

Senator Lloyd Bentson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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B Mc  
RB  
Chris file  
May 11, 1988

Dear Senator Bentson,

Re: S.1511 - The Family Security Act

As a member of the U.S. Senate you will be acting on S.1511 in the near future. This welfare reform legislation contains a number of provisions which are of serious concern to the League of Women Voters of Beaumont, Texas. S.1511 will only achieve true welfare reform if the Senate:

1. Eliminates the waiver provision which would allow as many as ten states to do away with the basic programs that serve poor Americans;
2. Guarantees a range of meaningful education, employment and job training opportunities;
3. Provides child care for all participants in the job training program;
4. Ensures sufficient transitional support services such as child care and extended Medicaid coverage to assist welfare recipients as they move from welfare into jobs.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee, you have the added responsibility to see to it that adequate funding is provided to fulfill the great expectations of this legislation. In addition, it is of the utmost importance to hold the line against weakening amendments such as any that would eliminate or weaken the Unemployed Parent provision. S.1511 gives you a special opportunity and responsibility to genuinely "reform" welfare in the United States. I know you will give S.1511 the special attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Cindy McCauley  
President



Senator Phil Gramm  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 11, 1988

Dear Senator Gramm,

Re: S.1511 - The Family Security Act

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1. Eliminates the waiver provision which would allow as many as ten states to do away with the basic programs that serve poor Americans;
2. Guarantees a range of meaningful education, employment and job training opportunities;
3. Provides child care for all participants in the job training program;
4. Ensures sufficient transitional support services such as child care and extended Medicaid coverage to assist welfare recipients as they move from welfare into jobs.

You also have the responsibility to see to it that adequate funding is provided to fulfill the great expectations of this legislation.

In addition, it is of the utmost importance to hold the line against weakening amendments such as any that would eliminate or weaken the Unemployed Parent provision.

S.1511 gives you a special opportunity and responsibility to genuinely "reform" welfare in the United States. I know you will give S.1511 the special attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Cindy McCauley  
President

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BMc  
RB  
Unsub file

Copy



Susan Fernie

May 11, 1988

MAY 16 1988

DSW  
LCW  
EB  
BMc  
RB  
LMS file

Dear Senator Bentsen,

I wholeheartedly agree with the following position taken by the League of Women Voters on S1511. To break the cycle of poverty, child care and meaningful education and training must be provided. Reform must also include transitional support services. No mother will go to work if it means her children will have less food, less child care or less medical care while she tries to work her way up the pay scale into an adequate position of self-support. A comprehensive program may be expensive in the beginning, but it will realize enormous savings in the end--in both our financial resources and our human resources. However, I do not believe our goal can be accomplished simply by helping adults find work. The training must start with the pre-school child. This nation has turned its back on our children's needs and is now paying the price--violence, crime, poverty, illiteracy, drugs etc. I urge you to strengthen S1511 and to also give child care and education a top priority.

*Sincerely, Susan Fernie*

1. Welfare reform is an issue of concern for Texans. We believe that the need for assistance in Texas has greatly increased in recent years and that Texans want programs which help those families who are most in need;
2. S. 1511 should be strengthened so that it would require, not just encourage, states to provide training, education, and other supportive services. Specifically, the changes in S. 1511 that we support at this time are:
  - \* a mandate that states provide a range of meaningful education, employment, and job training opportunities for participants;
  - \* child care provisions for all participants in the job training program;
  - \* sufficient transitional support services such as child care and extended medical care to assist income assistance recipients as they move into employment and to enable them to stay employed;
  - \* elimination of the waiver provision which would allow as many as 10 states to eliminate or change basic programs of income assistance;
3. The League supported HR 1720 because it mandates that the states provide remedial education, English as a second language, skills training, and job readiness preparation. We believe that these kinds of programs will help families break the cycle of poverty and reduce the numbers who need assistance in our state and nation.



*Action Alert  
Welfare Reform  
Also sent to  
Senator Benzen*

MAY 6 1988

[REDACTED]  
May 4, 1988

Senator Phil Gramm  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*DSW  
LCW  
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BMc  
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Unsub file*

Dear Senator Gramm:

The League of Women Voters strongly opposes S. 1511 as passed by the Finance Committee. We urge you to oppose the bill as currently written, particularly the waiver section. We believe that the federal government has the major responsibility for its citizens in the welfare system and that this responsibility can not be abdicated. S. 1511 would place many welfare recipients in a situation worse than their current situation.

Sincerely,

*Gail Roache*

Gail Roache, Action Chair  
LWV-BA (Bay Area)



League of Women Voters of Houston

MAY 13 1988

**COPY**  
(original on letterhead, letter quality print)

May 3, 1988

The Honorable Mickey Leland  
2236 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

also sent to:  
The Honorable Jack Fields  
413 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Dsh  
Lew  
EB  
KJ  
LWS file*

Dear Mr. Leland:

The League of Women Voters of Houston urges you to support the Waxman/Sikorski Bills, H.R. 3054 & 2666, without weakening amendments.

These bills offer more effective air quality control measures than the other proposals currently being considered by the House. The economic realities have been considered, and these bills do not provide for the use of sanctions for non-attainment, which might threaten Houston's growth, but do provide reasonable deadlines which will make possible continued improvement in Houston's air quality. It is unfortunate that still other measures for improving air quality, such as innovative changes in automobile engine design, are not being considered due to the political realities at this time.

Although there is considerable informed argument over the correctness of the air quality model, disagreement over the amounts of hydrocarbon reduction already made, the validity of early emissions inventory figures, and continuing questions over the method for calculating compliance with the ozone standard, the fact remains that air pollution is still a problem for Houston's residents. Some may not voice their complaints about pollution to appropriate agencies, and others may assume that no more can be done to improve Houston's air. Still other people, such as members of the League, who have been concerned about air quality over the years, believe that we can continue to improve the air Houstonians breathe.

The passage of these bills will improve the quality of the air in Houston by requiring more stringent controls on automobile emissions, steady progress toward compliance with the ozone standard, and effective controls on emissions resulting in acid rain, which affects Texas as well as the northeastern sections of the U.S. and Canada.

The League believes that the Waxman/Sikorski bills strengthen the Clean Air Act, and will ensure continued progress toward the goal of clean air for all Houstonians.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Vanderwater  
President



League of Women Voters of Houston

MAY 13 1988

**COPY**  
(original on letterhead, letter quality print)

May 3, 1988

The Honorable Mickey Leland  
2236 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

also sent to:  
The Honorable Jack Fields  
413 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Sincerely,

Jeanette Vanderwater  
President





# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA

FEB 29 1988

15514 St. Cloud  
Houston, TX 77062  
February 26, 1988

DSH  
LWV  
EB  
DSH  
SO

*copy sent to LWVUS  
Letter also sent to Bentsen*

Senator Phil Gramm  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gramm:

The League of Women Voters urges you to support the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. The INF Treaty is a cautious but important first step in the global effort to reduce the threat of nuclear war.

We also urge you to oppose any "killer amendments" that would delay implementation of the treaty or require renegotiation with the Soviet Union. Congress must not allow support for the INF Treaty to become a smokescreen behind which the arms race in strategic weapons continues to accelerate.

The League urges quick Senate action in support of this treaty.

Sincerely,

Gail Roache, Action Chair



copy  
(original on letterhead, letter quality print)

FEB 22 1988

February 12, 1988

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen  
703 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

also sent to:  
The Honorable Phil Gramm  
370 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

DSW  
LCW  
EB  
DSR

Dear Senator Bentsen:

Last October 1, The New York Times quoted Senator Carl Levin, of Michigan, on the subject of President Reagan's desire for an INF treaty: "As he and all of us get older, we realize the threat of nuclear weapons to our survival. And the President has reached the conclusion that he has to do something about this."

So the President did. On December 8, he and General Secretary Gorbachev signed an Intermediate Nuclear Forces treaty, and a great majority of the citizens of the United States applauded.

The League of Women Voters, which has been calling for nuclear arms reduction for years, strongly favors the INF treaty. It is an especially important agreement, as for the first time the superpowers will actually be dismantling existing weapons, instead of merely setting limits on numbers of some categories. And it is hoped that in the process we will begin solving the problems of working toward strategic arms reductions.

Nearly all of the knowledgeable witnesses who testified before Senate committees seemed to consider the proposed treaty extremely well crafted and worthy of ratification. They also predicted very unfortunate results if the Senate should fail to ratify.

Former Secretary Cyrus Vance warned that, if the Senate should add an amendment or two, more would follow; finally there would be a "killer" amendment. Mr. Vance is probably right.

Now, while the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are in relatively close accord and while we are all conscious of our interdependence, now is the time to ratify the INF treaty. We hope that we can count on you to use your influence, Senator Bentsen, to help get the INF treaty ratified promptly.

It is a matter of beginning to make safer a world that has been more imperiled by the passage of every year, the building of each new weapon.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Vanderwater  
President

Rhoda Haddox  
National Security Director





TOM DELAY  
22D DISTRICT, TEXAS  
ASSISTANT REGIONAL WHIP  
COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
TRANSPORTATION  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

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NOV 2 1987

1079 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5951

8000 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY, SUITE 205  
HOUSTON, TX 77074  
(713) 270-4000

500 NORTH CHENANGO STREET, SUITE 312  
ANGLETON, TX 77516  
(409) 849-4446

# Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515  
October 30, 1987

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Ms. Rhoda Haddox  
National Security Director  
League of Women Voters of Houston  
3400 Montrose, Suite 229  
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Ms. Haddox:

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Nicaragua. It is extremely valuable when considering important issues to know the views and concerns of my constituents and I appreciate your taking the time to write.

In 1979, the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua was betrayed by a handful of Marxists who purged the democratic element and promptly installed a repressive, Soviet style regime. The current Marxist junta, headed by Daniel Ortega, is responsible for a wide variety of human rights violations including press censorship, religious persecution, and the outright torture and murder of hundreds of Miskito Indians. The Sandinistas are also exporting arms and ammunition to communist guerrillas attempting to overthrow the democratically elected Duarte government in El Salvador. Further, Sandinista officials have been implicated in international drug trafficking. The Sandinista government lacks legitimacy and popular support within Nicaragua and Central America.

The Contras are democratic freedom fighters dedicated to establishing basic freedoms in their native land. Currently numbering some 40,000, they have taken up arms to restore democracy in Nicaragua. I voted for military aid to the Contras and plan on voting for aid again. The Contras are depending on the U.S. Congress to preserve freedom in Central America.

I support peace in Central America. However, be assured that I will not support any plan that threatens the democratic goals of the Nicaragua freedom fighters. Any viable peace plan for the region must include full democratic participation by and support of the contras. Daniel Ortega refuses to even talk to the freedom fighters. The Sandinistas will not allow a free press to function in Nicaragua. They have refused to grant a general amnesty, one of the many conditions of the Arias plan they have failed to fulfill. They have not granted freedom to the thousands of political prisoners who languish in their prisons. They refuse to allow freedom of movement over their borders to the many refugees who are trying to escape from communism to democracy. The Sandinistas are obviously not committed to bringing peace to Nicaragua.

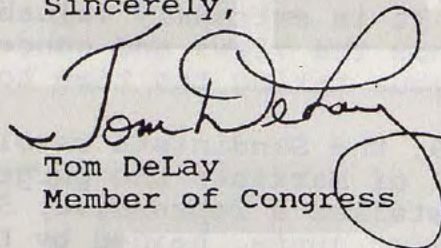


Ms. Rhoda Haddox  
Page 2  
October 30, 1987

Having a communist stronghold in Central America is no recipe for true peace.

Again, thanks for taking the time to write. While we may not totally agree on this issue, I hope that it won't deter you from writing again about issues of concern to you. Please let me hear from you again. It is an honor to represent you in the United States House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Tom DeLay  
Member of Congress

TD:src





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EB  
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League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

October 30, 1987

The Honorable Jim Wright  
Speaker of the House  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Wright:

On behalf of the members of the League of Women Voters of Texas,  
I would like to thank you for your strong stand against  
President Reagan's attempt to obtain further aid for the  
Nicaraguan "contra" rebels. We agree that seeking \$270 million  
in contra aid defeats the peace-making process in Nicaragua.

Thank you again for your stand on this issue.

Sincerely,

Diane Sheridan  
President





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LW  
EB  
SD

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

October 30, 1987

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

On behalf of the members of the League of Women Voters of Texas, I would like to thank you for your recent votes supporting the Levin/Nunn ABM Treaty, Bumpers/Chafee Salt II, and Kerry/Chafee/Simon ASAT Testing arms control amendments. As you stated in your letter of September 22, 1987, these arms control amendments can work to reduce the tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The League was, however, disappointed in your vote on the Johnston/Proxmire/Evans SDI funding amendment, which would have reduced funding for Strategic Defense Initiative in the Senate to \$3.7 billion, last year's congressional level (\$3.5 billion) plus inflation. Since the Senate vote to table this amendment was tied, your vote on this issue would certainly have made a difference in this important issue.

The League of Women Voters of Texas appreciates and applauds your continuing efforts on arms control.

Sincerely,

*Diane B. Sheridan*

Diane B. Sheridan  
President

DBS:jl



PHIL GRAMM  
TEXAS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 26, 1987

NOV 5 1987

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
Ms. Debbie Stine  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

*DSH  
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LCW  
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LWS file  
LWS*

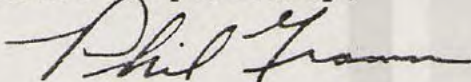
Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning peace in Central America.

I believe that we all want peace in Central America and sincerely hope that the U.S. can establish and maintain friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all the Central American countries. I believe, as you do, that peaceful negotiations must be ongoing in an effort to cease the conflicts in the region. However, we must not allow those with no regard for concepts such as peace, freedom or individual dignity, to hide behind negotiations while continuing to threaten the stability of their neighbors. Everyone must act in good faith, and if so I am willing to give negotiations and talks a chance. However, we should not be fooled by those who use our good faith for disingenuous ends.

I appreciate having the opportunity to represent you in the United States Senate. If I can ever be of service to you, please let me know.

Yours respectfully,



PHIL GRAMM  
United States Senator

PG/wcn



LLOYD BENTSEN

TEXAS

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 22, 1987

NOV 9 1987

Ms. Jeanette Vanderwater  
President  
League of Women Voters of Houston  
3400 Montrose, Suite 229  
Houston, Texas 77006

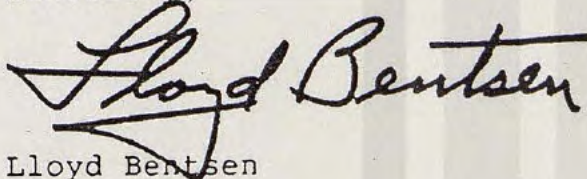
Dear Ms. Vanderwater:

Thank you for contacting me again.

I appreciate having your further comments regarding assistance to the Nicaraguan Contras. As you know, Congress has not yet been called upon to act with regard to the Central American Peace Plan. I will certainly continue to monitor any diplomatic progress in this area, and will keep your thoughts in mind as the Senate has the opportunity to address related legislation.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I am glad to have your thoughts on this very timely matter.

Sincerely,

  
Lloyd Bentsen

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LW file  
~~EB~~

®



MICHAEL A. ANDREWS  
25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

RECEIVED OCT 27 1987

322 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-7508

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515  
October 22, 1987

FEDERAL BUILDING  
515 RUSK  
HOUSTON, TX 77002  
(713) 229-2244

1001 E. SOUTHMORE  
SUITE 810  
PASADENA, TX 77502  
(713) 473-4334

NOV 9 1987  
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Eustis

Ms. Rhoda Haddox  
National Security Director  
League of Women Voters of Houston  
3400 Montrose, Suite 229  
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Rhoda:

Thank you for your recent communication.

Regarding the conflict in Nicaragua, I am cautiously optimistic about the recent peace initiatives of the United States and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

As you are aware, the presidents of the five Central American nations signed a historic peace agreement proposed by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica. This plan is similar to the proposal offered by the President and Speaker Jim Wright. It has also been endorsed by the Contras.

I believe that these proposals offer an opportunity for a bipartisan consensus to develop on Central America. There are great risks, and serious questions remain to be resolved; however, it is a chance for addressing our country's security concerns and for achieving a real and lasting peace in Nicaragua and the entire region.

In particular, I think these initiatives give us a framework to achieve our five primary objectives for Central America: no Soviet bases in Nicaragua; an assurance that Nicaragua will not pose a threat to its neighbors; an end to the fighting between the insurgents and the governments of Nicaragua and El Salvador; a return to basic human and political rights for the Nicaraguan people, particularly for those in opposition to the Sandinista government; and a broader American policy which addresses the economic and social needs of the region's emerging democracies.

I believe Congress and the Administration should not fund the Contras with new military aid if the implementation of the peace plan proceeds in good faith and if genuine progress is



Ms. Rhoda Haddox  
Page 2  
October 22, 1987

being made. I will be watching this process very closely and will be sure to keep you apprised of further developments.

Thank you for sharing your views with me. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to get back in touch with me.

Very truly yours,

*Michael A. Andrews*

Michael A. Andrews  
Member of Congress





MICHAEL A. ANDREWS  
25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
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FEDERAL BUILDING  
515 RUSK  
HOUSTON, TX 77002  
(713) 229-2244

1001 E. SOUTHMORE  
SUITE 810  
PASADENA, TX 77502  
(713) 473-4334

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515  
October 22, 1987

NOV 9 1987

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EWS

Ms. Rhoda Haddox  
National Security Director  
League of Women Voters of Houston  
3400 Montrose, Suite 229  
Houston, Texas 77006

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LWV-T

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND  
COMMERCE  
  
COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE  
AND FISHERIES

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives • Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 1987

NOV 9 1987

Rhoda Haddox  
National Security Director  
League of Women Voters of Houston  
3400 Montrose, Suite 229  
Houston, Texas 77006

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Dear Ms. Haddox:

Thank you for your recent comments in support of the Central American peace plan signed in Guatemala on August 7th by the presidents of the five Central American countries.

I think we both agree that peace must be given a chance in Central America. Where we may differ in opinion is over the means by which peace will be achieved.

The Guatemalan peace plan is riddled with loopholes that the Sandinista regime will undoubtedly take advantage of. For instance, it allows a continuation of Soviet and Cuban aid to the Sandinistas while U.S. aid to the freedom fighters is cut off. If the Contras do not receive renewed U.S. aid, the Sandinistas will have no reason to comply with the peace plan.

Persecution of opposition groups by Sandinista state security began in 1979, long before the formation of the democratic resistance forces, and continues to this day. Only eight days after signing the peace agreement, Sandinista police used attack dogs, electric cattle prods and government organized mobs to break up a peaceful demonstration.

We are confronted in Nicaragua by a regime that takes its policy guidance from Cuba and the Soviet Union, has broken most of the promises it has made about bringing democracy to Nicaragua, and blatantly exports leftist revolution to other countries in Central America. When the Guatemala "democratization" agreement goes into effect on November 7th, Daniel Ortega will be in Moscow celebrating the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

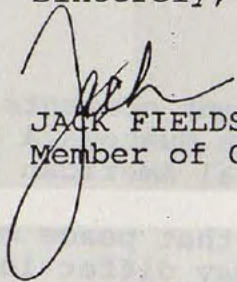
If there is to be any chance that the Sandinistas will do what no communist regime has ever before done -- institute democratic reforms -- a strong Contra force is the only effective means of pressuring the Sandinista regime to institute these reforms. In my opinion, an unwavering U.S. commitment to the Contras will be the catalyst for peace and stability in Central America.



Page 2.  
October 22, 1987

While we may not be in complete agreement on this particular issue, I do appreciate having the benefit of your views.

Sincerely,

  
JACK FIELDS  
Member of Congress

JF:gg





STEVE BARTLETT  
30 DISTRICT, TEXAS

NOV 9 1987

1709 LONGWORTH HOUSE  
OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4201

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, FINANCE  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

EDUCATION AND LABOR

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 1987

6600 L.B.J. FREEWAY  
SUITE 4190  
DALLAS, TX 75240  
(214) 767-4848

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
Ms. Debbie Stine  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

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LWVS

Dear Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Stine:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Central American peace plan. I appreciate your taking the time to let me hear from you about this important foreign policy issue.

The Central American Peace Plan was proposed by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias on February 15. Arias' plan seeks to bring peace in that region by establishing five main points: 1) A cease fire in armed conflicts; 2) communication between government and dissenting groups; 3) an end to foreign aid to rebel groups; 4) restoration of freedom of press and of political dissent; and 5) prevention of use of any Central American nation to support attacks on another. This plan was approved by Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala on August 7. The five nations rejected an alternative plan offered by President Reagan and House Speaker Jim Wright, which called for, among other things, a cease-fire, followed by suspension of U.S. aid from Communist-bloc nations. The U.S. plan also called for loosening of the Sandinista's restrictions on the Nicaraguan press and the Roman Catholic Church.

Central America has long been a violent, strife-ridden area, and a major concern to the United States because of its instability. It is in the best interests of the region and the United States that democracy and peace be promoted, and the U.S. should do all it can to support peaceful negotiations.

My chief objection to the Arias plan in its current form is that it calls for the U.S. to suspend aid to the Contras while the Soviet Union is still sending military aid to the Sandinistas. Further, I would support an arrangement whereby Congress appropriates funds for the Contras and holds them in escrow, so that aid can be sent if the Sandinistas fail to honor any part of the negotiated agreement.

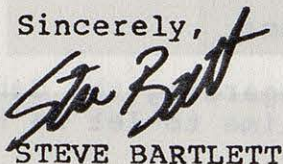


Ms. Diane Sheridan  
Page 2  
October 19, 1987

I am not optimistic that the Arias plan will work; however, I am willing to keep an open mind until after the November 7th deadline. In the meantime, I believe that an escrow account for Contra aid would encourage the Sandinistas to abide by the plan.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I will continue to monitor developments in the peace process, and will keep your concerns in mind as Congress votes on pertinent legislation. Please continue to stay in touch on this or any other issue of interest to you.

Sincerely,



STEVE BARTLETT

SB/dw





LLOYD BENTSEN  
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT ECONOMIC  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 19, 1987

Dsh  
Dsh  
LC  
EB

OCT 30 1987

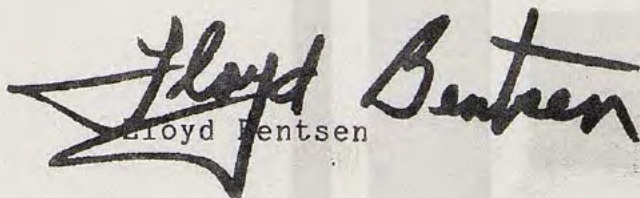
Dear Friend:

On August 7, 1987, the presidents of five Central American nations met together in Guatemala City and signed an historic agreement designed to end the turmoil that has troubled the region for many years. The agreement calls for complete freedom of the press, the lifting of any state of siege or emergency, and guarantees of political plurality. Full and complete implementation of this agreement would end the fighting and bloodshed in the region and lead to national reconciliation in the countries that are experiencing open warfare.

In this context, I thought you might like to know about an amendment I recently offered which was adopted unanimously by the United States Senate. My amendment authorized \$250,000 to assist the peaceful opposition parties, civic opposition, and free press in Nicaragua. In offering this amendment, I was persuaded that the opposition parties and organizations and the free press in Nicaragua need both our moral and our financial support and that without such support, implementation of the peace agreement would be an exercise in both futility and frustration.

Under my amendment, funding will be given openly and above-board to members of the civic opposition and free news media who apply for it. This is an expansion and continuation of present programs sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy to help the Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa purchase newsprint, repair its presses, and hire staff. This funding would also be used to assist the peaceful opposition to organize and conduct political campaigns and participate fully in what we hope will be a more open atmosphere of political pluralism and democracy in Nicaragua.

Sincerely,

  
Lloyd Bentsen





**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-4301

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MS. DIANE SHERIDAN  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXA  
1212 GUADALUPE, #107  
AUSTIN, TX 78701

293007



OCT 22 1987



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON

3400 MONTROSE, SUITE 229 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006 (713) 529-3171

**copy**

(Sent to Sens. Bentsen, Gramm; Jim Wright; U.S.Reps Archer  
Fields  
Brooks  
Leland  
Andrews  
DeLay

October 14, 1987

*DSh  
LCu  
DSh  
EB  
LW file*

The Honorable W. R. (Bill) Archer  
1135 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Archer:

We in the League of Women Voters are firm believers in democracy. Thus we are hoping for the success of the plan for peace in Central America, proposed by President Arias of Costa Rica, which has the support of five governments in the region. It is encouraging to note that some steps have already been taken by President Ortega, of Nicaragua, to comply with the plan's provisions.

At this critical moment, it would be a grave mistake for the U.S. to insist on stipulations beyond what are encompassed in the Arias plan. Moreover, U.S. interference would be seen as undemocratic in spirit. As a democratic nation, we should acknowledge the right of Central American countries, whose interests are most vitally affected, to be the primary judges of whether or not the Nicaraguan government is sufficiently in compliance with the peace plan. Once underway, the process itself will move Central America in the right direction.

Congress should deny the Contras further funding at this time. Please, in line with President Arias' suggestions, as seconded by House Speaker Jim Wright, let us give peace a chance.

Yours very truly,

Rhoda Haddox  
National Security Director

Jeanette Vanderwater  
President



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives • Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 1987 (4)

OCT 11 1987  
OCT 15 1987

DSH  
LEW  
DSH  
EB  
LWS  
LWS file

Diane Sheridan  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Sheridan:

Thank you for your recent comments in support of the Central American peace plan signed in Guatemala on August 7th by the presidents of the five Central American countries.

I think we both agree that peace must be given a chance in Central America. Where we may differ in opinion is over the means by which peace will be achieved.

The Guatemalan peace plan is riddled with loopholes that the Sandinista regime will undoubtedly take advantage of. For instance, it allows a continuation of Soviet and Cuban aid to the Sandinistas while U.S. aid to the freedom fighters is cut off. If the Contras do not receive renewed U.S. aid, the Sandinistas will have no reason to comply with the peace plan.

Persecution of opposition groups by Sandinista state security began in 1979, long before the formation of the democratic resistance forces, and continues to this day. Only eight days after signing the peace agreement, Sandinista police used attack dogs, electric cattle prods and government organized mobs to break up a peaceful demonstration.

We are confronted in Nicaragua by a regime that takes its policy guidance from Cuba and the Soviet Union, has broken most of the promises it has made about bringing democracy to Nicaragua, and blatantly exports leftist revolution to other countries in Central America. When the Guatemala "democratization" agreement goes into effect on November 7th, Daniel Ortega will be in Moscow celebrating the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

If there is to be any chance that the Sandinistas will do what no communist regime has ever before done -- institute democratic reforms -- a strong Contra force is the only effective means of pressuring the Sandinista regime to institute these reforms. In my opinion, an unwavering U.S. commitment to the Contras will be the catalyst for peace and stability in Central America.



Page 2.  
October 7, 1987

While we may not be in complete agreement on this particular issue, I do appreciate having the benefit of your views.

Sincerely,

*Jack Fields*  
JACK FIELDS  
Member of Congress

JF:gg





JIM WRIGHT  
TEXAS  
SPEAKER

OCT 12 1987

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Office of the Speaker  
Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 1987

DSW  
LCW  
DST  
EB  
LWUS  
LWUS file

Dear Friend:

You and I share the same goal for Central America--peace with a chance for all the peoples of those nations to enjoy basic freedoms and a decent life.

At this moment, you disagree with the tactics we in Congress have chosen as the best path to our goal. Let me say that I respect your view.

But let me ask you to judge our decision based on events in the days ahead. And let me explain why we chose to do what we did.

The leadership of the House faced a critical choice. On one hand we could have had a bitter fight over a small amount of money for food, clothing and medicine for the Contras for a 40-day period ending on Nov. 10. That battle would have disrupted the visit of President Arias and would likely have led to efforts to get additional military funding for the Contras right here in the middle of our intense drive for a cease-fire.

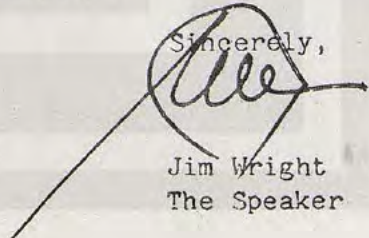
On the other hand we could almost certainly preclude any attempt for further Contra funding prior to Nov. 7, highlight the Arias visit and his plea for peace, and isolate those who favor military support for the Contras. This required accepting the \$3.5 million package.

Both President Arias and the Nicaraguan government agreed with the latter course, and assured us that such a step would in no way interfere with the peace process.

Actions taken in Nicaragua in the last few days and steps taken in other Central American nations now make peace in those lands seem more likely than ever before. Let me assure you that everything we do in the House of Representatives in the coming months will be aimed at reaching that goal.

Thank you for your letter, and thank you for being willing to make an effort to voice your desire for peace. You have my sincere respect. I hope the course of events and the efforts we undertake here to achieve peace will be worthy of your respect.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Wright  
The Speaker



MARTIN FROST  
24TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

RULES COMMITTEE

BUDGET COMMITTEE

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-3605

OCT 5 1987

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

4  
Dsh  
LCw  
Dsh  
EB  
LWS  
LWS file

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(214) 767-2816  
GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS 75051  
☐ REPUBLIC BANK TOWER, ROOM 720  
801 WEST FREEWAY  
(214) 262-1503  
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OFFICE CHECKED

September 29, 1987

Diane Sheridan  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Sheridan:

Thank you very much for your recent letter concerning the peace efforts in Central America. We appear to be at a critical point in the pursuit of peace in the region, and providing military assistance to the contras at this time would be counterproductive. Costa Rican President Oscar Arias should be supported in his efforts to end the conflict and bring stability throughout Central America. I assure you that I'm monitoring this process closely and will do all I can to see that the Arias plan is given every possible chance to succeed.

Again, thanks for sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,

*MKFmm*

MARTIN FROST  
Member of Congress

MF:rc



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

OCT 21 1987

September 28, 1987

Ms. Gail Roache  
League of Women Voters  
of the Bay Area  
15514 St. Cloud  
Houston, Texas 77062

*DSH*  
*LCW*  
*DSH*  
*WMSfeld*  
*EB*

Dear Ms. Roache:

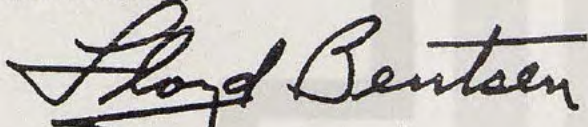
Thank you for your recent correspondence.

I, too, believe that arms control can work to reduce the tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. This is why in the past I have supported statements that the United States should adhere to the SALT II agreements.

Last week, I supported the Levin-Nunn amendment to the Department of Defense authorization bill, which requires the President to seek Congressional approval if he should seek to change the standing interpretation of the 1972 ABM treaty and propose Strategic Defense Initiative testing at variance with that treaty. I also supported the Kerry-Chafee-Simon ASAT Testing amendment, extending the moratorium on testing anti-satellite weapons for another year. While I favor a reduction in funding to the Strategic Defense Initiative, I was uncomfortable with setting the cap at \$3.7 billion. You may be assured that I will bear your concerns in mind as the Senate continues to consider the Department of Defense authorization bill over the next several days.

Again, I appreciate your taking the time to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Bentsen

®



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

September 26, 1987

OCT 2 1987

*sh  
L CW  
DSH  
EB  
LWWS  
LWWS file*

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
President  
League of Women Voters  
State of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Sheridan:

Thank you for your letter concerning opposition to further funding of the Contras in Nicaragua.

Traditionally, I have been on the opposite side of this issue because of my strong belief in supporting those who oppose communist aggression. I also think it is imperative to keep communist encroachment off the American mainland.

However, rest assured I will consider your arguments as this issue arises in this, the 100th Congress.

Thank you for the benefits of your views.

Sincerely,

*Charles Wilson*  
Charles Wilson

CW:ds



JOE BARTON  
6TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES  
ENERGY AND POWER  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION  
AND COMPETITIVENESS



1225 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2002

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 1987

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Sheridan:


Thank you for your recent letter opposing aid to the Freedom Fighters in Central America. I appreciate hearing from the League of Women Voters of Texas.

The Sandinista leaders have made no secret of their Communist sympathies. Even while receiving American aid in the early days of their government, they suspended basic democratic rights and began to establish a classic Communist dictatorship. As "Time" magazine reported last April, "Nicaragua today is indisputably aligned with Moscow..." With the help of over \$500 million in Soviet military equipment and thousands of "advisors" from Communist nations, the Sandinistas have built a military force larger than that of all other Central American nations combined. The Sandinistas have openly proclaimed their intention to spread their "revolution without borders" to other lands.

Although I share your concern for peace and freedom in Central America, as long as civil injustices and communist sympathies persist, I will continue to support monetary aid to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters. As the new Central American Peace Initiative develops, I will appraise the changes from a critical perspective.

Once again, thank you for your letter. I look forward to hearing from you and the league in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Joe Barton  
Member of Congress

JB/ab

BRYAN OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 4802  
BRYAN, TX 77805  
(409) 846-1985

CONROE OFFICE:  
INTERFIRST TOWER, SUITE 507  
300 WEST DAVIS  
CONROE, TX 77301  
(409) 760-2291

ENNIS OFFICE:  
INTERFIRST BANK, SUITE 101  
303 WEST KNOX  
ENNIS, TX 75119  
(214) 875-8488

FORT WORTH OFFICE:  
3509 HULEN #110  
FORT WORTH, TX 76107  
(817) 737-7737

SEP 28 1987

Dsh  
LCu  
Dsh  
EB  
Chris file  
LWU



LLOYD BENTSEN

TEXAS

SEP 25 1987

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 22, 1987

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
Ms. Debbie Stine  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Friends:

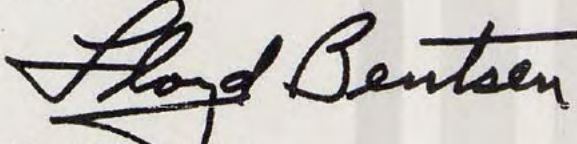
Thank you for your recent correspondence.

I, too, believe that arms control can work to reduce the tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. This is why in the past I have supported statements that the United States should adhere to the SALT II agreements.

Last week, I supported the Levin-Nunn amendment to the Department of Defense authorization bill, which requires the President to seek Congressional approval if he should change the standing interpretation of the 1972 ABM treaty and seek Strategic Defense Initiative testing at variance with that treaty. You may be assured that I will bear your concerns in mind as the Senate continues to consider the Department of Defense authorization bill over the next several days.

Again, I appreciate your taking the time to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Lloyd Bentsen

*DSH  
L. Cu  
DSH  
LWS file  
LWS  
EB*



ALBERT G. BUSTAMANTE  
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 22, 1987

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Sheridan:

Thank you for contacting us to urge opposition to the President's policy toward Nicaragua. As you know, the Administration submitted a "peace plan" to coincide with a summit meeting among the Central American presidents in Guatemala City on August 6. The plan adopted at that meeting was one first drafted by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias in February of this year; it differs from the Administration's initiative in allowing 90 days for Nicaraguan internal reform and in excluding the contras as a party to regional and bi-lateral negotiations during a cease-fire.

I have frankly supported the Arias plan since it was first developed. While the signatories are at work implementing a draft, I will strongly oppose any request for aid to the contras. In the interim, I would sincerely hope that no such legislation would be brought forward in the Congress.

In the event the plan proves unworkable, either because of intractability on the part of the contras or the Administration, or because of non-compliance by the Sandinistas, we will have to consider additional policy options. But the plan must be given every opportunity to succeed. In hoping to ensure that success, we will bear your opinions in mind. Thank you again for getting in touch.

Sincerely,

Albert G. Bustamante  
Member of Congress

SEP 24 1987

DSH  
LCW  
DSH  
LWSfile  
LWS  
EB

Committee on

**ARMED SERVICES**

Subcommittees:

PROCUREMENT AND  
MILITARY NUCLEAR  
SYSTEMS

MILITARY PERSONNEL  
AND COMPENSATION

SEAPOWER AND  
STRATEGIC AND  
CRITICAL MATERIALS

Committee on

**GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS**

Subcommittees:

COMMERCE, CONSUMER  
AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Please reply to

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Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4511

**District Office:**

Federal Building  
727 East Durango Street  
Room 146-B  
San Antonio, Texas 78206  
(512) 229-6181

P.O. Box 7135  
1300 Matamoros Street  
Laredo, Texas 78042  
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(512) 773-4110



LLOYD BENTSEN

TEXAS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 17, 1987

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
Ms. Debbie Stine  
League of Women Voters  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Sheridan:

Thank you for your recent correspondence.

Last year, bipartisan majorities in the Congress approved legislation providing \$100 million in aid to the Contras. These funds were transferred from previously approved foreign operations accounts; no new funds were appropriated.

During consideration of this legislation, I supported several amendments which I believe would have helped to promote democratic values, encourage negotiations, and reduce the likelihood that U.S. forces will be sent into combat in Central America. Specifically, I supported amendments that would have prohibited the introduction of U.S. personnel into Nicaragua for the purpose of ground combat and which would have prohibited funds from being used to support military actions which are likely to result in the loss of noncombatant lives. While there are sections of the bill which effectively prohibit the introduction of U.S. troops into Nicaragua, and while the compromise denies aid to any group which fails to expel an individual who violates human rights, smuggles drugs, or misappropriates funds, I regret that these clarifying amendments were not adopted.

The legislation also creates a bipartisan Congressional commission to monitor the efforts of the Nicaraguan democratic resistance toward internal reform and report on any regional negotiations on the peace, stability, and security of Central America.

I realize that recent revelations made in connection with the Iran-Contra investigations have raised troubling questions about the proper implementation of prior U.S. laws with regard to aid to Central America. I support the rule of law in Washington and in Managua. However, while I am not condoning any Administration activities which may have been illegal, I believe that we should continue to weigh the issue of providing assistance to the Nicaraguan resistance forces on its own merits rather than on the outcome of the inquiries now in progress.

SEP 24 1987

*Handwritten notes:*  
JW  
DSt  
EB  
EWS  
LWS  
LWS



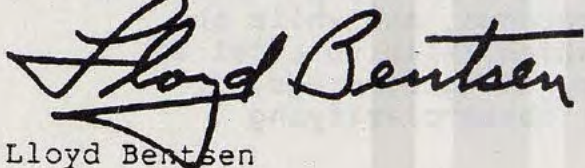
Ms. Diane Sheridan  
September 17, 1987  
Page 2

Later this year, the Congress will address the question of giving additional assistance to the Contras as requested by the Administration. By then there will be much more evidence to assess the success or shortcomings of the overall policy. However, while I hope that the Contras and the Sandinistas can reach a fair and peaceful agreement, I believe that some assistance to the democratic resistance is necessary to pressure the Sandinistas to live up to their original democratic promises, and to forestall the consolidation of a hostile and totalitarian regime so close to our borders.

Like you, I would like to see a peaceful solution to the struggle in Nicaragua. I believe the plan for negotiations with Nicaragua recently announced by the White House is a positive step. I also welcome the recent agreement reached by the Central American heads of state, and strongly believe that these nations must play a role if a positive settlement is to be reached. Hopefully, developments in the next several weeks will lead to a settlement which allows the establishment of democracy in Nicaragua and peace in Central America.

Again, I appreciate your taking the time to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Lloyd Bentsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lloyd" and last name "Bentsen" clearly legible.

Lloyd Bentsen

®



MICHAEL A. ANDREWS  
25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

SEP 21 1987

322 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
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(202) 225-7508

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SUITE 810  
PASADENA, TX 77502  
(713) 473-4334

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 17, 1987

Ms. Diane Sheridan, President  
Ms. Debbie Stine, National Security  
Director  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Stine:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding further aid to the  
Contras. I appreciate knowing of your views on this issue.

I am cautiously optimistic about the recent peace initiatives  
of the United States and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.  
The peace plan proposed by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica  
and signed by the presidents of the five Central American  
nations is an important and historic agreement. It is similar  
to the proposal offered by the President and Speaker Jim  
Wright. It has also been endorsed by the Contras.

I believe that these proposals and the current negotiations  
offer an opportunity for a bipartisan consensus to develop on  
Central America. There are great risks, and serious questions  
remain to be resolved; however, it is a chance for addressing  
our country's security concerns and for achieving a real and  
lasting peace in Nicaragua and the entire region.

In particular, I think these initiatives give us a framework to  
achieve our five primary objectives for Central America: no  
Soviet bases in Nicaragua; an assurance that Nicaragua will not  
pose a threat to its neighbors; an end to the fighting between  
the insurgents and the governments of Nicaragua and El  
Salvador; a return to basic human and political rights for the  
Nicaraguan people, particularly for those in opposition to the  
Sandinista government; and a broader American policy which  
addresses the economic and social needs of the region's  
emerging democracies.

*DSH  
Lew  
EB  
DSH  
Lew  
Lew*



Ms. Diane Stewart  
Page Two

I believe the Congress and the Administration should not fund the Contras with new military aid if the negotiations continue in good faith and if genuine progress is being made. I will be watching this process very closely and will be sure to keep you apprised of further developments.

Very truly yours,

*Michael A. Andrews*

Michael A. Andrews  
Member of Congress

MAA/dk  
0464D





HENRY B. GONZALEZ  
20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

2413 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202-225-3236

HOME OFFICE:  
B-124 FEDERAL BUILDING  
727 E. DURANGO STREET  
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512-229-6199

ZONE WHIP:  
TEXAS DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION  
HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP ORGANIZATION

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 16, 1987

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URBAN AFFAIRS

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HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND RENEGOTIATION  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPERVISION,  
REGULATION AND INSURANCE

SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATION  
AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

FILE REF: M4/1gi

SEP 18 1987

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Sheridan:

I want to acknowledge your letter, expressing opposition to further assistance for the so-called contras.

I am certain you know that I have consistently opposed aid to the contras, and that I have been an outspoken critic of Mr. Reagan's policy in Central America.

I remain convinced that the contra aid program has been not only a failure, but absolutely counterproductive to the interests and aims of our country.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

*Henry Gonzalez*

Henry B. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



J.J. PICKLE  
10TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:  
242 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-4865

AUSTIN ADDRESS:  
763 FEDERAL BUILDING  
AUSTIN, TX 78701  
(512) 482-5921

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 1987

COMMITTEES:  
WAYS AND MEANS  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN, OVERSIGHT  
HEALTH

Ms. Diane Sheridan  
President  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mrs. Sheridan:

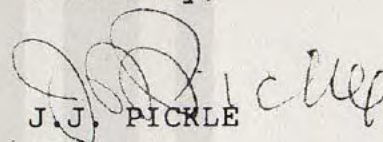
I appreciate your letter opposing contra aid.

As you know, we are currently monitoring compliance with the Arias Plan signed in August. My understanding is that we will not act on the Administration's request for continued aid until later this year, and not in September as originally believed.

I am pleased by the coordinated effort of the Central American governments to end the regional violence. I still maintain that contra aid alone will not bring peace and that we must work with those governments in developing a successful alternative.

I am monitoring the situation closely and thank you for contacting me.

Sincerely,

  
J.J. PICKLE

JJP:beb

*I do oppose military aid to the  
Contras.*

SEP 19 1987  
Dsh  
L Cu  
DSt  
EB  
LMS  
LMS file



Sent to Senators Bentsen and Gramm



DSL  
DSt  
LW  
EB  
LWVUS  
SO

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

September 15, 1987

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen,

The League of Women Voters of Texas believes that arms control is a vital part of U.S. national security policy. Administration threats to existing arms control agreements require decisive Senate support of arms control this year.

The League urges your support of the following arms control amendments:

Levin/Nunn ABM Treaty Amendment - requires the U.S. to abide by Article V of the ABM Treaty, which prohibits the development and testing of land-based, air-based, or space-based ABM systems;

Bumpers/Chafee/Leahy/Heinz SALT II Amendment - provides that no funds be spent for weapons that exceed the central numerical sublimits of the SALT II Treaty as long as the Soviets continue to abide by these limits;

Johnston/Proxmire/Evans SDI Funding Amendment - reduces funding for Strategic Defense Initiative in the Senate to \$3.7 billion, which is last year's level (\$3.5 billion) plus allowance for inflation;

Kerry/Chafee/Simon ASAT Testing Amendment - extends the U.S.-Soviet moratorium on testing anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons against targets in space for another year.

The League believes that now is a critical time for U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms control. The arms control framework that has existed for nearly two decades is under full-scale assault. Congress must act decisively this year to preserve the vital restraints on nuclear weapons necessary to maintain our national security and reduce the danger of nuclear war. President Eisenhower represented the League's position well when he stated:

*Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending*





September 15, 1987

*the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. . . . This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.*

The League of Women Voters of Texas wants you to support these arms control agreements so that we can all live in a safer world.

Sincerely,

*Diane Sheridan*

Diane Sheridan  
President

*Debbie Stine*

Debbie Stine  
National Security Director



Sent to all TX reps except Jim Wright  
and Senators Bentsen and Gramm



DSK  
DSt  
LW  
EB  
LWVUS  
SD

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

September 9, 1987

The Honorable Jack Brooks  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Brooks:

The League of Women Voters of Texas urges you to oppose any aid to the Nicaraguan contras--whether military or nonlethal--in any amount, via any legislative vehicle. The League believes that the United States should seek diplomatic rather than military solutions to the conflicts in Central America.

As you are aware, five of the Central American countries recently signed a comprehensive peace plan which detailed steps toward a cease-fire, democratic elections, and an end to outside military assistance. Speaker of the House Jim Wright, who recently unveiled the Reagan-Wright peace plan, urged the administration to support the Central American presidents' peace plan instead. "I cannot conceive of the United States being in a position of upsetting this timetable or doing anything but rejoicing and cooperating," the Speaker declared.

The League agrees with Speaker Wright. We believe that contra aid is a policy which undermines the ongoing regional negotiating process, contributes to the increasing militarization of the region, and jeopardizes our standing and relations with the people and governments of the region. It is in the interest of the United States to promote peace and regional security through diplomatic and peaceful means. The legitimate interests of our country are best served by addressing the long-term social and economic needs of the region and by vigorously supporting and reinforcing the ongoing process of regional dispute settlement.

Please oppose any aid to the Nicaraguan contras for, as columnist Sandy Grady stated in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times on August 16, 1987, "After making war for six years, why not gamble 90 days on peace?"

Sincerely,

*Diane Sheridan*

Diane Sheridan  
President

*Debbie Stine*

Debbie Stine  
National Security Director





DSL  
DST  
LWV  
EB  
LWVUS  
SO

League of Women Voters of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel. 512/472-1100

September 9, 1987

The Honorable Jim Wright  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Wright:

The League of Women Voters of Texas **urges** your continued opposition to any aid to the Nicaraguan contras--whether military or nonlethal--in any amount, via any legislative vehicle. **The League agrees with you that the United States should seek diplomatic rather than military solutions to the conflicts in Central America.**

As you are aware, five of the Central American countries recently signed a comprehensive peace plan which detailed steps toward a cease-fire, democratic elections, and an end to outside military assistance. We urge you to continue your support of the Central American presidents' peace plan, and oppose any attempts by the White House to request funding for the Nicaraguan contras.

We believe that contra aid is a policy which undermines the ongoing regional negotiating process, contributes to the increasing militarization of the region, and jeopardizes our standing and relations with the people and governments of the region. It is in the interest of the United States to promote peace and regional security through diplomatic and peaceful means. The legitimate interests of our country are best served by addressing the long-term social and economic needs of the region and by vigorously supporting and reinforcing the ongoing process of regional dispute settlement.

Please oppose any aid to the Nicaraguan contras for, as columnist Sandy Grady stated in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times on August 16, 1987, "After making war for six years, why not gamble 90 days on peace?"

Sincerely,

*Diane Sheridan*

Diane Sheridan  
President

*Debbie Stine*

Debbie Stine  
National Security Director





# LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe, No. 107 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel 512/472-1100

1815 Courtney  
Tyler, TX 75701  
August 19, 1987

AUG 24 1987

Robin Notestein  
League of Women Voters- Richardson  
7620 Applecross  
Dallas, Texas 75248

Dear Robin:

Ruthann and I certainly enjoyed our visit with your Board this past weekend. As you are certainly aware, you seem to have a very knowledgeable and dedicated Board for this next year. Your League is very impressive to me in many ways, and it is heartening to know you have faults, also! You are fortunate to have a good group of women and they are to have you as President.

On a separate sheet I have listed the items we discussed Saturday. I think they gave me a good overall picture of the Richardson League and should help me as I act as liaison between you and the State Board. I think overall it accomplished what I wanted, which was to get you thinking about the problems and how to solve them. I did fail to get a specific membership increase that you wanted to target. That will be for you to decide. Let me know and I will include it in the followup evaluation we do at year-end. (Sooner if you'd like.)

I checked the files that were sent to me by Barbara Glickman and the workbook you gave me and have determined that I am missing the following:

- Local Policy (unless Aug. 1984 is latest update)
- Local bylaws (unless May 1985 is latest)
- Local program (I have 1986-1987)
- Budget (I have 1986-87)
- Annual meeting workbook (I have the minutes)
- June Board meeting minutes and financial statement (If you met)
- May Board meeting minutes and financial statement.

Thank you for your warm hospitality. I look forward to being your Field Service Representative and working with you this year. If I can be of assistance let me know. I'm passing along to the State Office the request about Rep. Bartlett. My phone numbers are:

214-592-2230 home  
214-581-3165 work.

I'll check with you periodically to keep in touch, also.

They asked to get to do the Legislative  
Interview for Rep. Bartlett on Sue Barham  
at least do it jointly. They  
felt that since he was their  
only U.S. Rep, they should get a chance. Susan Sherman  
coordinated to do Rep. Hall, so it can work. SB

Sue Barham  
Field Service Representative



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

AUG 13 1987

JOHN BRYANT

5TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

August 8, 1987

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON  
THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Ms. Lois Carpenter  
League of Women Voters  
of Texas  
1212 Guadalupe, #109  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dsh  
Lew  
EB  
SO

Dear Ms. Carpenter:

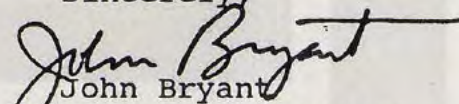
If the Senate confirms President Reagan's nomination of U.S. Appeals Court Judge Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court, it will cause a radical shift to the extreme right in the high court's decisions well into the next century. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I want to alert you to the seriousness of this nomination and urge you to oppose it.

Judge Bork's extreme views are well known. He has opposed civil rights laws as unconstitutional and has denounced the organized labor movement as disruptive and irresponsible. He has criticized the historic "one man, one vote" decision guaranteeing voters equal representation in elections. And he has denied that there is a constitutional right to privacy, arguing instead that a state can even prohibit married women from using contraceptives. These are highly unusual views, not in the mainstream of American thought, and not worthy of the Supreme Court.

In 1973, the U.S. Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General resigned rather than carry out Richard Nixon's order to fire Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox, who was investigating Nixon. Bork, then Solicitor General, was promoted to Acting Attorney General and promptly fired Cox.

In 1982, both Texas Senators Lloyd Bentsen and John Tower voted for Bork's appointment to the Appeals Court. And both Texas Senators Bentsen and Phil Gramm have voted for each of Reagan's other Supreme Court nominees. For this reason, if you oppose the Bork nomination, I strongly urge you to make your opinion known to our two Senators, Bentsen and Gramm, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

  
John Bryant  
Member of Congress



League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

CONGRESSIONAL INTERVIEWS -- 100th CONGRESS

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Local or state League representative)

FROM: Marilyn Reeves, Advocacy Issues Chair

RE: Congressional Interview with \_\_\_\_\_  
(Member of Congress)

The opening session of the 100th Congress is just around the corner, so now is an opportune time to let your member of Congress (MC) know where the League stands on national issues. Your League has been chosen to arrange an interview with the above MC. The interview is a crucial first step toward influencing Congress on the League's national Advocacy Agenda issues -- and it's a good opportunity to discover what's on your representative's agenda. By holding an effective congressional interview, your League can help ensure victories in Congress on the League's top-priority issues.

PURPOSE

The goals of the congressional interviews are threefold:

- \* You will develop your League's relationship with your MC by meeting with him or her.
- \* MCs will learn about top-priority issues that the League will work on in 1987. Particularly new MCs must be told that, in addition to voter service activities, we take action on national issues.
- \* It's a great opportunity to do some initial lobbying on the League's top-priority Advocacy Agenda issues.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

January -- Set up interview and prepare.

Call or write your MC's district office (regional office, for senators) as soon as possible to request an interview. For congressional district interviews, we are asking your League to set up the interview, but, by all means, encourage every local League in your congressional district to participate. Conduct the interview, if possible.

February -- Conduct the interview.

March -- Share interview with your League and submit copies to state and national League offices by MARCH 15.



Three blank interview report forms are attached. Please submit the following copies:

- 1 copy -- local League (for congressional district interviews);
- 1 copy -- state League;
- 1 copy -- LWVUS, attention National Program staff.

You may use the three blank forms or xerox copies, as you prefer. Please send the copies as soon as possible after your interview.

#### MATERIALS

Included in this packet are the following:

- \* Interview questions. These questions reflect the League's top-priority Advocacy Agenda issues for 1987: arms control, welfare reform and clean air. Please use this opportunity to promote the League's effort to focus and become recognized nationally on a few targeted issues by covering them in your interview.

Included with each question are talking points on the issue and some useful background on its recent history. This material is intended to provide you with enough information to carry out a productive interview.

You may wish to use some of the enclosed talking points and background information in your local bulletin to inform your members of the League's positions on top-priority Advocacy Agenda issues.

- \* Tell it to Washington. This booklet will tell you the committee chairs and membership for the just-past 99th Congress, and therefore where returning MCs may have some expertise and interest. The final makeup of the committees for the 100th Congress will not be determined until late February.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you want more information, you might look to the following resources:

- \* The full Advocacy Agenda. See the December 1986 Post-Board Summary.
- \* Copies of Report from the Hill from the past year. These will tell you what happened recently in Congress on the League's priority issues.
- \* Recent National Voters. The September/October 1986 issue offers an update on SDI, "Double Vision: The Changing Face of Star Wars," as well as "Meeting Basic Human Needs: A Dream Deferred," which can be used as background material on welfare reform. The June/July 1986 issue contains a piece on clean air, "A Turning Point for Acid Rain."
- \* Your local League. Check voter service files for news clips and campaign literature relating to your MC's positions and statements.
- \* The Almanac of American Politics provides a brief biography of returning MCs.



\* Impact on Issues, 1986-1988 (LWVUS pub. #386) provides League history and detailed information on all the League's national program positions.

Remember, as a citizen lobbyist you are delivering a political message on the League's issue positions. After stating the League's positions, there is a possibility that questions you are unable to answer will arise. Don't be afraid to say "I don't know" -- such honesty is usually appreciated. In fact, you can turn such a situation to your advantage by later finding that elusive information and writing your MC with the response. Your MC may even come to rely on you as a "source" on the issue in question!

#### KNOWING THE LEAGUE

Be prepared to answer any questions about the League's structure, process, etc. You should know how many League members live in your MC's district or state and be prepared to demonstrate the League's effectiveness in your community with examples. (See "Conducting the Interview," below, for some ideas on how you can use League information to lobby your MC.)

#### CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEW

The goals of the interview are: 1) to establish or further your League's relationship with the MC; 2) to present the issues we will be working on in 1987; and 3) to lobby the MC on top-priority Advocacy Agenda issues.

1. Develop your relationship. First of all, make sure that the MC knows the basic tenets of the League: that we're a nonpartisan, political organization. In the words of Maud Wood Park, first president of the LWV, "To be political without being partisan in a country where the two words are nearly synonymous has always been a delicate undertaking." Make sure your MC understands that, while the League does not support or oppose candidates, we encourage our members to participate in all aspects of the political process and we advocate our positions on issues.

Use this opportunity to promote your League. Make sure your MC knows how many League members are in the congressional district (or state). If the number is high -- say, over 100 -- use this item as part of your lobbying strategy by repeating that you speak on behalf of X number of League members in the district. Finally, let the MC know you are interested in good working relations, and ask what his or her priorities will be in the coming year.

2. Present the League's 1987 Advocacy Agenda. Here's when you should assess how much your MC knows and cares about these issues. If your representative says, for example, "I've never supported that pork barrel, either," when you mention our SDI position, remember that you have an ally when you begin lobbying. Provide some issue background for the questions, if you sense the need. You may also want to outline the League's unique study and consensus process for determining positions. It would be helpful to use a recent example of this process and tie it to an Advocacy Agenda issue (for example, the national security consensus determined our position in opposition to aid for the "contras" in Nicaragua).



3. Lobby for Advocacy Agenda positions. Don't pass up this opportunity to lobby your MC face-to-face! The enclosed talking points outline the messages we want to deliver. The following are some rules of thumb:

- \* DO use your League's strengths -- whether it be number of constituents, community standing, whatever -- to convey your influence. Highlight a recent League campaign that affected your community. Name influential community leaders who belong to the League -- a well respected high-school teacher or lawyer, for example. Even if your MC knows the League well, it does not hurt to remind him or her of your League's accomplishments and respect in the district.
- \* DO keep in mind the representative's status and position on the issues. A newly elected member may need to hear more about the League; a fifth-term MC who has worked with the League may be encouraged to take a leadership role on one of our Advocacy Agenda issues.
- \* DO be aware of and ask about political realities and power. For example, last year a strong House committee chair managed to kill a widely supported acid rain bill by delaying committee action. Votes are sometimes repayment for a favor owed to another MC. Remember power politics in all your lobbying.
- \* DO thank returning MCs for past support of any League position.
- \* DO keep the door open for further discussion even if the MC's attitude is negative.
- \* DON'T overwhelm MCs with too much written material, which they won't have time to read.
- \* DON'T get into protracted arguments. If it's clear your MC will not be persuaded, politely move to another issue.

Of course, you know best what will work with your representative. Don't hesitate to use your knowledge creatively in developing new lobbying approaches! Also, feel free to contact the League grassroots lobbying staff -- Kathy Shulman, Mike Barletta and Renae Lias -- or the League's Lobby Corps if you would like more ideas.

#### REPORTING THE INTERVIEW

Remember to let your League members hear what you've discovered about your MC. Consider writing a piece for your local bulletin and soliciting members' information regarding special interests or friends of the MC. Please remember to respect any "off-the-record" comments provided during the interview. Also, don't forget to forward copies of the report to state and national League offices -- and include your MC's major position statements from the campaign and any personal background information you think we'll find useful (e.g., the MC or his or her spouse is/was a League member, the MC's major campaign contributors, etc.).

Finally, THANKS!!! Your interview begins the process of all League levels working together for congressional wins in 1987!



League of Women Voters of the United States  
1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

## CONGRESSIONAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

### 1. Arms Control/Strategic Defense Initiative

With the failure of the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in Iceland, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) has become the major stumbling block to future nuclear arms control agreements with the Soviet Union.

QUESTION: Would you support legislation to further reduce SDI funding and reaffirm U.S. support for the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in the 100th Congress?

#### TALKING POINTS:

o The League of Women Voters is opposed to the SDI. This year, we would like to see members of Congress work toward overall reductions in SDI spending, below the FY 1987 level of \$3.5 billion. In addition, with the recent U.S. abandonment of the SALT II limits on offensive nuclear weapons, Congress may be the last hope for preserving arms control. The ABM Treaty is the only U.S.-Soviet agreement on strategic weapons that the U.S. is now even tenuously supporting. Current development and testing plans for the SDI threaten to violate the treaty by 1989. Congress should reaffirm U.S. support for the traditional interpretation of the ABM Treaty and limit the SDI accordingly.

o The SDI can no longer be considered a "bargaining chip" or incentive in U.S.-Soviet arms control negotiations. President Reagan had the opportunity at the Iceland meeting to trade 10 years of continued U.S. adherence to the traditional interpretation of the ABM Treaty for historic reductions in offensive nuclear weapons and rejected the opportunity in favor of developing and deploying an SDI system. Regardless of the subsequent debate about what type of offensive weapons were actually agreed upon, or the wisdom of that agreement, it is clear that the opportunity for major reductions existed and was rejected in favor of the SDI.

o Arms control is an integral part of our national security. With weapons of mass destruction deployed by hostile and competitive countries, negotiated arms control agreements provide the best means to reduce tensions, maintain stability, and to eventually reduce or eliminate nuclear weapons.

o The SDI is a technological pork barrel with no clear mission or purpose. Hundreds of millions of dollars are being poured into exotic technologies for the dubious purpose of either deploying a nationwide population defense or missile defenses or both. The technological feasibility of developing a meaningful defense of the population has



already been seriously challenged by leaders of the scientific community. With respect to missile defenses, one only has to ask why we need them. What evidence exists that our present system does not already provide more than adequate deterrence? Perhaps just as importantly, as Gerard Smith, Chief of the U.S. negotiating team for the ABM Treaty, has written, "If we had them (partial defenses), it would surely be at the cost of having to face stronger Soviet offensive power and the prospect of any strategic advantage would be cancelled out."

o The United States cannot afford to abandon arms control. At a time of increasing national deficits and major reductions in domestic programs, the United States cannot afford to abandon arms control and move toward militaristic flights of fancy. The SDI is a dubious and unprovable dream of nuclear defenses that could cost hundreds of billions of real dollars to deploy. Even to continue to move in this direction could easily result in an uncontrollable arms race and heightened international tensions.

#### BACKGROUND:

Since the introduction of the Strategic Defense Initiative in Congress in 1984, funding for ABM research has more than tripled, from \$991 million in FY 1984 to \$3.5 billion in FY 1987. Last year the House of Representatives challenged the need for continued funding increases for the SDI by passing the League-supported Bennett Amendment to the FY 1987 defense authorization bill to freeze funds for the SDI at the previous year's level of \$3.125 billion. Then, by a single vote, the Senate defeated the League-supported Johnston Amendment to cap SDI funding at 3 percent real growth and authorized \$3.9 billion. Both these amendments enjoyed bipartisan support. In conference, under White House pressure during the Iceland summit, Congress split the difference with a 16 percent increase.

The League of Women Voters is opposed to the direction and intent of the SDI. The League supports the ABM Treaty and believes that continued support for the President's SDI program will result in eventual abrogation of the treaty and, possibly, an end to arms control itself. However, we are not opposed to ABM research consistent with the traditional interpretation of the treaty. Prior to the introduction of the SDI, such research was funded at approximately \$1 billion. That amount was sufficient to keep the United States ahead of the Soviet Union on most key ABM technologies. We believe that ABM research should be restored to its pre-SDI purposes, and funding for the SDI should be reduced accordingly.

Last year Congress issued a major challenge to the President on arms control policy, including SDI funding, SALT II compliance and a comprehensive test ban. While we do not expect Congress to dismantle the SDI under this Administration, it is reasonable to expect that Congress will continue to challenge SDI funding requests and reassert the need for arms control as a vital part of our national security policy.



League of Women Voters of the United States  
1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

## 2. Welfare Reform

Reflecting our concern over the increase in poverty in America, the League is presently conducting a study on basic human needs and the roles that the federal government and the private sector, as well as state and local governments, must play in bringing people out of poverty. At the same time, a major debate is shaping up among elected officials and advocates over the future of the welfare system and the need for welfare reform.

QUESTION: What do you see as the role and responsibilities of the federal government in preventing and reducing poverty in the United States?

### TALKING POINTS:

o The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government has responsibility for maintaining a federalized system of income assistance to meet the basic needs of all persons who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available. Federal standards are necessary to correct the inequities that exist in the varying benefit levels among the states. The federal government has the obligation to provide resources to equalize those benefits when the states cannot do so.

o The past five years of budget cutting at the federal level have seriously damaged many programs that serve people living in poverty, including Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), food stamps, medicaid and housing assistance. In 1983, the number of people living below the poverty level was 35.5 million -- 15.3 percent of the population. This was the highest poverty rate since 1965, the year before the War on Poverty began. We are also concerned that so many people living in poverty are women and children. Nearly 90 percent of all AFDC families are headed by women.

o Congress must ensure that federal assistance is adequate to meet basic needs. Benefit levels should be sufficient to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. There should be recognition of the importance of in-kind assistance (i.e., food stamps, housing subsidies, medical aid) in helping to assure that these needs are met. Under revised programs, participants should not have their total benefits reduced.

o Effective job training programs and transitional support services are crucial elements in strengthening programs that provide assistance to people living in poverty. In order to receive training and hold employment, AFDC recipients must be provided access to health care, child care and transportation services. It is critical that those who are attempting to gain self-sufficiency are not penalized by a loss of medicaid benefits, or a lack of child care or transportation services.



## BACKGROUND:

Welfare reform is being touted as the major domestic issue of the 100th Congress. The White House has commissioned two studies on welfare reform, the American Public Welfare Association (the organization that represents state human service administrators) has issued its own comprehensive report, and members of Congress are gearing up for a major welfare reform battle in the 100th Congress. The issue of welfare reform is not a new one for the League, with its long history of support for federal income assistance for persons living below the poverty line. It is particularly timely that the League's study on Meeting Basic Human Needs coincides with current legislative initiatives.

The parameters of the debate have not yet been set, but there are major issues that will inevitably be part of the discussion. The first is the role and responsibilities of the federal government in providing income assistance. Other topics may include the degree of discretion given to states in putting together welfare programs; the use of "welfare to work" programs; and the need for support services such as health care, child care and transportation for the "working poor" and those engaged in training programs. The debate will probably be both philosophical and practical. It is clear that the debate will not have any long-term impact on reducing poverty unless there is a clear commitment on the part of the federal government to commit resources to this attempt to improve the welfare system.

The League has not formulated specific responses on each of the many proposals being floated early in the legislative process. The changing details of legislative proposals will be crucial in gauging their impact. As the legislative process unfolds, the League will be working to ensure that the federal government has overall responsibility for financing basic income assistance programs, for creating uniform eligibility standards, and for assuring that assistance programs are sufficient to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. This does not preclude involvement of state government or the private sector, but places the major responsibility on the federal government.

The first of the two White House reports has been issued in preliminary form. It recommends that individual states be allowed to take money from any of the 59 federal programs that assist people living in poverty (including AFDC, food stamps, housing assistance, medicaid, school lunches, Head Start, legal services and job training) and use this money to set up experimental demonstration welfare programs. Members of both the House and Senate are working on proposals that would increase funding for and strengthen existing income assistance programs, improve job training programs, and increase transitional support services. Additional proposals include massive "welfare service" block grants that would combine all or some of the 59 federal programs in a massive block grant to be administered by the states, "swap" programs that would allow states to choose between 65 federal programs, and "cash out" programs that would directly pay cash to recipients rather than vouchers or in-kind assistance (e.g., food stamps, housing assistance).



League of Women Voters of the United States  
1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

### 3. Clean Air

There are two important air pollution problems that the current Clean Air Act does not adequately address: toxic air pollutants and acid rain.

QUESTION: Would you support legislative initiatives to control toxic air pollutants and acid rain?

#### TALKING POINTS:

o The League of Women Voters supports congressional action to control toxic air pollutants and acid rain. The public health threat posed by toxic chemicals in the air must be addressed. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) long record of failure in controlling air toxics must be reversed. Congress must also act to control the pollutants that cause acid rain and billions of dollars in related damages. Years of inaction and debate over the fine points of an acid rain control program should no longer side-track legislation to stop this crucial environmental problem.

#### Toxic Air Pollution:

o Millions of Americans are exposed to toxic air pollutants. Over 100 million people living in urbanized areas, as well as millions of people who live near chemical plants, oil refineries, smelters, coke ovens and other major sources of toxic pollutants, regularly breathe known or suspected toxic chemicals. People have a greater chance to be exposed to many toxic substances via air pollution than by any other means.

o There are scores of dangerous toxic substances released into the air that are not regulated. These toxic chemicals can cause cancer, birth defects, genetic damage and a variety of acute and chronic diseases. The Environmental Protection Agency has failed to control the release of toxic substances into the air we breathe, setting emission standards for less than ten hazardous air pollutants. Scores of others go unregulated.

#### Acid Rain:

o Billions of dollars in damages are caused by acid rain every year in the eastern United States alone. Acid rain has already caused extensive damage to thousands of lakes and streams; and, many more are seriously at risk if a control program does not begin soon. Recent reports document that many areas throughout the United States are becoming increasingly sensitive to acid rain damage.



o Damages caused by acid rain are not limited to aquatic systems. Acid deposition has been implicated in forest damage and impairment of soil resources. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that \$2 billion in damage is done to buildings and monuments by acid rain every year.

o As the National Academy of Sciences recommends, a 12-million-ton reduction in annual SO<sub>2</sub> emissions is necessary to protect the resources most at risk. The pollutants that cause acid rain must be controlled at their source. The primary sources of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) are electric utilities, industrial boilers and other industrial facilities; most of the acid rain falling in the eastern United States is caused by sulfur dioxide pollution. The primary sources for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) are motor vehicles, electric utilities, and industrial boilers. Overall emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> must be reduced.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Clean Air Act has been a public health success in many important areas. Unfortunately, the regulation of toxic air pollution and the control of acid rain are not among the success stories.

A process for identifying and then regulating toxic air emissions was outlined in the original Clean Air Act. In practice, EPA has failed to implement this part of the law. Of the many known and suspected hazardous air pollutants, EPA has set emission standards for only 7 of these chemicals. Meanwhile most other toxic emissions continue unabated.

Most toxic air pollutants fall into two categories: volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and particulates. Although a bill was introduced in the 99th Congress to address EPA's inaction on the toxic air pollutant problem, it did not receive much attention. Congress must pass legislation mandating EPA to issue tough regulations, based on state-of-the-art technology standards, for VOCs and particulates that would cut emissions of these air toxics.

Acid deposition can occur in a variety of forms: as a gas, a liquid, or a dry particulate. Most commonly occurring as acid rain, it is caused by air pollution resulting from the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels. Emissions of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides are transformed in the atmosphere and fall to earth, often long distances from their point of origin, as acid rain.

In the last few years, Congress has considered various bills setting out various approaches to acid rain control. In 1986, a compromise acid rain proposal was supported by a bipartisan group of over 170 members of the House, the largest number of House members to ever support an acid rain bill.

The debate in Congress has matured to a discussion of how to pay for a needed control program not whether or not there is a serious acid rain problem. Although considerations of the cost of controls are relevant, Congress should not allow these concerns to stall the enactment of an acid rain control program any longer.



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Washington, D.C. 20036

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\_\_\_\_ Local League Files

REPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL INTERVIEW  
(Confidential)

MEMBER OF CONGRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Congressional District \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Party \_\_\_\_\_

Responses of MC to questions and talking points on the League's 1987  
top-priority Advocacy Agenda issues:

Arms Control/SDI: \_\_\_\_\_

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Welfare Reform: \_\_\_\_\_

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Clean Air: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Attach another page, if necessary.)





Other legislative interests raised by MC (if any):

As a result of the interview, how do you think your League can best influence your member of Congress on our top-priority issues?

Individuals and/or organizations to whom the MC is particularly responsive?

Format of interview (location, League members involved, length of interview, etc.)

Signed

Representing the League of Women Voters of

(address)

FOR CONGRESSIONAL FILE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

NOT FOR PUBLICATION



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Clean Air: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Representing the League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(address)  
\_\_\_\_\_

FOR CONGRESSIONAL FILE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

NOT FOR PUBLICATION



Public Opinion telegram to Rep. Robert Saunders, Chairman of  
House Environmental Affairs Cmtte:

Delegates to the League of Women

8/2.70

Voters 1987 state Convention express  
support of HB 210, container deposit  
for Texas. This bill will promote  
recycling, reduce litter clean-up costs,  
and improve the tourist experience.  
Act quickly to move HB 210 favorably  
out of your committee.

W.U. 1-800-~~982-27~~  
527-5114



# BILL ANALYSIS FORM

Bill Number \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Companion Bill and Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Committee Referred to \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Summary (the summary is what appears in the newsletter; you can include bill's provisions, extent to which it implements or negates League positions, likelihood of passage, legislative history, League action on similar legislation):

32  
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32



approx.  
15.00

## Public Opinion telegram

Telegram to Governor Clements:

Members of the League of Women Voters of Texas, meeting in convention in Ft. Worth, voted unanimously to express strong objections to the cuts in state services which will be required under your proposed \$36.9 billion budget. We urge you to explore new revenue sources including increased taxes and a broadened tax base to support current needs of the state.

DEAR  
GOV.  
CLEMENTS:

12.75-  
15.00

63  
OPERATOR  
715





Members include lawyers, media people, and educators. A hotline (214) 977-6651, is answered 24 hours a day. Attorneys expert in the Freedom of Information law will give free advice on specific problems of open meetings and open records and will if necessary go to court to get enforcement of the law.

A bill to enlarge the Freedom of Information Act has passed the Texas Senate and is now in the House to allow video cameras in meetings of bodies covered by the law (in the executive and legislative branches of government; the judiciary is not covered under the Act).

#### ACTION MOTIONS

The following Action Motions were approved by Delegates to the Convention at the Second Plenary Session Saturday afternoon:

#111 Carolyn Ciepiela--LWV/Richardson

I move that the League of Women Voters of Texas take the following actions concerning the financing of State Government:

- ✓ 1. Send a telegram to the Governor expressing the League's strong objection to the cuts in State services which will be required under his \$36.9 billion proposed budget, and urging him to explore new sources of revenue including increased taxes and a broadened tax base to support the current needs of the State of Texas.
- ✓ 2. Ask each local League to contact its legislator(s) on Saturday or Sunday encouraging him/her to vote for the appropriations bill as it came out of committee with no cuts. (Deadline to call: 10:00 a.m. Monday.)

#114 Laura Gooch--LWV/Tarrant County

I move that the delegates send the following telegram to Speaker of the House Jim Wright:

Delegates to the League of Women Voters of Texas State Convention in Fort Worth appreciate your successful efforts to pass legislation requiring adherence to SALT II. Please continue your work on arms control by reaffirming the traditional interpretation of the ABM treaty, holding SDI funding below last year's \$3.5 billion, and extending the moratorium on ASAT testing. Thank you.

#126 Barbara Ann Hudson--LWV/Austin Area

We believe consolidation of election dates and polling places as well as strict enforcement of the State Election Code, which mandates uniform training for election judges, should be a legislative priority of the LWV/Texas. The first priority for motivating voters to exercise their constitutional right at the polls is to adhere to a calendar of consolidated election dates and polling places. LWV/Texas currently has positions which address these concerns. In 1988, with the Super Tuesday Presidential Primary plus numerous local elections, voters in some areas could be facing monthly visits to their polls. With almost monthly elections, the voter not only becomes uninterested, the cost to units of government running the elections becomes a tremendous drain. Additionally, it permits manipulation of election results. Support of this action request reaffirms the LWV goal of promoting voter participation in the election process.

*Public  
Opinion  
newsletter  
12.70*



TO: HCMI Chairs/LL Pres.; DPM

FROM: Sally Coughlin, HCMI Dir., LWV-Tx.  
208 Village Circle, San Antonio,  
512/494-6213 78232

LWV-Texas

August 1986

LL Pres. Mailing; DPM

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SP/HR - Health Care

Enough free copies of the enclosed John Hancock Newsletter, "National Debate on Health Care: Shaping America's Health Policy," became available for us to be able to send one to each local League president (NOT ON DPM).

These booklets are arriving as committees begin in earnest the League's statewide study of Health Care for the Medically Indigent.

The publication is an excellent summary of the debate, and supplies information about additional topics that impact indigent health care. It should be a useful and enjoyable resource for HCMI committees.

# # #

®





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EL PASO  
EL PASO, TEXAS

Letters to Congressmen  
March 7, 1985  
from L.W.V.  
MAR 11 1985

Copy to B.M.C.

The Honorable Ronald Coleman  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The League of Women Voters of El Paso urge your support and cosponsorship of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985, S431.

Your immediate support is needed for decisive action in reversing the impact of the Grove City court decision. We are sure you agree that the federal government should not be subsidizing institutions that discriminate.

The League believes S431 is a much better response to Grove City than the Boll bill, S272. S272 does not specifically ban support to institutions that discriminate in many areas other than education (i.e. health, housing, social services, transportation) and for technical reasons the Boll bill could actually codify the Grove City decision limiting coverage to specific departments of educational institutions.

Sincerely yours,  
Marilyn Pittgers  
President  
LWV of El Paso  
10105 Monaco Dr.  
El Paso, Texas 79925



March 5, 1985



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EL PASO  
EL PASO, TEXAS

MAR 13 1985

The Honorable Phil Gramm  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gramm:

The League of Women Voters of El Paso  
urge you to vote against the FY '85  
procurement of 21 new MX missiles.

The League believes the MX is a  
vulnerable and destabilizing weapons  
system whose continued production  
is extremely wasteful.

The cost of the recommended MX pro-  
gram would be prohibitive in the  
face of our deficit, but more important  
the system does not meet the litmus  
test of advancing our national  
security.

Copies to:  
Senator Lloyd Bentsen  
Rep. Ronald Coleman

Sincerely yours,  
Natalie Kittgers  
President  
LWV of El Paso  
10105 Monaco Dr.  
El Paso, Texas 79925