

The original documents are located in Box 16, folder “President - Vacation in Vail” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: BENTON L. BECKER 

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 1975

RE: RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR 1975 PRESIDENTIAL
VACATION IN VAIL, COLORADO

In December, 1974, the First Family vacationed in Vail, Colorado, for approximately ten days, and the Federal Treasury assumed certain of the costs associated with that vacation. In light of the scrutiny of Presidential travel by the Federal Election Commission, Governor Reagan, and certain of the Democratic candidates for President, and the President's change to candidacy status from 1974 to 1975, I suggest that a different procedure be implemented for the 1975 Presidential vacation.

In December, 1974, the Treasury of the United States paid for the rental of Air Force One which carried the President, Mrs. Ford and the Ford children to and from Vail, Colorado. Two White House advance men (full-time Government employees) advanced this trip while continuing

to draw Government paychecks. One advance man remained in Vail throughout the duration of the vacation, incurring billings for room and board which were subsequently submitted to and paid for by the Republican National Committee in an amount in excess of Twelve Hundred Dollars. President Ford rented quarters for himself and his family in Vail and paid for same from his personal funds.

I recommend the following changes for the First Family's 1975 Vail vacation:

1. That President Ford pay from his personal funds a sum equal to First Class round trip air fare for Mrs. Ford and the Ford children. (The Joint Committee on Taxation investigating former President Nixon's tax returns concluded that taxpayer Nixon had sustained a gain by virtue of the free travel provided at Government expense to Mrs. Nixon and the Nixon children.)

2. That no federally employed advance men, other than Erick Rosenburger from Ron Nessen's office, participate in any advance activities for this trip.

3. That non-government employed, voluntary advance men be used to advance this trip.

4. That all bills incurred by the voluntary advance men during the trip (i.e., air fare, room, board, automobile rental, etc.) be forwarded directly to President Ford and paid for by President Ford from his personal funds.

5. I am informed that consideration is being given to combining the December, 1975, Vail trip into a partial vacation and partial PFC fund raiser. I recommend against any such combination because any attempt to allocate cost among the Government, PFC and President Ford's personal funds, which would result from such a combined purpose trip, would and could be criticized in several quarters.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE
EXPENSE ANALYSIS BY ACTIVITY
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 1975

ACTIVITY: ACTIVITY 1 (PRESIDENT & FIRST FAMILY)

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>Y-T-D EXPENDED</u>
851.00	TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION	\$ 38,364.80
852.00	ADVANCEMEN	74,577.29
853.00	RECEPTIONS	12,424.05
854.00	GIFTS	76,767.20
855.00	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	18,309.84
856.00	OPINION POLLS	.00
857.00	FIELD OPERATIONS	54.50
859.00	BUDGET	<u>.00</u>
	TOTALS	\$220,497.68