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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 31, 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SENIOR STAFF

FROM: RON NESSEN

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For your information and personal use, I am attaching some material which was assembled for the President in preparation for his year-end interviews on the accomplishments of the Ford Administration in 1975 and the President's goals for the nation in the years ahead.

I thought you might find this helpful as background information for your own speeches and contacts with the press.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL YEAR-END REVIEW



Materials, for Opening Remarks

I think all Americans realize that we are living in difficult times. The problems we face are not only enormous in size but very complex in character. The values we have held dear for many years and most of our leading institutions -- the government, our churches, private enterprise -- have all been called into question. Understandably, many people are troubled and uncertain about the future.

Looking back, I think it is clear that many of the problems of the past crowded over into 1975, making it another very tough year for the country -- another year of great testing.

But 1975 was also a year of encouragement because we met most of the tests extremely well. Personally, I've been very much encouraged as we enter our third century as a nation. I'm certainly not satisfied with conditions as they are today, and I know that many tough days lie ahead; but all of us have growing reason to be hopeful and confident about the future.

Let's look first at where we were when 1975 began.

On the economy:

-- We were still experiencing the worst inflation in our peacetime history;



-- And we were also sliding headlong into the worst recession in a generation.

On the international front:

-- Both our friends and adversaries were asking: Has America lost its nerve? Now that an era is ending in Indochina, will the United States remain a strong partner in the search for peace and economic security?

And here in this office:

-- The crisis in leadership that had already affected so many of our other institutions finally embraced the Presidency itself. A great deal of public faith and trust in the highest office in the land had been eroded.

It's very instructive to look now at where we stand today, at the end of the year.

On the economic front:

-- The rate of inflation has been cut almost in half since the beginning of the year; and,

-- The economy is pulling out of the recession at a steady, healthy pace.



On the international front:

-- Through our insistence upon a strong defense budget, through our efforts at peacemaking in the Middle East, through our diplomatic and economic summit conferences with most of the world's major powers, and through our very forthcoming proposals regarding the developing nations, the United States during 1975 has made it very clear that we will continue to be the single strongest force for peace in the world.

And here in this office:

-- I think that during the year we have seen a good deal of trust and credibility restored to the Presidency.

So in these three areas -- the economic, the international, and in shoring up public confidence -- I think we have had encouraging progress. In many fundamental ways, 1975 has been a year of healing.

I recognize, of course, that millions of Americans have not felt the impact of this progress in their personal lives. They still see prices rising in the supermarket and the fear of unemployment continues to be widespread. In fact, the mood of the country remains darker than actual conditions suggest.



But the important point is that we have come through this period of testing in much better shape than many people anticipated. For all of its flaws, our economy is still the strongest and most dynamic in the world. Our farmers are the most productive in the world, our educational system is the finest in the world, the level of health care available here is unsurpassed, our standard of living is still the envy of people everywhere. And most importantly, we retain our basic commitment to freedom and to the democratic process, a beacon that can light the way into a much happier future.

So we have come through this period of testing -- a period of transition -- with many of our basic strengths intact. Now we must look to the future. As we do and as we continue to make progress against the many difficult problems that still confront us, I am confident that the spirits of the country will lift and we will achieve even greater progress in our third century as a nation than over our first two centuries.



## Stalemate in Washington?

Q. Many have characterized 1975 as a year of stalemate in Washington where neither the President nor the Congress could exercise its will. Some also argue that we need a Congress and a President of the same party in order to get the country moving again. What do you think?

A. It is true that as 1975 opened, we faced an extraordinary situation in Washington: a Congress heavily dominated by one party facing a President of another party and of strongly differing views on many key issues. As you will recall, many thought the Congress was "veto proof" and would run roughshod over the President.

As the year progressed, however, I think that the two branches of government eventually reached a working accommodation, whereby I was able to meet a number of my legislative priorities and was able to avoid enactment of a number of proposals to which I was opposed. So, from my perspective, we achieved far more legislative progress in 1975 than people first anticipated. Let's look through the record:

(1) Holding Down Deficits -- Many predicted that the Congress would push through programs giving us a deficit of \$100 billion or more for FY 1976. But the country rallied against such irresponsible deficits, and we have managed to hold the figure to \$25-30 billion less than what was feared. That's still too high and must be reduced.





(2) Energy -- Although the pricing provisions of the energy bill leave much to be desired, the compromise package enacted late in the year achieved about one-half of the mid-term energy goals I set out in January and starts us on the road to energy independence. I am hopeful that soon after it returns, the Congress will take the next step down the road by passing a bill to deregulate the price of new natural gas.

(3) Tax Cut/Spending Cut -- Again the bill finally enacted fell short of what we wanted, but it did provide an extension of tax relief and for the first time in our history, the Congress has now made a good faith pledge to tie the size of the budget to the size of future tax cuts. That is a major breakthrough.

(4) New York City Aid -- By standing firm early in this crisis, we provided a catalyst for New York to take primary responsibility for solving its own problems and we were able to devise much, much better Federal legislation. In a very real sense, we reached the best solution to this problem: New York City bailed itself out.

(5) Housing Legislation -- Last summer, I vetoed the proposed Emergency Housing Act of 1975 because it was inflationary and ineffectual. Less than 10 days later, the Congress reconsidered and enacted meaningful and effective housing legislation of the kind I had been proposing.



So, as you look at the record, it is clear that there was no real stalemate in Washington this year. But if you ask me: were you entirely satisfied? Then the answer is no. And if you ask me: Can we do better in Washington? Then the answer is clearly yes; and we will do better as the country awakens to the fact that Big Government is no longer the solution to many of our problems but is in fact very often at their root.



## Use of Veto Power

Q. Some have asserted that your extensive use of the veto has given your Presidency an essentially negative character in 1975. How do you respond to that?

A. Let's look at it this way: suppose about 5 or 10 years ago I had been elected Mayor of New York City and I was asked to approve contracts that would raise the salaries of municipal workers far above the City's ability to pay, that would give pension benefits to municipal workers enjoyed in no other city, and that would ensure the city was headed toward bankruptcy.

If, as mayor, I had vetoed those contracts, I am certain that many would have said I was being very negative, that I lacked compassion, etc. But with the hindsight provided by current history, we can see today that those vetoes would have been very positive acts -- acts to preserve the financial integrity of the city and prevent many of the personal hardships that are being experienced in New York City today.

In many ways, what I am trying to do today parallels what really should have been done in New York City several years ago. I want to save the economic integrity of the United States itself. And in retrospect, my vetoes of big spending bills will ultimately be seen as the positive act they represent. I sincerely believe that every veto



of my Presidency can be totally justified on the basis of the best, long-run interests of the country.

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~~Three~~ other points can be made about the vetoes:

(1) So far, bills vetoed in the 94th Congress have saved the taxpayers more than \$7.5 billion in outlays and bills vetoed during the 93rd Congress have saved them \$16 billion -- a total of \$100 for every taxpayer in the country.

(2) It is often forgotten that the veto is an Executive tool, mandated by the Constitution, to maintain a system of checks and balances in the Federal government. By its exercise, the President can influence the form and substance of legislation as it moves through the Congress and can frequently produce legislation that meets the national interest better than legislation that would have been passed by the Congress acting alone. We have seen that this year in the housing bill, the tax bill, and elsewhere.

President as Party Leader

Q. Some have speculated that you have lost ground in the polls because of your extensive travels on behalf of the GOP. Do you now think those ~~trips~~ <sup>travels</sup> were a mistake?

A. First of all, I would take issue with your premise on the polls. It seems to me that there is a good deal of confusion in the polls right now, and by some accounts, the public approval of my Presidency is rising.

Putting that aside, I think the visits I made to some of the GOP events served two essential and very worthwhile purposes:

(1) They helped to preserve the two-party system in this country. Republicans are outnumbered by Democrats in many areas, and the party needs to be active and vibrant in order to offer voters a real alternative. I think my trips helped to strengthen the Republican Party in several key states.

(2) A President is traditionally the head of his party, and as such, I believe he has a duty and an obligation to meet with the people who are the backbone of that party and to talk with them about our common hopes for the future. I think the trips have been very helpful for this purpose as well.

So on balance, while they may have brought some negative press stories, the trips did serve some very worthwhile purposes.



Mood of the Country

Q. How would you characterize the mood of the American people during 1975?

A. Troubled, uncertain, but still hopeful about the future.

The people of this country have been buffeted by some very strong storms in the last few years -- assassinations, urban riots, Vietnam, Watergate, record inflation, and a deep recession. Personal values are in transition, many of our political, social and economic institutions have fallen from favor, and modern technology has transformed the world into a very complicated place to live. It is only natural that the public is troubled and uncertain.

But what is reassuring is how well we have come through these ordeals and how hopeful people remain in their daily lives. I think that is a great tribute to the American spirit and will serve us well during our third century as a people.

I feel the same sense of confidence about the future as William Faulkner when he received the Nobel Prize for Literature and observed that "man will not merely endure; he will prevail . . . because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance."



What's Right with America

Q. Why are you so optimistic about the country's future?

A. Because this country still has enormous strengths:

-- Of some 150 nations in the world today, only three dozen or so can still be counted as democracies. Human freedom is shrinking in many parts of the world, but here in the U.S., we remain committed to the democratic process and to the preservation of our basic liberties.

-- We have a sound governmental structure that has stood the test of time and is the underpinning of much of our greatness. I worry a great deal about the threat posed by government to our liberties, but the tide is clearly turning against Big Government in the U.S.

-- For all its flaws, our economy remains the most dynamic and productive in history. With some 6 percent of the world's population and 7 percent of the world's land mass, we produce more than a third of the world's goods and services.



-- Our farmers are also the most productive ever known and are doing more to ward off starvation and hunger in other lands than anyone in the world. An average American farmer now feeds more than 50 other people, here and in other countries around the world.

-- Our abundance and generosity have joined in providing the most extensive program of economic and humanitarian aid to other countries in history -- over \$100 billion since World War II.

-- Life expectancy in the U.S. has been dramatically increased.

-- And today we have more than twice as many students going to college as in the 1950s, and many of the college students I have known have impressed me as being highly thoughtful, and very well-intentioned human beings.

So there is much to be optimistic about when it comes to the future of America. Certainly our society has its troubles and its flaws. And we must work to correct them. But in so doing, I hope that we would recognize the many things that are good about America and build upon them.





## Goals for our Third Century

Q. What goals would you set for America as it begins its third century?

A. Essentially three:

-- That we become a nation at peace with ourselves and with the rest of the world;

-- That our citizens lead more meaningful lives through the pursuit of excellence, and that such pursuits be equally available to every man and woman, regardless of background;

-- And, of great importance to me, that this become an era of individual freedom. As I read our history, our first century marked the establishment of a free government. Our second century marked the growth of the great American free enterprise system. Now, when big institutions and the mass approach threaten to stifle creativity and the human spirit, I hope that our third century can bring a flowering of personal freedom.

That's my vision of the America I want for my children, and that is the America to which I am dedicating my Presidency.



Political Impact

Q. General answer, whenever possible, to questions beginning --

"What do you think the political impact will be of .....

A. Political impact was not a consideration. We did it because we felt it was the best action for the long-term well-being of the United States and the American people.



## Long-Term Problems

Q. What are the most important long-term problems facing the country?

- A.
1. Preserving world peace.
  2. Bringing inflation under control.
  3. Assuring adequate employment opportunities for all our citizens by strengthening private enterprise.
  4. Reversing the trend toward Big Government.
  5. Putting the Federal system on a fiscally sound basis.
  6. Developing energy independence.
  7. Attacking the growing crime problem.
  8. Increasing participation in American society by minority groups.
  9. Preserving our environment.
  10. Providing assistance to those of our citizens truly in need.

Q. What do you plan to do about them?

A. We've been working on these problems throughout the year, and will address them further in my State of the Union Message and subsequent special messages.



## A Ford Foreign Policy

Q. You have been criticized in the foreign policy area as an implementer of HAK's and RN's foreign policy. How is your foreign policy different from what they were implementing before you? Is your foreign policy working?

A. In the early months of my Presidency, I thought it was important to convey a sense of continuity in our foreign policy. Everyone needed immediate reassurances of our intentions. However, foreign policy must also be evolutionary, changing to meet changing needs, and since those early months, I have made certain changes. For instance, I have tightened our ties to Japan and the NATO countries. I have balanced our relations with both sides of the Middle East controversy. I have put forth a Pacific doctrine for our relations with countries in that area of the world. We have a new spirit of economic cooperation in the industrially developed world coming out of the international conference in Rambouillet in November. In sum, a President must view foreign policy as America's foreign policy. It is evolutionary in nature and adjusts as our interests change over the years.

THIS HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED BY THE NSC.



## OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

## THE WHITE HOUSE

CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT  
BY SELECTED NEWSMEN

## THE OVAL OFFICE

11:30 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just start out by saying that we will primarily talk about 1975. I think you have to add to that and put it in proper context the few months I was President in 1974.

Let me talk personnel for just a moment. I think we have put together a very good team, both in the White House and in the Administration. Probably one of the best examples of the quality is the nomination of John Paul Stevens to the Supreme Court. I can't positively say that this nomination and confirmation was a record, but it is pretty close to it. We did a good job in checking all of the potentials and the net result was in a very, very short period of time we ended up with a man who was confirmed 98 to nothing. That is a pretty good batting average by any criteria. I am certain he will do a superb job as a member of the Court.

But if you look at the Cabinet, I think they are quality people. If you look at the individuals we have selected for the various regulatory agencies, I think they are top people and they will follow a constructive line in trying to update some of the procedures and concepts in the various agencies. I think all of the regulatory agencies have been strengthened, not in aiming toward more regulation, but in taking a line I think is important of deregulating where there has been over-regulation.

If you look at the problems that we had when I became President, inflation, the disastrous unemployment that developed, I think we have made significant progress in both areas. Inflation is about half what it was a year ago, unemployment soared. On the other hand, the trend is in the right direction and I am convinced, beyond any doubt, that unemployment will continue this downward path. It is still too high, but I think the trend is right and the prospects are encouraging.

Foreign policy. We had, of course, a setback in Southeast Asia, but if you take a look at what has been accomplished elsewhere, whether it is in NATO, where we have convinced our allies that the American people are going to stand strong in that area, they absolutely believe that the United States is going to be a firm partner.

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I think the personal relationship with leaders in Western Europe is as good, if not better, than at any time in the last 20 or 30 years.

If you look to the Pacific, despite the problems in Vietnam, our relationship with Japan is the best in the history of this country. We have kept faith with other countries in the whole Pacific area and they believe that the United States will stand in the future firmly for the freedom that they have and the opportunities for a better life for all of their people.

Let me just summarize, if I can, my New Year's resolutions so you won't have to ask the question. (Laughter)

I am going to make this New Year's resolution a dedication to the strengthening of spiritual and moral values among 215 million people and I noticed yesterday we passed 215 million people, according to the Bureau of the Census.

I am going to resolve that we do everything possible to improve the economic circumstances, not only of ourselves, that being our prime concern, but the economic well-being of people throughout the world, because I think that contributes to stability, not only at home, but worldwide.

I, of course, will resolve that we have peace with ourselves in this country, but peace with the world as a whole.

So why don't you ask questions.

Helen.

QUESTION: Mr. President, why do you think you are going to be able to defeat Ronald Reagan in his bid for the Presidency? What do you see as key differences in actual approach? I know he doesn't have Federal experience, but over and beyond that, where are your differences on the main issues?

THE PRESIDENT: As I have said before, Helen, I have never, as a candidate, attacked an opponent. I don't intend to. I do feel that my thoughts, my programs for the future of this country, will justify nomination as well as election.

I think we have a good economic program and the results I have cited initially. And I believe we have a good foreign policy. It is my judgment that I can give the right moral and spiritual leadership to this country. With those concrete things to talk about, I think I can say that experience will help to achieve those results.

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It is my opinion that the 25 years in the Congress, roughly a year as Vice President, two years as President, gives to me in this office an opportunity to execute and implement those constructive programs that we have started that are producing results.

I would rather talk on the affirmative side and convince the American people that that is what they want for a President in the future. Now what other people say out as they campaign around the country--it is very easy on occasion, after all you know, to say you can have a quick fix here, a new program there, and that is why an individual ought to be President. But we have a record, I think it is an improving record. It will be perceived in the months ahead. It is a constructive record and I am going to run on it, I am going to win on it.

QUESTION: But in terms of Reagan's policies, do you see any major difference?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he will have to develop those. I am going to talk about my policies.

QUESTION: Mr. President, if, as you say, things look as good right now both economically and in terms of foreign policy, why is it that the polls don't look better for you?

THE PRESIDENT: That's a good question. We have made some very tough decisions in the last 12 or 15 months. They haven't been necessarily popular. I think they have been right.

I have had to veto some bills that had some good labels, some had substance, but they were too expensive at the time. We had the tough decisions to make. As an example, New York City -- it was popular in some areas, not very popular in Metropolitan New York City.

But when you make hard decisions, you inevitably antagonize individuals. They don't perceive at that time the beneficial results that will accrue from a right decision. But as you move along and the correctness of those judgments become more evident, I think you will see a change in public sentiment. And the real test comes not in late December of 1975, but in the months ahead.

QUESTION: Mr. President, some of your critics say that you have not been sufficiently humanitarian in your approach to the Presidency, to the poor, the needy, the oppressed, and so on. What is your response to that particular talk?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the best way to describe that, Bud, is to take an analogy. I have been criticized for vetoing 40-some bills, some of them, as I indicated earlier, had excellent titles and some had good substance, but were too expensive.



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Let me use this analogy. If the various mayors of New York City over the last ten years had managed that City better, had not been as generous in the handling of some of the fiscal problems, wage settlements, pension programs, the City would be a lot better off today. But if those various mayors had vetoed this and been firmer in other areas, those mayors would have been accused of being lacking in compassion. But the City of New York would have been a lot better off in 1975.

I think the decisions that I have made have been hard that on the surface appear at this time to be lacking in compassion, those decisions, in the long run, are going to be recognized as right.

So it is a question of understanding at the moment that you have to take the long view, not the short view, in order to really indicate your compassion. And that is what I have tried to do.

QUESTION: Are you really saying, Mr. President, that it is very difficult for a man who is at least largely viewed as conservative to be also perceived to be humanitarian?

THE PRESIDENT: In the short run. In the long haul, I think those decisions will be perceived as compassionate.

The impression that comes out immediately could very easily, and in many cases, can be described as lacking in compassion. But I will guarantee you a lot of people in New York City wish there had been stronger leadership in that City because they wouldn't be in the problem they found themselves in 1975 if there had been that kind of leadership.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in 1972 we and the Russians signed a pledge in Moscow --

THE PRESIDENT: What year was that?

QUESTION: In 1972 we signed a pledge with the Russians, both agreeing not to raise tensions anywhere in the world -- detente. The Russians say that detente does not mean that the status quo stays the same throughout the world. We know it isn't the same in Angola. Aren't they breaking the rules on detente there, and how do we stand?

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THE PRESIDENT: Both Secretary Kissinger and I have spoken out very strongly against the Soviet activities in Angola, and I reaffirm it today. I think what is being done in Angola by the Soviet Union and in conjunction with the Cubans is not constructive from the point of view of detente.

We couldn't be any firmer publicly than we have been in that regard. But, I think we have an obligation to continue to work within the framework of detente because there are some other benefits that have accrued. I think SALT I was a step forward, and if SALT II can be negotiated on a mutual basis, it will be constructive within the framework of detente.

But, I reaffirm Angola is an example of where I think detente has not worked the way it should work, and we strongly object to it.

QUESTION: Is it possible, sir, that detente may simply end up being agreements on nuclear weapons and nothing else?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope not. I think it ought to have a far broader implication. I think detente can be helpful, just as an example, in the long run solution in the Middle East, and there are some good signs that it is helping to moderate certain influences in the Middle East.

QUESTION: Mr. President, your predecessor sat in this office in May of 1970 and warned against the United States of America becoming a pitiful, helpless giant. In a sense, our speaking out on Angola is about all we can do.

The United States, seemingly operating in the framework of detente, seems to be powerless to do anything other than speak out in offering statements by the Presidents and by the Secretary of State.

Have we, therefore, in effect, reached a kind of a status in the world where we are a pitiful, helpless giant in the continent of Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we are a pitiful, helpless giant. In Africa, we have a great many countries that look to us and work with us, and I think are sympathetic to what we are trying to do in conjunction with them.

There are some African States who obviously don't look toward us, but look toward the Soviet Union. I think we would have been in a stronger position to find a compromise in Angola if the Senate had not taken the action that it took.

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Nevertheless, despite that setback, we are maximizing the utilization of funds that are available, small as they are, and we are moving as strongly as possible in the area of diplomatic initiatives with the OAU, on a bilateral basis with African States, with other countries throughout the world that have an interest in Africa.

I certainly think, despite the handicap of the Senate action, we are going to do everything we possibly can, and we certainly are not a pitiful giant in this process.

QUESTION: Mr. President, can I follow that one up?

THE PRESIDENT: Surely.

QUESTION: You said you would do everything you possibly can. Would this include the use of rethinking of the sale of grain as a political weapon or diplomatic tool?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the grain sale with the Soviet Union, the five-year agreement, is a very constructive part of the policy of detente. It certainly is constructive from the point of view of American agriculture. We have a guarantee of six million tons a year with a top limit of some eight million tons.

It, I think, over the long haul, will be looked upon as a very successful negotiation. I see no reason at this time, certainly, under the circumstances existing today, for any revision of that negotiated agreement.

QUESTION: Mr. President, why is it necessary for you to rule out any improvements in our relations with Cuba when what they are doing in Angola is essentially no different than what the Soviet Union is doing, or South Africa is doing, but especially what the Cubans have done?

THE PRESIDENT: It is pretty hard for me to see what legitimate interest Cuba has in sending some 6,000 well-equipped, well-trained military personnel to Angola. I just don't see what their interest is, and it certainly doesn't help our relations with Cuba when they know we think it is in the best interests of the three parties in that country to settle their differences themselves.

QUESTION: You say it is not the understanding of the way of detente with the Soviet Union, it has not broken off our relations with South Africa and what they are doing there. Why is Cuba singled out for apparently more strict treatment?

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THE PRESIDENT: I think that is very simple. We had a period of what, 13 years of very few, if any, contacts with the Government of Cuba, many, many differences, and there were some prospects -- I say were some prospects -- for gradual improvement.

But, when we are trying to resolve differences in Angola, they are seeking to expand the conflict there with active military personnel.

It just is such a different view from our own. I don't see how, under those circumstances, we can feel that we can work with them in the future in this hemisphere or elsewhere.

QUESTION: Mr. President, it is quite likely that your proposals to Congress for changes in the CIA will differ quite a bit with what some Members of Congress are proposing. Could you give us a glimpse of what you are thinking about now for any reconstituting of the CIA? How early in the Congressional session will you be sending that to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not personally seen any of the specific recommendations that might be coming from either the Church Committee or the Pike Committee. I have a sizeable book on the back of my desk there of recommendations, not only from the Rockefeller Commission, but from the Murphy Commission, from the various departments in the Government.

Within the next week, I will make my decisions based on these recommendations. And, early in the session, I will submit a comprehensive program to strengthen the intelligence community in our Government, at the same time insisting that the individual rights of citizens within this country will be adequately protected.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you were talking about your success in dealing with the economy. The unemployment rate has come down slowly, but sticking to about 8-1/2 percent. At the same time, when you were talking in terms of your budget for next year, one that puts a lid on additional domestic spending, how does putting a lid on that, how much does that threaten the improvement you see in unemployment, and is there some point, say if unemployment were still around 7-3/4 percent in June, would you then feel that we would need more stimulus and more spending of one sort or another?

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THE PRESIDENT: I think the \$395 spending figure for the budget of 1977 is a constructive effort in continuing the improvement in our economy, not an undercutting of the progress that we are making. I say that because incorporated with the \$395 ceiling is a \$28 billion tax reduction, \$10 billion more than Congress passed, if you annualize the tax reduction for the next six months in 1976.

So, that \$395 will give confidence, in my judgment, to the American people that we are getting a handle on the growth in Federal spending and, if you incorporate it with the tax reduction proposal, I think the stimulant to the economy will be very significant and healthy. I don't foresee with this combination -- if we can sell the Congress on it -- of any need in 1976 for significant increases in any spending area.

QUESTION: Is there a point with these forecasts from time to time -- is there a point of progress in unemployment which would be so low that you wouldn't find it tolerable in terms of the progress in the economy and hardship that you talked about when you started?

THE PRESIDENT: That is speculation that I don't think is justified. Our plans are -- and we think that we have good advice and good statistics -- that unemployment will continue down, as it has, from the high of 9.3 several months ago.

On the other hand, if any contingency arises, of course we will meet it. But, a program based on the best advice, a program based on the best statistics, doesn't anticipate the kind of circumstances that you have indicated.

QUESTION: Mr. President, could you summarize for us what you believe are the chief obstacles you face in winning the Republican nomination and being elected to a full-term office?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't foresee any serious obstacles. It will be a good struggle, but I think as the perception of what we have done both at home and abroad comes across, and I think it will, then I think the nomination will be successful.

QUESTION: If I could just follow up, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Surely.

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QUESTION: I am sure you are aware in the press and other mass media news there is some perception of you as not quite capable of filling this office. I am wondering, sir, what your reaction to this is personally? Some of your aides say it really doesn't bother you at all.

THE PRESIDENT: In the first place, I don't think that description is accurate. I think my record in public office disputes it very forthrightly. Some of the things you read or hear or see, you know, it kind of hurts your pride a little bit because you know it isn't true.

But, I have long felt that if you keep a high degree of composure and don't get rattled and have total confidence in yourself, that things work out pretty well.

I might add this: I was looking at some cartoons over the past year--years, I should say--of American political life, and the ones today are not any sharper than the ones in the past. Presidents have survived that kind of criticism. Those that did had good programs and were right, and I think you have to have a sense of humor about this. You have to be a little thick-skinned, and I think that comes from some experience.

The main point that I would like to emphasize -- and I think I said it at the outset, is that I don't think they are accurate. I have complete and total confidence in my own capabilities, and the record, I think, proves it.

MORE



QUESTION: Mr. President, if you should run into early primary trouble and have some setbacks in New Hampshire and Florida, do you believe it would be good for the Republican Party, for other candidates, men who have been mentioned such as Mr. Richardson, Vice President Rockefeller, some of the others who have been mentioned as possible Presidential material, should then get in and challenge Ronald Reagan, or do you believe it should be a two-man race straight to the convention in trying to reach a nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I ought to judge what others might do. I can only say what my intentions are and I reiterate them today. I have said consistently that I intend to be in the ball game right down to the convention. I intend to win. I like a good struggle, a good fight, if that is necessary, and any speculation about my quitting in mid-stream is just inaccurate. As I said yesterday, anyone who forecasts that I am going to quit in mid-stream doesn't know Jerry Ford.

QUESTION: Mr. President, what is your prediction about New Hampshire and Florida? I think Mr. Callaway has predicted you will not just do well but would like to win those primaries.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will do reasonably well and I intend to carry on the record that we have in order to convince a majority of people in New Hampshire that my nomination is a good choice for the Republican Party and for the country.

QUESTION: You are not flatly predicting that you will win those primaries?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't like to get into a speculative situation there. I am confident our policies are good. I know we have good people that are executing them. I believe that a majority of the people in New Hampshire will agree with that. But to speculate beyond that I don't think is beneficial.

QUESTION: Mr. President, this will be the first time that any Chief Executive has taken -- first time in modern times -- has taken the Presidency into the party primaries. I wonder if you have been able to sort of see in your own mind how this can be done in a way that will protect the dignity of the Presidency, protect the advantage that you gained in the office, and so forth? Do you have any thinking on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that, Charlie, is easily answered. Continuing to work in this office and to work on the problems, to be President is the best way to ensure that any campaign in any one of the 30 States is conducted in the proper way and that is the way I expect to do it.



MORE

QUESTION: Does that rule out the hand-to-hand kind of thing the sheriff campaigning would do?

THE PRESIDENT: We expect to make some appearances, obviously, in the various States where there are primaries, but the main responsibility I have and the best way to preserve the dignity of the office and the best way, in my opinion, to convince the people that I ought to be the nominee and the President is to work at the job here.

QUESTION: Why was so much time spent this past year, 1975, on the road in campaigning when in effect you are reversing procedures? In 1975, the year before the election, you were on the road a great deal and traveling, and in 1976 when the campaign begins you are in the Oval Office?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the circumstances are quite different. In 1974 the Republican Party nationally took a very bad beating and we lost a number of House seats, a number of Senate seats, a number of Governorships.

The preservation of the two-party system in this country is of maximum importance and the Republican Party in many States, organizationally speaking and financially, was in terrible circumstances. I think a President has an obligation to his party and certainly he has an obligation to the preservation of a two-party system.

My efforts in 1974-1975, the kind of traveling you are talking about, was aimed at rebuilding the party, maintaining a two-party system.

I think that job has been principally accomplished. The party across the Nation is in much better shape, organizationally speaking and financially speaking.

Now we come to 1976 and it becomes more personal because of the primaries for the President. I am going to do the job here. I think that is the best way to convince the people. We will make some appearances obviously, but it won't be on the magnitude that I did in 1974 and 1975.

QUESTION: Mr. President, did you sit down at some point in recent months with your associates and work out any kind of game plan for, first, winning the nomination, or is it sort of a week-to-week improvisation as it sometimes appears?

THE PRESIDENT: Obviously we are in close consultation with Bo Callaway and people that are associated with Bo on the purely political side.

MORE



On the other hand, we have advisers within and without the White House who are laying out policies and programs that are aimed not at the political side but at the nonpolitical side that will be helpful in getting the nomination and in being elected President. So it is a combination and it has been working over the months and I think it will produce results.

QUESTION: Mr. Callaway says he has no point of contact here at the White House other than yourself. Are you thinking of putting in some political operative here at the White House to handle some of this liaison?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he has had good contact with several of the top people on my staff. He does have access to me. I have met with him in the last six weeks about once a week. I get periodic reports, as a matter of fact weekly reports, from him.

It is possible that we would have somebody of stature, well-recognized, who might be a contact for him as the year 1976 progresses.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you, I think yesterday, indicated that Ronald Reagan might be a Vice Presidential candidate. I am wondering if that was in any way an offer to him. Would you be willing to accept him as your running mate and do you have any indication that he would be willing to accept the Vice Presidential nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I phrased it this way: I said it was premature to make any judgment as to any Vice Presidential candidate. And a follow-up question came, I believe from Lou or David -- I can't recall precisely how the question was asked -- but I said it was not inconceivable that Ronald Reagan could be a Vice Presidential running mate. It was a straightforward answer to a very direct question.

QUESTION: Let me ask it more directly then. (Laughter) He has said, as I recall, that he did not want and would not accept the Vice Presidential nomination. Do you have any reason to think that he might be willing to change his mind?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no reason to go beyond his own words.

QUESTION: Mr. President, what do you think of your wife's candid remarks in terms of your election? Do you think he has helped or hurt you? Are you going to muzzle her or tell her to keep on talking?

THE PRESIDENT: I think she has been doing very well, Helen.

MORE





QUESTION: She has been doing well for you?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. I think she has done an extremely good job as First Lady and her popularity, of course, is reflected in the polls and the selection of her by Time Magazine as one of the 10 outstanding women in 1975. I am very proud of her and I think she will be helpful. I think she has been, over the years as well as in 1975.

QUESTION: Mr. President, assuming that you get your party's nomination, which Democrat would you rather run against and which one do you think you will run against?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me answer the last one first. I have said for a good many months I thought the Democrats would end up nominating Hubert Humphrey, and that prediction of better than a year ago looks better and better in December of 1975.

I don't really have any choice as to the Democratic nominee. That is a little out of my prerogative so I will let them make that decision.

QUESTION: I know it is out of your prerogative or choosing, but, if you could, who would you prefer to run against? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I really haven't given it any thought -- (Laughter) -- because I guess when you come right down to it, regardless of the nominee, I think I can win.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have said on several occasions and you said again this morning that the preservation of the two-party system is so important and that you have advised men like Senator Mathias and by indirection Governor Wallace to work for their goals through their party convention, rather than setting up a third or fourth party candidacy. What can your party as well as the other party do to get back some of these voters who have been discontent, or have been dissatisfied with the system and have gone the independent route?

THE PRESIDENT: First, I think they have to look at the record of nations where they have had multiple parties and those countries that have had that experience or have it now, don't have a political stability such as we have in America. I think they ought to learn that a two-party system is the best. It has worked well for us and the multiple party system has worked badly for most other countries.

MORE



Number two, I think we have to convince these people who have disassociated themselves with both Democratic and Republican Parties that they can achieve far more success working within the two parties. I have always found that it is better to be playing the game than sitting on the sidelines and I think that is what these people--well-intentioned, dedicated individuals--have to realize; they can do more constructively for their country if they are working within the framework of the two-party system.

There is enough breadth in the political philosophy of both major parties, I think, to permit most Americans to be a participant, either as a Democrat or a Republican, and I know they can get more done and contribute more significantly.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you mentioned at the beginning your team -- how proud you are of it. What if, during this year, some members of your Administration become an issue themselves and make it more difficult for you to get things through Congress? How would you assess their value to your Administration?

THE PRESIDENT: Bonnie, I don't anticipate that. I think all of the Cabinet members have done an excellent job in their relations with the Congress, considering particularly the fact that the Congress was controlled by a better than two to one margin by the opposition party. It is a thought that never entered my mind.

QUESTION: You don't see Secretary Kissinger's problems on the Hill as being substantive?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't. I think his formulation of foreign policy as Secretary of State, his execution on my behalf of foreign policy has been good and I do believe that the Congress, as we move into 1976, will appreciate the constructive efforts and I don't foresee any problem in that regard or any of the other Cabinet people.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have repeatedly asked us to look at your record and asked the voters to look at your record. I think on the Hill you generally earned the reputation of a man who thought that the less government there was perhaps the better it was. You have a State of the Union coming up in two or three weeks. Can we expect any new programs in that State of the Union or do you believe that we are at a time in history where a Presidential candidate can run on his feeling that the less government, the better government? We are not going to offer new programs; we are going to offer less programs?

MORE



THE PRESIDENT: Aldo, I think it depends on how you define new programs. If you think I am going to send up a laundry list of liberal, expensive programs that will cost the taxpayers more and expand the Federal Government, the answer is categorically no.

On the other hand, if you define a new program as a restructuring of an area within the Government, the consolidation, for example, of services rendered by the Federal Government in a more efficient, more effective way, the probability is yes.

And let me give you an illustration. In 1974 on the recommendation of the then Administration, the Congress passed the Community Development Act of 1974 which took, as I recollect, seven categorical grant programs to communities throughout the United States. Those seven programs were combined in one block grant program for municipalities all over the country. That was a new program in concept and it has worked well. It has gotten greater participation among citizens in these communities, it has given more flexibility to the cities to meet their problems, and I think it, on a cost plus basis, has been a good investment, far better than the other program.

I think that is a new program and there is a distinct possibility that in the State of the Union we will recommend certain consolidations in areas where there have been so many categorical programs, so much overlap, so much inefficiency, so much unhappiness by mayors and Governors with the problems that they have with this multiplicity of programs.

If we can consolidate in three or four areas -- and I think we can -- I think the taxpayer will get a better return and the beneficiaries will get better service.

MORE



MR. NESSEN: Mr. President, you have another meeting scheduled fairly soon.

THE PRESIDENT: Can I be the good guy? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: You always do that.

QUESTION: Mr. President, can I follow that with one question? Several weeks ago at one of the budget breakfasts, Mel Laird said that he thought one thing you had to talk about was national health insurance. That very afternoon Vice President Rockefeller presented his report to you from his various town meetings around the country and there is a paragraph in there that said National Health Insurance Week. I believe it said mandatory -- in very strong words recommending it. Might you include some discussion of national health insurance in your State of the Union Message?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will try to improve the Federal part of health care to the American people. But I don't think I will go beyond that at this time, Aldo.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you have any idea how you might fulfill this resolve to strengthen the moral and spiritual values of the country?

THE PRESIDENT: One way that I can do it personally is by my own conduct and to participate with spiritual leaders throughout the country, which I think is important, on a non-denominational basis.

I think we are moving in that direction and any inspiration I can give or cooperation that I can contribute, I certainly will do all I can.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have hinted at some progress with the Russians on Angola. Is that true? I mean, do you have some undercurrents?

THE PRESIDENT: I can only say that we have presented very forcefully our view that what is being done there is contrary to detente. I think there is a better solution. As I said yesterday and I will repeat today, we are maximizing our effort diplomatically, broadly as well as bilaterally.

QUESTION: Mr. President, could you say more about how decorous the struggle long-range is going to be --

THE PRESIDENT: How decorous?

QUESTION: Yes, how polite --

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard that term used in politics before. (Laughter)



MORE

QUESTION: I used it deliberately because Ronald Reagan has proposed a \$90 billion cut in Federal outlays, that will retire \$5 billion of the national debt and reduce our taxes 22 percent. He said now there are those who argue that the effect of that, say, would be an enormous increase in property and State and local taxes or a substantial cut in, say, the caliber of schools and teachers' salaries, this sort of thing. That seems to be a legitimate issue and perhaps the difference between Ford and Reagan. Will you take on and detail the possible drawbacks that you see in his proposal to cut Federal revenues by \$90 billion? Does that violate the rule that you will not attack your opponents?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the best answer to that is the one I gave the other day. I had met a day or so before with nine Governors, five Democrats and four Republicans, as I recall, and in the course of this two hour-plus discussion of the problems of State Government, it was very obvious to me that none of them, Democratic or Republican, were very sympathetic to the approach that you mentioned. After all, they are Governors today and they realize the problems if all of a sudden \$90 billion worth of extra cost was thrown up on their shoulders. And I respect their judgment and I think their judgment of nine is a reflection of the judgment of 50 Governors and I think the American people will follow that line rather than --

QUESTION: But you will leave it to Governors to make this argument, or will you say that is a crackpot scheme? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: As I said at the very outset, I am going to campaign affirmatively, and, if the Governors that were there and the other Governors raise objections, and I have some evidence that they did, I think that is a valid criticism for them to make of the program.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you mentioned Vietnam at the beginning. I wonder if we could have one more look back at that war. I am sure history is going to be asking this question. I think it will. Whatever happened to the domino theory which I think you once espoused? Looking back, did it ever really have any validity or does it continue to have a validity?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it can have validity and the situation that developed in Laos, as you well know, the coalition government there has dissolved, be overcome. I know that there are countries in Southeast Asia that were fearful that it might be a reality. We were able to reaffirm our presence at the present time as well as in the future in the Pacific, or Southeast Asia, and thus far we have been able to preclude what I honestly felt might have taken place.

Outside of some weakening in some countries, the domino theory has not taken place and we are fortunate. I am glad that that theory has been disproven, but it took some strong action and I think some leadership by this country to handle the matter.

MORE



QUESTION: Mr. President, do you think that all candidates should make public their health record, financial record and every other record concerning their personal lives?

THE PRESIDENT: Helen, if you go back to the hearings that I had on the Vice Presidential nomination, I think you will find that I had my academic record, my military records, my health records, every record that I could imagine was put on the record. If you want to go back and look at it, kind of just go and see. I willingly cooperated with the committee and I think it would be helpful for all candidates to do it in 1976.

I am healthy. I have never felt better and I think the public has a legitimate interest in that.

Now Dr. Lukash has some reservations about that but as far as I --

QUESTION: He doesn't think that --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he thinks -- and I can understand it -- that it might establish a bad precedent. But as far as I am concerned, I would throw whatever records are out on the table today. I think it would be a good idea.

QUESTION: Do you think someone who is not in good health should not run?

THE PRESIDENT: That is for the American people to say.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you plan to release -- when you get to campaigning next year, do you plan to release formally your health records?

THE PRESIDENT: It is my understanding that some publications or some magazine or newspaper, or AP or UPI are asking that and we have been asked. I think we should but I repeat that my medical adviser thinks it is a bad precedent.

QUESTION: Why?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, --

QUESTION: He is a doctor. (Laughter)

QUESTION: I mean, why should it be a bad precedent for the American people to know the health of their President?

MORE



MR. NESSEN: Dr. Lukash has a problem with the doctor-patient relationship, not only in this case but in Mrs. Ford's case and previous cases. He believes it violates his medical ethics. But we are still working on the problem.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we can solve the problem but, as far as in general, what I did before the Senate committee is the best indication of how I personally feel.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you think other candidates should release financial records as full as those you released before the committee, and do you plan to update the ones you released then?

THE PRESIDENT: My financial records again are on the record up through, let's see, 1973 and I hadn't thought about it, but there hasn't been any significant change and I would see no reason why I shouldn't and I think it would likewise be constructive for other candidates.

MORE



QUESTION: Mr. President, looking back on 1975, what has been your greatest disappointment this year, and what would you do differently?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the greatest disappointment was that I couldn't sit in this office and turn a switch and instantaneously stop the rate of inflation, stop the unemployment increases. It is frustrating to find that our society, our industrial society and society as a whole, is so complex that you can't just turn a switch and everything turns from darkness to sunshine.

I think any President -- and the ones I have known during my lifetime -- I suspect found that probably the greatest disappointment. I am sure Mr. Roosevelt, who struggled from 1933 until World War II, worked day and night trying to find an answer to the Depression. I am sure that he sat in this very office and wished he could turn a switch and get the 14 to 15 percent unemployment changed.

But, it just doesn't happen that way. That is a hard lesson, I think, any President runs into.

It is a disappointment because you know there is hardship, you know there is disappointment throughout the country.

From a personal point of view, that was the most disappointing.

Any more questions?

QUESTION: May I ask one final question? It goes back to the matter of running. You say that those that think Gerald Ford may drop out of the race before the very end or should he be defeated simply don't know you. But, in all your political life, 25 years or so, you have never sought the Presidency.

The question goes to whether or not you have, since you have come into office, developed the all-consuming desire and drive it will take to win the election. Do you feel you have that now and the determination to do it?

THE PRESIDENT: There is no question in my mind. I have a vision of what I want America to be. I think it is a good vision for 215 million Americans -- I have said it in one way or another in response to other questions here, at peace with ourselves, peace throughout the world, better economic conditions, the strengthening of individual freedom in this country, the protection of our environment as we try to move forward as a Nation economically, control of the very difficult problem of crime. These are the things that I want done.

MORE





I happen to believe that they are good for America. I strongly feel that I am qualified to implement and to achieve those goals, that vision, so I do have the drive and I have said repeatedly -- and I will say it once more -- I get up every morning and can't wait to get to this office to get to the problems, and I never go home at night feeling we haven't made some progress, not as much, but I look forward to the next day because I think we will make more progress in the achievements of this goal and this vision.

May I just say one thing in conclusion. This is the second of these kind of informal, somewhat restricted get-togethers. I know that some of the press have felt that everybody should be here. As we move ahead, if you all like this approach, what I would like to do is to next week or next month, whenever the time comes, to have a different group so that everybody feels they get included and no one feels they get excluded.

So, I say to those who are not here, we will try to get them in the next time around.

Have a good year.

THE PRESS: Thank you, and Happy New Year to you.

END (AT 12:34 P.M. EST)



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1976

*Press  
Office*

MEMORANDUM FOR:           RON NESSEN  
THROUGH:                   PHIL BUCHEN *P.*  
FROM:                       KEN LAZARUS *KL*  
SUBJECT:                    Calley Case

Attached is a chronology of significant events in the development of the case of Lieutenant William L. Calley, Jr.

As you will note, the sentence imposed on Lieutenant Calley was reviewed by former President Nixon in May 1974. At that time, the ten-year sentence imposed on the defendant was left undisturbed.

As the Supreme Court yesterday refused to review Lieutenant Calley's collateral attack on the conviction (habeas corpus), the case is closed.

Lieutenant Calley has served the sentence imposed upon him (less ten days as noted in the chronology) and will now be referred to a Federal parole officer for supervision during his period of parole.

Although President Ford could utilize his constitutional pardon power to eliminate the parole component of Lt. Calley's sentence, there are no plans to do so.



CALLEY CASE  
CHRONOLOGY

1. Lt. Calley was convicted by a military court martial on March 29, 1971, of murdering 22 people at My Lai hamlet, village of Song My, Quang Ngai Province, on March 16, 1968. A sentence of life imprisonment was imposed on March 31, 1971.
2. In April 1971, former President Nixon announced that he would review the sentence imposed upon Lt. Calley after the military process had run its course. The former President also announced that Lt. Calley would serve his sentence under house arrest rather than in Federal prison.
3. The sentence of confinement imposed by the court martial was reduced to 20 years by a convening authority on August 20, 1971.
4. On February 16, 1973, the Army Court of Military Review affirmed the verdict and sentence imposed on Lt. Calley.
5. On December 21, 1973, the Court of Military Appeals affirmed the verdict and sentence imposed on Lt. Calley.
6. On February 4, 1974, the Court of Military Appeals denied a petition for reconsideration of the verdict and sentence imposed on Lt. Calley.
7. On February 11, 1974, Lt. Calley filed a collateral attack (petition for habeas corpus) on the military verdict and sentence, claiming a denial of compulsory due process and undue publicity, in the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.
8. On February 27, 1974, the presiding judge in the habeas corpus proceeding (U. S. District Judge J. Robert Elliott) released Lt. Calley on bail.
9. On April 15, 1974, the Secretary of the Army reviewed the case, affirmed the verdict and commuted Lt. Calley's sentence to 10 years, pursuant to his clemency authority.



10. On May 3, 1974, then President Nixon indicated that he had reviewed the Calley case and would make no change in the sentence imposed under military process.
11. On June 13, 1974, the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit reversed the bail order of Judge Elliott and ordered Lt. Calley returned to Federal custody.
12. On September 25, 1974, Judge Elliott ruled in favor of Lt. Calley on his habeas corpus petition and ordered him to be released.
13. On September 26, 1974, the Army obtained a temporary stay of the release order from the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.
14. On November 8, 1974, the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit dissolved the temporary stay and released Lt. Calley on bail.
15. On November 8, 1974, the Secretary of the Army announced that Lt. Calley would be paroled effective November 19, 1974, after serving one-third of his 10-year sentence.
16. On September 10, 1975, the U. S. Court of Appeals reversed the decision of Judge Elliott on the habeas petition.
17. On April 5, 1976, the Supreme Court announced its refusal to review the decision of the Fifth Circuit on the habeas petition.
18. The Department of the Army has announced that it will not impose the additional 10 days of confinement on Lt. Calley. He will be referred to a Federal parole officer for supervision during his period of parole.



THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

April 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

PHIL BUCHEN 

SUBJECT:

Leo Cherne, Chairman of  
PFIAB

Leo Cherne advises that there is an article in the New Times magazine which reports on his alleged improper use of the services of an FBI agent. This, I am told, is completely untrue, and if you get any questions on the matter, I suggest you refer them to me.

cc: Jack Marsh  
Mike DuVal



*Press*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1976

Dear Miss Sloman:

You were very kind to express your pleasure and that of Professor King over the results of your interviews here at the White House. I very much appreciate your offer to send a script of the program involving the interview with me, and I would welcome receiving a copy.

Sincerely,

*Philip W. Buchen*

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Ms. Anne Sloman  
Producer  
Special Current Affairs  
Unit (Radio)  
British Broadcasting Corporation  
Broadcasting House  
London W1A 1AA, ENGLAND



*Press*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

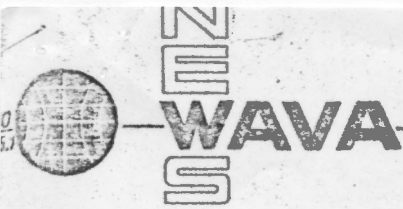
April 21, 1976

Ron,

For your information.

Phil Buchen





All News Radio for the Nations Capital

WAVA ALL NEWS TOWER  
1901 FT. MYER DRIVE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22209  
WASHINGTON  
TELEPHONE JA 2-1111

SPECIAL REPORT Sun. April 18 8:45 am 12:47 pm 4:25 pm  
Mon. April 19 10:45 am and 2:45 pm

NESSEN, FORD AND N.B.C. DEGRADE THE PRESIDENCY

In bringing back Ron Nessen to television as guest emcee of an alleged comedy show called "Saturday Night," NBC has achieved the most tasteless, witless, repulsive spectacle since it marketed the nuptials of Tiny Tim.

When after ninety minutes the end came -- mercifully -- a leering Press Secretary of The President of The United States gushed:

"I wasn't sure I could get through. It's something I've never done before."

And, with any kind of luck, President Ford -- who also degraded the Presidency by appearing in this revolting production -- will see to it that Nessen never again is so monumentally stupid as to get involved with what he called:

"These really nifty people."

The Really Nifty People began by protraying The President, not as a lovable stumbler, but as a low grade moron -- a degrading insult far beyond the legitimate boundary of political satire and decent humor.

The show's visual highlight was a tossup between panoramic views and closeups of a six-mile garbage pit -- and six men singing as they stand in front of urinals.

If any viewers found this insufficiently disgusting, there were, to be sure, bigger and better goodies -- such as:

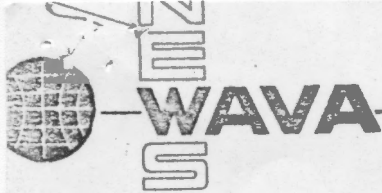
- \* The idea of making jam out of hemorrhoids, or:
- \* "The 1976 Presidential Erection," or:
- \* What a body looks like when it is found floating in New York Harbor, or:
- \* How to spruce up douches with carbonation, or:
- \* The Supreme Court portrayed as ~~Peeping Toms~~ Peeping Toms, lifting the covers in order to peer at a couple fornicating, or:
- \* That scintillating theme of copulation with animals -- both of Catherine The Great's death, as well as a snappy suggestion ~~that~~ of Ron Nessen as the father of Liberty's puppies.

David Eisenhower and Julie Nixon were the subjects of an incredibly ~~merciless~~ merciless dirty joke on this NBC triumph, which provided further fun via a U.S. Army recruiter as a dope pusher.

Nessen as a comedian is something on the order of Earl Butz as Secretary of State. Even with seven or eight costume changes, the President's Press Secretary bombed almost continuously during this utterly dreadful production.

MORE





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WASHINGTON  
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Side acts included Bill Crystal (?) who has all the appeal of Frankenstein with St. Vitus Dance; as well as a quartet of hairy screechers called the Patty Smith Group -- with Patty contorting her face into a remarkable resemblance to Anna The Hyena of Lower Slobbovia -- with howling to match.

Why on earth did Nessen do it? Or Ford allow it? Why for that matter was his garbage put on the air by NBC?

President Ford and his Press Secretary should hold a joint press conference to apologize to the American people for, in effect, allowing dirty graffiti on the White House walls -- and this on the first hour of Easter.

Les Kinsolving -- Special Report



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 7, 1976

*Press  
Office*

MEMORANDUM FOR:       RON NESSEN

FROM:                   PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

Chuck Collins, who is the Producer of News at the Chicago Public Television Station WTTW has sent me a copy of his letter written to you on July 29.

I do not know Collins personally but he was very thoughtful in allowing me to receive an advance text for comment of a program he did concerning a friend of the President's which dealt in part with the President's relationships to that friend while he was in Congress.

Attachment

*FORD*

July 29, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Nessen:

Last March, all the anchormen from Chicago local news stations were invited to the White House to interview the President in a half-hour news format. That is, all the anchormen except WTTW's. During the President's swing through southern Illinois, I asked you if that could be rectified. You said that you would try to get us into the Oval Office with the others.

A few days later, I received a call from you, and you told me that there wasn't enough room. You further stated that you would try to arrange an interview in the future.

When Reagan came to town, he invited all the anchormen for a half-hour interview...including WTTW. We ran the entire half-hour.

The Ford interview was hardly used at all by the commercial stations. We would have run the entire interview.

Although we are a public television station, more viewers watch our station than any other public station in the country. We believe in thorough coverage. Our Presidential Primary Special won an Emmy. We have interviewed every presidential candidate at least once, except President Ford. We have interviewed Reagan twice and Carter three times

It is our understanding that the President will be in Chicago on October 7 and possibly in September for a Jim Thompson campaign dinner. We would hope that an interview could be arranged at that time. We would like to do a half-hour interview at any time or place convenient for the President.

Sincerely,



Chuck Collins  
Producer  
WTTW News Division

CC:mmm  
Enclosure  
bcc: Mr. Philip Buchen



FBS STATIONS

TOP 27 STATIONS, PERCENT OF METROPOLITAN AREA HOUSEHOLDS REACHED PER WEEK  
SIGN ON - SIGN OFF

(Source: As Published in Nielsen Station Index)

| CALL LETTERS | CHANNEL | DESIGNATED MARKET AREA  | MAY 1976 | MAY 1975 |
|--------------|---------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1. WTTW      | 11      | Chicago                 | 59%      | 38%      |
| 2. WNET      | 13      | New York                | 50       | 49       |
| 3. KUAT      | 6       | Tucson (Nogales)        | 48       | 42       |
| 3. WHA       | 21      | Madison                 | 48       | 42       |
| 5. KAID      | 4       | Boise                   | 47       | 50       |
| 6. KHET      | 11      | Honolulu                | 46       | 36       |
| 6. KNME      | 5       | Albuquerque             | 46       | 37       |
| 8. KAET      | 8       | Phoenix                 | 45       | 40       |
| 8. WGBH      | 2       | Boston                  | 45       | 44       |
| 8. WMVS      | 10      | Milwaukee               | 45       | 36       |
| 8. WXXI      | 21      | Rochester, N.Y.         | 45       | 49       |
| 12. KDIN     | 11      | Des Moines-Ames         | 43       | 38       |
| 12. WPBT     | 2       | Miami-Ft. Lauderdale    | 43       | 30       |
| 14. WJCT     | 7       | Jacksonville            | 42       | 31       |
| 15. KTWU     | 11      | Topeka                  | 40       | (25)     |
| 16. WVIA     | 44      | Scranton-Wilkes Barre   | 39       | 42       |
| 17. KETA     | 13      | Oklahoma City           | 38       | 31       |
| 17. KQED     | 9       | San Francisco-Oakland   | 38       | 36       |
| 19. KRMA     | 6       | Denver                  | 37       | 37       |
| 19. KUON     | 12      | Lincoln                 | 37       | 32       |
| 21. KOAP     | 10      | Portland, Oregon        | 36       | 35       |
| 21. WEDH     | 24      | Hartford-New Haven      | 36       | 33       |
| 21. WNEB     | 17      | Buffalo                 | 36       | 30       |
| 21. WQLN     | 44      | Erie                    | 36       | 36       |
| 25. WMHT     | 17      | Albany-Schenectady-Troy | 35       | 36       |
| 25. WQED     | 13      | Pittsburgh              | 35       | 33       |
| 25. WYES     | 12      | New Orleans             | 35       | 34       |



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:                   RON NESSEN

FROM:                               PHILIP BUCHEN *P.*

SUBJECT:                           SEC Proceeding Against  
Seidman & Seidman

The SEC order with respect to Seidman & Seidman is the settlement of an administrative proceedings involving the firm and certain of its clients. The opinion and order of the SEC makes no reference to L. William Seidman, although he was one of about 150 partners of the firm, and its managing partner until 1974.

The firm did not admit or deny the statements or conclusions of the Commission but consented to the issuance of the order to avoid further controversy.

Mr. L. William Seidman, former managing partner of the firm, was not involved personally in the work with any of the clients involved. He ceased being a partner in 1974 after he came on the Vice President's staff.

The Commission found no evidence that the Seidman firm was a party to any of the frauds perpetrated by its clients. The firm was a victim of deception practiced by four of its clients, three of which were acquired through a merger with another accounting firm that has since been terminated.

The present settlement with the SEC is designed to assure maintenance of such accounting standards and practices as are required by the SEC. It is the first and only time in the 60-year history of the firm that it has been the subject of an SEC inquiry.

