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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 1976

WJM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR. 

SUBJECT: Reader's Digest Interview with the President and Jimmy Carter

Mel Laird gave me this advance copy of the October issue of the Reader's Digest which contains the interview with you and Jimmy Carter. Mel emphasized the fact that he is giving me this copy over a week in advance of the magazine hitting the newstand. He sent it in confidence and does not want us to use it for public purposes until it reaches the newstand. This is a matter of some sensitivity to them.

I believe, as you will see from reading, the interview turned out extremely well for you. On most of the issues Carter adopts either a me-too attitude or is simply wrong on the issues. As far as special interest groups go, Carter is sure to offend the Right-to-Work lobby and their many constituents as well as the gun lobby. The gun lobby will not be totally satisfied with your answers because of your stand on the Saturday Night Special question, but Carter's concluding statement, "I favor registration, but not confiscation of guns," will probably send them up the wall.

The question now is who should this be given to concerning preparation for your debates?