

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual
collections.

Collection: Deaver, Michael
Folder Title: Carter Debate Briefing
Materials
Box: 36

To see more digitized collections
visit: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories
visit: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives

Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

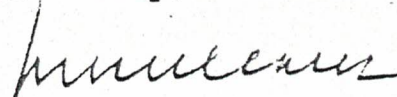
July 15, 1983

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have read your letter of July 7 and reviewed the requests contained therein. While the requests pertain to events which took place almost three years ago, I have refreshed my recollection to the best extent possible.

Based upon that recollection, a search of any files I might have from that period and a review of documents sent to you by other Administration officials in response to these same or similar questions, I wish to advise you that to the best of my knowledge and recollection at no time during the period involved did I have any direct or indirect knowledge of, or any participation whatever in, any transactions involving material prepared for President Carter. I also wish to advise you that a review of files presently in my possession discloses that I have no records except personal non-substantive memorabilia from the period of time in question.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL K. DEAVER
Assistant to the President
Deputy Chief of Staff

The Honorable Donald J. Albosta
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: The Attorney General

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 9, 1983

file here
under
alberto
Hearings

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of August 25, 1983. Please excuse the delay in my response; as I have discussed with Jim Hamilton in the interim, staff travel and vacations, as well as intervening unrelated international events, have made it difficult to fully discuss this matter with the Trustees until now.

In regard to the requested review of the files of Edwin Meese located at the Hoover Institution, the Trustees are agreeable to the following procedure:

1. The Archivist will examine each file requested, to determine whether it contains any pre-election materials. If it clearly does not, there will be no further review of the file.
2. If the Archivist finds that a particular file contains both pre-election and transition materials, the Archivist shall remove all items that are clearly transition materials and any items that were clearly supplied after the election. If there is any question by the Archivist as to whether an item falls into these categories of "transition materials", the Archivist shall review the materials with the GAO investigators. If agreement cannot be reached between the Archivist and the GAO investigators on a particular item, the issue shall be referred to counsel for the Subcommittee and a representative of the Trustees for resolution.
3. Once any "transition materials" are removed from a requested file, that file, and any file containing only pre-election materials, may be reviewed in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding, which provides for an initial review by the GAO investigators which is limited to the areas of relevancy as set forth in paragraphs 2 and 4 of that Memorandum. The Subcommittee investigators would limit their review to the product of the GAO search. The rules for relevancy and for the copying and release of information would all remain consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding.

Thus, after removal of materials that are clearly "transition materials", the Meese files will be treated as any other individual's files as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding particularly paragraph 5.

In regard to the files of Robert Garrick, if they contain both transition and campaign materials, it is agreeable to the Trustees that they be treated as outlined above in regard to Mr. Meese's files.

In regard to the request to review files contained in boxes marked "Truth Squad", it continues to appear that the files and materials contained in these boxes have already been covered by paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding. Likewise, the Trustees still remain unconvinced that these files have apparent relevancy, and the example of the Anne Wexler memorandum is unconvincing since it is hypothetical and it has been reported that that document was readily available during the campaign from many sources other than the Carter campaign or White House. However, the Trustees are willing to permit review of these files pursuant to procedures which would otherwise be followed in the review of individual files, as you proposed in your letter of August 25.

I trust all the foregoing will be acceptable to you; we appreciate and share your desire to complete the Hoover review as quickly as possible. Upon your advice, I will notify the Archivist of our agreement as to the handling of these materials.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Don Albosta
Chairman
U. S. House of Representatives
Committee on Post Office and Civil Service
Subcommittee on Human Resources
511 House Office Building, Annex 1
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: James Hamilton, Esquire

bcc: Edwin Meese III
✓ Michael K. Deaver

Albosta vs. Reagan

Washington Post
7/25/83

SHOULD HOUSE subcommittee investigators looking into irregularities in the 1980 election campaign have the right to look at each and every document in the Reagan campaign files? Should they be required, as well, to examine all the Carter papers, or the Anderson papers or the Barry Commoner archives? How about Libertarian, Vegetarian, Socialist Worker and Communist Party files?

The Justice Department has already been charged with the responsibility to investigate crimes that may have been committed when information contained in Carter campaign material turned up at Reagan campaign headquarters. We still do not know whether government employees were involved, whether the information was bought, stolen or freely given or whether the material in question was from secret government documents. The FBI has 10 agents working at the Hoover Institute in California, where the Reagan campaign files have been deposited. Rep. Don Albosta, chairman of the subcommittee investigating possible government ethics violations, wants to send his men into the archives to search the files for any relevant papers the FBI might miss. Republicans counter that if this is done, the Carter campaign files should be made available to Republicans, too. Before this politically explosive and dangerous precedent is established, everyone concerned should reassess his demands.

The trustees of the papers at the Hoover Institute—

the president, Edward Meese and Michael Deaver—have suggested in writing that a step-by-step approach be taken. Initially, they say, the Albosta subcommittee should take a look at everything the FBI agents have found and believe to be relevant. Rumors that this offer is being modified should be put to rest by the trustees. There is every reason to assume that the FBI search will be objective, thorough and nonpartisan, especially since the only politically appointed person in the bureau is the director, who was named by President Carter. Then, the subcommittee could consult the Hoover archivist concerning the content of the files and their organization. They could also ask the trustees for specific categories of material—all papers relating to the debates, for example. Finally, if differences remained, negotiations on the terms and conditions of direct access to the files would be resumed.

It is in the subcommittee's interest to take the trustees' offer and begin by cooperating with the FBI and the archivist. Valuable time will be lost by prolonging negotiations and escalating this confrontation when some steps can be taken right away. The criminal investigation being conducted by the Justice Department is the main act in this drama. As to whether Democratic politicians ought to be allowed to go through Republican strategy memos, position paper drafts and memos on fund-raising techniques—and vice versa—some second thoughts are in order.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 11, 1983

Set-up Kelle
keep in SAFE



MEMORANDUM FOR EDWIN MEESE III
COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Carter Debate Briefing Materials/
Hoover Institution

As you are aware, the Hoover Institution has been directed to furnish the results of its search directly to the Department of Justice. In order for the Hoover Institution to release documents from the Reagan collection, it will need a letter authorizing such action.

Attached for your signature is a letter to Dr. Glenn Campbell authorizing the Hoover Institution to (1) transmit the results of its search to the Department of Justice and (2) provide representatives of the Department of Justice with access to the documents and to permit copying of any documents which the Justice Department deems relevant to its ongoing inquiry.

Recommendation

That you sign and return the attached letter to this Office for transmittal to the Hoover Institution.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 11, 1983

Dear Dr. Campbell:

This is to authorize the Hoover Institution, upon the completion of its search of 1980 Presidential campaign and transition office records for any briefing materials prepared for former President Carter's use in the televised debate with President Reagan, to transmit the results of that search directly to the Department of Justice. The Hoover Institution is further authorized to provide representatives of the Department of Justice with access to the above-described documents, if requested, and to permit copying of any document which the Department of Justice deems relevant to its ongoing inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Edwin Meese III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear "III" at the end.

Edwin Meese III
Counsellor to the President

Dr. Glenn Campbell
Director
Hoover Institution
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94304

cc: The Attorney General

DON ALBOSTA, MICH., CHAIRMAN

THOMAS DASCHLE, S. DAK.
GUS YATRON, PA.
DOUGLAS H. BOSCO, CALIF.

DANIEL B. CRANE, ILL.
BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, N.Y.

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
511 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX 1
Washington, D.C. 20515

TELEPHONE (202) 225-2821

3:00
Fielding
memos
Derman

July 7, 1983

The Honorable Michael K. Deaver
Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant to the
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Deaver:

The Human Resources Subcommittee, in carrying out its responsibilities to act on the reauthorization of the Office of Government Ethics, has undertaken extensive oversight into the implementation of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. As a result of that oversight, we have identified problems that have arisen since passage of the original Act. This Subcommittee has attempted to address many of those problems through statutory changes currently awaiting final House action in H.R. 2717, the OGE reauthorization bill.

Recently, printed reports stemming from the release of Laurence Barrett's new book, Gambling With History: Reagan in the White House, have come to the attention of the Subcommittee. They refer to the purported use of "filched" documents that had been prepared by President Carter's White House staff by the Reagan Presidential campaign staff in preparation for the 1980 general debates. Specifically, Mr. Barrett's book and numerous news reports suggest that certain members of the Reagan campaign staff, who now serve in the Reagan Administration, received and acknowledged these to be White House documents and proceeded to use them to prepare for the presidential debate. In the Subcommittee's continuing effort to review agency ethics programs and the implementation of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I have written several persons serving in the Administration to request their responses to these allegations.

Because of your role in the Reagan campaign and your current position in the White House, I would like to request your assistance in providing answers to questions that remain outstanding. As a first step in this process, I would appreciate having a thorough explanation of your knowledge and participation, if any, in the transactions, involving material prepared for President Carter, including the mechanisms for obtaining that material and a description of the use of that material by yourself or other persons. I would also request on behalf of the Subcommittee that, for the protection of all parties involved, you preserve all documents, records, audio and video recordings, and logs of meetings

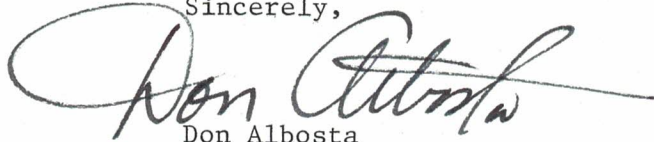
The Honorable Michael K. Deaver
July 7, 1983
Page two

and conversations which have a direct bearing on, or relation to, the events described above, and the preparation for the Presidential debates of 1980.

I have expressed the concern in the past that every employee and official be made aware of the ethics requirements of service in the Federal Government. The Subcommittee also has a general responsibility to see that all sections of the Ethics in Government Act are operating in a reliable and well-coordinated manner.

Your response to these issues by July 18th would be appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Albosta", with a large, stylized initial "D" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Don Albosta
CHAIRMAN

DA/TALmg

cc: The Attorney General

July 14, 1983

QUESTIONS FROM THE 9:15 a.m. BRIEFING

NOTE: The purpose of this summary is to provide a prompt synopsis the line of questions pursued at the 9:15 a.m. briefing, which often are an indication of press themes pursued for the rest of the day. Unless indicated by an asterisk, all questions have been answered.

NICARAGUA

- Are you denying the Post story that the CIA is planning to support a secret army of 12-15,000 anti-government rebels in Nicaragua?
- Are we trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government?
- Do you think the American people should know if this is going on?
- Are we planning to support a larger contingent there?

EL SALVADOR

- Any comment on Hinton's expressing disappointment that there have yet to be any convictions of those who allegedly murdered the U.S. nuns there?

PIK PROGRAM

- Is the President having any meetings on the crisis involving the PIK program?

BRIEFING BOOK

- Does the White House know what's on the debate preparation videotapes?
- Are Carter briefing papers discussed on those tapes?
- Have all of the videotapes been turned over?
- Is there any more material in the Archives?
- Who does know what's on the videotapes?
- Does the White House have a separate copy of the tapes?
- Is there a distinction between what went to the Archives and what went to Hoover?

- Has Fielding had any further contact with Albosta?
- Has Albosta contacted Justice yet?
- Does the President's endorsement of Jim Baker extend to Casey also?
- Does the President's endorsement of Baker mean he has confidence in him at the moment but not beyond should wrongdoing be revealed?
- Does this mean the President believes Baker's version of the story and not Casey's?
- Does the President have the same confidence in Stockman?

July 7, 1983

QUESTIONS FROM THE 9:15 a.m. BRIEFING

NOTE: The purpose of this summary is to provide a prompt synopsis of the line of questions pursued at the 9:15 a.m. briefing, which often are an indication of press themes pursued for the rest of the day. Unless indicated by an asterisk, all questions have been answered.

BRIEFING BOOK

- Is the President concerned about the new disclosure regarding a mole? Will the President ask Justice to include this in the purview of their investigation?
- Is the President going to submit to an FBI interview?
- Who is briefing the President on the situation? How can any of the President's top aides be objective in their advice about this if they are all involved?
- Who has the President asked about this matter?
- Has the President called Casey? Why doesn't he?
- Does the President feel this has preoccupied his White House staff?
- If Mike Deaver sends a letter to the Albosta Committee, will it be released to the press?
- Do you agree with the Senior Administration official who has said either Casey or Baker will have to go as a result of this?
- Doesn't the President want to know who's credible -- Casey or Baker?
- Has Casey met with Baker, Deaver, Clark or Meese about this?
- Any comment regarding Albosta's conjecture that sexual favors may have been involved?
- Do you know if any person on the White House staff has asked to talk to Justice?
- Will there be any resignations this morning?

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

- What is the White House position on an economic summit, as suggested by Dole?
- Is the White House turning down a request for a summit?
- If the Congressional leadership said they'd like to have one, what would your response be?

INTEREST RATES

- What's the Administration's view of the Fed's apparent decision to raise interest rates?

AMBASSADOR STONE MISSION

- Is the President giving him new instructions?
- Will Stone be meeting with the guerrillas?
- How long will he be gone?

SECRETARY SHULTZ MISSION

- Any comment on the apparent failure of the Shultz mission?

July 8, 1983

QUESTIONS FROM THE 9:15 a.m. BRIEFING

NOTE: The purpose of this summary is to provide a prompt synopsis of the line of questions pursued at the 9:15 a.m. briefing, which often are an indication of press themes pursued for the rest of the day. Unless indicated by an asterisk, all questions have been answered.

BRIEFING BOOK

- Did the President appear agitated at the senior staff meeting?
- Yesterday, you painted a picture of a President staying away from every aspect of this. What was the impetus for this sudden visit today?
- Who decided that we (the press) should be told of this visit to the meeting?
- Is this the first time the President has said this at a meeting of this kind? Why was it necessary to underscore this to the senior staff? Was there any discussion of it after the President left?
- Is the President aware of all the staff back-biting going on?
- What does the President mean when he says "get it out in the open?"
- Does the President still disavow any knowledge of the briefing papers are of military espionage?
- Were there any meetings previously between the President and his staff that generated this appearance today? Did Jim Baker know he would attend the meeting?
- Has the President asked that a report be prepared on the FBI investigation?
- Does the President want the staff to be equally candid with the Albosta Committee?
- Has a decision been made whether or not material that goes to Justice will also go the Albosta Committee? When will this be decided?
- Will any White House staff invoke executive privilege if called to testify on the Hill?

-- Has the President yet been asked to submit to questions by the FBI? Will he do so orally?

ISRAEL

* Any response to Israel now asking the U.S. to compensate it for losses in Lebanon?

QUESTIONS FROM THE 9:15 am BRIEFING

NOTE: The purpose of this summary is to provide a prompt synopsis the line of questions pursued at the 9:15 a.m. briefing, which often are an indication of press themes pursued for the rest of the day. Unless indicated by an asterisk, all questions have been answered.

BRIEFING BOOK

- Has the White House denied Albosta direct access to the files because of things you're afraid they might find? Why are you denying them direct access?
- Do you think some kind of agreement, as in the case of the EPA papers, will come out of this?
- Has Jim Baker's role been stymied? Are you denying the Post story regarding "preoccupation?"

POLAND

- Has Eagleburger met with the Polish charge' regarding lifting sanctions?
- Did he have the President's go-ahead on this?
- Did the meeting outline what basic steps might be taken?
- Is this a result of the Pope's visit?
- Has the President talked to the Pope since his visit?

HOOKS/NAACP MEETING

- Is there any chance of Hooks getting in to see the President?
- Why isn't the White House calling Hooks to make contact?

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

- Any reaction to the Civil Rights Commission report criticizing the Administration on education cuts?

START

- Can you confirm the Soviets have made a new START proposal in Geneva?

file

July 8, 1983

QUESTIONS FROM TODAY'S 12:30 pm BRIEFING

- Why did the President feel this visit to the senior staff meeting was necessary? Did the President have a sense that someone on the senior staff wasn't cooperating?
- Do you think this action today reflects a growing concern on the President's part that the White House is being affected by this?
- Isn't the President concerned about the perception that he's been out of it and that was his motivation for the action this morning?
- Isn't today's action an indication that news reports are getting under the President's skin? Is the press blowing it out of proportion; is it out to get him?
- Are you going to have Justice/FBI make their final report public?
- If the truth shows any of the President's staff have done something wrong, will he fire them?
- Does the President's offer to answer questions and his instructions to staff to cooperate include the Albosta Committee? Will executive privilege be invoked? Will the Committee get the materials which Justice has?
- Does the President still believe this is "much ado about nothing?"
- Why not call in his aides and ask them what went on? Why not have them fully brief him?
- Have you asked your staff to stop their backbiting? Aren't Casey and Baker in clear conflict with each other?
- Does the President still disavow any knowledge of the briefing papers? What of military espionage reports?
- Has the President yet been asked to submit to questions by the FBI?

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1983

Pat
pls check
JES

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *[Signature]*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Carter Campaign Debate Materials

Your attention is directed to recent news accounts reporting allegations that the 1980 Reagan campaign organization may have received certain briefing materials from the Carter campaign. The President has asked that anyone with information or documents related to the allegations provide such information to the Attorney General's Office immediately.

If you have any questions with respect to this matter, you should contact this Office.