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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of May 31-June 4, 1976.

Incoming mail continued light this week, totalling approximately 14,500 pieces. No particular issue dominated.

You received 250 messages of support and appreciation. Writers referred to your "responsible conduct of office" and to the "sensible approach" of your Administration.

Political comment mail, 193 pieces, was diverse. Many writers offered advice for your campaign, which most often proposed changes in foreign policy -- a hardening of positions and a strengthening of defenses. Criticism of taxes and of Federal regulation of business also appeared to increase this week.

The Wayne Hays matter drew 66 letters of protest. For the most part, writers saw the incident as exemplifying the "waste" and "corruption" of government. Many insisted that you "do something immediately," that you "clean up the mess," and that Representative Hays be made to "pay back" any Federal money he misused. Writers invariably protested the "high taxes" they paid "to support such abuses," and many indicated they believed the Hays' case was not an isolated one.

There also continues to be a light but steady flow of mail concerning busing (pro: 2; con: 97), and the Attorney General's decision not to intervene in a court case (pro: 42; con: 18).

The issue drawing perhaps the heaviest public attention this week was oil divestiture (pro: 3; con: 630). Most of this mail, however, appeared to be part of an inspired campaign among oil company employees. It came largely from the South, particularly Georgia.

There has also been a small amount of mail concerning the matter of tuna fishing with nets (con: 48). This clearly is coming from environmentalists.

Foreign policy mail was exceptionally light:

1) Panama Canal Negotiations:

pro: 4; con: 96;

2) U.S. African Policy:

pro: 9; con: 65;

3) Secretary Kissinger:

pro: 8; con: 66.

cc: Bob Hartmann, Ron Nessen; Bob Orben

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of June 7-11, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week was light, totalling approximately 10,200 pieces. No particular issue was dominant.

General support mail amounted to 259 pieces. Writers expressed their overall approval and many pledged active assistance in your election campaign. Another 142 offered specific advice and suggestions for the campaign.

There were 95 telegrams and mailgrams protesting California campaign ads aimed at Ronald Reagan, and 61 pieces of mail criticizing Representative Wayne Hays. Concerning the ads, writers generally argued that they "distorted the facts." Concerning the Hays matter, protest focused mainly on the use of taxpayers' money, with many also expressing a belief that the incident was "not the only one" of its kind. There was also strong sentiment to censure Hays and to make him "pay back" any monies that were misspent.

Mail opposing legislation to force divestiture within major oil companies dropped off somewhat this week, to 369 pieces. However, unlike previous weeks, this mail had wide geographic diversity and appeared to be totally spontaneous and genuine.

The present discussion about busing is drawing very light mail. On the general issue, 79 wrote opposing busing, 11 expressed disappointment at Attorney General Levi's decision not to intervene, and 30 supported his decision.

Economic mail increased slightly, 127 pieces, but it has no particular focus. For the most part, people are simply writing to let you know of the difficulties they are having "making

ends meet." There have also been a total of approximately 75 letters since your remarks to the Michigan heckler, telling you of the writers' failure to get jobs despite real efforts.

Public interest in foreign policy issues appears to be waning. Mail is light, with people continuing to write about Secretary Kissinger (pro: 1; con: 49), the Panama Canal negotiations (pro: 6; con: 68), and U.S.-Rhodesian policy (pro: 2; con: 33). There was a slight increase in mail (234 pieces) urging you to approve transitional funding for Israel.

You received 609 graduation announcements this week and 1,480 requests for birthday and anniversary messages.

cc: Bob Hartmann
Bob Orben
Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of June 14-18, 1976

Incoming mail for the week continued light, totalling about 10,250 pieces. No particular issue was dominant. In addition, you also received approximately 13,000 petitions opposing the transfer of the Electronics Command from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

Support mail continues at a steady volume, 298 pieces this week, and it reflects a wide range of voter approval. Writers come from all parts of the country, old and young, with about one-third specifically identifying themselves as "democrats."

In the last few weeks there has been a slight increase in mail expressing concern (rather than criticism) about the economy (105 this week). Energy costs, social security and V.A. benefits, and government waste are areas of concern. No particular aspect of the economy, however, is drawing concentrated public interest.

The assassination of Ambassador Meloy has drawn 53 telegrams to date. People express horror at the incident and several urge you to "send in the Marines."

Other than the Lebanon incident, foreign policy issues generally appear to have lost much of their intensity. While mail you are still receiving continues to be hardline, it is considerably reduced in volume since the Spring (149 pieces this week).

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of June 21-25, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled 11,150 pieces. It was highly diverse.

Support mail amounted to 338 pieces. Writers expressed confidence in "the job you are doing," commended you for integrity and a "common sense approach" to problems, and spoke warmly of your family.

Political comment mail (212) focused primarily on the campaign, with writers offering their personal recommendations. These ranged from suggestions for campaign themes and songs to advice that you undertake immediate, sweeping Federal regulatory reforms. Much of this political comment mail reflects a very limited understanding of the powers of the Executive and its relation to the other branches of Government.

Mail critical of busing, some of which also specifically supports your proposal for legislation, picked up this week (315 pieces). Perhaps half of this mail, however, is evidently the result of an inspired campaign in Ohio. Letters have very similar to identical wording, although they have been individually written and signed.

The situation in Lebanon also drew some attention this week (95 pieces). Without exception, writers expressed horror at the assassinations, and about half called for some strict measure of retaliation by the U.S. Others called for the evacuation of all Americans so that the Lebanese "civil war" could go on without U.S. involvement, and a few indicated they feared for the safety of the new ambassador.

Of specific domestic issues, the National Consumer Health Promotion Act drew the most attention (con: 430). The oil divestiture bill now in the Senate also drew some mail (con: 54), primarily from within the industry.

Of a more general nature, there were 102 letters detailing writers' personal economic difficulties. This mail is not so much critical as it is concerned and questioning. Two groups particularly concerned about the cost of living are older persons on fixed incomes and parents facing college costs for several children.

cc: Bob Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of June 28 - July 2, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 12,350 pieces. It was wide ranging and diverse; domestic issues were of dominant interest.

Bicentennial mail -- comments, suggestions and congratulations -- rose to 230 pieces this week. Since January it has averaged 80 pieces per week. Much of this mail has come from children, often written as a class project. Their messages generally have been an expression of pride and a wish of "Happy Birthday, America." Many have also sent drawings.

Adult mail on the Bicentennial has also often included expressions of pride and congratulations. There have been suggestions -- particularly for commemorative prayer(s) and for a return to "old" values and discipline -- and many have sent poems, songs, and designs celebrating America.

Support mail this week totalled 263 pieces. Writers expressed confidence in your leadership and in your coming nomination. Another 152 persons offered political comments, ranging from suggestions for possible vice presidential candidates and platform issue positions to recommendations for campaign strategy and offers of assistance.

Busing reemerged this week as an issue of substantial concern: pro: 27; con: 626. There was clear, strong support for your legislative proposals to limit busing.

Another matter of some concern was HEW's policy of requiring private industry and educational institutions to answer questionnaires regarding employees' racial or ethnic background. Apparently, some incident involving a college professor in New York generated public interest, and you have received 118 messages (almost solely from New York and New Jersey) requesting that you issue an Executive Order banning such surveys.

Foreign policy mail continues light, amounting to about 450 pieces. Approximately one-third of this is critical of Secretary Kissinger. Other comments include support of the Byrd Amendment (143), opposition to Panama Canal negotiations (35) and to selling scientific technology to the Soviet Union (29), and some slight comment on the situation in Lebanon (25) and the sentencing of the mercenaries in Angola(27).

You also received 4,081 requests for birthday and anniversary messages.

Have a happy Fourth of July, Mr. President!

cc: Bob Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail
for the Week of July 5-9, 1976

Incoming mail for the week totalled 17,050 pieces. In addition, there were 4,500 postcards calling for an end to Court-ordered busing. Though forms, these postcards did come from all parts of the country (especially the Midwest) and they were individually signed. More than half carried return addresses.

Busing appears to be returning as a significant public issue. Besides the postcards, you received 509 letters opposing busing.

Presidential support mail was heavily interspersed with Bicentennial mail this week. The combined total was 551 pieces. Writers complimented you on your "leadership" and "performance in office." They expressed pride in America's past and confidence in our future. They spoke of our people's "spirit," your integrity and the "greatness" of the country.

Political comment mail was relatively light (116). It included suggestions for campaign strategy and tactics, comments on the conduct of the National Convention and recommendations for the vice presidential nominee. This latter mail is not heavy, but is concentrated on the names of former Governors Reagan and Connally.

Also included in this mail are continued expressions of dissatisfaction with Federal requirements/controls over the private sector and with the bureaucracy generally. This week there was specific opposition to any increase in the minimum wage (29).

Legislation drawing some limited attention included the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act (pro: 43; con: 22), the Petroleum Industry Competition Act (pro: 3; con: 55), and the Public Works Employment Act (pro: 21; con: 15).

Other domestic issues of interest were the reappointment of General Brown (con: 89) and the appearance of Secretary Usery at the Teamster Convention (con: 90). Virtually all of the latter called for the Secretary's dismissal.

You also received a little mail concerning your rescinding of HEW's ban on single sex events in public schools; 29 telegraphed in support of your action, 4 opposed it.

Foreign policy mail was generally diverse, although it did increase somewhat in volume this week. With the exception of the Israeli rescue, the issues were the same as in previous weeks.

The Israeli raid and rescue and your statement on it have drawn 156 messages to date: pro: 131; con: 18; comment: 7. The raid apparently evoked in many Americans a sense of personal victory and many saw the Israeli success as a reflection of that same spirit we were celebrating in the Bicentennial.

Other foreign policy mail included criticism of Secretary Kissinger (201), of the Panama Canal negotiations (87), and of proposals to repeal the Byrd Amendment (93). There were also about a dozen messages urging intervention to save Daniel Gearhart.

You also had 4,111 requests to send birthday and anniversary greetings. And you received about 50 cards of congratulations and good wishes on your own coming birthday.

cc: Bob Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

RM
7/26/76

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of July 12-16, 1976

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 27,600 pieces. It was diverse and covered a wide range of subjects. Much of it was very positive in tone, expressing strong pride in America and confidence in the future.

You received 360 expressions of personal support and encouragement for the election campaign. Writers commended you on your "common sense" and "moderation;" they complimented you for doing a "good job," often under difficult circumstances.

Support mail was characterized by a strong sense of pride in you and in the country. This same feeling was also expressed in Bicentennial mail (304). Writers told of their thoughts and hopes as they celebrated the holiday and they sent prayers and good wishes for the future.

This sense of pride was further seen in mail commenting on Queen Elizabeth's visit (142). While people were overall very enthusiastic about her visit, there was criticism (109) of the entertainment following the State Dinner in her honor. Writers called it "inappropriate" and "undignified;" many argued that the performers "in no way" reflected the state of the arts in America.

On the personal side, you received birthday greetings and best wishes from 927 people. Their message was one of "good health and good luck" in the year ahead.

Political comment mail amounted to 189 pieces, most of which offered campaign suggestions. Ronald Reagan was most often mentioned as vice president, but his selection was opposed about as often as supported.

Of specific issues, you received 419 messages endorsing your action in rescinding the HEW ban on single sex events in public schools. People congratulated you on your "common sense" attitude and complained of "crazy" interpretations by the bureaucracy in this and many other matters. In fact, many writers used the HEW ruling as an "example" of bureaucratic "excess" generally and went on to discuss other Federal rulings or requirements which they also opposed.

This contrast between "bureaucratic excess" and your own "common sense" approach to situations was also reflected in busing mail (con: 335). While much of this appeared to be inspired mail, it was individually written and signed, and it supported your position.

There also appears to be some increase in mail commenting on the economy. Deficit spending, inflation and the costs of Federal regulation are seen as significant problems. Again in this mail, writers support your "sensible" efforts to control spending versus the actions and attitudes of the Congress. Also of economic concern in California is a possible strike by cannery workers there. 288 wrote urging Federal intervention to block the strike and thus save the fruit harvest.

A major foreign policy issue this week was the question of Taiwan's participation in the Olympic Games in Montreal (190). Almost without exception people urged that either Taiwan be allowed to compete, or the U.S. withdraw in protest. As with other foreign policy issues, there was a strong sense on the part of many that the U.S. should not let itself be "pushed around."

This sense of power and pride in its right use was also clearly reflected in mail supporting the Israeli rescue of the hostages and your immediate, public approval of the Israeli action (239). Only 21 were critical of either the raid or your support of it.

Other foreign policy issues included opposition to repeal of the Byrd Amendment (167) and criticism of Secretary Kissinger (132). There were also 48 telegrams protesting the executing of Daniel Gearhart.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of July 19-23, 1976

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 13,700 pieces. It covered a wide range of issues, with emphasis on domestic matters.

Support mail (372 pieces) expressed backing - "We're behind you 100%" - and admiration. Writers commended you for "honesty," "common sense," and a "positive approach" in leading the country.

In expressing support, many also offered personal suggestions for the campaign and comments on other candidates. Comment mail amounted to 337 pieces. You were advised to "emphasize your success with the economy" and to "be strong and firm in your positions." Carter and Mondale were characterized by several writers as "too liberal" and some others mentioned contradictions between Carter's apparent views on certain issues and Mondale's past voting record.

There were also suggestions for the Republican vice presidential nominee. As in past weeks, the names of former Governors Reagan and Connally were most often mentioned. Each, however, appeared to have about as many opponents as supporters.

Other political comment included views on the Democratic Convention and Platform, on the need for Republican unity, and on the Nixon pardon. This latter, following your press conference, drew very light mail: pro: 22; con: 12; comment: 4.

There were also about 100 letters this week protesting the Democratic plank on abortion and/or requesting Republican support for a Constitutional amendment.

You also continue to receive mail (384) protesting the treatment of Taiwan at the Olympic Games.

Matters of interest to special groups include the cannery strike in California, with 717 urging that the strike be ended (invoke Taft-Hartley Act), the Credit Union Financial Institutions Act Amendments (pro: 391), and the situation in Cyprus on the second anniversary of the invasion: 298 telegrams condemning Turkish "aggression" there. These messages were identical in language and all from the Chicago area.

Of more general interest, 88 wrote in support of your action to suspend the HEW ruling banning single sex events in public schools, and 625 wrote in opposition to busing (about half of this was form mail).

Foreign policy mail was relatively light. People wrote in support of the Israeli rescue of the hostages and approved your backing for the action (156). There were also 154 letters critical of Secretary Kissinger and 79 opposing repeal of the Byrd Amendment.

You received another 1,270 messages this week of congratulations and good wishes on your birthday, and also 3,031 requests to send others birthday and anniversary greetings.

cc: Robert Hartmann, Bob Orben, Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of July 26-30, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week was relatively light in volume, totalling approximately 14,600 pieces. Much of it concerned politics and the coming national campaign.

Support mail amounted to 395 pieces. People expressed confidence in your leadership and pledged their backing in the election.

Political comment mail was also substantial (461). Some of this mail offered comment on or suggestions for the campaign. Pleas for Republican unity following the Convention and specific recommendations for the campaign were included, as were specific comments on Jimmy Carter (47). Most of these latter were highly critical (43), with writers seeing Carter as contradictory in his views and basically "just another big-spending" democrat.

Interest in your choice of a vice presidential running mate also sharpened this week. As in previous weeks, former Governors Connally and Reagan were most often mentioned, and as often opposed as supported. Elliot Richardson and Howard Baker were occasionally recommended, and you were urged variously to pick a "moderate," a "midwesterner," and someone "not from Washington."

Also in connection with the Convention, you are receiving some mail (62 pieces this week) urging incorporation of a pro-life plank in the Republican platform.

Economic mail continues steady, but not particularly heavy (88). Writers comment on the cost of living, particularly as it affects older people, and there is a little mail from businessmen concerned over a possible increase in the minimum wage and over possible forced oil divestiture.

Early in the week there was a heavy volume of telegrams (922) urging you to end the cannery strike in California.

There was also a little mail critical of Secretary Kissinger (105). Otherwise, however, there was no significant interest expressed in foreign policy.

You continue to receive greetings on your birthday (97) and requests to send others birthday and anniversary congratulations (2,231).

cc: Robert Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

bcc: Gwen Anderson; Larry Speakes; Judy Berg-Hansen; Betty Nolan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of August 2-6, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week was light, totalling approximately 10,200 pieces. Much of it was political.

Support mail has increased steadily in recent weeks, to 518 pieces this week. Writers commended you for "doing a good job" - with some specific mention of the economy and approval of your "hold-the-line" spending policies - and they expressed particular appreciation that you are "a good man" - a man of "character" and "integrity."

There were another 72 letters that, in supporting you, also specifically criticized Jimmy Carter.

Political comment mail was also heavy this week (582). It contained campaign suggestions and recommendations for the Republican platform.

Among the latter proposals were requests that the platform "reflect conservative principles," that it support limits on the Federal government/bureaucracy, and that it include a pro-life plank (50).

Heaviest political comment mail, however, concerned your choice of a vice presidential running mate. The man clearly dominating the field and evoking the strongest public reaction was Governor Connally: pro: 98; con: 123. While probably a heavier portion of support for Mr. Connally did come from the South and Southwest and heavier criticism from the North and North Central areas, there was overall both support and opposition from all parts of the country.

Those favoring Mr. Connally noted that he was an "outstanding" public speaker and campaigner, and that he could well articulate "conservative" positions and attract the "Reagan vote."

Those opposing the former Governor spoke of his "wheeler-dealer" image and of his association with Watergate.

Other possible candidates mentioned included Howard Baker, Elliot Richardson, Edward Brooke, Dan Evans, and Anne Armstrong. There were not, however, more than a handful of recommendations for any one of these. Also of interest, since his Schweiker announcement, Ronald Reagan has received almost no further support as a vice presidential candidate.

Among non-political issues that drew attention this week was the CAB ruling to allow Delta and Northwest transatlantic air routes (con: 202). This mail came almost solely from Pan Am employees, was evidently inspired, and argued that granting domestic carriers transatlantic routes constitutes unfair competition. In addition, you are just beginning to receive a little mail (about 30 pieces) on this matter from businessmen. Their views appear to differ according to their self-interest.

There is also some protest (110 pieces) coming from private colleges concerning the application of Title IX - prohibiting enforcement by institutions of a particular moral code on faculty, staff and students. Writers want Title IX suspended by Presidential Order, as was the ban on single-sex events in public schools.

Foreign policy mail is extremely light. There were again this week the usual letters of protest over Secretary Kissinger (132) and opposition to repeal of the Byrd Amendment (71), but there was little of substance.

Also, you received 1,870 requests to send birthday and anniversary messages.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of August 9-13, 1976.

Incoming Presidential mail for the week was light, totalling approximately 11,100 pieces. It was heavily political in content.

There were 337 messages expressing support and encouragement for your nomination and election. You also received 1,208 letters and telegrams offering views and/or suggestions for the Convention and the fall campaign. Another 15 wrote to offer specific criticism of Jimmy Carter.

The one Republican platform issue drawing mail is the matter of abortion. Writers want the Convention to adopt a plank supporting a Constitutional amendment to limit abortion. Such mail has averaged about 100 pieces for the last several weeks. This week, however, apparently because of your remarks at the Eucharistic Congress, it almost doubled, to 171, generally expressing support for your comments.

Non-political matters of public interest include the actions, or inaction, of two regulatory agencies: the FTC and the CAB. In both cases, mail appeared to be inspired.

Concerning the FTC, you were asked to order the Commission to act to invalidate "recreational leases" attached to Florida condominiums (1,430). Writers allege that these leases were misrepresented at the time of sale, that they violate anti-trust laws, and that they are seriously impairing (in some cases, to the point of bankruptcy) the financial stability of condominiums. According to the mail, the FTC has been investigating the complaint for three years, but to date has taken no action.

The other area of concern is the CAB ruling to allow domestic carriers (Delta and Northwest) to fly transoceanic routes: con: 247. Perhaps 90% of this mail is coming from Pan Am employees, who argue that the ruling discriminates against Pan Am by allowing international routes to domestic carriers without any corresponding grant of domestic operating rights to Pan Am.

Economic mail continues steady but light (90 pieces), with people concerned over the cost of living, taxes, and Federal regulations that cost them both inconvenience and lost dollars.

Foreign policy mail is extremely light. There were a few letters critical of Secretary Kissinger (91) and a few telegrams critical of U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia (86).

You also received 2,584 requests to send birthday and anniversary messages.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Ron Nessen; Bob Orben

bcc: Gwen Anderson; Larry Speakes; Judy Berg-Hansen; Betty Nolan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File

August 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of August 16-20, 1976

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 14,250 pieces. Much of it was political.

You received 369 messages of support, appreciation and encouragement for the election. Many writers promised their assistance in the campaign. In addition, there were 187 telegrams expressing congratulations on your nomination, and 46 applauding your acceptance speech.

Political comment mail amounted to 1,857 pieces for the week. It consisted largely of suggestions and recommendations for the Convention and the fall campaign. Some more frequently offered suggestions include:

- 1) Emphasize your success with the economy - i.e., inflation-control and control (via veto) of "big-spending" Congress (240);
- 2) Emphasize waste, inefficiency, excessive cost of "big government" democratic programs;
- 3) Stress the return during the past two years of confidence, integrity, decency to our public life;
- 4) Pledge to work to promote "renewed respect for life" within our country and specifically to support a Constitutional amendment to limit abortion (155);
- 5) Pledge to limit busing, reestablish neighborhood schools (462);
- 6) Pledge to reexamine and redirect foreign policy and specifically to appoint a new Secretary of State (63).

Of non-political issues, the following drew attention:

- 1) CAB ruling to allow transoceanic air routes to Delta and Northwest:
pro: 34; con: 518;
- 2) Requests that you direct the FTC to challenge in court the legality of certain types of condominium leases: 1,452;
- 3) H.J. Resolution 738: Tule Elk Preservation Act:
pro: 114.

Two foreign policy matters also drew mail. There were 194 telegrams urging action to gain the release of "Thomas Bradshaw, believed held by Cubans...". These messages were identical in wording and they came wholly from Oklahoma, Texas and California.

Concerning the killing of the army officers in Korea, there were 46 messages of protest. People urged that the U.S. "do something" in retaliation for the attack.

There have also been 1,784 requests this week for birthday and anniversary messages.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Ron Nessen; Bob Orben

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail
for the Week of August 23-
September 3, 1976

Incoming mail for the two-week period amounted to 27,750 pieces. It was heavily political and largely supportive.

You received 880 letters expressing general support, 1,430 messages congratulating you on your nomination and 741 commending you on an "outstanding" acceptance speech. Virtually all of these writers expressed approval of the "job you are doing" and confidence in your election. Most also pledged personal assistance in the campaign.

Another 205 wrote specifically in support of the Ford-Dole ticket. Many of these persons indicated that, while they had not backed you in the primaries, now was the time to "close ranks" and they would be working actively for you and all Republican candidates.

Among the political suggestions and comments offered (1,334 pieces) were recommendations that you continue to campaign in the "dynamic," "aggressive" style of your acceptance speech and that you maintain the "offensive." Further, you were urged "not to write off the South," to emphasize the economic achievements of your Administration, and to take issue with Carter on his record as Governor and on the democratic platform which he endorsed.

The Ford-Carter debates also drew some attention: pro: 49; con: 36; comment: 74. Those favoring debates stressed the need for people to know the candidates' positions on the issues. Those opposing debates, as well as many offering comment, appear mostly to be Republicans who support you and who fear that the '76 debates could promote Carter, even as they believe the '60 debates did Kennedy. There were also suggestions on format - should be a "real debate," not just media questioning - and various recommendations about the issues you should raise.

Other domestic matters of concern included:

- 1) Need for FTC to act to break certain restrictive leases on condominiums:
pro: 1,518;
- 2) Busing:
con: 529;
- 3) CAB recommendation to award transoceanic routes to Delta and Northwest airlines:
pro: 83; con: 376;
- 4) Abortion:
pro: 64; con: 196;
- 5) H. R. 11552: Postcard Registration:
con: 106.

On foreign policy issues, the mail continued light. The killing of the US officers in Korea did draw 435 letters of protest and another 109 of comment. For the most part, writers urged "strong retaliation" for the incident. There were also 216 letters criticizing Secretary Kissinger, 8 supporting him.

Also during the two week period, you received 3,609 requests to send birthday and anniversary messages.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of September 6-10, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 11,700 pieces. Much of it was political.

You received 598 messages of support. Writers continue to applaud your "honesty and decency," your "responsible economic policies" versus "big-spending" democrats, and they endorse your "right" to continue the "good job" you have been doing.

Political comment mail (394 pieces) contained a variety of suggestions for the campaign -- "start campaigning right away," run a "whistle-stop" campaign, "don't write off the South" -- and it also contained comments on specific issues which the writers believe important to their own or the country's future. These latter include comments about welfare ("too easy to get, too freely abused"), about crime and about abortion (pro: 20; con: 98). In general, these issues split along "liberal-conservative" lines, with those writing to you taking a decidedly conservative view.

Other political mail was directed to the debates between you and Mr. Carter (115). For the most part, this mail contains suggestions about format, technique and issues to be raised. A good part of it also contains anti-media and/or anti-League of Women's Voters sentiment.

One "non-political" issue that drew heavy attention this week (2,056 pieces) is a dispute pending between a Reverend Lester Roloff and the Texas Welfare Department. Mr. Roloff, an Evangelist minister, runs three schools

for problem children in Texas. These are privately funded, religious institutions. The conflict apparently is over whether the State agency has the right to inspect and regulate the schools. The issue will be decided in court on September 13, and writers are urging you to intervene to insure that the schools remain open. Virtually all this mail is coming from the South and the Midwest. It is not form mail but it is obviously being encouraged by church groups.

Current legislation also drew some attention this week. Among bills of interest were:

1. Postcard registration:

pro: 1; con: 63;

2. Child and Family Services Act:

pro: 133; con: 9;

3. Federal pay raise:

pro: 15; con: 30; comment: 16;

4. H.R. 5465: RE: Benefits for Indian employees, BIA:

pro: 217.

Foreign policy mail was relatively light. You were urged to press North Vietnam for a full accounting of MIA's and not to allow its entry into the U.N. until this is done (73). There was also some mail critical of Secretary Kissinger (129) and some further protest over the killing of the American officers in Korea (36).

You also received 2,573 requests for birthday and anniversary messages.

cc: Bob Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of September 13-17, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week amounted to 21,400 pieces. It concentrated on domestic matters and was heavily political.

You received 588 messages of general support this week, plus 89 letters specifically congratulating you on your nomination and another 42 applauding your acceptance speech. Writers continue to acknowledge the "good job" you have done and to pledge their active support.

Political comment mail totalled 426 pieces. It included comment and suggestions for the campaign -- "do you support the Republican platform?", "don't write off the South," -- and suggestions for the debates with Jimmy Carter -- "be positive, forceful," "make him discuss the issues."

Economic mail appears to be on the increase again (523 pieces this week), but it is wide-ranging in content. There is some concern expressed, especially among the elderly, about the cost of living (70). Fairly substantial premium increases (approximately 33%) in certain areas by Blue Cross-Blue Shield have caused particular concern.

Other economic mail commented on the UAW strike against Ford Motors (con: 5), on the tax reform bill (pro: 3; con: 48), and on the proposed Federal pay raise: pro: 122; con any raise: 58; con limiting raise to 4.8%: 139.

Mail concerning abortion also increased this week, following your meeting with the Bishops: pro: 133; con: 134.

Other issues of specialized interest included:

1. Roloff Evangelical Enterprises (versus Texas Welfare Department)

pro: 3,394;

2. H.R. 5465: Benefits for BIA Employees:

pro: 433;

3. DOT approved proposal for airport at Columbia-Waterloo, Illinois: (vice St. Louis, Mo.)

con: 266.

Foreign policy mail continued light. There were 217 pieces critical of Secretary Kissinger, approximately 60 pieces critical of U.S. initiatives in Africa, and various other miscellaneous foreign policy comments (virtually all of which were hard-line).

You also received 2,264 requests for birthday and anniversary messages.

cc: Bob Hartmann, Bob Orben, Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of September 20-24, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 16,400 pieces. Much of it was political.

As of noon today you had received 555 telegrams and mailgrams commenting on last night's debate, 505 of which were congratulatory. These reflected a high level of enthusiasm and support, with many persons offering personal advice and/or good wishes for the next debate as well. The few critical telegrams you received (32) were generally lacking in substance, as were the 18 comment messages.

Prior to the debate you had received 633 letters pledging support for the election and 197 offering political comment. The economy appears to remain a major political issue, with most writers commending your efforts to restrain government and reduce inflation. There is, however, considerable concern over the cost of living for the elderly.

Of specific issues, the Tax Reform Bill drew substantial mail this week: pro: 17; con: 324; comment: 10. Writers appear to be largely from the business community and they argue that the bill is too complex and too anti-business.

Mail concerning abortion also continued heavy this week: pro: 227; con: 202; comment: 122. Since your meeting with the Bishops, mail favoring abortion has increased significantly.

Foreign policy mail remained relatively light this week. There were 134 letters critical of Secretary Kissinger, 107 critical of U.S. initiatives in South Africa, and 85 supporting the U.S. position on admission of Vietnam to the U.N.

You also received 2,334 requests for birthday and anniversary messages.

cc: Bob Hartmann
Bob Orben
Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of September 27-October 1, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled 18,700 pieces. It was largely political and highly supportive.

Your Debate drew very heavy mail:

Pro: 1,557;

Con: 75;

Comment: 222.

Writers applauded your "direct and concise" answers and pointed out that you "defined the issues" and "answered the questions" while Carter relied too heavily on "rhetoric." "Integrity," "leadership" and "good judgment" are words that continually appear in this very positive mail.

Many writers also offered their recommendations for subsequent debates. With regard to technique, you were urged to "look directly into the camera" (v. looking at opponent or questioners) and to "smile." On matters of substance, it was suggested that you "hit" Carter on his tax proposals and on democratic spending programs, and on his "vacillation" on the issues.

In addition to debate mail you also received 660 messages of general support this week and 417 pieces offering political comment. This latter consisted largely of suggestions for the campaign and recommendations for action prior to the election.

Specific issues with political impact appear to include the economy (186 pieces), with special concern over the problems of the elderly, and abortion (pro: 113; con: 204; comment: 151).

The Tax Reform Bill also drew attention this week: pro: 29; con: 198; comment: 77. Writers objected to various of its provisions, particularly to those that would: 1) tax disability pensions; 2) tax more heavily citizens living abroad. Writers also criticized the overall bill for being "too complex;" they argued it was not a "reform" measure but rather would further complicate and confuse the tax code.

Foreign policy mail increased somewhat this week and it too was heavily political. There were 98 letters expressing opposition to U.S. initiatives in Africa and another 140 expressing general criticism of Secretary Kissinger. Another 798 pieces urged Administration support for the Anti-Boycott Amendment. Many of these messages specifically connected support for this legislation with Jewish votes in the election.

cc: Bob Hartmann/Bob Orben/Ron Nessen

bcc: Gwen Anderson/Judy Berg-Hansen/Betty Nolan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of October 4-8, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 18,800 pieces. It was heavily political.

Following Wednesday night's debate, there have been 426 messages:

PRO: 218;

CON: 166;

COMMENT: 42.

Support mail expresses congratulations, admiration and approval of your "good answers" and "impressive knowledge of foreign policy."

Of the 166 critical messages received since the debate, 100 take exception to your remarks about Eastern Europe. Another 15 insist on publication of an Arab boycott list.

You also received 606 messages this week commenting on the Philadelphia debate. Cumulatively, totals for this first debate are:

PRO: 1,955;

CON: 107;

COMMENT: 398.

In addition to debate mail, there have been 658 pieces of general support mail this week. Writers continue to commend you on your "integrity, decency, performance," and many also

express the view that your election is the only possible check on a "big-spending," "welfare-prone" democratic Congress.

You are also receiving considerable support mail from people identifying themselves as "Reagan supporters" who are now pledging you their vote and in most cases, their active assistance. A few people have also indicated specific support because of your positions on gun and crime control.

Political comment mail (297 pieces) continues to lean heavily toward suggestions for the campaign and now for the debates. In addition, most of this mail raises the issues of "the little man," Federal spending and government encroachment on individuals' rights. Other political issues of public concern include abortion (con: 287), busing (con: 385), and gun control.

Economic concern appears to be pervasive, although it is not focused on any one aspect of the economy (155 pieces this week). Writers are concerned with the cost of living -- "everything's going up" -- and with Federal spending, which many see as actually detrimental to their own interests. Farmers and persons on fixed incomes appear particularly worried.

There was also mail this week concerning the remarks made by former Secretary Butz. 338 wrote in support of Mr. Butz, arguing he was "good for the farmer." Some also referred to his "right of free speech." In contrast, 1,454 wrote to urge that he leave the Cabinet, since his comments were "unacceptable, inexcusable and a violation of the public trust."

cc: Bob Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of October 11-15, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled 28,360 pieces. It was heavily political and largely supportive.

As of noon, you have received 92 telegrams and mailgrams of congratulations on last night's press conference. Also, there are 21 critical messages and 11 offering comment. The majority of the critical mail objects to your getting free air time for a press conference so close to the election.

Mail on the San Francisco debate was heavy again this week:

Pro: 574;
Con: 618;
Comment: 409.

On the positive side, you were urged to "take the offensive" and not to let Carter "twist" the achievements of your Administration or the facts of history. You were also urged to question his experience and qualifications for office, as well as the entire democratic record over the past forty years.

Of the 618 pieces of negative debate mail this week, 521 pieces commented on your Eastern Europe remarks and 90 requested release of the Arab boycott list, "as promised."

Cumulatively, since the first debate on September 23, you have received:

Pro: 2,787;
Con: 900;
Comment: 867.

RT
10/21

You also continue to receive a substantial volume of general support mail (694). As in past weeks, writers speak of "good policies" and an "honest Administration," and they express confidence in your integrity and ability.

Also, there were 383 pieces of political comment mail this week. The bulk of this offers suggestions for the campaign and/or reports on the local situation in the writer's area.

Economic concern mail has been running in steady volume for some weeks now, averaging approximately 160 pieces per week. It does not contain any single dominant complaint, nor does it advocate any one action. Rather, it expresses general but pervasive concern over the inequity of present tax laws and the overall hesitant state of the economy. The general view appears to be that tax laws favor "the rich" and "the poor," with the middle class bearing the burden. To work hard is to pay more taxes to fund welfare for those who don't work or to make up for taxes not paid by those rich enough to enjoy "loopholes."

Numerous "social issues" are also drawing steady voter interest. Among these are: a concern that crime be stemmed, although gun controls are still largely opposed; a desire to end busing (331); a concern over abortion (con: 359); and this week, a strong concern about pornography (763). While these latter are form cards, they come from all parts of the country and all are signed, with addresses.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Week of October 25-29, 1976

Incoming mail for the week totalled 19,700 pieces. It was heavily political.

You received 1,569 messages of general support. Writers expressed faith, trust and pride in the country and in your leadership. They pledged prayers and assistance for the future.

Many writers also included their personal comments or views. For example, many wrote about the need for "honesty and integrity" in government and approved your efforts to restore these to our national life. Some expressed support for your efforts to control Federal spending and/or the bureaucracy (250), some commended your efforts to promote world peace ("no war, no draft"), and still others expressed support for various of your positions on such issues as gun control/registration (125), Human Life amendment (265), and busing (350).

You are also still receiving mail on the debates. This week there were 754 pieces: pro: 432; con: 150; comment: 172. Cumulatively, you have received:

PRO: 3,219;

CON: 1,050;

COMMENT: 1,039.

The Vice Presidential debate, in contrast, drew very light mail:

PRO: 91;
CON: 135;
COMMENT: 16.

There were also 1,070 pieces of political comment mail, mostly offering campaign suggestions or analyses. Matters of concern included the scarcity of campaign materials and staff at the local level, and the legitimacy of certain campaign tactics.

Concerning the latter, there has been criticism this week of specific campaign ads and literature. Writers particularly protested "negative" television ads (i.e., Georgians criticizing Carter), the Playboy/Newsweek newspaper ad, and the PFC newsletter Heartland. Taken together, this mail amounts to approximately 125 pieces (about three-quarters of which are directed to the newspaper ad).

Foreign policy mail was very light. You did continue to receive mail on General Brown's latest remarks about Israel (pro: 192; con: 975), and also some mail critical of Secretary Kissinger: 88.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of October 18-22, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled 26,800 pieces.
It was heavily political and largely supportive.

You received 1,217 messages of support this week.
Writers complimented you on "sincerity," "integrity,"
"good efforts" and they stated that you had "earned
reelection."

Besides general support mail, you continue to receive
mail commenting specifically on the debates. This
week there were 981 pieces: pro: 348; con: 262;
comment: 371. The bulk of the con mail, 214 pieces,
is critical of the Eastern Europe remarks.

Another 328 persons wrote in response to your tele-
vised press conference:

Pro:	<u>239</u>
Con:	<u>54</u>
Comment:	<u>35</u>

Writers commended you for doing a "good job" in handling
a frequently "difficult" press corps, and some suggested
"your answers were far better than their questions."
Critical comments focused mainly on the use of free
television time so close to the election.

The vice presidential debate drew limited but strongly
emotional mail concerning Senator Dole: pro: 62;
con: 78; comment: 8. Supporters spoke of him as

"humorous, witty, forceful, impressive." Critics saw him as "sarcastic, insulting, boorish" -- "the Don Rickles of Washington, D.C."

Political comment mail amounted to 849 pieces this week. As in previous weeks, it consisted largely of suggestions and ideas for the campaign and the final debate. It also contained much general economic comment (inflation, prices, the cost of living) and some social comment. Many people apparently remain deeply concerned about busing (con: 375) and abortion (pro: 136; con: 186; comment: 55).

Other concerns this week included the remarks of General Brown about Israel (pro: 39; con: 432), and the Helsinki Monitoring Commission (pro: 174).

cc: Bob Hartmann/Bob Orben/Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Weeks of November 1-12, 1976.

Incoming mail for the two week period totalled 62,933 pieces. 30% of this was political, with approximately 20% (13,077 pieces) specifically expressing regret at the outcome of the election. These people also expressed appreciation for the "superb" job you have done: they thanked you for restoring decency and integrity to our public life, for giving direction to our nation and confidence to our people.

In addition, there were another 1,200 messages of appreciation for "all you have done" for the country. While these writers indicated that they had voted for Mr. Carter (most added that they did so because they believed the country "needed a change"), they also particularly wanted you to know of their admiration and appreciation for your leadership during the past years.

Beyond election mail, you received 4,076 messages of general support and 1,002 of political comment.

Mail also continued to comment on the most recent remarks of General Brown concerning Israel (pro: 43; con: 523).

Of social issues, abortion, busing and gun control continue to draw public attention. All of this mail roughly doubled in the weeks just before the election, and it has remained at relatively high levels:

1) Abortion:

pro: 75; con: 397;

2) Busing:

con: 694;

3) Gun Control:

pro: 508; con: 3,496.

Concerning the gun control mail, it should be noted that "Opinion Ballots" constitute approximately 85% of it. These are coming particularly from the South, Southwest and Midwest. And while they are forms, they are all signed, with addresses, and they all carry personal, handwritten comments.

cc: Bob Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Weeks of November 15-26, 1976.

Incoming mail for the two week period amounted to 33,431 pieces. Over half of this mail was political (17,820 pieces), and virtually all of it was supportive (17,544 pieces).

People wrote to express regret at the outcome of the election. They thanked you for "doing what had to be done," for restoring "pride and confidence" to the country, and they sent good wishes and prayers "to all the Fords" for the future.

Many also criticized the American voter for acting "like a spoiled child" and for "looking for a free hand-out." In contrast, some others expressed appreciation but also indicated that they had voted democratic because they felt the country "needed a change."

Cumulative mail totals following the election are:

Regret/Appreciation:	<u>38,300</u>
Appreciation:	<u>1,500</u>
Comment:	<u>475</u>

Mail other than political was very light and diverse. You received 3,789 requests for birthday/anniversary messages, 703 requests for photos/autographs, and 8,996 pieces of mail from children.

There was an Opinion Ballot questioning whether government should register hand guns (pro: 130; con: 742). Other inspired mail requested pardons for Puerto Rican nationalists in Federal prisons (675 pieces), and criticized the EPA decision on the Seabrook (N.H.) Nuclear Plant (275 pieces).

cc: Bob Hartman; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of November 29 - December 3,
1976.

Incoming mail for the week was noticeably light, amounting to about 10,250 pieces.

Much of this mail commented on the election: 1,889 persons wrote to express regret at the election outcome and appreciation for "all you have done," and to extend best wishes to you and your family. These people wrote of the "difficult situation" you had inherited and praised your integrity and leadership, your willingness to make unpopular but necessary decisions (i.e., Nixon pardon, legislative vetoes), and they expressed gratitude and admiration for the "example" of the Ford family. Also, there were another 121 letters of general support and encouragement.

Other mail was light and highly diverse in content. Issues drawing some comment included:

- 1) World Food Reserve Program:
pro: 363;
- 2) Revocation of EPA approval for
Seabrook (N.H.) Nuclear Station
Cooling System:
con: 301;
- 3) Pardon for Tokyo Rose:
pro: 132; con: 13.

cc: Bob Hartmann, Bob Orben, Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of December 6-10, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week was light, totalling about 11,100 pieces. Much of it concerns the election.

You received 1,428 messages of regret over the election outcome and appreciation for "the wonderful job you have done." Writers speak of their gratitude and admiration for "you and your family" and many express a personal sense of loss.

Cumulatively, since November 2, you have received the following mail concerning the election:

Regret/Appreciation: 41,625

Appreciation: 1,550

Comment: 425

You also received 135 letters of general support, and 1,991 Christmas greetings. Many of these latter also include personal notes of thanks and good wishes to you and Mrs. Ford.

Other matters of limited public interest include:

- 1) Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments (Eilberg bill): con: 230;
- 2) EPA decision re: Seabrook (N.H.) Nuclear Plant: con: 281;
- 3) World Food Reserve Program: pro: 108.

cc: Bob Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for the
Week of December 13-17, 1976.

Incoming mail for the week totalled approximately 11,800 pieces. It was diverse in content.

You continued to receive a significant amount of mail this week (1,268 pieces) expressing regret at the election outcome and appreciation for "all you have done" as President. As in past weeks, writers speak of renewed respect and confidence in government, of gratitude for the stability and example given by the "Ford family," and of their personal hope that you and Mrs. Ford will enjoy "health and happiness" in the coming years.

Also, there were another 99 letters of general support and 55 offering political comment. These latter include a few suggestions for the new RNC chairman, but reflect no consensus.

To date, you and Mrs. Ford have received 6,339 Christmas greetings. Almost half of these include personal notes expressing the same sentiments of appreciation, regrets, and good wishes as are found in the letter mail.

New issues of interest this week include a possible pardon for G. Gordon Liddy (pro: 139), and proposed Congressional/Federal pay raises (con: 91). Also, you are beginning to get mail (123 telegrams and mailgrams to date) opposing any effort to tax employee fringe benefits.

cc: Robert Hartmann; Bob Orben; Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: ANNE V. HIGGINS

SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail for
the Weeks of December 27, 1976-
January 7, 1977

Incoming mail for the holiday period was light, totalling only 24,555 pieces. Much of it was supportive.

You continue to receive a large volume of mail expressing appreciation for your service to the country, for the leadership you have provided and the confidence you have engendered: 2,161 pieces for this reporting period. In addition, you and Mrs. Ford received 5,157 messages of Christmas greetings and good wishes for the new year. A great majority of these cards included handwritten notes of appreciation.

You and Mrs. Ford also received 55 messages of congratulations/appreciation on your interview with Barbara Walters. As in the other support mail, people spoke of their "gratitude" and their "respect" for the entire Ford family.

Issue mail was relatively light, although a few proposals did arouse strong feelings among limited numbers:

The amnesty question generated a substantial volume of strongly-felt responses:

Pro: 640; Con: 914; Comment: 15.

The question of statehood for Puerto Rico drew some attention: pro: 37; con: 33. Most of those supporting statehood identified themselves as Puerto Rican nationals; most of those opposing spoke of the island's "high unemployment" and "welfare" costs to the U.S. taxpayer; and a few suggested that statehood would be solely to the benefit of the "oil companies."

The Executive pay raise proposal was overwhelmingly opposed: pro: 9; con: 211; as was any action to remove gasoline price controls: pro: 1; con: 37. In both instances, economics was the controlling factor, with writers insisting that they "couldn't afford" to pay either increased Federal salaries or higher gas prices.

cc: Bob Hartmann, Ron Nessen, Bob Orben