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SEP 9 REC'D MIB



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON OFFICE

September 7, 1982

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Dole
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

Enclosed is a photo and biography of the newly elected National Commander of The American Legion.

Mr. Al Keller is from Kankakee, Illinois and I thought it would be useful for you to have this information available in your files.

I would appreciate visiting with you in the near future about setting a date for our Commander to pay a courtesy call upon the President of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mylio S. Kraja".

Mylio S. Kraja
Executive Director

Enclosure

file
↙



AL KELLER JR.
NATIONAL COMMANDER
THE AMERICAN LEGION
(Biographical Sketch)

Al Keller Jr., 57, Kankakee, Ill., has been elected the American Legion's new national commander for 1982-83.

As the chief executive officer of the 2.6-million member American Legion--the nation's largest veterans organization--Keller will visit nearly every state in the union and several foreign countries during the year.

He was a gunner on a B-24 in the European Theater with the Army Air Force and flew 16 combat missions in World War II. He was a prisoner of war for a few weeks prior to the end of the war.

Born in Peoria, Ill., he enrolled in agriculture courses at the University of Illinois.

His professional career includes being a cost accountant for a major corporation and an office manager and accountant for a construction company.

He began a civil service career as administrative assistant for the Kankakee County Board, an accountant for the American Red Cross, and returned to local government as chief deputy county clerk. Presently, he is administrative assistant for Kankakee County.

Keller has been an active Legionnaire for 28 years beginning with Post No. 85, Kankakee, which he served as post commander and adjutant. He also served as post service officer. For a number of years, he has been involved in American Legion Baseball.

He also served the Legion's Illinois Department as district commander, department vice commander and department commander. He also served on the department's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission for several years.

He was a member of the Legion's national Americanism commission until his election to national commander.

Keller is a member of the Kankakee Elks Lodge and the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Keller and his wife, Genevieve, have two sons.

(end)

For God and Country

**National Public
Relations
Division**

Wm. M. Detweiler, Chairman
Michael E. Alexander, Director

P. O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
(317) 635-8411

1608 K St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 861-2792



NEWS RELEASE

NEWS HOTLINE (800) 428-2686
(INDIANA) (317) 637-6649

CONTACT: MIKE ALEXANDER--CHICAGO

Date of Origin: Aug. 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO--Al Keller Jr., Kankakee, Ill., has been elected the American Legion's national commander for 1982-83. He succeeds Jack W. Flynt, Dimmitt, Tex.

As the chief executive officer of the 2.6-million member American Legion--the nation's largest veterans organization--Keller will visit nearly every state in the union and several foreign countries during the year.

He was a gunner on a B-24 with the Army Air Force and flew 16 combat missions in World War II. He was a prisoner of war.

Born in Peoria, Ill., he enrolled in agriculture courses at the University of Illinois.

His professional career includes being a cost accountant for a major corporation and an office manager and accountant for a construction company.

He began a civil service career as administrative assistant for the Kankakee County Board, an accountant for the American Red Cross, and returned to local government as chief deputy county clerk. Presently, he is administrative assistant for Kankakee County.

Keller has been an active Legionnaire for 28 years beginning with Post No. 85, Kankakee, which he served as post commander and adjutant. He also served as post service officer. For a number of years, he has been involved in American Legion Baseball.

(more)

Al Keller Jr. -- 2

He also served the Legion's Illinois Department as district commander, department vice commander and department commander. He also served on the department's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission for several years.

He was a member of the Legion's national Americanism commission until his election to national commander.

Keller is a member of the Kankakee Elks Lodge and the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Keller and his wife, Genevieve, have two sons.

The American Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★
(202) 861-2711 ★



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 18, 1981

Ms. Maiselle Shortley
Office of Special Assistant
to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Maiselle:

In response to your request for a list of organizations that The American Legion would suggest be called to attend a briefing on the President's tax package, we respectfully submit the following list of names:

The American Legion
AMVETS
Disabled American Veterans
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Blinded American Veterans
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A.
Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A.
Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mylio S. Kraja".
Mylio S. Kraja



MYLIO S. KRAJA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE AMERICAN LEGION
WASHINGTON OFFICE

1 202 861 2711
1608 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Frank - Briefcase
OCT 23 1981

The American Legion

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



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

EHD	MB
RC	MB
JE	
DL	DL
MB	MB

October 22, 1981

Mr. Lawrence K. Grossman, President
Public Broadcasting Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Grossman:

I am writing in regard to PBS's plan to broadcast a special two hour Veterans Day program and to advise you that television stations around the country have been contacting American Legion officials to promote the program as well as handle phone calls from those who see it.

We have reviewed one segment of that program package, "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran", and find it to be a potentially damaging portrayal of Vietnam veterans. If the other segments are consistent with this one in content and tone, then your presentation will have been a disservice to the millions of young veterans who have made successful adjustments. Although we would never question your right to broadcast a program of this type, we do question the wisdom of once again portraying Vietnam veterans as a group of social and moral deviants.

Broadcasting "Frank" will likely reinforce certain prejudices which, over the last decade, have created employment and other obstacles for this youngest generation of veterans. It will also be perceived by many as justification to challenge the concept of service to the nation. I, therefore, am advising all Legion officials in the various states that the program is an unbalanced presentation and that their decisions to participate as phone volunteers must be made with the understanding that some of the callers may require professional counselling.

Mr. Grossman, I regret that your Service has decided to focus a major portion of the November 11 program on an individual whose interview lacks credibility because of contradictory remarks contained therein. But I regret even more that an opportunity will have been missed to treat the vast majority of Vietnam veterans with the respect they deserve.

Sincerely,

Jack W. Flynt
JACK W. FLYNT
National Commander



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

*American
Legion*

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

JUN 10 1982

MEMORANDUM TO: Ms. Sally Kelley
Director, Agency Liaison
White House Correspondence

SUBJECT: Letter dated March 11, 1982
from Jack W. Flynt, National
Commander of the American Legion
re: Concern Regarding Proposal
to Disband or Inadequately Fund
the U.S. Coast Guard

Enclosed is a copy of a draft response to Mr. Flynt regarding the
disbanding and inadequate funding issues.

In our proposed draft we deny that there is a plan to disband the
Coast Guard and point out that the material condition of its
resources is improving due to acquisition of new aircraft and
cutters.

Alexandra Simon
for Katherine M. Anderson
Director,
Executive Secretariat

Enclosure

DRAFT LETTER

Mr. Jack W. Flynt
National Commander
American Legion
1608 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear ~~Mr.~~ ^{Jack:} Flynt:

Thank you for your recent letter of concern regarding the U.S. Coast Guard. *get approval of draft*

In an attempt to curb federal government growth all agencies have been required to economize. Some agencies have felt the impact of these economies to a greater degree than others. By comparison to most agencies, the Coast Guard has fared well

in the magnitude of the targeted reductions.

The Transportation Department assures me

There is no plan to disband the Coast Guard. The basic duties of the Coast Guard remain intact, and its material condition and operational capabilities will improve due to recent initiatives. For example, a new class of medium endurance cutters is being constructed which will, when delivered, permit replacement of some of the aged vessels currently in service; new fixed wing aircraft and helicopters are being procured which will improve the effectiveness of the Search and Rescue and the Law Enforcement Programs; further, personnel retention is improving as a result of recent pay increases.

I am sure that the Coast Guard will continue to provide a high level of service to the nation in keeping with its long tradition.

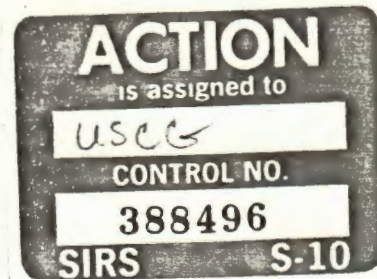
Sincerely,

M. B. ...
7/26/82

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

MAY 18, 1982



TO: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 065958

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 11, 1982

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. JACK W. FLYNT
NATIONAL COMMANDER
AMERICAN LEGION
1608 K STREET, NW
WASHINGTON DC 20006

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING PROPOSAL TO
DISBAND THE COAST GUARD AND SPREAD ITS
MISSIONS AMONG SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

065958

ID # FI004

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

plblac

O - OUTGOING
 H - INTERNAL
 I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 82103115

Name of Correspondent: Jack W. Flynt

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Expresses concern regarding proposal to disband the Coast Guard & spread its missions among several other government agencies.

ROUTE TO: Office/Agency (Staff Name)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>PZ Blac</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>82103115</u>	<u>FC</u>		<u>82107120</u>
<u>DOT</u>	Referral Note:	<u>R 82105118</u>		<u>C 82106110</u>	
	Referral Note:	<u>Agency sent draft response</u>			
	Referral Note:				
	Referral Note:				
	Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:
A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:
A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: issue has been resolved by Congress

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

The
American
Legion

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



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

065958

March 11, 1982

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

Dear Mr. President:

For 192 years, the United States Coast Guard has performed invaluable services to this nation in peace and war. As you are aware, some of the on-going missions have been the interdiction of drug traffic and the interception of thousands of aliens from Haiti and Cuba trying to enter this country illegally. However, the Coast Guard missions in these vital areas have been severely constrained due to budgetary considerations.

Of particular concern to me are reports that the Office of Management and Budget may be planning proposals to disband the Coast Guard and spread its missions among several other government agencies, primarily the Department of Defense.

Mr. President, the Coast Guard is not a regulatory agency. The missions performed by the Coast Guard are indispensable to the safety of the boating public and indispensable to the Justice Department in policing the illegal drug traffic, and controlling the influx of illegal aliens. Moreover, the Coast Guard must be fully manned and equipped today to perform its ultimate wartime missions.

You will recall that you spoke to the 62nd National Convention in Boston in the summer of 1980. At that same convention, The American Legion passed a resolution calling for you and the Congress to provide funding "necessary to meet the assigned missions of the Coast Guard."

We still believe the United States Coast Guard has an indispensable role, both in peace and in war. We hope you will agree and cease any proposals to disband this vital federal agency.

Sincerely yours,

Jack W. Flynt
JACK W. FLYNT
National Commander

May 1 Defense Briefing

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1981

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

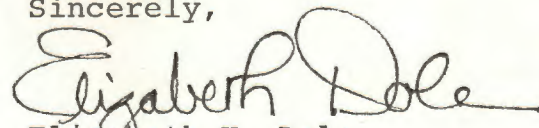
Thank you so much for your recent letter expressing appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the defense briefing held on May 1st. I am glad you found the meeting informative and that you gained additional knowledge about the President's initiatives in the defense area.

I might add that I'm always pleased to hear a compliment regarding my staff. I'm so pleased to hear your kind comments about Morton Blackwell's performance, as well as that of the other Administration officials.

Again, thank you for your kind comments and for taking the time to write.

With all best wishes.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Dole
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Mr. James B. Hubbard
The American Legion
1608 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

copy Norton

EFFD



★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ★
(202) 861-2700 ★

Suzanne

*Check -
and letter
reply*

May 11, 1981

Mrs. Elizabeth Dole
Special Assistant to the
President for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

As you may be aware, Mr. Morton Blackwell of your staff arranged a defense issues briefing for representatives of the associations and organizations interested in that subject. The briefing took place on May 1, and I consider myself fortunate for having been invited. Speaking in all candor, the previous Administration did not see fit to foster such an exchange of information until well into its third year, by which time the campaign for the President' re-election was well under way.

Please accept my congratulations on your efforts to keep interested individuals and organizations informed of President Reagan's defense policies. You are also to be congratulated for recognizing that those of us who study defense issues appreciate the opportunity for meaningful input into those important policy decisions.

You have my personal thanks for the opportunity to meet Secretary Lehman, Mr. Kramer and Mr. Schneiders. They are true professionals who know the issues and who articulate well the President's views.

I very much look forward to more exchanges in the future.

Very sincerely,
J. M. Hubbard

JAMES B. HUBBARD, Deputy Director
National Security-Foreign
Relations Division

MAY 14 1981

JBH/jbb

Morton Blackwell

Defense Briefing

May 1

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1981

Dear Mr. Schlee:

Thank you so much for your recent letter expressing appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the defense briefing on May 1st. I am glad you found the meeting informative and that you gained additional knowledge about the President's initiatives in the defense area.

I might add that I'm always pleased to hear a compliment regarding my staff. I'm so pleased you found Morton Blackwell's speech informative and interesting.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and for your kind words.

With all best wishes.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Dole
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Mr. G. Michael Schlee
President
National Security -
Foreign Relations Division
The American Legion
1608 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006



For God and Country

721

*Wb - bring letter of
thanks for kind
comments
re Morton!*
May 11, 1981

Suzie

Mrs. Elizabeth Dole
Special Assistant to the
President for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

I thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Defense update briefing on May 1. The briefing was most informative and will have measurable affect on the national security interests of The American Legion.

I wish to particularly point out that I felt Morton Blackwell did an excellent job in both speaking and the topic.

Again, my thanks for the opportunity to participate in these worthwhile briefings.

Very sincerely,

Michael Schlee
MICHAEL SCHLEE, Director
National Security-Foreign
Relations Division

GMS/jbb

MAY 15 REC'D



25 MARCH

NATIONAL COMMANDER JACK W. FLYNT
and
THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
of
THE AMERICAN LEGION

cordially invite you to attend
a reception and buffet for Congressional Staffers
Thursday evening, March 25, 1982, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
in appreciation of your

many courtesies and friendly cooperation
THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB
Eisenhower Lounge

300 First Street, SE, Washington, DC

R.S.V.P. by March 16
861-2740

Clarence M. Bacon
Chairman

yes
no

Memo

From: WAYNE VALIS *Wayne*
To: Morton Blackwell
Date: 6/18/82

Re: American Legion's request to have President present Merchant Marine Achievement Trophy Award to Exxon.

Morton, although I'd be crazy about the President getting together with Exxon, I don't think I'd recommend this scheduling proposal. Please talk to me about this when you have a moment.

*OK.
Just file in
Am. Legion in
file*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: *Morton Blackwell*
FROM: Martha Fraas
SUBJECT:

The attached is for your:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Review & Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Response | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EHD Draft Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Comments: _____

file

The American Legion

★ MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE ★ 88 HURON ROAD ★ BELLEROSE VILLAGE, N. Y. 11426 ★



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

February 12, 1982

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Dole
Assistant to the President for
Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

It was a pleasure meeting you again on the occasion of your talk before the American Legion at our National Convention in Honolulu last year. Your talk was excellent and extremely well received. I will be in Washington with the many Legionnaires next week. Might you be joining us once again?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for obtaining the autographed photo of President Reagan for me.

Attached is a copy of the February 3, 1982 letter sent to President Reagan by John V. Caffrey, who is the current Commander of the Robert L. Hague Merchant Marine Industries Post No. 1242. We know how extremely busy the President is, but would it be possible to, once again, prevail upon his good services to honor this ceremony in the White House some time later in the year?

Your kind consideration would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

William D. Horan
William D. Horan

WH/gph
encl.



Robert L. Hague — Merchant Marine Industries Post No. 1242

AMERICAN LEGION — DEPT. OF NEW YORK

Headquarters:
120 Cedar Street
New York, N. Y. 10006
Tel. 267-2376

February 3, 1982

Chris. A. Bendixen, Adjutant
William Schwartz, Assistant Adjutant

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

OFFICERS:

- Commander
John V. Caffrey
- 1st Vice Commander
John C. Ford
- 2nd Vice Commander*
Raymond E. Calhoun
- 3rd Vice Commander
David C. Hislop
- Chaplains
Chaplain George R. Dawson
John H. Dunca
- Financa Officers
Thomas M. McQuilling
Robert H. Coons
- Judge Advocate
James J. Burns, Jr.
- Welfare Officers
William D. Horan
Dewey Darrigan
- Sergeants-at-Arms
Arthur Hansen
S. O. Tharrington
- Color Guards
Richard M. Kane
Walter Thorsen
- Post Historians
Arne E. Eikevik
Rudolph A. Stryker
- Post Log Editor
David C. Hislop

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Benjamin Berman
- Ralph E. Bettum
- John R. Blackeby
- Arnold Daniels
- Joseph Grainger
- Donald F. Hall
- James R. Hanna
- George M. Kellner
- David J. Linde
- James S. Murdock
- Paul Preus
- Erling S. Solberg
- John A. Suchanek

Dear Mr. President:

Last fall we requested your participation in the American Legion Merchant Marine Achievement Trophy Award ceremony. Although disappointed in the reply that you would be unable to do so, we appreciated the press of affairs of office and have awaited the new year before re-initiating the request.

In affirming the American Legion's total support of your administration, we also take the opportunity of reminding that the effectiveness of such support is based in a large measure on the traditional ceremonies from which we derive our strength. This particular ceremony has, since the time of President Eisenhower, been conducted at the White House. We, therefore, sincerely trust that you, or in your absence, Vice President Bush will be available to officiate the event. Historical material is attached in amplification.

The recipient will be Exxon Company, U.S.A. in recognition of their operating the largest privately owned American Flag fleet of deep sea vessels together with their displayed confidence in our future by an investment outlay for conversion and new construction of significant magnitude.

We will await your hopefully favorable response and together with Exxon's officers will accommodate any opening your busy schedule offers. Thank you again for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

John V. Caffrey
John V. Caffrey
Commander

PAST COMMANDERS

- *William M. McGuire
- *Malcolm L. Worrall
- *Robert S. Smith
- *John I. Kavanaugh
William Schwartz
Lewis H. Rabbage
- *Edward C. Holden, Jr.

- *Henry C. Parke
- *John B. Lyman
- *George H. Ackerman
John A. Carroll
- *Oliver D. Colvin
- *Herbert R. Dietze
Thomas M. McQuilling

- Howard L. Humphries
- *Alonzo H. King
- *Willis N. Rogers
James A. McQuilling
William D. Horan
Wayne H. Christensen
Nicholas P. Harvey
James R. Porter

- John W. Keller
- Hellis M. Walter, Jr.
- John H. Ingreham
Anthony J. McAllister
Walter L. Vaughan
Lester A. Dutcner
C. A. Bendixen
Gilbert Y. Ross

June 14, 1982

I am honored to extend warmest greetings and best wishes to the American Legion as you gather for your Sixty-Fourth National Convention. *file*

Legionnaires know firsthand how we as a nation have come to earn the peace and freedom we enjoy today. You have personally sacrificed in defense of our cherished rights to ensure that future generations could be spared war and its terrible consequences. Though today we are struggling to put our nation back on sound financial footing through fiscal restraint, I assure you that we are nonetheless determined not to falter in our basic commitment to provide for the men and women who have answered our nation's call.

You have my best wishes for a productive and enjoyable meeting. I am confident that your Convention initiates another year of invaluable service as a forum for issues of vital concern to all Americans.

RONALD REAGAN

Sent To:

Mr. Robert-Hermann
National Public Relations Division
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Enclosure: 8x10 glossy photo

RR:Silverman:-

cc: K.Osborne/D.Livingston/M.Blackwell/CF

DUE: JUNE 18 (printing)

EVENT: AUGUST 20-26 (Chicago)

Draft information provided by VA.

17 FEBRUARY



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON OFFICE

February 9, 1982

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Asst. to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

I am delighted that you will be attending the National Commander's luncheon on Wednesday, February 17. Your ticket is enclosed herewith.

You are cordially invited to join us for a VIP reception preceding the luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Continental Room of the Capital Hilton.

Morton, I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Mylie
Mylie S. Kraja
Executive Director

Enclosure

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S LUNCHEON
Wednesday, February 17, 1982
Capital Hilton Hotel

*Ticket
No. 8*



The American Legion
NATIONAL COMMANDER'S LUNCHEON
in conjunction with the 22nd Annual Washington Conference
Capital Hilton Hotel
Wednesday, February 17, 1982
Reception (Cash Bar) 11:30 a.m. Luncheon 12:15 p.m.
Federal Room and Capital Terrace Presidential Ballroom
\$16.50 per person
Please present this ticket at the door

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

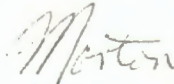
November 25, 1981

Dear Mylio:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the commemorative bottle from the 1981 American Legion National Convention. That's as close as I'll get to Hawaii this year.

I regret that I was unable to attend. I hope I'll be able to attend next year's convention.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

Mylio S. Kraja
Executive Director
American Legion
1608 K St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON OFFICE

Type up
nice check
MB

November 13, 1981

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

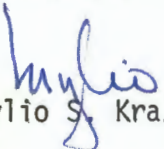
Dear Morton:

The American Legion wishes for you to have the commemorative bottle that was issued for the 1981 American Legion National Convention.

We regret that you were unable to be with us and hopefully next year's schedule will permit your attendance at our National Convention.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,


Mylio S. Kraja

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1981

TO: Red

FROM: Morton

Per my memo of October 8,
I am forwarding you a copy of
the response sent by Robert
Nimmo to Jack Flynt, National
Commander of the American Legion.

to →
Morton -
rec'd to see the
VA system response.
Red



Veterans
Administration

*American
Legion*

OCTOBER 21 1981

Mr. Jack W. Flynt
National Commander
The American Legion
1698 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Commander Flynt:

Your letter to the President dated October 7, 1981, was referred to me. I am happy to have the opportunity to respond to the concerns expressed both in your letter and in the wire you sent to me this week.

First, let me reaffirm my commitment to maintaining high quality health care and benefits for veterans. I know the President shares this commitment and that his concern for veterans will continue to give them a high priority in this Administration.

It is true that the President has asked Congress to approve further budget cuts, some of which would involve various VA programs. We at the VA are closely examining these proposals with the understanding that requests by us for modification or revision will receive serious consideration.

We are faced with a challenge, understanding the necessity of fiscal restraint and at the same time realizing our moral obligation to veterans. You can be assured that our focus will always be the delivery of high quality health care and services to veterans in the most efficient way possible.

I sincerely thank you for your continued commitment to veterans and for giving me this opportunity to reaffirm my commitment.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

ROBERT P. HIRSHO
Administrator

cc: Agency Liaison
Room 62
The White House

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1981

TO: Red Cavaney *RC*
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*

I received the original of this letter and sent it to Robert Nimmo with a request that he respond on behalf of the President and copy me. When I get his response I will forward a copy to you.

The American Legion

DOCT 05 1981

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



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

*Not in -
place to
westward here?
JCL*

October 2, 1981

The President

The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As National Commander of The American Legion, I am compelled to express our organization's opposition to your recently-announced budget cuts in the area of veterans affairs. We believe these cuts to be excessive and in conflict with your pledge to preserve the quality of veterans health care.

The American Legion, composed of people who have shared with their fellow citizens the burden of a deteriorating economy during the past several years, clearly recognizes the need to bring federal spending under control. In fact, our organization has publicly supported your efforts this year to achieve fiscal austerity and we have been candid with officials of your Administration when identifying specific areas where budget cuts could be absorbed.

We considered these discussions to be fruitful and we had assumed that your Administration was committed to those spending ceilings contained in the First Concurrent Budget Resolution and those savings mandated by the Omnibus Reconciliation Act. Yet, we now learn that you seek an additional \$451 million cut in the veterans budget for Fiscal Year 1982, with two thirds of that total coming out of the medical care account. This is a particularly disturbing announcement, especially when considering that your September 24 press release stated that "direct Veterans Administration hospital care" would be exempt from an across-the-board appropriations reduction for this fiscal year.

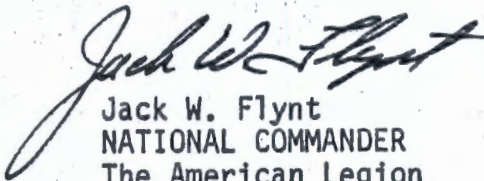
I can assure you that an additional \$297 million medical care cut, in conjunction with a \$150 million reduction for hospital construction, research, and medical administration, will significantly affect the quality and quantity of health care provided in the VA system. That system, operating within a very labor intensive mechanism, simply cannot accommodate the personnel reductions which would result from the funding cuts you are now recommending.

Mr. President, I must reaffirm The American Legion's belief that discussions earlier this year with various Administration officials had produced a carefully-constructed veterans budget for Fiscal Year 1982 that struck a balance between economic reality and the nation's obligation to its veterans community. We further believed that you were committed to this budget, although last week's announcement suggests otherwise.

Page #2
THE PRESIDENT
October 2, 1981

In view of this development, The American Legion has no choice but to actively oppose the most recent round of recommended cuts in the veterans budget.

Sincerely,


Jack W. Flynt
NATIONAL COMMANDER
The American Legion



MYLIO S. KRAJA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE AMERICAN LEGION
WASHINGTON OFFICE

1 202 861 2711
1608 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Deliver to each Member of the U. S. Senate
Charge to Account # CWA 054661

THE AMERICAN LEGION STRONGLY URGES YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED SALE OF AWACS TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: AWACS ARE NON OFFENSIVE RADAR PLANES POSING NO THREAT TO ISREAL, AWACS EQUIPMENT TO BE SOLD HAS NO INTELLIGENCE GATHERING CAPABILITY COMPARABLE TO SIMILAR FRENCH OR BRITISH EQUIPMENT, AND IT IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO SECURE SAUDI OIL FIELDS AGAINST POSSIBLE ATTACK.

WE BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE FREE TO EXERCISE HIS CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE MAKING OF FOREIGN POLICY.

JACK W. FLYNT
NATIONAL COMMANDER
THE AMERICAN LEGION



MYLIO S. KRAJA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE AMERICAN LEGION
WASHINGTON OFFICE

1 202 551 2711
1608 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

The American Legion

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



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

October 22, 1981

Mr. Lawrence K. Grossman, President
Public Broadcasting Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Grossman:

I am writing in regard to PBS's plan to broadcast a special two hour Veterans Day program and to advise you that television stations around the country have been contacting American Legion officials to promote the program as well as handle phone calls from those who see it.

We have reviewed one segment of that program package, "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran", and find it to be a potentially damaging portrayal of Vietnam veterans. If the other segments are consistent with this one in content and tone, then your presentation will have been a disservice to the millions of young veterans who have made successful adjustments. Although we would never question your right to broadcast a program of this type, we do question the wisdom of once again portraying Vietnam veterans as a group of social and moral deviants.

Broadcasting "Frank" will likely reinforce certain prejudices which, over the last decade, have created employment and other obstacles for this youngest generation of veterans. It will also be perceived by many as justification to challenge the concept of service to the nation. I, therefore, am advising all Legion officials in the various states that the program is an unbalanced presentation and that their decisions to participate as phone volunteers must be made with the understanding that some of the callers may require professional counselling.

Mr. Grossman, I regret that your Service has decided to focus a major portion of the November 11 program on an individual whose interview lacks credibility because of contradictory remarks contained therein. But I regret even more that an opportunity will have been missed to treat the vast majority of Vietnam veterans with the respect they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack W. Flynt".
JACK W. FLYNT
National Commander

The American Legion

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



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

*File
AmLegion*

October 2, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As National Commander of The American Legion, I am compelled to express our organization's opposition to your recently-announced budget cuts in the area of veterans affairs. We believe these cuts to be excessive and in conflict with your pledge to preserve the quality of veterans health care.

The American Legion, composed of people who have shared with their fellow citizens the burden of a deteriorating economy during the past several years, clearly recognizes the need to bring federal spending under control. In fact, our organization has publicly supported your efforts this year to achieve fiscal austerity and we have been candid with officials of your Administration when identifying specific areas where budget cuts could be absorbed.

We considered these discussions to be fruitful and we had assumed that your Administration was committed to those spending ceilings contained in the First Concurrent Budget Resolution and those savings mandated by the Omnibus Reconciliation Act. Yet, we now learn that you seek an additional \$451 million cut in the veterans budget for Fiscal Year 1982, with two thirds of that total coming out of the medical care account. This is a particularly disturbing announcement, especially when considering that your September 24 press release stated that "direct Veterans Administration hospital care" would be exempt from an across-the-board appropriations reduction for this fiscal year.

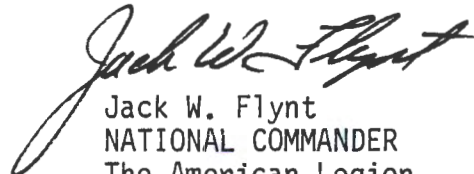
I can assure you that an additional \$297 million medical care cut, in conjunction with a \$150 million reduction for hospital construction, research, and medical administration, will significantly affect the quality and quantity of health care provided in the VA system. That system, operating within a very labor intensive mechanism, simply cannot accommodate the personnel reductions which would result from the funding cuts you are now recommending.

Mr. President, I must reaffirm The American Legion's belief that discussions earlier this year with various Administration officials had produced a carefully-constructed veterans budget for Fiscal Year 1982 that struck a balance between economic reality and the nation's obligation to its veterans community. We further believed that you were committed to this budget, although last week's announcement suggests otherwise.

Page #2
THE PRESIDENT
October 2, 1981

In view of this development, The American Legion has no choice but to actively oppose the most recent round of recommended cuts in the veterans budget.

Sincerely,


Jack W. Flynt
NATIONAL COMMANDER
The American Legion

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File
American Legion

August 27, 1981


Mr. Mylio S. Kraja
Executive Director
American Legion
3048 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mylio:

Thank you very much for the football tickets. My wife and I are eagerly looking forward to the game. It promises to be a great one.

I can't think of a better way to "kick off" the Fall season. Again, thank you. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to
the President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON OFFICE

August 19, 1981

Dear Morton:

Enclosed are tickets to the Washington Redskins vs. Dallas Cowboys game on Sunday afternoon, September 6, 1981.

This promises to be a good game, and I certainly hope you have an enjoyable time.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mylio S. Kraja".

Mylio S. Kraja

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Room 190
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503

The American Legion

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



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

to monitor

August 24, 1981

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

Dear Mr. President:

Recognizing your long term support for restoring prayer to the nation's public schools, The American Legion takes this opportunity to encourage your leadership in accomplishing that goal. This organization has itself been actively involved in promoting school prayer since the Supreme Court decisions of the early 1960's.

As you know, numerous legislative measures have been introduced this year promoting a variety of solutions. We look forward to working with you toward the best possible solution to this continuously vexing problem.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Kogutek

Michael J. Kogutek
National Commander

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 14, 1981

Dear Mr. Kogutec:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of July 16th. I was very pleased that you enjoyed my July 4th article in Parade.

I enjoyed meeting with you in the Cabinet Room, and I appreciate the bound set of resolutions from the 62nd Annual Convention of the American Legion.

Throughout the first six months of my Administration, the American Legion has been of enormous help in many ways. I am very grateful for the support and the courtesy you have shown me, and wish to thank you for it once again.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Mr. Michael J. Kogutec
National Commander
The American Legion
P.O. Box 1055

5
The
American
Legion

★ NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ★ P. O. BOX 1055 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206 ★
(317) 635-8411 ★



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

*Morton
Blackwell*

July 16, 1981

032392

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

Dear Mr. President:

As National Commander of The American Legion, I take great pride in commending you, a fellow veteran and Legionnaire, for your outstanding patriotic essay, "What July Fourth Means to Me," appearing in the June 28, 1981, issue of PARADE. In only a few hundred words, you expressed the very essence of why veterans have always answered their country's clarion call to duty, and why we Americans jubilantly -- and with thanks-giving -- celebrate July 4th.

Transcending mere rhetoric, your essay is an uplifting message, echoing hope and love of country. At a time when Americans are once again feeling optimistic about our future and feeling pride in our nation, it is altogether proper that the President of The United States should remind us all of the high principles which form the cornerstone of the Republic.

I commend you for a job well done.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. KOGUTEK
National Commander



THE NATIONAL COMMANDER
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1.0
July 8, 1981

STATEMENT BY NATIONAL COMMANDER MICHAEL J. KOGUTEK
THE AMERICAN LEGION)

President Reagan has made a bold decision which we heartily endorse. Just as The American Legion has had women members since its beginning...because women serve in the Armed Forces and become veterans...there is no reason why a woman with a distinguished record in law such as Judge O'Connor should not become a Supreme Court Justice.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON OFFICE

July 6, 1981

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Enclosed is copy of Western Union
straight wire to President Reagan sent
this afternoon. Thought you might like
to have a copy for your information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mylio S. Kraja".

MYLIO S. KRAJA
Executive Director

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to Mrs. Dole
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

The American Legion

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



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

July 6, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Recognizing that your Administration will be recommending reforms in American immigration policy very soon, The American Legion takes this opportunity to give you the benefit of its views before those decisions are made. This organization is prepared to fully support Administration policies or legislative initiatives which would bring legal and illegal immigration under control.

We agree with a majority of the American public that legal immigration must be slowed until such time as unemployment and inflation cease to adversely effect American nationals. A reasonable yet rigidly enforced yearly numerical ceiling on all immigration would accomplish this end.

The American Legion can support a guest worker program, but only to the extent that such workers be available to industries needing workers that are unavailable in this country. Looking at regional disparities in unemployment, for example, it is only fair to give workers in high unemployment areas an opportunity to relocate before filling jobs in low unemployment areas with foreign guests.

On the subject of illegal immigrants, this organization adamantly opposes any amnesty which would exonerate those already having flagrantly violated American immigration laws. Such an amnesty can only be expected to create an additional incentive for would-be illegals to enter this country anticipating further amnesties in the future.

A more prudent policy for control of illegals would promote sanctions against employers knowingly hiring illegal immigrants. This could be accomplished by establishing a tamper proof worker identity card. An identification system of this kind is technologically possible and could be implemented gradually with some changes in the way persons applying for social security numbers are verified.

Michael J. Kogutek
National Commander
The American Legion

STRAIGHT WIRE TELEGRAM:

LEGION ACCOUNT CWA054661