

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: H.R. 3348 -- Gold Medal in Honor of the Late Congressman Leo J. Ryan

Richard Darman has asked for comments on the above-referenced enrolled bill as soon as possible. The bill directs the Department of the Treasury to strike a gold medal to honor former Congressman Leo J. Ryan, the Democrat from California who was killed while visiting the "People's Church" settlement in Jonestown, Guyana. The bill would also authorize production and sale of bronze duplicates. The medal is to be in recognition of Ryan's "distinguished service" and "untimely death by assassination." The bill passed both Houses by voice vote. OMB recommends approval; Treasury has no objection.

I am not certain I would have voted to give a gold medal to Ryan. The distinction of his service in the House is certainly subject to debate, and his actions leading to his murder can be viewed as those of a publicity hound. Nonetheless, I see no legal objection to the President signing this bill.

Attachment