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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Questionnaire for Michigan Farmer
(Prepared by Reagan-Bush '84)

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the draft response to the above-referenced candidate questionnaire be sent directly to Mike Barody by close of business October 2. The response to question four, fourth paragraph on the last page, contains the same language that I found objectionable in the Illinois Farm Bureau questionnaire response. You will recall from my memorandum on that questionnaire that the Administration is trying to downplay the significance of the Legislature-controlled commission established by H.J. Res. 600, while the questionnaire response states that the commission's recommendations will be "blueprints" for agricultural policy for the rest of the century. The attached memorandum for Barody reiterates our objection to this inconsistency.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL E. BAROODY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *Orig. signed by FFF*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Questionnaire for Michigan Farmer
(Prepared by Reagan-Bush '84)

Counsel's Office has reviewed the draft response to the above-referenced candidate questionnaire. The last sentence in the fourth paragraph on the last page should be deleted.

The commission referred to in that paragraph, because of the unusual manner in which its members will be appointed, will be controlled by the Legislative Branch. There is, accordingly, widespread concern that the commission will issue recommendations inconsistent with Administration policy. Largely for this reason, when the President signed H.J. Res. 600, which established the commission, he emphasized that he was not convinced of the need for another commission and that the commission's recommendations would be simply one of many sources of advice on forming farm policy. (See attached signing statement.) The last sentence in the fourth paragraph on the last page of the draft response is inconsistent with the signing statement and Administration efforts to downplay the commission, and should be deleted.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 9/28/84
bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL E. BAROODY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
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FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

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Counsel's Office has reviewed the draft response to the above-referenced candidate questionnaire. The last sentence in the fourth paragraph on the last page should be deleted.

The commission referred to in that paragraph, because of the unusual manner in which its members will be appointed, will be controlled by the Legislative Branch. There is, accordingly, widespread concern that the commission will issue recommendations inconsistent with Administration policy. Largely for this reason, when the President signed H.J. Res. 600, which established the commission, he emphasized that he was not convinced of the need for another commission and that the commission's recommendations would be simply one of many sources of advice on forming farm policy. (See attached signing statement.) The last sentence in the fourth paragraph on the last page of the draft response is inconsistent with the signing statement and Administration efforts to downplay the commission, and should be deleted.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 9/28/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 30, 1984

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have today signed H.J. Res. 600, the "Agricultural Trade and Export Policy Commission Act."

H.J. Res. 600 would establish a National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy to conduct studies of agricultural trade and export policies, programs, and practices of the United States, and to make recommendations to the President and Congress.

The Congressional sponsors of this legislation see the Commission's work as providing recommendations for the agriculture community, the Administration, and the Congress to consider as they work together in developing the 1985 farm bill. I expect the 1985 farm bill to be an historic watershed in laying the groundwork for assuring the continuation of a prosperous and productive agricultural economy. While I am not convinced that we need yet another commission to study agricultural policy, I hope the Commission will constructively join the debate on the future direction of American agriculture, including that of agricultural trade and exports.

Numerous other groups, including the President's Export Council, official industry advisory groups, and the President's Working Group on Future Food and Agriculture Policy, are also examining the many issues that can affect the future course of American agriculture. We hope that the free exchange and critical review of all such views will lead to the development of farm legislation that sets a sound course for agricultural policy.

In signing H.J. Res. 600, however, I must express my concern about the membership of the Commission. Under this resolution the Commission is to be composed of three officers from the Executive branch, who serve in a nonvoting capacity, and thirty-two members who are either selected by, or are members of, Congress. Although the Commission would appear to serve primarily legislative functions, this bill would place the Commission partly within the Executive branch. I believe that creation of such a commission, which is neither clearly within the Executive branch, nor clearly within the Legislative branch, tends to blur the functional distinction between the governmental branches that is fundamental to the concept of separation of powers. It would be more appropriate for the Commission to be composed either entirely of members selected by the Legislative branch, if it is to serve primarily legislative functions, or entirely of members appointed by the President, if it is to serve the Executive branch.

Moreover, I do not consider it advisable to have the Secretary of Agriculture or any other Executive branch official receive private donations to assist the Commission. The Department of Agriculture will provide such staff resources as are needed from existing resources and make use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds as authorized to cover travel expenses, per diem, and other expenses as needed.

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1 /



Name of Correspondent: Richard Darman

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Questionnaire for Michigan Farmer
(prepared by R-B '84)

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Action Code | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD | Type of Response | Code | Completion Date YY/MM/DD |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>CUHORE</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>84 09 27</u> | | | <u> 1 / 1 / </u> |
| <u>CUAT 18</u> | <u>D</u> | <u>84 09 27</u> | | <u>58410102</u> | <u> 1 / 1 / </u> |
| <u>CUAT 17</u> | <u>I</u> | <u>84 10 27</u> | | | <u> 1 / 1 / </u> |
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ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- D - Draft Response
- S - For Signature
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- C - Completed
- B - Non-Special Referral
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOP).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9 / 27 / 84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: October 2

SUBJECT: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MICHIGAN FARMER

| | ACTION FYI | | | ACTION FYI | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OGLESBY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SPEAKES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| STOCKMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SVAHN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | VERSTANDIG | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FIELDING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | WHITTLESEY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FULLER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>TUTWILER</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HERRINGTON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>BAROODY</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HICKEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>ELLIOTT</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| McFARLANE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| McMANUS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

please provide any comments directly to Mike Baroody, with a copy to my office, by close of business October 2. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

1984 SEP 27 PM 7:12

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

REAGAN-BUSH '84

The President's Authorized Campaign Committee

SEP 27 11 54

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MARGARET TUTWILER
THROUGH: ED ROLLINS
FROM: JIM LAKE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 1984
RE: MICHIGAN FARMER

Per the procedures outlined in Fred Fielding's November 28, 1983 memo on candidate questionnaires, I am enclosing draft responses to a set of questions from Michigan Farmer.

Please advise me at your earliest possible convenience of White House approval of the responses. We need the approval notice by October 4 at the absolute latest to meet our deadline.

HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN
President of the United States

Michigan Farmer Questionnaire
September 26, 1984

1. Farmers see budget deficits as causes of high interest rates. Statistics indicate that each \$50 billion in deficit raises interest rates 1%, and each 1% costs farmers \$2 billion. What actions will you take that will attack high interest rates? Will these actions reduce the strength of the dollar and increase farm export potential?
- A. Because our economy as a whole has recovered more quickly than those of our major trading partners, U.S. demand for imported products has increased while theirs has not. And the figures show that most of the increase in our trade deficit results from increased imports, not decreased exports.

This increase in the purchase of foreign products will help pull the rest of the world out of the recession and, as they revive, markets for our products abroad will increase.

Some say U.S. exports have been hindered by the strong value of the dollar, which those same people think results from high U.S. budget deficits. But the capital accounts budget does not show the huge influx of foreign capital that this theory suggests.

Based on this misreading of the problem, some have suggested higher U.S. taxes, which will be counterproductive in two ways. First, the taxes will slow U.S. economic growth and worsen, not improve the budget deficit. Second, the taxes will make U.S. goods less competitive on the world market and worsen, not improve, the trade deficit.

Our economic recovery program has already reduced interest rates by more than one-third from the over-21 percent levels that were the legacy of the previous Administration, and the recent drop in the prime lending rate is another indication that interest rates may ease even more in the months ahead.

We will continue on this path, rejecting the failed policies of the past that caused inflation and interest rates to skyrocket and that gave us our world trade problems in the first place.

2. A new Farm Law will be written in 1985. As President, what are the broad outlines of a farm bill you'd like to sign into law?

A. My Administration is already hard at work on the 1985 farm bill, working with the Congress, state governments and farm groups from around the nation. I have asked Secretary of Agriculture John Block, who chairs the Cabinet Council on Food and Agriculture, to solicit farmers' views on this important measure. So far, they've accepted hundreds of pages of written recommendations and held half a dozen listening sessions around the country. Although we will not be prepared to present a specific program until we have had a chance to assess these recommendations, you can be sure we will work hard to develop responsible farm policies that serve both the farmers and the public. We must continue to provide a measure of price protection from erratic weather and natural disasters, and create an environment for supply-and-demand forces to allocate resources efficiently.

3. American agriculture exports of corn, soybeans and wheat have been a major factor offsetting our huge trade imbalance. Is it the proper role of American agriculture to be a raw product exporter? Isn't that role normally associated with economies of less developed nations or of colonies?

A. Agricultural exports account for 24 percent of our total agricultural production and contribute significantly to the health of the American economy.

While we have been highly successful in exporting bulk commodities such as wheat and soybeans, we will continue to promote increased export of value-added products as well. A recent Department of Agriculture study indicated that if we increased by 10 percent our exports of wheat, corn and soybeans shipped as finished products, U.S. gross national product would rise by \$165 billion, personal income would increase by \$3 billion and 300,000 new jobs would be created in the U.S. economy.

Indeed, we have taken a number of actions to increase exports of value-added agricultural commodities. This spring we negotiated new import quotas that will nearly double U.S. beef exports to Japan and raise citrus exports by 54 percent over the next four years. We sent a signal to the European Community last year by making a one-million-ton sale of wheat flour to Egypt. As a result, the European Community has joined us in serious efforts to solve the problems caused by their subsidization of exports. We've enacted legislation to ensure that the sanctity of existing export contracts will be respected. And under new provisions of law, the Secretary of Agriculture over the past two years has made available to needy persons in 19 foreign nations over 200,000 tons of surplus U.S. dairy products.

Our agricultural policies have resulted in the U.S. having regained its reputation as a reliable agricultural supplier in the world market. My Administration remains committed to maintaining and further enhancing that reputation.

4. Why do you think Michigan farmers should vote for you on November 6?
 - A. The health of American agriculture is important not only to Michigan farmers but to all Americans and to people of other nations as well.

Four years ago, Michigan farmers were being hurt by a crumbling economy. High inflation forced land values up and increased costs for farm items almost 30 percent during 1979-80. Interest rates soared to over 20 percent and cut into farm profits. Then came the grain embargo. Someone who now says he opposed it in private was talking differently then, saying, "What we've done will really sting." He was right, but it wasn't the Soviets who got stung, it was the American farmer, who lost 17 million tons of grain sales to the Soviet Union. Farm prices declined, our agricultural marketing system was disrupted, and net farm income fell 34 percent in 1980.

Today, although our farmers are still in a difficult situation, things are getting better -- and we are making constant and consistent progress toward recovery in the agricultural sector of our economy.

Inflation, interest rates, and taxes are all much lower than in 1981. This year, net cash income for farmers is expected to reach a near all-time high.

We ended the embargo, and signed a new five-year agreement with the Soviets, who have bought more than 23 million metric tons of grain since. In fact, we've just offered to sell them an additional 10 million tons of wheat and/or corn during the second year of this agreement. As long as I'm President, our farmers will never be asked to bear alone the brunt of U.S. foreign policy.

For farmers who need additional breathing room to get back on their feet, I've just announced that we will defer for five years as much as 25 percent of the debt of some Farmers Home Administration borrowers up to a maximum of \$100,000. We are also extending new federal guarantees of about \$630 million in commercial loans to farmers to help ease their debt burden.

Our trade teams from the Department of Agriculture and the private sector having been knocking on doors all over the world. As I mentioned in Question 3, we have negotiated new import quotas with Japan that will nearly double U.S. beef exports to that nation and raise citrus exports by 54 percent over the next four years. We made that one-million-ton sale of wheat flour to Egypt, and secured the cooperation of the European Community in serious efforts to solve the problems caused by their export subsidization. And we've enacted measures to ensure the sanctity of existing export contracts. We've regained our reputation as a reliable supplier, and must maintain it.

In addition, I've just signed legislation establishing a national commission to make recommendations concerning the future of agriculture-related trade policy in America. We expect the commission to produce several reports that will be blueprints for agricultural trade and export policy for the remainder of this century.

American agriculture has come too far to have the careless policies of the past take over again and crush all that our farmers have worked so long and hard to achieve.

MORGAN PALMER



3303 W. Saginaw Street
Lansing, Michigan 48917
Phone 517-321-9393

September 18, 1984

Rec'd 9/22

Ms. Caroline Heinz
Media Relations
Old Executive Office Building
Room 164
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Caroline:

Thank you for agreeing to work with us in preparing a pre-election article for the 65,000 farm families who read Michigan Farmer. I have prepared four questions (enclosed) to which we would like to have written answers.

Our deadline is Thursday, Sept. 27, but that can be extended to the following Monday if we are absolutely sure on Sept. 27 that the material is coming.

We also would like two black and white photographs, one of President Reagan alone and one with Vice-President Bush. Please also send a biographical sketch on the president-- and any farm-related statements or materials you think will be useful to us.

When preparing the answers, think in terms of 200 to 300 words for each. But don't cut yourself short if you need more.

Again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Lehnert

Richard H. Lehnert
Editor

Enclosure: 1
cc: Roger Bolton

P.S. I have contacted Roger Bolton at Reagan-Bush Headquarters and am sending him a copy of this letter and of the questions. I hope the two of you will be able to coordinate.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES


1. Farmers see budget deficits as causes of high interest rates. Statistics indicate that each \$50 billion in deficit raises interest rates 1%, and each 1% costs farmers \$2 billion. What actions will you take that will attack high interest rates? Will these actions reduce the strength of the dollar and increase farm export potential?
2. A new Farm Law will be written in 1985. As president, what are the broad outlines of a farm bill you'd like to sign into law?
3. American agricultural exports of corn, soybeans and wheat have been a major factor offsetting our huge trade imbalance. Is it the proper role of American agriculture to be a raw product exporter? Isn't that role normally associated with economies of less developed nations or of colonies?
4. Why do you think Michigan farmers should vote for you November 6?

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 

SUBJECT: Questionnaire for Illinois
Farm Bureau Publication

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the draft response to the above-referenced candidate questionnaire be sent directly to Mike Barody by close of business today. The draft response, prepared by Reagan-Bush '84, reviews what the Administration has done for farmers. The fourth paragraph on page two notes that the President has signed legislation creating a national commission to make recommendations on agriculture trade policy, and that we "expect the commission to produce several reports that will be blueprints for agricultural trade and export policy for the remainder of this century."

The reference is to H.J. Res. 600, signed by the President on August 30, 1984. You will recall that this bill created a purely advisory commission, with a large majority of members either appointed by members of Congress or being members of Congress themselves. The imbalance between executive and legislative members on the commission, and the hermaphroditic character of the commission, were criticized in a signing statement issued by the President.

Since the commission will be dominated by Congress, there was and is concern in the Administration that it will be a vehicle for advancing Congressional farm bill proposals in opposition to Administration proposals. The President, in the signing statement, attempted to minimize the commission's significance by stating:

Numerous other groups, including the President's Export Council, official industry advisory groups, and the President's Working Group on Future Food and Agriculture Policy, are also examining the many issues that can affect the future course of American agriculture. We hope that the free exchange and critical review of all such views will lead to the development of farm legislation that sets a sound course for agricultural policy.

The above-quoted passage from the draft candidate questionnaire, contending that the commission's reports will be "blueprints for agricultural trade and export policy for the remainder of this century," is thus inconsistent with the signing statement and contrary to our efforts to downplay the commission's role. I would delete the last sentence of the fourth paragraph on page two.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL E. BAROODY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Questionnaire for Illinois
Farm Bureau Publication

Counsel's Office has reviewed the draft response to the above-referenced candidate questionnaire. The last sentence in the fourth paragraph on page two should be deleted.

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cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 9/28/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 30, 1984

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have today signed H.J. Res. 600, the "Agricultural Trade and Export Policy Commission Act."

H.J. Res. 600 would establish a National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy to conduct studies of agricultural trade and export policies, programs, and practices of the United States, and to make recommendations to the President and Congress.

The Congressional sponsors of this legislation see the Commission's work as providing recommendations for the agriculture community, the Administration, and the Congress to consider as they work together in developing the 1985 farm bill. I expect the 1985 farm bill to be an historic watershed in laying the groundwork for assuring the continuation of a prosperous and productive agricultural economy. While I am not convinced that we need yet another commission to study agricultural policy, I hope the Commission will constructively join the debate on the future direction of American agriculture, including that of agricultural trade and exports.

Numerous other groups, including the President's Export Council, official industry advisory groups, and the President's Working Group on Future Food and Agriculture Policy, are also examining the many issues that can affect the future course of American agriculture. We hope that the free exchange and critical review of all such views will lead to the development of farm legislation that sets a sound course for agricultural policy.

In signing H.J. Res. 600, however, I must express my concern about the membership of the Commission. Under this resolution the Commission is to be composed of three officers from the Executive branch, who serve in a nonvoting capacity, and thirty-two members who are either selected by, or are members of, Congress. Although the Commission would appear to serve primarily legislative functions, this bill would place the Commission partly within the Executive branch. I believe that creation of such a commission, which is neither clearly within the Executive branch, nor clearly within the Legislative branch, tends to blur the functional distinction between the governmental branches that is fundamental to the concept of separation of powers. It would be more appropriate for the Commission to be composed either entirely of members selected by the Legislative branch, if it is to serve primarily legislative functions, or entirely of members appointed by the President, if it is to serve the Executive branch.

Moreover, I do not consider it advisable to have the Secretary of Agriculture or any other Executive branch official receive private donations to assist the Commission. The Department of Agriculture will provide such staff resources as are needed from existing resources and make use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds as authorized to cover travel expenses, per diem, and other expenses as needed.

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1

Name of Correspondent: Richard Darman

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Questionnaire for Illinois Farm Bureau Publication

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Action Code | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD | Type of Response Code | Completion Date YY/MM/DD |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>CUAT 18</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>840927</u> | | <u>1 1</u> |
| <u>CUAT 18</u> | <u>D</u> | <u>840927</u> | | <u>5 840928</u> |
| <u>CUAT 17</u> | <u>F</u> | <u>840927</u> | | <u>1 1</u> |
| | | <u>1 1</u> | | <u>1 1</u> |
| | | <u>1 1</u> | | <u>1 1</u> |

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DISPOSITION CODES:

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FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

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Comments: _____

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.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/27/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 9/28/84

SUBJECT: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU PUBLICATION

| | ACTION FYI | | | ACTION FYI | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OGLESBY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SPEAKES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| STOCKMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SVAHN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ISS | VERSTANDIG | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FIELDING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | WHITTLESEY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FULLER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>TUTWILER</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HERRINGTON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>BAROODY</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HICKEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>ELLIOTT</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| McFARLANE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| McMANUS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits/comments directly to Mike Baroody, with a copy to my office, by close of business tomorrow, 9/28. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

1984 SEP 27 PM 7:12

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

REAGAN-BUSH'84

The President's Authorized Campaign Committee

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MARGARET TUTWILER
THROUGH: ED ROLLINS
FROM: JIM LAKE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 1984
RE: ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU PUBLICATION

Per the procedures outlined in Fred Fielding's November 28, 1983 memo on candidate questionnaires, I am enclosing draft responses to a set of questions for the Illinois Farm Bureau's Voter's Handbook.

Before making any revisions, please bear in mind that Illinois Farm Bureau has imposed a 500 word limit.

Please advise me at your earliest possible convenience of White House approval of the responses.

HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN
President of the United States

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
"Voter's Handbook" Question for President Reagan
FarmWeek Newspaper
September 25, 1984

Question:

"What is the most important issue facing Illinois farmers and how do you plan to deal with this issue as President of the United States during the next four years?"

President Reagan:

The health of American agriculture is important not only to Illinois farmers but to all Americans and people of other nations as well.

Four years ago, Illinois farmers were being hurt by a crumbling economy.

High inflation forced land values up and increased costs for farm items almost 30 percent during 1979-80.

Interest rates over 20 percent cut into farm profits.

Then came the grain embargo. Someone who now says he opposed it in private was talking differently then, saying, "What we've done will really sting." He was right, but it wasn't the Soviets who got stung, it was the American farmer, who lost 17 million tons of grain sales to the Soviet Union.

Farm prices declined, our agricultural marketing system was disrupted, and net farm income fell 34 percent in 1980.

Today, although our farmers still are having difficulties, American agriculture is moving toward recovery.

Inflation, interest rates, and taxes are all much lower than in 1981. This year, net cash income for farmers is expected to reach a near all-time high.

We ended the embargo, and signed a new five-year agreement with the Soviets, who have bought more than 23 million metric tons of grain since. In fact, we've just offered to sell them an additional 10 million tons of wheat and/or corn during the second year of this agreement. As long as I'm President, our farmers will never be asked to bear alone the brunt of U.S. foreign policy.

For farmers who need additional breathing room to get back on their feet, I've just announced that we will defer for five years as much as 25 percent of the debt of some Farmers Home Administration borrowers up to a maximum of \$100,000. We are also extending new federal guarantees to about \$630 million in commercial loans to farmers to help ease their debt burden.

Last year, we sent a signal to the European Community by making a one-million-ton sale of wheat flour to Egypt. As a result, the European Community has joined us in serious efforts to solve the problems caused by their subsidization of exports.

We've enacted legislation to ensure that existing export contracts will not be abrogated and provided export assistance through PL-480 food aid programs and the Export-Import Bank.

In addition, I've just signed legislation -- which your President, John White, has testified in support of -- establishing a national commission to make recommendations concerning the future of agriculture-related trade policy in America. We expect the commission to produce several reports that will be blueprints for agricultural trade and export policy for the remainder of this century.

We believe in the future of American agriculture and the tremendous potential of our farmers to out-produce all others on this earth. Indeed, American agriculture has come too far to have the careless policies of the past take over and crush all that our farmers have worked so long and hard to achieve.



Illinois Farm Bureau

ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, INC. 1211 TOWANDA AVE. P.O. BOX 2901 ELLINGTON, ILL. 60120-2901 TEL: (312) 399-5500 FAX: (312) 399-5500

August 30, 1984

SEP 5 1984

Mr. Ed Rollins
Reagan-Bush Headquarters
440 First St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Rollins:

Illinois Farm Bureau would like to share the views of your candidate, President Reagan, with over 100,000 of its members.

During each major election, a "Voter's Handbook" is published as part of Farm Bureau's weekly newspaper, FarmWeek. Work is underway on the Election '84 edition of our handbook, which goes to press in October and is received by farm people across Illinois.

We realize time is precious during a campaign. But we are asking for the response of both Presidential contenders to this question:

"What is the most important issue facing Illinois farmers and how do you plan to deal with this issue as President of the United States during the next four years?"

We would like to have the responses--of up to 500 words--by September 24. The response would give your candidate an opportunity to express his position and our readers an equal opportunity to study his position as election day nears.

Could you also provide us a black-and-white glossy photograph of President Reagan for use in our publication? If you have any questions, my phone number is (309) 557-3154. Enclosed is a separate sheet restating the question. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randy Bridson

Randy Bridson
Managing Editor
FarmWeek

Enclosure
RB/dko
0109B

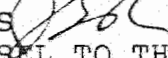
"What is the most important issue facing Illinois farmers and how do you plan to deal with this issue as President of the United States during the next four years?"

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL E. BAROODY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Questionnaire -- Professional
Insurance Agents' Political Action
Committee (Prepared by Reagan-Bush '84)

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced candidate questionnaire, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

cc: Richard G. Darman

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1

Name of Correspondent: RICHARD DARMAN

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Proposed Questionnaire - Professional Insurance Agents' Political Action Committee (prepared by R-B'84)

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Action Code | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD | Type of Response Code | Completion Date YY/MM/DD |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>CUHOLL</u> | <u>ORIGINATOR</u> | <u>84/10/09</u> | | <u>84/10/09</u> |
| <u>CUAT 18</u> | <u>B</u> | <u>84/10/09</u> | | <u>84/10/09</u> |
| <u>CUAT 17</u> | <u>I</u> | <u>84/10/09</u> | | <u>3:00 pm</u> |
| | | <u>1/1</u> | | <u>1/1</u> |
| | | <u>1/1</u> | | <u>1/1</u> |

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOP).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/9/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED QUESTIONNAIRE - PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS' POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

| | ACTION FYI | | | ACTION FYI | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OGLESBY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SPEAKES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| STOCKMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SVAHN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> P | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S | VERSTANDIG | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FIELDING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | WHITTLESEY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FULLER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | TUTWILER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HERRINGTON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | BAROODY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HICKEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ELLIOTT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| McFARLANE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| McMANUS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits/comments directly to Mike Baroody, with a copy to my office, by 3:00 p.m. TODAY. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

REAGAN-BUSH '84

The President's Authorized Campaign Committee

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MARGARET TUTWILER
THROUGH: ED ROLLINS
FROM: JIM LAKE
DATE: OCTOBER 8, 1984
RE: PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS'
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Per the procedures outlined in Fred Fielding's November 28, 1983 memo on candidate questionnaires, I am enclosing draft responses to a set of questions from PIAPAC.

Please advise me at your earliest possible convenience of White House approval of the responses. We need the approval notice by October 9 to meet our deadline.

THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN
President of the United States

Professional Insurance Agents' Political Action Committee
October 8, 1984

1. Q: PIA has a longstanding policy to stop any further incursion by depository institutions into insurance sales or underwriting. We are opposed to any further expansion of insurance powers to these institutions beyond the Title VI provisions of the Garn-St. Germain Depository Institutions Act of 1982. What is your position in this matter?

A: I do support authorizing banks to provide, through holding companies, financial services involving insurance, real estate, mutual funds and municipal revenue bonds. This would increase competition in financial activities, and allow us to streamline some of the regulatory procedures that burden both insurance companies and banks.

By requiring the use of holding company affiliates, our proposal would protect businesses already offering those financial services and provide a fair basis for competition. Under this approach, insurance underwriting companies, whether or not they are affiliated with bank holding companies would be regulated identically at the state level.

2. Q: There was a serious effort this year, and will no doubt return next year, to force the insurance industry into using a unisex (non-gender specific) system for rating, pricing and recordkeeping. PIA opposed the federal efforts in this area. What is your position?

A: Although the Supreme Court affirmed the Justice Department's position that Title VII prohibits determining benefit or contribution levels for employment-based annuities on the basis of sex, there are major uncertainties as to the costs and benefits of extending the same rationale to other forms of insurance. Preliminary studies indicate that legislation to equalize premiums and benefits for men and women could lead to large increases in the cost of auto, health and life insurance for women. We must continue to monitor this situation very closely to see that we do not impose major new insurance costs on women in the name of "equal treatment".

3. Q: Considerable time was devoted to developing a method by which employer-paid health benefit packages would be taxable to employees when exceeding certain caps. PIA views this as socially unacceptable and an inequitable burden to be borne by those most in need of these benefits. It also places small business at a competitive disadvantage. What are your views?

A: Since I took office in 1981, my Administration has been committed to assuring a basic level of high quality health care for all Americans, as well as reducing the inflation which has driven up medical costs for us all. Our approach has been to reduce the government's role and encourage competition within health-related private sector industries. As a result of our initiatives, health care inflation has fallen to 6.3% for the first five months of 1984, down from 10.7% in 1981.

We have also proposed limiting tax-free employer-paid health benefits. Such tax-free contributions insulate both employers and employees from the consequences of rising health costs. Limiting this tax exclusion would encourage employees to seek lower-cost medical care alternatives. Unless we control cost increases, health care may be placed out of reach for many Americans. We cannot allow that to happen, and will continue to focus on reducing government intervention and stimulating private sector innovation, so that all Americans have access to high quality health care.



PIAPAC

Professional Insurance Agents
Political Action Committee
400 N. Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-9340

September 24, 1984

Reagan/Bush 1984 General Election Compliance Fund
440 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Good morning!

PIA is a national trade association of over 40,000 small business owners who operate independent property/casualty insurance agencies. These operations are generally a five person shop, serving urban, suburban and rural communities in every state of the Union, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our membership is very active in local, state and national politics from expressing their views in grass roots campaigns to personal involvement in time and cash donation to candidates campaigns. Part of this effort is manifested in PIA's Political Action Committee, PIAPAC. On behalf of PIA, I am pleased to make this donation of \$5,000 to the Reagan Bush 1984 Campaign. It shows a strong support for the overall goals of your effort.

As part of PIA's voter awareness program, we will be conducting a straw poll for the Presidential Elections 1984. To better inform our members, we would like you to complete the attached questionnaire and return it by October 9 to our National office. Your responses will be posted by our mock election booth. We will provide our members with straw ballots and an opportunity to comment if they wish.

If you have any questions, our staff Patricia Borowski, 703-836-9340 or Charles Wegner, 202-544-8713, will be happy to assist you.

We thank you for your cooperation and efforts to listen to our views. We look forward to your complete and timely response.

Sincerely,

J. Knox Hillman, Jr., FMS
Chairman

enclosures:

Check #1394 (\$5,000)
form


*Paid for by the Professional Insurance Agents Political Action Committee,
an independent, voluntary, non-partisan political action organization of individuals from the property and casualty insurance industry whose purpose is to assist candidates for Congress who have demonstrated support of the private insurance industry in general and the American Agency System in particular.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 15, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL E. BAROODY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Questionnaire: Army Times
(Prepared by Reagan-Bush '84)

Counsel's Office has reviewed the proposed responses to the above-referenced questionnaire. The response to question six is misleading. The IRS has not, in fact, taken a final position with respect to this issue, and after review by Secretaries Regan and Weinberger it has been decided that there will be no change in the current rules before January 1, 1986. That will give Congress and the Administration more time to review the question. It is our understanding that the Office of Policy Development will submit a revised response along these lines.

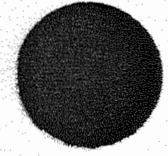
The response to question eight is inartfully phrased. Not permitting avowed homosexuals to serve in the military cannot be considered as conferring "special status" on them as the phrase is used in this sentence. The response should also note that the Defense policy was recently upheld by the courts. We recommend the following: "Although I have long been opposed to discrimination against any segment of our population, we see no reason to change the current Department of Defense policy. That policy was in fact upheld in a recent ruling by a Federal Court of Appeals."

cc: Richard G. Darman

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1 /

JGR



Name of Correspondent: Richard Dorman

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Questionnaire: Army Times
(Prepared by R-B '84)

| ROUTE TO: | ACTION | DISPOSITION |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Action Code | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD |
| <u>CUHOL</u> | ORIGINATOR | <u>841015</u> <u>1 1</u> |
| <u>CUAT 18</u> | Referral Note: <u>reply to Mike Broody</u> <u>R</u> | <u>841015</u> <u>841015</u> <u>WJB</u> |
| <u>CUAT 17</u> | Referral Note: <u>I</u> | <u>841015</u> <u>1 1</u> |
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- C - Comment/Recommendation
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
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- S - For Signature
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- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/15/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: C.O.B. TODAY, 10/15

SUBJECT: QUESTIONNAIRE: ARMY TIMES

| | ACTION FYI | | | ACTION FYI | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MURPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OGLESBY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| McMANUS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Mike Baroody, by c.o.b. today, October 15th.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

REAGAN-BUSH '84

001 007 15 008 25

The President's Authorized Campaign Committee

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MARGARET TUTWILER
THROUGH: ED ROLLINS
FROM: JIM LAKE
DATE: OCTOBER 12, 1984
RE: ARMY TIMES QUESTIONNAIRE

Per the procedures outlined in Fred Fielding's November 28, 1983 memo on candidate questionnaires, I am enclosing draft responses to a set of questions from Army Times.

Please advise me at your earliest possible convenience of White House approval of the responses.

THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Questionnaire for Army Times
October 11, 1984

1. How important are reductions in federal entitlement programs, like military retirement, in your plans for reducing the federal budget deficit over the next four years?
 - A. My Administration believes that those Americans who have served this nation should not become victims of the failed policies that caused the federal deficits in the first place.

In fact, about half of the current federal budget deficit is due to the lingering effects of the recession the economy was pushed into in 1981 by the double-digit inflation and record interest rates which were the legacy of the previous Administration.

When people are thrown out of work, they no longer pay taxes because they have no earned income. At the same time, they become eligible for federal benefit programs. So, government revenue goes down and government spending goes up.

But, as we have put six million Americans back to work, that portion of the deficit is being reduced. Continued economic recovery and expansion will reduce the deficit still further, but it will not eliminate the entire problem.

The remaining portion of the deficit is easy to explain: Government simply is spending more money than it raises in taxes.

The answer is equally simple: We must either spend less or tax more.

While our opponents want to raise taxes, we believe that taxes are high enough. It's wasteful spending that must be trimmed. This year, we have worked with Republicans and responsible Democrats in Congress to pass a deficit reduction plan that puts a \$150 billion downpayment on the deficit through a balanced program of budget restraint, slower growth in defense and new revenue.

But a downpayment alone is not enough to break us out of the deficit problem. It will start us on the right path. Yet we must do more.

I have asked Congress to approve a constitutional amendment giving the President line-item veto power over congressional appropriations. It would allow the President to veto individual sections of omnibus spending bills.

In my State of the Union message, I also proposed passage of a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget. Unfortunately, Congress so far has refused to move on these essential reforms and they are not supported by our opponents in this election.

Above all, we cannot afford to take a step back to the failed policies that got us into such an economic mess in the first place.

2. In light of relatively large pay raises given to service members in 1980 and 1981, which brought military pay to levels considered comparable with private industry, proponents for changing the military retirement system, including J. Peter Grace, Chairman of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, claims the military no longer needs so generous a retirement plan. Do adequate military pay levels justify changes in military retirement?
 - A. No. When we came into office, we established a number of long-term defense objectives to reverse the decline in U.S. influence and military strength, and to rebuild America's critical margin of safety. First among them was to improve significantly the salaries and living standards of military personnel, many of whom were actually on food stamps because of the meager salaries they earned.

At the time we began our task, we found that morale in the armed forces was dangerously low, the result of a failure to give our men and women in uniform the compensation and respect they needed and deserved. The quality of new recruits had declined while experienced personnel were leaving the military in record numbers. Less than 10 years after establishment of the all-volunteer armed forces, some critics were claiming it had failed and calling for a return to conscription.

Today, people are our biggest success story. Retention and recruiting are up dramatically. The Navy and Air Force attained record reenlistment rates last year, and all the services are meeting their recruitment targets. Ninety-one percent of the new recruits are high school graduates, up from 68 percent in 1980. These retention and recruiting successes are coming at a time when the economy is improving, a time when skeptics said young Americans would turn their backs on the military.

As long as I am President, neither America's active and reserve military personnel nor our retirees will ever again be neglected as they were in the period prior to our taking office.

3. One condition of service life is frequent reassignment for members and families. While the moves are made for the convenience of the government, the government refuses to reimburse service families for the full cost. Frequently, members pay several thousand dollars for their own money to cover the expense of moving to new assignments. If reelected, what additional actions, if any, would you take to eliminate this inequitable situation for service families?
 - A. We realize that the financial burden of relocation on members of our armed forces and their families is often great. For FY 1985, we originally requested service families be reimbursed for full moving costs. Although the formula for reimbursement has since been revised, you can be sure that all efforts will be made to ensure that this situation is made as equitable as possible for our military personnel and their families.

4. Nine major studies over the past 35 years have recommended changes to the current military retirement system. Last year you ordered the Pentagon to take a look at the military retirement system. The Fifth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation developed four alternatives for changing the current system, but your Administration balked at endorsing any of them. If reelected, would you send legislation to Congress recommending changes to the current retirement system, either as a lone proposal or as part of an overall package to revise federal retirement programs?
 - A. Since taking office, my Administration has been striving to develop workable solutions to the issue of military retirement pay. The FY 1985 defense authorization bill I just signed into law provides for a new military trust fund beginning next year, out of which will be paid the cash benefits for America's many deserving military retirees. I've indicated my commitment to maintaining a fair and equitable system that does not do a disservice to those many Americans who have so bravely worn the uniform. In a second term, you can be sure that our work will continue.

5. In the 1980 Presidential campaign, Republicans criticized President Carter for allowing military pay to decline significantly in relation to pay available in the private sector. This pay "gap" was blamed on pay caps recommended by President Carter as an example of pay restraint for the private sector. Military leaders eventually criticized the pay caps, blaming them for a large exodus of quality careerists from the services.

Though the Administration pushed for a large military pay raise in October 1981, the next year you supported a congressional cap on military and federal civilian pay and recommended a federal pay freeze in 1983 as a way to curb federal budget deficits. Congress eventually voted a four percent raise but delayed the effective date until last January. That year you recommended a three-month delay in the federal pay raise.

Aren't you approaching military pay raises in the same way that your predecessor did? Will you continue to recommend delays or caps on military pay through a second term in office?

- A. In our FY 1985 budget, we proposed a military pay raise of 5.5 percent, effective in January 1985. Unfortunately, Congress only voted a four percent raise.

As I said earlier, increases in military compensation and improvements in the quality of service life have helped us considerably in attracting and retaining qualified personnel. Over the past four years, there have been significant improvements in the manning of our armed forces. In terms of recruiting and retention, last year was one of the best in the past decade. Test scores and educational levels of recruits now exceed those of the civilian youth population. Continued improvements in retention, made possible in large part by better military pay, have resulted in a career force that is growing in size, experience and quality and an esprit de corps that just won't stop. If we are entrusted with a second term, we intend to continue on this path and solidify these long overdue improvements in our nation's military forces.

6. A recent IRS ruling indicates that military personnel should not receive tax-free housing allowances and still be able to qualify for tax deductions on mortgage interest and real estate taxes from their principal residences. Do you think the IRS' position is valid? If not, what actions would you take, if reelected, to see that military families do not lose the current tax advantage on their military housing allowances?

- A. Again, we must take every step to ensure that our military families are afforded treatment on a level equal to what they are entitled. We question whether the position taken by the IRS is a valid one as it applies to military personnel. In the absence of other compelling evidence, we will continue to abide by the long-established position that housing assistance should be non-taxable to present members of our military services. 7
7. Your so-called Grace Commission criticized military commissaries and suggested that special stores for military families in the United States no longer are justified, given current pay levels and members' accessibility to commercial supermarkets. Since then you have endorsed the work of the commission in general. Do you think stateside commissaries should be closed or their operations contracted out to private firms?
- A. We are currently in the process of reviewing the 2,478 recommendations of the Grace Commission, which has done an excellent job in developing suggestions on how to improve the management of the federal government. Although there has been a recent move in the Congress that would have the effect of directing the Defense Department to test privately operated commissaries in selected areas of the U.S., no such legislation has passed Congress.
8. The Democratic Party platform calls for a change in DoD policy to allow avowed homosexuals to serve in the military. Would you support such a change?
- A. Although I have long been opposed to discrimination against any segment of our population, I am likewise opposed to the conferring of special status upon segments of our population, when that occasion may or may not be justifiable. As such, we see no reason to change our current policy. 2
9. Did you or your advisors give sufficient consideration to the role U.S. Marines would play in Lebanon before sending them there to serve in a peacekeeping force among elements hostile to the United States? Knowing the result today, would you still have sent them to Lebanon?

- A. When we were asked by the Lebanese government to join the multinational peacekeeping force, we did so believing that our efforts would be instrumental in helping stabilize the fractured government there and, ultimately, in achieving peace in the region. The importance of this mission, and the Marine presence in Lebanon, was underscored by the ferocity of the attempts to undermine our forces there.

Of course, we deplore the tragic terrorist attacks on our personnel that occurred in Lebanon. Our outrage at the perpetrators remains as bitter as our sorrow for the victims and their families is deep.

Despite the cowardly attack on the brave men we sent to aid this embattled nation, however, we must not, cannot, and will not apologize for, nor retreat from, what was and still remains our ultimate goal in the region: promoting the peace.

10. If your Administration believes that U.S. allies are losing ground to Cuban- and Soviet-backed regimes in Central America during the next four years, will you commit American forces to a combat role in the region? Under what circumstances would you involve American forces in combat there?

- A. We have no plans to engage American military personnel in combat in Central America. In fact, El Salvador's President Duarte has assured the Congress that he "will never" ask American troops to fight in his country, and we have taken him at his word.

Our policy in Central America is based on four basic tenets. We will continue seeking to bolster democratic systems there where they already exist and help countries in the process to reach democratic goals quickly. We will support economic development, through direct economic aid and by way of trade and investment incentives and U.S. technical assistance. We will support the security of the region's threatened countries. And finally we will support dialogue and negotiations among the countries of the region and within each country and work towards diplomatic solutions in this troubled region that will serve the interests of the democratic process.

Above all, we are committed to peace in Central America as we are the world over.

Rec'd
9/28

September 27, 1984

Mr. James H. Lake
Director of Communications
Reagan-Bush 1984
440 First Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Jim,

Following are ten questions that are the basis for an article comparing Reagan and Mondale positions, mostly on personnel issues concerning the armed services.

We are still hoping that you will see fit either to schedule a visit by the President or vice president or to allow a first person interview between one or more of our reporters and the President.

But, given the press of time, I thought I should get these questions to you now in case nothing else works out. We will be publishing this article in two weeks (closing October 12).

1. How important are reductions in federal entitlement programs, like military retirement, in your plans for reducing the federal budget deficit over the next four years?

2. In light of relatively large pay raises given to service members in 1980 and 1981, which brought military pay to levels considered comparable with private industry, proponents for changing the military retirement system, including J. Peter Grace, Chairman of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, claim the military no longer needs so generous a retirement plan.

Do adequate military pay levels justify changes in military retirement?

3. One condition of service life is frequent reassignment for members and families. While the moves are made for the convenience of the government, the government refuses to reimburse service families for the full cost. Frequently, members pay several thousand dollars of their own money to cover the expense of moving to new assignments.

If reelected what additional actions, if any, would you take to eliminate this inequitable situation for service families?

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4. Nine major studies over the past 35 years have recommended changes to the current military retirement system. Last year, you ordered the Pentagon to take another look at the military retirement system. The Fifth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation developed four alternatives for changing the current system, but your administration balked at endorsing any of them.

If reelected, would you send legislation to Congress recommending changes to the current retirement system, either as a lone proposal or as part of an overall package to revise federal entitlement programs?

5. In the 1980 Presidential campaign, Republicans criticized President Carter for allowing military pay to decline significantly in relation to pay available in the private sector. This pay "gap" was blamed on pay caps recommended by President Carter as an example of pay restraint for the private sector. Military leaders eventually criticized the pay caps, blaming them for a large exodus of quality careerists from the services.

Though the administration pushed for a large military pay raise in October 1981, the next year you supported a congressional cap on military and federal civilian pay and recommended a federal pay freeze in 1983 as a way to curb federal budget deficits. Congress eventually voted a four percent raise but delayed the effective date until last January. This year you recommended a three-month delay in the federal pay raise.

Aren't you approaching military pay raises in the same way that your predecessor did? Will you continue to recommend delays or caps on military pay through a second term in office?

6. A recent IRS ruling indicates that military personnel should not receive tax-free housing allowances and still be able to qualify for tax deductions on mortgage interest and real estate taxes from their principle residences. Do you think the IRS's position is valid?

If not, what actions would you take, if reelected, to see that military families do not lose the current tax advantage on their military housing allowances?

7. Your so-called Grace Commission criticized military commissaries and suggested that special stores for military families in the United States no longer are justified, given current pay levels and members' accessibility to commercial supermarkets. Since then you have endorsed the work of the commission in general.

Do you think stateside commissaries should be closed or their operations contracted out to private firms?

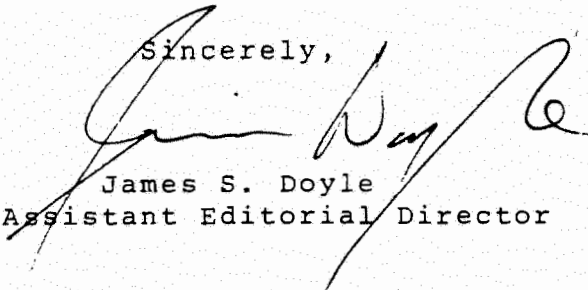
8. The Democratic Party platform calls for a change in DoD policy to allow avowed homosexuals to serve in the military. Would you support such a change?

9. Did you or your advisors give sufficient consideration to the role U.S. Marines would play in Lebanon before sending them there to serve in a peacekeeping force among elements hostile to the United States? Knowing the result today, would you still have sent them to Lebanon?

10. If your administration perceives that U.S. allies are losing ground to Cuban and Soviet-backed regimes in Central America during the next four years, will you commit American forces to a combat role in the region? Under what circumstances would you involve American forces in combat there?

Thanks in advance for your prompt attention to this, Jim.

Sincerely,



James S. Doyle
Assistant Editorial Director

JSD:mr