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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS  
October 1, 1989

NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY

Commentary Before the National Address on Drugs

"This nation [U.S.A.] has a strong, moral obligation to help the government of Colombia in its current fight against powerful drug cartels." -- Argus Leader, 8/28/89

"If drugs are destroying our communities, it may be in our communities - and the need to restore them to health - where we should be applying more of our efforts." -- Brian Dickinson, The Dallas Morning News, 9/4/89

"If this is war, let it be fought bravely and with all the necessary resources - and with the support of the United States." -- Omaha World-Herald, 8/26/89

"The abyss that drugs gave dug for this nation will be filled only by serious reforms in the criminal law - by creating court and penal systems that effectively punish drug violators and developing a social policy that strengthens and rebuilds social institutions and disciplines." -- The Washington Times, 8/14/89

"More state and federal aid is needed to win the regional battle centered in San Diego [California]. But stronger local efforts are also essential." -- San Diego Union, 8/27/89

"Track down the pilots, couriers, and money-handlers for a change. America seems to be losing the kingpin war." -- Lansing State Journal, 9/2/89

"President Bush . . . will announce his intention to hit the drug smugglers abroad and wait until spring, if then, to go after those closer to home, sources say. Incredibly, the trafficking problem that has made Los Angeles the cocaine capital will thus be glossed over." -- Los Angeles Herald Examiner, 8/29/89

"Bush unreasonably expects cities to divert funds from other programs into his proposed \$350 million war on drugs. Cities are correctly urging that military funds be redeployed in the defense of the nation - saving its cities' families and children." -- Boston Globe, 8/31/89

[The President Should Say:] "I ask each one of you to search your heart and ask: What would I be willing to pay to rid this country of drugs? I propose a modest tax increase in income tax rates, earmarked for the war on drugs and for efforts that brighten the hopes and strengthen that characters of young Americans so that they will spurn the false allure of drugs." -- The Des Moines Register, 9/4/89

"The dreadful menace of drug abuse will not be defeated until the demand on the streets of San Diego and every other U.S. City is eradicated." -- The San Diego Union, 9/2/89

"Whatever approach the Bush administration lays out for its interagency, complex, long term war on drug supply and demand still may miss the deepest and most intractable, or targets . . . economic poverty." -- Lincoln Journal, 9/5/89

#### Commentary After the National Drug Address

"President Bush outlined a national strategy for the war on drugs. But the real battle lines must be drawn right here in Dallas." -- The Dallas Morning News, 9/7/89

"Wisconsin's federal and state leaders support President Bush's anti-drug strategy but express skepticism over how to pay for it and whether Congress would be able to put the pieces together." -- Milwaukee Journal, 9/7/89

"He [POTUS] promised no taxes, and he is trying to stuff a national commitment to an all-out war into the limited space that his no-tax promise leaves. It cannot be done." -- Fort Worth Star-Telegram, (date not known)

"What he [POTUS] proposed is a promising national strategy. But its success is dependent on the cooperation of Congress and the will of the people. Delay and partisan dispute will only insure defeat." -- The Indianapolis Star, 9/7/89

"Certainly, he [POTUS] tried. Instead of laborious facts and figures, he spoke of a 6-year-old boy destined to a life of crime.

"Instead of the boring budget matters, he talked of a private businessman who invested his own money in the fight.

"Those are Reaganisms. Those are proven techniques.

"Bush may not yet wear the crown, but he has laid the TV cables for its conquest. If only his drug plan could be so successful." -- Art Chapman, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 9/6/89

"The most widely abused drug in America - alcohol - was not mentioned once by Bush, even though it often is used together with illegal drugs." -- Christian Science Monitor, 9/8/89

"Whether this one succeeds will depend in part on Mr. Bush's ability to bring unity to an effort that often has been disorganized and on Congress' ability to finance the President's ideas.

"Though highly publicized, Tuesday night's speech was merely a call to arms. A long, grueling fight lies ahead." -- The Dallas Morning News, 9/6/89

"The drug war is not going to be won in the Chicago City Council or in Washington. If it is won at all, it will be won at home." -- Chicago Tribune, 9/11/89

"Drug abuse is fueled in part by poverty; if poverty isn't eased, drug abuse will continue. In overlooking that fateful link, the President has blunted the promise of his plan." -- Minneapolis Star Tribune. 9/7/89

"Mr. Bush has yet to state explicitly where he will find the money to wage his war on drugs. If those funds are merely diverted from other social programs, the result will be a cruel shell game. In a broader sense, the President's plan addresses the more obvious manifestations of drug abuse without examining its deeper bases: poverty, unemployment, poor public education, despair." -- Detroit Free Press, 9/6/89

"However, the speech's chief drawback is that, while promising much, it pledged too little in terms of government resources." -- The Milwaukee Journal, 9/7/89

". . . the President's new drug control strategy deserves a hard try, not only because it contains some good proposals but also because it at least sets out a national policy.

"But there is one major problem with Bush's war on drugs. That problem is money.

"Because if the President and Congress once again bog down in partisan squabbling, no progress will be made." -- Chicago Tribune, 9/7/89

"But his [POTUS] self-imposed (no-new-taxes) budget restraints create a huge gap between the drug crisis and the resources the U.S. can bring to bear. Trade is one area where there is some wiggle room if only Mr. Bush can get things coordinated." -- Baltimore Sun, 9/11/89

"President Bush's move to step up the war on illegal drugs won praise from Vermont elected officials Tuesday, while a civil libertarian labeled it 'hysteria, foolishness and cynicism.'" -- David Gram, Burlington Free Press, 9/6/89

"The President's plan looks like a good start and can succeed, in spite of the pessimists, because the majority of the nation's people has finally awakened to the threat of drugs." -- Nackey Loeb, Manchester Union Leader, 9/8/89

"He failed to turn the nation's attention to the poverty that breeds drug use, the debilitating national debt that crimps federal spending on social programs and the dichotomies in our society that hammer wedges between classes." -- The Burlington Free Press, 9/6/89

"Bush has moved toward making good on his inaugural pledge that the drug scourge will stop." -- The Oregonian, 9/7/89

"Yesterday, on television, you had George Bush fighting the drug war by pouring money into ideas that haven't worked - more arrests, more sentencing, more prisons." -- Seattle Times, 9/6/89

"President Bush's speech is only the starting point for what must become a long-term national priority." -- The State Journal-Register, 9/7/89

"His [POTUS] comprehensive national strategy for combatting drugs is an incremental approach that makes sense." -- Rocky Mountain News, 9/7/89

"It would be absurd to claim any great victory in President Bush's newly proclaimed war on Latin American drug kingpins. But the President and the other good guys have clearly won the first little engagement." -- Tulsa World, 9/9/89

"But even more crucial than the \$7.8 billion in expanded federal programs is the presidential leadership being exerted now to mobilize the country in a sustained national crusade." -- The San Diego Union, 9/8/89

". . . but Bush's administration shows no willingness to deal with poverty, illiteracy and despair in inner cities, where selling crack beats no job at all." -- Arkansas Gazette, 9/7/89

"Personally, I would like the President to be even tougher on punishments for drug dealers; I would like the assurance of a greater commitment to really doing it this time, to be sure we do not end up scattering ourselves to the winds as we did in Vietnam." -- Georgie Anne Geyer, Salt Lake Tribune, 9/12/89

"It was a gutsy move because Bush knows he cannot win the war on drugs in one year, nor can he win it with his initial proposals. He must return next year and the years following with refinements, adjustments and further spending increases as the struggle evolves." -- Spokane Spokesman Review, 9/7/89

"Instead of pulling the nation out of the drug-abuse quagmire, the president's proposal will do little more than keep us from sinking deeper into it. This crisis demands a more aggressive approach." -- Los Angeles Herald Examiner, 9/6/89

"Mr. Bush's plan may be revised by the Congress but the important thing is that the President has taken this on as a top priority and after all, leadership for a national struggle must come from the top." -- The Tennessean, 9/7/89

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS  
September 7, 1989

Drugs

"Full funding of state and local treatment and educational programs are a must." -- Michigan Chronicle, 8/26/89

"First of all, funding the \$7 billion plan remains a mystery . . . without raising taxes, the government will have to reallocate funds, as Bush has suggested, and that could mean cuts for other crucial programs.

"The second and perhaps more important problem with Bush's national drug plan is that it doesn't go far enough." -- Las Vegas Sun, 8/17/89

"It is not a perfect plan. One flaw is Mr. Bennett's proposal to coerce states into imposing some of the penalties he prescribes for drug users." -- Richmond Times-Dispatch, 8/20/89

"If the United States really wants to reduce drug abuse, it seems clear that more effort will have to be shifted to decreasing demand and discouraging consumption." -- Argus Leader, 8/17/89

"We're glad to see that the plan also doubles spending for substance-abuse treatment programs and increases funding for drug education and prevention programs." -- The Courier Journal, 8/19/89

Nicaragua

"The best option for the United States now is to encourage long-term stability in Central America by letting the war in Nicaragua end. The United States should embrace the Central American president's accord." -- Argus Leader, 8/18/89

Poland

"President Bush's administration has hailed developments as 'history-making' and politely urged the Soviet Union not to interfere. But Bush has been appropriately careful to avoid saying anything that could upset the transition." -- Argus Leader, 8/21/89

"Mr. Bush must make good on some promises made when he visited Poland in July.

"Mr. Bush also must be concerned with the Soviet response to Poland. But ultimately he must decide how this country will supply the carrot he so deftly offered when he held out the meager \$100 million stick." -- Grand Rapids Press, 8/23/89

Poland (continued)

"They also will have limited aid from the West, including emergency food aid and, Congress willing, the \$100 million President Bush has requested for Poland's private sector. They deserve more." -- The Commercial Appeal, 8/21/89

"We hope the President listens to Mazowiecki's appeals, and that the United States responds with what aid it can. Even if current events are just a calm before yet another storm in Poland's history, the opportunity to nourish the seeds of democracy is too great for the world's greatest democracy to pass up." -- The Bismarck Tribune, 8/21/89

William Lucas - Race Relations

"Mr. Bush has ended this mini-crisis in the best possible light." -- The Tennessean, 8/17/89

"It is interesting that the Republicans who supported Lucas ignored the issue of qualifications and made their defense of him on the basis of color." -- Michigan Chronicle, 8/26/89

"For those monitoring the Bush administration's civil rights enforcement performance, facing a qualified assistant attorney - black or white - on the other side of the trenches is more satisfactory than confronting one likely to be only a puppet or figurehead." -- Lincoln Journal, 8/14/89

"Bush's speech before the Urban League Aug. 8 offered no fresh solutions to the historic problems that he declared were his problems." -- Oregonian, 8/22/89

"In any event, Bush can consider himself on the notice that the Urban League and other minority advocacy groups will be carefully scrutinizing his record." -- Spokane Spokesman Review, 8/14/89

"Though rhetoric and action don't intersect, Bush has taken the GOP show on the road and has found a bigger audience in eight months than Reagan did in eight years." -- The Kansas City Times, 8/17/89

"Even with all of this fine talk, I would have felt a whole lot better if the president has said something about those affirmative action rulings handed down by the Supreme Court." -- Robert C. Newberry, The Houston Post, 8/12/89

## General Colin Powell

"Gen. Colin Powell . . . is an excellent choice to perform that [chairman of the JCS] task." -- Sacramento Bee, 8/15/89

". . . has built a reputation as a cool-headed, intelligent officer who would serve the country well." -- Omaha World Herald, 8/15/89

"Without intending any knock on the military academies, it also helps the larger American experiment occasionally to have a JCS chairman who broke into uniform ranks some place other than West Point, Annapolis, or Colorado Springs." -- Lincoln Journal, 8/11/89

## Hostages

"The message from the White House is all too clear to the hostage takers: Don't worry, the United States won't strike back." -- Richmond Times Dispatch, 8/23/89.

"President Bush is pursuing a sensible strategy: focus unmistakable pressure on the new government of Iran to lubricate the release of the eight American hostages in Lebanon." -- Lincoln Journal, 8/16/89

"But the Bush administration cannot ignore the hazards inherent in allowing the country's [Lebanon] slide to continue unchecked." -- The San Diego Union, 8/16/89

"At his news conference this week, a gingerly President Bush tiptoes all around the hostage crisis, raising first one option and then another and fleeing from them all." -- Arizona Republic, 8/17/89

"Mr. Bush's assertion that Iran could secure the hostage's freedom seems plausible." -- Detroit Free Press, 8/19/89

## S&L Bailout

"For their part, Congress and the White House should turn to pressing tasks needed to keep all financial institutions healthy: a modernization of banking laws and an overhaul of the deposit insurance system." -- Minn Star Tribune, 8/19/89

"Now there's something else to be mad about: President George Bush and Congress added about \$3 billion to the cost of the bailout just to make the federal budget look better." -- Argus Leader, 8/12/89

### George Bush Style

"On the links, the president calls himself, 'Mr. Smooth' and gets off-the-record extra putts (which he won't back in Washington). Maybe it's the late August atmosphere, but so far most Americans like the Bush style." -- Christian Science Monitor, 8/28/89

### War On Legal Services

"Few things make conservatives see red like the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). They sputter at the very thought of the quasi-independent federal organization that dispenses about \$300 million a year to 325 providers of legal services to the poor." -- Christian Science Monitor, 8/28/89

### Flag Burning

"The fact is it just won't work, this emotional attempt to amend the Constitution by prohibiting the public desecration of the American flag.

"President Bush should therefore forget about a flag amendment. History shows it may well be a futile, wasteful task." -- Christian Science Monitor, 8/25/89

"Like the ABA, we deplore flag burning as a political statement but we adore the constitutional amendment that permits it to happen." -- The State S.C., 8/20/89

### Fairness Doctrine

"The President's scenario, with the fairness doctrine attached as a proviso to a budget bill, boxes him into a corner. Without line-item authority, he would be obliged to approve or veto the measure in toto." -- The State, 8/21/89

### Arms Control

"Bush should provide stronger leadership on arms control. He also should stop shying away from sensitive issues. Now is the time to take them on." -- Argus Leader, 8/16/89

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## EDITORIAL ROUNDUP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS

August 25, 1989

### Hostages

"Bush should continue mounting political and economic pressure to get U.S. hostages released. Bush should also be ready to use military force. But only if he is serious." -- Argus (SD) Leader, 8/5/89

"Bush is wise to keep a steady hand and avoid blundering into counterproductive moves." -- The State Journal-Register, 8/7/89

". . . until the President finds a way to retaliate, he is right to minimize the commotion." -- syndicated columnist George Will, 8/7/89

"After watching what happened to his predecessors, President George Bush should have learned something about how to handle hostage situations. Unfortunately, he seems to be falling into the same traps." -- Los Angeles Herald Examiner, 8/8/89

". . . the President is concentrating his efforts on real diplomacy.

"At the moment, diplomacy is the most hopeful course of action." -- The Milwaukee Journal, 8/9/89

"George Bush should set a deadline for the many-sided negotiations now going on over the fate of hostages and prisoners in the Middle East." -- Rocky Mountain News, 8/13/89

"We salute President George Bush's cautious handling of the American response to the international hostage deadlock as an effective position for a country trapped between grief for victims and panic over the fate of the living." -- Lansing State Journal, 8/13/89

"The constraints Mr. Bush places on military action against terrorist thugs are the sort of babble we suppose one should expect from Washington these days, though we were disappointed to hear it from him." -- Richmond Times-Dispatch, 8/17/89

### Central America

". . . the White House can help by urging its clients to lay down their arms and by pledging that all remaining U.S. aid will be used solely to implement the regional accord." -- The Sacramento Bee, 8/9/89

"Before he lands on his backside, [President Bush] should reposition U.S. policy." -- Los Angeles Herald Examiner, 8/9/89

## Central America (cont'd)

"The President appears to be drifting toward acceptance of the new reality, which includes a Nicaraguan government that is earning international support by playing a constructive role in the regional peace process. Yet Bush has not yet taken any initiative to shape the future. It is time for him to do so." -- The Boston Globe, 8/10/89

"Using peaceful means, the U.S. government has every right to press for democratization of Nicaragua. . .the United States does not have the right to dictate the outcome.

". . . President Bush seems to have recognized that fact." -- Milwaukee Journal, 8/10/89

"Bush should endorse the Central American peace effort in the United Nations and elsewhere." -- Des Moines Register, 8/10/89

## Colin Powell

"In selecting Gen. Colin L. Powell to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, President Bush has placed professionalism over ideology.

"Bush's decision. . .is a good one." -- Spokane Spokesman Review, 8/11/89

"The President's decision to pick a black officer for the nation's highest military post over some three dozen other four-star generals with more seniority probably had a political dimension, but it is a decision that can be easily defended on its merits." -- Detroit Free Press, 8/11/89

"The new generation of military leaders. . .must possess diplomatic skill, foreign policy experience and intellectual muscle. Gen. Colin Powell is such a man." -- Des Moines Register, 8/12/89

"Powell deserves congratulations. So does Bush for picking him." -- Minneapolis Star Tribune, 8/14/89

## Civil Rights

"To date the President has been lavish with talk, but stingy with action on urban problems and civil rights. So his high-minded promises ring a bit hollow.

"Inaction is not the only problem. Bush has taken some action -- but it was hostile to urban and civil rights interests." -- The Milwaukee Journal, 8/12/89

## Civil Rights (cont'd)

"President George Bush has taken two promising--if inconclusive--steps away from what seemed his administration's early retreat on civil rights issues.

"He said the right things in his speech last week to the National Urban League. . .He sensibly decided against provoking a confrontation with the Democratic-majority Senate over his nomination of William Lucas as assistant attorney general for civil rights." -- Detroit Free Press, 8/15/89

"President George Bush has agreed to back legislation that would extend federal civil rights protection to disabled Americans and people with AIDS. This is a resounding victory for disabled rights advocates and seems to indicate a realization on the part of the Bush Administration that discrimination is an ever-changing phenomenon that will require periodic expansion or restructuring of existing law." -- Austin American-Statesman, 8/6/89

## Savings and Loans

"The President, threatening a veto, says that an on-budget bailout exempted from Gramm-Rudman sends financial markets a signal that the government is no longer serious about fiscal discipline. That argument makes no sense." -- The Sacramento Bee, 8/4/89

"The savings and loan rescue compromise forced on Congress by George Bush regrettably signals an unwillingness by either the executive or the legislative branch to deal with the federal deficit." -- Austin American-Statesman, 8/8/89

## Mexico

"President Bush is right to do all he can to buttress President Salinas's efforts. Mexico's future and that of the United States will be all the more promising if the level of bilateral cooperation continues to sprout." -- San Diego Union, 8/14/89

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 17, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *mkg*  
SUBJECT: WEEKLY EDITORIAL ROUND-UP

Attached are two editorial round-ups, because the RNC sent over a second set of editorials that arrived as I was just about to send you the summary of the first set. (Sort of a buy-one-get-one-free deal).

Thank you.

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS  
August 17, 1989

Hostages/Iran

"President Bush erred Monday escalating the Higgins murder to a kind of foreign policy crisis. It wasn't, and it isn't." -- Lincoln (NB) Journal, 8/1/89

"President Bush's natural instincts for a cool response will best serve the long-term interests of the nation he leads, and the hostages still in captivity." -- Seattle Times, 8/2/89

". . . the United States should not sacrifice its principles by giving in to terrorism or dip to the lowly standards of those who practice it, even if they are allies from Israel." -- Argus (SD) Leader, 8/2/89

"President Bush would be wise not to yield to the pressure to strike back blindly." -- The State Journal-Register, 8/3/89

"President Bush has given no signs that he is given to rash action. . .

"Bush will serve the country well if he avoids the allure of actions that may temporarily satisfy the urge to achieve revenge . . . when patience and inaction are more productive." -- The Boston Globe, 8/3/89

"Despite the rising cry for immediate U.S. retribution, Mr. Bush is wise to keep a steady hand and avoid blundering into counterproductive moves." -- The San Diego Union, 8/4/89

"After the confusion and misdirection of the first days of the Higgins-Cicippio hostage crisis, the Bush Administration has embarked on a course that seems to be fully working and should be fully exploited." -- The Sacramento Bee, 8/5/89

"President Bush's combination of intense diplomacy and a leaked scenario of possible military strikes against targets in Iran and Lebanon seems to be having its intended effect." -- Louisville Courier-Journal, 8/5/89

Drugs

"North Dakotans must now join with others across the nation in urging President Bush to act firmly and decisively against those who traffic in illegal drugs. Naming a 'drug czar' was just the beginning. Much more must be done." -- Bismarck (ND) Tribune, 8/6/89

### Civil Rights/Outreach Efforts

"Despite his [Bush's] and GOP chairman Lee Atwater's stated and restated desire to open the party to blacks, the whole approach has been somewhat disingenuous." -- Los Angeles Herald Examiner, 8/3/89

### Powell Nomination

"President Bush's decision to appoint Gen. Colin L. Powell to a two-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is welcome on several levels.

"For Mr. Bush, the Powell appointment is an adroit political move just as the GOP is trying to persuade black voters to turn Republican." -- Baltimore Sun, 8/11/89

"President Bush's decision to nominate Army Gen. Colin Powell to succeed Adm. William Crowe Jr. as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is thoroughly justified by the nominee's outstanding record of proven leadership, intellectual depth, management skills and commitment to the preservation of this nation and its ideals." -- Fort Worth Star Telegram, 8/11/89

### Abortion

"President Bush has chosen a strange front for launching his first assault on abortion -- a hard line against abortion assistance for impoverished and primarily black women living amid the drugs and violence of the capital. This is no place for presidential clout." -- Boston Globe, 8/5/89

### Savings and Loans

"Mr. Bush had the courage to face up to the mounting crisis. . . . at least Washington finally is owning up to the this problem and attempting to clean up the mess it helped create." -- Baltimore Sun, 8/10/89

### Mexico

"The Bush people seems realistic as well as enthusiastic. No longer obsessed with Central America, they seem to be giving Mexico the prominence in U.S. policy it deserves." -- Star Tribune (MN), 8/8/89

### Education

"Only a complete optimist will come away convinced that President Bush's call for state governors to meet with him in September at a summit on education is the answer to the nation's nagging educational questions." -- Arizona Republic, 8/1/89

". . . the September education summit to which Bush summoned the state executives is an idea with merit." -- Lincoln (NB) Journal, 8/2/89

### Clean Air

"When President Bush unveiled the particulars of his new clear air package recently in the White House Rose Garden, he proclaimed, 'This legislation has teeth.'

"Indeed it has, complete with cavities, plaque and other problems." -- Idaho States News, 8/4/89

### Space

"Bush established no timetable for his grand plan to spend somewhere between several billion and several hundred billion on space spectaculars -- indicating that he, too, doubts that the megabucks can be pried loose at a time when neither the economy nor the congressional mood is amenable." -- Des Moines Register, 7/31/89

### Contras

"President Bush should turn his attention to resettling, not resuscitating, the contras." -- Minneapolis State Tribune, 8/9/89

"If Mr. Bush finds a palatable way to handle the contra question, he will see many opportunities for playing a useful role in the Latin presidents' scheme. That would be good for the United States and for the people of Central America." -- Detroit Free Press, 8/9/89

### Disability Rights

"As in environmental policy, Bush's stand on the disabled is a splendid turn away from his predecessor's attitudes." -- Minneapolis State Tribune, 8/6/89

### The Bush Administration

"President Bush has issued a series of proposals on issues such as education and the environment, but they are tepid, uninspiring, on the cheap." -- Des Moines Register, 8/6/89

**EDITORIAL ROUNDUP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS**  
August 15, 1989

Hostages

"Searching as he is for practical options for retaliation in the Higgins case or to win the release of the eight other American hostages, George Bush should turn for help to Mikhail Gorbachev." -- Chicago Tribune, 8/2/89

"What matters is that when the Bush Administration responds to the murder [of Lt. Col. Higgins], it does so in ways consistent with American principles.

"The Bush Administration can help by applying what diplomatic and economic force it has and by acknowledging that in this situation, its military power is of only limited use." -- Star Tribune, 8/2/89

"For now, at least, Mr. Bush's response of mobilizing U.S. naval forces in the eastern Mediterranean and pursuing quiet diplomacy behind the scenes are the best hope for addressing the immediate issue of hostage safety." -- The Dallas Morning News, 8/3/89

"One more murder and Bush is going to have to do something more than be prudent." -- syndicated columnist Mike Royko, 8/3/89

Space

"By defining bold, credible goals and proposing a NASA budget commensurate to the task, President Bush can help recapture the sense of mission that faded soon after the Apollo landing." -- San Diego Union, 7/20/89

"Bush may have squandered an opportunity to make the Mars mission a firm and enduring U.S. commitment by failing to set more definite goals." -- The Oregonian, 7/21/89

"The President's attempt at inspiration falls short." -- The Des Moines Register, 7/22/89

"President Bush has given an exciting goal to the nation: Mars." -- Omaha World-Herald, 7/24/89

"The President's efforts to restore a sense of mission to America's space program are certainly long overdue. But is he serious?

"Bush's remarks did more to illustrate the confusion that has characterized America's space program in the 20 years since the moonwalk than it did to point toward a resolution." -- Sacramento Bee, 7/27/89

### Clean Air

"The air pollution proposal submitted to Congress last week by President George Bush appears the best vehicle for a thorough -- and long overdue -- strengthening of the 19-year old Clean Air Act.

"The White House bill offers a solid base for debate, but it seems to deliver somewhat less to environmental interests than Mr. Bush promised last month . . . " -- Detroit Free Press, 7/25/89

"The president's reputation as an environmentalist has been soiled -- by his own clean air bill. Thought the legislation is better than anything put out by the previous administration, it does not live up to George Bush's clean-air rhetoric.

"He [Bush] spoke out against air pollution in a strong and clear voice. But when it came time to put words to action, the clarion call became a whisper. -- Austin American-Statesman, 7/26/89

". . . Mr. Bush's [environmental] plan is on the table, and it backpedals considerably from his earlier promises." -- The South Carolina State, 7/29/89

### Foreign Policy

"President Bush this week finally began acting like a major world leader instead of a pansy. He stepped out from under Gorbachev's shadow . . ." -- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune, 7/4/89

"George Bush deserves much of the credit for the synchronized approach embraced by the [Paris] summit participants. The President's non-confrontational style and seasoned sensitivity to the nuances of international diplomacy contributed significantly to the spirit of teamwork that prevailed during the three days of deliberations." -- San Diego Union, 7/18/89

"George Bush could not swagger through Europe like a conquering general during the last several days, but nonetheless, he did represent the victors in a contest that ultimately could resemble World War II in its impact on global power and political alignments." -- Spokesman-Review, 7/18/89

"President Bush was on solid ground in protesting a proposed amendment to the State Department appropriations bill that would have forbidden any discussions with a PLO representative involved in terrorist activity that caused the death, injury or kidnapping of an American." -- The Oregonian, 7/21/89

## Foreign Policy (cont'd)

"Japan's political turmoil -- and the role U.S. trade relation has played in it -- should push the Bush Administration to develop a cohesive Japan strategy, something it currently lacks. The administration's ambivalence reflects a growing debate within the United States over whether to treat Japan as a friend or a foe." -- Star Tribune, 7/27/89

"President Bush and the western economic alliance have stepped in [to Poland] with hundreds of million of dollars in food aid. It is precisely the type of assistance aimed at easing the transition from communist-controlled to market-driven economies that the eastern bloc needs to become economically compatible with western Europe." -- Dallas Times Herald, 8/3/89

## Civil Rights

"President George Bush needs to act as well as talk about civil rights. He was a part of the administration that worked to dismantle the [Civil Rights] commission. It should be his obligation to make civil rights a national priority again." -- Detroit Free Press, 7/25/89

"Mr. Bush's nomination of Mr. Lucas itself seemed primarily an act of political symbolism." -- Detroit Free Press, 8/3/89

## Gun Control

"Many well-meaning efforts of politicians, motivated by the desire to 'do something' about a serious public problem, lead to ill-conceived actions that exacerbate the situation they intended to correct. Such is the case with President Bush's imposition of a permanent import on 43 types of semiautomatic assault rifles." -- Dallas Times Herald, 7/13/89

"Who can . . . command the attention of the nation? Why not George Bush? He's already blown it with the more fanatical elements on either side, so he is in a perfect position to talk straight to Middle America about the issue and seek a consensus." -- Austin American-Statesman, 7/16/89

## The Bush Administration

"Mr. Bush gives good press conferences. True, his lack of eloquence is relentless but he generally knows what he's talking about and he projects a sense of that is reassuring.

"Moreover, he has a kind of boyish enthusiasm that reminds one of Jimmy Stewart in 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.' He acts as though he's won the top prize on the 'President For a Day Quiz Show' and is reveling the wonder of it all." -- Donald Kaul, The Kansas City Times, 7/20/89

## The Bush Administration (cont'd)

"If Bush wants to show why he has so much confidence in his young vice president, he must find a way in Quayle can demonstrate his competence. A figurehead stewardship of a vague space program probably isn't it." -- Des Moines Register, 7/22/89

"George Bush, who wants everyone to like him, is in danger of treading into political quicksand. He keeps promising the moon and delivering a sound and light show.

"Promising can be an addiction. The more it's practiced, the easier it gets. So far, Bush's promises have been cheap, in several ways." -- syndicated columnist Ann McFeatters, 7/25/89

"Largely on the strength of his foreign policy success, President Bush's popularity has increased slightly in the South over the past several months, according to the latest Atlanta Journal-Constitution Southern Poll.

"Most of the rise in Mr. Bush's approval rating comes from an increase in his popularity among men, blacks, and Democrats." -- The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, 7/29/89

"The Bush Administration is finally, after six months, taking on some defining character, but the character is that of a facade, not of a solid structure.

"Mr. Bush is wildly popular in the polls, but he is out on the stage dancing desperately in front of a set that is in constant danger of collapsing behind him. He must know that only a little glue and a lot of luck separate the applause from the potential boos." -- Tom Teepen, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, 7/30/89

"As President . . . Bush has departed considerably from Reagan's policies, and the changes are largely for the good.

". . . the new president appears to be getting along handsomely with world leaders.

"Bush's quieter, more professional approach to international relations may serve the nation well." -- The Milwaukee Journal, date unknown

July 12, 1989

## EDITORIAL ROUNDUP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS

### China

"With recurring waves of political executions being carried out in China, the U.S. government must denounce unequivocally and forcefully the reign of horror being inflicted on leaders of the pro-democracy movement. President George Bush's calibrated response ... is appropriate and commendable.

"But by speaking out plainly today, President Bush can lay a foundation for the United States to exert a constructive influence in Beijing over the long term." -- Lansing State Journal-Register, 6/26/89

"President George Bush's administration should continue to show the Chinese government the concrete implications of its present reign of terror, including the loss of Western capital and technology. The delicate strategy for the White House will be to encourage China's leaders to take note of the legitimate aspirations of the democracy movement without provoking them toward further repression or isolation.

"So far, we think Mr. Bush's response to the bloody repression in China has been appropriately measured." -- Detroit Free Press, 6/27/89

### Nicaragua

"The White House phase of hoping for military overthrow of the Managua government has given way to a strategy of economic attrition and international ostracization. Although preferable to terrorism, it remains a shameful policy, causing suffering felt most heavily by the poor." -- The Boston Globe, 6/18/89

### U.S. -- Iranian Relations

"The meeting between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Iranian Speaker of the Parliament Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is a development the United States would do well to note.

"The tensions of the last 10 years cannot be erased overnight, but neither Mr. Bush nor those who emerge as Iran's leaders need necessarily be constrained by their predecessors' stridency. And the United States cannot be complacent while Iran restores relations with the Soviet Union." -- Detroit Free Press, 6/26/89

## Campaign Finance

"President Bush is about to take a step toward campaign reform. He will be stepping in the right direction, albeit gingerly.

"The President is right to seek an end to special-interest PAC influence." -- Lansing State Journal-Register, 6/23/89

## HUD

"With Reagan-era scandals bursting like a swarm of termites from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Bush administration has appropriately launched criminal probes to accompany the investigations already under way on Capitol Hill." -- The Baltimore Sun, 6/19/89

## Savings and Loans

"Only a heavy, last-minute lobbying campaign last week by President Bush prevented savings and loan lobbyists from wrecking his S&L bailout bill aimed at exorcising the ghosts of the nation's largest financial scandal. The 320-97 vote in the House was a victory not only for the President but for taxpayers who stood to be the big losers if the thrift lobby prevailed.

"... congressmen ... were knuckling under to pressure from hometown S&Ls seeking to retain the 'good will' accounting break. But Mr. Bush's strong message and veto threat ended the rebellion. It was an impressive show of political force by the new President." -- The Baltimore Sun, 6/19/89

## Environment

"There may be some way to manage President Bush's 'pollution rights' proposal so that it does not become a hustler's get-rich-quick fleecing of the environment, but the reverse is more likely to be the case.

"Whatever the merit of many of President Bush's proposals, 'pollution rights' sound wrong for the environment." -- The Boston Globe, 6/19/89

"George Bush has now made his bid to blow the politics aside and get on with cleaning up the air.

"As President Bush seems to understand, few policy goals are more important than proving that pollution doesn't have to be tolerated." -- Christian Science Monitor, 6/14/89

### Women

"President Bush promises women will get a wider protection from violent crime as a result of a \$1.2 billion anti-crime package he sent to Congress earlier this month.

"It is to the President's credit that he understands this correlation of law and attitude, and that he spoke out forcefully again on Monday in support of a dramatic change in both." -- Lansing State Journal-Register, 6/28/89

### Child-Care

"... you have to give President Bush credit for some backbone when he sends signals that he might veto a Democratic leadership bill providing \$1.75 billion in child-care subsidies." -- Tulsa World, 6/23/89

### AIDS

"President George Bush should take up the challenge of moving this country toward a coordinated national strategy for fighting AIDS. He could begin by appointing a health care professional to head the effort." -- Detroit Free Press, 6/27/89

June 22, 1989

**EDITORIAL ROUNDUP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS**

**FOREIGN POLICY**

More comments on the President at the NATO summit...

"When all the chips were counted, George Bush had come out a winner in the high stakes game in Brussels. In what amounted to a showdown with Mikhail Gorbachev, the president held the right cards and played his hand to advantage." -- Arizona Republic, 5/31/89

"Bush has responded, at the right time, at the right place, and with a conventional-arms reduction plan the Soviets will find difficult if not impossible to accept." -- Wisconsin State Journal, 5/31/89

"Good show, George Bush. At NATO's 40th anniversary summit, the President responded effectively to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's arms-control initiatives, healed a worrisome rift within NATO and emerged as a forward-looking leader of the Western alliance." -- Minneapolis Star Tribune, 5/31/89

"Mr. Bush deserves the praise he is winning for taking charge of the NATO summit and challenging Mr. Gorbachev to accept speedy cuts in armaments.

"...however...Mr. Bush's NATO proposals not only are less audacious than they appear, but perhaps less audacious than the cause of peace could have warranted." -- Chicago Sun-Times, 5/31/89

"President Bush's proposal to reduce U.S. troop strength and conventional arms in Europe is right on the money -- our money...it's a good first step towards bringing a measure of fiscal realism to our military commitments not only Europe, but around the world." -- Lansing State Journal, 6/1/89

"His call for quick negotiations and bold cuts in conventional weapons in Europe did a lot of good for President George Bush.

"...More importantly, though, Mr. Bush did not finish his job in Europe. Actually, he hardly began answering some of the fundamental questions faced by NATO and the United States in particular.

"...The president's speeches about the need to satisfy the passion for democracy around the world, about bringing down the Berlin Wall and making Europe 'whole and free' are fine, but they are too general to serve as guidelines for the alliance in this fascinating moment of history." -- Detroit Free Press, 6/2/89

"George Bush...triumphed at NATO's 40th anniversary conference in the role of Solomon..." -- Chicago Tribune, 6/2/89

## NATO (cont'd)

"President Bush has described his conventional-arms-reduction proposal...as a bold new initiative. Actually, it is less original than Bush suggests, but it certainly is a welcome move. It is even potentially epoch-making." -- Milwaukee Journal, 6/2/89

"By the end of his first European tour as president, Mr. Bush had transformed his image on the world stage.

"...After four months of criticism for sluggishness, Mr. Bush assumed an international leadership role not only in name but in actuality.

"...In staking out the opening of Eastern Europe as a goal for his presidency, Mr. Bush recaptured the moral high ground from his Soviet counterpart." -- columnist Julia Malone, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, 6/4/89

"President George Bush catapulted into the big leagues of world diplomacy last week with his conventional arms reduction riposte to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his defusing of the short range nuclear missile issue among the NATO allies.

"...Bush's statements in an interview Thursday in London on the last day of his European trip suggest he fully grasps the complexity of the changing East-West situation." -- Albuquerque Journal, 6/4/89

"Bush's 11th-hour conversion at Kennebunkport, just two weeks before the NATO summit, brought him the first triumph of his presidency." -- Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 6/4/89

"President George Bush's fast-track proposal to reduce conventional armies on the Continent points the way to a significantly more stable, peaceful globe.

"...in his first important act on the international stage, Bush has greatly advanced the cause of peaceful evolution in Europe." -- Lincoln State Journal Register, 6/4/89

## CHINA

"The president's first step was a firm but prudent one...

"...Bush must find a way to make the Chinese look beyond their xenophobia and hear his words of warning." -- Wisconsin State Journal, 6/5/89

"President Bush's calm, deliberate approach to the convulsions in China is correct and appropriate -- for now, certainly.

"...Now is not the time to slam the door, to cut all contact and isolate the forces of democracy that have taken much of their inspiration and encouragement from the United States." -- The Indianapolis Star, 6/6/89

CHINA (cont'd)

"George Bush has struck the right note in response to the bloody massacre of civilians in Beijing by the People's Army.

"...In counseling against a complete break, George Bush...maintains that our carefully nurtured relationship with China inspired the determined democracy movement. And he's right when he argues it would be at even greater risk without a U.S. presence, both economic and diplomatic." -- Chicago Tribune, 6/6/89

"President Bush's reaction Monday to the Chinese government's massacre of unarmed citizens was disappointingly limp. It fell far short of conveying the American people's justified sense of outrage over the bloody events in Beijing." -- The Milwaukee Journal, 6/7/89

"The President has sensibly counseled patience rather than precipitous punitive actions against the regime [of China]...

"...George Bush is right. Breaking relations would end any hope of wielding any moral influence with the government on behalf of the students." -- Chicago Tribune, 6/11/89

**DOMESTIC POLICY**  
**Clean Air/Environment**

"With William Reilly at the Environmental Protection Agency, there is reason for hope that the government can persuade many of the polluters to find ways to control their toxic emissions.

"...What Mr. Bush must first establish...is that there is a public health imperative at stake here." -- Detroit Free Press, 6/11/89

"Bush's plan, while it has its shortcomings, is a beginning. It deserves praise for starting us in a new direction, and should be welcomed by all Americans." -- Houston Post, 6/13/89

"[Bush's proposal] was innovative, practical and reasoned ... indicating that the political paralysis on the issue may at last be easing, and Bush may indeed earn the mantle of the environmental President." -- Chicago Tribune, 6/13/89

"Even if subject to modification, the Bush initiative should be recognized as a significant step forward in administration policy." -- Jackson (MS) Clarion-Ledger, 6/13/89

"Bush's announcement give the [environment] issue visibility and momentum. He set the standard at which laws and industrial policy should aim." -- Oregonian, 6/14/89

"... the important thing is that Bush has put a package of strong proposals on the table ... [and] the public should demand that an equally strong law emerge from Congress." -- Greenville (SC) News, 6/14/89

"The Bush plan is a compromise, which means it will not totally please everyone ... [but] is ambitious and promising, and it follows George Bush's campaign pledge to become an environmental president ... It is refreshing to see a president again taking the legislative process seriously." -- Akron (OH) Beacon Journal, 6/14/89

"... for the most part, the plan is cause for a celebration ..." -- Los Angeles Times, 6/14/89

"Give Bush an A-plus ... His proposals ... were surprisingly tough." -- columnist Sandy Grady, Boston Globe, 6/14/89

"We hope his [Bush's] initiative will draw together diverse economic and regional interests whose prolonged disagreements share the blame for our barely breathable air." -- Louisville Courier-Journal, 6/14/89

DOMESTIC POLICY (cont'd)

"... What's most encouraging is the evidence that Mr. Bush ... is ready to commit the government's power ... to cleaning up the air and conserving the nation's marvelous natural heritage." -- Charlotte Observer, 6/14/89

"As President Bush seems to understand, few policy goals are more important than proving that pollution doesn't have to be tolerated." -- Christian Science Monitor, 6/14/89

"All in all ... the president's clean-air plan is an important new thrust toward a healthier environment." -- The Columbus (OH) Dispatch, 6/15/89

"The goals President Bush is setting indicate that he recognizes the urgency of cleaning the air. At the same time, the plan seeks to strike a cooperative balance between government and business.

"...President Bush has taken the step will get the process moving. On this count alone, the nation is better off." -- The Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/15/89

"In the final analysis, this is only a step toward solutions. But it is a major one that should be followed by many others." -- Baltimore Sun, 6/15/89

"President Bush has scored with his proposal to clean up the air Americans breathe in 10 to 20 years and sharply reduce acid rain..." -- Honolulu Advertiser, 6/15/89

"Mr. Bush's proposals are a good starting point ... More important than the specifics is the president's environmental commitment..." -- Arizona Republic, 6/15/89

"As George Bush searches for ways to make good on his pledge to be an environmentalist president, he might do well to look to one of the real success stories we've had here in Michigan: the returnable bottle law." -- Detroit Free Press, 6/3/89

"As for [Council on Environmental Quality member] Michael Deland, he can only be effective if the president makes a sincere effort to put the muscle back in to the three-member advisory panel that his White House predecessor largely ignored." -- Dallas Times Herald, 6/9/89

June 7, 1989

REGIONAL EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

FOREIGN POLICY/PRE-NATO

"The summit offers President Bush an opportunity to point U.S. policy toward the future. For too long he has left the diplomatic initiative to Mr. Gorbachev, thus failing in one of his prime duties." -- The Baltimore Sun, 5/29/89

"So far the response to Soviet initiatives on cutting conventional forces has amounted in essence to saying we'll get around to thinking what we should do only after the Warsaw Pact is down to NATO's level." -- syndicated columnist Flora Lewis, 4/16/89

"Whether George Bush is properly, or even adequately, managing the job of president is arguable, but that he has felt no pressure to present flashy theater is commendable. It is nice to find a politician who wants to think before he acts.

... In foreign affairs, where the administration has acted, it has acted correctly." -- Dallas Morning News, 4/23/89

"Poor George. They are hollering at him -- Kremlin spokesmen, foreign diplomats, academics, media pundits, telling him, in effect, 'Don't just stand there, do something.' Too bad. Better advice would be, 'Don't just do something, stand there.'" -- Rocky Mountain News, 4/23/89

"President Bush has reacted in the most grudging way to the unfolding Soviet drama.

... It all adds up to this. George Bush is turning away from an opportunity of which his predecessors in the White House dreamed: the chance to write an end to the cold war.

... Bush and his foreign policy advisers seems to think that any bold diplomatic move in superpower relations would be a favor to Gorbachev." -- syndicated columnist Anthony Lewis, 4/25/89

"While Gorbachev is making a disarmament proposal a week, Bush brushes him off and concentrates on what seems to be the only thing he has shown he deeply cares about, good relations with Congress." -- syndicated columnist Mary McGrory, 4/26/89

"The current invisibility to Washington of the non-U.S. world follows from that apparent lack of a foreign policy agenda which so many have complained about in this administration's first 100 days. Bush and his people have been slowly sorting through the issues, making compromises rather than choices, opting for non-action. Getting along with Congress has been their most important consideration." -- syndicated columnist William Pfaff, 5/2/89

PRE-NATO (cont'd)

"...Bush can't match up with Gorbachev. Where Mikhail leads, the West Germans and the rest of non-Thatcher Europe follow. As the world holds its breath, Bush sucks his thumb. Knock on the door of the Bush State Department and no one is home." -- David Nyhan, The Boston Globe, 5/4/89

"Bush insists on modernizing short-range nuclear missiles in Germany, against the wishes of that country. Caution probably is necessary, but he should show some movement in arms reduction to counter Gorbachev." -- John Corlett, Idaho Statesman, 5/15/89

"[Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard] Shevardnadze's bogus threat gives President Bush the chance he needs to play his diplomatic cards. He should do so." -- The Des Moines Register, 5/16/89

"Mr. Bush outlined an appealing vision for the future at Texas A&M. But his extreme caution in the present leaves the impression that the United States is going to have to be dragged every step of the way." -- Philadelphia Inquirer, 5/17/89

"...Mr. Bush must, as Mr. Scowcroft put it, provide 'a sense of mission for the alliance.' That's something that his innate caution and methodical approach has so far prevented him from doing." -- Carl P. Leubsdorf, Dallas Morning News, 5/18/89

"Gorbachev's offer of further arms cuts is treated as a threat to the stability of Europe by Bush and the people around him. It's a worrisome attitude.

... Why, you ask, should they trust Gorbachev? The obvious answer is that Gorbachev has delivered in a number of ways that, judged from a 1980 perspective, are nothing short of sensational.

... given his cautious nature, Bush may not want to play by Gorbachev's rules. Too bad. He should be riding the wave of the future. Now." -- Albuquerque Journal, 5/21/89

"Bush goes to Europe and he has to show his American Express card to get any respect. Gorbachev goes and is treated like Dwight Eisenhower. We make an arms-reduction proposal and nobody pays any attention. Gorbachev makes the same proposal and he's up for the Nobel Peace Prize. Bush goes to China and the big news is his visit to a Chinese restaurant, where he orders three from column B. Gorbachev goes and registers an 8.7 on the political Richter scale." -- Des Moines Register, 5/21/89

"The US should now consider supporting the merger of negotiations on nuclear and conventional arms in Europe. The two sets of talks are bound to influence one another; merging them would recognize that influence and give NATO better control over the arms-reduction process." -- The Milwaukee Journal, 5/24/89

PRE-NATO (cont'd)

"...the new administration ... risks being branded as weak and ineffectual for an inability to influence events that stems primarily from factors beyond their control.

... [Bush's] administration is increasingly frustrated with Mr. Gorbachev's adeptness in mixing proposals for missile cutbacks that are politically appealing but substantively minor with those for force reductions that seem comparable to what the president wants." -- Carl P. Leubsdorf, The Dallas Morning News, 5/25/89

"Mr. Bush wasn't elected president simply to provide the media with opportunities for big headlines and sonorous editorials. He is the successor to a strong president, most of whose policies he supported enthusiastically and has pledged to continue. If that bores George Will, it's just too damn bad.

... But one pronounced characteristic of George Bush as president is becoming apparent: He is a real 'Cool Hand,' who rarely gets excited about anything -- certainly not about every piffling Soviet disarmament ploy." -- syndicated columnist William Rusher, 5/26/89

"Tom Griscom, who served as communications director in the Reagan White House, noted the same kinds of pressures in the Reagan Administration. 'In preparing for the Moscow summit, there were those in the Reagan administration who really felt we were losing the public relations war in Europe. But we have to stand back,' he says. 'We're really not trying to match every move they make.'" -- news account, The Christian Science Monitor, 5/31/89

"Suddenly comes a chilling thought: Is the competitive best the administration can do when confronted by one as imaginative and dynamic as Gorbachev is to rhetorically lapse into a stand tall and be macho posture?" -- Lincoln [NB] Journal, date unknown, referring to the "drugstore cowboy" remark

POST-NATO

"More than four months after his inauguration, President Bush has broken through the appearance of lethargy and seized the initiative on the most pressing foreign policy issue of the day.

... Mr. Bush went to Brussels untested and unknown as a leader, even among heads of government who had dealt with him in previous government roles. He came away from the summit with his reputation greatly enhanced, playing a role that Americans have come to expect of their president -- the leader of the Free World." -- The Baltimore Sun, 5/31/89

"President George Bush has seized the initiative in East-West arms-control negotiations." -- Timothy Aepfel, The Christian Science Monitor, 5/30/89

POST-NATO (cont'd)

"Progress toward a pact limiting conventional weapons in Europe is coming so quickly that in Washington even the hawks are sounding optimistic." -- Peter Grier, The Christian Science Monitor, 5/30/89

"George Bush brought it off. Not the impossible, but the unlikely. In his first NATO summit meeting as president, he walked right into what could have been an ordeal by fire at the hands of unhappy allies and emerged not just unscorched, but also celebrated." -- Chicago Tribune, 5/31/89

"President George Bush needed to take control of the agenda in East-West relations, and he has managed to do just that, at least for the moment." -- Detroit Free Press, 5/31/89

"Having opened amid fears that it would be a diplomatic fiasco, the 40th anniversary summit of the alliance ended in a serenade of unity.

... In the effusive words of [NATO Secretary-General Manfred] Woerner, 'It was a triumph...for our alliance as a whole.'"

-- Knight-Ridder news account, 5/31/89

"Both President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev now have presented the vision of a new, less menacing Europe, what could be the beginning of the end of the most dangerous military confrontation in history.

... The most surprising aspect of Bush's proposals was the speed of the American turnaround." -- syndicated columnist James McCartney, 5/31/89

"...it was hard [for Bush] not to luxuriate in the gushing from other foreign leaders, who said the Bush initiative may have been the critical element in both the SNF compromise and in the upbeat compromise of the 40th anniversary NATO summit." -- Karen Hosler, The Baltimore Sun, 5/31/89

"The centerpiece of this week's NATO summit was an arms-control initiative that looks like something the Soviets might have dreamed up. That's no accident.

... In calling for deep reductions in United States troops and Western aircraft in Europe, President George Bush has sought to grab the initiative in East-West dealings from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev." -- news account, Christian Science Monitor, 6/1/89

"In welcoming a chance to heal the division of Europe, Mr. Bush is finally responding to the Gorbachev challenge. More, he compels Mr. Gorbachev to respond to the Bush challenge." -- The Baltimore Sun, 6/1/89

POST-NATO (cont'd)

"The 20 percent cut in U.S. combat manpower in Europe that President Bush proposed to the NATO summit Monday has transformed alliance debate and should halt Washington criticism of Bush's diplomatic timidity. Timidity indeed!" -- syndicated columnist William Pfaff, 6/1/89

"The NATO summit in Brussels turned out a success...  
... there was real substance as well, not just rhetorical wallpaper. The family squabble over short-range nuclear missiles was deftly handled..." -- Christian Science Monitor, 6/1/89

"President George Bush left here [Brussels] yesterday, clearly the hero of the NATO summit for arranging compromise that saves face for Western leaders over the thorny issue of short-range nuclear missiles based in West Germany." -- syndicated columnist Ann McFeatters, 6/1/89

"George Bush returns from the NATO summit today bathed in good will and friendly press notices.  
... the President himself was responsible for taking the political initiative at the summit." -- The Wall Street Journal, 6/2/89

"Let us hope that the president's leadership at the NATO summit is a sign of his willingness to take bold initiatives in the future. The Alliance looks to the United States to help redefine NATO's role in these times of changing circumstances, moving it toward environmental as well as other security issues beyond those that are purely military." -- Sen. David Boren, Washington Post, 6/4/89

"Bush's triumph was the first taste of tactical success as president. It was an essential win in what was merely the opening skirmish in the great struggle against Mikhail Gorbachev for the heart and soul of Europe." -- syndicated columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, 6/5/89

ENVIRONMENT

"Say what you want about Boston Harbor, Mr. President, but it isn't coated with 10.1 million gallons of crude. Bush needs to regain his balance with firm action on acid rain, a new Clean Air Act and more 'debt-for-nature' swaps with developing nations." -- Wisconsin State Journal, 4/30/89

"Just how committed is America's 'environmental president' to protecting the environment? So far, President Bush has failed to live up to his promise." -- Los Angeles Herald Examiner, 5/11/89

## CRIME

"Nothing creative or inventive in Bush's answers to street crime." -- Sandy Grady, The Boston Globe, 5/17/89

"Mr. Bush thus seeks the appearance of action on assault rifles without committing himself to effective movement." -- Chicago Sun-Times, 5/17/89

"The President's hard line pledge to 'take back the streets' featured a strange mixture of proposals that, as one writer noted, managed to be 'both reckless and timid at the same time.' ...it is folly to think that laws, agents, prosecutors and prisons will make the streets safe, just safer. But at least, Mr. Bush has shown a strong and apparently sincere concern about what Americans regard as a major issue. The focus was badly needed." -- Columbia [SC] State Journal, 5/29/89

"From one perspective, President Bush's plan to fight crime might be mistaken for a protectionist trade measure. He intends to continue a ban against imports of certain semiautomatic assault weapons. He does not seek a ban on similar rifles made in this country. Will victims be comforted? They may be held up, robbed, assaulted, wounded or killed, but at least the perpetrator will be using American-made arms." -- Lincoln Journal, 5/17/89

## ETHICS

"...while the Democratic Congress has focused so much attention of late on allegations of wrongdoing in the executive branch, the national legislature has a substantial factor of sleaze." -- Rocky Mountain News, 5/9/89

"With ethics in government currently occupying the thoughts of President George Bush, who says he favors finance reform, and others in Washington, the time is ripe for action." -- Detroit Free Press, 5/4/89

## EDUCATION

"It's no secret what American public education needs most. It is strong leadership. That is not coming from President Bush...

... The truth is that, even with his grand talk about wanting to be an education president, Mr. Bush places a higher priority on not raising taxes than on better schools." -- St. Petersburg Times, 5/6/89

April 13, 1989

EDITORIAL ROUND-UP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS

There seems to be a current of opinion across the country focusing on George Bush, the Great Compromiser. No more discussion of "lack of agenda" -- now the newspapers seem to be linking recent events into a bigger master plan. The FSX deal, the AK-47 temporary ban, the contra accord, and the minimum wage offer are all seen as part of the bigger picture -- no more "government by deadlock." While most think that the deal-cutting is a sign of a new era of bipartisanship verging on coalition government, some criticize the deals for either subordination of presidential power or ideological concessions to the liberals. Some samples from the opinions:

"During President Bush's first few weeks in office, Washington observers fussed that he wasn't doing anything, that he was giving tours of the White House when he should have been spelling out his policies and agenda for governing. Now, it seems clear Bush and his key advisors really have had a few things going. Even as they've taken their lumps from the critics, they've been negotiating compromises." -- Chicago Tribune, 4/3

Headline: "Good going, Mr. Bush": "The most notable aspect of this still nascent strategy is the novel, sometimes bold ways in which the compromise card has been played. In some cases it comes when the political adversary least expects it. Other times the compromise consists of uncharacteristic policy modification. Regardless of timing or manner in which a compromise is applied, what is common in each use is that it addresses authentic political and societal concerns ...

... To a legislative policy community unaccustomed to such pragmatism after eight years of ideological examinations, the President's handling of the FSX arrangement was like a breath of fresh air. But in the debate over the control of automatic weapons, the President surprised even the most astute political scientists in how he redirected his actions to accommodate the changing desires of the public ...

... What this ability to compromise does show is that Bush appears to be a president who sees the public good as something more than a political or ideological battle won." -- column by Jonathan Gaffney, Chicago Tribune, 4/6

"The new President has precious little time before he loses the opportunity of seizing the all-important policy initiative to an emboldened Democrat-led Congress that increasingly sees Bush as leader of a coalition government ..." -- column by James Spiegelman, Chicago Tribune, 4/6

Aside from commentary on domestic issues (which follow), two columns suggest foreign policy deals -- "trump cards" -- for the President:

The first, in a column by James McCartney, revolves around a proposal that Henry Kissinger has put forth, but which Secretary Baker is "cautiously considering." He writes: "The former secretary of state is promoting what might be called a 'grand compromise' with the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe that he clearly believes is the only way to end the Cold War ... Kissinger's proposal would work like this: The Soviets would loosen their grip on Eastern Europe, in return for a pledge by the United States and NATO not to exploit the new environment in a way threatening to the Soviet Union. ... [Kissinger] sees this new kind of political settlement of Eastern Europe as the road to decreased tensions, and thus major cuts in troops and weapons -- in other words, lower defense spending and a safer world." --Des Moines Register, 4/2

The second, in a column by Pat Buchanan:

"The President holds the diplomatic trumps, if only he has the boldness and imagination to play them ... Disengagement -- mutual, total withdrawal of all U.S. and Soviet forces from Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary -- should be Washington's bold response to the baby steps taken by Moscow ...

With one speech, the President could place the U.S. squarely behind the deepest aspirations of 80 million Germans: for national unity and peace; and behind the deepest hope of 120 million people in Central Europe: for liberation, and self-determination ....

... No cliché in journalism is more overworked than the assertion that some 'historic opportunity' is at hand. This time, however, the cliché may be true; and Mr. Bush should not leave the proposition untested. Let us make Mr. Gorbachev an offer that only a dedicated Soviet imperialist can refuse." -- Manchester Union Leader, 4/5

Other domestic issues and editorial responses to the "deals":

#### FSX DEAL:

Headline: "Good Deal": "President Bush has prudently overruled the protectionist sentiment within his own administration and approved U.S. participation in the joint development of the new Japanese FSX advanced jet fighter. Now it is Congress' turn to stand up to the protectionists ..." -- San Diego Union, 3/26

#### CONTRA ACCORD:

"Both George Bush and the legislative titans will claim a victory over their recent accord on Central America, but clearly the lawmakers won the day ... The Central American compromise confirms what everyone suspected: that Mr. Bush is a pragmatist. Furthermore it suggests he will not bow to the booming voices of the far right." -- Columbia (S.C.) State, 4/1

"The ability to take a calculated risk is one of the marks of leadership ... Bush and Baker, working against a partisan political disadvantage and a recent history of anti-White House sentiment, have done what they could to provide a realistic alternative." -- Omaha World-Herald, 3/30

"... Bush and congressional Democrats have taken a major step toward bipartisanship in foreign policy so sorely absent for eight long years. It's appropriate, and encouraging, that this mutual commitment has emerged over the most divisive U.S. foreign policy issue of recent times." Sacramento Bee, 3/29

"By stepping away from military force and toward diplomacy, Bush may yet be successful in coaxing democratic concessions in Nicaragua." -- Minneapolis Star Tribune, 3/30

#### TUITION TAX CREDITS:

"Though it is wrong for politicians to make airy or cynical promises, we congratulate Bush for having the courage to abandon a faulty notion. ... The President's logic in this instance is unassailable. Private schools are a private choice, to be supported by private funds." -- Milwaukee Journal, 4/1

"George Bush just blew it. The man who aspires to be known as 'an education president' has turned his back on the one hope for saving American education [with his tuition tax credit statement]. ... He reneged on a campaign pledge as well as his party's last three national platforms." -- syndicated columnist Don Feder, 4/3

#### EDUCATION INITIATIVE:

"The way is now clear for President Bush to be the Education President through his wholehearted endorsement of parental choice in public schools. It's an idea whose time has come and, if President Bush rides this horse all the way around the schoolyard, he can not only claim his crown as the Education President but also achieve real reform in the disaster area of the public schools." -- column by Phyllis Schlafly, Manchester Union-Leader, 4/4

"As a symbol, the president's plan to highlight and reward the good in schools is a positive step. As a solution, it's a joke. The \$423 million he is proposing to add wouldn't cover the operating cost of the Detroit schools for one year." -- Grand Rapids Press, 4/6

#### CHILD CARE:

"Both congressional Democrats and President Bush are back with the child-care initiatives they argued over last fall. Unfortunately, both proposals still look more like political gestures than serious child-care help for working families." -- Sacramento Bee, 3/24

#### MINIMUM WAGE:

"The Bush plan ... will never get through. If Bush doesn't bend, the minimum wage will be stuck again at the intractable Reagan level. The President probably doesn't need to be reminded that changing one's mind on an issue is no crime. In the case of the minimum wage, it is sensible and long overdue." -- editorial writer Linda Cotton, Baltimore Evening Sun, 3/29

#### ALASKAN OIL SPILL:

"Ducking responsibility may be the operative standard of this affair. President Bush fainted toward federal involvement, and then bobbed and weaved away. He, like Exxon, is trying to play down this catastrophe by acting dumb." -- Seattle Times, 4/2

"It was one thing to proclaim himself the champion of the environment while boating around Boston Harbor with the network television crews. It is quite another to face up to the real world questions raised by the disaster in Alaska." -- Germond and Witcover, 4/5

"Mr. Bush has met his first environmental test and has failed ignominiously ... Mr. Dukakis has earned 'I told you so' rights on this one." -- Arizona Republic, 4/6

"For some observers, Bush's announcement Friday that he was ordering new federal resources into the fight to contain and clean up the calamitous befouling of pristine waters and beaches only spotlighted the tardy nature of the federal response." -- from news account by Jerome Watson, Chicago Sun-Times, 4/9

#### SHAMIR'S VISIT:

"Although no breakthrough took place, both the Israeli prime minister and the U.S. president appear to have accomplished their minimal objectives. That was no small feat, considering how far apart Israel and the United States remain on some key issues ... The Administration's approach, though frustratingly time-consuming, may prove to be the only realistic one." -- Detroit Free Press, 4/9

#### BUSH'S ROLE WITH THE HONDURANS DURING IRAN/CONTRA

"It is troublesome to think of a new president, this early in his term in particular, being dogged by a growing awareness that he did not quite level with us during his campaign ... The old cry of 'where was George?' is being given a whole new dimension." -- Detroit Free Press, 4/9

# # #

April 4, 1989

WEEKLY EDITORIAL ROUND-UP

FIGHTING CRIME AND DRUGS:

Support for the AK-47 temporary ban came from the Charlotte Observer (3/21); Lansing State Journal, (3/16); Minneapolis Star Tribune, (3/18); St. Louis Post Dispatch, (3/17); Wisconsin State Journal (3/16); Omaha World Herald, (3/16); Memphis Commercial Appeal, (3/21); Reno Gazette Journal, (3/20). Most called for permanent ban. A few samples:

"Hooray for President Bush ... If he does nothing more, this will make his first hundred days in office an unmitigated success."  
-- Lansing State Journal, 3/16

"Stick to your guns, Mr. Bennett and President Bush. You're on target." -- Charlotte Observer, 3/21

"Three cheers for the Bush Administration's decision to temporarily ban imports of semiautomatic military rifles. Three more cheers for Colt Industries, Inc. ... The next three cheers will go to Congress when it outlaws the import, production and possession of such weapons." -- Minneapolis Star Tribune, 3/18

A few negative ones, but only from syndicated columnists:

"George Bush has reacted to this issue with characteristic ditheriness. He has leaned this way and that, depending on who gave him the most recent nudge." -- Garry Wills, 3/23

"President Bush [is] balancing when he should be choosing." -- George Will, 3/23

"The President's one-eighty on banning foreign-made semiautomatic assault rifles bears the trademark of previous Bush cave-ins: no I won't, no I won't, never-never-never -- well, maybe. ... Stay tuned for the biggest flip-flop of them all: 'No new taxes.' It's coming." -- David Nyhan, Boston Globe, 3/23

BIPARTISAN ACCORD ON NICARAGUA:

"Certainly, peace has not arrived. But Bush and Baker are trying, and right now they stand a better chance for success than Reagan ever did." -- syndicated columnist James McCartney, 3/27

"The continuing turmoil in Central America has finally produced a peace agreement, this one not between Nicaragua and its neighbors, but between the fiercest enemies -- Congress and the White House. Whether or not it achieves its stated goal of bringing peace and democracy to the isthmus, it at least promises to stop the endless warfare up and down Pennsylvania Avenue." -- Chicago Tribune, 3/27

"The painstakingly bartered contras arrangement suggests that the president, after some false starts, has begun to shift gears -- from thinking like a candidate looking for votes to a commander-in-chief determined to govern effectively." -- William Beecher, Washington Bureau Chief, Minneapolis Star Tribune, 3/25

"This new formula ... represents a dramatic and welcome shift in U.S. foreign policy." -- Casper Star Tribune, 3/30

"The tentative agreement reached last week ... is encouraging on two levels: It suggests, finally, a break with the Reagan administration's unproductive policy toward Nicaragua, and it indicates that the Bush administration appreciates the art of compromise and knows how to use it." -- Detroit Free Press, 3/28

MORE "AGENDA" STORIES:

"From out here, not much seems to be happening ... especially in comparison with the early weeks of Ronald Reagan's first term." -- Argus (S.D.) Leader, 3/19

"There's nothing wrong with this lowering of the body politic's temperature, and there is indeed something refreshing about a president secure enough not to seek validation through never-ending exposure on the airwaves. There is, however, one problem: If the calm is shattered, by an international incident, by a scandal, by a domestic crisis -- then the most important asset a president has is a strong constituency, ready to rally to the man under fire. Without that base of support, administrations can falter -- even fall." -- syndicated columnist Jeff Greenfield, 3/30

"Right now in Washington, nobody is scared of George Bush." -- syndicated columnist Mark Shields, 3/12

"While a new president needs time to get his administration going, one would have expected a faster start from a man who spent the last eight years preparing for the job." -- Charlotte Observer, 3/23

"... Bush, with his modest agenda and his mini-political muscle, could find himself cruelly caught between an increasingly cohesive Senate Democratic majority and an increasingly belligerent House Republican minority ... He will, in short, have to set his sights much higher than just tinkering with the status quo." -- syndicated columnist David Broder, 3/26

ASSORTED ISSUES:

Eastern Air: "By refusing to get sucked into this dispute, Bush is correctly leaving it to be resolved by private interests that have a stake in the outcome -- labor, management and the marketplace." -- Wisconsin State Journal, 3/10

"While there are differences between the machinists' strike at Eastern and the air controllers' walkout eight years ago ... President Bush is missing a golden opportunity to demonstrate that he, too, can be tough. Instead, he prefers that Eastern management and labor talk to one another, just as he has been doing with Democratic congressional leadership." -- Cal Thomas, 3/12

Minimum wage: "A short-term training wage may be appropriate in some jobs held by new workers, such as part-time students. But Bush is being unreasonable seeking a training wage that would cover any new worker hired by a company for the first time." -- Argus (S.D.) Leader, 3/18

Budget: "If the Bush budget can't even measure up to Mr. Reagan's in major areas of domestic spending (i.e., health and education), his talk of a kinder, gentler nation could prove to be empty words." -- Baltimore Sun, 3/25

FS-X: "Continuing negotiation with Congress -- where Mr. Bush has veto-proof support in the Senate, anyway -- only undermines presidential power and the U.S.-Japan alliance. President Bush should assert his authority and proceed with the FS-X program without further delay." -- Richmond Times-Dispatch, 3/30

Child care: "The two main child-care proposals before Congress this year are drastically different but share one unhealthy feature: overkill. The popular ABC bill could cost taxpayers and working parents money by driving up day-care costs. President Bush's proposed new refundable tax credit for children spills rather than measures money into child care." -- Minneapolis Star Tribune, 3/26

# # #

3/17/89

OPINIONS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY...

ON THE BUSH AGENDA:

"Bush deserves good points on choosing serious and seasoned people. We must thank him for delivering us from all those "new faces" who always wreak such innocent chaos in foreign policy. He also deserves [points] for his gracious attempts at bipartisanship with the perpetually adversarial Congress." -- Syndicated columnist Georgie Anne Geyer, 3/6/89

"The Bush administration is a series of episodes of the bland leading the bland." -- Democratic consultant Raymond Strother, St. Petersburg Times, 3/5

Re: Gallop poll/Bush's job approval rating at 63%: "Refuting criticism of the White House as floundering and lacking a clear sense of purpose, Americans of all political stripes commend Bush for the job he has done in communicating his policies and agenda for the future." -- Minneapolis Star Tribune news analysis, 3/12/89

"He has set himself up to be, if not a caretaker president, a brokerage president -- to work out compromises as each new problem arises, rather than a Reagan who seized the initiative and carried the day." -- political scientist Bruce Buchanan, Detroit Free Press, 3/12

Headline: "No revolution from Bush" -- Evans and Novak, 3/1

"His transition, his inaugural address, his first five weeks were textbook cases of the politics of conciliation." -- Syndicated columnist Pat Buchanan, 3/13

"If Bush wants to find the bumbler in this mess, he need only look in a mirror." -- Sandy Grady, Des Moines Register, 3/1

"As for drift, Mr. Bush has neither taste nor style to be a liberal activist president like Franklin D. Roosevelt or Lyndon B. Johnson. The essence of his moderate Republicanism, as indeed of all true conservatism is a kind of constraint ..."  
-- Syndicated columnist Max Lerner, 3/16

"With the trade deficit in decline and factories operating at near-peak capacity, the No. 1 economic problem right now, if you believe the Federal Reserve Board, is that the economy is too strong and needs cooling down." -- Syndicated columnist Donald Lambro, 3/16

ON THE NEW DEFENSE NOMINEE:

"No one who knows Dick Cheney doubts [he] ... will master whatever task he takes on. Old Washington hands have long recognized him as among the best and the brightest ... Dick Cheney is a good, tough, smart, experienced Washington operative who should be outstanding in the job." Chicago Tribune, 3/12/89

ON THE EASTERN STRIKE:

"By sidestepping that action [intervention], Bush has made it appear that he has another agenda. He seems intent on putting pressure on the workers to accept the concessions that Eastern boss Frank Lorenze has failed to extract in the free collective-bargaining process. And he seems eager to pressure the Democratic Congress to give him a change in labor law it refused to pass in the past." -- Syndicated columnist David Broder, 3/8

ON ETHICS:

"On the ethics front Bush has followed through on his campaign pledges with all the force of an atomic bodyslam ... If this keeps up, we will be longing for the good old days of Ed Meese." -- David Holahan, Minneapolis Star Tribune, 3/8

[After the ethics policy announcement], "He got good publicity for one day and ironic nit-picking thereafter as the press sought out the peccadilloes of his appointees. Besides, his announcement sounded like a catty swipe at Ronald Reagan." -- Syndicated columnist Joseph Sobran, 3/7

3/10/89

WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF EDITORIAL OPINION

THE TOWER NOMINATION:

"John Tower is a tough and decisive leader. Of all the Senate Armed Services Committee chairmen with whom I have dealt ... he was one of the most effective." -- Ambassador Edward Rowny, RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, 2/28

"Now is the time for Bush to recover from Tower's fall by quickly sending the Senate a new nominee -- someone acceptable to the American people. A good place to look for top quality talent is outside the capital beltway ..." The piece goes on to recommend Rumsfeld. -- Rear Adm. Gene LaRocque, in the CHICAGO TRIB, 3/4

"George Bush is trying to convince the Senate that John Tower has no problems and will make sure never to have them again. Bush hoped the Senate would be too cowed to notice them. It was a bad bet, one he deserves to lose." -- Garry Wills (syndicated columnist), 3/5

"To go against the new president, to go against the tradition of club comity, went against the grain of Nunn. On the other hand, the White House quickly started making it easy for him." -- Mary McGrory (syndicated columnist), 2/26

"John Tower has walked the extra mile to allay the stated concerns of his critics. Given that the charges against him are dubious anyway, this promise [not to drink] to the American people should be enough to satisfy reasonable people ..." RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, 2/28

"The president wisely rebuffed advice to withdraw the nomination and will struggle for Tower's approval by the full Senate ... the odds are against Bush. But fighting and losing is better than retreating, implicitly admitting bad judgment and showing weakness." -- MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL, 2/26

[Senator Nunn] "... is right. If President Bush won't withdraw the nomination, the Senate should kill it quickly." -- CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 2/26

"If we bar a president from choosing his lieutenants, there's no way we can make him accountable. Giving him a free hand pinpoints who's minding the store." -- Jim Fain, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN, 2/22

"[Secretary of Defense] does not hold his thumb over the nuclear trigger. He doesn't have one-tenth the power of the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, to hurt America ... Did anyone bother to ask Greenspan, in his confirmation hearing," [the same questions being asked of Tower]? -- Otis Pike, NEWHOUSE NEWS, 3/2

Headline: "Dud on Arrival"; "Now is the time for a graceful exit ... Mr. Bush can do better." -- LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL, 2/22

REACTION TO THE JAPAN/CHINA TRIP:

"Mr. Bush disappoints his American supporters by failing, once he had left China and was unbound by the strictures of diplomacy, to remark sadly on the continuing low estate of human rights in China." -- William F. Buckley, Jr. (syndicated columnist), 3/6

"Thus it is appalling -- and ominous -- that the new administration was immediately intimidated ... If recent events are any indication, the Bush administration's commitment to freedom and democracy will be selective." -- Pei Minzin, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE, 3/2

"Former President Reagan may have been the Great Communicator, but Bush seems determined to establish himself as the Great Traveler." -- Phil Gailey, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, 2/24

"President Bush's trip to China is important ... China and the Soviet Union now have a warming relationship, and Mr. Bush very probably wants assurances that the opening to Moscow won't affect the ties of Beijing to the West ..." -- NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, 2/25

Re: Shevardnadze's trip to Mideast during the funeral: "The Soviet initiative does put pressure on Mr. Bush to move on the Mideast, but he is right to want to move cautiously and methodically in formulating new policy. Moscow alone can't produce very much." -- NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, 2/24

"Foreign policy to date can politely be described as nonexistent. In one important area after another, no one in the world has any idea what the American position is." -- Anthony Lewis (syndicated columnist), 2/27

THE CHARGES OF "NO AGENDA":

"We have only to remember the bright-eyed energy of the Kennedy administration, convinced that America had grown soft around the middle, eagerly setting off to demonstrate its muscularity in Southeast Asia. In hindsight, a period of reflection and study might have served the nation a lot better ... the new Administration need not pace itself to the demands of an impatient Washington, or even to the deadline schedules of newspapers and TV news broadcasts." -- Jeff Greenfield (syndicated columnist), 2/23

"Most of us laughed six months ago when Michael Dukakis grandly pronounced that the ... campaign of 1988 was not about 'ideology' but about 'competence.' It turns out that maybe he knew something we didn't. So far, the administration of George Bush has been incompetent ... Reagan may not have been hyperactive, but we don't pay presidents by the hour. President Bush, on the other hand may work a lot harder, but so far there is little evidence that he knows where he is going or even what he is doing." -- Richard Reeves, HOUSTON POST, 2/22

"New presidents should reassess old policies, and especially in a time like this one when balances in power are shifting. In the absence of urgent crises, new presidents should not be stampeded. It may be that we should be reassured that Bush is proceeding with deliberation." -- Wilbur Landrey, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, 2/26

GUN CONTROL / REGULATING MILITARY ASSAULT WEAPONS:

Headline: "The Wrong Bush is Talking / Barbara Bush is Right: Ban Military Assault Weapons"; " Hunters who think their rights are endangered by efforts to get military assault weapons out of circulation are terribly misled. There has been a federal ban on civilian sale and ownership of automatic weapons, with few exceptions, since the 1930s." -- CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 2/26

"President George Bush, who campaigned as a crimefighter, opposes federal regulation of assault rifles. The President obviously isn't listening to those on the front lines of the crime fight." -- TAMPA TRIBUNE, 2/25

"Bush and the NRA are standing alone in their loyalty to the AK-47." -- Mary McGrory, (syndicated columnist), 2/23

THE ENVIRONMENT:

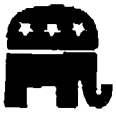
"The changes in top management at the Interior Department are, on the whole, a promising sign. ... But simply having nicer people to administer them will not give new palatability to distasteful old policies." -- Andrew Melnykovich, CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE, 2/21

"South Carolinians could take special solace, perhaps from [Bush's] pledge to reinvigorate the federal government's programs for cleanup of all forms of dangerous waste ... the tone of the new President's message and several goals are a marked departure from his predecessor." -- COLUMBIA STATE, 2/27

M. K.

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New York Times  
Los Angeles Times  
Philadelphia Inquirer

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# OPPOSITION RESEARCH SUBSCRIPTION LIST 1989

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Alaska Anchorage Times  
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 Oregon Oregonian  
 California San Diego Union  
 Sacramento Bee  
 L.A. Examiner  
 Nevada Las Vegas Sun  
 Gazette-Journal (Reno)

## Region 2--7 papers

Idaho Idaho Statesman  
 Montana Billings Gazette  
 Great Falls Tribune  
 Wyoming Star Tribune (Casper)  
 Utah Salt Lake Tribune  
 Colorado Denver Post  
 Rocky Mountain News

## Region 3--7 papers

Arizona Arizona Republic (Phoenix)  
 New Mexico Santa Fe New Mexican  
 Albuquerque Journal  
 Texas Houston Post  
 Dallas Morning News  
 Austin-American Statesman  
 San Antonio Express

## Region 4--7 papers

North Dakota Bismarck Tribune  
 Forum (Fargo)  
 South Dakota Argus Leader  
 Nebraska Omaha-World Herald  
 Lincoln-Journal Star  
 Iowa Des Moines Register  
 Minnesota Minneapolis Star and Tribune

## Region 5--7 papers

Kansas Wichita Eagle-Beacon  
 Topeka Capital Journal  
 Missouri Kansas City Times  
 St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
 Oklahoma Daily Oklahoman  
 Tulsa Tribune  
 Arkansas Arkansas Gazette

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Region 6--8 papers

Wisconsin Milwaukee Sentinel Journal  
Capital Times  
Illinois State Journal Registrar  
Chicago Tribune  
Michigan Grand Rapids Press  
Detroit Free Press  
Lansing State Journal  
Indiana Indianapolis Star

Region 7--8 papers

Louisiana Baton Rouge Advocate  
Times-Picayune  
Mississippi Clarion-Ledger  
Alabama Birmingham News  
Montgomery Advertiser Journal  
Georgia Atlanta Constitution  
Florida St. Petersburg Times  
Miami Herald

Region 8--8 papers

Kentucky Courier Journal (Louisville)  
Tennessee Tennessean (Nashville)  
Commercial Appeal  
West Virginia Charlestown Newspaper Gazette  
Virginia Richmond-Times Dispatch  
North Carolina News and Observer (Raleigh)  
Charlotte Observer  
South Carolina Columbia State

Region 9--8 papers

Ohio Columbus Dispatch  
Plain Dealer  
Pennsylvania Pittsburgh-Post Gazette  
Delaware Delaware State News  
News Journal  
New Jersey Star Ledger  
Connecticut Hartford Courant  
Rhode Island Providence Journal-Bulletin

Region 10--8 papers

New York New York Post  
Newsday  
Buffalo Evening News  
Vermont Burlington Free Press  
New Hampshire Manchester Union Leader  
Maine Portland Free Press  
Massachusetts Boston Herald  
Boston Globe

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MK

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Governor Sununu

THROUGH: David Demarest *DD*  
Assistant to the President for Communications

FROM: Mary Kate Grant  
Senior Public Affairs Writer *MKG*

RE: Weekly Editorial Round-up

Attached please find the first edition of the weekly regional editorial round-up; this was begun in the last Administration for the President's use. With your approval, I'll be sending this to you every Thursday for your use.

This will be an honest assessment of the opinion on four or five current issues each week, good and bad. This sampling of papers now includes only regional papers; none of the major East coast papers were used, as I assume you're seeing those on a regular basis already.

I'd like your choices on the following:

- This version is fine: a round-up of regional editorials, local columnists and some of the syndicated columnists on Thursdays, about 2-3 pages long. Use only the regional papers, not the major East coast ones. *Get me a list of the papers being sampled.*
- I want East coast papers like the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and the New York Times included.
- I want it to be longer, with more issues covered.
- I want it to be only one page long.
- Thanks anyway, but I really don't need this at all.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO: GOVERNOR SUNUNU

THROUGH: David Demarest  
Assistant to the President for Communications

FROM: Mary Kate Grant  
Senior Public Affairs Writer

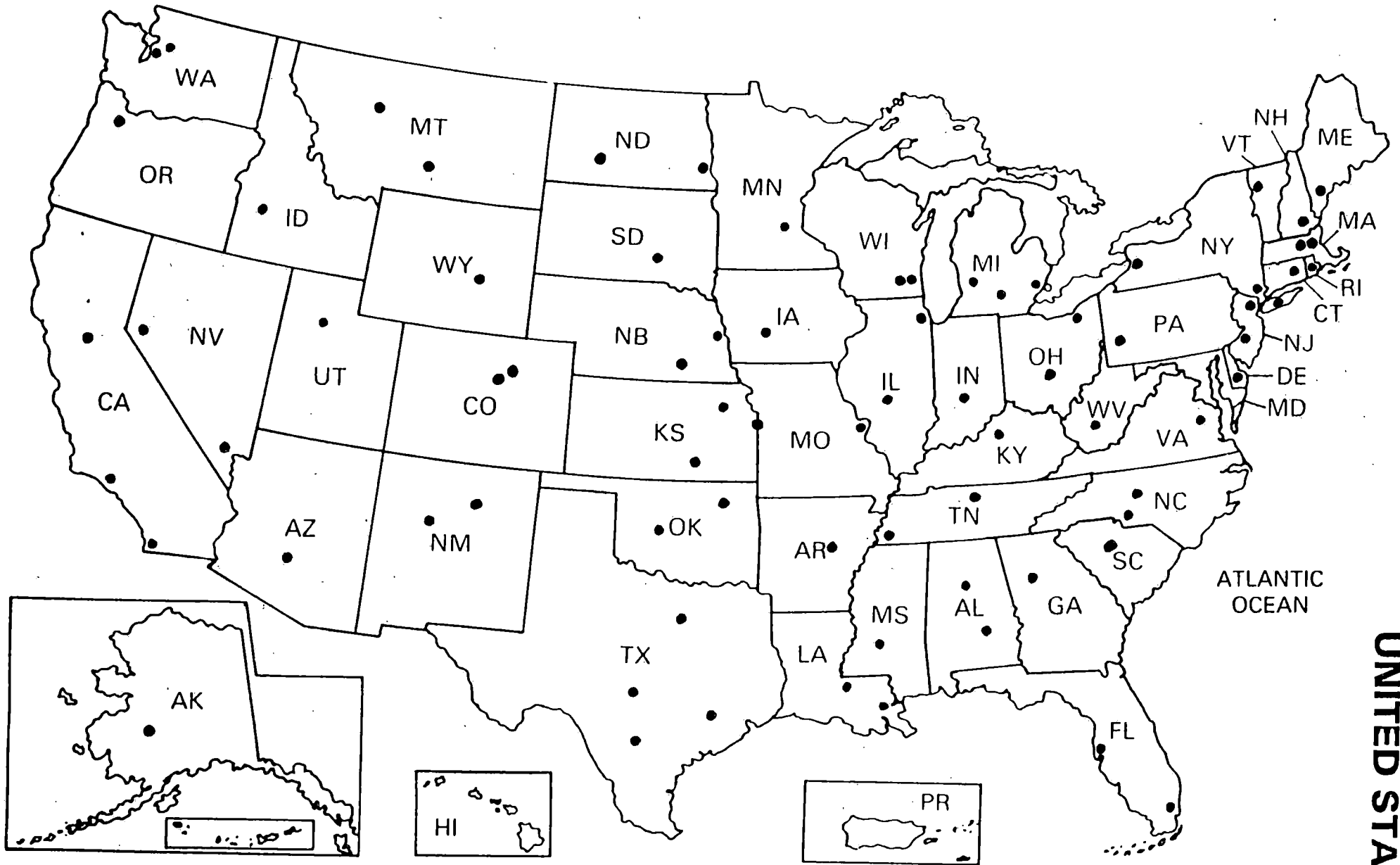
RE: Regional Newspapers

As requested, attached is a map of the United States with the location of the regional newspapers that we track, each marked with a red dot.

Below is a list of their circulation (Sundays):

Anchorage Times (51,000)  
Seattle Times (478,000)  
Portland Oregonian (404,000)  
San Diego Union (392,000)  
Sacramento Bee (274,000)  
L.A. Examiner (206,000)  
Las Vegas Sun (80,000)  
Reno Gazette-Journal (71,000)  
Boise Statesman (72,000)  
Billings Gazette (60,000)  
Great Falls (MT) Tribune (41,000)  
Casper Star-Tribune (40,000)  
Salt Lake Tribune (139,000)  
Denver Post (414,000)  
Rocky Mountain News (380,000)  
Phoenix Republic (508,000)  
Santa Fe New Mexican (20,000)  
Albuquerque Journal (140,000)  
Houston Post (375,000)  
Dallas Morning News (522,000)  
Austin American-Statesman (202,000)  
San Antonio Express (230,000)  
Bismarck Tribune (29,000)  
Fargo Forum (66,000)  
Sioux Falls Argus-Leader (59,000)  
Omaha World Herald (284,000)  
Lincoln Journal Star (78,000)  
Des Moines Register (376,000)  
Minneapolis Star Tribune (612,000)  
Wichita Eagle-Beacon (193,000)

Topeka Capital Journal (77,000)  
Kansas City Times (402,000)  
St. Louis Post Dispatch (520,000)  
Daily Oklahoman (320,000)  
Tulsa Tribune (234,000)  
Arkansas Gazette (161,000)  
Milwaukee Sentinel Journal (518,000)  
Madison Capital Times (145,000)  
Illinois State Journal Register (72,000)  
Chicago Tribune (1,140,000)  
Grand Rapids Press (174,000)  
Detroit Free Press (745,000)  
Lansing State Journal (81,000)  
Indianapolis Star (395,000)  
Baton Rouge Advocate (142,000)  
New Orleans Times-Picayune (352,000)  
Jackson Clarion Ledger (113,000)  
Birmingham News (214,000)  
Montgomery (AL) Advertiser Journal (86,000)  
Atlanta Constitution (598,000)  
St. Petersburg Times (333,000)  
Miami Herald (514,000)  
Louisville Courier Journal (322,000)  
Nashville Tennessean (252,000)  
Memphis Commercial Appeal (296,000)  
Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (107,000)  
Richmond Times-Dispatch (241,000)  
Raleigh News and Observer (181,000)  
Charlotte Observer (255,000)  
Columbia (SC) State (149,000)  
Columbus (OH) Dispatch (372,000)  
Cleveland Plain Dealer (550,000)  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (580,000)  
Delaware State News (33,000)  
Wilmington News-Journal (132,000)  
Newark Star Ledger (688,000)  
Hartford Courant (298,000)  
Providence Journal-Bulletin (255,000)  
New York Post (810,000)  
Newsday (648,000)  
Buffalo Evening News (374,000)  
Burlington Free Press (51,000)  
Manchester Union Leader (85,000)  
Portland (ME) Press-Herald (135,000)  
Boston Herald (282,000)  
Boston Globe (812,000)



**UNITED STATES**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 20, 1989

3/21  
Please mark a  
US map so the  
Governor can see  
the distribution of  
the papers.

MEMORANDUM TO: Governor Sununu

THROUGH: David Demarest *DD*  
Assistant to the President for Communications

FROM: Mary Kate Grant *mkg*  
Senior Public Affairs Writer

RE: Regional Newspapers

The following is a list of the regional newspapers  
which we are monitoring every week editorially:

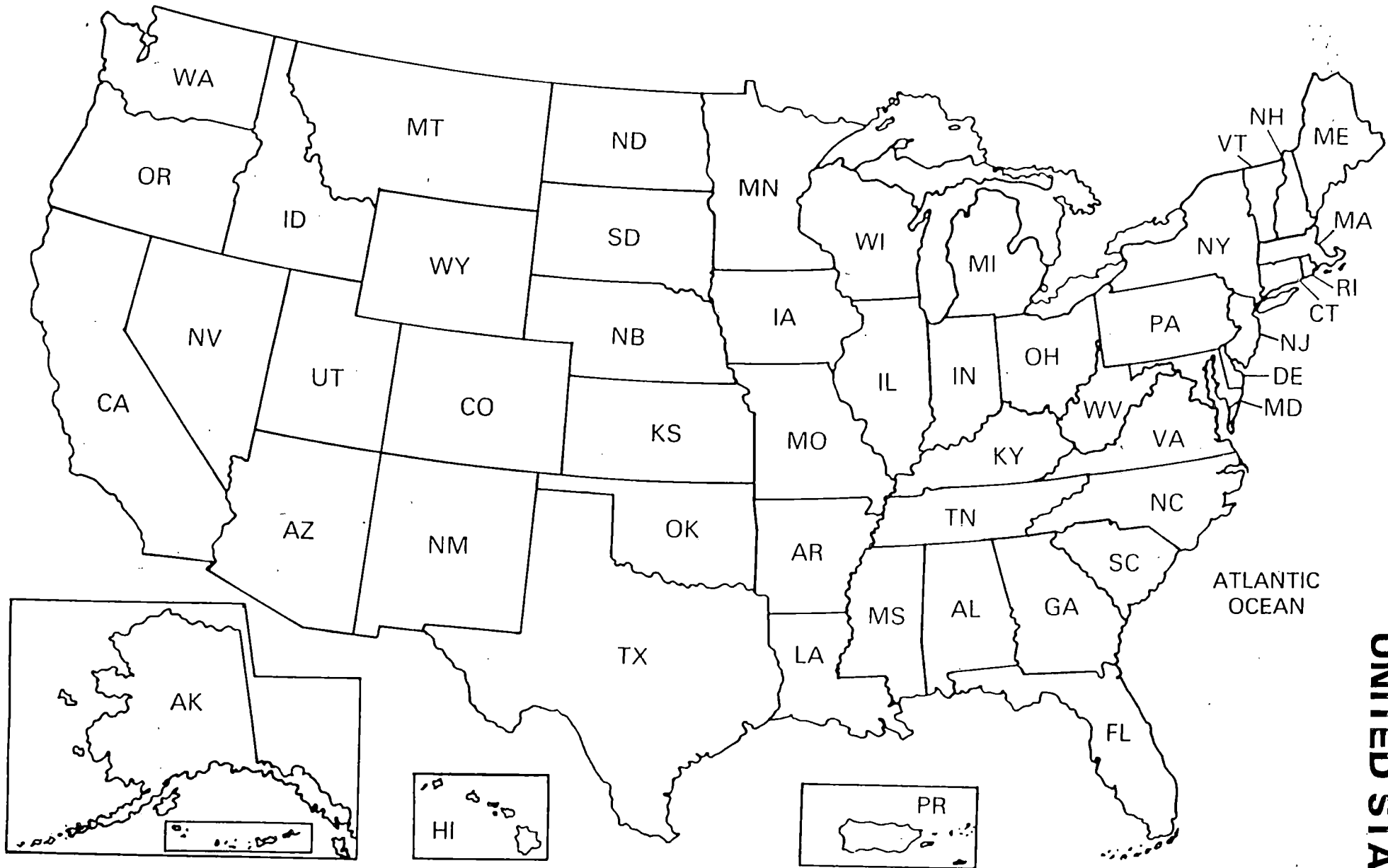
Anchorage Times  
Seattle Times  
Oregonian  
San Diego Union  
Sacramento Bee  
L.A. Examiner  
Las Vegas Sun  
Reno Gazette-Journal  
Idaho Statesman  
Billings Gazette  
Great Falls (MT) Tribune  
Casper (WY) Star Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune  
Denver Post  
Rocky Mountain News  
Phoenix Republic  
Santa Fe New Mexican  
Albuquerque Journal  
Houston Post  
Dallas Morning News  
Austin American Statesman  
San Antonio Express  
Bismarck Tribune  
Fargo Forum  
Argus (SD) Leader  
Omaha World Herald  
Lincoln (NE) Journal Star  
Des Moines Register  
Minneapolis Star Tribune  
Wichita Eagle-Beacon

Newspapers (con't)

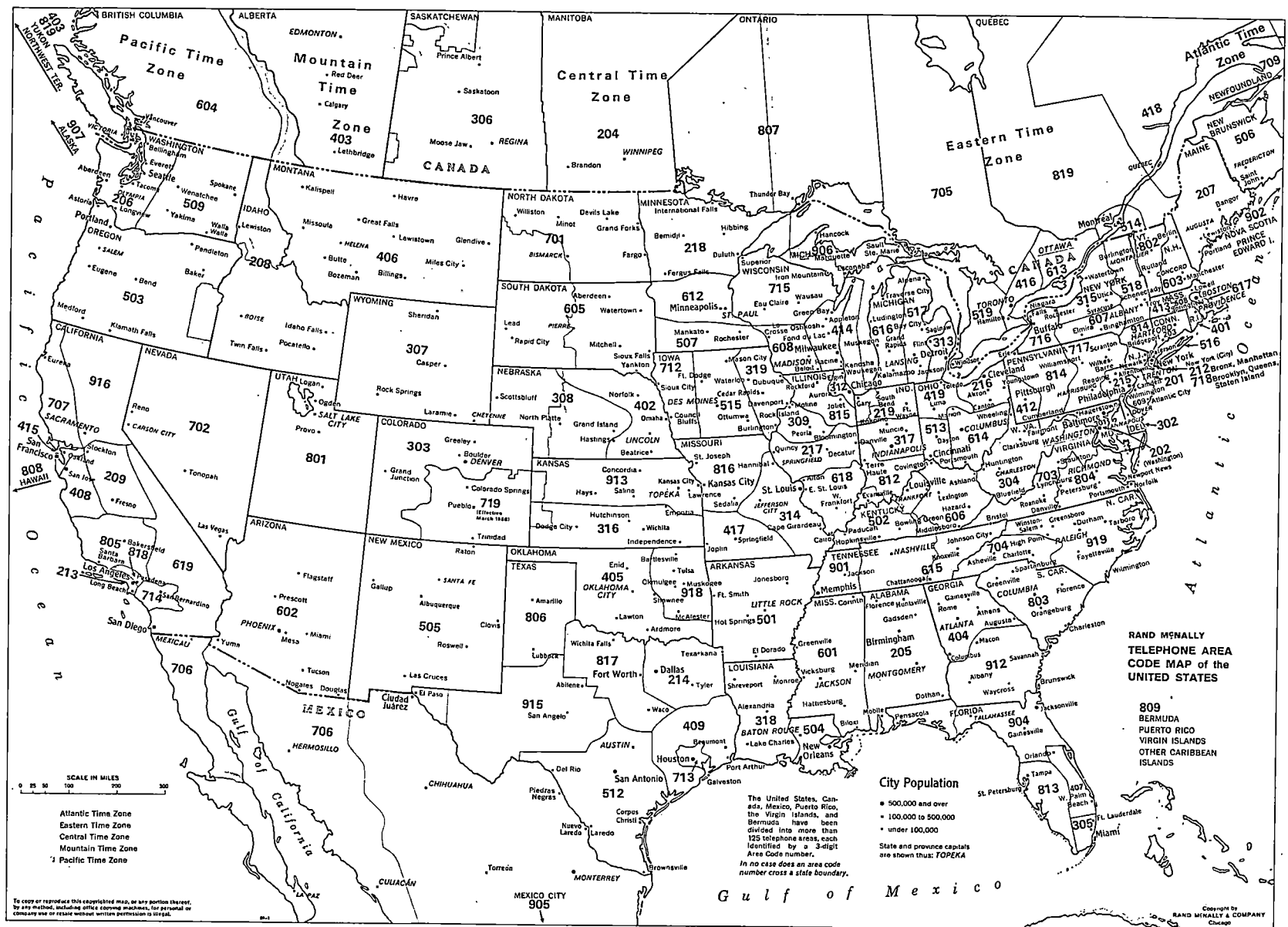
Topeka Capital Journal  
Kansas City Times  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
Daily Oklahoman  
Tulsa Tribune  
Arkansas Gazette  
Milwaukee Sentinel Journal  
Milwaukee Capital Times  
Illinois State Journal Register  
Chicago Tribune  
Grand Rapids Press  
Detroit Free Press  
Lansing State Journal  
Indianapolis Star  
Baton Rouge Advocate  
New Orleans Times-Picayune  
Jackson Clarion Ledger  
Birmingham News  
Montgomery (AL) Advertiser Journal  
Atlanta Constitution  
St. Petersburg Times  
Miami Herald  
Louisville Courier Journal  
Nashville Tennessean  
Memphis Commercial Appeal  
Charlestown (WV) Newspaper Gazette  
Richmond Times-Dispatch  
Raleigh News and Observer  
Charlotte Observer  
Columbia (SC) State  
Columbus (OH) Dispatch  
Cleveland Plain Dealer  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
Delaware State News  
Wilmington News Journal  
Newark Star Ledger  
Hartford (CT) Courant  
Providence Journal-Bulletin  
New York Post  
Newsday  
Buffalo Evening News  
Burlington Free Press  
Manchester Union Leader  
Portland (ME) Free Press  
Boston Herald  
Boston Globe



**UNITED STATES**



**UNITED STATES**



RAND McNALLY  
TELEPHONE AREA  
CODE MAP OF THE  
UNITED STATES

809  
BERMUDA  
PUERTO RICO  
VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OTHER CARIBBEAN  
ISLANDS

City Population

- 500,000 and over
- 100,000 to 500,000
- under 100,000

State and province capitals  
are shown thus: TOPEKA

The United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Bermuda have been divided into more than 125 telephone areas, each identified by a 3-digit Area Code number.  
In no case does an area code number cross a state boundary.

SCALE IN MILES  
0 50 100 200 300

Atlantic Time Zone  
Eastern Time Zone  
Central Time Zone  
Mountain Time Zone  
Pacific Time Zone

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Chicago

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO: GOVERNOR SUNUNU

THROUGH: David Demarest *WD*  
Assistant to the President for Communications

FROM: Mary Kate Grant *MKG*  
Senior Public Affairs Writer

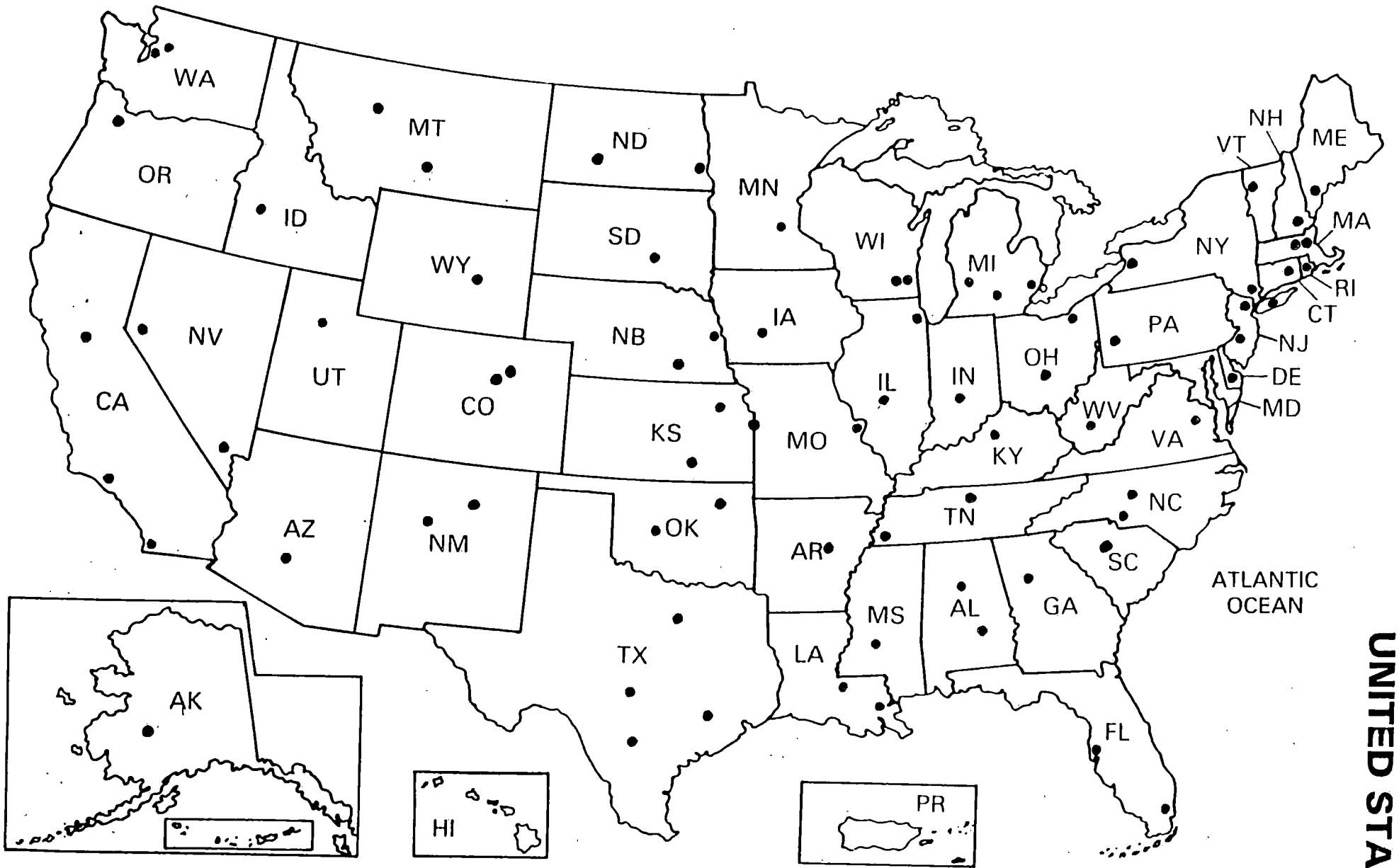
RE: Regional Newspapers

As requested, attached is a map of the United States with the location of the regional newspapers that we track, each marked with a red dot.

Below is a list of their circulation (Sundays):

Anchorage Times (51,000)  
Seattle Times (478,000)  
Portland Oregonian (404,000)  
San Diego Union (392,000)  
Sacramento Bee (274,000)  
L.A. Examiner (206,000)  
Las Vegas Sun (80,000)  
Reno Gazette-Journal (71,000)  
Boise Statesman (72,000)  
Billings Gazette (60,000)  
Great Falls (MT) Tribune (41,000)  
Casper Star-Tribune (40,000)  
Salt Lake Tribune (139,000)  
Denver Post (414,000)  
Rocky Mountain News (380,000)  
Phoenix Republic (508,000)  
Santa Fe New Mexican (20,000)  
Albuquerque Journal (140,000)  
Houston Post (375,000)  
Dallas Morning News (522,000)  
Austin American-Statesman (202,000)  
San Antonio Express (230,000)  
Bismarck Tribune (29,000)  
Fargo Forum (66,000)  
Sioux Falls Argus-Leader (59,000)  
Omaha World Herald (284,000)  
Lincoln Journal Star (78,000)  
Des Moines Register (376,000)  
Minneapolis Star Tribune (612,000)  
Wichita Eagle-Beacon (193,000)

Topeka Capital Journal (77,000)  
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Milwaukee Sentinel Journal (518,000)  
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Illinois State Journal Register (72,000)  
Chicago Tribune (1,140,000)  
Grand Rapids Press (174,000)  
Detroit Free Press (745,000)  
Lansing State Journal (81,000)  
Indianapolis Star (395,000)  
Baton Rouge Advocate (142,000)  
New Orleans Times-Picayune (352,000)  
Jackson Clarion Ledger (113,000)  
Birmingham News (214,000)  
Montgomery (AL) Advertiser Journal (86,000)  
Atlanta Constitution (598,000)  
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Memphis Commercial Appeal (296,000)  
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Charlotte Observer (255,000)  
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Delaware State News (33,000)  
Wilmington News-Journal (132,000)  
Newark Star Ledger (688,000)  
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Providence Journal-Bulletin (255,000)  
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Buffalo Evening News (374,000)  
Burlington Free Press (51,000)  
Manchester Union Leader (85,000)  
Portland (ME) Press-Herald (135,000)  
Boston Herald (282,000)  
Boston Globe (812,000)



AK

HI

PR

**UNITED STATES**

MK

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 3/29/89

FOR: *David -*

FROM: **ANDY CARD**

- Action
- Your Comment
- Let's Talk
- FYI

*The Governor asks  
that we include Puerto Rico,  
Hawaii and Maryland.*

Gov. S has reviewed  
3/29/89  
AKC

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO: GOVERNOR SUNUNU

THROUGH: David Demarest *DD*  
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FROM: Mary Kate Grant *MKG*  
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RE: Regional Newspapers

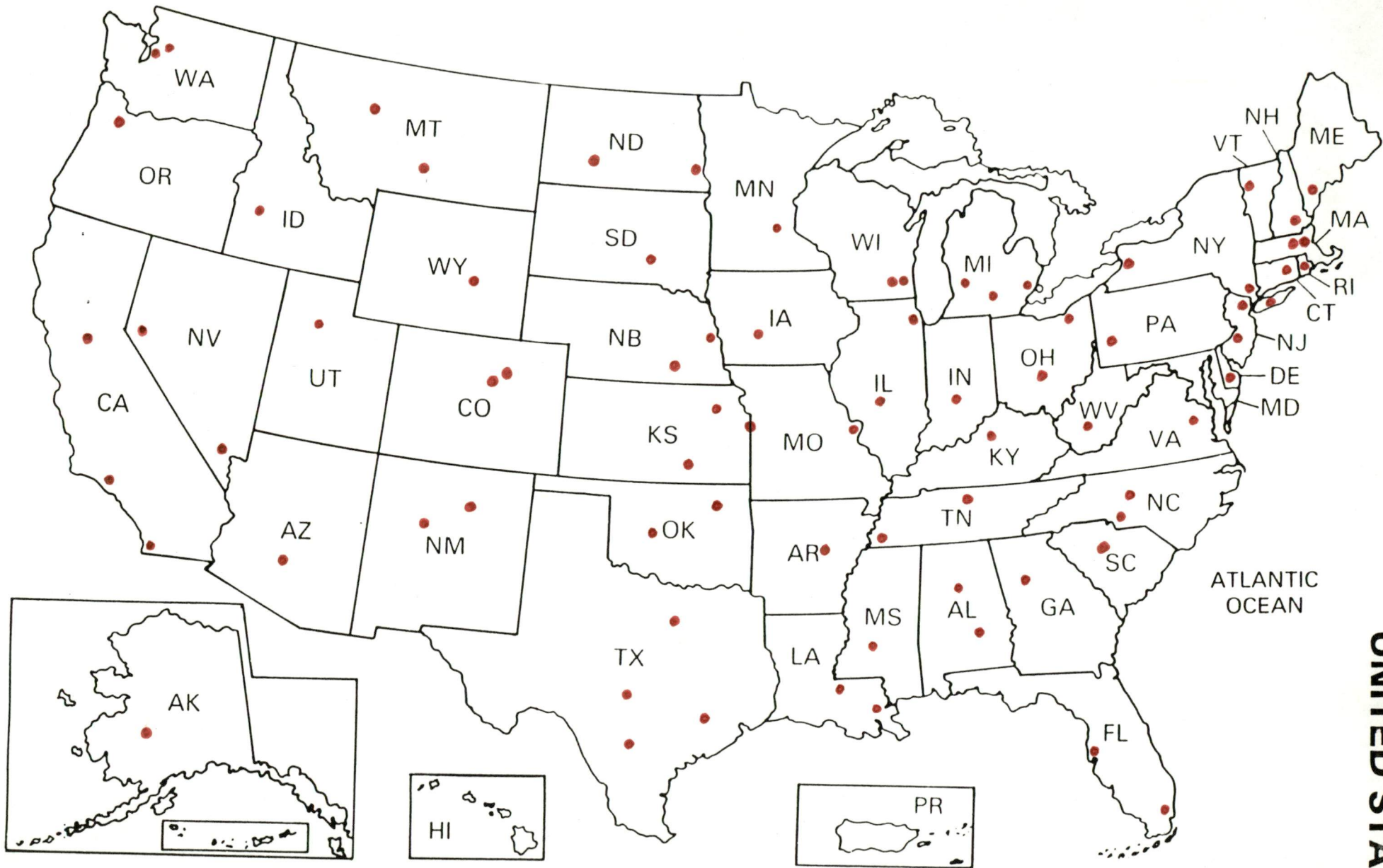
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*Hawaii  
P.R.  
Md.*

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Daily Oklahoman (320,000)  
Tulsa Tribune (234,000)  
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**UNITED STATES**

April 7, 1989

**EDITORIAL ROUNDUP FROM REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS**

"This President is adrift like a fox." -- syndicated columnist Paul Greenberg, 4/3 (See attached column, "Bush is more scotch than screech owl")

**THE BIPARTISAN ACCORD ON NICARAGUA:**

"Bush was wise to negotiate a deal with Congress rather than try to force an aid bill through." -- Argus (S.D.) Leader, 3/28

"The accord between Bush-Baker and the Congress sends a powerful message to far more than Nicaragua. It says to Mikhail Gorbachev and the Kremlin: If, as you have suggested, the Kremlin has abandoned the goal of world domination, you can show it dramatically by allowing the people of Central America to stop the carnage." -- syndicated columnist Carl Rowan, 3/29

[The accord] "reduces the President to a mere creature of congressional intent, whose very limited power of action can be revoked by the Democratic majority on any one of four congressional committees. Under such circumstances, no informed observer in any Central American government will conclude that the president is in charge of policy." -- column by Alan Keyes, 3/31

"Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker may well fall back on the argument of the need to govern -- somehow, anyhow. The future may belong to shared government by more Republican presidents and a permanent Democratic Congress. If so, Mr. Bush can't help being a punier lion as he tries to be a smarter fox." -- syndicated columnist Max Lerner, 3/31

"With this deal, U.S. foreign policy takes on a new incoherence." -- syndicated columnist Pat Buchanan, 3/29. Buchanan concludes: "Bush is going to have to choose between the conservatives who elected him and the Congress. On Supreme Court nominees and SDI, on technology transfers to Moscow and support for the contras, on the Reagan doctrine and new taxes, eventually, the President must go with us -- or go with them."

**THE ENVIRONMENT:**

"It's safe to assume that despite George Bush's campaign-born concern for the environment, most of the environmental vote went to his opponent. But there is heartening evidence that the Bush concern wasn't empty rhetoric." The editorial goes on to call the Two Forks Dam issue "an important test of resolve." -- Des Moines Register, 3/29

**GUN CONTROL:**

"If his real concern is to be constitutionally kosher, the standard the President announced last autumn in the pledge debate will do very nicely: What the Supreme Court hasn't specifically banned is presumably permissible. If that makes his NRA chums unhappy, Mr. Bush can invite them in the friendliest way to bring a test case." -- syndicated columnist Edwin Yoder, 3/24

**MINIMUM WAGE:**

"The President can best protect the economy by sticking to his pledge to veto any bill that goes beyond the parameters of his proposal." -- Columbia (S.C.) State, 3/29

**INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN:**

"On Inaugural Day, George Bush said we have more will than wallet. In fact we have more wallet than will. In an emergency, the government can bail out the savings and loan associations, but we lack the will to bail out children -- to make the investments in their future." -- syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman, 3/21

# # #

Philadelphia Inquirer

4/3/89

p. 13

# Bush is more scotch than screech owl

By PAUL GREENBERG

The word from Washington is that the new President is adrift, that his administration has no sense of direction. This is the clearest sign that the nation's punditry finds itself rudderless and confused, and so describes its principal subject in those terms. The psychologists call it projection.

Ten weeks into the Bush presidency and nothing sufficiently dramatic has occurred to arrest the ever-wandering attention of the pack journalists. Therefore it's the Bush administration that is adrift. The certified punditry must have missed these developments in the course of one typically "directionless" week of the Bush administration:

- A bipartisan agreement was reached to pursue a single foreign policy toward Nicaragua. That would be a refreshing change for a United States that has had at least two foreign policies for the last eight years, one each for Congress and White House. The result was division, chaos and the Iran-contra affair, which is still sputtering in a Washington courtroom.

One can discern the fine Republican hand of the new secretary of state, James A. Baker 3d, behind this deal: The contras are to receive continued aid, which is to be called "humanitarian" out of deference to those aghast at any policy that actually opposes Communist expansion in this hemisphere.

In turn, the administration has announced that it is not interested in dictating the political future of Nicaragua. Free elections there would suffice for that purpose. And what better guarantee of free elections than a contra army just across the border in Honduras?

- A highly successful first test of a missile-hunting satellite meant another step forward in this country's strategic defense program, a.k.a. "Star-Wars."

- The administration and Democratic Congress are moving toward a reasonable compromise on raising the minimum wage, a proposal that makes better politics than economics. The White House may yet find a way to satisfy the conflicting demands of advanced politics and elementary economics.

- Improbable as it may seem, progress toward peace in the Mideast becomes probable as Baker cautiously advances some ideas that both Israelis and Arab Palestinians may denounce as utterly unacceptable preparatory to

accepting them, or at least moving closer to accepting one another.

All in all, not a bad week's work. Undramatic, maybe, but effective. The two can go together in politics.

Huey Long used to tell about two different types of political operatives: the screech owl and the scotch owl. The screech owl would come down on a henhouse a-screechin' and a hollerin' in a swirl of fuss and feathers, and might even get himself a hen if the farmer didn't get his shotgun first. The scotch owl would just flutter softly into the henhouse, settle down quietly and slowly scotch over against one hen, then another, then another ... till there weren't any hens left. Undramatic, maybe, but effective.

The scotch-owl of a President whom Huey Long was describing at the time was Franklin D. Roosevelt. George Bush may prove a scotch owl, too. His man Baker certainly belongs to that species.

Speaking of scotch owls, who was the last president routinely described as a good-natured but bumbling amateur? Remember the president who let the country run itself while he devoted himself to playing

golf and befogging press conferences with incomprehensible syntax? Oh yes, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Only later did the press notice that the peace and prosperity of the golden '50s might not have been entirely an accident, and that Ike's indecipherable language was reserved for those questions he didn't want to answer.

Murray Kempton, the Flaubert of American columnists, had been part of the pack condescending to Ike in the 1950s. But by 1967 he had developed the annoying habit of thinking for himself. The result was an article in Esquire that year titled "The Underestimation of Dwight D. Eisenhower." It exposed the secret of the Eisenhower Years: Far from drifting, Ike had mastered the current. Behind his bland mask lay cunning, even wisdom. No wonder he had proved one of this century's more successful American presidents.

If Dwight Eisenhower was so misjudged by the intellectuals of his time, why should George Bush come off any better in the '80s, when intellectual pretentiousness has advanced that much further? How long before one of the more unorthodox members of the journalistic pack writes a classic essay titled "The Underestimation of George Bush"?

This President is adrift like a fox.

Paul Greenberg is a syndicated columnist.

*They said Ike  
wasn't doing  
anything, either.  
But he sure was.*