

The original documents are located in Box 30, folder “League of Women Voters - 1976 Debates” of the Michael Raoul-Duval Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Michael Raoul-Duval donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

'76 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

1156 15th Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20005
(202) 296-4726

Jim Karayn, *Project Director*

Chairmen:
Rita E. Hauser
Newton N. Minow
Charls E. Walker

MEETING ON THE '76 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

September 1, 1976

Representing the '76 Presidential Debate Project
of the League of Women Voters Education Fund:

Rita Hauser, Co-Chairman
Newton Minow, Co-Chairman
Charls Walker, Co-Chairman

Jim Karayn, Project Director

Representing the League of Women Voters Education Fund

Ruth C. Clusen, Chairman
Peggy Lamp1, Executive Director

Representing Governor Carter:

Jody Powell, Press Secretary
Barry Jagoda, Television Advisor
Gerald Rafshoon, Media and Advertising Advisor
Richard Moe

Representing President Ford:

William Ruckelshaus
Dean Burch, Chairman, PFC Advisory Committee
Mike Duval, Special Counsel to the President



*Paging
(312)
686-3900*

*296-
1770*

*No. Central
TWA
Chic. 10:20
Lv. 11:25*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1976


Dear Newton:

I believe that the Nation owes you and your colleagues an immense debt of gratitude for your leadership efforts in connection with the Presidential debates.

I hope that President Ford's example in debating as an incumbent President will become a precedent for future elections. There is no doubt in my mind that the debates this year contributed significantly to the ability of the people to vote intelligently for the man who will be President for the next four years.

I enjoyed very much working with you and hope an opportunity will come up in the future for another worthwhile project that we both can participate in.

Sincerely,



Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel
to the President

Mr. Newton Minow
Co-Chairperson
'76 Presidential Debates
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1976

Dear Charlie:

I feel we owe you a debt of gratitude for your efforts concerning the Presidential debates, both in terms of the President's interests and, more importantly, the national interest.

Your leadership was indispensable in bringing this off in a manner which serves both interests. Your efforts were invaluable and deeply appreciated by all of us here at the White House.

I believe that the debates well served the interest of the American voters as they try to make up their minds prior to November 2. I hope that the President's initiative in agreeing to debate his opponent will serve as a precedent in future elections.

On a personal basis I very much enjoyed working with you and hope that an opportunity will arise in the near future for us to join forces on another worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel
to the President

Mr. Charls E. Walker
Charls Walker Associates
Suite 200
1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1976



Dear Peggy:

I want to express my personal appreciation for the enormous contribution you made to the 1976 Presidential debates. I am hopeful that the debates will become a part of every Presidential election now that President Ford has set the precedent of an incumbent President debating.

I enjoyed working with you and look forward to our next project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike".

Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel
to the President

Miss Peggy Lampl
Executive Director
League of Women Voters
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1976

Dear Mrs. Hauser:

I wanted to express my personal appreciation for your contribution in the 1976 Presidential debate project. I think the entire effort well served the national interest and I hope that future elections will follow this precedent.

I appreciated the opportunity of working with you and congratulations on a job well done.

Sincerely,



Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel
to the President

Mrs. Rita Hauser
Stroock, Stroock and Lavan
61 Broadway
New York, New York



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1976

Dear Jim:


I want to express particular appreciation to you and your colleagues for your successful efforts in connection with the Presidential debates.

Beyond any question of doubt, the debates were of enormous benefit to the people in assessing the relative merits of the two Presidential candidates. It is significant that this is the first time in our Nation's history that an incumbent President has agreed to debate and I believe you should feel justifiably proud in the role you played in such an historic event.

I hope that the debates become an American tradition as I believe that they contribute significantly to an informed electorate.

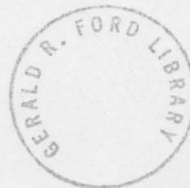
On a personal basis I enjoyed very much working with you and I hope that our paths will cross again in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel
to the President

Mr. Jim Karayn
Project Director
'76 Presidential Debates
1156 15th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1976

Dear Ruth:

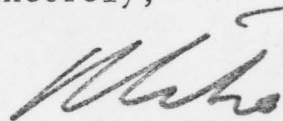
I enjoyed very much working with you in connection with the 1976 Presidential debates. I believe the debates contributed immeasurably to the process of choosing our President and you and your organization should be immensely proud of your efforts.

I hope that the debates become a part of every Presidential campaign now that President Ford has taken the step of being the first incumbent President to participate in such debates.

I enjoyed working with you and your colleagues and was deeply impressed by your professionalism and commitment to the national interest.

I hope that some other worthwhile project finds us working together again.

Sincerely,



Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel
to the President

Mrs. Ruth Clusen
President
League of Women Voters
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036



'76 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

1156 15th Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20005
(202) 296-4726

Jim Karayn, *Project Director*

October 29, 1976

file
Chairmen:
Rita E. Hauser
Newton N. Minow
Charls E. Walker

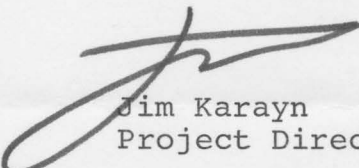
Dear Mike:

I wish to thank you for the vital role you played in making the Presidential Debates a success. And a success, I think, they are from every standpoint, especially that of the electorate.

Without any embellishments whatsoever, I can say unequivocally that you performed your duties with skill, style and great fairness. You always understood and appreciated the historic role of these debates and never let our discussion get into petty, partisan confrontations.

I personally thank you, and I thank you on behalf of the project. Who knows--maybe we can do it again sometime.

With warmest regards,


Jim Karayn
Project Director

JK/ca

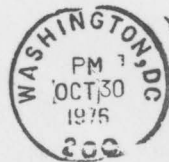
Mr. Michael Raoul-Duval
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.



'76 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

1156 15th Street, N.W.

Washington D.C. 20005



Mr. Michael Raoul-Duval
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

League of Women Voters Education Fund



1730 M St, NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 659-2685

file

October 29, 1976

Mr. Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel
to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.



Dear Mike:

Many thanks for your letter of October 26th.

It arrived on my desk, just as I was belatedly about to get off some notes of my own. I do want you to know that I appreciate the key role you played in the events of the last two months and particularly your contributions to the final product and the relative smoothness of the negotiating process.

Again my thanks and those of the League.

Sincerely,

Peggy Lamp
Peggy Lamp
Executive Director

PL: mr

CHAIRMAN
RUTH C. CLUSEN

OFFICERS
Vice Presidents

Ruth J. Hinerfeld
Larchmont, New York

Nan F. Waterman
Muscatine, Iowa

Secretary

Kay Fields
Mansfield, Ohio

Treasurer

Yvonne G. Spies
Bridgeton, Missouri

TRUSTEES

Jean R. Anderson
Billings, Montana

Connie Fortune
Washington, D. C.

M. Joanne Hayes
Poughkeepsie, New York

Judith M. Head
Columbus, Indiana

Judith B. Heimann
Bethesda, Maryland

Betty N. MacDonald
Madison, Wisconsin

A. Holly O'Konski
Lafayette, California

Dot Ridings
Louisville, Kentucky

Ruth Robbins
Mamaroneck, New York

Ann W. Viner
New Canaan, Connecticut

Veta Winick
Dickinson, Texas

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peggy Lamp

Contributions to the Fund are deductible for income tax purposes



League of Women Voters Education Fund
1730 M STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036



Mr. Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

06

SIDLEY & AUSTIN

file

ONE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603

TELEPHONE 312: 329-5400

CABLE: NORWIL-TELEX 25-4364

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1730 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE 202: 872-1730
TELEX 89-463

Founded in 1866 as
Williams & Thompson

November 17, 1976

Mr. Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel to the
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



Dear Mike:

Having just returned to the office after two weeks away, the most welcome letter on my desk was yours of October 26. It was a great honor to be a part of the Presidential Debates. I believe that President Ford changed American politics forever by his decision to participate. I hope the debates will be a part of all future presidential elections, and I believe that that is in the public interest.

You and your colleagues did a splendid job for the President. I believe that the President gained politically by participating in the debates. I hope you will be involved in the postmortem analysis of the debates, and I will look forward to seeing you and talking with you further.

Meanwhile, much good luck and all success in all you do.

All best,

Newton N. Minow

Mike -

hope to see

you at the

conferences on

Future Debates -

NNM/kjk

SIDLEY & AUSTIN
ONE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60670



Mr. Michael Raoul-Duval
Special Counsel to the
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



CB

AB

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

'76 PRESIDENTIAL
DEBATES

FORD REPRESENTATIVES

'76 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

1156 15th Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20005
(202) 296-4726

Jim Karayn, *Project Director*

Chairmen:
Rita E. Hauser
Newton N. Minow
Charls E. Walker

[Copy of telegram sent to the Democratic
and Republican Nominees, 8:00 a.m.,
Thursday, August 19, 1976]

THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

[Copy to: The President
Crown Center Hotel
Kansas City, Missouri]

THE HON. JIMMY CARTER
PLAINS, GEORGIA



IN THE SPIRIT OF FREE AND OPEN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS--DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES
VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY--THE '76 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES, A PROJECT OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND, IS HONORED TO INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE
IN THREE APPEARANCES WITH [GOV. CARTER] [THE PRESIDENT].

WE ARE SUGGESTING THE FIRST APPEARANCE TAKE PLACE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, AT THE
CHASE PARK PLAZA IN ST. LOUIS.

THE REMAINING TWO APPEARANCES ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNED DURING THE WEEKS OF
OCTOBER 11 AND OCTOBER 25 IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE NATION. WE ARE ALSO
SUGGESTING AN ADDITIONAL, OR FOURTH, DEBATE BE SCHEDULED THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18
BETWEEN THE TWO VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

EACH OF THE FOUR EVENTS IS PLANNED FOR ONE HOUR IN THE EVENING. WE WILL INVITE
RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORKS TO CARRY THESE EVENTS. SEVERAL OF THE NETWORKS
HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST.

TIME IS SHORT. TO FACILITATE PLANNING, WE URGE YOU TO DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE
TO MEET WITH US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO CONSULT ON THE PROJECT IN MORE DETAIL.

THE '76 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES, MORE THAN ANY OTHER EVENT DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL
YEAR, COULD REAFFIRM OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND REVITALIZE VOTER INTEREST.
THE LEAGUE--WHICH FOR 56 YEARS HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN VOTER EDUCATION--CONSIDERS
YOUR PARTICIPATION TO BE IN THE HIGHEST NATIONAL INTEREST AS WE FACE AN EVER
MORE COMPLEX FUTURE.

RUTH C. CLUSEN
CHAIRMAN, EDUCATION FUND

RITA E. HAUSER
NEWTON N. MINOW
CHARLS E. WALKER
CO-CHAIRMEN, STEERING COMMITTEE

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S

GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Saturday, August 21, 1976

Plan to air issues on national TV

From Tribune Wire Services

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Plans for the first face-to-face debate between two presidential candidates since 1960 were being considered Friday by the camps of President Ford and Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter.

Declaring he is "ready, eager to go before the American people and debate the real issues face to face with Jimmy

Section 315 of the Communications Act requires radio and television to give equal time to all fringe candidates whenever they give exposures to a major party's candidate, except in legitimate news reports. A debate staged by a group other than the networks would be a news event, which they could cover without running afoul of the equal-time



The New York Times

CITY EDITION

Weather: Sunny, hot today; clear tonight. Sunny and hot tomorrow. Temperature range: today 69-91; Friday 62-87. Details on page 34.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1976 —

DOLE AND MONDALE WILLING TO MEET IN DEBATES ON TV

G.O.P. Nominee Takes Cue
From President's Offer
and Democrat Agrees

PLAN BY WOMEN VOTERS

Encounters Would Be First
Such Ones by Candidates
for Vice President

By JOSEPH LELYVELD

Special to The New York Times

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 20

—With the two Presidential candidates already committed to debate, Senators Robert F.



League of Women Voters May Stage The Televised Ford-Carter Debates

By William Claiborne
Washington Post Staff Writer

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 20—President Ford and Jimmy Carter are now pledged to hold the first televised presidential campaign debates since 1960, but the format and rules for their encounters are still uncertain.

There is also the unanswered question of whether third-party and inde-

current plans call for debates on domestic and foreign policy and on the office of the presidency.

Some steering committee members are known to favor a format in which a panel of reporters—and possibly representatives of the academic community—would ask questions. After each candidate answered, a short period of argument would follow.

Texts of Mr. Ford's acceptance speech distributed to reporters here yesterday did not contain his debate challenge.

White House staff chief Richard Cheney told reporters that Mr. Ford passed the word two or three weeks ago that he wanted to challenge Carter, but chose to keep his intentions secret. On Thursday night, Cheney re-

THE WASHINGTON POST

Friday, August 20, 1976

Ford Picks Dole for No. 2, Challenges Carter to Debate

Says He Has Earned Right To Continue

By Edward Walsh

Washington Post Staff Writer

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 19—President Ford, at last the elected leader of his party, accepted the Republican presidential nominee



THE WASHINGTON POST

Tuesday, August 24, 1976

B 7

Campaign Debates: Big League Issue

By Sander Vanocur

Sen. John O. Pastore, the most powerful force on broadcasting in the Congress, yesterday came to the aid of the League of Women Voters in their battle to keep the networks from taking over the control and production of presidential debates which the League has proposed.

Pastore, who is chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Communica-

McCarthy, who is running this year as an Independent Party candidate, said yesterday that he wasn't happy with either the League's proposal or the network efforts to suspend or curtail Section 315.

The former senator, who is considering taking some kind of legal action to prevent himself from being squeezed out of any proposed debates, said: "This all seems to be part of a conspiracy of the League and the net-



The Washington Post

STYLE

Facing
The Great
Debate

By Sander Vanocur

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1976



President Ford seems to be in a big hurry to debate Jimmy Carter. He said yesterday in Vail, Colo., that he wants four 90-minute debates, the first

really his fault. He was set against a gray background that made him look even grayer. He sweated a good deal and generally did not come across too

costs is undue emphasis on the kind of confrontation between the candidates and reporters that we sometimes get on the Sunday interview

Los Angeles Times

HARRISON GRAY OTIS, 1882-1917
HARRY CHANDLER, 1917-1944
NORMAN CHANDLER, 1944-1960



OTIS CHANDLER, Publisher

ROBERT D. NELSON
Executive Vice President and General Manager

WILLIAM F. THOMAS
Executive Vice President and Editor

CHARLES C. CHASE, Vice President—Production
ROBERT L. FLANNES, Vice President and Assistant to the Publisher
ROBERT C. LOBDELL, Vice President and General Counsel
VANCE L. STICKELL, Vice President—Sales

JAMES BASSETT, Associate Editor
ANTHONY DAY, Editor of the Editorial Pages
ROBERT J. DONOVAN, Associate Editor
FRANK P. HAVEN, Managing Editor
JEAN SHARLEY TAYLOR, Associate Editor



4

—Part II.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 11, 1976

Well?

Ronald Reagan is on record as favoring a series of television debates between the presidential contenders this fall, but Jimmy Carter and President Ford have been unwilling to commit themselves

Carter and his rival will spend huge sums of money on advertising this year. The Democrat has set his budget at more than \$8 million, most of it for TV, and the Republican will spend as much or

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION , August 15, 1976

HAL GULLIVER

Kennedy-Nixon Debates Again?

SHOULD Jimmy Carter agree to debate Gerald Ford in this fall's presidential campaign?

Should, on the other hand, an incumbent President ever agree to de-

face-to-face debates this election year."

Back to that in a moment. The reason though that the question first posed at the beginning of this column

ment? This year, Carter as challenger is so far in front that the decision may likely end up being his. After all, even an incumbent president (if he is far enough behind in the polls) may prove

Kennedy—Richard Nixon debates, the debates that many thought may have tipped the scale in favor of Kennedy. Those debates were classic in their way, maybe changed the course of

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

STANTON R. COOK, *Chairman and Publisher*
ROBERT M. HUNT, *President*

CLAYTON KIRKPATRICK, *Editor*
MAXWELL MCCROHON, *Managing Editor*

JOHN MCCUTCHEON, *Editorial Page Editor*
WILLIAM H. JONES, *Managing Editor, News*

8 Section 1 o

Saturday, August 21, 1976

THE NEWSPAPER is an institution developed by modern civilization to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and lead public opinion, and to furnish that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide.

—THE TRIBUNE CREDO

Let's have the debates!

After Thursday's rousing windup of the Republican national convention, the coming presidential campaign suddenly looks more exciting than it did. One important reason was President Ford's

know exactly what is at stake and giving them a solid basis for choice.

Mr. Ford's proposal to debate, we think, gives him particular credit. He is not widely perceived as an adroit verbal

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1976

The New York Times

Founded in 1851

ADOLPH S. OCHS, *Publisher 1896-1935*

ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, *Publisher 1935-1961*

ORVIL E. DRYFOOS, *Publisher 1961-1963*

ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER
Publisher

JOHN B. OAKES, *Editorial Page Editor*
FRED HECHINGER, *Assistant Editorial Page Editor*

A. M. ROSENTHAL, *Managing Editor*
SEYMOUR TOPPING, *Deputy Managing Editor*
ARTHUR GELB, *Assistant Managing Editor*
PETER MILLONES, *Assistant Managing Editor*
JACK ROSENTHAL, *Associate Editor*

CHARLOTTE CURTIS, *Associate Editor*
CLIFTON DANIEL, *Associate Editor*
MAX FRANKEL, *Associate Editor*
TOM WICKER, *Associate Editor*

Behind the Debates

President Ford has dramatically announced his readiness to debate his opponent on television, and Jimmy Carter has accepted the challenge. Thus, no obstacle stands in the way of the first series of TV debates in history between an incumbent President and a challenger

After the Ball

By William Safire

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—After the test vote had doomed the Reagan candidacy, an aide peered out the window of the trailer at the crowd of waiting newsmen and wondered ruefully what to tell them.

Ed Meese a top Reagan adviser, did not lose his equanimity in adversity. "We go out there and tell them," he said mock-bravely, "that the Ford forces have just fallen into our trap."

Of course, President Ford clinched

The voters will understand soon enough that Mr. Carter, the cool and ruthless loner, is far closer in character to Mr. Nixon than Mr. Ford ever has been.

5. He should remember that many people vote their fears. Fear of the unknown is a basic human emotion, and Mr. Carter is the unknown. John Connally touched that nerve the other night in the most effective passage of oratory in the convention. The mystery of Mr. Carter's fuzziness is more attackable than the assumption that he's just another big spender.