

Not Sent 27
File SDI

May 13, 1985

Dear Pat,

~~I'm mad as hell.~~

The attached memorandum was given to the Conservative Opportunity Society Congressmen last week by Don Eberly. It's a concise and devastatingly realistic harbinger of things to come for SDI funding on the Hill... unless we take action now.

I've been concerned about this since late December; increasingly so as I watched half-hearted and chaotic attempts to explain the President's vision while Spring wore on.

Right up to the last minute I received assurances from the National Security Council staff that they had a complete "strategy" for marshalling Congressional and public support for SDI, that they were strongly advocating full funding for SDI, and that everything was fine.

On the Friday before the Armed Services Committee's markup of the DOD Authorization bill I was presented with irrefutable evidence that Les Aspin's plans to cut FY86 SDI funding from the President's request of \$3.7 Billion to less than \$2.5B would probably succeed.

I started placing telephone calls to SDI-receptive Democrats to do some last-minute lobbying, but first I called Bill Dickinson for advice on approaching the Democrats.

An obviously very frustrated Bill Dickinson let loose a torrent of built-up hostility: "Gee, thanks, old buddy... thanks for calling me at the last minute... there has been no consultation of House Republicans on this issue... we're tired of this Administration treating us like children..."

The bottom line: one of Ronald Reagan's strongest supporters hadn't even been ~~talked to~~ approached by the ~~White House~~, let alone treated like an ally and used effectively as a point man for the one initiative the President calls his "greatest legacy to posterity."

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I've heard Bill Gray and the House Budget Committee will push for further cuts when the DOD Authorization bill is considered on the House floor. Meanwhile, the NSC staff pushes for a "gag-rule" NSDD to prevent any "non-official" officials (i.e. yours truly) from publicly discussing (i.e. advocating) SDI.

I believe we've got a serious problem here, one that could cause the President lasting and irreparable damage. And I see no coordinated effort -- let alone leadership -- in the Executive Branch to address and solve the problem.

In this light, I'm all through laying back at the request of others who still, as before, claim "everything's all right."

This member of the Reagan team is going back on the offensive. But since I'm a team member, I believe we need to talk about this issue as soon as possible.

When can we meet?

Very
~~Yours~~ truly *yours,*

George A. Keyworth
Science Advisor to the President

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