

The original documents are located in Box 46, folder “President - Gifts Putting Green” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Policy
Putting
green

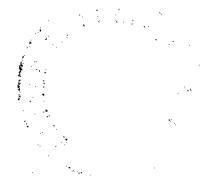
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY
FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.W.B.*

You have requested my thoughts regarding Robert Trent Jones' letter suggesting the resurrection of the Eisenhower putting green. The legal issues are virtually identical to those analyzed in the attached memorandum prepared by Bill Casselman regarding the swimming pool. In a strictly legal sense, the putting green could be accepted directly by the White House with the prior consent of Congress, or through the National Park Service or the National Park Foundation. In my view, however, a number of other factors at this time make this approach unwise, and I recommend that this offer be graciously turned down for the present.

In view of the present state of the economy, it would be unwise to undergo any broad based fundraising campaigns for this purpose. It is equally undesirable to permit a relatively small group of wealthy men to contribute this gift to the White House. The Eisenhower putting green was removed primarily due to the high costs for maintenance that were involved. In addition, the Eisenhower green was located in an area that is visible to persons outside the complex, which of course the Secret Service now finds to be undesirable. To put up protective screening around a White House putting green would require the approval of the Fine Arts Commission, which is unlikely to be forthcoming as it would decrease the public view of the White House.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 2, 1974

TO: KEN LAZARUS

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN

Bill Casselman has gone into a similar question on the swimming pool project.

But in the interests of saving his time for tapes and documents problems, could you - possibly after talking to Bill - prepare a response for me to give Dick.

P.

October 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: DICK CHENEY

Attached is a letter which came in from Robert Trent Jones. It regards the possibility of constructing a putting green on the south lawn. I think it is a sensitive matter which you ought to take a look at in terms of whether or not it is feasible from the legal standpoint.

I would appreciate it if you would let me know your views on the subject so that we can get back to Mr. Jones.

Attachment

ROBERT TRENT JONES, INC.

6
7 CHURCH STREET
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042
201 744-3033
TELEX: 138808

October 11, 1974

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld
Special Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld:

When President Ford was at Pinehurst for the Golf Hall of Fame dedication he indicated that he would like to revive the Eisenhower putting green at the White House and would like us to be involved.

We are more than happy to be part of it and are available at any time to discuss the site, timing and other details with whomever has the responsibility. We could design a very simple green with one trap which will blend well into the environment.

As a matter of fact, if there is any need to raise funds for this I feel that I could raise it through the membership of the Burning Tree Club where I am a member.

Incidentally, we have a mutual friend in John Laupheimer who is a business associate of mine in a venture we have in Europe.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Very truly yours,

Robert Trent Jones
Robert Trent Jones

RTJ:ev

Cherry chub

*Lawyers
look at it*

OK

August 22, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

FROM: William E. Casselman II

SUBJECT: Authority for Construction of Swimming Pool and Related Facilities on White House Grounds

You have asked whether authority exists for the United States to accept the gift of a swimming pool to be constructed on the White House grounds. You have further asked whether authority exists to accept gifts or donations of money for purposes of constructing related facilities. These questions will be considered jointly.

The acceptance of gifts to the United States is generally provided for by custom and usage. The Supreme Court has stated: "We have no doubt that the receipt of gifts, testamentary or non-testamentary, is within the ambit of federal powers. Uninterrupted usage from the foundation of the Government has sanctioned it." (United States v. Burnison, 339 U.S. 87)

It has been the prevailing practice for the United States to accept unconditional gifts and bequests of money, personal property, and real property without express statutory authority. The statutes appear to assume such authority and merely deal with the administration or disposition of the property after it has been received. (See, for example, 31 U.S.C. 757(e), directing the redemption of government securities donated or bequeathed to the United States, and 40 U.S.C. 304, providing for the disposal of lands acquired by the United States by devise).

Where, however, a gift is made to the United States for a designated purpose the question invariably arises whether any specific officer of the United States has authority to accept it, subject to the conditions



imposed by the donor, and to apply it for the purpose designated. It is customary in accepting such gifts for the Congress to enact legislation authorizing an officer or instrumentality of the Government to accept a specific conditional gift or specific types of conditional gifts and apply them in accordance with the donor's wishes. To this effect, the United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit has held:

" Gifts to the United States which involve any duty, burden, or condition . . . are not accepted by the Government unless by the express authority of Congress. The national legislature, which controls the property of the United States (Const., Art. IV, Sec. 3), is consulted in such a case." (Story v. Snyder 184 F.2d 454, at 456).

There are, in fact, numerous statutes authorizing designated officers or instrumentalities to accept gifts or bequests to the United States for specific purposes.

Clearly the gift to the United States of a swimming pool to be constructed on the White House grounds or the gift or donation of monies to be used for the construction of related facilities is a conditional gift or at least a gift involving a burden to the United States. We are unable to find any specific authorization for the acceptance of gifts or donation to the United States for the purpose of making improvements to the grounds of the White House. By inference, however, such authority appears to be vested in the Secretary of the Interior.

Since 1961, by Act of Congress, the White House has been administered as part of the National Park System (75 Stat. 586). As used in the Act the term "White House" includes the surrounding grounds. 16 U.S.C. 6 provides in part: "The Secretary of the Interior . . . is authorized . . . to accept . . . monies which may be donated for purposes of the national park and monument system." Section 6(a) further provides that nothing shall prohibit "the Secretary of the Interior from accepting in the name of the United States, gifts or bequests of money . . . or . . . property in the interest of the National Park Service."

Therefore, we conclude that inherent authority exists in the Secretary of the Interior to accept on behalf of the United States the gift of a swimming pool to be constructed on the White House grounds and to accept the gift or donation of monies for construction of related facilities, where the Secretary has determined that the acceptance of such gift or donation is consistent with and in the interest of the National Park System.

cc: Philip W. Bushen

WEC:bw



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*Pres.
Putting
Green*

April 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES
FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN *P.W.B.*
SUBJECT: Putting Green on the
White House Lawn

In response to your memoranda of April 10 and 11, I enclose a memorandum with attachment prepared for me by Barry and Bill. I think their points are well taken and should be given careful consideration. As between a putting green and a swimming pool, I think the President would much prefer the latter.

(Faint circular stamp)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
THROUGH: BILL CASSELMAN
FROM: BARRY ROTH *BR*
SUBJECT: Putting Green

While the acceptance of a putting green from Robert Trent Jones by the National Park Service (NPS) would be legally proper, there are several problems which should be considered prior to discussing this matter with NPS:

1. Although a figure has now been quoted of only \$300 per year for maintenance of the green, Rex Scouton indicated to me some time ago that the Eisenhower putting green had been removed primarily due to the high cost of maintaining it. This new figure should be verified once again.

2. Regardless of whether NPS is the legal entity accepting the putting green, it will be publicly perceived as a substantial gift to the President. Although a non-statutory gift policy has not yet been established by the President, this type of gift does bring considerable media attention, particularly prior to an election.

3. Politically, this is not the best time to install the putting green. The construction of both a pool and a putting green are likely to result in charges that the President is converting the White House into a country club. Simply stated, while activities such as golf are essential to his health and performance, prior to an election these activities should be given a relatively low visibility.

Attached for your information is a memorandum I prepared for Ken some months ago on an earlier proposal for the putting green.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

For Bill Casselman
to review promptly
and advise.

J.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: JERRY JONES
SUBJECT: Trent Jones letter
Offering Putting Green

I understand Robert Trent Jones has now clarified the \$4,000 figure mentioned in his letter to Rex Scouten which I sent you yesterday. He is prepared to use his own construction crew and donate the labor and materials for installation to the White House. He also is prepared to bill the White House if for some reason we feel we should use other funds to pay for it.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP W. BUCHEN

FROM: JERRY H. ~~JONES~~

Attached is a letter from Robert Trent Jones to Rex Scouten, our Chief Usher. Jones would like to restore the Eisenhower putting green for the President. He indicates in the letter that the restoration costs would not be more than \$4,000 and I understand from Scouten that the yearly maintainance costs for materials would be \$300 and that no extra gardners would be required.

Before we proceed with this, I need to know if there is any legal problem or reason not to do it & If the President decides to do it, how legally it would best be done.

Thank you.

ROBERT TRENT JONES

March 18, 1975

Dear Mr. Scouten:

My sons, Robert Jr. and Rees, and I enjoyed very much being with you yesterday and appreciate your courtesies showing us the White House. We were all thrilled by the experience.

We think that the site of the original Eisenhower green is an ideal location. We would in effect be restoring the old green. The green could be approximately 2500 to 3000 square feet in size with the trap placed between the Nixon commemorative tree and the Hoover commemorative tree. The green would also be so designed to give the President an opportunity to pitch to it from a short distance.

My sons and I would like to donate our services as well as the construction of the green itself to President Ford. We can arrange to have it contoured and built if that is acceptable. We would like to do something for the President who is in turn doing so much for the game of golf. The outside cost of materials and installation should not exceed \$4,000.00. We can also make recommendations for the maintenance of the green to conform to government regulations.

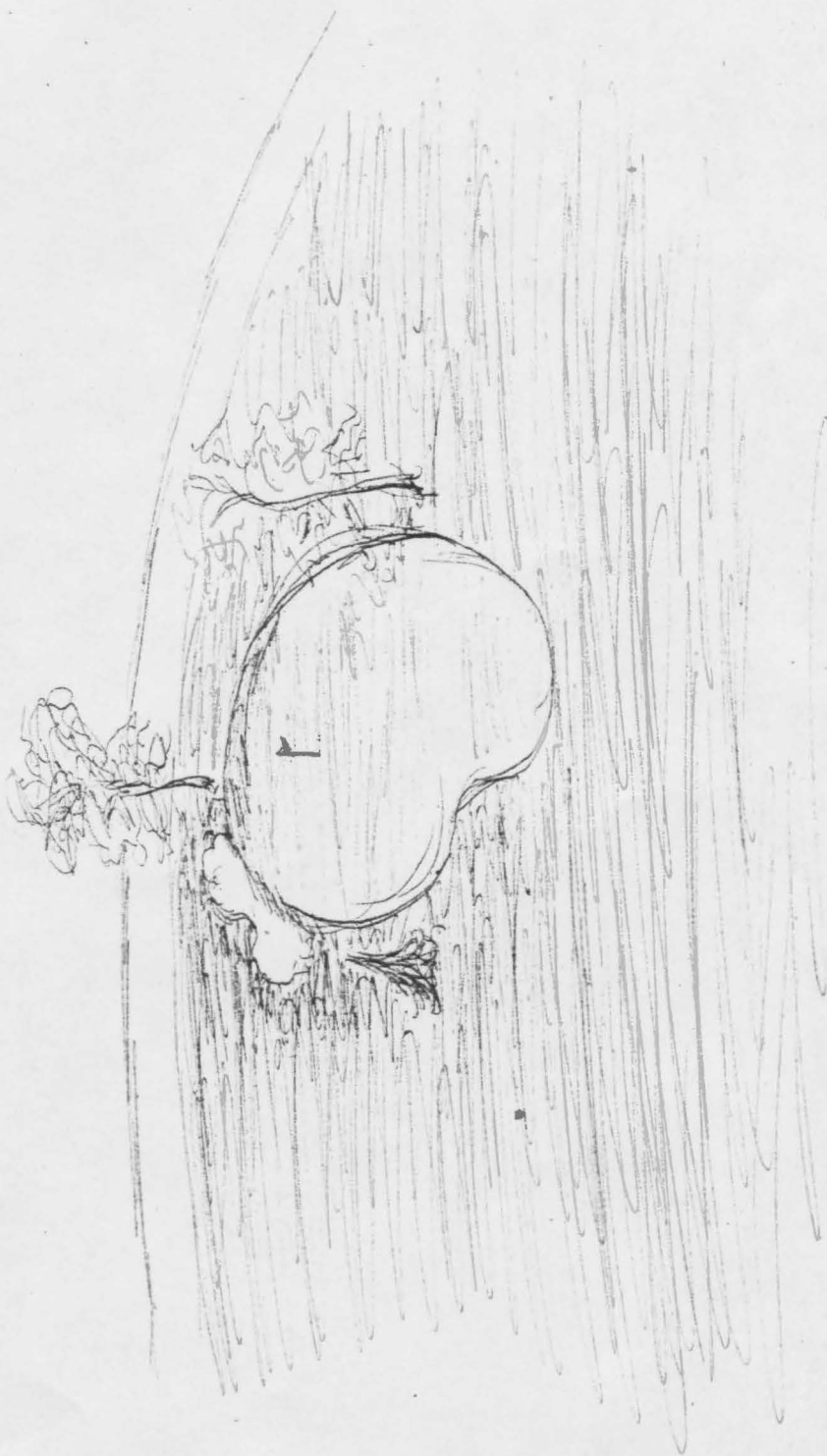
We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

Robert Trent Jones
Robert Trent Jones

Mr. Rex Scouten
Chief Usher
The White House
Washington, D. C.





THE WHITE HOUSE GREEN.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Putting
green*

October 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*
SUBJECT: Indoor Golf Range

This is in response to your request for guidance on Mr. Robert Spindell's offer to donate an indoor driving range to the President for installation in the EOB. From a strictly legal standpoint, there is authority to accept this by several alternative methods as an unconditional gift to the United States, as long as there is no specific requirement of where or how it is to be used, and the annual maintenance does not impose a legal "burden upon the United States for its upkeep."

Although no firm policy has been established for the acceptance of domestic gifts, we have generally sought to avoid the acceptance of valuable gifts such as this or the putting green. Without meaning to bring into question Mr. Spindell's motives, I point out that such gifts have been the subject of considerable media attention over the last several years. Clearly no acceptance should be made unless we also know about Mr. Spindell's occupation and business interests. In addition, this is a time when we should avoid emphasizing such high visibility gifts that appear to take away from the time the President devotes to his official duties. It is my understanding that these were also the main reasons for turning down the putting green last spring.

For the above reasons, we recommend against acceptance of this gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR

Phil, I understand you have a letter dated June 25th from Robert F. Spindell of Chicago concerning an offer of Mr. Spindell to the President. I have been asked to get a package together on this matter for the President. Could you let me have a copy of the June 25th letter along with your recommendation of how this request should be handled. Mr. Spindell is obviously going to persist on this one. Thanks.

(p. s. it apparently concerns an 'inside golf range.)



ROBERT F. SPINDELL
135 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO

October 1, 1975

Dear Don:

As you observed first hand, the inauguration of the Illinois Republican Committee was a resounding success. It was a full house and the President was in great fettle. His speech was just right for the occasion and left everyone with the impression that the Presidency is in the best possible hands. He has such a wonderful way of looking at the people with whom he shakes hands that everyone of them immediately becomes his friend. Even staid old Jim Kemper came away with a great big, highly pleased smile!

✓ During my conversation with the President I mentioned again the inside golf range at Camp David and told him I would like to give him one to be installed in an empty office in the Executive Office Building. He asked me if I thought it would improve his golf game and when I assured him it would, he indicated he liked the idea. I told him that I had sent to you a letter setting forth the details which you had forwarded to Phil Buchen and that I would remind him to bring it to the President's attention. He said that would be fine. Accordingly, Don, I would appreciate it very much if you would ask Mr. Buchen to show my letter of June 25th to the President or discuss it with him. All that would be necessary to go ahead would be the designation of someone to meet with me in the Executive Office Building so that we could take the appropriate measurements. It would require about two months to acquire the material and install it.

When Mr. Buchen discusses this matter with the President, please ask him to emphasize the following three points to the President:

1. It would very definitely improve his golf game.
2. Hitting golf balls for 15 or 20 minutes in the late afternoon would stir up his circulation and make him refreshed for the rest of the day and evening.
3. The problems of the day would vanish from his mind for the 15 or 20 minute period, because it is impossible for one to think of anything else while hitting a golf ball. It constitutes a splendid change of pace.

I know the important part you played in arranging Harold Smith's big party last night, and I am delighted that it was so completely successful. It will materially strengthen the Republican Party in Illinois.

I am looking forward to seeing you in person and in action on the 30th at the same place. You are obviously convinced that Illinois will be a vitally important state next year. And you are so right.

Sincerely,



Mr. Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

P.S. I thought you might like to have me enclose a copy of my letter to you of June 25th.

June 25, 1975

Dear Don:

When visiting with the President last evening at the RW Associates reception in the White House, I asked him if he would like to have an indoor golf range in one of the rooms in the Executive Office Building. (We had just talked about the golf range at Camp David). Since the idea is new and the execution of it a little complex, I told him I would write to you about the details and ask you to bring them to his attention. Hence this letter.

I told the President that Mr. Nixon and I had played golf together a good deal and that I had proposed setting up a golf range in the Executive Office Building. Mr. Nixon asked Bud Wilkinson to work with me on this and we found an empty office that we thought would provide the idea inside golf range. The ceiling was so high that it would permit the use of a 7 iron, which is almost unheard of in an inside range. Nets would be hung about 18" from each of the side walls and from the ceiling. Two canvases would be hung at the front edge about a foot apart. A rubber mat with a 30" x 12" astro turf insert, would constitute the last ingredient. A frame would hold a mirror and the golf sticks. As Johnny Miller has repeatedly said, it is impossible for one to improve one's golf swing unless he can see it, either in a mirror, movies or video-tape. I have a golf range in my basement and one in the back yard and I find the mirror is invaluable. Two last items are adequate lighting from the ceiling and a ball "picker-upper."



I would be more than delighted to make a gift of such a range to the President, and I would buy the materials and ship them to Washington, as I did for the Camp David range, and then give instructions as to how they are to be erected.

I am not familiar with whether there is space in the White House for a golf range, but it must have a ceiling clearance of 7½ to 8' and I doubt that the ceiling of the ground floor space is that high. My basement range is only 18' long, 9' wide and 7½' high.

The President said that there was a move afoot to re-establish the putting green and put in a sand trap. If he added the golf range to these two items he would soon have his golf scores in the lower 80's and occasionally the higher 70's. If this became known to the public, they would think that he was neglecting his job! I must emphasize in passing that hitting balls hard for twenty minutes can do more to stir up one's circulation and at the same time take one's mind off everything else than any other physical activity. One simply cannot hit a golf ball and think of anything else!

I am sure that everyone who listened to the President's short but stimulating speech, and visited with him afterwards felt the same as Ethel and I: First, he looked definitely younger than the photographs and television indicated; he looked to be in excellent, robust good health; he has stunningly handsome blue eyes which both women and men like; he has a truly infectious smile; he is disarmingly forthright and everyone that meets him instinctively likes him and feels that our Federal Government is in very good hands indeed. He has that rare combination of being your leader, but at the same time your friend. This was a very critical audience and everyone with whom I talked felt that we had just the right man to lead us, both now and in the four years commencing in November 1976.

As I read the Washington Post this morning I could not help but chuckle at Mr. Meany's complaint about the lack of a veto-proof Congress!

How are you holding up under your 12 to 14 hour days?!

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.




THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BARRY ROTH

FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN 

SUBJECT: Robert Spindell's Offer
to Donate Indoor Driving
Range

In response to Jim Connor's memo of November 1, I called Robert Spindell. I find that he is a practicing lawyer who specializes in estate planning work. He and his firm do not represent any corporations on any stock exchange, and he has no litigation pending with the Federal Government. The indoor driving range proposed will consist of a mat for the floor, an upright canvas into which the balls could be hit, and netting which will frame and protrude from the canvas backing. The out-of-pocket expenses for Mr. Spindell will amount to about \$200.00, but he will need help from carpenters who work in the building to make the installation.

The gift would not be a personal one to this President but would be made for the purpose of having the installation remain to be used by future Presidents. Mr. Spindell would like to have arrangements made so that he can come to Washington and consult with appropriate building personnel on the location and installation of the equipment.

This proposal seems to be well within the bounds of propriety and I would like you to make the necessary arrangements for a productive visit by Mr. Spindell. Please call him to establish a convenient time at 312-372-2900.

cc: Jim Connor
Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 1, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Robert Spindell's offer to Donate Indoor
Driving Range

Your memorandum of October 22 and the entire question of Robert Spindell's offer to donate an Indoor Driving Range were reviewed by the President.

The President requested that you discuss the matter further with Mr. Spindell to explore the possibility of his accepting the gift and where it might be located.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 2/17/76

TO: Phil Buchan

FROM: Barry Roth

FYI

Barry

Noted
J.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 17, 1976
10:59 a. m.

JIM CONNOR:

Re: Indoor driving range

I called Robert Spindell, 312-372-2900, and advised him of our decision not to go ahead with the indoor driving range. He said that he understood the political considerations of such a venture at this time and felt that the decision was a good one. He accepted our thanks graciously. He said that he would like to renew the offer after the election. I responded that there was nothing to indicate that the offer would be accepted after the election, but he responded that he would like to do so anyway.

Thank you.



DAVID C. HOOPES

Attachments

cc: Barry Roth ✓

H/d

Wednesday 1/28/76

2:50 Robert Spindell said he talked with Dave Hoopes, who said the plans for the President's indoor golf range had been given to Mr. Cheney some weeks ago by Mr. Hoopes.

(312)Franklin 2-290

Mr. Spindell asked if you could jog Mr. Cheney to do something about it.

Barry, what's happening?



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 2, 1974

TO: KEN LAZARUS

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN

Bill Casselman has gone into a similar question on the swimming pool project.

But in the interests of saving his time for tapes and documents problems, could you - possibly after talking to Bill - prepare a response for me to give Dick.

P.

October 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: DICK CHENEY

Attached is a letter which came in from Robert Trent Jones. It regards the possibility of constructing a putting green on the south lawn. I think it is a sensitive matter which you ought to take a look at in terms of whether or not it is feasible from the legal standpoint.

I would appreciate it if you would let me know your views on the subject so that we can get back to Mr. Jones.

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ROBERT TRENT JONES, INC.

7 CHURCH STREET
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042
201 744-3033
TELEX: 138808

October 11, 1974

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Incidentally, we have a mutual friend in John Laupheimer who is a business associate of mine in a venture we have in Europe.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Very truly yours,

Robert Trent Jones
Robert Trent Jones

RTJ:ev

Cherry check

*Lawyers
look at it*

(Handwritten initials in a circle)

705 FOREST AVENUE, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94301
TELEPHONE: 415-325-3833

POST OFFICE BOX 7098, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33304
TELEPHONE: 305-564-3422

August 22, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
FROM: William E. Casselman II
SUBJECT: Authority for Construction of Swimming Pool and Related Facilities on White House Grounds

You have asked whether authority exists for the United States to accept the gift of a swimming pool to be constructed on the White House grounds. You have further asked whether authority exists to accept gifts or donations of money for purposes of constructing related facilities. These questions will be considered jointly.

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cc: Philip W. Buchen

WEC:bw



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Pres.
Putting
Green*

April 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES
FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN *P.W.B.*
SUBJECT: Putting Green on the
White House Lawn

In response to your memoranda of April 10 and 11, I enclose a memorandum with attachment prepared for me by Barry and Bill. I think their points are well taken and should be given careful consideration. As between a putting green and a swimming pool, I think the President would much prefer the latter.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1975

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FROM: JERRY JONES
SUBJECT: Trent Jones letter
Offering Putting Green

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1975

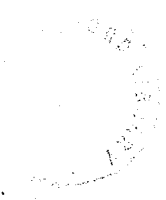
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March 18, 1975

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We think that the site of the original Eisenhower green is an ideal location. We would in effect be restoring the old green. The green could be approximately 2500 to 3000 square feet in size with the trap placed between the Nixon commemorative tree and the Hoover commemorative tree. The green would also be so designed to give the President an opportunity to pitch to it from a short distance.

My sons and I would like to donate our services as well as the construction of the green itself to President Ford. We can arrange to have it contoured and built if that is acceptable. We would like to do something for the President who is in turn doing so much for the game of golf. The outside cost of materials and installation should not exceed \$4,000.00. We can also make recommendations for the maintenance of the green to conform to government regulations.

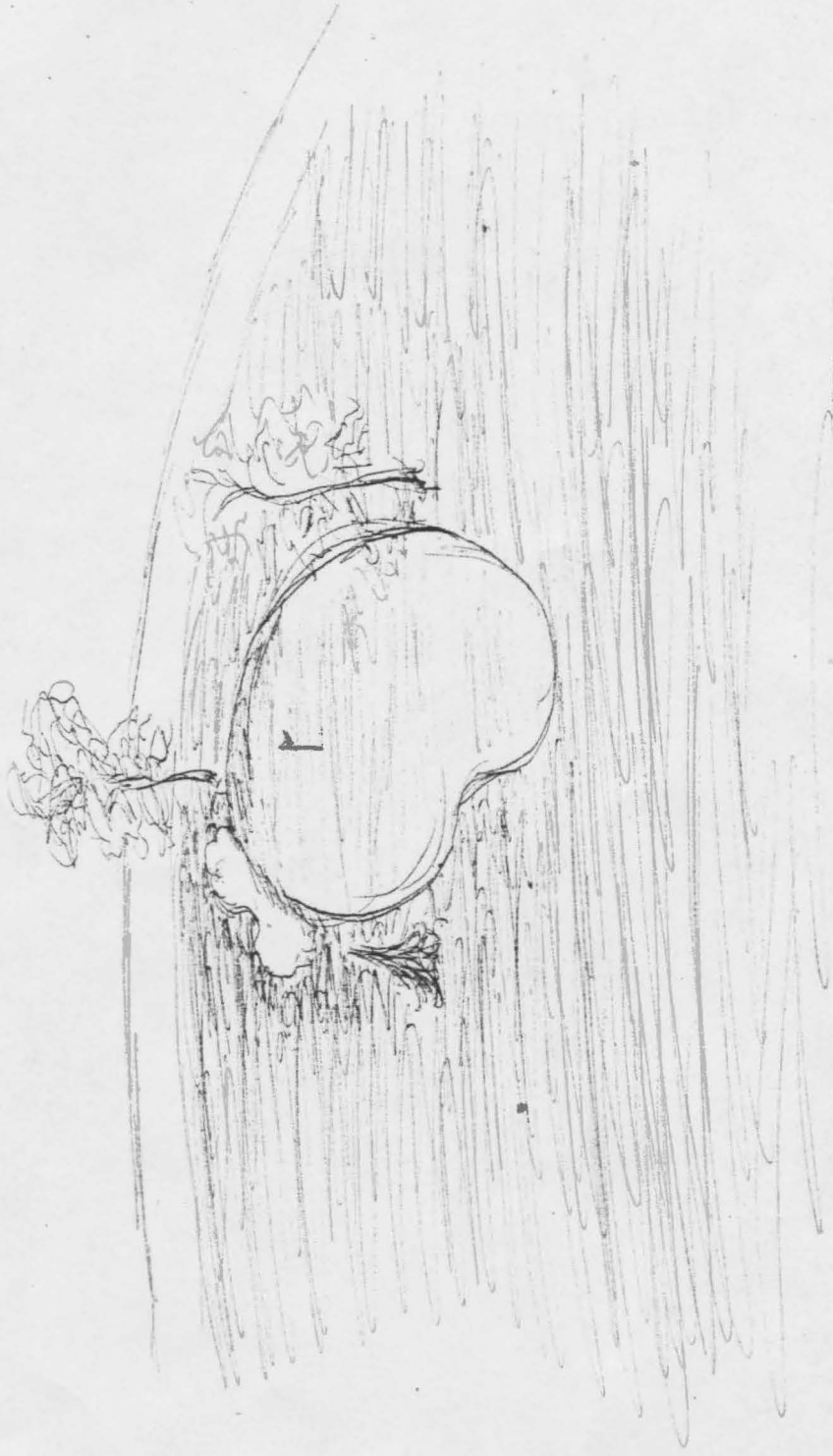
We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

Robert Trent Jones
Robert Trent Jones

Mr. Rex Scouten
Chief Usher
The White House
Washington, D. C.





THE WHITE HOUSE GREEN.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Putting
Green*

October 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*
SUBJECT: Indoor Golf Range

This is in response to your request for guidance on Mr. Robert Spindell's offer to donate an indoor driving range to the President for installation in the EOB. From a strictly legal standpoint, there is authority to accept this by several alternative methods as an unconditional gift to the United States, as long as there is no specific requirement of where or how it is to be used, and the annual maintenance does not impose a legal "burden upon the United States for its upkeep."

Although no firm policy has been established for the acceptance of domestic gifts, we have generally sought to avoid the acceptance of valuable gifts such as this or the putting green. Without meaning to bring into question Mr. Spindell's motives, I point out that such gifts have been the subject of considerable media attention over the last several years. Clearly no acceptance should be made unless we also know about Mr. Spindell's occupation and business interests. In addition, this is a time when we should avoid emphasizing such high visibility gifts that appear to take away from the time the President devotes to his official duties. It is my understanding that these were also the main reasons for turning down the putting green last spring.

For the above reasons, we recommend against acceptance of this gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: JIM CONNOR

Phil, I understand you have a letter dated June 25th from Robert F. Spindell of Chicago concerning an offer of Mr. Spindell to the President. I have been asked to get a package together on this matter for the President. Could you let me have a copy of the June 25th letter along with your recommendation of how this request should be handled. Mr. Spindell is obviously going to persist on this one. Thanks.

(p. s. it apparently concerns an 'inside golf range.)



ROBERT F. SPINDELL
135 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO

October 1, 1975

Dear Don:

As you observed first hand, the inauguration of the Illinois Republican Committee was a resounding success. It was a full house and the President was in great fettle. His speech was just right for the occasion and left everyone with the impression that the Presidency is in the best possible hands. He has such a wonderful way of looking at the people with whom he shakes hands that everyone of them immediately becomes his friend. Even staid old Jim Kemper came away with a great big, highly pleased smile!

✓ During my conversation with the President I mentioned again the inside golf range at Camp David and told him I would like to give him one to be installed in an empty office in the Executive Office Building. He asked me if I thought it would improve his golf game and when I assured him it would, he indicated he liked the idea. I told him that I had sent to you a letter setting forth the details which you had forwarded to Phil Buchen and that I would remind him to bring it to the President's attention. He said that would be fine. Accordingly, Don, I would appreciate it very much if you would ask Mr. Buchen to show my letter of June 25th to the President or discuss it with him. All that would be necessary to go ahead would be the designation of someone to meet with me in the Executive Office Building so that we could take the appropriate measurements. It would require about two months to acquire the material and install it.

When Mr. Buchen discusses this matter with the President, please ask him to emphasize the following three points to the President:

1. It would very definitely improve his golf game.
2. Hitting golf balls for 15 or 20 minutes in the late afternoon would stir up his circulation and make him refreshed for the rest of the day and evening.
3. The problems of the day would vanish from his mind for the 15 or 20 minute period, because it is impossible for one to think of anything else while hitting a golf ball. It constitutes a splendid change of pace.

I know the important part you played in arranging Harold Smith's big party last night, and I am delighted that it was so completely successful. It will materially strengthen the Republican Party in Illinois.

I am looking forward to seeing you in person and in action on the 30th at the same place. You are obviously convinced that Illinois will be a vitally important state next year. And you are so right.

Sincerely,

Bob

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

P.S. I thought you might like to have me enclose a copy of my letter to you of June 25th.



June 25, 1975

Dear Don:

When visiting with the President last evening at the RN Associates reception in the White House, I asked him if he would like to have an indoor golf range in one of the rooms in the Executive Office Building. (We had just talked about the golf range at Camp David). Since the idea is new and the execution of it a little complex, I told him I would write to you about the details and ask you to bring them to his attention. Hence this letter.

I told the President that Mr. Nixon and I had played golf together a good deal and that I had proposed setting up a golf range in the Executive Office Building. Mr. Nixon asked Bud Wilkinson to work with me on this and we found an empty office that we thought would provide the idea inside golf range. The ceiling was so high that it would permit the use of a 7 iron, which is almost unheard of in an inside range. Nets would be hung about 18" from each of the side walls and from the ceiling. Two canvases would be hung at the front edge about a foot apart. A rubber mat with a 30" x 12" astro turf insert, would constitute the last ingredient. A frame would hold a mirror and the golf sticks. As Johnny Miller has repeatedly said, it is impossible for one to improve one's golf swing unless he can see it, either in a mirror, movies or video-tape. I have a golf range in my basement and one in the back yard and I find the mirror is invaluable. Two last items are adequate lighting from the ceiling and a ball "picker-upper."



-2-

I would be more than delighted to make a gift of such a range to the President, and I would buy the materials and ship them to Washington, as I did for the Camp David range, and then give instructions as to how they are to be erected.

I am not familiar with whether there is space in the White House for a golf range, but it must have a ceiling clearance of 7½ to 8' and I doubt that the ceiling of the ground floor space is that high. My basement range is only 18' long, 9' wide and 7½' high.

The President said that there was a move afoot to re-establish the putting green and put in a sand trap. If he added the golf range to these two items he would soon have his golf scores in the lower 80's and occasionally the higher 70's. If this became known to the public, they would think that he was neglecting his job! I must emphasize in passing that hitting balls hard for twenty minutes can do more to stir up one's circulation and at the same time take one's mind off everything else than any other physical activity. One simply cannot hit a golf ball and think of anything else!

I am sure that everyone who listened to the President's short but stimulating speech, and visited with him afterwards felt the same as Ethel and I: First, he looked definitely younger than the photographs and television indicated; he looked to be in excellent, robust good health; he has stunningly handsome blue eyes which both women and men like; he has a truly infectious smile; he is disarmingly forthright and everyone that meets him instinctively likes him and feels that our Federal Government is in very good hands indeed. He has that rare combination of being your leader, but at the same time your friend. This was a very critical audience and everyone with whom I talked felt that we had just the right man to lead us, both now and in the four years commencing in November 1976.

As I read the Washington Post this morning I could not help but chuckle at Mr. Meany's complaint about the lack of a veto-proof Congress!

How are you holding up under your 12 to 14 hour days?!

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BARRY ROTH

FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN *P.*

SUBJECT: Robert Spindell's Offer
to Donate Indoor Driving
Range

In response to Jim Connor's memo of November 1, I called Robert Spindell. I find that he is a practicing lawyer who specializes in estate planning work. He and his firm do not represent any corporations on any stock exchange, and he has no litigation pending with the Federal Government. The indoor driving range proposed will consist of a mat for the floor, an upright canvas into which the balls could be hit, and netting which will frame and protrude from the canvas backing. The out-of-pocket expenses for Mr. Spindell will amount to about \$200.00, but he will need help from carpenters who work in the building to make the installation.

The gift would not be a personal one to this President but would be made for the purpose of having the installation remain to be used by future Presidents. Mr. Spindell would like to have arrangements made so that he can come to Washington and consult with appropriate building personnel on the location and installation of the equipment.

This proposal seems to be well within the bounds of propriety and I would like you to make the necessary arrangements for a productive visit by Mr. Spindell. Please call him to establish a convenient time at 312-372-2900.

cc: Jim Connor
Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 1, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: JIM CONNOR *JEC*
SUBJECT: Robert Spindell's offer to Donate Indoor
Driving Range

Your memorandum of October 22 and the entire question of Robert Spindell's offer to donate an Indoor Driving Range were reviewed by the President.

The President requested that you discuss the matter further with Mr. Spindell to explore the possibility of his accepting the gift and where it might be located.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 2/17/76

TO: Phil Buchen

FROM: Barry Roth

FYI

Barry

Noted
J.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 17, 1976
10:59 a. m.

JIM CONNOR:

Re: Indoor driving range

I called Robert Spindell, 312-372-2900, and advised him of our decision not to go ahead with the indoor driving range. He said that he understood the political considerations of such a venture at this time and felt that the decision was a good one. He accepted our thanks graciously. He said that he would like to renew the offer after the election. I responded that there was nothing to indicate that the offer would be accepted after the election, but he responded that he would like to do so anyway.

Thank you.


DAVID C. HOOPES

Attachments

cc: Barry Roth ✓

H12

Wednesday 1/28/76

2:50 Robert Spindell said he talked with Dave Hoopes, who said the plans for the President's indoor golf range had been given to Mr. Cheney some weeks ago by Mr. Hoopes.

(312)Franklin 2-290

Mr. Spindell asked if you could jog Mr. Cheney to do something about it.

Barry, what's happening?



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
THROUGH: BILL CASSELMAN
FROM: BARRY ROTH *BR*
SUBJECT: Putting Green

While the acceptance of a putting green from Robert Trent Jones by the National Park Service (NPS) would be legally proper, there are several problems which should be considered prior to discussing this matter with NPS:

1. Although a figure has now been quoted of only \$300 per year for maintenance of the green, Rex Scouton indicated to me some time ago that the Eisenhower putting green had been removed primarily due to the high cost of maintaining it. This new figure should be verified once again.

2. Regardless of whether NPS is the legal entity accepting the putting green, it will be publicly perceived as a substantial gift to the President. Although a non-statutory gift policy has not yet been established by the President, this type of gift does bring considerable media attention, particularly prior to an election.

3. Politically, this is not the best time to install the putting green. The construction of both a pool and a putting green are likely to result in charges that the President is converting the White House into a country club. Simply stated, while activities such as golf are essential to his health and performance, prior to an election these activities should be given a relatively low visibility.

Attached for your information is a memorandum I prepared for Ken some months ago on an earlier proposal for the putting green.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

For Bill Casselman
to review promptly
and advise.

J.

