



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

August 13, 1974

PERSONAL-CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

I think that your Vice Presidential selection should be entirely supportive of your 1976 plans.

Either way, that is, if you have decided to run, which I very much hope is the case, or if you are not yet decided, your choice for Vice President should completely support your 1976 decision, and that support should be firmly secured in advance.

With this caveat in mind, I think either ex-Governor Nelson Rockefeller or Governor Ronald Reagan would be excellent choices.

They are both very popular and have been elected and re-elected by big margins. Governor Rockefeller is far more conservative than most people think, and Governor Reagan is a far better administrator than many give him credit for. He is also an extraordinarily good public speaker, and as loyal a party man as there is. He would be a tower of strength to your Administration on the speaking circuit, taking over the role you filled so well as Vice President, but cannot do now as President because of time and other factors. His gubernatorial record in California is exceptionally good--I think he has been one of our best Governors--as of course is the record of Governor Rockefeller.



Appointing either one would not lose us a State House. Generally, I do not believe we should lose a seat in Congress or a State House by this appointment if we can possibly avoid it.

Both Rockefeller and Reagan, of course, have enemies and opponents, but either would bring great strengths to you and the Nation.

I have long admired and respected Rogers Morton. He is so well known to you I do not have to add anything about his strengths and experience. He would be excellent.

Ex-Governor Scranton would be another excellent choice if he could be persuaded.

If you want an attractive, new young face with some State experience and a good record, Governor Christopher Bond of Missouri is a good possibility. However, I would think it doubtful if we could elect a GOP successor to him in Missouri.

Another suggestion not much spoken of, but with much strength, is Justice Potter Stewart of the Supreme Court. His record and integrity are unimpeachable.

Of course, you would have to satisfy yourself as to the basic personal loyalty of any appointee, but I firmly believe any of the above suggestions would be completely loyal to you, as indeed any person in that post would have to be.

To sum up, I would rate my recommendations as follows:

- Governors Reagan or Rockefeller -- very close for No. 1, but primarily because I worked with Governor Reagan closely for two years, I would say: Governor Reagan -- Number 1, and Governor Rockefeller -- Number 2.
- Rogers Morton -- No. 3
- Governor Bond -- No. 4
- Justice Potter Stewart -- No. 5.


Caspar W. Weinberger