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MEETING WITH
REPRESENTATIVE BARBER CONABLE

Tuesday, July 8, 1975
5:45 p. m.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

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July 8, 1975

MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE BARBER CONABLE (R-NY)

Tuesday, July 8, 1975
5:45-6:00 p.m. (15 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: Max L. Friedersdorf *m.l.f.*

I. PURPOSE

To discuss the political situation in New York State relative to the President's and Senator James Buckley's candidacies next year.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. Congressman Conable attended a political working dinner at the White House recently and followed up the meeting with a letter to the President on June 18. (See Tab A)
2. Conable is concerned that unless an accommodation is reached between the President and Senator Buckley, there could be adverse repercussions on the President's candidacy in New York State.
3. Conable believes a strong mutual endorsement, with Buckley coming out strongly for the President and the President urging Republican leaders to back Buckley, the strong possibility of a deviation by the Republican right wing, aided by the Conservative Party disgruntlement, can be avoided.
4. Conable believes further meetings of the President and Senator Buckley are necessary to make an arrangement.
5. After reading Conable's letter, the President suggested he should discuss the Congressman's proposal with him.

B. Participants: The President
Rep. Barber Conable
Don Rumsfeld (staff)

C. Press Plan: White House photographer only.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Barber, after reading your letter of June 18, I thought it would be helpful if we could discuss the situation.



2. As you know, I have officially announced my candidacy today, and as New York will be a key State, your advice and recommendations are appreciated.
3. Perhaps we can start with your reviewing the observations you made in your detailed letter of June 18.





BARBER B. CONABLE, JR.
NEW YORK, 35TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
WAYS AND MEANS

BUDGET

JOINT COMMITTEE ON
INTERNAL REVENUE TAXATION

6-23
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2228 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
DISTRICT OFFICE:
311 FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
100 STATE STREET
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14614

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

June 18, 1975

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

MF
Dear Mr. President:

This will confirm some oral comments I made at the "political" supper I attended at the White House several weeks ago. I continue to be concerned about possible damage to your position in New York as a fallout from Senator Buckley's difficulties there.

I consider it imperative that you and Senator Buckley have an accommodation of some sort sooner rather than later. His failure to support your candidacy unequivocally has created a bad reaction in New York State and has given ammunition to those in the Republican Party organization who want to deny him the Republican nomination. The result of such a denial could be serious for your own candidacy in the State and could result in challenges to many delegates whom the regular Party organization will want to commit to you. Mr. Buckley's constituency is still largely the Conservative Party, a Party organized in reaction to what it deemed to be the liberal State policies of Nelson Rockefeller and the liberalism of Jacob Javits. While the Conservative Party has strong ideological ties in many areas to conservative Republicans, it is quite capable of organizing a spoiler's role if its champion, James Buckley, is denied a serious chance for reelection by New York Republican Party leaders.

It seems to me that you are the only one who has a good chance of resolving this issue, and that it probably will have to be resolved through direct discussions between you and Mr. Buckley. If he comes out strongly for you and, in return, you urge Republican Party leaders to back him, a strong possibility of deviation by our Party's right wing in our State, fueled by Conservative Party disgruntlement, can be avoided. I hope you will take this difficulty



Honorable Gerald R. Ford
June 18, 1975
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seriously, because I am by no means convinced that Senator Buckley's friends will behave rationally or constructively if major Party nomination is denied him. I like Jim Buckley, but I am more interested in seeing you reelected, if circumstances require a choice.

Sincerely yours,



Barber B. Conable, Jr.

C/1

