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*file  
2/27/76*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOBBIE KILBERG

THRU: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF  
VERN LOEN *VL*

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. *CLJ.*

SUBJECT: Martina Navratilova

On Thursday, March 11, I met with Rep. 's John Rhodes (R-Ariz) and Tom Rees (D-Calif. ) on this matter. Both Rhodes and Rees have agreed to co-sponsor a private bill.

Rep. Rees will be the principal co-sponsor since she is a resident of his Congressional District. However, Rees wants the background and details to support the legislation. A copy of a draft bill should accompany the background information.

cc: Dick Cheney  
✓ Jim Connor  
Phil Buchen

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG  
THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN  
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC.*

The President reviewed your memorandum of February 23 concerning the status of Martina Navratilova, the Czechoslovakian tennis star and made the following notation:

"Anyone in Congress who would introduce?"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 23, 1976

*RRY*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

FROM:

BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG *BK*

In response to a request from Jim Connor, I have checked into the status of Martina Navratilova, the Czechoslovakian tennis star who defected to the United States last summer. Ms. Navratilova has been granted asylum, and her status has been adjusted to that of a permanent resident alien by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Under the provisions of permanent resident status, Ms. Navratilova must wait 5 years before she is eligible for naturalization (granting of citizenship). \*/ However, this residency requirement may be shortened to 3 years if she marries a U. S. citizen and lives with him for 3 years, 18 months of which time she must be "present in person" in the United States.

You have no authority to grant Ms. Navratilova immediate citizenship, as she asserted to news interviewers. However, it is possible for a private bill to be introduced in Congress which could reduce or eliminate the five-year residency requirement and thus make her eligible for naturalization at the time of the bill's passage. *Anyone in Congress who would introduce* We can quietly pursue this avenue if you desire, but it should be kept in mind that at the time of her defection the press reported Ms. Navratilova as stating that her primary interest in living in

\*/ This is the statutory procedure unless specific provision has been made in legislation for a certain category of refugees, such as the Hungarians and Cubans.

Under the five-year residency requirement, an individual may not be absent from the U. S. for more than 30 months of that five-year period. Further, at least the last 6 months of that five-years' residence, immediately before the filing of the naturalization petition, must also be residence in the State where the petition is being filed.

the U. S. stemmed from the amount of money she could earn without the prohibitive Czechoslovakian taxes and regulations and from the fun she could have in California. This seems to be a far cry from the traditional case of political oppression.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR JEC

The attached newspaper clipping was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"What is this?"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

Attachment:

Clipping entitled "Alien in a Hurry"  
from WASHINGTON STAR 2/10/76.

ture of the fibula," and he'll be lost to the Portland Trail Blazers from four to six weeks.

Curiously, Walton has no idea when the bone was broken. Doctors say he might have been playing on it for eight to 10 days. The pain became severe enough Sunday night that Walton finally went to a hospital.

Prior to Sunday, the Blazers had won 10 of their previous 13 games with Walton scoring 21 points a game in that spurt and getting 18 rebounds. There was even the start of playoff talk in Portland.

Walton's list of injuries since joining the Blazers in 1974 is appalling. In order, he's had knee surgery, a bone spur on his heel, sprained a finger, developed a serious strep throat, broke a toe, cut an eyelid, sprained an ankle, broke a wrist, and dislocated two fingers.

His insurance premiums must rival the budgets of many countries.

### "Give Them My Best"—Jerry.

President Ford, perhaps the world's best-known schusser, apparently has been tuning in on Innsbruck along with many of the rest of us. He was moved to ring up Sheila Young, winner of three medals in speed skating events at the Winter Games.

"We were all so proud of you," he told her over the transatlantic phone, "and 215 million Americans also are so proud of you."

The President asked Young to convey his congratulations to the other U.S. medal winners. "Give my best to the remainder of the team," he said. "The whole country supports the efforts and accomplishments of the Olympic team."

### Alien in a Hurry

One athlete keen for some sort of word from President Ford is women's pro tennis star Martina Navratilova.

She defected from Czechoslovakia last summer, and is getting antsy about being granted U.S. citizenship.

"President Ford could grant me citizenship immediately if he wanted to, but he hasn't. I have had people put in a few words for me, but I guess their pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

Asked how the effect of citizenship might make things easier for her, she said, "Let's put it this way, I could relax more without that pressure on me."

### Price or Prize?

What's the price for being slapped by Howard Cosell?

We may never know. A \$3 million assault and slander suit filed against Cosell by student Scott Schindler has been settled, but a San Diego Superior Court judge pronounced the settlement terms from being disclosed. It was revealed yesterday that the suit was settled in November "on a mutually satisfactory basis."

Schindler claimed Cosell slapped him when he asked for an autograph in 1973. Cosell denied the charge.

Cosell was fined \$150 in the case for failing to file in time a report of his gross earnings in 1973 — \$431,899, as it turned out.

Some may ask what the prize might be for slapping Howard Cosell.

### Short Takes

Mickey Redmond, star winger for the Detroit Red Wings, has been suspended and placed on \$30,000 waivers. Redmond has missed more than two weeks of action for talks with his attorney and for physical exams . . . Sunday saw the NBA set a single-day attendance record of 107,982 fans out for eight games . . . Jack Bicknell, offensive backfield coach at Boston College for eight years, is moving up to the head job at the University of Maine . . . The St. Louis Cardinals took on two defensive coaches, former Bengals aide Chuck Weber and longtime Texas assistant Willie Zapalac . . . Former pro linebacker Rommie Loudd was convicted in Federal Court in Boston of distributing cocaine. He faces up to 15 years in prison . . . Bobby Bridges, a professional boxer, was charged with attempted murder after a shooting incident in Lowell, Mass. . . . Ben Crenshaw leads the PGA money-winning list with \$88,680 after five events, while Johnny Miller is second with \$80,000.



FUN TIME — Jo Jo Starbuck and Ken Shelly, former Olympia Flyers, laugh it up last night in a benefit broom hockey game. The Flyers won the fun game 2-0 and, amazingly, a penalty called on them.

## The Caps' Odd Couple

By J. Russell White  
Washington Staff Writer

There is no truth to the rumor that Washington Capitals owner Abe Pollin has hired Poland's Olympic goaltender to play against the Los Angeles Kings at Capital Centre tonight.

The Polish goalie, fresh from a 16-1 loss against Russia, has refused Pollin's kind invitation — said he had enough problems already.

Seriously, the Capitals are home at last after a 17-day exile. They were 1-5-1 on their longest road trip and their constant heroes were their goaltenders, Bernie Wolfe and Ron Low.

"The Caps are the kind of team that makes their goaltenders the stars," Coach Tom McVie said Sunday in Chicago. "Our two guys are always going to be busy, stopping shots."

To be sure, Wolfe and Low are hockey's odd couple as they endure life with hockey's strangest team. These two masked men were virtually inseparable on the road despite their contrasting backgrounds.

WOLFE, A rookie, is a Jewish boy from Montreal

of hockey's first bicentennial goalie's mask.

Wolfe and Low share the goaltending duties for the Caps and while on the road share hotel rooms. They have just completed nearly 200 hours of a continuous rummy game aboard airplanes, in hotel lobbies and wherever a table was available. The word is they even played a few hands in the Maple Leaf's Garden sauna.

With 25 games to play on this year's schedule the Caps are on their firmest ice ever. They have eight of the next 10 games at home, 15 of the final 25 at Capital Centre.

The Caps won't be out of town for more than a couple of days at a time the remainder of this year. That means less time for Wolfe and Low to play rummy but perhaps more time to enjoy their hockey.

WOLFE, IT IS apparent, is up to his goal pads with out-of-town sports writers. He detests the oft-used "hapless Caps" headlines that he sees in every city he visits.

Wolfe, the most articulate and well-read of the