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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD A. HAUSER

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: International Longshoreman's Union

I talked with Cass Weiland, staff director of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. Weiland advised me that in March of 1981 the Subcommittee conducted hearings into the International Longshoreman's Union (ILU), which had been the subject of an intensive FBI investigation the previous year. Chairman Roth permitted Senator Nunn to chair the hearings.

Weiland advised that the Subcommittee's report on corruption at the ILU has been long delayed, but will probably be issued by late September. The report will confirm the Subcommittee's public description of the ILU as one of the most corrupt unions in the country. For example, from 1977 - 1981 some 34 union officials were convicted, typically of extortion against businessmen and demanding payoffs for labor peace. Teddy Gleason, President of the ILU, testified at the hearings that he would clean up the union.

In connection with the President's upcoming speech, Weiland indicated that he had received inquiries from the Wall Street Journal and UPI concerning the ILU. In particular, reporters asked about the conviction statistics. 

 b7d  
In response to any inquiry on corruption within the ILU, the President should indicate that he is aware of the past cases and the Senate inquiry, and he hopes that they have served to root out corruption at the ILU. He can note that the President of the ILU stated during the hearings that he was going to clean up the union and hopefully that has been done.

Q. Why are you appearing before the International Longshoreman's Union, described by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations as one of the most corrupt unions in America?

A. I am aware that there have been court cases and Congressional hearings concerning corruption at the ILU, and I only hope that those cases and hearings have served to root out the corrupt practices that plagued this union in the past. Some time ago, during the Congressional hearings, the ILU President vowed to clean up the union. I hope he has done so.