

Feb. 8 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

The President. Look, I'd prefer not to take any questions at essentially this photo opportunity.

You're talking a very great interest in Jordan, and Mr. Fitzwater gave our views on that. But there is quite some concern now about what appears to be a shift in the Jordanian position. And yet, we're concerned about it and don't understand some of the rhetoric coming out of there. On the other hand, we've always had a historically good relationship with Jordan. But this complicates things.

Jim Baker testified on that yesterday very well and pointed out that we're having to

review our aid picture with him, given the fact they've seemed to have moved over, way over into the Saddam Hussein camp totally.

Note: The exchange began at 1:34 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House, prior to a meeting with Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella of Argentina. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Marlin Fitzwater, Press Secretary to the President; Secretary of State James A. Baker III; King Hussein I of Jordan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Memorandum on the Presidential Design Awards Program

February 8, 1991

Memorandum for the Heads of Departments and Agencies

Every year the Federal Government helps design products that become a part of daily American life. Professional designers working for Federal departments and agencies are instrumental in the production of everything from postage stamps to highways. Our Nation has good reason to take pride in the high standards of quality and innovation these designers have set.

For almost two decades the National Endowment for the Arts has helped to promote design excellence through the Federal Design Improvement Program, and I am delighted to further those efforts by announcing today Round Three of the Presidential Design Awards. These awards, first established in 1983, publicly recognize ex-

emplary achievements in Federal design work and honor those individuals in Federal service and private industry who have pursued excellence in design.

I have asked Chairman John Frohnmayer of the National Endowment for the Arts to implement the Presidential Design Awards Program. I know he will enjoy your full and enthusiastic support. Please designate an individual with an appropriate background and position to be your liaison with the Endowment to help ensure the success of this program.

GEORGE BUSH

Note: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Nomination of Ira H. Raphaelson To Be a Special Counsel at the Department of Justice

February 8, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate Ira H. Raphaelson, of Illinois, to be Special Counsel for the Financial

Institutions Fraud Unit at the Department of Justice. This is a new position.

Currently Mr. Raphaelson serves as First

Assistant to the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago. Prior to this Mr. Raphaelson served with the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois in several capacities: U.S. Attorney, 1989–1990; Chief of the Special Prosecution Division, 1987–1989; Chief of the Criminal Litigation Division, 1987; and

Deputy Chief for Special Prosecutions, 1986–1987.

Mr. Raphaelson graduated from Northwestern University (B.A., 1974; J.D., 1977). He was born July 3, 1953, in Chicago, IL. Mr. Raphaelson is married, has three children, and resides in Northbrook, IL.

Message on the Observance of National Afro-American (Black) History Month

February 11, 1991

This February, as we observe National Black History Month, we recognize the remarkable achievements of Black Americans and the many contributions they have made to our national heritage.

All of us can learn from the special programs and activities being conducted nationwide because Black history is, in fact, America's history. Our Nation has been shaped by the unique contributions of Black Americans, and, today, we share the pride of those courageous men and women who have triumphed over the bitter legacy of slavery and discrimination. Individuals like Frederick Douglass, Dr. Charles Drew, Rosa Parks, and Dr. Martin Luther King are remembered throughout the world for the strength of their convictions and the wealth of their abilities.

However, history is more than a proudly declared list of past feats. It is an ongoing

process that is created each moment as we go about our daily lives. Inspired by the efforts of those who struggled to open the doors of opportunity, Black Americans today are adding to their rich history by excelling in business, government, science, and education—virtually every field of endeavor. Their achievements, like those of previous generations, can serve as powerful examples for our Nation's youth as we strive to create an environment free of the crime and drug abuse that are taking a toll on far too many young Americans. Black History Month challenges young people, not only to celebrate the great accomplishments of the past, but also to turn hard-won opportunity into a hopeful future.

I encourage all Americans to join me in the celebration of Black History Month.

GEORGE BUSH

Message on the Observance of the Lunar New Year, 4689

February 11, 1991

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Ram, 4689.

This holiday provides a wonderful opportunity for you to join with family and friends in celebrating the past and in looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities that the new year will bring. However, on this special occasion, it is also fitting that all Ameri-

cans pause to recognize the many lasting contributions Chinese Americans have made to our country.

America owes a debt of gratitude to the many ethnic groups that have helped to shape the character of our Nation. Sharing a rich and diverse heritage, Americans of Chinese descent have long been recognized for their many contributions to America's