

MEMO

from JAMES CAMILLO FLANAGAN P.E.

4/3/84

From Galveston Paper

I'm so proud for you.

daughter, Janet, Phd Candidate in Wash D.C.
said she saw on T.V. also. Friend who
is news reporter said you were best
interview person and also greatest
man there, as human being, American,
and as intellect

Jim F

participate... until in the sixth year of operation the city would paying the entire cost.

Under the proposal, the city's cost for the five years of grant operation will be \$44,311.

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Division News

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"We cannot continue to keep in-
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Nash said.

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Medals of Freedom given by Reagan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The posthumous award to Whittaker Chambers was the focus of controversy but James Cagney, his eyes brimming with tears, took the emotional spotlight Monday as he received the Medal of Freedom — the nation's highest civilian honor — from President Reagan.

The scene in the White House East Room was reminiscent of "Yankee Doodle Dandy," the 1942 movie which won Cagney an Academy Award for best actor. But this time, Cagney's tears were real.

Chambers' son, John, accepted the coveted medal for his father, a former communist whose testimony against Alger Hiss was the springboard for the career of an obscure congressman named Richard Nixon. Chambers died in 1961 at the age of 60.

"At a critical moment in our nation's history, Whittaker Chambers stood alone against the brooding terrors of our age," said the citation read by Reagan. "Consummate intellectual, writer of moving, majestic prose, and witness to the truth, he became the focus of a momentous controversy in American history that symbolized our century's epic struggle between freedom and totalitarianism."

While John Chambers and 12 other honorees stepped forward to receive the medal from Reagan, the ailing Cagney, 79, sat unsmiling in his wheelchair.

"As a giant in the world of entertainment, James Cagney has left his mark not only on the film industry but on the hearts of all his fellow Americans," Reagan read.

"One of his most remembered performances, as George M. Cohan in 'Yankee Doodle Dandy,' was a whirlwind singing and dancing film that inspired a nation at war when it sorely needed a lift in spirit."

Cagney was congratulated by the president and kissed by First Lady Nancy Reagan. A smile creased his face. He patted the president's hand. Then the old actor's eyes filled with tears.

"As a great star in the same studio where I started, he was never too busy to hold out a hand to a young fellow trying to get under way," the president said, adding a personal tribute to the citation.

In the movie, Cohan, a writer, producer and performer, is thanked by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his service to the country. On the way out, Cagney — as the aged Cohan — tap-danced down the steps and went out on Pennsylvania

Avenue where soldiers were marching off to World War II. Cohan's body straightened as if shedding the burdens of age and he marched smartly along as the film ended.

Chambers was the celebrated witness before the House Committee on Un-American Activities who testified that Hiss, a trusted State Department aide, and others in government had passed him official secrets while he worked as a Soviet spy during the 1930s.

Hiss denied the charges, was twice tried for perjury and was convicted after his second trial in 1950 at the climax of a legal battle still being fought by some of its partisans.

Nixon, a junior congressman on the committee, seized Chambers' testimony as a national issue and rode it to a Senate seat and his selection as Dwight D. Eisenhower's vice presidential running mate in the 1952 presidential campaign.

Others who received the award Monday were:

- Senate Majority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn.
- Economist Leo Cherne, chairman of the board of the International Rescue Committee and longtime head of Freedom House.

- Heart surgeon Denton Cooley.
- Singer Tennessee Ernie Ford.
- Dr. Hector Garcia, founder of the American G.I. Forum, a Mexican-American veterans organization dedicated to achieving equal rights for all Mexican-Americans.

- Retired Army Gen. Andrew Goodpaster, a former NATO commander recalled from retirement to head the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

- American ballet promoter Lincoln Kirstein, who founded and still heads the School for American Ballet in New York and is director-general of the American Ballet.

- Louis L'Amour, author of Western novels.

- The Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, author of "The Power of Positive Thinking," who was cited for his contributions to theology.

- The late Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers, the first black baseball player in the major leagues. His widow, Rachel, accepted the award.

- The late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. His son, Gamal, accepted.

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F. Kennedy, who was cited for her contributions in the field of mental retardation. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., was there to see his sister receive the award.

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