

MKD

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1982

Dear Charlie:

Thank you for your February 15 letter about Herbicide Orange. I understand that you also sent your ideas to Secretary Weinberger and that his staff is reviewing your proposals in-depth. I will ask Cap to keep me apprised of the status of that effort.

Herbicide Orange is certainly an emotional issue with many sectors of our population, and I think your ideas may be of great help in ensuring that the real issue is understood and solved.

Thank you for your letter and for your continuing support in important matters of national security.

Keep in touch.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL K. DEAVER  
Assistant to the President  
Deputy Chief of Staff

The Honorable Charles J. Conrad  
346 Camino Dos Palos  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

*BCC: Secy Weinberger*

CHARLES J. CONRAD  
346 Camino Dos Palos  
Thousand Oaks, California, 91360  
805 / 492-6006

MEMORANDUM: New approach to the AGENT ORANGE controversy  
DATE: February, 15, 1982

The Administration should insist EPA quickly issue a final ruling on the use of 2,4,5-T in the United States. Since 2,4,5-T is one of the two components of Agent Orange, EPA's indecision only encourages additional stories alleging that herbicides are responsible for many health problems among Vietnam veterans.

The Administration must realize few, if any, environmental-health issues have received the sustained national interest that has been focused on Agent Orange; interest kept alive by "investigative" reporters, environmental extremists, peace groups and lawyers who file suits on behalf of Vietnam veterans. The Administration no longer can afford a game plan that seeks to avoid controversy. It is time to take the offensive.

Such an offensive may even help sell the Reagan program to the American people. The charge often made by the opposition is we are manufacturing B-1 bombers and neutron warheads at the expense of the school lunch program and medical care for the aged.

The time and money DoD has spent seeking answers to the Agent Orange problem adds not one bit of fire power to our military hardware. It does demonstrate (along with efforts by the VA and HHS) the Reagan Administration's concern for the well being of the Vietnam veteran and his family.

Here are a few items that should be fed to the news media:

DoD is bending over backwards to get the facts on Operation Ranch Hand. Thousands of man/hours are being spent looking over 40,000 feet of records of the Vietnam war, matching troop movements with the 6,000 herbicide missions, in an attempt to pinpoint possible exposure to Agent Orange.

At long last (after delays caused, in part, by law suits by such organizations as Agent Orange Victims International) the Air Force has begun a medical study, that may last for at least twenty years, into the health records of the 1,264 pilots, navigators and equipment operators who flew the Ranch Hand missions, hence are known to have been exposed to Agent Orange. At the same time a "control group" has been formed of 1,264 individuals who are as close as possible in physical characteristics to the Ranch Hands but never have been exposed to herbicides. If Agent Orange does, indeed, create medical problems in Vietnam veterans it will be indicated as, year after year, health records of those two groups are compared.

Cost for each Ranch Hand examination is estimated at between \$2,500.00 and \$3,000.00. This study has been funded, for the first five years, at somewhere between \$25,000,000.00 and \$30,000,000.00, another indication of the Administration's concern for the Vietnam veteran.

While DoD is spending that amount on a study that can provide answers to the Agent Orange controversy, Congress has directed the VA to adopt a doubtful program, already costing millions, that

will not, in my opinion, produce enough worthwhile information to justify the expense.

This mandate may have resulted from such statements as the one made on the MacNeil-Lehrer Report by Frank McCarthy, then President of Agent Orange Victims International. Speaking of the Vietnam veteran McCarthy declared "we are all poisoned," a preposterous remark but one never challenged by the news media.

Under this Congressional mandate, any man who served in Vietnam can claim he was exposed to Agent Orange. The VA must process this claim, unless the problem resulted from activity after service in Vietnam. The veteran then receives a physical examination; not as complex as that given a Ranch Hander but estimated to cost between \$300.00 and \$400.00 per veteran. Then he is asked to complete a questionnaire about his service in Vietnam and his name is entered in the Agent Orange Registry. 73,000 examinations already have been completed costing somewhere between \$22,000,000.00 and \$29,000,000.00. .

At first glance this program might appear to be the best way to assure fair and honest treatment of the Vietnam veteran. However, the regulations under which this study is being carried out will not produce accurate information as to whether a veteran has suffered injury to himself or his children through exposure to Agent Orange and simply may encourage attorneys to file additional suits against the United States government.

There is a fatal flaw in both the examination and the questionnaire. No inquiry relating to the use of drugs or alcohol may be

asked of the veteran.

One argument against the claims of such groups as Agent Orange Victims International is they list 150 different ailments allegedly resulting from contact with Agent Orange. No chemical, or mixture of chemicals, known to science produces so many and so varied afflictions. On the other hand, some diseases blamed on exposure to Agent Orange also result from excessive use of drugs or alcohol. Yet the VA is prohibited from asking questions on those two subjects when examining a Vietnam veteran. Thus, disability benefits may be awarded a veteran and charged to Agent Orange when the problem actually resulted from a drug habit or excessive use of alcohol.

Another flaw: Since there is no criterion for filing a claim, except the veteran actually served in Vietnam, it will be a self selected group, likely to include an inordinate number of chronic malcontents plus those who have filed suits against the government.

However, one extremely interesting and important statistic has developed; 73,000 examinations produced not one case (repeat, not one case) of cloracne, the hallmark symptom of exposure to the dioxin TCDD. TCDD is the contaminant found, in minuscule amounts, in Agent Orange. I have yet to see this fact mentioned in the news media.

Caution: Any attempt by the Administration to publicize this fact will bring on a wave of propaganda from those broadcasting falsehoods about Agent Orange. They will point out between 400 and 500 of those 73,000 veterans have been granted disability payments. While such payments resulted from the examinations, the disabilities

cannot be directly related to Agent Orange. Rather, it was the veteran's medical records that substantiated the claim by indicating he had complained of the problem while serving in Vietnam.

To keep this paper within reasonable length, I will not mention other studies on Agent Orange that will cost millions of dollars without adding to our military strength.

It is time for the Administration to remind the American people of the reason for Operation Ranch Hand, a fact that has been down played by the news media. When, for example, environmentalists complain of damage to the mangroves in Vietnam, DoD public relations should recount the story of how the Vietcong literally built cities on boats concealed by the mangroves. Each night they would lay down boards, steal through the swamps to infiltrate our positions, kill Americans and ARVN, then retreat to their boats, pulling in the boards that gave them footing.

Agent Orange, very effective against the mangroves, removed those sanctuaries, just as it removed the jungle cover that concealed snipers. No longer should DoD avoid controversy but "tell it from the mountain" that Operation Ranch Hand saved American lives.

I must, however, point out one instance where the Administration has ordered a reduction in a program that provides invaluable information.

This is the site monitoring program at such places as Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, Gulfport, Mississippi and Johnson Island in the Pacific. These places were heavily contaminated with herbicides, such as Agent Orange, when they were used as test sites,

storage and disposal facilities. This program has been cut from \$150,000.00 to \$10,000.00. This is false economy.

As stated in my paper The Agent Orange Hoax, the Eglin Air Force Base is the most heavily contaminated area on the face of the earth, as far as Agent Orange is concerned. There, on an area only 3 miles square, 160,000 lbs. of 2,4,5-T and 170,000 lbs. of 2,4-D were sprayed during the period 1962 to 1970.

Site monitoring programs have been going on at Eglin Air Force Base since 1973. Hundreds of biological samples have been analyzed for the dioxin TCDD, including 30 species of animals. Those tests indicate it is highly unlikely veterans could suffer ill effect from the amount of exposure to Agent Orange that might have occurred during their service in Vietnam.

Site monitoring should, at least, be continued at the former level, perhaps even be expanded. In addition, a top level member of the Administration could suggest to the broadcasting industry that the networks, always ready to dispatch television crews all over America to record the statements of a handful of Vietnam veterans who claim they are suffering from cancer or have produced children with birth defects as a result of exposure to Agent Orange, have yet to do a program on studies of animal and plant life at Eglin Air Force Base.

For years, newscasters and broadcasting executives have ignored requests from individuals like myself. They might act differently if the suggestion came from someone high in the Administration and if it were made on the CBS Evening News, Good Morning America or NBC Reports.

Additional site monitoring will be needed for the armed forces program to produce electricity from burning refuse after metals and glass have been removed. DoD has planned a large expansion of this program, in the next few years, for ecological as well as economic reasons.

However, some years ago, Dr. Emil Mrak, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of California at Davis, in discussing the trace of TCDD found in 2,4,5-T, pointed out that burning wood or trash also creates negligible amounts of dioxins.

The same ecologists who seek additional sources of energy as alternatives to nuclear power are the first to file law suits over dioxins produced by trash burning. This already has happened on Long Island.

There the Hampstead Resource Recovery Center, a \$42,000,000.00 facility, capable of handling 1,000,000 lbs. of trash a day, has been shut down for over a year because environmentalists claimed dangerous amounts of dioxins were being released into the atmosphere. As a result that trash now is used for land fill or towed on barges and dumped into the ocean, actions also producing ecological problems. This despite the fact that the State of New York's monitoring system shows no downwind deposition of dioxins.

Thus, a DoD site monitoring system is absolutely necessary to record the safe performance of the military's trash burning program and prove, in a court of law, if not to the environmental extremists, that such infinitesimal amounts of dioxins pose no threat to living things, just as the small amount of TCDD present in Agent



Orange did not harm the Vietnam veteran.

My final suggestion for a public relations program is to dispel the notion there has been little study or research into the effects of herbicides on humans.

Statements, such as the following made by a radio talk show hostess, "the one thing we know about Agent Orange is that we don't know much about it," caused Congress, in Public Law 96-151, to require the VA to prepare a recently completed compilation of worldwide literature on Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam.

The public needs to be informed that this study, submitted to the VA by JRB Associates, Inc. found a massive amount of literature, the two volume report listing over 1,200 scientific papers on the subject. There are, incidentally, many other articles not analyzed in the JRB report, doubtless due to a lack of time and money.

Although copies of this report have been provided the Chairmen of the Senate and House Veteran Affairs' Committees and distributed within the VA, I have yet to see a discussion of its contents in the news media. The public and, more important, the Vietnam veterans and their families will be interested in conclusions reached regarding birth defects and cancer.

Caution: Should the Administration launch a public relations program, I want to emphasize the following statements represent the independent assessments of JRB Associates, Inc. and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the VA. Also, the report admits, as with all medical problems, gaps still exist in scientific knowledge on the toxicity of herbicides.

However, the following statements represent a view I have been, for years, trying to get the news media to at least acknowledge. Also it is a view held by many individuals with practical experience in the use of herbicides as well as members of the Ranch Hand Vietnam Association.

BIRTH DEFECTS - Page I-11 1.4.5

"No human reproductive effects have been verified to date from male or female exposure to 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, or TCDD."

CANCER - Page I-13 1.4.7

"Mortality studies of groups of human workers exposed to TCDD has not revealed an increased carcinogenic risk in these people."

The anxiety of the public and, especially, Vietnam veterans and their families, as a result of the many falsehoods broadcast about Agent Orange would, at least, be alleviated to some extent if they were made aware of this report. Those who served in America's most tragic war deserve peace of mind as to their health and their children's health, resulting from possible exposure to Agent Orange, during the remainder of their lives.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

*B  
5mar*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

NOTE FOR Ms. Nancy Hodapp  
Office of the Cabinet  
Room 127, OEOB

Missy,

It seems Mr. Conrad (a friend of Mr. Weinberger) sent us a similar letter last month on Herbicide Orange--our reply is attached.

I recommend the attached reply be sent, indicating that Defense will keep the White House apprised.

*John Stanford*  
John H. Stanford  
Executive Secretary

Attachment

*Perfect and Improving!*

**OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS  
ACTION TRACKING WORKSHEET**

Action resulting from:

- document (attached)
- telephone call
- meeting (attach conference report if available)

Document Date: 82 / 02 / 15

From: Charles J. Conrad

Date Received: 82 / 02 / 22

Subject: Letter to Mike Deaver on Agent Orange

*OK*

**ROUTE TO:**

Date Sent	Name	Action	FYI	Date Due	Action Taken
<u>82 / 02 / 25</u>	<u>Missy Hodapp</u>	<u>XXXX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>82 / 03 / 05</u>	<u>draft response attched</u>
<u>82 / 03 / 13</u>	<u>C. Fuller</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1 / 1</u>	<u>Draft OK - send to MKD</u>
<u>82 / 03 / 12</u>	<u>Mike Deaver</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1 / 1</u>	
<u>1 / 1</u>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1 / 1</u>	
<u>1 / 1</u>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1 / 1</u>	
<u>1 / 1</u>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1 / 1</u>	

draft

**COMMENTS:** Staff out for/response and then return to CLF.

Stayed to DOD & Ann Fairbanks, OPD -- Ann feels DOD attached response is fine & appropriate, as Weinberger & Conrad and friends as well. JJ

Draft for MKD attached -- copy should be sent to Weinberger.

Originator:  Fuller    Cribb    Hart    Hodapp    Gonzalez    Faoro

**KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING MATERIAL AND WHEN THE ASSIGNED ACTION IS COMPLETE, RETURN TO:**

Office of Cabinet Affairs  
Attention: Karen Hart (x-2823)  
West Wing/Ground Floor

LTC Boole



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

FEB 26 1982

*How*  
Mr. Charles J. Conrad  
346 Camino Dos Palos  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Dear Charlie:

I want to acknowledge your letter of February 15, 1982 about Herbicide Orange.

Your many ideas are food for thought and I will make others aware of them. Members of my Health Affairs staff serve on the Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) and I will see to it that your memo reaches that forum. The AOWG is acutely aware of the public relations aspect of the herbicide issue and has a subcommittee specifically tasked with that responsibility. Additionally, the AOWG has representatives of all other involved agencies so that your comments concerning them will reach an appropriate audience. You may be sure that your input will be considered.

VIET

Insofar as toxins are concerned, biotoxins are specifically included in the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention to which we are signatories and which was ratified in 1975. What you propose cannot be accomplished by an Executive Order, but rather would require changing or repudiating the treaty. We believe that in such a process we might well lose more than we would gain.

Operation Blue Sky, to which you referred, was a project to stimulate ideas in chemical defense. At this time, I believe we are fulfilling this same goal through other means which are proving to be very productive. These include annual meetings sponsored by the American Defense Preparedness Association and research seminars sponsored by the various military research offices and the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. The industry, academic, and non-profit institution response has been very good and a number of new ideas in detection, decontamination, materials, and medical defense are now being pursued.

Thanks for your continuing interest and support. I appreciate your good wishes. I trust that you are finding the California Fair Political Practices Commission an interesting and worthwhile challenge.

Sincerely,

03788

*By copy of this letter I am suggesting that Mrs. Horner, one of the Army's specialists in the field, get in touch with you. CAP.*

1982 FEB 24 AM 9 16



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

FEB 25 1982  
DEP SEC HAS SEEN 8 FEB 1982

SEC DEF  
HAS SEEN

FEB 26 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Herbicide Orange--ACTION MEMORANDUM

Mr. Conrad's letter of February 15, 1982 (TAB B) basically proposes a media campaign on the government's part concerning Herbicide Orange. His letter and enclosure also cover a diverse range of topics which involve a variety of agencies within and without DoD. The reply thanks Mr. Conrad for his input and assures him that his thoughts are being conveyed to various responsible and interested officials for consideration, including the Agent Orange Working Group and the USDR&E. We reassure him that we are very conscious of the public relations aspects of herbicides. PA will be involved in the Working Group's media activities. The additional topics of biotoxins and Operation Blue Sky are replied to based on input from OUSDR&E. The letter closes with a personal note.

No further coordination is required.

Recommend that you sign the letter at TAB A.

*John Beary*

John F. Beary, III, M.D.  
Acting Assistant Secretary

Attachments

- TAB A--Proposed reply to Mr. Conrad
- TAB B--Mr. Conrad's letter, February 15, 1982

*Place Sand cc to Mrs. Hosler for  
a health center of the house call Mr.  
Conrad (an old friend) who is  
very interested in all from medical to  
see if he can help, etc.*

Prepared by Capt. Flynn, X78973, 3E349, 23 Feb 82

03788

*5*  
*(Handwritten mark)*

*6 PM*  
*S2/608*

1982 FEB 18 AM 9 46

OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

CHARLES J. CONRAD  
346 CAMINO DOS PALOS  
THOUSAND OAKS, CALIF. 91360  
805 492-6006

February 15, 1982

Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Cap:

I am taking you at your word, or rather your letter of December 14, 1981 and inclose a new memorandum on the continuing Agent Orange controversy.

Since your staff will want to review this material before bringing it to your attention, I am sending a copy to Henry Catto, Jr. Your letter of December 14, 1981, also mentions the Agent Orange Working Group, so I inclose an extra copy for them.

I note the Reagan Administration plans to bring our chemical warfare posture in line with Soviet activities in that field. As you know I have held to this position for many years so will take the liberty of adding two suggestions:

1: Toxins The Administration should remedy a serious error made by President Nixon and correctly reclassify the toxins in view of alleged Russian use of biotoxins in Laos and Cambodia. I am sure this can be done by Executive Order.

2: The Administration should consider a program similar to Operation Blue Skies initiated by Eisenhower and continued during the Kennedy years.

If you or anyone on your staff want to contact me, I am usually home except for two or three days a month spent in Sacramento. A few months ago George Deukmejian appointed me to the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

Grace sends her love to you and Jane.

As always



03242

VIET

15 Feb 82



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DEC 14 1981

Mr. Charles J. Conrad  
346 Camino Dos Palos  
Thousand Oaks, California 91360

Dear Charlie:

This is in reply to your letter of October 31, 1981, with further comments about the Herbicide Orange issue.

Your letter arrived at a tumultuous time in the history of our recent involvement with Orange. This reply has been delayed, in part, due to the preparations necessary for testimony on November 18 before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Further, we may be at a fork in the road in the nature of our scientific investigation into herbicide exposure. The pace of activity has quickened considerably; we are delving deeper into the records and we are getting a firmer idea of what the records will and will not allow us to do. I feel some major decisions about our future will be forthcoming in the next few months, although I would be clairvoyant in trying to predict what these decisions will be.

We would be delighted to have regular input on these matters especially from one such as you who has studied the subject so long. We badly need answers to the questions being asked and we are not prejudging the answers we will get. The recent testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee was well received and the Chairman, Senator Simpson, was listening carefully to what was said and was clearly reflecting upon it. Subsequent contact with the committee staff has been useful and also dedicated to getting answers. The Agent Orange Working Group serves as a fine forum for the exchange of views of the various agencies here in Washington wrestling with the problem. They would also be glad to get your ideas and I'll let them know they should consider your views too.

Insofar as the Ranch Hand study goes, everything I have said above applies here also. Further, I know that Lt General Paul Myers, the Air Force Surgeon General, maintains close personal contact with the Ranch Hand Vietnam Association and, in fact, spoke at their recent convention. We hope that there are no health effects from herbicide exposure but of course need to know that there are no effects, or, if there are effects, exactly what they are. We are committed to that inquiry.




THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1982

NOTE TO JOHN STANFORD

As discussed, please have your staff draft a suggested response to the attached and return to me.

Many thanks, once again, for your willing assistance.

  
N. A. HODAPP  
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

*Great "perfect"!*

CHARLES J. CONRAD  
346 CAMINO DOS PALOS  
THOUSAND OAKS, CALIF. 91360  
805 492-6006

February 15, 1982

Michael K. Deaver  
Assistant to the President  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

062254

Dear Mike:

In the past you have indicated an interest in my writings on the Agent Orange controversy, so I am sending you my latest memorandum on the subject.

Since your staff will want to review this material before bringing it to your attention I include an extra copy.

I note the Reagan Administration plans to bring our chemical warfare posture in line with Soviet activities in that field. As you know I have held to this position for many years so will take the liberty of adding two suggestions:

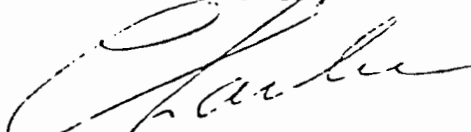
1: Toxins The Administration should remedy a serious error made by President Nixon and correctly reclassify the toxins in view of alleged Russian use of biotoxins in Laos and Cambodia. I am sure this can be done by Executive Order.

2: The Administration should consider a program similar to Operation Blue Skies, initiated by Eisenhower and continued during the Kennedy years.

If you or anyone on your staff want to contact me, I am usually home except for two or three days a month spent in Sacramento. A few months ago George Deukmejian appointed me to the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

Grace joins me in all the best.

As ever,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1982

NOTE TO ANN FAIRBANKS

I indicated to your staff that I would be forwarding the attached material on Agent Orange, received by MKD and sent to us for suggested reply.

Would you please draft a response, and return to me. Craig will get it to MKD directly.

Many thanks.



N. A. HODAPP  
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

CHARLES J. CONRAD

346 CAMINO DOS PALOS  
THOUSAND OAKS, CALIF. 91360

805 492-6006

February 15, 1982

Michael K. Deaver  
Assistant to the President  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

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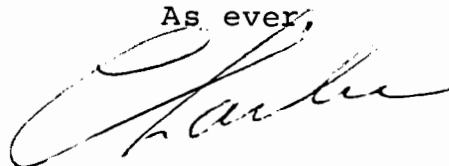
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Grace joins me in all the best.

As ever,



MKD

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1982

Dear Mr. Magill:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 1, in behalf of the workers of Safeway #951, regarding the status of the Holdrege, Nebraska facility as a result of the termination of the Omaha Division of Safeway's operations.

The initiatives of your co-workers and the community support of the Holdrege Safeway customers serviced by the facility are meritorious. Regretfully, the determination to terminate operations of Safeway's Omaha Division is a private business decision in which it is inappropriate for the Administration to intervene.

My office, however, has discussed your correspondence with Congresswoman Virginia Smith, whom you had also contacted about this situation. Mrs. Smith has been in touch with the government affairs office of Safeway's Washington operations to explore the prospects of consideration being given to transferring the Holdrege facility to the Denver division. I know Congresswoman Smith will keep you advised of the results of her inquiry in your behalf.

While I can only hope this matter can be resolved satisfactorily, I do appreciate the opportunity to try to be of assistance to you and the members of Safeway #951.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL K. DEAVER  
Assistant to the President  
Deputy Chief of Staff

Mr. Michael Magill  
419 Logan Street  
Holdrege, Nebraska 68949

*BCC: Ken Dukstein*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1982

MEMORANDUM TO: Mike Deaver  
FROM: Ken Duberstein *KD.*  
SUBJECT: Suggested reply to March 1 letter from  
Michael Magill for the workers of  
Safeway #951

Per your request, a suggested reply to the correspondence  
you have received from Michael Magill is attached.

Attachment

80

419 Logan Street  
Holdrege, Nebraska 68949  
March 1, 1982

Mr. Michael Deaver  
Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Deaver:

As you might have learned, the Omaha Division of Safeway Stores, Incorporated is closing effective March 27. This means that our store in Holdrege, Nebraska will close, and I, along with several others will become unemployed. What we are trying to do is to persuade Safeway to transfer our store to the Denver Division so that we may continue in business. We would like to ask the administration's help in this matter.

We have sent several petitions and letters to the division headquarters in Denver. A copy of the cover letter to the petitions is enclosed with this letter. We have also notified Senators Zorinsky and Exon along with Representative Smith and Governor Thone of our problem.

Although this is not a national problem, it is a serious problem for the people of Holdrege and the surrounding area. We would deeply appreciate any help that the administration could give us.

The division manager for the Denver district is Mr. Pete Martin. His address is:

Safeway Stores, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5927  
Terminal Annex  
Denver, Colorado 80217

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We truly appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,

*Michael Magill*

Michael Magill for  
the workers of Safeway #951

Enclosure  
(gone in Smith's office)

*John Allen  
UP  
9/2/82  
in App. for  
problem*

February 26, 1982

Mr. Bob Greene  
Safeway Stores, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5927  
Terminal Annex  
Denver, Colorado 80217

Dear Mr. Greene:

We, the employees of Safeway in Holdrege, Nebraska, are asking the company to please reconsider the decision in closing our store. We ask that you consider transferring our store to the Denver division so that we may continue in business.

Enclosed with this letter is a petition signed by our customers. The petition has one purpose -- to ask that you transfer our store to the Denver division. We at the store did not instigate the petition -- our customers did. When the news of our closing was released to the public, our customers, who were very upset, began to ask for an outlet to petition Safeway to keep the store operating. This continued all day Thursday and on into Friday and Saturday. By Sunday afternoon, the demand was so great that a public petition was set up in the store. The petition was never promoted or advertised in the manner that happened at the Kearney store. The petition was removed Friday morning. We feel that we have a large number of names, considering the short time span and the lack of advertising.

Also enclosed with this petition is a statement of support from the Holdrege Chamber of Commerce. Holdrege feels that Safeway is an integral part of the local economy and community and want to keep it so. Safeway has been located in Holdrege at various sites for well over 50 years and we feel that we have some of the most loyal customers to be found anywhere. Safeway, to many families, is a good friend -- a friendship that needs to be preserved.

The future of Holdrege is a thriving one and we feel that Safeway should be a part of that future. There are several reasons for local optimism. Highway 6 and 34, which runs in front of the store, is being updated and widened to bring new traffic into the city. Safeway is the first store of any type that a person coming into Holdrege would see.

Less than five blocks north of the store is located the Methodist Memorial Homes. The Home is in the process of expanding, thus bringing the store new customers. Located nearby is a retirement village which provides the store with a good market. Also, in the works is a planned retirement condominium in the central area of the city, just seven blocks from Safeway.



Safeway is the only store in our community that is located in the central or eastern sections of the city. Our competitors are located in the far north and far west sections of the city. In other words, Safeway is much more strategically located in Holdrege. It is the only store that is close to the downtown area.

We feel that the local economy is on the upswing. Becton-Dickinson and Artistic Woven Labels, our two main manufacturing plants, are both in the process of expansion. Several new doctors have opened practices in Holdrege, thus bringing new citizens and customers to the city. There are several new housing projects and developments springing up to the east of the store, thus opening up new markets. Also, the local farm economy is doing well which continues the prosperity of the area.

Beside Holdrege citizens, we also have a good following of customers in several of the outlying smaller towns. Holdrege is strategically located in respect to several of these towns -- we are the hub of the wheel with several of the outlying roads leading to Holdrege. Several of these outlying roads merge less than a block from our store. Bertrand, Loomis, Elm Creek, Alma, Republican City, Wilcox, Funk, Axtell, and Minden all provide us with considerable business. Many of the persons from these smaller towns work in Holdrege. Our store is located so that many stop and purchase their groceries in our store as they go to and from their jobs.

Sales in our store during 1981 have increased some 18 to 25 percent over the same period a year before. The sales for the week of the Fourth of July holiday this past year were a record breaker. The beginning of 1982 also looks bright as we have recorded one of our best Januarys ever. Our profit and sales picture looks very bright indeed.

We feel that our store is strategically located on the trucking route of the Denver division. The trucks going to Hastings and possibly even Kearney would travel within one block of our store. In other words, we are not located in an area that would require special routing. We feel that Holdrege would provide a fine balance between stores in Hastings and Kearney to the north and east, and McCook and Norton to the south and west.

In closing, we feel that Holdrege and its Safeway store has much to offer: strategic location, a good economy, excellent customer backing, and a good sales and profit picture. We would again, please ask you to consider transferring us to the Denver division of Safeway Stores, Incorporated.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

The Employees of Safeway #951

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 17, 1982

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your February letter.

I'm delighted that efforts to protect the integrity of California's offshore waters were successful; and that the Soviet factorship application no longer threatens that valuable marine resource. I also share your concern about the need for better biological data to guide future decisions regarding foreign fleet access to the fishery.

Your point about giving the affected States a greater role in managing marine resources is well taken and merits consideration. Accordingly, I've sent copies of your letter to Secretary Baldrige and Interior Secretary Watt, who heads the Cabinet Council on Natural Resources and Environment.

I appreciate your taking the time to keep me posted.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL K. DEEVER  
Assistant to the President  
Deputy Chief of Staff

Mr. W. A. Nott  
President  
The Sportfishing Association of California  
555 East Ocean Boulevard (Suite 700-A)  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS  
ACTION TRACKING WORKSHEET**

**Action resulting from:**

- document (attached)
- telephone call
- meeting (attach conference report if available)

**Document Date:** 82 / 02 / 05

**From:** W. A. Nott, President

The Sportfishing Association  
of California

**Date Received:** 82 / 02 / 10

**Subject:** see attached letter

**ROUTE TO:**

Date Sent	Name	Action	FYI	Date Due	Action Taken
82 / 02 / 26	Missy Hodapp	<del>XX</del>	<input type="checkbox"/>	82 / 03 / 08	<i>Draft response attached</i>
82 / 03 / 09	C. Fuller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 1	<i>Draft OK! - send to MKD</i>
82 / 03 / 12	Mike Deaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 1	
1 / 1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 1	
1 / 1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 1	
1 / 1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 1	

**COMMENTS:** Please staff to Interior for response for MKD signature.

(Return to Fuller -- not directly to Deaver)

① Attached is draft response for MKD signature

**Originator:**  Fuller  Cribb  Hart  Hodapp  Gonzalez  Faoro

**KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING MATERIAL AND WHEN THE ASSIGNED ACTION IS COMPLETE, RETURN TO:**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 2, 1982

NOTE TO DOUG BALDWIN

As discussed, would you please have your staff draft a response for Mike Deaver's signature and return to me.

Many thanks, once again, for your willing assistance.



N. A. Hodapp  
Office of Cabinet Affairs



# SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

052858

555 E. OCEAN BOULEVARD - SUITE 700-A  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802  
(213) 432-2316

February 5, 1982

W. A. NOTT, PRESIDENT  
PHILLO TOZER, VICE-PRESIDENT  
FRANK HALE, SEC'TY-TREASURER

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AREA 1: W. E. POOLE  
FRANK LO PRESTE (ALT.)  
DON SANSOME (ALT.)  
RALPH MILLER  
BOB MILLER (ALT.)  
CATHY MILLER (ALT.)  
STEVE GIFFIN  
DAN SANSOME (ALT.)  
DAN PALM  
LINDA PALM (ALT.)  
PORT OF SAN DIEGO

AREA 2: J. W. MCHOLLAND  
JAMES MULLINS (ALT.)  
BOB PELLMAN (ALT.)  
IMPERIAL BEACH - MISSION BAY

AREA 3: DON HANSEN  
DICK HELGREN (ALT.)  
OCEANSIDE - NEWPORT

AREA 4: FRANK HALE  
SEAL BEACH - LONG BEACH

AREA 5: FRANK HALL  
JIM PETERSON (ALT.)  
SAN PEDRO - L.A. HARBOR

AREA 6: GORDON MCRAE, JR.  
BARNEY BARNES (ALT.)  
SANTA MONICA BAY

AREA 7: JACK C. WARD  
FRED BENKO (ALT.)  
SANDY VERNAND (ALT.)  
PT. DUME - MORRO BAY

CHARTER BOATS: GARRY BLACK  
BOB FLETCHER  
ROGER HESS

Mr. Michael J. Deaver  
Assistant to the President  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mike:

First, let me thank you so much for your efforts in properly directing our efforts, the result of which was the defeat of the application to allow a Soviet factoryship to operate in Southern California waters. Without the interest displayed by the White House I'm sure the plan would have been approved by Secretary Baldrige as his backups, NOAA and NMFS, did not furnish him the criteria and recommendations for a final intelligent decision.

We were all fortunate, in this instance, to have the centerfold be a Soviet flag vessel. If it were a friendly nation or domestic vessel, the Lord help us!

Forgetting the nationality of the factoryship and catcher vessels, the fact is that neither NMFS or CAL F & G biologists have a handle on the biomass of the jack mackerel or squid. The anchovy biomass has been studied by 45 biologists over the past 20 years and they are still at a loss as to how to assess the biomass creditably. As recently as last week, as a member of the Anchovy Subpanel to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC), I attended a briefing session conducted by the Planning Team to the PFMC and the biologists on the team honestly admitted that the anchovy biomass could be between 100,000 and 1,000,000 tons!

The bottom line to this is that until the biologists can develop a creditable biomass assessment on the jack mackerel, squid and anchovy resources in Southern California waters no sophisticated factoryships accompanied by spotter aircraft and purse seine catcher vessels should be allowed to exert these unusual pressures on these valuable Southern California marine resources.

On a completely different subject but in line with the President's

recommendation towards a New Federalism, the time has come to return the management authority over the marine resources to the qualified states. The origination of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976 was caused by the need to control the intervention of the foreign fishing fleets out to 200 miles offshore. This has been accomplished and, in general, is controlled by the State Department with policing by the Coast Guard.

The actual management furnished by the Federal government as composed of the Department of Commerce - NOAA-NMFS has been woefully inadequate due to budgetary constraints and lack of expertise. Also, for NMFS, that 10 short years ago was the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, to be charged with both the exploitation and conservation of the resources is a case of the major portion of NMFS being the fox watching the chickens. It is a ludicrous situation contributing to either overexploitation or stagnation or both.

The management of the resources is best left to the states that have aggressive marine resource management programs with State funding via licenses, fines etc. Up-close policing, say to 12 miles, could be accomplished by the States, and the "bluewater" would be patrolled by Coast Guard which would assist in reducing their budgetary requirements.

Actually, in retrospect, the commercial and recreational fishing industries were caught up in a fervor of patriotism in order to control the foreign fishing fleets in our 200-mile waters. Never did we realize that this patriotic zeal would lead us down the primrose path to management of the marine resources by the Federal government.

Many of the states have managerial and upclose policing and funding capabilities. I suggest, with industry endorsement, that immediate steps be taken to return the management of the marine resources to the states as part of the New Federalism program and the sooner the better.

Your valued opinions and leadership are eagerly awaited.

Sincerely,



---

W. A. Nott, President  
The Sportfishing Association of California (SAC)  
WAN:wn