

September 26, 1975

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD
DICK CHENEY

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

Two comments concerning Ronald Reagan have come to my attention over the last few days:

1. Lee Nunn spent last weekend and the beginning of this week in Kentucky; during his visit he apparently had the opportunity to talk to Louie about Reagan's intentions. Lee returned to Washington convinced that Reagan was not in fact going to run but was going to keep the option open perhaps even to the convention. Apparently Reagan feels that this is his most advantageous position if he is to force the President to the right and/or keep the option open in case the President stumbles. In short, Lee does not think Reagan, in the end, is going to run against the President.
2. Bill Gulley spent an hour and a half or so with Richard Nixon in San Clemente last weekend. RN made one observation to Bill that he asked be passed on. RN feels that Ronald Reagan is a lightweight and not someone to be considered seriously or feared in terms of a challenge for the nomination. He further feels that we are building Reagan into a more formidable opponent than would be the case otherwise by responding to him in terms of our trip schedule and how we talk about Reagan's entering the race. He therefore recommends that we take it easy and not build up Reagan in any way through our actions or words.

