

12/27/79

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 28, 1979

NOTE FOR THE FILES

Today I sent a copy of the
President's comment to
Mrs. Ayers.

Pat Carroll

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12/27/79

Pat Carroll --

You may want to send back
a copy of her card (see upper
righthand corner)...before
sending the card over to
Jane Simpson for handling.

Thanks -- Susan Clough

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Susan

Eunice Ayers who is a big Democrat in North Carolina and who had a photo op with the President last summer, sent me the attached Christmas card for hand-delivery to the President.

Pat Carroll

Dear Mr. &
President and
First Lady,

cc: Eunice

Thanks!
J.

May the joy
of Christmas
stay with you
throughout

the New Year —

and may you achieve the
success you so richly
deserve.

Eunice Cyere

Electrostatic Copy Made
for Preservation Purposes

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID # 061644

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 79112 127

Name of Correspondent: Donna L. Freeman

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Personal

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Originating Office, Your Last Name	Refer Action Type Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>PRC/ell</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>79112128</u>	<u>CP3</u>	<u>A 7912129</u>
Office/Agency, Last Name	R	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:			
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ENTERED

REFER TYPE: A - Agency
S - Staff

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comments
D - Draft Response
F - Fact Sheet
I - Info Copy
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Response

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Acknowledged
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

Comments: _____

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Stephen Slade, ext. 2941.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12/29/79

Secretary Freeman --

President Carter asked me
to send you the enclosed
copy of your letter which
includes his notes -- with
his best regards!

-- Susan Clough

34 - Commission on the History of
HANDWRITTEN NOTE ON THE LETTER

2/12/31/1855



Business International Corporation

December 19, 1979

SC
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

061644

cc: Orville Freeman -
Thank you. This will be
very helpful to me. &
I hope to millions of
others! Jimmy

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to thank you and Mrs. Carter personally for the time you spent with the Commission on World Hunger. Your statement and participation was far from perfunctory. It was clear that you have a personal commitment to the cause of world hunger. That commitment inspired the entire Commission.

If you will pardon a personal comment, it was the paradox of a world with millions of hungry people and at the same time food surpluses that convinced me to accept President Kennedy's invitation to join his first Cabinet as Secretary of Agriculture in 1961. With 600 million bushels of US grain hanging over the world's market at that time and absolutely no place to store it, the prospects in January of 1961 were grim enough to make the assignment as Secretary of Agriculture unattractive. The drive to try and do something about matching food and people has strongly influenced my entire adult life; hence, your evident commitment to that cause was most heartening.

In some ways, the Presidential Commission on World Hunger has been a frustrating experience. The Commission, as you know, includes a wide range of people and it has been very difficult, despite strong and skillful leadership by Sol Linowitz, to bring together those who feel the Commission's recommendations should be lean and sharp, directed to things that can be accomplished, and those who start from the premise that the only way to conquer hunger is to solve all of the world's major problems at the same time. Some insist on bringing those problems and recommendations for their solutions into the Report. Your commitment, I can assure you, is a source of inspiration to all of us on the Commission, and I feel confident now that we will hammer out the remaining specific recommendations, completing the Report within the two months' deadline you have set.

I would like to repeat in this letter what I said at the Commission meeting in terms of strategy. I believe that your strategy of, in effect, breaking out the food component of the Economic Assistance Program appropriation for special attention is sound. Further, your suggestion to the members of Congress on the Commission that they begin approaching their counterparts in Congress on that basis was well made. Food and hunger are distinctive. People do not understand them, and I think they can be made to rally around the need to help hungry people, even while they are highly sceptical about general economic assistance, especially in the climate set by recent events in Iran.

Further, I was very pleased that you pressed the Secretary of Agriculture to take strong leadership. The Department of Agriculture, as you know, is a great aggregation of professional people, with a tremendous, wide ranging potential for effective action. The present Secretary of Agriculture shares

The President

2.

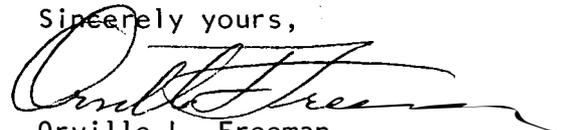
Your commitment to eradicating hunger and, with your backing, can be a very strong force to mobilize within the Administration the other Cabinet officers and administrators up and down the line, and also to lead the way on the Hill in the legislative struggle that will follow.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to comment on the recommendation to give Cabinet status to your newly appointed IDCA head, Tom Ehrlich. The Commission recognizes, of course, that there is little likelihood that you are in a position or would wish to create another Cabinet officer per se. Nonetheless, it is very important, I think, that he be accorded a special status, and that it be made crystal clear, up and down the line throughout the Administration, that he has your strongest backing in expediting the program to conquer world hunger. I strongly believe that must include reporting directly to you and not through or collateral to the Secretary of State, except on the very slimmest of dotted lines. If there is a real commitment to do something about world hunger, it should not get bogged down in the international politics that are the responsibility and focus of the State Department. There may be occasions, of course, where quietly and subtly the power of food must be used on the world geo-political scene. However, when that is the case, it should be only at the personal instance of the President, himself, and not of the State Department (not even Cy Vance, himself, whom I hold in the greatest esteem and who, I know, personally shares your commitment in the war against world hunger).

I hope I am not presumptuous, Mr. President, in making these suggestions. As you know, it was my privilege to serve for eight years in the Cabinet of two great American Presidents. Having had that privilege I do my best to constructively apply what I learned during those hectic and rewarding years in the interests of this nation and the world.

It is heartening to see your popularity strengthen, as you lead this nation courageously and effectively under great pressure during these hectic days of the Iranian crisis.

Sincerely yours,



Orville L. Freeman
President and Chief
Executive Officer

OLF/bv

cc: The Hon. Sol M. Linowitz