

The original documents are located in Box 128, folder “Connor, James (8)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ordered
from
Kearse
Oct 4

NOTE FOR: *Connie G.*

FROM : RON NESSEN

Please get another
copy of Time's
special edition on
U.S. President, and
give to Dorothy,
per President's
instructions RKN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

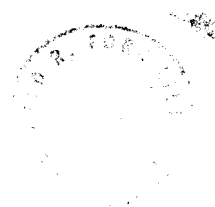
JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The President reviewed your memorandum of September 30 regarding the special report from TIME magazine containing portraits and biographies of all the Presidents and made the following notation:

"Can you get copy for Dorothy Downton and scrapbook?"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Dorothy Downton



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The President reviewed your memorandum of September 30 enclosing pictures taken by Tom Shine during his interview with Harry Reasoner and made the following notation:

"Good photos"

cc: Dick Cheney



November 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CONNOR

FROM: RON NESSEN

Please add Larry Speakes to the White House payroll effective yesterday in the position of Assistant Press Secretary to the President, at an annual salary of \$36,000 a year.

I would appreciate your giving this your priority attention.

cc: Dick Cheney
John Carlson



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Connie G.

Keep me posted
on the progress
on getting this
column.

RHN.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Ron

FROM: CONNIE GERRARD

I have talked to the
Globe and this piece
is on its way.

I ~~can't~~ can't find out
from Bucher's office if
they got it for the IT or
not. (They're nuts up there...)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

298-9169

November 18, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

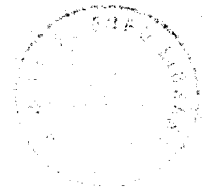
JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The President reviewed your memorandum of November 17 concerning a column written by David Wilson of the BOSTON GLOBE and made the following notation:

"Excellent and I appreciate. Can Ron Nessen get me a copy from the GLOBE?"

I am sending Ron Nessen a copy of this memo to see if he can arrange for the President's request.

cc: Dick Cheney
Ron Nessen ✓



THE WHITE HOUSE

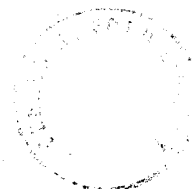
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

Attached is a copy of a column written by Bunny's cousin, David Wilson, of the Boston Globe, which Bunny would like you to see.



wilson

tuesday

DAVID B. WILSON

President Ford is reported to be planning to move back to his old house in Alexandria, Va., collect a splendid pension, maybe write a book and continue to interest himself in the Republican Party and the nation. He also, presumably, will play a lot of golf.

Will it be enough? Can a man who has been intensely and intimately involved with power for almost a quarter-century in Congress and for two years as Chief Executive be satisfied with the role of not-so-elder statesman?

Perhaps. Right now, the golf course and the ski trails must irresistibly beckon. The man has been hurt. Yet it cannot be said that he has been either disgraced or overwhelmingly rejected.

He took the Presidency not intending to seek it, inheritor of a scandalously discredited Administration. His party counts fewer than one in five registered voters on its ~~rolls~~^{rolls} and is ideologically and regionally split. He had to bear responsibility for a disastrously unpopular and courageous decision to pardon Richard M. Nixon. His brief incumbency came in a time of economic crisis for which he could not fairly be blamed.

He leaves office with the respect and affection of his countrymen, and it cannot be argued that he fared badly at their hands. If ever he had longed for the office of President, he must have put aside that ambition long before the roof fell in on the Nixon White House.

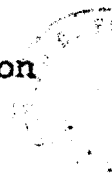
Gerald R. Ford is 63 years old, just one year older than (in 1828) was John Quincy Adams when Adams, savaged by the demagoguery of the Jacksonian democracy, was driven from the White House, his Administration, but not his reputation and intelligence, in ruins.

Two years later, Adams ~~ran~~ for Congress. Some of his Boston friends were aghast. When they suggested that it was degrading for a man who had been President, Secretary of State and ~~Ambassador~~ to Great Britain to seek so lowly a position, Adams replied that no person could be degraded by serving the people as representative in Congress or, for that matter, as a selectman in his town.

Three years later, Adams confided to his diary some thoughts which apply rather nicely, I think, to the political career of Gerald R. Ford. Adams wrote:

"My whole life has been a succession of disappointments. I can scarcely recollect a single instance of success to anything that I ever undertook. Yet, with fervent gratitude to God, I confess that my life has been equally marked by great and signal successes which I neither aimed at nor anticipated."

Adams, under James Monroe, was almost certainly our greatest Secretary of State. His ~~Presidency~~ was a disaster not really of his own making. But he found his true role and enduring reputation as a member of Congress, where he served nine terms, battling against slavery, assuring the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution and defending civil liberties.



he was fatally stricken on the floor of the house

Feb. 21, 1848, inveighing against the presentation of comic-opera swords to the generals in what he termed the "most unrighteous" Mexican War.

Adams, too, was a kind of accidental President. In 1824, Andrew Jackson won a plurality but not a majority of the electoral vote and the issue was ~~decided~~ ^{decided} in the House of Representatives by an alliance of Adams and Henry Clay. Jackson never let Adams forget it, as the Democrats never let Ford forget Watergate.

The Adams descendants may not welcome this comparison. Jerry Ford is no John Quincy Adams. These are difficult, different times. Congress, wracked by disclosures of sleazy misconduct and flayed by reformist zeal, is perhaps even less attractive a prospect than it was in 1830.

At the same time, the Congress and its static Republican ^{both seen} minority ~~desperately~~ desperately to need leadership of the stature a respected former President might provide. The Adams ~~example~~ ^{example} may, in time, hold some attraction for a man to whom Capitol Hill was home base for 26 years.

One can hope so without exactly expecting Jerry Ford to return to the House. What is certain is that it would be a shame to lose him to the ~~links and the slopes~~ ^{links and the slopes}. Public life in America would be a poorer place in his absence.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The President reviewed your memorandum of November 18 concerning the article about Bob Ufer and made the following notation:

"Great Story about a super guy."

cc: Dick Cheney



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR

SUBJECT:

White House Christmas List

It has been the practice each year at Christmastime to prepare a list of names and addresses of all employees at the White House to be used in preparing Christmas card lists, sending invitations, and providing information for similar activities during the holiday season. The Administrative Office compiles the information in looseleaf notebooks which are made available to each of the staff offices.

We will need an alphabetical list of each person in your office, along with a complete home address. The list should be typed on plain white bond paper as shown in the sample below.

Send the list to Mr. Wilbur H. Jenkins, Administrative Officer, West Wing, not later than December 1, 1976.

SAMPLE LISTING

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ABEL, John W. (Mr.)

1234 Connecticut Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20015

BAKER, John W. (The Honorable and Mrs.) (Wife's name)

Address

CAREY, John W. (Mr. and Mrs.) (Wife's name)

Address

DOE, Jane E. (Miss)

Address

EDSON, Jane E. (Mr. and Mrs. John W.)

Address



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CONNOR

FROM: Connie Gerrard *Connie
Gerrard*

Could you get for Ron Nessen the following book, which is a critique of television programming and news and talks of interviews and other subjects in its essays:

The View From Highway I
By Michael J. Arlen

Thank you very much!

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

Connie G.

FROM:

RON NESSEN

*Please get me
this book.*

RHN

Down The Tube

THE VIEW FROM HIGHWAY

1. By Michael J. Arlen. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 293 pp. \$8.95

By WILLIAM GREIDER

MICHAEL J. ARLEN watching television for *The New Yorker* is so much more interesting than watching television itself. He insists that a critic "should speak of television as if it mattered," which, when you think about it, is more respect than most of the TV moguls pay to their own medium.

Most of television programming does not matter, of course. It is modern pulp, probably less harmful than the nice-nice critics would have us believe, but also less significant than the pop sociologists pretend. Every civilization creates its own cultural garbage and ours is television. A mild mind drug that goes well with beer, a gentle escape from boredom, family conversation, reality.

After a year's separation from the tube, I discovered a strange thing on my return: television has become much more tedious than anything in real life. Away from this country, a family of addicts cut off from the nightly fix, we really missed television. Now, most of it seems merely dull to me—every show is so predictable, the laugh lines and the happy endings. Even the football games have a sameness badly in need of new clichés, different disasters. My daughter still watches *Buffy* and *Boopy* or whoever they are (aware now that *Buffy* died of an overdose in real life), but she is also into *Louisa May Alcott*.

Michael Arlen approaches the set with more serious and intelligent intentions. He insists upon holding the best of television drama, for instance, up against the best of drama. Period. He demands that television news be judged in terms of its fundamental purpose, namely, communicating reality to a wide audience.

WILLIAM GREIDER is a reporter on the National staff of *The Washington Post*.

No one is surprised, of course, when Arlen concludes that television fails by these standards. What makes Arlen's essays compelling is the new avenues of thought which his seriousness opens for us. He writes with clarity because that is the way he thinks.

Arlen, for instance, asks himself an obvious question about television news interviewers: Why do TV reporters always thrust their microphone in somebody's face and inevitably ask, "How does it feel?" Death, victory, tragedy, a game-winning touchdown—always the same dumb question. Arlen arrives at an original answer which I am sure is right: "On a certain level, they are simply childish and inept, though I think the ineptitude often lies not so much in the triviality of the question as in the unaware hostility behind it."

Television interviews, if you consider them, are often acts of aggression against the subjects, thinly disguised attacks which attempt to force the unfortunate person into some neat and simple-minded box, namely, the reporter's preconception of what small theatrical fragment is available from the interview

"Every civilization creates its own cultural garbage and ours is television. A mild drug that goes well with beer, a gentle escape from boredom, family conversation, reality."

When you think about it, this is the opposite of what television could do with its special visual qualities. It's as though television news people are afraid that their orthodox formulas would be overwhelmed by anarchy if they opened up the medium to its spontaneous possibilities.

That safe prescription dominates most television programming, not just the news, a persistent denial of the medium's own natural capacities. When I got back to the set, the only thing which grabbed me was the graphics—all those marvelous whirling lights and colors which fill time between the programs.

The 22 essays in this collection do not all go so deep, though all are good reading, if you missed them in *The New Yorker*. Television people complain to Arlen that he is "unrealistic" and, of course, he is, in their terms. But Arlen watches on his own terms. He is so good at it, I wish he would drop television and read newspapers for a while. □

Po

POCAHONTAS
the Leaker. Kn

By CHARLES R.

MORE than a most any. Granted, she success, but she mother of America," a gel of peace ker, her late Earth Mother the doubt th Jamestown have surviv winter of 16 ginians clair from her, a less than our

Ever since the Reader's can school c. story of Poc Captain John tardly father about to kill the last cen graced the A the rescue, s ful arms an

CHARLES R. fellow, is w American fic

The blazing
sequel to

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR



During the next several weeks, members of the staff will be taking annual leave or will find it necessary to be away from the office to take care of administrative matters.

Office heads are reminded that each office must have sufficient personnel here at all times, including secretarial assistance, to continue operations. We do not have enough support personnel to cover all the demands, so each office should plan on meeting its own needs.

I am sure that with your cooperation we shall be able to meet the needs of all the offices. Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR

J.E. Connor

SUBJECT: Photo Requests

In order to process Presidential and First Family Photo requests prior to January 19, the following cut-off dates have been established:

General Public Requests - December 1

White House Staff Requests - December 10

Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR

J.E. Connor

SUBJECT: Photo Requests

In order to process Presidential and First Family Photo requests prior to January 19, the following cut-off dates have been established:

General Public Requests - December 1

White House Staff Requests - December 10

Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR

SUBJECT: Briefing on employment
in the Civil Service

Many White House staff members have status in the Civil Service or are eligible, under the provisions of the law, to apply for such status. Because the White House Personnel Office has been receiving a number of inquiries on this matter, arrangements have been made for a representative from the Civil Service Commission to brief all those who are interested.

Mr. Dean Larrick from CSC will hold about a 30-minute briefing on Wednesday, December 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the Executive Briefing Room (450 EOB). There will also be two or three other representatives from the Commission who will be available to answer questions regarding other employee benefits, i.e., health and life insurance, retirement, etc. After the briefing Mr. Larrick and the other representatives will be available to answer questions. Anyone interested in attending this briefing should go directly to the briefing room.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR JEC

The President reviewed your memorandum of December 10 enclosing the National Geo. graphic and made the following notation:

"Thanks. I have retained to read."



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1976'

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

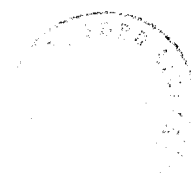
JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The President reviewed your memorandum of December 11 concerning the Palm Springs Life magazine and made the following notation:

"Thanks. Will keep other for reference."

The Official Program for the 24th World Cup and International Gold Championship is returned.

cc: Dick Cheney



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 17, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*
SUBJECT: Letter from Trude B. Feldman

The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"This got to me somehow. Maybe after January 2."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR: *Jan B*

FROM: RON NESSEN

cc: Dick Cheney



*File and
Forget!*

RAA

December 15, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

Dear Mr. President:

Here is an advance of a rushed article which I hope you'll read before the wires take out of context. Since it had to be done over a two-day period after the election, I used portions of our other interviews (and in some cases, changed the tense); then allowed your brothers--who wanted something positive written while you're still President--to approve of the complete article. So I did same with their blessings and approval.

I hope we can meet before you leave--to talk (for history) about your achievements; also about what Betty and the family have done for you (as per my note of December 1st and the Citation we gave Betty. Since then, Nelson Rockefeller's comments on you and Betty, and what you two should be remembered for, are too marvelous to abandon---so I trust we can complete same with you.

--

I wish you a lovely and restful Christmas holiday, and hope that 1977 will bring you your innermost desires.

Respectfully,

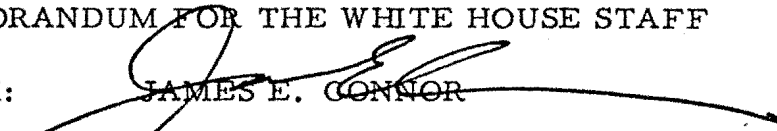
Trude



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

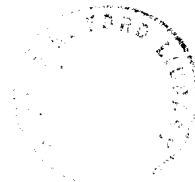
FROM:  JAMES E. CONNOR

SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR GREETING CARDS

In order to process the tremendous number of greeting card requests that Becky Bovelsky of the Greetings Office has received for the time period between now and January 20th, it will be necessary to set a deadline for staff greeting card requests.

Accordingly, all requests for greetings for events occurring between now and January 20th, must be submitted in writing to Becky Bovelsky, Greetings Office, EOB (Not to this office, please) no later than Friday, December 24th.

Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 4, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CONNOR

FROM: DOUG BLASER *DLB*

SUBJECT: Restoration of Forfeited Leave

Hugh L. O'Neill is presently slated to forfeit 160 hours of annual leave. Mr. O'Neill applied for the leave, but due to the President's schedule, was unable to take the time.

Your favorable consideration of this matter will be appreciated.

*Didn't he get paid when
he left H.V.D.*

cc: Ron Nessen
John Carlson
Chief Executive Clerk



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The President reviewed your memorandum of December 30 regarding the National Ski Directory and made the following notation:

"Thanks - Give volume to Dorothy D."

With a copy of this memorandum the directory is being sent to Dorothy Downton.

cc: Dick Cheney
Dorothy Downton



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 7, 1977

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

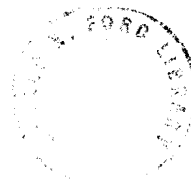
MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN,
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*
SUBJECT: Clipping from The Christian
Science Monitor

The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Any chance for the original?"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

SCIENCE MONITOR

then the full grain in the ear"

Wednesday, December 22, 1976

'Now is the winter of our discontent
made slightly worse by no snow at Vail'



Literary find in London

London's latest literary find, including rare third and best canto of "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," the work which made Byron famous

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 11, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
FROM: RON NESSEN
SUBJECT: CLASSIFIED MATERIAL - BOX NO. 2

The following classified material is enclosed:

Classified Briefing Papers - 1975
Classified Briefing Papers - 1976
Classified Guidance and Wires



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 11, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
FROM: RON NESSEN
SUBJECT: CLASSIFIED MATERIAL - BOX NO. 1

The following classified material is enclosed:

B-1 Press Statement (Sensitive)

Federal Civil Emergency Actions Guidelist (Confidential)

Federal Civil Emergency Actions Guidelist (Secret)

Federal Civil Emergency Actions Guidelist II (Secret)

Federal Civil Emergency Actions Guidelist (Confidential)

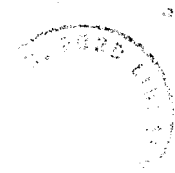
Briefing Book - Visit of Mexican President-Elect (Secret)

Briefing Book - President Tolbert of Liberia (Confidential)

Defense Briefing Book (Secret)

International Economic Policy Board Economic Issues Briefing Book (Conf.)

Visit of PM Fraser of Australia (Secret)




THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 14, 1977

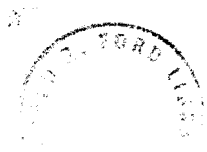
MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICE STAFF

FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR 

SUBJECT: Resignations and Checkout

The steps listed below should be followed by members of the White House staff who are processing out by January 20, 1977. This memorandum does not apply to secretarial staff and other support personnel who have been asked to stay through February 4. It does not apply to the operating units.

- All professional staff members should submit their resignations to the President by c.o.b. Saturday, January 15, 1977. The effective date of resignation should be on or before January 20, 1977. These letters should be forwarded to my office. Those staying until the 20th will be paid for the full day.
- Each staff member will be expected to complete a check-out form before leaving. Failure to complete this form may cause delays in delivering the final pay check. Forms may be obtained from the Personnel Office.
- For your convenience, a central check-out station will be set up in the Law Library, Room 111-A, EOB, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 17 and Tuesday, January 18. Most items on the form can be completed at the central location, but it may be necessary to make other stops to complete it. Those not able to check out on either Monday or Tuesday afternoon should plan to complete the check out in the regular manner.
- If you possess equipment issued by the White House Communications Agency; i.e., TV receiver, AM/FM radio, dictation equipment, tape recorder, pageboy and FFN's (handi talkie), you may schedule prior pickup by calling x-4040 or SK-442. WHCA will be grateful for any assistance you extend in scheduling pickup as early as possible.



- Members of the White House Staff Mess should be prepared to settle any outstanding bills at checkout time.
- Final paychecks will be mailed on January 26 for the pay period ending January 15 and a check for the partial period January 16-20 will be mailed on February 9. Lump sum payments will also be included in the February 9 check.
- Staff members with any specific questions regarding personnel matters, payroll or checkout should call the Personnel Office (Jim Rogers, x-2260) or Payroll Office (Jo Reddy, x-7080).

