

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR NANCY J. RISQUE
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Mazzoli Letter on Pardons for
Abortion Clinic Bombers

Attached is a copy of our proposed response to Congressman
Mazzoli. I welcome any comments or suggestions.

THE WHITE HOUSE
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February 10, 1986

Dear Mr. Mazzoli:

Thank you for your letter of January 29 to the President. In that letter you expressed concern over reports about a conversation between the President and Pro-Life leaders on the possibility of pardons for those convicted in connection with bombings of abortion clinics.

The President unequivocally condemns such acts of violence and believes that those responsible should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. No matter how lofty or sincerely held the goal, those who resort to violence to achieve it are criminals.

The President has no intention of granting special treatment in the pardon process to those convicted of violence against abortion clinics. Any requests for pardons received from such individuals will be processed in the first instance by the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice, as is true of pardon requests in general. The resolution of any pardon request cannot be determined in advance of receipt of the particular request, since a decision to grant or deny a pardon depends upon careful review of all the facts of a specific case. I can assure you, however, that in considering any pardon requests from those convicted of violence against abortion clinics, neither the cause that these misguided individuals mistakenly believed they were serving, nor the target of their violence, will in any way be considered to mitigate the seriousness of their offense against our laws.

I hope the foregoing responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views on this matter with us.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Hauser
Deputy Counsel to the President

The Honorable Romano L. Mazzoli
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DIANNA G. HOLLAND

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT:

Mazzoli Letter on Pardons for
Abortion Clinic Bombers

I have as yet received no response from Nancy Risque on the attached. I do not know if she has decided we need no response, or if she responded in another fashion.