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WASHINGTON

January 7, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR TOM GIBSON SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS ASSOCIATE COUNSES TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Briefing Materials for the President's Questions and Answers with Washington Bureau Chiefs

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

cc: David L. Chew

CU 1D # WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET D O-OUTGOING C H - INTERNAL E 1 - INCOMING Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) Dave Chew Name of Correspondent: User Codes: (A) MI Mall Report (B) (C) IM Subject: aton 212 11 ROUTE TO: ACTION DISPOSITION Completion Type Action abil Office/Agency (Staff Hame Dode M/DD Code AAU 11 HOLL 86,010 ORIGINATOR **Bayarral Note:** cuat 18 91,01,01 Referral Note Referral Note: **Referral Note** Petercal Note . ACTION CODES BIBROSITION CODES 1 - Into Gopy Dnly/No Action Necessary IR Direct Repty w/Gopy C - Completed A - Appropriate Action - 80 C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Fornish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure S - Suspended irral S - Nos-. x - For Signature s × 100 F FOR DUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE Type of Response Initials of Signer Cad -A - Date of Outgoing Completion Date Comments:

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

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

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Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/7/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:30 p.m. TODAY

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR THE PRESIDENTS Q & A WITH WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEFS

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REMARKS: Please give your recommendations directly to Tom Gibson, with an info copy to my office by 2:30 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW

FROM: TOM GIBSON /-

SUBJECT: Briefing Materials for the Presidents Q & A with Washington Bureau Chiefs

Attached are brief talking points on issues that may be of particular interest to the stations represented in the bureau chiefs interview -- San Francisco, Miami, Detroit.

These points are drawn from materials that have previously been staffed.

cc: Pat Buchanan

IMMIGRATION

- Fair and workable immigration laws are a component of America's greatness, but they are currently in urgent need of reform if the U.S. is to regain control of its borders.
- RR supports swift enactment of legislation to reform U.S. immigration laws.
- RR strongly opposed to moves by certain cities to declare themselves so-called "sanctuaries" for illegal aliens.
- Such declarations have no legal basis whatsoever and serve merely to raise false hopes, encourage even more illegal immigrants, and make problem much worse.

TEXTILES

- RR is deeply sympathetic about job layoffs and plant closings that have affected textile workers and has asked the Congress for an additional \$100 million under the JTPA to retrain textile workers.
- Not all textile industry jobs have been lost to increased imports. There have been improvements in productivity, which we need to remain competitive.
- RR vetoed the textile bill because it would have raised clothing costs to U.S. consumers and invited retaliation against U.S. exports, costing jobs in other industries.
- Textile and apparel industries are already the most protected industries in U.S. -- more than 1,000 quotas on imports from 35 countries.

 Aids education and research continues to be a top priority of the Administration. By the end of this year, the federal government will have spect almost half a billion dollars to fight aids.

We all have hopes that drugs and vaccines against AIDS car be secured. In the meantime, major efforts should focus on presention and lowering the risks of spreading the disease.

AUTO INDUSTRY UPDATE

 U.S. automakers sold an estimated 8.2 million cars in 1985, the highest level since 1979.

AIR SAFETY -- GRAMM-RUDMAN AND FAA BUDGET

- Gramm-Rudman-Hollings will only force cuts <u>if</u> Congress fails to act on the Administration's budget -- which contains no cuts for FAA safety inspectors or air controllers."
- Indeed, additional inspectors and controllers are planned for the next few years.
- In the meantime, the Federal Aviation Administration will take no steps which would endanger American air passengers.
 - NOTE: FAA Administrator Engen has ordered an agency-wide hiring freeze, from which aviation safety inspectors, air controllers, and security specialists are exempt. Technicians, who service radar and electronic facilities, are subject to the freeze.

Reports today in the media, via an employees union spokesman, have asserted that Gramm-Rudman-Hollings will force personnel cuts and undermine safety.

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

JOHN G. ROBERTS FROM: SUBJECT: Talking Points on Tax Reform

David Chew has asked that comments on the attached tax reform talking points be sent directly to Tom Gibson by noon tomorrow. The talking points review the highlights of the House bill, and note that the President hopes improvements in the bill will be made by the Senate. The draft notes that the President will oppose final Legislation that is not true reform or which threatens growth. I see no legal problems.

Attachment

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WASHINGTON

January 7, 1986

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

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

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SUBJECT: Talking Points on Tax Reform

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

cc: David L. Chew

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Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/7/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: Noon 1/8786

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SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS ON TAX REFORM

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

RESPONSE:

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW

. .

FROM: TOM GIBSONID.

SUBJECT: Talking Points on Tax Reform

Attached, for staffing, are draft talking points on tax reform. They are taken directly from materials prepared for the President's press conference this evening.

I'd like to put these out as soon as possible.

Thanks very much.

TAX REFORM

As a result of President Reagan's personal intervention, the House of Representatives, on December 17, 1985, passed the most sweeping tax reform bill in more than 40 years. The focus now shifts to the Senate, which the President expects will pass a tax reform bill this year.

Highlights

1 g . . 1

Under the House bill, most median-income families of four would receive substantial tax relief; the largest percentage reductions in taxes would be received by low income taxpayers. In addition:

- -- The top individual rate would be reduced to its lowest level since 1931.
- -- 93 percent of all taxpayers would be in the 15 or 25 percent bracket.
- -- 88 percent of all taxable returns, at every income level, would receive a tax reduction or experience no change in tax.
- -- Corporate tax rates would be reduced to their lowest level since 1941.

In addition, the personal exemption and standard deductions would be increased substantially, and millions of working poor would be removed from the tax bill.

Senate Action

The House bill is a good start, not a final product. More must be done to broaden the tax bases, reduce rates further, and lower the cost of capital.

It was apparent from the beginning that it would take bipartisan support to get tax reform through the House. There were some understandable differences of opinion on the content of the tax reform bill as this bipartisan effort was being assembled.

The President will now work for improvements with the Senate, but will oppose any final legislation which does not meet his goals of true tax reform or which threatens economic growth.

Footnote

In June 1985, one month after the President official unveiled his tax reform proposal, a <u>New York Times</u> columnist wrote that the tex reform bill was dead. After the bill passed the House last December, that surprised columnist wrote: "How did it happen?"

WASHINGTON

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January 8, 1986

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

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Talking Points on 1985 Achievements

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

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/7/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: C.O.b. January 8th

SUBJECT: _____ DRAFT TALKING POINTS ON 1985 ACHIEVEMENTS

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REMARKS: Please give your recommendations directly to Tom Gibson, with an info copy to my office by close of business tomorrow. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW

FROM: TOM GIBSON

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SUBJECT: Draft Talking Points on 1985 Achievements

Attached, for staffing, are draft talking points on the Administration's principal achievements of 1985. They are drawn from previously staffed materials, and are intended for use by Administration spokesmen in lieu of our regular "monthly highlights" talking points.

I'd like to put these out as soon as possible. Thanks very much.

cc: Pat Buchanan

PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1985

- <u>Economy</u> -- America enters its fourth year of economic recovery and expansion.
 - -- Inflation for the year at about 3.6% (CPI).
 - -- Job creation -- There are nearly 9 million more Americans working today than there were in 1982.
 - -- <u>Interest rates</u> -- the prime rate, now at 9.5%, dropped to its lowest level in more than 7 years.
 - -- <u>Stock market</u> at record levels: December 16, Dow-Jones closed above 1553, an all-time high.
 - -- Energy prices trending down -- The real price of imported oil has declined about 45% since President Reagan ordered immediate decontrol in January 1981. The OPEC cartel can no longer dictate prices. A gallon of regular gasoline, adjusted for inflation, now costs the same as it did in the 1950s.
 - -- <u>Healthy U.S. auto industry</u> -- U.S. automakers sold an estimated 8.2 million cars in 1985, the highest level since 1979.
- Gramm-Rudman-Hollings -- Most sweeping anti-deficit legislation in history; will put federal government on a proper course to a balanced budget. The President is committed to working with Congress to meet deficit targets.
- c <u>Tax Reform</u> -- Because of President Reagan's personal involvement, the tax reform process has been kept alive by House passage of the most sweeping tax reform legislation in more than 40 years.
- Farm Policy -- Major steps toward market-oriented approach, reversing failed policies of past administrations.
- <u>Geneva Summit</u> -- Better understanding reached with the Soviets; people exchanges undertaken; commitment to Strategic Defense Initiative preserved; agreement to hold future meetings.
- Free and Fair Trade -- The President opposed protectionist measures; toughened enforcement of existing trade laws; took multilateral steps to realign currencies; and worked to resolve worldwide trade imbalances, and to open more markets to U.S. products abroad.

- c Growing bipartisanship in foreign policy:
 - -- Congress voted \$1.5 billion for 21 additional MX missiles; MX total is now 50.
 - In June, Congress voted to resume aid to freedomfighters in Nicaragua, reversing the House vote in May.
 - -- Clark Amendment was repealed, allowing the U.S. to aid those on the side of freedom in Angola (Savimbi/UNITA).
- Achille Lauro -- Demonstration of U.S. resolve to bring terrorists to justice, wherever they may hide.

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PRESIDENTIAL POPULARITY

- o In the 35 years since ratification of the Twenty-Second Amendment, limiting U.S. presidents to two terms, each president suffered a precipitous decline in his approval ratings in the first year of his second term.
- In the fifth (or comparable) year of successive presidencies, the Gallup survey reported the following declines:

Truman: dipped 24 percentage points

Eisenhower: 13 percentage points

Johnson: 12 percentage points

Nixon: 24 percentage points

Postwar average: 18 percentage points

- President Reagan is unique among his postwar predecessors in that his approval has climbed during the first year of his second term. The President started his second term at 62% and remained at 63 percent in October 1985, the most recent official Gallup poll released. Other end-of-year polls per the President's popularity at about 68 and 69 percent.
- Most blacks back the President, according to the latest New York Times poll released January 6, 1986. The President's approval rating among blacks soared from 38 percent in November 1985 to 56 percent in December -- the highest ever.

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1986

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

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Draft Talking Points on Economic and Domestic Highlights for the Month of January

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

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/3/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: DRAFT TALKING POINTS ON ECONOMIC AND DOMESTIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

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REMARKS: Please give your recommendations to Tom Gibson, with an info copy to my office 5:00 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

WASHINGTON

TRACTION -

February 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW

FROM: TOM GIBSONIG.

SUBJECT: Talking Points on Economic and Domestic Highlights for the Month of January

Attached, for staffing, are talking points covering good economic and domestic news for the month of January. They are for distribution to agency spokesmen.

I'd like to put these out as soon as possible. Thanks very much.

cc: Pat Buchanan

WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Economic indicators show expansion remains vigorous. Index of leading indicators rose 0.9% in December 1985, the strongest monthly gain in four months. According to the Commerce Department, the Leading Indicators Index has risen in 32 out of the past 37 months and reached an all-time high in December.
- More good news on inflation. The Producer Price Index increased just 1.8% last year. From 1983 to 1985, the U.S. enjoyed the lowest three-year wholesale inflation rate in 20 years.
- Crude oil prices dropping. The spot market price for key U.S. crude oil has fell more than \$10 per barrel since the end of November 1985, reaching the lowest levels in more than 7 years.
- Auto sales: riding high. An estimated 15.7 million cars and trucks were sold in the U.S. last year, a new record. The unemployment rate in Detroit, Michigan is less than half its late-1982 level.
- Americans take-home pay rises. Personal income rose 1.4% in December, a \$46.6 billion Christmas bonus for all Americans, the Commerce Department reports. The December performance equals an 18% jump when measured at an annual rate.

Housing update:

Housing starts are up in every region. In December 1985, national start-up rate for privately owned housing units was 13% higher than year-earlier level.

And housing is more affordable. November figures from National Association of Realtors show the median income income provides 99.7% of the funds needed to qualify for a standard (20% down) loan on a median-priced home. Using this measurement, the median-priced home is more affordable today than at any time since December 1978.

New-home sales surged in December to their highest level since 1979 as falling interest rates pushed mortgage rates to their lowest levels in more than six years.

- We're living longer. Gains in the U.S. standard of living have produced greater life expectancy and driven infant mortality down to its lowest level ever, according to a recent Health and Human Services report. A child born in 1983 can expect to live 74.6 years.
- GSA does more with less. In January, the General Services Administration sold 34,000 vehicles at public auction, grossing \$54 million in the sale to replenish the government's auto fleet -- with something left over for the Treasury. Hertz and Avis now consult with GSA to improve their own inventory practices.

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1986

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

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: State of the Union Fact Sheet

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

cc: David L. Chew

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Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/3/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: STATE OF THE UNION FACT SHEET

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REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits directly to Tom Gibson, with an info copy to my office by 3:00 p.m. today. Thanks.

VERY CLOSE HOLD

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew Staff Secretary Ext. 2702 -

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

2/3/86 8:00 a.m.

1.1

TO: DAVID CHEW

.

FROM: TOM GIBSON Director of Public Affairs

Attached, for appropriate staffing, is the final draft Fact Sheet for the President's February 4 State of the Union Address.

This draft reflects final speech edits as of January 31, 1986.

b

WASHINGTON

February 5, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD CLAREY OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Fact Sheet: America's Agenda for the Future

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

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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| inter of Correspondent: David | Chew. | | | s |
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| Comments: Submit Co | minate | to Da | - Clarry | info- |
| Du | nd Chew | | | 1 1 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 |

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Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON Wed., 2/5/86 DATE: 2/4/86 • • ۰. SUBJECT: FACT SHEET: AMERICA'S AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

| | | ACTION | FYI | | | |
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REMARKS:

Please submit your comments on the attached directly to Ben Elliott's office with an info copy to me by noon tomorrow. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew Staff Secretary Ext. 2702