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Gay Rights

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G	12	12	6	2

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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July 23, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR PHILLIP D. BRADY
JAY LEFKOWITZ

FROM: LEE S. LIBERMAN *LSL*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Letter to Richard Land

Counsel's Office recommends inserting the following language in the place of the second and third paragraphs of the draft letters:

I feel strongly that our policy should be to help restore the family to its central place in our society. I believe that there are many steps the federal government can take that will contribute to this goal--from encouraging changes in our welfare system so that it is not promoting family break-up to raising the deduction for children \$500 per child, as I have proposed in my growth package. I am also opposed to other steps that would greatly damage our families--such as officially recognizing other types of arrangements as having the same status as marriage. I have insisted that my appointees with policymaking authority in these areas share my beliefs on these questions and work to advance them.

DRAFT

Dear _____

Thank you for your recent letter on the subject of family values and homosexual rights. I must say that I am troubled by the fact that some of my friends inferred from my remarks on "20/20" that I may have backed away from my stance on the importance of a commitment to family values among my appointees to federal office. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

While the laws on discrimination are such that I cannot impose strict "litmus tests" as a condition of appointment, I feel strongly that my appointees must share my commitment to certain principles. I believe that the example we set, both in the policies we support and the lives we lead, are indeed factors which must be considered when making appointments.

In short, my practice is to search for the most competent men and women of extraordinary personal character who reflect traditional values. While every citizen deserves respect, I can only stand up for what I believe.

I'm a person who believes in traditional family values, and Barbara and I try to live our lives according to those values. I believe that in large measure, America has been successful and strong because of the millions of families who affirm those values, in the traditional pattern of a man and woman married to each other and committed to each other and to their children.

I feel strongly that we should be promoting traditional families to help restore the central place of the family in our society. I believe there are many steps the federal government can take - from changing our welfare system so that it does not encourage families to break up to better reward the dedication for children - that will contribute to this goal. I also believe that there are things we can do that would greatly damage our families - such as recognizing gay official recognition - acceptance of the type of marriage

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR LEE LIBERMAN

FROM: JAY LEFKOWITZ *YL*
SUBJECT: Letter to Richard Land

The attached letter was sent by Richard Land, Executive Director of the Christian Life Commission, on July 1. I propose that we send the attached response. The only other point we may want to make in response is to reaffirm our support for President Reagan's executive order on the family, to which Land refers in his letter.

Please let me know if you have any comments about the proposed response as well as the question of the executive order.

Attachments

Handwritten: 1. Attached by Pres. Dec. 7/92
2. ... (faint)

Handwritten: 3. ... (faint)



THE
CHRISTIAN LIFE
COMMISSION

OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Richard D. Land, D.Phil.
Executive Director

July 1, 1992

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I'm writing to express our outrage and sense of betrayal over your comments on the ABC News program "20/20" regarding the place of homosexuals in your administration. While we appreciate your support for continuing the ban on homosexuals in the military, we are incredulous that anyone who claims to support the traditional family values agenda could possibly suggest that there should be "no litmus test" for important positions within your administration.

Some have suggested that evangelicals should seek a meeting with you on this matter. The question of support for homosexual rights within your administration has prompted two previous meetings. In light of this recent incident, these meetings seem to have made little difference.

The time for meetings is past. It is time for action. For the third time, we are requesting that you issue the executive order affirming the traditional family.

Action speaks louder than words. We await your answer.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Land
Executive Director

RDL:js