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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1976

5/18/76
Told him no change
contemplated but
Told Jack
Marale JD

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JACK MARSHALL

Congressman Paul Findley called here yesterday with the urgent request he have a short meeting with you sometime today before the Michigan primary returns come in.

Paul has talked with a number of Republican House Members, and wishes to convey to you the following three points:

- 1) If you're successful in Michigan, and he thinks you will be, there is a need to reassess your campaign operation, because there will still be difficult times prior to Kansas City.
- 2) Should you not be successful in Michigan, he feels it is of absolute importance that you not indicate any plans to withdraw from the race, because such would cause irreparable damage to the Republican Party.
- 3) In his view, and the view of others, there should be a change in the leadership of your campaign effort. Paul suggests John Anderson or Rumsfeld.

Because of the heavy demands of your schedule, rather than meet with Paul, I suggest that you call him on the phone, and make the following points:

- 1) Because of the heavy demands on your schedule as a result of the visit of the French President, you felt it would be best to call rather than to try to work him into the schedule.
- 2) You're aware of the concerns which he expressed, and your views are as follows:

- a) You expect to win in Michigan, and you're aware that there will be many difficulties ahead prior to Kansas City. You are always open to suggestions as to how to best address the requirements of the campaign. However, it is your view that Michigan, if we all put our shoulder to the wheel, can be the turning point.
- b) Should it happen that you are not successful in Michigan, you have no intentions of withdrawing. You have said repeatedly that you expect to be there until the last ballot is cast in Kansas City, and that view has not changed.
- c) Rog Morton came into the campaign at a critical time under difficult circumstances. He has the background, ability and the know-how to run the campaign. He is one of the most experienced people in national politics today. He has been implementing changes in the campaign structure and operation. He has made personnel changes. He is beefing the operation up. He has brought in Jimmy Baker, the former Under Secretary of Commerce, which is not generally known.
- d) It is recommended that you not bring up any matter of personalities to succeed Rog, but in the event Paul does, point out that John Anderson is an invaluable Member of the House, and it would be a damaging blow to the Administration to take Don Rumsfeld out of Defense.
- e) Finally, indicate to Paul your gratitude for his taking the time to make his views known to your people.