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THE WHITE HOUSE

Miss Mary Mc Army



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

10/2/74

Dear Mary:

On the way out to the hospital last night I read the very kind and most thoughtful column on Betty - you said everything so beautifully and I am extremely grateful. Betty gives me in appreciation.

In our hours of very personal distress, generous and sympathetic words are a tremendous help. Betty is doing magnificently in every way and you have contributed importantly with your thoughtfulness.

Our whole family thanks you.

With personal appreciation.

Guy Ford  
G. F.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1974

Mr. President:

Bill Simon called and suggested that you might be asked a question about your statement yesterday that you support the Tax Reform Bill in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Simon pointed out that you don't support everything in the Bill and suggested you might say:

"In this imperfect world we can't expect to get everything we want and nothing we don't want."

For instance, we have favored continuing the oil depletion allowance, whereas, the House Ways and Means Committee Bill would eliminate it. Also we have proposed stronger legislation dealing with excess profits of oil companies.

But there are so many things in the Bill that we do support that, as I said yesterday, we hope the Committee will pass the Bill.



Ron Nessen

file

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: RON NESSEN  
SUBJECT: News Summary

The current News Summary format and style were established by my predecessor based on a need to provide you a summary of news and editorial comment supplemental to the morning newspapers you read on a regular basis.

As I understand it, the basic assumptions used in developing the present News Summary were 1) you have an opportunity to read the major morning newspapers, 2) you do not have an opportunity to see and hear the evening and morning television news programs, 3) you wanted to read what the newspapers around the nation were saying in their editorials about you and the Administration, and 4) you did not like the style of short, incomplete sentences and heavy use of abbreviations and acronyms used by Mort Allin in preparing the Summary for former President Nixon.

As a point of information, our present News Summary is prepared by Phil Warden, who, as you know, was a Hill reporter with the Chicago Tribune bureau, and a staff of four writers.

I would like at this time to determine whether the present style, content and format of the News Summary is providing you what you desire and need. I have, therefore, prepared a series of questions and options for you so I can make that determination.

GENERAL

1. What is the desired length of the News Summary?

5 to 10 pages \_\_\_\_\_ 15 to 20 pages \_\_\_\_\_  
10 to 15 pages \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. How much of the current Summary are you now able to read?

All of it \_\_\_\_\_ Most of it \_\_\_\_\_ Less than half of it \_\_\_\_\_

CONTENT

1. Evening Network Television News Programs

a. The Summary presently reports what each network says on every major story. This, of course, results in some duplication. Do you wish this continued?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

b. When a story is covered by more than one network, do you want to know how each network played the story?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

c. Do you desire a tight summary of the major news stories or the current style which includes direct quotations of what the correspondents and anchormen say?

Tight summary \_\_\_\_\_ Current style \_\_\_\_\_

d. The current Summary provides a complete transcript of the commentaries on the evening network news programs. Do you want these continued?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Only when it is judged they

would be of interest to me \_\_\_\_\_

2. Morning Television News Programs

a. Do you want a summary of the morning TV news programs (CBS Morning News, Today Show, and the ABC morning show which starts in January)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Editorials/Commentaries/Cartoons

a. Do you continue to desire inclusion of editorial cartoons?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, but be more selective \_\_\_\_\_

b. Is the current summary of editorial comment from newspapers useful to you?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer a tighter selection \_\_\_\_\_

c. We are currently reviewing some 75 newspapers from across the nation. Do you continue to want a sampling of editorial comment from these papers?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

d. If yes, how do you desire the sampling?

Be more selective \_\_\_\_\_

Keep it the same \_\_\_\_\_

Expand it \_\_\_\_\_

e. What should the content of the sampling include?

Include only editorial comment on the Presidency \_\_\_\_\_

Include editorial comment on the Administration in general \_\_\_\_\_

Include a sampling of editorial comment regardless of subject \_\_\_\_\_

f. Do you want to continue the sampling by geographic region of the country (i. e., western papers)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

g. Do you want to include editorials and comments from the weekly news magazines?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

h. Do you want editorials/commentaries pertaining to the Presidency summarized from other magazines?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Wire Reports

a. The cut-off time for wire reports included in the Summary is approximately 9:30 p.m. the previous evening in order to make the copy deadline so you can get the Summary in the morning. Do you desire coverage of the overnight wire stories not reported in the morning newspapers (this would require an additional staff member)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. News Magazines

a. Do you want a summary of news about:

1) The Presidency \_\_\_\_\_

2) The Administration \_\_\_\_\_

3) The Congress \_\_\_\_\_

4) Foreign Affairs \_\_\_\_\_

5) Domestic Affairs \_\_\_\_\_

6) The '76 Election \_\_\_\_\_



6. Would you prefer a morning News Summary which would summarize the evening TV news programs, the overnight wires and the major morning newspapers (New York Times, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, New York Daily News, Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, Wall Street Journal)? NOTE: This would have to be a tight summary with clippings of the stories attached in order for you to get it by 7:30 a. m.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

FORMAT

1. Do you wish to continue the present format (Wires/Nets and Editorials/Comments on Recent News)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Would it be more beneficial to group the stories by subject area whenever possible with a tight summary of the story followed by which newspapers and which TV news programs reported the story?

NOTE: Any significant difference in the way a story was handled by different reporters would be noted.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

STYLE

1. Do you wish to continue the present style?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Would you prefer a more abbreviated style with greater use of familiar acronyms, etc. ?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you want duplication of stories eliminated whenever possible?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS SUMMARY WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF TOWN

1. Was the Summary you received during your trip to the Far East adequate to your needs?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. If no -- was it too short \_\_\_\_\_ or too long \_\_\_\_\_?

-- were the summaries of the morning newspapers adequate \_\_\_\_\_ or inadequate \_\_\_\_\_?

-- were the summaries of the evening TV news programs adequate \_\_\_\_\_ or inadequate \_\_\_\_\_?

-- was the sampling of editorial comment adequate \_\_\_\_\_ or inadequate \_\_\_\_\_?



11  
[Dec. 1974]

Matters to take up with President:

1. Did GRF know in advance of the resignations of the three CIA officials?
2. Did he request the resignations?
3. Did the President call Wilbur Mills in the hospital?  
(Jerry ter Horst called to ask re a column he's doing on Mills. [redacted] )
4. Is President going to tape congratulatory message to [redacted] Joe McCaffrey of WMAL?
5. Any comment on the prediction by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress that [redacted] budget deficits in 1975 will reach \$23 billion and \$36 billion in 1976?
6. Any comment on the L. A. Times story which says that the Colby report to the President substantiates allegations that the agency engaged in illegal domestic spying on American [redacted] citizens.

DR

Meeting of Eco Adviser  
Sat 29th.

Dushen. for NY Times etc?

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 28, 1974

Mr. President:

You might want to remind your economic advisers not to discuss publicly the proposals which have been reviewed at this meeting.

You might want to remind them that your State of the Union speech will have maximum impact if the public has not been confused and misled during the interim.

You might want to say that if all your proposals have been discussed publicly before the speech, then the speech will appear to contain nothing new and you will lose the impact of a new program for dealing with economic problems.

Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

Alva Chapman, President of the newly merged Knight-Ridder newspaper chain is currently staying at the Lodge while on a vacation in Vail. I suggest you call him and say that you had learned he was in Vail and want to wish him a Happy New Year, congratulations and good luck on his new newspaper venture.

Jerry Warren suggests that this phone call would help establish an important contact with the President of an influential chain of newspapers.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: Jerry Warren

Subject: Alvah Chapman

Alvah Chapman, President of the newly-merged Knight-Ridder newspaper chain, is vacationing in Vail during the holidays. He is staying at the Lodge at Vail.

I strongly recommend that the President acknowledge his presence, either in person or by phone. Failing that, at the very least you should talk with him.

The contact would provide you and the President an important contact.