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BY HAND

January 27, 1983

Hon. Edwin Meese, III; Hon. James A. Baker, III; Hon. Michael K. Deaver
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ed-Jim-Mike:

I had one interest when Tom and I first brought Rupert Murdoch and Governor Reagan together - and that was that at least one major publisher in this country (New York Post - over one million, third largest and largest afternoon; New York Magazine; Village Voice; San Antonio Express; Houston Ring papers; now the Boston Herald; and internationally influential London Times, etc.) would become and remain pro-Reagan.

Mr. Murdoch has performed to the limit up through and including today. I enclose the editorials from the three New York papers so you can see how the Daily News and New York Times blasted the President's speech and how Murdoch's New York Post gave its whole editorial columns to high praise for it.

After his warm meeting with the President and the goodwill created by Charlie Wick's dinner, Mr. Murdoch began to feel a little better about the consistent slights that have been dealt to Niles Lathem, the head of the News Media (Murdoch) Bureau in Washington, while the Reagan haters on TV and in the media have the run of the place.

When Mr. Murdoch learned the President was going to be in Boston yesterday, he offered to turn the Boston Herald over to him. The Boston Herald was saved by cooperation among the unions, the working men and Mr. Murdoch within an hour of its being closed down and the men and women there going on unemployment roles. The Herald was prepared to give credit

M. Meese
pls do

✓
Mike
Why don't we have

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someone draft -
response from
the 3 of us.

Can you
arrange ? Thank
you

January 27, 1982

Saxe, Bacon & Bolan, P.C.

Page Two

to the President's private sector guidelines for this and a lot more. It suggested a ten minute visit to the paper OR a brief interview in the car on the way to the airport or back, which would then become headlines and stories in the Boston Herald. The only other paper in town is the Globe, which of course is violently anti-Reagan.

I telephoned Rich Williamson, who is always totally cooperative and sensible in these matters. Mr. Murdoch himself placed calls to Michael Deaver and to a Mr. Michael McManus, none of which were ever returned to him. One of his editors at the Boston Herald was told that the President "had no time for them."

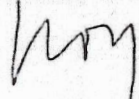
Mr. Murdoch has been deeply disturbed at what he regards as a failure to stand by some basics in the President's original program, which he believes to be correct. His advice is consistently sought by Mrs. Thatcher and Prime Minister Fraser of Australia, in both of which countries he owns extensive media interests. he is not the kind who is offended when his advice is not taken but he does appreciate being treated courteously and having at least the same courtesies extended to his Washington reporters as seem to be heaped upon the opposition.

He is hurt at the way the Boston matter was handled and there is just so much that Tom and I can do.

Because I believe that the total support and loyalty of at least one major publishing chain in this nation is of key importance to the President, and because of our admiration and affection for the President, I thought I would be less than forthright if I did not bring this situation to the attention of the three of you.

I know how hectic things are there but if there is time for the enemy there must be just a little time for at least a thoughtful handling of a friend - unlike what happened in Boston.

Sincerely,



Roy M. Cohn

/sb

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 4, 1983

Reading File
2/4
MOT

Dear Roy:

Ed, Jim and Mike have asked me to thank you for your letter of January 27 and to respond on their behalf.

As I mentioned to you during our phone conversation, we were all sorry about the confusion surrounding a possible Presidential visit to the Boston Herald. We are all aware of the very positive nature of such a visit. Unfortunately the request came in after the visit had been planned and the President's schedule was full. I did personally speak with Robert Page an editor of the paper three times before the visit and explained the circumstances to him. He seemed to understand the situation and thanked me for trying to help.

I also called Mr. Murdoch as you suggested, explained the situation to him and apologized for any confusion.

I am sure you are aware of our continued high regard for Mr. Murdoch personally and our appreciation of the importance of what he is doing.

Again, thank you for bringing the matter to our attention.

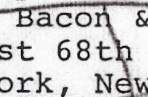
If I can be of any help in the future please let me know.

Sincerely,



Michael A. McManus, Jr.
Deputy Assistant to
the President

Mr. Roy M. Cohn
Saxe, Bacon & Bolan, P.C.
39 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 2/4/83

TO:

Jim Baker

FROM:

Michael A. McManus, Jr.
*Deputy Assistant to the President
and Deputy to Deputy Chief of Staff*

Information

Action

Let's Discuss

and for your files