

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files

Folder Title: Religious Correspondence
(8 of 8)

Box: 40

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

*Jim Bakker
on
PTL File
Pls make file*

STRAIGHT WIRE - JULY 1, 1983

The Reverend Jim Bakker
President
PTL Television Network
Heritage Village
Charlotte, North Carolina 28279
(704/542-6000)

Nancy and I are delighted to send our warm greetings and congratulations to the PTL Club as you observe your "Victory Day Celebration" and dedicate your new Broadcast Center.

On this notable occasion you begin a new chapter in your efforts to share the spiritual values and proclaim the faith that are the foundation of your work. By reaching out with hope and concern for those leading troubled lives, you help many Americans endure and triumph over the hardships and challenges of life.

The history of our great nation is interlaced with the strong belief of our people in God and in the churches we choose to attend. By focusing on wholesome family development, the plight of the unborn and the newly born and the spiritual dimensions of daily life, our religious institutions provide a valuable message for our citizens.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, I especially want to take this opportunity once again to express my strong belief in freedom of religion and freedom of the press. Certainly in 1983 there are few more important elements helping shape the destiny of America than our freedom of expression. Our precious freedom of the press, whether printed or as part of the electronic media, affirms our Founding Fathers' belief that through competing ideas we can secure a bright future for our nation. The American people are committed to preserving that liberty.

May this festive event prove to be an inspiration to each of you.

RONALD REAGAN

RR:Wells:ck
cc: K.Osborne/D.Livingston/M.Blackwell/CF
EVENT: JULY 3



THE DELAWARE LAW SCHOOL
WIDENER UNIVERSITY

July 5, 1983

P. O. BOX 7474 · CONCORD PIKE
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19803
(302) 478-5280

Ambassador Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
Public Liaison
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ambassador Whittlesey:

Oral Roberts has expressed an interest in meeting with the President. I believe it would be most appropriate for such a meeting to take place. Oral Roberts is president of Oral Roberts University, a \$120 million private institution. He just purchased a multimillion dollar cancer scanner for the City of Faith (the medical research center and hospital of the University). There are only a handful of these scanners around (less than 14). Oral Roberts is expecting delivery in September or October. The Queen of England flew to Canada to dedicate the first scanner placed in regular operation.

I believe that President Reagan should consider attending the dedication of the scanner. He could talk about private education and the vitality of private institutions. Oral Roberts has a tremendous following and he is very favorable towards the President.

Dean Charles Kothe at the law school, a fine, politically astute Conservative could handle the arrangements with the White House. Kothe is a long time Republican activist and was closely associated with Reagan when Reagan was with GE. I've asked Loren Smith to hand deliver this to you because of the importance I place on their meeting. I have already mentioned this to Ed Meese.

Very truly yours,

Robert J. D'Agostino

ljh

cc: Morton Blackwell ✓

done by phone →

have OR write a letter to RR asking for a mtg.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7/15

TO: Morton

FROM: *KARNA SMALL*
Director of Media Relations and Planning

FYI -- good contact possibly
for future reference.

add to relig. sec
Working text.
MB

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1983

Dear Mrs. Narramore:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your very thoughtful letter of support. I cannot even begin to tell you how nice it was to hear from you.

I am very glad that you were able to attend the National Religious Broadcasters Convention earlier this year. The President was glad that he had the opportunity to address your group.

We did enjoy the copy of Psychology For Living magazine very much. Your coverage of the President's address was excellent.

Again, thank you so much for your letter. With your continued support and prayers, progress can continue.

With the President's best wishes always,

Sincerely,



Karna Small
Director, Media Relations
and Planning

Mrs. Ruth E. Narramore
Narramore Christian Foundation
1409 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, California 91770

NARRAMORE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

1409 North Walnut Grove Avenue • Rosemead, California 91770 • (213) 288-7000

Handwritten: 1/31/83
Department of Publications

June 30, 1983

Handwritten: 1/31/83
President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Reagan:

How does one go about thanking the President of the United States for blessing the hearts of Christians throughout our land? The inspiring message you presented, Mr. President, at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention on January 31 of this year did just that! We were thrilled.

I had the privilege of seeing and hearing a rerun of this speech on Christian television here in Los Angeles. I found it so exciting and encouraging that I wanted to share it with the readers of our magazine, Psychology For Living. In pursuing this objective, we obtained a tape of your message from Valley Forge and transcribed it into print for the July/August issue of the above mentioned publication. The article begins on page 10. I have enclosed two copies.

It is a special thrill to realize we have a committed Christian as our head of state. Many hearts are warmed by this knowledge. We are praying that many good things will come about because God has placed you in this strategic position.

Respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature: Ruth E. Narramore

(Mrs.) Ruth E. Narramore
Editor, Psychology For Living

REN:pw

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY *JRW*
SUBJECT: Reverend W. Norman MacFarlane

Attached is correspondence from Reverend MacFarlane and a copy of my letter to Frank Fahrenkopf.

Please have this man added to the mailing list for Central America and add his name to your list of Christian ministers to receive other mailings, as well as invitations to White House briefings and events.

*JET
Please
handle
MB
8/12*

There are so few Main Line Protestant ministers so outspokenly supportive, we must see that they are encouraged in every way possible.

Attachments

*8/17/83 - Called for Cent. Am. briefing
Added to C.A. List*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1983

Dear Reverend MacFarlane:

Thank you for the copy of your Fourth of July sermon. It was most inspiring.

Susan Graf, my Scheduling Assistant, will look forward to your call when you return to Washington in September to arrange a tour of the White House for you and your family.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,



Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Reverend W. Norman MacFarlane
Grace Reformed Church
1405 - 15th Street
Washington, D. C. 20005

387-3131

Church Office
387-3131

AUG 2 1983

Grace Reformed Church

United Church of Christ

1405 - 15TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

W. NORMAN MACFARLANE
Pastor

July 31, 1983

Mrs. Faith Whittlesey
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Faith:

I am glad for the opportunity to meet and chat with you last night at the Swiss Embassy. Our family is looking forward to the White House tour when we get back from vacation in September. Also I will look forward to any other contact which might benefit Mr. Reagan.

I am enclosing my July Fourth sermon so you will know where I am coming from.

Sincerely



W. Norman MacFarlane

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

I Kings 8:44-51

Sermon preached in Grace Reformed Church, Washington, DC on Sunday July 3, 1983

Reverend W. Norman MacFarlane preaching

In 1957 the town of Falmouth, Massachusetts commemorated the centenary of Katherine Lee Bates, its celebrated native daughter who wrote "America The Beautiful." During the ceremonies on August 12th a marble monument was unveiled at her grave, and a wreath placed on the boulder that marks her birthplace. As Miss Bates journeyed across the country in the summer of 1893 she saw many things for the first time. She visited the Exposition in Chicago, then down through the middle west, and finally from Pikes Peak she gazed at the panoramic vista that spread before her for hundreds of miles. Here it was that she wrote:

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesty, above the fruited plain.

It was the German geographer, Martin Waldseemuller, who coined the words "America" in a book published in 1507.

Anyone who has traveled this country cannot help but be impressed with its natural beauty. Of course beauty is in the eye of the beholder. To some people the desert is beautiful. Others prefer the mountains, or the thousands of lakes that dot the landscape of the United States. Certainly there is a geographical diversity in our country. There are forests and plains, frigid climates and tropical climates, crowded cities and isolated rural areas, the rocky coast of Maine, and the sandy beaches of California. We have every extreme, from the badlands of North Dakota to the everglades of Florida. There is also cultural diversity reflected in the immigrants who come here from every part of the world. Some came here because of religious persecution, others because of political oppression; some came to escape famine, and others to avail themselves of the opportunities that exist in this land of the free and the home of the brave. The oppressed have breathed the free air of democracy. The poor have become rich in this land of opportunity. Minorities have found equal protection under the law. Even those who bad-mouth this country don't want to leave it -- although I wish some of them would. In the 1930's it was not at all uncommon to read in the help wanted ads in Boston newspapers "No Irish need apply." But by 1960 a Boston Irishman was elected to the highest office in the land. Descendants of slaves have become supreme court justices, senators, professors, business tycoons, labor leaders, doctors, athletic heroes, inventors, movie stars, etc. Some of our former enemies have migrated to these shores and have become the very backbone of this country. Someone has rightly called America "the half-brother of the world." Someone else said this country is "the child of earth's old age."

On this Fourth of July Sunday 1983 let us give our attention to the words of Katherine Bates in the first two stanzas of her hymn, "America the Beautiful." Next year on July 1st, we will have part two of the sermon.

I America, A Land of Plenty

In 1770 a laborer had to work 5 days to buy a bushel of wheat, but his grandson could get a bushel for 2½ days wages in 1870. In 1970, the typical American worker could purchase 2 or 3 bushels of wheat with one hour's pay. In the first stanza of her hymn Miss Bates writes about "amber waves of grain," and "the fruited plain." When our Pilgrim forbears came to these shores there was an Indian population of about one million. Food was in short supply and starvation was a constant threat. Now that modern technology has reduced the time necessary to plow 2½ acres from 14 hours to about 40 minutes that same land feeds well over 200 million people who are thriving, and many are counting calories. America, with 6% of the world's population consumes 40% of the world's goods. However, that same 6% produces more than 50% of the world's goods. No other system can make such a statement. In other countries with greater natural resources and more productive farmland, there is both poverty and starvation. If the poverty-stricken of the world would like some of the good life too, all they have to do is kick out the socialist government they live under and adopt a free enterprise economy under a constitutional republic. In some South American villages a farmer who raises crops superior to those of his neighbor would

be the object of intense envy. Because he fears such social ostracism, he would make every effort not to stand out above the rest, that is, not to produce above the average. Guatemalan Indians, who manage to achieve high relative incomes, often secrete their wealth because they fear the charge that they are becoming "Latins". Among Northern Rhodesian tribes, a prosperous person may be suspected of black magic. America is helping to feed countries that actually have a greater potential than the U.S. America may no longer be the policeman of the world but it has become its grocer. After feeding their own countryman, American farmers have left over for export nearly 60% of their wheat and rice, nearly half of their soy beans, $\frac{1}{2}$ of their grain sorghum, and over $\frac{1}{5}$ of their corn. And so we must ask: Why? The answer in a single word is: Productivity. But why are we more productive? The answer in a single word is: Incentive. If I produce more I live better. This is why we have wives working and men moonlighting. This is why people strive for excellence. The Russian peasant is much more productive when working the small plot of land, up to an acre in size, that he is allowed to cultivate for his own use. Although these private plots occupy less than 1% of the nation's agricultural land, they produce 27% of the total value of Soviet farm output. People produce better with the assurance that their efforts will be rewarded. Booker T. Washington said: "Any individual who learns to do something better than anybody else -- learns to do a common thing in an uncommon manner -- has solved his problem, regardless of the color of his skin." This is the beauty of capitalism, or free enterprise, or the free market, or competitive enterprise, or whatever other name you want to call it. Capitalism is a belief that nobody is wise enough and knows enough to control the lives of other people. Private ownership, private initiative, the hope of reward, and the expectation of achievement have always been primarily responsible for the advancement of mankind. Societies become rich when individuals within the society become more productive.

In communist and socialist countries the ideal is a classless society. Everybody is the same. Equality is the goal. But this has not resulted in lifting up the poor to the level of the rich. Instead it has brought the rich down to the level of the poor. It has not resulted in equality of wealth, but equality of poverty. The welfare state is a means by which everybody is trying to live at the expense of everybody else. This is why poverty and starvation are the rule, rather than the exception in these socialist countries. Their systems look good on paper, but they take little heed of the weaknesses of human nature. Where governments exercise the greatest degree of control over their people, there you will find the lowest standards of living. Booker T. Washington said: "In bestowing charity, the main consideration should be to help them who will help themselves." Where laziness is encouraged or subsidized, the lazy will find no incentive to improve themselves. And where thrift is taxed and ambition is penalized, the producer will see no reason to increase his productivity. President Ford said: "Any government big enough to give you anything you want is big enough to take everything you have."

When I was a boy I wanted a wagon so bad I could almost taste it. They were advertised in the Sears catalogue for \$5.95, which was a pretty tidy sum in those days when many working men were bringing home fifteen dollars a week. Not fifteen dollars an hour; fifteen dollars a week. I discovered a way to make that dream come true. By mowing lawns at 25 or 50 cents a job, I could have that wagon by the end of the summer. But suppose the government intervened and told me: "It's not right that you have a wagon and the other kids have none. We are going to confiscate a good chunk of your earnings so every kid in the neighborhood can have a wagon." I'm sure the other kids would have thought that was great, and they would have voted for the politicians that promised them all these goodies. But I wouldn't have been too impressed with such an arrangement. If I can mow lawns, why can't they? I would have decided it wasn't worth it, so instead of everyone having a wagon, no one would have one. This would be equality in poverty because the incentive had been removed. Of course that never really happened. I finally got my wagon. That was in the early days of Roosevelt's New Deal, and the Great Society was not even heard of. America was built by the creativity and the industry of its people, not by its government. America has endured by the strength and integrity of Americans, not by the will of its leaders. Socialism will only be possible when we are all perfect, and then it will not be necessary.

The founding fathers were not only men of vision and foresight, but they were, by and large, men of God. Their assessment of man and their view of human rights was derived, not from textbook on sociology and psychology and political science, but from the Bible which says that man is basically evil. He will produce for himself, not for the benefit of society at large. Capitalism has checks and balances built in. It has certain restraints and motivations. The non-biblical view says that evil is in man's environment, not in his heart. Give him low-rent government-subsidized housing and he will respond by living decently, there will be no more crime, and everybody will be happy. Or send him a check every month, and pay his hospitalization, and pay his heating bill, and give him plenty of food, and he will be so deleriously grateful that he will scamper around until he finds a good job so he can pay taxes and repay the kindness of his benefactors. It is when men control their own destinies, and own property for which they have worked and dreamed, that they become creative and industrious, and life becomes stable and rooted. If the super state provides all man's needs and directs all man's activities, something fundamental goes out of human life. If you think you can be happy by letting the government take care of you, just remember what happened to the American Indian. A few weeks ago I was talking with my uncle, who has a summer place on Cape Cod. He was telling me of a sign in a store window which said: "Lobster meat, \$17 a pound." Another sign in the same window said: "We accept food stamps."

The theory that man is basically good has not only been contradicted by the Bible but has been disproved by every socialist economy, every welfare state, every do-gooder scheme, every bleeding heart attempt to promote equality by soaking the rich and buy the votes of the poor. It hasn't worked; it doesn't work; it won't work. As long as the government pays a bonus for every illegitimate child born, the ghetto will continue to be a stud farm, and crime will continue to increase. And as long as we turn criminals loose, ex-convicts will continue to commit four out of every five crimes. People who have come to depend on big government to bail them out of their mistakes, troubles, and laziness too often lose all sense of personal responsibility and all personal concern about their fellow men, to say nothing of their faith in God. The barbarians that caused the collapse of Rome came from the outside. We are raising them at home, with so-called humanitarians trying to create great societies by taxing and promising and spending.

When Katherine Bates wrote about the prosperity of America, it was a prosperity unequalled in history, and which originated from a view of man and his strengths and weaknesses as seen through the eyes of almighty God and revealed in the sacred pages of the holy scriptures. It says: "The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked... All have sinned and come short of the glory of God... There is none that doeth good, no not one." The evil is in man, not in his surroundings. Man needs a new heart, not a new tenement to turn into another slum. The prosperity of America is of divine origin. The early puritans were Calvinists. They believed in the total depravity of man, but they also believed that man could be challenged economically by a system that rewarded productivity, and they believed that man could be redeemed spiritually by a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. As long as the godless and gutless run our country we will continue our moral and economic slide into disaster.

Last year 33 million Russian farmers, 1/4 of the total work force, produced 179 million tons of grain, while just 4 million American farmers, or 5% of the work force produced 295 million tons of grain. Taiwan in just twenty-five years has made some of the greatest material progress probably in the history of the world. Its gross national product is greater than that of mainland China, even though they have only 16 million people. The answer is incentive under a free economy. But that free economy is becoming increasingly stifled by federal bureaucrats and naive politicians who think man is basically good and that he will produce even though he will not gain in proportion to his labor. This is why productivity is on the decline.

In the 1830's Alexis de Tocqueville visited this country to try to ascertain the secret of America's greatness. That was 60 years before Katherine Lee Bates made her trip and wrote her hymn. He discovered that the greatness of America was the out-growth of the freedom of the individual. He wrote: *I sought for the greatness and the genius of America in fertile fields and boundless forests; it was not there. I sought for it in her free schools and her institutions of learning; it was not there.*

I sought for it in her matchless Constitution and democratic congress; it was not there. Not until I went to the churches of America and found them aflame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and genius of America. America is great because America is good. When America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great. One of the Popes once said: "When a society is perishing, he who would save it must recall it to the principles from which it sprang." This is what America needs today -- We need to return to the faith and convictions of our forefathers. Man didn't evolve from nothing to live in a meaningless purposeless universe. He came from God and he returns to God. He is responsible to God. When he honors God, God honors him. When he turns his back on God as we have done, God turns his back on him. We must stop tearing down the system that made us great. The solution to our problems is not military, or economic, or social; the problem basically is spiritual, and the solution is spiritual. As General MacArthur once said: "Only a revival of the spirit can save the flesh." The Bible tells us: "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people."

America, America God shed his grace on thee.

And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

II America, With Freedom Under God

In the second stanza of her hymn, Miss Bates writes of the pathway of freedom beaten across the wilderness by the stern impassioned stress of the Pilgrims. It was for freedom of religion that they forsook the security of their homeland to colonize these shores. It was for freedom of self-determination that a later generation declared themselves independent of the British crown and fought a war to implement that Declaration of Independence. Five miles from where I grew up there is a stone tablet marking the line of the Minute Men, and inscribed on the tablet are the words of Captain Parker, "Stand your ground, don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war let it begin here." Today we would say: "Stand on the ground and get shot at, rather than infuriate the enemy and offend our allies."

Our system of government is unique. Unlike most other systems in the world, it recognizes that liberty is not something government may give. Liberty is a natural human right. Our Constitution was formed not to give liberty to our people but to guarantee it. Before the American Revolution it was generally believed that liberty was dangerous and irresponsible, and that its establishment could lead only to anarchy. The birth of the American republic and the astonishing release of human energy and productivity which resulted, shattered this myth forever. America was both free and stable; it possessed both liberty and order. In simplest terms liberty may be defined as the freedom of the individual to shape his own destiny and to govern his own affairs. But liberty is a precarious item. If you look back through history you will find that the most natural state of mankind has been tyranny and misery. There was a free society in ancient Athens, but was free only for the citizens, not for the slaves. And there was a brief spirit of freedom in Europe during the renaissance. But the most extended period of freedom has occurred in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries in western Europe and the United States. Democracy cannot be planted just anywhere in the world. Many people don't want freedom; they want security from a paternalistic government. Christian principles make people self-reliant. The abandonment of those principles makes a people dependent on big government. Freedom and democracy can exist only in a Christian society because it takes a significant number of Christian people to make it work. The social, economic, and political system is never self-sustaining or self-existent; it rests upon, and draws its life or death from the ethical status of the people living under it. William Penn said: "If we are not ruled by God we will be ruled by tyrants." The reason for so much of the tyranny in the world is that God is either not known or he is not honored and obeyed. Dictatorship is the only alternative. Even Carl Marx said: "Either God is sovereign, or man is sovereign. One or the other must be untrue." The less Christian a people become, the more socialist they become. Socialism and communism can exist only by force, not by the free will of the people who live under it. Soviet dissident, Vladimir Bukovsky, said: *When I am asked how many political prisoners there are in the Soviet Union, I answer "250 million." And this is no joke, because we live in a country which is surrounded by barbed wire, in which slave-labor exists, in which there is no freedom of movement, where the defense of one's rights is considered to*

be an offense against the criminal law code. Not only have the Swedish people seen their productivity slow considerably, but their liberties have been curtailed. They have accepted an almost suffocating bureaucratic supervision of every detail of their lives. The state dictates the color which a man may paint his house. Swedish law gives tax authorities the right to enter houses and businesses without court orders, to inspect bank books and survey medical records. The entire world became aware of this totalitarianism when Director Ingmar Bergman was dragged off a theater stage by policemen for alleged non-payment of taxes and suffered a nervous breakdown. So also in Britain, the state may now enter peoples' homes without warning to search for violations of tax codes. Socialism can control the economy only by controlling the people.

37% of the world's population enjoy almost full political and civil rights. Most of these are in western Europe and North America. 42% of the world's population live in a dictatorship. The other 21% have only partial freedom. Eldridge Cleaver said: "I'd rather be in jail in America than free anywhere else." Cleaver went to Cuba as a model of liberation. It turned out to be a model of oppression. He said the real mood there is one of hopelessness and anguish. Only a certain type of person is able to handle freedom without turning it into chaos. When a society is governed by Christian principles it can make democracy work. But when biblical morality is forgotten or repudiated, then a manipulating authoritarianism comes in to fill the vacuum. Edmund Burke said: "People never give up their liberties but under some delusion." History indicates that at a certain point of economic breakdown people cease to be concerned with individual liberties and are ready to accept regimentation. This is what paved the way for both Napoleon and Hitler. The danger is even greater when people's values center around personal comfort and affluence.

Politically, the greatest result of the Reformation was freedom without chaos, through a return to biblical Christianity. To whatever degree a people permit biblical principles to exist in private and public life, and carried to their logical conclusion, that people is able to have political freedom. But the less people are motivated spiritually, the more they opt for socialist dictatorship. John Milton said: "None can love freedom heartily but good men." Moses told the people of Israel: "Because you did not serve the Lord your God...There you shall serve your enemies." When the French tried to emulate the political freedom of the English, but without a Reformation base, it led to a blood bath and finally tyranny. They tried to base their society on the secular humanism of Voltaire and the Enlightenment thinkers who believed in the perfectibility of man. The Lord said to his people in the days of Jeremiah: *Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit...They have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and have hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.* The message is applicable to America today.

No government can for very long suppress the liberties of a people who believe in the sovereignty of God and who love freedom more than security. And no President of the United States can reduce the federal bureaucracy when people are saying: "A country that can put a man on the moon ought to be able to..." Since July 20, 1969, this has been popular with those urging the government to improve mass transit, take care of old people, take care of children, take care of the sick, win the winter olympics, win the summer olympics, and do everything else for a people who have transferred faith from themselves to big brother. Five years ago I heard Senator Mark Hatfield speak in Columbus. He said: "Bureaucracy is the process by which energy is transformed into solid waste." This is exemplified by the welfare recipient who wrote her welfare office and demanded, "This is my sixth child. What are you going to do about it?" When we look to the government for the solution of our problems we surrender our freedoms. But when we believe in freedom under God, and that God and man can work in a happy partnership, then man is truly free and government power is minimized. When we elect the kind of men who squander our tax money on social welfare while dismantling the military machine then we have paved the way for tyranny. H. L. Mencken observed: "There are some politicians who, if their constituents were cannibals, would promise them missionaries for dinner."

Elected officials reflect the quality of the people who elect them. Godless people will have a godless government, but they will not have freedom as "one nation under God." Senator Lowell Weicker said: "With only 25-35% of the electorate..."

a lot of rogues and rascals and idiots are getting into Congress." I think the good senator is biting the hand that feeds him, but what he said is true. We shouldn't complain about inflation and taxation if we vote for the big spenders on the basis of their charm, good looks and sex appeal. We shouldn't complain about the curtailment of our liberties when we help vote into office the very men who are gradually destroying those liberties by promising security. I believe America today is in great danger. Although Christian leaders have been sounding this alarm for a long time, politicians, educators, scientists, economists all now agree that something is wrong, something must be done, and soon. What many still fail to see is that America's problem is a spiritual one. The chief enemy of the communist cause is the Christian cause. And, instead of criticizing the church and withdrawing from it, Christian people need to cleanse, strengthen, and support the church as the basic foundation of freedom. The greatest progress toward human freedom and well-being has been made in those countries and among those people who have had the freest and most dynamic Christian faith.

Let us on this Fourth of July weekend pray with Katherine Bates:

America, America, God mend thine every flaw.
Confirm thy soul in self control and liberty in law.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

SEP 7 1983

DATE: _____ ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 9/9/83

SUBJECT: Pres video tape Sibba Leung
Marathon

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MORRISON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VIPOND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RIGGS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROUSSELOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BLACKWELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VILA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VILLALPANDO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCKALEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BENSCHOTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JACOBI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SHORTLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JEPSEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUNDSETH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KOJELIS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MORECI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MELOY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

RESPONSE:

Yes for the president. It's a good passage including the "Let my people go" phrase reportedly. This is a project supported by many high-leverage religious leaders. Not the sort of thing Mrs Reagan has done.

M. Blackwell

Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2270

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 6, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: ✓ FAITH WHITTLESEY - ED ROLLINS

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Video tape - Bible Reading Marathon
to be televised November 19

DATE: Tape needed by November 15th

LOCATION: ---

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept ___ Regret ___ Surrogate ___ Message ___ Other ___
Priority ___
Routine ___

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

RESPONSE DUE 9-9-83

TO

Sarah Long



BIBLE READING MARATHON
Box 142
Amarillo, Texas 79105
506-352-3887



*The Bible.
It has a lot
to offer.*

*9/2
Staff to
Lloyd Hayes
Billings
Soul*

August 29, 1983

Mr. Frederick J. Ryan, Jr.
Director, Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling
The White House
Washington, D. C.

*request
of videotape*

RECEIVED

SEP 1 1983

SCHEDULING
OFFICE

Dear Mr. Ryan;

Thank you for your letter of August 15th and the enclosed photograph of President and Mrs. Reagan. In re-reading my letter of July 19th, I realize how poorly I expressed myself regarding our wishes for the President and Mrs. Reagan to participate in our Bible Reading Marathon. My apologies.

We understand the tremendous schedule and responsibilities they must maintain. Since they cannot be here in person, we hope they will agree to video-tape their readings. We have received tapes from: Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen; Dr. W. A. Criswell, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas; Dr James Draper, President, Southern Baptist Convention; Coach Tom Landry, Dallas Cowboys; Coach Grant Teaff, Baylor University; Coach Bud Wilkinson, St. Louis; Governor Bruce King, New Mexico; and Dr. Ray Stedman, Palo Alto, Calif.

We are expecting to receive tapes from: Dr. Pat Robinson, President, Christian Broadcasting Network; Mr. Ben Kinchlow, Christian Broadcasting Network; Roger Staubach, Dallas; and Dr. Robert Schuller, Garden Grove, Calif.

We would like for the President to read: Exodus Chapters 7 & 8 - which will be televised Friday, Nov. 18th at 7:00 p.m. We would like for Mrs. Reagan to read: II Kings, Chapters 1 - 3 - which will be televised Sat., Nov. 19th at 8:00 p. m. (Using King James, Revised Standard, or NASB versions). We need these tapes by November 15th, at the latest.

On Sunday, November 13th, we will have a full-page ad, in color, in our weekly TV log in the newspaper. Upon receiving acknowledgement that they will be reading, we will arrange for their photograph to receive "Top Billing" in this ad - as well as giving extensive coverage through radio and cable television of their participation. We need this confirmation by Nov. 1st - at the latest!

Thanks again for your assistance. Enclosed is a letter from Senator John Tower telling of his participating, and - as indicated above - we have received his tape, already, as well as a tremendous "promo" which will be used in advance to advertise the event.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Hayes
Lloyd Hayes
Committee Chairman

CC: Ron Hathaway - Total Television of Amarillo
Presley Yarbrough - Amarillo Globe- News

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 1, 1983

ARMY SECRETARY
CAPTAIN
F. B. H. AND
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
BUDGET

am Turner
7 Assistant to the President
Legislative Affairs
White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Pam:

Television of Amarillo, Texas is putting together a unique program, sponsored by the Amarillo Kiwanis Club, in which the entire Bible will be read and broadcast over a cable channel during a 90 hour marathon November 18-22.

Preparing for the marathon, Total Television is contacting various community, state and local leaders, asking them to participate by reading a portion of the Bible on video tape. I have accepted this opportunity and am, myself, reading the 22nd and 23rd chapters of

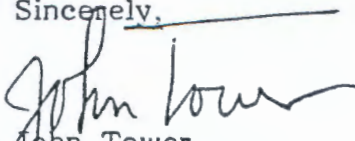
Mr. Ron Hathaway of Total Television has expressed an interest in President Reagan also participating in the program and has asked me to extend their invitation to the President, suggesting the 20th and 21st chapters of 1st Kings, Mr. Hathaway indicates Total Television would appreciate any passage of the Bible the President would select to read. For scheduling purposes, Mr. Hathaway would need to know in advance what portions, if any, the President has selected. Mr. Hathaway can be reached at the following address and phone number:

Mr. Ron Hathaway
Total Television
6654 Canyon Drive
Amarillo, Texas 79109
(806) 359-8622

I can be of further assistance to you on this, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or my assistant press secretary, Terry Ware.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


John Tower

Mr. Ron Hathaway

for Anne Higgins

To Mary Reading
(First Deputy
Attorney)

From Morton
Blackwell

suggested response to Richard C. Porter

Dear Mr. Porter:

I have your letter of June 29. I regret that you ~~found~~
~~my response~~ ~~did not~~ find my letter of June 27 helpful.

Your letter of May 24
You/asked what is the President's practice with respect
to ~~attendance~~ attendance at religious services. To the best
of my ability, I explained ^{the President's} it to you. Perhaps this
additional information will help.

Each President has his
own practices.

The President and Mrs. Reagan from time to time attend religious
services, for instance/at the National Presbyterian Church ^{where}
I am sure that you can understand the reasons why
it is not appropriate to advertise these matters.

Morton Blackwell, the Special Assistant to the President
who serves as the President's liaison to religious organizations
in the White House with
informs me that the President frequently meets/religious
leaders, individually and in large and small groups. It is not
unusual on these occasions ~~for~~ for prayers to be said or
for the discussion to ~~concern~~ concern religious faith.

President is subjected
At the present time, the ~~President~~ ^{President} is the object
to two American Civil Liberties ^{Union} suits challenging his
congressionally requested proclamation of 1983 as Year of the

In my previous letter, I enclosed a copy of the President's address to the National Association of Evangelicals. Now I am enclosing the President's speech earlier this year to the National Religious Broadcasters convention. In this speech the President specifically addresses his personal religious faith.

Sincerely,

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON


7/27/83

NOTE FOR MORTON BLACKWELL

Mr. Blackwell -

Sarah Long, Fred Ryan's Deputy, suggested I send this along to you to ask if you could suggest what Fred most appropriately could say in replying to Mr. Porter.

Thank you very much


Mary Rawlins
(Fred Ryan's office)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Porter
Blair*

7/26/82

Sarah - As you will note we did not send this to Special Reply initially for appropriate response. Now, however, it is coming to us - the handwriting is that of Anne Higgins but the question marks are mine. The man really wants to know as I read it why the President is not having Sunday worship services here in the WH and I honestly do not know what to say about that. I do know that the President publicly has "talked about" the inconvenience to people when he ~~has~~ attended worship ~~services~~ - streets blocked off, people checked at the door, etc. Would you mind to give me a sentence or two on what we might tell Mr. Porter about WH worship services. Thanks

Mary *ML*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

77
00

Date:

To:

Fred Higgins

please see [unclear]

TH

RECEIVED

JUL 8 1983

SCHEDULING
OFFICE

MA

A Higgins

ask maywell

ANNE HIGGINS
Special Assistant to the
President and Director
of Correspondence
Room 94, x7610

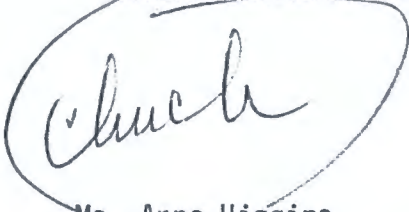
RICHARD C. PORTER JR.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

KENTUCKY AND FLORIDA LICENSES

STARKS BUILDING
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202
AREA CODE 502
TELEPHONE 584-7284

June 29, 1983



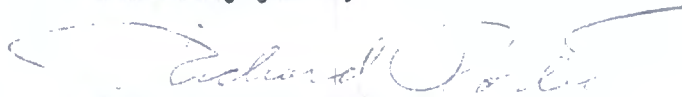
Ms. Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ms. Higgins:

I received a letter from you on June 27, 1983, in response to my letter of May 24, 1983, to President Reagan.

I regret that your letter is totally unresponsive to the question that I asked in my letter. It is absolutely unhelpful and unproductive, and I am returning it to you. I really wish you or the President or someone would take the time to read the letter and answer the question therein.

Sincerely yours,



Richard C. Porter, Jr.

RCP:h

enc.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 23, 1983

RECEIVED
JUN 27 A.M.

Dear Mr. Porter:

Thank you for writing to President Reagan. The President is a member of the Disciples of Christ (Christian) church. Since becoming President, he and Mrs. Reagan have attended church infrequently because of the security precautions which must surround their activities. The President believes that it is unfair to disrupt the services and congregation with these security requirements and the media attention which his movements draw.

President and Mrs. Reagan spend most weekends at Camp David where they can experience more freedom than the environs of the White House allow. Unfortunately, we live in an age when being President means a great sacrifice of privacy and freedom of movement.

I have enclosed a copy of the speech which President Reagan recently made before the 41st Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Orlando, Florida. You might want to share this with your students.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Richard C. Porter, Jr.
Starks Building
Louisville, KY 40202

May 24, 1983

Hon. Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Reagan:

In our Sunday School Class your name is often mentioned. Recently, it was suggested that you have been to Church some three times since you were Inaugurated as the President.

If I remember correctly, the practice of former Presidents, ministers were invited into the White House, where services were held for the President, the President's family, and any members of the White House staff that cared to so worship.

What is your practice? I would like to be able to explain it to the members of my Sunday School Class.

God bless you and what you are doing for our Nation. My family and I personally appreciate your spirituality and the Christian witness that you have shown.

Very truly yours,



Richard C. Porter, Jr.

RCP:cb

COPY

June 23, 1983

Dear Mr. Porter:

Thank you for writing to President Reagan. The President is a member of the Disciples of Christ (Christian) church. Since becoming President, he and Mrs. Reagan have attended church infrequently because of the security precautions which must surround their activities. The President believes that it is unfair to disrupt the services and congregation with these security requirements and the media attention which his movements draw.

President and Mrs. Reagan spend most weekends at Camp David where they can experience more freedom than the environs of the White House allow. Unfortunately, we live in an age when being President means a great sacrifice of privacy and freedom of movement.

I have enclosed a copy of the speech which President Reagan recently made before the 41st Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Orlando, Florida. You might want to share this with your students.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Richard C. Porter, Jr.
Starks Building
Louisville, KY 40202

Enclosure: 3-8-83 speech

AVH:KCS:PG:AVH:vml--

RICHARD C. PORTER JR.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

K5
KENTUCKY AND FLORIDA LICENSES

STARKS BUILDING
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202
AREA CODE 502
TELEPHONE 584-7284

May 24, 1983

Hon. Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Reagan:

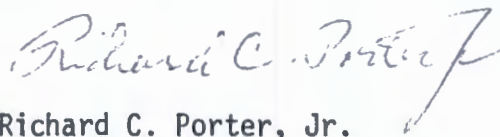
In our Sunday School Class, your name is often mentioned. Recently, it was suggested that you have been to Church some three times since you were Inaugurated as the President.

If I remember correctly the practice of former Presidents, ministers were invited into the White House, where services were held for the President, the President's family, and any members of the White House staff that cared to so worship.

What is your practice? I would like to be able to explain it to the members of my Sunday School Class.

God bless you and what you are doing for our Nation. My family and I personally appreciate your spirituality and the Christian witness that you have shown.

Very truly yours,


Richard C. Porter, Jr.

RCP:cb

Bob Timburg

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 31, 1983

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ANNUAL CONVENTION OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS

Sheraton Washington Hotel
Washington, D.C.

January 31, 1983

2:07 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.)
Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Please. You did that.
(Applause.) Thank you.

Thank you all very much, and thank you Brandt Gustavson.
Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, thank you all very much.

I had a little problem last night myself with regard
to my name. (Laughter.) I thought about a week ago that maybe I
would persuade someone to change his name from Riggins to Reagan.
(Laughter.) But after yesterday afternoon, I thought maybe I ought
to change my name to his. (Laughter.)

You all have an expression among you that, first of all,
you confess to being poor audiences for others. I haven't found it
so. But you also have an expression about preaching to the choir.
I don't know just exactly what my address, how that fits under that
today. But what a wonderful sight you are.

In a few days I'll be celebrating another birthday
which, according to some in the press, puts me on a par with Moses.
(Laughter.) That doesn't really bother me because every year when
I come here, when I look out at your warm and caring faces, I get
a very special feeling, like being born again. (Applause.)

There is something else I've been noticing. In a time
when recession has gripped our land, your industry, religious
broadcasting, has enjoyed phenomenal growth. Now, there may be
some who are frightened by your success, but I'm not one of them.
(Applause.) As far as I'm concerned, the growth of religious
broadcasting is one of the most heartening signs in America today.

When we realize that every penny of that growth is
being funded voluntarily by citizens of every stripe, we see an
important truth. It's something that I have been speaking of
for quite some time -- that the American people are hungry for
your message because they are hungry for a spiritual revival in
this country. (Applause.) When Americans reach out for values
of faith, family and caring for the needy, they're saying, "We
want the Word of God. We want to face the future with the Bible."

Facing the future with the Bible -- that's a perfect
theme for your convention. You might be happy to hear that I have
some "good news" of my own. Thursday morning, at the National
Prayer Breakfast, I will sign a proclamation making 1983 the Year
of the Bible. (Applause.)

MORE

We're blessed to have its words of strength, comfort and truth. I'm accused of being simplistic at times with some of the problems that confront us. I've often wondered, within the covers of that single Book are all the answers to all the problems that face us today if we'd only look there. (Applause.) "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever." I hope Americans will read and study the Bible in 1983. It's my firm belief that the enduring values, as I say, presented in its pages have a great meaning for each of us and for our nation. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds, refresh our souls.

Now, I realize it's fashionable, in some circles, to believe that no one in government should order or encourage others to read the Bible. Encourage -- I shouldn't have said order. We're told that will violate the constitutional separation of church and State established by the Founding Fathers in the First Amendment.

Well, it might interest those critics to know that, none other than the Father of our Country, George Washington, kissed the Bible at his inauguration. And he also said words to the effect that there could be no real morality in a society without religion.

John Adams called it "the best book in the world." And Ben Franklin said: ". . . the longer I lived, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men . . . without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel; we shall be divided by our little, partial, local interests, our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach, a bye-word down to future ages."

So, when I hear the First Amendment used as a reason to keep the traditional moral values away from policymaking, I'm shocked. The First Amendment was not written to protect people and their laws from religious values. It was written to protect those values from government tyranny. (Applause.)

I've always believed that this blessed land was set apart in a special way, that some divine plan placed this great continent here between the two oceans to be found by people from every corner of the earth -- people who had a special love for freedom and the courage to uproot themselves, leave their homeland and friends to come to a strange land and, when coming here, they created something new in all the history of mankind: a country where man is not beholden to government, government is beholden to man. (Applause.)

MORE

I happen to believe that one way to promote, indeed to preserve, those traditional values we share is by permitting our children to begin their days the same way the Members of the United States Congress do -- with prayer. (Applause.) The public expression of our faith in God through prayer is fundamental -- as a part of our American heritage and a privilege which should not be excluded from our schools.

No one must be forced or pressured to take part in any religious exercise. But neither should the freest country on earth ever have permitted God to be expelled from the classroom. (Applause.) When the Supreme Court ruled that school prayer was unconstitutional almost 21 years ago, I believe it ruled wrong. And when a lower court recently stopped Lubbock, Texas, high school students from even holding voluntary prayer meetings on the campus before or after class, it ruled wrong, too. (Applause.)

Our only hope for tomorrow is in the faces of our children. And we know Jesus said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not for such is the kingdom of God." Last year, we tried to pass an amendment that would allow communities to determine for themselves whether voluntary prayer should be permitted in their public schools. And we failed. But I want you to know something: I am determined to bring that amendment back again, and again, and again, and again until -- (applause) -- We were frustrated on two other fronts last year. There are five million American children attending private schools today because of emphasis on religious values and educational standards. Their families, most of whom earn less than \$25,000 a year, pay private tuition and they also pay their full share of taxes to fund the public schools. We think they're entitled to relief. So, I want you to know that shortly, we'll be sending legislation back up to the Hill and we will begin the struggle all over again to secure tuition tax credits for deserving families. (Applause.)

There is another struggle we must wage to redress a great, national wrong. We must go forward with unity of purpose and will. And let us come together, Christians and Jews, let us pray together, march, lobby and mobilize every force we have, so that we can end the tragic taking of unborn children's lives. (Applause.) Who among us can imagine the excruciating pain the unborn must feel as their lives are snuffed away? And we know medically they do feel pain.

I'm glad that a Respect Human Life bill has already been introduced in Congress by Representative Henry Hyde. Not only does this bill strengthen and expand restrictions on abortions financed by tax dollars, it also addresses the problem of infanticide. It makes clear the right of all children, including those who are born handicapped, to food and appropriate medical treatment after birth and it has the full support of this administration.

I know that many well-intentioned, sincerely-motivated people believe that government intervention

MORE

violates a woman's right of choice. And they would be right if there were any proof that the unborn are not living human beings. Medical evidence indicates to the contrary and, if that were not enough, how do we explain the survival of babies who are born prematurely, some very prematurely?

We once believed that the heart didn't start beating until the fifth month. But as medical instrumentation has improved, we've learned the heart was beating long before that.

Doesn't the constitutional protection of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness extend to the unborn unless it can be proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that life does not exist in the unborn? (Applause.)

And I believe the burden of proof is on those who would make that point.

I read in the Washington Post about a young woman named Victoria. She's with child, and she said: "In this society we save whales, we save timber wolves and bald eagles and Coke bottles. Yet everyone wanted me to throw away my baby." Well, Victoria's story has a happy ending. Her baby will be born.

Victoria has received assistance from a Christian couple, and from Sav-A-Life, a new Dallas group run by Jim McKee, a concerned citizen who thinks it's important to provide constructive alternatives to abortion. There's hope for America; she remains powerful and a powerful force for good; and it's thanks to the conviction and commitment of people like those who are helping Victoria. They're living the meaning of the two great commandments: "...thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might;" and "thy shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Each year, government bureaucracies spend billions* for problems related to drugs and alcoholism and disease. Has anyone stopped to consider that we might come closer to balancing the budget if all of us simply tried to live up to the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule? (Applause.)

That's what's happening with CBN and the 700 Club's "Operation Blessing." They've given nearly \$2.5 million to more than 8,500 churches and this money is then matched by the local churches. The result has been fantastic: More than 100,000 needy families helped, either through direct or in-kind contributions ranging from food and clothing to education, dental care and housework.

The PTL TV network is carrying out "A Master Plan for People that Love," opening centers all across the country to provide food, clothing, furniture and job bank centers at no cost. Don't listen to those cynics -- some of them here in the capital -- who would run our country down. America's heart is strong, and its heart is good.

You know, I mentioned drugs a moment ago. And I hope you'll forgive me if I digress just long enough -- because I don't often get the chance to say this publicly -- how proud I am of Nancy, and the job she's doing helping to fight drug addiction. (Applause.)

MORE

*billions

I do that every day for her. (Laughter.)

I know that each of you is contributing, in your own way, to rebuilding America, and I thank you. As broadcasters, you have unique opportunities. And all of us, as Protestants, Catholics and Jews, have a special responsibility to remember our fellow believers who are being persecuted in other lands. We're all children of Abraham. We're children of the same God.

You might be interested to know about a few of the changes that we're making at the Voice of America. Our transmissions of Christian and Jewish broadcasts are being expanded and improved. This year, for the first time in history, the Voice of America broadcast a religious service worldwide, Christmas Eve at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

Now, these broadcasts are not popular with governments of totalitarian powers. But make no mistake, we have a duty to broadcast. Alexander Herzen, the Russian writer, warned, "To shrink from saying a word in defense of the oppressed is as bad as any crime." Well, I pledge to you that America will stand up, speak out and defend the values we share. To those who would crush religious freedom, our message is plain. You may jail your believers. You may close their churches, confiscate their Bibles and harrass their rabbis and priests, but you will never destroy the love of God and freedom that burns in their hearts. They will triumph over you. (Applause.)

Malcolm Muggeridge, the brilliant English commentator, has written, "The most important happening in the world today is the resurgence of Christianity in the Soviet Union, demonstrating that the whole effort sustained over 60 years to brainwash the Russian people into accepting materialism has been a fiasco."

Think of it -- the most awesome, military machine in history, but it is no match for that one, single man, hero, strong yet tender, Prince of Peace. His name alone, Jesus, can lift our hearts, soothe our sorrows, heal our wounds and drive away our fears. (Applause.) He gave us love and forgiveness. He taught us truth and left us hope. In the Book of John is the promise that we all go by, tells us that "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Applause.)

With His message, with your conviction and commitment, we can still move mountains. We can work to reach our dreams and to make America a shining city on a hill. Before I say goodbye, I wanted to leave with you these words from an old Netherlands folk song, because they made me think of our meeting here today. "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing./ We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant/ And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be./ Let Thy congregation escape tribulation./ Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!" To which I would only add a line from another song, "America, America, God shed His grace on thee."

Thank you again. (Applause).

END

2:28 P.M. EST

Robert D. Kershaw, Jr.

EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

Dear President Ronald Reagan,

As a Christian, and politically motivated citizen of the United States, I felt it my duty to write you concerning my strong convictions on issues now facing you, and our country as a whole. As my representative in government, I pray for you and hope that you are doing your best to see to it that our country remains the great, God-fearing nation that it has always been. The major issues for which I am concerned fall primarily into three categories.

Defense. I am very much concerned with the present U.S.-Soviet imbalance. I support President Reagan's desire for a strong military, both defensively and offensively. I am in favor of assuring U.S. military superiority at all costs. I am in favor of President Reagan's MX program as well as superior and inovative defense measures such as the high frontiers proposal.

Religious Liberties. I am very concerned about the changing government attitude toward our freedoms concerning religion. It seems as if the attitude is that Americans should be free to do every ungodly and immoral thing imaginable, but not to freely practice their religion. I am strongly opposed to the ban in public schools of prayer and the study of Biblical truth. It seems that schools are permitting the study of every militant and perverse social, political, and religious experience, but denying students their right to study, expound upon, and preach the Bible or pray to God. They permit Mind Control, T.M., Occult study, birth control, sex education, and Communism, but not the study of the Bible. Then when Godly Christian parents take their children out of such a cess pool of so-called education and form their own private Christian schools, they are persecuted by the Federal Government for not accepting the Federal Standard, and are constantly hassled with Federal red tape and possible revoking of their tax exempt status. So, needless to say, I support prayer and Bible study in Public Schools, the forming of private Christian schools, and parents rights to raise, educate, train, and discipline their own children.

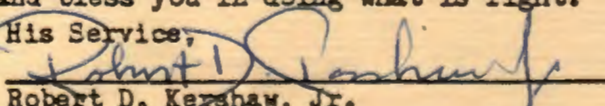
Moral. I am concerned with the recent flood of filth that we are experiencing in this country through television, the printing page, billboards, massage parlors, modeling studios, sex spas, ect. If the Godless Soviet Union outlaws these things, why can't a country with such a Godly heritage as ours? I support the total outlawing of prostitution, pornography, and homosexuality. These are not rights, they are sicknesses and should be dealt with as such. Are our government leaders more godless than those in the Kremlin?

Other issues that I am concerned with are 1) I am in favor of continued aid to and alliance with the state of Israel. 2) I am in favor of increasing our national speed limit to where it was before the supposed oil shortage and 3) I am in favor of fighting Communist Expansionism in Central America and worldwide,

I appreciate your efforts and would very much like to know where you stand on the issues I have mentioned.

Thank You and May God help you and bless you in doing what is right.

In His Service,


Robert D. Kershaw, Jr.

le/RK



Church of the Lord Jesus Christ

Pastor, Don H. Johnson

7-16-83

Mr. Morton Blackwell
c/o The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Christian greetings. I hope that you are well.

It was a great privilege to meet you and be with you in Washington. You were so kind to our entire group.

I realize that it took much of your time to talk with us and show us around but it was greatly appreciated. A great impression was made in our minds.

I want to thank you for your honesty, sincerity, and hard work. You are doing a great work and we trust you.

We will do our very best to work hard for the administration. If, at any time, I can serve on any committee or help in any way, please feel free to call me.

Thank you again.

Yours in Christ,

Don H. Johnson
DHJ:rj