



RONALD REAGAN

April 11, 1994

Dear Bob,

I can only imagine how hectic your life must be these days -- from daily appearances on television, grappling with the important issues of our government, to the neverending challenges of "opposition" guru and partisan debate. Thankfully you're still young and feisty, with a great sense of humor, which incidentally is the purpose of my letter.

These are busy days around my Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. In recent months the Ronald Reagan Center for Public Affairs has begun to organize an ambitious series of conferences, lectures, debates and other programs designed to move beyond the conventional think tank by involving real life individuals as well as academics.

Behind all this is my desire to avoid the ivory tower syndrome. After all, I have built my career upon a faith in the people and their ability to decide critical issues for themselves. Given this fact, it would hardly make sense to establish a public policy center that for all practical purposes excludes the public. So in addition to academics, we intend to feature prominent figures from the fields of politics, the media, business, jurisprudence, and popular culture, among others.

On February 28th George Will kicked off a major new speakers series called The Reagan Forum. Appearing before a packed house and a national television audience (thanks to C-Span) his remarks, both eloquent and provocative, generated interest far beyond Simi Valley.

In this spirit I'm writing to invite you to participate in a very special one day conference set for May 17, 1994. Our working title is "Do Conservatives Have a Sense of Humor?" Former Vice President Dan Quayle has already signed on as a participant, along with P.J. O'Rourke and The Capitol Steps. It should be enlightening, to say the least, and I thought perhaps you might consider offering a few anecdotes of your own.

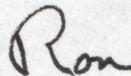
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I can think of no one who has used humor in the political arena more effectively over the years than you, Bob. You have a rare talent which allows you to laugh at yourself while putting a tense situation into refreshing perspective. I feel your presence would lend stature to our "humorous" event and your thoughts would make an important contribution to public understanding. Besides, we always love to see you out here in sunny California. Since the conference is on a Tuesday, perhaps you could combine your participation with Congressional business or a fundraiser.

For more details please feel free to contact Richard Norton Smith, who serves as Executive Director of the Reagan Center for Public Affairs as well as Director of the Reagan Library and Museum. His address is: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, 40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley, CA 93065. The phone number is (805) 522-2977.

Thank you in advance, Bob, for considering this request. Nancy sends her best to you and Elizabeth.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510