

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS  
ARE ATTACHED:  
(Please do not remove)

ER 1316 -/4 88

SUBJECT:



Executive Registry

88-1316/4

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Date: 11 May 1988

To: DDCI

Bob:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Bob'.

I am sure Public Affairs provided you a copy of the 27 April Topeka Capital-Journal article on your interview with two Topeka-West students. Just in case you have not seen it, I am forwarding it to you. An uncle in my home town of Junction City, Kansas, forwarded the article to me this week. Obviously you made quite a hit with these two young men. I agree with your comment that the Topeka-West program is impressive. It was great that you were able to provide them the time you did.

STAT



2B Wednesday, April 27, 1988

The Topeka Capital-Journal

LIVING

# West students impress CIA

By ANN HUNGERFORD  
*Capital-Journal Living editor*



*'As a native Kansan, I can only applaud you, Topeka West and the Topeka*

Jason Newell and Mark Roeder may have been impressed with their VIP treatment from the CIA and FBI but no less so than the staff of the national agencies were with them.

Robert Gates, deputy director of Central Intelligence in Washington, D.C., and subject of a Topeka West High School oral history project, wrote Dr. Robert McFrazier, principal at Topeka West, to express how impressed he was with the two young historians.

"I want to commend Topeka West and Mike Printz for an immensely ambitious and creative history program. It is testimony to the confidence of the community in these high school seniors, as well as the maturity of the students themselves, that you are willing to send them to distant cities to carry out these projects and to do so with obvious trust in how they will conduct themselves.

SALT talks. He was also with the National Security Council for a time.

While in service to the CIA, Gates earned his doctorate at Georgetown University, a fact that would prove to be especially significant for Roeder.

At the conclusion of their dinner together, Gates offered to write letters of recommendation for colleges or employment for either of the young men.

Since he is seeking acceptance at Georgetown University, Ro-



Jason Newell



Mark Roeder

der took Gates up on the offer and asked for a letter of recommendation.

REC-115  
D 211-11

**community for  
sending such  
extraordinary  
ambassadors  
around our  
country.  
Jason and  
Mark made an  
enormously  
favorable  
impression on  
everyone they  
encountered!**

**—Robert Gates**

... trust and confidence in them is admirable and clearly well founded," Gates wrote.

Gates invited the students to Washington for an interview, arranged a VIP tour of the FBI, took them for dinner accompanied, of course, by a small entourage of security men.

"Gates said he considered it an honor to be chosen," said Newell. "We asked him for whatever time he could give us."

Gates gave them double the originally scheduled time, never interrupting to indicate the time was up.

So special was the treatment they received, that literally everywhere they went in the CIA they were greeted with "So this is them."

During their interview, Newell and Roeder learned that Gates has been a career intelligence officer.

Born and educated in Wichita, Gates earned his bachelor's degree at William and Mary and his master's at the University of Indiana when he was recruited by the CIA. He worked as an aide under Henry Kissinger and was the youngest member at the

In only three days following the phone request Roeder received a copy of the letter to Georgetown.

"He wrote it the day after I asked," said Roeder.

Secondary information from colleagues of Gates and media reports indicate that Gates receives highly favorable response from both.

"His press is really highly favorable," said Newell. "He is considered one of the top two men in the nation on Soviet affairs."

Colleagues consider him a top intelligence administrator because he is not afraid to change the system and brings an efficiency and industriousness to the position.

Friends also indicate that his analytical mind has been a tremendous asset to the CIA, the historians said.

Gates arranged for a private five-hour tour of the FBI for the historians.

"They showed us everything," Newell said. "We got to handle the weapons used in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre."

## Oral history projects listed

The Topeka West High School Oral History Opening Night will begin at 7:30 p.m. May 4. Guests and historians will be introduced in the high school auditorium and programs on notable Kansans will follow in locations throughout the high school. Programs run an average of 30 minutes each and will be repeated several times throughout the evening allowing those in attendance to view several.

The completed oral history projects are presented to the Kansas Historical Society.

A list of Kansas subjects and their oral historians follows:

• Karole Armitage, choreographer, New York — Staci Ervin and Christie Ross.

• Marlin Fitzwater, presidential press secretary, Washington, D.C. — Chris McIlvain and Mark Reedy.

• Robert Gates, CIA deputy director, Washington, D.C. — Jason Newell and Mark Roeder.

• Dennis Hopper, actor, Hollywood — Kristie Green and John Greenwood.

• Jim Slattery, U.S. Congressman, Washington, D.C. — Mark Johnson and Kelly Sutherland.

• Steve Tilford, international bicyclist, Topeka — High Cooper, Ron Hardin, Bill McLaughlin.

• Topeka West High School Distinguished Graduates (Steve Harsha, Michael Murphy and Janet Thompson) — Stephen Durrell, Stacie Harris, Tim Lee, Greta Norris, Mark Parcels and Brian White.

• U.S.S. Topeka — Jenni Liles, Nancy Nusbaum, Myles Schrag and Michael Schwartz.

• Donald Wilson, United States Archivist, Washington, D.C. — Kyle Pelton, William Regan and Kevin Young.

Organizations wishing to schedule a presentation of one of the projects may call Kay Pin at 272-1643, ext. 81.

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

ER 1316/3-88

March 31, 1988

Dr. Robert McFrazier  
Principal  
Topeka West High School  
2001 Fairlawn Road  
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Dear Dr. McFrazier:

I had the pleasure this week of spending some time with two of your students, Jason Newell and Mark Roeder, who are involved in the oral history program at Topeka West. I want to tell you how deeply impressed I and others in Washington were with these two fine young men. We do not get too many uplifting experiences in this city, especially in my line of work. However, spending some time with these two smart, well informed, responsible and mature high school seniors was both inspiring and a real treat. All who met Jason and Mark agreed that, based on what we saw of them, the future of the country is in good hands.

I want to commend Topeka West and Mike Printz for an immensely ambitious and creative history program. It is testimony to the confidence of the community in these high school seniors, as well as the maturity of the students themselves, that you are willing to send them to distant cities to carry out these projects and to do so with obvious trust in how they will conduct themselves. Your trust and confidence in them is admirable and clearly well founded.

As a native Kansan, I can only applaud you, Topeka West and the Topeka community for sending such extraordinary ambassadors around our country. Jason and Mark made an enormously favorable impression on everyone they encountered. Their parents must be quite proud of them. And I am reassured.

Sincerely,

[Signature Box]

Robert M. Gates



*P-310-ik*

STAT

STAT)DCI/RMGates/[ ]  
DISTRIBUTION: w/incoming

- 1 - Addressee
- 1 - D/PAO
- 1 - ER
- 1 - DDCI Chrono

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

ER 1316/2-88

March 31, 1988

Mr. Mark Roeder  
Topeka West High School  
2001 Fairlawn Road  
Topeka, Kansas 66604


Dear Mark:

I want to thank you for coming to Washington and including me in your program. I certainly enjoyed the time I spent talking with you and Jason, both on camera and at dinner. All those with whom you came in contact here in Washington were deeply impressed with your character and intelligence.

The program in which you are participating is a remarkable one and I know an honor and pleasure for you. By the same token, you will never know what a positive and reassuring experience it was for us here to get to meet you. It is hard to imagine better ambassadors than you and Jason for Kansas and for your generation. Your parents should be very proud.

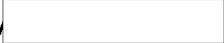
Best wishes for a very successful future.

Sincerely,

  
Robert M. Gates

STAT

STAT

DDCI/RMGates,   
DISTRIBUTION: (w/incoming)  
1 - Addressee  
1 - D/PAO  
1 - ER  
1 - DDCI Chrono

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

ER 1316/1-88

March 31, 1988

Mr. Jason Newell  
Topeka West High School  
2001 Fairlawn Road  
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Dear Jason:

I want to tell you how much I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and spend some time with you. I am flattered that I was chosen to participate in your program. You certainly made a very positive impression on me and everyone you encountered here in Washington. Your evident intelligence and character had a profound impact and, frankly, were immensely reassuring and inspiring to all of us.

It is hard to imagine better ambassadors than you and Mark for Kansas or for your generation. Your parents should be very proud.


Best of luck in what I expect will be a very successful future.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Gates

STAT

STAT DDCI/RMGates   
DISTRIBUTION: (w/incoming)  
1 - Addressee  
1 - D/PAO  
1 - ER  
1 - DDCI Chrono

7 5 11  
7 00



February 19, 1988

The Honorable Robert M. Gates  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Gates:

During the Bicentennial, Topeka (Kansas) West High School Library Media Specialist Michael Printz developed an oral history program to honor native Kansans who have gone on to distinguish themselves in their respective fields. A few of the one hundred twenty-six (126) past Oral Histories include projects on Dwight D. Eisenhower, Alf Landon, Senators Nancy Landon Kassebaum and Bob Dole, astronaut Steve Hawley, actors Gordon Jump and Ed Asner, Pulitzer Prizewinning poet Gwendolyn Brooks, and Amelia Earhart.

Completed Oral Histories become the property of the Kansas State Historical Society, where they are made a permanent part of the Society's research and educational materials. Scholars and writers from across the country travel to Kansas to use the over two thousand seven hundred-seventy (2,770) hours of audio and video recorded interviews that the two hundred one (201) students who have worked with the Oral History Program have accumulated in the past twelve years. For example, since the project on Amelia Earhart was completed in 1978 over two thousand two hundred-twenty (2,220) writers have come to the Kansas State Historical Society to use the materials prepared by the students that produced her oral history.

The students that work on each project also present their finished product to various civic, service, and political organizations throughout the state. Obviously, a first rate oral history requires extensive travel, time, and money to interview and research the subject of the documentary and those that have influenced his life. All expenses are covered by funds raised by the students through community contributions from the people of Kansas.

We are extremely excited this year to have been selected to complete a documentary on the life and accomplishments of Robert M. Gates. Our project will involve extensive research into your life in Wichita and the years since

TOPEKA WEST HIGH SCHOOL, 2001 FAIRLAWN RD. 66604, 913/272-1643

TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Robert McFrazier





you left Kansas. We will be interviewing your family, friends, teachers and other colleagues that have influenced your life. Our research will culminate with a trip to Washington, D. C. to trace your life in our nation's capitol.

We are hoping to meet with you at your convenience to conduct a personal interview for use in our documentary. In addition, we would also like to interview several of the people associated with your work in Washington, and we would appreciate any suggestions you might have regarding others that would contribute to our project.

We are interested in discussing dates that we would be able to meet with you in Washington. Please feel free to call one of us collect at home this weekend, or if this is not possible we will contact you Monday, February 22.

The people of Kansas are always excited to hear about the success of other Kansans, and we are very enthusiastic about the project. Your cooperation will enable us to complete a quality documentary, and look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Newell'.

Jason Newell  
2612 SW Osborn Road  
Topeka, Kansas 66614  
(913) 272-8622

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Roeder'.

Mark Roeder  
3225 Westover Road  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
(913) 354-7407

Mike Printz  
4315 W 6th Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66606  
(913) 272-6264

Topeka West Library  
(913) 272-1643, Ext. 80

TOPEKA WEST HIGH SCHOOL, 2001 FAIRLAWN RD. 66604, 913/272-1643

TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS