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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1983

M.B.

MEMORANDUM TO JAMES A. BAKER III AND EDWIN MEESE III

FROM: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY *FRW*

SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits, School Prayer, and Pornography

TUITION TAX CREDITS:

This issue is of overwhelming importance to many traditionally Democratic parents who send their children to Catholic, Protestant and Jewish schools. Groups like the Knights of Columbus, Agudath Israel, and many fundamentalist Christian churches hinge their support of the President on this issue.

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The story attached in the USA Today the following Monday has been devastating. The article claims the President misled the coalition, and the headline specifically says the issue is "low priority."

To maintain our credibility with this broad-based coalition, there must be delivery on the commitment Senators Baker and Dole gave the President. That is, the tuition tax credit bill must come up for Senate floor action this fall. The President told the group, "I will settle for nothing less than a two-House strategy which can get this long over-due bill on my desk for signature." This requires that the bill be added to a House-passed revenue measure, and there are only a few of those in prospect.

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Ken Duberstein, Morton Blackwell and I met on Friday, October 7, to discuss the choice of a legislative vehicle to which tuition tax credits could be attached. I emphasized the importance of selecting a vehicle which is a "must pass" bill lest we risk great disillusionment with our strategy and increased questioning of our commitment.

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The action required is for the White House to keep up maximum pressure on the Senators to bring up the proposal.

This situation is not unlike the tuition tax credit issue. Politically we win if we get votes on the Senate floor. It would be most helpful to win those votes, but a serious let-down for our supporters if we get no record votes.

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Postal Inspectors, U.S. Customs officials, and former FBI officials say nothing has been done to change the Justice Department's disinclination to raise the priority of anti-pornography law enforcement.

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As the problem of pornography gets worse, the number of prosecutions goes down. A few well publicized busts and prosecutions will convince the coalition that the President is really serious about this. The group is convinced that without much more White House pressure, nothing will change on this topic at Justice.

#### Attachments

cc: Richard G. Darman  
Kenneth Duberstein  
Edward Rollins

*David Geige*

# Tax credits for tuition 'low priority'

By Chris Collins  
and Ann Devroy  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Although President Reagan is being portrayed as hard at work fulfilling his campaign promise to provide tax breaks for parents of private school children, neither Congress nor the White House expects those promises to be kept.

And while Reagan will continue pushing tax credits in highly visible ways, the issue is nowhere near the top of his legislative priorities.

That isn't the impression Reagan left with conservative and religious leaders in an Oval Office meeting last week. Conservative leader Paul Weyrich walked out of the session convinced, he said, that Reagan would work hard for the tax credits and that "there's a possibility" Congress would pass them this year.

"I'm convinced in my own mind that they are serious," he



By Mark Angeles, USA TODAY  
WEYRICH: Still thinks tax credits 'a possibility.'

said.

That, indeed, is the White House's on-the-record position. But off the record, officials say they will not make any huge lobbying effort in Congress for tuition tax credits.

Even if the White House lob-

bied intensely, it is unlikely that the tax credits would pass this year, especially in the Democrat-controlled House.

From the view of Republicans in the White House, Reagan could still say he worked like heck to get the credits through Congress, but was stymied by House Democrats.

It will be tougher, however, to pin the blame on Democrats if the bill doesn't clear the Republican-controlled Senate. And it probably won't, White House officials concede.

"I don't think anything will happen," says Erta Fielek, an aide to Finance Committee member Bob Packwood, R-Ore., a co-sponsor of the tuition tax credit bill. "The senator's position all along has been that — if anything — support has been waning ... We don't even talk about tuition tax credits anymore."

But the White House is still talking. According to a Senate aide, tax credit supporters were told Friday that the administration was "set" to take the bill to the Senate floor.

"If they tried to push it through, we'd fight it tooth and nail," vows Mike Fernandez, a spokesman for Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., a leading Senate opponent of tuition tax credits. "We can win it."

Republican aides agree. "It would die immediately" as a separate bill, Fielek said.

In theory, the issue could be attached to a popular "must-pass" bill. But there's a sticking point: For parliamentary reasons, it would have to be attached to a House-passed revenue bill. None are pending nor expected.

Draft letter from the President to Tuition Tax Credit Coalition members with whom he met in the Cabinet Room on September 16, 1983.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me in the Cabinet Room September 16 on the topic of tuition tax credits.

As I said then, I spoke on September 14 with Senator Howard Baker and Senator Bob Dole on the urgent need for prompt U.S. Senate floor action on our bill. I urged them to help us get tuition tax credits as an amendment to a House-passed revenue bill this year.

Nothing less than a two-House strategy will get this bill on my desk for signature. We cannot settle for any one-House plan.

Senator Baker and Senator Dole gave me their pledge that tuition tax credits will come up for Senate action this fall. I will continue to confer with them in order to determine the most effective legislative strategy.

Some people opposed to passage of this important measure have circulated stories to the media to the effect that somehow, despite my conversation with you, this matter is not viewed as urgent in my Administration. Let me again assure you that tuition tax credit is at the very top of my domestic legislation agenda.

We have worked together for years to get tuition tax credits written into law. I am in this fight to win. With your continued strong support, we will win.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
JAMES T. DRAPER, JR.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 400  
EULESS, TEXAS 76039

July 8, 1983

President Ronald Reagan  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

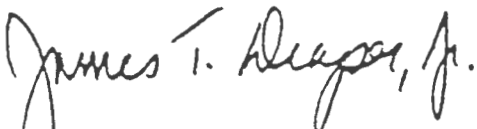
I regret that I could not meet with you, but am required to be at another meeting in the Midwest. I was privileged to meet with a group of Christian leaders today at the invitation of the Freedom Council. Your invitation came during our meeting this afternoon.

I strongly believe in the right of voluntary prayer in the public schools. I have traveled over 130,000 miles this past year. I have concluded that the overwhelming majority of our 14 million Southern Baptists favor voluntary prayer in the public schools. We are a theistic country. The Supreme Court has clearly ruled that such acknowledgment of our theistic faith in the public sector is our right by law. Voluntary prayer guarantees the same right to our children.

I have had some concerns regarding the proposed prayer amendment. I believe it must include clear language, disallowing any authority of the state to prescribe the content of such prayer. I urgently request that distinct language be employed by the proposed amendment to make this absolutely clear. If such changes are made, I would strongly support it.

May God bless you today and every day. You are constantly in our prayers.

In His love,

  
James T. Draper, Jr.

JID:mn

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: JONATHAN VIPOND, III

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits, School Prayer and  
Pornography

As you know, I am working on a longer paper relating to issues politically important to the 1984 elections. Here is a brief summary on the status of three of these issues:

TUITION TAX CREDITS:

This issue is of overwhelming importance to many traditionally Democratic parents who send their children to Catholic, Protestant and Jewish schools. Groups like the Knights of Columbus, Agudath Israel, and many fundamentalist Christian churches hinge their support of the President on this issue.

The President's recent Cabinet Room meeting with the leaders of the Tuition Tax Credit coalition was a smashing success. Even people like Paul Weyrich who tend to doubt our seriousness on this issue, left the meeting convinced the President had ordered a full court press on this issue now.

The story attached in the USA TODAY the following Monday has been devastating. The article claims the President misled the coalition, and the headline specifically says the issue is "low priority." The "Alice" column in the following day's Washington Times claimed that Ken Duberstein had been contemptuous of Weyrich as the Cabinet Room meeting broke up. Duberstein flatly denies this.

To maintain our creditability with this broad-based coalition, there must be delivery on the commitment Senators Baker and Dole gave the President. That is, the tuition tax credit bill must come up for Senate floor action this fall. The President told the group, "I will settle for nothing less than a two-House strategy which can get this



long overdue bill on my desk for signature." This requires that the bill be added to a House-passed revenue measure, of which there are only a few in prospect.

If the past is any guide, the Senators in question will come up with reasons why each bill, in turn, should not be "encumbered" with the tuition tax credit issue. If we let this happen, there will be major explosions with unfortunate political fall out next year.

As a stop-gap measure, I suggest the President send the coalition members who met with him the attached letter to reaffirm his statements in the Cabinet Room.

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The danger here is that the Senate leadership will fail to do what they have promised, namely bring up the Amendment which was voted out by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The action required is for the White House to keep up maximum pressure on the Senators to bring up the proposal.

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MCB:jet

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Ronald Reagan

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
JAMES T. DRAPER, JR.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 400  
EULESS, TEXAS 76039

July 8, 1983

President Ronald Reagan  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

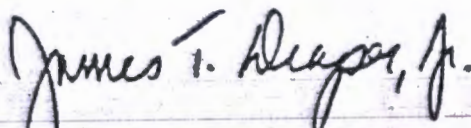
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In His love,



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JJD/mn

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
October 12, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jack C. Courtemanche  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*  
SUBJECT: New Taxation of Churches

Attached is a memorandum I have prepared for your signature.

This is a volatile issue which is going to make ugly headlines soon for the President unless action is promptly taken.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment a/s

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October 12, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO JAMES A. BAKER III AND EDWIN MEESE III

FROM: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

SUBJECT: New Taxation of Churches

The fundamentalist and evangelical Protestant churches are waking up to the reality that they are about to be required to start paying Social Security taxes, under the provisions of our TEFRA passed last year. The new taxation is scheduled to go into effect January 1 for church employees, which includes church-related-school employees and all church staff except clergy.

Wealthy, main line Protestant churches are not yet deeply involved in resistance to this new tax. But it now appears that at least hundreds of Mennonite, Amish, fundamentalist and evangelical church leaders will refuse to pay the tax. At a September 30 meeting organized by the National Christian Action Coalition at the Capitol Hill Club, thirty preachers and Christian school leaders from around the country held fiery discussions on this issue.

The result early in 1984 would be that our Treasury Department and our Justice Department, acting under our revenue bill, would be taking high-visibility legal actions against outspoken religious leaders, many of whom broke all precedent by working hard to elect us in 1980.

Religious leaders are working with Senator Bill Armstrong and some House members to introduce a bill to exempt religious organizations from the new tax. We should decide now if we are prepared to weather this coming storm. If not, we should get to work now with Congressional friends to introduce an Administration-backed repealer of this portion of TEFRA. Judging from the intensity of feeling now building up on this issue, I suggest the latter course.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1983

MB

MEMORANDUM TO JAMES A. BAKER III AND EDWIN MEESE III

FROM: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY *FRW*

SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits, School Prayer, and Pornography

TUITION TAX CREDITS:

This issue is of overwhelming importance to many traditionally Democratic parents who send their children to Catholic, Protestant and Jewish schools. Groups like the Knights of Columbus, Agudath Israel, and many fundamentalist Christian churches hinge their support of the President on this issue.

The President's recent Cabinet Room meeting with the leaders of the Tuition Tax Credit coalition was a smashing success. Even people like Paul Weyrich who tend to doubt our seriousness on this issue, left the meeting convinced the President had ordered a full court press on this issue now.

The story attached in the USA Today the following Monday has been devastating. The article claims the President misled the coalition, and the headline specifically says the issue is "low priority."

To maintain our credibility with this broad-based coalition, there must be delivery on the commitment Senators Baker and Dole gave the President. That is, the tuition tax credit bill must come up for Senate floor action this fall. The President told the group, "I will settle for nothing less than a two-House strategy which can get this long over-due bill on my desk for signature." This requires that the bill be added to a House-passed revenue measure, and there are only a few of those in prospect.

If the past is any guide, the Senators in question will come up with reasons why each bill, in turn, should not be "encumbered" with the tuition tax credit issue. If we let this happen, there will be major explosions with unfortunate fall-out next year.

I suggest the President send the coalition members who met with him the attached letter to reaffirm his statements in the Cabinet Room.

Ken Duberstein, Morton Blackwell and I met on Friday, October 7, to discuss the choice of a legislative vehicle to which tuition tax credits could be attached. I emphasized the importance of selecting a vehicle which is a "must pass" bill lest we risk great disillusionment with our strategy and increased questioning of our commitment.

#### SCHOOL PRAYER:

We have transmitted to the School Prayer Coalition the assurances repeatedly given to the Legislative Affairs Office by Senator Baker that the President's Voluntary Prayer Amendment will be brought up in October for Senate floor consideration. Based on these assurances, many groups are devoting major resources to this effort. Pat Robertson has spent two weeks visiting with religious leaders to generate grassroots support. Dr. Jimmy Draper, President of the 14 million member Southern Baptist Convention has officially written all 100 Senators and started large amounts of local activity directed at the Senators. Dr. Jerry Falwell has recently mailed out 800,000 letters to generate favorable mail. "Save Our Schools," a Viguerie client, is mailing heavily on this topic.

The coalition supporting restoration of voluntary school prayer is united in opposition to the Hatch "silent prayer" amendment which was also voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The attached letter from Dr. Jimmy Draper is illustrative of their feelings. In fact, its strong criticism of the Hatch proposal is mild by comparison with other comments.

Dr. Ron Godwin of Moral Majority has spoken personally with Hatch and received a vague response to Falwell's request that the Senator withdraw his amendment. Hatch has declined to meet with Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network and the 700 Club. Robertson is outspoken in favor of the President's amendment and vigorously against Hatch's. In fact, we have not seen an indication of support for the "silent prayer" amendment from any religious organization in the United States. Those National Council of Churches groups which oppose the President's amendment also oppose Hatch's.

There have been no other prayer amendments voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. By a two to one vote, the Judiciary Committee did vote out a proposed statute which would attempt to guarantee equal access for voluntary student prayer groups, on the same basis as non-religious groups, for the use of school facilities for meetings. The view of the coalition on this Denton bill is that it is only a supplement to the President's amendment. A statute might be struck down unless the Amendment were in place.

Based on the assurance from Senator Baker, all supportive groups are timing their grassroots efforts for a Senate vote in late October. The danger here is that the Senate leadership will fail to do what they have promised, namely, bring up the Amendment which was voted out by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Last week this group received information that when Senator Baker met with the Republican Senators and listed legislative priorities for the remainder of the year, school prayer was not mentioned. This information has been deeply disturbing to the school prayer coalition who are devoting enormous effort to lobbying in support of a school prayer amendment in the belief that it will be brought up during this session.

The action required is for the White House to keep up maximum pressure on the Senators to bring up the proposal.

This situation is not unlike the tuition tax credit issue. Politically we win if we get votes on the Senate floor. It would be most helpful to win those votes, but a serious let-down for our supporters if we get no record votes.

PORNOGRAPHY LAW:

The anti-pornography coalition was delighted with the initial results of their Cabinet Room meeting with the President. The subsequent lack of action leaves them upset.

We have formed a White House Task Force on enforcement of pornography laws. Steve Galebach of the Office of Policy Development is the White House Coordinator. Due to other pressing demands on Galebach's time, there is little to show for the effort. The Justice Department has sent out one memorandum to U.S. Attorneys; this memo is described as totally inadequate by the coalition.

Postal Inspectors, U.S. Customs officials, and former FBI officials say nothing has been done to change the Justice Department's disinclination to raise the priority of anti-pornography law enforcement.

What is needed in this case is for the President to direct the Justice Department actually to increase prosecutions.

As the problem of pornography gets worse, the number of prosecutions goes down. A few well publicized busts and prosecutions will convince the coalition that the President is really serious about this. The group is convinced that without much more White House pressure, nothing will change on this topic at Justice.

Attachments

cc: Richard G. Darman  
Kenneth Duberstein  
Edward Rollins  
*David Geige*



# Tax credits for tuition 'low priority'

By Chris Collins  
and Ann Devroy  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Although President Reagan is being portrayed as hard at work fulfilling his campaign promise to provide tax breaks for parents of private school children, neither Congress nor the White House expects those promises to be kept.

And while Reagan will continue pushing tax credits in highly visible ways, the issue is nowhere near the top of his legislative priorities.

That isn't the impression Reagan left with conservative and religious leaders in an Oval Office meeting last week. Conservative leader Paul Weyrich walked out of the session convinced, he said, that Reagan would work hard for the tax credits and that "there's a possibility" Congress would pass them this year.

"I'm convinced in my own mind that they are serious," he



By Mark Angeles, USA TODAY  
WEYRICH: Still thinks tax credits 'a possibility.'

said.

That, indeed, is the White House's on-the-record position. But off the record, officials say they will not make any huge lobbying effort in Congress for tuition tax credits.

Even if the White House lob-

bied intensely, it is unlikely that the tax credits would pass this year, especially in the Democrat-controlled House.

From the view of Republicans in the White House, Reagan could still say he worked like hell to get the credits through Congress, but was stymied by House Democrats.

It will be tougher, however, to pin the blame on Democrats if the bill doesn't clear the Republican-controlled Senate. And it probably won't, White House officials concede.

"I don't think anything will happen," says Etta Fielek, an aide to Finance Committee member Bob Packwood, R-Ore., a co-sponsor of the tuition tax credit bill. "The senator's position all along has been that — if anything — support has been waning... We don't even talk about tuition tax credits anymore."

But the White House is still talking. According to a Senate aide, tax credit supporters were told Friday that the administration was "set" to take the bill to the Senate floor.

"If they tried to push it through, we'd fight it tooth and nail," vows Mike Fernandez, a spokesman for Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., a leading Senate opponent of tuition tax credits. "We can win it."

Republican aides agree. "It would die immediately" as a separate bill, Fielek said.

In theory, the issue could be attached to a popular "must-pass" bill. But there's a sticking point: For parliamentary reasons, it would have to be attached to a House-passed revenue bill. None are pending nor expected.

Draft letter from the President to Tuition Tax Credit Coalition members with whom he met in the Cabinet Room on September 16, 1983.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me in the Cabinet Room September 16 on the topic of tuition tax credits.

As I said then, I spoke on September 14 with Senator Howard Baker and Senator Bob Dole on the urgent need for prompt U.S. Senate floor action on our bill. I urged them to help us get tuition tax credits as an amendment to a House-passed revenue bill this year.

Nothing less than a two-House strategy will get this bill on my desk for signature. We cannot settle for any one-House plan.

Senator Baker and Senator Dole gave me their pledge that tuition tax credits will come up for Senate action this fall. I will continue to confer with them in order to determine the most effective legislative strategy.

Some people opposed to passage of this important measure have circulated stories to the media to the effect that somehow, despite my conversation with you, this matter is not viewed as urgent in my Administration. Let me again assure you that tuition tax credit is at the very top of my domestic legislation agenda.

We have worked together for years to get tuition tax credits written into law. I am in this fight to win. With your continued strong support, we will win.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
JAMES T. DRAPER, JR.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 400  
EULESS, TEXAS 76039

July 8, 1983

President Ronald Reagan  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

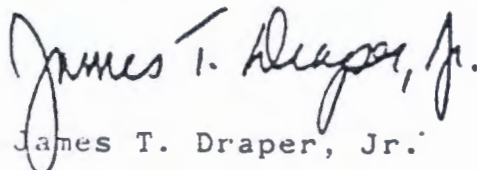
I regret that I could not meet with you, but am required to be at another meeting in the Midwest. I was privileged to meet with a group of Christian leaders today at the invitation of the Freedom Council. Your invitation came during our meeting this afternoon.

I strongly believe in the right of voluntary prayer in the public schools. I have traveled over 130,000 miles this past year. I have concluded that the overwhelming majority of our 14 million Southern Baptists favor voluntary prayer in the public schools. We are a theistic country. The Supreme Court has clearly ruled that such acknowledgment of our theistic faith in the public sector is our right by law. Voluntary prayer guarantees the same right to our children.

I have had some concerns regarding the proposed prayer amendment. I believe it must include clear language, disallowing any authority of the state to prescribe the content of such prayer. I urgently request that distinct language be employed by the proposed amendment to make this absolutely clear. If such changes are made, I would strongly support it.

May God bless you today and every day. You are constantly in our prayers.

In His love,

  
James T. Draper, Jr.

JTD/mn

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Mary Ann Meloy  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *M.C.B.*  
SUBJECT: The Fundamentalist and Evangelical Voters

Attached is a duplicate copy of the memorandum on Tuition Tax Credit, School Prayer, and Pornography which I had expanded as you requested.

Following is the other data you requested:

1. Approximately 85,000,000 Christians attend church in the United States on an average Sunday. About 125,000,000 consider themselves church-going Christians.
2. Sixty million (60,000,000) adult Christians consider themselves "born again."
3. Of the "born again" Christians, an estimated 14,000,000 are not registered to vote. In 1980, it was found that the more "fundamentalist" a congregation, the lower its percentage of registered voters tended to be. Fifty percent (50%) registered was a common finding.

The above figures are generally agreed upon by a wide variety of religious leaders. Dr. Jerry Falwell organized some significant registration drives through the churches in 1980. Most of the theologically conservative religious leaders are now receptive to suggestions that they work to get their congregations registered, but little organizational work has been done yet for the 1984 election period.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date:

TO: *Martan*

FROM: FAITH R. WHITTLESEY

*19/3 THB..*

Information

Action

*FRW said "section on prayer to be chg. ? M.F."*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
September 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*  
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credit, School Prayer and  
Pornography Memorandum

Attached per your request is a revised copy of my original memorandum of the 26th. I have added the additional information to the portion on School Prayer as you requested.

MCB:jet

Attachment a/s

*Susan - Original to MAM; this FYI*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
September 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III  
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*  
SUBJECT: Tuition Tax Credits, School Prayer and  
Pornography

As you know, I am working on a longer paper relating to issues politically important to the 1984 elections. Here is a brief summary on the status of three of these issues:

TUITION TAX CREDITS:

This issue is of overwhelming importance to many traditionally Democratic parents who send their children to Catholic, Protestant and Jewish schools. Groups like the Knights of Columbus, Agudath Israel, and many fundamentalist Christian churches hinge their support of the President on this issue.

The President's recent Cabinet Room meeting with the leaders of the Tuition Tax Credit coalition was a smashing success. Even people like Paul Weyrich who tend to doubt our seriousness on this issue, left the meeting convinced the President had ordered a full court press on this issue now.

The story attached in the USA TODAY the following Monday has been devastating. The article claims the President misled the coalition, and the headline specifically says the issue is "low priority." The "Alice" column in the following day's Washington Times claimed that Ken Duberstein had been contemptuous of Weyrich as the Cabinet Room meeting broke up. Duberstein flatly denies this, although Weyrich staffer Greg Butler affirms the story.

To maintain our credibility with this broad-based coalition, there must be delivery on the commitment Senators Baker and Dole gave the President. That is, the tuition tax credit bill must come up for Senate floor action this fall. The President told the group, "I will settle for nothing less than a two-House strategy which can get this

long overdue bill on my desk for signature." This requires that the bill be added to a House-passed revenue measure, of which there are only a few in prospect.

If the past is any guide, the Senators in question will come up with reasons why each bill, in turn, should not be "encumbered" with the tuition tax credit issue. If we let this happen, there will be major explosions with unfortunate political fall out next year.

As a stop-gap measure, I suggest the President send the coalition members who met with him the attached letter to reaffirm his statements in the Cabinet Room.

SCHOOL PRAYER:

We have transmitted to the School Prayer Coalition the assurances repeatedly given to the Legislative Affairs Office by Senator Baker that the President's Voluntary Prayer Amendment will be brought up in October for Senate floor consideration. Based on these assurances, many groups are devoting major resources to this effort. Pat Robertson has spent two weeks visiting with religious leaders to generate grassroots support. Dr. Jimmy Draper, President of the 14 million member Southern Baptist Convention has officially written all 100 Senators and started large amounts of local activity directed at the Senators. Dr. Jerry Falwell has recently mailed out 800,000 letters to generate favorable mail. "Save Our Schools," a Viguerie client is mailing heavily on the topic.

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MCB:jet

Attachment a/s

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By Chris Collins  
and Ann Devroy  
USA TODAY

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And while Reagan will continue pushing tax credits in highly visible ways, the issue is nowhere near the top of his legislative priorities.

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By Mark Angeles, USA TODAY  
WEYRICH: Still thinks tax credits 'a possibility.'

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bied intensely, it is unlikely that the tax credits would pass this year, especially in the Democrat-controlled House.

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It will be tougher, however, to pin the blame on Democrats if the bill doesn't clear the Republican-controlled Senate. And it probably won't, White House officials concede.

"I don't think anything will happen," says Etta Fielek, an aide to Finance Committee member Bob Packwood, R-Ore., a co-sponsor of the tuition tax credit bill. "The senator's position all along has been that — if anything — support has been waning. ... We don't even talk about tuition tax credits anymore."

But the White House is still talking. According to a Senate aide, tax credit supporters were told Friday that the administration was "set" to take the bill to the Senate floor.

"If they tried to push it through, we'd fight it tooth and nail," vows Mike Fernandez, a spokesman for Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., a leading Senate opponent of tuition tax credits. "We can win it."

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Draft letter from the President to Tuition Tax Credit Coalition members with whom he met in the Cabinet Room September 16, 1983.

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As I said then, I spoke on September 14 with Senator Howard Baker and Senator Bob Dole on the urgent need for prompt U.S. Senate floor action on our bill. I urged them to help us get tuition tax credits as an amendment to a House-passed revenue bill this year..

Nothing less than a two-House strategy will get this bill on my desk for signature. We cannot settle for any one-House plan.

Senator Baker and Senator Dole gave me their pledge that tuition tax credit will come up for Senate action this fall. I suggested a bill which might serve as a vehicle. They had some other ideas and promised to come up with an effective legislative strategy. They will confer with me again soon on this.

Some people opposed to passage of this important measure have circulated stories to the media to the effect that somehow, despite my conversation with you, this matter is not viewed as urgent in my Administration. Let me again assure you that tuition tax credit is at the very top of my domestic legislation agenda.

We have worked together for years to get tuition tax credits written into law. I am in this fight to win. With your continued strong support, we will win.

Sincerely,

RR

# SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
JAMES T. DRAPEP, JR.  
(817) 267-3313

1983 SEP -6 PM 4:34

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 400  
EULESS, TEXAS 76039

August 30, 1983

The Honorable Roger W. Jepsen  
The United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Jepsen:

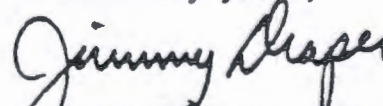
I am writing to you today concerning the President's revised amendment calling for voluntary prayer in the public schools, Senate Joint Resolution #73. When the President first proposed his amendment I was opposed to it because it would allow for state-composed prayers. While the vast majority of our 14 million Southern Baptists favor voluntary prayer in our public schools, we could not support such a proposal. However, when the President at the urging of many of us in the Christian community, added clear and precise language which forbids any agent of the state or nation to compose the words of prayer for our schools, I was elated.

I want to urge you to support this proposed amendment. It will allow the school children in America the same privilege that we cherish for our congress, courts and other public forums, namely the right to public prayer. We are not an atheistic country. We are a nation that was founded upon Biblical principles and upon a firm belief in God. Voluntary prayer acknowledges this cherished heritage.

I must also express my strong opposition to the alternative proposal which calls for silent prayer and meditation. Because of the wording it could open the door for the full removal of all religious acknowledgement from the schools and eventually from public life. It must not be accepted. I urge you to oppose that alternative proposal.

I would be interested in hearing from you concerning this matter. I assure you that the people of this nation will be watching this matter most carefully and that there are millions of us who will not sit idly by and watch our wonderful nation take on the atmosphere and posture of denying God by removing all opportunities for prayer from the basic education of our children.

Sincerely yours,

  
James T. Draper, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 6, 1983

TO: MORTON  
FROM: LINAS *Linas*  
RE: Tuition Tax  
Credits

Morton, the attached letters  
are being prepared and  
coordinated by OPD.

*Linas,  
Insert the word 'this'  
so no one confuses it  
with waiting until  
second session of  
this Congress.*

*Make copy for our TTC  
file & return to  
Linas*

October 11, 1983

**DRAFT**

The Honorable Robert Dole  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Bob:

Since receiving your memorandum of September 22 concerning the tuition tax credit legislation, we have been soliciting the views of the leaders of the tuition tax credits coalition, on what form of legislation they desire.

After what I take to be intensive discussions among the coalition leaders, we received a letter from Virgil Dechant, reporting that the Committee for Private Education -- which comprises the Catholic leaders of the coalition -- are united behind S.528 in the form you reported out of Finance Committee in May. Mr. Dechant noted that he has received assurances that the United States Catholic Conference will work wholeheartedly toward passage of S.528 in its present form.

As you know, the leaders of the Christian school movement have been behind S.528 all along, and I am convinced we now have our forces sufficiently marshalled to proceed with the legislative battle.

I understand that this week the Knights of Columbus are sending out packets to 9,000 Catholic elementary and secondary schools, encouraging students and their parents and friends to make their views known to their Senators on this issue. The coalition is clearly ready do its part, and I believe it is time for a vote.

The only remaining question, as you have discussed with the President, is the proper vehicle for that vote. I hope you will feel free to discuss any problematic considerations with me concerning the identification of that vehicle. In any case, I think we need to settle on an answer within the first days after Congress returns from recess.

I can assure you the President deeply appreciates your fine and effective leadership on this issue. At a time when we are doing so much to encourage improvements in public education, it is fitting for the Congress to recognize the contributions of our nonpublic schools as well.

Sincerely,

**DRAFT**

Edwin Meese III



DRAFT

Dear Catholic School Administrator:

I am writing to share with you the progress we are making in enacting a tuition tax credit bill. As you know, tuition tax credit legislation is one of the foremost priorities of my Administration, and we have been working to arrange a winning vote in the Senate.

*On September 16,*  
I met personally with ~~your national leaders~~ <sup>in.d. me</sup> representatives from NCEA, USCC, Knights of Columbus, among others. ~~on September 16.~~ At that meeting, I informed them that I had requested and Senators Dole and Baker had agreed that ~~my bill~~ <sup>bill</sup> S. 528, be brought to a vote in the Senate this Fall. *Bill*

I know that you and the parents who patronize your school are most interested in this proposed legislation. We agree that the primary authority over a child's education rests with his or her family. Parents have the right and duty to have their children educated in accordance with their own values. A tuition tax credit will greatly assist parents to exercise this right by giving more equitable federal treatment to private as well as to public schools.

As the leader of your school, you may wish to share this progress report with your students and their parents. You deserve great credit for your longstanding efforts to complement our public school system, and your expressed concern for equitable tax treatment for private schooling has already played a crucial role in getting a tuition tax credit bill to the point where we can have a congressional vote.

You have my best wishes for a most successful school year. God bless you.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

DRAFT