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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1983

NOTE FOR JOHN ROBERTS

FROM:

CARLTON TURNER

RE:

Testimony

For your information, I am scheduled to testify Thursday, May 19, 1983 before the House Committee on Government Operations, Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice and Agriculture.

I thought you might be interested in seeing my draft statement regarding domestic marijuana production. If you have any comments, please let me know.

Chairman English and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice and Agriculture, it is a pleasure to appear before you today. The domestic cultivation of cannabis is a matter of concern, not only to drug law enforcement, but to our international and health efforts as well. You are receiving testimony in your series of hearings on the scope of domestic cannabis cultivation, the national eradication effort, and the impact of domestic marijuana on the patterns of abuse in the United States. These subjects have been receiving increased attention in the past year, often with some confusion and misunderstanding. The variety and apparent complexity which characterize the domestic cannabis situation can best be clarified by a discussion of relevant policy issues within the context of the Administration's overall drug program.

The 1982 Federal Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking provides the framework for a strong, coordinated attack on all aspects of our drug problem, including international initiatives to eliminate illicit drugs as close to their origin as possible, border operations to inderdict drug imports before they are smuggled into the United States, law enforcement to stop drug trafficking and related crime, health activities to cure the effects of drug abuse, and education and prevention to reduce the demand for illicit drugs and eliminate drug abuse in future generations of Americans.

A key element of the Federal Strategy, as outlined by President Reagan on September 28, 1981, is the interdiction and eradication of illicit drugs "wherever cultivated, processed or transported. This includes the responsible use of herbicides." All of the heroin and cocaine currently available in the United States are produced in foreign countries. In 1981, it was estimated that 91 percent of the marijuana available on the U.S. market was supplied by foreign sources and 900 to 1,200 metric tons or 9 percent of the U.S. market was supplied by domestic cultivation. It is likely that the official estimate of domestic marijuana production for 1982 will be higher in both tonnage and percentage of supply to the U.S. market.

The expected increase in estimated tonnage and percentage of supply between 1981 and 1982 will reflect, for the most part, significantly improved statistical information about the problem, rather than a dramatic increase in actual production. I clearly recognize that the cultivation of cannabis in the United States has been increasing in both extent and sophistication since the mid-1970's. However, based on my efforts in the field since 1970, I firmly believe that this increase has been gradual and remains predominantly a small-scale activity without major organized national distribution. I emphasize predominantly because consistently there have been a few commercial type operations employing sophisticated agricultural techniques. Although this is believed to represent the exception versus the norm, it is important that we have the

programs and resources in place to reverse this trend and reduce the current levels of domestic marijuana production.

First, as a Nation and as individual citizens, we simply cannot allow the production of marijuana in the United States.

Marijuana is a dangerous and illegal drug which has reached widespread use primarily out of simple ignorance of its demonstrated health consequences. The cultivation of cannabis is an illegal activity which is undertaken in deliberate violation of the law in order to capitalize upon the existing market. The potential cost to our society goes beyond the serious health risks posed to the user and includes disregard for the law, increased violence and corruption, and threat to public safety.

Secondly, U.S. control of domestic illicit drug production is our international obligation as a signatory to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and I wonder why we have been so slow in recognizing this treaty obligation. All of the major illicit drug producing countries are also signatories to the Single Convention, which is the cornerstone for U.S. foreign policy initiatives to substantially reduce the supply of the illicit drugs consumed in the United States. These foreign policy initiatives are the groundwork for any effective long-range drug control programs in major source and transshipment countries around the world. A significant legislative initiative has reauthorized foreign assistance for

use of herbicides. As each obstacle is removed, U.S. cannabis production becomes a more important issue.

Finally, the domestic eradication program is an integral part of the overall Federal Strategy to apply balanced pressure to all aspects of the drug abuse problem so that success in one area will not be reversed. Seizures and other removals of marijuana from foreign sources have increased dramatically in recent years. We expect even more substantial reductions in the supply of illicit drugs in the next several years. In addition to long-range foreign eradication and control programs, important law enforcement initiatives, such as the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System and the Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Forces, are gaining force and will begin paying big dividends.

We are also reducing the demand for illegal drugs through major efforts in the health-related areas of education, prevention and treatment. Between 1979 and 1982, an estimated 2.4 million Americans stopped using marijuana on a regular basis, primarily due to increased awareness of the risk of marijuana use. With the national education and prevention effort now gaining strength and as we reduce the supply, we expect the use of marijuana to drop even more substantially by 1984. We cannot allow U.S. marijuana production to replenish decreasing supplies from foreign sources. Now is the time to establish effective controls.

For these reasons, the Administration has encouraged and supported the expansion of an aggressive national cannabis eradication/suppression program. Although many of the issues associated with domestic marijuana production are of national and international importance, the nature of domestic cultivation places it primarily under the jurisdictions and capabilities of State and local authorities.

Domestic commercial marijuana production, by and large, remains characterized by small, clannish groups and single growers with no elaborate marketing arrangements. From my experience and information, most of the marijuana produced domestically is distributed in or near the local area where it is produced. This of course varies from area to area, and small quantities, in my opinion, are being exported from the United States. Domestic production, for the most part, is not enticing to major interstate criminal organizations because of the small-scale production per individual operation and the high visibility of dealing with large number of growers to collect wholesale quantities of marijuana. Foreign sources continue to offer significant cost and production capability advantages to major distributors, even for speciality varieties such as sinsemilla. When and where this situation changes, we must be in place to identify and address the change and to meet those needs which are beyond the jurisdictions and resources of local governments.

The Federal role has been and continues to be one primarily of leadership, coordination and technical support. The Drug Enforcement Administration coordinates the national multi-agency cooperative Domestic Eradication/Suppression Program, which promotes information sharing and contributes training, equipment, investigative and aircraft resources, and funding to support the efforts of State and local law enforcement officers.

The national program has been substantially expanded and refined in the last few years. In 1979, eradication efforts were initiated in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration by the States of Hawaii and California. In 1981, DEA's cooperative eradication programs were expanded to include Oregon, Florida, Missouri and Kentucky. Since that time, the program has expanded rapidly to include 25 States in 1982 and 40 in 1983. While some States are more significant than others in the amount of cannabis cultivation discovered, all of the participant States are experiencing some marijuana production. Hawaii, Arkansas and New Mexico were assisted by their State National Guard in 1982, and more States will be actively seeking National Guard assistance in 1983.

While the greatest percentage of cultivation occurs on private land, there has also been an increased tendency in recent years to use national forests and other public lands for

cultivation. As a result, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have become actively involved in the cooperative eradication effort. In addition, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is assisting in the effort.

In 1983, major programs are underway to improve detection through technical resources and increased citizen awareness of the problem and what to do about it. The Federal policy is that State and local officers should eradicate cannabis using the most effective method, either by mechanical eradication or the use of herbicides. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been developing and pioneering ways to use paraquat effectively and efficiency, and this information is being made available to assist Federal and State agencies during the 1983 season. Please be assured that we will use Paraquat to destroy cannabis cultivation on Federal lands whenever practical and feasible.

The national resources available against domestic cannabis cultivation are not limited to the Domestic Eradication/
Suppression Program. The well-established cooperative enforcement mechanisms of Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies are capable of detecting and dismantling production and distribution operations for domestic marijuana, as well as for other drugs, when and where these occur.

The Domestic Eradication/Suppression Program, State and local investigations and Federal cooperative investigations will

ensure that domestic marijuana production is not a viable illicit commercial enterprise. These programs are targeted at those operations undertaken on a commercial basis, bearing in mind that some of the operations detected involved as few as 30 cannabis plants.

Nevertheless, the production of marijuana in the United States has its origin in a problem which law enforcement alone will not be able to eliminate. There remain the individuals who cultivate several cannabis plants for their own personal use. This brings us to an issue which is at the very heart of the total drug abuse problem.

While international and drug law enforcement initiatives can disrupt the supply of drugs, we also recognize that a drug problem would not exist without a demand. Significant reductions in the supply of illicit drugs during the last decade have eventually been reversed because, as long as consumers exist, the market will adjust to meet their demand.

Domestic marijuana production is a particularly vivid example. The production of marijuana in the United States first became a factor during the late 1960's and early 1970's when the attempt by authority to stamp out marijuana consumption was seen as an attack on the alternative lifestyle advocated by various segments of the population. With marijuana use an integral part of the counterculture, the rebellion against authority and move

to a communal agrarian lifestyle created an environment conducive to growing cannabis. Cannabis plants were tended with care, and the product gradually improved, perfected and labeled with pride as "homegrown."

While the motivation for the expansion of domestic cannabis cultivation has been purely economic, the legacy of its counterculture impetus continues to exist. According to a paper released by The Heritage Foundation on May 4, 1981, "People simply do not know the damage that [marijuana] may do to them, and this misunderstanding of its consequences is at the root of the growing disrespect for the law dealing with it." This is not to say that accurate information is not available to the chronic marijuana user who cultivates cannabis for his or her personal use, rather more often a choice is made to reject the facts.

This is a difficult but critical problem to overcome, and one which must be addressed through citizen awareness of the related problems of marijuana use and domestic cannabis cultivation. Citizen awareness, to be effective, must be based on the most accurate and credible information available. As eradication efforts have expanded and intensified -- and as we have learned more about the problem -- the domestic marijuana production issue has been receiving increased public attention. The variety which characterizes domestic cultivation has caused some misconception, myth and confusion concerning the subject as a whole.

The Administration has assigned a high priority to the development of the most accurate and credible information possible in all areas, recognizing however the many obstacles to establishing a data base for illicit drug intelligence. A primary goal of the 1982 Domestic Eradication/ Suppression Program was to develop a strong intelligence data base concerning domestic cannabis cultivation. Based on careful consideration of all new data collected, production estimates for 1982 are being developed by the National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee. In addition, significant refinements in information gathering and methodology are being made in the 1983 Program. It must be noted, however, that production estimates are likely to remain rather theoretical.

Intelligence estimates of the amount of marijuana produced domestically have been hampered by the fact that domestic cannabis cultivation is predominately a diversified, small-scale activity. Statistical data from the 1982 eradication program, in my opinion, cannot be extrapolated to represent the average. Other information must be considered.

The confusion concerning domestic cultivation is typified by the misconceptions surrounding sinsemilla, a seedless crude drug product from the female cannabis plant which is estimated to represent approximately 33 percent of domestic yield. The conditions required for the production of sinsemilla

severely limit the amount produced. Contrary to popular belief, the production of sinsemilla may or may not result in a higher potency product. The myth that all sinsemilla has a high potency helps generate a demand. In fact, sinsemilla potency ranges from 0.1 to a rare 11 percent and, therefore, some sinsemilla has a lower potency than regular marijuana. Regardless of potency, sinsemilla is sold for a much higher price (reportedly \$125 to \$200 per ounce versus \$16 to \$32). Further, not all marijuana sold as sinsemilla is, in fact, sinsemilla. Many users who believe they are buying sinsemilla are actually buying regular marijuana at sinsemilla prices.

Intelligence estimates of the extent of undetected cultivation are further complicated by confusion in some areas between cultivated cannabis and naturalized cannabis weeds (hemp variety). Thousands of acres of naturalized hemp grow wild in the United States, especially in the mid-West. Naturalized hemp has an extremely low potency and normally is not used to produce marijuana.

These are only a few of the many factors which must be considered in evaluating preliminary data collected during 1982 and refining the data collection effort in 1983. Collectively, the various Federal, State and local officials and researchers who have been addressing different aspects of the problem over the past decade represent a tremendous resource in experience which has been and continues to be used for program planning and

information assessment. We have called in all the experts on two occasions, first, to clarify the paraquat issue and, recently to discuss the latest intelligence information and research data on the subject. Although current knowledge of the problem will be continually refined, we are confident that our assessment of the current domestic situation represents the best information available at present. This information will be widely disseminated in a fact sheet following final development of 1982 production estimates.

In summary, the national commitment to eradicate domestically cultivated cannabis is both substantial and well planned. Although the domestic cultivation of cannabis has increased during recent years, we have the appropriate programs and resources in place to reverse this trend. The national eradication effort, which will involve 40 States and at least five Federal agencies in 1983, has already shown what we can accomplish when Federal, State and local officials work together. In 1982, the program severely disrupted the emerging expansion and organization of domestic production. In the next few years, the national effort will significantly reduce the domestic cultivation of cannabis.

A key element of the 1982 Federal Strategy is public recognition of the need to eliminate the production of illegal drugs within the United States. Although law enforcement efforts will reduce the problem, widespread public support will be

DRAFT (4) 5/17/83 - Page 13

critical to long-range success. A major objective of the national eradication/suppression effort is enhanced citizen awareness of the related problems of marijuana use and domestic cannabis cultivation, as well of what individual citizens can do to stop the problem in their communities.

The United States Congress has a major role to play in informing the public of the problems of drug abuse and drug trafficking, ensuring that the most efficient and effective actions are being taken to solve these serious problems, and enlisting the support and involvement of individual citizens across the country. I appreciate your interest and welcome your support as we address the complex problem of domestic marijuana production and its important implications for the overall drug abuse program.

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTSON

SUBJECT:

Draft Drug Abuse Policy Fact Sheet

Richard Darman has requested comments on a draft drug abuse policy fact sheet by noon June 15. The fact sheet is to be distributed June 17 in connection with a speech by the Vice President on the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS). The fact sheet, which focuses on drug law enforcement, was drafted by Carlton Turner, whose responsibilities are largely in other areas. It reviews four initiatives: the South Florida Task Force, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, NNBIS, and the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees. If the fact sheet is intended to be comprehensive, it should also mention the new FBI role in drug cases, the various proposed legislative reforms designed to improve drug law enforcement (e.g., the narcotics enforcement amendments, bail, and forfeiture portions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1983), and the establishment of the National Center for State and Local Law Enforcement Training.

The Justice Department, which is responsible for drug law enforcement, should be able to provide guidance on these topics, and may have other items which should be included. The Administration drug effort was recently attacked by the GAO, so I think we should put our best foot forward in any press release. I have drafted a memorandum to Darman for your signature.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Draft Drug Abuse Policy Fact Sheet

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed fact sheet. If it is intended to be a comprehensive listing of Administration efforts in the area of drug law enforcement, it should include additional initiatives, such as the Attorney General's action in January 1982 to bring the Federal Bureau of Investigation into drug cases, the Administration-sponsored legislative proposals to make drug law enforcement more effective (e.g., the narcotics enforcement amendments, bail reform, and forfeiture reform portions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1983), and the establishment of the National Center for State and Local Law Enforcement Training. The Department of Justice can provide specific information on these significant initiatives, and may also suggest additional items which deserve mention.

FFF: JGR: aw 6/14/83

cc: FFFielding

#GRoberts

Subj. Chron

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Draft Drug Abuse Policy Fact Sheet

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FFF: JGR: aw 6/14/83

cc: FFFielding

JGRoberts

Subj. Chron

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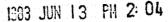
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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June 10, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

FROM:

EDWIN L. HARPEB

SUBJECT:

Draft Drug Abuse Policy Fact Sheet

Attached is a draft fact sheet prepared by Carlton Turner at the request of the Vice President's office which provides the overall drug abuse policy perspective.

The Vice President will give a speech at the National Press Club on Friday, June 17, 1983, to announce the status of the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System. The fact sheet is intended to be part of the information package to be distributed by the Vice President.

Please staff the fact sheet for clearance. Comments are needed by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 15, 1983.

DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(DATE)

FACT SHEET

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE:

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ROLE

President Reagan's comprehensive campaign to reduce drug abuse in the United States is moving forward on all fronts. Significant initiatives have been undertaken in the five areas outlined by the 1982 Federal Strategy for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking, including international cooperation, drug law enforcement, education and prevention, detoxification and treatment, and research.

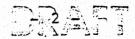
The Reagan Administration has increased the overall effectiveness of drug law enforcement by bringing all available Federal, State and local resources and expertise to bear on the full spectrum of drug trafficking and related criminal activities. Working together are seven Federal agencies with law enforcement authority, prosecutors, U.S. military personnel, and State and local officials.

Specific Initiatives:

The South Florida Task Force, created by President Reagan on January 28, 1982 and headed by Vice President Bush, is an outstanding example of cooperation and of the U.S. commitment to stop drug trafficking and related crime. In addition to severely disrupting the flow of drugs into the southeastern United States, the South Florida Task Force has resulted in the investigation and prosecution of major organizers and financiers of the drug traffic.

The South Florida experience is a model for two major national initiatives: the investigative effort is mirrored in 12 Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement (OCDE) Task Forces and the anti-smuggling effort is expanded in the new National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS).

The Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Forces were announced by President Reagan on October 14, 1982 as part of a major program headed by the Attorney General to combat drug trafficking by organized crime. The OCDE Task Forces are now operational in 12 key areas around the country to investigate and prosecute major organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking.



he National Narcotics Border Interdiction System, with an xecutive Board chaired by Vice President Bush, was created by resident Reagan on March 23, 1983 to combat smuggling efforts round the borders of the United States from six regional offices.

In addition, Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees (LECC's) nave been established by the Attorney General in each of the 94 Federal judicial districts. The heads of Federal, State and local prosecutorial and law enforcement agencies in the area are members and work together to focus all available resources on the most serious crime problems in each district.

The National Narcotics Border Interdiction System, the Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Forces, and the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees will complement and reinforce one another. Information concerning drug movement which is developed through a major investigation can be provided to NNBIS for interdiction action. Information resulting from drug seizures can be utilized to develop or strengthen investigations by the OCDE Task Forces. The LECC's will ensure that all law enforcement efforts result in the highest rate of conviction possible.

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Revised Drug Abuse Policy Fact Sheet

Richard Darman has asked for comments on a revised version of the drug abuse policy fact sheet by 1:00 p.m. today. You will recall that we objected to the earlier draft as being insufficiently comprehensive. This revised draft reflects our comments, as well as those of the Department of Justice. In particular, it now includes mention of the new FBI/DEA arrangement, the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1983, and expanded training programs. I have no legal objections.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Revised Drug Abuse Policy Fact Sheet

Counsel's Office has reviewed the revised drug abuse policy fact sheet, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

FFF:JGR:aw 6/16/83

cc: FFFielding

JGRoberts

Subj. Chron

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Revised Drug Abuse Policy Fact Sheet

Counsel's Office has reviewed the revised drug abuse policy fact sheet, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

FFF: JGR: aw 6/16/83

cc: FFFielding

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1:00 TODAY.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

SUBJECT: REVISED DRUG ABUSE POLICY FACT SHEET							
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REMARKS:

Attached is the revised drug abuse policy fact sheet which incorporates Senior Staff and Justice comments. Please provide any comments/recommendations by 1:00 today.

Thank you.

June 16

DATE:

RESPONSE:

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

FROM:

EDWIN L. HARPER

SUBJECT:

Proposed Drug Abuse Policy Fact Sheet

Attached is the revised draft of the proposed drug abuse policy fact sheet. The fact sheet has been revised to reflect Senior Staff and DOJ changes. We have coordinated with Larry Speakes' Office and they have agreed that it be released as a Drug Abuse Policy Office fact sheet.

The fact sheet is to be included in an information package for use by the Vice President on Friday, June 17, 1983 at the National Press Club when he speaks on the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System. The Vice President's office intends to distribute advance copies to selected press and has asked that we furnish 200 copies to their office today.

Please advise when the fact sheet is cleared and we will prepare the final.

Drug Abuse Policy Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 1983

FACT SHEET

DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

The National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS) is the latest in a series of drug law enforcement initiatives directed at reducing the availability of illicit drugs in the United States.

The Reagan Administration has increased the overall effectiveness of drug law enforcement by bringing all available Federal, State and local resources and expertise to bear on the full spectrum of drug trafficking and related criminal activities.

On January 21, 1982, the Attorney General assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation concurrent jurisdiction with the Drug Enforcement Administration to investigate drug law offenses and assigned to the Director of the FBI general supervision over drug law enforcement efforts and policies.

In July 1981, there were 12 cooperative FBI/DEA investigations; today there are over 427 underway. The number of court authorized wiretaps increased 178 percent between 1981 and 1982. The value of trafficker assets seized has increased from \$94 million in 1980 to \$161 million in 1982.

The Reagan Administration was the first to encourage and support an aggressive national Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. Coordinated by DEA, the program has expanded from 6 States in 1981 to 40 States in 1983. In 1982 with 26 States participating, 2.5 million plants were destroyed and 2,512 violators were arrested.

Working together in the drug law enforcement effort are seven Federal agencies with law enforcement authority, prosecutors, U.S. military personnel, and State and local officials. The South Florida Task Force, created by President Reagan on January 28, 1982 and headed by Vice President Bush, is an outstanding example of cooperation and of the U.S. commitment to stop drug trafficking and related crime.

-MORE-



WASHINGTON

July 14, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Commercial Version of Teen Titans Comic Book

You will recall the "Teen Titans" comic book produced by DC Comics and funded by Keebler, which was distributed free of charge to gradeschoolers across the country in connection with the President's Drug Awareness Campaign. The inside cover contained a message from the First Lady. Carlton Turner advises that DC Comics now wants to print an edition of the comic book and sell it for \$1, with all proceeds going to the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth and the Youth Reserve Fund. Dr. Turner advises that "all proceeds" means receipts less production costs.

This "commercial" edition would be essentially the same as the charitable one, including Mrs. Reagan's message. The bottom of the front cover would indicate that proceeds will go to fight drug abuse rather than that the book was produced "in cooperation with the President's Drug Awareness Campaign." The educational material at the end of the charitable edition will be replaced with descriptions of the two charitable recipients and an assortment of letters. According to Turner, the First Lady has approved and would like this project to go forward, subject of course to our advice concerning legal propriety.

I have no general objection to a letter from the First Lady appearing in a commercially marketed comic book, which indicates on its cover and inside that the proceeds are to go to worthy charities active in an area of great concern to her. I would recommend that the last paragraph of the current letter, however, be deleted. That paragraph constitutes an endorsement of the material and states that "generous corporations paid for it." If the book is sold for \$1, with only net proceeds going to charity, the people who buy the book — not the corporations — will be paying for it. The specific endorsement of the material is also troubling in that the book would now be sold, so the endorsement is really a commercial advertisement — a problem not present when the book was distributed free of charge. A letter from

the First Lady simply urging youth to lead drug-free lives -- i.e., the first four paragraphs -- does not appear to me to present undue dangers of association with the commercial enterprises of DC Comics and Keebler, or certainly no more association than was already present in the previous edition. I have embodied these thoughts in the attached draft memorandum for Turner. I confess to some uncertainty about this result -- perhaps we should discuss.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR CARLTON E. TURNER

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Commercial Version of Teen Titans Comic Book

You have asked for our views on a proposal to issue a commercially marketed version of the "Teem Titans" comic book, including Mrs. Reagan's letter on White House stationery on the inside cover, with the proceeds to go to two charities active in fighting drug abuse. We have no objections, assuming that both the medium and the designated charities are acceptable to the First Lady. Consistent with our policy of avoiding any endorsements by the President or First Lady of commercial enterprises, however, we would insist that DC Comics not make any use of the First Lady's name in promotional material in connection with the marketing of the comic book, and that it be clearly indicated on the book that proceeds will be donated to fight drug abuse. This will help dissipate any suggestion -- inevitably present to some degree in such projects -- that the First Lady has "endorsed" DC Comics or Keebler.

We also suggest deletion of the last paragraph of the letter that appeared in the version of the comic book that was distributed free of charge. This strikes us as necessary for two reasons. First, the paragraph constitutes an endorsement of the material. This was unobjectionable when the book was free, but when the book is being commercially marketed such an endorsement is really a free advertisement, and places the First Lady in the position of urging young readers to buy a DC Comics product -- even if the proceeds will go to charity. Second, the statement "generous corporations paid for it" will be far less true in this case than it was with the original edition. It is our understanding that only net proceeds will be donated to the charities, so with respect to this edition the cost of producing the book will be paid for by those who buy it.

KEEBLER COMPANY PRESENTS DC COMICS'

NEW TEEN



IN COOPERATION WITH

THE PRESIDENT'S DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Dear Friend:

Don't let anyone tell you that you can't be a hero. You can--and you are about to learn how.

Picture yourself in a battle. In fact, it is one of the most important battles our nation has ever fought. You are right in the center of combat. Sound incredible? It is all part of being a hero.

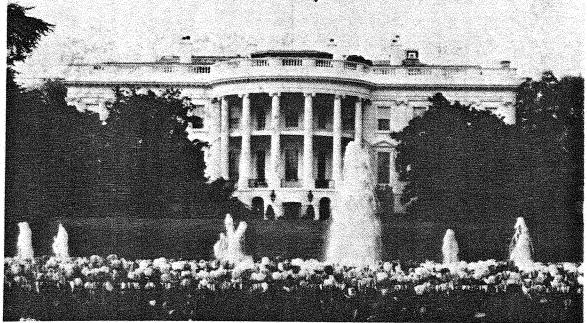
Is this an imaginary battle? Not at all. Many young people are already in it and they would do anything to be on the winning side. But they've learned about it too late.

The battle is against drug abuse. Declare that you will stay drug-free. At any cost. You're guaranteed to win. And you'll be a hero--to your mother and father, family and friends, but most of all, to yourself.

There's a lot more to it and you'll learn about it as you go along. The President feels as strongly as I do about winning this battle. His Drug Awareness Campaign put this material together and generous corporations paid for it. It was done especially for you. We hope you will give being a hero your very best effort.

Sincerely,

Youky Reagon





WE WANT YOU TO BE A HERO... STAY DRUG FREE!



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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

WASHINGTON

July 6, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED FIELDING

FROM:

CARLTON TURNER

SUBJECT:

Commercial Version of TEEN TITANS Comic Book

DC Comics, Inc. of Warner Communications has requested permission to print a special edition of the TEEN TITANS comic book against drug abuse. It would be sold in specialty shops across the country. All proceeds would go to two anti-drug abuse organizations — The National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth and the Youth Rescue Fund. DC Comics say that "all proceeds" includes artists' royalties, reprint payments and publisher's proceeds.

Mrs. Reagan's message urging young people to stay drug-free would appear inside the front cover as it did in the first printing of the comic book.

The attached material includes DC Comics' request, an outline of what would appear in the special edition and information on the Youth Rescue Fund.

If you have questions regarding the request, you are welcome to speak directly with Karin Lippert of DC Comics 212/484-2820, Ann Wrobleski at x7905, or me at x6555.

Since the first comic books were sent to schools in April, we have received requests for over 50,000 books. We would be pleased to have this project approved.

Many thanks.



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHINGTON



JUN 01 1993

REFER TO

Ms. Sherril Aberlie FIRST LADY'S OFFICE The White House Washington, DC 20500

Dear Sherril:

Attached is the background on the "Teen Titan" proposed public service fundraiser. The material includes what the collector's book would include, as well as some background material on the Youth Rescue Fund, which is a 501 C-3. I'm certain you need no additional information on the Federation.

If you need any additional information, please give me a call. I will be away June 6 through June 17 and it would really make a difference if we could resolve this question prior to my trip.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Jacobs

DC COMICS INC. 666 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10103 (212) 484-2816



Bruce Bristow/Marketing Director

March 24, 1983

Mr. Stephen A. Jacobs Jacobs/Co. 2233 Wisconsin Ave., NW Suite #222 Washington, DC 20007

152737a

Dear Steve:

Thanks for your suggestions about expanding the DC Comics/Keebler committeent to The President's Drug Awareness Campaign. As I told you, we intend to print a special edition our TEEN TITANS book, to be sold through approximately 3000 specialty stores nationwide. All proceeds, including artists' royalties, reprint payments, and publisher's proceeds will be donated to a drug-related charity. (The Keebler Company, DC Comics, and the creators are considering several now, and expect to finalize the beneficiary soon. I'm sure we'll agree upon a worthwhile recipient.)

We would like to reprint The First Lady's message (as originally published) in the commemmorative edition. It would enhance the project's credibility and expand its reach, thus helping sales and increasing the amount of money we raise for charity. Will you please check with the White House to determine whether any further permission is required?

DC Comics appreciates the opportunity to join with the White House in combatting this national problem, Steve. Our books this Fall, following the Keebler edition this Spring, will enhance the initial efforts and further our progress. I expect this commemmorative edition will raise more than \$20,000.00 to help the work of The President's Drug Awareness Campaign in reducing the use of drugs by youth today. Its an excellent cause, and we're glad to be working with you on it!



Sincerely,
Briefe Bristow

Date		**		
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COVER:

LEFT CORNER

DC LOGO

RIGHT CORNER

PRICE - \$1.00

TOP CENTER

KEEBLER COMPANY

PRESENTS DC COMICS'
THE NEW TEEN TITANS

CENTER

ILLUSTRATION

BOTTOM ACROSS

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS ISSUE WILL BE

DONATED TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE!

INSIDE COVER:

FULL PAGE

NANCY REAGAN LETTER

INSIDE COVER: (BACK)

JENETTE KAHN LETTER: DESCRIPTION OF

PROGRAM & ORIGIN, KEEBLER ROLE.

COVER: (BACK)

POSTER

FOUR PAGE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM: CHANGE TO

PAGE ONE

YOUTH RESCUE FUND

DESCRIPTION

PAGE TWO

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS

FOR DRUG FREE YOUTH

DESCRIPTION

LETTERS FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

RESPONSE TO PROGRAM.

PAGE THREE

LETTERS FROM --

KEEBLER CREATORS CELEBRITIES

PAGE FOUR

LETTERS FROM EDUCATORS

LETTERS FROM FORMER DRUG ABUSERS

CELEBRITY YOUTH COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS: MATT AND PAT LABORTEAUX



c/o RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE 140 LITTI E FALLS STREET, SUITE 14 FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22046 (703) 237-7950

U.S. Customs Service Stephen Jacobs Room 4122 1301 Constitution Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20229 To: Dr. Carlton Turner for White House Press Conference

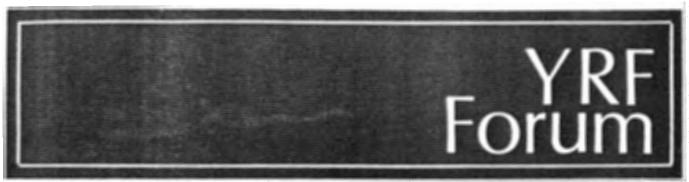
April 25, 1983

America's Youth: A Valuable Resource to Combat Teenage Drug Abuse

The Youth Rescue Fund, a national charity helping youth in crisis, promotes the valuable concept of "youth helping youth." The Youth Rescue effort is a private initiative that involves over twenty celebrity teenagers who encourage youth to be a resource for their peers who may abuse drugs or have run away from home.

Recently the Youth Rescue Fund received over two-thousand letters from children and youth who saw a special <u>Little House on the Prairie</u> episode concerned with drug abuse. Matthew <u>Laborteaux</u>, the 15-year old actor who plays "Albert," portrayed a drug addict going through withdrawal. I'd like to read you an excerpt from a letter written to the Youth Rescue Fund from Tammy, a 13-year old:

"I'd really like to help the Youth Rescue Fund. I saw Albert go through withdrawals from being a drug addict. Last year I tried to tell my best friend not to use drugs because he was always messed up on pot, black hash and speed. I told him he'd probably get busted. He ran away three days before Christmas. They found his body. They did an autopsy and said he died from an overdose of speed and exposure. I blamed it on myself for weeks and still do a bit because I didn't tell anyone that could help him. I know kids can help kids that need help...that's why I want to help the Youth Rescue Fund help other kids that get messed up with drugs."



A National Youth Charity

Vol. 1

Fall 1982

Press Conference

Public Attention for YRF

The Youth Rescue Fund, Inc. (YRF) was organized as a "private-sector" endeavor to aid local and national private non-profit efforts that help runaway and homeless youth. Recently the YRF hosted a Press Conference in Washington, D.C. to bring public attention, especially the attention of Congress, to the serious plight of 1.5 million runaways nationwide.

DC Comics and Warner Communications Inc. assisted with a special reception at the Capital Children's Museum to promote DC Comics "The New Teen Titans". The comic book gives its teen readers excellent information on how to get help in times of crisis. Its creator Mary Wolfman accompanied Matt & Pat Laborteaux, Representatives Fauntroy (DC), Petri (Wisc.), Andrews (N.Ca.), and Erdahl (Minn.) to the Reception and Press Conference. Together they pushed for greater help from Congress to support runaway centers. Other Congressional supporters included: the Honorables Lawton Chiles (F1.), Silvio Conte (Mass.), Alan Cranston (CA), Ronald Dellums (CA), James Jeffords (Vt.), Barbara Mikulski (MD), George Miller (CA), Carl Perkins (Ky), and Patricia Schroeder (Col.).

The YRF adds an important dimension to the national runaway youth service effort by helping local hotlines and also runaway youth shelters raise funds and gain national attention via special events and extensive public relations efforts.



Three key techniques promote the need for services to runaway youth.

1. The ability to inform a broader public about the issues facing run-

aways and runaway youth services thru involvement of teenage celebrities on the YRF Celebrity Peer Council.

2. The recruitment and participation of youth who mobilize supporters and unite individuals in a "grass roots" campaign that places emphasis on the positive "value of youth".

3. The forming of Local Advisory Boards and the YRF 21st Century Club comprised of civic and business leaders who endorse the goals of the YRF by contributing \$1000 to the Fund.

IN THIS ISSUE

YRF receives public attention at a youth press conference.

2 Congress appropriates funds for runaway programs.

3 SAJA helps runaways.

These techniques greatly enhance the public education efforts in behalf of the runaway issue. The YRF is helping to alleviate the dilemma of bringing national attention to the runaway and homeless youth issue. This national charity is an avenue for "youth helping youth" with guidance from a concerned adult support group.

The philosophy of the Fund is that youth are valuable, too valuable to loose to "street survival", crime and feelings of hopelessness. The value of less vulnerable youth is also recognized, youth who excell in our communities, who are self-respecting, who are loved and who can and do help other young people. This philosophy is active and visible throughout the Youth Rescue Fund.

Coming Events

- The National Network of Runaway and Youth Services is holding its annual policy symposium in Washington, D.C. February 7-10, 1983, at the National 4-H Center. Policy positions will be developed at the symposium by the participants. For more information call June Bucy at 202-488-0739.
- The National Association of Counties is sponsoring a "nuts-and-bolts" conference with a mojor focus on removing children from jail and reducing unnecessary secure detention. The National Assembly on the Jail Crisis will be held in Washington, D.C., November 10-13, 1982. For more information call 202-393-6226.
- If your organization is planning an event that you think would interest our readers, please send notice to: The Youth Rescue Fund; Falls Church, Virginia 22046.

EDITOR: Beatrice de la Brosse

CONTRIBUTORS:

Marsha Anderson Brian Dyak Marie Dyak Kathleen Keating Renee Roberts Phillip Robinson Stephen Rorke

National News

Federal legislation passed in 1974 received an increased appropriation from Congress for the first time since 1976. Spending for the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) was raised from \$11 million to \$18 million by Congress in its Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 1983.

Supporters of the RHYA have been working for seven years to increase the appropriations level. This year their work proved to be successful. A press conference held in Washington, D.C. on September 9, 1982, and organized by the Youth Rescue Fund, assisted in convincing Congress to vote for an appropriation's increase.

As the vote on the continuing resolution drew near, amendments from several Senators and Representatives were being planned to increase the RHYA appropriation's level beyond \$18 million to \$25 million. Twenty-five million dollars is the appropriation's amount proposed in the original RHYA legislation passed in 1974. However, the Senate and House leadership prevented any amendments from being voted on in an effort to ensure that the continuing resolution would be passed.

The increase in appropriations has one more hurdle to clear before it becomes a reality. On December 17, 1982, the continuing resolution expires and must be voted on again. It could remain at the \$18 million level, decrease to its present \$11 million level, or reach the \$25 million level. Information on the December vote will be reported in the next issue.

For help call.....

National Runaway Switch Board 800-621-4000 800-972-6004 In Illinois

Runaway Hotline 800-231-6946 800-392-3352 In Texas

N A E Terrance, age 15, stood before SAJA. He thought, "Dad has hit me for the I don't want to see him last time. drunk and out of work. I don't want to hear Mom and him fight anymore. don't want to get punished for something I didn't do."

Yes, Terrance had run away from home. He could not stand the thought of being on the streets another day, Finding himself hungry, afraid and with no place to go he eventually looked for help. Could SAJA help him? Alone and scared he entered as hundreds before him.

There are approximately five to nine thousand runaways like Terrance in the Washington, D.C. area. They run away for a myriad of reasons. The main one is that their family environment has deteriorated to the point that communication is almost nonexistent. The runaway is driven to seek security and understanding outside of the home out of sheer sur-"No one listens" vival. The words, echo throughout their lonely world. SAJA, the second oldest temporary runaway shelter in the country was opened in 1968. It is hard to believe that up until 1968 there was no facility of its kind to help the runaway population, a population that is increasing rapidly.

How does the runaway find out about SAJA? Many kids hear about it from their peers in the streets, as did Others are referred by Traveler's Aid, the police, courts, boys' clubs and schools.

What can SAJA do for the runaway? The main goal, according to John Graham, Program Director of SAJA, is to get the child back into a permanent, positive living situation while trying to mend the communication gap within the family. The youths live at SAJA up to thirty days, giving the counselors time to help them return to their home. Family and individual counseling is given to enable the child and the family to come to a better understanding. If it is not possible to return the child to his home, an alternate place is found. Alternatives are homes of relatives or friends or, in some cases, foster care host homes or group homes.

SAJA has three degreed counselors to offer professional counseling and support: as well as two house managers. Volunteers give support when needed. The shelter has the capacity to serve 10 to 12 children at a time. When the youth has been returned to a permanent living situation there is an after-care program to ensure that he or she has been helped and to prevent a recurring crisis.

John Graham and his team will try to help Terrance by listening to him and by giving him the needed support and understanding. Terrance as well as his family will be offered counseling and, hopefully, Terrance will be able to go home soon. Where would Terrance have gone and what would he have experienced if SAJA had not existed?

ISTEN

The Youth Rescue Fund is looking for partners. It is a creative and unprecedented concept for a National charity. Together we can utilize national and local resources to aid this country's future resources. America's Youth. Please give the Y.R.F. your financial support, and volunteer time. Vulnerable children and teenagers desperately need the help that together we can give them. Please fill out this card and return it to the Youth Rescue Fund

I AM (WE ARE) INTERESTED IN HELPING BY BECOMING: A Foundation Patron \$1000 A Member of the Support Council \$500 A Sponsor \$250 A Sustaining Member \$100 A Family Member \$50 An Active Member \$25 A Member of the Youth Council (age

12-18)

A Contributor

MAIL TO:

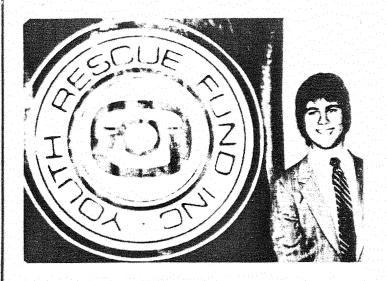
YOUTH RESCUE FUND Falls Church, Va. 22046

NAME

ADDRESS

\$10

CITY STATE 210



Matthew & Patrick Laborteaux Co-Founders, YRF

Endorsing Organizations:

- NAACP
- Nat'l Office of Social Responsibility
- Nat'l School Board Association
- Nat'l Assoc. of School Administrators
- Nat'l Council of LaRaza
- United Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
- Nat'l Network Runaway & Youth Services
- Nat'l Black Caucus
- Junior League of Washington, D.C.
- District of Columbia Public Schools





Youth Rescue Fund Falls Church, Va. 22046



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