

vided a means for Congress to have complete access to the documents sought.

Although this was accepted as a reasonable compromise by Chairman Levitas and Speaker O'Neill, and we have been proceeding to provide such complete access, other committees have demanded that the documents be physically turned over to them before they would accept the information. The debate on this issue, for our part, has been essentially legal. But it is now clear that prolonging this legal debate can only result in a slowing down of the release of information to the Congress—thereby fostering suspicion in the public's mind that somehow the important doctrine of executive privilege is being used to shield possible wrongdoing. It is not in the public interest that any such suspicion be fostered.

While we continue to assert executive privilege, our concern is that the Congress have this information as soon as possible, with assurances that the enforcement-sensitive materials will be provided the necessary protection in order that their premature public release will not jeopardize our responsibility to enforce the law. We trust that pursuant to the additional agreement reached today with Chairman Dingell, the documents will be provided that protection. This agreement will be available to any other committee that seeks these EPA documents and is willing to abide by its terms.

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

*Exchange of Letters on the Resignation of  
Anne M. Burford as Administrator.  
March 9, 1983*

*Dear Anne:*

It is with deep regret that I am accepting your resignation as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

For the past two years, you have faithfully and honestly carried out your mission of helping this Nation cleanse its air and water and make wiser use of its lands. I am personally very grateful to you for the fine—and often courageous—service you have given, and I share your pride in the prog-

ress we have made during your stewardship at EPA.

Your resignation today is an occasion of sorrow for us all. But it is more than that: it is an act of unselfishness and personal courage that once again demonstrates your loyalty to the Nation.

Over the past several weeks, I have been greatly disappointed that some persons have unjustly attacked you and have made unfair judgments based upon allegations and innuendo alone. You have responded with a grace and straightforwardness that have won you countless admirers across the Nation.

Anne, I join your many friends in saying: you can walk out of the Environmental Protection Agency with your head held high. You have served this Nation well, and I look forward to counting upon you serving as a member of my Administration in the days and years ahead.

Sincerely,

**Ronald Reagan**

March 9, 1983

*Dear Mr. President:*

I hereby tender my resignation as Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency effective immediately.

I do so with great regret, but it is now clear that my resignation is essential to termination of the controversy and confusion generated by the outstanding dispute over Congressional access to certain EPA documentary materials. Without an end to these unfortunate difficulties, EPA is disabled from implementing its mandate and you are distracted from pursuing the critical domestic and international goals of your administration.

I came to Washington to serve you, because I believe in you and the direction which you are setting for the country. I know of your strong commitment to the environmental goals of the people of the United States—the protection of their health, and welfare, cleaner air, cleaner water, the wise use of our land. I have endeavored to reach those goals through a four point program: better quality of science; regulatory reform; more authority

and responsibility in state government; and to do a better job of protecting the environment with fewer taxpayer's resources.

I believe the policies are sound, and that during your administration the Agency has made significant progress in achieving these goals.

We have made an environmental record of which you can justly be proud.

We are, in this Administration, for the first time, controlling the disposal of hazardous materials on America's land. We are, in this Administration, for the first time, cleaning up the by-products of a chemical revolution—the benefits of which we have all enjoyed for the last forty plus years.

We have developed guidelines which will diminish the discharge of toxics into our nation's waterways. We have begun, for the first time, to test and regulate newly developed chemicals as required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act in 1976. We have cleared out a backlog of state actions which were pending federal decision making for long periods of time. We have delegated to state government a large share of our duties. And, we have achieved a real reduction in our operating budget and a real reduction in our work force.

I strongly believe that the principal of executive privilege is essential to maintaining the constitutional balance of power, and I have been the staunch defender of that principal since last Fall when I exercised it for you, pursuant to your direction.

To paraphrase your words, Mr. President, I also strongly believe that the privilege should not be exercised in any manner which would erode the confidence of the public in its servant, the government.

It has been an unequalled honor for me to share in the great work of the Environmental Protection Agency and of your administration, to both of which I remain deeply committed.

I look forward to serving you in a new endeavor in the very near future and hope that this action will terminate the controversy and confusion that has crippled my agency and prevents my dedicated colleagues at the Environmental Protection Agency from doing their jobs.

Sincerely yours,

Anne M. Burford

*Note: The White House announced that Mrs. Burford submitted her resignation to the President during a meeting with him in the Residence.*

*As printed above, the item follows the texts of the letters released by the Office of the Press Secretary.*

## Central America and El Salvador

*Remarks at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers. March 10, 1983*

Thank you, Bernie, for your kind introduction, and all of you for your warm welcome. Madam Secretary and distinguished guests here at the head table and you ladies and gentlemen:

I'm delighted to be here. I know that you and your president, Sandy Trowbridge, and the entire NAM organization have been an enormous help during the last 2 years, not only with advice and counsel but with a roll-up-your-sleeves effort to help pass the economic recovery programs that are ending this recession. And with your assistance, we also were able to negotiate a bipartisan compromise solution to save our social security system.

You know, we didn't come to Washington at an ideal time—[laughter]—and we've certainly had our share of problems. But the signs of recovery are springing up all around us, and there's no mistaking the fact that at long last America is on the mend. And the courage and the vision of the people and institutions that are represented here today deserve a big share of the credit for this hard-earned but inflation-free recovery. So, on behalf of all your fellow citizens who've been freed from the ravages of runaway inflation and can look again to a future of better times and then new opportunity, I thank you.

America is meeting her challenge here at home. But there are other challenges, equally important, that we must face. And today, I'd like to talk to you about one of them.