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DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions	
1	MEMO	ROBERTS TO FRED FIELDING (part of) e (open)	1	1/4/1984	B6	1252
2	LETTER	FIELDING TO BOB JONES (PARTIAL OF PAGE 1) e (open)	2	1/5/1984	B6	1253

COPY - Reagan Presidential Record

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 4, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Further Correspondence From
Bob Jones III

Last fall Bob Jones III, President of Bob Jones University, wrote Morton Blackwell requesting that the White House intervene on behalf of Dr. Peter Ng, who has an application pending before the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Dr. Ng is a Fundamentalist minister. On December 20, 1983, you wrote Mr. Jones, advising him that established White House policy did not permit such intervention on behalf of private parties with respect to matters those parties have pending before agencies with adjudicative functions, such as INS. You noted that the reason for this policy was to maintain public confidence in the impartial administration of our laws.

Mr. Jones has now replied, stating that the American public lost confidence in the impartial administration of our laws long ago, and that our refusal to intervene on behalf of Dr. Ng was simply another example of our insensitivity to the interests of Fundamental Christians. Mr. Jones suggests in his letter that you would have reacted differently to an alleged civil rights violation, and, in a thinly veiled threat, asserts that the alleged insensitivity of the Administration to Fundamental Christians will not go unnoticed by that sizable voting block.

The audacity of Jones' reply is truly remarkable, given the political costs this Administration has incurred in promoting the interests of Fundamental Christians in general and Bob Jones University in particular. A restrained reply to his petulant paranoia is attached for your review, telling Jones, in essence, to go soak his head. Since Jones copied Senator Thurmond and Congressman Campbell on his incoming, we should do the same on our reply.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1984

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am writing in reply to your letter of December 27, 1983. That letter was written in response to my own of December 20, in which I advised you that White House policy did not permit staff members to intervene on behalf of private parties concerning matters those parties have pending before agencies with adjudicative functions. Pursuant to this policy, I was compelled to decline your request that the White House intervene on behalf of Dr. Peter Ng with respect to his application before the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In your letter of December 27 you rejected the stated purpose of the White House policy -- to maintain public confidence in the impartial administration of our laws -- on the ground that "the American public has lost that confidence a long time ago." You also suggested that my letter was evidence of alleged Administration insensitivity to the interests of Fundamental Christians.

With respect, I cannot share your view that the American public has lost confidence in the impartial administration of our laws. In any event, even if the public has lost such confidence, it will hardly be restored by White House interference in the adjudicative responsibilities of agencies on behalf of those who are fortunate enough to secure the support of influential individuals such as yourself.

I must also object to your suggestion that my response to Dr. Ng's case reflects insensitivity to the interests of Fundamental Christians. The White House policy prohibiting intervention on behalf of private parties with respect to matters those parties have pending before agencies with adjudicative functions is applied in an even-handed fashion without regard to the beliefs or other characteristics of the individual involved.

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Nor do I share your view that this Administration has been insensitive to the interests of Fundamental Christians. In my view, the Administration has done much to advance the interests of Fundamental Bible-believing Christians. That which has been done, incidentally, has not been done to gain political support from that group, but because it was right. By the same token, political considerations will not move us to do that which is not right.

I am sorry that you do not agree with us concerning the desirability of a policy that precludes White House interference in private matters pending before agencies with adjudicative responsibilities. I hope and trust, however, that you will view this disagreement for what it is, and not as evidence of broad insensitivity on the part of this Administration to the interests of Fundamental Christians.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

Mr. Bob Jones III
President, Bob Jones University
Greenville, SC 29614

cc: The Honorable Strom Thurmond
The Honorable Carroll Campbell

bcc: Morton C. Blackwell

FFF:JGR:aea 1/5/84
bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron