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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: 90641
Folder ID Number: 90641-005

Folder Title:
Tuesday, December 17, 1991 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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Tuesday
December 17, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Peggy's letter did not surface until noon Monday (12/16).
POTUS was travelling. I called and talked to Peggy today.
Explained to her what happend -- she was very understanding.
Had a good conversation with her. She'll call the next
time she's headed to Washington. NO FURTHER ACTION AT THIS TIME.

PATRICIA PRESOCK

RZ -
Seji +
file

George Bush Presidential Library Transfer Sheet

COLLECTION:

Bush Presidential Records
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ACCESSION NUMBER:

1993.0001

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The following material was transferred to:

☒ **Audiovisual Collection**

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Other (Specify):

DESCRIPTION:

Photograph: Nancy Bush Ellis with child on her lap

When transferring
material to the
museum
collection,
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Donor:

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Map Case Location:**Series:**

Daily Files

Box Number:

142

Folder Title:

Tuesday, December 17, 1991 [2]

OA/ID Number:

90641-005

Transferred by:

Deborah Wheeler

Date of Transfer:

5/1/2014

Received by:

Mary Finch

Date Received:

5/1/2014

Go to Database
Navigator

Go to Accession
Register

Go to Withdrawal Sheet

Print Record



RZ - recd. 12/16

POTUS
out of town
P.

Peggy Noonan
200 East 66th St
C2004
NY NY 10021

Dec 12, 1991

Dear Mr. President,

I want to thank you for the loveliest of dinners a few weeks ago. You and Mrs. Bush looked so well and happy, but the highlight for me may have been meeting your beautiful sister Nancy, of whom I'd heard so much over the years, and who lives up to her billing.

As usual when I write, I have a request.

My old friend from CBS days, Lesley Stahl, celebrates her 50th birthday (don't tell!) on December 16th. I and a few of her friends -- Nancy Dickerson and Joan Ganz Cooney among them -- are taking her for a celebratory lunch that day. If it is at all possible for you to call while we're having lunch, and wish Lesley happy birthday, it would be greatly appreciated not only by her, and me, but it would remind her of exactly how much she likes you (it happens to be a lot, which I suspect you know), which is never a bad thing to do during an election year, says I. Lesley would be touched that after all those years covering the White House, she's still remembered. That sounds wimpy, but it's true.

We will be at the Jockey Club, in Manhattan, from 12:30pm to 2:00 pm on Monday, December 16th. The number there is 212-664-7700.

It is hard for me to imagine you will be able to take time to do this, but if it's possible a small, frail, helpless blond newscaster for "60 Minutes" will be enormously touched. As will your constant friend,

+ Peggy

And remember,
when, if, you ever
need me, call. I'll
be there.

Peggy Noonan

Dec 12, 1991

Dear Paddy,

Here is the latest of the Bergsons
Heir. for you.

If you can get this to the President
it is greatly appreciated. If not, Paddy,
I understand. It's FedExed because
of the request regarding Lesley Stahl.
I hope and trust you are well

and happy this Christmas Eve, and
not working so hard you forget to see
the lights. My very best wishes for
a wonderful '92 for you and all
of me.

Best,
Peggy

Mrs Betty Prescott
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington DC 20500



THE PRESIDENT

12-17-91

Dear Dr. Martino,

Tane Leonard showed me
your very supportive and thoughtful
letter. I appreciate those
sentiments a lot. I hope you
have a wonderful Christmas. Sincerely,
Bar

FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Rocco Leonard Martino
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
XRT Financial Systems
989 Old Eagle School Road
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087

Rocco Leonard Martino, Ph.D., P.Eng.
Chairman
Chief Executive Officer



December 9, 1991

Ms. Jane Barnett Leonard
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Leonard:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 27th and the enclosed remarks of the President. They are direct and most germane to the needs of the day.

When you see the President, please tell him that we perceive him as a capable and caring man. He is addressing the important issues of the day, including education. He is doing his job in pointing the way. We, as citizens, must accept the challenge and do our part as well.

So, tell the President he has our support, our thanks, and our prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rocco Martino".

RLM/sr

THE WHITE HOUSE

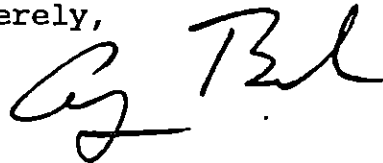
WASHINGTON

Dear Craig:

Thanks for your letter and good wishes. Your words of support mean a lot to me. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

With warm wishes for the holiday season,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Craig Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" and last name "Thomas" clearly distinguishable.

The Honorable Craig Thomas
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

*I like your idea of setting
certain key goals - then
getting them achieved.*

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
December 5, 1991

President George Bush
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

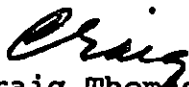
Thank you Mr. President...

for the outstanding leadership you've given to this country during 1991. Certainly there have been more positive changes during this year than any in recent history, and you have been a pivotal part of that change. I'm very proud of the United States and your role. I look forward to 1992 -- it can be a very productive year for the country and for Republicans. It also has the possibility of being a very frustrating year, as Presidential politics infect all the things we do here.

Mr. President, I would hope that the Republicans in Congress can come together in January and, with your counsel, develop four or five goals that we believe will be best for this country. Then we can put together a Republican approach to accomplish them and develop some coordination among all the Republican entities -- the Congress, the White House, the election committees -- and move forward with those issues.

I look forward to working with you in 1992. Again, congratulations on the excellent work you've done for this country during your three years as President of the United States. Very best of personal regards.

Cordially,


Craig Thomas
Member of Congress

Barbara Bush

SB
Want signed
pictures and
a card

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

Bush Library Photocopy
Barbara Bush Handwriting

Document Originally
Attached to
Following Page



THE PRESIDENT

Dec. 17, 1991

Dear Fadwa & Abdullah,
We loved your Christmas
Card.

Here ~~are~~ ^{is} the signed
picture. If you are in
Washington please call
Rose Zamaria 456-6700

FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

His Excellency Abdullah Salah
and Mrs. Salah
Permanent Representative of the
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
866 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

and she will arrange
an "au revoir" — You are
right about this being a busy
time of year and we will
be gone from Dec. 27 til Jan 11th

In any event Hail
and Farewell, my friend
Sincerely, Ag B

The Honorable President of the United States & Mrs George Bush.

Father and I feel proud and privileged and proud of your friendship, attention and support you have given us. We are also gratified that the excellent relations that existed between the U.S. & Jordan is restored to normal. Many thanks to your friends, one of them is my beloved King Hussein, who carries for you the utmost respect and highest esteem. His loyalty, admiration and sincerity to the "Bushes" is unlimited.

Almost after 16 years of service in the States (Washington & New York) the time has come to go back to Jordan and we will be leaving third week of January 1992. On this occasion we remember your kindnesses and the hospitality extended to us in 1971 when we attended the UN session and you invited us to lunch at your Club in Greenwich. Also your extraordinary hospitality during our assignment 1973-1980 when you headed the National Republican Commission and later Head of the CIA. Your unforgettable visit to me at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston in Nov. 1978 after my open heart surgery and the first to take me for dinner upon my release from Hospital. I cannot also forget your warm welcome at home in Houston the day following winning the elections in 1980 when I delivered to you a letter from His Majesty King Hussein before you left for a holiday after the campaign. To top all that your warm reception during your Vice-Presidency and at present as President at the Admiralty House at the White House whenever your eyes fell on us, including your receptions in New York.

The Honorable President of the U.S. and Mrs George Bush.

We hope before we leave, and if it is not much to ask for, if you will be kind enough to honour us by providing us with autographs... photographs of your Excellency & that of Barbara to be placed in a central place of our home in Amman. Could we also be greedy to encroach on your very limited & tight schedule to be given any moment to take your leave & say au revoir. Yours sincerely, Fadwa & Abdullah
Dec. 1991

The Honorable President of the United States of America
and Mrs. George Bush

Wishing you a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year.

The Permanent Representative
of the H. H. of Jordan to the UN
and Mrs. Abdullah Salah

We look forward for the 1992
victory and we hope to
attend your inauguration
for a second term on
20th January 1993.

New York

With warmest regards and
great admiration & highest
respect

Fadwa & Abdullah Salah
Dec. 1991

FOR: His Excellency
Abdella Ould Daddah
(Ambassador of Mauritania and
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps)

Requested by: Amb Ould Daddah

Return to: Wilma Hall, Gen Scowcroft's Ofc



*To His Excellency
Abdella Ould Daddah
With best wishes,*

Ag Bush



THE PRESIDENT

Dec. 17, 1991

Dear Terry,

St. John's Hospital
told us of your wonderful
gift in our name. That's
a perfect Xmas present!
It was great

FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
- WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Jerome C. Weintraub
27740 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, California 90265

(Personal)

hey I am here -
I'm talking to Craig
& Moabacher re: '92 politics.
Good news at the UN
yesterday. Shamin called
me. very pleased.
Have a wonderful
holiday season love to all (G)



Saint John's Hospital and Health Center

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

cfp
1/1

December 1991

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Bush,

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth are pleased to advise you that, in the spirit of this special season, a generous contribution in your name has been made to Saint John's Hospital and Health Center by Jane and Jerry Weintraub.

This gift will help us to further expand our research and health facilities so that we can improve the quality of life and care for our patients and the community at large.

We join the Weintraubs in extending heartfelt wishes for the Holiday Season. We hope the New Year will be one that fills you and your family with a sense of renewal, and that you are blessed with good health and peace.

The President and Mrs. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Attention: Patricia Presock



THE PRESIDENT

Dec. 17, 1991

Dear Doug,

Nick shared with me that
extraordinarily insightful letter
about the functions of a
Chief of Staff. Nick tells me
he also shared it with Sam
Skinner. I want to thank

FROM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Douglas Dillon
Room 2300
1270 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020

(Personal)

you for taking the time to
send along these observations.

These are not easy
things, but I am confident this
economy will bounce back and
that the movie so many Americans
have will be renewed.

In all we Basques have a
lot to be grateful for at this
special time of year. Merry
and a good night to all -
George

Mr President: Including the years at Dallas,
that they better has been with the
me a letter over 5 lines.

NICHOLAS F. BRADY

He was down here for his
father's surgery in and never
mentioned anything about surgery
it is interesting what people
see from afar.

NFB

*Room 2300
1270 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10020*

December 10, 1991

The Hon. Nicholas F. Brady
Department of the Treasury
Pennsylvania Avenue at 15th Street
Washington, D. C. 20220

Dear Nick:

First of all I want to thank you for making time available out of your overloaded schedule for Mark's swearing in. The simple ceremony in my old office meant a lot to me as it did to Mark. We are all of us most grateful.

However, I would also like to pass along a few thoughts on the changing of the guard that took place last week. It has given the President a much needed opportunity to change the public's negative image of him when it comes to domestic matters and the state of the economy. To me the reason for the public's perception of the President as uncaring can be summed up in one word, Sununu.

Unwittingly and unintentionally, Sununu has succeeded in demeaning the President and making him appear weak, vacillating and indecisive when it comes to domestic matters. Sununu has made it clear that it was he, and he alone, who decided who the President should see, what speaking engagements he should accept and where and when he should travel outside of Washington. This may never have been the fact but Sununu gave the public the impression that this was the case, and he was never challenged on this.

More important, Sununu fostered the impression that all major matters of domestic policy were decided by the President's advisors headed by himself. Only after a consensus had been reached would the matter be submitted to the President for routine approval or announcement. In cases where opinions among the advisors differed, the President was not permitted to make a decision on his own. Instead the media were told that the advisors had not as yet been able to reach a decision as to what the President's policy should be. Again, I stress that while this is probably not the way things actually worked, it is the perception that the media and the public received from Sununu's office.

All of this made the President appear to be weak and indecisive on domestic matters and definitely not in charge. The public, however, did not buy this picture. They know the President as a strong, forceful and successful leader of the free world. It just made no sense for such an individual to suddenly become weak and flabby at home. So John Q. Public,

using his usual common sense approach, decided that the answer was a Presidential lack of interest in domestic problems. They assumed that because of this lack of interest, he had effectively delegated Presidential authority in this area to Sununu and other top advisors. This made little difference as long as business was good. But as the economy turned sour and gave indications of staying that way, a goodly portion of the public carried their thinking one step further and decided that the President was uncaring and had little interest in their problems.

The President has obviously been disturbed by this and has been trying to emphasize his undoubted personal concern regarding those in economic difficulty. But he has only been marginally successful, and I doubt that he could have successfully changed this perception as long as the Sununu operation continued.

The changing of the guard has now given the President the opportunity to publicly retake control of the domestic agenda as well as of his personal calendar. But this can only occur if there is a major change in the public's perception of the Chief of Staff and his office. He must be seen as a senior advisor and not a decision maker in his own right. All major administration decisions must be seen by the public as coming from the oval office and nowhere else. Only in this way can the public come to look on their President as truly interested in their plight. This role should not be difficult for the new Chief of Staff. It is the role that has been played so successfully by the President's advisors in the foreign policy area.

With this accomplished, the President will be well on his way to a win next November. I agree fully with his decision not to take any major new steps before the State of the Union message. This and the Budget message should clearly lay out his policies, the policies on which he will run for reelection.

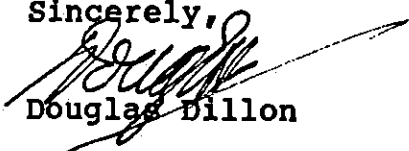
This brings me to the second and final step that is necessary to ensure victory in November. This is what I discussed with you briefly in your office. It will not be enough for the President to announce a series of policies in his messages and then permit the Democratic Congress to throw them into the ashcan without a fight. Instead he must be seen as fighting for his policies. Whether or not he succeeds with the Congress is of importance to the country but has little relevance to the public image he projects or to his reelection. If he succeeds in forcing the Congress to adopt his program he becomes a strong domestic leader. If he fails, as is likely in an election year, he sets the Democratic Congress up as a target, a group with little or no concern for the national interest. The President's recent attacks on the Congress are the right course and should continue, but they presently carry little weight as he is not seen as having worked to get his program adopted. That will change if he starts to truly fight.

That brings me to a final and somewhat less important thought. When I was in Washington during the Eisenhower and Kennedy years, the President's Assistant for Congressional Affairs played an important role in the White House. This was true of Bryce Harlow with Eisenhower and Larry O'Brien with Kennedy. In thinking about these problems, it suddenly struck me that I did not know the name of the current White House official in charge of Congressional Affairs. I have never seen his or her name mentioned in the press and do not know if such a position even exists in the present White House. If it does, it seems to be on a low level with little influence. It will be very difficult for the President to fight effectively for his programs on the Hill without such an office headed by an individual who is known to have personal and regular access to the President and hence can be seen by the Congress as truly speaking for the President.

I have now gone on too long and will stop. I am convinced that the President deserves reelection and feel that, in making this change in the Chief of Staff, he has given himself the opportunity to turn things around. If he, assisted in the proper way by Skinner, takes the necessary steps to make it clear that he and he alone is in charge, and then fights vigorously for his program, whatever it may be, he will surely be successful in leading his party to another victory come November.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,


Douglas Dillon

PS: I need no acknowledgment for this missive. I merely offer the thoughts in the hope that they may contain a grain of something that can be helpful in the coming days and months.



WILLARD S. HEMINWAY JR.

W

Mr. President:

To further your recognition in the "Cup" world, I think you should initiate the "Bush Bluefish Cup". This is for Kennebunkporters only, with date and rules to be announced by you.

With that cup, you will have all the "major" sports covered.

The enclosed was in last Sunday's TIMES.

See you Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Spike and Betsy are
ONG on Tues, Dec 17.

Spike

Large Bluefish Bypass State's Coast

By SAM LIBBY

OFF the Northeast coast, the patterns of migration and distribution of bluefish are changing, and the changes do not benefit Connecticut anglers.

Each year, as local waters begin to warm, millions of large bluefish, weighing 5 to 12 pounds, have usually entered Long Island Sound, fueling the sport fishing industry along the Connecticut shoreline. Large bluefish often feed by driving schools of menhaden, also known as bunkers, before them, until the bluefish can corral them in enclosed portions of the shoreline. The bluefish then attack with a fierce savagery that can turn coastal waters red with the blood of their prey.

But this year the expected feeding frenzies of large bluefish along Connecticut's coast failed to materialize. State fishery scientists said they expected no shortage of smaller two- to five-pound bluefish in Long Island Sound in coming years. But larger bluefish may become relatively rare in local waters, they said, and this could have major effects on Connecticut's multimillion-dollar sports fishing industry.

Late-Arriving Bunkers

"There were a lot of bluefish in Long Island Sound this summer, but there weren't too many large bluefish around here," said a fishery biologist with the State Department of Environmental Protection, David Simpson. "At the same time there was this huge influx of large bluefish into the Gulf of Maine."

From April to October, Mr. Simpson surveys Long Island Sound's fish

populations. Although there was an abundance of smaller two- to three-inch bunkers in the Sound, the schools of larger and older bunkers, which are the main food of the larger bluefish, were small and late to arrive, said Mr. Simpson. The schools of larger bunkers also seemed to prefer the warmer-than-normal waters of the Gulf of Maine, said another state fishery biologist, Rod MacLeod.

At the same time there was "a dramatic increase" of Atlantic her-

Prized fish are following their prey north to the Gulf of Maine

ring in the Gulf of Maine, Mr. Simpson said. Atlantic herring are a preferred prey of the bluefish, and this seems to be another factor that is increasing the Gulf of Maine's population of larger bluefish and diminishing the supply in Long Island Sound, he said.

"Each bluefish season is different," said Raymond Visel, a recreational and commercial fisherman from Madison. "But this year was still real unusual. The big bluefish came in real late, towards the middle and end of October, and it doesn't seem like they've stayed long."

About 15 Clinton anglers had a

short-lived afternoon glut of bluefish on Oct. 17, when a large school of older bluefish attacked a school of larger bunker near Grove Beach. None of the fishermen caught less than six large bluefish, but fishery scientists said that was an isolated incident.

Warmer Water

Larger bluefish in the Gulf of Maine will pass through Long Island Sound as the waters begin to cool in the fall, and they head south, said Mr. Simpson. But these larger fish seem to be spending a relatively short time in local waters, he said.

Water temperatures along the Northeast coast were as much as five to seven degrees above normal this year, Mr. Simpson said. "This is because bluefish are a warm water fish, and the warmer waters are apparently increasing the range of the bluefish into areas like the Gulf of Maine," he said. But the new distribution could cause Long Island Sound to have fewer big bluefish for most of the fishing season, he said.

Bluefish begin entering Long Island Sound when the water temperatures rise to about 60 degrees in late June. Bluefish activity peaks in the Sound when water temperatures rise to as high as 74 degrees in late September and early October. No statistics are available on the value of bluefish to Connecticut's economy. But nationally, the sports fishing industry saw about \$400 million in retail sales related to recreational bluefishing in 1990, according to statistics compiled by the Sports Fishing Institute in Washington, D.C.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDLE!

SPR,

Betsy and Spike will arrive on Tuesday, 12/17/91
into Nat'l on Delta shuttle at 4:30pm.

A WH car will meet them.

They will depart Weds, 12/18/91, time TBD.

Peg.
12/10/91

cc: Rose ✓
Ushers
BB Scheduling

DECEMBER 12, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH

FROM: Patty Presock

FYI ONLY

Jimmy Walker (from New York) will be in town next Tuesday, December 17 (on business for ABC). Laurie Firestone has extended an invitation to him to attend the White House Christmas Reception that evening and he has accepted. He will overnight at The Madison Hotel.

JAMES JACKSON KILPATRICK
POST OFFICE BOX 957
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29402-0957
(803) 577-4123

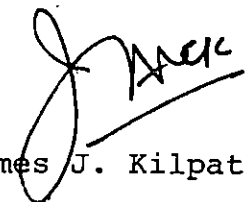
17 December 1991

Dear Marlin--

I'd appreciate it if you would thank the President for his thoughtful note to me. The same mail brought a note from Ron Reagan. Both notes were on the kitchen table when the maid arrived. She will be bragging about this all over the project.

You might also want to pass along the enclosed column to George. The Post runs so few of my pearls of wisdom that he might miss it, and I figure he could use a word of affection and support. Pat has gone bonkers. He ought to move to Charleston, or its humbling equivalent, and discover how fleeting is the fame of columnists and commentators.

All the best,



James J. Kilpatrick

Mr. Marlin Fitzwater,
Press Secretary,
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, DC 20500

JJK:egr

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATED: 12/17/91

A CONSERVATIVE VIEW by James J. Kilpatrick

AWWWW, PAT!

What does one say of an old friend who suddenly has gone bonkers? I could say, awww, Pat, sober up, but Pat Buchanan is no boozier. Or I could say, awww, Pat, be realistic, but in some ways Pat Buchanan is the epitome of realism. The inadequate thing to say is, so long, Pat. Be seein' you.

So he's running for president of the United States. He has entered the New Hampshire primary in February. His intention is "to do a McCarthy." The reference is to the Democratic primary of March 12, 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson was in the pits of unpopularity.

It's widely believed that Lyndon lost the New Hampshire primary to Eugene McCarthy, but it isn't so. The final count showed 27,520 for Johnson (49.6 percent) and 23,263 for McCarthy (41.9 percent), but the impact of McCarthy's showing was too much for LBJ. He threw in his hand.

Maybe Pat Buchanan will roll up such an impressive vote in February that George Bush will limp away into obscurity, a one-term president who failed the tests of leadership. Maybe this will happen, and maybe pigs will fly, but don't bet the ranch.

At the time McCarthy shocked Lyndon Johnson, McCarthy had served ten years in the House and ten years in the Senate. The people of Minnesota had elected him to public office seven

times. He was a well known national figure, the acknowledged leader of those who hated the war in Vietnam.

Pat Buchanan never has run for anything. He is a writer, for Pete's sake; he is a columnist, a TV personality, a pugnacious fellow who can lick any man in the house. When he breathes fire he burns the toast for miles around. One good growl from Buchanan, so the theory goes, and George Bush will collapse with the spavins and heaves.

Ah, me. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, all is vanity. Patrick Buchanan has turned his back on President Bush. So have the editors of National Review and Human Events. And the pathetic thing is that these worthies truly believe that it matters. One hears the lugubrious sighs as decisions of such portentous weight regretfully are reached. They no longer...can...support... the president. So much for Bush! Off with his head.

This is piffle. For the record--and not that it matters a hill of beans--this conservative columnist has NOT abandoned George Bush. He has disappointed me in some respects, but every politician I have ever known has disappointed me in some respects. Bush has good instincts. I will stick with him. That should ensure his reelection.

Permit me a rambling moment. Back in 1962, as I recall, the city of Richmond was represented in the House by a five-term mediocrity, name of J. Vaughan Gary. He was a waffler. I was then the fire-eating editor of the afternoon News Leader. Gary was ripe for plucking.

The sachems of Virginia's Byrd Organization came to me. We hiked literally to a mountain top. They would provide the money, the volunteers, the managers, a good job if I lost. Say yes, they beguiled me, and with the blessing of Harry Byrd I might aspire one day to his seat in the Senate.

It was a powerful temptation, it really was, but I put the devils behind me. In my world, which is a world of reporters and politicians, we live according to a great divide. An invisible river separates us from them. If I chose to take on Vaughan Gary I would cross a Rubicon, never to return. (As it turned out, an obscure physician ran against Gary in 1962 and nearly licked him. Two years later Gary retired.)

Us and them. I hate to see Pat Buchanan cross the river. He speaks in his column for a substantial constituency within the Republican party. A great many of us believe, as he believes, that the United States has done far more than its share in defending democratic ideals around the world. We agree that an answer to our fiscal problems lies in spending less, rather than in taxing more.

But Pat also has identified himself with another constituency. He speaks for the turtle conservatives, for all those who see the world dimly from beneath an isolationist shell. These people don't want to govern. They want only to grouse. Buchanan has too much talent, too much latent good

KILPATRICK

-4-

17 DECEMBER 91

sense, to go to bed with this crowd of ankle biting malcontents.

Well, Pat, off we go to New Hampshire. You go with them. I'll go with us. Be seein' you.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 12/28/91

NOTE FOR: CHIEF OF STAFF, BOB TEETER
AND RON KAUFMAN

The President has reviewed the attached, and it is
forwarded to you for your:

Information ☒

Action ☐

Thank you.

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
(x2702)

cc: Rose Zamaria

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 16, 1991

Attached is an exchange of letters between the former Secretary of Transportation Samuel Skinner and the President:



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

31 DEC 13 49:08

December 12, 1991

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

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully submit my resignation as Secretary of Transportation, effective December 16, 1991. It has been a great honor to serve in your Cabinet, and I look forward to working even more closely with you as your Chief of Staff.

These have been challenging times at the Department of Transportation, and the Department has accomplished a great deal under your leadership. During our first year we developed your statement of National Transportation Policy, which emphasized increased investment in transportation infrastructure and greater reliance on market principles. In the second year we passed the most comprehensive aviation legislation since the deregulation of the airline industry. In our third year we successfully guided through Congress landmark surface transportation legislation -- legislation that will restructure the Nation's Federal surface transportation programs for the post-Interstate era and improve America's productivity and competitiveness well into the 21st century.

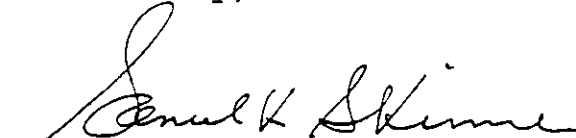
At the same time, the Department has, at your request, successfully responded to several unforeseen challenges. We put in place measures to improve the security of civil aviation in the wake of the tragic bombing of Pan American flight 103. When Eastern Airlines' employees went on strike, we sought to minimize the impact on the traveling public and to ensure that safety was not adversely affected. We managed the massive cleanup of the oil spill in Prince William Sound. We provided emergency assistance and began the process of rebuilding after Hurricane Hugo and the Loma Prieta earthquake. We successfully marshalled the resources of the aviation and maritime sectors in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. And we worked with Congress to pass legislation ending a national railroad strike just 18 hours after it commenced.

I will be forever grateful that you asked me to lead the dedicated men and women of the Department of Transportation through one of the most demanding periods in its history. Your firm commitment

to our Nation's transportation system made all our successes possible.

Mr. President, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,



Samuel K. Skinner

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1991

Dear Sam:

I regret that the Department of Transportation will no longer have the benefit of your dynamic leadership, but I am delighted that you have agreed to continue to serve in my Administration as Chief of Staff.

Your hard work as Secretary of Transportation has produced a long list of remarkable accomplishments. You developed a comprehensive statement of National Transportation Policy, which set the Department's priorities and strategies for years to come. You took vigorous steps to ensure that America's commercial aviation system will remain safe and competitive. You shepherded landmark aviation and surface transportation legislation through the halls of Congress. You persuaded the legislature to act swiftly to end the April 1991 national railroad strike -- a strike which, had it persisted, might have brought the Nation's economy to a virtual standstill. And you masterfully managed every crisis that came your way: the Eastern Airlines strike; the mammoth oil spill in Prince William Sound; Hurricane Hugo; the Loma Prieta earthquake in California; and the transportation requirements of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

These marvelous accomplishments are, however, only part of your legacy. Your well-known personal commitment to the 106,000 employees of the Department of Transportation has improved the morale and efficiency of its dedicated work force. Years after you have left the Department, that commitment will continue to pay dividends.

Barbara and I deeply appreciate all you have done for my Administration and look forward to having you at our side in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,

/S/ GEORGE BUSH

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
Secretary of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Jerome C. Weintraub
27740 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, California 90265

(Personal)



THE PRESIDENT

Dec-17, 1991

Dear Terry,

St. John's Hospital
told us of your wonderful
gift in our name. That's
a perfect Xmas present!

It was great

having you here.

I'm talking to Craig
a Mosbacher re: '92 politics.

Good news at the UN
yesterday. Sharon called
me, very pleased.

Have a wonderful
holiday season Love to all Cjs

cc: (len & out)
- Nicki Richnow
(Gift Unit)
- Jan Burmeister ✓



Saint John's Hospital and Health Center
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CP

December 1991

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Bush,

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth are pleased to advise you that, in the spirit of this special season, a generous contribution in your name has been made to Saint John's Hospital and Health Center by Jane and Jerry Weintraub.

This gift will help us to further expand our research and health facilities so that we can improve the quality of life and care for our patients and the community at large.

We join the Weintraubs in extending heartfelt wishes for the Holiday Season. We hope the New Year will be one that fills you and your family with a sense of renewal, and that you are blessed with good health and peace.

The President and Mrs. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Attention: Patricia Presock

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 16, 1991

The President today announced his intention to appoint Major General Russell Clark Davis, of Virginia, to be Commanding General of the Militia of the District of Columbia. He would succeed Calvin G. Franklin. Currently, Major General Davis serves as Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander of the Tactical Airlift Command at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

#

10:45 A.M. EST NEWS UPDATE

HOUSING STARTS (Reuter) -- Construction of new homes and apartments fell modestly in November, the Commerce Department said, possibly hurt by bitter winter weather in some regions that curbed building activity.

GORBACHEV (Rome/AP) -- President Yeltsin is quoted as saying there is no role for President Gorbachev in the new commonwealth of republics. La Repubblica also quotes Yeltsin, during an interview, as saying the Soviet president ought to resign by the middle of the month.... Yeltsin said each republic will be free to retain its own army.

(Moscow/AP) -- President Gorbachev will accept the Commonwealth once lawmakers in the former Soviet republics ratify the new federation, and will then decide his own role, spokesman Andrei Grachev told reporters.

SOVIETS/BAKER (Bishkek/Reuter) -- Secretary Baker has been assured that the Soviet military will stay out of politics despite a radical transformation of the former communist superpower, an anonymous senior U.S. official said.

(Bishkek, Kirghizia/UPI) -- Secretary Baker arrived in Bishkek on the first leg of his Central Asian republic trip to promote democracy and to receive further assurances on Soviet nuclear safety.... A senior Bush Administration official told reporters the U.S. expects Soviet Defense Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov to assume the new position of commander in chief after arrangements are made to conclude the signing of the new commonwealth agreement.

JAPAN (Tokyo/UPI) -- President Bush may press for concessions on the trade gap during his visit in January, but Japan will resist being drawn into detailed negotiations, Deputy Press Secretary Sadaaki Numata told reporters.... "The visit itself is not seen (by Japan) as the place to...resolve specific issues," he said.... Numata added that Japan sees the visit as a chance to educate the U.S. executives about the Japanese markets.

CHINA/TARIFFS (Beijing/Reuter) -- China says a U.S. threat to impose punitive tariffs on Chinese goods was "discrimination" and has warned Washington such measures would not compel Beijing to take action to protect U.S. patents and copyrights. Such foreign pressure does not work with China, and trade disputes should be solved through dialogue, a commentary in Outlook magazine said.

ISRAELI ATTACKS (Rashaya, Lebanon/AP) -- Israeli warplanes struck a suspected Palestinian guerrilla base in southeast Lebanon, Lebanese and Israeli officials said. There was no immediate report on casualties.

HAITIAN REFUGEES (Miami/UPI) -- Coast Guard cutters rescued 156 Haitian migrants from three overloaded boats in the Windward Passage, bringing the total number rescued at sea to 7,734 since Oct. 29, spokesman Petty Officer Roger Wetherell said.

1:15 P.M. EST NEWS UPDATE

END OF SOVIET UNION (Moscow/AP) -- President Gorbachev and President Yeltsin met to discuss the fate of the central government, and Yeltsin spokesman Pavel Voshchanov was quoted as saying afterward that the Soviet Union will cease to exist in two weeks. He said the Soviet flag will be taken down from atop the Kremlin on New Year's Eve, according to Interfax news agency.

YUGOSLAVIA/U.S. RELIEF (Reuter) -- The U.S. contributed \$7 million in relief aid to help refugees from the civil war in Yugoslavia.... President Bush directed Secretary Baker in a letter to use \$7 million in U.S. emergency refugee funds "to meet unexpected urgent needs of refugees and other displaced persons resulting from the civil conflict in Yugoslavia."

MIDEAST TALKS (AP) -- President Bush urged Israeli and Arab negotiators to overcome their procedural wrangles and get down to the business of peace talks. Bush delivered his message to Israeli foreign minister David Levy, and similar appeals were made to the Arab partners in the peace talks, Administration officials said.

ISRAELI TERRITORIES (Jerusalem/Reuter) -- Israel, responding to a U.S. plea that it restrain Jewish settlers who Washington accuses of trying to sabotage peace efforts, said that it was doing everything necessary to maintain law and order in the occupied territories, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

SUPER COLLIDER/JAPAN (AP) -- The super collider is gaining new momentum with word Japan will help fund the giant science project, Rep. Barton says. "Now it's just a question of how many dollars, and what kind of participation," he said, responding to Japanese press reports that Prime Minister Miyazawa has decided to commit funding to the collider.... The Asahi News Service, quoting sources in Miyazawa's office, said the prime minister will discuss funding for the Texas project when he meets with President Bush in January. But a spokesman for the Energy Department said that he could not confirm the press report.

BUCHANAN (AP) -- Pat Buchanan asserted that Republican officials are actively seeking to frustrate his long-shot challenge to President Bush and "we're not going to sit still for it."... He complained that the RNC had denied him access to its list of GOP contributors and to its research on Democratic candidates. Furthermore, he said, neither President Bush nor Clayton Yeutter was willing to intervene to put his name on the South Dakota primary ballot on Feb. 25.

SYRIA (Damascus/Reuter) -- President Assad pardoned 2,864 prisoners who committed crimes against national security, Syrian Interior Minister Mohammad Harba announced.... Diplomats said most of those pardoned were members of the fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood who committed armed attacks against the state.

5:00 P.M. EST NEWS UPDATE

EDUCATION 2000 (Lori Santos, UPI) -- President Bush picked up the phone to tout education in New Hampshire but focused more on addressing the economic woes of the key political arena where the first-in-the-nation primary soon will be held. With the official deadline for entering the Feb. 18 primary just days away, Bush chose to speak long distance to the critical political battleground as part of a continuing series of such calls he has made across the country to plug his America 2000 education program.

KAZAKHSTAN (Alma-Ata/AP) -- Secretary Baker traveled to Kazakhstan, an Asian republic that says it wants its own U.N. seat and may keep its nuclear weapons in the new commonwealth.... Spokesman Seitcazy Mataev told reporters Kazakhstan would like to dismantle its nuclear missiles but would retain those not covered by agreements with the U.S. if Russia held onto some nuclear weapons as well.

UKRAINIAN RECOGNITION (Kiev/AP) -- Ukrainians anxious for U.S. recognition of their republic's independence appealed for President Bush to make the decision before the new commonwealth is officially forged. "President Bush himself said it would be a matter of weeks. But he did not say months. So, I think (recognition) will come by the end of the year," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Volodymyr Chorny told the AP.

ZIONISM RESOLUTION (Laurence McQuillan/Reuter) -- President Bush said the U.N. will become a more effective organization now that it has repealed its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism.... State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said U.S. bilateral relations with countries which voted against the resolution could be affected by their negative votes.

MIDEAST TALKS (AP) -- Mideast negotiations edged to the brink of collapse, as Israelis and Palestinians failed to heed President Bush's call to overcome a bitter procedural dispute and get on with peace talks.... Israel, attempting to cut off the protracted wrangling, announced it would go home Wednesday night.... Israel's talks with Syria failed to register progress.

FED (New York/UPI) -- The Fed's policy making panel met, amid predictions by economists and financial market participants that it would act to give the economy a boost by easing credit conditions and allowing interest rates to come down.

IRAQ FOOD SHORTAGES (Cairo/Reuter) -- Iraqi envoy Nabil Nejm al-Takriti said after handing the Cairo-based Arab League a list of urgently needed medical supplies, 80,000 of its children have died because of shortages caused by U.N. sanctions imposed over its invasion of Kuwait.

CHILD PROTECTION (AP) -- Reports of child abuse and neglect are growing along with a need for more foster care and welfare, but the funds of many state child welfare agencies are being cut, The Child Welfare League of America, Inc. reported.... The league called on President Bush and Congress to enact comprehensive child welfare legislation that is pending in the House and Senate.

daily

THE WHITE HOUSE

MRS. BUSH'S PRESS OFFICE

DAILY PRESS CLIPPINGS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1991

Mrs. Bush	(in folder)
Secretary Skinner	West Wing
Marlin Fitzwater	West Wing
Constance Horner	West Wing
Carol Powers	West Wing
→ Patty Presock	West Wing
First Lady Detail	Staircase
Karen Connell	Room 58 OEOB
Shirley Green	Room 94 OEOB
Anne Griffith	Room 98 OEOB
Diana Kellogg	Room 157 OEOB
Gregg Petersmeyer	Room 100 OEOB
Marguerite Sullivan	Room 268 OEOB
Carolyn Washington	Room 268 OEOB
Benita Somerfield	hold one copy
Ann Brock	
Julie Cooke	
Joan DeCain	
Laurie Firestone	
Jane Moore	
Susan Porter Rose	
Sally Runion	
Peggy Swift	
Anna Perez	
Sondra Haley	
Jean Becker	
Jay Suchan	(plus originals)

NEWSTAB Mon 16-Dec-91 18:15 EST AP

First Lady To Register President For Primary

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — First lady Barbara Bush will register her husband on Wednesday for New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation presidential primary, supporters said Monday.

Mrs. Bush will take a commercial flight to Manchester and visit Gov. Judd Gregg at the Statehouse before filing President Bush's campaign papers, Gregg's office said.

In addition to filing papers already signed by the president, Mrs. Bush will turn in a check for the \$1,000 filing fee, campaign spokesman Mark Rivers said.

Gregg, state chairman of the president's re-election effort, said Mrs. Bush would make at least two public appearances on Wednesday afternoon.

"The Bushes have always run aggressive campaigns with lots of personal campaigning in New Hampshire and they have many, many friends here," Gregg said. "Mrs. Bush's presence reflects that continued commitment and positive relationship with the people of New Hampshire."

>

NEWSTAB Mon 16-Dec-91 10:31 EST
MRS BUSH :mrs bush s story time a national radio * PR
Newswire
WIRE NEW YORK CITY 12/16/91 10:15
-- NEWS ADVISORY -- TO CITY, EDUCATION & ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS:

WRITER/DIRECTOR/ACTOR ROBERT TOWNSEND AND ACTRESS/AUTHOR RUBY DEE

DO DRAMATIC READINGS FOR PAL KIDS TO SUPPORT LITERACY

WHO: Writer/director/actor Robert Townsend (Hollywood Shuffle) and actress/author Ruby Dee (featured in two Spike Lee films), with the support of literacy experts from the Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI), will read to a group of children participating in the Police Athletic League (PAL).

WHAT: Chase Story Time is a public-interest storytelling program that promotes literacy in local communities through reading aloud to children. Children will listen to stories brought to life in an imaginary setting created especially for the occasion. Chase Manhattan branch employees also will read. Each child will take home a book selected from a list of titles recommended by literacy experts.

Titles include: A Chair For My Mother by Vera B. Williams, The Cut-Ups by James Marshall, Ira Says Goodbye by Bernard Waber, and The Knee High Man by Julius Lester.

WHY: According to a U.S. Department of Education study, reading aloud to children is the single most important way to help them develop the vocabulary necessary to read. This program is a grassroots extension of "Mrs. Bush's Story Time," a national radio program featuring First Lady Barbara Bush reading some of today's best children's books. To encourage children to develop a love and desire for reading, events in 14 communities in New York and Connecticut are being sponsored by Chase Manhattan Visa and MasterCard this month.

WHEN: Monday, Dec. 16, 1991 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Chase Manhattan branch at 4 Columbus Circle
(58th Street and Eighth Avenue)

Christmas merriment to benefit sick kids

After weeks of warm weather, a chill blew in for Sunday's taping of "Christmas in Washington," an NBC holiday show at the National Building Museum.

Just in time, because the wintry night put everyone in the Christmas spirit. **President Bush** donned a red and green tie. **Barbara Bush** wore her Santa Claus wristwatch.

But nobody seemed concerned about any chill emanating from the nearby NBC studios, where six Democratic presidential candidates braved their first televised debate.

"Christmas is a time to enter that childlike state of dreams and wishes," the man whose job they want told the audience of politicians and their families.

"Find a way to give of yourself," Mr. Bush urged. "Help a stranger as a point of light. Make sure that every child knows that someone loves him."

Because the event benefited Children's Hospital, there were plenty of youngsters around to see performances by singers **Johnny Mathis**, **Anne Murray**, **Vince Gill** and **Anita Baker**. Five little elves, including Bush grandchildren **Marshall** and **Ellie**, helped add pointy-toed atmosphere to the museum hall, which was strung with garlands and festooned with 46 ever-green trees.

"We usually go skiing at Christmas, so this is something new and different for us," said National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman **Lynne Cheney**, greeting Health and Human Services Secretary **Louis Sullivan**, wife **Ginger**, son **Paul** (a doctor), daughter **Shanta** (in television) and son **Halsted** (a first-year law student at Harvard University).

Secretary of State **Dick Cheney** got a hearty handshake from Mr. Bush, who breezed in with his wife, daughter-in-law **Margaret Bush**, daughter **Doro Bush LeBlond**, grandchildren **Sam** and **Ellie** and the Rev. **Billy Graham**.

A Christmas medley opened the show. Then Mr. Mathis — who said, "Christmas is my favorite time of year and my favorite kind of music" — got teary-eyed singing "The Christmas Song" (chestnuts roasting and all that).

But despite such displays of emotion, the president, a country music

About TOWN

tan, didn't perk up until Mr. Gill came onstage.

The Grammy-award winning crooner, blushing modestly, sang "I'll Be Home for Christmas," surrounded by the women of the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club.

"You better be," Mr. Bush said as Mrs. Bush swatted him on the arm.

"I was terrified," Mr. Gill confided afterward. "This is a little bit out of my depth, the orchestration and all that. But I'm having a ball."

Members of the District's **Eastern High School Choir** flocked around Miss Baker, who said her Christmas wish was "that everybody return to that feeling about Christmas you have when you're 12 years old."

At 15, Eastern High's **Taj Grayson** was close, but all he cared about was getting a fast-and-easy Christmas gift for his mother. He was trying to grab Mr. Mathis' autograph.

Kansas Rep. **Jim Slattery** was one Democrat not watching the debate. Instead, he was helping

himself to food at the crowded buffet, wondering where his sons **Jason**, 13, and **Michael**, 10, were.

"This is what the holidays in Washington are all about," he said.

On hand were **Georgette Mosbacher** (sans husband/Commerce Secretary Robert), pal **Deborah Dingell** of General Motors with hubby and Michigan Rep. **John**, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman **Colin Powell** and wife **Alma**, South Carolina Sen. **Strom Thurmond** and the "Today" show's **Katie Couric** with her husband, Washington lawyer **Jay Monahan**.

"Christmas in Washington" will air tomorrow at 10 p.m. on NBC affiliates across the nation.

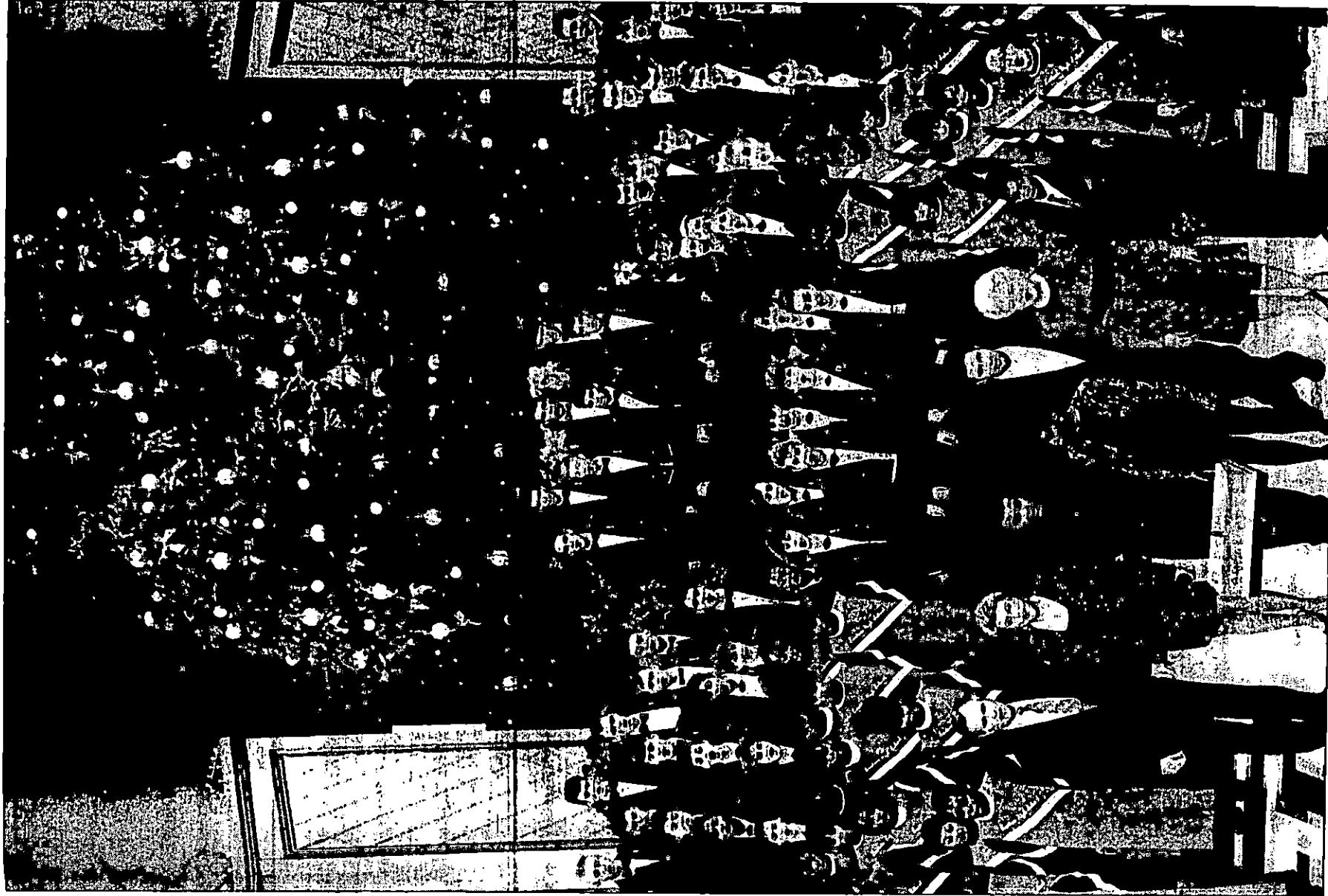
The reviews aren't yet out, but at least one guest left pleased by all the caroling, trumpet fanfare and merrymaking.

"The best ever," pronounced the first lady's press secretary, **Anna Perez**, as she made her way out the door.



President and Mrs. Bush pose with the elves

A GLIMPSE AT PEOPLE, PARTIES AND POLITICS



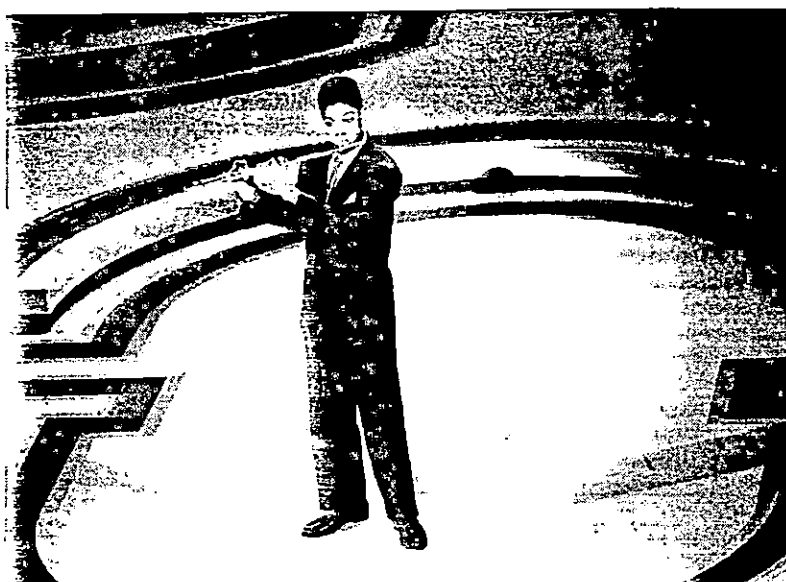
NBC's "Christmas in Washington" special. Center from left: President Bush, Anne Murray, Johnny Mathis, Anita Baker, Vince Gill, Barbara Bush and Gregory Jefferson. In background are members of the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club and the Eastern High School Choir



Singer Anita Baker with members of the Eastern High School Choir



Vince Gill and daughter Jennifer with George Stevens Jr.



Flutist Gregory Jefferson, age 15

The TV Column

By John Carmody

Washington Post Staff Writer

There were a couple of discreetly raised eyebrows at the National Building Museum Sunday evening before the taping of NBC's "Christmas in Washington" began. NBC president Bob Wright, in his opening remarks to the invitation-only audience—led by President and Mrs. Bush—chose to comment on how "very fragile" the business of network television is today . . .

According to an unofficial transcript of his remarks, the top executive at NBC said, "In the presence of so many lawmakers and regulators, I certainly acknowledge that a great deal of attention must be given to new technologies—but please let us not forget the value of this wonderful system of network television, which provides a sense of community across America, allowing Boston to communicate with Seattle and Medford to Waterloo. This is a unique system in all the world, and we should be very careful to protect it" . . .

The White House declined comment yesterday on whether what seemed to some to be an appeal for a little administration help for the networks had made any appreciable dent in the protocol for such occasions . . .

"We have no comment since the show has been embargoed by NBC until it is telecast on Wednesday," a White House press aide said yesterday . . .

An NBC spokesman said the ad-libbed comments by Wright were not intended as an appeal. "Bob was only affirming that NBC wants to continue to broadcast just this sort of program for a long, long time. His comments were a two-minute reminder that this is what television can do" . . .

✓daily

THE WHITE HOUSE

MRS. BUSH'S PRESS OFFICE

DAILY PRESS CLIPPINGS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

Mrs. Bush	(in folder)
Secretary Skinner	West Wing
Marlin Fitzwater	West Wing
Constance Horner	West Wing
Carol Powers	West Wing
Patty Presock	West Wing
First Lady Detail	Staircase
Karen Connell	Room 58 OEOB
Shirley Green	Room 94 OEOB
Anne Griffith	Room 98 OEOB
Diana Kellogg	Room 157 OEOB
Gregg Petersmeyer	Room 100 OEOB
Marguerite Sullivan	Room 268 OEOB
Carolyn Washington	Room 268 OEOB
Benita Somerfield	hold one copy
Ann Brock	
Julie Cooke	
Joan DeCain	
Laurie Firestone	
Jane Moore	
Susan Porter Rose	
Sally Runion	
Peggy Swift	
Anna Perez	
Sondra Haley	
Jean Becker	
Jay Suchan	(plus originals)

Bowie Blade

Devoted completely to the people of Bowie

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1989



Photo by Eric Rasmussen

FIRST LADY AND FRIENDS — The cover of this month's *Ladies Home Journal* shows little Kaylan Billingsley of Bowie at the extreme right. Before the photo was taken, Kaylan approached Barbara Bush — whose agenda as First Lady is literacy — and said she could read even though she was only 5½.

COVER GIRL

Young Bowie model poses with First Lady

By JANE McHUGH
Staff Writer

Kaylan Billingsley is only 5½, but she's already a cover girl.

Wearing a jumper, turtleneck and proud grin, the Bowie kindergartener is pictured with First Lady Barbara Bush and First Dog "Millie" on the cover of this month's *Ladies Home Journal*.

Kaylan is one of four children in the photo, taken this summer in the Blue Room at the White House.

Her mother, Michele, 34, reluctantly agreed to talk about the White House photo session and Kaylan's modeling. She said she didn't want to appear to be bragging about her child.

Because to Billingsley, Kaylan is a beautiful little girl but decidedly no star.

"I won't let it happen," she said Monday at her home in Old Bowie, shaking her head when asked if

being in the spotlight has gone to Kaylan's head.

Kaylan, she said, was one of those children who strangers and relatives always said was cute enough to be a model.

So Billingsley hooked her up with a children's modeling agency in Silver Spring, which arranged some bookings for her.

Kaylan's main assignments thus far have been a poster for Fashion Bug clothing stores and the *Journal* magazine cover.

Billingsley admitted Kaylan has been turned down for some jobs. "But that's OK," she said.

Recently, Billingsley took Kaylan to Baltimore to audition for something — she couldn't remember if it was a television program or commercial or what — involving the Oriole's Hall of Fame pitcher Jim Palmer.

(See COVER, Page A2).

fant

Bowie Blade
12-12-91

2 of 2

COVER

(Continued from Page 1)

"I had to take the baby, too," Billingsley said, referring to her other photogenic offspring, 9-month-old Clare.

"And the people there said, 'You have a baby! Can it pee on command?'"

The filmmakers were looking for a baby whose diapers could be changed by Palmer, Billingsley said.

"They wanted the baby to go on Jim Palmer," Billingsley laughed.

Neither Clare nor Kaylan was selected for the job. No big deal, she said.

Billingsley doesn't know if Clare also has a future in modeling. Maybe, maybe not, she shrugged.

Billingsley is a hospital receptionist and nursing student. Her husband, Paul, 36, is an environmental specialist with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Any money Kaylan earns goes into a trust fund for her future education, Billingsley said.

Child models need other qualities besides good looks, Billingsley as-

Any money Kaylan earns goes into a trust fund for her future education, Billingsley said.

serts.

They must be allowed to act like children during a photo session, she said.

Too often, she said, parents try to control their child models "by making them sit like statues all the time," which can make the child nervous and inhibited.

Child models also need to maintain their cool when separated from their parents and siblings during sessions, she said.

Also, she said, a certain amount of hamming is a plus.

Kaylan's hamming is limited to prancing around in front of a reporter. "She also does that whenever somebody takes out a video camera," Billingsley said.

Asked what she liked best about the White House shoot, Kaylan replied the "green room, red room and gold room" and "Millie the dog."

1 of 2

NEWSTAB Tue 17-Dec-91 15:56 EST
By LORI SANTOS

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Bush picked up the telephone to tout education in New Hampshire Tuesday but focused more on addressing the economic woes of the key political arena where the first-in-the-nation primary soon will be held.

With the official deadline for entering the Feb. 18 primary just days away and the popular first lady headed up there on Wednesday, Bush chose to speak long distance to the critical political battleground as part of a continuing series of calls he has made across the country to plug his America 2000 education program.

In the past few months the president has placed several such calls to states that have launched efforts to reach the national educational goals by the year 2000. New Hampshire, whose primary marks the first real political test of the '92 presidential contest, was the 29th state to take part in the program.

But in speaking to Republican Gov. Judd Gregg, who just so happens to be the ringmaster of his budding political organization in New Hampshire, Bush several times raised the subject of economic hardship in the state, where pundits have been predicting a possible backlash against him.

In the primary, Bush faces a Republican challenge from conservative columnist Pat Buchanan, who hopes to capitalize on the state's economic woes.

First lady Barbara Bush's office announced later that the president is dispatching his wife to New Hampshire on Wednesday to formally file the papers to put him on the ballot.

"He asked her to go," said Mrs. Bush's spokeswoman, Anna Perez. The first lady will file the necessary paperwork at the secretary of state's office before having a high-profile lunch and photo opportunity with Gregg.

"Let me say this," the president said earlier. "This is a time when the country is hurting, and I know your state is, in terms of the economy. And when people are hurting, why, we want to do everything we possibly can do."

He conceded only a slight connection between the economic problems and the education program, saying, "Though it is of not what you call short-term benefit, it is a wonderful guarantor for the future."

"... In the meantime, we've got to do what we can here to stimulate the economy, get it going," said the president.

In his remarks, made to Gregg on a day that also saw his approval ratings hit the lowest level of his presidency because of the economic stagnation, Bush clearly went out of his way to state his concern.

"We are working to bring around short-run, decisive action that will identify with the people out there that are hurting. Your state is suffering, and I know it. I can feel it. In a sense, I'm a neighbor there. But I believe we just have to stay involved in the shortest run possible to help people that are hurting," said Bush.

But his spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, denied the call had anything to do with the quickly approaching Dec. 20 deadline to enter the New

(cont.)

2 of 2

Hampshire primary.

"This has no relationship to the New Hampshire filing deadline," said the spokesman. But he did concede Bush will be traveling to the state in the not-too-distant future for campaign purposes.

In his 1988 presidential campaign, a victory in the state's primary, orchestrated in large part by then Gov. John Sununu, gave him a much-needed boost after a loss in the Iowa caucuses. The president, who later picked Sununu for his chief of staff, has frequently stated his appreciation to New Hampshire for keeping his campaign alive.

10F2

Wed 18-Dec-91 7:37 EST

By HELEN THOMAS

UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Bush, acknowledging plummeting polls reflecting disapproval of his handling of the economy, is considering a one-time, election-year tax rebate of up to \$300 for each taxpayer next year, The Washington Post reported Wednesday.

The White House, reacting to a new Washington Post-ABC poll showing Bush's approval rating has dropped to 47 percent, the lowest level of his presidency, abandoned its usual rosy outlook for a recovery and acknowledged for the first time Tuesday that much has to be done to turn the economy around.

The Post, citing congressional officials, said the Bush administration is considering the tax rebate as a way to put spending money into the hands of consumers next spring.

The newspaper said budget director Richard Darman and Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas want Congress to consider the tax rebate proposal separately in an effort to expedite its movement.

Bush hoped to stimulate the economy Wednesday with the signing of the \$151 billion job-creating transportation bill at a Fort Worth, Texas, interstate highway construction site.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the transportation bill would create 600,000 new jobs and provide funding for major innovations in restructuring federal surface transportation programs.

Speaking of the legislation, the president said "that's going to free up a bunch of money for construction projects," and Fitzwater said the funds already are beginning to flow to the states.

In a series of interviews with ABC-TV affiliates Tuesday, Bush was repeatedly quizzed about plans to stimulate the flat economy.

"We'll have some ideas for the State of the Union message," which will be delivered in late January, he said. "People are hurting and I am trying to help. We're trying very hard."

The chief executive has begun an intensive study of his options and told reporters Tuesday "everyone has to pitch in" to get the economy back on track.

In a day of downbeat statements Fitzwater also told reporters: "The recession does continue. People are unemployed. People are hurting. The economy is very slow."

As he heads into his re-election campaign, the decline in his popularity rating also was a cause for concern for Bush, who only a few weeks ago was viewed as a shoo-in for a second term. Barbara Bush planned to fly to New Hampshire Wednesday to file her husband's campaign papers with the New Hampshire secretary of state for the Feb. 18 Republican primary.

Fitzwater gave a new twist Tuesday to the White House reaction to unfavorable polls.

"We don't pay attention to personality polls," he said, but adding, "But I can assure you we take these numbers to heart. He will do all he can to turn the economy around ... and get it back on track."

"So we've got a number of things in the works and it's a very serious matter, and this poll certainly reflects that," he explained.

"The president has said time and again that the economy is in deep trouble and we are working on solutions ... and this poll emphasizes

(Cont.)

that," Fitzwater added.

He said the president will be "orienting a number of activities towards turning the economy around."

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10 P2

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NEWSTAB Wed 18-Dec-91 0:22 EST

By HELEN THOMAS

UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Bush, with a new candid analysis of the sluggish economy, arranged to fly to Texas Wednesday to sign the \$151 billion job-creating transportation bill at a symbolic Fort Worth interstate highway construction site.

Bush also will address the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials during the brief trip to his adopted state.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the transportation bill would create 600,000 new jobs and provide funding for major innovations in restructuring federal surface transportation programs.

Speaking of the legislation, the president said "that's going to free up a bunch of money for construction projects," and Fitzwater said the funds already are beginning to flow to the states.

In an unusual gesture, Bush and his top aides decided to call a spade a spade when it comes to the recession, acknowledging that much has to be done to turn the economy around. In the past, they have projected a rosier view on the prospects of recovery.

In a series of interviews with ABC-TV affiliates Tuesday, Bush was repeatedly quizzed about plans to stimulate the flat economy.

"We'll have some ideas for the State of the Union message," which will be delivered in late January, he said. "People are hurting and I am trying to help. We're trying very hard."

The chief executive has begun an intensive study of his options and told reporters Tuesday "everyone has to pitch in" to get the economy back on track.

In a day of downbeat statements Fitzwater also told reporters: "The recession does continue. People are unemployed. People are hurting. The economy is very slow."

The candid White House outlook was triggered by the publication of a new Washington Post-ABC poll showing Bush's approval rating has dropped to 47 percent, the lowest level of his presidency.

As he heads into his re-election campaign, the decline in his popularity rating also was a cause for concern for Bush, who only a few weeks ago was viewed as a shoo-in for a second term. Barbara Bush planned to fly to New Hampshire Wednesday to file her husband's intention to become a candidate in the Republican primary on Feb. 18.

"We don't pay attention to personality polls," Fitzwater said.

"But I can assure you we take these numbers to heart. He will do all he can to turn the economy around ... and get it back on track."

"So we've got a number of things in the works and it's a very serious matter, and this poll certainly reflects that," he explained.

"The president has said time and again that the economy is in deep trouble and we are working on solutions ... and this poll emphasizes that," Fitzwater added.

He said the president will be "orienting a number of activities towards turning the economy around."

The dramatic dip in his polls, down from a high in the 80s in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, is attributed to widespread disapproval of the way he is handling the economy.

Nearly nine in 10 persons surveyed characterize the economy as "not so good" or "poor."

(Cont.)

Galvanized into action, Bush gathered with his budget advisers Tuesday morning to review his options to simulate the economy, including cutting taxes for the middle class or priming the federal spending pump.

When an interviewer told Bush, "I would like to say Merry Christmas to your and your family, and I hope you won't let the polls ... those figures spoil your holiday season, sir."

The president replied: They don't help any, but I don't live and die by the polls. "

20 F 2

NEWSTAB Wed 18-Dec-91 1:54 EST
By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) President Bush is dispatching his wife Barbara to Concord, N.H., with a \$1,000 check to sign him up for the first primary of the 1992 election campaign.

After performing her political duties today and holding a news conference at the State House with Gov. Judd Gregg, Mrs. Bush planned to head for a Manchester shopping center to mingle with Christmas shoppers and eat lunch.

The first lady originally planned to take a commercial flight to New Hampshire but opted for her usual Air Force jet instead after it became "a huge security problem," spokeswoman Anna Perez said.

New Hampshire will hold its first-in-the-nation primary Feb. 18 and Gregg is managing Bush's primary fight against a challenger from the right, commentator Patrick Buchanan.

The first lady's trip was the latest White House manifestation of concern about Bush's popularity in a state that has been hit hard by the recession and New England's banking debacle.

The White House acknowledged Tuesday that the country is still in recession.

Bush himself told Gregg in a telephone call Tuesday: "Your state is suffering and I know it. I can feel it. In a sense, I'm a neighbor there," he said in apparent reference to his home in Kennebunkport, Maine, not far from New Hampshire.

"When people are hurting, why, we want to do everything we possibly can do," Bush told the governor and several hundred people attending an education rally at a Derry, N.H., school.

Charles Black, a Bush re-election campaign strategist, said Mrs. Bush remains "popular with everybody" despite her husband's drop in the polls.

Bush himself has described his wife as one of his best political assets. She campaigned extensively in 1988 and earlier races and has indicated that next year will be no different.

It was unusual for the White House to announce Mrs. Bush's plan to stroll through the shopping mall. Usually her public appearances are restricted to set speeches or events at hospitals, libraries or in similar settings with tightly controlled audiences.

The president himself plans to campaign in the state, although no dates have been set. "We will be there, probably in the snow," said spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

NEWSTAB

Tue 17-Dec-91 17:52 EST

* Reuters

FIRST LADY TO FILE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY PAPERS FOR BUSH

WASHINGTON, Reuter - Barbara Bush will visit New Hampshire Wednesday to file papers that will put her husband's name on the Republican ballot in the first-in-the-nation presidential primary, the White House announced Tuesday.

The first lady was to file a declaration of candidacy on President Bush's behalf with New Hampshire's secretary of state and hold a news conference with Gov. Judd Gregg, who is heading Bush's primary campaign effort in the state.

Mrs. Bush also planned some campaigning for the president, who faces a challenge from conservative Patrick Buchanan in the Feb. 18 primary. She was to tour a shopping mall -- a traditional spot to meet and greet potential voters -- and visit city hall in Manchester, the largest city in the tiny New England state.

Bush is also being challenged for the Republican nomination by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, but is not entered in the New Hampshire race.

Mrs. Bush to Make Filing For New Hampshire Race

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON—First lady Barbara Bush will travel to New Hampshire today to file documents enabling President Bush to compete in that state's Feb. 18 presidential primary, the first in the nation.

Mrs. Bush will pay the \$1,000 campaign filing fee and have lunch while in New Hampshire, officials said.

Although Mr. Bush has yet to formally declare his campaign for re-election, and his aides insist he isn't yet a candidate, he has raised about \$2.1 million for a campaign and has unveiled his campaign leadership team. He has also qualified for the South Dakota Republican primary, to be held Feb. 25.

The president has been delaying a formal announcement, preferring to take advantage of the stature of incumbency and to urge opponents to delay their political attacks and focus on the nation's economic problems. Campaign officials have said he is likely to delay his formal announcement until after his Jan. 28 State of the Union address.

Mr. Bush's campaign team, however, is proceeding with plans to hire additional staff. This week, officials interviewed candidates for the post of campaign press secretary, including White House deputy press secretary Judy Smith and former Republican National Committee spokesman Leslie Goodman.

In the New Hampshire primary, Mr. Bush will face Patrick Buchanan, a television commentator and former Reagan administration official.

POLITICS

Trip Announcement Proves Rough Road for Fitzwater

It was tough, but White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater kept an almost-straight face when he announced that the New Hampshire primary had nothing to do with President Bush's broadcast telephone call to New Hampshire yesterday to salute the education reform efforts of Gov. Judd Gregg, who also is Bush's state campaign chairman.

Bush emphasized his concern for the economy in the call to several hundred New Hampshire educators and school-children. The conversation was broadcast live in the state and in the White House briefing room. New Hampshire, hit hard by the recession, holds the first-in-the-nation primary Feb. 18. Conservative commentator Patrick J. Buchanan is challenging Bush in the GOP primary.

Barbara Bush is scheduled to file papers of candidacy for the presidency in New Hampshire today and pay the \$1,000 fee. The First Lady was tapped for the job because there was fear her husband might be booed in the economically distressed state, sources said.

She will fly commercial aircraft to Manchester and make at least two campaign-style appearances. "The Bushes have always run aggressive campaigns with lots of personal campaigning in New Hampshire and they have many, many friends here," Gregg said.

New Hampshire Aid Challenged

■ Democrats are not about to let pass charges by Sen. John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) and GOP presidential candidate Patrick J. Buchanan that a sudden influx of economic aid into New Hampshire is politically motivated.

The Small Business Administration announced Dec. 11 that New Hampshire would be the first state to benefit from a program to ensure that credit remains available to small businesses if their lending institutions fail.

Questions "remain unanswered regarding the genesis, intent and timing of this project," said Rep. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), chairman of the House Small Business subcommittee on business opportunities and energy. Wyden has asked SBA Administrator Patricia Saiki for detailed information on the selection of New Hampshire as the pilot program site, including "all correspondence with the New Hampshire state congressional delegation, and the White House, involving the development of this program."

An SBA spokesman said last week that New Hampshire was chosen because state officials were ready to work with the SBA and because the state's small size permits the program to have an immediate impact.

Wanted: Female Public Voice

■ The Bush campaign has begun interviewing for a press secretary—preferably a woman. Several weeks ago, a GOP official then involved in campaign startup said the campaign wanted a woman as its public voice, as it had in 1988 when Sheila Tate was the press secretary. The official explained that the White House was "sensitive" to the fact that virtually all the president's advisers are white males and wanted to demonstrate its diversity with a woman in a visible post.

White House officials said three women have been interviewed for the press secretary job: Judy Smith, a deputy press secretary at the White House; Victoria Clark, spokeswoman for U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills, and Leslie Goodman, formerly spokes-

woman for the Republican National Committee now in that job at the U.S. Information Agency. Two men, Interior Department spokesman Steven Goldstein and South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell's spokesman, Tucker Eskew, also are under consideration.

For Sen. Dodd, a Sigh of Relief

■ Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.) breathed a little easier yesterday as Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-Conn.) announced she will seek election to a sixth term rather than run for Dodd's seat next year.

Johnson had been regarded as Dodd's toughest prospective challenger and ran almost neck-and-neck with him last month in the Connecticut Poll.

Trailing substantially behind Dodd were lesser-known current and former state legislators, who will be vying to challenge the two-term senator regarded as vulnerable by Republicans. State Rep. Christopher Burnham, who fought in the Persian Gulf War, has announced his candidacy. Former state House Republican leader Robert G. Jaekle had said he would run if Johnson did not.

Johnson ended months of suspense over whether she would run by telling a New Britain, Conn., news conference that she felt she could better serve her 6th District constituents during tough economic times by remaining in the House, where she serves on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

She said she "concluded that I must devote my full energies to completing my work on two major issues of critical importance to the state and nation," which she identified as health care and a job-creating tax cut.

—Maralee Schwartz, Ann Devroy and Helen Dewar

Washington Times

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991 *

Bush: 'Times will be better'

By Frank J. Murray
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Bush adopted a new economic strategy yesterday and guaranteed "times will be better" if Congress passes health care and economic relief bills with his name on them.

"For somebody that's hurting out there, I can understand their saying, 'Hey, the president isn't doing enough,' and I have to take the heat on that," Mr. Bush said as he adopted the suggestion of his new chief of staff that he stop quibbling about whether the recession had ended.

As Barbara Bush prepared to go to New Hampshire to sign Mr. Bush up for the Feb. 18 primary against conservative Pat Buchanan, Chief of Staff Sam Skinner also signaled readiness to compromise with Democrats as necessary after Mr. Bush lays out his plan in the annual speech to a joint session of Congress.

Many supporters in Congress and industry have urged Mr. Bush not to wait for the Jan. 28 State of the Union address, and he said yesterday he may respond "possibly before then."

Some advisers fear Mr. Bush is promising too much for that still-secret State of the Union "package" — which could include tax cuts, tax relief for first-time home buyers, restoration of tax-deferred individual retirement accounts and regulatory changes.

They contend the president's de-
see BUSH, page A7

BUSH

From page A1

lay effectively postpones Christmas until Jan. 28 and raises impossible expectations that he can somehow produce a rescue formula that will pass muster with a hostile Congress in an election year.

Mr. Bush then revealed in several interviews the first major policy turnabout under Mr. Skinner. The president spoke of a potential for compromise instead of standing his ground on tax issues and blaming Democrats in the elections if Congress blocks his proposals.

"I think times will be better, and I can guarantee you they'll be better if I am effective in getting through the Congress the proposals that I will pose to them at the State of the Union," Mr. Bush told an unemployed veteran of Desert Storm in remarks relayed through Linda Yu of WLS-TV in Chicago.

The White House changes came on a day when the ABC-Washington Post poll showed the president enters the primary election season with an approval rating below 50 percent for the first time. Fifty-eight percent also feel he cares more about serving the rich than the middle class.

Mrs. Bush flies to New Hampshire today, where she will file Mr. Bush's papers for the primary and hold a news conference at the state House in Concord with the president's state campaign coordinator, Gov. Judd Gregg.

In a call to Mr. Gregg yesterday, Mr. Bush said: "This is a time when the country is hurting, and I know your state is. ... And when people are hurting, why we want to do everything we possibly can do here to stimulate the economy, get it going."

Mr. Bush stuck with his argument that he places little stock in polls but blamed his slippage mainly on an inability of his administration to show its concerns, which Mr. Skinner underlined in an interview blaming White House communications policy.

"The president wants to get results. He will go the extra mile, as he has all his life, to get results," Mr. Skinner told a group of newspaper reporters in his first interview in the new job.

"You know how it works," he replied with a smile when asked if the administration which has taken a hard-line approach to Congress would accommodate opposition ideas to reach consensus.

"His [Mr. Skinner's] approach is, we've got a serious problem. Let's acknowledge the problem. Let's solve the problem and get on with it," White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said of the public relations changes wrought by Mr. Skinner in his first full day on the job.

He said there would be "no sugarcoating" in making it clear Mr. Bush "understands the depth of the problem."

While Mr. Bush took the lead in interviews by satellite with five ABC-owned television stations, other officials under orders from Mr. Skinner moved to demonstrate that the president understands the recession isn't over in practical terms although economists say a technical recovery is under way.

"We've got to get this country doing better, to bring pressure on all of us, the administration and Congress, to do what we can to help," Mr. Bush said in an interview with Jim Gardner of Philadelphia's WPVI-TV.

Mr. Fitzwater said administration economists had forecast fourth-quarter growth that exceeded the revised 1.7 percent growth in goods and services produced in the third quarter. Now, he says, economists predict a growth in the gross domestic product of zero to 2 percent.

12-18-91

Bush reacts to econ jitters

By MAUREEN SANTINI

News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Rocked by a free fall in his popularity, President Bush yesterday sought to reassure jittery Americans that he understands the pain the recession is causing and is trying to do something about it.

But he offered no actions to back up his words.

The White House verbal offensive shifted into high gear a day after a new Washington Post-ABC poll found that only 47% of those polled approved of Bush's handling of his job — a tremendous fall from his peak of 90% nine months ago.

More than 63% of those polled said they wanted a new direction for the country.

Frank admission

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater surprised reporters by frankly acknowledging that "for all practical purposes," the recession has lingered on; even if some statistics could be read to show that it is technically over.

"The people of this country know that the economy is in trouble and it doesn't make any sense to play games," Fitzwater said.

The stunning about-face occurred just one day before Bush's name was to be formally placed on the ballot for New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation presidential primary election.

X Barbara Bush was to travel to New Hampshire today to appear in person at the Statehouse in Concord to file the necessary papers for the Feb. 18 primary.

New Hampshire has been devastated by the recession, and in a telephone call to New Hampshire Gov. Judd Gregg yesterday, the President sought to empathize with hard-hit Granite State voters.

"Your state is suffering and

I know it," Bush said. "I can feel it."

In a photo opportunity, Bush refused to comment on his bad poll numbers. But he said of the economy: "We've got to get it straightened out. Everybody has to pitch in and get that going."

However, there was no indication Bush was changing his plans to wait until the Jan. 28 State of the Union message to offer plans to cope with the recession.

It's pretty clear

Fitzwater acknowledged it was "pretty clear" the poll represents concern about the economy.

As if to remind Bush of his political vulnerability, conservative TV commentator Pat Buchanan, an announced presidential candidate, denounced Bush and the GOP for refusing to let Buchanan get his name on the South Dakota primary ballot.

South Dakota Republican officials said Buchanan failed to gain enough support at delegation-selection meetings to get on the ballot.

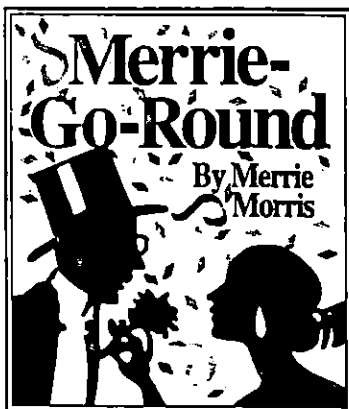
Buchanan is expected to do relatively well in the New Hampshire primary because

of that state's bad economy.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

Life

The Washington Times



White House beat

Even with everything on his mind these days, George Bush is still the kind of just-folks guy who would rather stroll along a country road with his pals than hop in a limo. After his speech at Montpelier, James Madison's Virginia home, Monday, he walked and chatted with old friends John and Abbe Stein. (She is a distant cousin who works at Montpelier; he is a tennis buddy.) Mr. Stein says the president was feeling upbeat and eager to tackle his problems. Well, that's a start.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, Barbara Bush is sporting the cutest watch. It's gold with Santa on the face and a red band. Now we just want to know where we can get one, too.

News flash:

Yes, it's true that Mort Zuckerman is considering a bid for the ailing New York Daily News. He says he's looking into its financial status and considering the possibility. However, he's interested only if he

finds it a "financially viable" publication, like U.S. News & World Report was when he bought it. Because what he really wants to do is bolster the editorial side.

"On the theory God is in the details," he cautions, "I don't have the details yet."

'Round town

D.C. Council Chairman John Wilson will play Santa today, although he'll be wearing only the hat. He's dropping by M.C. Terrell Elementary School in Southeast to hand out koala bears and McDonald's gift certificates. The 350 students there were singled out for a special Christmas party because they had the best attendance record among elementary schools with a high percentage of students on public assistance.

Fashion front

Who says Washington is frumpy? Betsey Johnson, known for her sexy clothes in flashy florals, is hosting the grand opening of her Georgetown store. While the party is tonight, with a menu described as "earthy vegetarian," the store has been open a couple of months.

If her name doesn't mean much to you, it's very popular with celebrities Sinead O'Connor, Farrah Fawcett, Yoko Ono and Melanie Griffith. And supposedly stodgy Washington apparently is buying the same wild designs they wear. The main difference between what residents in Washington and other cities buy is size: Women here take lots of smalls, while others, like those in Seattle, take mediums and larges.

Got a hot tip? Call Merrie at 202/636-3228.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 17, 1991

Dear Bill and Josephine:

Don Rhodes passed along the tempting fruitcake in the holiday tin. Many thanks for remembering Barbara and me again this Christmas. We appreciate your kindness in sharing the joy of the season with us.

Our warm best wishes for health and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Love to all.



Mr. and Mrs. L. William McNutt, Jr.
Collin Street Bakery
401 West Seventh Avenue
Corsicana, Texas 75110

Dec

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

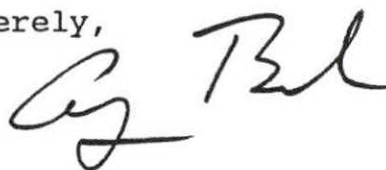
December 17, 1991

Dear Craig:

Thanks for your letter and good wishes. Your words of support mean a lot to me. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

With warm wishes for the holiday season,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Craig Thomas
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

*I like your idea of setting
certain key goals - then
getting them achieved.*

JB