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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1983

MEETING WITH SENATOR JOHN DANFORTH (R-MISSOURI)

DATE: Thursday, December 15, 1983

LOCATION: The Oval Office

TIME: 3:30 p.m. (15 minutes)

FROM: M.B. Oglesby *fb*

I. PURPOSE

To respond to Senator Danforth's request for a meeting to discuss his upcoming trip to Africa and the subject of world hunger in general.

II. BACKGROUND

On January 4, Senator Jack Danforth (R-Missouri) will leave for a two-week trip to Africa where he will focus on the problem of malnutrition and starvation. Danforth made a similar trip to Cambodia in 1979. On this trip, he will visit Mauritania, Somalia, and Mozambique. These countries have been impacted severely by drought, and Danforth, along with seven of his Republican colleagues in the Senate, wrote to you about this situation on November 18.

Danforth will be urging you to take a strong and visible interest in this problem and to endorse his trip. He feels this would be good for the Administration to demonstrate this humanitarian interest, and Danforth, himself, will continue to draw national attention to the world hunger problem when he returns from Africa.

The United States is currently providing approximately 100,000 tons of food to Africa in response to their drought problems. This figure could increase to approximately 300,000 tons in the next few months. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (part of the United Nations), Africa's total need is approximately 700,000 tons of food. Historically, the United States has contributed fifty percent of the food in these cases, and some religious and private groups contend that we should be giving more than 100,000 tons. The State Department and particularly AID are currently working on this problem in an effort to meet Africa's needs. We are also providing more assistance to Africa through our Food for Peace efforts.

III. PARTICIPANTS

List attached

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographer only

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Senator Danforth to arrive Northwest Gate, enter West Lobby and be escorted to the Oval Office for a 15-minute meeting with the President.

Attachments: Participants List
Talking Points
November 18, 1983 letter to the President

PARTICIPANTS

The President
The Vice President
Senator John Danforth (R-Missouri)
Peter McPherson, Administrator, AID

Staff

James A. Baker III
Edwin Meese III
Michael Deaver
M.B. Oglesby
Bud McFarlane

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING
WITH SENATOR JACK DANFORTH

- Jack, I understand you will be traveling to Africa in January, and I know you have a strong personal interest in the malnutrition problems many of the African countries are facing.
- I know you will be visiting Mauritania, Somalia, and Mozambique, and I would like to hear more about the details of your plans.

(Danforth will explain the purpose of his trip and seek your support).
- Jack, as you may know, we have been working through the State Department and AID to assist African countries in dealing with their hunger problems. I know we assisted Ethiopia and are now working with some of these countries you will be visiting in January.
- The State Department and AID are looking at additional possibilities for assistance in this area, and I hope we can continue to work closely with you and your colleagues in this regard.
- I agree with you that the plight of many people in Africa deserves our serious attention. Certainly hunger knows no political bounds. I hope you will let us know the results of your trip.

EDWARD T. BAKER, JR., TENN.
 JESSIE HELMS, N.C.
 RICHARD G. LUGAR, IND.
 CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JR., MD.
 NANCY L. KASSEBAUM, KANS.
 RUDY BOSCHWITZ, MINN.
 LARRY PRESSLER, S. DAK.
 FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, ALASKA

CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
 JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.
 JOHN GLENN, OHIO
 PAUL S. SARBANES, MD.
 EDWARD ZORINSKY, NEBR.
 PAUL E. TSONGAS, MASS.
 ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF.
 CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

SCOTT COHEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
 GERYLD B. CHRISTIANSON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

November 18, 1983

188849

Dear Mr. President:

We have seen many reports about the effects of the severe drought now plaguing at least twenty countries in all parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The picture which emerges from these reports is of a drought which is the worst in ten years for some countries and without parallel in this century for many others.

The prospect of serious malnutrition and even starvation is already very real for millions of Africans. As we know, the effects of malnutrition on children are often, tragically, irreversible. The current crisis is especially compelling in light of the fact that Africa is the only continent where per capita food production has been declining for the last decade.

Beyond the terrible human cost of the drought, the adverse consequences for both political and economic stability seem inevitable. Your own Task Force on International Private Enterprise has called for increased food assistance to Africa, pointing out that basic needs must be met before private enterprise can be successful.

While the Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture have already dedicated considerable attention to this situation, we expect that much more food assistance will be required in the months ahead. We urge you to make sure that this Administration and the American people are in the forefront of those who are responding to the urgent food needs in sub-Saharan Africa.

During the Congressional recess that begins soon, we hope that the Administration will take whatever steps may be necessary to meet emergency needs. Should additional resources be required, we are confident that our colleagues will give favorable consideration to any pertinent legislation. We encourage Administration officials to develop whatever legislative proposals may be appropriate to address both the current emergency and the longer-term challenge of reversing the declining food production rate in Africa.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 14, 1983

MEETING WITH RICHARD COLINO

DATE: December 15, 1983
 LOCATION: Oval Office
 Time: 5:00 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.
 FROM: Robert C. McFarlane *RCM*

I. PURPOSE

Photo opportunity with Richard R. Colino.

II. BACKGROUND

In October 1983, Mr. Colino was elected as the Director General & Chief Executive Officer of INTELSAT (International Telecommunications Satellite Organization) by the 108 member nations of INTELSAT. He will begin his six-year term on January 1, 1984. Mr. Colino is the second Director General of INTELSAT and the first American to hold this post. The first Director General was Santiago Astrain of Chile. Accompanying Mr. Colino will be Mr. Mickey Gardner former head of the Reagan Transition Team at the FCC and Ambassador-Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Fall, 1982 Plenipotentiary Conference of the Telecommunications Union held in Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Gardner played an instrumental role in the election of an American to the post of Director General of INTELSAT. This meeting was scheduled upon the recommendation of Charles Wick.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Richard R. Colino
 Michael R. Gardner
 Robert C. McFarlane
 Gilbert D. Rye (NSC Staff)

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographer

Attachment

Tab A Talking Points

cc Vice President
 Ed Meese
 Jim Baker
 Mike Deaver

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1983

MEETING WITH MR. FRED WARING
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

DATE: December 15, 1983

LOCATION: Roosevelt Room

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

FROM: Faith Whittlesey

I. PURPOSE

For President Reagan to present the special Congressional Gold Medal to Mr. Fred Waring, for his lifetime contributions, pursuant to Public Law 97-246, August 26, 1982.

II. BACKGROUND

On August 26, 1982, through the efforts of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, Congress awarded Mr. Fred Waring with a special commemorative gold medal (Public Law 97-246).

Mr. Waring, 83 years old and one of the most popular musicians and conductors of this century, is most frequently recognized as the "Man Who Taught America How To Sing". For seven decades he has shared with Americans a distinctive blend of beautiful music, innovative recording techniques, and award winning television entertainment. Fred Waring's "Pennsylvanians", a 55-piece jazz orchestra in the 1930's later evolving to a chorus with orchestral accompaniment, toured 40,000 miles of the United States each year during the 1960's and 1970's. On March 15, 1984, Mr. Waring will begin his 69th year in the entertainment business.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached list.

IV. MEDIA PLAN

White House photographers, wire photographers, local television crew (Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, Pennsylvania television market).

V. REMARKS

Speechwriters.

VI. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

President Reagan enters Roosevelt Room
and greets Mr. Waring and guests.

President Reagan delivers remarks and presents
Congressional Gold Medal to Mr. Waring.

President departs Roosevelt Room.

Attachments: Participants List (2 pages)

PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Fred Waring	Honoree
Mr. Paul Waring	Son
Mrs. Gayle Waring	Daughter-in-law
Mr. Malcolm Waring	Son
Mrs. Beverly Waring	Daughter-in-law
Mrs. Dixie Waring Wilson	Daughter
The Honorable Donald Regan	Secretary of the Treasury
The Honorable Katherine Ortega	United States Treasurer
The Honorable John Heinz	
The Honorable William Goodling	
The Honorable William Clinger	
The Honorable Larry Coughlin	
The Honorable Joseph McDade	
Mr. James Van Zandt	Secretary for the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation
Mr. Rick Prendergast	Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs Department of Treasury
Mr. Gorham Black	Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging
Mrs. Mabel Black	
Mr. Cyril Brickfield	Executive Director, American Association of Retired Persons
Mr. Edward Driebe (DREE-BE)	
Mrs. Mary Driebe (DREE-BE)	
Mrs. Rebecca Eckstein	National Association of Mature Persons
Mr. Glenn Forney	
Mr. Marlowe Froke	Pennsylvania State University
Mr. Sam Galleu (GAL-LOO)	
Mr. Richard Getz (GETS)	Pennsylvania State Representative
Mr. Phil Guarino (GWAR-EEN-O)	Liaison on Aging, RNC
Mr. Leonard Henry	
Mr. Ed Johnsen	

Mr. Robert Lang
Mrs. Mimi Lang
Mr. Joseph Leary Catholic Golden Age
Dr. Robert Macmillan
Mrs. Delores Macmillan
Mr. John Martin Former Commissioner on Aging
Mr. Tex McCrary
Mr. F.C. O'Keefe
Governor Raymond Shafer Former Governor of Pennsylvania
Mrs. Ruth Sibley Waring Enterprises
Mr. Lou Sommers
Mrs. Gertrude Sommers
Dr. Lennie Marie Tolliver Commissioner on Aging
Mr. Russell Wade
Mr. William Wells
Mrs. Margaret Wells
Mr. Walter Wyckoff
Mrs. Mary Wyckoff

White House Staff

Faith Whittlesey
M.B. Oglesby
Judi Buckalew

(Dolan/BE)
December 14, 1983
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESENTATION OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL
TO FRED WARING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1983

It's truly a rare moment when the Congress of the United States awards an American with this gold medal. That American's contribution to his country must have been extraordinary to merit such an award -- and in the case of Fred Waring, extraordinary is exactly the word to describe the man and his achievements.

Fred has sometimes been described as the "Man who taught America how to sing." But even that description can't begin to relate the impact his talent and patriotism have had on American life and culture.

Fred Waring is a show business legend. He has been successful in movies, radio, recordings, Broadway, television, the concert stage -- and I know he won't mind me mentioning the early days -- in vaudeville, too. One of his first auditions was for Thomas Edison in 1920. It began an extraordinary career that included recording thousands of songs and writing hundreds of songs of his own. Besides his theme song, "I Hear Music," these also include dozens of patriotic songs like his beautiful, "My America."

Fred's achievements in the choral music field are well known, of course, and it's only one reason why he is considered among America's most prominent music educators. He's still conducting a choral music workshop every summer to foster better singing and choral techniques.

His accomplishments go on and on: I couldn't mention all the radio and television shows or the concerts. During the sixties and seventies, for example, he traveled more than 40,000 miles a year. In fact, next March, Fred will celebrate his 69th year in show business, a record virtually unequaled in the entertainment business.

Fred, there just isn't time to describe all your accomplishments and talents. Come to think of it, I haven't even mentioned the Waring Blendor. But let me put it this way: Fred, through your hard work and success, you have had an extraordinary impact on our Nation. You have always been generous with your time and talent when your country called. You have been a devoted father and husband. You've given to countless millions the thrill of good music and taught many thousands more the techniques of the musical arts. So today, on behalf of this Nation which you love so much, and the millions whose lives you have touched, I want to say what they would if they were here. I want to thank you and present you -- in honor of your patriotism, your talent, your generosity and kindness -- with this gold medal. Believe me, it comes with the love and affection of your countrymen.

Thank you Fred, and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 14, 1983

MEETING WITH: DR. JAMES "JIM" FOWLER,
PRESIDENT, LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

DATE: Thursday, December 15, 1983
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 5:00 p.m. (Administrative Time)
FROM: FAITH WHITTLESEY

I. PURPOSE:

To meet with Dr. James "Jim" Fowler, President of the Lions Clubs International.

II. BACKGROUND:

For fifty years, it has been a tradition for the President to meet with the President of the Lions Clubs International. The Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world, with a world-wide membership in excess of 1.3 million; 566,565 of whom are located in the United States.

The Lions Clubs International have made a strong commitment to countering drug abuse world-wide and have been very supportive of the First Lady's "Chemical People" program.

Dr. Jim Fowler, 1983 Lions Club International President, is a dental surgeon and is a former Arkansas State Senator (Dem.). A pilot with over 14,000 hours in the cockpit, he is President of the National Flying Dentists Association; Past President and Board Member of the Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind; member of the Advisory Board of Leader Dogs for the Blind; Vice-President of International Services for the Blind and Past Vice-President and Board member of the Arkansas Eye and Kidney Bank. He is a naval veteran of World War II, a retired colonel in the Arkansas National Guard and has been a member of Lions Clubs International for thirty-five years.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

Dr. James "Jim" Fowler, President Lions Clubs International
Mrs. Agnes "Aggie" Fowler, wife of Dr. Fowler
Dr. Carlton Turner, Special Assistant to the President
for Drug Abuse Policy, Office of Policy Development

IV. PRESS PLAN:

White House Photographer, photo opportunity.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

5:00 p.m. - Party enters Oval Office

5:01 p.m. - President is introduced to guests by
Faith Ryan Whittlesey

5:02 p.m. - Guests depart Oval Office

Attachment - Suggested Talking Points

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH
DR. JAMES "JIM" FOWLER, PRESIDENT LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

- It's a real pleasure, particularly during this holiday season, to greet the leader of an organization that represents the best of America's tradition of volunteer service and giving, and someone who has given so generously of his own time to so many worthy causes.
- I know that under your leadership Lions Clubs International has had a particular interest in helping handicapped people make that important first step into the work force.
- And I know your work with America's blind citizens has taught many blind people how to use even computers and word processors.
- I wanted to give you special thanks for what has been the Lions Clubs' continuing commitment to fight drug abuse around the world, and for the support you've given Nancy's efforts in that area here at home.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

BOOK PRESENTATION BY RICK EILERT, AUTHOR OF "FOR SELF AND COUNTRY"

DATE: Thursday, December 15th, 1983
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
FROM: Faith Whittlesey

I. PURPOSE:

To receive from the author a copy of the book, For Self and Country.

II. BACKGROUND:

Rick Eilert is a Marine veteran who was seriously wounded in Vietnam. He has had 40 operations on his legs in the last sixteen years. For Self and Country is the first book which tells the story of the recuperation of a wounded Vietnam veteran. His inspiring story of personal courage describes the supportive community wounded veterans formed in the wards of military and veterans hospitals. The book is a Literary Guild and Military Book Club selection. In For Self and Country, Mr. Eilert greatly credits the love and encouragement he received from his wife, Cheryl, in making his recovery possible.

Mr. Eilert was the first program director of the President's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Chicago. He met with the President in November 1981 at the Rose Garden ceremony to christen the VVLP. Mr. Eilert currently serves on the national advisory board of VVLP. Thomas Pauken, the Director of the ACTION agency, recommended this meeting. ACTION oversees the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Rick Eilert, author of For Self and Country
Mrs. Cheryl Eilert, wife of author
Mr. Thomas Pauken, Director of ACTION

IV. PRESS PLAN:

White House photographer

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

5:00 p.m. - Guests enter Oval Office
5:01 p.m. - Mr. Eilert presents the President with book
5:02 p.m. - Guests exit

Attachment:

1. Talking points

TALKING POINTS

FOR

BOOK PRESENTATION BY RICK EILERT, AUTHOR OF "FOR SELF AND COUNTRY"

December 15th, 1983

-- On Monday, I had the honor of addressing the convention of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in New York City, but, Rick, I think that people who read For Self and Country will be reminded that the heroism of American soldiers doesn't stop when they leave the battlefield. The courage shown in our veterans hospitals is a special kind of bravery. I am glad that you wrote about it.

-- I understand that you have been given rave reviews by everyone from the Marines Corps Gazette to the Village Voice. I know a few politicians who wish they could get that range of support.

-- Cheryl, I've been told that you are a very important part of what your husband has been able to accomplish; I'm so pleased that you could come today.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH CAPTAIN GRACE HOPPER

Thursday, December 15, 1983
The Oval Office
5:00 p.m.

FROM: EDWARD V. HICKEY, JR.

EVH

I. PURPOSE

To promote Captain Grace Hopper, United States Navy Reserve, to the grade of Commodore on the retired list.

II. BACKGROUND

Captain Hopper, the Navy's 77 year old computer pioneer, has appeared before the public on many occasions. Her views on the nation and the military have been well publicized and have done much to increase public awareness of the contributions of women and senior citizens. She has spoken annually to hundreds of technical, industrial, and educational institutions.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Captain Grace Hopper
Agnes Murray (sister-in-law)
Roger F. Murray, III (nephew)
Linda T. Murray (wife of Roger Murray)
Jennifer A. Murray (age 13, grand-niece of Captain Hopper)
Secretary John Lehman

--Secretary Caspar Weinberger may drop by

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House photographer and coordination with Press Office.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Secretary John Lehman will swear-in Commodore Hopper.
- Family members will assist Commodore Hopper in putting on her new jacket.
- Photograph of the President with Commodore Hopper, the family and Secretary Lehman.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 12, 1983

MEETING WITH EDITORS OF LADIES' HOME JOURNAL

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1983
LOCATION: OVAL OFFICE
TIME: 5:00 p.m. (5 Minutes)
FROM: Larry Speakes *S*

I. PURPOSE

To present you with a bound copy of the 100th Anniversary Edition of the Ladies' Home Journal featuring the Reagan family.

II. BACKGROUND

An article under your by-line appears in the Centennial Edition entitled, "In Praise of American Women," with family pictures of Mrs. Reagan, Nellie Reagan, Maureen and Patti.

The Journal will publicly release the complete text of the article at this time. The magazine will be available on newsstands later in the month.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Robert Riordan, President, Family Media Inc., (Publisher)
Myrna Blyth, Editor-in-Chief
Jan Goodwin, Executive Editor
Sandra Enos, Executive Editor
Larry Speakes

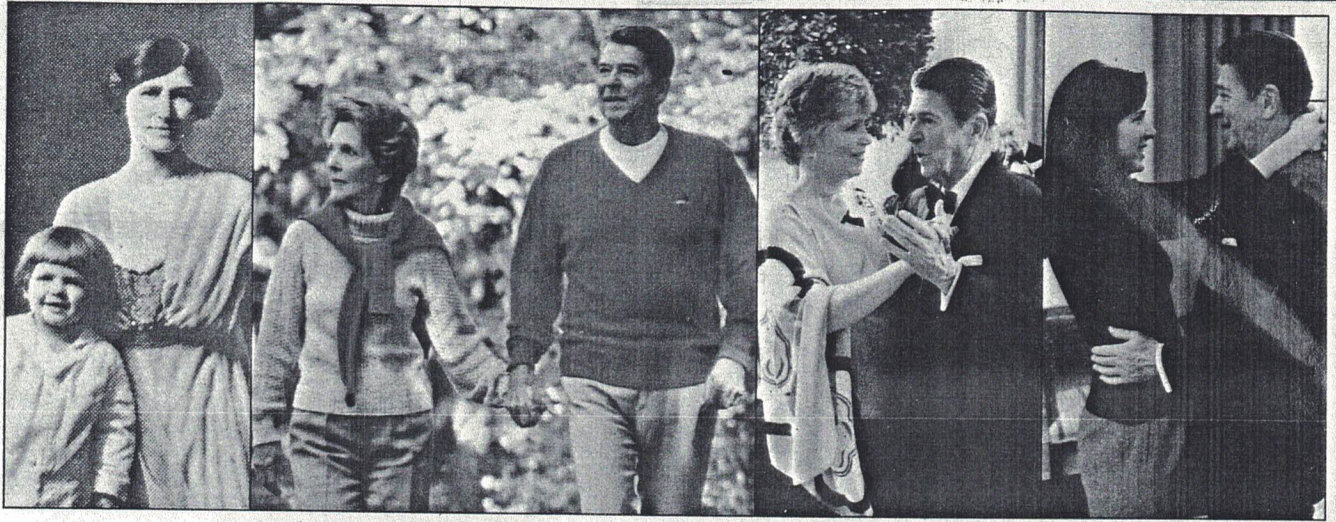
IV. PRESS PLAN

Wire Service Photographers
White House Photographer

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 5:00 p.m. -- Editors enter the Oval Office and are introduced to you by Larry Speakes.
- Robert Riordan, President of Family Media Inc., will present you with the bound volume.
- You offer congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of the Ladies' Home Journal, and comment on the Reagan family article.

Article Attached.



Women have always played an important role in President Reagan's life, from his mother, Nelle (far left), to his wife, Nancy (center left), to his independent daughters, Maureen (center right) and Patti (far right).

IN PRAISE OF AMERICAN WOMEN

Since 1905, Presidents have spoken to America's women through the pages of the *Ladies' Home Journal*. In this tradition, we are delighted to present the following piece by President Reagan. Written especially for the *Journal*, it is a tribute not only to the women in his life, but to all the women in America.

Before I do anything else, let me congratulate the *Ladies' Home Journal* on its hundredth anniversary and thank the editors for the chance to contribute to this centennial issue.

Women's lives have changed a great deal since this magazine began a century ago. I can see this evolution in the roles of women in my own family. My mother, my wife, my two daughters—these are the women who have had the greatest influence on me. Each is strong in her own way, in her own generation. I thought I might write today about these three generations of women who mean so much to me, because in their personal lives is the larger story of the changing

role of American women over the past one hundred years.

My mother was named Nelle, a beautiful name from another time, and it fit her quiet determination and beauty perfectly. She was small with auburn hair and blue eyes, and she kept our family together, with deep-seated faith, through the Depression and through those ups and downs every family experiences. Her trust in God was absolute. My father was hard-working, had a sense of humor, and was more worldly than she. He also had a problem. He was an alcoholic. He would go months without a drink, and then with no warning become a different person.

As we grew up in that small town of Dixon, Illinois, her love

and strength helped us understand our father. She taught my brother Neil and me that alcoholism was a sickness, that we should love and help our father, not condemn him for something that was beyond his control. And, knowing today what we do about alcoholism, my mother could not have given us better advice. The Depression forced her to work in a dress shop for \$14 a week so that we could make ends meet. She kept us together emotionally and financially and provided stability for our family.

Her education took her through only elementary school, but she knew no diploma was needed for kindness, for love, for doing what was right. I could recall all day stories of her

(continued)

By President Ronald Reagan

IN PRAISE OF WOMEN

continued

goodness. After my parents moved to California, my mother discovered a tuberculosis sanatorium for indigents and devoted many hours to the patients there. Months after her death, a waiter came up behind me at a movie banquet and whispered in my ear, "You want a steak instead of that rubber chicken?" I admitted I would be very grateful, and he brought me a juicy sirloin. I figured he must be a real fan—but it wasn't my movies that motivated him. "Just tell me how your mother's doing," he said. He was a former patient who had never forgotten my mother's visits.

I know, even as I write this article, there are women in America just like my mother. They have hearts that carry without complaint the pains of the family. Perhaps the husband is troubled or out of work or even gone. Perhaps the children need special help or attention. They are women who seek to hold their family safe from alcohol or illness or crime or any number of possible threats, all the while working so that the family can survive economically. These women have my deepest respect and affection for what they are accomplishing. They are human treasures, and I hope their families love and cherish them for their goodness and strength.

My mother, who died in 1962, would marvel at the changes women have experienced in recent years. There is a story that tells quite a bit about the greater opportunities women have today than they had a century ago. And sometimes an anecdote can reveal more than can logic alone.

An accident had occurred, and a woman was bending over the injured fellow when a man elbowed his way through the crowd, pushed the woman to one side and said, "I've had training in first aid. Let me take care of this." The woman calmly stepped back, and the man started trying all the things he had learned, going through this routine and that. Finally, she tapped him on the shoulder and said, "When you get to the part about calling the doctor, I'm right here."

This story also tells what a distance we have to go in changing perceptions.

The women of Nancy's generation have probably had the most difficult time dealing with the changes that have swirled around us. Many of them grew up in a society that taught them to be one thing, only to arrive at a

point in their lives when society began expecting something else. Nancy had a successful career as an actress. I would never have asked her to give it up for marriage, but she made that choice herself. She said she wanted marriage to be her full-time job.

Whatever the expectations of her, Nancy has always come through with flying colors. She has met challenges that take a great deal of inner strength. She married an actor, but as I became interested in politics, her life evolved into something much more complicated than she or I had ever imagined. In politics you gain a great deal, but you also lose some things. She lost part of her private life, and lost part of our family time together. I guess you might say Nancy is a nester. She loves home and family life, and public office has taken a major portion of that away—there are always obligations to meet and events to attend.



The women of Nancy's generation grew up in a society that taught them to be one thing, only to arrive at a point in their lives when society began expecting something else.



And, of course, since the shooting, she worries every time I leave the gates of the White House.

When I was elected President, Nancy got a full-time job as well, the job of First Lady. And make no mistake, it is a job, a difficult and demanding one—and one, I might add, she never sought. But she had the desire and perseverance to succeed in this new role, and she is doing marvelously. I wish you could read all the letters from kids involved with drugs telling how much she has helped them and how she has changed their lives. And what really brings a lump to my throat are the letters about the lives she has saved.

I am so proud to be married to this woman. Nancy had the strength to give up part of herself for my career in politics, yet at the same time maintain who she is inside. She did it willingly and lovingly. Nancy is my partner in life. She makes the wonderful things worth sharing, and the harder, more painful things easier to bear. Nancy's love is the strongest part of her being and it gives me strength as well.

My daughters, Maureen and Patti, are women of a different era than either Nancy or my mother. They are new, modern women, and they are very

independent. I am quite proud of them. I must admit when certain people, for political reasons, say I don't understand the modern woman, I am always very tempted to say, "Oh yeah? Then how come I have two of the most independent, accomplished, loving daughters a father could find?"

I think they are the kind of women who can do just about anything. Maureen has worked in radio and television, promoted overseas trade, run for political office; and now, on a part-time basis, she is giving her old dad advice on, believe it or not, how to communicate to women what the Administration is trying to accomplish. She is married to a very fine man, but one thing I know about Maureen is that she will always be able to take care of herself. She has what in the old days we would call spunk; today they call it assertiveness.

My younger daughter, Patti, is independent as well. She is a songwriter, a singer, an actress, and talented in each. She also has very much her own opinions. We two agree on the need to reduce nuclear weapons, but we have different ideas on how to go about it. And don't think there haven't been some animated discussions on that topic. She is the only person I can debate nuclear arms with who will then turn around and give me a kiss.

I not only love my daughters, I admire them. They are true individuals. Their outlooks and their lives are representative of the varied interests and varied futures women have today. Some seek to start their own businesses. Some seek to advance in their chosen careers. Some seek to focus on the home and family. And some seek to do all these things.

My mother was basically a homemaker. Nancy filled the role of homemaker plus that of actress and public figure. My daughters are pursuing demanding careers. This to me is the story of women over the last century. No role is superior to another. The point is, a woman must have the right to choose the one role she wishes or to perhaps fill them all.

By the time the bicentennial edition of *Ladies' Home Journal* comes out (I promise to do another article if I am around), women may be facing issues that are unimaginable today. But I know that, with the strength, love and intelligence America's women have always possessed, the future is not something to fear. I have great faith in the women I love, and I have great faith in all of America's women.

End

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1983

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

DATE: December 15, 1983

LOCATION: South Lawn

TIME: 5:35 PM

FROM: James S. Rosebush *JRM*

I. PURPOSE

To light the National Christmas Tree.

II. BACKGROUND

Annual event. The President's segment is an integral part of program in progress on the Ellipse.

III. PARTICIPANTS

President and Mrs. Reagan
Amy Benham, an eight-year-old with Hodgkin's disease. She is in the third stage, has never been in remission and has been diagnosed as being terminal. She wrote a letter to Make-A-Wish asking if she could help the President turn on the Christmas lights.

IV. PRESS PLAN

As determined by the Press Office, including a live pool feed from press platform on South Lawn by ABC to enable people on Ellipse to see the President light the tree.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The President and Mrs. Reagan should be in the Dip Room at 5:35 PM to meet Amy Benham and her parents. The program switches from the Ellipse to the White House at 5:45:30, National Children's Choir on steps in progress singing "Angels We Have Heard on High" complete chorus, the President is announced. The President makes remarks. The President steps left to have Amy Benham help him light the tree. At conclusion (5:52 PM) the President steps back to the lectern and asks everyone to join him in singing "Joy to the World". The President and Mrs. Reagan wave goodbye, and the program returns to the Ellipse (5:53 PM).

(Elliott)
December 14, 1983
4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LIGHTING OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1983

My fellow Americans, in just a moment we will be lighting our national Christmas Tree, continuing a wonderful tradition first begun by President Coolidge 60 years ago.

I know there's a special feeling we share when we push the button lighting up that tree. It's as if each one of those twinkling lights sends a new spirit of love, hope and joy through the heart of America. And of course the brightest light of all is the star of peace, expressing our hopes and prayers for peace -- for our families, our communities, our Nation and the world.

On behalf of our fellow citizens, Nancy and I would like to thank all of you on the Ellipse who have given America such a beautiful Christmas present -- the 1983 Pageant for Peace.

Christmas is a time for giving. And as we reach out to family and friends, I hope we'll also open our hearts to those who are lonely and in need: citizens less fortunate than ourselves; brave soldiers working to preserve peace from the tip of Alaska, to the shores of Lebanon, to the DMZ; families maintaining a constant vigil for their missing in action; and millions forbidden the freedom to worship a God who so loved the world that He gave us the birth of the Christ Child, so we might learn to love each other. I know they would welcome your expressions of love and support.

Many stories have been written about Christmas. Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol," is probably the most famous. Well, I'd like to read some lines from a favorite of mine called, "One Solitary Life," which describes for me the meaning of Christmas.

It's the story of a man born of Jewish parents, who grew up in an obscure village, working in a carpenter shop until he was 30, then for 3 years as a preacher.

And as the story says, "He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness . . ."

"While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on Earth while he was dying -- his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone; today he is the centerpiece of much of the human race."

"All the armies that have ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon Earth as powerfully as that one solitary life."

I have always believed the message of Jesus is one of hope and joy. If we live our lives for truth, for love, and for God, we need never be afraid. God will be with us, and we will be part of something much larger, much more powerful and enduring than any force here on Earth.

Tonight, I have a special person here with me to spread our Christmas joy. Her name is Amy Benham. She comes all the way from Westport, Washington. Amy recently wrote the leaders of a public-spirited project named "Make a Wish," and said, "The Christmas tree that lights up for our country must be seen all the way to Heaven. I would wish so much to help President Reagan turn on those Christmas lights."

Amy, the nicest Christmas present I could receive is helping you make your dream come true. When you press that button, the whole world will know that Amy Benham lit up the skies, sending America's love, hope and joy all the way to Heaven -- and making the angels sing.

Now Amy, let's you and I walk over so you can light the tree. Then let's all join in singing one of our favorite Christmas carols -- Joy to the World.

[After song concludes.] Thank you all, God bless you and Merry Christmas.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: RECEPTION
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS
Thursday, December 15, 1983


TIME: 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Floor

NUMBER OF GUESTS: 650

ENTERTAINMENT: U.S. Marine Orchestra
Inspirational Singers
Harp and Flute

DRESS: Business Suit

FROM: Gahl L. Hodges 

7:45 p.m. Guests begin to arrive the Diplomatic Reception Room via the Southeast Gate and are led up the Grand Staircase to the State Floor and into the State Dining Room and the East Room for refreshments.

NOTE: When the parking area on the South Grounds is filled, guests will be directed to the East Executive Avenue to park and then enter via the East Gate.

8:05 p.m. Social Aides will begin lining the guests up for the receiving line in the State Dining Room. As many guests as possible should be in the State Dining Room with remaining guests in the East Room, north half.

8:15 p.m. THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN proceed to the State Floor via the elevator and continue to the Blue Room via the Red Room.

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN take their places in the front of the Christmas Tree for the receiving line.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1983

Social Aides will start the receiving line feeding from the north door of the State Dining Room, into the Red Room, from the north door of the Red Room into the Blue Room, past THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN, into the Green Room and through the north door into the East Room for refreshments.

As the guests depart the State Dining Room for the receiving line, additional guests waiting in the East Room will be escorted to the State Dining Room for the receiving line.

9:30 p.m. At the termination of the receiving line and after a brief mix and mingle, THE PRESIDENT and MRS. REAGAN proceed to the Residence via the elevator.

10:00 p.m. All guests depart via the East Gate and the Diplomatic Reception Room.