

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1981

*Conf. Chron
file UK-
General*

To: Edwin Meese III
From: Ed Thomas
Re: Insearch, Dallas, Texas

Governor Connally called and wanted to talk to you regarding the following matter:

A company called Insearch, Dallas, is in the process of purchasing an English Company which is the largest engineering firm in England called Davey Engineering. Currently the Minister of Trade, John Beffen, is deciding on whether to refer the acquisition to the Committee on Monopolies or approve the purchase. The United States Embassy has taken the position given to them by the Department of State that the purchase of this firm would not create a monopoly, and is in favor of making the purchase. There is reason to believe that Beffen does not want the largest engineering firm in England to be purchased by a United States firm, and therefore is going to refer it to the Committee on Monopolies, which will kill the sale. They strongly urge the President to mention to the Prime Minister Thatcher that this is not a monopoly, and therefore should urge approval. Secretary of Commerce Baldrige is familiar with this purchase, as well as Secretary of State Haig. Governor Connally requests your action.

cc: Richard Allen