

The original documents are located in Box 19, folder “Vice President - Governors' Suggestions” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Governors



National Governors' Conference

1150 SEVENTEENTH STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

CHARLES A. BYRLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 9, 1974

TELEPHONE:
AREA CODE 202 785-5600

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The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Governors of the States I want to assure you that our hopes and prayers as well as those of all Americans go out to you as you assume the awesome responsibilities of the Presidency. You may depend on our fullest cooperation and assistance in the trying days ahead as you begin the task of binding up the wounds of the Nation and restoring the promise of America.

It is to you that the people of this Nation will look to reunite the country and to fulfill the promise to "bring us together." You will be severely tested, but listening to your remarks following the oath of office I know you will succeed. I felt I was witnessing the beginning of a new era.

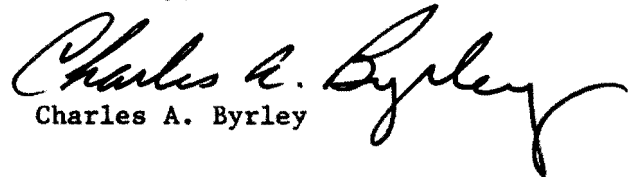
No doubt you have already begun the process of sorting out potential candidates for the Vice Presidency. Although it must be an early decision it obviously will be considered most carefully. Recent history has taught us that few decisions a President may make are as important as the selection of the Vice President. With that in mind I would urge you to look to the States for your Vice President. I believe the appointment of a Governor would add greatly to your administration, giving it a truly National focus and would accentuate your commitment to our federal system.

Beyond the symbolic value, a Vice President with gubernatorial experience would bring some useful insights to the development of your domestic program. During every waking hour Governors grapple with just the kind of domestic problems that will command so much of your attention: inflation, unemployment, housing, social services, transportation, environment and the myriad others. Not only must Governors formulate overall policies and legislative programs to address these problems but they must then implement and manage that legislation and those policies. That combination of legislative and executive experience tested in the political arena could provide invaluable counsel to you as your administration begins its initiatives and evolves its programs.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
Page Two
August 9, 1974

Whomever you choose you can count on our support and encouragement.
We look forward to a close working relationship with you and your administration. Our prayers go with you.

Sincerely,


Charles A. Byrley

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The White House
Washington

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PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

DEAR MR PRESIDENT. I WOULD RESPECTFULLY URGE YOUR CONSIDERATION
FOR THE NOMINEE AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES EITHER
SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER OF ARIZONA OR GOVERNOR RONALD REGAN
OF CALIFORNIA. EACH OF THESE OUTSTANDING REPUBLICAN STATESMEN
HAS A PROVEN RECORD OF HONESTY COURAGE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION
AND SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY. EITHER WOULD BE AN
EXCELLENT CHOICE AND WOULD HELP TO RESTORE THE PEOPLES CONFIDENCE
IN OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS. RESPECTFULLY,

MELDRIM THOMSON JR GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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The White House
Washington

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PMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

WITHOUT STATING AN ORDER OF PREFERENCE, I WISH TO SUGGEST THE
FOLLOWING NAMES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN CHOOSING A VICE PRESIDENT:

WILLIAM D RUCKELSHAUS, MELVIN LAIRD, GEORGE BUSH AND GOVERNOR
ROBERT D RAY

OTIS R BOWEN MD GOVERNOR OF INDIANA

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GERALD R. FORD

The White House
Washington

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PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST I RESPECTFULLY RECOMMEND THE APPOINTMENT
OF SENATOR HOWARD BAKER, SENATOR BILL BROCK OR FORMER GOVERNOR
NELSON ROCKEFELLER TO THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES. I BELIEVE THAT EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS WOULD
SERVE WITH DISTINCTION AND DEDICATION AND I ERNESTLY REQUEST
YOUR CONSIDERATION OF EACH OF THEM

WINFIELD DUNN GOVERNOR STATE OF TENNESSEE

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FRANCIS W. SARGENT
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

August 12, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to submit to you the
names of the following distinguished Americans
for your consideration as our nation's next
Vice President:

The Honorable Elliot L. Richardson

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller

The Honorable Edward W. Brooke

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Frank Sargent, written in dark ink. The signature is written over the word "Sincerely," and extends across the width of the letter. To the right of the signature is a circular library stamp that reads "GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY".

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

20500

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs McKee

The President

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

WHITE HOUSE MAIL
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MAR 18 1974

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The White House
Washington

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PMS THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE DC

REPLYING GEORGE BUSH'S TELEGRAM, MY CHOICES FOR

VICE PRESIDENT ARE U.S. SENATOR HARRY F BYRD, JR OF

VIRGINIA, GEORGE BUSH, AND U.S. SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER OF
ARIZONA

MILLS E GODWIN JR,

GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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8/13*

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

MALCOLM WILSON
GOVERNOR

August 13, 1974

My Dear Mr. President:

I deeply appreciate your invitation, transmitted by Chairman Bush, to suggest to you names of persons whom you might consider in selecting your nominee for Vice President of the United States.

To observe that your choice as nominee for Vice President is a crucially important decision would only labor the obvious. It is clearly in the national interest that the reestablishment of the faith of the people in their government begun by your accession to the Presidency, would be best assured by your choice as Vice President of a man of impeccable honesty, unquestioned integrity, deep compassion, proven ability and acknowledged qualities of mind and heart which command the respect of all citizens both in and out of government as well as throughout the world. He should be a man who will work with you and for you to help you achieve the goals you outlined so eloquently and feelingly in your address to the Congress, the nation and the world last night.

Such a man, uniquely is Nelson Rockefeller.

Since you are aware of his record of achievement in both international and domestic concerns in the Eisenhower, Truman and Roosevelt administrations, there is no need for me to mention these assets, except to suggest that



although he is and has always been a proud and unshakeable Republican, he has, in these undertakings, demonstrated the capacity to work cooperatively with men and women of other parties in the broad national interest. Your choice of him then would, in my opinion, be a further manifestation that your Administration will be one of and for all the people, including the huge majority of our fellow citizens who are not numbered in Republican ranks.

For fifteen years as Lieutenant Governor I worked on an intimate day-by-day basis with Governor Rockefeller in the executive branch of government in this State with its immensely complex problems. What impressed me, among other things was that while he was the Chief Executive, he was a total "team player" -- and both solicited and respected the views of others in the formulation and execution of policy, -- never allowing pride of his own opinion to blind him to the counsel and judgment of those who worked with him, including me, in arriving at decisions. He fully understands the essentiality of loyalty and respect for lines of authority. Such a Vice President would be of tremendous help to you.

Difficult though it be in view of my deep affection for Nelson Rockefeller, I have endeavored to put aside subjective considerations and make this an objective assessment, -- because yours is a herculean task, -- because I am above all an American, and because I want you to have the very best talent available to assist you as our future is in your capable hands.

Although I am convinced that Nelson Rockefeller is head and shoulders ahead of any others of whom I can think, because Chairman Bush said you wished the suggestion of three possible nominees, I would say that Governor Daniel Evans of Washington would be my second choice, with Chairman Bush himself my third choice although, frankly, your nomination of the national party

chairman, -- despite his congressional experience and acknowledged probity, might well be seized upon by critics, -- albeit unwarrantedly, as being based on partisanship rather than ability.

Thank you very much for allowing me the privilege of making these suggestions. Whatever your decision, you will have my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arthur Schlesinger", written in a cursive style.

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.