, Reagan stayed on schedule most of the time. At one point during the 7:30 meeting Deaver complained to Meese and Baker, "I would like just to get 10 minutes in the whole day to get him alone." Meese added, "This is an unbelievable day."

8 a.m. The President was awakened at 8 o'clock sharp by a call from the White House switchboard. "Good morning, Mr. President. It's 8 a.m.," the operator said. Reagan replied, "Good morning, thank you." (The quotes were supplied by assistant press secretary Mark Weinberg.) Mrs. Reagan usually answers the wake-up call at a phone beside the bed.

Reagan normally peruses the morning papers (N.Y. Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal) before leaving the residence. "He's an avid comic reader," says Deaver, recalling that during the campaign Reagan sometimes complained about the poor selection of comics in some newspapers.

8:41 a.m. Deaver and Baker join Reagan in the second-floor residence to hold the morning meeting that on most days is conducted in the Oval Office at 9.

They were joined shortly by Meese and then went over the day's schedule with the President and discussed other matters.

9:08 a.m. Reagan--followed by Meese, Baker and Deaver--walks down the marble staircase from the family quarters to the State Floor.

Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy, on his first day back on the White House detail since he was wounded on March 30, was standing at the bottom of the stairs to greet Reagan. The President looked tired as he went into the State Dining Room for the breakfast with Democratic House members who supported the Gramm-Latta budget cuts. Of 63 Democrats invited, only 38

(MORE)

showed up. They were among 239 members of Congress Reagan saw on Tuesday at the White House.

After making a pitch to the congressman for support for the Gramm-Leach amendment to the reconciliation bill, Reagan sat down at a table in front of the fireplace, beneath a huge portrait of Lincoln. For breakfast, he ate two blueberry muffins and fresh fruit (strawberries, blueberries, etc.), with Sanka. Meese, Baker and Deaver, meanwhile, ate a second breakfast. After breakfast, Reagan fielded questions from the congressmen.

10:15\_a.m. Reagan, accompanied by Meese, Baker, Deaver and SS agents, walks from the State Dining Room to the Oval Office via the outside colonnade.

10:19\_a.m. National security briefing begins in the Oval Office.

At the start of the briefing, Reagan was sitting in one of two wingback chairs in front of the fireplace, chewing on a jellybean he had taken from a glass stein on a table beside the chair. Richard Allen was in the other wingback chair, while George Bush and others sat on the two couches. Most of the discussion centered on Bush's trip to Paris for talks with Mitterrand. According to Allen, they also discussed events in Poland and southwest Asia, the Habib mission, and "some sensitive intelligence material" that had come in during the night. Each day, the President is given a thick blue leather binder filled with national security materials that he is supposed to read. Allen claims Reagan always does his homework and reads the material whenever he finds time during the day. He often carries it to the family quarters at night to finish the reading. The NSC briefing ended at 10:34.

10:37\_a.m. Reagan begins staff meeting with the Big Three, Gergen, Speakes and Friedersdorf.



The senior aides stood in front of the desk in the Oval Office while Reagan sat with his legs crossed in his desk chair. The chair is an antique given to him by Mrs. Reagan when he became governor. It is not a comfortable easy chair. It has a low back and no wheels, but it swivels. David Fischer, Reagan's personal aide, says the President sometimes props his feet up on the desk, but more often just opens the bottom desk drawer and props his feet on it.

Reagan had little to say throughout the meeting. He drummed his fingers on the desk, gazed out the window and appeared bored as he aides talked more to each other than to him. During the staff meeting, Baker explained to Reagan the purpose of an afternoon meeting with Senate Finance Committee Republicans which was added to the schedule at the last moment. "The point you need to make to them is that further amendments would mess the thing up...Bob [Dole] needs your assistance in making that point to them," said Baker. At the meeting later with the Republican senators, Reagan got a pledge from Senators Heinz and Armstrong not to offer two amendments to the tax bill in the Finance Committee. Instead, they agreed to offer them when the bill reaches the floor. The purpose of this was to get the bill swiftly out of the Finance Committee this week and thereby put pressure on the House Ways and Means Committee to act soon on the tax measure.

Before the staff meeting ended, Gergen raised the subject of the Supreme Court vacancy and what the press should be told about the search for a nominee. Reagan--largely for our benefit I imagine--wanted to say something funny. But he seemed to confuse the two main topics of the meeting. The result: "We don't want them to find out [that] if they don't pass my economic package, I'm going to appoint me." The session concluded at

(MORE)

10:46.

10:50\_a.m. Our interview begins. It ended at 11:06.

11:09\_a.m. White House aide Melvin Bradley and Thaddeus Garrett, a Bush aide, enter the Oval Office to brief Reagan on his appointment with Benjamin Hooks, president of the NAACP.

11:13\_a.m. Hooks, Margaret Bush Wilson, Elizabeth Dole and VP Bush enter the Oval Office. (Bush has a standing invitation to attend any Oval Office meeting. He usually attends meeting with representatives of important interest groups whose support he might want in the future.)

A few minutes later a photo pool was brought in to photograph Reagan and Hooks sitting in the wingback chairs. After the pool left, Hooks handed Reagan a copy of a statement and asked if the President would mind if Hooks read the statement to him. Reagan obliged while Hooks started reading the lengthy statement. Reagan put on his glasses and read the statement while Hooks read it aloud. Essentially, Hooks told Reagan about the concerns of the NAACP, which the President will address on Monday in Denver. Deaver filled us in later on what was said after we were led out of the meeting. Hooks and Reagan disagreed over subjects like busing, the Reagan "safety net," etc. The meeting ended at 11:59, about a half hour later than it was scheduled to end.

12:01\_p.m. Maxwell Rabb, new U.S. ambassador to Italy, enters the Oval Office to be photographed with Reagan.

Reagan greeted Rabb with "buon giorno," and shook his hand. Rabb and his family posed with the President in front of the fireplace. Reagan made sure all of the ladies got in the picture. Reagan was overheard saying, "in apparent reference to Nancy, "She's in California now because our house is being sold...and she has to clean it up."

(MORE)



After the Rabos left, Reagan asked, "Who's got the cards?" and Deaver quickly told him that the ambassador to Haiti was coming in next. Then ambassador Ernest Henry Preeg came in with his family, including a young girl who was about 6 years old. After the photo in front of the fireplace, Deaver brought in a wrapped gift for Reagan to give the little girl. Said Reagan as he bent down and gave the package to her, "In there is a jar of jellybeans."

After that group left, Reagan looked at us during a pregnant pause and said, "In Superman II, they didn't have the Oval Office right. They had the door over here instead of over here." Reagan and Deaver had watched the movie together on Monday night. Deaver said he liked the first Superman movie better, and then Reagan said, "The thing is, I think, the hunger of people for a hero," referring to the popularity of Superman.

Next came Arthur Burns, envoy to West Germany, and his wife. Reagan posed again in front of the fireplace and then passed out cuff links to Burns and a pin to his wife. As they were leaving, Reagan said, "In Ballyporeen, Ireland, they named the pub for me. Some people have airports or bridges named after them, I have a saloon." Reagan's great-grandfather was born in Ballyporeen. Burns left at 12:11.

12:12\_p.m. Aide Richard Darman enters the Oval Office to brief Reagan on his lunch with Jacques Cousteau.

After Cousteau entered a couple of minutes later, Reagan signed a minor ocean-dumping bill in Deaver's office next to the Oval Office, and gave the pen to Cousteau. Then Reagan, Deaver, Cousteau and Darman went out on the patio outside Deaver's office for lunch. The menu: Smoked trout and smoked salmon, melba toast, horseradish sauce, escalopes of veal in Marsala, vegetable bouquetiere, fruits and sorbet in watermelon boat,

(MORE)

etits fours. The wine was a '74 Simi cabernet sauvignon. The lunch began at 12:16 and ended at 1:25.

1:31 P.M. Treasury Secretary Regan enters the Oval Office to brief the President on his upcoming meeting with 11 Senate Finance Committee Republicans.

1:39 P.M. Reagan enters the Roosevelt Room where the senators are waiting.

During this meeting, Reagan doodled two small pictures with a pencil on a scratch pad. One was a sketch of a face that strongly resembled Reagan. The other was a profile of a witch-like figure. Deaver says Reagan has eight or 10 standard doodles--horses without hooves, an Indian, a "Chinaman," a British banker, a cowboy. The doodles are modeled after comic-strip figures, says Deaver. Deaver collects the doodles and frames the best ones. The meeting with the senators ended at 2:01.

2:08 P.M. Reagan enters meeting of the cabinet council on commerce and trade in the Cabinet Room.

Reagan started the session by taking a handful of jellybeans from one of two jars on the cabinet table. He spread the jellybeans out in front of him and ate them very deliberately, one at a time. Meanwhile, the jars were passed around the table. Most members of the cabinet took a handful and ate them one at a time off the table, exactly as Reagan had. Only Regan took the time to pick out all of one color--brown ones. The President said very little during the discussion of whether to continue restraints on shoe imports from Taiwan and South Korea. He just chewed on the tip of his glasses and listened, calling on various people when they wanted to speak. Several private notes were passed from one cabinet member to another during the meeting. Meese and Baker exchanged notes several times.

(MORE)



After hearing the discussion, Reagan told the cabinet: "I think I've heard enough of the argument. But I notice that you don't need a decision before June 30. Before June 30, I'll give you the decision." The meeting ended at 2:27.

2:34 p.m. Reagan raps on his water glass with a spoon to start the meeting of the full cabinet.

"We've really got a tough problem if we're going to get to the whole agenda," Reagan said. Then he turned to Dave Stockman for a status report on the reconciliation bill in the House. Meanwhile, a waiter went around the table serving glasses of ice tea with lemon wedges. But the President didn't take any. All he drank was water. He apparently avoids all caffeine. Reagan was looking particularly tired by now. He rubbed his eyes and, at one point, yawned. Bush also yawned during the discussion. Stockman went on at some length with a gloomy account of how the House Democrats were trying to sabotage the Reagan budget cuts. When Stockman finished, Reagan looked at him and said, "You always make us feel so good."

Then Regan started a protracted discussion of the tax bill and the changes it is undergoing in Congress. The President perked up a bit when Regan gave him a chance to deliver a funny line. Regan was explaining how a widow would be exempt from taxes on her spouse's estate. "But she'll have to pay taxes on that at the proper time," said Regan. The President looked over the top of his reading glasses, chuckled, and interjected, "When she dies."

As the discussion continued, Reagan looked up and saw me still standing in the corner of the room. There was a look of surprise on his face. He looked over his shoulder and spotted SJF on the other side of the room.

(MORE)

men picked up a pencil, scribbled a quick note and passed it to Speakes. Speakes got up and whispered in Reagan's ear. Speakes showed me Reagan's note later. It read, "How long does 'U.S. News & World' [sic] stay". By prearrangement, Jim Baker gave us the high sign when he wanted us to leave-- before the start of a serious discussion on whether the administration would support changes in the Davis-Bacon Act.

5:48 P.M. Reagan enters the State Dining Room for meeting of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Federalism, chaired by his good friend, Senator Paul Laxalt.

As this meeting started, Laxalt leaned over to Reagan and commented on the President's very busy schedule. "Oh, this is the worst," Reagan answered in a whisper that was picked up by a microphone in front of him. The session was a dull discussion, consisting mostly of Reagan telling the assembled state and local officials that the federal government had usurped their responsibility.

4:33 P.M. After returning to the Oval Office, Reagan meets with personnel adviser E. Pendleton James.

James staged a show for our benefit. He loudly told Reagan that among the 28 appointments Reagan was approving Tuesday were four women, three blacks and two Hispanics. "Oh, that's good...Well, that's great," Reagan replied at the proper cues. Said James defensively, "The facts do not substantiate the perception that you are not bringing women into this administration...The curve is going the way your administration requested."

4:48 P.M. CIA Director William Casey enters the Oval Office for a 20-minute meeting with Reagan. Everyone refused to tell us anything about the subject of this meeting.

(MORE)



5:09 P.M. Reagan goes to the Rose Garden to make remarks to a reception for teenage Republicans.

The President sounded genuinely nostalgic when he told the teenagers about Dixon, Ill., "where I spent my Huck Finn days and lifeguarded on the Rock River for seven summers." Then Reagan made his biggest blooper of the day by telling a joke about Representative Paul Findley's 60th birthday, which was Tuesday. "Where's Congressman Paul Findley?" Reagan asked as he scoured the crowd of teenagers. The Findley joke was supposed to be told at the next reception of the afternoon, which was for 190 House Republicans. Deaver had given the President the note card at the wrong time. If Reagan realized his blunder, he didn't let on. He told the funny line anyway and the kids laughed. At the next reception he repeated the joke as if he'd never said it earlier. Deaver took full blame for the mixup.

5:16 P.M. Reagan returns to the Oval Office for a half hour.

He did some paperwork and called Georgia Governor Busby to talk about block grants.

5:51 P.M. The President enters reception for House Republicans in the East Room, 21 minutes behind schedule.

Reagan made the usual pitch for the budget and tax cuts and concluded with another humorous line: "This is about the 18th time today I've had to stand up and speak and I'm gonna get the hhh...Well, I'm going to get off of here." It took the President 12 minutes to work his way out of the room, shaking hands and chatting with the adoring congressmen.

6:12 P.M. Reagan and Deaver, followed by our two photogs, walk back upstairs to the family quarters. The President called Mrs. Reagan in California and had dinner alone. The menu: Breast of chicken cordon bleu,

(MORE)

ilda rice, vegetables brunoise, green beans, bibb lettuce salad, blueberry  
melba and petit fours.

11:15 P.M. The President goes to bed.

(END)