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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Let's send a letter -
instead of call.*

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL
DATE: 4/21/81
FROM: Elizabeth Dole
VIA:

MEETING: Telephone to Alfred Antenucci, (216) 662-0536.

DATE: ASAP

PURPOSE: To personally thank Mr. Antenucci, the gentleman who helped tackle the man accused of shooting the President on Monday, March 30.

FORMAT: Location: Phone Call
Participants: The President, Alfred Antenucci
Duration: Brief

CABINET
PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH
MATERIAL: Talking Points

PRESS
COVERAGE:

STAFF:

RECOMMEND:

OPPOSED:

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: While a patient at Georgetown University Hospital, Mr. Antenucci was visited by Secretary Donovan and Robert Bonitati, a White House staff member.

BACKGROUND: See attached.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 4, 1981

Dear Mr. Antenucci:

It was only after reading some of the news accounts of the events of March 30, that I learned of your heroic efforts on my behalf.

You responded in a manner that many individuals half your age would find difficult -- and to a danger few people ever know.

Thank you for your courageous act and please accept my every wish for your health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

P.S. It was good to talk to you the other day and I'm glad you are feeling better.

Mr. Alfred Antenucci
5387 E. 111th Street
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44137

01 JUN 19 08:21

WU INFOMASTER

WHITEHOUSE WSH

000433I170 0720EST

001 DLY GOVT WHITE HOUSE DC JUN 19

PMS MR. ALFRED ANTENUCCI

C/O STATLER OFFICE TOWER, (C/O ASST MNGR ON DUTY) DLR DONT DWR

GRAND BALLROOM

EUCLID AVENUE AT E. 12TH STREET

CLEVELAND, OH 44115

NANCY AND I FEEL VERY PRIVILEGED TO JOIN IN THIS SPECIAL
TRIBUTE TO ALFRED ANTENUCCI.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE COURAGE HE DISPLAYED IN
HELPING TO TACKLE THE MAN WHO IS ACCUSED OF SHOOTING ME
AND THREE OTHER MEN ON MARCH 30.

THIS IS A VERY PROUD MOMENT FOR MR. ANTENUCCI AND FOR HIS
FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY, AND BOTH NANCY AND I WANT
HIM TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE WHAT HE DID. HE IS A
BRAVE AMERICAN WHOSE FIRST THOUGHTS WERE OF THE SAFETY OF
OTHERS, NOT HIMSELF.

WITH OUR WARM PERSONAL REGARD AND OUR GREETINGS TO ALL WHO
ARE PRESENT THIS EVENING.

SINCERELY,

RONALD REAGAN

ACCEPTED

00001

1-PC

CH

STRAIGHT WIRE - JUNE 19, 1981

X
Mr. Alfred Antenucci
c/o Statler Office Tower
Grand Ballroom
Euclid Avenue at E. 12th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

COPY
from ORM

Nancy and I feel very privileged to join in this special
tribute to Alfred Antenucci.

We are very grateful for the courage he displayed in
helping to tackle the man who is accused of shooting me
and three other men on March 30.

This is a very proud moment for Mr. Antenucci and for his
family, friends, and community, and both Nancy and I want
him to know how much we appreciate what he did. He is a
brave American whose first thoughts were of the safety of
others, not himself.

With our warm personal regard and our greetings to all who
are present this evening.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

RR:LIVINGSTON;vs
cc: H.vonDamm/Livingston/Janice Farrell/CF
EVENT: JUNE 19

F

039965

4200

TR 4300

44001

September 17, 1981

COPY
from ORM

JL003-01

BE003

LA

MA

LG Cleveland

H4004

H4005

Dear Mr. McNamara:

message-

Nancy and I are very proud to add our
congratulations as your friends in the
Cleveland business and labor community
gather to honor what you did to help
me on March 30.

You will never know how grateful we are
for your bravery and quick thinking, and
we both thank you from the bottom of our
hearts.

With warm personal regard.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

✓
Mr. Frank McNamara
8405 Whitehaven Drive
Parma, Ohio 44129

Sent to: Mr. James V. Patton
Vice President-Corporate Relations
Blue-Cross/Blue Shield
2006 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Ronald R. Riordan
Edward Lechner

3/10
Presidential Letter to
Walter Antenucci, dated
7-17-81, also attached

81508

September 17, 1981

Dear Mr. Antenucci:

Nancy and I welcome the opportunity to extend our congratulations on this special tribute being paid to you by the Cleveland labor and business community.

We are more grateful than we can say for the courageous way in which you came to my aid during the shooting incident last March. You risked your own safety to assist me.

With warm personal regard.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

Mr. Alfred Antenucci
5387 E. 111th Street
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44137

RR:LIVINGSTON:vs
cc: H.VanDamm/A.Locke/G.Newell/CF
EVENT: SEPT. 24

Sent to:

Mr. James V. Patton
Vice President-Corporate Relations
Blue/Cross/Blue Shield
2006 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

815918

G

TXN 5124811123 Line 1
CONNECTED 02-May-84 17:29 27

WJ INFOMASTER

WHITEHOUSE WSH

0600411123 1721EST
012 GOVT BLY WHITE HOUSE DC MAY 2
PXS MR. ALFRED ANTENUCCI
MARYMOUNT HOSPITAL, DLR DONT DWR
12300 MCCracken ROAD
GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO 44125
TWH?

MR. ANTENUCCI:

NANCY AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE PULLING FOR YOU.
WE ARE VERY SORRY ABOUT YOUR HOSPITALIZATION AND WE JOIN
THE MANY WHO ARE REMEMBERING YOU IN THEIR THOUGHTS AND
PRAYERS.

PLEASE TAKE CARE, AND GOD BLESS YOU.

RONALD REAGAN

XX

May 2, 1984

225186

4000

ME001-05

X
Mr. Alfred Antenucci
Marymount Hospital
12300 McCracken Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

LD

Mr. Antenucci:

Nancy and I want you to know that we are pulling for you.
We are very sorry about your hospitalization and we join
the many who are remembering you in their thoughts and
prayers.

Please take care, and God bless you.

RONALD REAGAN

Get well May sent

Anne Higgins
456-7610-

RR:AVH:PAG:pps

L bcc: Sue Mathis

H

226276
4200
M4001-6
JL 003
F600

May 10, 1984

COPY
from ORM

LD

Get well
message

Dear Mr. Antenucci:

Nancy and I were sorry to learn about your illness. These must be trying days, but you should be pleased to know that there are a lot of people who care for you. I am sure this support will keep your spirits high.

God bless you, and please know that Nancy and I will be thinking of you.

Sincerely,

ROBERT SEAGAN

Mr. Alfred Antenucci
Room ICU 18
Marymount Hospital
12300 McCracken Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

RR:MAK:SEV:AVH:sewf6
P-04

cc: Margaret Tutwiler, Rm. 175

840810

See D 1057B

XX

May 14, 1984

Mrs. Jo Ann Antenucci
5387 East 111th Street
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

221583
4000
ME001-03
COPY
from ORM

Nancy and I send our condolences on Mr. Antenucci's
death. May Our Lord console you with His peace and
warm memories of your life together. Our thoughts and
prayers are with you. With our deep sympathy,

RONALD REAGAN

Anne Higgins
456-7610

RR:AVH:KCS:pps ✓

bcc: Jane Davis, Legis. Affs.

315 GOVT OLY WHITE HOUSE DC MAY 14
TO: MRS. JO ANN P. ANTENUCCI, /ADLR DONT DWR//
5337 EAST 111TH STREET
HARFIELD HEIGHTS CLEVELAND
OH 44128

NANCY AND I SEND OUR CONDOLENCES ON MR. ANTENUCCI'S
DEATH. MAY OUR LORD CONSOLE YOU WITH HIS PEACE AND
WARM MEMORIES OF YOUR LIFE TOGETHER. OUR THOUGHTS AND
PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. WITH OUR DEEP SYMPATHY.

RONALD REAGAN

June 14, 1984

President Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

My Dad was Alfred Antenucci. As you know, he tackled John Hinckley on March 30, 1981. The next day when he was in Georgetown University Hospital, he was visited by a cabinet member and a staff member of the White House. He was promised at that time that his medical bills and family expenses would be paid. As of this date, my parents have paid \$28,000.00 in medical expenses. These bills are a direct result of the assassination attempt.

My Dad never asked for anything. He thought that if what he did was appreciated, someone would make sure that he got something. When he saw the others involved that day get bonuses, he wondered why he never received anything. He never wanted anything if it did not come from the heart and in good faith.

He was promised an invitation to the White House to have his picture taken with you and our family, which included my Dad, family, and my daughter and myself. He never wanted in recognition of his any other things that are too much, when promises are made, they are not taken. You take someone at their word, you are disappointed. He often wondered why they

note date
PJR

Rx-

final letter

to all
6/18

He died of an irregular heart-
lar heartbeat or any other heart
1. The shooting upset him so
r it. He suffered so much in the

proud of his President and his
passed down to his children. I
in the U.S. District Court in
ten years.

We are very proud of my Dad and the part he played in history. I know that if he had to do it again, he would do the same thing in a minute because it was the right thing to do. He reacted in a split second, and because of it, no one was killed. He was never publicly acknowledged for this, and he never knew why.

My Dad may have changed the course of history by preventing the assassination of the President of the United States elected in a zero year. This, however, is for history to judge. I do not want my father's name to be lost in the shuffle of history, and I sincerely hope that you do something to prevent this.

Mr. President, my Dad was very pleased and honored to have met you in Chicago in September, 1981, and to have been invited to the White House by one of your aides for lunch in April, 1982. We do realize you are a busy man and that you have world burdens to consider. However, you seemed so concerned when he was in the hospital, but since his death we have not heard anything. We can't help but wonder why.

Our lives have never been the same since March 30, 1981, and now our lives will never be the same without my Dad.

I truly hope you yourself see this letter, and I thank you for taking the time to read it.

Very truly yours,

Maria Antenucci Bennett

Maria Antenucci Bennett

10844 Brunswick Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125
(216) 581-0556

K

JOHN GLENN
OHIO

232726

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 13, 1984

The Honorable M. B. Oglesby
The White House
Congressional Liaison
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Oglesby:

I have been contacted by one of my constituents, Marie Antenucci Bennett, regarding her late father's role in subduing John Hinckley when he attacked the President in 1981.

Mrs. Bennett feels very strongly that certain promises were made to her father during his hospital stay (he suffered an irregular heart beat and high blood pressure after helping subdue Hinckley) and that these promises were never kept. All of this was explained in a letter from Mrs. Bennett to the President dated June 14, 1984. Mrs. Bennett has since called the White House on several occasions regarding her letter because she feels very emotional about her father and the lack of compassion she and her family are receiving from the President.

I would appreciate it if this matter could be thoroughly reviewed and a written report sent to my office as soon as feasible.

Thank you for your prompt attention this matter.

Sincerely,



John Glenn
United States Senator

JG/as

Tai 100-100000
June 14, 1984

IDA 236968

President Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

My Dad was Alfred Antenucci. As you know, he tackled John Hinckley on March 30, 1981. The next day when he was in Georgetown University Hospital, he was visited by a cabinet member and a staff member of the White House. He was promised at that time that his medical bills and family expenses would be paid. As of this date, my parents have paid \$28,000.00 in medical expenses. These bills are a direct result of the assassination attempt.

My Dad never asked for anything. He thought that if what he did was appreciated, someone would make sure that he got something. When he saw the others involved that day get bonuses, he wondered why he never received anything. He never wanted anything if it did not come from the heart and in good faith.

He was promised an invitation to the White House to have his picture taken with you and our family, which included my Dad, my Mom, my brother and his family, and my daughter and myself. That was the only thing he ever wanted in recognition of his heroism. He was promised many other things that are too numerous to mention. However, when promises are made, they should be fulfilled. When you take someone at their word, you expect these promises to be kept. He often wondered why they were not.

My Dad died on May 9, 1984. He died of an irregular heart-beat. He never had an irregular heartbeat or any other heart problems before March 30, 1981. The shooting upset him so much that he could hardly bear it. He suffered so much in the last three years.

He was a proud American — proud of his President and his country, and this pride he passed down to his children. I have been a federal employee in the U.S. District Court in Cleveland, Ohio, for the past ten years.

We are very proud of my Dad and the part he played in history. I know that if he had to do it again, he would do the same thing in a minute because it was the right thing to do. He reacted in a split second, and because of it, no one was killed. He was never publicly acknowledged for this, and he never knew why.

My Dad may have changed the course of history by preventing the assassination of the President of the United States elected in a zero year. This, however, is for history to judge. I do not want my father's name to be lost in the shuffle of history, and I sincerely hope that you do something to prevent this.

Mr. President, my Dad was very pleased and honored to have met you in Chicago in September, 1981, and to have been invited to the White House by one of your aides for lunch in April, 1982. We do realize you are a busy man and that you have world burdens to consider. However, you seemed so concerned when he was in the hospital, but since his death we have not heard anything. We can't help but wonder why.

Our lives have never been the same since March 30, 1981, and now our lives will never be the same without my Dad.

I truly hope you yourself see this letter, and I thank you for taking the time to read it.

Very truly yours,

Maria Antenucci Bennett

Maria Antenucci Bennett

10844 Brunswick Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125
(216) 581-0556

RE called Father while in hosp. May 2, '81
Visited by Sec. Fay Brown & R. Brundage

4Hy #9 - 2632
Peter Postaven - 6500

← currently reviewing the file,
action pending for covering info.

L

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 5, 1984

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

I wanted to advise you of the steps we have taken in response to your letters and telephone calls about the medical expenses incurred by your Father, Alfred Antenucci, prior to his death earlier this year from a heart condition that you believe developed from his efforts to subdue the President's assailant during the March 1981 attempt on the President's life.

Although we carefully reviewed not only your letters but all file materials about your Father, it appears there are simply no Federal funds (aside, of course, from benefits that might be provided for by law to any citizen) that would be available for reimbursement of his medical expenses. We also, however, asked officials of the James S. Brady Presidential Foundation to review informally correspondence from you and members of your family and other materials, such as newspaper articles, about your Father's actions during the assassination attempt.

The Brady Foundation, named in honor of the President's Press Secretary who was seriously wounded in that attempt, is a private organization founded to assist any needy individual wounded or killed in an assassination attempt on any senior Federal official, Presidential candidate or on family members of the President and Vice President of the United States, and to provide assistance to that individual's family. Because it is a private organization, its decisions on whether assistance is warranted in a particular case are of course its own, and would depend on its review of all the relevant facts after a formal application for assistance was submitted. Hence, we can make no promises about what decision the Foundation would make if such a formal application were made on behalf of your family; but officials of the Foundation have indicated to us, based on their informal review of the materials we submitted, that it is possible that assistance to your family may be appropriate under the Foundation's charter.

If you wish to pursue this possibility, the Brady Foundation official you should contact is James A. Wilderotter, Esquire, an attorney with the Washington office of the law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, 1735 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Mr. Wilderotter is familiar with the terms of the Foundation's charter, and should be able to provide you or your attorney with details about what kinds of information the Foundation would need to consider a request for its assistance with your Father's medical expenses.

In closing, I want to emphasize that we fully understand that your principal concern in this matter is not reimbursement for any expenses that were incurred, but rather that your Father's efforts to assist the President -- and how much that meant to your Father -- be recognized. We also understand, as your letters make clear, that for various reasons you believe that members of the President's staff have not been as sensitive to this as they should.

I hope you will accept our apologies for any acts or omissions that may have led to such feelings on your part, and would ask only that you also accept that no member of the President's staff has ever had any desire or intent to be insensitive to your Father, his family or the memory of the actions he took when the President's life was threatened.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Rusthoven", followed by a horizontal line.

Peter J. Rusthoven
Associate Counsel to the President

Mrs. Maria Antenucci Bennett
10844 Brunswick Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

cc: James A. Wilderotter, Esquire

bcc: Ms. Maureen Reagan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 5, 1984

Dear Senator Glenn:

Thank you for your letter to Assistant to the President M. B. Oglesby, Jr., forwarding the letter you received from Maria Antenucci Bennett about the medical expenses incurred by her Father, Alfred Antenucci, prior to his death earlier this year from a heart condition that she believes developed from his efforts to subdue the President's assailant during the March 1981 attempt on the President's life.

After carefully reviewing the materials we had received from Mrs. Bennett and others about his matter, it appeared that there are simply no Federal funds (aside, of course, from benefits that might be provided for by law to any citizen) that would be available for reimbursement of these medical expenses. We also, however, asked officials of the James S. Brady Presidential Foundation to review informally information about Mr. Antenucci's actions during the assassination attempt.

Because the Brady Foundation is a private organization, its decisions on whether assistance is warranted in a particular case are of course its own, and would depend on its review of all the relevant facts after a formal application for assistance was submitted. Hence, we can make no promises about what decision the Foundation would make if such a formal application were made on behalf of the Antenucci family. Officials of the Foundation have indicated to us, however, based on their informal review of the materials our office submitted, that it is possible that assistance to the family may be appropriate under the Foundation's charter.

Accordingly, we have advised Mrs. Bennett of the foregoing and provided her information about contacting the Foundation. I hope this letter has helped respond to your concerns, and appreciate your advising the White House of your interest.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Rusthoven
Associate Counsel to the President

The Honorable John Glenn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: M. B. Oglesby, Jr.