

**The original documents are located in Box 15, folder “President - Proposed Interviews by Groups of Columnists” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1975

*STP  
man*

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB HARTMANN

FROM: RON NESSEN *RAN*

Marquis Childs came in to visit me today to request an opportunity to interview the President on a highly specialized topic -- namely, the President's view of the 1976 political scene, and especially the President's views on Ronald Reagan and the conservative wing of the Republican party.

Childs has some very strong ideas of his own in this area. He believes Ronald Reagan will run in the primaries for the Republican nomination, and he believes this and the whole concept of conservative Republicans attempting to run their own candidate against the President is a sure way to destroy the Republican party in 1976, and to assure a Democratic victory. Childs thinks the Democrats are in great disarray with no outstanding candidate, and the President could be elected next year if the Republican party does not tear itself apart on ideological grounds.

I am in favor of granting Childs this interview, which he says he would spread out over 3 or 4 columns. I am leaving the decision to you, however, because I think its more of a political call on whether you think the President should be talking publicly about these kinds of political issues at this point.

After you and the President have decided whether you think it is wise to go forward with this interview now, if you let me know I will get back in touch with Childs to give him a yes or no.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR

FROM: RON NESSEN *RNN*

The President has expressed an interest in meeting various columnists as part of his continuing contacts with the press. Columnists generally have been ignored as we have concentrated on interviews with television, newspaper, and magazine reporters.

I propose a series of "conversations with the President" for groups of 5 or 6 columnists at a time. This could be done once a week or less frequently. The conversations would be about one hour each or slightly longer, between 6:30 and 7:30 in the evening. The location could be the library, the Red Room, the Solarium, or another informal room in the White House or West Wing. The President and the columnists could be served drinks during the conversation.

I propose the following schedule of such conversations with columnists. The dates shown are free according to the advance schedule.

Thursday, June 12, 1975

Marquis Childs	United Features
Joseph Kraft	Field Newspapers
Crosby Noyes	Washington Star
Roscoe Drummond	Los Angeles Times
Godfrey Sperling	Christian Science Monitor
Nicholas VonHoffman	Washington Post

Friday, June 20, 1975

Hugh Sidey	Time Magazine
Carl Rowan	Field Newspapers
Peter Lisagor	Chicago Daily News
George Will	Washington Post
James J. Kilpatrick	Washington Star
Martin Agronsky	Agronsky and Company

(This is Agronsky and Company's regular group.)

Wednesday, June 25; or Thursday, June 26, 1975

William Safire	New York Times
Nick Thimmesch	Los Angeles Times
Jerry terHorst	Detroit News
Ralph deToledano	Copley
John P. Roche	King Features
Mary McGrory	Washington Star-News

Wednesday, July 2, 1975

Clayton Fritchey	Los Angeles Times
Holmes Alexander	McNaught Syndicate
Martin Nolan	United Features
William Anderson	Chicago Tribune
Tom Wicker	New York Times

Monday, July 7; Tuesday, July 8; or Wednesday, July 9, 1975

Smith Hempstone Jr.	Washington Star
Robert S. Allen	Field Newspapers
Thomas Braden	Los Angeles Times
Pat Buchanan	New York Times
Ray Cromley	NEA
James Reston	New York Times

Week of July 14, 1975

David Broder	Washington Post
Kevin Phillips	King Features
Victor Riesel	Field Newspapers
Don Bacon	Newhouse
John Osborne	New Republic
Gary Wills	Washington Star

Week of July 21, 1975

George Embrey	Columbus Dispatch
Clark Mollenhoff	Des Moines Register and Tribune
Alan Emory	North American Newspaper Alliance
Frank vanderLinden	United Features
Lucian Warren	Buffalo Evening News
Joseph Alsop	Washington Post

Week of July 28, 1975

Charles Bartlett  
Ernest B. Ferguson  
Saul Kohler  
Marianne Means  
Don Larrabee  
Edgar Allen Poe

Field Newspapers  
Baltimore Sun  
Newhouse  
Knight  
Griffin-Larrabee News Service  
New Orleans Times-Picayune

Week of August 4, 1975

Anthony Lewis  
John Lofton  
Max Lerner  
Vera Glaser  
Jack Bell  
Vic Gold

New York Times  
United Features  
New York Post  
Knight  
Gannett News Service  
Field Newspapers

Some of the leading correspondents (Reston, Alsop, Osborne, Broder) are scheduled at later sessions because they already have been in to talk to the President privately.

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
Bob Hartmann ✓