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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Collection Name BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

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File Folder PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE TASK FORCE/RELIGIOUS
LEADERS BRIEFING/LUNCHEON, 04/13/1982 (12 OF 12)

FOIA

F06-0055/07

Box Number 39

POTTER, CLAIRE

47

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	PAPER	RE. INVITEE	1	ND	B6

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REMARKS BY REV. BRUCE RITTER - APRIL 13, 1982

EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING

AT LEAST 15,000 HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, THROWAWAY CHILDREN WILL FIND THEIR WAY TO COVENANT HOUSE CRISIS CENTERS AND SHELTERS IN 1982. THEY SEEK REFUGE FROM URBAN HAZARDS AND HORRORS THAT THE YOUNG TOM SAWYERS OF AN EARLIER, MORE INNOCENT TIME NEVER DREAMED OF.

OUR COVENANT HOUSE STAFF OF ALMOST 500 FULL TIME PEOPLE WILL OFFER 24-HOUR-A-DAY, NO-QUESTIONS-ASKED HELP: FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, PROTECTION FROM THEIR EXPLOITERS (WHICH IS ALWAYS NECESSARY), A CHANCE TO GO HOME AGAIN IF THAT'S POSSIBLE, AND LONGER TERM SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. NO KID IS EVER TURNED AWAY.

ONE IN FOUR OF THESE KIDS IS 15 YEARS OLD AND UNDER; ONE IN FOUR IS 16 AND 17; THE OTHER HALF IS 18, 19, AND 20. TWO THIRDS ARE BOYS. ABOUT 60 PER CENT ARE NATIVES OF THE CITIES WHERE OUR CENTERS ARE LOCATED; THE REST ARE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, DRAWN BY THE MAGNET OF THE BIG CITY -- KNOWING THAT THEY CAN HIDE THERE, HOPING THEY CAN SURVIVE THERE, AND LEARNING ALL TOO QUICKLY THAT THEIR OPTIONS ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED.

WHEN YOU'RE 14, 15, OR 16, OR FOR THAT MATTER, 17, 18, OR 19, AND YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO LIVE, YOU ARE COLD AND HUNGRY AND SCARED AND YOU HAVE NOTHING TO SELL EXCEPT YOURSELF, YOU SELL YOURSELF. THERE ARE LITERALLY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF KIDS -- BOYS AND GIRLS, YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN -- CAUGHT UP IN A LIFESTYLE THAT IS DANGEROUS AND DEGRADING AND THAT KILLS MANY OF THEM. (I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES A KID HAS SAID TO ME, "BRUCE, I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT, I'M GOING TO DIE OUT THERE, THE STREET'S GOING TO KILL ME.)

FOURTEEN YEARS AGO I WOULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED A STREET KID IF I FELL OVER ONE. I WAS BLISSFULLY HAPPY TEACHING LATE MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF DOGMA TO MY APPRECIATIVE STUDENTS AT MANHATTAN COLLEGE IN NEW YORK, AND ALSO ENJOYING MY ROLE AS CHAPLAIN TO THE STUDENT BODY. IN THAT CAPACITY I WAS PREACHING ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON TO ABOUT 400 COLLEGE KIDS. MY SERMON TOPIC WAS ON ZEAL AND COMMITMENT -- THE NEED FOR MY STUDENTS TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH. I HAD FINISHED MY SERMON AND WAS ON MY WAY BACK TO THE ALTAR TO CONTINUE THE CELEBRATION OF MASS WHEN ONE OF MY STUDENTS STOOD UP IN CHURCH AND SAID, "WAIT A MINUTE, BRUCE." HE SAID, "WE THINK YOU ARE A PRETTY GOOD TEACHER, BUT WE DON'T LIKE YOUR SERMONS. WE THINK YOU SHOULD PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH AND SHOW US A LITTLE OF THAT ZEAL AND COMMITMENT YOU JUST TALKED ABOUT."

I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT A LOT AND CONCLUDED THAT THE STUDENTS WERE, IN FACT, CORRECT. THE NEXT SUNDAY I APOLOGIZED TO THE STUDENT BODY AND ASKED FOR A NEW ASSIGNMENT: TO LIVE AND WORK AMONG THE POOR ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE.

I MOVED OFF CAMPUS INTO A JUNKIE'S THREE-ROOM APARTMENT NEAR THE EAST RIVER AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BECAME INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEMS OF THE HUNDREDS OF HOMELESS AND EXPLOITED KIDS THERE. ONE NIGHT ABOUT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING -- IT WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLIZZARD -- SIX KIDS KNOCKED ON MY DOOR: FOUR BOYS AND TWO GIRLS -- ALL UNDER 16. THEY ASKED IF THEY COULD SLEEP ON THE FLOOR OF MY APARTMENT. I GAVE THESE KIDS SOME FOOD AND SOME BLANKETS AND THEY LINED UP THERE ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR.

THE NEXT MORNING -- IT WAS STILL VERY COLD, STILL SNOWING QUITE HARD -- THE KIDS OBVIOUSLY DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE. THEY HAD NO PLACE TO GO. ONE BOY, HOWEVER, DID SLIP OUTSIDE FOR JUST A FEW MINUTES AND BROUGHT BACK FOUR MORE KIDS. HE SAID, "THIS IS THE REST OF US, THE REST OF OUR FAMILY." HE SAID, "THEY WERE AFRAID TO COME LAST NIGHT, THEY WANTED US TO CHECK YOU OUT FIRST;" AND HE SAID, "I TOLD THEM THAT YOU DIDN'T COME ON TO US LAST NIGHT SO THAT IT WAS PROBABLY OKAY."

I ASKED THESE TEN KIDS WHERE THEY HAD BEEN STAYING AND THEY TOLD ME: IN ONE OF THE ABANDONED BUILDINGS ON THE BLOCK. BUT THEY HAD BEEN BURNED OUT THAT NIGHT BY SOME JUNKIES BECAUSE THE JUNKIES WANTED TO EXPLOIT THEM SEXUALLY, WANTED TO PIMP THEM, WHICH WAS HOW THE JUNKIES WERE SUPPORTING THEIR HABIT. WHEN THE KIDS REFUSED, THE JUNKIES SIMPLY BURNED OUT THE APARTMENT AND THREW THE KIDS OUT IN THE STREET.

A WEEK BEFORE THAT, THESE TEN KIDS, DESPERATE FOR SOME FOOD AND SHELTER, WERE OFFERED SOME MONEY TO MAKE A PORNOGRAPHIC MOVIE, WHICH THEY DID. BUT THEY WERE NOT INTO THAT, AND IN DISGUST AND A KIND OF HORROR AT THE DIRECTION THEIR LIVES WERE TAKING, THEY FLED THE JUNKIES AND CAME DOWN THE STREET TO MY PLACE.

WELL, I TRIED VERY HARD TO FIND SOME CHILD CARE AGENCY, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, THAT WOULD ACCEPT THESE KIDS. I CALLED OVER TWENTY FOUR DIFFERENT AGENCIES AND FOUND OUT THAT NOBODY WOULD TOUCH THEM. THEY WERE EITHER TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG, TOO SICK OR NOT SICK ENOUGH; THEY HAD NO PSYCHO-SOCIAL HISTORIES; THEY WERE FROM OUT OF STATE -- WHATEVER THE REASON THEY GAVE ME, THE REAL REASON WAS QUITE SIMPLE: YOU SEE, NOBODY IN NEW YORK OPERATES A PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PROSTITUTES AND HUSTLERS. AND SO I KEPT THEM. I DID NOT HAVE THE GUTS TO KICK THEM OUT.

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF COVENANT HOUSE: DOZENS AND DOZENS OF OTHER RUNAWAY, HOMELESS, EXPLOITED CHILDREN BEGAN KNOCKING ON MY APARTMENT DOOR IN THE EAST VILLAGE. I NEEDED MORE SPACE SO I BEGAN TAKING OVER MORE AND MORE APARTMENTS IN THAT TENEMENT. I NEEDED MORE HELP, SO TO GET THE HELP I WENT BACK TO MANHATTAN COLLEGE (I DECIDED UPON REVENGE!) AND TOLD THOSE KIDS WHO DROVE ME OFF CAMPUS TO COME DOWN TO THE EAST VILLAGE AND HELP ME PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACHED. AND THEY DID! HALF A DOZEN STUDENTS MOVED OFF MANHATTAN CAMPUS TO LIVE WITH ME IN MY TENEMENT. HALF A DOZEN MORE FROM OTHER LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CAME TOO. THESE COLLEGE STUDENTS TOOK A SEMESTER OR A YEAR OFF TO HELP ME CARE FOR MY KIDS.

I HAD NO MONEY AT ALL FOR STAFF. FOR YEARS MY STAFF WERE VOLUNTEERS: AN UNENDING STREAM OF DEDICATED, GENEROUS COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO WOULD GIVE ME SIX MONTHS, A YEAR, OR LONGER OF THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF THEIR COMPASSION FOR THESE - OUR - CHILDREN. THAT TRADITION OF VOLUNTEERISM HAS REMAINED CONSTANT AND CENTRAL TO COVENANT HOUSE FOR THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS.

THE COVENANT HOUSE BUDGET THIS YEAR WILL EXCEED \$13 MILLION. NINETY-FIVE PER CENT OF THAT BUDGET COMES FROM PRIVATE SOURCES. OF MY 500 FULL-TIME STAFF, 70 ARE FULL-TIME VOLUNTEERS. MEN AND WOMEN, PROFESSIONALS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS, WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO THE CARE OF THESE CHILDREN. AN ADDITIONAL 250 PART TIME VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED THEIR SERVICES TO OUR KIDS.

WHENEVER I SPEAK TO A GROUP -- AND I SPEAK LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF TIMES A YEAR (IT'S A RACE BETWEEN LARYNGITIS AND BANKRUPTCY) -- I ALWAYS EXTEND THE FOLLOWING INVITATION TO MY AUDIENCE: "WOULD YOU GIVE ME A YEAR OR TWO OR THREE OF YOUR LIVES? WILL YOU COME TO NEW YORK TO LIVE WITH ME AND MY FRIENDS THERE AT EIGHTH AVENUE AND HELP US CARE FOR OUR KIDS. I WILL GIVE YOU ROOM AND BOARD, \$10 A WEEK -- \$12 IF YOU INSIST -- INSURANCE, AND THE CHANCE TO PRACTICE THE CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY: TO FEED THE HUNGRY, CLOTHE THE NAKED, SHELTER THE HOMELESS. I WILL ALSO ASK YOU TO PRAY TOGETHER WITH ME AND MY FRIENDS ABOUT THREE HOURS A DAY."

OVER THE YEARS, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION. THERE ARE SEVENTY LIVING WITH ME NOW -- SEVENTY QUITE ORDINARY, EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE. HUNDREDS OF OTHERS HAVE REQUESTED TO JOIN US. THEY ARE LAWYERS, NURSES, COMPUTER

PROGRAMMERS, SECRETARIES, BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES, JOURNALISTS. ALL OF THEM SHARE A COMMON MOTIVATION: THE DESIRE TO PRAISE AND HONOR AND WORSHIP GOD, AND TO SERVE HIM BY SERVING THE DESPERATELY POOR CHILDREN THAT ARE COMING TO US AT THE RATE OF OVER 1200 EVERY MONTH!

WE CANNOT HELP ALL OF THEM. MANY, ALREADY TOO DAMAGED BY THEIR WEEKS, MONTHS, EVEN YEARS ON THE STREET, ARE SEEMINGLY BEYOND HUMAN HELP. WE JUDGE THAT ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THAT COME TO COVENANT HOUSE LEAVE STREET LIFE AND RETURN TO THE MORE NORMAL BUSINESS OF BEING A CHILD OR AN ADOLESCENT GROWING UP IN SOCIETY. YOU CANNOT LIVE FOR A LONG TIME ON THE STREET, SURVIVING ON PIZZA AND COKE, SLEEPING ON ROOFTOPS AND IN PHONE BOOTHS, ON SUBWAYS AND IN PUBLIC TOILETS OR WITH ANYBODY WHO WILL PICK YOU UP, AND SUFFERING ALL THE DEGRADATION OF STREET LIFE AND NOT EXPERIENCE A PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER DEFORMATION THAT FOR MANY IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERCOME. (IN MY BLEAKER MOMENTS, I HAVE OCCASIONALLY DESCRIBED COVENANT HOUSE AS AN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT FOR DYING YOUNGSTERS.)

THEY ARE GOOD KIDS. IT WOULD BE WRONG IF YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE NOT GOOD KIDS. MOST OF THEM ARE SIMPLY TRYING TO SURVIVE. THEY TURNED TO THE CHURCH WHEN EXISTING SYSTEMS BROKE DOWN OR WERE SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE. IT IS A HISTORY AS OLD AS HUMAN COMPASSION ITSELF -- AND IT IS ALSO A MEASURE OF THE VITALITY OF THE CHURCHES AND THE NEED FOR THE CHURCHES TO REASSERT THEIR PREEMINENT RIGHT TO EXPRESS THE CHARITY AND COMPASSION OF GOD AMONG THE POOR.

AT COVENANT HOUSE WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE LITERALLY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE WILLING AND ANXIOUS TO RESPOND TO A SERIOUS, PRACTICAL, URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP. OUR EXPERIENCE PROVES THAT THERE ARE COUNTLESS MEN AND WOMEN WHO WISH TO DEDICATE THEIR TIME AND ENERGY, EVEN YEARS OF THEIR LIVES, FOR NO PAY, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POOR AND SUFFERING IN OUR SOCIETY. (INDEED, WE CAN HARDLY KEEP UP WITH THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO WISH TO JOIN US IN DOING THIS WORK.)

THE NEEDS OF THE VERY POOR ARE THE PROPER OBJECT OF OUR PIETY; THEIR PERSONS, THE PROPER FOCUS FOR OUR COMPASSION AND CHARITY. MANY YEARS AGO, COVENANT HOUSE DECIDED TO ALLOCATE ALL ITS RESOURCES TO HELP THOSE POOR FOR WHOM NO PROGRAMS EXIST, FOR WHOM THE INTAKE CRITERIA ARE IMPOSSIBLY HIGH, FOR WHOM THE CRACKS IN THE SYSTEM HAVE BECOME GULFS AND CHASMS INTO WHICH THEY FALL BY THE THOUSANDS. AT COVENANT HOUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO REACH OUT AND MEET THEIR NEEDS IS BY PROVIDING HARD-NOSED, PRACTICAL, PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF COMMITTED PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WHO WISH TO HELP THEM. WE FEEL IT IS THE DUTY OF AGENCIES SUCH AS OURS, OF OURSELVES AS CHURCH, TO PROVIDE THESE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE DEVELOPED MANY EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS THAT MAKE IT EASY FOR THE GENEROUS, COMPASSIONATE, GIVING MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY TO SHARE WITH OTHERS SO MUCH LESS FORTUNATE THAN THEMSELVES THE BLESSINGS GOD HAS GIVEN THEM.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1982

TO: MORTON BLACKWELL
FROM: DAVID L. WRIGHT *dw*
SUBJECT: April 13 Meeting and Luncheon for
Religious Leaders

*Talked with David
& told him I didn't
think it would
happen.
4/12*

We understand that Dr. Dobson will be attending this event. Representative Frank Wolf (R-Virginia) has requested that Dr. Dobson be able to have his picture taken with the President at that time. Representative Wolf earlier requested a Presidential meeting with Dr. Dobson which has not been scheduled.

Is the photo request feasible?

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PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE TASK FORCE/RELIGIOUS
LEADERS BRIEFING/LUNCHEON, 04/13/1982 (12 OF 12)

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RE. INVITEE

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MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

Maiselle

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Richard Birney

OF (Organization)

254-3192

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. FTB

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Jim Johnson
395-7362

RECEIVED BY

R

DATE

4/6

TIME

63-109

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 2, 1982

Correct spelling
DOB + SS#

all
695

STAFF MEMBERS CURRENTLY INVITED TO APRIL 13, BRIEFING AND LUNCHEON

✓ William Verity

✗ ~~Daniel Gilbert~~

✓ Elizabeth Dole

Jay Moorhead

Morton Blackwell

Rev. Leon Sullivan

John Filer

CURRENTLY NOT INVITED BUT THEY ARE SPEAKERS

✗ ✓ Elder Thomas S. Monson
The Mormon Church

(Rev. Richard C. Halverson)
Chaplain, U.S. Senate) No

✗ ✓ Dr. John Perkins
Voice of Calvary Ministries

✗ ✓ Rev. Bruce Ritter
Covenant House

✗ ✓ Rabbi Morris Shmidman
Boro Park Community Organization

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL *MB*

SUBJECT: OPL/PSI TASK FORCE BRIEFING FOR LEADERS OF NATIONAL
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Attached is the agenda for our Tuesday, April 13, briefing.

You are to open the meeting with words of welcome. Jay Moorhead indicates that your comments at the previous PSI meeting would be appropriate for this occasion as well.

Bill Verity is scheduled to make introductory remarks after your welcome. He is, however, returning from Europe and has told his staff that he will not be here until 10:30. If that is the case, then the supporting remarks by John Filer should follow your welcome. By Filer's conclusion, Verity should be there.

We are arranging the table settings so supporters of the President are well represented at every table.

Attached is a memorandum on this topic which I sent per Red's request to Pete Roussel.

Attached also are talking points you might consider using, which specifically relate to private sector initiatives from the religious community. Friday morning I spoke from approximately these same talking points to the National Breakfast of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS
APRIL 13, 1982
AGENDA

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT/ACTIVITY</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
1000	Seating/Introductions	
1015	Welcome	Elizabeth Dole
1024	Intro. Remarks	William Verity
1032 ⁵	Supporting Remarks	John Filer
1040	Church's Responsibility	Rev. Halverson
1048	Model Programs (2 min. stretch break)	W. Verity-Moderator
1050	. STEP Foundation	Dee Jepsen
1158	. Boro Park	Rabbi Shmidman
1106	. Morman Pgms	Elder T. S. Monson
1114	. Covenant House	Father Bruce Ritter
1122	. Voice of Calvary	Rev. John Perkins
1130	Q & A	W. Verity-Moderator
1145	Walk to State Room & Be Seated	
1200	Presidents Remarks	President Reagan
1210 ²	Invocation	His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke
1212 ⁵	Lunch (Press Exit)	
1245 0100	Q & A's	President Reagan
0100 ¹⁵	President Exits	
0105 ²⁰	Pick up Packets	
0115 ³⁰	Press Room	
	Statements	

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR PETE ROUSSEL

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: BRIEFING AND PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON WITH MAJOR
RELIGIOUS LEADERS

In case there are further press inquiries about the makeup and the program for our meeting with national religious leaders on April 13, I think you might make use of the following points:

1. The meeting will include approximately 130 leaders of religious denominations and major religious organizations.
2. The heads of all major religious denominations have been invited. Most have accepted.
3. The basis for invitations was that people be leaders of religious organizations. This includes, in addition to denomination heads, leaders in the field of religious broadcasting, religious training, and religious publications.
4. Approximately 35 of these leaders, most of whom are affiliated with the National Council of Churches, are publicly on record in one way or another in opposition to all or parts of the President's legislative program. We did not exclude anyone from the meeting on the basis of lack of support.
5. Leaders of evangelical and fundamentalist denominations and most religious broadcasters tend to be supportive of the President. There are in excess of sixty of these invited who are known to be actively supportive of all or most of the President's programs.
6. The balance of those invited are not known to have any position one way or another on the President's policies.
7. There will be five brief presentations made at this briefing. they are as follows:

Dee Jepsen	STEP Foundation (Fundamentalist)
Rabbi Shmidman	Boro Park (Jewish)
Elder Monson	Mormon Programs (Mormon)
Father Ritter	Covenant House (Catholic)
Rev. John Perkins	Voice of Calvary (Evangelical)

8. The presentations will be from Catholic, fundamentalist, evangelical, Mormon, and Jewish examples of successful community service projects which have been organized by religious groups.
9. After each brief presentation, and at the end of the briefing, there is time provided for questions, answers, and comments.
10. My understanding is that the press will be present for the President's remarks at 12:00 and will exit before the luncheon. Questions, answers, and comments with the President are scheduled at 1:00 p.m.
11. I am sure you have access to the draft of the President's remarks.

By way of summary, it would be fair to say that the purpose of the President's meeting is to encourage national religious leaders to exchange information about successful private sector initiatives in the religious community and to encourage religious organizations to increase their emphasis on personal involvement of their congregations and supporters in community service partnerships.

Note: I have received three calls from friends of Chuck Colson asking why he was not invited to this meeting. He is the head of an excellent group, the Prison Fellowship. We did invite his second in command. He has done a lot of good work and I know of no one here who bears him any ill will, but it was our judgment that his "return to the White House" would have such media impact as to perhaps overshadow the very positive things which the President is trying to accomplish through this meeting with the religious leaders. A hostile newspaper could bury the private sector initiative story at the bottom of an article headlined: "Colson Returns to the Scene of the Crime."

Should anyone ask a question regarding this, our position is that Chuck is on a list of those being actively considered for future meetings on this topic which we are in the process of scheduling.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS
ON PRIVATE SECTORS INITIATIVES

- People in America have many problems which have gotten worse in our lifetime. Crime is up. Morality is down. Suicides are up. Personal savings and investments for the future are down. Divorces are up. Quality of personal workmanship is often down. Illegitimacy is up. All of these can be traced to a decline in personal responsibility. These problems have become much worse during the very period when a well-meaning government assumed responsibility for solving most or all of our problems.
- As recently as 1935, approximately 50% of the assistance going to the needy in our country came from the churches. Now that number is down to about 1%.
- Reverend Don Moomaw, the President's pastor in California, preached an interesting sermon last year here in D. C. He said he had recently read through the Bible and found many places where the Lord urged individuals to take personal action in behalf of the poor and needy. He found many places where the Bible says the church has responsibility for caring for the less fortunate. But nowhere, he said, does the Bible say that it is the government which must take responsibility for solving all our human problems.
- Government is not the only answer. It is not even the main answer. Too often government programs are run by bureaucrats who are better at helping themselves than helping the truly needy.
- Money is not the only answer. It is not even the main answer. Too often money can create rather than end dependence.
- I believe that the main answer is increasing personal involvement in solving the problems of our communities. The greatest resource we have is the people in our local church congregations.
- The purpose of this meeting the President has called is to help the church leaders of America share, pool, and increase their wealth of experience in private sector initiatives.
- We cannot solve the problems of the world or the problems of our nation until we act on the instructions the Lord has given to guide us in our personal lives.

Religious Media

1. Dr. M. G. "Pat" Robertson
Christian Broadcasting
Network
OK CBN Center
Virginia Beach, Va. 23463
2. Dr. Robert Schuller
OK Garden Grove Community Church
Garden Grove, Calif. 92642
3. Dr. Jerry Falwell
OK Oka Tribe Gospel Hour
Lynchburg, Virginia 24505
4. Dr. D. James Kennedy
President
Evangelism Explosion
Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church
5555 No. Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
33308
5. Dr. James R. Robison
OK P.O. Box 18489
Ft. Worth, Texas 76118
6. Rev. Oral Roberts
President
OK Oral Roberts University
7777 S. Lewis
Tulsa, Okla. 74171

7. OK Dr. Tim LaHaye
Family Life Seminars
P.O. Box 81387
San Diego, Calif. 92138
8. Rev. Jack Wyrzten
Director
Word of Life Fellowship
Route 9
Schroon Lake, N.Y. 12870
9. OK Rev. Jim Bakker
Pres. PTL
Charlotte, No. Car. 28211
10. OK Dr. Kenneth S. Kantzer
Editor
Christianity Today
465 Sunbensen Drive
Carol Stream, Illinois
60187
11. Mr. Edward Plowman
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Washington + World
Religion Report
Washington Bldg.
Wash DC 20005
12. Mr. Stephen Board
Executive Editor
Eternity
1716 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19103

13. Mr. Robert Walker
Editor
Christian Life
396 E. St. Charles Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187