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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 16, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW
STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: H. LAWRENCE GARRETT, 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Q&A for American Legion Magazine

Counsel's Office has reviewed the draft answers to questions submitted to the President by American Legion Magazine, and has no legal objection to them.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

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

Name of Correspondent: David Chew

MI Mail Report

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

Subject: Request O+A for American
Remon Magazine

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>86,01,15</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>Crut 02</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>86,01,15</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>86,01,16</u>
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		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES

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- 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 - Inform 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, 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: 1/15/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. 1/16/86

SUBJECT: DRAFT Q & A FOR AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POINDEXTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHAVEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	STEELMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	THOMAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GIBSON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please give your comments directly to Tom Gibson, with an copy to my office by 1:00 p.m. tomorrow. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 15, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW

FROM: TOM GIBSON *TG.*

SUBJECT: Draft Q & A for American Legion magazine

Attached, for staffing, are draft answers to questions submitted to the President by American Legion magazine.

The President has already been photographed with the American Legion editors. In order to meet their publication schedule for the March issue, the final manuscript needs to be mailed to Indianapolis next Monday, January 20.

Thanks very much.

cc: Pat Buchanan

January 15, 1986

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL Q AND A FOR AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

1. Mr President, looking back over the past five years, how have you fulfilled your 1980 campaign promise to rebuild America's defenses?

Five years ago, the conventional wisdom seemed to be that the all-volunteer army wasn't working. Troop morale was dangerously low and military families overseas were having serious trouble making ends meet. I am proud that we turned this around. Military pay levels are now about one-third higher than they were back in 1980, and military personnel overseas have more buying power due to the stronger dollar. The men and women in uniform once again have reasons to join, to train, to stay in, and to prepare for any emergency. They are really the muscle, mind and heart of America's defenses.

Perhaps I am most pleased by the quality of our all-volunteer force. We are attracting substantially more recruits than in 1980, and the percentage of new recruits with a high school degree is the highest ever.

Re-enlistment rates are up as well. And this is happening despite the opportunities our growing economy has produced in the private sector.

And we're working to give these men and women the tools they need to get the job done. Thanks to our program to restore our defenses, we now have planes that can fly and ships that can sail. We are proceeding with the MX and the B-1 bomber, and we are approaching our goal of a 600-ship Navy.

2. You met last November with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union. What did your discussions accomplish?

More than anything else, my goal was to meet my Soviet counterpart and to have a frank discussion with him one-on-one, without distraction or media filters.

He found out that I'm not the trigger-happy buckaroo they sometimes picture me in PRAVDA. And I found out that, though he believes very strongly in his Marxist-Leninist worldview, he may be willing to consider a little give and take on certain issues.

The meetings amounted to a fresh start. That phrase holds no illusions: It simply means that we aired our differences, looked for common ground, and planted some seeds that, by the next summit, might grow into tangible agreements.

3. Why do we continue to negotiate with the Soviet Union, when they repeatedly violate treaties and agreements at will?

That's a good question. There are times when negotiating with the Soviet Union serves no useful purpose other than to give the western media stories to write. If you are looking for an agreement -- any agreement -- in order to score points for domestic consumption, the Soviets get the idea that you can be taken for a ride.

Or, if the American military posture is in bad shape and our alliances are in tatters, as was the case five years ago, you send off the wrong signals by trying to negotiate from a position of weakness.

The key to negotiating with the Soviets is to seek treaties that allow us to verify how well the other side is keeping its word. I decided my second term was the time to pursue the negotiations at full press -- partly to see if the other side was serious. Since the Soviet negotiators had stayed away from the table for a year during my first term, there were certainly some doubts about that.

I can't predict even now that there will be agreements as to arms, world trouble-spots and so on, this year or in 1987. But your readers should rest assured that our country will sign nothing that is not verifiable and is not in our national interest.

4. The Soviet Union has sharply upgraded its chemical warfare capability. What is the U.S. response?

The United States signalled its abhorrence for chemical weapons by unilaterally halting all research and development on chemical weapons, and by burying those weapons stockpiled since 1972.

American restraint in this area was not met with equal restraint by the Soviets. On the contrary -- the evidence shows that they continued beyond the research stage and into deployment of chemical weapons, which have been unleashed on the Afghans and on the people of Indochina.

5. Afghan Freedom Fighters have held out against Soviet armed forces for six years with inadequate support from the West. Why is the United States not offering more support, when the Mujahadeen is in such desperate need of material and other forms of assistance?

More assistance is exactly what we do plan to give the freedom fighters in Afghanistan. Their bravery stands as a continuing reminder of what some must endure for freedom's sake.

In the case of the Afghans, it's more than abstract freedom they're fighting so valiantly for. As a recent Washington Post editorial put it, their struggle is against a monstrous machine of genocide. One third of her population has fled. One third is starving. The remainder endure the torments of a ceaseless air war against civilians, chronic shortages of food and the rudiments of medical care, and the relentless propaganda of the so-called "liberators" -- who bark that all these troubles are the result of Western "imperialism."

6. What is our government doing to protect American citizens, both at home and abroad, from terrorist attacks? What is the policy of your Administration when such attacks occur?

This gets into an area where I cannot answer direct questions for fear of compromising some of the efforts we have underway. But there is no question that protecting the lives of Americans is the highest duty of government.

As for what can be done when these beasts and thugs carry out terrorist attacks, I look at each situation individually. But, as I warned those hijackers of the Achille Lauro, those animals can run, but they can't hide.

7. You have stated that the resolution of the POW/MIA issue is of the "highest national priority." What is our government currently doing to account for our missing servicemen?

The information we have makes it impossible for us to rule out the possibility that there are American servicemen alive and imprisoned today in Vietnam. We are investigating the 95 unresolved reports of first-hand sightings, and are working with the Vietnamese to investigate some of the 200 known sites where U.S. military aircraft crashed in that country.

8. Mr. President, the Congress recently passed the Balanced Budget and Deficit Reduction Act of 1985, mandating a balanced budget by 1991. One provision of the law would require across-the-board spending cuts if Congress fails to meet the specified budget targets. What effect will this legislation have on your program to rebuild the Nation's defenses?

My agreement with the Congress called for a one-year pause in our defense buildup, in conjunction with our efforts to tighten up certain domestic items and abolish some dozen nonessential programs. That was to be followed by two years of 3 percent growth in military spending after inflation.

We froze defense spending, but we never got the type of spending cuts and program terminations we wanted. The House of Representatives seems to have been the culprit here.

If, back in August, Congress had produced a credible budget plan for the current fiscal year, Gramm-Rudman-Hollings might not have been needed. But we have it, and I signed it, despite some doubts. All I can say at this point is that I am going to insist on two more years of 3 percent growth in defense, to put the finishing touches on what we did in the first term.

9. Should veterans' benefits be exempt from these automatic across-the-board cuts?

Yes. The legislation I signed into law on December 12, 1985, stipulates that there can be no automatic cuts in Veterans Compensation and Veterans Pension.

10. Mr. President, when you leave office in January 1989, what legacy do you hope to leave your country?

There are several accomplishments, or ideas, that I hope for in my second term.

Domestically, I hope to see the federal government's financial house put in order, with continued economic prosperity. This will require the discipline of spending reductions, the implementation of meaningful tax reform, and other proposals that will allow individuals and businesses to boost productivity and keep the American economic engine at full speed.

The other legacy I want to endure is that of a secure America, protected by traditional military readiness and by a Strategic Defense Initiative. One day, even if it takes twenty years, we are going to shield the American people, and the European people, and the Russian people, from the threat of missile-borne nuclear warheads.

As we get to the point where that's possible, we will, by applying good old American ingenuity, be making the world's nuclear arsenals less and less useful -- for as we move toward more effective missile defenses, we take the pay-off out of nuclear retaliation.

This can't happen overnight. We are moving slowly but surely away from the balance-of-terror, and toward the balance-of-safety. In that direction lies a safer world, for ourselves and our children.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR TOM GIBSON
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Interview
for Industry Week Magazine

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

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

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

Name of Correspondent: Paul Chew

MI Mail Report

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

Subject: Draft Presidential Interview for Industry Week Magazine

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>Cutoll</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8/10/03</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>Cant 18</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>8/10/03</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>8/10/04</u>
	Referral Note:			<u>5pm</u>	<u>1 1</u>
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	Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

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- 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, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR TOM GIBSON
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Interview
for the Arizona Republic

Counsel's Office has reviewed the draft Presidential interview for the Arizona Republic. It might help mitigate potential commercial exploitation problems if "my favorite Western writer" in line four of the response to question two were changed to "one of my favorite Western writers."

For what it's worth, the response to question four struck me as a bit trite and stereotypical -- and I'm not convinced that the air in Los Angeles is cleaner, or the air in Seattle dryer, than air in the East.

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

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

Name of Correspondent: Dave Chew

MI Mail Report

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

Subject: Grant Presidential Interview via Arizona Republic

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>WHOU</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>86.01.31</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
<u>Mat 18</u>		<u>R</u>	<u>86.01.31</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86.02.03</u>
		Referral Note:				<u>12N</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
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			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/31/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 p.m. 2/3/86

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW FOR ARIZONA REPUBLIC

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POINDEXTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHAVEZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ^P ^{SS}	STEELMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	THOMAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GIBSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please give your recommendations directly to Tom Gibson, with an info copy to my office by 12:00 p.m. Monday, February 3rd. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW

FROM: TOM GIBSON *TG*

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Interview for Arizona Republic

Attached, for staffing, are draft Presidential answers to questions submitted by the Arizona Republic.

Thanks very much.

cc: Pat Buchanan

January 31, 1986

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW FOR ARIZONA REPUBLIC

1. Mr. President, how would you describe a "Westerner"?

There's a line in Glendon Swarthout's novel The Shootist: "We hung onto our pride." That's an important part of being a Westerner -- having pride in yourself, pride in the land, and pride in what you can accomplish with the sweat of your brow. It's the image John Wayne projected -- tough, independent and pioneering -- when he starred in the movie version of the book.

2. Who is your favorite Western author? Your favorite Western works of art?

If you had asked me about my favorite Western movies, we would be here all day.

While I don't have near enough time for light reading in this job, my favorite Western writer is Louis L'Amour. He writes about the rugged individuals with deep-seated values who conquered the frontier. A L'Amour novel, such as Hondo or Jubal Sackett, reaffirms the potential we Americans have as explorers, as pioneers and as a free people. ✓

Since moving to Washington in 1981, Nancy and I have tried to make the White House something of a showcase for works by Western artists. A total of nearly 50 works by George Catlin hang throughout the West Wing. The White House collection includes works by Charles Russell, Henry Farny, Alexander Proctor and a number of other Western artists.

I have surrounded myself with nearly a dozen works of Western art in the Oval Office. My good friend Barry Goldwater gave me "Arizona Cowboy," a magnificent bronze sculpture by Ray Renfro, on behalf of the people of Arizona. Among the other bronzes are Frederic Remington's "Bronco Buster" and "The Rattlesnake," as well as a set of twelve miniature bronze saddles by Paul Rossi illustrating the evolution of the saddle from the sixteenth through the twentieth century. In fact, from the moment you walk into the Oval Office, it's plain that a Westerner is in the White House.

3. Why is it that the East and West seem to have such divergent political, economic, and social agendas?

I'm not so sure that East and West are as different as some observers make them out to be. On the surface, it might appear that Westerners have a different agenda from Easterners, Midwesterners or Southerners. But we're all Americans -- a united people, living in freedom under God. People in New York, in Illinois, in Arizona and in California all have the same goals, the same dreams. We all want freedom and peace. We all want to make the world safer for our children.

All of us want prosperity. We want plenty of productive jobs and low inflation. Right now we have both. I think Americans want to restrain the federal budget, while leaving the family budget alone. I'm optimistic about that coming to pass, too.

Raising your taxes is no permanent cure for the deficit. A tax hike to reduce the deficit would impose substantial burdens on American families and reduce incentives to work, save and invest -- and create more jobs. Experience has also shown that higher taxes do not necessarily go to reduce the deficit, but more often are used to justify increased government spending.

And I know that Americans want a tax code that's simpler, fairer, and that promotes a healthy economy. We've made a good start on tax reform last year. I look forward to working with the Senate to finish the job in 1986.

4. How would you describe the difference between the Washington, D.C. and Western lifestyles?

Life in the East is very different from our life in the West. For the most part, the East keeps a slightly quicker pace and is somewhat more crowded -- some might say "citified." It is also more devoted to manufacturing and commerce. The American industrial revolution started in the East. ?

Westerners are more likely to be farmers or ranchers, though we have our manufacturing and the banking and commercial activities that support economic activities of all kinds. And the air is different -- dryer, cleaner. ?

The West is, as we all know, full of wide open spaces. The spectacular grandeur of the West leaves its imprint on all of us and makes us closer to and more appreciative of the land.

5. Why has the conservative philosophy dominated the presidential races in the West for nearly 40 years?

Westerners are by nature and necessity individualists. Westerners have long known that government couldn't do everything and that yes, it was doing too much. Government doesn't have the answer to every problem, and it can be the cause of many. It didn't work, it invited inefficiency and it just plain cost too much.

More recently, I think that great surge of economic growth we had after the 1981 tax cuts convinced a lot of people -- in the whole country -- that working Americans in a free economy could do more than any politician's promise.

6. Why have so many federal policies affecting the Nation's 300 Indian tribes seem to have failed? Will you undertake new policies for American Indians in your second term?

In the past, the government's policy failed to recognize the special relationship between Indian tribes and the federal government, a relationship based on a long history of treaties and congressional actions. Instead, the policy was to treat native Americans as Washington's wards. This mindset led to the creation of weak economies in Indian country, often supported by nothing more than monthly federal handouts. There was no attempt to build industries, start businesses, or promote the creation of real jobs. This led to a cycle of dependency on the federal government, which in turn led to more subsidies. In short, in many cases, a paternalistic federal government just made matters worse -- leaving treaty issues unresolved and undermining tribal initiative.

In January 1983, I issued a policy statement that marked the beginning of the end of this wrongheaded approach. This Administration is restoring tribal government so Indians can resume control over their own affairs. Soon we will be announcing new policies which will help identify markets for Indian businesses, create wealth on the reservations, and bring jobs to Indian people. We're also encouraging the tribes to negotiate treaty claims rather than spend years in costly litigation.

The solution is self-determination and self-sufficiency. In that spirit, I appointed Ross Swimmer as Assistant Secretary of the Interior last year. Ross was chief of the Cherokee tribe in Oklahoma and is the first tribal chief to be named to that job.

7. About 90 percent of the Nation's mineral wealth lies in the West. Many of these industries, especially copper, are having a rough time. Any positive signs or solutions ahead?

Prices of a number of commodities are lower than they were in the recent past; wheat, cotton, gold and oil today are much cheaper than they were in 1980, even without discounting for inflation. Continued economic growth is the only way to get these commodity-based industries back to full strength. And the outlook is encouraging.

Under our economic recovery and expansion, the rate of inflation is staying low and growth remains on track. And our major trading partners are gaining economic strength. As these countries experience noninflationary economic growth such as America has seen over the past three years, the value of foreign currencies will rise, and markets for U.S. products will grow.

I'm only too aware that the copper industry has had its share of problems, as fiber-optic technology has replaced copper wiring in telecommunications and other areas. To examine the state of affairs in copper and other mineral industries, I recently created the Critical Materials Council to provide a focus within my Administration on minerals and materials issues.

8. Your administration has proposed a new federal-state relationship in water. What steps do you plan to simplify overlapping jurisdictions and bring about a clearer cost-sharing policy?

You better believe I know how precious water is to us. In this Administration, we've tried to keep federal policy flexible and at the same time get the different federal agencies to show some consistency in their activities related to water policy.

With respect to sharing costs of water projects, we've been working with Congress on this. In our fiscal year 1987 budget, we propose the people who benefit from these programs put up about half of the cost. That's a reasonable figure -- and it's only fair to the taxpayers.

9. What steps will you take to get control of our borders and stop the flow of illegal immigrants?

We're a nation of immigrants. Over half of all Americans have an ancestor who passed through Ellis Island. So we want fair, workable immigration laws that can be enforced. We want to curtail illegal immigration by making it illegal to give these people a job. And that means we're going to have to make some changes in existing law.

Until we do that, we're vigorously enforcing the laws we have. Since 1981, 800 more Border Patrol agents are on the job and funding for the Immigration and Naturalization Service has been increased 60 percent.

10. What happened to the Sagebrush Rebellion?

Few people in Eastern and Southern states realize how much of the land the federal government owns in the West. Only 10 percent of Alaska is in private hands; the federal government holds title to some 581 million acres. In Arizona, the federal government owns over 44 percent of the land; in Nevada, over 85 percent; and in my own California, almost 46 percent. Use of these lands, of course, is highly restricted and has become more so over the years. When used for grazing, for example, a great deal of red tape and endless regulation are involved.

I think what really set off the "rebellion" was the decision by the previous administration -- in one of its first acts in 1977 -- to "review" or eliminate some 320 federal water projects. Many of these projects in the West had been partially completed, and many private ventures had been started on the assumption that these projects would be completed. Millions had been spent and there was no need for more Washington bureaucratic "studies." I am sure you recall that the Central Arizona Project was on their hit list.

As you know, this enraged the Congressional delegations from the Western states -- and a long-simmering resentment in the West toward the federal government just boiled over and was dubbed "the sagebrush rebellion."

The term "sagebrush rebellion" is convenient shorthand, but it almost trivializes what was behind it. Fundamentally, it was all about government meddling, tossing arbitrary barriers and delays in front of people who have clear vision and a declared purpose. That sort of meddling will frustrate any American -- Westerners, I suppose, most of all.