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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTOK

October 24, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Ceremony with Grace Congressional Caucus

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks. On page 2, line 21, "constitutionally entitled" should be changed to "intended." Arguments that many of the programs referred to in the remarks were beyond the constitutional powers of the Federal Government have long since been rejected.

cc: Davić L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/24/85				00 P.M. TODAY
SUBJECT: REMARKS:	Ceremony W	ith Gr	ace Congressional	Caucus
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RESPONSE:

(Dolan/BE) October 24, 1985 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CEREMONY WITH GRACE
CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1985

I'm delighted all of you are here today. First, the distinguished leaders of the Grace Congressional Caucus — Chairman Beau Boulter and co-chairmen Buddy Roemer, Gordon Humphrey, and Dennis DeConcini. Also, representatives from Associations United To Cut Federal Spending — 43 trade organizations who advise the caucus. And, lastly, members of the Grace Commission and of another of my favorite organizations, Citizens' Against Government Waste.

You know, Peter, every time you're here I start thinking about how the Grace contingent keeps growing in numbers, in power, and in influence. Believe me, nothing delights me more; because we need a people's lobby here in Washington. But, Peter, I wonder, do you have some plans for '88 that I should break to George Bush, Jack Kemp, and a few other people?

But, to be serious. All of you are here today because of your deep concern about a problem in Government that's easy to talk about in terms of statistics -- saving this or that many billions a year, and the war against waste and fraud is worth waging on, on just these grounds alone.

But I know your involvement goes even beyond this. The people who came before us in this Nation put a heavy emphasis on what is today almost a forgotten virtue; we called it thriftiness back in Dixon, (and I know some of you remember the days when "a scout is thrifty"). Thriftiness was a quality appreciated as a

kind of signal about the maturity and judgement of a person or institution, an indication that a whole set of even deeper values were there.

I think some of you in the business world have noticed that when a company gets into trouble there are usually much deeper problems than simple inefficiency: it involves all sorts of other projects and activities that are wasteful or marginal and a neglect of the essentials — those products or services that made the firm successful in the first place.

Government is no different. As I mentioned to the U.S. Attorneys the other day, this same sort of thing seemed to have happened in our courts. While pre-empting many of the prerogatives of other branches of government, the courts were neglecting their most essential task: protecting the innocent from criminal wrongdoing. And, as the people in this room know better than most, the Federal Government was headed a few years ago in much the same direction. It was neglecting essential tasks like protecting our Nation's security abroad and upholding the law at home while it built gigantic bureaucracies to handle all sorts of problems, problems it was neither competent nor constitutionally entitled to handle. And then the special interests became involved -- and pretty soon the way to a prospering political career was to vote for higher appropriations and for grand new spending schemes that appealed to this voting bloc or that.

And if this pattern of putting politics over country sounds familiar, that's because it is; historians have frequently seen

in this "bread and circuses" climate the signs of government in decline and a nation in decay. Faith in our democratic system -- and without that faith democracy simply can't work -- was being undermined. The average citizen harbored enormous feelings of resentment towards Government and an enormous sense of frustration; they believed the only voices that were heard in this city were those of the organized lobbies or special interests, not the taxpayers.

Those of you associated with the Grace Commission have forthrightly and without apologies helped change all this. You've shown that citizens from every walk of life could come to the Capitol and not only make their voice heard but persuade and, yes, push and prod Government to change its ways.

The Grace Commission stood back and took a look at Government, concluded that the Federal Government has lost its moorings and came up with concrete proposals on how to recover those moorings.

But, as Peter often says, now the most important part of the job is upon us -- making sure that the Grace Commission is not remembered as just another Government commission, and that its recommendations don't become just another pile of reports gathering dust in the Library of Congress.

And on this point, I've just come from a meeting with the Cabinet. I've approved going forward with 83 percent of your recommendations. Many have already been implemented, others included in the 1986 budget and still others to be included. And

let me assure you, we will continue over the balance of the Administration to look at those that are deferred at this time.

I've also asked Jim Miller to have O.M.B. continue to monitor and report progress to me quarterly through the Domestic Policy Council. And finally, I also thanked Peter Grace at the close of the Cabinet meeting and let me do so now again publicly. Peter, I can think of few Americans who have done more to make the people's voice heard in Washington; you shook this city up; you put the issue of waste and fraud front and center on the public agenda. I'm grateful to you and so is America.

But, now, we must work together to get your recommendation through the Congress. And that's what this people's lobby of yours is all about. It's why the Congressional Caucus leaders who are here today are so important. Imagine the courage of these members of Congress who would dare to associate themselves with such a clear-cut effort to thwart the special interests, I want to thank each of you. In carrying on this battle, you're going to need the help of the largest pressure group of all—the taxpayers. And that's why the work of the trade associations and the Citizens Against Government Waste are also so vital; vital in the battle against budget deficits, and vital to the strength and resiliency of the democratic system and public confidence in our Government.

So, I want to congratulate you on all you have done. You know I have mentioned this to you before, but I can well remember a time when waste and fraud were thought of as issues without any political appeal, issues that stirred little interest in the

media or among the seers and sayers in Washington. All of that has changed now; Government mismanagement is a hot story and the Grace Commission has played a key role in bringing that change about. Our job now is to make sure the next hot story out of Washington is not so much about waste and fraud as about the determined efforts of Government officials and private citizens like yourselves to end its insidious and dangerous influence.

In fact, I want you to know the vigor with which you have pursued this fight has inspired me on two closely related matters; and, once again, the issue is your issue: making Government responsive to the people. First, I want to stress the importance of an effective resolution this year to our deficit problem, and I think the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings proposal is an excellent one.

And second, I think some of you know we have a tax reform plan on the agenda this fall; it's a plan I am certain has the overwhelming support of the American people.

Right now Congress is in deliberation on this matter, and that deliberative process is something I deeply respect. I will await its outcome attentively.

But let me say today I believe that the essential items of tax reform as I've outlined them have the support of the American people. And I want action on this plan; I want action this year and so do the people. Believe me, if necessary, I'm prepared to spend a lot more time with Congress at Christmas this year than either of us originally anticipated.

Thank you and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS

FROM:

TOM GIBSON

SUBJECT:

Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act of 1985

The following talking points on the Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act of 1985, better known as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings proposal, are for your information and use by spokesman within your office or agency.

If you have any questions, please call.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 6, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Dinner with Prince Charles

and Princess Diana -- State Dinner Toast

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

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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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:

(Robinson/BE)
November 6, 1985
1:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DINN

DINNER WITH PRINCE CHARLES AND PRINCESS DIANA STATE DINNER TOAST SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1985

Your Royal Highnesses, Sir Oliver and Lady Wright, ladies and gentlemen: Mrs. Reagan and I are deeply honored to welcome the Prince and Princess of Wales to this grand old American home, the White House. By the way, quite recently portions of the White House were repainted -- and I'm afraid that when we removed the old paint, we found scorch marks from the British burning of the house back in 1814. Now you've returned, and all Washington is once again ablaze.

You may recall that in his 1941 address before a joint session of the Congress, Prime Minister Churchill remarked, "I cannot help thinking that if my father had been American and my mother British, instead of the other way around, I might have got here on my own." Your Royal Highnesses, the reception you have been accorded by my countrymen has made it quite clear that, if you had been American, you might well have made it to this house on your own.

Your Royal Highnesses, your kingdom and our Republic are bound together by innumerable ties of ancient history and present friendship. Our language, our law, our democratic system of Government, our fierce belief in the God-given right of men to be free -- all these the United States owes to your island. We have traded with each other, to our mutual benefit, in all the decades since my country was founded. We have stood together through two

great world conflicts. Today, we go on shoulder-to-shoulder in an alliance formed to protect the democracies which, just 40 years ago, so many gave their lives on the beaches of Normandy to defend.

This evening we have gathered on a happy occasion -- a celebration of "The Treasure Houses of Britain," perhaps the most magnificent exhibition ever mounted. The exhibition presents five centuries of British achievement -- five centuries of elegance, beauty, and charm. I should add wit. When Nancy and I saw the exhibition the other day, we learned to our surprise that one enormous silver wine cooler had regularly been used by its owners to give their dog its baths.

"The Treasure Houses of Britain" richly details the cultural life of your kingdom, the land which in turn provided the foundations of our own cultural life. Truly, it is a great gift -- a gift from the houses' owners, from the British people, and from you, the exhibition's-patrons. I speak on behalf of the American people when I extend to you our gratitude.

Your Royal Highnesses, in the eyes of my countrymen, you and your family hold a place of high honor. By setting an unfailing model of dignity and grace, you serve the American people as surely as you serve your own. Your devotion to duty commands our esteem. Your self-evident love for your kingdom and its commonwealth inspires us. Certainly the American people join the British in looking upon you with affection and respect.

In his 1941 address, Prime Minister Churchill looked forward to our times. "It is not given to us," he said, "to peer into

the future. Still I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American people will for their own safety and for the good of all walk together in majesty, in justice, and in peace."

Today that noble hope remains a glorious reality.

Please join me in a toast: Her Majesty the Queen.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 26, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: All Star Party for Dutch Reagan

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

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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11:00 a.m. tomorrow

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/25/85	_ ACTION/CONCUR	RENCE/CO	DMMENT DUE BY:	L:00 a.m. tomor	row
SUBJECT: REMARKS:	All Star Pa	rty fo	or Dutch Reagan	- Burbank, Cali	f
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REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 11:00 a.m. tomorrow. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

ALL STAR PARTY FOR DUTCH REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS BURBANK, CALIFORNIA SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1985

Well, it's good to be Dutch again. And it's wonderful to be surrounded by so many fine and talented friends. To paraphrase Jack Kennedy, there hasn't been so much talent assembled in one room since -- well, since the last time Monty Hall hosted "Let's Make a Deal."

Seriously, Nancy and I have watched these parties over the years, and we're thrilled to be a part of the good work of the Variety Clubs International.

And something Lucy said last year applies to the way I feel right now. Let's see if I can quote her accurately: "To those of you who said such nice things about me tonight... I just wish you were all under oath."

You know, when I first started in my present job, I'd sometimes put together in my mind my own dream cabinet. You know, John Wayne as Secretary of State, Jack Benny as Secretary of Treasury, Groucho Marx at Education. But even Presidents can't have everything -- except tonight. Tonight, with all of you here -- well, you've really made my day.

And this evening is a perfect capper for a pretty busy 2 weeks. A happy ending to Thanksgiving Dinner with the family after our pilgrimage to Geneva where all of your dreams and hopes and prayers were in my mind every minute of every day.

As for all of you who were so generous in sharing your talents with us tonight -- will you please stand so that I may applaud you all once more.

Frank -- Old Blue Eyes -- as always you have been the perfect host. "The Voice" rings just as pure and clear as ever for all of us "Guys and Dolls" who are still "Young at Heart."

Speaking of music, Steve and Eydie -- I like the songs you sang. Not a clinker in the bunch.

And Dean Martin -- "there you go again..." Dean, I'm thrilled you were able to be here tonight for Burt Reynold's party. Sometime if they ever have a party for Nancy and me, I hope you can make that one, too.

Vin Scully, it's good talking baseball again. You brought back a lot of happy memories. Monty Hall, the voice of Variety Clubs, thank you for your presentation. And Mike Frankovitch, you share those words of gratitude; everybody knows how devoted you are to Variety.

Chuck Heston -- I always knew you had leadership qualities ever since I saw you play Moses. You were eloquent and gracious in your remarks about Number 80 on the Eureka first squad -- thank you, I couldn't begin to tell you how you make me feel.

To <u>all</u> of you associated with the good work of Variety -you have our eternal gratitude for arranging this party, for all
the good work you have done in your half a century of giving and
caring for those who need our help the most -- the innocent
children of the world. Having my name associated with your good

work in the University of Nebraska will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you all very much.

And now speaking for Nancy as well as myself, to all of you here and to all Americans everywhere, paraphrasing something "Moses" said earlier, God shed his grace on thee.

Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 27, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Statement: Thanksgiving Message

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

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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Please submit your comments on the attached to Ben Elliott by 9:30 tomorrow morning with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Robinson/BE)
November 26, 1985
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT: THANKSGIVING MESSAGE-THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1985

As we consider the state of our Nation on this Thanksgiving Day, we do, indeed, have much for which to be grateful. Our economy is powerful and growing. Inflation stands at the lowest point in more than a decade-and-a-half, and during the past year, our country has enjoyed the creation of more than 8-1/2 million jobs.

Throughout America, the fabric of our society is strong.

The crime rate is down, education test scores last year showed the sharpest rise in more than two decades, and there is a feeling in the air of renewed patriotism and hope. In the words of author George Gilder, "The future looks more open and promising...than it did before, for the simple reason that it is more open and promising."

In the world arena, our defenses are more secure and, true to our noblest ideals, we are on the side of freedom fighters in oppressed countries around the globe, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola, and Nicaragua. Earlier this month, I met Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva. The Soviets today remain our adversaries just as they did before. But now both sides more clearly understand the differences between us, and I hope world peace can be put on a more secure footing.

Economic opportunity, liberty, and peace -- yes, we have reason to give thanks with full hearts. And as we express our gratitude to the Almighty, let us pray for the continued goodness

and strength of the Nation we love, the Nation Mr. Lincoln called "the last, best hope of man on earth."

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 16, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW

STAFF SECRETARY

FROM:

H. LAWRENCE GARRETT, INTE

SUBJECT:

Presidential Statement: ASAT

At your request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential statement, and has no legal objection to it.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

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

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

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

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/16/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:30 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT: ASAT

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations to my office by 2:30 P.M. TODAY. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

If left unreversed, the House-Senate Conference Committee decision to unilaterally halt the testing of America's anti-satellite weapon will do major injury to the national security of the United States.

On its face, the Congressional action is inexplicable. The Soviet Union already has, in its weapons arsenal, an operational anti-satellite weapon. There is no conceivable reason for American legislators to deny the armed forces of the United States that same capability.

The purpose of this ASAT weapon is to give America's armed forces the ability -- in the event of crisis or conflict -- to destroy Soviet inner-space satellites, which target the naval ships of the U.S. fleet. Why any American Congress would vote to leave the sailors and ships of the United States in a condition of permanent vulnerability escapes me.

By unilaterally halting America's testing program, the Congress would not only do the work of the Soviet arms negotiators, it would tie the hands of our own. What incentives do the Soviets have to reach agreements, if they know the Congress will grant them such concessions gratis. I urige both Houses to reconsider this foolish and dangerous decision.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Mini Press Conference Opening Statement:

Gramm-Rudman and Defense

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

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1	2/19/85	ACTI	ON/CON	CURRENCE/COMN	MENT DEBY	4:00	p.m. TO	DAY
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REMARKS:

Please give your changes directly o Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by :00 p.m. today. Thanks.

CLOSE HOLD

RESPONSE:

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MINI PRESS CONFERENCE OPENING STATEMENT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1985

Good afternoon.

As we approach the end of 1985, we can look back on a year of great accomplishments -- accomplishments that hold even greater promise for the future.

Today, America is closer than ever to an historic, sweeping revision of her tax code. They said it couldn't be done. Well, this week we showed everyone that it can be done and that we're going to do it. The tax revision still has some distance to travel, of course. There must be significant changes to make sure that families get the tax relief they desperately need, that tax thresholds are raised up again, off the back of the middle class, and that deeper marginal tax rate cuts keep America humming with growth and opportunity. But pro-growth tax reform is on the horizon.

With the passage of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, deficit reduction has become the law of the land; and Secretary Baker's bold, new G-5 initiative is a major step toward expanding world trade and prosperity and giving our farmers and other exporters a better chance in foreign markets. These positive developments will further invigorate our already lively economy. America has created 8.8 million jobs in the last 3 years, employment is at record levels, and the stock market has soared to all-time highs. Inflation is holding down around 3 percent, interest rates keep falling, and since our de-control decision, oil prices continue

downward, throwing the once mighty O.P.E.C. into disarray. Our Nation is bursting with new businesses, new products, new ideas. America is in the vanguard of the technological revolution, blazing a path toward the future.

On the international scene, the wolf of protectionism has been kept from our door. Our strategic deterrent will be strengthened with the 50 M.X. missiles voted by Congress. Because we've restored our defenses and military readiness, we were able to bring the terrorist murderers of the Achille Lauro to justice. The technology for our Strategic Defense Initiative advances by leaps and bounds.

A new consensus is forming in foreign policy that America must help the brave freedom fighters around the world who are on the front lines of freedom. The true nature of the Communist threat in Central America is no longer a subject of debate. We now send humanitarian assistance to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua. But we must be sure they get the aid they need to keep the light of freedom alive in their country. This year, too, Congress repealed the Clark Amendment, announcing to the world that where the cause of freedom is at stake, the greatest free Nation on Earth will no longer tie its own hands.

America has never been so confident, so strong, so full of hope and possibility. 1985 was a very good year, alright. But if you think this is good, just wait till 1986.

America is on a roll.