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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Ron --

The President does get a sampling of citizen mail.

Every Friday

Covers all subjects - pro and con - which are current  
and also human interest stuff of special interest

Around 50 letters each week

Cover memo of summation of total figures of mail  
received

President seems to take a great interest in it.

c g



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
September 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the  
Week of September 1-5, 1975.

Incoming Presidential mail for the week totalled 15,000 pieces. It was diverse, covering a variety of domestic and foreign issues. However, before going into the general report, I would like to note that you are beginning to receive messages expressing concern for your well-being following the incident in Sacramento. As of 5:00 pm this date you have received 11 telegrams.

Mail on the announced Sinai interim peace accords between Israel and Egypt is just beginning to come in (272 pieces). In addition and prior to the announced agreement, you had received 167 letters opposing the use of U.S. technicians to man Sinai early-warning outposts.

Writers who support the agreement (32) commend you and Secretary Kissinger on your success. They view the agreement as a solid step toward peace and urge you to continue American efforts to promote peace in the Middle East.

Those opposed to the agreement (234) particularly object to direct American involvement in the peace-keeping mission. They argue that it can/will lead to "another Vietnam," that the U.S. cannot afford the aid expenditures promised in the agreement, and that U.S. national interests dictate non-involvement in this potentially explosive area. About 25% of those opposing the agreement recommend that U.N. rather than U.S. personnel be stationed as necessary in buffer zone areas.

Of domestic interest, you received 248 letters expressing general support and approval of your policies. In addition, you received about 70 letters and telegrams commenting on specific recent appearances and speeches around the country (pro: 26; con: 43; comment: 1).

Favorable mail expressed personal support and particularly applauded your commitment to a strong national defense and to a revitalization of the free enterprise system. Critical mail opposed any increase in defense spending and questioned the cost and the fuel usage involved in Presidential travel.

Mail on the issue of oil price decontrol continued heavy (432 pieces). As in previous weeks, it divided roughly 3 to 1 con. Generally, those in the business community and upper middle class supported a free market approach. Those identifying themselves as "middle class," "workers," and "poor" opposed decontrol because of the price increases and further economic burdens it would impose.

Other economic issues drawing attention were the longshoremen's boycott (pro: 12; con: 180) and your proposal to limit the October Federal pay raise to 5% (pro 5%: 12; pro 8.8%: 24; con any raise: 18).

Court-ordered busing of school children also continued to draw strong comment: con: 1,055. As in past weeks, this mail came mostly from Kentucky; however, there was also scattered comment from other parts of the country.

Other issues of concern were:

- 1) Mrs. Ford's interview:  
pro: 60; con: 471; comment: 5;
- 2) U.S. - Soviet grain sales:  
con: 159;
- 3) Opinion Ballots: Food Stamp Program:  
con: 2,077;
- 4) Common Situs Picketing Bill:  
con: 544.

cc: Robert Hartmann  
Paul Theis  
Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail  
for the Week of September 15-  
19, 1975.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 30,000 pieces. It reflected public interest in a variety of subjects, with heaviest attention directed to the Sinai agreement, the economy, and busing.

You received 288 messages this week in support of the Sinai interim peace agreement. Writers endorsed both the use of American technicians and financial aid. They saw the agreement as a "breakthrough" toward real peace in the Middle East.

In contrast, there were 524 letters and mailgrams opposing the agreement. Of these, approximately 2/3 indicated opposition both to the use of technicians and to the granting of financial aid. Writers continued to talk of "another Vietnam" and of "our needs" at home. The other 1/3 of this con mail expressed opposition to placing American technicians in the Middle East, but did not comment on the issue of financial assistance.

Cumulatively, since announcement of the Sinai agreement you have received 1,936 letters, telegrams, and mailgrams:

PRO: 375

CON: 1,514

COMMENT: 47

As a corollary to the Middle East aid proposals, you are also receiving increased mail urging aid to New York City: pro: 134; con: 33; comment: 5. Much of this mail makes

direct reference to the Sinai agreement and argues that if there is money for Israel, there should also be assistance for New York City.

General economic concern continues to be reflected strongly in your mail (1,096 pieces). In addition to the concern over New York, there is mail commenting on rising food and fuel prices (375 pieces), on oil decontrol (pro: 45; con: 148), and on Federal regulatory reform (60 pieces). In connection with the latter, writers invariably express their support for deregulation and then go on to give examples of a particular agency or regulatory practice which they believe should be eliminated. Those agencies and/or practices drawing heaviest criticism appear to be: EPA, SEC, ICC, ERISA, and OSHA.

You have received 689 messages this week expressing gratitude for your safety following the Sacramento incident. You also received 381 pieces of mail expressing general political support, endorsing your programs, and pledging to vote and/or campaign for you.

Of specific domestic issues, mail in opposition to school busing (3,184) was heaviest. Again this week, busing mail reflected considerable geographic diversity.

There was some increase this week in mail commenting on your trips around the country: pro: 22; con: 64; comment: 5. Support mail approved your "meeting the people," while con mail urged you to "stay in Washington," "solve our problems" and "save money and/or energy."

Other issues drawing comment were:

- 1) Opinion Ballots: Food Stamp Program:  
con: 376;
- 2) Common-Situs Picketing Bill:  
con: 13,907 (13,135 forms)
- 3) Requests for U.S. assistance in freeing missionaries imprisoned in Mozambique:  
pro: 1,083.

cc: Robert Hartmann  
Paul Theis  
Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
Week of September 22-26, 1975.

Incoming Presidential mail for the week totalled approximately 24,000 pieces. The incident in San Francisco and the Sinai agreement were the major issues of concern.

You have received 1,343 telegrams and letters following the incident in San Francisco. Writers express their gratitude for your safety and their good wishes, and many urge you to take greater precautions and/or not to expose yourself to unnecessary risk.

This mail commenting on the second assassination attempt can be broken into the following categories:

- 1) Mail expressing thanks for your safety: 511;
- 2) Mail expressing thanks, and urging you to travel less and to avoid crowds: 402;
- 3) Mail expressing thanks, and urging you to continue to travel: 52;
- 4) Mail expressing thanks, and urging you to support gun control legislation: 117; to oppose gun control legislation: 52;
- 5) Mail expressing thanks, and urging various other measures, such as reinstatement of the death penalty and mandatory prison sentences for violent offenders: 209.

The issue of Presidential travel had begun to draw comment prior to the second California incident: pro: 19; con: 74; comment: 2. Writers requested that you spend more time in Washington "solving the nation's problems" and argued that this in fact was "the best way to win election."

You received 945 pieces of mail on the Sinai interim peace agreement. This week the mail, which had been running heavily against the agreement, shifted to support: pro: 686; con: 254; comment: 5.

Cumulative mail figures on the Sinai agreement are:

Pro: 1,061;

Con: 1,768;

Comment: 52.

Economic comment mail continues to run steadily (846 pieces). As in previous weeks, writers express concern over the high cost of living, Federal spending, and Federal regulation in their lives and businesses.

Busing also continues to draw heavy opposition (1,036 pieces), with many writers urging support for a constitutional amendment to prohibit busing. Sixteen persons wrote in support of busing.

Mail concerning Federal assistance to New York City has begun to pick up again. This week there were 82 messages in support, 33 in opposition.

Other issues drawing attention were:

- 1) Common Situs Picketing Bill:  
con: 3,622;
- 2) Tobacco Price Support Bill:  
pro: 281; con: 54;
- 3) Child Nutrition Bill:  
pro: 216;
- 4) Sale of Hawk Missiles to Jordan:  
con: 102.

cc: Robert Hartmann  
Paul Theis  
Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
the Week of October 13-17, 1975.

Incoming mail for the week totalled 34,000 pieces. It dealt largely with domestic economic issues.

Your proposal for \$28 billion reductions in both taxes and Federal spending drew significant response this week. Mail concerning the reductions followed your initial announcement:

PRO: 476;  
CON: 64;  
COMMENT: 87;

and also your press conference of October 9:

PRO: 163;  
CON: 31;  
COMMENT: 18.

Writers expressed solid agreement with your view that tax and spending reductions must be coupled. They argued for fiscal responsibility and approved your recognition of the economic pressures on the middle class.

In this connection, you have also received considerable amounts of mail this week commenting on Federal aid to New York City:

PRO: 478;  
CON: 296;  
COMMENT: 14.

Those supporting Federal aid are largely New Yorkers who argue that default would cause serious economic dislocations throughout the country. Many also argue that their situation is analogous to major private industries (i.e., Lockheed, railroads, etc.) which have received Federal assistance under similar circumstances.

Those opposing aid to New York City are generally not New Yorkers. They oppose the precedent that a Federal "bail out" would set and argue that only default will force New York to adopt "responsible" fiscal policies.

You also continue to receive mail concerning establishment of an Energy Independence Authority: pro: 7; con: 60; comment: 7. Cumulative figures on the proposal are:

PRO: 25;  
 CON: 203;  
 COMMENT: 14.

Those opposing EIA fall generally into two categories:

1. Oppose further Federal involvement in private industry and capital markets. These writers also speak of the costs and the bureaucracy EIA would generate.
2. Oppose EIA because it would promote energy development rather than conservation, and would encourage nuclear development.

Mail commenting on Presidential travel continues steady, though relatively light: pro: 6; con: 130.

Other issues drawing attention are:

1. Busing:

con: 2,877;

2. Common-Situs Picketing Bill:

con: 14,146;

3. Federal Gun Controls:

pro: 51; con: 3,221;

4. Foreign grain sales:

pro: 738; con: 333;

5. Sinai peace accords:

pro: 126; con: 42;

6. Moynihan statement on Idi Amin:

pro: 59.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
the Week of October 20-24, 1975.

Incoming Presidential mail for the week totalled roughly 24,000 pieces. It covered a range of domestic subjects.

Approximately 460 letters expressed general support and appreciation. These writers commented favorably on various of your policies and programs, expressed gratitude for your safety, and frequently wished you well in the upcoming election.

An additional 362 letters and telegrams expressed specific support for your proposals to reduce both Federal spending and Federal taxes. Worth noting in this mail is that a majority of writers give higher priority to a reduction in Federal spending than to cuts in taxes.

Mail commenting on aid to New York City increased significantly this week: pro: 1,091; con: 1,757; comment: 48. As in previous weeks, support for aid came mainly from New Yorkers, while opposition to aid reflected wide geographic diversity.

The issue of Federal gun controls also drew heavy response this week: pro: 39; con: 852; comment: 4. Writers opposing controls argued that only the "innocent" would obey gun laws and that the way to solve the crime problem was to remove the offender, not the gun, from society.

You also continue to receive a small but steady amount of mail commenting on Presidential travel: pro: 11; con: 150. Writers express concern over the cost of such travel, both to the Federal government and to local communities for security arrangements, and they question whether the travel contributes toward resolving the nation's problems.

Other issues drawing public response were:

1. Foreign Grain Sales:

pro: 463; con: 104; comment: 24;

2. Common Situs Picketing Bill:

con: 1,006;

3. Busing:

con: 230.

cc: Robert Hartmann/Paul Theis/Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
the Week of October 27-31, 1975.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 22,000 pieces. In addition, there were 43,500 form cards opposing the Common Situs Picketing Bill and 23,000 form cards opposing Federal gun controls.

The question of Federal aid to New York City drew heavy comment again this week: pro: 1,564; con: 3,208; comment: 99. As in the past, the majority (roughly three-quarters) of those favoring aid are residents of the New York area. The single most common argument for aid to the City was that since the US engages in large scale "foreign" aid programs, it has an equal justification, and obligation, to aid New York City in its crisis.

Opponents of aid insisted that New York City must "face up to" its own responsibilities. These writers supported your position on the issue, urged you to "stick to your guns," and wished you "luck" in the future.

Even in mail not specifically addressed to the question of New York City, the public's interest in this issue was clearly reflected. It showed up particularly in economic comment mail (484 pieces). The unifying element in economic mail was a strong and pervasive concern with Federal spending, inflation, and the cost of living. This concern cut across both

economic and social levels, and writers indicated growing understanding of the correlation of these within the overall economy. Your tax and spending cut proposals were specifically endorsed by 113, opposed by 27.

With regard to foreign policy, President Sadat's visit and the question of US aid to Egypt drew light comment: pro: 6; con: 48; comment: 5. The US statement in response to the United Nations' Zionism vote was applauded by 147 writers, who particularly praised the actions of US representatives Moynihan, Mitchell and Garment and commended you on your "forthrightness" in dealing with the situation.

Other issues drawing attention were:

1) Busing:

con: 965;

2) Child and Family Services Act:

con: 380;

3) Foreign Grain Sales:

pro: 292;

con: 105.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Paul Theis; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
the Week of November 3-7, 1975.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 25,000 pieces. Dominant issues were the changes in the Cabinet and the question of Federal aid to New York City.

Prior to the official announcement of the Cabinet changes, you received 126 messages (pro: 3; con: 120; comment: 3) commenting on news reports of impending changes. Since your news conference and announcement, 551 telegrams, mailgrams and letters have been received:

Pro: 80;

Con: 439;

Comment: 32.

Pro mail generally supports you across-the-board. Con mail particularly opposes the dismissal of Secretary Schlesinger and expresses strong reservations over Secretary Kissinger and the policy of detente.

Roughly 10% of all the mail concerning the Cabinet changes specifically mentions the withdrawal of Vice President Rockefeller from the 1976 ticket, and it divides about 50-50 on his decision.

Mail on the question of Federal aid to New York City continued to run very heavy this week:

Pro: 3,635;

Con: 3,305;

Comment: 221.

As in past weeks, those supporting aid argue that bankruptcy would affect the entire nation and that aid to New York City would be but a "fraction" of the aid given foreign countries. Those opposing aid fear the "precedent" it would set and urge you to "stand firm." Both supporters and opponents of aid view it as a political as well as economic issue.

Concerning foreign policy, the following drew comment:

- 1) Visit of President Sadat and the question of aid to Egypt:

pro: 10;                      con: 166;

- 2) U.S. response to the UN vote on Zionism:

pro: 452;                      con: 10;

- 3) Proposed US sale of nuclear reactors to Israel and Egypt:

con: 96;

- 4) U.S. aid to Lebanon:

pro: 130.

Other domestic issues drawing comment were:

- 1) Common Situs Picketing Bill:

pro: 53;                      con: 2,940;

- 2) Busing:

pro: 7;                      con: 168;

3) Federal Gun Controls:

pro: 30; con: 567;

4) Child and Family Services Act:

pro: 15; con: 372.

cc: Robert Hartmann/Paul Theis/Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail For The  
Week of November 10-14, 1975.

Incoming mail for the week was heavy, totalling approximately 42,500 pieces. In addition, there were more than 108,000 form cards, most of which opposed the Common Situs Picketing Bill.

Again this week, the question of Federal aid to New York City drew heavy public response:

Pro: 4,836;

Con: 2,128;

Comment: 130.

Cumulatively, since September 1, this issue has divided:

Pro: 11,937;

Con: 10,548;

Comment: 517.

You also continue to receive mail commenting on your Cabinet changes: pro: 163; con: 1,259; comment: 75. This mail mostly expressed support for former Secretary Schlesinger and reservations about Secretary Kissinger.

The Common Situs Picketing Bill has drawn consistently heavy mail over the past several weeks, virtually all of it opposed to the bill. This week there were 4,654 letters and more than 100,000 form cards expressing opposition to

enactment. Cumulatively, since September 1, there have been 18,370 letters and 387,026 form cards opposing the bill.

Since the announcement of Justice Douglas' resignation, you have received 215 telegrams and mailgrams, virtually all of which comment on his replacement. More than half of this mail urges you to appoint a woman; another 25% recommends individual nominees for the Court. There are also a few recommendations for a "pro-life" justice and for a "conservative."

In the area of foreign policy, the UN Resolution on Zionism was condemned by 1,516 writers. They approved the US response to the vote and many urged the US to reassess its position in and contributions to the UN.

There were 263 letters and telegrams expressing opposition to any change in status for MIAs in Southeast Asia. Many writers also urged renewed efforts to gain a full accounting of those missing.

Other issues drawing attention were:

1. Child and Family Services Act:

con: 702;

2. Federal Gun Controls:

con: 273  
(plus approximately 5,000 form cards);

3. National Guard Retirement Bill:

pro: 235;

4. Congressional Energy Bills:

con: 129.

cc: Robert Hartmann/Paul Theis/Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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3. National Guard Retirement Bill:

pro: 235;

4. Congressional Energy Bills:

con: 129.

cc: Robert Hartmann/Paul Theis/Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Mail for the Week of  
November 17-21, 1975.

Incoming mail was heavy again this week, totalling approximately 38,000 pieces. 4,465 persons wrote to express opposition to the Common Situs Picketing Bill. ~~There were also 95,000 form cards.~~ Support for the bill was negligible (47). Opponents were especially concerned over the "economic power" they believe this bill will give to organized labor. This concern over the economic power of labor was reflected earlier in mail opposing the longshoremen's grain shipment boycott (cumulative: 500). It has been expressed more emphatically in the Common Situs mail (cumulative: letters: 23,868; forms: 482,897). Including forms, this bill has become the single largest mail subject during your Administration.

Opposition to Federal gun control legislation has also been steady over the past months: letters: 5,822; forms: 40,591 (since July 1). This week there were 1,831 letters and 2,550 forms. The source of this mail has appeared to shift over the weeks. Initially, it was clearly generated by gun lobby adherents and emphasized citizens' "Constitutional right" to bear arms. More recently, gun and crime control have been linked together, with writers arguing that the one will "in no way" lead to the other. Writers call for tighter law enforcement and particularly for "a more responsible judiciary" as the solution to the country's crime problem.

Also of continuing concern is aid to New York City: pro: 1,323; con: 1,376; comment: 137. Arguments on either side have not changed significantly over the weeks, although increasingly those supporting aid do emphasize the "vast amounts" of foreign aid provided by the U.S.

You also continue to receive large amounts of mail commenting on a nominee for the Supreme Court: 1,602 pieces this week. Slightly more than half of this mail urges appointment of a "qualified" woman. Roughly another 25% recommends individual nominees. Among those prominently mentioned are: Senator Robert Griffin; Representative Barbara Jordan; Representative Martha Griffiths; Judge Shirley Hufstедler. The remaining mail expresses a variety of views about the nominee: that it should be a man, a "pro-life" person, a conservative, etc.

Another 537 pieces of mail this week criticized changes in the Cabinet. 31 supported the changes and 14 offered comment.

U.S. response to the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism was very heavily applauded this week: 3,597 pieces. In addition to approving U.S. actions, and the conduct of Ambassador Moynihan particularly, writers also urged a reassessment of the U.S. position in and contributions to the U.N.

Other pieces of legislation that drew public attention this week were:

1) Congressional Energy Bills:

pro: 14; con: 2,255;

2) Child and Family Services Act:

pro: 3; con: 817;

3) Agency for Consumer Advocacy:

pro: 61; con: 504.

Also, over the past weeks there has been an increasing amount of mail that offers political comment or personal views on the "state of the nation." This mail expresses strong concern with the economy, with foreign policy, and with both Congressional and Executive leadership in Washington.

Over the past two weeks there have also been about 400 letters in specific response to the GOP fund-raising letters of October 20 and November 3. About one-third of these letters include checks and comment on some particular issue (such as the Common Situs Bill, deficit spending, detente, etc.). The remaining two-thirds of the letters simply offer the writers' views and/or explanations of "why" they will not contribute to the GOP fund.

bcc: Larry Speakes/Gwen Anderson/Betty Nolan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
the Week of November 24-28, 1975.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 36,000 pieces. It dealt almost exclusively with domestic issues.

Your Wednesday evening press conference drew 135 telegrams and mailgrams. Virtually all of these commented on your proposals to aid New York City: pro: 31; con: 103; comment: 1.

Prior to your announcement, mail addressing the issue of aid to New York City was heavy: pro: 1,642; con: 1,745; comment: 87.

Again this week, the Common Situs Picketing Bill drew the largest single response: pro: 712; con: letters: 3,702; forms: 101,069.

Other pieces of legislation of public interest were:

- 1) Federal Gun Controls:  
con: 6,737;
- 2) Congressional Energy Bill:  
pro: 37; con: 1,564
- 3) Child and Family Services Act:  
con: 1,791;

## 4) Agency for Consumer Advocacy:

con: 823.

In the area of foreign policy, the US response to the United Nations Zionism vote was approved by 7,511 writers. Another 706 wrote specifically to endorse Ambassador Moynihan's actions and to urge that he continue in his position.

Concerning domestic politics, the question of a Supreme Court nominee attracted strong attention: 1,129 pieces. Most of this mail recommended the "type" of person to be chosen: that is, a woman (35%), a "conservative" (30%), "other" types (a "liberal," a "pro-life" advocate, etc. (10%). The remainder of this mail recommended individual persons for the Court.

In addition to mail addressed to particular issues, you also received 558 letters this week expressing general support (253), or criticism (113), or offering political comment (192). Prominent among the views expressed were concern over the directions of US foreign policy (detente) and concern that "politics" was replacing "leadership" in Washington.

Also, there were 160 letters this week in direct response to the GOP-Victory Fund mailings. About 25% were positive; the remainder explained why the writers were not contributing to the fund. About 50% of these indicated they "would contribute if" you did such-and-such (mostly, "veto common situs bill," "veto energy bill," "refuse aid to New York City").

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
the Weeks of December 1-12, 1975.

Incoming Presidential mail for the past two weeks totalled 99,113 pieces. Domestic issues, particularly pending legislation, drew the heaviest public comment.

Opposition to the Common Situs Picketing Bill was strong: letters: 11,175; forms: 14,727. Support was minimal: letters: 78; forms: 200. Critics of the bill express concern over the power it would grant to labor unions, and over the economic impact of this power on an already ailing construction industry.

Cumulative totals on Common Situs mail are:

Pro: Letters: 251  
Forms: 894

Con: Letters: 38,745  
Forms: 598,693

Concern over the power of unions was also voiced by those who wrote to urge against any changes in the Hatch Act: 7,450. This mail came from all over the country, and all writers saw the proposed amendments as greatly enhancing the power of unions within the Federal bureaucracy.

The House-Senate compromise energy bill also drew heavy opposition: 4,804. Writers argued that it would in no way encourage energy independence and that it would further entrench government controls over a free market economy. Only 16 writers supported the bill.

limits  
 Mail is just beginning to come in concerning the pending tax legislation. To date there have been approximately 35 letters in support of your position that tax reductions must be coupled with spending cutbacks.

Mail on the question of Federal aid to New York City continued heavy prior to your announcement of assistance: pro: 3,021; con: 3,177; comment: 169. Following your announcement, 722 wrote to comment on the NYC loan program: pro: 270; con: 410; comment: 42.

In the area of foreign policy, your Asian trip drew light comment: pro: 24; con: 67; comment: 141.

However, the ongoing U.N. situation vis-a-vis Israel - Zionism - PLO - Ambassador Moynihan continues to draw heavy public response. For the two-week period there have been 7,447 pieces of mail (3,004 forms) in support of Israel and the positions and statements of Ambassador Moynihan.

You have also received 455 letters expressing general support and 601 messages of good wishes for the holiday season. There were 249 letters expressing overall criticism, 90 offering political comment and/or suggestions, and 228 letters in direct response to the GOP Congressional Committee Victory Fund letter. These latter offered specific comment on Administration and Republican Party positions. About one-quarter included checks, with the other three-quarters writing to explain "why" they were not contributing.

cc: Bob Hartmann  
 Paul Theis  
 Ron Nessen

BN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
the Week of December 15-19, 1975.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 38,000 pieces. It dealt primarily with legislative issues.

The Common Situs Picketing Bill drew the heaviest single response: pro: 6,386; con: 8,714. For the first time, this week there was heavy mail in support of the bill. This mail was clearly inspired by the unions and apparently reflects the fact that unionists are no longer sure the bill will be signed.

The Congressional Energy Bill also drew strong interest. 3,172 persons urged you to veto the bill; 6 wrote in support of it.

Public opposition to any changes in the Hatch Act also continued this week: 1,033 pieces. There was no support mail. Writers expressed great concern over the "exhorbitant power" this legislation would confer on labor unions.

This fear of union power, dominant in the common situs mail, was also strong in mail protesting the United Airlines strike: 90. People particularly objected to the timing of the strike, with many referring to it as "union blackmail."

The Congressional tax bill also drew public response. Prior to your veto, 248 wrote to urge this action; 35 urged signature. Following the veto you received 89 telegrams and mailgrams supporting your action, 36 opposing it.

In addition to the above specific subject mail, you received 163 letters expressing general political support, 88 critical, and 248 that offered political comment. Of these latter, 114 were in specific response to the GOP Victory Fund mailing. As in previous weeks, about 25% of these letters contained checks. The rest explained "why" the writer was not contributing. Most frequently cited reasons were: 1) concern that you would sign the Common Situs Bill; 2) concern over foreign policy, particularly detente; 3) concern that the GOP fund would assist "liberal" Republicans.

On foreign policy matters, various United Nations actions relative to Israel were sharply criticized: 477. Ambassador Moynihan was strongly supported: 201.

Mail is just beginning to come in on the question of U.S. aid to Angola: pro: 8; con: 44; comment: 5.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. PRESIDENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY  
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT  
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for  
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bcc: Larry Speaks/Gwen Anderson/BN/Judy Berg-Hansen