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Date: 8/10/84

TO: DICK HAUSER

FROM: **KATHERINE CAMALIER**
Staff Assistant to
James A. Baker, III

Information

Action

Please respond on behalf of Jim
Baker as you deem appropriate,
with a copy to me for our files.

Thanks.

W. HENSON MOORE
6TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3901

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 2, 1984

PERSONAL

The Hon. James A. Baker III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President
The White House Office
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jim:

The matter of the commutation of the sentence of Gil Dozier continues to plague us in Louisiana. I have enclosed some additional newspaper stories, editorials, letters to the editor, and letters from strong Republican supporters as an indication of the seriousness of the problem.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Henson Moore".

W. Henson Moore
Member of Congress

WHM:cj

Enclosures

July 3, 1984

JUL 13 1984

State Times/Morning Advocate
525 Lafayette Street
Post Office Box 588
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Editor, Morning Advocate:

(LETTER TO THE EDITOR)

Gill Dozier's grant of executive clemency in the form of commutation by President Reagan on the recommendation of U. S. Attorney General William Smith is, at best, shortsighted and ill conceived.

It is obvious that although our constitution provides for equal protection under the law, Dozier, because of money and influence, has obtained for himself more equal protection and due process than other like criminals.

It is interesting to note the list of influential people recommending commutation did not include witnesses, jurors, or prosecutors in his trial. Did our Attorney General or President ask the dozens of individual people, who were direct victims of Dozier's extortion attempts, what they thought concerning this commutation? Ask the people who had to pay for Auction Barn Charters, or be closed down; ask the Cattlemen, the Diaryman's Association, the Architectural firms, the Crop Dusters and anyone else Dozier could swindle. Ask the working people of this State about Gill Dozier.

This is the man convicted of using the Louisiana Department of Agriculture in a pattern of racketeering; the man who was convicted on three counts of extortion for using the same department like a "Cash Register" for his own personal gain. This is the man who tried to bribe a Federal juror to gain a new trial and this is the man whose sentence President Reagan and the Justice Department chose to commute.

We have had a public trial, a public conviction, a public sentence, and now, an apparently successful back-door deal to spring him after only two years of imprisonment.

This commutation is a "slap in the face" to the integrity of our criminal justice system, to the people of this State and to the jurors who sat on this case. The criminal justice system worked locally because of the jurors and people who were directly involved and who applied good common sense. It is too bad the officials presently in power, from the Attorney General to the White House, lacked that same common sense.

Former Assistant District Attorney,
Former Assistant U. S. Attorney

Richard S. Thomas

Richard S. Thomas
339 Florida Street, Suite 500
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801

7-16-84

JUL 19 1984

Robert M. Watson ~
Box 6182
St. Joseph, La. 71366

Honorable Nelson Moore
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have been a contributor to the Republican Party for the past several years. There's hardly a week that passes, that I don't get a letter from Lusk, Reagan, Vander Jagt, or someone else in the Party requesting financial help. I've been contributing in a small way almost monthly. My contributions ceased when the President reduced Gil Dozier's sentence to six years making him eligible for parole before time.

I wrote Vander Jagt promising a contribution of \$25⁰⁰ if he could answer my letter justifying my mind the President's decision in the Dozier case. He refuses to answer, except to continue his form letters requesting money.

Please continue your fight to get at the bottom of the Dozier commutation.

Yours truly,
R. M. Watson

CAPITAL VALVE & FITTING CO., INC.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

BOB JENNINGS

July 23, 1984 JUL 26 1984

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear President Reagan:

I am a member of the Republican Eagles, and as such I am in agreement or very sympathetic, to almost anything you would do.

I find it however impossible to understand why you would reduce the sentence of Gilbert Dozier from 18 years to 6 years, without having someone first review the implications of such a move with Representative Henson Moore or Bob Livingston.

This man was fairly convicted of extortion and racketeering by a Federal Judge in our city, who probably enjoys more respect from the people than any other Federal Judge in our state. The sentence which he established was in no way out of line for the crime involved.

Additionally, I find it impossible to understand why someone at the White House level will not furnish Representative Moore with information regarding this reduction in Gilbert Dozier's sentence. I accept the fact that there could possibly be some reason why the people generally, should not be advised. However, it is impossible to understand why Representative Moore should not have that information.

I think it is important that you understand that this reduction of Gilbert Dozier's federal sentence is about as popular in Louisiana, with Republicans and Democrats alike, as the plague.

Kindest regards,


R.D. Jennings

RDJ: jls

cc: Mike Curb
Henson Moore

HUGH G. OLIVER

JUL 09 1984

Lawyer & Notary
528 4th Street • P. O. Box 511
Westwego, LA 70094
341-5811

July 3, 1984

Rep. Henson Moore
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Henson:

I just read about Mrs. Burford being rehired and Dozier being pardoned.

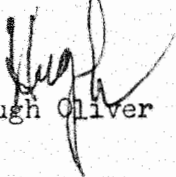
Some possibilities arise.

Billy Cannon was the major Dozier booster in Baton Rouge so why not think of Gil as Secretary of the Treasury. I am sure he could hire Billy as No. 1 advisor on currency.

Or check **back** on Gil's experience as a builder of housing for the aged in Jennings (pre-agriculture). He got the city to pay in full before the job was finished. There was no bond and the job was finally finished according to what I was told in Jennings by taking a mite out of each month's rent from the aged inhabitants.

That background might qualify Gil as chief of the division of services for the aged in Social Security Administration.

A continuation of moves like the above by Mr. Reagan could make the voters happy to go the the polls and vote Hattie McDaniel for president and Boy George V-P so long as they were Democrats.


Hugh Oliver

HO/er

John D. Gwin
17134 Chadsford Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

July 6, 1984

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

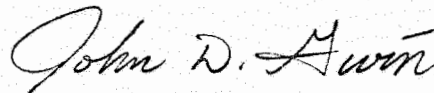
Dear President Reagan:

I am extremely disappointed with your decision to commute the sentence of Gil Dozier, former Agricultural Commissioner of Louisiana. Louisiana has had an earned reputation for dishonest government for years and this decision will do nothing to abate that reputation.

It is inconceivable that your advisors would ignore the recommendations of the United States Attorney and the trial judge in this commutation decision.

I have been a registered Republican since I began to vote in the mid-1960s and I have always supported the Republican Party. I will continue to support local Republican candidates but in November I will not cast my vote in the Presidential election.

Sincerely,



JDG:law

c: Congressman Henson Moore

GEORGE MATHEWS
P. O. BOX 3177
BATON ROUGE LOUISIANA 70821

JUL 01 1984

June 30, 1984

Mr. Frank Fahrenkopf, Chairman
Republican National Committee
310 First Street, S. E.
Washington D. C. 20003

JUL 01 1984

Dear Mr. Fahrenkopf:

This will refer to you letter of June 20, 1984, requesting that I attend the Republican National Convention and assist in reaching the party's budget goal for the first six months of 1984.

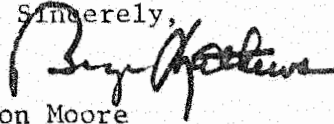
Unfortunately, the action taken by President Reagan on June 22 in commuting the prison sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier, Louisiana's former Commissioner of Agriculture, from eighteen to six years, is so shocking and disgraceful that I not only reject your requests, but now seriously consider leaving the Republican Party.

I have voted for and supported every Republican presidential nominee beginning with Wendell Willkie in 1940, but this unbelievable action by Mr. Reagan is too much. It embarrasses the State of Louisiana, the presiding judge in the Dozier trial, the prosecuting U. S. Attorney and thousands of Louisiana citizens.

Gilbert Dozier is a criminal who was convicted (while a state-wide elected official) not only of racketeering in the shakedowns of auction barn charter applicants, pesticide license applicants, crop dusters, dairy and livestock officials, and private consultants, but thereafter of trying to subvert a member of the jury that convicted him!

You might not remember the 1960 presidential election, Mr. Fahrenkopf, when John Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon by only some 100,000 votes out of a total of more than 68,000,000 votes cast. I do, and the Dozier commutation scandal may just mean the defeat of Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Sincerely,



cc: Ronald Reagan
Congressman W. Henson Moore
Congressman Bob Livingston

JUL 11 1984

616 Linden St.
Shreveport, La. 71104
July 5, 1984

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Reagan:

I am one of your most ardent supporters and would find it very difficult not to vote for you in November, but I am greatly disturbed by your recent action in reducing the sentence of former Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture Gil Dozier. We in Louisiana are plagued with more than our share of corrupt government officials, and some are finally being caught and punished. Honest citizens of our state have had reason to be hopeful when Mr. Dozier and others like him have been dealt with harshly. My feelings are shared by many who are greatly disappointed in you. I am enclosing a recent editorial from the Shreveport Times that speaks for many Louisianians. As it says, we are owed an explanation for this affair.

Yours truly,

Bitsy Loewenstein

Bitsy (Mrs. J.E.) Loewenstein

Enclosure

Copy for Rep Moore -

*We appreciate your speaking out on
this matter*

The Times

222 Lake St., P.O. Box 222, Shreveport, La. 71130

Founded from weekly newspapers published since 1839;
published as *The Times* daily and Sunday since 1871

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W. Howard Bronson, Jr.
President and Publisher

Raymond McDaniel
Editor

Jim Montgomery
Editorial Page Editor

The Dozier sentence

“**M**YSTIFIED” is probably the best word to describe the reaction to President Ronald Reagan’s reduction of Gil Dozier’s prison sentence. And you can follow “mystified” with “angry.” By what reasoning should the former Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture be given clemency? None that we can discern.

Dozier was convicted in 1980 on one count of racketeering and three counts of extortion. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, plus probation. Then, U.S. District Judge Frank Polozola added eight more years to the sentence after a hearing on charges that Dozier tried to win a new trial by coercing a juror to claim there had been irregularities. Dozier was found guilty of squeezing money out of businessmen who were regulated by his department.

Technically, it’s called “white-collar crime,” but this is hardly on the same scale as a bank clerk who embezzles a few thousand dollars. Dozier’s convictions stemmed directly from abuses of his power as an elected public official — which is to say abuses of the public trust given to him by Louisiana’s voters. Topping that came prosecutors’ charges that he tried to interfere with the trial jury process. The 18-year sentence was appropriate for

the convictions.

Then came word last week that 12 years of Dozier’s sentence had been cut off by executive clemency — which makes him eligible for parole almost immediately. According to the Associated Press, U.S. Attorney General William French Smith recommended that the sentence be reduced to only six years. A Justice Department staff attorney said that keeping Dozier in prison would serve “no appreciable rehabilitative purpose nor would it deter others from committing similar crimes,” the AP reported. On that recommendation, President Reagan signed the clemency order.

None of the arguments for clemency really hold up. Dozier was not sent to prison to be rehabilitated. He was sent to be punished. And if the special favor granted to someone who once held office isn’t a signal that punishment is less for the high and mighty than it is for the common man, we don’t know what else to call it — and that, in turn, undermines both respect for, and fear of, the law and punishment.

U.S. Rep. Henson Moore of Louisiana, among others, wants to get to the bottom of this to find out why the president signed the order and why the Justice Department recommended it. As Moore put it, “This is a public matter. It was a public crime, a public trial and a public sentence. Any commutation of the sentence should be public as well.” We agree completely, and the sooner a full explanation is made, the better. Right now, the whole affair is reprehensible.

Shirley Bartlett
5173 Woodside Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

JUL 12 1984

July 6, 1984

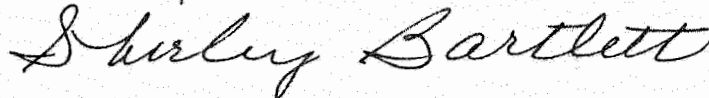
Honorable Paul Laxalt, Chairman
Reagan-Bush Re-election Committee
315 Russell Senate Office Building
First and C Streets, NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Laxalt:

As a member of the Republican National Committee, I want to express my disappointment in President Reagan's recent action commuting the sentence of Gilbert L. Dozier, former Agriculture Commissioner for the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Dozier is typical of those who get elected to public office and then use the office for their own private gain. He was given a fair trial and found guilty, and it is my opinion that he should serve his time--all of it. It isn't fair to the decent people of this state who are dedicated state workers and public servants. It makes a mockery of our justice system.

Yours very truly,



(Miss) Shirley Bartlett

cc: Honorable W. Henson Moore

Representative Benson Moore

9781 Z. Tompa &
Baton Rouge, La
70815

Dear Mr. Moore -

JUL 13 1981

I want to thank you, and commend you on your stand against the President on his reducing the sentence of Gil Dozier. That act was deplorable and so disappointing in our President.

Since Mr. Dozier is not a Republican - President Reagan's action smacks of dirty politics - something that we here in Louisiana are so well acquainted.

My friends & I were planning to vote for President Reagan - now, we will take a closer look at Mr. Mondale.

Thank you so much for not being a part of this corruption.

JUL 6 RECD

Respectfully
Gladys Ruiz

Shreveport Journal

CHARLES T. BEAIRD
Publisher

STANLEY R. TINER
Editor

BAILEY THOMSON
Editor of the editorial page

Your Local Newspaper

This newspaper is locally owned, having been founded on January 7, 1895. Editorials below present the opinions of the Editorial Board. Commentary, cartoons and letters reflect the views of the individual writers. Letters are welcome. Our address is P.O. Box 31110, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71130.

*

4-A

Reagan and Dozier

Reducing the former ag commissioner's sentence by two-thirds mocks tough talk on law and order.

GIL DOZIER'S wrongdoing hardly fits the run-of-the-mill variety of white-collar crime.

A jury convicted Louisiana's former commissioner of agriculture on three counts of racketeering and extortion. As it was, the judge sentenced him to five years each on only two of those counts.

Dozier then drew another eight years after prosecutors charged him with attempting to tamper with the jury that had convicted him. While on bond awaiting his appeal, Dozier allegedly approached a juror and tried to persuade him to lie about the jury's foreman in an effort to have his trial declared void.

So how much of this 18-year sentence will Dozier serve?

Perhaps little more than 18 months, thanks to the beneficence of Ronald Reagan, the nation's No. 1 law-and-order man.

In an action that stunned the president's admirers and everyone else, Reagan reduced Dozier's sentence from 18 years to six, thereby making the former politician eligible immediately for parole.

There is leniency and mercy, and then there is letting criminals off the hook too easily. Let us understand that Reagan's deed falls into the latter category, and as such adds another embarrassing chapter to the Gil Dozier story. In springing the door prematurely, the president has done society a disservice.

(Hard to stomach also was the spectacle of New Orleans' mayor and the presidents of two large state universities lining up to be character witnesses for Dozier. Why not hear instead from the businessmen who suffered from his extortion schemes?)

Dozier drew a long sentence because he committed a series of serious crimes and abused the good office that voters had entrusted him with.

Even at that, he was not thrown in with common criminals to serve his time in a typical prison. Rather, he has made his restitution at one of the less repressive institutions that the federal government reserves for white-collar criminals.

The administration lamely argued that keeping Dozier in prison would serve neither rehabilitation nor deterrence. This is curious, for hardly anyone these days holds up rehabilitation as the principal purpose of prisons.

And one could certainly take another point of view on the matter of deterrence in this case. It seems that the message here is that no matter how bad politicians behave we ought to let them off quickly.

In cutting off two-thirds of Dozier's sentence, the Reagan administration has shown the hypocrisy of its law-and-order rhetoric. One must wonder about a system of justice that shows such obvious favoritism to those who come from high places.

JUL 02 1984
JOHN KEAN
P. O. Box 3677
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821

July 2, 1984

Representative Henson Moore
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

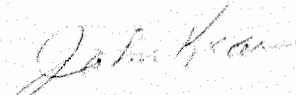
Dear Henson:

I think the commutation of the sentence of Gil Dozier is one of the worst things that could happen to the state of Louisiana.

I would like to hear from you how the foregoing could possibly have happened. What was the justification for such an act? We, the citizens of Louisiana and our families, need protection from such as Gil Dozier and for him to have his "light" sentence commuted is unbelievable.

I know you have a tough job, but I would greatly appreciate an explanation from you of the above.

Sincerely,


John Kean

kdb

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JUL 08 1984
30 June 1984

2210 38th STREET
KENNER, LA. 70061

Attorney General William French Smith
Department of Justice
Constitution Ave. & 10th Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 50530

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Executive clemency for Gil Dozier on 22 June 1984.

Want to object to the clemency - not on the basis of the individual - but as an elected official of a type common here in Louisiana.

It is clear that whomever did the investigation, does not understand how things have been here since Huey P. Long, nor why the sentence was necessary.

Born in Ohio and a strong supporter of Bob Taft in the 1930's it was a real culture shock to come here in 1962 and see what elected officials could do. People here had been taught not only to expect cheating by elected officials; but to accept it !

Pushed by a non-government public crime commission the local parishes did elect D. A.'s that cleaned up Jefferson in the 1960's (west of New Orleans). In the 1970's much was done to clean up the French Quarter and New Orleans. But nothing much was done at the state level until the Federal Task Forces nailed a #2 man to Edwards and the local Mafia boss in the '80's. This then was followed by Gil Dozier.

Dozier was not only into extorting and racketeering - but while out on bail, threatened a juror (with murder). Am sure that Dozier's sentence was high compared to other states - but the crime elsewhere is the unusual, while here it is the norm. While the sentence for the racket boss and the number 2 man to Edwards were light; that for Dozier was tough and seemed to be having some effect. For example, the State Police recently arrested East Carroll Parish Sheriff Johnnie Lee Bridges for conspiring to murder incoming Sheriff Dale Renicker. (The links between the Mafia, unions and elected officials kept everyone worried and in-line for year's).

If the Justice department did not want to ask their Task Force about Dozier and the tough sentence before recommending clemency; they at least could have talked with Congressmen Moore and Livingston for their opinions ! You have with this one act set Law and Order back in Louisiana about 20 year's !

Sincerely,

Fred G. Brune PE

cc
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Why didn't some on the White House staff check with the congressmen before you let the President sign it ??????



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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821
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JUL 06 1984

July 3, 1984

J. D. Lyle
President

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

Enclosed is an editorial appearing in a Baton Rouge, Louisiana, newspaper (July 1, 1984) that I think accurately expresses the sentiment of numerous Republican businessmen such as myself. A reduction of the federal prison sentence imposed on former Louisiana State Agricultural Commissioner, Gilbert L. Dozier, despite the so-called "character recommendations" from prominent Louisiana politicians, is simply outrageous! Mr. Dozier has to be one of the most reprehensible characters in the annals of Louisiana politics, and that as you know covers a lot of ground. It will most certainly send a clear signal to other Louisiana politicians who are tempted to do the same.

Sincerely,

J. D. Lyle

JDL:kmv

Enc.

cc: Rep. W. Henson Moore ←

Editorials

System's in enough trouble as it stands without this

President Reagan, relying on a recommendation by Attorney General William French Smith, wound up making a distinctly wrong decision this week when he signed commutation papers excusing former state Agricultural Commissioner Gil Dozier from two-thirds of the 18-year federal prison term he was serving for racketeering and extortion convictions and for attempting to influence the jury which arrived at those convictions.

The president's acceptance of Smith's recommendation trims Dozier's prison term to six years. It also makes the former agriculture commissioner eligible immediately for the parole which the U.S. Parole Commission refused him as recently as four months ago. U.S. parole regulations and the commuted sentence combine to virtually assure Dozier his freedom after two years of his 18-year term which he completed serving on the day the commutation was signed.

The Department of Justice decision in Dozier's case was formally opposed by sentencing U.S. Judge Frank J. Polozola and prosecuting U.S. District Attorney Stanford O. Bardwell. The move to effect Dozier's early release was assisted by letters of character recommendations from LSU President Martin L. Woodin, USL President Ray Authement and Mayor Earnest Morial of New Orleans.

U.S. Attorney John Votz in New Orleans advised Justice Department investigators that Dozier should be given commutation consideration because he cooperated with federal investigators in another case. He did not name the case nor has Dozier testified as a prosecution witness in any federal trial. Such cooperation in balance does not seem worth forgiving two-thirds of an entire prison term.

The Department of Pardons staff attorney said Attorney General's Smith recommendation and President Reagan's approval were based on a decision that Dozier would not be appreciably rehabilitated and that crime would not be greatly deterred by keeping him in federal prison. He said weight was also given to the fact that Dozier had paid the \$25,000 fine also imposed as part of his sentence.

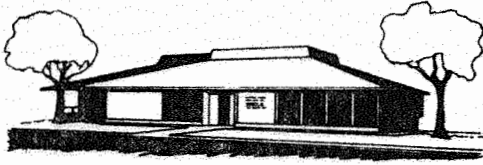
Whatever Dozier's state of rehabilitation after two years at the minimum security federal facility in Fort Worth, commuting his sentence in this manner does send a signal to politicians — especially some in these parts — that it just might be worth taking the chance to fill up a campaign chest by shaking down businesses regulated by the offices they hold. And contacting jury members in an effort to win a new trial from a conviction might be worth risking the payment of a fine.

One of Dozier's lawyers, himself a former presidential pardon attorney, hailed the commutation as the result of a "good, meritorious case" because "the sentence was way, way beyond an appropriate" one. What defense attorney, it might be asked, feels that his client's sentence is an appropriate one? Or that his client's case is not both good and meritorious?

Judge Polozola's recorded objections to commuting Dozier's sentence are the most valid ones of all and are quite applicable. The action does indeed seriously interfere with the administration of justice and the integrity of the jury system. This sentence reduction does indeed lessen the seriousness of the offenses for which Dozier was convicted — a conviction which survived several appeals.

But worst of all, chopping off two-thirds of a duly imposed prison sentence for the insufficient reasons advanced can only reduce public confidence in the criminal justice system. And there's enough being done to diminish that as it is without the justice system itself adding to the volume.

FAMILY MEDICAL - SURGICAL CENTER, INC.



W. L. FOUNDS, M.D.
R. J. OOSTA, M.D.
G. P. FOUNDS, M.D.

JUL 24 1984

P. O. BOX 1047

MANY, LA. 71449

PHONE 318-256-5648

July 24, 1984

The Honorable W. Henson Moore
United States House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

Dear Henson:

I have been chairman for the Republican Party here in Sabine Parish for the past twenty years and have enthusiastically worked during each election for the Republican candidate, and certainly President Reagan has been my champion for a number of years. However, I was tremendously disappointed with the commutation of Gil Dozier's sentence.

Of the many crimes a politician can commit, I think that his was the most reprehensible, and it has disturbed me to the point that I don't want to continue in Reagan's campaign. Without a doubt, I will continue to work for the election of President Reagan, but I don't have the enthusiasm that is needed to make his campaign successful.

I am sure that I am not the only one who has these feelings. I agree with you that an explanation is needed for this action.

Respectfully,

Warren L. Founds, M.D.
Chairman of the Republican Party
of Sabine Parish

WLF:jds

June 28 '84

Dear Benson

I have written to President
Roosevelt & told him his
enumerations of DeLozier
Requests me. I also
suggested he should examine
the motives of those
who recommended the
action and read
Judge Polyzola's objections.
I, nor, other good republicans,
can stomach this kind
of political stretch.

James P. Lewis

7/3/84

Dear Rep. Moore:

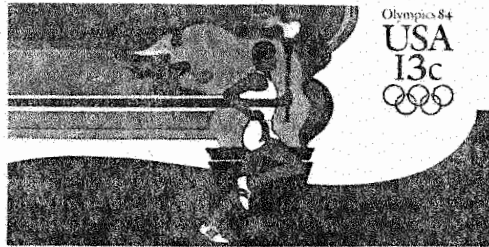
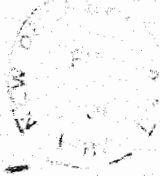
Hard to figure Reagan's commutation of Dozier's 18 year sentence to 6 years. After Reagan helped spring Dozier, is Dozier going to get his petrochemical industry buddies (who once again have defeated a bill in this state legislative session that would have stopped aerial pesticide spraying of children in their yards) to help "muddle"? For whatever reason Reagan did this, we are outraged at this subversion of the judicial system. We rarely find you, and certainly never Bob Livingston doing anything constructive to lessen the heavy toxic burden we bear, but your rapid actions (AP, Baton Rouge story) protesting Reagan's awful interference are appreciated! Bob Livingston seems to have had more of a "problem" in his protest to the White House! Please send this card along to

Rep. Livingston - Syd & urge to send it along to John Cade

Carolyn Krack
4306 Dumaine Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

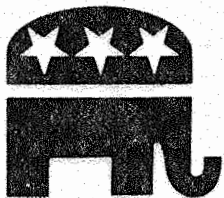
John Cade said Reagan's commutation "probably won't have any effect on the Reagan election. That's exactly what we want him to keep believing."

Carolyn Krack



Rep. Henson Moore
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JUL 08 1984



The Republican Party of Louisiana

GEORGE J. DESPOT
State Chairman

July 3, 1984

JUL 08 1984

The Honorable Henson Moore
2404 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Henson:

Enclosed are editorials from both Shreveport papers.

The Journal Editorial is not consequential because its' circulation and readership is low.

The Times, however, is well read and very influential.

My immediate concern is that this particular action by the White House may have an effect on our funding. The bulk of our finances for this years campaign come from the major donors.

By and large, our major contributors trust us and we may be able to handle this, but, I keep getting the feeling or implication that, for the right price, we can be bought.

By the end of the month we should be able to measure the actual impact with our finance membership.

Very truly yours,

George J. Despot

GJD/sh

Enclosures

EDITORIALS/C

The Times

222 Lake St., P.O. Box 222, Shreveport, La. 71130

Founded from weekly newspapers published since 1839;
published as *The Times* daily and Sunday since 1871

The Times Editorial Board

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President and Publisher

Raymond McDaniel
Editor

Jim Montgomery
Editorial Page Editor

The Dozier sentence

“MYSTIFIED” is probably the best word to describe the reaction to President Ronald Reagan's reduction of Gil Dozier's prison sentence. And you can follow “mystified” with “angry.” By what reasoning should the former Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture be given clemency? None that we can discern.

Dozier was convicted in 1980 on one count of racketeering and three counts of extortion. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, plus probation. Then, U.S. District Judge Frank Polozola added eight more years to the sentence after a hearing on charges that Dozier tried to win a new trial by coercing a juror to claim there had been irregularities. Dozier was found guilty of squeezing money out of businessmen who were regulated by his department.

Technically, it's called “white-collar crime,” but this is hardly on the same scale as a bank clerk who embezzles a few thousand dollars. Dozier's convictions stemmed directly from abuses of his power as an elected public official — which is to say abuses of the public trust given to him by Louisiana's voters. Topping that came prosecutors' charges that he tried to interfere with the trial jury process. The 18-year sentence was appropriate for

the convictions.

Then came word last week that 12 years of Dozier's sentence had been cut off by executive clemency — which makes him eligible for parole almost immediately. According to the Associated Press, U.S. Attorney General William French Smith recommended that the sentence be reduced to only six years. A Justice Department staff attorney said that keeping Dozier in prison would serve “no appreciable rehabilitative purpose nor would it deter others from committing similar crimes,” the AP reported. On that recommendation, President Reagan signed the clemency order.

None of the arguments for clemency really hold up. Dozier was not sent to prison to be rehabilitated. He was sent to be punished. And if the special favor granted to someone who once held office isn't a signal that punishment is less for the high and mighty than it is for the common man, we don't know what else to call it — and that, in turn, undermines both respect for, and fear of, the law and punishment.

U.S. Rep. Henson Moore of Louisiana, among others, wants to get to the bottom of this to find out why the president signed the order and why the Justice Department recommended it. As Moore put it, “This is a public matter. It was a public crime, a public trial and a public sentence. Any commutation of the sentence should be public as well.” We agree completely, and the sooner a full explanation is made, the better. Right now, the whole affair is reprehensible.



BARNARD AND BURK GROUP, INC.

Congressman Henson Moore

I seem to get mail 3 or
4 times a week from various
groups, persons and Committees
of the Republican Party -

I decided to use their
envelopes and send the attached
back to a couple of them

JD

STIL 9 REPT

JOHN L. DANIEL, SR.

7-6-84

Congressman Guy Vander Jagt
Chairman, National Republican
Congressional Committee

JUL 13 1984

Dear Sir

I suggest if you have any interest in the National Republican Party in Louisiana — you are your Committee should look into the Gil Dozier matter.

Who is Dozier, the ex-Agriculture Commissioner of La. who was sentenced to 18 years in the Federal Prison. Through the maneuver of the Justice Dept. they have convinced James Baker the III to have President Reagan commute Dozier's sentence — which he did on June 22nd. This makes him eligible for release at once. He was convicted of racketeering and extortion, and that's not easy to do to an elected official.

How does this make the President look in La., the Republican Party and the local Federal judicial system. The Democrats and liberals love it.

Why don't you visit Congressman Benson Moore to get the White House and Justice Dept. to get the White House and Justice Dept. to get the White House and Justice Dept.

file on Dozier. They refuse on the
basis of the "Freedom of Information Act".

Our two Senators both Democrats,
Long and Johnston are losing it but
be assured they want offer any assistance
to Congressman Moore.

Be assured this and Jesse Jackson's
Black vote will about do the President's
Re-Election vote in La under, thanks to
Jim Baker and other uninformed
staff members -

John L. Daniel, Sr
2049 W. Magna Carta
Baton Rouge, La 70815

Louisiana politics

Sunday, July 8, 1984 The Times-Picayune A-23

Reagan stuns with Dozier decision

By JACK WARDLAW
Capital bureau chief

BATON ROUGE — President Reagan owes the people of Louisiana an explanation of his action in granting executive clemency to former state Agriculture Commissioner Gil Dozier.

Unless the administration has a better story than it has put forward so far, the Nov. 6 presidential election in Louisiana — in which up to now Reagan appeared to have a mortal lock on the state's 10 electoral votes — may turn into a horse race.

The political fallout also may give Louisiana's two Republican congressmen, Bob Livingston of New Orleans and Henson Moore of Baton Rouge, something to worry about, although neither so far has attracted well financed opposition.

The U.S. Justice Department announced last week that the president had cut 12 years from Dozier's 18-year federal prison term, making him eligible for parole perhaps as early as October.

Dozier, of Baton Rouge, has been behind bars since June 1982 after being convicted in 1980 of racketeering and extortion for squeezing money from businesses regulated by his department. He was sentenced to five years on each of two counts, and eight more years were added to his

Unless the administration has a better story than it has put forward so far, the presidential election in Louisiana may turn into a horse race.

sentence after prosecutors said Dozier, free on appeal bond, tried to coerce one of the jurors in his case to lie about alleged irregularities during the trial.

Ever since the Justice Department acted, Moore has been trying to get department officials to release its files on the case, without success. Moore said last week he isn't giving up.

"This is a public matter. It was a public crime, a public trial and a public sentence," Moore said. "Any commutation of sentence should be public as well."

A Justice Department spokesman said the federal Privacy Act protects persons who wrote letters in favor of Dozier's early release. Those include Mayor Dutch Morial.

Dozier's original sentence was for 10 years in prison. It was increased by U.S. District Judge Frank J. Polozola after the alleged incident with the juror without Dozier's actually being convicted of an additional offence. Polozola increased the sentence to 18 years on grounds that Dozier had violated his probation.

Without Reagan's clemency action, Dozier would not have been eligible for parole until April 24, 1987. With the clemency, he could get a parole hearing by August and perhaps be free by October.

Since the Justice Department action, the case has taken a couple of more bizarre turns. For one thing, it was disclosed that Dozier underwent colon surgery last week at a Texas hospital near the prison where he is serving his time. But there was no indication that Dozier's health had anything to do with his early release.

On the other hand, there were a lot of hints — but no concrete information — that Dozier got special treatment in return for cooperating with the federal government in some other investigation.

If that is the case, that would be a plausible explanation for some of the secrecy surrounding the situation. If there's an important investigation going on, federal agents certainly wouldn't want to tip their hands.

But if that's the story, what

was the necessity for announcing the clemency action? If Dozier isn't going to get out of jail until October anyway, why not keep the wraps on things until the "investigation," if there is one, bears fruit? In any event, why not hold things up until after the election?

Then there was the role, if any, of John Cade, Reagan's 1980 Louisiana campaign chairman. Cade originally told the press he hadn't talked to anybody in the Reagan administration about Dozier. Then it came out that he talked on May 14 to Lynn Nofziger, a Reagan campaign aide, about the matter at a GOP gathering in Texas in May.

Cade said Nofziger is not a part of the administration and that it was Nofziger who brought the matter up. But it's still unclear what this conversation had to do with the early release.

In any case, Reagan has handed Louisiana Democrats a dandy campaign issue if they have the wit and will to use it.

And what about other Louisiana politicians who are in federal prisons? If Dozier deserves to go free, by what logic are Charlie Roemer and Mike O'Keefe kept locked up? Is there some difference in their offenses, or do they just not have the right political stroke?

The public deserves some answers.

Plenty mad about Dozier case decision

Editor, Morning Advocate:

I read the "Letters to the Editor" faithfully and I have been concerned that no one has written about Mr. Dozier. I was hoping someone more gifted and able to express his or her feelings would write about this matter. So from pure frustration, the following is my first letter to the editor.

I'm mad. Maybe I'm the only Louisiana citizen who is mad. Gil Dozier betrayed the people of this state. He demonstrated just how little respect he has for us, the law and the jury which convicted him. How can the penalty be "too severe?" The only people who thought it was "too severe" were other politicians. Murderers don't believe in the death penalty. Politicians certainly don't believe in "political crimes."

I would love to know why our two university presidents were motivated so strongly to get involved in the muck surrounding this man. Maybe it's hard for them to believe that their two schools helped produce a lawyer with no respect for the law. I assure them his crimes are as bad as they look. It's not like he didn't know what he was doing — three counts of extortion *and* trying to influence a juror to have his (Mr. Dozier's) conviction overturned. The juror who complained about that deserves a medal, but he better not hold his breath.

Our two university presidents are small potatoes compared to Ronald Reagan. Imagine the president becoming involved in this matter. And now the White House says it's none of our business how they became involved in this travesty of justice.

The statement has been made that Gil Dozier has been rehabilitated as much as possible and jail would serve no further purpose. Since when has our jail system been interested in rehabilitation?

Why are "deterrent" jail sentences only good for common criminals? Such flagrant disregard for the law should carry the severest of penalties. Just how much has Mr. Dozier been rehabilitated anyway?

Now I read in the morning paper that Mr. Dozier is helping the government in several cases. If that isn't the icing on the cake! Whose crimes could be worse than his? How can you believe him? He proved he would do almost anything not to go to jail. Why wouldn't he say anything to get out of jail? If he was helping the government, why didn't they just say so? Why all the nonsense about letters from various people? And doesn't anyone care that the presiding judge, Judge Polozola, could find no reason to pardon this man?

Like I said, I'm mad and the sad part about all this is we probably never will really know why Mr. Dozier is free.

Elaine Kilgore
315 Brentwood Blvd.
Lafayette

Editor's Note: Mrs. Kilgore signs herself as "A Registered Voter and Housewife-in-Residence."

LETTERS

Dozier commutation by Reagan labeled 'shortsighted' at best

Editor, State-Times:

Gil Dozier's grant of executive clemency in the form of commutation by President Reagan on the recommendation of U.S. Attorney General William Smith is, at best, shortsighted and ill conceived.

It is obvious that although our constitution provides for equal protection under the law, Dozier, because of money and influence, has obtained for himself more equal protection and due process than other like criminals.

It is interesting to note the list of influential people recommending commutation did not include witnesses, jurors, or prosecutors in his trial. Did our attorney general or president ask the dozens of individual people, who were direct victims of Dozier's extortion attempts, what they thought concerning this commutation? Ask the people who had to pay for Auction Barn Charters or be closed down; ask the cattlemen, the Dairyman's Association, the architectural firms, the crop dusters and anyone else Dozier could swindle. Ask the working people of this state about Gil Dozier.

This is the man convicted of using the Louisiana Department of Agriculture in a pattern of racketeering; the man who was convicted on three counts of extortion for using the same department like a "cash register" for his own personal gain. This is the man who tried to bribe a federal juror to gain a new trial and this is the man whose sentence President Reagan and the Justice Department chose to commute.

We have had a public trial, a public conviction, a public sentence, and now, an apparently successful backdoor deal to spring him after only two years of imprisonment.

This commutation is a "slap in the face" to the integrity of our criminal justice system, to the people of this state and to the jurors who sat on this case. The criminal justice system worked locally because of the jurors and the people who were directly involved and who applied good common sense. It is too bad the officials presently in power, from the attorney general to the White House, lacked that same common sense.

Richard S. Thomas
Former Assistant District Attorney
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney
339 Florida St., Suite 500
Baton Rouge, La. 70801

This space is set aside for State-Times readers to express their views on current issues and problems in which they are interested. The State-Times is not responsible for opinions expressed in this column and readers are asked to be brief and courteous. Libelous and offensive personal attacks are taboo. Letters must be signed and bona fide address given. Please limit the lengths of letters to about 400 words, or about two typewritten, double-spaced pages.

for its "A Midsummer Night at the Ballet" gala, to be held at 8 p.m. July 28 in the city's Municipal Auditorium.

1D

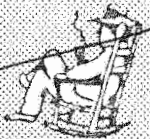
Weather

Slight chance of rain Friday. High, near 90. Low Friday night, mid-70s.

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Grass Roots GUS



The television networks cut back the coverage of the convention to reduce boredom. If they really want to reduce boredom, they might tell their reporters and commentators that if they don't have anything to say, just shut up.

conference Thursday that there was no evidence that drugs, alcohol or marital problems were factors in the shooting.

"At this time, there is no known

(See MASSACRE, 7A)



Dozier's sentences not way out of line, official says

By GIBBS ADAMS
Advocate staff writer

Statistics from the United States Courts fail to bear out a claim that former Agriculture Commissioner Gilbert Dozier's federal sentences for extortion and racketeering are out of line with others for the same offenses.

Both officials of the Justice Department and White House were quoted as saying Dozier's sentence was "disparate" when President Reagan last month cut the sentences from a total of 18 years to 6 years.

The long sentences were given as a primary reason for reducing Dozier's term.

Federal parole officers will again be comparing the length of Dozier's sentences with others at an Aug. 6

hearing to consider his parole from the Fort Worth Federal Correctional Institute. He completed two years (one-third) of his sentence the day President Reagan signed the commutation.

Dozier was sentenced to five years for racketeering and five years for extortion, but had another extortion sentence of eight years added when Judge Frank J. Polozola revoked his probation in 1981 for attempting to bribe a juror while his case was on appeal.

Statistics from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington show that in the 12-month period that ended June 30, 1982, a total of 77 persons were imprisoned for extortion. The average sentence for extortion was seven years.

Eighteen of those sentenced during

that year drew the same five years or longer sentences than Dozier, with the maximum being 35 years and a \$35,000 fine.

Among those sentenced for extortion in the latest year for which statistics are available, 44 paid fines averaging \$10,700. Dozier was not fined on any of the three extortion counts on which he was convicted, but was fined \$25,000 for racketeering.

Statistics on sentences under the racketeering statute show 29 persons were sentenced in the year ending June 30, 1982, to prison terms averaging 112 months, as compared to Dozier's five-year (120-month) sentence.

Twelve of the 29 sentenced drew the same or longer prison terms than Dozier for racketeering.

Thirteen of those imprisoned also

Robin DeLeon of Baton Rouge) and Diddles (Natalie Prud'homme of Houston).

School Board OKs raises

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

School employees will get a pay raise as part of Superintendent Schools Raymond G. Arvesc million budget proposal that printed for delivery to School members Friday.

The School Board endorsed a recommendation for salary increase during a regular board meeting Thursday.

After the meeting, Finance Director Richard Raether said the budget includes allocations that improve school transportation replacing more aging school buses were replaced in past budgets.

The budget also allocates funds for an energy conservation program to reduce utility costs and a \$1 per increase in funding for mathematics instruction, he said.

That would raise the allotment for instructional material from \$8.75 for students in elementary and from \$8.50 to \$9.50 for middle high school students, Raether said.

Raether said growing sales tax revenues has helped make this budget "healthy enough to help employees."

"It's really the sales tax and we see some more growth in it that us to recommend the 9 percent raise," Raether said.

Raether also credited drastic measures imposed by school officials in last year's \$139 million budget that the elimination of 300 positions last fiscal year with this year's pay increase possible.

The increase, expected to cost \$5 million, would include the 5.8 percent pay hike approved by the Legislature earlier this summer, coupled with School Board funding that surpasses a \$1,200 cap the state provides for a raise.

Screen announces candidacy

By LORI CHANDLER
Advocate staff writer

Mayor Screen officially announced his candidacy for reelection at noon Thursday in the hot sun at Catfish Town, amid green-and-white balloons, a jazz band and hundreds of onlookers and supporters.

Screen, flanked by his wife Kathy and several Catfish Town employees, said he and his staff will run "a clean and positive campaign."

"This campaign got started on a positive note and it will stay on a positive note," Screen said. "The politics of the past won't solve the issues of the future and I will have no part of it. We are going to focus on the issues and run the kind of campaign Baton Rouge will be proud of."

Screen also said he is committed to the growth of the area.

"I want to see you get your money's worth," Screen said.

Screen stressed his accomplishments during his first term in office, including improving public safety, street and intersection improvements and economic development.

Screen said his efforts to beef up the Baton Rouge Police Department with new services and providing "the resources needed" to do so has helped reduce the crime rate.

"We've invested our resources to build up the police department," Screen said. "It produced amazing growth. Crime has decreased at a rate unprecedented by any city in the nation."

He also cited his efforts to increase Emergency Medical Services stations, new city fire department services and applauded volunteer fire departments across the parish.

"EMS filled a need that has been here too long," Screen said. "We've got six stations funded with no additional tax



Dozier

(Continued from 1A)

others in federal prisons serving more than 18 years under sentences imposed during the 1981-82 year.

Sibille points out Dozier's RICO sentence was for 5 years and a \$25,000 fine and it covered 12 acts with a total of \$315,000 extorted.

Dozier initially drew five years for extorting \$10,000 from Floyd "Shorty" Giles of Claiborne Livestock Commission Co., and was put on probation for five years for extorting \$200,000 from Brown's Velvet Ice Cream Co., and no sentence was imposed for extorting \$20,000 from Burger Bug Killers Inc.

Polozola revoked the probation on the Brown's Velvet extortion and imposed an 8-year sentence when U. S. Attorney Stanford O. Bardwell Jr. moved for revocation on the basis of Dozier's bribery of a member of the jury that convicted him.

Polozola added 5 years probation for the Burger Bug Killers extortion.

Reagan's formal warrant of clemency substituted six years imprisonment for all of Polozola's prison and probation terms, noting he had already paid the \$25,000 fine. The commutation made Dozier eligible for parole the day Reagan signed it.

Rep. Henson Moore, R-Baton Rouge, said James Baker III, chief of staff of the White House, told him the president's commutation was based on

the disparity of the sentence and on the fact that Dozier is cooperating with the government.

But neither Moore nor others closely associated with the case have revealed even the subject matter of any investigation in which Dozier is cooperating with the government. Moore says he can't find out.

Sibille said Bardwell's biggest mistake in the Dozier case was in asking for probation revocation, instead of seeking a grand jury indictment for bribery of a juror.

Though the time limits have not run out for charging Dozier with bribery of the juror, Bardwell has indicated he has no intention of asking for such an indictment since he has already used the evidence in the probation revocation hearing.

Bardwell said Thursday he has not decided whether he will formally oppose immediate parole for Dozier.

He said he has made no determination of whether his office filed a form with parole authorities containing his official office view on the case at the time of Dozier's sentencing.

Sibille said normal procedure in the federal system is for a parole hearing to be held within 90 days of a prisoner's entering the system.

The pre-sentence investigation used by the judge in sentencing the offender, as well as statements from the sentencing judge, defense lawyer and prosecutor, are all forwarded to the

warden of the prison and are utilized by regional parole authorities in determining the earliest release date, based on the guidelines for parole for the particular offense.

Under the guidelines at the time of sentencing of Dozier, Sibille pointed out, the former elected official from Louisiana would have been required to serve at least 58 months in prison — primarily because of a minimum fixed when Judge Polozola revoked probation and added the 8-year term.

The two consecutive 5-year sentences would have required 40 months (one-third of the 10 years) under the guidelines, and on the 8-year sentence Polozola imposed, the judge under the sentencing law fixed a minimum time of 18 months in prison, Sibille said.

Guidelines in the Dozier case are determined by the amount of money extorted and the fact that Dozier's probation was revoked, Sibille said. He said the combination of the guidelines at the time of Dozier's sentencing and the judge's minimum would have made Dozier eligible for parole after 58 months.

Present guidelines for extortion call for Dozier serving 24 to 36 months based on the amount of money extorted but rise to 36 to 48 months on the basis of the probation revocation.

Dozier's chance of succeeding on parole were rated "very good" by Sibille in the initial pre-sentence investigation, but the offender

characteristic had to fall to "good" as a result of Dozier's failure while under bond supervision to live up to a requirement that he avoid further law violations, Sibille said in analyzing the case.

President Reagan's commutation, however, makes parole possible after two years in prison — less than the present parole guidelines.

Thus, the parole authorities will be faced with the decision of whether to follow the 36-48-month guideline or go ahead and turn Dozier loose from prison on parole, Sibille said.

"The Parole Commission has always prided itself in having effectively resisted presidential pressures to parole people below their guidelines," Sibille said.

Hearing officers will make their recommendations on Dozier to Regional Parole Commissioner Victor Reyes, who could approve a parole date or buck the recommendations up to the U.S. Parole Commission in Washington on the basis of publicity and high profile of the Dozier case.

Dallas parole authorities say a decision could be reached in two to six weeks in Dallas, but if the case is sent up the ladder to Washington, the decision could take longer.

Reyes, the regional commissioner, earlier this year rejected a request from the warden at the Fort Worth prison to recommend that Polozola reduce Dozier's sentence, holding that the

sentence was a proper sentence for the offenses committed.

Federal prisoners who seek commutation are not required to advertise the fact in advance, as are Louisiana prisoners, Sibille said.

Although the parole authorities do not necessarily notify prosecutors and judges of pending parole hearings, Sibille said, forms are provided for judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers to submit their views to the parole authorities.

Letters for and against Dozier will also apparently be considered by the parole authorities, as they were by Justice Department officials in making their recommendations to Reagan.

Sibille said the pre-sentence information submitted to Polozola contains about 70 letters — some favoring probation and others urging the jailing of Dozier.

Dozier's lawyers say they submitted those letters, along with three new letters of recommendation with the clemency application that went to the Justice Department.

The new recommendations for Dozier were from LSU President Martin Woodin, USL President Ray Authement and New Orleans Mayor Ernest Morial. All three have declined to make public their letters of recommendation.

Strike closes dialysis center

NEW YORK (UPI) — A 6-day-old strike against 45 nursing homes and hospitals forced the shutdown Thursday of a life-sustaining kidney dialysis center that serves 70 people a day. Talks between hospital and nursing home managers and District 1199 of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union have been stalled since the strike began Friday.

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Study shows Catholic abortion acceptance high

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
United Press International

NEW YORK (UPI) — Seventy-three percent of Catholics

error.
Of those surveyed, 42 percent said they were Catholics, 35 percent Protestant, 12 percent Jewish and 11

religious or moral objection to the use of contraceptives by adults, the poll showed.

He said similar studies conducted in 1981 and 1982 also showed strong support for these issues.

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14

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July 1 - 1984

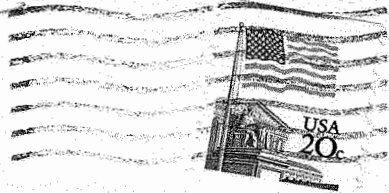
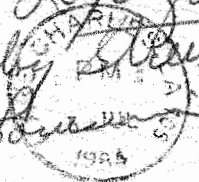
My dear President!

How we thank god and pray
for you and your family each
day. Only ⁱⁿ heaven will you
know how Christians have held you up.
Thank you for reducing Gil
DeGris's sentence. You may
hear flock from Republicans
and Democrats. Please ignore it!
Any one with knowledge of
Louisiana politics knows it
is almost impossible to win
an election if one followed
the letter of the law. Take Edwin
for example (and I support him)
He took 3 plane loads to Paris
to pay his past political debt.
Politics in Louisiana just
isn't always pretty -



Gil Dozier is a fine man whose
 family helped settle Louisiana
 in early 1800s. He made a
 mistake. Thank you for
 giving him a chance to
 become a useful citizen
 again - He has such a
 precious family - God bless
 you Dear President - I turned
 Republicans if you say to help
 you get the nomination in Louisiana
 I'm working for you today -
 Sincerely, Rita Eagle Lafargue

Rita Oyle Lafayre
922 Kirby Street
Lake Charles, Louisiana
70601



Personal

President Ronald Reagan
Washington, D.C.
White House

66

F. Fielding

July 1, 1984

encl. Dear Mr. President,

Enclosed is an article from our local newspaper. It would seem that Mr. Moore has sold you out to the Republican Convention in Louisiana. However we feel strongly that Mr. Moore in the long run will have sold himself out.

This may be a primarily democratic (registered) state as we are, however we feel strongly that this state will go Reagan in November.

Cont'd

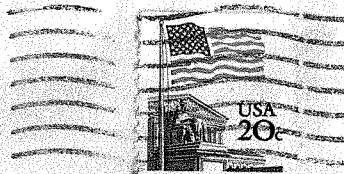
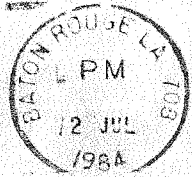
Page 2

Mr. Reagan, we endorse you,
and congratulate you on the
exceptional job you are doing.

We just thought you
might appreciate seeing this
article. As for Hesson Moore -
it appears to us that he's more
concerned for Hesson Moore than
he is for R. R.

Wony Best Wishes
for the future! May God
Bless and Keep you and Honey.

Mr. Mrs Charles H. Krensholtz
20525 Wagner Dr.
Zachary, La. 70791



Mr. Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.
20000

SUNDAY ADVOCATE

No. 1

★ ★ Entered Second Class Matter
Post Office, Baton Rouge, La.

Baton Rouge, La., Sunday Morning, July 1, 1984

AP and UPI Wire Services and L.A. Times-Washington Post News Service

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orning

Dozier action hurt Reagan, Moore says

By MARSHA SHULER
Capitol news bureau

A Louisiana congressman said Saturday the only way to forestall a political fallout affecting President Reagan's re-election campaign here is immediate release of information used by the president in granting clemency to former Agriculture Commissioner Gil Dozier.

"It's a nagging problem that no candidate needs," said U.S. Rep. Henson Moore, R-Baton Rouge. "It's something I want to see cleared up quickly. . . . It shouldn't overshadow the 3½ years of a good job he has done in office."

Moore said he expects to have a decision from the White House by Monday on public release of information on the commutation. Moore has sought such a release through Reagan's chief of staff James Baker III.

Moore made the comments in an interview at the Louisiana Republican Party's state convention here — a

convention in which re-election of Reagan took center stage activities.

Reagan approved a reduction in Dozier's 18-year prison term, for extortion and racketeering, to six years, making him eligible for parole.

Moore said chances of the file's release is "50-50." While the U.S. Justice Department does not routinely release the documents, he said "this is not the usual run-of-the-mill criminal case."

"It's the kind of thing, if what Baker says is true, will dissipate quickly the damage that has been done," Moore said.

Moore said the combination of the Dozier decision and Reagan's recent rejection of his Interior Secretary's recommendation on settlement of an oil and gas royalties dispute are not good for the president's image in Louisiana.

The decision involved state claims on \$2.5 billion in revenues from federal oil and gas lease sales off the state's seaward boundary.



Henson Moore

"We don't need these kind of things in a state that we are told is a swing state for re-election," said Moore.

Moore said he told Baker that "politically he (Reagan) shot himself in the left foot" with one decision and "almost in the right

(See MOORE, 13A)

REPRODUCTION COPY

Moore

(Continued from 1A)

foot" with the other.

Moore said he is not satisfied with the reasons for abandonment of settlement in the oil and gas controversy being given by White House officials.

"Louisiana has a very meritorious case," he said, one which he said he hopes is settled by the end of the year if not before.

He said he and U.S. Rep. Robert Livingston, R-New Orleans, hope to sit down with Reagan to "stress personally" their concerns.

Moore said neither he nor Livingston were consulted in the Dozier case.

He said if he had been consulted he would have suggested a delay in the commutation so that it would not have gotten caught up in re-election politics.

"It's not a case of them receiving bad political advice. They received no political advice," Moore said.

Moore said he has been told that the Dozier case was handled as a routine matter by career employees of the Department of Justice. He said Chief of Staff Baker said Reagan went along for two reasons: the comparative length of sentences meted to others convicted of extortion and racketeering; and the value of testimony given to the federal government by Dozier in other probes.

[SECRET]

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of the RICO and Hobbs Acts involving extortion and bribery in soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 he was determined to have committed criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000. In January 1983, by way of application received in the Office of the Pardon Attorney, Dozier applied for Executive clemency in the form of a commutation of sentence.

In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated relevant information, reports, and advice and made a favorable recommendation with respect to the application. ~~The original recommendation was reviewed and enhanced to reflect more completely the full range of Dozier's conduct, including both the offenses for which he was originally~~

~~convicted and the post-conviction revocation of his probation, as well as the expressed view of the sentencing court as to the serious nature of his criminal activities.~~ On March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice recommended to the President that he modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years' imprisonment. The recommendation considered the disparity of the original prison sentence as compared to sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for similar offenses. The disparity of Dozier's sentence was demonstrated by a comparison with relevant sentencing data on sentences imposed in Federal courts and compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts. It was noted that the RICO and extortion violations which made up the statistics analyzed generally involved more severe offense behavior than the acts of extortion and bribery committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records and whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public figures in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed. ~~Also taken into consideration were additional factors including: cooperation with law enforcement, the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, payment of fine, institutional adjustment, and the deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence.~~ The President granted the commutation of sentence as recommended by the Department of Justice on

June 22, 1984. This action in no way constitutes a pardon of Dozier for the conduct which resulted in his conviction and incarceration.

While the recommended sentence of six years' imprisonment would permit Dozier to become eligible for parole consideration after 24 months' imprisonment, any actual release will be determined by the United States Parole Commission in its discretion and in accordance with its applicable guidelines. Unless the Parole Commission releases him sooner, Dozier will remain incarcerated until the expiration of his six year sentence subject to statutory release procedures applicable to all Federal prisoners. a



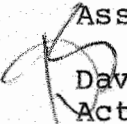
U.S. Department of Justice

Pardon Attorney

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 21, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable John Roberts
Associate Counsel to the President

FROM:  David C. Stephenson
Acting Pardon Attorney

SUBJECT: Letters to the President
re Dozier commutation

In accordance with our telephone discussion today I am forwarding herewith four letters to the President concerning the commutation of sentence granted Gilbert L. Dozier. These are the only letters which we have received addressed to the President on the subject and apparently they were inadvertently referred to Justice.

The letters are from Mrs. J.W. Bristol, Joyce Viator, Richard S. Rice and Marcel R. Gaudet.



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Associate Attorney General

July 17, 1984

To: John Roberts
Associate White House
Counsel
The White House

From: Jay B. Stephens
Deputy Associate
Attorney General

Pursuant to your request, attached is a copy of the press guidance prepared by the Department regarding the Dozier matter. This material was not disseminated in a formal statement, but was utilized by our Office of Public Affairs to respond to press inquiries. We have had no correspondence on this matter.

Attachment

Gilbert L. Dozier was convicted in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 1980 for violations of the RICO and Hobbs Acts involving extortion and bribery in soliciting money from individuals and businesses that were, or might have been, affected by actions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while he was Commissioner of Agriculture. In 1982 he was determined to have committed criminal acts, including obstruction of justice, and to have thereby violated the conditions of a court ordered probationary term. On June 24, 1982, he commenced service of an aggregate sentence of from 58 months to 18 years imprisonment, followed by five years probation, and was fined \$25,000. In January 1983, by way of application received in the Office of the Pardon Attorney, Dozier applied for Executive clemency in the form of a commutation of sentence.

In accordance with standard procedures, the Office of the Pardon Attorney, headed and staffed by experienced career attorneys, obtained and evaluated relevant information, reports, and advice and made a favorable recommendation with respect to the application. The original recommendation was reviewed and enhanced to reflect more completely the full range of Dozier's conduct, including both the offenses for which he was originally

convicted and the post-conviction revocation of his probation, as well as the expressed view of the sentencing court as to the serious nature of his criminal activities. On March 20, 1984, the Department of Justice recommended to the President that he modify the sentence of imprisonment and probation to six years' imprisonment. The recommendation considered the disparity of the original prison sentence as compared to sentences imposed in similar circumstances on like offenders for similar offenses. The disparity of Dozier's sentence was demonstrated by a comparison with relevant sentencing data on sentences imposed in Federal courts and compiled by the Administrative Office of United States Courts. It was noted that the RICO and extortion violations which made up the statistics analyzed generally involved more severe offense behavior than the acts of extortion and bribery committed by Dozier. Generally, they included offenders with serious prior criminal records and whose offenses involved violence. Sentencing statistics pertaining to defendants convicted of bribery suggest an even greater disparity of sentence. In addition, sentences imposed in comparable cases in recent years upon a number of public figures in the Federal criminal justice system were reviewed. Also taken into consideration were additional factors including: cooperation with law enforcement, the guidelines of the United States Parole Commission, the length of incarceration to date, payment of fine, institutional adjustment, and the deterrent effect to be achieved by completion of the original sentence. The President granted the commutation of sentence as recommended by the Department of Justice on

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