

M E M O R A N D U M

September 16, 1988

TO: SENATOR DOLE
FROM: JIM WHITTINGHILL
SUBJECT: JOHN ROWLAND EVENT

This is John Rowland's first "Washington Conference" for his 5th Congressional District constituents. Attendance is expected to be around 100, primarily business types with spouses.

He is in his second term, having been elected in 1984 at age 27. Now 31 years old, he is still the youngest member of the House. In that role, he has joined with Claude Pepper in an effort to protect Social Security. Prior to Congress, he served two terms in the Connecticut House, being elected the first time at age 23.

Rowland is the perfect example of the charge that Democrats haven't left the Party, the Party has left them. Although coming from New England, he regularly supports the Reagan agenda, voting for the MX missile in his first year in the House. His support for the Contras has been mixed, but he is always one the first "Gypsy Moths" to support the Administration.

Earlier this year, he was rumored to be thinking of running against Senator Weicker in the Republican primary, since his conservative voting (relative to the Northeast) is respected by the very small Republican Party in Connecticut.

The largest town in his District is Waterbury at about 100,000. Other communities include Naugatuck Valley and Meriden (like Waterbury known for factories), Danbury (corporate headquarters for Union Carbide and General Datacom), and New York suburbs of Wilton, Weston and Ridgefield.

Recently, Rowland attempted to force the House to recite the pledge of allegiance daily. The Chair ruled the motion to be out of order and was upheld on a mainly party-line vote. However, Jim Wright has now implemented the daily pledge on his own as a result of pressure by Democrats forced to vote against Rowland. It should be noted, however, that he is not a part of the Gingrich and Walker crowd.

He could be viewed as the leader of responsible conservatives in the Northeast for the future.

His wife, who lives in Waterbury, is named Debi, and she gave birth to their third child a week or two ago.

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Joyce —

Some background info.
for you for the Howland
Event on Monday, Sept. 19.

Marion



WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

September 18-19, 1988

hosted by
Congressman John G. Rowland
5th District, Connecticut

Monday, September 19



Sunday, September 18

12:00 Flight arrives at Washington National Airport. Buses will take you directly to Pier 4 for cruise.

12:30 Arrive at Potomac waterfront.

1:00-3:00 Spirit of Washington Brunch Cruise, complete with lunch and Broadway Review.

3:30-5:00 Check in at Capitol Hill Hotel. Your bags will already be in your room. Walking tours of the Capitol grounds available.

5:00 Buses depart for tour of Mount Vernon, estate of George Washington.

6:00-7:30 After hours private twilight tour of Mount Vernon.

7:30-9:00 Dinner reception at the Mount Vernon Inn, located on the estate.

9:30 Return to hotel for the night.

7:00-8:15 Continental breakfast in hotel reception room. Check out will be during this time. You must leave your luggage in designated room for later pickup.

8:30 Depart for Rayburn House Office Building, just across from the Capitol.

8:50-9:00 The Honorable John G. Rowland - Opening Remarks

9:00-9:30 The Honorable Richard Lyng
Secretary of Agriculture

9:30-10:00 Mr. Charles Bierbauer
CNN Chief White House Correspondent

10:00-10:30 The Honorable Robert Dole

10:30-10:45 BREAK

10:45-11:15 His Excellency Allan E. Gottlieb
Ambassador of Canada

11:15-11:45 Mr. Edward Hamberger
Assistant Secretary of Transportation

12:00-1:30 White House Chief of Staff Kenneth Duberstein
Lunch in Rayburn House Office Building

2:00-3:30 The Honorable Frank Carlucci
Secretary of Defense
Briefing and Tour of Pentagon

4:00-5:15 Return to Capitol Hill for private tour of Capitol Building, luggage will be picked up for you.

5:15 Depart for the Turkish Embassy.

5:45-7:15 Embassy Reception.

7:15 Depart for Washington National Airport.

9:00 Flight leaves Washington for Hartford.

10:06 Flight arrives at Hartford Bradley Airport.

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65 and over 63,553

Walter F. Mondale

5 John G. Rowland (R)

Of Waterbury — Elected 1984

Born: May 24, 1957, Waterbury, Conn.

Education: Villanova U., B.S. 1979.

Occupation: Insurance agent.

Family: Wife, Deborah J. Nahhan; two children.

Religion: Roman Catholic.

Political Career: Conn. House, 1981-85.

Capitol Office: 512 Cannon Bldg. 20515; 225-3822.

In Washington: Rowland is more conservative than most of the Republicans that Connecticut and New England have sent to Washington in recent years, but he is notable more for his irreverence than for any ideological preconceptions. However he plans to vote on a key issue, he usually can be counted on to enliven the debate with a sharp one-liner.

Asked whether intense White House lobbying on a 1985 MX missile vote would influence him, Rowland said, "As soon as the vote is over on Tuesday, they'll be returning my daughter unhurt." When President Reagan called to seek his support for "contra" aid in March 1986, Rowland said, "I told him right off that I planned to vote no. So I spent 35 minutes trying to get off the phone."

Over the long haul, though, Rowland supports the GOP position more often than not. While he did go against Reagan's Nicaragua policy in March, he supported a revised proposal for money for the contras in June. As a freshman, Rowland almost always agreed with Reagan on key matters, even on the defense issues that make many northeastern Republicans queasy, such as the MX, chemical weapons, and the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Defense contract dollars are an important source of income for Connecticut, which has a sizable maritime industry and numerous high-technology companies. But for some time, its congressmen have been dovish on military matters; the state's last member on Armed Services, Democratic Rep. Donald J. Irwin, left in 1968. In 1987, Rowland ended the dry spell by taking a seat on Armed Services.

At Home: When Rowland was in the Connecticut House, he occasionally was lectured by some Republicans for being insufficiently ideological. "Unless you can vote three times," he told them, "I need Democrats and independents to win." Rowland campaigns as easily in bowling alleys as in boardrooms, an essential versatility in the 5th, where registered

Connecticut - 5th District



Republicans are greatly outnumbered. Rowland developed his approach in his native Waterbury, which is heavily Democratic. In 1980, at age 23, he defeated a four-term Democratic state representative. In 1982, he beat back a concerted Democratic effort to unseat him.

Campaigning for Congress in 1984 against Democratic Rep. William R. Ratchford, Rowland capitalized on the fact that many working-class voters had come to associate the Democratic Party with excessive taxation and spending, a weak defense and assaults on "traditional values." Rowland talked about his opposition to tax increases and welfare fraud. His slogan — "Fighting for the Future of Connecticut's Families" — highlighted his opposition to abortion. His family-man image was enhanced when his wife gave birth to a daughter in June.

Ratchford claimed Rowland would be a right-winger in Congress, but the Republican dodged the extremist label, endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment and stressing his support in the Legislature for cleaning up hazardous wastes. Reagan's 2-to-1 margin in the 5th helped Rowland run even in Waterbury and hold down his losses in Meriden and Ratchford's hometown of Danbury. The politically moderate suburbs of Wilton, Weston, Easton, Trumbull and Shelton delivered their normal GOP margins, and the blue-collar Naugatuck Valley went for Rowland.

Ratchford decided against a comeback in 1986, and Rowland found himself without strong opposition. Democrat Jim Cohen, a former director of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, had spent much of the previous decade in Washington, moving to the 5th in 1985. Rowland smirked that his two-year-old daughter had lived in the district longer than Cohen. He won handily.

Rowland sits on two important House committees: the Armed Services Committee, which has oversight and policy making responsibilities over the nation's military forces; and the Veterans' Affairs Committee, on which he is a forceful advocate of Connecticut's more than 400,000 veterans.

He has made the war of drugs a top priority this year, sponsoring and supporting major new legislation which would provide tougher penalties for drug kingpins and pushers. At the same time, Rowland believes we will not win the war on drugs unless we also provide quality support services for drug users and victims and their families. In that regard, he has made a career of visiting elementary and secondary schools throughout Connecticut to urge students not to use drugs.

Rowland was elected to Congress in 1984 at age 27. Now 31, he is still the youngest member of Congress. Prior to coming to Congress, Rowland served two-terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives.

He and his wife Debi have three children.