

The original documents are located in Box 14, folder “President - Briefing Book” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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KTT-74I. I've told them several times you do not think hypo Q+As on politics are desirable.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

[Handwritten signature]

May 21 12:25

JTC:

Kathy in Mr. Shuman's office called regarding the President's Briefing Book, and said that the President would be meeting with members of the British Broadcasting Corporation on Friday, and they would like questions and answers directed toward this meeting. They would like these to be in by 4:00 Thursday.



rg

2863

127E0B

[Handwritten signature]

Correct! but the apparatus will go right on trying to program the President

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*note
file*

May 20

JTC:

I sat in on the meeting about the President's Briefing Book for just a few minutes and am attaching a list of those attending and the form to be used for submitting questions and answers.

The book is to be used for supplying lines that the President can use in interviews and for "sparking" his memory.

It was mentioned during the meeting that the State Department has a policy for each country, and it was thought that this information would be useful when dealing with Southeast Asia countries. (These are called briefing sheets).

Once the Briefing Book is set up, it was thought that it would be possible to key in on issues that are hot.

Questions and answers for interviews and conferences are to be submitted by Thursday at 4:00. The offices will be contacted and asked for updates.

rg

TITLE IN CAPS AND UNDERLINED

Q. State Question, single space.

Double space between question and answer.

A. Answer to question

(If you must continue to second page, please indicate
title and date at top - left side of second sheet)

INITIALS of generating office
and DATE

BRIEFING BOOK MEETING

May 20, 1975, 3:00

Attendees:

1. Margi Vanderhye
2. Roger Porter
3. Jim Cavanaugh
4. Russ Rourke
5. Bob Wolthius
6. Jack Galkins
7. Paul Theis
8. Phil Hanna - OMB
9. John Carlson (may be late, he's in Charlotte)
10. Margaret
11. Margita
12. Bob Goldwin ()
13. Rod Hills (?)

JACK CALKINS

RTH -

Please look over.

These are supposed to
be in by 9 am Monday.



10/24



10/24/75
Ruth came over
& picked up
original for JC.
nmw

THE WHITE HOUSE

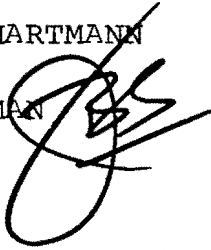
WASHINGTON

October 23, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM:

JIM SHUMAN 

Attached are questions needing answers by 9:00 a.m. Monday, 10/27/75 for the President's Q & A Briefing Book.

Thanks.

Attachments

NIXON APPOINTMENT

Q. Former President Nixon, according to Rabbi Bernard Korff, is planning a trip to China and hopes to be appointed as a freelance-roving ambassador sometime in the future. Do you have any plans to make such an appointment?

A. ^{I hope} There are no such plans, and I am sure if the former President desired such an assignment, he would have let me know directly. ~~had any such hope,~~
more

~~If there are~~
1. NO.

2. I have no such plans, and have heard nothing like this from the former President.

~~(the)~~ 3. (Turn it into a laugh) I
~~(3)~~

Think we have plenty of roving diplomats and I don't think we want any more free-lancing ~~it~~ in foreign affairs than we ^{already} get from Congress.



NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY

- Q. There have been suggestions, most notably in a recent Evans-Novak Column, that you not enter the primary in New Hampshire, because you have little chance of winning. Have you considered such recommendations, and at this stage, how do you feel your primary campaign can be improved?
- A. The organization of the New Hampshire President Ford Committee is progressing satisfactorily, and I have no doubt that it will be in excellent shape when that primary campaign begins in January.

Note: This is a special report, a question asked by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

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THE PRESIDENCY



Q. Here is an idea that has been discussed off and on since the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Perhaps it is an idea whose time has come. Why not present yourself at least at regular intervals on the floor of Congress to answer questions? And why not send members of the cabinet, too? Would such a procedure not open up the government and the presidency without destroying executive privilege?

A. This idea is, of course, prompted by those who would hope to make our system of government resemble somewhat more the parliamentary system. The fact is that our founding fathers in writing the Constitution clearly chose to achieve a new form of government which did not directly emulate the parliamentary system. To do this, they established three distinct, separate branches, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial, with clear separations between them but with some slight overlaps. Under a parliamentary system, the Prime Minister of the majority party and his cabinet ministers respond to questions from other members of the Parliament. Under our system, the President's cabinet members and other representatives of the Executive Branch submit themselves to constant questioning by the Legislative Branch through the Congressional hearing process. The President also submits himself to the American people for questioning in a variety of ways, one of which is the Presidential press conference. Others would include the White House field conferences, which have been held during the past several months at numerous places in the nation, and I have appeared at several of these and have answered questions from the floor. The President also meets regularly with both the Democratic and Republican leadership of the Legislative Branch to hear their ideas and suggestions and to answer their questions. Given all of these various methods of responding to questions ~~of and ideas~~ from the people and their elected representatives, I do not see ^{any} the need ^{for} a President appearing personally on the floor of the House or Senate to be questioned. Such a practice would, I believe, ^{bridge} ~~blur~~ the Constitutional distinction ^{division} between the Executive and the Legislative Branches of government and particularly the Presidency. I would remind you, however, that I did voluntarily appear before a Congressional

unofficial

and with other Members of Congress

of powers

without any great public benefit.

commensurate gain in ~~terms of~~ public enlightenment.

Committee to give testimony, but as one who spent twenty-five years in the Legislative Branch and has been President for fourteen months, I do not see the need for personal questioning of the President on any sort of systematic basis.