

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
OVERSIGHT AND THE ECONOMY
EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AND
SPECIAL SMALL BUSINESS PROBLEMS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE
HOUSING AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE
HUMAN SERVICES

REPUBLICAN RESEARCH COMMITTEE
TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY



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

January 10, 1984

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
319 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5755

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1100 CLEVELAND STREET, SUITE 1103
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33515
(813) 441-3721

608 WEST GULF DRIVE, SUITE 5
NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA 33552
(813) 847-1022

408 WEST RENFRO STREET
SUITE 107F
PLANT CITY, FLORIDA 33566
HOURS: MON., WED., FRI.—10-2
(813) 752-9280

Mr. Robert F. Watts
Founder
Project America
415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566

Dear Mr. Watts:

Thank you for your letter of November 11th.

I apologize for the long delay in my reply. The crush of legislative business toward the end of the 1st Session of the 98th Congress was great, and did not allow me to respond to all of my constituents as quickly as I would like to.

I appreciate your comments in support of the present Administration and its policies, and agree with many of your general points on the character of Americans and the dilemmas which currently face us. I also share your shock and revulsion over the Korean plane incident. I believe it was an exceedingly cowardly and brutal act which cannot be forgotten as we continue our dealings with the Soviet Union.

With regard to your central point, that is, the need for unity in this country, I believe you are correct in your assertion that such unity is needed and would provide a powerful force in our national and international affairs. There is no doubt that if all America worked toward common goals, we would gain strength as a nation.

The essential problem, however, is that our very freedom -- which is the source of our strength -- can also be the source of our division. The free market and a lack of restraint on the individual helped build this country. Free inquiry and education helped mold our society and our leaders. But as we remain free, we remain free not only to support our government, but to dissent from its policies. I think it can be fairly said that without the freedom to criticize and differ, there can be no effective freedom to support, nor gather in a great unity of purpose of the magnitude which you propose.

Mr. Watts

Page 2

In more concrete terms, I would also like to see our leaders united behind common goals and tackle the serious issues of national defense and the future direction of our economy. And, in fact, I believe there has been a limited degree of movement in this direction. The success of the bipartisan Social Security Commission and the Scowcroft Commission on the M-X indicate that it is possible for the government to move forward on some controversial issues.

However, in realistic terms, I believe we will continue to engage in the politics of division unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Quite frankly, 1984 is an election year; a year in which the two parties and outside candidates normally engage in strenuous debate and competition.

Altogether, I believe it can be said that our country benefits from the diversity of its society, yet suffers, as you point out, when different elements cannot sacrifice some of their personal interests for the common good. If we can be united, I believe it will be through the force of example, or through the exigencies of the moment. That is, I believe our country can be united through the force of leadership and the examples set by our elected representatives, or through outside forces beyond our control which threaten our security and national interests and demand concerted action. I certainly prefer the former, but can offer no precise mechanism to avoid the latter.

Once again, thank you for your letter. Again, please excuse the delay in my reply, and please keep me informed of your views.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Bilirakis", written in a cursive style.

Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress

MB;rjm

PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

Congressman (R)

M. Bilirakis

Washington, D.C.

November 11, 1983

Dear Mike,

The strength of any nation is a product of unity on the part of the grass roots people and the government of that nation working in close concert, one with the other, sharing a common goal. In order for this to be effective there must be mutual trust and respect in evidence at all times and demonstrated upon request to the point of reason, by either party. I believe that America once possessed that magic formula. This is the express reason that she became so great a nation in such a relatively short span of time.

Having made this point and to give you a general idea of the purpose of my letter I will now try to be more specific. We as Americans, are a race of people who if called upon would participate in any sensible program or project designed to strengthen our country and assure us and our children of continued freedom and liberties. There has never been a more opportune time, nor has there ever been a time of greater necessity for us to get together. As I see it our very existence depends upon it. Our people are the most resourceful, most educated, and above all the most patriotic people on earth. We have the most of everything, both material and spiritual, therefore we stand to lose the most. Everyone is aware of these facts. The problem seems to be that there is too much disharmony among our leaders. Their pride has blinded them to the point that they have lost sight of the number one priority that they were elected and sworn to oath to do, and that is to make every known effort to put America, and what she stands for

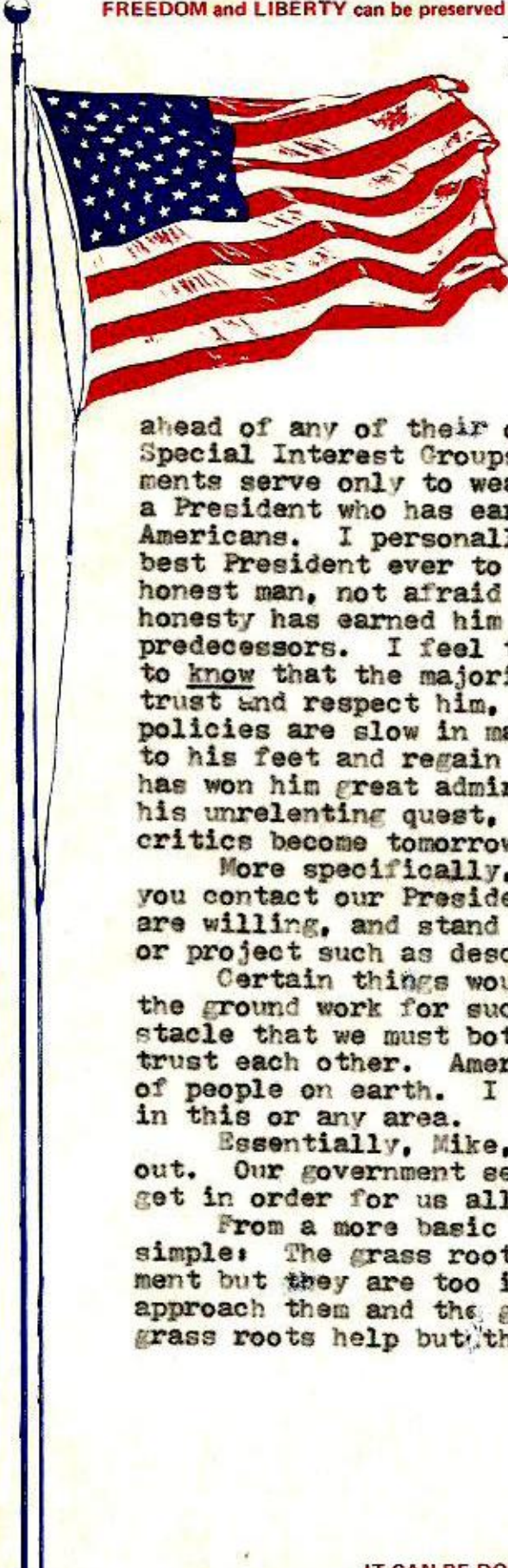
PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

2



ahead of any of their own interests, or interests of any Special Interest Groups, etc. Their constant disagreements serve only to weaken our country. We finally have a President who has earned the moral support of most Americans. I personally believe Ronald Reagan to be the best President ever to occupy the White House. He is an honest man, not afraid to follow his convictions. This honesty has earned him greater respect than any of his predecessors. I feel that it is important for Mr. Reagan to know that the majority of the American people, do indeed trust and respect him, even when it appears that some of his policies are slow in materializing. His ability to struggle to his feet and regain composure in the eyes of adversity has won him great admiration from even his critics. In his unrelenting quest, for what he believes in, today's critics become tomorrow's supporters.

More specifically, Mike, I'm proposing to you that you contact our President and let him know that Americans are willing, and stand ready to participate in any program or project such as described earlier in this letter.

Certain things would have to be done in order to lay the ground work for such ventures. I feel that the main obstacle that we must both overcome is our unwillingness to trust each other. Americans are the most forgiving race of people on earth. I don't foresee any unsolvable problems in this or any area.

Essentially, Mike, our options have just about run out. Our government seems to need as much help as it can get in order for us all to survive the threat of the Soviets'.

From a more basic perspective it all seems fairly simple: The grass roots people want to help their government but they are too ignorant to know how to properly approach them and the government desperately needs the grass roots help but they are too proud to ask for it.

IT CAN BE DONE, IT MUST BE DONE, IT WILL BE DONE

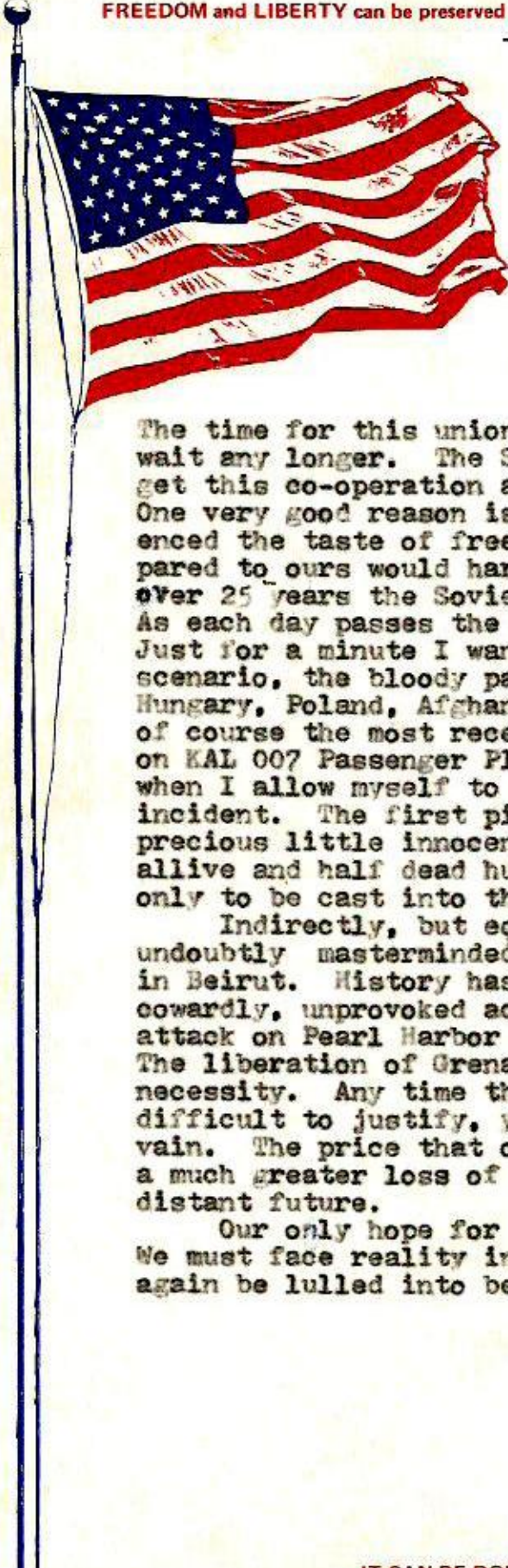
PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

3



The time for this union is now. We cannot afford to wait any longer. The Soviet government could never get this co-operation and support from it's people. One very good reason is that they have never experienced the taste of freedom. Their way of life as compared to ours would hardly be worth fighting for. For over 25 years the Soviets have been planning our demise. As each day passes the show down becomes more inevitable.. Just for a minute I want you to envision, in a realistic scenario, the bloody path that they have chartered. Hungary, Poland, Afghanistan, just to name a few, and of course the most recent, their bold and brutal attack on KAL 007 Passenger Plane. It brings tears to my eyes when I allow myself to picture the true horror of this incident. The first picture that I always see is those precious little innocent children being blown apart, half alive and half dead hurtling through the freezing air only to be cast into the sea and eaten by the sharks.

Indirectly, but equally responsible, the Soviets undoubtedly masterminded the vicious attack on our marines in Beirut. History has seldom ever recorded a more cowardly, unprovoked act against humanity. Even the attack on Pearl Harbor couldn't match this heinous deed. The liberation of Grenada was indeed an act borne of necessity. Any time that human life is lost it becomes difficult to justify, yet these sacrifices were not in vain. The price that our men paid served to circumvent a much greater loss of life and freedom in the not too distant future.

Our only hope for survival and freedom is unity. We must face reality in recognizing our enemy and never again be lulled into believing that we can co-exist

IT CAN BE DONE, IT MUST BE DONE, IT WILL BE DONE

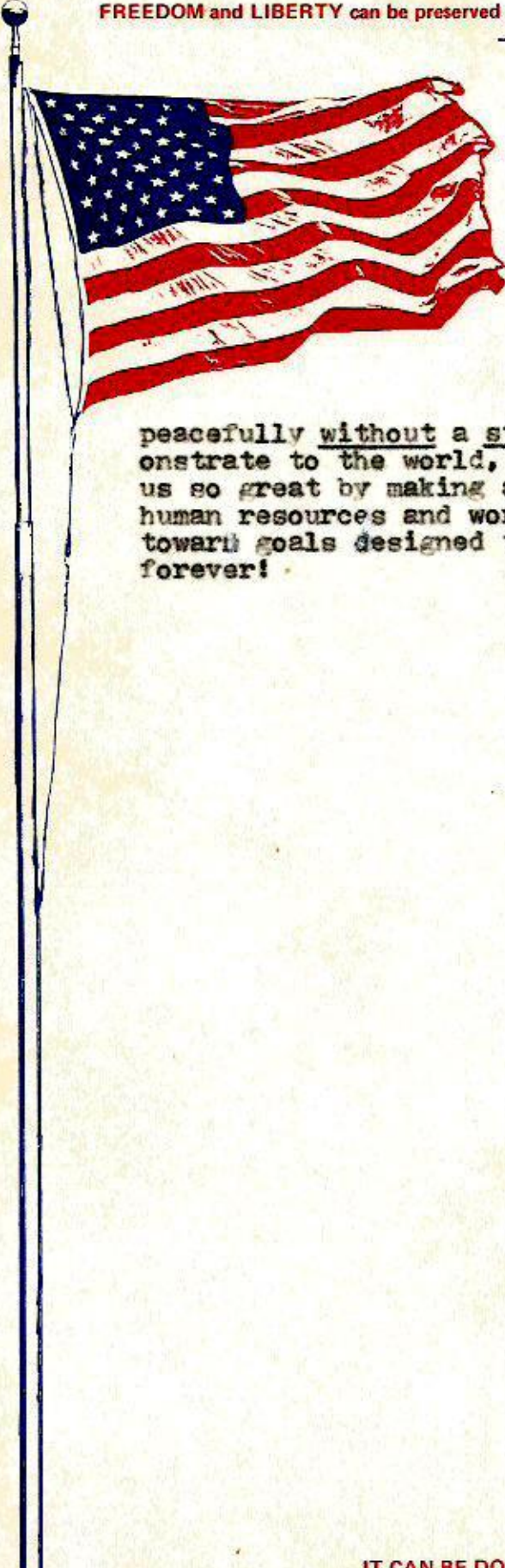
PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

4



peacefully without a strong America. Why can't we demonstrate to the world, once again, the unity that made us so great by making a supreme effort to combine our human resources and work in concert, one with the other, toward goals designed to guarantee a stronger America, forever!

Sincerely,



Robert F. Watts

IT CAN BE DONE, IT MUST BE DONE, IT WILL BE DONE

PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

November 14, 1983

Dear President Reagan:

Enclosed please find individual copies of 4 letters. Three were sent to Great Britain, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Canada, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and France, President F. Mitterand, respectively. The fourth was sent to my Congressman, Michael Bilirakis. It is self explanatory.

In reference to the first 3 letters, their contents are a reflection of my feelings in regards to the many distasteful and injurious remarks directed toward the United States immediately following the liberation of Grenada. These premature and erroneous remarks were too much! My feelings have long been held captive, the prisoners of profound frustration that increases each time that I hear the unjustified criticism of America but it is especially intensified when this criticism comes from our allies. I decided that the time had come to liberate those pent-up frustrations by putting them in the form of a letter and returning them to their original source. I wouldn't say that this method would be "fighting fire with fire" but I'm sure that they'll smell the smoke.

The time has come for America to assert herself by minimizing the diplomacy and placing more emphasis upon "straight talk", removing all doubt to both our allies and enemies alike, by projecting a clear picture of where we stand in regards to our overall security and future. Not only where we stand on these issues but more importantly how tall we stand when we choose to get up off our duff's and straighten up! This country can rally her sometime dormant but never absent resources to not only regain the superiority that we once enjoyed but clearly surpass that position.

PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

2

A word about Project America.

It is difficult to describe exactly what constitutes a clear description of Project America but I'll make an effort to depict a scenario that will at least provide you with a general idea. At present I have not solicited for membership therefore at this point I am the sole member. I'm presently in the process of carefully articulating the formulation of ideas and goals in order for prospective members to understand what we represent.

I believe that it would be appropriate to say that Project America advocates a much closer working relationship to be established between the citizens of America and our government. A liasion consistent of sincere and dedicated people who have the intelligence to analyze our problems, agree upon their significance on our society and to possess the perseverance necessary to implement the proper resolutions.

Some major issues that Project America supports, on a basis of priority, are the need for a stronger national defense plus the need for America to take a stronger stand in the stopping and regressing of Communism. These are the 2 major threats to not only our society but our very existence. Restoration of prayer in public schools, on an optional basis, allowing the majority to remain in the classrooms while the minority seek other facilities, such as the hall or auditorium. The implementation of an all out war on drugs, utilizing programs designed by the government and effectuated by citizens and law enforcement agencies on all levels. The formulation and adoption of more specific laws designed to ~~cracked~~ crack down hard on drug traffickers and pushers, with no hope for probation or parole.

I see a genuine need for the reestablishment of trust and respect to be restored between government and grass-roots factions. Certain concessions on each side could accomplish this initially, at least to an acceptable degree.

IT CAN BE DONE, IT MUST BE DONE, IT WILL BE DONE

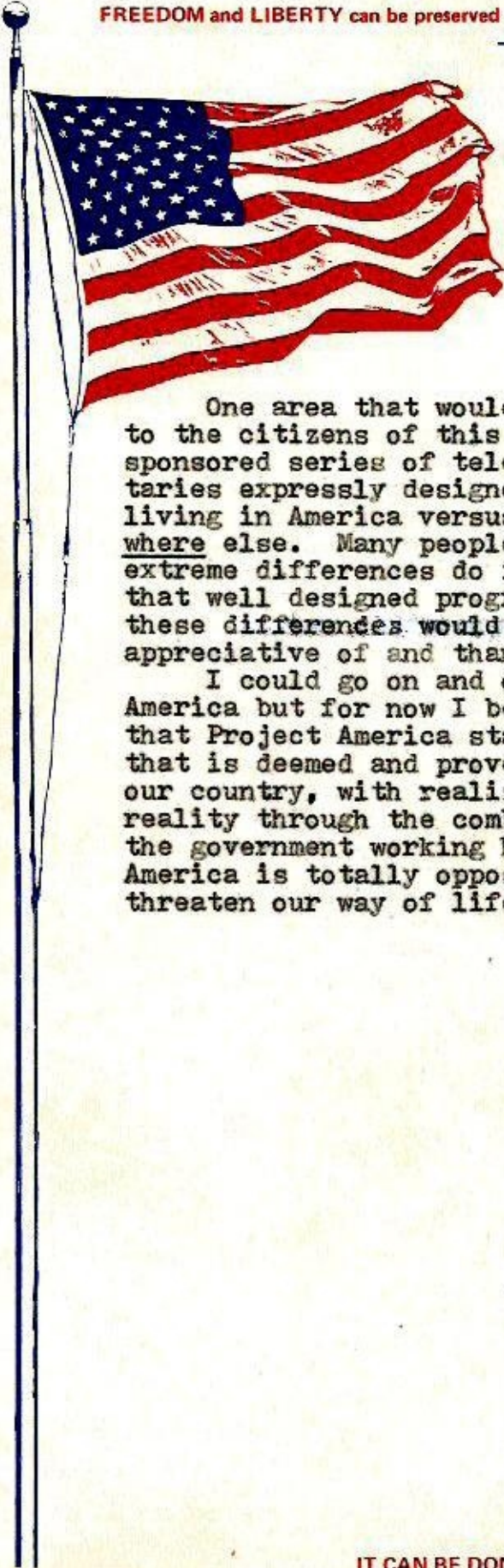
PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

3



One area that would certainly be a tremendous help to the citizens of this country would be a government sponsored series of television documentaries and commentaries expressly designed to depict the advantages of living in America versus the disadvantages of living anywhere else. Many people actually don't know that these extreme differences do in fact exist. I sincerely believe that well designed programs of this nature that exemplify these differences would tend to make Americans more appreciative of and thankful for their country.

I could go on and on in an effort to clarify Project America but for now I believe that it will suffice to say that Project America stands for anything and everything that is deemed and proven to be in the best interests of our country, with realization of these goals becoming a reality through the combined efforts of the citizens and the government working hand-in-hand; furthermore Project America is totally opposed to those things that prove to threaten our way of life.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Watts

IT CAN BE DONE, IT MUST BE DONE, IT WILL BE DONE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Handwritten: Madeleine
Handwritten: Gs

Handwritten: Michael Bilirakis
M.C.

Handwritten: December 05, 1984

Handwritten: (Signature)

Mr. Robert Watts
2046 Pleasant Acres Dr.
Plant City, Florida 33566

Dear Mr. Watts:

Handwritten: [Illegible]

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
OVERSIGHT AND THE ECONOMY
EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AND
SPECIAL SMALL BUSINESS PROBLEMS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE
HOUSING AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE
HUMAN SERVICES

REPUBLICAN RESEARCH COMMITTEE
TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY



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

December 5, 1984

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
315 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5755

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1100 CLEVELAND STREET, SUITE 1103
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33615
(813) 441-3721

808 WEST GULF DRIVE, SUITE 5
NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA 33852
(813) 847-1022

408 WEST RENFRO STREET
SUITE 107F
PLANT CITY, FLORIDA 33566
HOURS: MON., WED., FRI.—10-2
(813) 752-8280

Mr. Robert Watts
2046 Pleasant Acres Dr.
Plant City, Florida 33566

Dear Mr. Watts:

Thank you for forwarding the petition relative to your strong support for the continuation of Social Security and Medicare.

When the Social Security Amendments came before the House of Representatives, I voted for passage of this legislation. There were provisions in the bill with which I disagreed, i.e., taxation of Social Security benefits and delay of the July 1 cost of living adjustment; however, under the parliamentary rules of the House, we could only vote for or against the bill as a whole without amendment. I felt it mandatory that immediate steps be taken to ensure the financial stability of Social Security and to restore the public's confidence in this vital system; thus, I supported passage.

As you are probably aware, the Congress has adjourned until next year. I want to assure you that I realize the importance of medicare and any legislation which comes to the floor of the House on this matter will have my closest attention.

I have held many town meetings and hosted a number of hearings of the House Committee on Aging in the Ninth District since being sworn into the Congress on issues of importance to senior citizens. I am acutely aware of the importance of both Social Security and Medicare to the folks who reside in our area. These concerns are foremost in my mind and will not be forgotten.

Warmest regards and thank you for forwarding the petition.

Sincerely yours,

Mike

Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress

MB/rjm

PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

February 13, 1984

Congressman Michael Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Mike:

There are certain issues that must be addressed regarding both the farmers and migrant workers of our country. In particular, the issue of the allocation and dispersal of funds that have been specifically earmarked as "Emergency Funds", set aside for the express purpose of helping the farmer and the worker to recover from miscellaneous types of severe crop damage such as the December freeze here in Florida. First, the farmer and the helper must be treated equally since one without the other equates out as nothing. They should be perceived as a package deal and treated accordingly. After properly determining that any incident does qualify as an emergency it should then be handled as such. The necessary provisions, having been made sufficiently in advance of the emergency, should immediately follow enabling the farmer and worker to suffer the least amount of lost time possible. Any time that the farmer is inhibited, for any reason, the overall loss is shared by the entire country. If the government is going to extend low interest loans to the farmer they should, as an action deemed to be in their own best interests, expedite the loan while it can still be used effectively, and not prolong the issue to the point that it proves to be too late to salvage the damage. This failure to provide immediate assistance to the farmer has an even more devastating effect on the migrant worker. When the farmer can no longer afford to farm, as the result of insufficient funding, the migrant worker is idled. The choice of jobs for migrants in any community, even during good economic times, are few due to language barriers and the lack of proper qualifications required for most jobs. As a result of the December freeze wide spread hardships have befallen the migrants. Promised assistance in the form of emergency funds have been, to this date, non-existent. Yet, even if the assistance did come through, all at once, it would compute out to be approximately \$11.00 per person on a one time basis. Many haven't worked in seven weeks, therefore have no income. Evictions, repossessions, disruption of utilities and many other inconveniences have become common practice.

PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566
Phone: (813) 752-7310
(813) 752-1717

2



Hospitals refuse to admit their sick because they have no collateral. There is an acute lack of food, blankets and other essentials necessary to life. The most optimistic prediction for the new crops to bear is from 3 to 4 weeks. Most migrants are indebted so deeply that the money earned on the new crops will have to be used to repay their debts. When the harvest period ends here many won't be able to leave due to lack of funds and the loss of their vehicles, due to repossession. This will have an adverse effect across the whole nation. I feel that this entire dilemma could have been prevented had someone been monitoring the situation properly and anticipated a possible emergency such as has happened and will no doubt happen again. We speak of allocations, grants, federal funding, etc., in the billions of dollars for possible long range interests such as the 8 billion dollars being considered for El Salvador. These are investments that promise no guarantee. I have no problem accepting these decisions. I believe that for the most part they are necessary and will, in the end, prove to be made in our own best interests. However, I do have a difficult time understanding why our government wastes so much vital time before appropriately responding to the critical needs of any vital interest of this country, but especially when those needs become a catalyst for human suffering and unnecessary hardships. I believe it would be fair to say that farming has proven its' self to qualify as a most vital interest. Let us remove the binoculars of long term interests for the time being and deal with the more immediate and more important problem that chose to prevail its' self upon us by the implementation and expedition of funding programs designed to meet these crucial needs. To alleviate our present crisis the key words are "extreme urgency".

Thank you,

Bobby Watts

IT CAN BE DONE, IT MUST BE DONE, IT WILL BE DONE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Michael Bilandzich

M.C.

Mr. Robert F. Watts
415 South Collins Street
Plant City, FL 33566

MARCH 08,

4865

23

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be addressed. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
OVERSIGHT AND THE ECONOMY
EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AND
SPECIAL SMALL BUSINESS PROBLEMS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE
HOUSING AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE
HUMAN SERVICES

REPUBLICAN RESEARCH COMMITTEE
TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
March 8, 1984

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
318 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5755

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1100 CLEVELAND STREET, SUITE 1103
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33515
(813) 441-3721

808 WEST GULF DRIVE, SUITE 5
NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA 33552
(813) 847-1022

408 WEST RENFRO STREET
SUITE 107F
PLANT CITY, FLORIDA 33566
HOURS: MON., WED., FRI.—10-2
(813) 752-9280

Mr. Robert F. Watts
415 South Collins Street
Plant City, FL 33566

Dear Mr. Watts:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concern over the plight of migrant farm workers as a result of the unemployment caused by the Christmas weekend freeze.

I certainly understand and share your concern. The Governor's office and state and local agencies throughout Florida have worked very hard to assist these unemployed workers and to make emergency resources and services available to them. I have enclosed a summary of the actions that had been taken up to February 21 and more recent communications I have had with the State have assured me that these efforts have continued.

Thusfar, the Governor has not requested a Presidential disaster declaration, which would make federal unemployment assistance funds available to qualified unemployed workers. The reason for this is because thusfar, Florida's situation does not meet the requirements for such a designation. The available statistics do not indicate a large pool of workers who are unemployed and ineligible for state assistance, as was the case in Texas after the freeze. You may be sure, however, that I will lend my support to a request from the Governor should the collected data indicate that Florida meets the requirements for a Presidential disaster declaration. I am keeping in touch with the State on this matter.

I want to clarify that the emergency assistance from the Farmers Home Administration that has become available is not an outright gift or "handout." The assistance is in the form of low interest loans for which farmers, who have invested great sums of money in their farming operations, must qualify and which they must pay back over time. I was pleased to have played a part in securing the timely announcement of disaster assistance for Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

Please be assured that I am following this situation closely and

Mr. Robert F. Watts

March 8, 1984

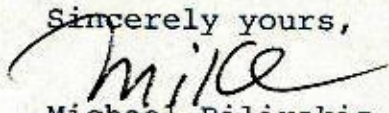
Page 2

that the information I have indicates that all that can be done is being done.

I appreciate having the benefit of your views.

Warm regards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike", written over the printed name.

Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress

MB/lb
Enclosure