

The original documents are located in Box 128, folder “Duval, Michael” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1975

TO: RON NESSEN
FROM: MIKE DUVAL



For your information, Tom Brokaw has invited me to be his guest at the Radio and TV Correspondence Dinner on March 13.

I have accepted.

cc: Jim Cavanaugh



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 2, 1975

TO: RON NESSEN

FROM: MIKE DUVAL

For your information XX

Comments:



FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20461

MAR 28 1975

Send
to
Ron N.
D

Mr. D. K. Patton, President
The Real Estate Board of New York, Inc.
12 East 41st Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Patton:

This is in response to your letter of February 7, 1975, to Mr. Ron Nessen, The White House Press Secretary, regarding The Real Estate Board of New York's position on modification of the Old Oil Entitlements Program and on the President's plan to impose additional tariffs on imports of crude oil and petroleum products.

Your comments regarding the proposed rulemaking were considered carefully by FEA. The final regulations were issued as proposed with certain modifications on February 28, 1975.

However, on March 19, 1975, FEA announced proposed changes in its pricing and oil import regulations which would put restraints on the pass-through of increased costs to residual fuel oil as a result of the President's program and would defer until May 1, 1975, the increases in the supplemental import fee. A copy of the press release is enclosed for your information. We will be sure to consider your comments with respect to this proposed rulemaking.

Thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Gorman C. Smith
Acting Assistant Administrator
Regulatory Programs

Enclosure

cc: ✓ Michael Raoul-Duval, The White House



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 19, 1975

FEA ANNOUNCES PROPOSED REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE GASOLINE 'TILT'

The Federal Energy Administration today announced proposed changes in its pricing and oil import regulations. Hearings are scheduled for March 27 and, if necessary, March 28 to consider the proposed changes. FEA invites comments through March 28.

The proposed changes follow:

First, FEA proposes to allocate to gasoline prices a greater than proportionate share of the increased petroleum costs resulting such as those from the previously announced import fee program, that is, a "tilt" to gasoline.

Second, FEA is proposing further direct restraints on the pass-through of increased costs to residual fuel oil in response to comments concerning the hardship to electric utilities and their customers caused by disproportionately high increases in residual fuel oil prices.

Third, changes to the oil import regulations are proposed to reflect the gasoline "tilt" in higher fees for imported gasoline than for other imported petroleum products.

Fourth, FEA also proposed, retroactive to February 1, amendments to its Oil Import Regulations to conform to Presidential Proclamation No. 4355 (March 4, 1975) which defers for two months, to May 1 (for the \$2.00 fee) and June 1 (for the \$3.00 fee), the increases in the supplemental import license fee on crude oil originally scheduled to take effect on March 1 and April 1.

Other proposed changes to conform to the Proclamation are:

- Refiners located in U.S. territories or foreign trade zones would be permitted to elect a procedure for determining at what point crude oil and unfinished oils shipped into those locations would become subject to the supplemental fee. This will relieve hardships caused them because their feedstock material did not become subject to the fee at the same time as domestic refiners'.
- Fees and supplemental fees imposed on imports into Puerto Rico, and imports into the mainland which are shipped to Puerto Rico with or without further processing would be reduced by the amount of any excise tax or other levy imposed by Puerto Rico on imports that are not shipped to the mainland. This would provide Puerto Rico with the equivalent of a reasonable proportion of the fees, which is necessary since Puerto Rico would not benefit from the tax relief and other measures that would benefit other citizens.

label
label

In order to implement the "tilt", the cost allocation formulae are to be modified to reduce progressively the proportion of a refiner's total increased product costs which may be allocated to "segregated fuels" and general refinery products, and to increase the amount which must be allocated to and passed through gasoline prices, if at all.

A gallon of gasoline would be apportioned about twice as much of the increased costs attributable to the import fee program as to a gallon of any other product, assuring there are no other increases in cost.

A two-to-one apportionment of these cost increases, based on an average nationwide refinery yield of 45 percent gasoline, is as follows:

(a) With a \$1 per barrel import fee already imposed on crude oil, average increased petroleum costs of 1.4 cents per gallon would result in a 2-cent increase per gallon for gasoline and a .9 cent increase for other products.

(b) With a \$2 per barrel import fee, average increased petroleum costs of 2.8 cents per gallon would result in a 3.9-cent increase for gasoline and a 1.9-cent increase for other products.

(c) With a \$3 per barrel import fee, average increased petroleum costs of 4.3 cents per gallon would result in a 6-cent increase for gasoline and a 2.9 cent increase for other products.

In addition, the amount of the previously announced increases in import fees on petroleum products would be modified to establish higher fees for imports of gasoline than for imports of other petroleum products. This would maintain in the prices of imports the differentials in prices of domestically refined products brought about by the assignment of a larger share of increased product costs to domestically refined gasoline and a lesser share to other domestically refined petroleum products.

If the proposed pass through on gasoline is adopted, such supplemental fees for May and June would be \$1.25/bbl. and \$1.80/bbl. respectively for gasoline, and \$0.35/bbl. and \$0.60/bbl. respectively for other products.

-FEA-

Media Inquiries: 964-4781
Press Room: 964-3538
Public Inquiries: 634-7610

Media Contact: Bob White

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO:

Ron Nessen

FROM:

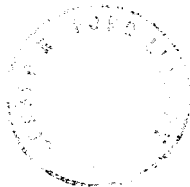
MIKE DUVAL

For your information _____

Comments:

Fast foot work

for an old guy



MR. NESSEN: No. Alan Greenspan is the
Preside) s chief economic adviser --

Q Chief?

MR. NESSEN: --- of the Council of Economic
Advisers, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

MORE

#253



DEX TO VAIL -- DELIVER TO: Zarb, Greenspan and Nessen.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR FRANK ZARB
FROM: MIKE DUVAL *White*
SUBJECT: JOE KRAFT'S COLUMN

Attached is a copy of the Kraft column which ran in yesterday's Washington Post.

It correctly points out that the effect of decontrol will be to ultimately increase the profits of the integrated oil companies unless a tough windfall profits tax is enacted. It is also correct that, to the extent the integrated companies do not pass through the increased price of crude, those companies which are not integrated, or do not have access to old oil, will be at a competitive disadvantage because they will either have to raise their prices and thus lose market share, or keep their prices down and thus incur losses.

However, Kraft is way off base in blaming this on the President because he chooses to ignore why we are in this position. My judgment is that the Kraft article is likely to be used as source material for follow-up attacks on the President's decision to veto the price control extension. Accordingly, I think that you, Alan and Ron should develop the case against the Kraft position before it blooms out of control.

I would make the following points:

- Independent refiners are not the major competitive force against the big oil companies. Competition among the majors makes this a competitive industry.
- Before government controls, the biggest oil companies were generally unable to lead the market with substantial price increases.

- Even if a windfall profits tax designed to force the companies to pass through the increased cost of crude were quickly enacted, there's a strong possibility that there would not be complete pass-through, and you would simply reduce the industry cash flow (thus slowing down exploration and production).
- Most of the companies that would be hurt the worst if the prices are kept down (e.g., Ashland) have really grown and prospered over the years because of government import policies and, by taking advantage of cheap foreign crude, they are part of the reason we have the current energy crisis today.
- The President fully recognized the potential problems of immediate control without the proper tax cushions, and he has consistently taken a position which would protect both the consumer and competition within the oil industry. His initial proposal for decontrol on April 1, followed by two months his tax proposals which would have prevented the situation described in Kraft's column from developing. His most recent 39-month compromise plan would have also prevented the dislocations described by Kraft.
- Thus, the principal weakness in the Kraft column is that it fails to point out that the President did everything within his power to avoid the evils described by Kraft. The President has limited powers and was severely constrained in his options because of a recalcitrant Congress.

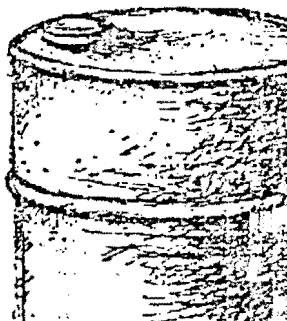
In my judgment, Kraft's fundamental premise is only defensible if he concedes that doing nothing is a preferable decision to taking the President's course. The Kraft column is not logically defensible, unless he is willing to concede that increasing dependency is a preferable alternative.

cc: Alan Greenspan
Ron Nessen

THE WASHINGTON POST, Thursday, August 14, 1975

Joseph Kraft

The Energy Mess



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ron -



Send this to
Dave!

Mike D.

Kennerly - watch out!

Administration: Comment

C-9



March 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MIKE DUVAL

FROM:

RON NESSEN

The National Press Club is staging a forum on "leaks" from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on April 15th. The panel will consist of some reporters as well as a representative from the White House, State Department, and the Pentagon. I think you would be a good representative of the White House.

This event is being organized by Roscoe Drummond, a respected and respectable columnist for the Christian Science Monitor.

I think you should do this. You will have some fun, get some exposure and it will only take an hour of your time. Please let me know your answer and I'll put you in touch with Drummond.

cc: PENDING FILE -- FOLLOW-UP WITH MIKE ON FRIDAY - 2 March 23, 1976

rn/pp



Ron

[ca. 4/76]

would it be a good idea
to do a TALKING POINT for the
P's Olympic event praising
ABC's coverage as bringing
the "Olympic Spirit" into
millions of American homes. ?

(P.S. tip off ABC)

Mike



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 14, 1976

RT ✓

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: MIKE DUVAL *Mike Duval*
SUBJECT: CAMPAIGNING BY RADIO

During a trip last week to Houston, I did a one-hour live radio show with telephone questions from the audience which was set up by Randy Woods. The station is one of the largest in the Southwest (KTRH Houston Radio 740). The host suggested that the President should use radio more as a campaign device, and this triggered some thoughts on my part.

It might be worth considering having the President do several major radio "talk shows" from the Oval Office. He could do five minutes of opening remarks, followed by several questions from the announcer, and then open it up to telephone questions from the audience. It might also be possible to link in with several key radio stations throughout a given region of the country and, again, open with the President, follow with questions from each of the individual announcers from each of the stations involved and then open it up to general questions from the audience.

In any event, these could be limited to half-hour sessions and, although there's always the problem of the "off-the-wall" question, I think the President would find it very easy to handle, especially since he would be in his office with an opportunity to collect his thoughts as the questions are being asked. This might be particularly effective for the Texas primary where our voters are so spread out.

cc: Dick Cheney
Margita White
Randy Woods



7060

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALAN GREENSPAN
 BILL GOROG
 RON NESSEN
 TERRY O'DONNELL

FROM: MIKE DUVAL *Mike Duval*

SUBJECT: THURSDAY LUNCHEON WITH ECONOMISTS

After talking with Bill and Alan, there is a consensus that the press plan for Thursday's luncheon should be simple, and we must avoid any appearance of doing this for political purposes, or otherwise taking advantage of the private economists.

Accordingly, our recommendation is that:

- (1) There should be no announcement until all invitations are made (Greenspan will advise).
- (2) There be a press photo opportunity at the beginning of the luncheon in the private dining room on the first floor of the Residence. This should be for all press, and perhaps could be expanded to last for five minutes, or so.
- (3) We should not announce any briefing following the luncheon, but if the press does request briefings, they can be provided. If such requests come in, then, based on Ron Nessen's call, Alan Greenspan and perhaps Jim Lynn along with several outside economists, can be made available to brief. The briefings would be fairly low-key and, depending on the nature of the request, perhaps can be one-on-one.

cc: Dave Gergen



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: BILL GOROG *WFG*
SUBJECT: Announcement of Presidential Luncheon
with Economists, Thursday, May 20.

Attached is an announcement for your use as desired.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

The President will hold a luncheon discussion at the White House on Thursday with a group of prominent economists; members of the President's Economic Policy Board will also be present.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide the President and members of his Administration with an opportunity to consult on economic matters with a group of economists representing a broad spectrum of viewpoints.

Included in the meeting, which will be held in the Private Dining Room, will be the following:

Richard Cooper-----Yale University
William Fellner-----American Enterprise Institute
Milton Friedman-----University of Chicago
Walter Heller-----University of Minnesota
Hendrik Houthakker-----Harvard University
Paul McCracken-----University of Michigan
Arthur Okun-----Brookings Institution
Paul Samuelson-----Mass. Institute of Technology
Herbert Stein-----University of Virginia
Charles Schultz-----Brookings Institution

Members of the Administration:

Alan Greenspan-----Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers
W. J. Usery, Jr.-----Secretary of Labor
James Lynn-----Director, Office of Management and
Budget
Richard Cheney-----White House Chief of Staff
William Gorog-----Deputy Assistant to the President
for Economic Affairs

May 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MIKE DUVAL

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a copy of a memo sent to me after the Michigan primary by George Weeks, Governor Milliken's chief of staff, the Governor's former press secretary, and a former colleague of mine at the UPL.

This memo lists a number of aspects of the President's campaign in Michigan, particularly those related to advertising and media events, which Weeks thinks was successful and which he thinks might be helpful in other States.

I thought you might want to have the benefit of his observations.

Attachment:

Memo to Ron Nessen from George Weeks

RN/jb



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1976

RHV

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH
→ RON NESSEN

FROM:

MIKE DUVAL

Mike

SUBJECT:

WARREN COMMISSION REPORT

I talked this morning with Dave Belin about a Platform Committee matter.

I told Dave that the Senate Intelligence Subcommittee Report concerning the Warren Commission was a front page story of the New York Times. Dave advised me that he has not seen the Senate Report nor press stories about it.

Dave is still sticking with the position that he took publicly on Face the Nation last fall, which is, that Congress should reopen an investigation of the Kennedy assassination in light of revelations that the CIA and other agencies of government did not fully cooperate with the Commission. However, Belin remains convinced that any reinvestigation will simply reaffirm the findings of the Warren Commission.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN ✓
BILL GOROG
MARGITA WHITE
BILL NICHOLSON

FROM:

MIKE DUVAL *Mike*

SUBJECT:

GENERAL AVIATION MEETING

I heard from Ed Stimpson, President of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, as a follow-up to the meeting the President had with them. This had been set up and coordinated by Bill Gorog.

They are getting excellent coverage in the trade press of the President's meeting and actions he took. They distributed 4,200 copies of the President's statement to the aviation press.

I think this meeting is an example of how a minimum investment of the President's time can produce excellent results in terms of explaining the Administration's position on key issues.

cc: Jerry Jones
Jim Cavanaugh
Dave Gergen

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/25/76

Mike Duval

F Y I

RAN.



PRESIDENT GERALD FORD
CROWN CENTER HOTEL
ONE PERSHING ROAD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

PRESIDENT GERALD FORD
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOMINEE JIMMY CARTER IN A SERIES OF FOUR LIVE TELEVISION PROGRAMS EACH DEVOTED TO A SEPARATE ISSUE ON THE ROBERT MACNEIL-JIM LEHRER REPORT. THE PROGRAMS WOULD BE SPACED ABOUT EVERY TWO WEEKS DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND WOULD START AS SOON AFTER LABOR DAY AS CONVENIENT. THE MACNEIL-LEHRER REPORT IS A REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWS INTERVIEW PROGRAM SEEN IN MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED CITIES LINKED BY THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE (PBS). NORMALLY IT IS AIRED FROM SEVEN TO SEVEN-THIRTY PEEM EDT AND AGAIN FROM SEVEN-THIRTY TO EIGHT PEEM EDT. THE MACNEIL-LEHRER REPORT NORMALLY RUNS THIRTY MINUTES BUT MIGHT BE EXPANDED FOR THESE PROGRAMS TO ONE HOUR. YOU AND THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE COULD BE IN THE SAME STUDIO IF CONVENIENT OR IN SEPARATE CITIES DEPENDING ON YOUR CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES.

CORDIALLY,
ROBERT MACNEIL
JIM LEHRER

WNET-TV
356 WEST 58TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019
(212) 262-4352

[ca. 8/25/76]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mike Duval.

FYI

RHN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1976

Dear Warren:

Thank you for renewing your offer to stage a debate between President Ford and Jimmy Carter before the National Press Club.

We have had a number of organizations come forward and offer to sponsor one or more of the debates since the President issued his public challenge to Carter.

I have turned over your letter to Mike Duval, the staff member dealing with details of the debates. If the National Press Club's offer seems like a viable possibility, Mike will be in touch with you.

Sincerely,



Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Warren Rogers
National Press Club
Washington, D.C. 20045



National Press Club
Washington

August 20, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen
The President's Press Secretary
Vail, Colorado

Dear Ron:

I was delighted when President Ford challenged Gov. Carter to public debates. That fits nicely with the plan I have discussed with you to bring the two candidates together at the National Press Club early in September.

As you recall, the Professional Relations Committee of the NPC proposes to invite some 100 top media executives from around the country to participate in an airing of the issues at the very outset of the campaign in side-by-side questions and answers. We feel this would surface the really gut issues early in the campaign which could possibly become the basis for later traditional debates.

Prime time coverage by the networks would insure a large viewing audience before public interest wanes, as sometimes happens during campaigns.

We hope you will agree that the National Press Club is a good neutral ground place to start head-on confrontations by the two candidates.

Please do not hesitate to call me or Seth T. Payne, chairman of the Professional Relations Committee if you need more information. I can be reached at 202-965-0802 or 202-676-5120. Seth is with Business Week and can be reached at 202-737-6630.

Cordially,


Warren Rogers

WR:nm

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8/31

NOTE FOR: *Mike Duval*
FROM : RON NESSEN

FYI

RHN

McGRATH HILL SETH T PAYNE
ROOM 400 NATIONAL PRESS BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20045



Mailgram®



*de
Jim
action
sent*

2-056008E233 08/20/76 ICS IPHWZZ CSP DVRB
2027376630 MGN TDMT WASHINGTON DC 110 08-20 0651P EST

PRESIDENT GERALD FORD
MAIL CO 81657

*Jim
McGrath
action
sent*

ACTION
T/D _____
SCHEDULE BD. _____
DATE RECEIVED
AUG 27 1976
MESSAGE _____
SPEAKERS BUREAU _____
OTHER <i>En Miller</i>
APPOINTMENT OFFICE _____

DEAR PRESIDENT FORD THE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB WISHES TO RECONFIRM OUR INVITATION TO YOU TO MEET ON THE SAME PLATFORM WITH FORMER GOVERNOR CARTER FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AT THE NPC IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

THIS IS THE SAME EVENT THAT WARREN ROGERS WROTE TO YOU ABOUT AND WHICH HE HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH RON NESSEN. WE PROPOSE TO INVITE 100 TOP MEDIA EXECUTIVES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN AN AIRING OF THE ISSUES AT THE OUTSET OF THE CAMPAIGN. THIS WOULD AN EVENING EVENT EXPOSED TO A LARGE VIEWING AUDIENCE THROUGH PRIME TIME TELEVISION,

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ME IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION. SETH T PAYNE, BUSINESS WEEK 202-737-6630

SETH T PAYNE
CHAIRMAN PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

16:51 EST

MGNCOMP MGN



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10 RON NESSON WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

11
12 WHITEHOUSE DC

13 THIS IS TO CONFIRM THE INVITATION WHICH I ASKED HELEN THOMAS TO
14 EXTEND ON MY BEHALF FOR PRESIDENT FORD AND GOV. CARTER TO
15 SCHEDULE ONE OF THEIR PROPOSED DEBATES FOR THE 17TH ANNUAL
16 CONFERENCE OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS IN
17 WASHINGTON DC OCT. 7 AND 8. AS YOU KNOW, WE PREVIOUSLY HAD
18 XTENDED INVITATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR TO
19 ADDRESS OUR MEETING AT TIMES CONVENIENT TO THEM. IT SEEMS TO US
20 THAT OUR MEETING WOULD PROVIDE A MOST APPROPRIATE BACKDROP FOR ONE
21 OF THE DEBATES BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND GOV. CARTER. IN ADDITION,
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7 OF COURSE, IT WOULD ELIMINATE THE QUESTION OF FINANCING, AT
8 LEAST AS FAR AS THIS DEBATE IS CONCERNED. WHICH THE FEDERAL
9 ELECTION COMMISSION IS STUDYING. A DEBATE BEFORE THE DELEGATES TO
10 EDICON WOULD BE A NEWS EVENT OPEN TO COVERAGE BY ALL MEDIA
11 ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING NEWSPAPERS, OTHER NEWS SERVICES, BROAD-
12 CASTING, MAGAZINES, ETC. AND WOULD BE COVERED
13 BY THEM AS A NEWS EVENT. MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF INCLUDING
14 H L STEVENSON , VICE PRESIDENT AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
15 AND GRANT DILLMAN, VICE PRESIDENT AND WASHINGTON MANAGER, WILL
16 BE AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS DETAILS WITH YOU. WE WOULD
17 SCHEDULE THE DEBATE AT ANY SUITABLE TIME ON OCTOBER 7
18 OR 8. INCLUDING EVENINGS, OR IT COULD BE SCHEDULED FOR THE
19 EVENING OF OCTOBER 6 FOLLOWING EDICON'S OPENING RECEPTION
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ROD BEATON

PRESIDENT UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

NNNN



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8/31

Mike Draval

FYI

RAN

RECEIVED

(open)

Office of the Director
Boston

ORIGINAL TO: Bill Nicholson

COPY FYI TO: Ron Nessent

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PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC

IT ALL STARTED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE DURING THE COLD WINTER DAYS. FALL IS
A BEAUTIFUL TIME OF THE YEAR IN THE GRANITE STATE AND WMUR-TV
EXTENDS TO THE TWO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WHO HAVE AGREED TO A
NATIONAL DEBATE TO START THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL BACK WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.
LET IT ALL BEGIN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. FACILITIES CAN BE ARRANGED.
GROUND RULES CAN BE ESTABLISHED AND TIME IS AVAILABLE

SAM PHILLIPS VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL MANAGER WMUR-TV 1819 ELM
ST MANCHESTER NH 03104

NNNN.

100

(Prior to election)

ORIGINAL TO: Bill Nicholson

COPY FYI TO: Ron Nessen ✓

The House
Washington

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FMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

IN THE EVENT IT IS DECIDED TO CONDUCT SOME OF THE DEBATE BETWEEN
PRESIDENT FORD AND MR CARTER AT POINTS OUTSIDE WASHINGTON WE EXTEND
AN INVITATION TO YOU TO USE OUR STUDIOS FOR ONE OF THEM. WE WOULD BE
HAPPY TO ABSORB ALL STUDIO AND PRODUCTION EXPENSE AND WE HOPE YOU
WILL ACCEPT. RESPECTFULLY,

CC: HONORABLE JIMMY CARTER

JACK HARRIS PRESIDENT CHANNEL 2 TV CO KPRC TV HOUSTON TX

NNNN





August 23, 1976

RN
Mr. James Karayn
Project Director
'76 Presidential Debates
Suite 922
1156 - 15th St., N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Karayn:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, the coming historical national debates between the Presidential candidates will be a great opportunity to see first hand the abilities and the views that may occupy the White House.

In the past, debates have been handled by network correspondents, but I have always thought that the debates would be more meaningful if reporters from different parts of the country were involved rather than the usual emphasis on a handful of select network correspondents. It would certainly provide a more accurate picture of American journalism.

I am the anchor man of WPVI-TV, Channel 6, the top rated news station in the Delaware Valley, and I have had considerable experience in handling debates of this order and would like to offer my services as either a moderator or interviewer. In 1971, with the Philadelphia League of Women Voters, I helped organize and moderate debates between the two mayoral candidates which were very successful. The Philadelphia League can give you any background information necessary on my credentials.

If for any reason you have trouble reaching me at the office, please talk to Miss Ann Hall, who will be able to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Kane".

Larry Kane

LK/h

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/9/76

NOTE FOR: *Milo Duval*

FROM: RON NESSEN

F.T.I.

*From your big
friend and
supporter in
Iowa.*

RHN

THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT FORD

BASIC STRATEGY PAPER NO. 11 - SEPTEMBER, 1976

David W. Belin

The Ford-Carter Debates: Key Strategy Considerations

The debates between President Ford and Jimmy Carter will be the single most important events of the 1976 campaign.

What is the best basic strategy to follow?

Six elements will be discussed: (1) Basic advantages of the President; (2) basic disadvantages of the President; (3) physical preparation; (4) capitalizing on Democratic control of Congress; (5) capitalizing on other Jimmy Carter weaknesses; (6) capitalizing on psychological factors.

1. Basic Advantages of the President.

The advantage of incumbency, coupled with the record of the President, is the single most important advantage that President Ford has.

RN
9/10/76

Q What is the President's interpretation?

MR. NESSEN: The President's interpretation -- I think that is a good question -- is that this does not conflict with his views held for a very long time that the solution of this problem and the way to restore the protection is to pass a Constitutional amendment giving the States the right to regulate abortion.

His interpretation of this is that is in line with his long-held view. I would agree with you, there are --

Q But the classic interpretation in Kansas City was that this basically was the Buckley amendment to ban abortion and that was the interpretation.

MR. NESSEN: Helen, when you say "classic interpretation" or "common wisdom" or "generally accepted," I don't agree with that. I think there are various ways to interpret what this means. I have told you what the President interprets it as meaning.

Others may have interpreted it that way, but it was written in a broad way to represent a consensus of the party.

Q In fact, a White House spokesman told us that the language was supplied by the Catholic Bishops and picked up.

MR. NESSEN: The platform plank -- for those of you who were in Kansas City -- I think you know all the various people worked on it and crafted it in a broad way. There is no denying that. It is broadly worded.

Q It is ambiguously worded according to that same spokesman. Why are we going through this charade? We both know the White House aide that came up and talked to us yesterday and he said it was purposely worded in an ambiguous way to emphasize as much support as possible.

MR. NESSEN: The only quarrel I would have with the White House person who came and talked to you yesterday is that, rather than saying "ambiguous," which perhaps has a maybe some pejorative sense to it, is that it was written in a broad way so that it would take in the views of a broad range of Republicans and others on this issue.

Q Then if that is the case, if it is broad -- and I will not yield on the "ambiguous" because that was his word -- if it is broad and if it is ambiguous and the President embraces it, isn't the President's position on abortion ergo ambiguous?

MORE

#577



*Row -
Not true -
obviously. I
said, as you
worded, it was
+ carefully to
encompass several
views. White*

*P.S. your
handling of the
abortion issue
here is a "109"
"Beautiful, just
beautiful!"*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/13/74

NOTE FOR: Mike Deval

FROM : RON NESSEN

For information
and response.

R.H.A.



BARKSDALE, WHALLEY, GILBERT AND FRANK

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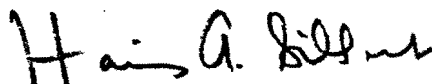
October 6, 1976

Mr. Ronald Nessen
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nessen:

I am an avid supporter of President Ford. I would like to tender a suggestion for his final debate. It would be a magnanimous gesture for the President to come over and shake the hand of Governor Carter at the end of the final debate. The American people appreciate someone who is gracious and who has a sense of fair play. The hearts of the people go to the man who is a sportsman and who congratulates his opponent. Nothing could be worse than the stiff atmosphere seen in the first debate.

Sincerely yours,



Harris A. Gilbert

HAG:ab

cc: Dr. Gus Weiss



October 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MIKE DUVAL

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here are a couple of questions that have come up in my briefings that may come up in the President's debate Friday.

Attachments

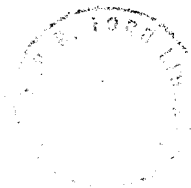


Q. Mr. President, do you take credit for ending the Viet Nam war, as one of your T. V. commercials implies?

A. Of course, the hostilities of Viet Nam , and the American military involvement there, ended during my Administration; that's a historic fact. What I would like to take credit for is:

1. Assuring both our allies and adversaries that the end of the war in Viet Nam meant no lessening of American commitment to stand by its friends and resist communist aggression wherever it might occur.

2. Healing the deep divisions which had occurred in America because of the Viet Nam war. There has been no outburst of public recriminations; there have been no demonstrations; I have offered a plan of gaining re-entry into society for those young men who avoided the draft or deserted their military units. I am proud that I have presided over the orderly end to this divisive chapter in American history.



Q. Mr. President, do you agree with Senator Dole's statement in the debate with Senator Mondale that World War II was a "democratic war"?

A. It is an historic fact that World War I and II, the Korean War and the Viet Nam War all began under democratic administrations. But I believe what Senator Dole was driving at was the democrats always claim that the economy prospers when they are in control of the White House. Senator Dole was merely pointing out that the economy always has been stimulated by the wars which have occurred during democratic administrations.

