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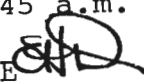
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 19, 1981

MEETING WITH REAGAN/BUSH JEWISH SUPPORTERS  
DATE: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 1981  
LOCATION: THE CABINET ROOM  
TIME: 10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE 

I. PURPOSE:

To bridge the chasm of misunderstanding that has developed between the Administration and the American Jewish community, in this instance, as it affects Reagan/Bush supporters. This session is intended to reassure them of your continuing support for your campaign commitments regarding the security of Israel and your denunciation of anti-Semitism. In closing, you may wish to ask them to redouble their efforts on your behalf in support of your economic recovery program.

II. BACKGROUND:

In the past weeks, I have consulted with numerous Jewish leaders; Ed Meese, Jim Baker and Mike Deaver have also participated in some of the sessions. All of our Jewish friends recommended two meetings early in the post-AWACS period, one with our supporters and a second with leaders of major Jewish organizations. All parties wish to place AWACS behind us, clarify the Administration's views on issues of concern to the American Jewish community, and look to a future of improved communications and cooperation on matters of mutual interest.

As was typical of the general Jewish community, virtually no one in this group supported you on AWACS. They are, however, predominately Republicans and supported you on all other issues. Most of these attendees met with you in a similar session in March. Recent media misrepresentations of some of your views have caused this group a loss of political capital in the Jewish community for their earlier advocacy of you. You may wish to stress their value in terms of making even further converts among a traditionally bedrock Democratic constituency.

Emotions will be high as a result of the virtual universal anxiety of the community over a perceived Administration indifference toward anti-Semitism. This is compounded by a developing community view that your support for Israel is softening in favor of the Arabs. This session is likely to be a bit tense and strained. Ed Meese, Dick Allen and the

Vice President will have briefed the group and handled questions prior to your arrival, and Ed will open with a strong statement hitting head-on the major four issues:

Anti-Semitism  
Fahd Eight-Point Plan  
PLO  
Strategic Partnership with Israel

The group will also need to hear you speak to each of these points. In all my meetings, it has been stressed that in the final analysis it was not so much the AWACS issue as the undertones which have left scars and predictions that we would not get over five percent of the Jewish vote today.

This first post-AWACS meeting has strong symbolic significance. Forthright statements on each of the four issues will go a long way toward defusing our problem.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

The Vice President, Edwin Meese, Dick Allen, Elizabeth Dole, Jack Stein, Dick Richards and guests on the attached list.

IV. PRESS PLAN:

No press coverage. White House photo only.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

10:15 a.m.        You enter the Cabinet Room and greet guests as you move around the table en route to your seat.

10:18 a.m.        You are seated and offer brief remarks.

10:23 a.m.        On conclusion of your remarks, you acknowledge several guests for questions.

10:45 a.m.        You thank your guests and depart.

Attachments

FISHER GROUP MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT  
THE CABINET ROOM  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1981  
9:30 A.M.

ATTENDEES:

Bernard Barnett  
Louisville, Kentucky

Paul Borman  
Detroit, Michigan

Max Fisher  
Detroit, Michigan

Al Fleisher  
St. Louis, Missouri

Richard Fox  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Benjamin Gettler  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Douglas Glant  
Seattle, Washington

Lawrence Goldberg  
Bethesda, Maryland

N. Victor Goodman  
Columbus, Ohio

Osias Goren  
Beverly Hills, California

Leonard Greenberg  
Hartford, Connecticut

Herman Greenspun  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Sylvia Hassenfeld  
Barrington, Rhode Island

Rita E. Hauser  
New York, New York

Harlan D. Hockenberg  
Des Moines, Iowa

Melvin G. Kelfer  
San Antonio, Texas

George Klein  
New York, New York

Raymond Kravis  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Edward Charles Levy, Jr.  
Detroit, Michigan

H. Irwin Levy  
West Palm Beach, Florida

Sidney Maduff  
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Stanley Margulies  
Hollywood, Florida

Mrs. Harvey Meyerhoff (Lyn)  
Owings Mills, Maryland

Dr. Ruth Miller  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Jerald C. Newman  
New York, New York

S. Raymond Rackoff  
Homestead, Pennsylvania

Richard Richards  
Washington, D.C.

Edward Rosen  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Rabbi Seymour Siegel  
New York, New York

Ruth Singer  
Beverly Hills, California

Albert Spiegel  
Los Angeles, California

Laurence Tisch  
New York, New York

Jacques Torczyner  
New York, New York

Gordon Zacks  
Columbus, Ohio

TALKING POINTS FOR  
MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERS

Antisemitism

- We are aware of your concerns about antisemitism.
- This Administration does not condone antisemitism in any form and we shall attack it wherever we find it.
- We recognize that it is the right--indeed the duty--of all Americans to state their views (as individuals or in groups) on public issues that concern them.
- Likewise, Israel has the right, as do all other nations, to state its views on U.S. policies that affect it.

Eight Points offered by Saudi Arabia

- This Administration is committed to the Camp David process as the only path to peace.
- We are not negotiating on any other basis -- not the eight points and not the European initiative.
- We derive hope from the fact that Saudi Arabia has substituted talk of peace for talk of jihād (holy war).

PLO

- Top Administration officials (including the President) have characterized the PLO as a terrorist organization. We still do.
- U.S. policy toward the PLO remains the same: No negotiations or recognition so long as the PLO refuses (1) to renounce terrorism, (2) to acknowledge Israel's right to exist, or (3) to accept UNSC 242 and 338.

Strategic Partnership with Israel

- Defense Minister Sharon will arrive here November 30 for meetings at Pentagon.
- Those meetings will transform our strategic dialogue into actual strategic cooperation.
- The basis of this partnership is not charity but mutual benefit. It is in our interest as well as Israel's.
- We are proud to bring the US-Israeli strategic partnership out into the open.
- We shall maintain Israel's qualitative military edge.

*B*



# THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1981

## MEETING WITH FLORIDA REPUBLICAN GROUP

November 18, 1981

The Oval Office

12:00 Noon

FROM: Lyn Nofziger

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting is to serve as a photo opportunity for Congressmen Young and Bafalis and provide an opportunity for a political discussion on upcoming Florida elections.

### BACKGROUND

Tommy Thomas, chairman of the Florida Reagan-Bush campaign and Henry Sayler, chairman of the Florida Republican Party are anxious for Congressmen Young and Bafalis to run for Governor and Senator, respectively. This brief meeting has been requested to serve as an opportunity to discuss the role of the President and the White House in the upcoming statewide elections in Florida.

### PARTICIPANTS

Congressman Bill Young  
Congressman Skip Bafalis  
Henry Sayler  
Tommy Thomas  
The Vice President

### PRESS PLAN

White House photographer

### SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The President greets Bafalis, Young, Sayler and Thomas.  
Brief remarks are made.  
Photo opportunity.  
The meeting concludes.

C

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1981

FULL CABINET MEETING

DATE: November 19, 1981

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

FROM: CRAIG L. FULLER 

I. PURPOSE

The full Cabinet will be briefed on three budget related issues.

II. BACKGROUND

The three items to be discussed are:

1. Operations in the Absence of Appropriations  
Ed Meese and Dave Stockman will brief the Cabinet on procedures for "shutting down" the government if you choose to veto the continuing resolution on Friday.
2. Fall Budget Review -- 1983-84 Budget  
Dave Stockman will review the budget review process now underway.
3. Travel Management  
Ed Harper has worked with Ed Meese on reviewing the cost of travel by Federal employees. It runs about \$4 billion a year. OMB will review this with the Cabinet.

III. PARTICIPANTS

(To be attached to the agenda.)

IV. PRESS

White House photograph only.

V. SEQUENCE

After the meeting is called to order, Ed Meese will lead with the first item.

*D*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 19, 1981

MEETING WITH JEWISH ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

DATE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1981

LOCATION: THE CABINET ROOM

TIME: 4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLK 

I. PURPOSE:

To bridge the chasm of misunderstanding that has developed between the Administration and the American Jewish community. This session is intended to reassure Jewish organizational leaders of your continuing support for campaign commitments regarding the security of Israel and provide you a chance to unequivocally denounce anti-Semitism.

II. BACKGROUND:

In the past weeks, I have consulted with numerous Jewish leaders; Ed Meese, Jim Baker and Mike Deaver have also participated in some of the sessions. All of our Jewish friends recommended two meetings early in the post-AWACS period, one with our supporters and a second with leaders of major Jewish organizations. All parties wish to place AWACS behind us, clarify the Administration's views on issues of concern to the American Jewish community, and look to a future of improved communications and cooperation on matters of mutual interest. Concern does exist that the Administration has written-off the American Jewish community.

This group, The Conference of Presidents and affiliates, is the "umbrella" for the organized Jewish community. It provides the broadest outreach and precludes any claim of organizational favoritism in your initial post-AWACS meeting - a very symbolic event. Howard Squadron (an ardent Democrat) is the current president; Jack Stein of your office is a former president. The group, predominately Democrats, is liberal on social issues and more moderate on fiscal matters. A number did not support your candidacy but has respected your long-standing record of support for Israel.

Emotions will be high as a result of the virtual universal anxiety of the community over a perceived Administration indifference toward anti-Semitism. This is compounded by a developing community view that your support for Israel is softening in favor of the Arabs. Ed Meese, Dick Allen and the Vice President will have briefed the group and handled

questions prior to your arrival, and Ed will open with a strong statement hitting head-on the major four issues:

Anti-Semitism  
Fahd Eight-Point Plan  
PLO  
Strategic Partnership with Israel

The group will also need to hear you speak to each of these points. In all my meetings, it has been stressed that in the final analysis it was not so much the AWACS issue as the undertones, which have left scars and predictions that we would not get over five percent of the Jewish vote today.

This first post-AWACS meeting has strong symbolic significance. Forthright statements on each of the four issues will go a long way toward defusing our problem.

This session will be somewhat combative. This results both from philosophical differences as well as competition among the participants as they posture for positions of influence within the community. Several guests also write weekly columns and, although they will participate as officials of major Jewish organizations, it is likely that anything said will appear in print.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

The Vice President, Edwin Meese, Dick Allen, Elizabeth Dole, Jack Stein, and guests on the attached list.

IV. PRESS PLAN:

No press coverage. White House photo only.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

4:15 p.m.	You enter the Cabinet Room and greet guests as you move around the table en route to your seat.
4:18 p.m.	You are seated and offer remarks.
4:23 p.m.	On conclusion of your remarks, you acknowledge several guests for questions.
4:25 p.m.	You thank your guests and depart.

Attachments

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT  
THE CABINET ROOM  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1981  
3:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES:

Rabbi William Berkowitz, President  
Jewish National Fund

Julius Berman, President  
Union of Jewish Orthodox Congregations  
of America

Shirley Billet, President  
Emunah Women of America

Martin Earl Citrin, President  
Council of Jewish Federations  
and Welfare Funds

Rabbi Seymour Cohen, President  
Rabbinical Assembly

Thomas Dine, Executive Director  
American Israel Public Affairs Committee

Stuart Fund, President  
North American Jewish Youth Council

Bertram Gold, Executive Vice President  
American Jewish Committee

Maxwell E. Greenberg, President  
Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith

Yehuda Hellman, Executive Director  
Conference of Presidents of Major  
American Jewish Organizations

Dr. Harold M. Jacobs, President  
National Council of Young Israel

Charlotte Jacobson, President  
World Zionist Organization,  
American Section

Goldie Kweller, President  
Women's League for Conservative  
Judaism

Sidney Leiwant, President  
American Ort Federation

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

Shirley Leviton, President  
National Council of Jewish Women

Frieda Lewis, President  
Hadassah

Lillian Maltzer, President  
National Federation of Temple  
Sisterhoods

Herman Merkin, President  
Mizrachi-Hapoel Hamizrachi

Rabbi Ludwig Nadelmann, President  
Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation

Ivan J. Novick, President  
Zionist Organization of America

Nathan Perlmutter, Executive Vice President  
Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith

Professor Allen Pollack, President  
Labor Zionist Alliance

Rabbi Sol Roth, President  
Rabbinical Council of America

Herman Schaalman, President  
Central Conference of American  
Rabbis

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Roselle Silberstein, President  
American Mizrachi Women

Jack J. Spitzer, President  
B'Nai B'Rith

Howard Squadron, Chairman  
Conference of Presidents of  
American Jewish Organizations  
and President,  
American Jewish Congress

Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, President  
American Zionist Federation

Dr. Daniel Thursz, Executive Vice President  
B'Nai B'Rith



JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

Lawrence Weinberg, President  
American Israel Public Affairs Committee

Sidney Wiener, President  
B'Nai Zion

Maynard Wishner, President  
American Jewish Committee

Marshall Wolke, President  
United Synagogue of America

Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger, President  
Synagogue Council of America

Bennett Yanowitz, President  
National Jewish Community Relations  
Advisory Council

Robert M. Zweiman, President  
Jewish War Veterans of The  
United States of America

TALKING POINTS FOR  
MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERS

Antisemitism

- We are aware of your concerns about antisemitism.
- This Administration does not condone antisemitism in any form and we shall attack it wherever we find it.
- We recognize that it is the right--indeed the duty--of all Americans to state their views (as individuals or in groups) on public issues that concern them.
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- Those meetings will transform our strategic dialogue into actual strategic cooperation.
- The basis of this partnership is not charity but mutual benefit. It is in our interest as well as Israel's.
- We are proud to bring the US-Israeli strategic partnership out into the open.
- We shall maintain Israel's qualitative military edge.

*E*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD S. WILLIAMSON *RSW/APP*  
SUBJECT: YOUR INTERVIEW ON FEDERALISM  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1981

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You have an interview with five reporters on federalism scheduled for Thursday afternoon, November 19, 1981, at 5:00 p.m. The reporters participating are:

Dave Broder, The Washington Post  
Neal Peirce, National Journal  
Drummond Ayres, The New York Times  
Tim Schellhardt, The Wall Street Journal  
Warren Wheat, Gannett News Service

I am attaching a sample of some of the more difficult questions on federalism which you may be asked on Thursday.

Attachment

SAMPLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON FEDERALISM

NOVEMBER 16, 1981 INTERVIEW

1. You have often spoken of your dream of a return to federalism. What is "the dream?"
  - ° A return of responsibility, decisionmaking and revenue sources back to state and local governments, accomplished in such a way that decision-makers can be held accountable for their actions.
  
2. State and local governments who get only one-sixth of the federal budget are being saddled with approximately two-thirds of the budget cuts. Is that fair?
  - ° The problem is that much of the budget is not susceptible to significant budget cuts. Out of a \$700 billion budget for FY '82:
    - \$157 billion goes to social security
    - \$182 billion goes to defense
    - \$ 83 billion goes to pay interest on the national debt
  - ° Other Federal activities outside grants-in-aid have taken significant cuts
    - 30% reduction in Export-Import Bank
    - Reductions in Department of Energy R & D
    - \$1 billion in new users fees for Federal services

3. There has been much discussion about the sorting out of government functions between federal, state, and local government. Governors Babbitt of Arizona and Alexander of Tennessee have proposed that the federal government take over all income maintenance functions including AFDC and food stamps and that states take over the responsibility for education, law enforcement, and transportation. How do you feel about that proposal?
  - My Administration is examining the Babbitt-Alexander proposal and others for sorting out responsibilities.
  - I am personally not enthusiastic about the federalization of Medicaid and welfare. With total federal control you would have
    - Less accountability
    - More difficulty in differentiating between varying local situations and levels of need
    - Greater amounts of fraud and abuse
4. What future block grants will you propose?
  - Block grants are being considered in transportation, public assistance, and other areas.
  - This review will continue as part of the FY '83 budget process.
5. How are you going to make your federalism revolution permanent?
  - By returning revenue sources to state and local governments, along with program authority and responsibility, we can avoid the round trip of tax dollars through Washington, where a carrying charge is deducted, strings are attached, and decisionmakers are often not held accountable for their actions. This will make the revolution permanent.

6. At a time when you are talking about returning revenue sources to state and local governments, how can you justify cutting revenue sharing -- which is the closest thing you have to returning revenue sources to state and local governments?
  - Our feeling with respect to the 12 percent cut was that it had to apply across the board to all programs.
  - The exceptions were extremely limited and applied only to such things as the Veterans Administration hospital care, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the peace-keeping forces.
  
7. What is the future of revenue sharing?
  - I will not support a phase-out of revenue sharing until such time that an alternate source of funding such as an excise tax can be identified and a transfer mechanism developed to turn that revenue source back to state and local governments.
  
8. Some people have said that revenue source return has already occurred in the form of the tax cuts.
  - That does not represent my view. Much more work needs to be done. Block grants are just an interim step. Ultimately, I would like to see a return of revenue sources in addition to the programs and responsibilities that are in the block grants.
  
9. When will we see specific Administration proposals on revenue source return?
  - Don Regan's Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs has established a working group on revenue source return, chaired by Ed Gray. I am pleased that that working group is now moving on a brisk schedule and I hope their work can progress sufficiently so that some of their ideas and proposals can be considered at an early date.

10. How can you be talking about returning excise taxes to states at the same time you're increasing excise taxes at the federal level?
- There has been no decision to increase excise taxes. The Economic Cabinet Council under Don Regan is looking into revenue enhancement proposals, but they haven't been presented to me for my consideration.
11. How do you respond to the problems which many states face because their corporate income tax is piggy-backed to the federal income tax? (As federal corporate tax revenues decline as a result of the tax cut, state corporate tax revenues also decline).
- A state's corporate tax structure is something to be left for individual states to determine. We wouldn't want to dictate the level of state corporate taxation from Washington, D.C. If they feel their corporate taxes are too high or too low, they can make appropriate adjustments.
12. The Task Force on Violent Crime issued their final report which was welcomed by Ed Meese and the Justice Department. Included in the report was a suggestion for a \$2 billion categorical grant for the construction of prisons. Do you believe that establishment of this new categorical grant program would be a contradiction of the principles of federalism?
- I haven't endorsed the recommendation of the Task Force Report.
  - The categorical grant recommendation was one among many crime reduction proposals. All of these proposals will be carefully reviewed -- with a view to cost-effectiveness and available federal dollars.
13. Do you believe that the drive for a balanced budget has driven domestic policymaking to such an extent that your federalism goals have had to take a back seat?
- No. The federalism perspective of this Administration is reflected throughout almost all of the domestic policy decisions which we have made.



14. How do you respond to state and local officials who have criticized the block grants for their lack of flexibility?
- I have said many times I will fight for more flexibility.
  - The paperwork requirements to comply with the new HHS block grants have been reduced by 5.4 million manhours (83 percent).
  - Regulations for HHS block grants have been reduced from 318 to 6 pages in the Federal Register.
15. If you return programs, responsibilities, and revenue sources to states, how do you address the problem that some states have a greater tax base than others and some states have greater social needs than other states?
- That problem has been pointed out to us by a number of state and local officials including those Republican Governors in the upper Midwest states. It is an issue that we will be sensitive to as we proceed with our federalism agenda.
16. What do you expect from the Presidential Advisory Committee on Federalism?
- Their advice will be vital while we proceed to transfer more power and responsibility back to state and local governments.
  - It provides an excellent and accessible forum for consultation with officials at all levels.
17. Governor Busbee recently called for a domestic summit among Senators, Congressmen, and state and local officials. What do you think about the idea?
- I think it is useful for officials at all levels of government to get together. That is why I formed the Presidential Advisory Committee on Federalism.
  - I hope that Committee, which includes Governor Busbee as a Member, will meet again in the next few months.

18. What should be the future role of the cities?
- City officials must provide leadership and look for new partnerships. With more resources and decisionmaking at the state and local level, I expect that city officials will work more closely with county officials and state legislators.
  - However, I expect that in many areas, a direct relationship between the federal government and the cities will continue.
19. What is the status of Enterprise Zones?
- Proposals are being developed through the Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade and I hope recommendations will reach my desk by the end of the year.
20. There has been criticism, mostly from Democrats, that your Administration is merely ditching federal responsibilities and loading them onto states and localities.
- States have already been administering many of these programs.
  - Consolidation of categorical grants will relieve state and local governments of millions of manhours in paperwork requirements, for example, and less regulations will allow them to use resources more efficiently and effectively.
21. Do you envision that some programs at the state level will cease to exist because of the federal budget cuts?
- That will be left to the discretion of the states.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1981

TAPING SESSION

DATE: November 19, 1981

LOCATION: Library

TIME: 5:30 PM

FROM: Mark Goode

I. PURPOSE

To video tape a message.

II. BACKGROUND

This message is sponsored by Honor America, to be played on Thanksgiving Day during half time of the two National Football Games scheduled at Detroit and Dallas at 12:30 and 4:00 PM.

The message will be on the spirit of Thanksgiving and how grateful we are for the blessings of this country.

III PARTICIPANTS

The President

IV. PRESS PLAN

None

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The President will read from a teleprompter in the Library.

(Dolan)  
November 17, 1981

THANKSGIVING TAPING  
NOVEMBER 19, 1981

I hope you're all enjoying today's game. From football to turkey, Thanksgiving Day really is a chance to be with friends and family and enjoy the good times together.

But I'm sure that sometime today the thoughts of all of us will turn to the real meaning of this, our first national holiday. And I'm sure that in our hearts we'll all feel a deep gratitude for this much loved country of ours . . . and the blessings that have been conferred on those of us who call ourselves Americans.

You know, the meaning of the American experience is that freedom only prospers where the blessings of God are openly acknowledged and avidly pursued.

This is also the beginning of political wisdom -- it's what Thomas Jefferson had in mind when he said that "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." It's what George Washington, our 1st President, meant when he said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports."

And a famous French observer of America who came to these shores and put it simply about our strength as a Nation: "America is great because America is good."

You know I've always believed that in the simple prayers of good people there is more wisdom than in all the carefully laid plans of great leaders and more power than in all the mighty armies of the world.

So today, I wonder if I might ask each of you -- either alone or, even better -- when you're together today -- to say a prayer of gratitude to the Lord for watching over our country all these years . . . and ask him too to guide us through these perilous but exciting times ahead.

Thank you -- and from Nancy and myself and all of us in the Administration -- Happy Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful day and God bless.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1981

TAPING SESSION

DATE: November 19, 1981

LOCATION: Library

TIME: 5:30 PM

FROM: Mark Goode

I. PURPOSE

To video tape a message.

II. BACKGROUND

For Bear Bryant, congratulating him on the occasion of his becoming the winningest coach in college football history.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President

IV. PRESS PLAN

none

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The message will be read from a teleprompter in the Library.

(Rohrabacher/TD)  
November 18, 1981

TAPING: COACH BEAR BRYANT OF ALABAMA, NOVEMBER 19, 1981

Coach Bryant, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you for becoming the winningest coach in football history.

Some people don't like to admit it, but America loves a winner. Today in Alabama and all over the United States being a winner becomes synonymous with Coach Bear Bryant.

While piling up your victories, you've made some magnificent contributions to American sports. Bear, as coach of the Crimson Tide you trained young men who went on to become some of football's greatest players and coaches. Realizing football is a game of strategy as well as endurance, you emphasized the mind as well as the body. Most important, you recognize the significance of character. Tonight there is no doubt that your formula has worked.

So I just want to offer you congratulations and best wishes from a fellow who remembers fondly his experiences on the college gridiron. I'm proud to join in this salute to an American legend. Coach Bryant, on behalf of all your friends, congratulations and the best to you in the years ahead.