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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 90503
Folder ID Number: 90503-009

Folder Title:
Thursday, February 23, 1989

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
V	12	11	1	4

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet (George Bush Library)

Doc. No. / Type	Subject/Title	Date	Restriction	Classification
01. Log	White House Telephone Log [redaction of personal information] (1 pp.)	02/23/89	(b)(6)	

Page 1 of 1

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records

Office: Office of the President

Series: Daily Files

Subseries:

WHORM Cat.:

File Location: Thursday, February 23, 1989

Pinksheet Number: dw1246

OA/ID Number: 90503-009

Date Closed: 1/23/2009

FOIA/Sys Case #: 2009-0166-S

Re-review Case #:

P-2/P-5 Review Case #:

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Log	White House Telephone Log [E.S.T.] [redaction of personal information] (1 pp.)	02/23/89	(b)(6)	

Collection:

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WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Thursday, February 23, 1989

Date Closed: 1/23/2009	OA/ID Number: 90503-009
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0166-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:	MR Case #:
AR Disposition:	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:	MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
(b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

THE WHITE HOUSE

Bush Library Photocopy

WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM

E. S. T.
PRESIDENT-BUSH

FEBRUARY

23rd

, 19⁸⁹

	TIME		NAME	ACTION
	PLACED	DISC		
OUT	7:31	AM	SENATE ROBERT BYRD (b)(6)	SENATOR OUT WALKING THE DOG. PRESIDENT WILL CALL BACK IN 10 MINS.
INC		PM		
OUT		AM		TOLD PATTY PRESOCK 7:59A PRESIDENT CALLED AGAIN. SENATOR ENROUTE TO OFFICE-PRESIDENT WILL CALL AGAIN
INC		PM		
OUT		AM		
INC		PM		
OUT	7:32	AM	PAULA RENDON OFFICE-WASHINGTON, D.C. WHITE HOUSE ADMIN. EXT. 842	TALKED OK
INC		PM		
OUT		AM		
INC		PM	"CALLS ORIGINATED FROM TOKYO"	
OUT		AM		
INC		PM		
OUT		AM		
INC		PM		
OUT		AM		
INC		PM		
OUT		AM		
INC		PM		
OUT		AM		
INC		PM		

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM

SIGNAL SWITCHBOARD

February 23, 1989

	TIME		NAME	ACTION
	PLACED	DISC		
OUT	AM		Message:	Acknowledged
INC	9:53 PM	9:57	"This is the President, can I have the Admin Board Please?"	9:53 PM Tlkd-ok 9:53 PM
OUT	AM		Governor John H. Sununu	Tlkd-ok
INC	10:00 PM	10:01	Hotel Okura, Tokyo, Japan	10:00 PM
OUT	AM			
INC	PM			
OUT	AM			
INC	PM			
OUT	AM			
INC	PM			
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM

SIGNAL SWITCHBOARD

February 23, 1989

	TIME		NAME	ACTION
	PLACED	DISC		
OUT	AM		Governor John H. Sununu Hotel Okura, Tokyo, Japan	Tlkd-ok 10:00 PM
INC 10:00	PM	10:01	Tokyo Signal x312	
OUT	AM			
INC	PM			
OUT	AM			
INC	PM			
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INC	PM			
OUT	AM			
INC	PM			

PRESIDENTIAL MOVEMENTS

LOCATION Tokyo, Japan

DATE 23 February 1989

TIME

MOVEMENTS

JST

[illegible]



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1989 -- 6:30 a.m. EST/8:30 p.m. TOKYO EDITION

TRIP NEWS

BUSH BEGINS HECTIC ASIA TOUR -- President Bush, arriving for the state funeral of Emperor Hirohito, plunged into key diplomatic contacts Thursday as he began his first overseas trip. (Dallas Morning News,

Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, UPI)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LEBANESE MOSLEM GROUP VOWS VENGEANCE ON RUSHDIE SUPPORTERS -- A Lebanese Moslem extremist group which holds three U.S. hostages vowed vengeance Thursday against supporters of author Salman Rushdie. (AP, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

NUNN CHALLENGES PRESIDENT'S ASSESSMENT OF NEW FBI REPORT -- The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and other Democrats on Wednesday challenged President Bush's assessment that an FBI report on John Tower had "gunned down" allegations against the defense secretary-designate.

(Washington Post, AP, Copley, Reuter)

TRIP NEWS.....A-2

INTERNATIONAL NEWS...A-6

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-8

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

TRIP NEWS

BUSH OPENS MINI-SUMMITS ON EVE OF HIROHITO FUNERAL

TOKYO -- President Bush arrived in Japan today and immediately plunged into a series of mini-summits with world leaders. Against the backdrop of an imperial Japanese funeral, he began his search for an elusive peace settlement in the Middle East.

After a 16-hour flight from Washington, Bush went directly to the U.S. ambassador's residence for lunch with French President Mitterrand for talks that the White House said focused on superpower relations and the seven-nation economic summit in Paris in July.

Bush quickly went into a series of talks with three Middle East leaders: Jordan's King Hussein, Egyptian President Mubarak and Israeli President Herzog.
(Terence Hunt, AP)

BUSH BEGINS HECTIC ASIA TOUR

TOKYO -- President Bush, arriving for the state funeral of Emperor Hirohito, plunged into key diplomatic contacts Thursday as he began his first overseas trip....

Bush...arrived at the heavily guarded Haneda airport in southern Tokyo at 1:05 p.m. (11:05 p.m. EST) and was taken immediately to the U.S. ambassador's residence for a lunch meeting with French President Mitterrand.

Just before the luncheon got under way, Mitterrand said "it would be surprising" if the two did not discuss the Soviet Union.

Later, Bush met with Prime Minister Takeshita, who greeted him warmly at the Akasaka Palace before a crammed schedule of evening bilateral meetings with other world leaders.

Receiving Bush in the ornate Asahi-no-ma room, or the "Room of the Morning Sun," Takeshita thanked Bush on "behalf of the government and the people" for coming for the ceremony.

Bush, who appeared tired, replied: "That makes me feel very much at home. Thank you, sir."
(Lori Santos, UPI)

BUSH STARTS ASIA TRIP, SEES IT AS WAY TO BOOST U.S. ROLE

ANCHORAGE -- President Bush began a six-day Asian journey Wednesday to demonstrate that "we intend to stay a Pacific power" at a time of increased Soviet activity and shifting diplomatic currents throughout the region.

But even as he stressed the strength of U.S. ties in Asia, he gently prodded Japan to play a greater role in the common defense of the Far East, and pointedly ignored a celebration of U.S.-Soviet neighborliness taking place in Alaska....

Bush, speaking to Alaskans assembled in a massive hangar at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage...said that even as the U.S. reviews its relations with the Soviets, in the Middle East and in Latin America, "we don't ever want to take our friends for granted, be they China, be they Japan, be they Korea."

"Yes, things in the Pacific seem to be going reasonably well," said the President... "But we are a Pacific power and this visit will demonstrate that we intend to stay a Pacific power."

(James Gerstenzang & Jack Nelson, Los Angeles Times, A1)

STRONGER PACIFIC TIES GOAL OF FAR EAST TRIP

ANCHORAGE -- President Bush, stopping in Alaska en route to Tokyo..., said Wednesday that the goal of his trip was "to strengthen key relationships with our friends and partners in the Pacific region."

"We don't want to take our friends for granted," Bush said. "We are a Pacific power, and this visit will demonstrate that we intend to stay a Pacific power." ...

Speaking Wednesday afternoon to several thousand Alaskans gathered in an Air Force hangar, Bush said that the state's energy resources could be developed for the sake of national security without spoiling the environment. He also paid tribute to the airmen based at Elmendorf Air Force base in Anchorage.

(Kevin Morida, Dallas Morning News)

BUSH OPPOSES U.S. ENTERING FREE-TRADE PACT WITH JAPAN

ANCHORAGE -- President Bush, en route to the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, suggested yesterday he opposes any U.S.-Japanese free-trade agreement that would eliminate all trade fees and import barriers.

In a statement issued by the White House prior to a 90-minute refueling stop here, Bush said Washington and Tokyo agree on the need for multilateral and bilateral efforts to create a more widespread international trading system.

But while the U.S. recently entered a free-trade agreement with Canada, Bush suggested a similar pact with Japan...was not proposed.

"We will stress the multilateral approach," he said, referring to his scheduled meeting this week with various Japanese leaders.

The President's comments came in written response to questions submitted by Japan's Kyodo news service. (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A3)

BUSH LEAVES FOR HIROHITO'S FUNERAL, ASIA TOUR

ANCHORAGE -- With his foreign policy still in its formative stage and many of his key appointments not yet in place, President Bush left Washington today for a fast-paced tour of Asia where he hopes to engage in a personal diplomacy with a host of world leaders and make a symbolic display of American commitment to the Pacific Rim....

Bush has been plagued by a slow start in filling key State and Defense department posts, most notably the controversy over his nomination of John Tower as defense secretary.

There have been complaints from Congress and elsewhere that Bush has been unprepared to meet early policy challenges...because of delays in installing his own team.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A22)

U.S. AND JAPANESE: CLOSER TIES FOUND

As world leaders prepare to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito on Friday, a simultaneous opinion survey in both countries has found that Japanese and Americans now take a more positive view of ties between the two countries after a period of strain over economic relations....

And although significant suspicions remain in the areas of trade and military defense, recent tensions between the two countries seem to be declining.

(Andrew Malcolm, New York Times, A1)

U.S. INVITES TOP DISSIDENT TO BEIJING BANQUET

BEIJING -- The U.S., sending a strong signal on human rights, has invited leading Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi to a banquet to be given by President Bush for Chinese leaders here Sunday.

Reached by telephone tonight, Fang, an astrophysicist who is often referred to as the Andrei Sakharov of China, said he was surprised by the invitation and considered it "a good sign." ...

The U.S. has been accused of a double standard on human rights, taking a tough position toward the Soviet Union while demanding little of China. The invitation is "evidence that we're interested in human rights," said a U.S. Embassy official.

"It shows that we're interested in listening to the many voices that are coming out of China," said another embassy official.

(Daniel Southerland, Washington Post, A22)

CHINESE DISSIDENTS TO PRESS BUSH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT

BEIJING -- Chinese dissidents announced the founding of a new human rights organization Thursday and asked that President Bush, who visits Beijing this weekend, sign a petition calling for the release of political prisoners.

Chen Jun, 30, a former student activist who was widely criticized Thursday in China's official media for his role in the petition drive, announced the founding of Amnesty '89, an organized clearinghouse for information on China's political prisoners.

"I would also like him (Bush) to read this letter, no matter if he is going to sign based on his personal choice, or his choice from his position as President of the United States, I don't mind," Chen said.

"I would like to know how he responds to the letter," he said during a press conference at the small private bar he owns in eastern Beijing.

(Mark Del Vecchio, UPI)

CHINA TO TELL BUSH THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM MOSCOW TIES

BEIJING -- China is expected to lobby President Bush this week for faster access to American high technology, saying Beijing's warming ties with the Soviet Union will not endanger U.S. security.

Western diplomats said Beijing would want to assure Bush...that improving ties with Moscow would not risk leaks of high technology obtained from the West.

"China does not want its relations with the Soviets to hinder access to high-technology goods from the United States," a diplomat commented.

(William Kazer, Reuter)

CHINA ATTACKS U.S. PLANS TO SPEND MORE ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

BEIJING -- China attacked the U.S. Thursday for raising spending on chemical weapons, saying Washington was hypocritical and risking an acceleration of the arms race.

The official People's Daily said in a commentary published two days before the arrival of President Bush that proposals to increase spending on chemical weapons in the 1990 budget were not a counter to a Soviet threat in Europe.

"This is the same old story," it said. "If this continues, it risks an arms race acceleration."

(Reuter)

DENG HINTS ARE RETIREMENT SOON, SAYS REFORMS WILL GO ON

BEIJING -- China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping hinted Wednesday that he was planning to retire soon and said Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang and Premier Li Peng were already in charge of "important matters."

The 84-year-old leader...added that his decade-old reform policies would not change.

"The ones handling important matters are Zhao Ziyang and Li Peng. I am old, I should retire early," Deng said during a meeting with visiting President Pierre Buyoya of Burundi....
(Andrew Roche, Reuter)

SEOUL TO TALK WITH U.S. ON LOWERING BARRIERS TO TELECOM TRADE

SEOUL -- South Korea will discuss with the Bush administration a U.S. demand to lower barriers to trade in telecommunications but will not make unilateral concessions, government officials said on Thursday.

"We will try to narrow differences through negotiations although we can't meet U.S. demands to fling open every corner of the market right away," said Hyun Oh-sok, a director at the Economic Planning Board.

"I hope the United States will also be flexible," he added. (Reuter)

DOES THE U.S. HAVE A FOREIGN POLICY?

George Bush took office with more foreign policy experience than any president since Richard Nixon, but critics say he is off to a shaky start in foreign affairs.

Key posts at the State and Defense departments are still unmanned a month after he was sworn in, Secretary Baker is drawing fire and analysts are asking whether the Bush team has enough strategic vision to match the bold initiatives of Soviet leader Gorbachev.

U.S. officials dismiss the criticism, saying any new administration requires time to settle in and that the new team will begin asserting itself more forcefully once it finishes reviews of East-West policy, the Middle East, Central America and other areas.

But many foreign policy experts are skeptical, arguing that Bush, Baker, and National Security Adviser Scowcroft are nuts-and-bolts problem solvers who have never displayed talent for global strategy -- talent they argue is vital to deal with Gorbachev's torrent of proposals on arms control, troop cuts, regional conflicts and other issues.

(News Analysis, Christopher Hanson, Reuter)

NATIONALISTIC SOUTH KOREA NO LONGER SEES U.S. AS SAVIOR

SEOUL -- There will be scant cause for celebration when President Bush meets South Korean leaders during his flying visit Monday to Seoul.

The Korean-American relationship has turned sour.

It is no longer politic in Seoul to heap public praise on the two countries' strategic anti-communist alliance, which has held firm for 40 years....

Almost daily demonstrations on campuses or outside American facilities make it clear that, for many South Koreans, the 43,000 U.S. servicemen stationed in the country are not welcome....

(News Analysis, Roger Crabb, Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GROUP HOLDING HOSTAGES THREATENS RETALIATION IN RUSHDIE AFFAIR

BEIRUT -- The pro-Iranian captors of three American educators threatened today to take revenge against Salman Rushdie, the publishers of his novel...and their supporters for insulting Islam.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said in a hand-written statement that it would "take revenge against all those who took part in strong and ferocious campaigns against Islam." ...

The Arabic-language statement was delivered to the office of a Western news agency in Moslem west Beirut accompanied by an instant photograph of American hostages Alann Steen, Robert Polhill and Jesse Turner....

The statement did not make any reference to the hostages, whose photograph was included to prove the document's authenticity. (AP)

LEBANESE MOSLEM GROUP VOWS VENGEANCE ON RUSHDIE SUPPORTERS

BEIRUT -- A Lebanese Moslem extremist group which holds three U.S. hostages vowed vengeance Thursday against supporters of author Salman Rushdie....

"We announce that we will take revenge against all institutions and organizations which in one way or another have insulted Islam and the Great Prophet," a statement from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said....

The statement...said: "Imperialist America and the Zionists as well as those propagating the anti-Islamic campaign linked the fate of their interests with the fate of the so-called Indian author in defending the ugly contents of 'The Satanic Verses' book." ...

The three hostages held by the [group] were bearded and smiling, although they looked haggard as they together posed in [a] photo [accompanying the statement]. (Reuter)

CONSERVATIVE HOUSE REPUBLICANS PUSH WHITE HOUSE ON CONTRA AID

Some conservative Republicans in the House asked President Bush Wednesday to support continued humanitarian assistance to the Nicaraguan contras at least until the Marxist Sandinista regime releases political prisoners and establishes a democratic government.

Reps. Hunter, Dornan, Edwards, Chandler, Ireland and Ballanger held a press conference aimed at reviving congressional support for the 13,000 contra troops based in Honduras in the wake of an agreement by five Latin American countries to demobilize the anti-Sandinista fighters....

The House members said the leaders of the four Central American democracies signed the agreement because they had lost confidence in Congress' willingness to back the Nicaraguan resistance movement.

(Mark Ragan, Copley)

CONTRAS CHAFING AT U.S. INDECISION

Nicaraguan guerrilla leaders are becoming impatient with the uncertainty of U.S. policy toward Central America and say they tried unsuccessfully to arrange meetings with top officials of the Bush administration to discuss their future.

A contra leader, Alfredo Cesar, said Tuesday that the guerrillas have had "absolutely no high-level communication with the Bush administration -- none whatsoever, zero."

He said it was indicative of the administration's inattention that a Central American peace agreement reached in El Salvador last week caught the administration off guard although it had been under discussion for more than two weeks. (Robert Pear, New York Times, A8)

ORTEGA INTENDS TO STAY ON FOR A YEAR AFTER ELECTIONS

MANAGUA -- President Ortega told Nicaraguan opposition leaders Wednesday that for the moment he intends to remain in power for nearly a year after February 1990 elections, an opposition politician said.

Lombardo Martinez, spokesman for the centrist Independent Liberal Party, told reporters Ortega said his decision on when to leave office would be open to discussion.

"But for the moment the elections will take place in February next year and he will be in power by constitutional mandate until January of the following year," Martinez said. (Adrian Croft, Reuter)

AID SAYS ITS PROGRAM NEEDS MAJOR OVERHAUL

AID Administrator Alan Woods said Wednesday the multibillion-dollar American aid program has done little to wipe out global poverty and needs a major overhaul.

Wood's testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee followed the release this week of a landmark study by AID...which concluded, "Current structures and concepts are based on a past which no longer exists."

The AID program, Woods said, is a 240-page collection of self-contradictory law, much of it inconsistent, obsolete and crippling to the aims of increasing the economic well-being of the Third World.

(Jim Anderson, UPI)

SOVIET NAVAL CUTBACKS REPORTED

U.S. Intelligence Officials Notes Gorbachev's Budget Reductions

Soviet President Gorbachev's military budget cuts forced the Soviet navy to scale back submarine production, reduce Pacific fleet operations, keep vessels in port longer and spend less time at sea, the Navy's chief intelligence officer told a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee yesterday.

The Soviet navy also took more surface ships out of active service last year than any in recent history, and began selling major combat ships for scrap on the world market, according to intelligence assessments.

U.S. Navy officials, eager to head off more cutbacks in their forces as a result of the Soviet reductions, said that despite the cuts, technological improvements in new ships and submarines have left the Soviet navy "more capable now than when Gorbachev came to power," according to Rear Adm. Thomas Brooks, director of naval intelligence.

(Molly Moore, Washington Post, A12)

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NATIONAL NEWS

DEMOCRATS' DOUBTS ON TOWER LINGER

Nunn Says 'Important' Questions About Investment Remain

Senate Armed Service Committee Chairman Nunn and several other Democrats yesterday challenged President Bush's assertion that all allegations against John Tower have been "gunned down" and said doubts remain about several issues, including Tower's secret drinking habits.

"That's the President's opinion, and I'm sure he thought carefully about it; that's not my opinion," Nunn said after a three-hour closed committee meeting on the latest FBI report into Tower's background.

The Democratic rebuttal to Bush came as Sen. Exon...became the first member of the panel to say publicly he will vote against confirmation. Exon cited doubts over whether Tower has a continuing drinking problem and said, "In my opinion, there remains a sufficient amount of doubt that it is not in the interest of the national defense to take that chance."

As the committee continued to aim for a vote on the nomination today, Nunn said the panel has requested additional materials, including information on a recently disclosed oil-drilling investment Tower made as a senator in 1981 that was arranged with the help of a lawyer whose son was recommended by Tower for nomination as a federal judge at about the same time.
(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

SENATORS DISPUTE BUSH'S CLAIM OF A CLEAN FBI BILL OF HEALTH FOR TOWER

Senators of both parties Wednesday disputed President Bush's assertion that the latest FBI report vindicated John Tower, while Sen. Nunn said he remains undecided how he will vote on the nomination....

Although Bush [Tuesday dismissed allegations of improper behavior by Tower in light of the new FBI report], Sen. Warner...told reporters, "Reasonable men and women can look at...(the) facts, and have credible differences of opinion."

Appearing with Nunn, Warner refused to express his support of Tower, saying that he has "an open mind."

...Sen. Wirth said he was "deeply skeptical [of the findings in the FBI report]."

...Sen. Dixon said he remained concerned because "there is a good deal in the...updated FBI report -- contrary to what the President and the administration say -- that does suggest current, relatively current and contemporaneous types of improprieties that one ought to be concerned about."

Sen. Dole...acknowledged that the President's description of the report as clearing Tower of suspicion of misbehavior was "not totally accurate" but maintained, "There's nothing in that report that any fair-minded person reading it would disqualify Tower."
(Finlay Lewis, Copley)

DEMOCRAT SAYS HE WILL OPPOSE TOWER

Sen. Exon says he will oppose John Tower's nomination as defense secretary because of concerns over his drinking and predicts the vote on his confirmation will be close.

The Nebraska Democrat...said Wednesday night he would vote against Tower, primarily because of concerns about whether he had conquered a drinking problem.

"It's my judgment that we do not wish to take that chance," he said....

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater...was told Exon...said the FBI report did not clear Tower.

"We disagree," Fitzwater said. "There are hundreds and hundreds of interviews with everyone from bartenders to chamber maids. We believe the report shows no reason why Sen. Tower should not be confirmed.

(William Scally, Reuter)

NUNN CHALLENGES PRESIDENT'S ASSESSMENT OF NEW FBI REPORT

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and other Democrats on Wednesday challenged President Bush's assessment that an FBI report on John Tower had "gunned down" allegations against the defense secretary-designate.

"I did not agree with the President's assessment of this latest segment of the FBI report.... The President's entitled to his view, but I think most people reading that would not come to the same conclusion," said Sen. Nunn after he chaired a three-hour, closed-door session of the committee.

Nunn said the panel was waiting for more material from the White House on the embattled nomination as well as a transcript from a separate investigation that a House subcommittee is conducting into alleged security lapses in the arms control delegation in Geneva in 1986 while Tower was a member.

Congressional sources said the subcommittee heard testimony Wednesday from a former secretary to the arms control delegation who said that before her subcommittee appearance, she felt she was intimidated by White House staff.

Deborah Baker told the panel that on Tuesday she met with White House staff who stressed that Tower was the President's nominee and emphasized to her the serious implications of her testimony, said the sources, who requested anonymity....

Rep. Dingell, chairman of the subcommittee, told reporters afterward he was "particularly troubled that there appears to have been an attempt made to limit the testimony of one of the witnesses to the committee."

(Donna Cassata, AP)

ETHICS PANEL TENTATIVELY BACKS HONORARIA BAN IN TOP JOBS

President Bush's commission on ethics reform decided yesterday to recommend a ban on receipt of honoraria for top officials of all three branches of the federal government.

In a day-long session, the panel members also proposed extending to Congress and the judiciary the present executive branch rule limiting outside income to 15% of an individual's salary. They agreed to propose that Congress establish a joint ethics committee to centralize its own policing and policies, and that the role of the Office of Government Ethics be expanded as the central source of ethics regulation and advice....

[Commission Chairman] Malcolm Wilkey emphasized as the session opened that decisions made by consensus in open sessions are not final, saying that "nothing is decided until there is a draft report and (the eight members) have signed on." The panel is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the report, which is due to be delivered to the President by March 9....

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

IN HILL CAMPAIGN FUNDS, ALMOST ANYTHING GOES Lawmakers Largely Define What Is Political

Using campaign contributions intended for a reelection bid in 1992, Sen. Wirth spent \$600 for tickets to the 1987 Super Bowl. Using money from his 1992 campaign chest, Sen. D'Amato paid \$4,138.23 to upholster furniture in his Capitol Hill office. In the name of his 1990 race, Sen. Pressler spent \$225.75 to stuff a Canada goose for later mounting on the wall of his Senate office.

The legitimacy of these and other expenditures -- a portion of more than \$200 million in campaign funds spent by members of Congress since 1987 -- has not been questioned by the FEC or by the House and Senate ethics committees.

Under the current system of campaign finance regulation, not a penny of the \$200 million is routinely audited by the FEC....

Both the House and Senate have rules prohibiting the use of campaign money for personal expenses, but it is left largely to the individual member of Congress to define the difference between personal and campaign expenses....

(Jim McGee, Washington Post, A1)

WRIGHT TO BE 'NO.1 TARGET' OF GOP IN 1990 Rollins Plans To Make Speaker An Issue In House Races

Edward Rollins, the new executive director of the House Republican campaign committee, said yesterday he intends to make Speaker Wright his "No. 1 target" in 1990 by bankrolling a challenge in Wright's home district and by making an issue in reelection campaigns of other House Democrats.

Rollins, a veteran GOP operative hired to reinvigorate the National Republican Congressional Committee, predicted that the House Ethics Committee's investigation of Wright's financial dealings will lend "ammunition" to making the speaker an issue in close House races.

(Tom Kenworthy, Washington Post, A14)

BUSH, TOP GOP FIGURES WILL AID IN PARTY RECRUITMENT EFFORT

President Bush and other top administration officials will help the Republican Party recruit high-quality candidates to challenge Democratic incumbents in an effort to reduce the Democrats' overwhelming congressional majority, GOP Chairman Atwater said Wednesday.

While becoming the majority in the House "is not a short-term possibility" for the Republican Party, Atwater said, a GOP effort has begun to persuade Republicans to run against Democrats....

In a meeting with reporters, Atwater said Bush, some Cabinet officers and other party "stars" will attend fund-raising events for GOP challengers and make other appearances on their behalf.

(Benjamin Shore & Marcus Stern, Copley)

PRICE RISE IS FASTEST SINCE 1987

Fed Chief Finds Data 'Disturbing'; Stocks Falls Sharply

Consumer prices rose in January at the fastest pace in two years, the Labor Department reported yesterday. The chairman of the Federal Reserve called the news "disturbing," and warned that a continuing trend of worsening inflation could bring on a recession.

In response to the news, the stock market had its worst day in three months as fears of higher interest rates sent the Dow down more than 40 points...

"If inflation worsens, a recession will move up on us more quickly than you can imagine and it will be prolonged," Fed Chairman Greenspan predicted in testimony to Congress....

Officials of the Bush administration took a less pessimistic view of the price figures. Michael Boskin, chairman of the CEA, said it was not clear from the report "whether this is a short blip (upward in inflation) that will last a month or two, or a long-term trend."

In testimony before the Joint Economic Committee, Boskin said there is "a certain ambiguity" in recent price statistics about the the prospect for an acceleration of inflation, but he added that if inflation is heading higher, "it is incumbent on us to take swift action."

(John Berry & Paul Blustein, Washington Post, A1)

WHITE HOUSE RAISES S&L BAILOUT ESTIMATE

The government's estimate of the cost of bailing out the S&L industry over the next decade jumped again yesterday to \$157 billion, 25% higher than the projection the White House issued just two weeks ago.

Treasury Secretary Brady told the Senate Banking Committee that the government will have to spend \$114 billion during the next 10 years to close or merge hundreds of ailing S&Ls and another \$43 billion in interest payments on that debt....

Brady defended the Bush plan to Republican and Democratic critics who said it is inadequate to clean up the current mess and have enough money left over to create a new fund to insure S&L deposits.

(Kathleen Day, Washington Post, E1)

DARMAN PRESSED TO DETAIL BUDGET CUTS

Democrats pressed Budget Director Darman yesterday for details on President Bush's \$1.16 trillion budget, saying it was incomplete until the administration identifies domestic spending.

"I recognize that the strategy is to avoid painful choices that would prove unpopular and perhaps confrontational with Congress," House Budget Committee Chairman Panetta told Darman during a committee hearing.

"But as John Kennedy said, 'To govern is to choose.' Leadership demands that these choices be made," Panetta said.

Darman...defended Bush's proposal as a "complete and detailed budget," and Republican lawmakers said Congress was the branch of government lacking in leadership.

"The problem isn't lack of data, it's lack of decision-making here in Congress," said Rep. Gradison, Ohio Republican.

(Jennifer Spevacek, Washington Times, A3)

HAMILTON 'RELIED' ON NORTH

Rep. Hamilton, the first prosecution witness at the trial of Oliver North, testified yesterday that North and his bosses at the NSC repeatedly assured him in 1985 and 1986 that they were complying with "both the spirit and the letter" of a congressional ban on military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Hamilton...said that as chairman of the House intelligence committee he relied on their word for more than a year, until November 1986 when the Iran-contra scandal burst into the headlines....

Hamilton's appearance turned into an understated, day-long duel with North's defense lawyer, Brendan Sullivan, over Hamilton's vigilance as overseer of the intelligence community, the meaning of the congressional ban on contra aid and the politics underlying leaks of classified material.

(George Lardner, Washington Post, A1)

SULLIVAN PREPARED TO TELL CONGRESS HE MISSPOKE ON ABORTION

Dr. Louis Sullivan will tell Congress at his confirmation hearing that he "misspoke" his position on abortion both in a newspaper interview and to a senator, a source close to the HHS secretary-designate said Wednesday.

In his opening statement to the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, he will say he misrepresented his views when he said he supported women's right to abortion and the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"He'll say he misspoke," the source said. "He's going to say his personal view, his public view is that he's against abortion," with the same exceptions that President Bush endorses: in cases of rape, incest and danger to the life of the mother.

(Deborah Mesce, AP)

ENERGY DEPARTMENT 'MESS'

Energy Secretary-designate Watkins said Wednesday he must fix "the mess" within the department's bureaucracy before tackling a bigger problem -- massive pollution and safety problems at government nuclear weapons plants.

Watkins, appearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for his confirmation hearing, said the Energy Department's management system was so "antique and outdated" that it had little effective control over operations at the nuclear plants.

-more-

(George Lobsenz, UPI)

ANALYSIS OF SAVANNAH RIVER TRITIUM REACTORS
AT LEAST A YEAR FROM COMPLETION

The Energy Department cannot complete a major analysis of its three idled tritium production reactors at Savannah River, S.C. before the first one is ready to be restarted, a department adviser told Congress on Wednesday.

It's "probably going to take a lot longer than a year" to prove that the reactors can safely withstand the most serious plausible accident they are expected to face, John Ahearne told the energy and power subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. (Guy Darst, AP)

MILITARY URGED TO 'LEAD' IN FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

The U.S. military "has got to take the lead" in the war against illegal drugs no matter how much of the Pentagon's budget is needed, Chairman Mavroules of the House Armed Services investigations subcommittee said yesterday at a hearing that dramatized the growing political pressure to push the armed forces deeper into the nation's anti-drug campaign.

"You have \$300 billion to play with," Mavroules said of the Pentagon's fiscal 1989 budget. "You can and you should use any part of it for this emergency. This is national security."

Marine Lt. Gen. Stephen Olmstead, deputy assistant secretary of defense for drug policy and enforcement, and Army Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified that the armed services are far along in committing the \$308 million that Congress set aside for the military's anti-drug war last year....

(George Wilson, Washington Post, A12)

HOUSE AG COMMITTEE CRITICIZES WHITE HOUSE FOR FARM SUBSIDY CUTS

The House Agriculture Committee criticized White House proposals for massive cuts in farm spending Wednesday and asked House budget writers to keep the Agriculture Department funding at its current level.

In a letter to the House Budget Committee, the Agriculture Committee also questioned the value of administration suggestions to replace rural development loan programs with loan guarantees. (UPI)

FLOOD OF REFUGEE APPLICANTS SLOWS TO TRICKLE;
OFFICIALS CREDIT NEW POLICY

BAYVIEW, Texas -- The flood of Central Americans applying for refugee status slowed to a trickle Wednesday, and immigration officials said their get-tough policy of immediately jailing those denied asylum appeared to be working.

Only 12 people showed up at the asylum-processing center at an immigration jail when it opened Wednesday morning, compared with hundreds who had camped overnight since processing was moved here from Harlingen a week ago.

Fewer than 1% of the immigrants applying were granted refugee status, and at least 100 denied asylum were jailed. (AP)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 22

PRESIDENT'S TRIP/HIROHITO FUNERAL

ABC's PETER JENNINGS: On this Thursday morning here in Tokyo, the Japanese can positively feel their nation becoming the center of international attention. For one thing, the almost-obsessive security here for the Emperor's funeral tomorrow is making it a little more difficult to get to work on time -- even difficult to get into the country.... President Bush is on his way across the Pacific tonight, and more than 100 other world leaders have already arrived.... For one thing, it is President Bush's first appearance on the world stage as a leader, not as a supporting player. And while funeral diplomacy tends to be abbreviated and fairly subdued, the Japanese antenna searching for signals from Washington has certainly been alerted by today's economic news (See "INFLATION".) (ABC-Lead)

NBC's GARRICK UTLEY: George Bush left for Asia on his first presidential trip overseas. He stopped off briefly in Alaska on his way to Japan and Emperor Hirohito's funeral. After that, the President will also visit China and South Korea. He told an audience of Alaskans that his Asian journey is aimed at strengthening America's relationship with America's friends and partners in the Pacific.
(TV COVERAGE of arrival ceremony in Anchorage.) (NBC-13)

U.S.-JAPAN POLL

RATHER reports a new CBS News-New York Times-Tokyo Broadcasting System poll shows 7 of 10 in both countries say they have generally friendly feelings toward the other. Yet, while the Japanese overwhelmingly say U.S.-Japanese trade is a good thing, Americans are not so sure. 40% of Americans said trade with Japan is bad for the U.S. economy, while 34% say it is good. There is distrust on the other side as well. If Japan were attacked, would the U.S. help defend it? The vast majority of Americans say yes, but the Japanese don't feel at all secure about that. 46% said the U.S. would not help.
(CBS-2)

INFLATION

CBS's DAN RATHER: ...For the first month of 1989, U.S. consumer prices took their biggest jump in two years, underscoring fears of a new round of inflation and a new spiral of interest rates.

CBS's RAY BRADY reports that on the New York stock exchange, investors were not at all happy with today's figures. The jump in prices was far more than anyone expected, and that sent stock prices tumbling, the Dow falling more than 42 points in active trading. For Americans, the cost of living rose last month 0.6%. That ends two years of moderate inflation, because today's increase worked out to an annual rate of 7.2%, a figure that was called "disturbing" today by Fed Chairman Greenspan in testimony before the House Banking Committee.

(GREENSPAN: "Let me stress that the current rate of inflation, let alone an increase, is not acceptable. And our policies are designed to reduce inflation in coming years.") (CBS-Lead)

ABC'S KEN PRUITT reports a large part of the increase was due to higher food prices, and that can be traced to shortages because of last summer's drought. And with OPEC stabilizing oil prices, the cost of energy has been moving up. Increases in energy and food prices were expected, but more than six years after the end of the recession, there have also been some basic changes in the American economy that have been slowly pushing the rate of inflation higher. Many industries are running near capacity and some parts of the country have more jobs than workers. That's helped drive wages up more than 20% in the past five years. To try to stop that upward spiral, the Fed is pushing interest rates up in an effort to slow the economy down and keep prices from going higher still. (NBC-2, ABC-2)

STOCKS

UTLEY reports the inflation figures had a crushing effect on Wall Street. The Dow closed down 42 points. Analysts said the market is worried that higher inflation will bring higher interest rates and make stocks less attractive. (ABC-3, NBC-3)

UTLEY: Fed Chairman Greenspan added to the market's fears. He called the inflation figures "disturbing" and he said inflation would bring on recession sooner and cause it to last longer.

NBC's MIKE JENSEN reports that the inflation figures are not just a blip or an aberration. It's not going to continue at a 7.2% rate for the year, but it is back as a problem. The thing to remember is the economy is strong right now. Most experts say the economy will be strong for the rest of the year. However, with inflation rising, with interest rates going up, that could push us into a recession.

TOWER NOMINATION

NBC's GARRICK UTLEY: John Tower is still waiting...for the verdict of a Senate committee as to whether he should finally be confirmed as secretary of defense. It was thought that with the final FBI report submitted to the senators, a vote would take place tomorrow. But when committee members saw the report today, many of them said it still did not settle their concerns.

NBC's ANDREA MITCHELL: The Armed Services Committee says it still has not received all the documents it wants from the White House. At the same time, leading members -- including Sen. Nunn -- say they still have doubts about Tower that were not resolved by the FBI report. Nunn said he has not yet decided how he will vote, but is still worried about Tower's drinking. (SEN. NUNN: "There are continuing concerns that I think I have and I am sure that other members have. There will be differing interpretations by different senators as to the facts that have come forth in the FBI report and how to weigh those facts.")

MITCHELL: "But Senator, President Bush said all those concerns were resolved by the FBI report."

NUNN: "Well, that's the President's opinion, and I'm sure that he has thought about that carefully. That is not my opinion.")

Sen. Warner agreed that the FBI report was not definitive.

(SEN. WARNER: "That reasonable men and women can look at those...facts and have credible differences of opinion.")

MITCHELL continues: Tower has vigorously denied that he has a drinking problem. In his defense, Sen. Dole said every member should read the FBI report and ignore negative polls back home.

(SEN. DOLE: "There's been a lot of garbage heaped upon this nominee for the last 30 days, and enough garbage heaped on anybody begins to have an impact after awhile.")

But some Democrats see it differently. Levin accused the White House of giving an inaccurate account of the FBI findings. Exon said the report does not give Tower a clean bill of health on recent drinking. Exon says he's leaning against the nomination. Wirth said every allegation has not been shot down. And tonight, Exon has said he has decided to vote against Tower, that Bush should nominate someone else. (NBC-Lead)

ABC'S JIM WOOTEN: Sen. Nunn said he still has some concerns about Tower's use of alcohol, despite the President's insistence yesterday that that matter had been cleared up by the FBI's latest report.

(SEN. NUNN: "The President's entitled to his view, but I think most people reading that will not come to that same conclusion.")

And Democrats Exon and Levin said much the same thing. They're not yet satisfied that drinking is no longer a problem for Tower. So the committee will meet behind closed doors again tomorrow to decide whether they'll vote at last or continue the delay. Sen. Dole wasn't pleased.

(SEN. DOLE: "There's been a lot of garbage heaped upon this nominee for the last 30 days, and enough garbage heaped on anybody it begins to have an impact after awhile.")

But Sen. Warner said there was still plenty of room for honorable debate on the matter.

(SEN. WARNER: "In my judgement, there could be reasonable and honest, credible differences of opinion with respect to some facts.")

Warner and Nunn took great pains to say the final decision is in the hands of the full Senate, as if to say they'd be glad to get it off theirs. Meanwhile, Tower remains in a political purgatory, neither voted in nor out of the job he's wanted for years. (ABC-4)

CBS's BOB SCHIEFFER: After a closed three-hour meeting of the Armed Services Committee, Sen. Nunn said he does not agree with the President that the latest FBI report clears Tower of all the allegations that have been lodged against him.

(SEN. NUNN: "I did not agree with the President's assessment of this latest segment of the FBI report. The President's entitled to his view, but I think most people reading that will not come to that same conclusion.")

(SEN. WARNER: "In my judgement, there can be reasonable and honest, credible differences of opinion with respect to some facts.")

The nomination has apparently hit another snag. Nunn remains concerned about whether Tower has a drinking problem. He had planned for the committee to vote on the nomination tomorrow, but now he says that won't happen until the White House hands over more information the committee has been trying to get about Tower. (CBS-5)

JAPAN/TRADE/ALL NIPPON

UTLEY reports All Nippon Airlines announced it will buy 20 Boeing 747s and will pay \$3.15 billion. That is equal to almost 6% of last year's American trade deficit with Japan. (NBC-4)

DAVID DUKE

KOPPEL reports David Duke was sworn in as a member of the state legislature. He promised not to use his position to pursue a racist agenda, but apparently some of his colleagues are not so sure. They have asked to have their seats moved away from him. (NBC-8, ABC-7)

NORTH TRIAL

KOPPEL reports the prosecution opened its case against Oliver North. The first witness: Rep. Hamilton, who told the jury that North denied in 1985 and 1986 that he was helping the contras. (NBC-5, ABC-5)

CHILD ABUSE/SUPREME COURT

ABC's JOHN MARTIN reports the Supreme Court ruled that when a child is not in a locality's custody when he is injured, the locality is not liable for damages even if authorities know about child abuse. (NBC-7, CBS-3, ABC-6)

ISRAEL/SOVIETS/PLO

ABC's DEAN REYNOLDS reports on the meeting between Foreign Ministers Arens and Shevardnadze. The enthusiasm did not extend to the Soviet call for a peace conference sponsored by the U.N., especially because it would include the PLO. But the PLO said it's changing. A videotape of Yasser Arafat's top deputy was smuggled into Israel and shown to a peace seminar in Jerusalem. The official called for direct talks with Israel. In exchange, he said the PLO might change its charter, which calls for destruction of Israel. The U.S. has said it wants a limited Soviet involvement in the region, but in their new initiative the Soviets have already talked to the Israelis and the PLO in the same place at almost the same time -- something Washington has yet to do. (NBC-10, CBS-6, ABC-9)

RUSHDIE/IRAN

JENNINGS reports Ayatollah Khomeini said publication of Salman Rushdie's book was part of a Western plot against Islam. President Khamenei said the order to kill Rushdie will not be revoked. In the U.S., writers demonstrated in support of Rushdie in several cities. (NBC-6, CBS-7, ABC-10)

DRUGS

NBC's BRIAN ROSS reports that, again and again in the war on drugs, prosecutors and agents following the trail to the top of the cocaine business have ended up in places where the State Department fears taking action might endanger lives or foreign policy. There is concern in the Congress about the loss of a number of key people in the drug war. Sen. John Kerry says the war on drugs looks more and more like the Vietnam war. (NBC-9)

-end of News Summary-

George Bush Presidential Library Transfer Sheet

COLLECTION:

Bush Presidential Records
Office of the President

ACCESSION NUMBER:

1993.0001

FOIA/SYSTEMATIC
PROCESSING CASE
NUMBER (if app.):

☐ Transferred During Accessioning

☒ Transferred During Processing

2009-0166-S

The following material was transferred to:

☒ **Audiovisual Collection** ☐ **Book Collection** ☐ **Museum Collection** ☐ **Other**

Other (Specify):

DESCRIPTION:

White House Photograph: P00814-18 [Motorcade departing airport in Tokyo]

When transferring
material to the
museum
collection,
complete the
following.

Donor: _____

Donor Org.: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Book Location:

Row: **Section:** **Shelf:** **Position:**

Map Case Location:**Series:**

Daily Files

Box Number:

4

Folder Title:

Thursday, February 23, 1989

OA/ID Number:

90503-009

Transferred by: Deborah Wheeler

Date of Transfer: 1/23/2009

Received by: Mary Finch

Date Received: 1/23/2009

Go to Database
Navigator

Go to Accession
Register

Go to Withdrawal Sheet

Print Record



Motors
departing
support in
Japan

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

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