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April 29, 1981

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JL003

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Dear Mr. Kiskaddon:

Mr. Ed Meese has asked me to respond to your letter dated April 7, 1981, regarding the ineffectiveness of gun control and the need for firmer sentencing.

As you might well conclude from the press reports and the campaign, we agree with you. There is no justification for the criminal violence that exists here in America; something has to be done.

As a start Attorney General William French Smith now has a Task Force on Violent Crime. One meeting has been held here; other meetings will be held around the country. That group needs your comments and your ideas for reform, so I am taking the liberty of forwarding your letter.

Thanks for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Herbert E. Ellingwood  
Deputy Counsel to the President

X  
Mr. Charles Graham Kiskaddon, Jr.  
President  
Alcoa Steamship Company, Inc.  
Suite 8151  
One World Trade Center  
New York, NY 10048

cc: Ed Meese

HEE:jsk

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 23, 1981

TO: Herb Ellingwood

FROM: ELLEN STRICHARTZ

Please handle for Edwin Meese III  
A copy of your response with the  
incoming would be appreciated.

Thank you

6 letters attached

JR  
EPA  
[Signature]

ALCOA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, INC.

SUITE 8151 ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10048

(212) 775-1177



CHARLES GRAHAM KISKADDON, JR., President

1981 April 07

Mr. Edward Meese  
Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Meese:

We have all been shocked again by the experience of having the President and some of his associates injured by a deranged person. That particular hazard has existed throughout history and, sadly, is not subject to solution by legislating more stringent laws.

What concerns me most is the apparent response by too many individuals in government to switch gears and put all their effort and their rhetoric into proposing new gun control laws. While I personally do not have any problem with reasonable gun control laws, the fact is, such laws are not the solution. In New York City we have had the toughest gun law for many years, the Sullivan Law, and now we have even a tougher one. That didn't keep the woman in our first floor apartment from being held up at gunpoint last week. The fact that it took me 1½ years to obtain a target permit gives you an idea of the bureaucratic mechanism inherent in these regulations.

I think former President Ford put it very well on TV the other morning when he recommended the need for a federal law on enforcement--mandatory jail sentences for individuals who are caught possessing handguns in the commission of a felony. He even recommended capital punishment for any felon who actually fires and injures a person in the commission of a felony. I agree. We have laws on narcotics, marijuana, and the possession of handguns--they are simply ineffective. What is needed is enforcement and somehow eliminating the possibility for the Judicial to let these people out in society again.

My wife is one of the Ministers at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, and not a week goes by that some member is not mugged, burglarized, or otherwise. There have been over 50,000 robberies in New York in the last six months, with a small percentage that the police have even a slight track on.

Mr. Edward Meese

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1981 April 07

I have no wish for the United States to become a repressive society like it is in Russia. At the same time, I don't see how this Republic can continue to function if we permit what is probably a small number of savages to remain free to run loose on our society. A government cannot be expected to absolutely guarantee the safety of every citizen--there is the occasional nut--but certainly the people can expect the Judicial and enforcement system to provide a reasonable amount of safety for its citizens. Failure of the various elements of government--City, State and Federal--to remove these repeat felons from circulation is not acceptable. The fact is "crime does pay" in the United States today!

Yours very truly,



Charles G. Kiskaddon, Jr.

CGK:BJW

Home address: 48 West 86th Street  
Apartment 3  
New York, N.Y. 10024