

**NLWJC - Kagan**

**DPC - Box 013 - Folder 001**

**Disabilities - FDR Memorial**

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

July 10, 1997

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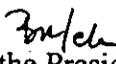
           ACCEPT            REGRET            PENDING           

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TO: Stephanie Street  
Assistant to the President  
and Director of Scheduling

FROM: Maria Echaveste   
Assistant to the President and  
Director of Public Liaison

John Hilley   
Assistant to the President for  
Legislative Affairs

Bruce Reed   
Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

REQUEST: To do an FDR Memorial bill signing ceremony.

PURPOSE: To commemorate the seventh anniversary of the  
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

BACKGROUND: In May, the President called upon the Congress to  
pass legislation to incorporate President Roosevelt's  
disability in the FDR Memorial. The Senate voted  
unanimously and the House voted 363-39 on July 8  
to pass legislation to incorporate in the Memorial a  
depiction of FDR in his wheelchair.

A ceremony to sign the legislation, which is viewed  
by the disability community as a triumph in their  
effort to remove the stigma of disability, would also  
give the President an opportunity to celebrate the  
seventh anniversary of the Americans with  
Disabilities Act (ADA), which he does each year.  
The anniversary of the ADA, a civil rights law that  
guarantees equal rights and equal opportunity for  
the millions of Americans with disabilities, is the

most important day of the year for people with disabilities.

Inviting Members of Congress, Roosevelt's grandchildren, and leaders of the disability communities to a FDR Memorial bill signing ceremony on July 24 or 25 would be an appropriate way to commemorate the ADA's seventh anniversary.

**PAST PARTICIPATION:**

The President participated in the FDR Dedication Ceremony in May, 1997 and has participated in ADA ceremonies in the past.

**TIME:**

Anytime on July 22-25, 1997

**BRIEFING TIME:**

5 minutes.

**DURATION:**

25 minutes.

**LOCATION:**

The Rose Garden or East Room.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Members of Congress  
Roosevelt grandchildren  
Leaders of the disability community.

**OUTLINE OF EVENT:**

A youth with a disability introduces the President for remarks. The President signs the legislation.

**REMARKS REQUIRED:**

Yes.

**PRESS/MEDIA:**

Open press.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

Maria Echaveste  
Bill White

**CONTACT:**

Bill White x67032

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

July 10, 1997

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\_\_\_\_\_ ACCEPT \_\_\_\_\_ REGRET \_\_\_\_\_ PENDING

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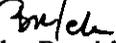
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Assistant to the President  
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**RECOMMENDED BY:**

Maria Echaveste  
Bill White

**CONTACT:**

Bill White x67032

Disabilities -  
File: FDR Memorial

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1997

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
3124197

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: TODD STERN *TJS*  
HELEN HOWELL

SUBJECT: FDR Memorial

The attached Echaveste/Higgins memo recommends that you (a) accept the FDR Memorial Commission's invitation to speak at the dedication ceremony on May 2, but (b) first speak out on the controversy over whether FDR's disability should be depicted in the Memorial.

**Background.** As presently planned, the Memorial depicts FDR in two sculptures, which have already been designed and constructed -- one showing him in the rear seat of an open car waving, and the other, a 10-foot bronze statue of him seated with a cape concealing his wheelchair.

The Roosevelt grandchildren are split on whether FDR should be portrayed in his wheelchair. Senator Inouye, who co-chairs the Commission and is a disabled WWII veteran, strongly opposes depicting FDR in a wheelchair. So does Charles Krauthammer, who suggests, instead, that FDR's wheelchair be displayed. The Commission, incidentally, is arranging for a replica of FDR's wheelchair to be displayed, along with two photographs of him in his wheelchair and handout literature that discusses FDR's disability. On the other side, the disability community strongly believes FDR's disability should be depicted and is planning a protest at the ceremony. Many opinion leaders, including Presidents Bush and Ford, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Hugh Sidey, George Will and Maureen Dowd support depicting FDR's disability.

Last May you stated in a speech your hope that "[T]hey'll find a way to make sure that the American people know that this great, great President was great with his disability."

Option 1: Call for a delay in opening the FDR Memorial until an additional sculpture of FDR in his wheelchair is included. This option would delay the opening of the Memorial by at least a year. Supported by disability community; opposed by Inouye and by FDR's grandchildren.

Option 2: Proceed with May 2 ceremony but call on Commission to design and incorporate an additional wall mounted sculpture of FDR in his wheelchair by a specific date. All the Roosevelt grandchildren except one would support this option as do Maria, Kitty, Erskine, Sylvia, John Hilley and Carol Rasco.

Option 3: Let Commission proceed without further intervention.

It would be helpful if you could make a decision on this by Monday. The FDR Memorial Commission has been quite persistent about your attendance of the May 2 event, and Stephanie would like to give them an answer as soon as possible.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 12, 1997

**DECISION MEMORANDUM**

TO: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARIA ECHAVESTE   
KATHRYN HIGGINS 

SUBJECT: THE FDR MEMORIAL CONTROVERSY

**ISSUE FOR DECISION**

Whether you should speak out on the FDR Memorial controversy and recommend to the FDR Commission that another sculpture be commissioned depicting FDR in his wheelchair.

**BACKGROUND**

The FDR Memorial Commission, on which you serve as Honorary Chair, is responsible for overseeing the design of the FDR Memorial. The Memorial was first authorized by Congress in 1955, and has been subject to numerous delays. For the past two years, the Commission has been criticized because the FDR Memorial does not depict him as a man with a disability.

The seven acre Memorial site on the Tidal Basin includes four sections portraying each of FDR's terms. The President is depicted in two sculptures at the Memorial, both which have been already designed and constructed. The first is a wall mounted sculpture that shows FDR in the rear seat of an open car waving with his top hat to the crowd. The second is a ten foot high bronze statue of FDR seated with a cape concealing his wheelchair (Tab B).

The Commission, chaired by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and former Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR), has invited you to speak at the FDR Memorial dedication ceremony on May 2, 1997. The disability community, which is dismayed that the sculptures at the Memorial fail to depict FDR in his wheelchair, is planning a protest at the ceremony.

The Roosevelt grandchildren are split on whether FDR should be openly portrayed in his wheelchair. Curtis Roosevelt, in a letter to the Commission said, "Let me say quite emphatically that FDR would have been very disturbed. He was a very private person and went to great lengths to avoid any discussion or comment on any illness that might be plaguing him." But Anne Roosevelt, on behalf of herself and seven other grandchildren wrote, "Were he alive today,

we are convinced that he would wish to have the people of this country and the world understand his disability. He would be comfortable, possibly eager, in light of current increased understanding of disability issues, to share awareness of his and others types of disabilities with others... While we wish no delay in the construction of the proposed Memorial, we urge adequate inclusion of all facets of the man as he was, not as some think he ought to have been."

Senator Inouye, a disabled veteran from WWII, member of the Commission for the past 25 years, and current Chair of the Commission, has strongly opposed including a statue of FDR in a wheelchair. He stated, "I for one would not want to redo history. FDR was Commander-in-Chief of the greatest fighting force in the world and he wanted to be viewed as a strong leader. I would hate to see the man exploited after he was dead." But national opinion leaders, including President Bush, President Ford, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Hugh Sidey, George Will, and Maureen Dowd have voiced strong support for including FDR's disability in the Memorial. A Harris poll indicates that 73% of Americans said the Memorial should include "visible recognition of FDR's disability."

Last spring, you wrote a note to Carol Rasco on the subject that stated, "I agree...FDR was for continuous forward movement. In today's world, I think he would insist on being shown in his wheelchair." In May 1996, you spoke out publicly on this issue in a speech to the President's Committee on Employment For People With Disabilities by stating, "I hope with Christopher Reeve that as the Roosevelt Memorial becomes a reality, with your efforts to remove the stigma of disability, they'll find a way to make sure that the American people know that this great, great President was great with his disability."

The Commission, which designed the Memorial to be accessible, has taken several actions to address the controversy including:

- o Arranged for a replica of FDR's wheelchair to be displayed at the Memorial. (Some in the disability community believe an empty wheelchair is even more offensive because it separates FDR from his disability.)
- o Arranged for two photographs of FDR in his wheelchair to be displayed at the Memorial.
- o Included discussion of FDR's disability in the National Park Service handout literature.

If you choose to make a public statement on this subject, we would first need to consult with the Roosevelt Family and Senator Inouye. At this time, there appears to be three available options:

Option #1: Call for a delay in the opening of the FDR Memorial until an additional sculpture of FDR in his wheelchair is included.

Pros: Strong support from the disability community.

Cons: Again delay the opening of the Memorial by at least a year.

Strongly opposed by Senator Inouye.

The resulting delay would be opposed by FDR's grandchildren.

Option #2: Proceed with the Memorial Dedication Ceremony on May 2, but call upon the FDR Commission to design and incorporate into the Memorial an additional wall mounted sculpture of FDR in his wheelchair by a specific date.

Pros: Support from the disability community.  
Support from all Roosevelt grandchildren except Curtis.  
Support from most syndicated columnists.

Cons: Opposed by Senator Inouye.  
Criticism by some of adhering to political correctness too rigidly.

Option #3: Let the Commission proceed without further intervention.

Pros: Support by Senator Inouye.  
Cons: Disability protest at the Dedication Ceremony.  
History.

## RECOMMENDATION

Option #2: Participate in the FDR Memorial Dedication Ceremony on May 2, but call upon the FDR Commission to design and incorporate into the Memorial an additional wall mounted sculpture of FDR in his wheelchair by a specific date.

APPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

If approved, we would recommend the following action:

Legislative Affairs: Consult with Senator Inouye's staff and organize a meeting with the President and key Congressional leaders.

Cabinet Affairs: Consult with Interior and National Park Service to determine time required to commission an additional sculpture.

Public Liaison: Consult with Roosevelt family and determine venue and timing for Presidential statement prior to May 2 Dedication Ceremony.

Attachments:

Tab A: Members of the FDR Memorial Commission  
Tab B: Picture of the main FDR statue at the Memorial  
Tab C: "FDR as He Was," Sen. Inouye Op Ed, Washington Posts 7/2/96  
Tab D: "Truth in Memory," Hugh Sidey, Time Magazine 5/23/96  
Tab E: "Don't Hide His Source of Strength," George Will, Washington Post 5/96

Charles Krauthammer

## FDR in a Wheelchair? No.

Should the Franklin Roosevelt memorial now going up near the Mall in Washington show Roosevelt in a wheelchair? The memorial designers think not. There will be three representations of FDR in stone, none acknowledging his disability.

This has aroused the protest of many, from disability activists to Roosevelt grandchildren to ordinary pundits. To airbrush out this central reality in FDR's life, they charge, is a historical travesty.

The weakness of the critics' case lies in its central premise: that FDR would have wanted himself portrayed in a wheelchair. Yes, they admit, he did not permit himself to be photographed in a wheelchair. Yes, he relentlessly, obsessively hid his condition from the American people (and in the age of radio could get away with it). Yes, on occasion he even lied about it, as when he told an interviewer: "As a matter of fact, I don't use a wheelchair at all except a little kitchen chair on wheels to get about my room while dressing."

But, claim the critics, FDR did all this for political reasons. Given the prejudices of the age, he needed to conceal his paralysis. The American people would never have chosen a disabled man to lead them. Now, however, in this more enlightened age, he would have been pleased, even proud, to be portrayed with his disability.

It is a nice argument. It is also nonsense. It posits that if FDR had not run for the presidency but had remained a lawyer or taken some nonelective political position requiring no pandering to voters, he would have had no qualms about cruising through society in a wheelchair.

This is just plain wrong. FDR's extraordinary, artful contrivances were designed to hide his disability not just from voters but from everyone. He concealed his paralysis not just for reasons of politics but for reasons of pride. He lived a life of fierce denial. "FDR refused to acknowledge unpleasant facts," writes Hugh Gallagher in his superb book "FDR's Splendid

Deception." "They were simply avoided, dismissed, or denied. They were certainly not discussed either in public or private."

Or private. Not once, for example, did he ever even discuss his paralysis with the person closest to him in his life, his mother. In fact, upon her first visit to him after he was stricken with polio, FDR conspired to put on what biographer Bernard Asbell called "a major act of cheer, nonchalance," greeting her with: "Well, I'm glad you are back, Mummy, and I got up this party for you."

When a man has more than 35,000 pictures taken of him, of which exactly two—two!—show him in a wheelchair, you don't need to be

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*"He lived a life of fierce denial."*

a psychiatrist to figure that something more than political calculation is at work here. And it was not just the White House photographers who, in league with him, would police their own by "accidentally" knocking to the ground a camera that had captured FDR wheelchair-bound. Gallagher notes that whenever FDR himself would spot someone taking such a picture, he would direct the Secret Service to the offender, and they would expose the film.

It is absurd to claim that FDR would have wanted to be memorialized in stone in a manner that in real life he would not even allow to be depicted in a photograph. That is why at the unveiling in London of a statue showing FDR standing, Eleanor Roosevelt noted how pleased she thought her husband would be to see himself so portrayed.

Nonetheless, monuments are not built just to make a person look the way he would have liked. They have other purposes. Such as, for example, raising consciousness about disability by showing that the greatest president of this century was in

fact seriously disabled. This is a worthy purpose, not easily dismissed. Does it justify violating the self-image, the pride, the intentions of the man whom we are ostensibly honoring?

How to weigh the wishes against the facts? First, acknowledge the facts. In some part of this multi-chambered memorial, FDR's wheelchair and braces ought to be displayed. The exhibit should say: Here is what he had to contend with, here is what he overcame, here is what he tried to make sure the world would never see. (Explain that the black paint at the bottom of the braces was to make them disappear against his black socks and pants.)

Second, scrap the bas-relief depicting him standing alone. He could not stand unaided. The bas-relief is based upon one of the many pictures of FDR holding the arm of his son with one hand and a cane with the other, except that son and cane have been brushed out of existence, like Trotsky out of Stalin's portraits of the Russian revolutionaries. FDR should be shown as in the photos, standing in his wonderfully deceptive, subtly ambiguous way: You don't know that he is clutching his son's arm as fiercely as he really is, and you don't know whether the cane is anything more than just another of his trademark props, like the cape and the cigarette holder.

Finally, no statue of him sitting in a wheelchair. The fact is (Gallagher again) that FDR spent very little time in his wheelchair. He used it mostly to get from one place to another, then would transfer—into the back seat of his touring car or the front seat of the Ford he loved to drive or the regular chairs he used in the Oval Office or at the dinner table. Show him sitting in one of *those* chairs. That is where he spent most of his life.

FDR defined himself in many ways—leader, father, warrior, reformer, scourge of the powerful, friend of the afflicted. Friend of the afflicted, not one of the afflicted. You do not memorialize a man by imposing on him an identity that he himself rejected. Better no memorial at all.

A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY



FDR MEMORIAL

THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

set up Congress

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Honorary Chairman

President William J. Clinton

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

President

William J. Clinton

Former Presidents

George Bush

Jimmy Carter

Gerald R. Ford

Ronald Reagan

Honorary Co-Chairs

George Bush

Jimmy Carter

Gerald R. Ford

Ronald Reagan

COMMISSIONERS

Co-Chairs

Mark O. Hatfield

Daniel K. Inouye

Senators

Alfonse M. D'Amato

Carl Levin

Representatives

Phil English

Maurice D. Hinchey

Jerry Lewis

FDR Memorial Commission Co-Chairs

Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Oregon

Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii ←

Presidential Appointees

Barbara A. Handman

Lester S. Hyman

David B. Roosevelt

Jack W. Theimer

FDR Memorial Commission Members

Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato, New York

Senator Carl Levin, Michigan

Representative Phil English, Pennsylvania

Representative Maurice D. Hinchey, New York

Representative Jerry Lewis, California

Barbara Handman, New York, New York

Lester S. Hyman, Washington, D.C.

David B. Roosevelt, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Jack W. Theimer, San Francisco, California

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Co-Chairs

David B. Roosevelt

Jack Valenti

International Chair

Ann C. Chennault

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dorann H. Gunderson

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Memorial Commission

632 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510



EL REY (MIGUEL) RESISTIÓ LA SEÑAL DEL  
GOBIERNO Y SE LEVANTÓ EN DEFENSA DE SU  
CORONA Y DE LA LIBERTAD DE SU PAÍS.  
EN SU DEFENSA SE LEVANTÓ EL REY DON  
ALFONSO X Y SU HIJO DON PEDRO III.

# The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

*Daniel K. Inouye*

## FDR as He Was

It is time to identify, then set aside the misinformation swirling about the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, so the truth of the matter can be told. The FDR Memorial Commission has never sought to hide, ignore, bury or conceal the facts of President Roosevelt's disability.

The FDR Memorial forthrightly recognizes FDR's triumph over polio in many ways. Following a directive from the commission's cochairmen, an active investigation is under way to find means by which one of FDR's wheelchairs could be obtained for display in the memorial's entry building. Also in the entry building will be photographs of FDR, including one of the two known photographs of him in a wheelchair. These photographs will be available on postcards at the memorial shop along with a variety of historical materials about the life and times of FDR.

In the memorial a time line of the major events of FDR's life, carved in granite, will state, "1921 stricken with poliomyelitis—he never again walked unaided." In addition, free National Park Service handout literature for visitors will include a discussion of the president's disability.

In compliance with the spirit and the letter of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the FDR Memorial was designed, from the beginning, with the disabled in mind. This is the first memorial in Washington purposely designed to be totally wheelchair accessible, with many areas for rest and contemplation. Also, a major bas-relief sculpture titled "Social Programs" includes 54 detailed images, each with braille for the sight-impaired.

The commission was established by Congress in 1955 to plan, design and construct a national memorial to President Roosevelt. After much deliberation, the commission chose a theme that would celebrate the man and embody his times. The memorial will be a historical narrative of President Roosevelt's service to the people of the United States by depicting the issues and events during the stark days of the Great Depression and the powerful drama of World War II.

There is no sculpture of FDR standing seated, as proposed in Charles Keenham's

## Taking Exception

mer's piece ("FDR in a Wheelchair? No," op-ed, June 14). Any such presentation would be historically inaccurate, therefore, unacceptable.

Of the 10 sculptures in the memorial, three depict the public persons of FDR as president, commander in chief and world leader. These FDR sculptures were inspired by real-life situations, and they show the president as he actually appeared at the time, seated, without a wheelchair or crutches present. This is, of course, the way FDR deliberately and painstakingly presented himself to the public.

We know from FDR's two eldest grandchildren, Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves and Curtis Roosevelt, both of whom lived for several years in the Roosevelt White House, that FDR was an intensely private person who considered his disability a very private matter. They both confirm the historical accuracy of the memorial's portrayal of their grandfather. Another grandson of Franklin and Eleanor, David B. Roosevelt, has been an active member of the commission since 1992.

In regard to the idea of including a sculpture of President Roosevelt in a wheelchair in the memorial, Curtis Roosevelt wrote to the commission: "Let me say quite emphatically that FDR would have been very disturbed. He was a very private person and went to great lengths to avoid any discussion or comment on any illness that might be plaguing him."

I have served on the FDR Memorial Commission for 25 years. I now have the distinct privilege of co-chairing the commission with my friend and colleague, Mark Hatfield. This memorial to one of America's greatest presidents should have been built long ago. The delay is truly an embarrassment to those of us who continue to build upon President Roosevelt's policies for a more abundant life for all Americans.

At a press conference on Nov. 18, 1936, President Roosevelt was asked about a controversy concerning the construction of the Jefferson Memorial. He said there was a lot of "gum-flaming that this dear old capital of ours has been subjected to," but "the facts are very simple." He went on to say that after years of discussion about all aspects of the Jefferson Memorial, "the constituted legal authorities decided on a design and that design is being built." So it is with the FDR Memorial.

Construction of the FDR Memorial is on schedule, and completion is expected in the spring of 1997.

TIME MAGAZINE - May 23rd

NATION

its news programs. CNN anted up with five minutes a week for four weeks on *Inside Politics*. And Fox's Rupert Murdoch last year opened the bidding with an hour of prime time on election eve.

Oddly enough, the proposals all come just as events overtake the imperative. Thanks to the Internet, talk radio, C-SPAN and cable talk shows, voters this year have more direct access to candidates than ever before. The very day that ABC announced its offer of an hour in prime time, Bill Clinton was live on CNBC discussing Senate gridlock over the minimum wage. Then, minutes later, C-SPAN—the All Dole All the Time network when the Senate is in session—showed the majority leader rebutting the President. Internet Websites like TIME-CNN's *AllPolitics* (<http://www.allpolitics.com/>) routinely include the full text of campaign speeches. But advocates are quick to retort that a third of U.S. households don't have cable and many that have it don't tune in to public-affairs shows. The point is to reach the audience that has dropped out, which is why Taylor was hoping for a five-minute lead-in to *Friends* instead of a chunk out of Tom Brokaw.

The pristine new forums certainly won't replace the dastardly 30-sec. spots. The candidates will still spend whatever they can afford, running whatever ads are most effective. In fact, some commentators argue that getting rid of negative ads should never have been a goal in the first place. "Attack is an indispensable part of politics. If the attack is fair, accurate, in context and relevant to governance, we ought to encourage it," says Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. "I prefer asking, 'Is free TV time going to reduce the amount of illegitimate attacks?' The answer is yes."

Which raises the question of whether the candidates would be keen on this reform. In 1992 the candidates were careful to limit their appearances to events they thought they could control. All three were invited to appear for an hour on *Meet the Press*, for instance: not one of them accepted. So while both parties' candidates endorsed the scheme, it remains to be seen whether Dole and Clinton will relish the idea of being locked in a room together during prime time with no way out except through the tube.

Yet in a TIME/CNN poll last week, 63% of voters surveyed said they believe free TV time would make for a better race. That by itself may make it worth a try. For if it reduces even slightly the cynicism about politics, it could help voters feel more engaged in the process and perhaps restore their faith in it.

—Reported by Tom Curry/  
New York and Mark Thomson/Washington

THE PRESIDENCY

Hugh Sidesy

# Truth in Memory

Omission of F.D.R.'s handicap is a crime against his spirit

THERE WAS A FUND RAISER FOR THE CONTROVERSIAL F.D.R. MEMORIAL the other day that traveled all over Washington and included real Roosevelt martinis (3 to 1) at the Tidal Basin construction site. It ended with a privy White House dinner of lamb and artichokes at \$10,000 a plate and grossed about half a million. Bill and Hillary Clinton were eloquent in praise of their heroes Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt to their black-tie audience of 200. Actors James Alexander and Edward Herrmann, who had played the Roosevelts on television gave readings, and there was a scratchy old recording of the real Eleanor sing (sort of) *High Hopes*, which brought both gales of laughter and misty eyes.

The problem was that the crucial and defining fact that Roosevelt conducted his presidency from a wheelchair became a forgotten footnote to the White House proceedings and, indeed, to the whole memorial idea. In the warm glow of the White House it was easy to ignore the growing clamor at the gates about a memorial that is taking \$42 million in tax money and has no depiction of Franklin Roosevelt in a wheelchair. (Or, for that matter, of Eleanor's fur stole, now considered too controversial.)

In a Harris poll a while back, 73% of those asked said the memorial should include "visible recognition of F.D.R.'s disabilities." The National Organization on Disability, which claims to represent the interests of 50 million disabled Americans, thinks that to ignore F.D.R.'s disability in the monument is a major cultural blunder. "It would be unconscionable to have schoolchildren visit the memorial five years from now, or 500 years from now, and have no sense of the challenge F.D.R. faced," says Mike Deland, the organization's chairman.

Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin has become the spokeswoman for a loose confederation of scholars who likewise are appalled at the idea of going ahead with the memorial as designed. "Roosevelt's polio made his special relations with the American people possible," she said last week. "Not to allow that to be shown would be a fundamental distortion of history, a real loss." The Roosevelt heirs, who at first seemed supportive of a historically cleansed memorial, seem to have tipped the other way, with many favoring a change. The National Organization on Disability has agreed to pick up any extra cost if a new sculptor were needed, since the three F.D.R. pieces are already at the foundry.

Oddly, the C.O.P.'s soon-to-be presidential nominee, Bob Dole, himself partly disabled, while privately supporting a change in the F.D.R. Memorial, so far not gone public. Nor has his rival of next fall, Bill Clinton. There is a singular silence about the issue at the White House, even though Clinton is honorary chairman of the memorial.

One guy spoke up. Former President George Bush took two seconds to throw about the issue and whipped off a letter declaring, "I think it would be a shame if at least one of the figures in the memorial did not show him as a man who had a disability ... a courageous man who had infantile paralysis and still led our nation." Last week, on one of his furtive visits to Washington, Bush summoned James Land and Alan Reich, president of the disability organization, to his guest quarters on Jackson Place, across the street from the White House. In those snatched old chambers where so much of our early history played out, Bush sat down with his two friends in wheelchairs and said, "We've got to keep this one going."



Neil Estern with scale models of his statues for the F.D.R. Memorial

*George F. Will*

# Don't Hide His Source Of Strength

Controversies concerning the memorial to Franklin Roosevelt are today's evidence that this is an age in which one cannot find common sense without a search warrant.

Because of trepidation about possible protests by the animal rights lobby, the statue of Eleanor Roosevelt will not depict her wearing her familiar fur wrap. And FDR's cigarette holder, seen in so many photographs, will not be in evidence. That holder, often clenched in a toothy smile illuminating FDR's large upturned head, was emblematic of the infectious jauntiness that was his greatest gift to a shaken country and a piece of his political philosophy. But the cigarette holder must be banished, lest sin flourish.

More seriously wrong is the decision that none of the three statues of FDR in the 7.5-acre memorial will depict him in a wheelchair. We wallow waist deep in a confessional culture, in which any lunatic can get on television to curfess unnatural acts with llamas, yet we will not truthfully depict this century's most important president in a way that is, to say no more, pertinent to understanding him.

The decision has been made to continue to stoke a reticence about FDR's disability, a reticence that in his lifetime was required by public sensibilities that now have been happily surmounted. The decision reveals confusion about the proper point of the memorial.

Defenders of that decision say it would be wrong to "revise the record"—that it would be unhistorical to display what FDR successfully concealed from the American people, most of whom did not understand the reality of his affliction (thanks to a cooperative press corps, only one of the more than 125,000 photographs in the FDR library at Hyde Park shows him in a wheelchair). But fidelity to FDR's wishes is not guiding the design of the memorial: FDR told Felix Frankfurter he wanted only a starkly simple memorial no larger than his desk, the sort of memorial to him that already exists at the National Archives.

A statement by the FDR Memorial Commission almost implies that the project is a celebration of the New Deal. If that is so, the heck with it. The statement says the memorial is designed to serve not as a monument to the man, but as a piece of remembrance, contemplation and tribute to his work.

But that is a distinction without a difference.



The work of the last 13 years of FDR's life cannot properly be contemplated without reference to the affliction that left him a paraplegic for the last 24 years of his life. He probably would not have become the long-headed and tough president he was, without passing through the furnace of polio.

One can believe that many of his works were mistakes and still believe he should be celebrated for the gallantry that the disease demanded from him but need not have elicited. No serious person doubts that FDR played a large role in the making of modern America, and it is passing strange to suppose that the disease did not catalyze the transformation of the demimour young swell, skating along on charm and connections, into the brilliant and broadly empathetic politician.

"Too often," FDR once said, "is the biographer tempted to confine himself to that comparatively brief period after the trumpet of fame has directed the eyes of the world upon him whose life story he writes." From that statement Geoffrey Ward derives the title of

the first volume of his unsurpassed biography of FDR, "Before the Trumpet."

Ward's second volume, which recounts FDR's rise from a bed of pain to the seat of power, is titled "A First-Class Temperament." That comes from Oliver Wendell Holmes's famous assessment of FDR: "A second-class intellect. But a first-class temperament!" No reader of Ward can doubt that the temperament FDR exhibited in the 1930s and 1940s was forged in the 1920s. The iron entered into his soul when he performed, with heroic ebullience, the excruciating exercises necessary to make his legs ready for steel braces.

So, let's see FDR portrayed at the memorial in a wheelchair. Perhaps we should resist the temptation to have him holding something that would accurately depict one of his most noble talents and his unquenchable capacity for pleasure—a martini shaker. But let's see that cigarette holder—which, he once breezily explained to an inquiring boy, he used "because my doctor told me to stay as far away from cigarettes as possible."

Disability - FDR memorial

Diana Fortuna 03/25/97 05:43:42  
PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: FDR Memorial controversy

You asked if I had any thoughts about the memo to the President from Maria and Kitty on whether he should call on the FDR memorial commission to show FDR in his wheelchair in the memorial. We have worked with public liaison on this for some time, and we have generally supported OPL's strong view that the memorial should depict the disability.

By the way, the memo came back from the President and he selected the option Maria recommended -- that he attend the dedication ceremony but call on the commission to add a sculpture showing the disability. (For some reason, Todd Stern's cover memo on this referred to support from "Maria, Kitty, Erskine, Sylvia, John Hilley and Carol Rasco.")



# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY

910 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006

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 of America, Inc.  
**Reverend Harold Wilke**  
 Director, the Healing Community  
**John T. C. Yeh**  
 Chairman  
 IMS Technologies, Inc.

March 5, 1997

## FDR MEMORIAL PROTEST MEDIA SUMMARY

### NATIONWIDE COVERAGE

- Television
- Radio
- Newspapers (with photographs)

### SPEAKERS

- Kirk Bauer, President, Disabled Sports USA
- Joan Challinor, Independent Scholar
- Justin Dart, Director, Justice for All
- Michael R. Deland, Chairman of the Board
- Hugh G. Gallagher, Author, Splendid Deception
- Rev. Claude Grant, Associate Minister, Mt. Zion Baptist Church
- I. King Jordan, Ph.D., President, Gallaudet University
- Evan Kemp, Jr., former Commissioner, EEOC  
Promised to "chain himself to The White House Gates"
- Nancy Rarus, Director, National Association of the Deaf

**Robert J. Sauer II Esq., Counsel**  
Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, P.C.

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**Rep. John E. Porter, IL**  
**Rep. Henry Waxman, CA**

Nancy Flinn

## FDR IN A WHEELCHAIR RALLY

### MEDIA RESULTS

Media Alerts, accompanied by personalized cover letters were faxed to 64 reporters, assignment editors, editors, news rooms (headquartered in New York and Washington, DC) covering national news. Follow-up calls were made to most of those contacted. An additional press release was faxed the day before the rally.

Results:

#### Broadcast:

**AP News Broadcast** - 2/26/97 interview with Jim Dickson-- reaches all Associated Press Broadcast Subscribers, estimated to air on 6000 AM/ FM stations in repeated intervals during a 24-hour news day.

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**Seattle Radio Station - KING AM-FM - News** - Interview with Kirk Bauer - market of over 600,000

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**WRC - Channel 7** - Washington DC local NBC affiliate for 11 o'clock local pm news. (market = 607,000)

**WLS - Channel 7 (ABC)** - special news segment on FDR in a Wheelchair issue with interviews of Jim Dickson, Ann Roosevelt and the FDR Commission as well as coverage of the rally at the Memorial site, reported by Karen Meyer (who is deaf and has a regular segment on disability issues.)

AP Photo - with caption pick-up in:

The New York Times - 2/28/97 - cir: 1,150,000  
The Baltimore Sun ( MD) - 2/28/97 - page 3A- cir: 231,990  
The Boston Globe (MA) - 2/28/97 - page A3 - cir: 516,981  
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Other?

Gannett News Service - pick-up:

The Burlington Free Press (Burlington, VT) - 2/28/97 - cir: 63,000  
Other?

Other coverage:

Poughkeepsie Journal (Poughkeepsie, NY) - cir: 62,061  
Argus Leader (Sioux Falls, SD) - cir: 50,000  
Denver Post (Colorado) - cir: 428,391

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- Under Washington And the World:  
Memorial Protest - on event with quote from  
Michael Deland

The New York Times (See above)

The Washington Post - 2/28/97 cir: 810,000

- reporter (DeNeen Brown) and photographer covered story.  
(Trying to determine if Washington Post News Service will run this)



# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY

910 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006

March 5, 1997

## BY FAX

Mr. Justin Dart  
Justice for All  
907 Sixth Street, SW #516-C  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Justin:

At Jim Dickson's FDR in a Wheelchair Campaign meeting yesterday, Jim mentioned that you and others will be meeting with President Clinton's Chief of Staff and discussing the issue. This is great, as I know the President is not fully aware of the passion in the disability community, and, like the FDR Memorial Commission itself, may be underestimating it.

We really believe the President, both in his capacity as President of the United States and as Honorary Chairman of the FDR Memorial Commission, could resolve the issue very quickly and simply. All he would have to do would be to announce publicly that there will be in the Memorial a statue of FDR in his wheelchair, giving the date and method of funding (as you know, N.O.D. has announced its willingness to raise funds.) To forestall any possible disruption of the beautiful ceremony now planned for the FDR Memorial's opening, it would be most helpful to have such a statement, in the next week or so, backed up by an appropriate, legally-binding commitment. (As you may know, the FDR in a Wheelchair Campaign Committee already has filed for a permit to conduct a demonstration at the Memorial on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.)

Most certainly, the President would gain the support of the disability community by such an announcement. As one who is not insensitive to polls, he would be especially interested to know that 73% of the American people, according to an N.O.D./Harris poll, support the depiction of FDR's disability in the Memorial. And, FDR would be with us all the way!

Good luck, Justin, and many thanks!

Sincerely,

Alan A. Reich  
President

cc: Ms. Marca Bristo, Mr. Michael R. Deland, and Mr. James Dickson

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Rep. Major R. Owens, NY  
Rep. John E. Porter, IL  
Rep. Henry Waxman, CA

A RENDEZVOUS  
WITH DESTINY



**FDR**  
MEMORIAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Jennifer Devlin,  
February 18, 1997 202/408-0808

**FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT (FDR) MEMORIAL COMMISSION  
ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR FDR MEMORIAL DEDICATION**

**May 1 Through May 3, 1997 Designated the Days of  
Celebration and Dedication**

**FRANKLIN DELANO  
ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL  
COMMISSION**

**HONORARY CO-CHAIRS**

**President**  
William J. Clinton

**Former Presidents**

George Bush  
Jimmy Carter  
Gerald R. Ford  
Ronald Reagan

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**Co-Chairs**

Mark O. Hatfield  
Daniel K. Inouye

**Senators**

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**Co-Chairs**

David B. Roosevelt  
Jack Valent

**International Chair**

Anna C. Chennault

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dorann H. Gunderson

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** -- Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Mark O. Hatfield, Co-chairs of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Memorial Commission announced today the preliminary schedule of events planned for May 1-3, 1997, designated by the Commission as the Days of Celebration and Dedication for the FDR Memorial.

In addition to events organized by the Commission, the schedule includes activities planned by independent organizations in commemoration of President Roosevelt's legacy and in celebration of the FDR Memorial's Dedication. The preliminary schedule includes the following events (note -- all activities are subject to change; additional events may be announced between now and the Dedication):

**May 1, 1997**

**ALL DAY** Scheduled tours of New Deal art in government buildings and of FDR's private railroad car, the Marco Polo, at Union Station.  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**May 2, 1997**

**11:30 am** Dedication of the FDR Memorial at the Memorial site in West  
**-12:30 pm** Potomac Park. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**ALL DAY** Scheduled tours of New Deal art in government buildings and of FDR's private railroad car, the Marco Polo, at Union Station.  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

This will be only the third time this century that the United States has dedicated a presidential memorial. The last time such a dedication took place was in 1943, when President Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial. The Dedication ceremony, which will be open to the general public, will take place on May 2nd from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Memorial site in West Potomac Park. The FDR Memorial Commission is extending invitations to President Clinton and Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, members of the Roosevelt family and other notable dignitaries.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
Memorial Commission  
632 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202.228.2491  
FAX 202.228.1010

**-MORE-**

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission was established by the United States Congress in 1955 "for the purpose of considering and formulating plans for the design, construction and location of a permanent memorial..." to honor our 32nd President. In 1959, land was set aside in West Potomac Park for the Memorial, following a layout established in 1901 by the McMillan "kite" Plan for monumentality in the city of Washington. In 1978, after several design competitions, Lawrence Halprin's Memorial design received final approval from the FDR Memorial Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, and is currently under construction.

The 7.5 acre FDR Memorial honors President Roosevelt and an entire generation of Americans who endured the Great Depression and emerged victorious from World War II. Bronze sculpture and water in various forms appear throughout the four outdoor gallery rooms, each symbolizing one of FDR's terms in office. The Memorial offers visitors a historical narrative of the years 1933 to 1945.

Five American artists were assembled by designer Halprin to create the bronze sculptures and bas-reliefs. They include: Leonard Baskin, Neil Estern, Robert Graham, Tom Hardy and George Segal. Master stonecarver John Benson inscribed the enduring words of FDR on the 800 foot granite wall. Among the well-known words from President Roosevelt which appear in the Memorial are: "This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny." "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." "I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a New Deal for the American people."

The FDR Memorial marks the first time that a First Lady has been honored in a presidential memorial. It will include a bronze statue of Eleanor Roosevelt before a symbol of the United Nations, for which she served as America's first Delegate after the President's death.

The FDR Memorial will be maintained by the National Park Service, and it will be staffed from 8 a.m. to midnight every day of the year except Christmas.

###

Media Notes: Advance press previews and photo opportunities for credentialed media will be held at the following times: April 23 at 10 am, April 24 at 2 pm and April 30 at 2 pm. The artists and designer will be available on the 30th during the advance press preview for interviews and photo opportunities. To obtain an application for press credentials, media kit, or additional information, please contact Jennifer Devlin by phone (202/408-0808) or fax (202/408-1231).

Nancy Flinn

## FDR IN A WHEELCHAIR RALLY

### MEDIA RESULTS

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**WLS - Channel 7 (ABC)** - special news segment on FDR in a Wheelchair issue with interviews of Jim Dickson, Ann Roosevelt and the FDR Commission as well as coverage of the rally at the Memorial site, reported by Karen Meyer (who is deaf and has a regular segment on disability issues.)

**MS NBC** - 24-hour Computer/News station, estimated to reach national audience of 18 million households. A 2/27 evening news segment in-studio interview was conducted with Jim Dickson as well as NBC news footage was used in piece on FDR in a Wheelchair Rally. News piece can be revisited indefinitely by keying "FDR Rally" query on MSNBC search engine

**Cox Broadcasting** - 2/27/97 - Reporter and camera person (Casar Flores) did news piece and interviews at the rally. Coverage goes out on satellite to Cox owned television and radio stations for evening news pick-up on 2/27.

TV stations are in the following markets: Albuquerque, NM, Orlando, FL, Memphis, TN, Sacramento, CA, Atlanta, GA, Dayton OH, Pittsburgh PA, San Francisco/Oakland CA, Charlotte NC, Seattle, WA.

**FOX News Station** - 24-hour National News Superstation - Interview with Mike Deland. Reach 22 million cable news households.

**DATELINE NBC** - segment taped by NBC News reporter Ian Winger to use as follow-up to previous DATELINE NBC piece. DATELINE reaches 19 million USA households. TBA

Newspapers:

**Wireservices:** AP, Reuters, UPI, and PR Newswire  
- all Daybooks had event and message

**Associated Press Newswire:** Story by reporter Mike Feinsilber and Photo by photographer, Dennis Cook out on wire to all subscribing media (over 6000).

**Gannett News Services** - 2/27 - Reporter and photographer covered the rally, interviewed some participants and did story with photos that was released to Gannett owned 93 newspapers.  
(I have the list of 93).

-----

The following are the actual clips that we have to date on coverage. Not having a clipping service is a disadvantage; however, based on experience there is a greater number (73%) of actual pick-ups than recorded by clipping services.

AP Photo - with caption pick-up in:

**The New York Times** - 2/28/97 - cir: 1,150,000  
**The Baltimore Sun ( MD)** - 2/28/97 - page 3A- cir: 231,990  
**The Boston Globe (MA)** - 2/28/97 - page A3 - cir: 516,981  
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- reporter (DeNeen Brown) and photographer covered story.  
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THE PRINT  
EDITION

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Editorials - *The voice of the Tribune*

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## WHAT THE FDR MEMORIAL COULD BE

A new Franklin Roosevelt memorial will be dedicated in Washington on May 2, and advocates for the disabled were out last week to protest. They're angry not because the nation is only now creating a monument to its only seriously handicapped president, but because none of the three sculptures of FDR will depict him in a wheelchair.

The protest may strike some as a pressure group enforcing political correctness. But in this case, the demonstrators' complaint is justified. Stricken by polio as an adult, Roosevelt never again walked without aid. And although he went to great lengths to conceal his disability, that's no reason the commission in charge of the memorial should continue the deception.

The commission defends itself by noting that the visitors' center will include a replica of the wheelchair Roosevelt used and that postcards will be sold with photos of him sitting in it. Commission member Daniel Inouye says that for one of the statues to portray FDR as handicapped would be unfair, since he "considered his disability as a very private matter." Several grandchildren agree.

Other Roosevelt grandchildren feel differently, but that's not important. We don't build memorials to presidents in order to indulge their relatives. Nor do we do it to please the honoree. If we did, this one wouldn't have been created--since FDR stipulated that he wanted no monument bigger than his desk.

The Earth is for the living, and so is the FDR memorial. Its central purpose, like the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, is to celebrate our history and ideals. To omit from these three sculptures one of the most striking facts about the 32nd president misrepresents history and demeans the vision of equal opportunity that Roosevelt championed and we all cherish.

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

VOL. CXLVI . . . No. 50,717

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1997



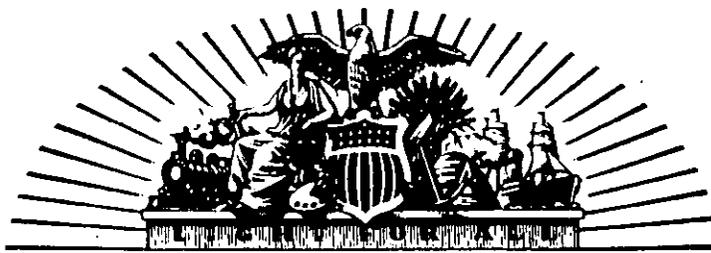
Associated Press

## Calling for F.D.R.'s Wheelchair

About 75 disabled people protested yesterday at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, angry that none of the statues shows the President, a

polio victim, in a wheelchair or braces. Justin Dart, director of Justice for All, was among the speakers. The memorial is to be dedicated on May 2.

# THE



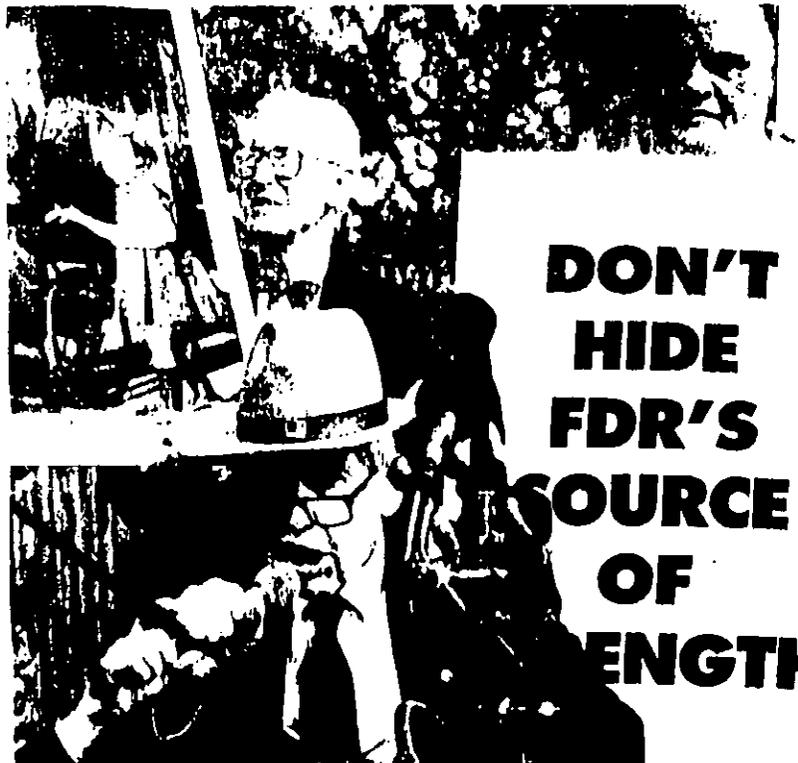
# SUN

February 28, 1997

Baltimore, Maryland

The Sun : Friday, February 28, 1997 : Page 3A

## THE NATION



**DON'T  
HIDE  
FDR'S  
SOURCE  
OF  
LENGTH**

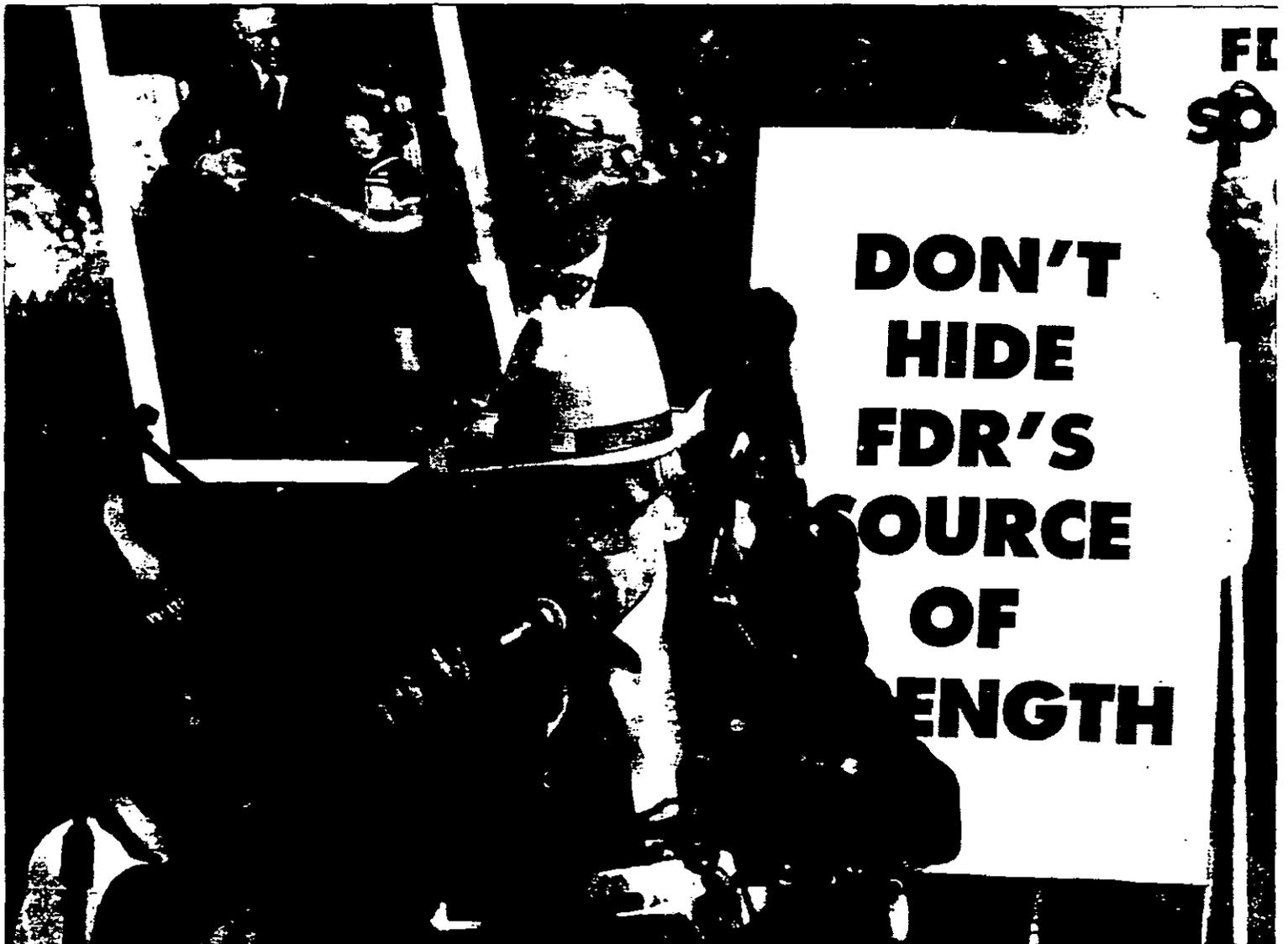
ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Memorial protest

Justin Dahl of Justice for All, an organization of disabled people, spoke at a memorial protest at the construction site of the Franklin D.

# Nation

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**FDR PROTEST** — Justin Dart, director of Justice for All, a disability advocacy group, speaks at a rally at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington yesterday. Dart called for the memorial, which is set to open May 2, to portray Roosevelt in a wheelchair.

## WASHINGTON AND THE WORLD

## WASHINGTON

## Democrats say probes should look at GOPAC fund-raising

Amid the uproar over White House access President Clinton extended to big donors, some Democrats want investigators to also look at Republican fund-raising activities. Democrats cite first-class treatment Republican administrations provided to donors to GOPAC, the political action committee then headed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.

► One GOPAC letter promised potential donors "exclusive opportunities" to "meet with and serve as hosts to White House officials, Cabinet members and Republican congressional leaders. Presidents Reagan and Bush have hosted GOPAC in the White House and Vice President Quayle has been our guest." The events were for charter members who gave \$10,000 a year.

► On April 29, 1991, GOPAC's top donors were invited to the home of Vice President Quayle to socialize with three Cabinet members.

► In November 1989, top givers were briefed at the Old Executive Office Building and went to a White House reception with President Bush.

"It appears that this is serious and it needs to be looked into" by congressional committees investigating Democratic fund-raising, says House Minority Whip David Bonior, D-Mich. "They should look at GOPAC and what its activities were and how they raised their money and what they did for their donors."

Gingrich spokeswoman Christina Martin calls that "a simply ridiculous comparison" intended to deflect scrutiny from Democratic abuses. "The events in question here did not involve either a political party or a presidential campaign and did not violate the law," she says. "There's a big difference between a permissible briefing and a suspect presidential sleepover."

— Judy Keen



Bonior: 'It needs to be looked into'

**LAKE NOMINATION:** At least 10 Senate Republicans are insisting that before they vote on Anthony Lake's nomination to head the CIA, the White House must release the full FBI report on him, not just a White House summary. "This is not negotiable," said Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas. White House press secretary Mike McCurry said it's "very troubling" that Lake's nomination appears to be mired in politics. Lake was Clinton's national security adviser. He appears to have the votes to be confirmed, but his hearing has been postponed several times amid questions over his role in administration foreign policy and over his delay in selling energy stocks to avoid a conflict of interest.

**MEMORIAL PROTEST:** About 75 people — many in wheelchairs, on crutches or with guide dogs — protested at the site of a soon-to-be-dedicated Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial that doesn't depict the former president as disabled. "It would be unconscionable for children to visit and not know FDR was in a wheelchair," said Michael Deland, chairman of the National Organization on Disability.

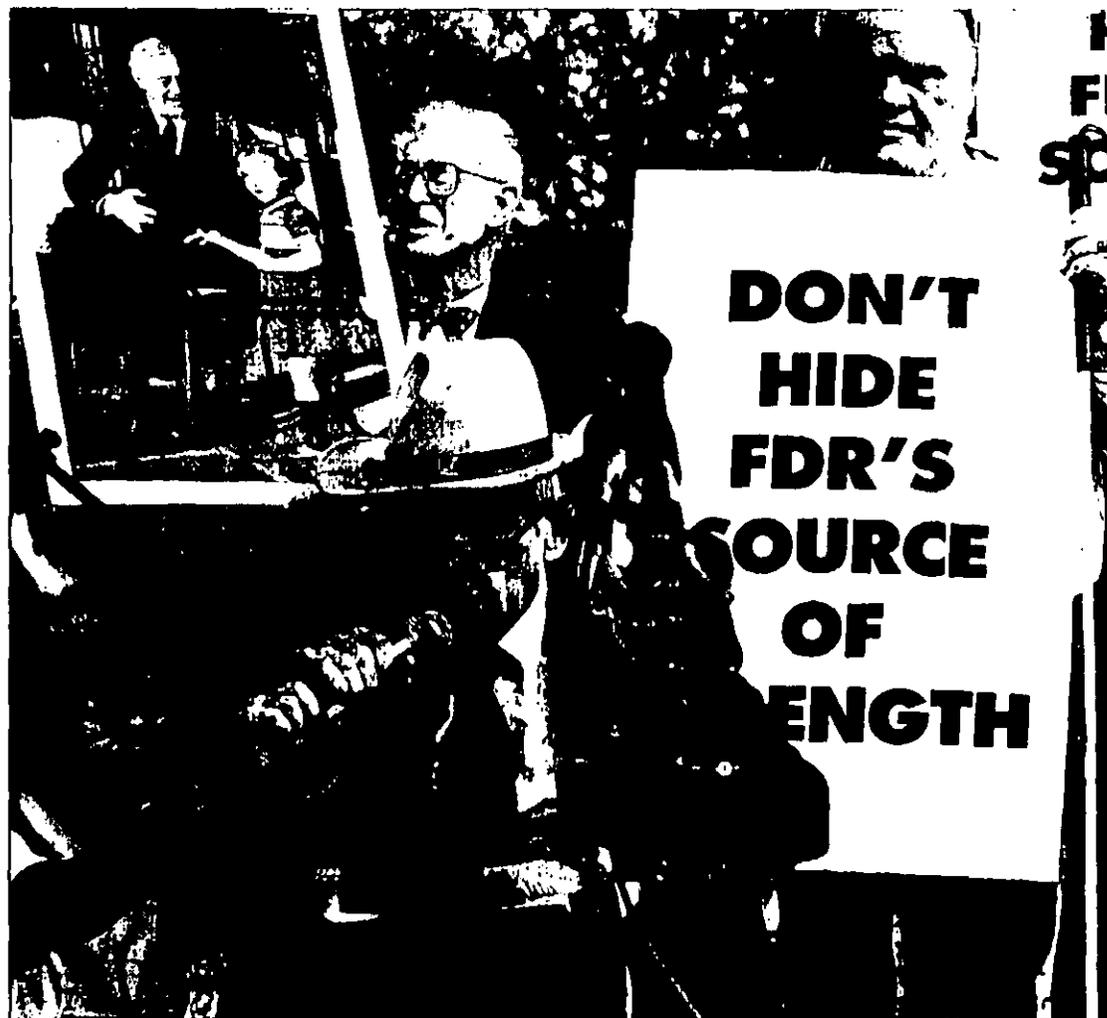
## ALSO . . .

► **BASH CANCELED:** Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., canceled his 70th birthday bash that was to kick off fund-raising for his next Senate race. Moynihan cited "current discussions of campaign finance reform, which I favor." About 4,000 supporters had been invited to the \$1,000-a-plate dinner and reception March 10 in New York City.

► **CLINTON TRIP:** Welfare and education will be topics of President Clinton's address to the Michigan Legislature on March 6 in Lansing, the White House said. It will be the second in a series of speeches

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THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Tell it like it was

Justin Dart, director of Justice for All, an advocacy group for the disabled, spoke yesterday to protest that the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial fails to show the former president in a wheelchair. Dart was among about 75 people at a rally at the site of the soon-to-be dedicated memorial in Washington. Shown at the rally was a reproduction of one of the rare photographs of Roosevelt in his wheelchair.

WASHINGTON (AP) — They rolled up in wheelchairs, were led by seeing eye dogs, or made their way, carefully, cautiously alone. They assembled at the site where America is building a monument to Franklin D. Roosevelt, to protest its failure to depict him as handicapped.

About 75 people gathered Thursday near the banks of the Potomac to denounce the monument as "a lie" that would mislead generations of children.

"I have a 10-year-old son, and I've always taught him that we disabled people have pride, we have dignity, and we can contribute to society," said Kirk Bauer, the executive director of Disabled Sports USA, who lost a leg in Vietnam.

"Now I'm ashamed to bring him down here because he's going to say, was his father a liar? Are we supposed to be ashamed of disabilities?"

Bauer said the monument was "the most humiliating and disgusting thing that I've seen" in the 28 years since he was wounded in war.

A victim of polio, Roosevelt never took an unaided step in the last 24 years of his life. But many Americans at the time barely were aware of his disability. Photographers did not catch him being carried or in his wheelchair.

The FDR Memorial Commission said it was honoring his wishes. In response to the protest, it made available to news organizations an article written last year by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, who lost an arm in World War II.

A commission member, Inouye wrote that Roosevelt "deliberately and painstakingly presented himself to the public" without calling attention to his disability.

Some of Roosevelt's 29 grandchildren have opposed calling attention to his disability, but eight wrote the commission last year seeking a portrayal "of all facets of the man as he was, not as some think he ought to have been."

The memorial — of stone, trees and moving water on a seven-acre site between the Potomac and the Tidal Basin, in view of the Jefferson Memorial — will be dedicated May 2. Three statues of Roosevelt will show him seated but not with the steel braces he wore or other visible signs of his handicap.

The FDR Memorial Commission said a replica of the kitchen chair with wheels that Roosevelt used will be displayed at the visitors' center. Also, a timeline would take account of Roosevelt's polio and a rare photograph of Roosevelt in a wheelchair will be displayed on postcards.

The protest was organized by the National Organization on Disability, which has offered to pay for a fourth statue with a "March of Dollars" comparable to the "March of Dimes" Roosevelt organized to fight polio.

"If this memorial has no depiction of Roosevelt in a wheelchair, then instead of a memorial to a great American, I honestly believe that it becomes a memorial to hypocrisy," said I. King Jordan, the first deaf president of Gallaudet University, an institution for the deaf. He spoke orally and in sign language.

"Children who come to see this must know the truth, must know that despite his disability, or perhaps because of his disability, he was a great president," Jordan said.

Organizers said they would continue their fight. "Don't hide FDR's source of strength," they chanted. Some held aloft signs that said "Truth" in writing and Braille.

ATTENTION: Nancy FLINN