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WASHINGTON

February 24, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Request from Ray Hamilton for Official Recognition of his "Miss Nations United Beauty Pageant"

Ray Hamilton Productions, Inc., is trying to market a beauty pageant with contestants from each of the United Nations countries. He has written numerous officials -- including Ambassador Kirkpatrick, Senator Moynihan, and Senator D'Amato -- to obtain official approval of the pageant and sponsorship of a U.S. contestant. Most recently he has written Anne Higgins, Director of Presidential Correspondence, to determine who has the authority to acknowledge U.S. participation. Hamilton asserts that a "portion" of the net proceeds will go to the U.N. Refugee Fund, but the pageant is clearly a private commercial endeavor. Higgins has prepared a reply indicating it is not customary for the Office of the President to sponsor or participate in a private, commercial undertaking, and wants this office to approve the reply. I see no objection to such approval, and have prepared a memorandum to Higgins for your signature.

WASHINGTON.

February 24, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ANNE HIGGINS

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by A.P.

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Request from Ray Hamilton for Official Recognition of his "Miss Nations United Beauty Pageant"

Counsel's Office has no objection to the attached draft reply to the inquiry from Ray Hamilton seeking official recognition of his proposed beauty pageant.

Attachment

FFF:JGR:aw 2/24/83

cc: FFFielding

JGRoberts Subj. Chron

WASHINGTON

#### February 24, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR ANNE HIGGINS

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

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Attachment

FFF:JGR:aw 2/24/83

cc: FFFielding

**JGRoberts** 

Subj. Chron

10 # 120201 cu PR008

### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

□ O - OUTGOING			Roberto		
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□ I - INCOMING Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) / /					
Name of Correspondent: Pat	ricia Gleason				
☐ Mi Mail Report	User Codes: (A) _		(B)	_ (C)	
Subject: Request from Ray H					
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F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure	X - Interim Reply		FOR OUTGOING COR Type of Response Code Completion Date	= Initials o = "A"	of Signer
Comments: See CTRA	NCK ID 16	20201			

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

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

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## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

12020Cc

Date: February 16, 1983

To: Diana Holland

As we discussed this morning, I am forwarding a letter which we want to clear through Counsel. Ray Hamilton is a PR agent in New York and has been pressing for "official" U.S. recognition of an American representative in his planned "Miss Nations United Beauty Pageant." It seems none of the parties contacted have acknowledged his letters.

I referred to the State Dept. for suggestions, which I tried to incorporate in the attached letter. Would appreciate a ruling as quickly as possible.

Thank you.

PATRICIA GLEASON
Presidential Correspondence
Office
Room 94, x7610

WASHINGTON

February 15, 1983

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Miss Nations United Beauty Pageant which you are organizing. I regret that this is not a more timely response.

We hope you will understand that since so many worthy endeavors are brought to the attention of the President it is necessary to decline almost all of these requests. Furthermore, it is not customary for the Office of the President to sponsor, or in any form to participate in, a private, commercial undertaking. This is not a reflection on your project but a policy that is necessary in the interest of fairness to all.

Again, with appreciation and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Ray Hamilton President Ray Hamilton Productions, Inc. 60 West 45th Street New York, New York 10036 4 W - 2 2

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 10, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Decision Memo Re: USITC Investigation of Certain

Miniature Plug-In Blade Fuses

Richard Darman has requested comments by noon tomorrow on a Presidential decision memorandum from USTR William E. Brock. The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) has determined that the import of miniature plug-in blade fuses, whatever they may be, violates 19 U.S.C. § 1337, in part because the imported fuses infringe the patents and trademarks of two domestically produced fuses. USITC has ordered the imported fuses excluded from entry.

By statute the President has sixty days in which to disapprove such a USITC determination. 19 U.S.C. § 1337(g)(2). If the President does nothing, the USITC determination will become effective the day after expiration of the sixty-day period, 19 U.S.C. § 1337(g)(4). The President may expressly approve the determination, in which case it becomes effective when he notifies USITC of his approval. Id. In this case, the President must act, if at all, by March 14.

USTR and the other representatives on the Trade Policy Committee recommend that the President take no action. The USITC order would therefore become effective on March 15. I have reviewed the proposed decision memorandum and the pertinent statute, and see no legal objection to the contemplated course of inaction.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

### March 10, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Original by FFF COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Decision Memo Re: USITC Investigation of Certain

Miniature Plug-In Blade Fuses

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft Presidential decision memorandum, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

FFF: JGR: aw 3/10/83

**FFFielding** 

√JGRoberts Subj.

Chron

WASHINGTON

March 10, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Decision Memo Re: USITC Investigation of Certain

Miniature Plug-In Blade Fuses

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft Presidential decision memorandum, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

FFF:JGR:aw 3/10/83

cc: FFFielding

**JGRoberts** 

Subj. Chron

### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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Document No. 112251SS

### WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



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FIELDING -	>	D	ROGERS .		
FULLER					

Remarks:

Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President (x2702)

Response:

# THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE WASHINGTON 20506

March 4, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM E. BROCK

SUBJECT: Recommended Action Regarding the Determination of

the United States International Trade Commission in Its Investigation of Certain Miniature Plug-In

Blade Fuses

By March 14, 1983, you must decide what action, if any, you will take regarding the determination of the United States International Trade Commission (the Commission) in its investigation regarding certain miniature plug-in fuses for use in automobiles. The Commission determined that importation of the fuses into the United States, and their sale, violates section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act)(19 U.S.C. 1337). The imported fuses were found (1) to infringe claims of two U.S. product patents; (2) to be produced by a method that, if practiced in the United States, would infringe the claims of two U.S. method patents; (3) to imitate unlawfully the trade dress of the complainant in the case; (4) to infringe the common-law and registered trademarks of the complainant and its licensee; and (5) to misrepresent their place of geographic origin. Commission found that the effect or tendency of these practices is to injure substantially a U.S. industry that is efficiently and economically operated in the United States. The imported fuses were ordered excluded from entry into the United States.

Section 337(g)(2) of the Act authorizes the President to disapprove a determination of the Commission for domestic or foreign policy reasons. Disapproval by the President leaves the determination, and any order issued under it, without force or effect. The President also may approve a determination expressly, making it final and subject to judicial appeal on the day on which the Commission receives notice. The determination, and any attendant order, becomes final automatically following the 60-day review period if it has not been disapproved.

Member agencies of the Trade Policy Committee (the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the Departments of Commerce, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation and Treasury) have approved unanimously the position that there is no policy reason present in this case that would justify a recommendation of disapproval, nor is there a reason to consider express approval. I agree. I therefore recommend that you take no action with respect to the determination of the Commission in this case.

The exclusion order issued by the Commission will prevent entry of the imported fuses into the United States until 1995 when the last of the relevant patents expires. The patent owner and its licensee produce a sufficient quantity of the patented fuses to supply the domestic market. The competition between the two producers assures competitive pricing. There also is testimony in the Commission record that the imported fuses are less safe than the domestically produced product. No foreign governments have made representations to the U.S. Government regarding this case. The actions taken here are consistent with U.S. international obligations.

#### OPTIONS

### PRESIDENTIAL ACTION REQUIRED

OPTION 1 (recommended)

Take no action to disapprove or to approve the determination.

None, the determination will become final automatically on March 15, 1983.

OPTION 2

Disapprove the determination.

Inform the Commission of your disapproval. The determination and order will be without force or effect when the Commission is notified.

OPTION 3

Approve the determination.

Inform the Commission of your approval. The determination and order will become final when the Commission receives notice.

RECOMMENDATION:	Option 1: Take no action.
	Approve
	Disapprove
	Discuss with me

Attachments

WASH NGTON

April 6, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. bigned by was

SUBJECT:

Presidential Letter to be Published in Pharmacy Times

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft letter, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspecitve.

The draft letter does, however, contain two grammatical errors. In the second sentence of the second paragraph "too" should be deleted, since the point of the sentence has not been previously made in the letter. In the first sentence of the third paragraph, "which" should be "that".

FFF/JGR:sts FFFielding JGRoberts Subj Chron

WASHINGTON

April 19, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR DIANNA G. HOLLAND

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Presidential Letter to Paul Weyrich

on PAC Legislation

Steve Galebach of Mike Uhlmann's office provided me with this draft letter, indicating that Mike wanted it cleared by the Counsel's Office. I would be happy to work on it, but wanted to send it to you for appropriate staffing.

Attachment

#### Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter concerning congressional efforts in the 98th Congress to restrict the activities of political action committees and individuals who participate in the electoral process. I share your conviction that the freedom of all Americans to express their views in the electoral process is among the most precious of our rights as American citizens.

Apparently, some who disagree with my view are making an effort in the 98th Congress to restrict the ability of groups of citizens to participate effectively in the electoral process. You ask my view now of legislation to limit the amount of money that groups of citizens can give to candidates, to limit the amount that candidates can receive from such groups, to begin taxpayer financing of congressional campaigns, and to restrict independent expenditures by voluntarily supported organizations.

Overregulation of citizen involvement is a seriouus danger to an open and free democratic process. I have stated my firm opposition to the Obey-Railsback bill, which failed to pass the 96th Congress. I will certainly oppose any similar legislation in the future.

Intrusive limitations on our freedom to engage in political, electoral speech must be avoided. The essence of a free society with a republican form of government is for citizens to be free to work together voluntarily to express their views. How else can they hope to guide the government toward the course they prefer?

I believe that the attention of our legislators in this area should focus on improving the opportunities of people to participate openly and honestly in the political process without harrassment from a federal bureaucracy.

Our election laws today are too complex. They give too many opportunities for regulators to trip up even the most careful candidates. It is too easy for selective enforcement to target any candidate or committee based on technical violations.

True reform would simplify our election laws, not complicate them. In addition, the dollar limits on contributions put in place in the early 1970s have been drastically eroded in value by inflation. A maximum allowed contribution of \$1,000 ten years ago is worth less than half that today. We obviously need to raise the dollar limits to account for the effects of inflation.

I appreciate your support for improving our democratic process and opposing any efforts to overregulate our elections.

If it comes to a fight in this Congress, you can count on me to fight.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald Reagan

721 SECOND STREET, N.E. \* CAPITOL HILL \* WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 \* (202) 546-3000

January 31, 1983

123820

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

Dear President Reagan:

In 1981 I wrote to inquire about your position on further restrictions on Political Action Committees. Your response in June of that year stated that you "would surely oppose any bill similar to the Obey-Railsback proposal."

As the 98th Congress begins, it is apparent that there will be a renewed effort to restrict the activities of PACs and individuals in the electoral process. While it is not yet clear exactly what the content will be, legislation will certainly be introduced in both the House and the Senate which will attempt to limit the role of PACs in Congressional elections by placing limits on the amount of money that PACs can give or by placing limits on the amount of PAC money that candidates can accept. Additionally, proposals to implement taxpayer financing of Congressional elections and to restrict the ability of organizations to engage in independent expenditures are likely to be offered.

You stated in your letter that "in my view the growth of political action committees has enabled many thousands of people to increase their participation in the political process" and that "the freedom of all Americans to organize themselves voluntarily to affect the course of their government is a precious right." The legislation which is likely to emerge in Congress during this session will undoubtedly serve to limit the rights of people to influence or affect the course of their government and reduce their participation in the political process.

You stated that "our election laws need to be simplified rather than made more burdensome." Whether the Congress considers a further limit on the ability of PACs to contribute to candidates or a limitation on the rights of organizations to engage in independent expenditures, the federal election laws will become more complicated, not less.

The arguments you set forth in your 1981 letter are still valid. As Congress begins to consider the legislation that will emerge from the

President Ronald Reagan January 31, 1983 Page Two

House and Senate Committees concerning election laws, a letter reaffirming your opposition to Obey-Railsback type legislation and stating your opposition to legislation which would restrict the practice of independent expenditures would be most appropriate.

Thank you for your continued support for an open electoral system. I look forward to your response to this request.

Sincerely,

ane M. Wegnil Paul M. Weyrich

Executive Director

PMW/rsm

COF

June 2, 1981

1981 letter to Weyrich

Dear Paul: M. Merpich

Thank you for your comments regarding bills which seek to limit the scope and effectiveness of political action committees.

In my view the growth of political action committees has enabled many thousands of people to increase their participation in the political process. One hallmark of such groups is that all contributions to them are, by law, entirely voluntary. This is a healthy situation. The freedom of all Americans to organize themselves voluntarily to affect the course of their government is a precious right.

In the last Congress, almost all Republicans united in Vigorous opposition to the Obey-Railsback bill which would have placed new, rigid limits on the right of citizens to contribute to political candidates through political action committees. The Senate did not pass this bill, which narrowly passed the House without any committee hearings and with severely limited debate.

Because many of the supporters of this type of bill were not returned to the Congress, there seems little chance that either House would pass such legislation now.

Our Federal election law is so complex and burdensome currently that virtually every participant could be at the mercy of a selective enforcement process. It would be easy for enforcement officials to cite almost any candidate or committee for some technical infraction. That most certainly is not a healthy situation. Our election laws need to be simplified rather than made more burdensome. Citizen participation should be encouraged rather than limited. I would surely oppose any bill similar to the Obsy-Railsback proposal.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

Mr. Paul M. Weyrich Coalitions for America 721 Second Street, M.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

WASHINGTON

April 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Request from President Ford that

President Reagan Send Letter Supporting Bid of Vail, Colorado to Host 1986/1987

World Alpine Ski Championship

President Ford has asked Jim Baker if President Reagan would send a letter (draft attached) to the President of the Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS), supporting Vail, Colorado as the site for the 1986/1987 World Alpine Ski Championships. (Whether the world championship will be in 1986 or 1987 has not yet been determined by FIS.) Baker has indicated he would like to do this if possible.

According to Rob Henderson of the State Department's Bureau of International Organizations-International Sports, FIS is the recognized international governing body for amateur alpine skiing. The American counterpart, the U.S. Ski Association, has selected Vail as its proposed site. Henderson approves of sending the letter, and notes the President sent a similar letter supporting bringing the World Cup (soccer) to the U.S. In light of the fact that if the event is held in the U.S. it will be held at Vail -- due to the U.S. Ski Association selection -- I see no objection to sending the letter. The draft letter notes that Governor Dick Lamm of Colorado will support the event. Presumably Ford cleared this with Lamm, but Intergovernmental Affairs should double-check.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

April 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING ONGWAL STATED

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Request from President Ford that

President Reagan Send Letter Supporting Bid of Vail, Colorado to Host 1986/1987

World Alpine Ski Championship

The State Department's Bureau of International Organizations -International Sports has advised us that the U.S. Ski Association has selected Vail as its proposed site for the 1986/1987 World Alpine Ski Championships. Accordingly, we have no legal objection to the President sending a letter to the international governing body for amateur alpine skiing in support of the Vail candidacy. We have reviewed the proposed letter and have no legal objection to it. Intergovernmental Affairs should, however, clear the reference to Governor Dick Lamm with him.

FFF: JGR: aw 4/28/83

cc: FFFielding

JGRoberts,

Subj. Chron

WASHINGTON

April 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

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COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

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cc: FFFielding

**JGRoberts** 

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# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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c.o.b. TODAY

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

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FULLER					D

Colorado. Craig Fuller's office checked with the Bureau of International Organizations at State. They have no objection.

Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President (x2702)

Response:

April 28

DATE:

127 per Rob Henderson, DOS Bur. of Internall.

Organizations-Internall. Sports 10/SYN - Room 1511 DOS. (632 - 1/20)U.S. Ski Rssn. is behend the bid for Vail for Alpine event per Bruce Crane head of competition division He knows of no other cities toying to get the event Vail Associates + Ski Club of Vail
support it. If letter sent - please send

K. Hart

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

April 22, 1983

Dick

JAB asks that you please take a look at the attached and if is is O.K. to do this he would like for you to please have it done.

Thanks

MDT

externing for the day of the day

MARGARET D. TUTWILER Office of James A. Baker III 456-6797

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

4/21/83 8:30a.m.

JAB:

Bob Barrett called to say that Vale, Colorado is bidding for the 1986 World Ski Championships. Ford has written to the head of the World Federation of Skiing, which is meeting in Sydney, Australia, in two weeks to decide where they should hold the championships.

He would like to get a letter from President Reagan in support of the project. He is sending over today a suggested letter for your approval, and hopes you may be able to help them on this if it is appropriate.

The other countries bidding are: France, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia.

If you would like to speak to President Ford on this he is in Florida at 904/261-6161. Or Fob Barrett is at 904/285-2261.

BH

vall GRF

DD the be core that I not be have JAB April 21, 1983

Mr. Marc Hodler President Federation Internationale de Ski Elfenstrasse 19 CH-3000 Bern, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Hodler:

The people of the United States of America invite you to hold the 1987 World Alpine Ski Championships in Vail, Colorado. It would be a great honor and privilege for us to host this prestigious event. As a former athlete, and now as President, I appreciate the bridge that sports can build among men and women. There may be no better way to develop international friendships than through events like this, and thus we whole-heartedly support the Vail candidacy.

1987 phone 1986

I know my good friend, the former President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford, has agreed to host this event, should you choose to bring it to the United States. His support, along with that of Governor Dick Lamm of Colorado, and of the Vail Valley community will ensure the most successful championships ever held.

We look forward to welcoming you and the international competitors to the United States.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan President United States of America

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS 226

SUBJECT:

Proposed Presidential Letter to Paul Weyrich

Mike Uhlmann has asked us to clear a draft Presidential letter to Paul Weyrich on pending legislative proposals to restrict the activities of political action committees. Weyrich wrote the President on January 31, 1983, asking for a letter reaffirming the President's opposition to such proposals. The President had written Weyrich on June 2, 1981, expressing his opposition to predecessors of the bills presently under consideration.

The proposed letter stresses the importance of voluntary participation in the electoral process, commits the President to oppose any legislation similar to the Obey-Railsback bill, and indicates the President's support for raising the dollar limits on individual contributions. I have no objection to these positions, or to voicing them in a letter to Weyrich, but that is really a call for Legislative Affairs. I have drafted a memorandum to Uhlmann, noting that we have no objection to the letter but believe it should be formally staffed to obtain the views of other appropriate units in the White House, in particular Legislative Affairs.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL M. UHLMANN

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Proposed Presidential Letter to Paul Weyrich

We have reviewed the above-referenced draft letter. While we have no legal objection to the letter, we believe it should be formally staffed in order to obtain the views of other interested offices in the White House, in particular Legislative Affairs.

FFF:JGR:aw 5/2/83

cc: FFFielding

√JGRoberts

Subj. Chron

WASHINGTON

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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

April 19, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR DIANNA G. HOLLAND

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Presidential Letter to Paul Weyrich

on PAC Legislation

Steve Galebach of Mike Uhlmann's office provided me with this draft letter, indicating that Mike wanted it cleared by the Counsel's Office. I would be happy to work on it, but wanted to send it to you for appropriate staffing.

Attachment

#### Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter concerning congressional efforts in the 98th Congress to restrict the activities of political action committees and individuals who participate in the electoral process. I share your conviction that the freedom of all Americans to express their views in the electoral process is among the most precious of our rights as American citizens.

Apparently, some who disagree with my view are making an effort in the 98th Congress to restrict the ability of groups of citizens to participate effectively in the electoral process. You ask my view now of legislation to limit the amount of money that groups of citizens can give to candidates, to limit the amount that candidates can receive from such groups, to begin taxpayer financing of congressional campaigns, and to restrict independent expenditures by voluntarily supported organizations.

Overregulation of citizen involvement is a seriouus danger to an open and free democratic process. I have stated my firm opposition to the Obey-Railsback bill, which failed to pass the 96th Congress. I will certainly oppose any similar legislation in the future.

Intrusive limitations on our freedom to engage in political, electoral speech must be avoided. The essence of a free society with a republican form of government is for citizens to be free to work together voluntarily to express their views. How else can they hope to guide the government toward the course they prefer?

I believe that the attention of our legislators in this area should focus on improving the opportunities of people to participate openly and honestly in the political process without harrassment from a federal bureaucracy.

Our election laws today are too complex. They give too many opportunities for regulators to trip up even the most careful candidates. It is too easy for selective enforcement to target any candidate or committee based on technical violations.

True reform would simplify our election laws, not complicate them. In addition, the dollar limits on contributions put in place in the early 1970s have been drastically eroded in value by inflation. A maximum allowed contribution of \$1,000 ten years ago is worth less than half that today. We obviously need to raise the dollar limits to account for the effects of inflation.

I appreciate your support for improving our democratic process and opposing any efforts to overregulate our elections.

If it comes to a fight in this Congress, you can count on me to fight.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald Reagan

721 SECOND STREET, N.E. \*CAPITOL HILL \*WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 \*(202) 546-3000

January 31, 1983

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ac

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

Dear President Reagan:

In 1981 I wrote to inquire about your position on further restrictions on Political Action Committees. Your response in June of that year stated that you "would surely oppose any bill similar to the Obey-Railsback proposal."

As the 98th Congress begins, it is apparent that there will be a renewed effort to restrict the activities of PACs and individuals in the electoral process. While it is not yet clear exactly what the content will be, legislation will certainly be introduced in both the House and the Senate which will attempt to limit the role of PACs in Congressional elections by placing limits on the amount of money that PACs can give or by placing limits on the amount of PAC money that candidates can accept. Additionally, proposals to implement taxpayer financing of Congressional elections and to restrict the ability of organizations to engage in independent expenditures are likely to be offered.

You stated in your letter that "in my view the growth of political action committees has enabled many thousands of people to increase their participation in the political process" and that "the freedom of all Americans to organize themselves voluntarily to affect the course of their government is a precious right." The legislation which is likely to emerge in Congress during this session will undoubtedly serve to limit the rights of people to influence or affect the course of their government and reduce their participation in the political process.

You stated that "our election laws need to be simplified rather than made more burdensome." Whether the Congress considers a further limit on the ability of PACs to contribute to candidates or a limitation on the rights of organizations to engage in independent expenditures, the federal election laws will become more complicated, not less.

The arguments you set forth in your 1981 letter are still valid. As Congress begins to consider the legislation that will emerge from the

President Ronald Reagan Candary 31, 1983 Page Two

House and Senate Committees concerning election laws, a letter reaffirming your opposition to Obey-Railsback type legislation and stating your opposition to legislation which would restrict the practice of independent expenditures would be most appropriate.

Thank you for your continued support for an open electoral system. I look forward to your response to this request.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Weyrich UExecutive Director

PMW/rsm

COF

June 2, 1981

you the President

Dear Paul: M. Merpich

Thank you for your comments regarding bills which seek to limit the scope and effectiveness of political action committees.

In my view the growth of political action committees has enabled many thousands of people to increase their participation in the political process. One hallmark of such groups is that all contributions to them are, by law, entirely voluntary. This is a healthy situation. The freedom of all Americans to organize themselves voluntarily to affect the course of their government is a precious right.

In the last Congress, almost all Republicans united in vigorous opposition to the Obey-Railsback bill which would have placed new, rigid limits on the right of citizens to contribute to political candidates through political action committees. The Senate did not pass this bill, which narrowly passed the House without any committee hearings and with severely limited debate.

Because many of the supporters of this type of bill were not returned to the Congress, there seems little chance that either House would pass such legislation now.

Our Federal election law is so complex and burdensome currently that virtually every participant could be at the mercy of a selective enforcement process. It would be easy for enforcement officials to cite almost any candidate or committee for some technical infraction. That most certainly is not a healthy situation. Our election laws need to be simplified rather than made more burdensome. Citizen participation should be ancouraged rather than limited. I would surely appeas any bill similar to the Ober-Railaback proposal.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

Mr. Paul M. Weyrich Coalitions for America 721 Second Street, M.E., Washington, D.C. 20002