

The original documents are located in Box 16, folder “Federal Election Commission - RNC and PFC Payment of Presidential Travel Expenses (5)” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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File
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: BARRY ROTH *BR*

SUBJECT: Becker Proposals on Winter 1975 Vail Trip

Referencing Benton's memo on the above subject, I offer the following comments:

1. I agree with Benton that, from a political standpoint, the President should personally pay for the travel of family members to Vail this winter. Jerry Jones is about to request that you prepare an option memo on this question. However, Benton has not focused on whether the President should pay for personal guests on this flight, as well as for the trips last August and December. If you pay this year, it is perhaps difficult to justify a different treatment for past trips. Thus, we are speaking of a larger amount than initially contemplated.

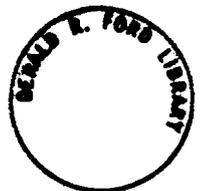
2. While Benton is correct that this approach was favored by the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation when it examined former President Nixon's tax returns, the Committee did not require Mr. Nixon to pay taxes on trips when family members and guests accompanied him. Furthermore, the proposed Treasury tax regulation holds that such non-official travelers do not represent any tax liability for the President as long as they accompany him.

3. I agree with Benton that the use of advance men should be minimized. We should also consider whether Eric's press advance duties on this trip should be paid from appropriated funds. With the FEC's January 1 cut off date on party promotional travel, we would presumably have to allocate Eric's costs between the RNC and PFC if political funds are to be used. Besides Eric, I am not sure why any advance men are needed other than the Secret Service and WHCA



teams that make the physical arrangements. There is little need to conduct crowd-raising events at Vail, and local volunteers could probably be used effectively for the types of activities the President ordinarily does while there.

4. Although confusion continues to exist at both the RNC and PFC on whether he will do a fund raiser, Jerry Jones and Bill Nicholson advise that no political events are planned during this trip.



CRAMER, HABER & BECKER

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OF COUNSEL

CHARLES W. SANDMAN, JR.
F. LAWRENCE MATTHEWS
KENNETH MICHAEL ROBINSON

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: BENTON L. BECKER 

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 1975

RE: RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR 1975 PRESIDENTIAL
VACATION IN VAIL, COLORADO

In December, 1974, the First Family vacationed in Vail, Colorado, for approximately ten days, and the Federal Treasury assumed certain of the costs associated with that vacation. In light of the scrutiny of Presidential travel by the Federal Election Commission, Governor Reagan, and certain of the Democratic candidates for President, and the President's change to candidacy status from 1974 to 1975, I suggest that a different procedure be implemented for the 1975 Presidential vacation.

In December, 1974, the Treasury of the United States paid for the rental of Air Force One which carried the President, Mrs. Ford and the Ford children to and from Vail, Colorado. Two White House advance men (full-time Government employees) advanced this trip while continuing



to draw Government paychecks. One advance man remained in Vail throughout the duration of the vacation, incurring billings for room and board which were subsequently submitted to and paid for by the Republican National Committee in an amount in excess of Twelve Hundred Dollars. President Ford rented quarters for himself and his family in Vail and paid for same from his personal funds.

I recommend the following changes for the First Family's 1975 Vail vacation:

1. That President Ford pay from his personal funds a sum equal to First Class round trip air fare for Mrs. Ford and the Ford children. (The Joint Committee on Taxation investigating former President Nixon's tax returns concluded that taxpayer Nixon had sustained a gain by virtue of the free travel provided at Government expense to Mrs. Nixon and the Nixon children.)
2. That no federally employed advance men, other than Erick Rosenburger from Ron Nessen's office, participate in any advance activities for this trip.
3. That non-government employed, voluntary advance men be used to advance this trip.
4. That all bills incurred by the voluntary advance men during the trip (i.e., air fare, room, board, automobile rental, etc.) be forwarded directly to President Ford and paid for by President Ford from his personal funds.



5. I am informed that consideration is being given to combining the December, 1975, Vail trip into a partial vacation and partial PFC fund raiser. I recommend against any such combination because any attempt to allocate cost among the Government, PFC and President Ford's personal funds, which would result from such a combined purpose trip, would and could be criticized in several quarters.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SHEILA WEIDENFELD
THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN *P.B.*
FROM: BARRY ROTH *BR*
SUBJECT: Press Travel Account
for the First Lady

In accordance with our conversation, attached is a draft memorandum from you to representatives of the media who wish to travel with the First Lady. The memo requires each such traveler to pay a small deposit in advance of the trip in order to eliminate the need of members of your staff to use their personal funds for this purpose.

I suggest you entitle this account the "Press Travel Account," and that you authorize one member of your staff to sign the checks. As we discussed, the account will be initially capitalized in the amount of \$10 from your personal funds, and which you intend to recoup as part of the operating costs of the first trip following establishment of the account.

In handling this account, the following guidelines should be observed at all times:

1. All expenditures must be supported by appropriate documentation.
2. With the exception of the \$10 referenced above, no funds are to be deposited in this account except from the news media traveling with the First Lady.



3. No funds from any political committee are to be deposited in this account, nor any expenditures made to any political committee. If you feel that you are required to make a payment to such a committee for services they may have rendered on behalf of the media, please contact this office at once to discuss the particular circumstances of such cases.

4. No expenditures are to be made except in connection with travel by the news media. No funds may be loaned to representatives of the media or the White House staff for their personal purposes.

5. The financial records from this account will be available for inspection by representatives of the media, or appropriate Federal agency, e.g., The Federal Election Commission. Should such a request be made, please contact this office to coordinate your response.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.



DRAFT -- November 28, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: [MEMBERS OF THE FIRST
LADY'S PRESS CORPS]

FROM: SHEILA WEIDENFELD

SUBJECT: Travel with the First Lady

In order to make arrangements in advance for various services required by the media accompanying the First Lady while on travel, e. g., busses, press suites, office equipment, etc., it is frequently necessary that payments be made in advance for at least some of these items. Until now, such advance payments have been made from the personal funds of members of my staff, pending reimbursement from the media. For reasons I am sure you will understand, this practice has proven to be unsatisfactory.

Accordingly, we have established a Press Travel Account which will be used to collect funds received from the media for its pro rata share of the expenses of travel with the First Lady. In order to make payments from this account before reimbursement in full is received from you, it is necessary that each representative of the media wishing to travel with the First Lady make a [\$25.00] deposit check, payable to the "Press Travel Account", at least [three] days prior to each trip. This amount will be credited against the total amount due for each trip.

This account is used only for the various expenses incurred on behalf of the media in connection with such travel, and its records will be available by appointment for your inspection should you so desire. I trust you will appreciate the need for this new procedure and I will be pleased to respond to any questions you may have in this regard.

Thank you for your cooperation.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CONNOR

FROM:

PHIL BUCHEN 

SUBJECT:

Complimentary Hotel Rooms

I have just been advised that when the President and the First Lady travel, they are frequently offered complimentary hotel rooms which have been accepted whether or not the trip is political, official or personal. Bob Visser agrees that acceptance of complimentary rooms on political trips is an in-kind contribution to the President's campaign, and as such, is an illegal corporate contribution. Accordingly, please take the appropriate steps to discontinue immediately the acceptance of complimentary rooms from hotels on political trips. My office will work with Bob Visser to take appropriate corrective action with respect to past travel.

While acceptance of complimentary rooms by the President and the First Lady on official or personal trips is not covered by this same statutory prohibition, it should be avoided. The gratuitous provision of rooms by corporations such as ITT which do business with or are regulated by the Federal Government, clearly raises problems of appearance.



As you will recall, even when the President paid for the Bass' house in Vail, we had numerous news stories of how Mr. Bass would benefit from the President's strip mine veto. There is a greater likelihood of problems with respect to the donation of corporate-owned facilities. Furthermore, on official travel, the White House lacks the necessary statutory authority to accept travel expenses and, therefore, official travel expenses must generally be paid from appropriated funds.

Please advise me of whatever follow-up action you take in this regard.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
THROUGH: ED SCHMULTS
FROM: BARRY ROTH
SUBJECT: Political Travel on Air Force One

Referencing our conversation, attached at Tab A is a comparison of the billings for the President's recent trips on Air Force One, based on the pro rata and per seat formulas for allocating costs. According to Bill Gulley, all trips have previously been billed on a per seat basis.

In Phil Buchen's September 3, 1975, letter to the FEC, he stated that "the appropriate political committee will be charged by DOD for its pro rata share of the hourly costs of using government-owned aircraft, based on the percentage of passengers on board who are present mainly or in part for a political purpose." Bob Visser shares our understanding that this was the decision made last fall. If we do not use this formula, we should in some fashion notify the FEC.

The following is the relevant provision of the FEC allocation regulation for use of government aircraft:

"..., the reportable expenditure for a candidate who uses government conveyance or accommodations for travel which is campaign-related is the rate for comparable commercial conveyance or accommodation. In the case of a candidate authorized by law or required by national security to be accompanied by staff and equipment, the allocable expenditures are the costs of facilities sufficient to accommodate the party, less authorized or required personnel and equipment...."



Under this regulation, there is some question that the per seat formula can be justified because of the differences in commercial rates for charters or passenger flights and those charged by DOD. An alternative to the per seat formula would be merely to charge comparable first-class air fare since the per seat formula really does not reflect the actual "political" cost of using the plane. In terms of comparability, other candidates must pay for any seats they are unable to rent on charters to the Secret Service and press.

Bob Visser has indicated that there is no objection to continuing to use the pro rata formula. I discussed this with Phil before he left and he indicated he supports the pro rata approach, rather than making a change.

Please advise how these are to be charged in order that I can complete the breakdown of expenses for the First Lady's Florida trip.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1976

*Political-
Travel*

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

With the departure of Rog Morton from the White House staff, the question is again raised how to treat Dick Cheney's travel expenses on political trips. Bob Visser believes that Dick's role on these trips does involve substantial political participation, especially since Rog or Stu does not always accompany the President on at least some of the trips. Bob recommends, and I agree, that we should consider Dick as political for the purpose of allocating expenses on trips. While a plausible defense can be made to the FEC that his role is primarily official on trips, Bob has some doubt that this position would prevail. We both feel that we should continue our previous position of paying politically for such policy-level staffers who do actively participate in political matters on trips.

Decision

- A. Continue to charge as official _____
- B. Charge as political effective upon Rog Morton's departure from the staff _____



April 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN

With the departure of Reg Morton from the White House staff, the question is again raised how to treat Dick Cheney's travel expenses on political trips. Bob Visser believes that Dick's role on these trips does involve substantial political participation, especially since Reg or Stu does not always accompany the President on at least some of the trips. Bob recommends, and I agree, that we should consider Dick as political for the purpose of allocating expenses on trips. While a plausible defense can be made to the FEC that his role is primarily official on trips, Bob has some doubt that this position would prevail. We both feel that we should continue our previous position of paying politically for such policy-level staffers who do actively participate in political matters on trips.

Decision

- A. Continue to charge as official _____
- B. Charge as political effective upon Reg Morton's departure from the staff _____



PAYMENTS FOR AIR FORCE ONE

Q: Mr. President, Senator Laxalt has charged that your campaign committee has delayed in making payments to the government for the use of Air Force One. Do you have any comments?

A: There has been no intentional or undue delay in payments from my campaign committee for the use of Air Force One on political trips. The use of Air Force One for such trips requires a complex formula which has been submitted to the Election Commission and informally accepted for allocating the political costs of the plane's operation. These allocations are being made and I can assure you that bills to the PFC have been and are being paid promptly.

I believe if you compare the reports filed with the Federal Election Commission by the various Presidential campaign committees, you will find that the President Ford Committee probably has the best record for prompt payment of its expenses. You will also find that my campaign committee has displayed sound management of its fiscal affairs and has avoided deficit spending.

PWB 4/29/76



BCC: Honorable Philip W. Buchen

CRAMER, HABER & BECKER

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Copy to Barry

OF COUNSEL

CHARLES W. SANDMAN, JR.
F. LAWRENCE MATTHEWS

July 1, 1976

William Oldaker, Esquire
Deputy Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463



Re: Compliance Action Filed by DNC

Dear Bill:

This letter is a synopsis of our meeting Wednesday afternoon, June 30, 1976, attended by Gordon M. Strauss, of our office, and David Spiegel, Andrew Atthy and Edward Steele from your office, as well as the two of us. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and your staff on the matter of the complaint filed by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) on May 14, 1976.

You advised that the Federal Election Commission (FEC) had recently informed the DNC, in writing, to resubmit their complaint of May 14, 1976, with greater particularity and specificity. The FEC requested that the DNC make known the specific pre-January, 1976, Presidential travel questioned and to supply the available evidence supportive of the DNC's allegations regarding that travel. Upon receipt of said submission from the DNC to the FEC, the Republican National Committee (RNC) is prepared to provide your office with the available documentary evidence supportive of the propriety of RNC's payment for the questioned travel. Where available, the RNC will produce transcripts of Presidential remarks and statements of expenses incurred as well as other documentation relevant to a determination of the character and intent of the questioned Presidential travel.

In addition, I reiterate that this office will undertake all preliminary research into this matter. Naturally, should the Commission find "reason to believe" that a formal investigation

William Oldaker, Esquire
Page two
July 1, 1976

into this complaint is desirable, then, in that event, the President Ford Committee would, by necessity, become more directly involved in any subsequent meetings. In this regard, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. Robert Visser, General Counsel of the President Ford Committee.

If I may be of any assistance in the interim until the Democratic National Committee's submission, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely yours,



BENTON L. BECKER

BLB/ch

cc: David Spiegel, Esquire
Andrew Atthy, Esquire
Edward Steele, Esquire
Robert Visser, Esquire





FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

1325 K STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

*copy sent
to Barry*

2 JUL 1976

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Robert P. Visser, Esq.
The President Ford Committee
1828 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Re: MUR 142 (76)

Dear Mr. Visser:

Enclosed is a reply from Robert S. Strauss to my letter of June 22, 1976, which requested a statement of specific facts in support of the above numbered complaint.

You are requested to submit within ten days any factual or legal materials you deem relevant to the allegations.

Again, please feel free to call if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John G. Murphy, Jr.
John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Benton Becker



CC#273
MUR 142

DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1625 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 797-5900

Robert S. Strauss
Chairman

76 JUN 30 11:41

June 29, 1976

John G. Murphy, Jr., General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

76-811

Dear Mr. Murphy:

This is in response to your letter of June 22, 1976, requesting additional information concerning our complaint dated May 4, 1976.

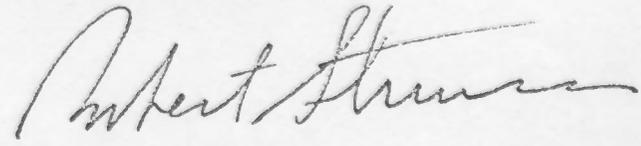
Included with our complaint is a packet of newspaper articles and editorial comments concerning the presidential trips made by Mr. Ford during the latter half of 1975. Included in this packet are the specific dates, times and places of the visits by Mr. Ford, as well as specific references to the many editorial comments highlighting the political nature of this series of presidential trips.

We feel that the information accompanying our initial complaint provides a sufficient factual basis for a Commission determination that it has "reason to believe" that pertinent provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act have been violated, thus warranting a further investigation by the Commission.

As stated in our complaint, we feel confident that such an investigation, carried out with the Commission's subpoena power, will corroborate the information which we have submitted to date and will clearly show that the expenses for these trips should be subject to the appropriate contribution and expenditure limitations of the Federal Election Campaign Act, as has been the case for all of the other candidates for President.

We welcome this investigation by the Commission and hope that this matter can be fully aired and expeditiously resolved.

Very truly yours,



Robert S. Strauss



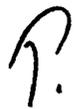
ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
DICK CHENEY

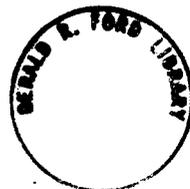
FROM: PHIL BUCHEN 

The House Government Operations Committee has requested copies of manifests for helicopter flights by the President, Vice President and Department of State between February 1, 1976, and April 30, 1976, as part of the Committee's review of the use of helicopters. Attached are copies of manifests that Bill Gulley has provided to my office for the President's flights during this period. Peter Wallison indicates that the Vice President's office will follow our lead, but that they favor responding to this request.

Although President Nixon refused to provide to the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation copies of flight manifests for Presidential flights, the only legal basis for withholding such factual information is comity between the executive and legislative branches. Such an argument is not likely to inhibit Jack Brooks. However, we could insist upon either a formal written request from Committee Chairman Brooks or a resolution by the Committee that specifically authorizes this study. This latter approach in particular may serve to escalate the attention that is to be given to this inquiry and might serve only to extend the time for our response.

Bill Gulley is scheduled to meet with Brooks' staff tomorrow morning at 10 A.M. Bill recommends that someone else provide the Committee with the requested documents because he has indicated to them that they are part of the Presidential papers. This approach does leave us open to an attempt by Jack Brooks to focus on the use of the helicopters in connection with the

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ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

campaign. In this regard, the Committee may focus on our not reimbursing DOD for the costs of ferrying the helicopters to campaign sites when the President is not present. In addition, I have recently learned that the press is billed at a "commercial" rate for the use of helicopters which is approximately twice the rate charged the PFC for the President's flights.

Please advise me of how you intend to proceed in this regard.

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL



WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Manifests	Manifests for helicopter flights for President Gerald Ford, 14 pages (attached to memo from Phil Buchen to Jack Marsh and Dick Cheney, 7/12/1976)	N.D. [1976]	B

File Location:

Philip Buchen Files, Box 16, Folder: "Federal Election Commission - RNC and PFC Payment of Presidential Travel Expenses (5)" SMD - 10/9/2015

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by applicable Executive order governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
THROUGH: ED SCHMULTS
FROM: BARRY ROTH



You were recently asked at a press briefing whether the President or the PFC would pay the travel expenses of the President and the First Family to the Convention. Before a final answer is given to that question, you should be aware of the following:

(1) With respect to the President, the FEC has informally ruled that he may personally absorb travel and subsistence expenses up to \$500 during the pre-nomination period. Such expenditures are not required to be reported to the FEC and do not count against the PFC's spending ceiling for the primary period.

(2) With respect to the other members of the First Family, each member may also absorb up to \$500 for travel and subsistence expenses. In this regard, members of the First Family are in the same position as any other person who volunteers his personal services to a candidate. By definition, such payments are neither contributions nor expenditures and, therefore, are not required to be reported to the FEC and do not count against the PFC's primary spending ceiling. The key point in this regard is that each member of the First Family must personally pay for his own expenses. It is my understanding that the President provides support for all members of the family. As long as he does not give them money solely for the purpose of absorbing political travel, it does not matter that the money they use to pay for these expenses may have come from the President.

(3) It is entirely proper for the PFC to pay these expenses for the President and First Family. However, such payments then count against the PFC's primary spending ceiling.

cc: Jack Marsh

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL



1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Copied to Barry

October 11, 1976

The Honorable
Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Buchen:

As Special Counsel to the President Ford Committee I have been advised by John G. Murphy, Jr., Esq., General Counsel of the Federal Election Commission, by letter dated October 4, 1976, a copy of which is enclosed, that based on a complaint filed by Robert S. Strauss, Esq. on behalf of the Democratic National Committee

"[T]he Federal Election Commission has found reason to believe that the President Ford Committee has committed a violation of §434(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Laws by failing to report costs incurred in connection with 14 Presidential appearances between the time President Ford registered as a candidate with the Federal Election Commission (June 19, 1975) and January 1, 1976 (see attached list)."

In this connection it is stated in Mr. Murphy's letter that:

"These appearances were allegedly 'party building in nature,' within the meaning of Advisory Opinion 1975-72; however, information available to the Commission furnishes reason to believe that their purpose, at least in part, was to 'influence the nomination for election' of the President, and that the costs of the appearances were therefore reportable as expenditures."



The Honorable
Philip Buchen

-2

As you are aware, this determination by the Commission is simply a decision to investigate a matter which has been brought to its attention and in no way constitutes a decision on the merits. The Commission has simply requested that we cooperate in an investigation to satisfy the Commission, as the President Ford Committee has consistently stated, that it has been in full compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Laws.

In implementation of the right of the President Ford Committee pursuant to 2 U.S.C. §437g(a)(4) to a "reasonable opportunity" to demonstrate that no violation has in fact occurred, Mr. Murphy has suggested the submission of certain factual and legal materials relevant to the Commission's investigation of the matter:

"In particular, I would appreciate it if you would submit all relevant records pertaining to President Ford's travel, including a summary of whom he saw, where he appeared, and texts of his speeches and public conferences. In addition, your response should include copies of all solicitation materials used at fundraising or party promotional events at which the President appeared, as well as any other materials pertinent to the event, such as pictures or press releases."

I would assume that certain of the requested materials would be in the possession, custody or control of the Executive Office of the President and thus write for the purpose of urgently soliciting your attention to this matter, and your assistance in the assembling of the materials necessary to make as prompt a response as possible to the request of the Commission. You will note from Mr. Murphy's letter that a response within ten days of receipt of his letter, i.e., October 16, 1976, is requested.

I appreciate your consideration and shall look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

Charles N. Brower

Charles N. Brower

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Barry Roth





FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

1325 K STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

04 OCT 1976

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Charles N. Brower, Esq.
Special Counsel for the
President Ford Committee
1747 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Re: MUR 142 (76)

Dear Mr. Brower:

This letter is written to you in your capacity as special counsel to the President Ford Committee.

I hereby notify you that based on a complaint with supporting documentation filed by Robert S. Strauss on behalf of the Democratic National Committee, your response to that complaint, and available reports and statements, the Federal Election Commission has found reason to believe that the President Ford Committee has committed a violation of §434(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Laws by failing to report costs incurred in connection with 14 Presidential appearances between the time President Ford registered as a candidate with the Federal Election Commission (June 19, 1975) and January 1, 1976 (see attached list). These appearances were allegedly "party building in nature," within the meaning of Advisory Opinion 1975-72; however, information available to the Commission furnishes reason to believe that their purpose, at least in part, was to "influence the nomination for election" of the President, and that the costs of the appearances were therefore reportable as expenditures.

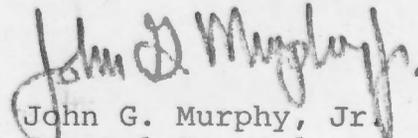
Under 2 U.S.C. §437g(a)(4) you are entitled to a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate that no action should be taken against you. Accordingly, I would be pleased to receive any factual or legal materials which you believe are relevant to the Commission's investigation of this matter. In particular, I would appreciate it if you would



submit all relevant records pertaining to President Ford's travel, including a summary of whom he saw, where he appeared, and texts of his speeches and public conferences. In addition, your response should include copies of all solicitation materials used at fundraising or party promotional events at which the President appeared, as well as any other materials pertinent to the event, such as pictures or press releases. Finally, please indicate the basis by which you distinguished between the President's candidacy related appearances and his party building appearances during the period in question. In particular, we are interested in two dates -- Boston, Massachusetts and Portsmouth, New Hampshire on November 7, 1975 and Durham and Raleigh, North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia on November 14, 1975 -- which apparently involved payments by the Republican National Committee that were later repaid by the President Ford Committee.

The information should be provided in the form of sworn statements by individuals with personal knowledge of the matters raised and submitted within ten (10) days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely yours,


John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

cc: Robert P. Visser
Benton L. Becker



ATTACHMENT

<u>DATE OF TRIP</u>	<u>PLACES VISITED</u>
July 11, 1975	Chicago, Illinois; Traverse City, Interlochen, Mackinac Island, and Kincheloe Air Force Base, Michigan
August 19, 1975	Minneapolis, Minnesota; Pekin and Peoria, Illinois; Vail, Colorado
August 24, 1975 August 25, 1976	Northwestern, Montana; Chicago, Illinois, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 30, 1975	Augusta and Portland, Maine; Warwick and Newport, Rhode Island
September 4, 1975	Seattle, Washington; and Portland, Oregon
September 11, 1975	Keene, Peterborough and Portsmouth, New Hampshire
September 12, 1975	St. Louis, Kansas City, Missouri
September 20, 1975	Los Angeles, Malibu, California
September 22, 1975	San Francisco, California; and Washington, D. C.
October 1, 1975	Omaha, Nebraska
October 10, 1975	Detroit, Michigan
October 29, 1975 October 30, 1975	Los Angeles and San Francisco, California
November 7, 1975	Boston, Massachusetts
November 14, 1975	Durham and Raleigh, North Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)
)
President Ford Committee)

MAR 142 (76)

CERTIFICATION

I, Marjorie W. Emons, Secretary to the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on September 30, 1976, the Commission determined by a vote of 5-1 that there was reason to believe that a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, had been committed in the above-captioned matter. Voting that there was reason to believe were Commissioners Harris, Springer, Stäebler, Thomson, and Tiernan. Voting that there was no reason to believe was Commissioner Aikens.

Marjorie W. Emons
Marjorie W. Emons
Secretary to the Commission

HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable
Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

CRAMER, HABER & BECKER

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Bunny has a copy.

October 18, 1976

OF COUNSEL

CHARLES W. SANDMAN, JR.
F. LAWRENCE MATTHEWS

Charles N. Brower, Esq.
Special Counsel for the
President Ford Committee
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Re: MUR 142 (76)

Dear Mr. Brower:

This office is in receipt of a copy of a letter dated October 4, 1976, from John G. Murphy, Jr., General Counsel of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to you advising that the Federal Election Commission has found "reason to believe" that the President Ford Committee has committed a violation of Section 434(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Laws and requested your submittal to the FEC of, "all relevant records pertaining to President Ford's Travel, including a summary of whom he saw, where he appeared, and texts of his speeches and public conferences. In addition, ...copies of all solicitation materials used at fundraising or party promotional events at which the President appeared, as well as any other materials pertinent to the event, such as pictures or press releases."

Further, this office is in receipt of your letter requesting that I immediately direct our client, the Republican National Committee (RNC), to expeditiously and thoroughly conduct a search of the RNC records requested in Mr. Murphy's communique and produce same to you. Such a directive has been transmitted to our client and they have asked me to assure you of their full and complete cooperation in this endeavor. Unfortunately, my unanticipated absence from my office last week has, in part, contributed to an unfortunate delay in securing further production.



Charles N. Brower, Esq.

Page 2

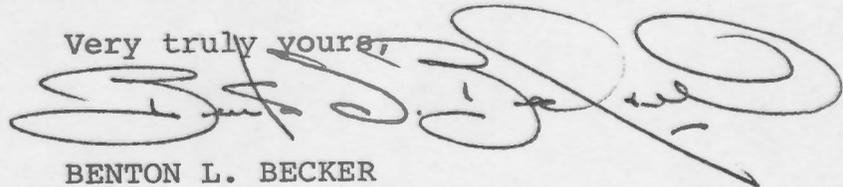
October 18, 1976

All relevant records requested by Mr. Murphy housed in our law office were delivered to you by an associate of this office on Friday evening, October 15, 1976.

RNC personnel continues to review the files located at the 310 First Street, S.E. address. When requested materials are obtained, they will be periodically transmitted to you for forwarding to the Federal Election Commission. In view of the shortage of personnel at this time, the scattered displacement of the requested records and, what I believe to be a mutual desire of both the Federal Election Commission and the Republican National Committee, to conduct a thorough search, I am informed that completion cannot reasonably be anticipated until 30 days.

Since the subject matter of the Federal Election Commission's inquiry does not represent an allegation of an ongoing - continuing violation of the Federal Election Laws; I trust that the Commission will find no objection to this requested schedule.

Very truly yours,



BENTON L. BECKER

cc: The Honorable Mary Louise Smith
Mr. Eddie Mahe
Mr. Robert Visser

