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March 3, 1976

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Cocoa Today: Normally democratic, but may be leaning your way. They have a high unemployment rate in their area and are very interested in how to overcome it. Additionally, they are much in favor of solar energy research being done in their area.

Fort Myers News-Press: Biggest issue is also I-75. Local PFC not sure about their political leaning.


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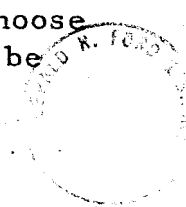
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Sarasota Herald-Tribune and Journal: The only issue that they are currently fighting for is endorsement of I-75. It is expected that this paper will endorse you sometime this week.

Cocoa Today: Normally democratic, but may be leaning your way. They have a high unemployment rate in their area and are very interested in how to overcome it. Additionally, they are much in favor of solar energy research being done in their area.

Fort Myers News-Press: Biggest issue is also I-75. Local PFC not sure about their political leaning.


Clearwater Sun: Biggest issue is also I-75. It is expected that this paper will endorse you sometime this week.

Pensacola News-Journal: Extremely interested in strong defense and jobs relating to defense. Schlesinger was very popular in this area because of his strong defense position. Also have commented that no one in the First Family has visited the Panhandle area of Florida.

March 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR RON NESSEN

FROM:

JIM SHUMAN 

SUBJECT:

THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW WITH FLORIDA EDITORS

The following may come up in the President's interview, in addition to the questions on which he has already been briefed:

+JUDGESHIP -- Central Florida papers today are carrying a story saying that Circuit Court Judge Elizabeth Kovachevich, 39, of St. Petersburg will be named to the vacant federal judgeship. This story has raised questions by Florida's two Democratic Senators of politics; they charge the President is trying to influence the primary election. The story of the alleged appointment was leaked by Paula Hawkins, a Republican National Committeewoman and State Public Utilities Commissioner. She said the President spoke with her about it in Orlando, and then virtually confirmed it last Thursday at a White House reception. Both Chiles and Stone, the two U. S. Senators, are saying they will oppose the nomination, because it did not go through the Nominating Commission, a group they had set up to insure bi-partisan nominations.

The President may be asked if he is using his power as President to try to influence the election.

+DISTORTING REAGAN'S RECORD -- Tommy Thomas, Reagan's Florida campaign manager, charged in an interview yesterday that the President has been distorting Ronald Reagan's record as Governor of California, and his position on social security. He ~~wants~~ wants Reagan to abandon the Eleventh Commandment.

There may be a question on whether the President has distorted the record, and on how he will conduct his campaign if Reagan begins to fight back. (Information on whether Reagan will fight back is contradictory. Reagan is scheduled to make a speech in Florida Thursday night. Reporters have told our PFC people that it will be a hard-hitting attack on detente)

~~Also~~ Also, Charles Colson has been in Florida saying he believes it is a shame that the President has not bothered to listen to Richard Nixon's report on China.

EDITORIAL PROFILE
FOR
PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW BY FLORIDA NEWSPAPER EDITORS

JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL:

Abortion

"The abortion issue is doing nothing in the presidential race but confusing the public by diverting attention from relevant issues. A president should be chosen on the basis of his position on issues over which the office may exercise some actual influence."

2/5/76

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"In granting temporary permission to British and French airlines to fly their new supersonic transports into and out of New York and Washington, U.S. Transportation Secretary William Coleman Jr. has acknowledged that the 20th Century is here to stay, which is more than his critics will admit. The secretary has taken into account, moreover, the undeniable fact that the United States does not live in isolation, and that it must have due regard for its allies and for the technological and economic realities."

2/6/76

Daniel Schorr

"Schorr admitted all, but had some critical things to say concerning his fellow journalists for telling on him. . . Well, Daniel Schorr should know as well as anyone that the one overriding 'common interest' that journalists share is the desire to tell just about all they know. Dan must have forgotten that; now his memory has been rudely refreshed."

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Public Works Bill

"Senate refusal to override President Ford's veto of the \$6.1 billion public works jobs bill writes a fitting end to legislation Mr. Ford correctly described as 'little more than an election year pork barrel.' . . . That Mr. Ford and the Senate were prepared in this election year to choose the proper but stonier path, which must be followed if there is to be genuine economic recovery, speaks well for both."

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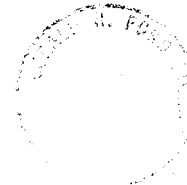
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THE WHITE HOUSE

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*How would you characterize the present Democratic Congress? Reagan has called it the most irresponsible he can remember.

*Are you confident that the upswing in the economy, which is now clearly evident, will continue and that the economy will not turn down again after the election? If so, why?

*Do you believe that we have really whipped inflation?

*Do you feel the national debt is too large, and if so how would you go about reducing it. If you feel it is at a reasonable level, why do you believe that?

*How much influence does Henry Kissinger have on you and your policies?

*Gov. Reagan has said that if you really want to be tough with Castro you should ask the OAS to re-institute the embargo. Have you given any thought to doing that, and what did you decide and why?

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*Are you confident that the upswing in the economy, which is now clearly evident, will continue and that the economy will not turn down again after the election? If so, why?

*Do you believe that we have really whipped inflation?

*Do you feel the national debt is too large, and if so how would you go about reducing it. If you feel it is at a reasonable level, why do you believe that?

*How much influence does Henry Kissinger have on you and your policies?

*Gov. Reagan has said that if you really want to be tough with Castro you should ask the OAS to re-institute the embargo. Have you given any thought to doing that, and what did you decide and why?

*You flip-flopped on issues such as Common Situs, aid to New York, and others. Yet you have been critical of Gov. Reagan for seeming to change his position on such things as the \$90 billion plan. Isn't that unfair?

