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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

— JACK MARSH

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Medal of Freedom

The President reviewed your memorandum of June 24 on the above subject and approved the following individuals as recipients of the Medal of Freedom.

Alexander Calder
Georgia O'Keefe
Norman Rockwell
Jesse Owens
Lowell Thomas
General Omar Nelson Bradley
Irving Berlin
Martha Graham
Will and Ariel Durant

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JACK MARSH 

SUBJECT:

Medal of Freedom

You will recall that in our previous discussions you asked that the staff come forward with recommendations for possible recipients of the Medal of Freedom.

I have met with a number of leading members of the staff (e. g., Bob Hartmann, Phil Buchen, etc.) and together we have come up with the names on the attached list.

Our original thought was that it might be appropriate for you to present 13 medals on the 5th of July -- a way that you could have your own unique celebration of the Bicentennial and could carry forward the original intention that this medal be presented around July 4 each year. It is probably too late to arrange such a ceremony now, but if you could look through the list of possible recipients and indicate your personal choices, we could then begin to think about a ceremony at another time that would be fitting. In the meantime, we will also be looking for other candidates.

Attachment

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

OK ALEXANDER CALDER Sculptor. A creator of mobiles and stabiles, he has married form and space with movement and time. He is perhaps the greatest living American sculptor of the non-realist school. President Ford has personal ties to Calder. He is 78.

OK GEORGIA O'KEEFE One of the biggest female names in the world of American painting. Represented in the major museums throughout the United States. She received the Gold Medal for Painting, National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1970, and numerous other awards. She is now 90 years old and is a sentimental favorite of many Americans.

OK NORMAN ROCKWELL Artist. In 1969, he was named "Artist of the Year" by the New York Artist Guild. World known for his covers of the Saturday Evening Post, he is now 82 years of age.

ATHLETICS

OK JESSE OWENS Track and field star. He was the winner of four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, at that time the most outstanding feat in the history of the Games. Hitler's refusal to present his medals because he was a Negro made him an international hero. He is 63.

JOE DIMAGGIO An all-time great of baseball. He is now 62.

BUSINESS

SIMON RAMO Engineering executive and industrialist. Leader in electronics and missile research, editor and author, he is a member of dozens of boards of educational and charitable organizations, as well as several corporations. Presently he is chairman of the Executive Committee of TRW. He discovered and holds the patent for the microwave, electron optics, guided missiles, and automatic controls. He is 63 years of age.

JULES STEIN Founder of the Music Corporation of America, which is one of the largest talent agencies in the country and now owns Universal Pictures. An ophthalmologist, he has had a continuing interest in medicine and through his own contributions and those of others he developed the Jules Stein Eye Institute, which is part of the UCLA medical complex. He is 80 years old.

COMMUNICATIONS

OK LOWELL THOMAS Author, cinerama and TV producer, radio and TV commentator. He brought "adventure and armchair travel" to generations of Americans. He retired at the age of 82. (He is now 84)

VERMONT C. ROYSTER Journalist, author and editorial writer with the Wall Street Journal. He received the Pulitzer Prize for his editorial writing in 1953. Following a heart attack, he retired from active journalism to become a Kenan Professor at the University of North Carolina. He is 62.

LAW

JUDGE HENRY FRIENDLY Judge; U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals (2d) 1959 to present; Chief Justice, 1971-73; Senior Judge 1974 to present; He has a well-known and respected reputation in legal circles in the United States. He is 73.

ERWIN N. GRISWOLD Former Dean of Harvard Law School, and former Solicitor General of the United States; One of the leading members of the American bar for many years. World renowned and respected. He is 72.

LITERATURE

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH Poet, Professor at Harvard (1949-62); FDR appointed him Librarian of Congress (1939-44); Chairman of several American delegations to UNESCO conferences; Recipient of virtually every literary honor in the U. S., including two Pulitzer Prizes for poetry (1932 and 1953) and a Pulitzer in drama in 1959. He is 85 years of age.

JAMES A. MICHENER Author. He has written numerous popular works and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1947 for Tales of the South Pacific. His popular works include: The Bridge at Andau, Hawaii, and Centennial. He is 69.

SAUL BELLOW Author. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the International Literary Prize in 1965 for Herzog. Many serious students regard him as the best writer in America today. He is 61.

MEDICINE

RENE DUBOS Physician, scientist, and bacteriologist. He is recognized as one of the pioneer medical scientists in the United States. To his credit are the development of the treatment for tuberculosis and the foundation for the field of chemotherapy with his discovery of crystalline form of a soil-bacteria agent which destroys "gram positive" germs. He is 75 years old.

JONAS SALK Physician, scientist. Discovered the "Salk vaccine" to prevent polio and has continued biological and biochemical research at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, which he founded. He is 62.

ALBERT E. SABIN Virologist. In 1955, he developed an oral polio vaccine. Distinguished Service Professor, University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine; Fellow, Children's Hospital Research Foundation; Presently, Distinguished Research Professor of Biomedicine, University of South Carolina, School of Medicine. He is 70 years old.

NATIONAL SECURITY

ARLEIGH A. BURKE Admiral; Chief of the U. S. Naval Operations 1955-61; Director of Strategic Plans, Navy Department 1952-54; Member of the Military Armistice Negotiating Group, 1951; Chief of Staff of the Atlantic Fleet, 1945-47; Retired in 1961. Former director of Texaco, Inc., and now a member of the executive committee of Texaco. He is 71.

HYMAN GEORGE RICKOVER Vice Admiral; Deputy Commander for Nuclear Propulsion, Atomic Energy Administration; He has won numerous awards for his contributions to atomic science. Very controversial. He is 76 years of age.

OK
OMAR NELSON BRADLEY General of the Army (fifth five-star Army General in history); 1949-53: He served two successive terms as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest military office presently attainable by any officer of the Armed Services (General Bradley was the first chairman). He headed the Veterans Administration during the critical postwar demobilization of our Armed Forces (1945-47). Successively in World War II, he commanded first a division, then a corps, an army and finally a group of armies. This last command, the 12th U. S. Army Group in Europe, numbered more than 1,300,000 combat troops and was the largest body of American soldiers ever to serve under one field commander. Former Chairman of the Board of Bulova Watch Company. He is 83 years of age.

PERFORMING ARTS

OK
IRVING BERLIN Composer/writer of popular songs. Received the Army Medal of Merit for "This is the Army" and the Congressional Gold Medal for "God Bless America." He is 88 years of age.

OK
MARTHA GRAHAM American dancer who has contributed enormously to her profession, as both teacher (Julliard School) and as a performer for over 40 years. She has appeared as the guest of leading orchestras throughout the United States. She is 75.

BING CROSBY (HARRY LILLIS) Actor, entertainer. He has enduring popularity as an entertainer in the United States. He first became popular when he entertained the American troops during World War II. He is now 72 years old.

PUBLIC SERVICE

GEORGE S. AIKEN U. S. Senator from 1940-74 (34 years). Before coming to the Congress, he was Lieutenant Governor and Governor of Vermont. Until his retirement, he was a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and was a respected, esteemed elder statesman of the Senate. He is 84 years of age.

MIKE MANSFIELD He was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives from Montana in 1943. He served in the House until his election to the U. S. Senate in 1952. Majority Whip 1957-61; Senate Majority Leader 1961 to the present. Retirement imminent. He is now 73.

JOHN MCCORMACK Former Speaker of the House. First elected to the Congress in 1925, he served in Congress for 45 years. (He retired in 1970). He is 85 years of age.

SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION

NORMAN E. BORLAUG Agricultural economist. In 1970 he won the Nobel Prize for Peace for his leadership and development of the "Green Revolution," a theory that has been instrumental in helping developing countries stave off mass starvation, and for his work in the development of high-yield wheat. He is now the head of the Wheat Research and Production project of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico. He has served as the technical advisor to developing countries such as India and Pakistan.

OK WILL AND ARIEL DURANT Historians, Authors. The Durants have co-authored numerous works on the story of civilization and the history of the world. In 1968, they won the Pulitzer Prize for Rousseau and Revolution. They are both in their nineties.

BRUCE CATTON Author, historian, editor. He has written numerous works on American history, and his works on the Civil War are among the most popular ever written. Senior Editor of American Heritage Magazine (1959 to the present.) He is 77.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

GEORGE WALD Physiologist, educator. Co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in 1967 for discoveries concerning the chemical and physiological processes of the eye. He is 70 years old.

JOHN BARDEEN Physicist, educator. He is the only American to win the Nobel Prize twice: In 1956, for developing the transistor, and in 1972 for the discovery of a theory explaining superconductivity. He served as a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee 1959-62; National Medal of Science recipient in 1966. He is 68 years old and is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Physics at the University of Illinois. He is 64 years old.

JAMES D. WATSON Educator, Biochemist. Co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in 1962 (with F. H. C. Crick) for studies of the molecular structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and its ability to transfer information. This is recognized as one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of the 20th Century. Following his discovery, he wrote The Double Helix, which has become a popular text. He is now a professor of biology at Harvard. He is 48 years old.

THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

SPENCER W. KIMBALL President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with a world membership of 3.5 million individuals. Throughout his life he has engaged in numerous efforts to benefit the American Indian people. He helped to develop the impressive Indian Education Program at Brigham Young University, and has also encouraged the establishment of schools among Polynesians and Latin Americans. He is 71.

DR. KENNETH TAYLOR Religious author, theological conservative. He is responsible for The Living Bible, which is the most popular interpretation of the Bible since the St. James version. Published in 1962, The Living Bible has been translated into every language in the world. Dr. Taylor began his project as a means of teaching his children about the Bible, and completed his first work, The Living Letters, as he commuted from his home to work (at the Moody Press where he was a Staff Editor). He is now President of the Tyndal House Publishers which he founded in order to publish his works. He is 59.

LABOR

I. W. ABEL President of the United Steelworkers of America (the third largest union in the U.S.). A former steel mill worker, he was a pioneer in the struggle for unionization of the steel industry. He served as a Secretary-Treasurer of the United Steelworkers from 1953 until becoming its President in 1965. He is 68.