

The original documents are located in Box 20, folder “Vice President - House Suggestions, Mi-Z (2)” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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August 12, 1974

Dear Mr President - better stated Jerry -

First my congratulations to you on your post and my appreciation of the way you have proceeded with your awesome assignment.

I have a letter from John Rhodes which asks for suggestions as to vice president.

In our previous opportunity for making such a recommendation I advanced one name only, the man I named became President.

I now have a name that I would like to advance, George Bush. He has Eastern roots, Texas residence, Congressional experience, G.I. service.

In addition he has more importantly the right attitude, calmness, quiet firmness, extremely intelligent and Charisma which would make him a favorite on College Campus as well as Main Street.

Mrs Bush is a most delightful person making a perfect team.

The people want, the Ford team they would like a back stop team the Bush team -

Sincerely
Anita Wilson

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Anchorage
M.C.

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The President
White House.

GEORGE M. O'BRIEN
17TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

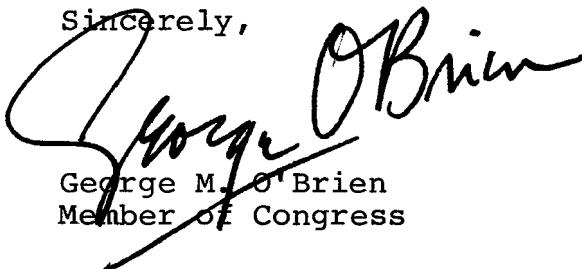
August 13, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

In respect to your inquiry about suggestions for candidates for the Vice Presidency, it was my basic belief that one of the two top offices should be filled by someone who had been elected and was serving in a federal position such as a Senator or a Representative. Notwithstanding this particular attitude, I nevertheless feel that Nelson Rockefeller or George Bush should be worthy candidates for the high office of the Vice President.

Sincerely,



George M. O'Brien
Member of Congress

GMO/adl

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

George H. W. Bush
M.C.

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

STANFORD E. PARRIS
EIGHTH DISTRICT
VIRGINIA

August 13, 1974

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your previous request to solicit recommendations for nomination to fill the office of the Vice Presidency, please be advised that after some thought and for a number of reasons (all of which are well known to you) I would respectfully submit for your consideration, Mr. George Bush.

I would add that I could, and would, support almost any of the people whose names have been prominently mentioned in the news media under consideration and would anticipate no difficulty whatsoever in enthusiastically supporting any person whose name you have submitted.

I would further add that I intend to poll the constituents in my District in a manner identical to that which we utilized after your nomination to the Vice Presidency, and would remind you that the response was over 80 per cent affirmative and I have every expectation that a similar result will be reached in this instance. With best personal regards, I am,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan".
Stan Parris
Member of Congress

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

Staggers
M. C.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

JERRY L. PETTIS
CALIFORNIA

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
341 CANNON BUILDING
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DISTRICT OFFICES:
242 NORTH ARROWHEAD AVENUE, ROOM 1A
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92408
714/884-8818

BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA 92311
714/256-4913

73-510 ALESSANDRO DRIVE
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA 92260
714/346-0633

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 12, 1974

Honorable John Rhodes
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D. C.

Dear John:

In response to your request for suggestions for individuals who might fill the office of Vice President, I want you to know of my unreserved support for George Bush.

I have known George as good friend, neighbor, and colleague since the days of his tenure in the House, through his term as United States Ambassador to the United Nations and, of course, presently as Chairman of the Republican National Committee. He is a man of unquestionable integrity and superb intellect, and, too, he projects the warmth and sincerity that are truly his.

I hope you will share with President Ford my admiration for George Bush.

With kindest regards,

Cordially,

Jerry L. Pettis
Member of Congress

JLP:sf

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

8:52

AUG 13

1974

INSIDE

Honorable John Rhodes
H-232, The Capitol

J. L. Terry
M.C.

PETER A. PEYSER
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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ROOM 209A
YONKERS, NEW YORK 10701
PHONE: (914) 423-0990

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BRONX, NEW YORK 10466
PHONE: (212) 324-3387

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 12, 1974

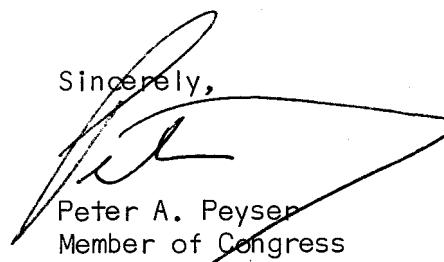
The Honorable John J. Rhodes
Minority Leader
H232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear John:

As you requested, my choice for Vice President
is Nelson Rockefeller.

I am confident the President will make the
right decision.

Sincerely,


Peter A. Peyser
Member of Congress

PAP:G:cj

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Pete A. Tegyer
M.C.

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

WALTER E. POWELL
8TH DISTRICT, OHIO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1532 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
202/225-6205

SAMUEL HALE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

COMMITTEES:
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POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Congress of the United States
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Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICE:
5109 PLEASANT AVENUE
FAIRFIELD, OHIO 45014
513/895-5656
800/582-7289

August 12, 1974

Hon. Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

In response to your request for recommendations for candidates for the office of Vice President of the United States, I have but one name to submit -- that of Melvin R. Laird. I feel that Mr. Laird is uniquely qualified for the office and would be an excellent candidate.

Thank you for letting me offer this recommendation.

Sincerely



WALTER E. POWELL
Member of Congress

/h

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Walter E. Powell
M.C.

POSTAGE PAID BY CONGRESS

President Gerald R. Ford

BOB PRICE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
TEXAS

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(806) 376-5151 EXT. 2381
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(817) 767-0541

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(806) 665-2351

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 13, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The following are my recommendations for Vice President and the reasoning for each for your consideration. I will discuss each person's capabilities as I see them.

Governor Rockefeller - The liberals of our party and of the Democratic party would love to see you appoint one who is thought of as a liberal as Vice President, and it is my belief that Rockefeller's image is liberal. He would be completely unsatisfactory to the conservatives of our party as well as the conservative and southern Democrats. Quite candidly, the Rockefeller name and the Rockefeller millions would tend to overshadow your Presidency until such time as you have gained more stature with the American public.

Some liberals would like to see Mr. Elliott Richardson appointed as he has the intellectual image and as you will know, many people within the party are vehemently opposed to him because of his actions against the Former President.

On the other side of the political spectrum we have Senator Barry Goldwater and Governor Reagan whose names have been mentioned, both whom I admire greatly. I believe the selection of either of these two fine men would make the liberal elements of our party and the country dissatisfied--again, catching you in the middle and causing the loss of liberal support. Senator Goldwater's qualifications are well known to you. Even though I would support his being Vice President as my second choice, I feel the American public would not support Barry's candid and frank comments about our solutions to the problems we face, even though I think he is indeed correct.

Governor Reagan, I think, has wide appeal and has had a lot of experience, as well as Rockefeller, in running the largest state in the Union. Reagan, in my opinion, would probably be weaker than Rockefeller in foreign affairs. However, he is my third choice for Vice President.

Mel Laird has also been mentioned, and I think he would do a fine job and would be a great assistance to you because of his experience in the House, as Secretary of Defense, as Domestic Advisor to the President. Additionally, I don't believe that he came out with any scars from Watergate. I believe he would be a great middle-of-the-road Vice President, but geographically it presses both of you too close together.

George Bush has been mentioned, and I feel that the one thing that George could offer you is youth, unlike the above-mentioned candidates. He has charisma, public appeal, his experience in the United Nations, which would certainly be of benefit to you, as well as his political savvy, having run for public office several times, serving in the Congress, and being the Republican National Committee Chairman. I think his relationship with members of the Senate is excellent due to his own efforts and the friendships of his father's. He would certainly be helpful to you in working with the House due to his popularity there.

Certainly Senator Baker would be considered, but I do not know him or any of the others mentioned well enough to expound on their qualifications.

So, my selection, Mr. President, would be the more well rounded, least controversial, but yet contributes greatly to the Administration, would be George Bush. In looking forward to your race in 1976, certainly George would be a good running mate who has stamina. He has proven he can get along with leaders of the world as well as members in the Congress and after four more years looking toward 1980, George's age would be more suitable than any of the above-mentioned gentlemen to carry on the Republican Banner.

I hope my comments are of some benefit to you; and if the above-mentioned gentlemen do not meet the qualifications you are seeking, I would be interested in the job. In all seriousness, Mr. President, I want you to know that if I can serve you in any way, I would be willing to give up my seat in the Congress because I believe in you.

The President

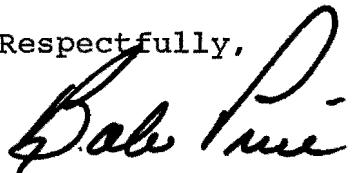
August 13, 1974

Page Three

and think you and your family are going to give the American people the image and strength and leadership that we need so desperately.

May God's blessings be with you and your family. With sincere best wishes,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'P' at the end.

BOB PRICE
Member of Congress

BP:sf

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Bob Blue
M.C.

President Ford -
White House
Wash. D.C.

TEXAS.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JOEL PRITCHARD
FIRST DISTRICT
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1974

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

My suggestions for your Vice President are as follows:

1. Governor Daniel J. Evans
2. Governor Nelson Rockefeller
3. Governor William Scranton

These men possess two vital qualifications. First, none are associated with the Congress -- where your strength already lies. Second, none are associated with the previous Administration.

Each of these Governors possesses the requisite ability. More importantly, I feel it is imperative to have a Vice President who is not a part of the present "Washington scene".

Whomever you ultimately nominate, I will strongly support.

Sincerely,


Joel Pritchard
Member of Congress

JP:ews

DANIEL J. EVANS, GOVERNOR
STATE OF WASHINGTON

1. Dan Evans is nationally recognized as the "Governor's Governor".

Dan Evans has just completed a term as chairman of the prestigious bipartisan National Governors' Conference. In 1968 Evans was selected by the Republican National Committee to deliver the keynote address at the party's national convention. In 1970 Evans was selected chairman of the Policy Committee of the Republican Governor's Association. Evans, the dean of the nation's Republican governors, was elected chairman of the conference in 1968. The following is a sampling of the high regard in which Evans is held by the nation's news media:

Neal Peirce, who in preparation of his massive study of the United States, interviewed all 50 governors, writes in the Pacific States of America:

"Governor Daniel J. Evans ... would be in the running, if there was such a thing, for the prize of being the best Governor in all the U. S. A. today."

Joseph Kraft, in his Washington Post column of June 6, 1974:

The high quality of the governors has been made apparent with special clarity this year by Dan Evans, the Republican Governor of Washington, who brought his state handsomely through the recession connected with the cutbacks made at the Boeing company several years ago. As chairman of the Governors' Conference this year, he has arranged, besides the usual wining and dining, for the publication of a book--"The State of the States" --which makes it plain that the states are way ahead of the federal government in meeting the problems of modern America.

David Broder, in his column of June 11, 1973:

"...Now they have chosen in Washington's three term Governor Evans a new chairman who is the most intelligent and articulate public exponent of the state's role in the federal system to come along in years".

The Christian Science Monitor editorial of August 6, 1968:

One thing is sure: Mr. Evans is a most unorthodox but still most successful politician. He is no hail-fellow; he is soft-spoken, almost shy, with an air of humility not to be expected of the occupant of a governor's chair. But he has the trait, possibly a legacy of his engineering background, of unvarying forthrightness in words and action. Concern for his popularity never seems to deter him from doing and saying what he thinks is right.

Charles Bartlett said about his 1968 keynote speech in the Chicago Sun-Times of August 7, 1968:

"This (keynote speech) was a courageous speech in that Evans paid no deference to the partisan cliches and comfortable homilies which coax delegates to applaud. He talked over their heads to the young voters' new spirit, their preoccupation with the problems of man and his environment."

Concerning the same speech, the Los Angeles Times editorial of August 6, 1968:

"The consensus among veteran convention goers was that he (Governor Evans) delivered perhaps the best keynote address of recent years. Devoid of political cliches, it delineated sharply America's current troubles."

2. Dan Evans is a moderate who can appeal to both the liberal and conservative wings of the Republican Party.

Dan Evans was first elected Governor of Washington State in 1964. During that election year he supported the candidacy of Barry Goldwater. His opponent in 1964, a two-term incumbent governor, used billboards which featured Lyndon Johnson's picture. Evans got 57.77% of the vote; the Republican national ticket got 37.37% of the vote.

During the 1968 Republican National Convention, Evans - the convention's keynoter - supported the candidacy of Nelson Rockefeller. But after the Convention he supported and worked for the Party's nominee Richard Nixon. Evans served as a member of Richard Nixon's Critical Issues Advisory Committee during the 1968 presidential campaign.

Throughout the Watergate tragedy Evans insisted that the decision whether or not to resign was the President's to make. He did not join the chorus of Republicans, including his own

state's GOP Attorney General who demanded that the President step down. He did strongly advocate in a National Press Club speech on August 29, 1973 that the President be more open with the press, noting that he had held more than 1,000 press conferences during his ten years as Governor.

3. Dan Evans has established a remarkable record as Governor for the past ten years.

He is the first governor in Washington State's history to be elected to three consecutive terms.

During his 10 years as governor, Dan Evans has gained acclaim for his courage and leadership in confronting major challenges caused by a period of rapid growth and urbanization, followed by a severe economic contraction. Under his leadership Washington State is now experiencing steady, sustained growth with rapidly increasing foreign trade with the Orient.

Through this difficult period Evans has maintained a balanced budget with the smallest rate of tax increase per capita of all 50 states.

Some of his major achievements include:

- A comprehensive environmental protection program now being implemented to protect the natural heritage of the Pacific Northwest.
- Development and approval by the voters in 1972 of \$415 million in bond issues, the largest bonding program in state history, for pollution control, water resources development, recreation, social services and community colleges.
- Development of a statewide citizens' involvement program to articulate options for the future growth of the state which will involve 350,000 citizens in the setting of state goals.
- Leadership in defining the national revenue sharing program to provide states and local governments greater flexibility in the allocation of resources.
- Development of proposals for more integrated federal-state-local fiscal planning through the federal and state budget systems. He has led the states in asserting their right to participate in the federal budget development; similarly, he has initiated proposals for direct involvement of local governments in the state budget process.
- Leadership in seeking voter approval of state-wide tax reforms, and tax equity, a challenging task requiring courage and stamina. While implementation of a state income tax has not been achieved, tax relief for the elderly and open-space taxation at lower rates has.
- Development of community-based social service programs for mental health, mental retardation and corrections.
- Strong support for programs for minorities. In the tumultuous days of 1968 he walked the streets of Seattle which avoided

the riots suffered by most other metropolitan areas of the country. Fair housing laws and advice and counsel through his Asian-American Commission, Mexican-American Advisory Committee and Indian Advisory Council have broken new ground for race relations in Washington State.

4. Dan Evans can obtain the support of Independents and Democrats.

Washington State traditionally votes two to one Democratic. Both U.S. Senators and all Congressmen (with one exception) are Democrats. In the face of these odds, Dan Evans was first elected in 1964, a difficult year for Republicans in Washington State and the nation; Evans was re-elected in 1968 with the best showing of any incumbent Washington Governor in 32 years; and was re-elected to an unprecedented third term in 1972.

As chairman of the bipartisan National Governors' Conference, Evans has worked closely with the nation's Democratic Governors, many of whom Evans can count among his friends.

5. Dan Evans as Vice President would add regional geographic strength to a possible GOP ticket in 1976.

Having served as chairman of the Western Governors' Conference, Evans has strong political ties in the Western States. Evans is a native Westerner.

6. By virtue of his proven integrity and honesty, Dan Evans would be confirmed by the Congress and the American people as the Vice President.

Neither Dan Evans nor any member of his staff during his 10 years as Governor has been touched by scandal of any nature. Evans -- on his own initiative, although not required by state law -- made public his federal income tax returns dating back to 1964. Evans' net worth has been publicly reported at less than \$100,000.

7. Dan Evans has an admirable personal life.

Dan Evans is 48 years old. He and his wife Nancy have three children: Danny, Mark and Bruce. Evans is an Eagle Scout who has been active throughout his adult life. Evans is an active member of the Congregational Church. As a physical

fitness enthusiast, Evans is an active mountaineer, hiker, camper, jogger, tennis and paddle ball player. One accurate description of Evans was rendered by David Broder of the Washington Post:

Those who know Evans appreciate that the gesture is not out of character for him. Despite a Boy Scout earnestness about his work, he leads a vigorous, full private family life in the woods and mountains of Washington. Any pretensions to grandeur by the governor are firmly squelched by his wife, Nancy, who can show him up at the bridge table and almost anywhere else, and by three young sons, who refuse to play "the governor's children".

8. Dan Evans has been an effective and credible emissary for the United States while traveling extensively in foreign countries.

Evans has had a keen interest in foreign affairs. His trips to the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, Japan, Australia and other nations of the Pacific Rim have been a resounding success leaving behind a residue of Evans goodwill. The Sidney Australia Business Review said of Evans:

The man is a leader, a man who introduced savage pollution control laws against screams of major supporters, a man who is not afraid to risk unpopularity to do what is right for his state. In other words, Governor Evans is a completely untypical politician.

THE HONORABLE DANIEL J. EVANS

GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON

BORN: October 16, 1925, Seattle, Washington

EDUCATED: Roosevelt High School, Seattle, graduated 1943
University of Washington
Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, 1948
Master of Science, Civil Engineering, 1949

MARRIED: Nancy Ann Bell of Spokane, Washington, June 6, 1959

CHILDREN: Daniel Jackson Evans, Jr. (November 25, 1960)
Mark Lawrence Evans (September 10, 1963)
Bruce McKay Evans (August 21, 1966)

MILITARY: 1943-46, U. S. Naval Reserve, commissioned an ensign,
served aboard an aircraft carrier in the Asiatic-Pacific
Theater

1951-53, recalled to active duty during Korean War,
served as operations officer of destroyer with rank
of Lieutenant; later was aide to Admiral William K.
Mendenhall at peace negotiations at Panmunjom

PROFESSIONAL: Engineering field for thirteen years, the last five as
partner in a structural and civil engineering firm in
Seattle. Named state's "Engineer of the Year" in 1965;
received national "Award for Service to the Profession"
in 1969, presented by the Consulting Engineers' Council

OFFICES: Governor, elected November 3, 1964, inaugurated January
13, 1965; elected November 5, 1968, to a second term,
inaugurated January 15, 1969; elected November 7, 1972
to a third term, inaugurated January 10, 1973
---Chairman, Western Governors' Conference, 1968-69
---National Governors' Conference
 Conference Chairman, 1973-74
 Chairman, Committee on Executive Management and
 Fiscal Affairs, 1969
 Chairman, Constitutional Revision Committee, 1966-68
 Member, Executive Board, 1966-67
 Chairman, Transportation, Commerce, and Technology
 Committee, National Governors' Conference, 1969-72
---Member, Steering Committee, Urban Coalition, 1969
---Member, Steering Committee, Education Commission of
the States, 1967-68
---Member, Commission of the Cities in the 70's, 1971-72
---Member, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental
Relations, appointed by President Nixon, 1972
State Representative (43rd District, King County), 1956-65
---Voted "Outstanding Freshman Legislator," 1957
---Served as Republican Floor Leader of the House, 1961-65

POLITICAL:
Keynote speaker, Republican National Convention, 1968
Republican Governors' Association
---Member, Executive Committee, 1969
---Chairman, Policy Committee, Republican Governors' Association, 1970-71; member, 1967-68, 1972
---Chairman, Campaign Committee, 1965-66 (net gain of eight GOP governors)
Member, Republican Governors' Advisory Board to the President, 1969
Member, Richard Nixon's Critical Issues Advisory Committee, 1968 Campaign
Member, National Republican Coordinating Committee, 1967-68

CHURCH:
United Church of Olympia (Congregational)

CIVIC AFFAIRS,
HONORS AND
AWARDS:
Scales of Justice Award, 1968, presented by National Council on Crime and Delinquency
Human Rights Award, 1967, presented by Pacific Northwest Chapter, National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials
"Public Official of the Year", presented for interest in environmental causes, Washington Environmental Council, 1970
Distinguished Eagle Award, presented by Boy Scouts of America for service to nation, state and community, 1971
Silver Beaver Award, given to adults for distinguished service to the Boy Scouts
Silver Antelope Award, presented by the Boy Scouts of America, 1970
Award of Merit, presented by the American Institute of Consulting Engineers, October, 1971
Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees:
Linfield College, 1969; Whitman College, 1969;
St. Martin's College, 1968; Seattle Pacific College, 1967; and Whitworth College, 1966
Honorary Doctor of Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1969

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWEST... SINCE 1863

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A 10

Fri., Aug. 9, 1974

5*

Evans: An Ideal Vice President

The reservoir of good will toward Gerald Ford which now exists can rise to overflowing if the man from Michigan names a vice president who symbolizes the spirit of reconciliation.

Mr. Ford's best chance to achieve unity for a nation torn by the process of judgment is to name a vice president who represents the vigor of the progressive wing of the Republican Party, the place where healing is most needed.

Such a man is Washington State's governor, Daniel J. Evans.

The Post-Intelligencer believes it is imperative to have a man in the vice presidency who has been elected to high office, rather than someone who has come out of the executive branch and not stood the test of campaigning.

Like Ford, Dan Evans is a man who succeeded in politics without compromising his integrity. He came to be known as "Straight Arrow" — a phrase coined partially in affection and partially with grudging admiration — by the men who competed with him in the political arena.

Run down the governor's qualifications and the arguments are strong:

- He is a youthful 48, a man who likes to run up mountains.
- He is a moderate Republican, well tested by the GOP politics of our own state, where he has overcome the opposition of the ultra-right-wing of his party.
- His talents are recognized by his fellow governors, who elected him chairman of the National Governors' Conference. That group has given him a national platform to try out his ideas.
- He has had keen interest in foreign affairs. Witness his recent trip to China and his previous excursions to Russia, Australia, Japan and other nations of the Pacific Rim.
- He knows and understands the legislative

process, having served four terms in the state House of Representatives — most of it in a leadership capacity.

● He was a pioneer in the campaign for revenue sharing and other programs of fiscal responsibility.

In his years in Olympia, Evans has been remarkable for his courage in facing controversial issues.

No one can forget his walk through the riot-torn streets of Seattle's Central Area in the long hot summer of 1967, his TV appeal to the people in 1970 to pressure the legislature to enact environmental laws or his lonely support of a state income tax and tax reform.

When Evans delivered his State of the State message to the Washington Legislature just after election to an unprecedented third term as governor, he vowed he would pursue the interests of the people of the state.

"I would rather cross the political aisle than cross the people," he declared.

We believe Gerald Ford can use such a man.

In an interview this week in the Washington Star-News, Ford was asked to describe the characteristics he would want in a vice president:

"I think there would have to be some similarity in views, particularly in the field of foreign policy. There could not be too much divergence in domestic views, whether in the field of fiscal responsibility or social legislation. You just couldn't have too wide a divergence if you were to have a comfortable relationship."

The selection of a vice president is a crucial move for the new President. It will tell the country more about Mr. Ford than any other decision he makes in his first days in the White House.

What better way to establish his credentials of leadership than to appoint a man of the stature of Daniel J. Evans to share the burden of governing this nation?

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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Joel Pitchard

M.C.

U.S. House of Representatives
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Joel Pitchard

M.C.

The President

The White House

WASHINGTON.