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□ I - INCOMING     Date Correspondence     Received (YY/MM/DD) 84 1 6 1 14	Telephone cal	Il to Comments office
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☐ MI Mail Report Use	Codes: (A)	(B) (C)
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Fred Frelding	A 84 10 6115	C 8418/1 05
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	Referral Note: PR Letr also	to Maureen Reagan ST
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	Referral Note:	
C - Comment/Recommendation R - D - Draft Response S -	Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary Direct Reply w/Copy For Signature Interim Reply	DISPOSITION CODES:  A - Answered C - Completed B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended  FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:  Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A"  Completion Date = Date of Outgoing
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Keep this worksheet attached to the original	al incoming letter. he	roism)

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.

#### RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

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No. of Additional Correspondents:	Media:	Individual	Codes: 4	4000		
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11-7-84

Anne -

Junt lune if you're Similar E this, but throught you might wont to see before also - out.



## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

November 5, 1984

#### Dear Maureen:

As we discussed, enclosed is a copy of the letter we have sent to Maria Antenucci Bennett, the woman who telephoned you about her Father, Alfred Antenucci, who died earlier this year from a heart condition that she believes developed from his efforts to subdue John Hinckley, Jr. during the assassination attempt.

Please feel free to call me again if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Rusthoven
Associate Counsel to the President

Ms. Maureen Reagan c/o The Republican National Committee 310 First Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

Enclosure

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

#### November 5, 1984

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

I wanted to advise you of the steps we have taken in response to your letters and telephone calls about the medical expenses incurred by your Father, Alfred Antenucci, prior to his death earlier this year from a heart condition that you believe developed from his efforts to subdue the President's assailant during the March 1981 attempt on the President's life.

Although we carefully reviewed not only your letters but all file materials about your Father, it appears there are simply no Federal funds (aside, of course, from benefits that might be provided for by law to any citizen) that would be available for reimbursement of his medical expenses. We also, however, asked officials of the James S. Brady Presidential Foundation to review informally correspondence from you and members of your family and other materials, such as newspaper articles, about your Father's actions during the assassination attempt.

The Brady Foundation, named in honor of the President's Press Secretary who was seriously wounded in that attempt, is a private organization founded to assist any needy individual wounded or killed in an assassination attempt on any senior Federal official, Presidential candidate or on family members of the President and Vice President of the United States, and to provide assistance to that individual's family. Because it is a private organization, its decisions on whether assistance is warranted in a particular case are of course its own, and would depend on its review of all the relevant facts after a formal application for assistance was submitted. Hence, we can make no promises about what decision the Foundation would make if such a formal application were made on behalf of your family; but officials of the Foundation have indicated to us, based on their informal review of the materials we submitted, that it is possible that assistance to your family may be appropriate under the Foundation's charter.

If you wish to pursue this possibility, the Brady Foundation official you should contact is James A. Wilderotter, Esquire, an attorney with the Washington office of the law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, 1735 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Mr. Wilderotter is familiar with the terms of the Foundation's charter, and should be able to provide you or your attorney with details about what kinds of information the Foundation would need to consider a request for its assistance with your Father's medical expenses.

In closing, I want to emphasize that we fully understand that your principal concern in this matter is not reimbursement for any expenses that were incurred, but rather that your Father's efforts to assist the President -- and how much that meant to your Father -- be recognized. We also understand, as your letters make clear, that for various reasons you believe that members of the President's staff have not been as sensitive to this as they should.

I hope you will accept our apologies for any acts or omissions that may have led to such feelings on your part, and would ask only that you also accept that no member of the President's staff has ever had any desire or intent to be insensitive to your Father, his family or the memory of the actions he took when the President's life was threatened.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Rusthoven

Associate Counsel to the President

Mrs. Maria Antenucci Bennett 10844 Brunswick Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

cc: James A. Wilderotter, Esquire

bcc: Ms. Maureen Reagan

## THE WHITE HOUSE

November 5, 1984

Dear Jim:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter we have sent to Maria Antenucci Bennett, whose Father, Alfred Antenucci, died earlier this year from a heart condition that she believes developed from his efforts to subdue John Hinckley, Jr. during the assassination attempt.

As we discussed after your informal review of the materials our office forwarded about this matter, we have suggested that Mrs. Bennett contact the Brady Foundation through you, while representing no more than that it is "possible" assistance "may be appropriate under the Foundation's charter."

I want to thank you personally all your help and courtesy on this matter, which are very greatly appreciated. With best regards,

Sincerely,

Peter J. Rusthoven

Associate Counsel to the President

James A. Wilderotter, Esquire Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue 1735 Eye Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

Enclosure

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

#### November 5, 1984

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Sincerely,

Peter J. Rusthoven

Associate Counsel to the President

Mrs. Maria Antenucci Bennett 10844 Brunswick Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

cc: James A. Wilderotter, Esquire

Mr. Peter Rusthoven
Associate Counsel to the President
c/o The White House
Old Executive Office Bldg.
Room 115
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Rusthoven:

This letter is in response to our telephone conversation of Friday, August 3, 1984.

The main purpose of my letter to President Reagan was not the money. The primary reason that my family was so upset was that the recognition of my Dad was handled so poorly. Many people on the White House staff made promises to my Dad that were not kept. It was and is still very important to me and my family that the President see my letter. For it is his life that my Dad saved, not yours or anybody elses. I feel that the President should know the events that have occurred over the last three and a half years.

My Father died on May 9, 1984. Five days later we received a letter addressed to my Father from the President. This letter was written and postmarked May 10, 1984. I wonder how you, the President, or anyone else would feel if this happened to a member of your family. We realize that the letter was sent in good faith and appreciate his concern, however we feel that the staff of the President should not have handled this matter so poorly. My Father's death has not yet been properly acknowledged.

You said to me on the phone, that even if the President did see the letter you would be the one to handle the reply. I am sure that this is true, however, I feel that the President should see it. If he chooses not to acknowledge us he has that privilege, but I think it is only fair that he has that choice.

When I wrote the first letter, it was my hope that the President would somehow recognize my Father's brave, unselfish, and heroic act. My family has dealt with the President on a personal level and I feel that my letter should be given this courtesy. After all, it would show some concern for our feelings.

I hope I have made my feelings clear in this letter and I hope that you understand my reason for sending this second letter.

Sincerly yours,

maria arterucci - Bennett

Maria Antenucci-Bennett 10844 Brunswick Rd. Garfield Hts., OH 44125 Home: (216) 581-0556 Work: (216) 522-7185

## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Date: July 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: James A. Wilderotter

FROM:

PETER J. RUSTHOVEN

**Associate Counsel to the President** 

A	C	TI	0	N	

□ Please handle/review

☐ For your information

☐ For the files

☐ Please see me

As we discussed -

☐ Please return to me for filing

yes have any greations. Thanks for thing a loth at this -

all

Mta dots PJR

RX

frial letter

to all

6/18

President Ronald W. Reagan The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

My Dad was Alfred Antenucci. As you know, he tackled John Hinckley on March 30, 1981. The next day when he was in Georgetown University Hospital, he was visited by a cabinet member and a staff member of the White House. He was promised at that time that his medical bills and family expenses would be paid. As of this date, my parents have paid \$28,000.00 in medical expenses. These bills are a direct result of the assassination attempt.

My Dad never asked for anything. He thought that if what he did was appreciated, someone would make sure that he got something. When he saw the others involved that day get bonuses, he wondered why he never received anything. He never wanted anything if it did not come from the heart and in good faith.

He'was promised an invitation to the White House to have his picture taken with you and our family, which included my Dad, my Mom, my brother and his family, and my daughter and myself. That was the only thing he ever wanted in recognition of his heroism. He was promised many other things that are too numerous to mention. However, when promises are made, they should be fulfilled. When you take someone at their word, you expect these promises to be kept. He often wondered why they were not.

My Dad died on May 9, 1984. He died of an irregular heartbeat. He never had an irregular heartbeat or any other heart problems before March 30, 1981. The shooting upset him so much that he could hardly bear it. He suffered so much in the last three years.

He was a proud American -- proud of his President and his country, and this pride he passed down to his children. I have been a federal employee in the U.S. District Court in Cleveland, Ohio, for the past ten years.

We are very proud of my Dad and the part he played in history. I know that if he had to do it again, he would do the same thing in a minute because it was the right thing to do. He reacted in a split second, and because of it, no one was killed. He was never publicly acknowledged for this, and he never knew why.

My Dad may have changed the course of history by preventing the assassination of the President of the United States elected in a zero year. This, however, is for history to judge. I do not want my father's name to be lost in the shuffle of history, and I sincerely hope that you do something to prevent this.

Mr. President, my Dad was very pleased and honored to have met you in Chicago in September, 1981, and to have been invited to the White House by one of your aides for lunch in April, 1982. We do realize you are a busy man and that you have world burdens to consider. However, you seemed so concerned when he was in the hospital, but since his death we have not heard anything. We can't help but wonder why.

Our lives have never been the same since March 30, 1981, and now our lives will never be the same without my Dad.

I truly hope you yourself see this letter, and I thank you for taking the time to read it.

Very truly yours,

Maria antenucci Bennett

Maria Antenucci Bennett

10844 Brunswick Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125 (216) 581-0556

april 29, 1981 Dear Mr. President: It was good to see you feeling well enough to speak on television to the nation last night, we have been graying for you and the other Three men that were injured, but are so grateful that no me was foileed, he also suffered gersonely in this traumatic experience May husband was standing in leach of Hinkley, When he realized he was 8 The one shooting he jumped on his back ara started litting him to clarge his line of five. He leed him down write the S.S. men fell on Top of him. Olar le got out the S.S. men cores The S.S. men cores abe charge, while he was heing juestiened lis blood Pressure

ment on g control and le startes. having megular hour hours. He was rushed to Georgetown Uriv. Hospital. He was hysterical and crica for three days and nights. He remained in the hospital for ten large until they stabilized his blood gressure and heart bears. He so much herter more hert still is under heavey medication. He wice were forget that afternoon. He is Business Representative in The aparters Usion and was at the ilter for the convention. Lue agree with you that this is not a sich mation, lue have received so mony beautiful cards & letters from people traving for my husbors, we have Praying for my luchond, we have just benoverwhelmed, The muses in a locions at the hospital were

just wonderfue working with him. and heeping reporters away from us. Mr. Russo got in louch wint reservations for us to come home Ind grounded transportation to the enport and also feet reporters away ue mist to thank them for being 20 mice. M. Ray Donovan was llowed to wait my husbard and reserted him with cuff links and . Tie clasp which he will treasure or the rest of his life. My husband of the rest of our family hopes that my his quick thinking he sawed or someone from heing killed and most og all The President.
We Carnot hear
another John Kennely
Bolly Kennedy om martin Sutter King Siecercli, alfred Orterucil mo. alfred Orterucil expery,

# People

By PHIL ROURA and TOM POSTER

## Carpenter who saved Reagan waits for a 'shank-you'

Alfred A. Antenucel is a very disappointed man. He sits by the telephone in his kitchen in a suburb of Cleveland, waiting for a call from the White House, or at least from a high-ranking presidential alde. Antenucci believes he is entitled to the call. So do his friends and some Secret Service and FBI agents.

Why? Because on March 30, Antenucci was the first person to pounce on John W. Hinckley Jr. as Hinckley allegedly fired six shots at President Reagan. As a result, Antenucci suffered chest pains that landed him in George Washington University Hospital, the same place Reagan was taken.

"I CAN'T BELIEVE this myself, no matter how hard I try," Antenucci, a 68-year-old carpenters union business agent, said in an exclusive interview with the People Page. "Not a word. Not a sound. Nobody has called. Nobody has talked to me since I was in the hospital. I would give my life to save the President. I'm not looking for any honors, but you would think; that there would be somebody who would say something. Like during Reagan's speech to Congress. About 23 people came over and said the Fresident would thank me because it would be his first public talk. But not a word."

Antenucci had attended the AFL-CIO meeting that Reagan addressed at the Washington Hiiton Hotel March 30, and he was outside the hotel when the President was shot. After subduing the suspect, Antenucci was interrogated by FBI agents for hours

'Nobody has called (or) has talked to me.'—Al Antenucci



and then suffered what everyone thought was a heart attack. He was confined to bed for 10 days.

"It wasn't a heart attack, but heart palpitations, an irregular heartbeat, and I've been on strong medication since," he said. "I'm sick as a dog and weak. The medicine caused terrible diarrhea and the doctors say they've got to do something, but don't know what."

Sounding as if he was on the verge of tears, Antenucci addèd: "I'm really upset. You know, I would give my life for my President. I remember standing there and seeing that gun. I saw the gun. IIe was next to me. I'm 68, I can't fight a kid. So I hit him on the back of the neck as hard as I could and his gun, which he held with two hands aimed right at Reagan, came down. He kept shooting with one hand.

"I WAS TOLD later by high authorities that four of the six shots hit the sidewalk and probably one of those bullets ricocheted and hit Reagan. I pounded him. I tried to break the aim of fire. But there is doubt in my mind now. I have trouble sleeping. I keep thinking that if I shoved him instead that I could have stopped him. I jumped on him, I was punching him and wrapped my legs around him.

"Then all the Secret Service men jumped on top of us and they were yelling at me, 'Get the hell out of here,' but I couldn't move because my leg was under Hinckley. God, it seems like it never happened but it did. I'd do it again. I'd give my life for my President. But I feel like nobody cares."

#### :Bolli high on plea

Flamboyant lawyer Melvin Belli, the "King of Torts," yesterday blasted President Reagan's chief of staff, Ed Meese 3d, for proposing the climination of the insanity plea in criminal cases. In a speech in San Francisco, Meese



#### Linda to walk plank

This one's for the producers of the hit musical "The Pirates of Penzance." Sorry, folks, but your big star, Linda Ronstadt, is leaving in early June.

That surprise was confirmed by Linda's

# Hard-Hat Hero, 68, Proves His Love for America

# I Belted That Creen When He Started Shooting at Our President

By ALFRED ANTENUCCI

I was roaring curses as I crushed my knee Cleveland, Ohio. into the cowardly neck of would-be assassin John Hinckley Jr. Seconds earlier I had clubbed him to the ground with my bare fists as he pumped a barrage of shots at our beloved President outside the Washington Hilton own bootstraps, from shoe-

ca. And when this creep was an immigrant from Italy. Hinckley, who was standing next to me, began fir- way up from the bottom to and was waiting outside the ing. I did what any redblooded American would ? do for his President and country.

I belted him!

Hotel.

I hammered him to the ground as he sprayed the President and his men with bullets.

I was right in the middle of that crush of Secret Service agents and police you saw on TV immediately after the assassination attempt. We were all on top of Hinckley.

I landed in the hospital for 10 days with high blood pressure and an irregular heartbeat — but I'd do it again.

I'm 68 years old. I'm only 5 feet 2 inches tall, but for our President and America I'd fight an army of John Hinckley Juniors.

shine boy to union boss, in the I'm in love with Ameri- American tradition. My dad

erally did build my home with my own hands in a suburb of

I'm the president of the Carpenter's Union Local 1750 in Cleveland, I was in Washington, D.C., on the day of the assassination attempt, attending the annual Building and Construction Trades Convention at the Hilton.

I missed President Reagan's speech at the hotel, but I I fought and worked my wanted to get a look at him

MOMENTS after shots were fired at President, Ante-I pulled myself up by my nucci and assailant were under this police pile-up.

Hilton with the TV cameras and news people. Right next to me stood this weird-looking educate my kids and build a guy. He was wearing a long fine home for my family. I litup. His hands were thrust deep in his pockets. He needed a haircut, and I remember thinking, "Gee, this guy's neck is dirty."

> Suddenly, my attention was diverted to the door of the Hilton. The President came out. You all remember what happened next.

In a flash I saw a gun apheld it with two hands and fired off the first shot. I raised both my fists above my head and clubbed them down on the back of Hinckley's head. I WO POISOROW heard another shot and I kept battering him.

With each blow, Hinckley sank lower and kept firing. He was crouched between my legs when the Secret Service men piled on.

and believe what we want.

tal, President Reagan him-grandchildren. self called to say thanks perdent said, "Thank you for the family. had no thought for yourself. American.



ALFRED ANTENUCCI

# pear in Hinckley's fists. He hold it with two bands and Called to Thank

It's one of my goals to impress upon our citizens that it's vital we all help each oth-

How do I feel about it?

My heart goes out to the I was raging mad. America Hinckley family - most of all belongs to each and every one to Hinckley's mom. I know of us. We're free. We can elect how it feels to be a parent. I our leaders and throw them have a son who's a golf pro out. We can say what we want and a daughter who is a federal jury commissioner in After I got out of the hospi- Cleveland. I have three lovely

I'm proud that me, the son sonally. It was the biggest of an immigrant, was able to thrill of my life. The Presi- provide a good life for my

courageous action you took! We have a system in this outside the Hilton. We need country whereby the poorest more guys like you around kid on the block can become What you did was brave. You President, I'm proud to be

## Man Who Struck Shooting Suspect Ignored by Reagan

CLEVELAND (UPI)—Labor leader Alfred Antenucci, who grappled with the man who allegedly shot President Reagan and possibly spoiled his aim, said Friday that he was disappointed the President did not mention his name in his address to Congress on Tuesday.

Before speaking about his economic package, Reagan offered tributes to the three other men wounded on March 30.

Antenucci, the president of Carpenters Union Local 1750, said he would have felt better if the President had mentioned his name.

"I'm a little disappointed," he said. "I was hoping (Reagan would say something), but he must have his reasons."

#### Standing Next to Suspect

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Antenucci, 68, was standing next to John W. Hinckley, the man accused of shooting Reagan, outside the Washington Hilton. He said he started hitting the suspect on the head after the first shots were fired, and it may have spoiled the man's aim.

Antenucci was taken to Georgetown University Hospital after he complained of chest pains and shortness of breath.

During his hospital stay, he was visited by Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan, and Antenucci said Donovan promised him that Reagan would acknowledge his assistance at some future time.

However, Antenucci said, "I've not even received a card from anyone."

2 8

PM-REAGAN-SUBDUE 4-1

CLEVELAND LABOR LEADER ILL AFTER GRABBING REAGAN'S ATTACKER
CLEVELAND (UPI) -- ALFRED ANTENUCCI; HEAD OF THE OHIO BUILDING
TRADES UNION; IS HOSPITALIZED IN MASHINGTON WITH AN IRREGULAR
HEARTBEAT HE SUFFERED A FEW HOURS AFTER HE HELPED TACKLE THE MAN
ACCUSED OF SHOOTING PRESIDENT REAGAN; LABOR OFFICIALS IN CLEVELAND
SAID TODAY.

ANTENUCCI: 68: OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS: OHIO: WAS IN FAIR CONDITION IN: THE CORONARY CARE UNIT AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

ANTENUCCI, HEAD OF THE OHIO AFL-CIO BUILDING TRADES UNION, AND ANOTHER CLEVELAND-AREA LABOR OFFICIAL, FRANK J. MCNAMARA, 62, WERE STANDING OUTSIDE THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL MONDAY AFTERNOON, HOPING TO SEE THE PRESIDENT WHEN REAGAN WAS SHOT.

ANTENUCCI AND MCNAMARA, PRESIDENT OF THE OHIO STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, HAD JUST ATTENDED THE AFL-CIO TRADE CONFERENCE THAT REAGAN ADDRESSED BEFORE HE WAS SHOT.

THEY ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO GO GOLFING, BUT STAYED AT THE HOTEL BECAUSE OF RAIN. THEY TRIED TO GET INSIDE THE HOTEL TO HEAR REAGAN'S SPEECH, BUT THE DOOR WAS LOCKED.

"WE KNEW THE SPEECH WAS GOING TO BE FINISHED SOON, SO WE STOOD OUTSIDE, WAITING TO GLIMPSE REAGAN," MCNAMARA SAID.

AS THEY WAITED, ANTENUCCI TOLD HIS SON, DOMINIC, BY TELEPHONE MONDAY NIGHT, "I SAW A YOUNG MAN STANDING IN FRONT OF ME WITH HIS HANDS IN HIS POCKETS.

"THE NEXT THING I KNEW, HE HAD PULLED A GUN OUT OF HIS POCKET," ANTENUCCI SAID. "I SAW THE GUN FIRE TWO SHOTS. MY FIRST REACTION WAS TO PUNCH HIM. I PUNCHED HIM A COUPLE TIMES."

ANTENUCCI TOLD HIS SON HE JUMPED ON THE ALLEGED GUNMAN; JOHN W. HINCKLEY; 25; OF EVERGREEN; COLO. IN THE FRACAS THAT FOLLOWED; HE SAID; HE WAS STRUCK BY ONE OF THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS TRYING TO DISARM THE MAN.

MCNAMARA SAID HE WAS STANDING NEAR ANTENUCCI WHEN "THE PRESIDENT CAME OUT (AND) THIS PUNK STARTED SHOOTING."

"THAT'S WHEN WE WENT AFTER THE GUY;" MCNAMARA SAID. "AL GRABBED HIM FIRST. AL HAS MORE GUTS THAN ANYBODY ELSE.

"THEN I STARTED PUNCHING HIM (THE GUNMAN). I HIT HIM SO HARD IN THE HEAD I WAS LEFT WITH BLOOD ON MY KNUCKLES:" HE SAID.

MCNAMARA SAID HE WASN'T AFRAID DURING THE INCIDENT BECAUSE "THINGS WERE HAPPENING TOO FAST FOR ME TO BE FRIGHTENED."

BOTH MEN WERE QUESTIONED BY THE FBI; AND ANTENUCCI BECAME EMOTIONALLY UPSET; COMPLAINING OF AN IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT; HIS SON SAID.

HE WAS TAKEN TO GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BY A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND ADMITTED IN THE CORONARY CARE UNIT.

THE TWO MEN HEADED A GROUP OF ABOUT 350 OHIO BUILDING TRADES PEOPLE ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE.

HPT 04-04-04 40:04 GCC

Copy to Dian Holland 2-28-85

#### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

TO:

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE

Personal Secretary to the President

DATE:

#### Antenucci:

7-16-84. Fred Fielding's office is handling -- they will contact Maria Antenucci.

6 July 1984

Maria Anteucci -216/522-7185

Federal Court, Clewland, Ohio

Letter sent 14 June regarding her father Alfred Antenucci, he was the officer who assisted in capturing Hinkley at time of attempt on RR life.

She called to say that when she tried to trace the letter Joan DeCain told her it had been sent to Ed Meese. When she called Meese office today they told her it took six to eight weeks for his mail to be processed.

Her father died on 9 May 84 with promises made by Elizabeth Dole and Secretary Donevan never being kept.

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