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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
THROUGH: JIM CAVANAUGH
FROM: ART QUERN *Art Quern*
SUBJECT: Budget Amendment Proposed for Implementation
of the White House Conference on Handicapped
Individuals Act (P.L. 93-516)

This memorandum is to brief you on the background of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals and to request your help in gaining passage in the Congress of the Budget Amendment proposed to obtain funding for the Conference.

BACKGROUND

As you know, the President has decided to call the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals as permitted by P.L. 93-516, and has decided that it should be held in late 1976. HEW has responsibility for organizing and managing the Conference.

The initial process must begin as soon as possible to hold a successful conference in late 1976. The budget amendment proposed for implementation of the Act has cleared OMB and will be transmitted to the President shortly.

CURRENT SITUATION

The key matter now is to get the funding from Congress, as established in P.L. 93-516, to permit commencement of the process. Attached is a statement from OMB on this matter.

COMMENTS

We would appreciate any help you can give in getting this proposed budget amendment passed.

Need for rapid congressional action on the proposed White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals budget amendment

The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Act (P.L. 93-516) authorizes the President to call such conference not later than December 1976. Further, such conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW) and the National Planning and Advisory Council.

Consistent with the legislation, DHEW has developed a proposal which will enable states to organize and conduct conferences on handicapped individuals prior to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. In order to allow time to meet this requirement and to satisfy other requirements set forth in the enabling legislation in a timely fashion, it will be necessary for the required funds to be made available in the regular HEW/Labor Appropriations Bill; otherwise, funds might not be available prior to the last quarter of the current calendar year. Any delay in funding could impair the implementation by the states and the executive branch of the legislative objectives set forth in this act.

July 23, 1975



*file,
Taken care of,*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 6 - Education for All
Handicapped Children Act of 1975

This morning the President signed the above mentioned bill and returned it in his outbox with the following notation:

"A real toughie. I signed but think the signing statement can be strengthened -- no increase until 1978 and in meantime we must reduce later authorizations, etc. -- Check with Paul O'Neill."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Paul O'Neill
Robert Linder - with signed bill.



file

550

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

OP IMMED
DE WTE #6905 3331654
O 291649Z NOV 75
FM JIM CAVANAUGH

TO DICK CHENEY ABOARD AF-1

UNCLAS WH52326

NOVEMBER 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DICK CHENEY

FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH

WE RECEIVED YOUR NOTE ON THE CHANGES YOU WANTED MADE IN THE SIGNING STATEMENT ON THE EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT OF 1975. PAUL O'NIELL AND I HAVE EFFECTED THE CHANGES YOU REQUESTED AND THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN CLEARED BY PAUL THEIS.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I HAVE TODAY APPROVED S. 6, THE "EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT OF 1975."

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS BILL PROMISES MORE THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN DELIVER AND ITS GOOD INTENTIONS COULD BE THWARTED BY THE MANY UNWISE PROVISIONS IT CONTAINS. EVERYONE CAN AGREE WITH THE OBJECTIVE STATED IN THE TITLE OF THIS BILL--EDUCATING ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN OUR NATION. THE KEY QUESTION IS WHETHER THE BILL WILL REALLY ACCOMPLISH THAT OBJECTIVE.

EVEN THE STRONGEST SUPPORTERS OF THIS MEASURE KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT THEY ARE FALSELY RAISING THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE GROUPS AFFECTED BY CLAIMING AUTHORIZATION LEVELS WHICH ARE EXCESSIVE AND UNREALISTIC.

DESPITE MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR FULL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, THE FUNDING LEVELS PROPOSED IN THIS BILL WILL SIMPLY NOT BE POSSIBLE IF FEDERAL EXPENDITURES ARE TO

*****WHHR COMMENT*****

CAVANAUGH

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BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AND A BALANCED BUDGET ACHIEVED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THERE ARE OTHER FEATURES IN THE BILL WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE OBJECTIONABLE, AND WHICH SHOULD BE CHANGED. IT CONTAINS A VAST ARRAY OF DETAILED, COMPLEX AND COSTLY ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS WHICH WOULD UNNECESSARILY ASSERT FEDERAL CONTROL OVER TRADITIONAL STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS. IT ESTABLISHES COMPLEX REQUIREMENTS UNDER WHICH TAX DOLLARS WOULD BE USED TO SUPPORT ADMINISTRATIVE PAPERWORK AND NOT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. UNFORTUNATELY, THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT EVEN THOUGH THE CONGRESS APPROPRIATES FAR LESS THAN THE AMOUNTS CONTEMPLATED IN S. 6.

FORTUNATELY, SINCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL WILL NOT BECOME FULLY EFFECTIVE UNTIL FISCAL YEAR 1978, THERE IS TIME TO REVISE THE LEGISLATION AND COME UP WITH A PROGRAM THAT IS EFFECTIVE AND REALISTIC. I WILL WORK WITH THE CONGRESS TO USE THIS TIME TO DESIGN A PROGRAM WHICH WILL RECOGNIZE THE PROPER FEDERAL ROLE IN HELPING STATES AND LOCALITIES FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN EDUCATING HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SEND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESS THAT WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE.

-----APPROVE -----DISAPPROVE

0472



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*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 12, 1976

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
FROM: SARAH MASSENGALE *SM*
SUBJECT: STATUS OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

*Sarah -
I thought
The President
decided on
Dec '76*

This is to bring you up to date on the efforts to change the date of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

The House has not yet considered the Senate-passed Williams resolution which would allow the President to change the Conference date to 1977. House members have informally voiced unwillingness to spend an extra \$1.3 million, the estimated requirement.

The Conference staff and the Advisory Council are still trying to get the date changed and are developing estimates on how to hold the Conference in May, 1977 without spending additional money *(from the Congress)*.

We have expressed no view on changing the date and will wait to see if the House passes the Williams resolution.



cc: Jim Cavanaugh
Art Quern

*Why does the
Senate want
to change it?
Jim*

Hand copied

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 25, 1976

MEETING WITH KERRI HINES, NATIONAL EASTER SEAL CHILD

Thursday, February 26, 1976

12:00 p.m. (10 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

To receive the first sheet of the 1976 Easter Seals from five year old Kerri Hines of Waterford, Michigan.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: The annual ceremony at the White House traditionally kicks off the Easter Seal campaign. Through contributions from the public to Easter Seals and the work of volunteers, rehabilitation services are provided each year to more than 350,000 handicapped children and adults.

Kerri Hines is this year's poster child. Crippled with cerebral palsy since birth, Kerri has made excellent progress since 1972 when she began receiving physical therapy at the Oakland County Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the Easter Seal Center in Pontiac, Michigan.

Wayne Rogers, star of the new T.V. series "City of Angels," and the 1976 National Chairman, is unfortunately unable to attend because of his filming schedule.

- B. Participants: List attached at Tab A

- C. Press Plan: Open Press Opportunity

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Thank you, Kerri, for these Easter Seals. The Ford family has always been a strong supporter of the Easter Seal Society, and it is an honor to receive the first sheet of Seals this year.
2. All of you should be proud of your efforts in promoting the Easter Seal campaign. You exemplify what volunteerism in America is all about.



PARTICIPANTS

Kerri Hines

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hines

Jack Hines, Jr.

Dr. Lamar Soutter, President, National Easter Seal Society
for Crippled Children and Adults

Mrs. Mary Soutter

Mr. Keith Roberts, Director of Public Relations, National
Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults

Senator Philip A. Hart

Senator Robert P. Griffin

Congressman William S. Broomfield

STAFF

Jim Cannon

Sarah Massengale

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY DAVID MATHEWS
FROM: JIM CANNON *Jim*
SUBJECT: DECISION MEMO ON DATE OF THE
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

Attached is a draft decision memorandum to the President on changing the date of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

I would appreciate your giving your comments and recommendations to Sarah Massengale (Rm. 220, X6776) by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 8, 1976.

Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN
ROBERT T. HARTMANN
JACK MARSH
ROGERS MORTON
MAX FRIEDERSDORF
JIM LYNN
DR. TED MARRS

FROM:

JIM CANNON *J. Cannon*

SUBJECT:

DECISION MEMO ON DATE OF THE
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

Attached is a draft decision memorandum to the President on changing the date of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

I would appreciate your giving your comments and recommendations to Sarah Massengale (Rm. 220, X6776) by 5:00 p.m., Monday March 8, 1976.

Thank you.

cc: Jim Cavanaugh
Art Quern
Spence Johnson



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECISION

March 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM CANNON
SUBJECT: DATE OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

This is to present for your decision the question of changing the date of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

BACKGROUND

Last November you announced the calling of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals for December, 1976. This was the last date allowed by the authorizing legislation.

Since then, at the request of the National Planning and Advisory Council which is responsible for planning and conducting the Conference, the Congress has passed S.J. 154 which permits you to hold the Conference in 1977. You signed S.J. 154 on February 27.

ISSUE

The question is whether to change the Conference date to April, 1977, from December, 1976.

PROS

1. Extension of the Conference date would allow the National Planning and Advisory Council, which is responsible for planning and conducting the Conference 18 months for their task, as they are requesting. Because of administrative delays, the Council was not established until November, 1975, only fourteen months before the National Conference date.

2. Extension of the Conference date would allow the States the additional three months they are requesting to plan and conduct the State Conferences and to involve as many consumers as possible. Some States such as Pennsylvania and New Mexico have indicated they cannot hold a conference before September. Other States such as Texas, California, New York, and Massachusetts, are having difficulties with appointments of State Directors for the Conference. Also, State planning is said to be hindered by the unavailability of the planning grants before May, 1976.
3. Extension of the Conference date to April has been strongly endorsed by the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the Easter Seal Society and the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, the largest handicapped coalition representing about 120 important organizations.
4. The passage of S.J. 154 without objection indicates that the Congress cedes to the request of the National Planning and Advisory Council to change the date. Senators Stafford, Randolph and Dole (who is on the Advisory Council) and Congressmen Quie and Brademas are said to support an April, 1977 date.
5. Logistical arrangements for a Conference date in April, 1977, would be easier. In December uncertain weather conditions, peak season holiday travel and holiday commitments could limit ability to get reservations, attendance of delegates and availability of speakers.
6. No additional funds would be required for an April conference.

CON

1. You have already announced the December, 1976 date.
2. Because no additional funds are authorized, the Conference will be able to afford 100 fewer paid delegates, reducing the maximum number of paid delegates from 800 to 700. There will still be about 1000 observers.
3. Recommendations from the State and National Conferences would be available for consideration by State and National decision-makers several months later since the final reports would not be ready until September, 1977 rather than June, 1977. As a result, new initiatives to assist handicapped persons would be implemented more slowly.

DECISION

Approve April date and issue announcement

Disapprove April date

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT

At the request of the National Planning and Advisory Council to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and with the authorization of the Congress, I hereby declare that the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals shall be held in April, 1977.

A Spring 1977 Conference is also strongly supported by many of the States and by various organizations for the handicapped. The April date will allow the States time to plan their conferences more thoroughly and to involve more people, especially the handicapped. This should contribute to a better National Conference.

I feel that this involvement is very important. As I said when I announced the Conference last November, a major purpose of this conference is to generate a responsive national awareness of the problems facing the handicapped. Concern for the handicapped is not unique to the Federal Government; States and local officials and private citizens must also turn their attention to the needs of the handicapped. The private sector can perform a creative role by contributing its talents and resources.

And, as I said then, the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals is a very worthwhile endeavor. Its results should contribute significantly to the health, education and welfare of handicapped individuals everywhere.

THE WHITE HOUSE

DECISION

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM CANNON *Jin*
SUBJECT: DATE OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

This is to present for your decision the question of changing the date of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

BACKGROUND

Last November you announced the calling of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals for December, 1976. This was the last date allowed by the authorizing legislation.

Since then, at the request of the National Planning and Advisory Council which is jointly responsible with Secretary Mathews for planning and conducting the Conference, the Congress passed S.J. 154 which permits you to hold the Conference in 1977. You signed S.J. 154 on February 27.

ISSUE

The question is whether to change the Conference date to April, 1977, from December, 1976.

PROS

1. Extension of the Conference date would allow the National Planning and Advisory Council 18 months for their task, as they are requesting. Because of administrative delays, the Council was not established until November, 1975, only fourteen months before the National Conference date.



2. Extension of the Conference date would allow the States the additional three months they are requesting to plan and conduct the State Conferences and to involve as many consumers as possible. Some States, such as Pennsylvania and New Mexico, have indicated they cannot hold a conference before September. Other States, such as Texas, California, New York, and Massachusetts, are having difficulties with the appointment of State Directors for the Conference. Also, State planning is said to be hindered by the unavailability of the planning grants before May, 1976.
3. Extension of the Conference date to April has been strongly endorsed by the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the Easter Seal Society and the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, the largest handicapped coalition representing about 120 important organizations.
4. The passage of S.J. 154 without objection indicates that the Congress yields to the request of the National Planning and Advisory Council to change the date. Senators Stafford, Randolph and Dole (who is on the Advisory Council) and Congressmen Quie and Brademas are said to support an April, 1977 date.
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6. No additional funds would be required for an April conference.

CON

1. You have already announced the December, 1976 date.
2. Because no additional funds are authorized, the Conference will be able to afford 100 fewer paid delegates. The money will be used to extend for three months the time for writing the final report and recommendations. The probable maximum number of paid delegates would thus be reduced from 800 to 700. There would still be about 1000 observers. HEW informally indicates that if you feel strongly about increasing the number of delegates, with Congressional approval we might be able to reprogram funds from HEW and other agencies.

3. Recommendations from the State and National Conferences would be available for consideration by State and National decision-makers several months later since the final reports would not be ready until September, 1977 rather than June, 1977. As a result, new initiatives to assist handicapped persons would be implemented more slowly.

AGENCY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Mathews: In view of the Department's interest in ensuring the most effective conference possible, the Secretary recommends that the President approve an April date and issue the appropriate announcement.

Marrs: Approval

Buchen, Hartmann
Morton, Friedersdorf No objection to an April 1977 date.

Lynn (O'Neill) No recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

I feel that the December date will inhibit staff and State planners in their preparation for conferences of quality and may result in frustrating the very constituencies we are seeking to assist through the conferences.

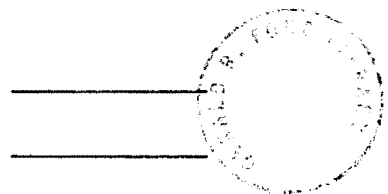
Since the April date has been requested or endorsed by so many groups involved and since no additional funds are required, I recommend that you decide to hold the national conference in April, 1977.

I also recommend that you approve the announcement (text approved by Robert T. Hartmann attached at Tab A) for immediate release.

DECISION

Approve April date and issue announcement

Disapprove April date



DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT

At the request of the National Planning and Advisory Council to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and with the authorization of the Congress, I hereby declare that the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals shall be held in April 1977.

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The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals is a very important occasion which should contribute significantly to the health, education and welfare of handicapped individuals everywhere.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 19, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Date of White House Conference on
Handicapped Individuals

The President reviewed your memorandum of March 16 and approved the recommendation concerning the date of April 1977 for the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. The proposed announcement concerning the Conference was also approved.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney



THE WHITE HOUSE

DECISION

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM CANNON *J. Cannon*
SUBJECT: DATE OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

This is to present for your decision the question of changing the date of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

BACKGROUND

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Lynn (O'Neill) No recommendation

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I also recommend that you approve the announcement (text approved by Robert T. Hartmann attached at Tab A) for immediate release.

DECISION

Approve April date and issue announcement _____

Disapprove April date _____



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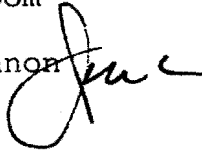
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1976

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S TROPHY TO THE
HANDICAPPED AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

Tuesday, April 27
12:00 (10 minutes)
The Cabinet Room

From: Jim Cannon 

I. PURPOSE

To present the President's Trophy to Forest Webb (Bill) Kiser, Jr., the Handicapped American of the Year.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: The President's Trophy has been awarded each year since 1951 to the handicapped American whose selection should prove to be most helpful toward encouraging, inspiring, facilitating, and promoting the useful employment of other disabled persons.

This year's award winner, Bill Kiser, is a published author and a syndicated newspaper and radio columnist from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Kiser's handicap stems from severe cerebral palsy. He has limited motor ability and has difficulty with verbal communication. He communicates by typing his work at a rate of 100 words per hour. After you present the trophy, Governor Holshouser will respond on Mr. Kiser's behalf.

- B. Participants: Forest Webb (Bill) Kiser, Jr., the 1975 Handicapped American of the Year. See Tab A for complete biographic material.
Governor James Holshouser
(Complete list at Tab B)

- C. Press Plan: Full press, photo opportunity



III. REMARKS

Talking points are at Tab C. They will be reviewed and put in speech type by Bob Orben.

RELEASE



RELEASE: Sunday, February 15, 1976



BLISS: (202) 653-5011

NORTH CAROLINA DISABLED JOURNALIST NAMED HANDICAPPED AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

A syndicated newspaper and radio journalist from North Carolina, who overcame
eight years of total dependence in a nursing home to build an independent life and
career, has been named "Handicapped American of the Year" by Harold Russell, Chairman
of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Forest Webb Kiser, Jr. (known as Bill) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, will
receive the President's Trophy, the nation's highest honor for its disabled citizens,
on April 29 at the Annual Meeting of the President's Committee at the Washington
Hilton Hotel.

Kiser, 48, is president of Bill Kiser News Service, Inc., for which he writes a
syndicated radio show carried by 20 stations in North and South Carolina, a weekly-
newspaper column carried by six North and South Carolina newspapers, and a monthly
column distributed nationally by The President's Committee. All are written on topics
of interest to handicapped people.

As a consultant to the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Kiser acts
as a resource on the needs of handicapped people, as a publicity writer, and as editor
of their journal, NCRA News.

His nationally syndicated column runs in daily, weekly, and monthly newspapers,
and it brought him nationwide attention when it was featured in a recent issue of the
trade journal, Editor & Publisher.

(More)

Kiser's rehabilitation from severely involved cerebral palsy has not been easy. Fighting for normalcy since childhood, by his mid-20's he had improved his speech and physical control. Businesses in his community donated money for "miracle" surgery intended to "cure" him. The operation backfired, and he was left more disabled than before.

With both parents dead, he was unable to care for himself, and was placed in a nursing home, where he stayed, in a state of "complete hopelessness" for 8 years. Neither medical nor rehabilitation professionals believed he would ever be able to support himself or live independently.

In spite of their predictions, Kiser set out to achieve his goal of independence. He left the nursing home and refused to be placed in an institution for the mentally retarded, or to receive public assistance.

In the nursing home, he was assisted by a physical therapist who helped him regain hope. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in South Carolina, where he then lived, sponsored treatment for him later. The North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has since assisted him in obtaining physical, speech, and occupational therapy.

Public schools were inaccessible to Kiser and lacked programs flexible enough for his special needs, so his education was limited to what his parents could give him at home. Eventually he earned a high school equivalency certificate. With the assistance of able-bodied students, who carried him up the steps to classrooms, he audited 50 hours of college courses at Furman University. He read extensively on his own, and participated in numerous seminars on journalism and rehabilitation.

In 1974, Kiser and his friends incorporated the Bill Kiser News Service through sale of stock. Encouragement for this venture came from a local newspaper editor

who encouraged his journalistic abilities. Today, the business is self sustaining, and provides him with a salary and independence.

Living alone in an apartment adapted to his needs with Vocational Rehabilitation funds, Kiser hires an aide to help him with the final details of dressing, and subscribes to "Meals-on Wheels" for weekday lunches. His office is located across the street from his apartment.

Verbal communication is still very difficult for him, and he depends on a capable secretary to take dictation and interface for him in his dealings with the public.

Bill Kiser was nominated for the President's Trophy, which carries a \$1000 stipend to be used to promote the cause of disabled people, by the North Carolina Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
List	List of participants at the Handicapped American of the Year Award presentation. Redacted copy available.	4/27/1976	C

File Location:

James M. Cannon Files, Box 16, "Handicapped" / SMD/ 3/12/2015

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by applicable Executive order governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

HANDICAPPED AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

Award Presentation

The White House

Tuesday, April 27, 12 noon

<u>Name</u>	<u>Social Security Number, Place and Date of Birth</u>
Harold Russell, Chairman President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped	[REDACTED] Sydney, Nova Scotia 1-14-14
Mrs. Harold Russell	[REDACTED] Cambridge, Mass. 9-27-15
Mrs. Jayne Baker Spain Vice Chairman, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped	[REDACTED] Cincinnati, Ohio 3-28-25
Bernard Posner, Executive Director President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped	[REDACTED] Cincinnati, Ohio 8-26-16
Edward Rose, Deputy Executive Director, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped	[REDACTED] Greenville Co., Va. 8-20-30
William V. Sax, Staff Assistant President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped	[REDACTED] Washington, D.C. 11-2-48
<u>Handicapped American of the Year and Guests</u>	
Forest Webb (Bill) Kiser Handicapped American of the Year Winston Salem, N.C.	[REDACTED] Greenville Co., S.C. 3-25-27
Ruth Ann Thompson Bill Kiser's Secretary Winston Salem, N.C.	[REDACTED] Breckenridge Co., Ky. 3-9-36



John Dalrymple
 Special Project Director
 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 Kannapolis, N.C.
 (lifelong friend of Bill Kiser)

[REDACTED]
 Kannapolis, N.C.
 4-27-43

Mrs. Shirley Wells Dalrymple
 Wife of John Dalrymple
 (also lifelong friend of Bill Kiser)

[REDACTED]
 Monmouth, Ill.
 4-10-44

John Miller Dalrymple
 Raleigh, N.C.
 (was like a father to Bill Kiser)

[REDACTED]
 Chesterfield Co., S.C.
 8-5-07

Allie Horne Dalrymple
 Raleigh, N.C.
 (Wife of John Miller Dalrymple.
 Like a mother to Bill Kiser)

[REDACTED]
 Chesterfield Co., S.C.
 2-12-06

Reverend Edwin E. Kirton
 Chairman, North Carolina Governor's
 Committee on the Handicapped
 Wilmington, N.C.

[REDACTED]
 Trinidad, W.I.
 12-13-07

W. Joseph Strickland
 Executive Secretary
 North Carolina Governor's
 Committee on the Handicapped
 Raleigh, N.C.

[REDACTED]
 Dunn, N.C.
 4-15-13

Claude Meyers, Director
 Department of Vocational
 Rehabilitation
 Raleigh, N.C.

[REDACTED]
 Seville, Fla.
 11-10-30

James E. Holshouser, Jr.
 Governor of North Carolina

[REDACTED]
 Watauga Co., N.C.
 10-8-34

Phillip J. Kirk, Jr.
 Secretary, North Carolina
 Department of Human Resources
 Raleigh, N.C.

[REDACTED]
 Rowan Co., N.C.
 11-24-44

Ronald Drach
National Director of Employment
Disabled American Veterans
(Chairman, Disabled Veterans
Committee)

[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, Pa.
11-11-44

Wayne T. Brooks
Organization Resources Counselors
(Chairman, Employers Committee)

[REDACTED]
Moorefield, W.V.
10-16-13

Miss Marsha Stevens
770 Boylston Street
Boston, Mass.
(Chairman, Youth Development
Committee)

[REDACTED]
Medford, Mass.
12-29-45

Hunter P. Wharton, President
International Union of Operating
Engineers
(Chairman, Labor Committee)

[REDACTED]
Martinsburg, W.V.
10-20-1900

Miss Katherine Niemeyer
Cape Coral, Fla.
(Chairman, Physically Handicapped
Committee)

[REDACTED]
Chicago, Ill.
6-26-25

Dr. John A. Nesbitt, Chairman
Recreation Education Program
University of Iowa
(Chairman, Recreation Committee)

[REDACTED]
Detroit, Mich.
3-29-33

Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr.
President, Human Resources Center
(Chairman, White House Conference
on Handicapped Individuals)

[REDACTED]
New York, N.Y.
5-10-12

Edward H. Noakes
Edward H. Noakes & Associates
Architects
(Chairman, Environmental Barriers
Committee)

[REDACTED]
Toronto, Canada
7-12-16

Lawrence Smedley
Assistant Director, Social Security
AFL-CIO
(Member, Steering Committee)

[REDACTED]
Lorain, Ohio
9-2-29

Frances Lowder
Chairperson
Committee on the Physically
Handicapped

[REDACTED]
Sherman Co., Neb.
4-19-30

Fred Schreiber, Executive Director
National Association of the Deaf

[REDACTED]
New York, N.Y.
2-1-22

Nancy Kowalski, Interpreter
for Fred Schreiber

[REDACTED]
Chicago, Ill.
7-3-41

Eunice Fiorito, President
American Coalition of Citizens
with Disabilities

[REDACTED]
Chicago, Ill.
10-1-30

James Gashell
Executive Director, Washington
National Federation of the Blind

[REDACTED]
Mason City, Iowa
9-23-46

Tulla Jupp
National Association of the
Physically Handicapped
President, D. C. Chapter

[REDACTED]
Wilmington, Del.
2-14-39

Flemming P. Rose, Photographer
Department of Labor

[REDACTED]
Washington, D.C.
12-8-42



TALKING POINTS

1. It is a pleasure to welcome you to the White House this afternoon to honor the Handicapped American of the Year, Bill Kiser from Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
2. I am sorry that I will not be able to join you at your formal meeting later this week but I will be out of the city. I am pleased, however, that we have so many of the leadership of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped here at this ceremony. It gives me the opportunity to reaffirm my own commitment to the importance of full employment opportunities for our nation's handicapped. I applaud your fine efforts.
3. Bill Kiser, who we honor today, is an exceptional man.
4. He is the president of a news service. He writes syndicated radio shows and newspaper columns. He has written an inspirational book.
5. What is special about Bill Kiser is not his disability, but his ability and determination.

6. Bill Kiser is a communicator -- not in the easy manner with which many of us are accustomed, because his speed on the typewriter is only 100 words each hour -- but his message rings loud and clear.
7. Bill Kiser's message to each of us is the reaffirmation of the dignity and worth of each human being. His friends who are gathered here today know first hand the quality and warmth of this man.
8. Those of us who are privileged to meet Bill Kiser, or to read his writings, share in the respect for his accomplishments and contributions to our society.
9. I am honored to be able to present this award to Bill Kiser.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1976

Pres / Action
ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON *Jin*

SUBJECT:

Proposed Executive Order
"Nondiscrimination with Respect
to the Handicapped in Federally
Assisted Programs"

The attached Executive Order provides that qualified handicapped individuals shall not be discriminated against in any program receiving Federal financial assistance.

In brief, the Order directs the Secretary of HEW to coordinate the implementation of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and requires each Department and agency that is empowered to provide Federal financial assistance to issue regulations consistent with the standards and procedures established by the Secretary of HEW.

The proposed Executive Order has been reviewed and approved by OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) and the White House Editorial Office (Smith).

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the Executive Order at Tab A.



NONDISCRIMINATION WITH RESPECT TO THE HANDICAPPED
IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROGRAMS

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the United States of America, including Section 301 of Title 3 of the United States Code, and as President of the United States, and in order to provide for consistent implementation within the Federal Government of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall coordinate the implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, hereinafter referred to as Section 504, by all Federal departments and agencies empowered to extend Federal financial assistance to any program or activity. The Secretary shall establish standards for determining who are handicapped individuals and guidelines for determining what are discriminatory practices, within the meaning of Section 504. The Secretary shall assist Federal departments and agencies to coordinate their programs and activities and shall consult with such departments and agencies, as necessary, so that consistent policies, practices, and procedures are adopted with respect to the enforcement of Section 504.

Sec. 2. In order to implement the provisions of Section 504, each Federal department and agency empowered to provide Federal financial assistance shall

issue rules, regulations, and directives, consistent with the standards and procedures established by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Sec. 3. (a) Whenever the appropriate department or agency determines, upon all the information available to it, that any recipient of, or applicant for, Federal financial assistance is in noncompliance with the requirements adopted pursuant to this Order, steps to secure voluntary compliance shall be carried out in accordance with standards and procedures established pursuant to this Order.

(b) If voluntary compliance cannot be secured by informal means, compliance with Section 504 may be effected by the suspension or termination of, or refusal to award or continue, Federal financial assistance or by other appropriate means authorized by law, in accordance with standards and procedures established pursuant to this Order.

(c) No such suspension or termination of, or refusal to award or continue, Federal financial assistance shall become effective unless there has been an express finding, after opportunity for a hearing, of a failure by the recipient of, or applicant for, Federal financial assistance to comply with the requirements adopted pursuant to this Order; however, such suspension or termination of, or refusal to award or continue, Federal financial assistance shall be limited in its effect to the particular program or activity or part thereof with respect to which there has been such a finding of noncompliance.

Sec. 4. Each Federal department and agency shall furnish the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare such reports and information as the Secretary requests and shall cooperate with the Secretary in the implementation of Section 504.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare may adopt rules and regulations and issue orders which he deems are necessary to carry out his responsibilities under this Order. The Secretary shall ensure that such rules, regulations, and orders are not inconsistent with, or duplicative of, other Federal Government policies relating to the handicapped, including those policies adopted in accordance with Sections 501, 502, and 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, or the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.).

THE WHITE HOUSE

, 1976



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON

FROM: DAVID LISS 

SUBJECT: Proposed Executive Order -- "Nondis-
crimination with respect to the
Handicapped in Federally Assisted
Programs"

The history to this is extensive, but at this point all concerned feel some Executive Order is essential. In addition to the meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped this week, I understand there will be Senate oversight hearings on this general subject later this week, and we continue to receive calls from interested Hill staff.

Art Quern, Dick Parsons, Spencer Johnson and Sarah Massengale have all reviewed and concur.

HEW staff have agreed not to insist on stronger language in the Order. They suggested a few minor changes which OMB accepted.

I would be happy to discuss this with you.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1976

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Handicapped in Federally Assisted
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Attachment

Handicapped
APRIL 28, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

NONDISCRIMINATION WITH RESPECT TO THE HANDICAPPED
IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROGRAMS

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more

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GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,

April 28, 1976.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 4, 1976

MEETING WITH NATIONAL GOODWILL WORKER OF THE YEAR

Wednesday, May 5, 1976

10:00 a.m. (5 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Jim Cannon I. PURPOSE

To greet Mrs. Lani Deauville, the National Goodwill Worker of the Year.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: Lani Deauville of St. Petersburg, Florida, has been named 1976 National Goodwill Worker of the Year, the highest honor the nonprofit organization bestows upon handicapped individuals. Highlighting National Goodwill Week, May 2-8, the winner is honored with a trip to Washington, D.C., a V.I.P. tour including a visit to the White House, and meetings with government officials.

Mrs. Deauville joined Goodwill Industries - Suncoast, St. Petersburg, Florida, in August, 1972, as a work evaluator and adjustment counselor. As a teenager, she suffered a diving accident which left her with several broken vertebrae and excruciating pain. She elected to have her spinal cord severed so rehabilitation could begin. Although her physical activities were limited by a wheelchair, she received a B.A. and M.A. in psychology and has completed all course work required toward her doctorate degree in psychology.

A panel of four judges reviewed the nominations; they were the 1975 National Goodwill Worker of the Year, Dr. Theodore Cooper, a vice president of Merkle Press, Inc., and Abigail Van Buren, author of "Dear Abby."

Attached at Tab A is a copy of the Message on National Goodwill Week, 1976, which has been sent.

- B. Participants: List attached at Tab B.

- C. Press Plan: White House Photo; to be announced.



III. TALKING POINTS

1. I am very happy to welcome you here today.
2. May I congratulate you on being selected the 1976 National Goodwill Worker of the Year.
3. I understand that nominations were submitted by the numerous local Goodwill organizations. Your selection from this large group is a tribute to you.
4. I know that this week is National Goodwill Week. I share with Goodwill one of its primary goals -- independence for all handicapped people. I salute Goodwill for its efforts to train handicapped individuals, create jobs for the disabled, and assist people in overcoming the effects of disability.
5. It is a pleasure for me to meet you. You have not let your accident when you were a teenager overcome you. You have gone on and gotten your Masters in Psychology and done the class work for your Ph.D. May I congratulate you on your achievements.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

National Goodwill Week, 1976

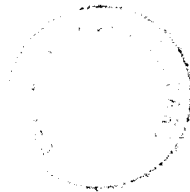
National Goodwill Week emphasizes once again the growing achievements of a singularly American institution dedicated to the purpose of expanding opportunities for our nation's handicapped citizens.

Independence for all handicapped people is one of Goodwill's primary goals -- and it is a most appropriate theme for this Bicentennial commemoration.

The sustained vitality of our society depends in large measure on our ability to develop to the fullest all our national resources. The talents and special skills of our citizens are foremost among the resources that provide the key to our future growth and progress. With this in mind, I salute Goodwill Industries of America for its continuing leadership in the effort to train handicapped individuals, create jobs for the disabled and assist others in overcoming the effects of disability.

I call upon all Americans to support the building of renewed hope for lives of greater self-fulfillment which this observance so appropriately symbolizes.

Gerald R. Ford



PARTICIPANTS

Mrs. Lani Deauville, Goodwill Worker of the Year

Dean Phillips, President, Goodwill Industries of America

James A. Szenas, President, Goodwill Industries - Suncoast, Inc.,
St. Petersburg, Florida

Matthew Warren, Director, Public Relations, Goodwill Industries
of America

Congressman Bill Young, (R.Fla.)



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 10, 1976

GREETING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
MOTHER AND FATHER OF THE YEAR

Tuesday, May 11, 1976
12:00 p.m. (5 minutes)
The Oval Office



From: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

This meeting was requested by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society so that you could greet and be photographed with the multiple sclerosis mother and father of the year.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society annually selects the multiple sclerosis mother and father of the year.

The selection is traditionally made prior to the kickoff of the Multiple Sclerosis Hope Chest Campaign, which runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

This year's mother is Mrs. Sharon Van Meter, 38, of Iowa City, Iowa. Mother of two children, aged 9 and 13, Mrs. Van Meter continues to be active in community affairs despite her illness.

Mr. Ralph M. Rikard, 46, of Montgomery, Alabama, is the MS father of the year, a salesman before he was stricken with MS. Mr. Rikard is the father of three children.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society will provide plaques to be presented by you to Mrs. Van Meter and Mr. Rikard in recognition of their outstanding leadership and courage.

B. Participants:

(See attachment)

C. Press Plan:

To be announced; photo session.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Mrs. Van Meter and Mr. Rikard, it is a privilege for me to be able to present these plaques to you in recognition of your leadership and courage.
2. Despite your illnesses, you have both remained active in your communities and continue to work to help others.
3. I also want to commend the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, especially the officials here today. Your continued support to find the cause and cure of MS is a national service for all Americans.



PARTICIPANTS

A. Family of the Mother of the Year

Sharon Van Meter
Michael Van Meter (Husband)
Amy Van Meter
Clarke Van Meter

B. Family of the Father of the Year

Ralph M. Rikard
Ruth Rikard (Wife)
Randi Leigh Rikard
Rosanna Rikard
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Rikard, Jr.

C. Multiple Sclerosis Officials

National Multiple Sclerosis Society:

Sylvia Lawry
Executive Director

George Weiler
Director, Public Relations

Fred Wieting
Assistant Public Relations
Director

National Capital Chapter:

James E. Barrett
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Robert Gray
Member of the Board



MAY 11, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS MOTHER AND FATHER OF THE YEAR
THE OVAL OFFICE



12:20 P.M. EDT

Let me make an observation and comment. First, I want to congratulate the Multiple Sclerosis Society for its long, very helpful record of trying to highlight the problems relating to MS and also to make the American people aware of the great courage and strength of people such as you, Mrs. Van Meter and Mr. Rikard.

I do wish to congratulate you and it is an honor for me to give you this plaque as Mother of the Year. We are delighted to have you here and are very glad that you could be here.

And you, Mr. Rikard, I am very pleased to award you this plaque as the Father of the Year for MS. Good luck and God bless you. It is nice to have you here.

We are delighted to have somebody from Alabama and somebody from Iowa. The very best to both of you.

I congratulate the members of the Society and what you have done and what I know you will do in the months and years ahead.

The best to all of you. We are very grateful on behalf of the 215 million Americans for those who have made achievements in the past as well as will in the future.

The very best to you.

END

(AT 12:23 P.M. EDT)

Health - Handicapped

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON
May 18, 1976

Last Day: May 21

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

H.R. 12018 - Helen Keller National
Center for Deaf-Blind Youths
and Adults

Attached for your consideration is H.R. 12018, sponsored by Representative Brademas, which amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide that the center for deaf-blind youths and adults established by the Act shall be known as the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults. The Center has been constructed on Sands Point, Long Island and is scheduled to be dedicated this month.

Additional information is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign H.R. 12018 at Tab B.





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

MAY 12 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 12018 - Helen Keller National
Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults
Sponsor - Rep. Brademas (D) Indiana

Last Day for Action

May 21, 1976 - Friday

Purpose

Names the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults
in honor of Helen Keller.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Department of Health, Education,
and Welfare

Approval

Discussion

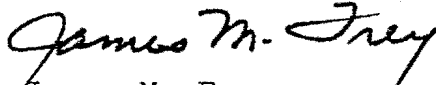
The National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults is
authorized in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Center
has been constructed on Sands Point, Long Island and is
scheduled to be dedicated this month.

The Center offers rehabilitation services to individuals
who are both blind and deaf, trains professional staff
to work with such individuals, and conducts research.

Designation of the Center as the Helen Keller National Center
for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, as provided in H.R. 12018,
was recommended in Congressional testimony by Dr. Peter J.
Salmon, Director of the Center. Dr. Salmon indicated that
Helen Keller "was still living during most of the planning
for the Center, and in a very real sense, its operation
represents the fulfillment of her longest and fondest dream."

The bill was passed by the House under suspension of the rules and in the Senate by voice vote.

HEW notes that naming the Center for Miss Keller "is an appropriate tribute to a woman of remarkable ability and fortitude who devoted her life to the interests of the handicapped."


James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

MAY 11 1976

The Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in response to your request for a report on H.R. 12018, an enrolled bill "To amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide that the center for deaf-blind youths and adults established by such Act shall be known as the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults."

We believe the naming of the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults in honor of Helen Keller is an appropriate tribute to a woman of remarkable ability and fortitude who devoted her life to the interests of the handicapped. We therefore have no objection to the renaming of the Center and thus recommend that the President approve the enrolled bill.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Lynch

Under Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SIGNATURE

June 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
FROM: SARAH MASSENGALE

SM

Attached for your signature is a memorandum for the President recommending that he sign a letter to Kelly Forehand of Amarillo, Texas concerning spinal cord injury.



file

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

June 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON *Jim*

SUBJECT:

Letter to Kelly Forehand

Attached for your signature is a letter to Kelly Forehand of Amarillo, Texas, who asked you a question about spinal cord injury during a recent trip to Texas.

The letter has been approved by OMB and Robert Hartmann.

I recommend that you sign the attached letter.



*Called
Pete
Shay 2541
to find
original
mailgram*

*original in
Central Files-
Bill at 2242
to send it
to me.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Kelly:

Thank you for the mailgram from you and your parents. I very much appreciate your good wishes.

I would like to reemphasize what I said to you at West Texas State University. I share your concerns, and you may be sure that research in the area of spinal cord injury and regeneration of the central nervous system is and will continue to be a major focus of Government research.

As you probably know, most of this research is conducted or supported by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, one of the National Institutes of Health. Because of your concerns, I have asked the Director of that Institute to send you some information about the research which is being done which I hope you will find of interest.

My best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kelly Forehand
1902 3 Avenue
Canyon, Texas 79015



THE WHITE HOUSE

file
ACTION

WASHINGTON

June 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON *Jim*
SUBJECT: Letter to Kelly Forehand

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My best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kelly Forehand
1902 3 Avenue
Canyon, Texas 79015

May 4, 1976

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Forehand
and Kelly:

President Ford has asked me to thank you for your thoughtful message. He is grateful to know he can count on your support.

We have overcome many of the critical problems which faced our Nation this past year, but much remains to be done. The President is looking forward to the time ahead and the opportunity it will provide to encourage all our citizens to join with him in working for America.

You have the President's warm good wishes and appreciation.

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Director of Correspondence

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Forehand
and Kelly *Forehand*
1902 Third Avenue
Canyon, Texas

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► PRESIDENT GERALD FORD
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20510

PLE-104

MR PRESIDENT:

EACH OF US WANT TO THANK YOU FOR VISITING CANYON TEXAS. ALSO, FOR YOUR
RESPONSE TO OUR PLEA FOR RESEARCH FUNDS FOR REGENERATION OF THE SPINAL
CORD. YOUR WARMTH AND FRIENDLINESS TO US WILL BE REMEMBERED. GOOD LUCK
IN MAY.

KELLY FOREHAND

MR AND MRS ROY FOREHAND
1902 3 AVE
CANYON TX

14:37 EST

MGMWSHU HSC

Dear Kelly:

Thank you for the mailgram from you and your parents. I very much appreciate your good wishes.

I would like to reemphasize what I said to you at West Texas State University. I share your concerns, and you may be sure that research in the area of spinal cord injury and regeneration of the central nervous system is and will continue to be a major focus of Government research.

As you probably know, most of this research is conducted or supported by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, one of the National Institutes of Health. Because of your concerns, I have asked the Director of that Institute to send you some information about the research which is being done which I hope you will find of interest.

My best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kelly Forehand
1902 3 Avenue
Canyon, Texas 79015

GRF:HEW:SCM:JMC:rwr

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Sincerely,

Mr. Kelly Forehand
1902 3 Avenue
Canyon, Texas 79015

GRF:HEW:SCM:JMC:rnr

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE 6/8/76

TO: JIM CANNON

FROM: SARAH MASSENGALE

Attached for your signature is a memo to Hartmann and McGurk for their comments and recommendations on a draft Presidential letter to heads of Departments and Agencies on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation report.



file

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ROBERT T. HARTMANN
DAN MCGURK

FROM:

JIM CANNON

Attached is a draft letter for the President's signature transmitting copies of the report of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation to the following departments and agencies:

Agriculture
Commerce
HUD
Interior
Justice
Labor
Transportation

ACTION
Civil Service Commission
EEOC
Postal Service
SBA
VA

Could you please send your comments and recommendations to Sarah Massengale, Room 220, Ext. 6776 by Monday, June 14 by close of business.

Thank you.



DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear :

The President's Committee on Mental Retardation has submitted to me the enclosed report, "Mental Retardation: Century of Decision."

The report makes recommendations on a subject of great national concern, since 6 1/2 million Americans now mentally retarded must be helped, and, unless measures are taken to prevent the causes of this condition, hundreds of thousands more will be born or become retarded in future years. The total cost to American society runs annually into billions of dollars and incalculable human anguish.

The report offers hopeful perspectives for both prevention and amelioration of mental retardation, if we act on the basis of what we now know, and continue our search for new knowledge.

Many Federal departments and agencies can, within the scope of existing authority, contribute toward achieving the goals of this report. I would appreciate it if you would review the report to determine what steps your organization can take, and inform Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Mathews, who is Chairman of the Committee, of your findings.



With your cooperation, the Committee's findings and recommendations will improve the level of care and services to our retarded citizens.

Sincerely,

GRF

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file
Health - 7601232
handicapped
ACTION

June 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM CANNON *Jim*
SUBJECT: Letter to Roger Frank

Attached for your signature is a letter to Roger Frank of Portland, Oregon, who visited with you two weeks ago and discussed spinal cord injury.

The letter has been approved by OMB and Robert Hartmann.

I recommend that you sign the attached letter.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Roger:

It was a pleasure to welcome you and your father to the White House last week. I was interested to hear your story. Your experience highlights the need for this country to maintain its commitment to basic research on disorders of the nervous system so that the millions of disabled with such problems as spinal cord injury, epilepsy, stroke, cerebral palsy, and multiple sclerosis can be helped.

A few years ago, doctors and scientists thought it was pointless to invest resources in efforts considered hopeless to help paraplegics. But today, many of the same doctors and scientists have changed their minds. They now feel spinal cord injury should no longer be considered hopeless.

Unfortunately, our knowledge and our ability to help this generation of paraplegics remain limited. Neither you nor I wish to raise false hopes. But there are genuinely hopeful signs in today's research. I want to assure you that my Administration is committed to supporting basic and applied research that will enable paraplegics -- and all disabled Americans -- to live free, fuller lives.

Sincerely,



Mr. Roger Frank
3325 SW Ridgewood Road
Portland, Oregon 97225

Cavanaugh has a
copy of this.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE 6-18

TO: Jim Cannon

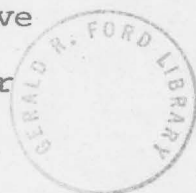
FROM: SARAH MASSENGALE

attached are rough
copies of Q+A responses
for the President's meeting
Sat am with Terry
Martin, the reporter
from L.A.

Shuman is retying
them.

Hello, Mr. Martin. I am happy to welcome you here today. Before answering your questions, I would like to say just a few words about our commitment to the physically impaired.

I believe our handicapped citizens have a right to live with self-reliance, with the same dignity as all of their fellow citizens, to realize their full capacity as human beings and to achieve personal and professional fulfillment.



We recognize that the disabled, for reasons in ^{many} ~~most~~ cases beyond their own control, have to be given some special attention. We are taking actions ~~to carry out a pledge~~ to do just that.

Income and health security are very important to the disabled. I therefore, proposed in my budget for FY 77 that the full cost of living increase in social security benefits be paid in the coming year. And I have submitted

legislation to the Congress to provide catastrophic health

(If this legislation is passed, disabled persons
insurance for everybody covered by Medicare. ~~Nobody will have~~

(Who qualify for Medicare will never have)
to pay more than \$500 a year for covered hospital or nursing home care nor more than \$250 for one year's doctor's bills.

Last October I signed the "1975 Revision and Extension of the Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction ^(Act) Act." This ~~allowed us to continue to provide~~ ^(The) grants to ~~assist~~ ^{help} States ~~in developing and implementing plans to~~ meet the needs ~~for services~~ of persons with developmental disabilities, such as the mentally retarded.

In December I approved the "Education for all Handicapped Children Act of 1975". ~~There were features of this bill that I found objectionable, but I signed it because of my strong support for full educational opportunities for our handicapped children.~~ ^(This Act)

In April of this year I issued an Executive ^(Order) ~~Order on non~~ ^(barring) ~~discrimination with respect to~~ the handicapped in federally assisted programs. ~~My purpose was to provide for consistent implementation within the Federal government of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has since then published in the Federal Register for public comment.~~ ^{discussion of the issues}

And I have called a White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals to be held in the Spring of 1977. The purpose of this Conference is to stimulate a national assessment of problems facing individuals with handicaps and to develop recommendations to solve such problems. As I have said before, I am pleased that this conference involves government at all levels and private organizations and citizens. States and local officials, and private citizens as well, must turn their attention to the needs of the handicapped. The private sector can perform a creative role by contributing its talents and resources.

The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals is a very important occasion which should contribute significantly to the health, education and welfare of handicapped individuals everywhere.

BRAILLE ELEVATOR NUMBERS

- Q. The blind often have difficulty using elevators because they cannot read the buttons to select the right floor. Would you support a plan to have brail numbers in all government building elevators, and some system of identifying the floors as the elevator stops (perhaps a tape recorded voice calling out each floor)?

We are already doing
this in some parts
of the Federal Government.

(am asking)

~~Such efforts are already being made.~~ I would ask GSA, which
is responsible for taking care of Federal buildings, to look
into the cost of these suggestions and others which might
help the blind for all buildings. At HEW, for example, the
elevator doors on each floor are labeled with a tangible
number which the blind can touch to identify the floor number.
Also, I know that Bill Usury, the Secretary of Labor, has
ordered that all elevators at the Department of Labor be
equipped with numbers in braille. ~~I applaud such actions.~~



FREE BUS FARES

Q. The blind are now offered free fares on bus systems funded by Congress. Would you support extending such a plan to people physically impaired in other ways?

Q. "The blind are now offered fare free use of bus systems funded by Congress, do you support extending such a fare free program to more of the handicapped?"

Current Federal Law does not go quite as

A. ~~The question is not correct on the facts.~~ Under
for as you described
current Federal Law, bus systems receiving Federal
(must give)
operating assistance ~~are required to charge the elderly~~
(at least half-fare privileges)
and handicapped ~~during non-peak hours not more than~~
~~half the peak hour fare. There are no other Federal~~
~~requirements regarding reduced fares.~~

I support the continuation of the Federal policy that
encourages
~~permits~~ local transit authorities to ~~develop their own~~
(offer)
~~fare policies, including reduced fare or fare free~~
~~programs, without restriction from Federal law.~~

NOTE: UMTA informs us that free bus fares for the blind on bus systems funded by Congress is not a blanket rule.

If this has been implemented in certain areas, it is a result of a city or county decision, not a Congressional mandate. It is possible that some areas receiving Section 5 money have decided to eliminate fares for the blind, however, it is certainly not a nationwide provision.

MARKED MONEY

- Q. All U.S. coins are marked by size or grooves on the edges so that they can be readily identified by the blind. The Dutch use a somewhat similar system of raised dots on their paper currency. Have you thought of identifying U.S. paper money with raised dots to denote the various denominations, so that blind people can tell what type of paper money they are handling?

Many suggestions have been received regarding the addition of Braille-type features to U.S. currency to make it easy for the blind to identify the denomination of notes. The Treasury has been studying such matters. The printing of our currency in Braille or some other system of embossing or special marking, such as notching and perforation, for the convenience of identification have been considered.

No practical method has been found, however, to differentiate the various denominations so they could be recognized by touch by the blind and at the same time prevent the possibility of tampering with that identification system.

Experiments were initiated in 1971 to incorporate such a feature on our currency notes. Soon after this program was begun, however, the Treasury was advised that the National Federation of the Blind opposed Braille identification of currency.

We are going to continue
study of this problem.

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

Q. Rep. Bell and Rep. Brademus have introduced legislation to guarantee handicapped children the right to an education. Do you support that bill?



Q. Education Rights

Representative Bell and Representative Brademas have introduced legislation to guarantee handicapped children the right to an education. Do you support that bill?

Education for Handicapped Children

- A. The legislation to which you refer was passed by Congress late last year and I signed it in November of 1975. ~~That legislation is now known as Public Law 94-142.~~

This is, in many ways, a ground-breaking piece of legislation. It provides that by September 1, 1978, each State must assure the Commissioner of Education that, as a matter of public policy, the State is committed to the education of all handicapped school-aged children.

As you are probably aware, California is looked to as a leader in the field of education for handicapped children. It is my understanding that a master plan to assure comprehensive educational services to all children has been adopted by both the California State Legislature and the California State Department of Education.

It is my hope that we will be able to say that each of the more than 6 million handicapped school aged children will be receiving the kind of education that will maximize his or her abilities and potential.

TAX DEDUCTION

- Q. Would you support legislation extending the same tax deduction offered the blind to other physically impaired and deaf persons?

QUESTION: Would you support legislation extending the same tax deduction offered to the blind to the physically impaired and deaf persons?

ANSWER: I believe ~~that the extra exemption as a method of providing special benefits to particularly disadvantaged taxpayers has many shortcomings.~~ It does nothing for those who already owe no tax and it provides ^(more of) a benefit which is larger to the wealthier taxpayer. ~~In such cases, a special program of assistance is a much more desirable approach.~~

The Tax
deduction
approach

David F. Bradford
David F. Bradford
Office: 964-2563
Home: 338-4858
June 18, 1976

VEHICULAR ACCESSIBILITY

Q. General Motors recently would not co-operate with the Southern California Rapid Transit District in bidding on buses that people in wheelchairs could enter easily. Do you believe that the Urban Mass Transit Authority should require such accessibility for handicapped people?

Q. "General Motors recently refused to cooperate with the Southern California Rapid Transit District in its efforts to purchase buses that are accessible to the physically handicapped; do you support mandating such accessibility?"

A. I believe that the physically handicapped should have public transportation which they can ^{use} effectively, ~~utilize~~. The Federal Government has issued regulations that require all newly designed transit buses to offer, as an option which the transit operator can order, a wheelchair ramp or lift. Those buses should reach the market within the next 12 to 18 months. ~~I do not, however, support the idea of a Federal mandate that every new bus be equipped with such a device. We believe that~~ local communities ^(will then) ~~should~~ have the choice of whether to serve the physically handicapped by special services--like lift-equipped vans in a Dial-A-Ride program--or by using the regular transit buses. That choice will often depend on local conditions, and we should not mandate a single answer.

(NOTE: SCRTD recently sought bids on low floor buses. General Motors, ^{AM General, and Rohr did not} ~~didn't~~ respond to the SCRTD request for bids. ~~AM General and Rohr didn't either.~~ There is no information that supports that claim that General Motors refused to cooperate with SCRTD except that they didn't respond to the request for bids.)

*Southern Calif Rapid
Transit District*

JRH 6/18/76