

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Ford, Gerald R. - Vice Presidential Confirmation - Questions” of the Benton L. Becker Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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I. SUBJECT: John Bentia (Pres. Alliance Mfg. Co.) \$500 contribution to Friends for Ford.

II. QUESTIONS POSED BY HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

A. Circumstances of contribution:

1. Mailed to Committee at Michigan address or hand delivered?
2. Was contribution solicited?

III. FACTUAL ANALYSIS: Letter to House Judiciary Committee by Bentia states:

- A. Contribution was hand delivered to GRF in former Rep. Bow's office.
- B. Bow was Bentia's Congressman.
- C. Voluntary contribution - not solicited by FORD or any of his associates.
- D. Had met Ford on two different occasions over the years when he was making speeches at Canton, Ohio (GOP fund raising events).

IV. POSITION:

- A. Contribution reported by Friends of Ford.
- B. Not solicited.



THE ALLIANCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.
ALLIANCE, OHIO

JOHN BENTIA
PRESIDENT

October 24, 1973

Mr. William P. Dixon, Counsel
House Committee on the Judiciary
2226 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

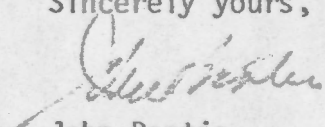
Dear Mr. Dixon:

In reply to Mr. Jerome M. Zeifman's letter of October 19, 1973 which, incidentally, arrived in our office on October 24 -- perhaps the delay was due to the Veteran's Day holiday -- the contribution to Representative Gerald Ford was hand delivered directly to Mr. Ford and it was in Representative Frank T. Bow's office. Mr. Bow was our District Representative at that time.

This was a voluntary contribution and not solicited in any way by Representative Ford or any of his associates. Representative Ford sent a letter of acknowledgment to me on October 20, 1972.

We had met Mr. Ford casually on probably two different occasions over the years when he was making speeches at Canton, Ohio at Republican fund raising events.

Sincerely yours,


John Bentia

JB:jw

*Frank for
10/20
\$550*



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Congress of the United States
 Committee on the Judiciary
 House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

GENERAL COUNSEL:
 JEROME M. ZEIFMAN
 ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL:
 GARNER J. CLINE
 COUNSEL:
 JOSEPH FISCHER
 HERBERT FUCHS
 HERBERT E. HOFFMAN
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 THOMAS E. MOONEY
 PETER T. STRAUB
 MICHAEL W. BLOMMER
 ALEXANDER B. COOK

October 19, 1973

315
 10/29 Mr. Regula
 brought this in

Mr. John Bentia, President
 Alliance Manufacturing Company
 Alliance, Ohio

Dear Mr. Bentia:

On October 13, 1973, President Richard M. Nixon nominated Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to be Vice President of the United States pursuant to Section 2 of the 25th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. The President's nomination was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

In order to complete a thorough investigation of Mr. Ford's qualifications for the Office of Vice President, it would be helpful if you would furnish the Committee with some information respecting your contribution of October 20, 1972, to the Ford for Congress Committee of Michigan.

Specifically, it would be helpful if you would notify me of the full circumstances of your contribution, including whether it was mailed to the Committee at its Michigan address, was hand delivered, or was given in some other fashion. Additionally, it would be helpful if the Committee on the Judiciary knew whether your contribution was solicited in any way, and if so, by whom.

Pursuant to H. Res. 74, agreed to by the House of Representatives on February 28, 1973, the Committee is authorized

"to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents, as it deems necessary"

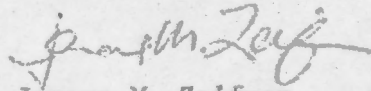


OCT 24 1973

October 19, 1973

To assist the Committee in fulfilling its responsibility, it will be appreciated if you provide the information requested not later than October 24, 1973. Please address your response to William P. Dixon, Counsel, House Committee on the Judiciary, 2226 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Sincerely yours,



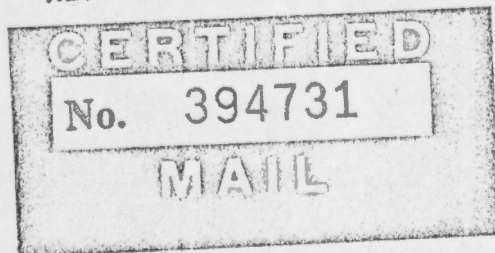
Jerome M. Zeifman
General Counsel



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



Mr. John Bentia, President
Aliance Manufacturing Company
Aliance, Ohio



QUESTIONS OF CONGRESSMAN ROBERT F. DRINAN
FOR THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1973

1. In the recent past it was revealed that some 14 members of the House and of the Senate were told prior to April 30, 1970 of secret bombing raids over the neutral country of Cambodia. You have indicated that you heard on at least two occasions prior to that date about these bombings.

The 3800 secret sorties over a period of 14 months were at least by clear implication denied by the President -- when he told the nation on April 30, 1970 that the United States had been scrupulously neutral toward Cambodia prior to that time.

Can you justify any member of Congress' withholding information from the Congress about an unauthorized war in a neutral nation the cost of which is approximately \$130 million?

If you were President could you approve of a system where important information of this nature is given to only a handful of Members of Congress and withheld from the vast majority of the 535 members of the House and the Senate?

2. It has been estimated that there are some 200,000 or more Vietnamese political prisoners in South Vietnam. The United States contributes substantially to the detention of these persons who are held prisoner because they are politically opposed to the regime of President Thieu.

Experts on Indochina state that President Thieu can in all probability remain in power with or without elections as long as his political opponents are retained in jail. As a result of this situation the self-determination promised to the people of South Vietnam by the United States is severely limited.

Would you approve of measures by the Congress or by the Administration to release those citizens of South Vietnam who have been imprisoned because of their political convictions? If so how would you do it?

3. Many Americans are dissatisfied with the results of the legal proceedings surrounding the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. Many Vietnam veterans relate stories of atrocities done by themselves or by other Americans.



Page 2

Question 3 (con't)

Are you satisfied that American military legal officials have punished all persons involved in such illegal activities?

Would you approve of a study carried out under the auspices of the United Nations or some other international organization with respect to the degree of compliance of the United States in Vietnam with the rules of war as set forth by the Geneva Conventions?



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*Amendment
to
Record*

How

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If you were President could you approve of a system where important information of this nature is given to only a handful of Members of Congress and withheld from the vast majority of the 535 members of the House and the Senate?

*199 spending for the
military 40-50%?*

*Some circumstances in Congress
would you make Cambodia bombing
Today - 7-13*

*When
up -
get?*

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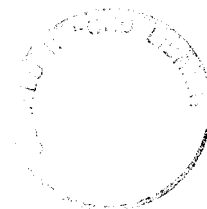


Page 2

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ISSUE -- TAPES

Q. Mr. Ford, if you were the President, would you have released the Watergate tapes?

Talking Points

- 1) Support the concept of confidentiality of Presidential tapes, papers and memoranda
- 2) Repeat your previous statement that for political reasons the President should have released the tapes sooner
- 3) Philosophize: Release of the tapes at an earlier time would have eliminated doubts by the American people, the Congress, and the news media, regarding the integrity of the President.

Q. Do you feel the Watergate Committee should receive the tapes?

Talking Points

No, at the present time, we should continue to resolve the problem in the Courts.

Q. Why did you approve of the President's initial compromise on the tapes?

Talking Points

The compromise was well beyond what the Court required --(explain compromise) *

Q. Why did you support the President's action in the firing of Archibald Cox?

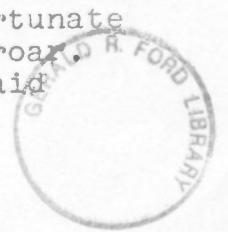
Talking Points

It is within the President's power to remove members of the Executive Branch.

Q. Do you think the President was justified in firing Cox?

Talking Points

From a public ^{acceptable} relations standpoint, it's unfortunate that the firing of Cox has created such an uproar. However, I have urged and the President has said he will appoint a Special Prosecutor.



TAPES CONTINUED

Q. Do you think the President would have had the right to defy a Supreme Court order in the event that the Supreme Court would have demanded that he turn over the tapes, presidential papers, and other memoranda relating to the Watergate case?

Talking Points

- 1) Generally speaking, no, I don't think the President or any other man can be above the law.
- 2) However, there may be some situation which is as hypothetical as your question, which would cause any President to take a second look at the issue.

Q. Mr. Ford, if you were President and the Watergate situation would have arisen, what would you have done?

Talking Points

As I said before, I support the concept of confidentiality of Presidential tapes, papers and memoranda, and I also said I called upon the President some months back to release the tapes for sound political reasons...in the atmosphere of Watergate, I would have released those portions of the tapes and other materials to the Courts in order to resolve the entire issue as quickly as possible. I believe that compliance in these areas would have resulted in a just resolution of the situation.

*Not
can
diff*

Q. Mr. Ford. On May 2, the President admitted that he sought to limit the scope of the Watergate investigation in order to conceal the activities of the White House security operation known as the Plummers, since 3 members of the Plummers operation -- Messrs. Hunt, Liddy and Barker, were directly involved in the Watergate breakin. Would you as President:

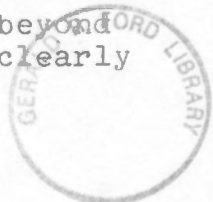
*Against
Liddy &
Barker
know what
is*

A-Establish a so-called "Plummers Unit"

B-Would you have proceeded to coverup the activities of the Plummers knowing full well that members of the group were directly involved in the breakin at Watergate?

Talking Points

A President -- as this President did -- may find himself in a situation where there may be grave security leaks and he may have to take extraordinary action. However, I cannot agree with the establishment of a separate security group beyond those already in existence. The President clearly was given bad advice.



Tapes Continued

- Q. Mr. Ford, are you saying the President has made some mistakes in his handling of the Watergate affair?

Talking Points

I'm not saying that the President has made mistakes....I have stated that I would have handled it differently.

- Q. What would you have done differently?

I've already explained this in response to other questions.



SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ISSUE

Q. Do you support a Special Prosecutor?

-A- YES

Q. How would you make him truly independent?

Talking Points

1) I think there are a number of ways.....

a. support of measures now pending in Congress

*Amund
circumstances
to have
find
re-investing
confidence*

b. establishment of an independent panel by the President who would be directed to recommend one or two names to Judge Sirica. The panel could be made up of three retired Supreme Court Justices, or by the former Chief Justice, Mr. Warren...a former Member of Congress, such as Senator John Williams, along with a former Vice President, Hubert H. Humphrey. I think these may be methods in which a man could be chosen who could have true independence.

Q. Would a Special Prosecutor appointed by the President within the Justice Department be independent?

Talking Points

It depends on who the man is and what the President's conditions are in appointing him.

Q. How can a Presidential appointed Special Prosecutor be independent if you already have said a President has the right to fire him or a member of the Executive Branch?

Talking Points

I think that the President has full knowledge of the peoples' concern over the independence of a Special Prosecutor. We have witnessed national outrage at the firing of Mr. Cox. I think that the President will maintain a Special Prosecutor's independence. Nobody wants to clear this up more than President Nixon.



EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

- Q. Mr. Ford, what do you consider to be the limits of Executive Privilege in light of Watergate ... or define for us what Executive Privilege is.

Talking Points:

I think that Executive Privilege cannot be defined without knowledge specifically of instances ... and I think that I would be unwise, as would any member of this panel, or any other man who is not President, to attempt to broadly define Executive Privilege and the areas it can cover, without knowing the circumstances, now, or in the future.

- Q. Do you think that Executive Privilege should be extended into areas where there is suggestion of criminality? I refer specifically to the ITT affair, the Russian Wheat Deal, the \$2 million contributed by the American Milk Producers ?

EXCEPTIONAL
TOOK -
SPARINGLY
USED -
TO AVOID
CONFRONTATION

Talking Points:

Concept stated above.



TAPES, EXEC. PRIVILEGE, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR CONTINUED

Q In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, you stated release of the Watergate tapes should "wipe out any semblance of justification for impeachment."

Do you still stand on your statement?

Talking Points

I think President Nixon's releasing of the tapes has gone a long way in clearing up this matter of impeachment-- and any further action is a question for the House to determine. To finally resolve the question, this is why I have stated that I support the continuance of the House Judiciary Committee investigation.

Q. In 1970 when you were trying to impeach Justice Douglas, you said that grounds for impeachment are anything the House determines. (Good behavior)

Do you still stand by that statement?

Talking Points

* The constitution defines grounds for impeachment as Conviction of "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors." The House of Representatives, under Article I, Section 2, clause 5, shall have the sole Power of Impeachment, and Article I, Section 3, clauses 6 and 7 provide for the sole Power of the Senate to try all Impeachments.

*--Article II, Section 4

Again, this is why I have stated that I support the investigation of the House Judiciary Committee -- as was my basis for the statement I made back in 1970 regarding the Douglas affair.



- Q. Last week you said that House impeachment investigations should continue.
- Is this still your position.
- A. Yes - (see following page in further reference to this)
but not such evidence.
- Q. If you are confirmed, and the President is impeached, do you think you are capable and qualified to be President?

Talking Points

This is a very difficult for any man to answer about himself.

Frankly there is no such training ground..for becoming President. However, if one did exist, I would have to say that I can be proud of my past 25 years of service in the Congress.

This answer, Gentlemen, is really your decision.



RUNNING FOR OFFICE

- Q. Are you willing to state before this Committee that you have no plans for running for further political office?
- A. I stand on my previous statements regarding this question.

INTEGRITY OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE

- Q. How do you plan to restore integrity to the office of the Vice President?

Talking Points

By doing the very best job I can -- I intend through my Constitutional duty as President of the Senate, if confirmed, to do everything I can in my power to bring the Executive and Legislative Branches closer and to establish a more harmonious working relationship between these two bodies.

FUTURE SELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS

- Q. Do you have any ideas on how future Vice Presidents should be selected?

Talking points

Measures before the Congress now receiving my thought and consideration...

POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Q. Do you think the powers of the Executive Branch are too big and how can the Congress re-assert its Constitutional powers? ✓

Talking Points

- ~~1) by a different method of choosing the VP~~
2) Frankly, I think a closer working relationship between Congress and the White House would provide for and go a long way in solving some of these problems.

- Q. How can we restore confidence in the Executive Branch?



Q.-

In your judgment, can President Nixon ever restore the confidence of the American people in the Executive Branch?

Yes - foreign policy area --when all the facts are aired --- remembered most for his contributions here-- getting to the bottom of the whole deal, etc.

Policies are sound - driven



CAMBODIA BOMBING

- Q. Were you informed by the President of the secret bombing of Cambodia, during the 2 year period before the Congress was informed, and the American people?
- Q. If so, do you support the President keeping this a secret?
- Q. Do you feel that this was an encroachment upon the Congress' right to make war?



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Executive
Privilege

Question: In 1963, when the issue was whether Gen. Taylor had to testify on the Bay of Pigs before a Subcommittee of the House, you spoke strongly against the concept of Executive Privilege being applied.

Would you tell us in what cases you believe Executive Privilege does apply? Need it be applied in every case in which it might be applied, or should its application be only where disclosure of the particular data concerned would be unquestionably contrary to the public interest?

War
Powers

Question: In 1971, you called for legislation that would require Congress to approve, alter or terminate any military action started by the President within 30 days of starting such action.

Would you explain your thinking in that score? Would the President have a right to veto such Congressional action?

War
Powers

Question: Would you engage yourself that if you become President you would not dispatch US forces into situations likely to result in military action without Congressional approval?



War
Powers

Question: Situations in times of tension have a way of growing beyond expectations. What are your views on how the Congress as a whole can be kept informed of developments and prospects on a truly current basis in such emergency situations?

Security

Question: In 1951, you introduced a bill to repeal Executive Order 10290, establishing the system of classification of security information. What are your views on the need to have the right to classify information? Should classification be grounds for denying information to the Congress?

Jackson
Amendment

Question: The Administration wants to withdraw its proposal to give the USSR MFN treatment. If we are not going to give them MFN treatment at this time, what harm is there in saying that we won't in the future, either, unless they respect the human rights of those who want to emigrate?

European
Allies

Question: Why did the Administration take it for granted that our European allies would cooperate in the airlift to Israel? Why hadn't it consulted with our allies to find out if they would? If they won't, what good are allies?

Manfield - withdraw troops in Europe?

Detente

Question: Don't you believe the President has over-stated the importance of detente? He seems to say that detente is what avoids nuclear war and led to a ceasefire in the



Middle East. But are things any better when Soviet and US interests don't happen to coincide?

Cambodia

Question: You generally supported the President on Indochina. Yet how do you explain that things seem to be going better for Cambodia now that we are out of there?

Military
Solutions

Question: In 1964, you said that more positive US military action in Viet Nam affecting our ground forces might have turned the tide. In 1967, you called on the government to stop pulling our punches, particularly air power. In 1972, you supported the bombing of North Vietnam. This sounds like persisting on seeking a military solution to a problem that required a political solution. Do you believe that once US forces are involved in a situation we must always seek a military rather than a political solution?

Oil

Question: How should we structure our foreign policy so that oil blackmail will not affect our national interests?

Executive
Agreements

Question: There is pressure to have important international agreements (such as base rights abroad) accomplished by Treaty rather than Executive Agreement. Otherwise, the Congress can be faced with a fait accompli as to our foreign involvements. Wouldn't that be a good idea?



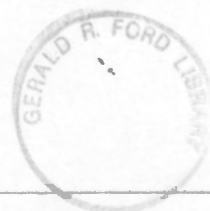
Oil Question: We need to import oil. But not only do we not have enough oil, but the tanker fleet is predominately foreign. Are we hostage to tanker nations as well as producer nations?

Nato Question: If our NATO allies fail to provide us with balance of payments and budgetary relief, shouldn't we cut our deployments in Europe pro tanto, as Senator Jackson has proposed?

MBFR Question: If we don't come to agreement on force cuts within a reasonable time, shouldn't we go ahead unilaterally to reduce our forces, creating an example the Soviets might follow?

Comprehen-Question: Why shouldn't we follow the Kennedy example of a
sive
Nuclear moratorium on atmospheric tests and declare a moratorium on all
Testing military nuclear testing so long as the USSR acts accordingly?
Morator-
ium

Arms Question: If we fail to get agreement on some qualitative
Control limitations in SALT II, will we have to jettison SALT I's
quantitative limitations and go back to a full scale nuclear
arms race? Shouldn't we delay giving the Soviets and
benefits such as trade concessions until we see how that comes
out?



Questions

2 201

From a reading of the information compiled by the Committee staff as it is set forth in the black, three ring notebook available for reading by Members of the Committee in Room 2226 Rayburn, the following areas may raise some questions of impropriety, conflicts of interest or possibly acts of illegality. Most of these questions are raised primarily because the information available is incomplete. Additional information is needed in order to put these questions in their proper perspective. From a reading of the "Black Book" the following may be points of interest:

Mc Bain
OR CAPITAL GAIN
Mc BAIN

275
6584
Murray
6906
Furch

- 1) Mr. Ford's method used in depreciating his condominium on his Federal income tax return;
- 2) In 1967 Mr. Ford executed an installment sale of 1,076 1/4 shares of stock in Ford Paint and Varnish Co. Was this a preferred stock bailout;
- 3) There is a discrepancy in the amounts of money Mr. Ford listed as honoraria (1971-72) on his House statement and that reported on his Federal income tax return;

The above three points were raised prior to the IRS tax audit which was completed last Friday and the audit raises none of the above questions but does disclose the use of an improper deduction. Mr. Ford's tax audit disclosed the purchase of clothing (\$871.44) for Mr. and Mrs. Ford for use at the Republican National Convention and deducted as a business expense. He's agreed to pay IRS \$435.77;

Call papers?
No knowledge

- 4) Alleged 1970 corporate contribution through a lobbyist - (American President Lines and Pacific Far East Lines)
- 5) Ford employee contributions to his 1972 campaign (Bob Hartmann's wife and Frank Meyer);
- 6) Small Business Administration loan for a constituent corporation;
- 7) Dept. of Agriculture case involving a successful request by Mr. Ford for a re-evaluation of a case;
- 8) Rospatch Corporation - Mr. Ford as member of the Board of Directors allegedly worked for the favored treatment of a customer of Rospatch with regard to Japanese exports to the U.S.
- 9) Warren Commission - breach of an unwritten promise?
 - a) Life Magazine article written by Mr. Ford.
 - b) Disclosure of the Oswald diary.
 - c) Publication of the book Portrait of an Assassin.

appear to the Commission
No document from Ford
Not true
Lapin
Oswald
Carroll
by J.S.



- 1) From a reading of Mr. Ford's income tax return a question has been raised concerning the method of depreciating used with regard to his condominium located in Vali, Col. Mr. Ford's CPA used the 200% declining-balance method. The only accelerated depreciation methods allowed for new real estate bought or constructed after July 24, 1969, are the 150% declining balance method and any other consistent method which does not give greater allowances in the first two-thirds of useful life than the 150% declining-balance method. There is an exception to this rule and more information is needed to determine whether Mr. Ford's condominium falls within this exception. Mr. Cramer indicated that Mr. Ford entered into an agreement to purchase the condominium in May 1969, with the actual closing of the sale in May 1970, and possession in June, 1970. K ?
- 2) The IRS tax audit of Mr. Ford's Federal income tax returns for the years 1967 through 1972 was completed and delivered to his office late Friday, November 9, 1973. The audit indicates that in 1972, clothing valued at \$871.44 was purchased by and for Mr. and Mrs. Ford through the Gerald R. Ford - Fifth Congressional District account for use at the 1972 Republican National Convention. IRS position is that "although the clothing was purchased for the convention, the clothes are the type of clothing that can be worn throughout the year." Mr. Ford's CPA has agreed with the IRS position and Mr. Ford's tax deficit is \$435.77. PAID
- 3) In 1967 Mr. Ford executed an installment sale of 1,076 1/4 shares of stock in Ford Paint and Varnish Co. Additional information is needed to determine whether this was a preferred stock bail out. If this had constituted a preferred stock bail out then any gain should have been treated as ordinary income rather than capital gain. McBAIN
- 4) American President Lines and Pacific Far East Lines (Shipbuilding Companies) pled guilty to making illegal campaign contributions and were fined \$50,000. These firms gave Mr. Ford \$100 through a lobbyist. Section 610, Title 18 U.S.C. precludes corporate contributions to political campaigns and any person who accepts or receives such contributions shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, and if the violation was wilful shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both. NO PERS. CONTRIBUT
- 5) There is a discrepancy in the amounts of money Mr. Ford listed as honoraria (1971-72) on Part B of his Financial Disclosure Statement filed with the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and that reported on his Federal income tax returns.

1972
OK →



- A) In 1971 the honoraria amount filed with the House Committee was \$21,200.00 and the amount reported on his Federal income tax return was \$22,240.00, a difference of \$960.00. This difference creates no problem with the IRS, however, if not further explained could raise a question of a possible violation of House Rule XLIV. That rule provides that all honorarium aggregating \$300.00 or more from a single source must be listed. The difference between the House and IRS filings may represent honoraria of less than \$300.00 from a single source which is not required to be filed with the House. *True - private*
- B) In 1972 the amount of honoraria which Mr. Ford filed with the House was \$18,729.82 and the amount reported on his Federal income tax for that year was \$18,079.82, an unexplained difference of \$650.00. *3 sep inc checks*
- 6) There are two incidents involving possible indirect Ford-employee contributions to his 1972 campaign.
- A) The Friends of Jerry Ford Committee reported to the House that the wife of one of the six special and minority employees (Robert T. Hartman) made a contribution of \$500.00 to the Friends of Jerry Ford Committee of Grand Rapids, Mich., on November 3, 1972.
- B) The schedule of payments of Mr. Ford's printing expenses incurred to the minority printing clerk indicates that a one time employee, Frank Meyer, now deceased, paid a printing bill of \$1,000.00 on April 3, 1972. *?*

The relevant provisions of the Federal law which prohibit Federal employees, including Members of Congress, from making or receiving political contributions from Federal employees are Sec. 602 and 607 of title 18 U.S.C. They read in part as follows:

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- Answer*
- A) Aug. 24, 1972 Mr. L.J. Smith, President of Smith Brothers Elevators (Mich.), wrote to Mr. Ford asking why "his preliminary application submitted by the Union Bank and Trust Co. for a SBA loan was ineligible."
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 - D) Sept. 14, 1972 Mr. Ford wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Small Business Appeals Board, which stated that "your favorable review of the above determination, consistent with existing rules and regulations, will be appreciated."
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- Board determined*

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- Answer*
- A) Frank B. Fehsenfeld wrote a letter to Mr. Ford with reference to a denial of his corporation's application for food stamp authorization.
 - B) Feb. 27, 1973 Ford staff member wrote letter to the Food and Nutrition Service Dept. of Agriculture requesting that the earlier denial be re-evaluated.
- Constitution request*



C) May 1, 1973 Food and Nutrition Service reply to Ford's letter informing him that based on a re-evaluation, Mr. Fehsenfeld's application has been approved.

8) Rospatch Corp. (local corp. in Grand Rapids)

In June 1964, Mr. Ford was elected to the Board of Directors of the Rospatch Corp. In Aug. 1971, Mr. Chaille, Chairman of the Board of Rospatch, wrote a letter to Mr. Ford asking Mr. Ford to assist Mr. Kahn, President of National Association of Woven Label Manufacturers in his efforts to have woven labels excluded on the list of goods whose exportation would be voluntarily regulated by Japan (because of the saturations of the woven label market in this country by the Japanese severely threatened the entire U.S. woven label industry.)

Rospatch Corp. was not in the woven label business nor was it a full member of the National Association of Woven Label Manufacturers; however, Rospatch Corp. had good customers in the Woven Label business leasing Rospatch's cutting and folding machines. Mr. Ford corresponded with the agencies involved on behalf of the woven label industry.. Woven labels were finally included on the list of goods to be voluntarily regulated by Japan.

9) 1972 campaign - D.C. funds paid for
10 tickets by Ford D.S. Dec. 3, 1972
1 " " Dec. 4, 1972 Rospatch
Askel reimbursement \$111.⁰⁰
(Mrs. Mattzran)

10) Bill Sivony
Kapitan - Legal services - what.



Questions

2 copies

From a reading of the information compiled by the Committee staff as it is set forth in the black, three ring notebook available for reading by Members of the Committee in Room 2226 Rayburn, the following areas may raise some questions of impropriety, conflicts of interest or possibly acts of illegality. Most of these questions are raised primarily because the information available is incomplete. Additional information is needed in order to put these questions in their proper perspective. From a reading of the "Black Book" the following may be points of interest:

McBain
OR CAPITAL GAIN
McBain

- 1) Mr. Ford's method used in depreciating his condominium on his Federal income tax return;
- 2) In 1967 Mr. Ford executed an installment sale of 1,076 1/4 shares of stock in Ford Paint and Varnish Co. Was this a preferred stock bailout;
- 3) There is a discrepancy in the amounts of money Mr. Ford listed as honoraria (1971-72) on his House statement and that reported on his Federal income tax return;

275
6584
Money
6906
Frank

The above three points were raised prior to the IRS tax audit which was completed last Friday and the audit raises none of the above questions but does disclose the use of an improper deduction. Mr. Ford's tax audit disclosed the purchase of clothing (\$871.44) for Mr. and Mrs. Ford for use at the Republican National Convention and deducted as a business expense. He's agreed to pay IRS \$435.77;

- 4) Alleged 1970 corporate contribution through a lobbyist - (American President Lines and Pacific Far East Lines)
- 5) Ford employee contributions to his 1972 campaign (Bob Hartmann's wife and Frank Meyer);
- 6) Small Business Administration loan for a constituent corporation;
- 7) Dept. of Agriculture case involving a successful request by Mr. Ford for a re-evaluation of a case;
- 8) Rospatch Corporation - Mr. Ford as member of the Board of Directors allegedly worked for the favored treatment of a customer of Rospatch with regard to Japanese exports to the U.S.
- 9) Warren Commission - breach of an unwritten promise?
 - a) Life Magazine article written by Mr. Ford.
 - b) Disclosure of the Oswald diary.
 - c) Publication of the book Portrait of an Assassin.

Can't paper?
No knowledge



- 1) From a reading of Mr. Ford's income tax return a question has been raised concerning the method of depreciating used with regard to his condominium located in Vali, Col. Mr. Ford's CPA used the 200% declining-balance method. The only accelerated depreciation methods allowed for new real estate bought or constructed after July 24, 1969, are the 150% declining balance method and any other consistent method which does not give greater allowances in the first two-thirds of useful life than the 150% declining-balance method. There is an exception to this rule and more information is needed to determine whether Mr. Ford's condominium falls within this exception. Mr. Cramer indicated that Mr. Ford entered into an agreement to purchase the condominium in May 1969, with the actual closing of the sale in May 1970, and possession in June, 1970. K ?
- 2) The IRS tax audit of Mr. Ford's Federal income tax returns for the years 1967 through 1972 was completed and delivered to his office late Friday, November 9, 1973. The audit indicates that in 1972, clothing valued at \$871.44 was purchased by and for Mr. and Mrs. Ford through the Gerald R. Ford - Fifth Congressional District account for use at the 1972 Republican National Convention. IRS position is that "although the clothing was purchased for the convention, the clothes are the type of clothing that can be worn throughout the year." Mr. Ford's CPA has agreed with the IRS position and Mr. Ford's tax deficit is \$435.77. PAID
- 3) In 1967 Mr. Ford executed an installment sale of 1,076 1/4 shares of stock in Ford Paint and Varnish Co. Additional information is needed to determine whether this was a preferred stock bail out. If this had constituted a preferred stock bail out then any gain should have been treated as ordinary income rather than capital gain. McBAIN
- 4) American President Lines and Pacific Far East Lines (Shipbuilding Companies) pled guilty to making illegal campaign contributions and were fined \$50,000. These firms gave Mr. Ford \$100 through a lobbyist. Section 610, Title 18 U.S.C. precludes corporate contributions to political campaigns and any person who accepts or receives such contributions shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, and if the violation was wilful shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both. NO
Pres
corp cont
- 5) There is a discrepancy in the amounts of money Mr. Ford listed as honoraria (1971-72) on Part B of his Financial Disclosure Statement filed with the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and that reported on his Federal income tax returns.



*under \$300
on tax
Reported to
House on
Accrual
Base
Time - prove
Tax on cash*

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The Honorable Elizabeth Holtzman

Dear Ms. Holtzman:

The following information is in response to your inquiries to me in your letter dated November 19, 1973.

A. Mr. Harold Albert is an old and trusted friend. He had what I considered to be a legitimate claim and my intervention in his behalf, was in my opinion, justified based on the merits of his case. I had no knowledge of Mr. Albert's contribution or the contribution of Seidman and Seidman to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. The circumstances resulting in the resolution of Mr. Albert's case are best described in the enclosed communications.

I know of no contributions made to me or to any of my campaign committees by Mr. Albert. The action I took on Mr. Albert's behalf was in no way connected to his contribution to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. I know of no other action taken on Mr. Albert's behalf by me. There was nothing illegal or improper about this action.

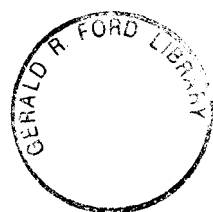
B. Mr. James Chamberlain is President of Gill Manufacturing Corporation, a large manufacturer of children's clothing in Grand Rapids. He is an extremely knowledgeable businessman whom I felt would make a solid contribution to the National Advisory Council on Flammable Fabrics. I was notified on July 25, 1973, that he had been so appointed. I had no knowledge that Mr. Chamberlain contributed \$1,155 between 1969 and 1973 to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. I know of no contributions made to me or any of my campaign committees by Mr. Chamberlain. My recommendation of Mr. Chamberlain was in no way connected to his contribution to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. No illegal or improper action was taken by



office on behalf of Mr. Chamberlain regarding this appointment. With the exception of forwarding Mr. Chamberlain's views on pending rule making to the appropriate federal agencies, my records reflect that the only additional action taken at his request was the insertion in the December 17, 1971, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of a statement by Roger Wilson, Chairman, Products Flammability Committee, American Apparel Manufacturers Association, dealing with that Association's efforts to solve the apparel flammability problem.

C. Bob Webster is President of Holly's Inc. a restaurant chain in my District. My letter to the Chairman of the Price Commission was in response to correspondence from Mr. Webster questioning the high cost of meat and asking when action by the Price Commission could be expected to meet this problem. The Price Commission responded by sending me the enclosed letter which includes a copy of the Federal Code dealing with restaurants. I forwarded this information to Mr. Webster. I do not know if Holly's Inc. was exempt from the price controls on the basis of number of employees or annual sales. I had no knowledge that Mr. Webster contributed \$500 to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. I know of no contribution made to me or any of my campaign committees by Mr. Webster. My correspondence to the Price Commission was in no way connected to Mr. Webster's contribution to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. No illegal or improper action was taken by my office on behalf of Mr. Webster.

D. On August 24, 1972, I received the enclosed communication from Smith Brothers Elevators requesting clarification of a recent Small Business Administration (SBA) ruling respecting



country elevators and the constiuent's status as a retailer rather than a storer of goods. That letter was forwarded on August 29, 1972, to the SBA requesting the SBA's review of the letter and clarification of the eligibility of country elevators for participation in SBA loans. On September 11, 1972, the enclosed response was received from SBA Administrator, Thomas Kleppe, reflecting the procedures to appeal their ruling. On September 11, 1972, Mr. Smith wrote the Small Business Standard Sized Board requesting reconsideration of the SBA ruling which letter was incorporated with my letter of September 14, 1972, to the Size Appeals Board requesting a review of the matter, "consistent with existing rules and regulations." On September 21, 1972, the Chairman of the Size Appeals Board acknowledged my communication and advised later, on October 16, 1972, that the Size Appeals Board had determined that Smith Brothers met the small business size requirements and found it eligible for small business financial assistance. I had no personal knowledge of the \$75 contribution to the Friends of Jerry Ford Committee by Mr. L. G. Smith on November 13, 1972, and know of no other contributions made to me or to any of my committees by Mr. Smith. My Congressional assistance to Smith Brothers, in both the SBA matter and the Interstate Commerce Commission matter, were not related to Mr. Smith's contribution.

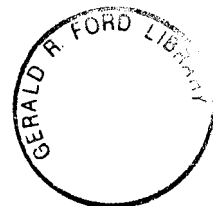
With respect to your inquiry in paragraph 2 of Section D, I have enclosed xerox copies of my letter of May 18, 1973, to the Interstate Commerce Commission Chairman, George M. Stafford, together with his response of May 29, 1973. To the best of my knowledge, the inquiry continues to be under



consideration by ICC. No illegal or improper action was taken by my office on behalf of Mr. Smith or Smith Brothers Elevators.

E. Vari-tech Company is a manufacturer of lasers in Grand Rapids which experienced what appeared to be an inordinate delay in securing an export license. I forwarded a copy of a letter from Mr. Merlin Applegate, President, Vari-tech Company, to Commerce Secretary Dent requesting information as to the cause of the delay and asking what I might advise Mr. Applegate. The disposition of the case is best described in a letter to me dated April 10, 1973, from Mr. Stephen Lazerus, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East-West Trade. I had no personal knowledge of Mr. Applegate's \$50 contribution to the Ford For Congress Committee in 1972. I know of no other contribution made to me or to any of my campaign committees by Mr. Applegate. My assistance to Mr. Applegate was in no way connected to his contribution to the Ford for Congress Committee. I know of no other action taken on Mr. Applegate's behalf by me or my office. No illegal or improper action was taken by my office on behalf of Mr. Applegate regarding this matter.

F. Mr. Chet Williams, Chairman of the Board, Williams Form Engineering Corporation of Grand Rapids, is an old friend who had difficulty in receiving a surtax refund of \$3,558.10 to which he was entitled. I forwarded Mr. Williams' letter and entry documents to the Bureau of Customs with a request that they follow through on the matter in whatever manner they deemed appropriate. The Bureau of Customs, based upon the documentation provided, concluded that the surtax should not have been levied since the material in question sailed from England and was enroute prior to the time the surtax was applicable.



The second matter to which you refer was a request made by me to the Department of Commerce in Mr. Williams' behalf to look into the patent difficulties Mr. Williams had encountered in Japan. I have no knowledge of Mr. Williams' contribution to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. I know of no contribution made to me or to any of my campaign committees by Mr. Williams. My assistance to Mr. Williams was in no way connected to his contribution to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. No illegal or improper action was taken by my office on behalf of Mr. Williams.

Rochford Mich in my Congressional District

G. Wolverine World Wide Inc., a ~~Grand Rapids~~ firm, is the manufacturer of ~~Hush~~ Puppies, a well-known brand of footwear. The Department of Labor rejected Wolverine's proposal to provide employment opportunities to minority people under the JOBS Program. I requested the Department of Labor to review the file to determine whether there was anything which could be done, consistent with existing rules and regulations, to aid Wolverine World Wide Inc. in its efforts to provide employment opportunities in severely depressed areas. My records reflect that on April 7, 1972, Wolverine was advised by the Department of Labor to submit a new proposal under the JOBS Handbook. I do not know the disposition of this matter. I have no knowledge of Mr. ~~Cumminsky~~ *Cumminsky*'s contribution to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. I know of no contribution made to me or any of my campaign committees by Mr. Cumminsky. My action in this matter was in no way connected to Mr. Cumminsky's contribution to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee. No illegal or improper action was taken by my office on behalf of Mr. Cumminsky or Wolverine World Wide Inc. I know of no other action taken on Mr. Cumminsky's behalf or Wolverine's behalf by me or my office.



H. On February 22, 1973, my office received a copy of a letter addressed to the Food Stamp Review Officer of the Department of Agriculture from B.S. Fehsenfeld, President of Crystal Flash Petroleum Corporation. That letter requested a review of a recent denial to participate in the Food Stamp Program. On February 27, 1973, my Grand Rapids Office forwarded a copy of the aforementioned letter to Mr. Edward Hekman, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. On March 6, 1973, Mr. Fehsenfeld received an acknowledgment from the Food Stamp Review Officer reflecting that his office would review the matter. On March 12, 1973, I received a communication from Edward Hekman acknowledging my letter of February 27, 1973, indicating that a Review Officer had been assigned to study the matter. On April 27, 1973, Mr. Fehsenfeld was notified from the Food Stamp Review Officer that, "based on a careful review of all information submitted and especially on my personal visit to your store," his application had been approved. On May 1, 1973, Mr. Hekman notified me of Mr. Fehsenfeld's approval.

My review of my files indicate that no other action was undertaken by my Congressional Office for the individual or corporation cited herein. I had no knowledge of Mr. Fehsenfeld's contributions to the Kent County Republican Finance Committee and such contributions were in no way related to the Congressional interest I demonstrated in his inquiry. I have no knowledge of other campaign contributions from individuals connected with this corporation and unequivocally state that nothing illegal or improper occurred in connection with this transaction.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M. C.



I ROBERT WINTER-BERGER

To Sam C. Jones
From Dr. J. Lee King
Re W-B Question

- (1) W-B has alleged that between 1966-1969 he loaned you \$15,000 in cash. What have you to say about this allegation, contained in an affidavit W-B gave to the Senate Rules & Administration Committee?
- (2) W-B, in his book "The Washington Pay-Off", has stated that you were treated by Dr. Hutschnecker of New York. Is this true?
- (3) W-B has alleged that he paid two of your personal friends \$1000 for an introduction to you. What are the facts as you know them?
- (4) It has been alleged by W-B that he introduced you to Francis Kellogg, who was seeking an ambassadorship, and that through his efforts and your suggestions Mr. Kellogg contributed \$125,000 to the Republican Party. What are the facts in this matter?
- (5) How long have you known W-B?
How often did you see him? Under what circumstances?
How did the relationship ever develop?
- (6) W-B has alleged that with respect to a speech you gave at Parsons College that you on several occasions attempted to pressure him into paying the cost of a chartered jet plane needed to get you back to Washington. The cost of \$1,500. What are the facts?



II CAMPAIGN FINANCING

- (1) In 1972 there was a D.C. Committee which raised funds for your reelection. What can you tell us about the way the funds were spent. Were any reports filed by the Committee -- why not? Is there any list of committee contributors -- why not?
- (2) Does Michigan law limit a candidate to spend no more than \$10,500 in his Congressional campaign?
Does it also apply to committees supporting a candidate?
- (3) In late October and early November of 1970 you received five checks for your campaign totalling \$11,500. You have said you endorsed these over to the Republican Campaign Committee for use as it saw fit. Over the period of the same campaign the Committee was contributing to several other campaign committees working for your reelection at least \$10,600. Was this a case of earmarked funds or of funds being laundered?
- (4) Do you know a farmer named Schaufelberger? Would you comment on newspaper allegations recently printed in which he is said to have stated that you collected funds from milk producers to funnel into the Republican Party.



III FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- (1) What is your background in international affairs?

- (2) What is your position on
 - a. troop levels in Europe
 - b. relations with China
 - c. the Middle East problem
 - d. relations with Cuba
 - e. relations with Russia
 - f. NATO
 - g. SEATO



I Robert Winter-Berger

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II Campaign Financing

(1.) In 1972 there was a DC Committee which raised funds for your re-election. What can you tell us about the ~~total~~ way the funds were spent. Were any reports filed by the Committee - why not? Is there any list of committee contributors - why not?

(2.) Does Michigan law limit a candidate to spend no more than \$10,500 in his Congressional campaign? Does it also apply to committees supporting a candidate?

(3.) In late October + early November of 1970 you received five checks for your campaign totaling \$11,500. You have said you endorsed these over to the Republican Campaign Committee for use as it saw fit. ^{Over the period of} ~~at about~~ the same ^{campaign} ~~time~~ the Committee was contributing to ^{several} ~~other~~ even campaign committees ^{working for} ~~about~~ at least ^{10,400} ~~\$13,000~~. Was this a case of earmarking



your re-election

or of funds being furnished?
~~funds being laundered.~~

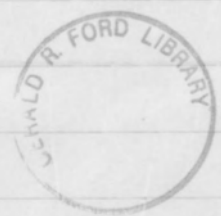
(4.) Do you know a farmer named
Scharfberger? Would you
comment on ^{news story} allegations
recently ~~in~~ printed ~~in~~ in
which he is said to have
stated that you collected
funds from milk producers
to funnel into the Republican
Party.



III Foreign Affairs

(1.) What is your background in international affairs?

- (2.) What is your position on
- a - troop levels in Europe
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 - c - the Middle East problem
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 - e - relations w/ Russia
 - f - NATO
 - g - SEATO



IV Election Reform

(1.) Do you support public financing of elections - ^{IF NOT} why not? What reforms do you believe are necessary?



V Watergate

- (1.) Should the Watergate Committee continue its investigations?
- (2.) Do we need a special prosecutor? How should he be appointed? What is your opinion of Sean Jarowski?
- (3.) Should this Committee go forward w/ its investigation of the question of the impeachment of the President?
- (4.) Should the President release the tapes and ~~all~~ other ^{pertinent} ~~evidence~~ ^{evidence} relating to the Watergate?
- (5.) What is the extent of Executive Privilege in your view? How should it be used as a general practice? How w/ respect to the Watergate matter?
- 6. What would your position be with respect to the Watergate investigation in the event you became President?
- 7. How can you insure ^{with} ~~that~~ there will never be another Watergate episode should you become president?
- 8.



VI The Media & the Administration

(1) Recently Pres. Nixon has attacked the media, particularly TV, for its "visions, hysterical reporting". Do you agree w/ his assessment?

(2) Senator Wicker has released copies of memos between high White House aids in which plans for a coordinated attack on the news media was formulated. ~~Do you support it~~ What is your opinion of such activity?

3. What can be done to improve relations between the W-H and the media?

4. What steps do you intend to take to establish a working relationship between you and the press?



VII Current Questions

- ^{about} do we really need to have gasoline rationing? ^{do we really need to fuel shortages.}
- (1.) Do we need to have gasoline rationing? ^{should we}
- (2.) Do you support the President's impeachment actions? What is your view generally on this question?
3. What is the number one domestic problem facing this country today?
4. What steps can be taken to combat inflation?
5. Will the shortage of fuel bring about an economic slowdown?
6. What steps can be taken to prevent this from happening?



①

VIII Steelcase

- (1.) The Chicago Daily News recently carried a story stating that you had intervened to help Steelcase Furniture Co. secure the contract to furnish federal offices in Chicago. Is this true?
- (2.) Have Steelcase executives been contributors to your campaigns over the years?
- (3.) Would you enumerate the contacts that you or your office have had with Shutcase Corp or its officers?



IX Civil Rights

with amendments

(1.) Some ~~would~~^{must} classify your general record on civil rights legislation as one of opposing the bills, voting to "quit" them, and then supporting the bills on final passage. How do you answer this?

(2.) Recalling the Voting Rights ^{Amendments} ~~Act~~ of 1970 - I ~~you~~ ~~opposed~~ the bill to extend the effective 1965 act. ~~Why?~~ ^{supported} ~~proposed~~ = substitute measure to expand coverage to ~~the~~ all parts of the nation. What was your purpose for doing so?

3.



X General

(1.) What was your relationship, ^{if any,} w/ G. Gordon Liddy?

(2.) Do you really believe that Justice Douglas should ~~be~~ ^{have been} impeached?

(3.) How do you view your role as Vice President?

(4.) What qualities of ^{leadership and} character must a President have?

(5.) What must the President do to recover from ^{the effects of} Watergate? Do you believe that he will recover?

What was your role in this activity?



XI GRF's ^{investments} ~~net worth~~

- (1) Explain how you could purchase your Uoil condominium?
- (2) Did you purchase the stock in the Old Kent Bank yourself? ~~Did you~~ which you later sold?



IV ELECTION REFORM

(1) Do you support public financing of elections -- if not, why not?

What reforms do you believe are necessary?



V WATERGATE

- (1) Should the Watergate Committee continue its investigations?
- (2) Do we need a special prosecutor?
How should he be appointed?
What is your opinion of Leon Jarowski?
- (3) Should this Committee go forward with its investigation of the question of the impeachment of the President?
- (4) Should the President release the tapes and other pertinent evidence relating to the Watergate?
- (5) What is the extent of Executive Privilege in your view?
How should it be used as a general practice?
How with respect to the Watergate matter?
- (6) What would your position be with respect to the Watergate investigation in the event you became President?
- (7) How can you insure us that there will never be another Watergate episode? should you become President?



VI THE MEDIA & THE ADMINISTRATION

(1) Recently Pres. Nixon has attacked the media, particularly TV, for its "vicious, hysterical reporting." Do you agree with his assessment?

(2) Senator Weicker has released copies of memos between high White House aides in which plans for a coordinated attack on the news media were formulated.

What is your opinion of such activity?

(3) What can be done to improve relations between the White House and the media?

(4) What steps do you intend to take to establish a working relationship between you and the press?



VII CURRENT QUESTIONS

- (1) What do we need to do relating to fuel shortages?
Should we have gasoline rationing?
- (2) Do you support the President's impoundment actions? What is your view generally on this question?
- (3) What is the number one domestic problem facing this country today?
- (4) What steps can be taken to control inflation?
- (5) Will the shortage of fuel bring about an economic slowdown?
- (6) What steps can be taken to prevent this from happening?



VIII STEELCASE

- (1) The CHICAGO DAILY NEWS recently carried a story stating that you had intervened to help Steelcase Furniture Co. secure the contract to furnish federal offices in Chicago.

Is this true?

- (2) Have Steelcase executives been contributors to your campaigns over the years?
- (3) Would you enumerate the contacts that you or your office have had with Steelcase Corp. or its officers?



IX CIVIL RIGHTS

- (1) Some might classify your general record on civil rights legislation as one of voting to "gut" them with amendments, and then supporting the bills on final passage.

How do you answer this?

- (2) Recalling the Voting Rights Amendments of 1970 -- you supported a substitute measure to expand coverage to all parts of the nation. What was your purpose for doing so?



X GENERAL

- (1) What was your relationship, if any, with G. Gordon Liddy?
- (2) Do you really believe that Justice Douglas should have been impeached?
What was your role in this activity?
- (3) How do you view your role as Vice President?
- (4) What qualities of leadership and character must a President have?
- (5) What must the President do to recover from the effects of Watergate?
Do you believe that he will recover?



XI GRF's INVESTMENTS

- (1). Explain how you could purchase your Vail condominium?**

- (2) Did you purchase the stock in The Old Kent Bank yourself
which you later sold?**



Proposed questions of Rep Ford by Sen RPG:

Rep. Ford, the other members of this committee and myself are with you necessarily familiar with the processes of political fund raising and accounting for the funds we receive, their sources and how they are expended. But I think it may be said that the general public is not as acquainted with those processes and regards, sometimes with very good reason, political fund raising and campaign expenditures with suspicion. In this respect, one columnist in particular has ~~reported~~ reported certain matters regarding your campaign funds in 1970 and 1972 in a light which appears to cast them in a questionable light. I'd like to ask some questions about these matters so that all of us may be fully informed about them.

a. First of all, in respect to 1970 it is said that you failed to report ~~\$11,500~~ \$11,500 received from 5 contributors to your candidacy for re-election to the Congress. Is this true?

b. Would you explain what was done in ~~respect~~ respect to those 5 contributions?

c. To your knowledge were these contributions, then, ultimately reported by the ~~actual~~ actual recipient of the funds?

d. ~~In fact~~ In fact, was there something unique about this process of endorsing over ~~excess~~ excess contributions received by you to other Republican candidates in need of such funds? Had you done the same thing in other years? Can you state other years in which you had done so?

e. It has been said that you went through this process in 1970 as a means of "laundering" these funds because, it is claimed, you subsequently received a like amount of funds from the same or similar committee for your own use in campaigning this year. The claim is, apparently, therefore, that you were using these funds but did not wish to disclose their sources in any report you might make. Is it true that this was a process contrived to hide these contributions from disclosure by you? Was there a connection between the checks you endorsed over to this committee and the funds received ~~by~~ from the other committee for your candidacy?

f. ~~It is claimed~~ It is claimed that you received substantially more financial support from this national committee than other Republican congressional candidates. Is there an explanation for this?
transfer of

g. Did you do anything in 1970 with regard to ~~excess~~/excess contributions to other congressional candidates or concerning receipt of funds from ~~other~~



national committees that was ~~right~~ different from what you had done in other campaign years? To your knowledge ~~were~~ were all contributions actually received by you reported as the law required? Is there any claim or do you know of any violation of the law allegedly committed by you, arising out of this issue of the 1970 contribution?

b. In 1972, ~~was~~ some \$38,000 was raised on behalf of your candidacy by a committee here in ~~the~~ the District of Columbia. That money was then transmitted by the D.C. Committee to another committee in Grand Rapids supporting your re-election. The same columnist has raised certain issues about that incident.

1. ~~Since~~ Since the monies contributed to the D.C. Committee were raised before April 7, 1972 it was not necessary under the law ~~at that time~~ at that time to list the contributors on any report in the District, is that not true? And so no such list has been in fact filed with any public body, isn't that a fact as well?

~~2.~~ ^{2x} ~~Was~~ ^{, however,} Was the receipt/ of this \$38,000 reported by you and by the Grand Rapids committee to whom it was transmitted? To whom was that fact reported?

3. In other words, is it your understanding and belief that you and the committees supporting your candidacy complied in every respect with ~~the~~ all legal requirements in reporting the receipt of these funds?

4. ~~Do you~~ ^{know} Do you know the names of the contributors to the D.C. Committee? Why is that so? Who would know the names of these persons?

5. Do you have any objection to the release of the names of these contributors if those names can be determined, for example, by an examination of the D.C. Committee's bank records here in Washington? Can that be done? Have you assisted in attempting to obtain the names of these contributors from the bank?

5. To your knowledge, in any event, there was nothing either unlawful nor improper in the 1972 fundraising event? To your knowledge, Rep Ford, such fund raising committees were commonly created ~~for~~ to support the candidacy of a great many candidates for political office, isn't that so?

~~What was the period of your membership?~~

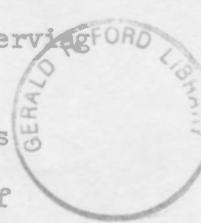
c. Rep. Ford, for a short period of time in 1968 were you a member of the Board of Directors of Old Kent Bank & Trust of Grand Rapids, Michigan? What was the period of your membership?

1. Did you attend any Board meetings within that 46 day period. ?

~~2.~~ ^{2x}

2. Were you paid any directors fees or any other remuneration for serving upon that Board?

3. In order to serve upon the Bank Board, as I understand it, it was necessary for you to purchase a certain number of ~~bank~~ shares of Old Kent bank stock, isn't that so? ~~Did you~~ Did you purchase that stock out of your own funds or did the Bank or the Bank Board Chairman, Mr. Gillette, loan you the funds for that purpose?



4. Can you tell us, Rep. Ford, ~~what~~ why you originally accepted appointment to the Board of Directors of the Old Kent Bank and what led you so shortly to resign from that Board?

5. To your knowledge, did your membership on that Board in any way constitute any violation of state or federal law?

6. Did you, then, sell your ^{bank} stock several months later in 1968?

d. Rep Ford it has been claimed that you received a series of personal loans over a period of three years - from 1966 through 1969 - amounting to \$15,000, that these loans were made to you by a lobbyist in sums of from \$50 to ~~25~~ \$250 for each loan and that you never paid these monies back to the man claiming to have loaned such sums to you. Are these assertions the truth?

1. It is claimed that you needed these sums to help ~~wick~~ meet medical costs of caring for your wife in her then illness. Did you need such financial assistance ~~for~~ in fact?

2. Were you and your family then covered by government wide medical and hospital insurance? Did that insurance cover the ~~man's~~ financial costs incurred to care for your wife?

3. Incidentally, isn't this the same period when you purchased the bank stock out

4. Do you, in fact, owe this man any monies, loaned to you or otherwise? of your own funds

5. Did you ever personally receive any monies from this man? ?

6. It is true that he purchased 5 tickets to a fund raising event for the Republican party held in Grand Rapids, isn't that so? And you wrote acknowledging his contributions to this event as you did to others who likewise did so, is that not true? Can you tell us approximately how many persons contributed ~~to~~ to that fund raising affair? Your letter to him, therefore, was not a singular or significant communication but simply a letter acknowledging his contribution, isn't that correct?

~~EX~~

e. The gentleman, Robert N. Winter-Berger has, as we all know, authored a book in which he claims to be your very close friend and associate. He states in that book that



The following is a list of potential questions and possible proposed adjustments by IRS as they have indicated to me:-

1. Depreciation method of the Vail condominium, the question being whether or not this property qualifies as residential property. At issue is the accelerated difference between double declining and $1\frac{1}{2}$ method totalling for years 1970 - 1972 \$ 1,700.00.

2. Possible disallowance of 50 % of one automobile, depreciation and related expenses in view of Mr. Ford being furnished transportation by the government, it is questionable whether or not he needs his own automobile for business purposes. Depreciation in auto operating expenses for 1967 through 1972 total \$ 5,055.16. - *Cas used*

3. The possibility of additional income being charged to Mr. Ford due to personal expenses being paid from the Fifth District Account. The purchase of airline tickets and related travelling and entertainment expenses are numerous and may include personal travel for Mr. Ford, his wife and children. IRS wants to attempt to identify the purchase of individual tickets and relate to the receipt of an honorarium. Airline tickets purchased, not related to a specific receipt of income will be charged to him as personal income. IRS has indicated the total travel to average about \$ 9,000.00 for each year under review.

4. The Fifth District account has received political contributions in 1972 alone of at least \$ 9,000.00. This money was retained in the Fifth District account and used for travel and other general expenses. I expect IRS to contend that a part, or all, of this \$ 9,000.00 should be charged to Mr. Ford as personal income. The exact nature of this account is unclear to me. It appears that it is being used for both political purposes and as a business account relating to his honorariums and expenses. Before too long, someone is going to ask what this account is all about and we should be prepared to classify it one way or the other.

5. I.R.S. is questioning Mr. Ford's cash withdrawals for living expenses for several years, but is paying particular attention to 1972. The records indicate that approximately \$ 2,900.00 was obtained through checks written to cash. We have already been told by Mr. Ford that during 1972 he paid their maid in cash. According to him this amounted to \$ 2,000.00 for the year, leaving only \$ 900.00 for groceries and general spending. I.R.S. is obviously looking for another source of cash in this year.



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Now residential is being qualified

2 tickets to Vail Ford written checks

1972 - 5,000 - 1st candidate - Doctor
45 per year
Name change

Candidate in May -

April 7

