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RBC HAS SEEN

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney

*Gov. Longley gave
me this the other day.*

✓



ORIGINAL RETIRED TO
SPECIAL DOCUMENTS FILE

July 9, 1976

Mr. Bill Caldwell
Maine Sunday Telegram
Guy Gannett Building
Portland, Maine

Dear Bill:

I want you to know how very much I enjoyed our visit and discussion aboard the State of Maine. I think what impressed me most about this experience was the fact that while governors and newsmen, and indeed people from all walks of life, sometimes disagree on politics or issues that most of us get the same lump in our throats and the same tingle up our spines when we see an outstanding display of patriotism such as this bicentennial celebration offered.

I've also pondered since our recent discussion over many of the things you said in our discussion. I have been particularly troubled by your comments relative to my obligation to make my preferences known in the presidential race. I think your point is well taken.

You asked for permission to use comments for a story you were putting together. In that regard, I would only say the following in regard to the upcoming presidential conventions and election:

1. I have stated on several occasions and feel even stronger today that regardless of the outcome of the conventions, independent voters are going to decide who will be the next president. Although I am the only major independent officeholder in the nation, I do not pretend to represent their thinking. However, I think "the party" is going to be over after the final gavel of the conventions.
2. I do think the conventions are going to be important from one standpoint. I believe strongly that if the two major parties fail to put forth viable candidates who will give the voters in November a choice, that this failure will add great weight and credibility to a third party movement. I don't think the voters of America will continue to allow the major parties to keep doling out "McGovern-Nixon" type choices, which represented no choice at all to many Americans.
3. It would be premature for me to say whether I would support the Democratic or Republican presidential contenders at this time because it is uncertain what the complete tickets will be. I think all Americans are becoming keenly aware of the importance of the second spot on the ticket and I think it would be foolish to attempt to evaluate tickets until we know who the candidates for Vice-President will be.



4. However, since there is a growing school of thought that this nation needs a viable third party, I think it is obvious that at the very least we need two strong parties. In any event, I would hate to see a third party emerge solely on the basis of a default on the part of one of the two existing parties. To be quite candid, I think default is a very real possibility in the case of the national Republican Party. Since I would hate to see that party commit suicide and since I want very badly for the voters to have a choice come November, I would have to state I feel Republicans will make a grave mistake if they do not nominate President Ford at their convention. This is not intended as a negative reflection on Mr. Reagan, whom I do not know. I do not question his motives, integrity or intent. However, I do feel that Republicans will look bad in the eyes of the nation if they reject an incumbent like President Ford who has labored long and hard to restore faith and integrity in the Republican Party and in the presidency itself. Candidly, I also feel that President Ford is the only person presently within the Republican Party who has a chance of giving the voters a viable choice and a chance of defeating Mr. Carter.

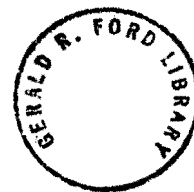
5. I could not honestly say at this time whether I would vote for Mr. Ford or Mr. Carter, if that is the choice. As I stated previously, the selection of a running mate in both instances would bear heavily on my decision. The selection of Senator Muskie by Mr. Carter most certainly would cause me to look with more favor on that ticket, although it would not be the only consideration. As I said at my news conference earlier this week, I personally, and I think the nation as a whole, needs to know more about Mr. Carter before deciding whether or not to place him in the White House.

Bill, these five points represent my feelings and the only public position I would want to take at this point.

Very truly yours,

James B. Longley

JBL:bh



15
Steve McCauley



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

JAMES B. LONGLEY
GOVERNOR

October 7, 1976

Gerald Ford, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford:

First of all, I am still amazed and enough of a hero worshiper of America and the Presidency and of Gerald Ford to still feel amazed and flattered that the President of the United States would call me on the telephone. I say this as I think without being presumptuous, we have developed a mutually close, appreciative and respectful friendship as two human beings separate and apart from our official capacities as President and Governor of one of the fifty states respectively. Therefore, when your call reached me, and you asked me to please consider "coming out publicly" and/or endorsing you for President in the November elections, I was truly surprised and humbled. Perhaps I shouldn't have been because I know you are aware that people in the White House and most recently Steve McCauley of your staff and Bill Simon and others have said that they thought I could help with the independent vote...but I still have difficulty in accepting or believing that Jim Longley would have sufficient impact or effect on behalf of Gerald Ford or anyone else for that matter.

Therefore, as I told you on the telephone:

(1) While I do not believe my endorsement would be helpful, based on your request that I "consider it further" ... I promise to "think about it."

(2) We did discuss my questioning and challenging of Mr. Carter, which was totally unsolicited by you or anyone for that matter, and my challenge within the week to Mr. Carter as to how he was qualified to apply for the position of Commander in Chief and satisfy the liberals who would burn our flag and cop out on America by playing games with Websters Dictionary and with the words "amnesty" and "pardon" and issue a blanket forgiveness on their terms albeit I did support individual consideration and still do providing appropriate penalties are considered and/or imposed.

(3) I did tell you that if within a week or ten days you still felt my endorsement, expressed public support of you would be helpful, then I would consider doing whatever you asked of me, but at the point of your telephone call, I was not prepared to say what I would do even though I do know how I am going to vote.



I admire and respect you and Betty and your entire family more than I could ever adequately express. Therefore, let me say once again on behalf of the Longley Family.....our sincerest thanks to you and Betty and the children for all you have done as a family to bring faith and confidence and dignity back to the White House and the Presidency of the greatest country in the world.

My very best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Jim
James B. Longley

JBL:bh



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04880

Gerald Ford, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 18, 1976

MR. PRESIDENT

GOVERNOR LONGLEY RETURNED
YOUR CALL - 7:00 P.M.

10/19/76 Ambrosio to speak
~~out of Morris about mechanics~~
said Dick Cheney would
call in 2 days if it was important
he do so by Sat.

[Original in folder

"Presidential Telephone Calls, 9/76-11/76"
in box 18]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 18,
1976


MR. PRESIDENT:

GOVERNOR LONGLEY RETURNED
YOUR CALL - 7:00 P.M.

TERRY



October 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY
FROM:  JIM FIELD
SUBJECT: Presidential Telephone Recommendation

Attached is the follow up telephone call which Governor Longley requested the President make a week ago. I think we really should go after this endorsement for two reasons:

1. I think we can get it.
2. Longley will help us in other states if we can get him on board.




THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED PRESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Governor James B. Longley, Maine
207-289-1110 (o)

DATE: As soon as possible

RECOMMENDED BY:  Jim Field

THROUGH: Richard B. Cheney

BACKGROUND: You talked to Governor Longley on October 5 from San Francisco at the request of Stu Spencer and Bill Russo at the PFC. Your own comments indicate that the Governor was friendly and had been impressed with Mike's visit the day before. The Governor also asked if you might call him back in a week or so to discuss the endorsement question. In a news conference the day after your call, the Governor indicated that although he was not prepared to make a formal endorsement, yet--he was thinking about it.

The PFC and Maine Republican State Chairman, Jack Linnell, think the time is ripe to call Longley again. Because he is the only Governor in the nation elected as an Independent, his endorsement would carry some weight throughout New England and in other parts of the country if he is willing to actively campaign on your behalf.

TALKING POINTS: 1. You should tell Governor Longley how helpful it would be for the Republican Party to have the only Independent Governor on our team.

SPECIAL NOTE TO GRF:

If Governor Longley agrees to support you publicly:

1. I hope that you will be able to campaign on my behalf, and I would like to have Jim Baker contact you with regard to working out several



public appearances in the next couple of weeks.

*TAB A

Includes the telephone recommendation of a week ago--your comments after the call was completed, and a memorandum from Steve McConahey of the Domestic Council concerning the conversation Governor Longley had with the Maine press.



Relayed
to [unclear]
10/24/76
KB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/20/76 10:30 PM

Gov. James Longley,
Miami called.

Coming out for me
on Thursday.

[Original in folder
"Presidential Telephone Calls,
9/76 - 11/76" in box 18]