

The original documents are located in Box 24, folder “Watergate Special Prosecution Force” of the Michael Raoul-Duval Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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October 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MIKE DUVAL
FROM: JACK MARSH

The attached will be announced today by the Special
Prosecutor at 10:00 a.m.

At the time of the announcement, would you contact
immediately your Deputies and advise them of this
action.



WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE
United States Department of Justice
315 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

October 13, 1976

Philip W. Buchen, Esq.
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

As you requested, this is to advise you concerning the status of the investigation by this Office into an allegation that certain contributions made to political committees in Michigan were improperly diverted to the personal use of President Ford.

The investigation of that allegation is now complete, and the evidence developed has disclosed no violation of law on the part of President Ford. The matter has therefore been closed.

Sincerely,

Charles F. C. Ruff

CHARLES F. C. RUFF
Special Prosecutor



WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE
United States Department of Justice
315 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

OCTOBER 14, 1976

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ATTACHED IS A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE WATERGATE
SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.,
TODAY.*



*When informed of the intent of this Office to issue a statement which would discuss the nature of the investigation and the underlying allegation, Counsel to the President indicated that there was no objection to such a disclosure.



By memorandum dated July 13, 1976, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation brought to the attention of the Attorney General information concerning alleged misuse of political contributions by President Gerald Ford during the period from 1964 to early 1974. The Attorney General requested that the Watergate Special Prosecution Force assume jurisdiction over this matter, and the Special Prosecutor agreed to do so, pursuant to the regulations governing his office which permit the assignment to him of matters which do not fall within his primary jurisdiction. ^{*}/ Formal assignment was accomplished by a memorandum from the Attorney General to the Special Prosecutor dated July 16, 1976.

The information furnished to the Attorney General by the FBI concerned a previously unreported allegation that political contributions from certain named unions had been transmitted to political committees in Kent County, Michigan with the understanding that they would be passed on to Mr. Ford for his personal use. This allegation was made to an agent of the FBI by an individual who had recently become aware of the underlying information. Investigation has revealed no apparent motive on the part of this individual to fabricate.

^{*}/ The relevant portion of the Attorney General's Order 551-73; dated November 2, 1973, setting out the jurisdiction of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force, is as follows:

The Special Prosecutor shall have full authority for investigating and prosecuting offenses against the United States arising out of the unauthorized entry into Democratic National Committee Headquarters at the Watergate, all offenses arising out of the 1972 Presidential Election for which the Special Prosecutor deems it necessary and appropriate to assume responsibility, allegations involving the President, members of the White House staff, or Presidential appointees, and any other matters which he consents to have assigned to him by the Attorney General.

Upon receipt of the referral from the Attorney General, the Special Prosecution Force, with the assistance of agents of the FBI, examined various public documents reflecting contributions made by the unions as well as those received by Mr. Ford or committees acting on his behalf. FBI agents then undertook an examination of the books and records both of the unions' political arms and of the Michigan committees. Persons who might have relevant information were interviewed either by the FBI or by attorneys on the staff of the Special Prosecution Force, or both. In addition, on September 30 the Special Prosecutor contacted counsel for President Ford and requested that he furnish certain information relating to the President's personal finances. Counsel for the President complied with this request and, also at the Special Prosecutor's request, authorized the Internal Revenue Service to make available the work product of its 1973 audit of President Ford's income tax returns for the years 1967-1972.

The evidence developed during this investigation was not corroborative of the allegation on which it was predicated. Nor did evidence disclosed during the inquiry into that allegation give reason to believe that any other violations of law had occurred. Accordingly, the matter has now been closed, and counsel for the President has been so advised.

PERSONAL -- Please Open Immediately

MIKE DUVAL

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WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE

United States Department of Justice

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