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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
3/15/90

1990 MAR 12 PM 6:21

March 12, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON CW
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT MKG
SUBJECT: COUNTRY AMERICA MAGAZINE

Country America has asked for a column under your by-line on what country music means to you, which has been assigned to me. (Attached is a copy of Country America, with a picture of you and Lee Greenwood on page 33.) While I am familiar with the country singers you listen to, I was hoping you would have the time to answer a few questions for the piece:

Why do you like country music over other types of music?

I love the beat and I particularly like the lyrics. There's a reality to the lyrics. "Life its ownself" as author Dan Jenkins would say. I also like the patriotic themes and the religious themes.

At what point in your life did you become a fan?

I became a country fan 10-15 years ago.

Any particular songs mean a lot to you? Any memories of a certain song?

I think of Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be an American" and Reba's song about "Any Good News Today" because it reflects America's view that all they hear is bad news. I love "Mo" Bandy singing "Americana." I love the Oak's song about an "American Family" - it accurately reflects our love of family values. I hate to single out 3 because so many of my favorites singers have great songs.

Of the following values, which do you think country music promotes the most (ranking):

Patriotism ALL THREE ABOUT THE SAME - THAT'S WHY I LOVE IT.

Family _____

Faith in God _____

Any other values? _____

If you had to name three or four country music "greats," who would you pick? Any current favorites -- either performers or hit songs?

Impossible, but Roy Acuff and Jimmy Dean. Now, Randy Travis, George Strait, Ricky Van Shelton, Oak Ridge Boys, Alabama, Larry Gatlin, Loretta Lynn, Crystal Gayle, Lee Greenwood, Mo Bandy, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton
and so many others ...

Any anecdotes about your travels with Loretta Lynn, Crystal Gayle, Lee Greenwood or other stars?

Travelling with Loretta, Crystal and Peggy Sue was great. They'd sing on the bus, - they'd wave to the passers by, they'd perform - never complaining. They were down to earth -- real people. Mo Bandy did the same, a sensitive guy. He campaigned tirelessly, I'll never forget it. Lee Greenwood didn't tour, but he appeared a lot. The Oaks were at the Convention. Larry Gatlin and brothers appeared with me in Kansas City and elsewhere. None were "big shots." All were there because they believed and generally wanted to help.

Thank you very much.