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Morton -

Red returned this to me.

In view of all the hot issues  
we have to deal with,

EBD only wants to recommend  
critical substantive events --

eg. tuition tax credit, balanced  
budget, etc.

Diana

file  
AM. Lesim

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

MAY 20, 1982

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole

REQUEST: Meeting with the American Legion Girls Nation delegates from all over the country.

PURPOSE: To honor the outstanding Girls Nation delegates who were selected at Girls State Conferences.

BACKGROUND: Girls Nation has been a project of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1947. The high school girls are chosen by delegates to Girls State. These delegates are ready to start their senior year in high school and are chosen with the aid of their school principals for qualities of leadership. The Vice President will greet Boys Nation July 30.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: President Reagan was unable to schedule this event last summer. Girls Nation organizers did not request a White House visit early enough to get it on his schedule. No one greeted them on his behalf but they did have a tour of the White House. President Carter greeted them in 1980 and most years they have been greeted either by the President or someone on his behalf when they toured the White House.

DATE: July 23, 1982. They will be here July 17-24 so another date could be arranged if necessary.

LOCATION: Rose Garden (East Room in case of rain)

PARTICIPANTS: 100 American Legion Girls Nation Delegates and some staff.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President will greet the girls in the Rose Garden and make a few remarks. They will present him with the bills they have enacted during their session. They then will have a tour of the White House (or Rose Garden event can conclude their tour if it fits White House schedule better).

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks.

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House press corps opportunity.

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton C. Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR FLO RANDOLPH

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL *Blackwell*

SUBJECT: Meeting of Veterans Groups  
with Mr. Meese

The executive directors of the three largest veterans groups have requested a meeting with Ed Meese regarding their dissatisfaction with the Administration's handling of veterans' affairs. They are Mylio Kraja, American Legion; Cooper Holt, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Gabby Hartnett, Disabled American Veterans

I understand the coming week is impossible but would appreciate having them scheduled as soon as possible. They represent large constituencies which have been largely supportive of the President.



June 3 1:30  
Thurs.

room 305

off record, background  
discussion of issues

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

X 5010  
talked with  
Sven  
5/27

May 24, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR SVEN KRAEMER

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*

I have been asked by the American Legion to arrange a briefing by the National Security Council for four of their top leaders on the subject of nuclear disarmament.

On June 10, the BBC has scheduled a taping of a one hour show in Chicago on nuclear disarmament. The people taking part in this show, in addition to Legionnaires, are: Joan Ruddock, Chairman for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and Brigadier Michael Harbottle, General Secretary World Disarmament Campaign.

The American Legion has asked that this briefing be scheduled either June 2, 3, or 4.

The Legion leaders to be on the show and their titles are:

Roger Munson, Ohio Chairman, National Security for the American Legion

Robert P. Foster, Missouri Director, Chairman of Foreign Relations

G. Michael Schlee, Director of National Security and Foreign Relations

Harry Sullivan, Assistant Director, National Security and Foreign Relations

This is a supportive group which we should do our best to assist.

Could you kindly let me know if this is possible and if so what date will be the most convenient?

Ask Sandy whether Sven has permission to arrange this briefing on June 3 at 11 or 2. If so call Mylo Kravos - 861-2711

Clarence Bacon. Legislative Chairman

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 24, 1982

TO: SVEN KRAEMER

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

I have been asked by the American Legion to arrange a briefing <sup>by the Natl. Sec Council</sup> for four of their top leaders on the subject of nuclear disarmament by ~~the National Security Council~~.

<sup>Legion to be on the show</sup>  
The ~~four~~ leaders and their titles are: ~~the following:~~

Roger Munson, Ohio Chairman, National Security for the American Legion

Robert P. Foster, Missouri Director, Chairman of Foreign Relations

G. Michael Schlee, Director of National Security and Foreign Relations

Harry Sullivan, Assistant Director, ~~West. Nat. Security For. Rel.~~

On June 10, the BBC has scheduled a taping of a one hour show in Chicago on nuclear disarmament. <sup>in addition to Legionnaires</sup> The ~~two~~ people taking part in this show are: Joan Ruddock, Chairman for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and Brigadier ~~A~~ Michael Harbottle, General Secretary World Disarmament Campaign.

<sup>this is a supportive group which we should do our best to assist.</sup>  
The American Legion has asked that this briefing be scheduled either June 2, 3, or 4.

Could you kindly let me know if this is possible and if so what date will be the most convenient?

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

He told Mylio early in the week  
he would arrange some briefings  
with National Security Council  
on nuclear disarmament. He wants  
to know when & where. 5/21 3:37

McCall Owen

1 hr June 10

---

Send memo as  
to why this should be  
done & who these  
people are



Show BBC Taping June 10 Chic.

Nuclear disarmament

1 hr

Chicago

---

Int. Community

Joan Reddock - 30

Chmn. for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

~~Brigade~~ Brigadier.

Michael Harbottle - 70

Gen. Sec. World  
Disarmament  
Campaign

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Att. of June 2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup>

Nonclassified

Roger A. Munson - Ohio

Robert P. Foster  
Mo - Dr  
Chmn of  
For. Rel.

Int. Sec.  
for AL

---

G. Michael Schlee  
Dir. of Nat Sec & For Rel.

Harry Sullivan Nat. Dir.

~~Chmn~~



*American  
Legion*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 5, 1981

To: Diana

From: Morton 

I broke the bad news to Mylio Kraja that the Pres. can't see their new Legion commander per their request. I told Mylio that he would have to admit that it was clever of us to hold up a decision on this while we needed the Legion's help on AWACS.

(No, I didn't say that, but I'll bet he was thinking that while we talked.)

*American  
Legion*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 27, 1981

TO: Dodie Livingston's office  
FROM: Kathy Christiansen - Morton  
Blackwell's office x. 2657

WOuld you please arrange for a  
Presidential greeting to be sent  
to this group?

Thank you.

# The American Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★



OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMANDER

March 18, 1981

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The 22nd annual Armed Forces Chess Tournament will be held in The American Legion's Hall of Flags this September 15-23. This tournament is sponsored by the American Chess Foundation, the United Service Organizations (USO) and the Legion. Six-member teams from the Army, Air Force and Sea Services (Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard) will compete for trophies provided by various donors.

The contests have been recognized by each President and Defense Secretary since 1962. This recognition, as indicated in the enclosed 1969 and 1976 programs, has encouraged both the players and the sponsors who have cooperated through the years to develop chess as a recreational and educational activity for military personnel.

As you would expect, our role in this unique program is in keeping with The American Legion's traditional concern for all Americans who are serving as well as those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

We would be honored to have a message from you for the 1981 tournament program. The message would also have significance for millions of other young Americans who play chess and who may some day enter military service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Kocutek".

MICHAEL J. KOCUTEK  
National Commander

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Pending*

June 4, 1981

TO: CHARLOTTE ELLIS

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

RE: SCHEDULING A LUNCHEON WITH MRS.  
DOLE AND THE AMERICAN LEGION  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*OK*

Per my original memo and request,  
we hope that this luncheon can be  
arranged next week.

The best date for me would be Tuesday,  
June 9, but Monday, June 8 would also  
be acceptable.

The luncheon would be for four people -  
Mrs. Dole, myself, Robert Spanogle,  
and Mylio Kraja.

As mentioned in the letter, if a  
luncheon cannot be arranged, they would  
like a meeting so they can present  
a gift to Mrs. Dole.

Thank you and please let us know as  
soon as possible what you can schedule.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 7, 1981

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL 

We have just been informed that Bob Spanogle, formerly executive director of the American Legion, has been named National Adjutant of the American Legion, effective July 1, 1981.

We have had a very good working relationship with Bob. They have not named a new executive director as of now.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

file  
American  
Legion

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

April 21, 1981

From: Morton C. Blackwell 

Today I hosted a meeting in my office with three officers of the American Legion:

Michael Kogutek, national commander  
Robert Spanogle, Executive director of Washington office  
Mylio Kraja, director national legislative commission

Also present was Bill Gribbin, deputy director of Congressional Relations.

The Legion representatives expressed concern that, if they came out and endorsed the President's economic package, they might lose out even if the Reagan bipartisan bill (Gramm-Latta) passed the House intact. (They are for Gramm-Latta because they get back most of they originally proposed V.A. cuts under the new proposal.)

They wanted assurances that the President would fight in the House-Senate conference for the V.A. provisions of Gramm-Latta, thereby assuring that GOP Senate conferees would not push for Senate-passed provisions which cut the V.A. as per the original OMB proposals.

The strategy devised at our meeting was that the Legion would contact Rep. Sonny Montgomery and ask him to call the President and ask him to write a note to Montgomery assuring that the Administration would support the V.A. provisions of Gramm-Latta in the House-Senate conference. Gribbin would alert Max Friedersdorf that a request would be coming from Montgomery.

The above request from the Legion was the single matter left to be resolved before the Legion would come on board in support of the economic package. During the meeting we solved their other major concern: I got Don Moran on the phone with Spanogle and me. The Legion was worried that V.A. has in the works a Reduction in Force (RIF) in accord with the original OMB proposals. Moran agreed to immediately phone Acting V.A. administrator Rufus Wilson and direct him to cease internal moves to implement the cut of 1648 positions which the Gramm-Latta Reagan bipartisan proposal would restore from the cuts anticipated in the original OMB proposal.

American Legion Commander Kogutek agreed to keep in touch with me and make his endorsement when Rep. Montgomery gets the requested note from the President.

*Morton to Reg*  
*5/10/81*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

**REGRET**

Date 3/11  
GJN

*Handwritten signature*

March 10, 1981

MEMORANDUM TO:

Greg Newell

FROM:

Red Cavaney *RC*

*F/De*

SUBJECT:

American Legion Distinguished Service Medal  
Wreath laying ceremony

Please try your hardest to get this approved in view of the VFW event acceptance. If it is declined, I will have to hand walk for approval.

Thanks

*VP*  
*Cag*



SCHEDULE PROPOSAL  
DATE: March 10, 1981  
FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE  
VIA: GREG NEWELL

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEETING: Presentation of the American Legion Distinguished Service Medal to the Dead and Missing of the Vietnam War.

DATE: Monday, March 16, 1981, at 10:00 AM

PURPOSE: To enable the President to honor the dead and missing of the Vietnam War by laying a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown soldier at a silent ceremony.

FORMAT: Location: The Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery  
Participation: See attached list.  
Duration: 15 minutes

CABINET PARTICIPATION: Secretary Weinberger *X could say*

SPEECH MATERIAL: No remarks

PRESS COVERAGE: Full Press Coverage

STAFF: Elizabeth H. Dole

RECOMMEND: E. Dole, L. Nofziger, Sen. Laxalt, Sen. Baker, Sen. Tower, Sen. Thurmond, Sen. Helms., Cong. Montgomery (Chairman of Armed Services), and Cong. Hammerschmidt.

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President has participated in a number of American Legion activities, however, this will be the first since inauguration.

BACKGROUND: This Distinguished Service Medal presentation is the highest ceremony of the American Legion Birthday Week (their 62nd) and will afford the President the chance to honor all veterans, particularly those of the Vietnam era. With hundreds of Vietnam veterans (a number disabled) present at the Tomb of the Unknowns, the President can participate in a dignified ceremony. His acceptance of the recent VFW invitation has created significant pressure for brief participation in the American Legion event. To date, 85 members of Congress have accepted.

*Disagreed*  
**REGRET**  
Date 3/11  
GJN



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
February 26, 1981

SECRET

3/1

to \_\_\_\_\_

CS

To: Red Cavaney  
From: Morton Blackwell *MB*  
Re: American Legion Wreath Laying Ceremony

Here is the latest information from Bob Spanogle regarding the attached proposed event.

Those attending:

1. From each state:
  - a. A selected Viet Nam veteran, some disabled, and
  - b. An American Legion official.
2. Honored guests, accepted:
  - a. H. Ross Perot
  - b. F. Lee Bailey--frequent financial supporter of veterans' causes
  - c. Larry Wilcox--star of CHiPs TV program
  - d. Tom Sneva--"500" racedriver
  - e. Numerous members of the Congress
3. Honored guests, invited:
  - a. The President
  - b. The entire Congress
  - c. Bob Hope, who is trying to arrange his schedule to attend.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

3/16  
#10:00 AM

MEMORANDUM

FEBRUARY 17, 1981

TO: RED CAVANEY  
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL  
VIA: PATRICIA A.E. RODGERS  
SUBJ: SCHEDULING REQUEST

*M*

*Regret*

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION AND COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Event: PRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

Date: MARCH 16, 1981

Location: THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIERS, ARLINGTON  
Background: CEMETERY

THIS MEDAL WILL BE GIVEN IN HONOR OF THE DEAD AND MISSING OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

SEE ATTACHED CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTE: RETURN REQUESTED BY FEBRUARY 20, 1981

RECOMMEND ACCEPT

RECOMMEND REGRET

COMMENTS:

RECOMMEND SURROGATE

RECOMMEND MESSAGE

*2/20*  
*See attached. Concern w/ 15 min wreath laying portion. This is a very big event with festivities involving Bob Hope & others!*

**REGRET**

Date 3/11  
*Red* **GJM**

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1981

TO: Red Cavaney

FROM: Morton Blackwell

SUBJECT: American Legion's request for an event with  
the President on March 16

Bob Spinogle, Executive Director of the American Legion, advises that they would like the President to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers on March 16 at a silent ceremony which would involve Vietnam veterans from each state, brought to D.C. at Legion expense. Spinogle said that this would require only 15 minutes of the President's time.

He also asked that the President attend a prayer breakfast which will last approximately one hour on the morning of March 16.

I recommend that we endorse the proposal for the President's participation for the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery, but not at the prayer breakfast.



Greg for Alvin

5

Scheduling



*National Commander Michael J. Kogutek*

*requests the honor of your presence*

*at the presentation of*

*The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal*

*to*

*The Dead and Missing of the Vietnam War*

*on*

*Monday, March 16, 1981*

*10:00 a.m.*

*Arlington National Cemetery*

*The Tomb of the Unknowns*