

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Staff Secretary

Series/Staff Member: President Has Seen Files

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 20387

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Folder #3 [Note from Roger W. Johnson, GSA [General Services Administration] Administrator, Re: Exchange with Senator Helms]

Stack:

S

Row:

40

Section:

7

Shelf:

11

Position:

6



Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, DC 20405

WJC HAND WRITING

August 26, 1993

The President
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

I thought you would be interested in this exchange between myself and Senator Helms. I believe he should not be allowed to attack with impunity!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Johnson", written over the word "Sincerely".

Roger W. Johnson

cc: The Vice President
David Gergen
Mack McLarty
The First Lady



Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, DC 20405

August 25, 1993

The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Helms:

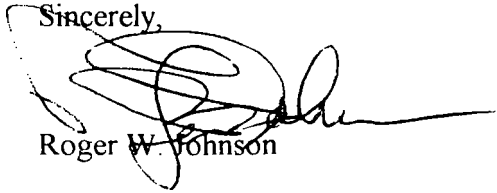
In your letter to me of August 3rd, you said you did not "know my personal feelings". I would normally let a letter such as your's just pass, but in this case, the depth of your condemnation of the President combined with your insensitivity to other's rights would, in my view, make me negligent and hypocritical if I did not respond.

I am in complete support of the thoughts and responsibilities expressed by Aki K. Nakao, Acting Regional Administrator of GSA in San Francisco. Further, I find your letter not only offensive but against everything I believe in. It is my view that America needs all her children, black or white, male or female, gay or straight, liberal or conservative, to contribute to their ultimate capability and that those entrusted with her policies must strive to create an atmosphere consistent with this goal. I am dedicated to that purpose, and thank God, so is our President.

Fortunately, Sir, you are but a single Senator expressing the last vestiges of what I consider to be a narrow, mean spirited, divisive philosophy. I am encouraged, however, that such views are increasingly in the minority.

But even so, you hold an office that commands my respect and therefore if you wish I'll be pleased to discuss this situation further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Johnson



JESSE HELMS
NORTH CAROLINA

Rec'd CT
8/16/93 P.M.
KHP

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3301

August 3, 1993

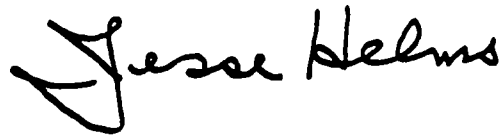
The Honorable Roger W. Johnson
Administrator
General Services Administration
18th and F Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The enclosed correspondence is self-explanatory, and my reaction to the pusillanimous letter from your San Francisco office is: Horsefeathers!

I don't know your personal feelings but this sort of thing is precisely a main reason why Mr. Clinton is held in such low esteem and therefore, thank goodness, will be a one-term president. The question is, can America survive 3 1/2 more years of such disgraceful conduct?

Sincerely,



JESSE HELMS:b
Enclosure

June 28⁵⁷ 1993
1993 JUL -6 PM

The Honorable Jesse Helms
Attention: Wayne Boyles
SD-403 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3301

Dear Senator Helms:

The purpose of this letter is to describe to you my treatment by the office of the General Services Administration at 300 N. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

On June 7, 1993, the GSA office put up "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month" banners in the Federal Building lobby. I and many of the people I work with find these banners and what they represent morally offensive. Therefore, I called GSA to present a group complaint.

During my call, Mr. Mike Wirtz of the GSA office attempted to find out what agency I work for. I believe that this information is irrelevant to our complaint, and would serve Mr. Mike Wirtz only to try to get us in trouble with our agency for the purpose of preventing future complaints by Federal employees. You see, GSA serves as a "general manager" to other agencies housed in the Federal Building.

It is improper for Federal agencies to appear to support one political philosophy over another. It is even more improper for a Federal agency to attempt to chill the free speech of Federal employees through employment-based retribution.

This letter is a followup to our telephonic conversation. I greatly appreciate your interest in this matter, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

William A. Rogers

William A. Rogers
3816 Beethoven Street, No. 102
Los Angeles, California 90066-4159



General Services Administration, Region 9
525 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2799

JUL 27 1993

1993 AUG -3 AM 10: 33

The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senator
ATTN: Wayne Boyles
SD-403 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3301

Dear Senator Helms:

This responds to your communication dated July 7, 1993, wherein you requested the General Services Administration's (GSA's) findings and views regarding a letter your office received from one William A. Rogers of Los Angeles, California. In early June, Mr. Rogers contacted GSA's Los Angeles Federal Building office to voice his displeasure over the display of banners in the lobby noting Gay and Lesbian Pride Month in Los Angeles. Mr. Rogers asserts his belief that GSA sought to obtain the name of his employer in order effect retaliation against him for voicing his complaint.

Mr. Rogers may rest assured that GSA did not have any intention of retaliating against him or any of his like-minded fellow workers. GSA put the banners up only after consulting with the agencies which occupy space in the Building, and fully anticipated that the banners might not be universally well received. In fact, GSA has received complaints regarding all kinds of banners, such as those signifying Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian/Pacific Islander Month, etc. GSA's request for identification was intended only to ascertain whether Mr. Rogers worked in the Building, and for the purpose of referring him to his agency's facilities coordinator if he did.

Finally, I must take exception to Mr. Rogers' proposition that "It is improper for Federal agencies to appear to support one political philosophy over another." The Federal Government was constituted to support a political philosophy valuing liberty, justice, and equality. It is GSA's position that promoting the values of tolerance and diversity in the workplace is a valid extension of that philosophy, and the display of banners and co-sponsorship of cultural and educational activities in Federal Buildings is a means by which GSA promotes these values.

Sincerely,

Aki K. Nakao
Acting Regional Administrator (9A)