

**The original documents are located in Box 19, folder “Vice President - Friends' Suggestions” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Friends  
which have  
been  
tabulated



WASHINGTON

THE WHITE HOUSE

*Final*  
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To : The President

From: Jack Mills

Re : Vice Presidential Nomination

First Choice -- Governor Nelson Rockefeller

Second Choice -- Chairman George Bush

Third Choice -- Melvin R. Laird

Rockefeller

Good image domestically and internationally.

Honest. Good clean record. His divorce a small minus.

He would give a much needed boost to the economy and would be well received by the business and financial community.

Rates fairly well with labor.

Although the far right wingers would oppose him, they are few in number and have no place to go.

He is less liberal in philosophy than most people think and this can be proven by checking his record of recent years and his statements.

He would add to the 1976 ticket, especially in the east where it is important.

He could be confirmed by the Congress.

Bush

The same attributes as Rockefeller with these added pluses:

Young, energetic, good looking, no divorce, good family man. He, too, is clean and could be easily confirmed.

He would add to the ticket in 1976, coming from a large state (Texas) and having an eastern background (Connecticut).

Has the backing of both conservatives and liberals. Would not be as controversial as Rockefeller among the conservatives.

Laird

Although the most deserving and the best qualified, I do not think that he would add much to the ticket as far as carrying key sections of the country in 1976.

His Defense Department background would be a minus, in spite of the great job he did as Secretary.

The President and Laird are two of a kind in many respects but I am concerned just how Laird might come over as Vice President. Laird is not a "yes" man which is good but on the other hand he does come over quite strong on key issues (not intentionally) and as a result tends to upstage anyone around him.

Laird could be confirmed.

Good family man. Highly regarded by Republican Party leaders and by the Congress and also by government leaders here and around the world.

Opposed to:

Richardson  
Percy  
Reagan  
Evans  
A woman - at this time  
A black - at this time

Senator Goldwater is deserving but, in my opinion, he is too controversial and would not add to the ticket in 1976.

Others deserving of consideration:

John Rhodes  
Mark Hatfield

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Mills

*Friend*  
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# THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

FOUNDED APRIL 10, 1841

*One of the World's Greatest Newspapers*

WILLIAM J. KEATING  
PRESIDENT

August 12, 1974

Mr. Robert T. Hartmann  
Office of the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing my letter of recommendation concerning the Vice Presidential appointment.

Knowing you from the Congress, I would appreciate it very much if you would be sure the President had an opportunity to look at this recommendation.

I hope everything is going well for you. All the comments that I receive are that you are doing an excellent job.

Please let me know if I can do anything to assist the President.

Best regards,



WILLIAM J. KEATING  
President

ml

Enclosure

# THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

FOUNDED APRIL 10, 1841

*One of the World's Greatest Newspapers*

WILLIAM J. KEATING  
PRESIDENT

August 12, 1974

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Having served with you in the Congress, I am taking the liberty of making a recommendation for the Vice Presidency as well as giving you my reasons.

George Bush served in the Congress, was a member of the Ways and Means Committee, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in Economics from Yale. If my memory is correct, his father was United States Senator from Connecticut.

His home is in Texas. He was Ambassador to the United Nations and in that capacity met most of the business leaders of the world and the United States. As a result, he can provide insights into all these countries and undoubtedly has some contact with each.

As Republican National Chairman, he was not deathly partisan and conducted himself with independence and integrity during the Watergate episode.

He is an excellent speaker, a tireless worker, and is a person who could troubleshoot for you anywhere in the world.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
Page 2  
August 12, 1974

As National Chairman, he knows the entire network of Party regulars which would help in 1976.

Most importantly, he can be confirmed in both the House and the Senate.

Although there are many others who would be excellent--Bill Saxbe, Nelson Rockefeller, Mel Laird, Barry Goldwater, or Bob Taft--the more I consider the situation the more I come back to George Bush as being the most logical person for the job.

Whoever you choose, barring Father Robert Drinan or Bella Abzug, would certainly be acceptable to me and would receive my support.

Warm personal regards,

*Bill*

WILLIAM J. KEATING  
President

ml

*Friends*

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Warm personal regards,

*Bill*

WILLIAM J. KEATING  
President

ml

Office of the Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

John G. Rhodes  
M.C.

Forwarded at the request of William J. Keating,  
former Congressman from Ohio

*Friend*

# Broyhill Industries

BROYHILL PARK, LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA 28645 • (704) 758-3000



August 12, 1974

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

You will recall on a Sunday evening at Blowing Rock just prior to former Vice President Agnew's resignation that I predicted the resignation and also suggested that our next Vice President would be Gerald Ford. Now I would like to suggest another name for Vice President.

The South is going to be leaning towards the most conservative appearing candidate, and I am a natural conservative. However, I am also concerned with the total picture and believe at this point the overall best interest of the country and party would be served by Governor Rockefeller being our next Vice President.

Neither our family nor our state GOP political leaders have been particularly close to Governor Rockefeller. Nevertheless, at this point, I think he has the most to offer.

I am sure you are going to get considerable pressure from other Southerners in different directions. However, I would like to affirm that once you make known your nominee, most of the Southern group will back whomever you select.

Be assured that the Broyhill family will give complete support to your decision.

Respectfully,

*Paul*

Paul H. Broyhill  
President



Congrats + candidates for  
new v. p.

The White House  
Washington

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5 PMS BOB HARTMAN

6 WHITE POUSE

7 WASHINGTON DC 20500

8 DEAR MR PRESIDENT CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELEVATION TO THE PRESIDENCY  
9 OF THE UNITED STATES I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR CONSIDERATION  
10 OF THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE VICE  
11 PRESIDENCY; GEORGE BUSH SENATOR EDWARD BROOKE GOVERNOR DAN EVANS  
12 AND NELSON ROCKEFELLER A TELEPHONE POLL OF BLACK REPUBLICANS  
13 IN MICHIGAN SHOWS THESE TO BE PREFERRED I PERSONALLY SUPPORT  
14 APPOINTMENT OF EITHER BECAUSE THEY IN MY OPINION WOULD PASS  
15 CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY AND SCRUTINY ADDITIONALLY EITHER COULD  
16 EFFECT THE RECONCILIATION NEEDED WITHIN OUR PARTY AND EACH IS  
17 CERTAIN TO PLAY KEY ROLLS IN FUTURE REPUBLICAN POLITICS RESPECTFULLY  
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COPIES TO: BOB HARTMAN SENATOR EDWARD BROOKE SENATOR HUGH SCOTT  
ARTHUR FLETCHER RNC  
MAYOR EDWARD BIVENS JR  
NNNN



145 North La Brea  
Los Angeles, California  
August 14, 1974

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D C.

Dear Mr. President:

I had hoped to be afforded the opportunity on behalf of a host of loyal Republican citizens in California to express to you, in person, our profound and sincere desire that you select Governor Ronald Reagan as your candidate for Vice-President.

In our opinion, no other candidate has the proven ability to command the loyalty of Republican workers like Ronald Reagan. No other candidate has the ability to address, parry with, and convince crowds - dissidents, students, or just plain Americans - like Ronald Reagan. No other candidate has the proven record for balancing a multi-billion dollar governmental budget like Ronald Reagan. No other candidate has the success record for having fought inflation in the arena of government spending like Ronald Reagan. No other candidate can match the acceptance on the part of the business world like Ronald Reagan. No other candidate would give you greater personal dedication and loyalty in the months between now and November 1976 - and throughout your second term - than Ronald Reagan.

Nor do we call these matters to your attention as partisan Californians, rather, we are concerned Americans who are trying to help with the great and difficult task that confronts you, the leader of our nation, as you attack the monumental economic and social problems facing this country.

Sincerely yours,



Holmes Tuttle

Friends  
✓

J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF, II

August 14, 1974

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

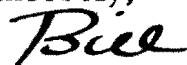
Dear Mr. President:

From the ashes rises a Phoenix--so will our great Nation under your leadership unite and rise to meet its challenge. As you know better than all others, the decision you make on the Vice Presidency will affect not only this Nation, but all the peoples of the world in a radiating effect for years to come.

As a pack horse in the GOP ranks for 28 years, I would like to ask that you consider three great Americans in the truest sense of the word. These are men who stand with you for a financially sound, strong, fair and compassionate Nation. A Government that seeks to help--not hinder--a Government that seeks to build--not tear down--a Government that gives to all the peoples of the world--freedom of choice, which are the hallmarks of your administration.

George Bush, Bill Brock and Howard Baker (there is a GOP governor in Tennessee to reappoint a GOP successor) are fine examples of what is right for America. They each possess unique qualities that would help in your work to solve the myriad problems the world now faces. I respectfully ask that you give them all careful consideration.

Sincerely,



J. William Middendorf, II