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**Collection:** Roberts, John G.: Files  
**Folder Title:** JGR/Presidential Radio Talk  
(01/30/1986-02/28/1986)  
**Box:** 39

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

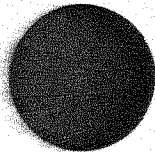
FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Radio Talk: Budget

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced radio talk,  
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: Barack Obama

MI Mail Report      User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Presidential Radio Talk: Budget

**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>86,01,30</u>		<u>1 / 1</u>
<u>cuat 18</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>86,01,30</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>86,01,30</u> <u>5:30 PM</u>
		<u>1 / 1</u>		<u>1 / 1</u>
		<u>1 / 1</u>		<u>1 / 1</u>
		<u>1 / 1</u>		<u>1 / 1</u>

**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: 1/30/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:30 p.m. TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: BUDGET

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHAVEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	<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 provide any comments/recommendations directly to Ben Elliott by 5:30 today, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Elliott)  
January 30, 1986  
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: BUDGET  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1986

My fellow Americans, this has been a difficult week for the United States. Never in recent times have we been as shaken by a tragedy as by the disaster of the space shuttle Challenger.

America has suffered a great national loss and we mourn as one people, united in our grief. Yet as I said to the children of America last Tuesday, we must find courage to push on. The future does not belong to the fainthearted, it belongs to the brave. The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future -- and we'll continue to follow them. Nothing ends here, our hopes and our journeys continue.

Great challenges exact great, heroic struggles. We sometimes forget, so long has it been since we've suffered a failure in our space program, that progress doesn't come without huge, daunting risks. The future isn't free; freedom isn't free; we have to make freedom be all over again, every day of the year.

Nowhere is that lesson clearer than here in Washington, D.C. The Federal Government has been living beyond its means for 24 of the last 25 years. Government has been taxing and spending your earnings as though they're inexhaustible; as though there need never be the kind of struggle to make ends meet that families undertake each week. This is why we have nearly a \$2 trillion debt hanging over our future.

All of us were told by our parents, "You've got to face reality." Today, we as a Nation must face the reality that

deficit spending, if permitted to continue, could eat away the economic gains we've made these last few years and undermine the well-being of our children. Recent passage of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings amendment was an admission by the Congress that zero hour is upon us; that America must make decisions we've never been willing to make before.

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings would force the Congress to meet a deficit target each year in the Federal budget by cutting the growth in Federal spending. Each year the deficit must be cut by a fixed amount until it is brought down to zero in 1991. If Congress can't meet these targets, then we in the Executive Branch will do it for them.

The law provides for certain exceptions for certain truly necessary social services that won't be cut. But there are slews of programs and activities that are either too big, that shouldn't exist at all, or that should be handled by State and local governments or private enterprise, consistent with their traditional responsibilities.

One example is Conrail, which should prove to any skeptic that the Federal Government has no business running railroads. It is our intention to sell Conrail back to private enterprise.

Our Administration's 1987 budget meets the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings goals for reducing the deficit. And we will do it by keeping faith with the fundamental commitments we made to the American people: First, we will not cut the essential safety net programs to anyone who needs such

assistance. Nor will we cut Social Security payments to those who have paid their dues to society.

Second, we will insist that defense not be cut below the absolute minimum requirement of 3-percent real growth. When we came to Washington in 1981, U.S. military security had been shamefully neglected. We hadn't built a new strategic weapons system since the 1960's, and we'd been dismantling our nuclear warheads even as the Soviet Union was racing forward with the most awesome military build-up in history.

The morale and training of our Armed Forces was sinking. An alarming percentage of our planes and ships couldn't take off or leave port, and basic munitions like bullets and artillery shells had fallen to less than a 30-day supply.

The Soviet Union wants nothing more than to see America flinch and forsake the rebuilding program we've worked so hard to get started. Actions that cripple our defense build-up can only endanger American security by rewarding an aggressive regime that continues to arm way beyond any legitimate defense requirements.

Finally, let me make it plain that our budget will not increase taxes on the American people, and any tax increase the Congress sends me will be D.O.A. -- dead on arrival.

We haven't built 37 months of economic expansion and created over 9 million jobs by raising taxes on the people. We've done it by increasing opportunity; building that American Opportunity Society for tomorrow is the vision that must continue to unite and inspire us in the days ahead.


Until next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 6, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS   
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Radio Talk: Budget

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced radio talk and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective. I would point out, however, that we expect a decision from the special three-judge court hearing the Gramm-Rudman litigation at noon tomorrow. The court's opinion may necessitate changes in the remarks, but it is impossible to say until we read the opinion.

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: David Chew

MI Mail Report      User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Radio Talk Budget

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>CU Hall</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>86102106</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:			
<u>Chat 18</u>		<u>B</u>	<u>86102106</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>86102106</u> <u>5PM</u>
		Referral Note:			
			<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:			
			<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:			
			<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:			

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>ACTION CODES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A - Appropriate Action</li> <li>C - Comment/Recommendation</li> <li>D - Draft Response</li> <li>F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary</li> <li>R - Direct Reply w/Copy</li> <li>S - For Signature</li> <li>X - Interim Reply</li> </ul> | <p><b>DISPOSITION CODES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A - Answered</li> <li>B - Non-Special Referral</li> <li>C - Completed</li> <li>S - Suspended</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|
- 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: 2/6/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: BUDGET

2/6/86 1:30 p.m. draft)

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	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 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>ELLIOTT</u>	<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 comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 5:00 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Elliott)  
February 6, 1986  
1:30 p.m.

1986 FEB 10 11 20 AM  
PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: BUDGET  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1986

My fellow Americans, if you listened to my State of the Union Address this week, you heard what will be my number one priority in the budget debate this year -- to cut the fat out of the Federal budget, and to stop anyone trying to cut the heart out of your family budgets. As a matter of fact, I want the Federal Government to leave the family budget alone.

In keeping with the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings amendment passed by Congress -- the amendment that mandates steadily declining deficits each year -- we have proposed a fair and responsible plan to bring the budget into balance by 1991. We will do so without harming our defense build-up, without cutting Social Security or essential support programs for those in need, and without raising taxes on you the people.

But a funny thing happened on the way to Capitol Hill. Those who have carped loudest about the need to cut deficits suddenly cried foul when confronted with real proposals to cut deficit spending and eliminate Government waste. Think of it: self-proclaimed deficit warriors saying that a nearly trillion dollar budget -- a sum too staggering to comprehend, more than double what Government spent only 10 years ago -- is so inadequate it would wreak havoc throughout the Nation.

So, once again, as they do year-in and year-out, they trot out their tired, old litany -- tax increases are unavoidable.

My, my, is that so? Let me give you some facts about how a little cooperation and common sense can put us on a glide path to a balanced Federal budget -- without harming your family budgets or hurting any American truly in need of assistance.

We begin with the projected deficit for fiscal year 1987 -- \$182 billion. Under Gramm-Rudman-Hollings we must reach a deficit target of \$144 billion; so that means we need to cut the deficit by \$38 billion to get down to the \$144 billion target.

Where will we get the \$38 billion? Well, we're going to raise a small portion by holding a garage sale to get rid of some of our antiques, such as old military bases, like Fort Monroe in Virginia, a base so old it dates back to the Civil War and is surrounded by a moat.

We're going to sell our train set, better known as Conrail. It's high time Government got out of the railroad business, and that includes Amtrak, our passenger liner. We can no longer justify paying subsidies close to \$35 for every passenger who boards an Amtrak train; or funding a system in which three-quarters of the stations board fewer than 50 passengers a day; or asking taxpayers to pay 25,000 Amtrak employees who, in turn, service only 52,000 daily riders.

We're also going to raise some \$6 billion in user fees -- making sure Government gets paid for Government services when those services benefit special interests. For example, weekend sailors and yachtsmen alike benefit from Coast Guard licensing, inspection, and navigation services. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spends \$3 million every day to operate and improve our

harbors and inland waterways, yet commercial cargo carriers pay only 10 percent of that coast.

The balance of deficit reductions we need to make to get down to \$144 billion will come from \$25 billion in program cuts. Now \$25 billion is a lot of money. But it's only 2-1/2 percent of our total budget. Take out items we won't touch, such as Social Security and interest on the debt, and the cuts we are proposing come to only 6 percent of the remaining budget.

Six cents on the dollar is what we're asking the Congress to cut. If Congress can't cut 6 cents on a dollar, they should never again utter a word about budget deficits. Let's face it, there's a ton of fat in this trillion dollar budget.

I'm talking about Government spending over \$2 billion for a Los Angeles Mass Transit system, almost as much as Government collected in revenue from all the individual income taxes paid in Mississippi and Arkansas last year.

Or Government spending \$200+ million a year for a job placement program that duplicates other programs and spends 75 percent of its dollars on State salaries and agency overhead, not on training and placement.

We are poised for an historic reversal against rising deficits. The collapse we're witnessing in oil prices is a dream come true that will give America's economy an enormous boost -- stretching your take-home pay further, reducing costs to industry, and making it easier for all to invest for our future.

My fellow Americans, toss out the conventional wisdom and get ready to welcome a banner year for jobs and growth. We are

going to reach our deficit targets; we are going to preserve essential services; we are going to keep America strong; and we are not going to let anyone raise your taxes -- period.

Until next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 12, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

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

SUBJECT: Presidential Radio Talk: Welfare

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential radio talk 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: David Chew

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Radio Talk: Welfare

**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>CUTROLL</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>86,02,12</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
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<u>cuat 18</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>86,02,12</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86,02,13</u>
	Referral Note:				<u>10am</u>
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				

**ACTION CODES:**

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
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- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/12/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m., 2/13/86

SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: WELFARE

(2/12/86, 2:00 p.m. draft)

	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MILLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHAVEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	<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 comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Gilder/Robinson/PJB)  
February 12, 1986  
2:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: WELFARE  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1986

My fellow Americans: There is a crisis in America today. To some of us, it is a hidden crisis -- concealed behind tenement walls or lost down dark ghetto streets. But for millions of Americans the crisis is ever-present and growing, one which threatens to become a permanent scar on the American promise of hope and opportunity for all.

I'm talking about the crisis of family breakdown among the welfare poor. In the ghettos today, families are dissolving at a frightening rate. Even more disturbing, families as we think of them are not even being formed. As many as 80 percent of all babies born in the welfare culture are born out-of-wedlock. Most families are headed by single mothers; too often, those single mothers are barely even teenagers. They're children -- many of them 13, 14 and 15 years old -- with all the responsibilities of grown-ups thrust upon them too soon.

The fathers of children being raised by single mothers are often nowhere to be found. It's not uncommon for one father to have children by several girls. In some instances, you have to go back three or even four generations before you can find an intact family -- it seems even the memory of families is in danger of becoming extinct.

And what of the babies born out-of-wedlock, these children born to children? Statistically, we know that out-of-wedlock babies are much more likely to have a low birth weight and thus

serious health problems. We know that out-of-wedlock children are much more likely to suffer from child abuse as well.

And what sort of future can they look forward to? The family is the most basic support system there is. For two centuries now, it's been families pulling together that have provided the courage, willpower and sense of security that have enabled millions of Americans to escape poverty and grab hold of the lower rungs on the ladder of opportunity. How often have we heard about the immigrant father, laboring long into the night to save the money to give his children the advantages he never had? How many self-made men and women in America owe their successes to the strength of character given them by hard-working, loving parents?

But for the children of child-mothers and absentee fathers there is often only a deepening cycle of futility, hopelessness and despair. We are in danger of creating a permanent culture of poverty, as inescapable as any chain or bond, a second and separate America, an America of lost dreams and stunted lives.

The irony is that it was misguided welfare programs, instituted in the name of compassion, that turned a shrinking problem into a national tragedy. From the 1940's on, poverty in America was declining rapidly. American society, an opportunity society, was doing its wonders; economic growth was providing a ladder for millions out of poverty and into prosperity.

Then in 1965, when Lyndon Johnson declared his famous "War on Poverty," a funny thing happened -- poverty, as measured by dependency, stopped shrinking and actually began to grow worse.

I guess you could say, poverty won the war. Poverty won because instead of helping the poor, Government programs ruptured the bonds holding poor families together.

Perhaps the most insidious effect of welfare is its usurpation of the role of provider. In States where payments are highest, for instance, welfare payments to a single mother can be almost twice as much as the useable income of a minimum-wage job. In other words, it can pay for her to quit work. In almost every State, a family on welfare is eligible for substantially higher payments when the father is not present. What must it do to a man to know that his children will be better off if their father leaves home? In some States, a 14-year-old girl is eligible for welfare payments that will set her up in an apartment of her own, provide medical care, and feed and clothe her for the rest of her life. She only has to fulfill one condition -- have a baby and not marry the father.

Obviously, something is desperately wrong. With only a little more than half our welfare outlays, we could give enough money to every man, woman and child living in poverty to lift them all above the poverty line. Instead we spend vast amounts on a system that perpetuates poverty. But the waste of money pales before the sinful waste of human potential, the squandering of so many millions of hopes and dreams.

In my State of the Union Address last week I directed Attorney General Edwin Meese, as chairman of the Domestic Policy Council, to study the family needs of the poor and report back to me with recommendations by December 1st. I consider this one of

the top domestic priorities of my Administration. The welfare tragedy has gone on too long. It's time at last to build a welfare system that can be judged by how many Americans it makes independent of welfare.

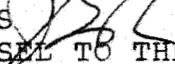

Until next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS   
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT 

SUBJECT: Presidential Radio Talk: Packard Commission

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced radio talk 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:   Dana Chew  

MI Mail Report      User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject:   Radio Talk: Packard Commission  

ROUTE TO:	ACTION	Tracking Date	Disposition	Completion Date
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code	YY/MM/DD
<u>  CUTROLL  </u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>  86102126  </u>		<u>  1  /  1  </u>
	Referral Note:			
<u>  Cnat 18  </u>	<u>  R  </u>	<u>  86102126  </u>	<u>  S  </u>	<u>  86102127  </u>
	Referral Note:			<u>  1pm  </u>
		<u>  1  /  1  </u>		<u>  1  /  1  </u>
	Referral Note:			
		<u>  1  /  1  </u>		<u>  1  /  1  </u>
	Referral Note:			
		<u>  1  /  1  </u>		<u>  1  /  1  </u>
	Referral Note:			

**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, 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: 2/26/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. 2/27/86

SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: PACKARD COMMISSION

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STEELMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input 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>ELLIOTT</u>	<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 provide any comments/recommendations directly to Ben Elliott by 1:00 p.m. Thursday, with an information copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:



(Gilder/BE)  
February 26, 1986  
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO ADDRESS: PACKARD COMMISSION  
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1986

My fellow Americans, last Wednesday I addressed the Nation on the state of our national defense. I spoke of our commitment to an historic rebuilding program that has lifted America up out of weakness and given us the strength and confidence to reassume our role as leader of the free world. In a world too often prey to the forces of violence and tyranny, America is once again a bulwark for peace and freedom.

We have come far, I said, in building the solid foundations of a strong and secure national defense -- but we have not finished the job. We must not let all that we have accomplished in the last 5 years be undermined by thoughtless, careless slashing at the defense budget. America must never again slide back into helpless insecurity. America must never become -- as it looked like it was becoming in the late seventies -- a paper tiger.

My foremost responsibility is our national security, just as it is the prime duty of Congress to appropriate the necessary resources to keep our defenses strong. This is our responsibility -- not only to America, but to the cause of human freedom. It is also our job to make sure that every tax dollar of yours we spend, we spend well. Defending freedom over the long haul requires that we get, as it is sometimes put, the most bang for every buck.

Defense Secretary Weinberger has already made great strides. The isolated horror stories of \$400 hammers and the like were actually rooted out by his own investigations in an all-out attack on waste and abuse. The more complete story is told by the overall figures. Before we came into office, defense costs had been out of control, escalating at an annual rate of 14 percent. Cap Weinberger reined them in, got them under control. For the last 2 years, cost increases have fallen to less than 1 percent -- significantly lower than the rate of inflation. Cap has saved us billions -- and in the process he's helped build the most effective fighting force in the world.

But there is still more we can do. As we continue rebuilding our defenses, we must constantly look for new savings -- we must, if necessary, restructure the less efficient parts of our defense program so that waste is actually designed out, and cost effectiveness is designed in.

Last summer I appointed a bipartisan commission to study ways that we can redesign defense appropriations and management to make every defense dollar go as far as it possibly can. To head the commission, I chose Dave Packard, an entrepreneur and self-made man who started Hewlett-Packard in a garage in the 1930's and built it into one of our country's leading high-tech, computer and electronics companies. Dave is world famous for his management skill, and his company is reknowned for its efficiency and modern management techniques.

Only an independent commission, I knew, could sort out the exaggerated criticisms of the press and point the way to

effective reform. The initial recommendations came in this week -- they are everything we might have hoped for from the commission, a tremendous example of American ingenuity and know-how applied to an extremely complex and difficult problem. Their application, I'm convinced, would make every defense dollar more effective -- and make America stronger.

I won't go into all the details here, just give you some of the highlights. First is reform of the budgeting process to give us firm 5-year projections and 2-year budget cycles. We're the only major country in the world that rewrites its defense budget every year -- and the waste that results is immense. No company in the private sector would survive if it couldn't plan for the future, but had to hastily and repeatedly alter its plans to accommodate shifting budgets. The effect of funding programs day-by-day is less defense and more cost. Furthermore, much of the waste in defense is directly attributable to the appropriations process. The vote delays on the MX missile and suspension of the B-1 bomber cost this country billions of dollars -- dollars that are lost forever as those systems that were set back had to be reprogrammed at higher cost.

We also need less micro-management. Instead of scrutinizing every paper clip, bolt and bullet, Congress should give more thought to our overall defense needs and strategy. Further changes include involving the Joint Chiefs of Staff in drawing up the budget; efficiencies from more multi-year contracting; increased use of commercial products; streamlined management -- and focusing accountability within the procurement process.

Also, the commission suggests a reorganization of the Joint Chiefs that will make their role more unified.

We're studying this report in depth and will be announcing our implementation plans in the near future. This is an historic opportunity for the Congress and the executive branch to work together to give the American people what they deserve -- the best, most efficient, proudest Armed Forces in the world.

Until next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.