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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

ROBERT T. HARTMANN .

SUBJECT:

Remarks at General Revenue Signing,
Yonkers, N.Y., October 13, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 10:00 MONDAY MORNING.

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

- () I approve the draft without changes.
- (X) Suggested revisions are noted on the draft or attached separately.

Initials: _____

T.W.B.

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING BILL SIGNING, YONKERS, NEW YORK
October 13, 1976

We meet today to mark the passage of legislation that is a milestone in America's continuing effort to make government work. In the words of Abraham Lincoln -- government should be "for the people and by the people". The General Revenue Sharing Program is, in fact, a people's program.

It has proven to be a triumph of the conviction that State, county, city and local government can be far more responsive and flexible in serving citizens than distant bureaucracies and special interest programs. Revenue sharing has only one special interest: the return of tax dollars to local authorities so they can best determine how to solve community problems with community solutions.

Many of you here this morning were instrumental in the original enactment of revenue sharing legislation in 1972.



-2-

No one, however, had a more significant role than two former Governors of this State -- Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and Malcolm Wilson. I am honored by their presence today as I sign the extension of the General Revenue Sharing Program.

As the Republican leader of the House of Representatives, in 1972, I, too, was proud to lead the fight for the revenue sharing concept. In 1976, as President, I am proud to have led the successful fight for renewal of ^{revenue sharing} the/program. In 1980, as President, I will be proud to/^{once}again lead the fight ~~the further~~ *to continue* ~~for/continuation of~~ revenue sharing.

In 1972, revenue sharing was an idea whose time had come. From its inception, the program has been an unqualified success. Yet, other voices -- confusing, shifting, misleading voices -- have been raised in criticism of the program.

My opponent, the gentleman from Georgia, once called revenue sharing "a big hoax and a mistake." He said it was merely a scheme to allow the Federal Government to relieve itself of a financial burden -- a burden that would be placed on the States and localities.

Today, we can't be sure where he stands. In recent months, after his fashion, he has shifted from calling the program a hoax to saying that revenue sharing requires a major overhaul.

He is upset because some local communities have used ^{their} revenue sharing funds for projects and programs that they deem necessary. He has said that important national programs are being shortchanged because local governments and citizens have spent the money as they see fit.

How little does he understand what revenue sharing is! How shallow is his comprehension of what the American system of government is all about!

Let's look at the record. Let's study recent political history.

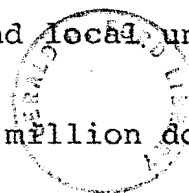
^{our}
The genius of/American government is the Federal system of shared responsibility. Working properly, this system ^{allows} ~~lets~~ three levels of government -- federal, State and local -- ^{each to} attack problems ^{best suited to its capabilities} ~~simultaneously~~ and responsiveness.

This structure allows our people to approach ^{many of} their problems through the government closest to them -- rather than looking to an all-powerful central bureaucracy for every answer.

However, for years, this system eroded. For decades, more and more power -- and bureaucrats, flowed to Washington. For decades, the Federal Government piled programs of narrow categorical aid on top of one another -- costing the taxpayers severely in both dollars and in the loss of local control.

By 1972 there were over 1,000 separate Federal grant programs -- each equipped with its own bureaucracy and set of restrictive rules. But with the enactment of General Revenue Sharing, the American people called a halt to this trend and we began on the long road back to restoring the balance between Federal, State and local units of government.

Since America's mayors, governors and county supervisors were given these new resources and responsibilities, they have proved -- again and again -- the value of local control over local concerns. By the end of this year, States and local units of government will have received 30 billion, 200 million dollars



in general revenue sharing funds.

This money has improved the schools in many towns across America. It has beefed up local police forces and made local health services more responsive. Best of all, revenue sharing funds have provided jobs -- both public and private -- in countless communities.

One place that has not gotten additional jobs through revenue sharing is ^{the Federal bureaucracy in} Washington, D.C. Fewer than 100 Federal employees operate the entire program. Only one of every 800 revenue sharing dollars is spent on administering the program in Washington.

This is a fine record and the new General Revenue Sharing Program which I will sign today will make that record even better.

The new program will:

- extend revenue sharing until September 30, 1980,
- provide 25.5 billion dollars to the states and localities, and
- give local citizens a greater voice in deciding how

revenue sharing funds should be spent in their own communities.

It is particularly appropriate that this legislation is being signed into law here in Yonkers. This city, its citizens and its able Mayor, John Martinelli, are committed to solving their own problems in their own way. Revenue sharing is one Federal program that offers Yonkers and thousands of other American communities a helping hand rather than a prying eye.

The new General Revenue Sharing Program will make a good system even better. It is with a sense of accomplishment and pride that I sign this bill today.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT:

Remarks at Rockland County Courthouse,
N.Y., October 13, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 10:00 MONDAY MORNING.

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

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Initials: P.W.B.



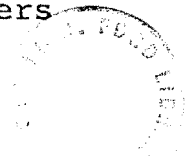
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT ROCKLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE, NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1976

Let me thank you for your warm welcome, and for coming out here this afternoon. I couldn't think of a better way to spend a brisk fall afternoon than being here in beautiful Rockland County.

I only wish I could talk with every one of you individually. Since I can't, let me tell you what I would say to each one of you if I could sit down with you over a sandwich or cup of coffee. Let me give you some straight talk.

Mr. Smith -- I would say to you -- or Mrs. Jones -- you've been hearing an awful lot of words and numbers in the last few weeks. You've heard statistics and percentages and conflicting claims.

I don't believe those are the most important things in this campaign. Let me tell what I believe is most important -- you are. The American people are what matters in this campaign.



You have some clear choices to make in the next three weeks. Let's look at some of the alternatives--

My opponent leaves a lot of issues up in the air -- but he is clearly in favor of more government spending. He endorses 100 billion dollars worth of new programs -- and that ain't peanuts.

I believe in cutting the growth in government spending -- to dampen the threat of inflation -- to let you keep more of your own money.

So your choice is clear and simple -- do you want your taxes raised to pay for that 100 billion dollars worth of new programs my opponent endorses? I don't believe you do.

You have worked hard for your money -- you should have more freedom to spend it the way you want. Unlike my opponent, I believe you have as many good uses for that money as the Federal government does in Washington.



That is why I asked the Congress to give you a major permanent tax cut -- bigger than the one they decided to give you. That is why I proposed increasing your personal exemption by one third -- from \$750 to \$1,000 for each and every ~~taxpayer~~ *member of your family.*

Let's take another clear-cut choice. Even while he would add billions of dollars of new programs, my opponent has said many times that he favors cutting billions of dollars from our defense budget. Apparently he thinks we can take our chances with our adversaries.

I don't agree with that -- I don't think you do either. We have to pay the price for a strong defense -- because that is the price of peace. If we don't pay it in dollars now -- we ^{just} might pay it in blood later on. It takes more than a smile to protect your freedom.

Let me add this -- as I have said before -- we are all well aware that the people of some Eastern European countries do not share all the freedoms we enjoy.



I recognize that sad fact -- but I do not accept it as a permanent situation.

My Administration has always supported -- and will continue to support by every peaceful means -- the aspirations for freedom and independence of the peoples of Poland and other Eastern European countries.

On that issue -- as on many others -- you know where I stand. You don't have to guess what position I'll take in the next four years. You don't have to be afraid that I'll ^{promise} say one thing in the campaign -- and ^{do} another thing in office.

That brings us to another choice --do you give someone your trust just because they ask you for it -- or because they have earned it?

I have been your President for two years -- and if you think back to the condition this country was in back then, you'll agree we are better off now.



What was inflation rate on Aug. 9, 1974 as compared to now?

Inflation now is half of what it was when I took office.

More Americans have been working this year than ever before in our history.

Two years ago America was at war abroad -- today America is at peace. Not one American is fighting anywhere in the world -- not one American risks losing a loved one on the field of battle -- and I intend to keep it that way.

Americans then were shocked and saddened by abuses of Presidential power -- today America's faith in the White House has been restored.

This Nation is a better place to live in now than it was two years ago. I want it to be an even better place four years from now than it is today.

America won't be a better place if the tired old formula operates. You know that old formula -- tax and tax, spend and spend, spin the red tape out for miles and cover it with words and smiles.

That old formula equals one thing -- more power in



Washington, less freedom for you in your own homes and neighborhoods. That's the wrong formula for America as we enter our third century.

We can do better than that -- we will do better than that, with your help on November 2nd. You can choose a government that offers security, stability and strength. You can choose a government that offers more freedom -- not more interference. You can help make America prouder and stronger than ever before. I ask for your help -- I ask for your vote -- I won't let you down.

Thank you very much.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
October 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN .
SUBJECT: President's Remarks at Iowa State
University, October 15, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the
attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 11:00 a.m. (Thurs.) Oct. 14, 1976

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office
in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

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draft or attached separately.

Initials: TWB

I think it ought to be shortened.



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 15, 1976

It's great to be at Iowa State University, and in the heart of America's farm belt.

This fine university has a long tradition of excellence in agricultural education and training.

Because of the work and the research conducted here, and because of the hard work of the Iowa farmer, you have transformed this state's fertile soil into the breadbasket of the Nation and the world.

If the State of Iowa were an independent country, it would rank second only to the United States in the production of corn.

I couldn't have picked a better week -- or day -- to come to Iowa. Just three days ago, on Tuesday, the Department of Agriculture released its October forecast predicting second largest wheat crop and the largest corn crop -- 5.9 billion bushels -- in American history.



What's more this new record will be achieved in spite of serious drought conditions. I'm delighted to be in the heart of America today to see some of that corn being harvested.

This record crop is a graphic illustration of an overriding, non-political fact that transcends all of the noise -- and the rhetoric -- of this election year: America is blessed with farm lands and farm know-how unequaled any place on earth.

The corn belt -- and the other great growing areas of our bountiful country -- are renewable, non-depleting assets -- worth far more than all of the oil fields of the Middle East combined.

It is no wonder that a single American farmer can feed 56 people.

No other nation on earth even comes close to that record. The Soviet Union has 35 percent of its people engaged in agriculture, and they consistently fall short of their needs.

American agriculture has maintained a constant six-percent increase in productivity year after year. That is something

no other segment of American society, or any other society, has been able to do, and I congratulate you for it.

Why have you been so successful? The answer is simple. Because you have been permitted to use your own ingenuity, your own inventiveness, your own initiative, your own freedom to produce the finest and most abundant food and fiber in the world.

If you are to continue meeting the needs of this country and our trading partners throughout the world, you must continue to have this kind of freedom -- freedom from the meddling hand and the long arm of government.

This Administration has pursued a "hands-off" agricultural policy. With your help, we will keep right on pursuing that policy for the next four years.

What are the results of this policy so far? Average farm income over the last three years has been higher than ever before in history. For the average farmer in Iowa, net income has risen from \$ _____ in 1965 to \$ _____ in 1975.



You no longer have heavy farm surpluses hanging over the market, depressing your prices, costing the taxpayers a million dollars a day in storage fees.

Instead of storing grain in government bins, we are selling it in record volume. Farm exports totaled 21 billion, 600 million dollars in the last fiscal year, and it will be over 22 billion this year.

We will export more than three billion bushels of wheat and feed grains in this marketing year, an all-time record. That includes one and a half billion bushels of corn, 1.2 billion bushels of wheat, 250 million bushels of grain sorghum, about 50 million bushels of barley and oats.

We have worked out a long-term agreement with the Soviet Union which requires them to purchase at least six million metric tons of grain every year for five years. In dollars and cents, that is at least a billion dollars worth of grain every year.

This agreement gives us a stable, long-term foreign market. It assures a more consistent flow of payments from abroad.



It insures the American farmer that the Soviet Union will be a steady customer rather than making erratic, secretive purchases and causing prices to fluctuate here at home.

It makes it easier to hire labor, to purchase new farm machinery, and to generally stimulate agriculture and agribusiness because you know what to expect.

The private marketing system has been preserved. We are moving in the right direction, toward greater prosperity for the American farmer -- and we'll keep moving in that direction for the next four years.

These good sales and glowing prospects are the fruits of free trade. They are also the benefits of peace, and of aggressive, successful negotiations. They are the just reward of the Iowa farmer's hard work.

We have been successful partners.

I have no intention of exploiting the American farmer by using farm exports as a pawn in America's foreign policy.




There is a fundamental difference between me and Mr. Carter on that question. In an interview he gave just two months ago, on August 8, 1976, Mr. Carter was asked, "In the case of the Soviet Union doing things like intervening in Angola, would you favor using our economic leverage to get the Russians to cease and desist?"

Mr. Carter replied, "Yes, I would."

He told the Associated Press that a new Arab oil embargo would amount to "an economic declaration of war," and that he would "instantly and without further debate," suspend U.S. exports of weapons, spare parts, oil drilling rigs, oil pipes, and food.

Those are two things he said about his plans for your products in the future. But just as interesting is what he didn't say.

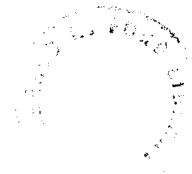
When he made his acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention in New York City, he didn't mention agriculture a single time. Not once in forty minutes.



In Kansas City a few weeks ago, here's what I said:

"We will carry out a farm policy that assures a fair market price for the farmer, encourages full production, leads to record exports, and eases the hunger within the human family."

(MORE)



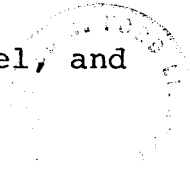
That is a pledge I was proud to make in my acceptance speech, a pledge I will proudly keep for the next four years.

I know that despite the good overall record I mentioned earlier, some farmers are having a hard time of it right now.

Cattle prices are down way too low. Wheat prices are down too low. The weather has not been a very good friend to a lot of farmers in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota.

I have already done something about the cattle situation. Last week in Dallas, I signed a Presidential Proclamation to limit beef imports, and thereby help American cattlemen. I have repeatedly said that I would not -- under any circumstances -- permit the United States to become a dumping ground for foreign beef. The new meat quotas will alleviate this serious problem for our cattlemen.

I have already done something about government loan rates for grains. On Wednesday I ordered an increase in the government loan rates for wheat from \$1.50 to \$2.25 a bushel, and



for corn from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a bushel. These adjustments will permit a more orderly marketing of this year's bumper crops of wheat, corn and other feed grains.

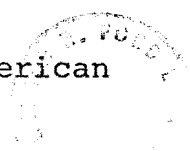
I have already done something about the family farm.

To further encourage the revitalization of rural America I fought hard for -- and was proud to sign into law just last week -- an increase in the Federal estate tax exemption from 60,000 dollars to the equivalent of 175,000 dollars. The new law also permits estate tax payments attributable to farms to be stretched out over an extended period. These tax reforms will go a long way to help save the family farm.

*Is this really to help
not a way of getting
farmers out of business?*

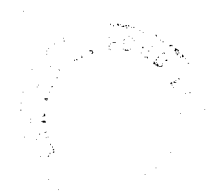
To ensure the future prosperity of America's beef and mutton producers -- a segment of the farm community besieged by low prices, I have ordered that meat import quotas be imposed.

I'm also trying to do something about the weather -- other than talk about it. I have just signed legislation authorizing the establishment -- for the first time in American history -- of a national weather policy to develop new methods



of combatting the crippling drought conditions that have
cut farm production. Under this new program the
Commerce Department will conduct research into weather
conditions and develop means of modifying the effects of

- more -



severe weather changes to protect the farmer. For once, we are going to do something about the weather!

In Kansas City, last August, I said that we would never use the bounty of America's farmers as a pawn in international diplomacy.

Today, I repeat that statement.

I realize that the 1975 embargo on grain sales was unpopular among America's farmers. But, it had two positive effects:

First, it prevented the passage of extreme measures then pending in Congress which would have halted all private grain sales and put agricultural exports in the hands of a government board.

Second, the embargo resulted in a five-year agreement under which the Russians pledged to buy a minimum of six million tons of wheat and corn per year, even in years when they have good production.

This agreement effectively removes the possibility of future government interference with farm exports -- except in

the case of a dire national emergency, such as a war.

I pledge to you today, however, that while I am President there will be no interference with exports of farm products without the closest consultation with the men and women who produce the commodities -- America's farmers.

To ensure that farmers have a voice in any decision important to their well-being, I am directing the Acting Secretary of Agriculture to begin today to name a Farmer Export Advisory Group that will advise me when decisions are being considered regarding exports of farm products.

I, for one, believe that America's farmers should be listened to. As long as I remain in the Nation's highest office, agriculture will have an understanding friend at the White House.

Of course, Mr. Carter, says he's the farmer's friend too. But, how good a friend is he?

Mr. Carter wants to go back to the old discredited system of government meddling in the farmers' affairs. He wants to build up a stockpile of farm surpluses once again. He has

proposed a stockpile of 25 million metric tons of grain, with half of it to be held in government bins.

He may, after his fashion, back away from this proposal. His underlying philosophy -- of government interference -- won't change.

Mr. Carter does have a strange way of changing his accent as he moves about the country.

In California, he tries to sound like Caesar Chavez.

In Chicago, he sounds like Mayor Daly.

In New York, he sounds like Ralph Nader.

In Washington, he sounds like George Meany.

Then, Mr. Carter comes to the farm belt and tries to talk like a farmer. Yet, he doesn't sound like a farmer who really understands farmers.

The American farmer is the miracle man of the 20th century, but we need new miracles to carry us into the 21st century.

It has taken mankind 10,000 years to reach a worldwide population of four billion. But just 35 years from now, there will probably be four billion more people living on this earth.

We initiated a world food conference in Rome last year, which concluded that the United States, Canada and Australia combined -- the three biggest food exporting countries in the world -- could not hope to meet the food demands of the world if the population doubled in that short a time.

And yet we must.

I believe we can, because I believe the American farmer can do anything he sets out to do if the government will give him room and get off his back.

Agriculture is much too important to be left to politicians. Agriculture is big business -- it ain't peanuts.

The Ford Administration -- and the American farmer share the same ideals, the same confident approach to the future, the

same belief in the land and in American agriculture.

You and I -- together -- stand for hard, productive work and for being able to enjoy the fruits of that work. You and I -- together -- stand for honesty, straight talk and for basic morality. You and I -- together -- stand for lean, responsive, fiscally-sound government.

We believe in a minimum of bureaucratic control over farming. We believe in agricultural policies geared to the free market philosophy. We believe that the farmer himself should decide how to invest his land, capital and labor to make a profit. We don't believe that profit should be taxed away from him or his family.

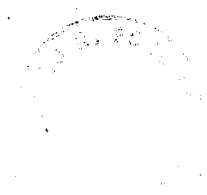
The choice is clear. I say that government is already too large, too powerful, too costly and too deeply involved in the lives of every American. Mr. Carter cannot begin to carry out his promises without bigger bureaucracies and higher taxes.

I want a new generation of freedom in America -- not the freedom to avoid responsibilities and turn our problems over

to the government -- but the freedom to do what we want to do
and what we ought to do.

This is the kind of America that I want. This is why I
have come here today to ask for your support -- and for your
votes on November 2nd.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN .

SUBJECT: Iowa Farm Forum, Ames, Iowa
October 15, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 11:00 a.m., Thurs., Oct. 14

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

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Initials: _____

J.W.B.

FORD

(Denison)

October 13, 1976
SECOND DRAFT

IOWA FARM FORUM, AMES, IOWA, OCTOBER 15, 1976

It is a great pleasure to be back in the midst of America's farm belt today. I am experiencing -- first hand -- a new sense of confidence and pride among those of you who earn your living from agriculture.

Farmers are once again proud of their calling -- proud of what they have accomplished for themselves and for their country -- proud of the fact that they are farmers.

Today, young men and women are again enthusiastic about the opportunities available in a free market agriculture. The average age of farmers is dropping -- more farmers are finding it profitable to stay on the farm -- and prosperity has returned to rural America.

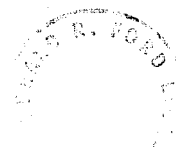
Only a few years ago many farmers seemed ashamed of their rural background. Many said: "I'm just a farmer" or "I wish I could get out of this business of farming."



Today, farmers have a new sense of belonging. They know there is someone in Washington who cares about their problems and appreciates the fact that families of real people live on farms in rural America. As I have said before -- as long as I occupy the Nation's highest office, agriculture will have an understanding friend in the White House.

Earlier today I spoke at some length about the agriculture policies of my Administration. This afternoon, instead of another speech, why don't we use this opportunity for me to answer whatever specific questions you may have.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT: 'PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT MARTHA GRAHAM
DINNER, OCTOBER 14, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 11:00 AM ~~10/14~~ 10/14

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MIHALEC

OCTOBER 13, 1976
FIFTH DRAFT

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT MARTHA GRAHAM MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD
OCTOBER 14, 1976

In this Bicentennial year, each of us has celebrated the spirit and vitality of America. The person we are honoring tonight has been doing that for as long as most of us can remember.

When Martha Graham began her career in modern dance, she not only raised its eyebrows, she raised its sights. A true pioneer, she continually broke new ground and challenged old assumptions. Her innovations were so original that one startled traditionalist was reported to have asked here, "How long do you intend to keep this up?" Today America is thankful that she is still keeping it up.

Martha Graham not only expanded the horizons of modern dance, she also moved inward to convey the deepest types of emotion. In doing so, she created what one critic labelled "an original way of communication."



Long before the phrase "body language" entered our vocabulary, Martha Graham was using the human form to express human feelings.

Martha Graham's name has become synonymous with modern dance. In addition to her work as a performer and choreographer, she has provided inspiration and counseling to generations of young people, including Miss Betty Bloomer from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her pupils learned that self-discipline is not an obstacle to creativity, but a vehicle -- that hard work does not detract from inspiration, but rather allows it to reach its fullest potential. Most of all, they learned to meet any situation with courage and complete honesty.

Over the years as a great dancer, Martha Graham has received many, many awards. Tonight, she receives an award as a great American.

Her visits around the world have given a new meaning to the word "ambassador."

She has shown very clearly to all the world what is possible when personal genius is allowed to flourish under artistic and political freedom. In America, the arts have blossomed and we are justly proud of the great strides we have made. Last year, in the area of dance alone, there were more than four times as many professional dance companies as there were in 1965.

But the continued survival and growth of the arts in America requires more than just the genius of the artists. It also requires the foresight and generosity of both public and private sources of support.

Tonight, I am announcing my approval of full funding for the Cultural Challenge Grant program over the next three years. This will provide 12 million dollars in new federal moneys for the arts next year and approximately 50 million dollars over the next three years. Because these grants will be made on the basis of one federal dollar for every three raised from other sources, it can serve to generate 200 million dollars in new support for the arts.

This help will be in addition to the renewed authorization for the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities, which I signed in Dallas last Saturday.

Many people here tonight were instrumental in providing the financial support that enabled the Martha Graham Dance Troupe to inspire America and the world. Let me assure you that we in the federal government are going to do our part to encourage the Martha Grahams of the future.

Tonight, however, there is only one Martha Graham, and all of America is very proud of her.

Graham,
And now, Martha / would you please join me.

It gives me great pleasure to present you with one of our nation's highest honors, the Medal of Freedom. Let me read from the citation:

"Dancer, teacher and choreographer, Martha Graham has captivated the world with her magic and has left a legacy of imagination with all who have witnessed her talent. Her energy, creativity and daring have opened new doors of expression in dance. Her followers and friends adore her, and her country, the United States of America, is proud to proclaim her a brilliant star in the artistic galaxy."

Ladies and gentlemen, Martha Graham.

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Let me conclude by proposing a toast to our honored
 personified
guest who has / the spirit of our country with her
imagination, her enormous talent, and her quiet determination --^a
great artist and a courageous American -- Martha Graham.

#

President

Speeches

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT: Swearing-In Ceremony, Federal Council
on the Aging - October 21, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 4:00 p.m., October 20, 1976

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

() I approve the draft without changes.

Suggested revisions are noted on the draft or attached separately. - p 4

Initials: *Reling for Buchen P.W.P.*

SWEARING IN CEREMONY, FEDERAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING 10/21/76.

It is a great honor for me to have this opportunity of asking _____ to swear into office six members of the Federal Council on the Aging. In the two years since its formation -- the Council has made substantial contributions to the well-being of America's aging -- particularly in the areas of tax policy and coordinating benefit programs for older persons.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to call one of the Council's most significant achievements -- the Bicentennial Charter for Older Americans -- to the attention of all Americans. The Charter is a "Bill of Rights" for America's elderly -- a testament to our Nation's heartfelt concern for its senior citizens.

It has been said that history judges a society on how well it cares for its older people. In America -- in recent years, the Federal Council on the Aging has led the way to a record of solid progress in helping the vast majority of our elderly lead independent, satisfying and healthy lives.

Since the 1971 White House Conference on Aging first focused national attention on the problems and concerns of older Americans.

- Social Security benefits have risen by 50 percent.
- A new national network of State and area agencies on aging has been established.
- Special housing programs for the elderly have been set up.

This is a good start; but, our efforts in behalf of older Americans have only begun.

Our first priority must be to protect the retirement income of older Americans.

Inflation --which hits those on fixed incomes hardest -- is the foremost threat to the stability and value of retirement income.

We have cut inflation in half. But, if our elderly are to fully enjoy their later years -- it must be cut further.

We must strengthen the financial underpinnings of the Social Security System. Congress adjourned without acting upon my proposals to ensure the fiscal integrity of the system. I will urge the new Congress to make this its first order of business.

I have also asked the Social Security Administration to carefully review the current retirement earnings test. Today, older persons lose benefits when they earn more than 2,760 dollars a year. The test must be liberalized so that older people -- who need the income -- remain in the work force without losing their hard earned retirement benefits.

To further this objective -- the Veterans Administration is preparing a report on overall pension reform proposals that will deal with the reduced benefits that are paid to retired persons who are eligible for both V.A. and Social Security payments. America's veterans have earned -- with their courage and their sacrifice -- an adequate retirement income. They must not be shortchanged.

Finally, our older citizens have earned the right to live securely and to walk the streets without fear. That is why I was particularly gratified by a provision in the Omnibus Crime Control Act which I recently signed.

This new provision requires that State crime control plans deal specifically and firmly with the criminal attacks

which are made against our senior citizens.

All Americans can count on the Federal Council on the Aging to continue to see that these and other issues which particularly concern our older citizens are met head on.

MISSING PART OF SENTENCE

↓
forward to the leadership Miss Adkins, Mr. Martin, Monsignor

Fahey (Fay-Hee), Mr. Winston, Mrs. Deveraux (Dehver-Row),

and Mr. Holland -- will provide in the years to come.