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PENDING REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13233
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Collection: Blackwell, Morton C.: Files

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File Folder: Veterans Administration: Veterans – General Information
(1)

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Date: 3/15/07

5/8/08

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
A. memo	John Murphy to Aram Bakshian re draft Presidential speech, 5p	8/6/82	<i>Open dlb 5/21/08</i>

8/6

RC: ~~389-5351~~

Betty Selb
called re this.

Very anxious
that Nimmo's
Comments are in-
corporated.

D AUG 6 1982



August 6, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Aram Bakshian
Speechwriters Office
The White House

to Mr. Bakshian



file U.A.

The following represents the Veterans Administration's comments and suggestions with respect to the draft of the President's speech for the VFW Convention in Los Angeles. We have, given the short period of time allotted, attempted to suggest language more appropriate to veterans issues and more directly related to their concerns.

We suggest that the following paragraphs be added after the word "parachutes" on page 2 of the draft speech:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars represents the highest principles of service to our Country. You sacrificed and gave of yourselves to safeguard our Nation; you insured that the freedom we cherish and enjoy preserved; and, you are justly entitled to the gratitude of the Nation and to the programs that insure that you yourself enjoy the freedom you secured for us all.

Your service has continued unabated. Through the VFW, you have continued your service to our Country and its veterans. Last year alone the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary units contributed over 1-3/4 million hours and \$1-1/2 million to community service projects. Your driver safety and bicycle safety programs as well as your drug abuse projects touch the lives of hundred of thousands of young people. Over 1,100 Boy Scout troops are sponsored by VFW posts.

The VFW truly reflects, and is an example of, the finest tradition of American voluntarism. Last year you donated time worth millions of dollars in VA hospitals and offices. You unselfishly helped care for the injured and the ill. Your service officers

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Mr. Aram Bakshian
Speechwriters Office
The White House

fully and ably represent veterans to insure that they receive the benefits to which they are entitled and which they have earned. It is truly a pleasure for me to be with you again; to be with those who have given, and keep giving, so much in the service of their Country.

During this time of necessary budget cuts, I have not cut back at the expense of those who defended this Country. For 1983, I accepted and proposed to Congress the budget recommended by VA Administrator Bob Nimmo--the largest Veterans Administration budget in history. This proposed budget, despite less favorable competing proposals made in Congress, is now receiving favorable consideration in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

I have recently met and discussed with Bob Nimmo the programs and issues of concern to our Nation's veterans. I can assure you that Bob Nimmo is a strong advocate of veterans and their rights. I fully share his view that veterans' benefits are benefits that have been earned--earned by sacrifice and commitment; earned by service. They are the fulfillment of a Nation's obligation to those who have preserved it. They are not a social welfare program. They are entitlements.

With regard to health care for our Nation's veterans, I want to reaffirm my campaign commitment to the continuity of a separate veterans' health care system.

As our Administration develops a national health care policy with competition as its guiding principle, there will be those who would advise me to transfer veterans' medical care to the private sector. Here and now I want the record to be clear that this President will not support such a proposal.

I have discussed maintaining the independence and integrity of the VA medical care system with Administrator Nimmo. I agree with Bob Nimmo's concern that this system must be protected. Let me express my commitment, shared by Bob Nimmo, to maintaining the integrity of a comprehensive quality health care system dedicated to and operated

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for veterans and veterans' needs. An integrated medical system is a substantial part of the obligation owed by our government to our veterans.

Since before the birth of the Nation, the people of this Country have recognized an obligation to those who have participated in its defense. The health care now provided America's veterans has evolved from a simple system of maintenance to one involving the most complex medical care, research and education. It is truly one of our Nation's greatest resources, employing many of the foremost health care personnel in the world.

The VA system has been specifically addressed by every President since Abraham Lincoln, and consistently endorsed by both Houses of Congress. It is a record of unparalleled support for a separate, comprehensive health system providing the specialized care that veterans have merited through faithful service to the Nation.

And, finally, recently passed legislation that I signed on May 4, 1982, provides a new mission to this unique system; that is, the role of contingency back-up health system for the Department of Defense in time of war.

One of the most important things we have tried to do is focus on the improvement of government. We have, and will continue, to attempt to increase governmental efficiency to insure that the benefits provided by government are responsibly delivered with efficiency to those entitled to receive them. We are working hard to improve management; we are reviewing programs to insure that, to the maximum extent possible, they fulfill their purposes and meet the needs for which they are designed. Administrator Nimmo has undertaken such efforts to improve management of veterans' benefits and to insure that the programs fulfill their designed purposes. These initiatives attempt to maximize the delivery of benefits to our Nation's veterans.

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Mr. Aram Bakshian
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The White House

Following these insertions, we would suggest that the sentence on page 2, which begins "It is certainly a pleasure," be deleted because it has been incorporated in the above paragraphs. We recommend that the three full paragraphs on page 2 follow, with the changes discussed below, our above recommended additions.

We would then suggest that the second sentence in the third full paragraph appearing on page 2, which begins "Relying on government," be deleted. The basis for this suggestion is that such a statement is more likely to cause concern among the veterans organization than it is to engender support. The sentence, in relation to veterans programs, suggests and implies the possibility of contemplated budget reduction--a subject of extreme sensitivity with the veterans organization.

We would suggest the deletion of the paragraph commencing on the bottom of page 2 and ending at the top of page 3. The most sensitive veterans' issue is the veterans' concern that the VA medical health care system may be dismantled or reduced through a process of providing medical care to veterans through the private sector. This concept is referred to among veterans organizations as "mainstreaming." Any statement referring to the private sector must be done with extreme care or it will result in a serious erosion of support for the President and an outcry by the veterans and their representative organizations. The individuals assigned to the VA pursuant to Private Sector Initiative have unfortunately identified this issue as one in which they are interested. Accordingly, any reference to the private sector initiative would be extremely counterproductive. Under these circumstances we would strongly suggest that any reference to private sector initiative or the role of the private sector in connection with veterans be avoided.

The two full paragraphs appearing on page 3 and the third paragraph on page 3 ending at the top of page 4 should be deleted. The information contained in these paragraphs has been incorporated in our suggested additions.

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Mr. Aram Bakshian
Speechwriters Office
The White House

We would also suggest that consideration be given to deleting the second to last sentence of the third full paragraph appearing on page 2. This sentence begins "We've gone through some tough fights" From the VA's perspective, we have gone through some tough fights. However, some of these fights have been with the VFW.

In an effort to make our suggested changes clear, I have attached an edited version of the speech embodying our proposal. We have not, because of the time constraints and the nature of the subject matter, commented on the major portion of the speech--that referring to the Defense related issues.

If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me.

JOHN P. MURPHY
Acting Administrator

Attachment

cc Honorable Craig L. Fuller
✓ Honorable Elizabeth Dole

(Rohrabacher/AB)
August 5, 1982
11:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: VFW CONVENTION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 16, 1982

Commander Fellwock, Marion Watson, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, distinguished guests and all of you. I'm especially happy to see my old friend Charlton Heston here. Being with the VFW, you understand what it means to be in a fight. Well, take it from me, Screen Actors Guild politics is as tough as it comes, and it takes real professional courage to make the kind of stands he's been taking. So I'm more than pleased you've chosen to honor Chuck Heston at this convention.

And a special greeting to Commmander Henry Kleeman, Lt. David Venlet, Lt. Lawrence Muczynski and Lt. James Anderson. These fellas did more for the cause of peace in a few minutes over the Gulf of Sidra last year than all the jawboning people have done with that Libyan dictator for the last decade. Pardon the expression, but with men on duty like this, I sleep better at night.

You know there has always been an argument over just which branch of the service is actually the toughest, especially if there is a Marine in the room. Well, I heard a story about a group of Marines who were sent to Fort Bragg, an Army base, for airborne training. An Army lieutenant briefed these Marines about the operation. He told them they were to jump from their plane at 800 feet and once they hit the ground they would regroup and head north. After the briefing, several of the Marines went to the Lieutenant and asked if the plane could be lowered to,

maybe, 500 feet. The Lieutenant explained that if it went any lower it wouldn't allow time for the parachutes to open . . . to which the surprised Marines replied: Oh, you mean we'll be wearing parachutes.

INSERT
TIONAL
BIOGRAPHS

~~It is certainly a pleasure for me to be with you again.~~

We were in the midst of the Presidential campaign when I had the honor of being with you at your convention in Chicago. I want each of you to know that I have not forgotten that your organization departed from an 80-year precedent to endorse my candidacy.

Twenty-four months ago does not seem like such a long time. Already our country was plagued with underlying economic ills from which we are still suffering.

The problems we faced required a commitment to seek a fundamental change of direction -- not band-aid solutions or quick fixes. ~~Relying on government to solve every problem, turning to politicians whose only answer was tax, tax and spend, spend had put us on the road to economic oblivion and was undermining the character of our people.~~ Well, during the 19 months of this Administration, we've made an honest attempt to put this country back on the right track. I want to thank you now for all the support you and your office in Washington have been. ~~We've gone through some tough fights, and the VFW's been there when it counted.~~ The struggle isn't over yet, but we're winning it.

~~One of the most important things we've tried to do is focus America on new ways of approaching problems. Through our Private~~

~~Sector Initiative drive, which has been a priority program, we've encouraged people to get directly involved -- to take more personal responsibility for their families, their community and their country.~~

~~Your organization, of course, has always been an example of what concerned citizens can accomplish. Last year the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary units contributed over 1-3/4 million hours and \$1-1/2 million to community service projects. Your driver safety and bicycle safety programs as well as your drug abuse projects touch the lives of hundred of thousands of young people. And I understand that over 1,100 Boy Scout troops are sponsored by VFW posts.~~

All of this is in the finest tradition of American voluntarism, as is the tremendous service you offer your country by watching over the interests of the American veteran. Last year, in V.A. hospitals and offices throughout the country, you donated time worth millions of dollars -- and the kind of sincere dedication that money cannot buy. Your network of accredited service officers are an indispensable part of the system, which all too often is marred by the complexities of government bureaucracy. Through your network, veterans are able to cut the red tape and receive the benefits that rightfully belong to them.

I'm proud to say that during this time of necessary budget reductions, we have not cut back at the expense of those who defended this country. I, for one, do not view veterans' benefits as a social welfare program. No one is giving the veteran anything; these are benefits that have been earned. So

~~today, let me restate to you that the quality health care offered to our veterans will not be compromised and the programs promised to those who fought for their country remain a solid commitment of this Administration.~~

Two years ago, when I spoke at your Chicago convention, we were concerned about more than a faltering economy. Sometimes it's difficult to remember the frustration and helplessness we felt then knowing that 50 of our citizens were being held hostage in a distant land. America seemed confused and vacillating. For the first time, one could hear the refrain that we were a Nation in decline, that our best days were behind us. Morale in our military was plunging as were recruitment and reenlistment rates.

What we witnessed was the predictable result of a decade of neglect for the security needs of the United States. During the 1970's, our defense spending, in constant dollars, decreased by 22 percent. As a percentage of our gross national product, it fell from 9 percent in 1960 to 5.3 percent in 1980. This intentional cut back decimated much of our military potential. The Navy, which once could muster a commanding force in any trouble spot, shrunk from more than 1,000 ships in the early 70's to 531 ships in 1980. In too many cases, new weapons systems were simply delayed or deferred -- leaving the Army and Marine Corps with arms and equipment designed in the early 1960's and the Air Force with bombers almost as old as the men flying them.

The last administration, elected on a platform of cutting military spending, turned this decline into a tailspin.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union launched a massive program of militarization which doubled their military budget over the past 15 years. Today the Kremlin's military commitment takes 12 to 14 percent of the Soviet gross national product. With an economy two-thirds the size of our own, the Soviets are, by some estimates, outspending us militarily by 50 percent; in the last 10 years, their investment in weapons systems, related research and development, and military construction has been about \$350 billion greater than our own.

Considering the deterioration of Western defensive capabilities, what happened in the last decade was one of the greatest voluntary reversals of a global power relationship in the history of man.

When we met in Chicago, I pledged that if I was elected President, I would take the steps necessary to restore America's margin of safety. And, with your help, I have tried to fulfill that pledge.

Just like restoring health to our economy, rebuilding America's defenses is not something that can be done overnight. Yet, we've taken the first, vital steps on the long road back to peace and security.

We have reversed some of the more damaging decisions made by the last administration. Rather than cutting back, we are moving forward. Among our decisions was the revival of the B-1 bomber and the neutron warhead, important weapons cancelled by the last administration -- weapons that could well play an important role in deterring aggression and maintaining the peace. Beyond

weapons and spending, we've also ended the self-flagellation and damaging attacks on America's intelligence community. Instead, we've let the dedicated men and women who provide this vital service know that we're proud of them and grateful for the job they are doing.

And that is true for all those who play a role in defending this country. During the last decade, the military became the whipping-boy for those who were confused and uncertain about America's role in the world. It is a tribute to their patriotism and dedication to duty that our men and women in uniform remained faithful even in the face of a seemingly ungrateful Government.

I am proud to report to you today that in this Administration the brave men and women who defend this country are being given the respect and consideration they deserve.

During the last decade, military pay and benefits were permitted to seriously erode; righting this wrong was one of our first orders of business. This, coupled with a commitment to provide our personnel with the tools and weapons they need, has shown dramatic results.

A few months ago, I got a letter from our Ambassador to Luxembourg. He had been up on the East German border where the Second Armored Cavalry regiment is stationed. And he wrote to tell me what a fine spirit he found among our troops. He said, as he started to leave, one 19-year-old lad followed him over to the helicopter and wanted to know if the Ambassador could get a message to me. As Ambassador, he is the President's representative, so he replied he could do that. The soldier

said, "Well, will you tell him for us that we're proud to be here and we ain't scared of nothing?"

Well, the spirit reflected by that young man is only one of many indicators that we've turned a very serious situation around. The all-volunteer military, the system most consistent with our tradition as a free society, is working, and working well. All of the services are meeting their recruiting goals and there's a high level of reenlistment. Furthermore, test scores have improved dramatically and a larger share of the recruits are high school graduates. In short, we're attracting more and better people to the military service.

These fine young Americans have proved that they are willing to do this hard and often dangerous job, now that they know their country stands behind them and that their sacrifice is appreciated. If for nothing else, I am proud that during my 19 months as President, I have been permitted to play a part in restoring respect for the dignity and honor of those who defend this country.

Rebuilding our defenses, of course, takes more than reviving morale; it also requires money. Two decades ago President Kennedy said, "Peace and freedom do not come cheap." Now increasing Government spending for any reason is a painful task for this Administration.

That's why I appointed a man in whom I have exceptional trust, a man of talent and judgment, to head the Department of Defense. An undeniably important part of Cap Weinberger's job -- and he's told me this on many occasions -- is getting control of

the cost of our defense, realizing that to maintain a consensus for national security, the people must be aware that their resources are not being wasted.

And while it hasn't made much news, major reforms have been instituted. Over the next 6 years, for example, \$21 billion will be saved by improvements in the acquisition process and management operations of the Department, all part of a reform package that will save the taxpayers over \$52 billion in that same time period. However, no matter how good the management, the cost of defending this Nation is still an expensive proposition. How much to spend, and on what, is a matter for honest discussion. But, we cannot and will not compromise the security of this country or the safety of our servicemen in the name of free economy.

Our security rests on more than the morale of our troops and the efficiency of their equipment. When I last met with you, we talked about the need for a more coherent foreign policy. Certainly, today's world is not without a broad array of problems and conflicts, but I suggest the leadership we've offered in the last 19 months is more consistent with maintaining peace than what preceded us. Do any of you believe we were more secure or more respected with a liberal foreign policy that glossed over differences with the Soviets and never stood firm with our allies? No, kiss-on-the-cheek foreign policy did not bring us closer to peace.

There are those who criticize us for blocking American involvement in construction of the Soviet gas pipeline. Well, at

a time when their troops slaughter Afghan freedom fighters, at a time when the Soviet pressure and threats resulted in Polish repression, at a time when their arms production continues unabated, it's no time to offer them credits so even more of their resources can be channeled into making weapons -- it's no time for our friends to fall into a dependency on Soviet gas.

There are those who point to our selling of grain, suggesting our stand is inconsistent and self-serving. Well, let's take a serious look at that argument. We are not selling anything to the Soviets on credit. In fact, the more grain they buy from us, the less money they will have left for weapons production. Secondly, we are not becoming dependent on them -- it's the other way around.

Finally, let me say: Leadership does not always mean going along, even with friends. It means doing what is right. In this case, I am convinced our pipeline decision was right, and unless there is a tangible sign from the Soviets, the decision sticks.

But let there be no mistake, standing firm should not be interpreted as belligerency. I say to you who know the ultimate importance of preserving peace, you who have seen the tragedy of war firsthand, who have seen friends die on the battlefield, we desire peace with all our hearts. But to realize that objective, we must use our heads as well as our hearts. There are those who pound on their chest shouting for peace. They would make agreements even if it leaves the Western Democracies weak and militarily vulnerable. They act on the blind hope that militaristic regimes will respect our sincerity and compromise.

As morally superior as that may make them feel, it does not make conflict in the real world any less likely.

Teddy Roosevelt had something to say about this. "The voice of the weakling," he said, "counts for nothing when he clamors for peace; but the voice of the just man armed is potent. We need to keep in a condition of preparedness . . . not because we want war, but because we desire to stand with those whose plea for peace is listened to with respectful attention."

No, we don't gloss over our differences with the Soviets. We are proud of our free system and we are not afraid to say it. We oppose Soviet tyranny, and we are not afraid to say that either. Yet this does not mean we cannot -- even while realizing our differences -- deal with the Soviet Union or anyone else on a mature basis in order to prevent armed conflict, which is, of course, in the interests of all the nations of the world.

To this end, we are engaged in serious strategic arms negotiations. We've offered proposals to eliminate intermediate-range missiles in Europe and to reduce the total number of strategic arms to verifiable, equal and agreed-upon levels.

I'd like to thank the VFW for your support of our arms reduction efforts and for your vocal opposition to what is known as the nuclear freeze movement. This so-called freeze undermines our negotiating position with the Soviets and, to the extent it is successful, would freeze us into a position of permanent inferiority. In short, it would reward the Soviets for their

massive buildup and guarantee them nuclear superiority over this country. That is not the way to achieve a tranquil world.

Perhaps the freeze movement, and I don't doubt these people's honest convictions, but perhaps this is just another lingering reaction to the Vietnam conflict, which left so many disillusioned with their own country. You might remember that I mentioned Vietnam the last time I was with you. In fact, that was about the only thing anyone in the media remembered for weeks after that. Yet, no matter how that tragic war is remembered, let us today confirm that a tremendous wrong, a breach of faith, was done to those who fought that war and came home only to suffer the brunt of the anti-military sentiment being fanned by the emotions of the day.

The VFW is doing a tremendous job letting Vietnam veterans know that their sacrifice is not taken lightly. Your contributions to the Vietnam memorial project are most appreciated. When I entered office, a man had been waiting for years to receive a decoration he earned by his bravery in Vietnam. He'd been waiting because some people thought honoring him would revive memories of that conflict. Well, it was my privilege to personally award Sergeant Roy Benavidez the Congressional Medal of Honor.

We can and will make up to the Vietnam vets the ingratitude some showed them on their return. We must also pledge that in the future those who defend this country will know that, if they are called upon to risk their lives, their Government and fellow countrymen will have the courage to back them up.

One of the greatest tragedies of Vietnam was that the United States cannot be certain, even to this day, that the treaty we signed to disengage ourselves from the conflict was fully complied with in regards to our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. We have no confirmed evidence, but we have enough information not to rule out the possibility that some of our unaccounted-for servicemen could still be held alive in Indochina. We will continue to use all means available, including the full intelligence apparatus of the United States, to get to the bottom of this matter. Should we discover these reports are true, we are prepared to take appropriate action to ensure that no American remains a captive. Simultaneously, we are continuing our efforts to insure the remains of those American prisoners still in Indochina are returned home.

Many of you fought in the Second World War, an epic struggle that to this day affects our lives in so many ways. A thousand stories emerged from that conflict; one of them, a tale of British POW's used as slave labor to build a Japanese railway bridge in Western Thailand -- a story made famous by the book and film, Bridge on the River Kwai.

Well, there actually is a River Kwai. Near its banks is a cemetery, the final resting place for those who died building that railway. Many of the grave markers are inscribed with nothing more than a name and service number. Yet, now and then there is a small monument, built by a mother or father, or a wife, who trekked half way around the world to the rugged Thai-Burmese border region, searching for a marker with a very

special service number. On one of those monuments, erected by a loved one, are the following words: To the world, he is just a number; but to us, he was all the world.

Let us today reaffirm that those who serve this country are more than numbers. When discussing the defense of the United States, let us never forget we are talking about the sacrifice of individuals upon whose shoulders rests the future of our independence and freedom. We know they will not let us down, let us make certain we do not let them down.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA LAUNCHES NEW AGENT ORANGE RESEARCH

The Veterans Administration's scientific inquiry into the health related effects of Agent Orange is being enhanced by ten new research projects approved and funded by the agency this week, VA Administrator Robert P. Nimmo announced today.

The administrator said the new projects are supported for up to five years with VA research funds in excess of \$2 million, and were selected from proposals submitted by individual investigators working in VA medical centers across the country. The scientists responded to a request for new research proposals issued by VA Medical Research Service, which specified a biochemical, physiological or toxicological focus on the delayed effects of exposure to Agent Orange and Agent Blue.

The VA chief pointed out that the projects primarily involve animal studies, but human tissue cultures will be analyzed in some of the experiments. Specific approaches range from behavioral observations of laboratory animals exposed to the defoliants used in Vietnam, to biochemical studies of fat metabolism.

-more-

The medical centers where the new studies will take place are: Albuquerque, NM; Baltimore, MD; Lexington, KY; Madison and Wood, WI; San Francisco, Sepulveda, and Wadsworth, CA; Washington, DC; and White River Junction, VT.

Nimmo said perplexing questions about the effects of exposure to herbicides used in Vietnam have led VA into a number of research initiatives. He explained that a key effort now in advanced planning stages is an independently designed, epidemiological study, the pilot portion of which will be conducted by contract and will comprise a feasibility test of the full-scale study mandated by Congress.

In addition to a number of research efforts, the VA has performed health examinations for more than 89,000 Vietnam veterans worried about possible adverse effects from the herbicides. The VA is now authorized to treat any veteran for certain disabilities which may have been caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

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Contact: Ozzie Garza
(202) 389-2741

August 4, 1982

VA

Senators Probe Views Of New Vet Jobs Chief

Associated Press

President Reagan's choice to head the government's program for unemployed veterans ran into opposition yesterday as senators questioned his disagreement with Supreme Court findings that segregated schools deny blacks the right to equal educational opportunity.

William C. Plowden Jr.'s testimony last month at his confirmation hearing on his nomination to be assistant secretary of labor for veterans employment prompted Sens. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.) to ask to meet with him.

Plowden's remarks on school segregation came when he was being questioned about his role as a founder of a private academy in South Carolina in 1970, the same year a federal court ordered the area's public schools desegregated. He told questioners that he thought racially segregated schools could provide an equal educational opportunity.

Plowden told Kennedy yesterday that his remarks had been misunderstood. He argued that he had been active in helping blacks in his home town of Manning, S.C. Kennedy asked for a written summary of Plowden's record and told him that he would withhold judgment.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

I thought you might be
interested in the attached.

ROBERT F. BONITATI
Special Assistant to
the President

Veterans

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Office of Information

Washington, D.C. 20210

CONTACT: Don Smyth
OFFICE : (202) 523-7316

USDL: 81-499
FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt

SOUTH CAROLINIAN NAMED TO HIGH LABOR DEPARTMENT POST

The President has announced his intention to nominate William Coskrey Plowden Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment.

Since 1976, Mr. Plowden has been State Director, Veterans Employment and Services (South Carolina). He was appointed to the Americanism Commission of the American Legion National Organization in 1961 and served as Americanism Chairman, State of South Carolina American Legion. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Mr. Plowden served in World War II in the China Burma Theatre attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel and retired from the reserve as a full colonel in 1965. He graduated from the Citadel Military College (B.S., 1939). He is married, has three children, and resides in New Zion, S.C.

Mr. Plowden was born July 15, 1918 in New Zion.

October 23, 1981

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*Our WH personnel office will know -
2-4 wks. up to Congress -*