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*White House*

March 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Charles Leppert, Jr.  
FROM: Philip Buchen  
SUBJECT: Rep. Thomas Ludlow Ashley's  
letter of March 24 re Mrs. Myrtle  
Coleman's question

I suggest that you advise both the Congressman and his constituent that you have requested the supplier of the items (without naming the company) to write with full information to both of them, and that you call the Metropolitan Water Saving Company to do so.

cc: Bob Wolthius  
Vern Loen

PWBuchen:ed



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHILIP BUCHEN

THRU:

BOB WOLTHUIS *RRW*  
VERN LOEN *VL*

FROM:

CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. *CLJ.*

SUBJECT:

Rep. Thomas Ludlow Ashley's letter  
of March 24th re Mrs. Myrtle Coleman's  
question.

I am enclosing letter received from Cong. Ashley in which he enclosed a letter he received from a constituent, Mrs. Myrtle Coleman.

Our office has already done some research in the matter but must have your suggestion as to how much information we may release.

The Area Manager of GSA at the White House advises that they have purchased ten (10) Little John Water Savers at a price of \$3.49 per set. As of this date, three sets have been installed in the Old Executive Office Building to test as to saving water. The items have been purchased from the Metropolitan Water Saving Company, 5130 MacArthur Boulevard, NW., Washington, D.C. and have not been fully tested as to their ability to cut down on the water usage.

The basic idea of the device is to insert two dividers into the tank in order that when the toilet is flushed, the water at either end of the tank does not drain - just the center section of the tank drains.

You will note that this all started with an announcement on the Today Show that the White House had a device to save water. We need to know how we should answer this inquiry and would appreciate your assistance.



March 27, 1975

Dear Mr. Ashley:

Thank you so much for your March 24th letter in which you enclosed a letter you received from Mrs. Myrtle Coleman.

I have forwarded your letter on to the proper staff for further review and am hopeful of having a reply to Mrs. Coleman's query within the following week.

With kind regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant  
for Legislative Affairs

Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

✓ bcc: Philip Buchen w/incoming (see separate memo)

CL:nb



THOMAS LUDLOW ASHLEY  
9TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING AND CURRENCY  
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

2725

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

2406 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
234 SUMMIT STREET  
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

March 24, 1975

Mr. Charles Leppert  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

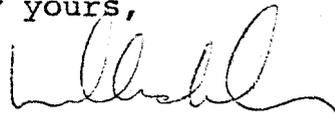
Dear Mr. Leppert:

I believe the attached letter from my constituent,  
Mrs. Myrtle Coleman, is self-explanatory.

Would you please advise me of the name and places  
of availability of this product as soon as possible?

Many thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Ludlow Ashley, M. C.



Chap. Leppert  
Special Agent

March 18, 1975

Toledo, Ohio.

Dear Senator Ashley:

I saw something on the  
Today's show, telling us something  
that flushes the toilet & takes  
lots less water than 5 gallons to  
flush it. The man said they are  
installed in all the toilets at the  
White House.

I am wondering what it is and  
where it can be bought. I am  
a widow on only Social Security  
and anything to help me save  
expenses, I would appreciate.

If you can find what this thing  
is & maybe where it can be bought  
I would again appreciate it.

Thank you

or call me Mrs. Myrtle Coleman

when you can  
to Toledo  
841-4059

Myrtle A. Coleman  
6569 Blossman Road  
Toledo, Ohio 43615

Please  
answer.



Friday 4/4/75

Ruth Kilmer had been checking how to get fresh cut flowers in the office.

We called Irv Williams in the Flower Shop

2586 or 2188

He said they are trying to cut back expenses, but that we would have to get in touch with Rex Scouten if we would like to make arrangements for cut flowers.



W H  
Condolences

Thursday 12/4/75

5:15 I called Anne Higgins and gave her your request for a letter to Mrs. Paul Porter for the President's signature.

The notice was apparently in the Saturday paper.

She will get the notice and prepare a letter.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 12, 1975

*(see  
WH-Social*

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH  
THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN *T.*  
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *KL*  
SUBJECT: Use of Blair House

In response to your inquiry of December 8th, it is our understanding that the matter has been settled and that John Warner will be able to use Blair House for his function.



Dec. 30, 1975

To: Bobbie

From: Eva

Mr. Buchen asked that  
you comment to him on  
the attached.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Shirley:

Please make copy  
of p. 1761 & send  
to Bobbie with request  
that she comment to  
me.

J.

# Checking Up on the White House

To its displeasure, particularly in an election year, the White House currently is the object of an investigation of its civil rights policies and procedures.

The inquiry, which will focus on the White House, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the federal regional councils and executive boards, constitutes the final leg of a comprehensive review of the executive branch's programs by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

Cynthia Gray, acting assistant staff director for federal evaluation, said the commission will concentrate on the Administration's civil rights policies and its efforts in implementing and enforcing civil rights statutes.

"This is part of an on-going review, and not a special inquiry," she emphasized. She said the commission's planned report on the White House, Volume VII in a study that began in November 1972, will be called "The Policy Makers."

Presidential aides, sensitive to the political implications of such an investigation by an official agency, questioned both the timing of the inquiry and the obligation of the White House to cooperate with the commission.

Gray, however, said that the 1957 Civil Rights Act, as amended, specifies that "all federal agencies shall cooperate fully with the commission to the end that it may effectively carry out its functions and duties."

"We have no reason to suspect they won't cooperate," she commented. She further pointed out that the commission is endowed with subpoena powers.

**Tense relationship:** Tension has existed between the executive branch and the commission since it was created under the 1957 act as an independent, bipartisan agency with a mandate to investigate and monitor the federal government's civil rights activities.

The commission is directed to submit reports, findings and recommendations to the President and Congress with respect to denials of equal protection of the law because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin or because of maladministration of justice.

Throughout its tenure, the commission generally has been critical of the executive branch's implementation of civil rights laws.

In 1964, President Johnson ordered the six members of the commission to resign, but they refused on the recommendation of Erwin N. Griswold, then a commission member and later Solicitor General. Griswold maintained that to comply with Johnson's demand would negate the commission's authority as an independent agency.

Then in 1972, President Nixon pressured the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, commission chairman and president of Notre Dame University, to resign, presumably because of his criticism of the Administration's proposals opposing the busing of school children to achieve desegregation. Nixon also sought the resignation of staff director John A. Buggs, who stayed on and remains in the same capacity with the commission.

**Far-reaching probe:** A commission investigator said the agency's inquiry will be far-reaching in scope. In addition to reviewing President Ford's policies and efforts to enforce and implement current civil rights statutes, the commission is interested in how the White

House staff is organized to handle the issue and the manner in which it relies on federal resources in carrying out its civil rights responsibilities.

"Who has civil rights responsibility in the White House?" the investigator asked. "And what specifically are those responsibilities? How is policy made? Does the President substantively support civil rights legislation? How is the White House structured to monitor the civil rights programs? Does the federal budget make allowances for their enforcement? Those are some of the questions to which we will be seeking answers."

**Busing issue:** Commission staff members reported that the study will look into the degree that the White House is attempting to come up with a plan to ease the controversial school busing issue. Ford has said that while personally he is opposed to busing, the decisions of the courts must be obeyed.

A Domestic Council official recently told *National Journal* that the agency has spent considerable time on the busing issue but has yet to agree on a solution.

Other specific areas under the commission's White House purview:

- Minority unemployment—what action is being taken by the White House to ease the plight of blacks and other minorities who are unable to find jobs?

- Native Americans (Indians and Eskimos)—how effective are federal bureaus concerned with the welfare of these groups, what are the conditions on reservations and are the civil rights of these people being violated?

- Asian-Americans—is there a White House unit assigned to this element of the population, including Vietnam refugees, and what is being done about their education and language training?

- Women in the U.S. armed forces—are they being discriminated against because of their sex? Can they lawfully be denied abortions in states where they are allowed? And are current military regulations on rape, pregnancy and the assignment and promotion of women legal?

There is also a possibility that the commission will check into internal hiring procedures at the White House and try to determine the economic impact of civil rights enforcement.

**Interview list:** Among the White House aides who are scheduled to be interviewed by commission investigators early in the inquiry are John O. Marsh Jr., counselor to the President for congressional relations; William J. Baroody Jr., assistant to the President for public liaison; Patricia S. Lindh, special assistant for women's affairs; Fernando E.C. DeBaca, special assistant for Hispanic affairs; John C. Calhoun, special assistant for minority affairs. Philip W. Buchen, counsel to the President, is expected to be interviewed later in the inquiry.

According to a commission staff member, "The White House is aware of the facts but not the scope of the problem. There seems to be major need for coordination of agency programs—there is no uniformity as to what constitutes sex discrimination or equal pay discrimination. Better management is required; the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) isn't doing it."

Estimates are that the White House report will be published late in February.

4/6/76

Get-well card (recovering from major surgery:

Mr. Max Goldfield  
3505 South Ocean Drive  
Apt. 816  
Hollywood Beach, Florida

(305) 929-8158

(father of H. P. Goldfield, Attorney on the Counsel's Staff

*called & asked a card  
be sent to him.*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

4/6/76

asked that  
a card be  
sent to  
Hans



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG *Bobbie*

SUBJECT: Possible Picketing by the National Association of Broadcasting Engineers and Technicians (NABET)

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Whether picketing of the White House area by NABET is legal or illegal depends on a number of factors:

(1) Section 8(b)4 of the Taft-Hartley Act makes it unlawful to picket a secondary employer who is not involved in the dispute for the purpose of coercing that employer to put pressure on the primary employer. The White House does not easily fit within the definition of a secondary neutral employer.

(2) If the site of the primary dispute moves, pickets may follow that site, and NBC crews clearly fall within this category.

(3) Betty Murphy is very skeptical about whether the White House can ever be immune from picketing and does not feel that it fits within the intent of the statutory prohibitions.

(4) Of significant legal importance is what the pickets' signs say. For example, if the signs say "NBC employees please do not cross this line," that is proper picketing. On the other hand, if the signs say "AP, UPI employees please do not cross this line," that would be illegal picketing that causes an illegal secondary boycott -- if it is of a secondary neutral employer. Obviously, if the signs were limited to NBC employees and AP or UPI employees chose not to cross, that would not affect the legality of the picketing.

(5) Also of legal importance is where the picketing occurs. For example, if the picketing occurred at the press gate where NBC



crews normally enter, that would be proper. On the other hand, if the picketing occurred at the tourist gate, that could raise legal questions. Again, however, the key would be whether the tourist gate picketing causes a neutral employer to cease doing business with someone or to put pressure on someone.

(6) It would be politically damaging for the White House to even consider an injunction against the NABET picketing and it would be a very difficult injunction to obtain, if not impossible. The White House would have to show irreparable harm to obtain an injunctive remedy, and it is hard to imagine what that harm would be, especially in the normal economic and employer context.

(7) Betty Murphy feels that the nature of the communication with NABET\*/ is not controlling, but rather the nature of the White House, the location of the pickets and the wording of their signs.

(8) It is very important, in my opinion, that the President not become involved in this dispute. His attitude should be that anyone can express their grievances outside the White House in an orderly manner, that the pickets are not picketing him (which, despite statement to Mead, they are not) and that he hopes the labor dispute is resolved in an equitable manner.

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\*/ Statement to Bob Mead that, if President Ford would not order NBC crews to leave the ASNE press conference, NABET would picket at the White House tomorrow.

