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JGR/BICENTENNIAL OF THE CONSTITUTION (1)

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DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions	
1	MEMO	ROBERTS TO FRED FIELDING (PARTIAL)	1	9/13/1984	B6	1208

COPY - Reagan Presidential Record

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

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 13, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: Request From [REDACTED] For President Reagan to Sign a Diploma in Connection With the Bicentennial of the Constitution

b6

You have corresponded in the past with [REDACTED] a citizen gadfly who devises various schemes to promote the Bicentennial of the Constitution. Most recently, on June 20, you wrote [REDACTED] responding to [REDACTED] concerns over the delay in appointing members to the Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution. [REDACTED] replied a month later to ask the President to endorse [REDACTED] latest brainstorm, a "Diploma of Voter Status" program "designed to cloak in majesty Youths' entry to political power at age 18." [REDACTED] wants the President to sign an enclosed "diploma," to be awarded to students when they reach age 18 and become eligible to vote.

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I do not think the President should sign the diploma or otherwise specifically endorse [REDACTED] project. On the merits, [REDACTED] idea does not strike me as particularly inspired. In any event, it seems advisable generally to limit the President's involvement in Bicentennial commemorations to those of an official nature. We really know nothing about [REDACTED] or to what use [REDACTED] might put the President's signature on [REDACTED] diploma or the President's endorsement of [REDACTED] scheme.

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In addition, Congress established the Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution to "plan and develop activities appropriate to commemorate the bicentennial of the Constitution, including a limited number of projects undertaken by the Federal Government." Section 6(a)(1), Public Law 98-101, 97 Stat. 721 (1983). It would seem more in keeping with the spirit of this statute to await guidance from the Commission before endorsing specific projects to commemorate the Bicentennial. (Of course, we have yet to appoint the members of the Commission, but that is another story.) A draft reply to [REDACTED] is attached.

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Attachment

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