

The original documents are located in Box 21, folder “Vice President - White House Staff Suggestions” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

I welcome the opportunity to suggest three names as possible candidates for Vice President. I have personally worked with each of them and think highly of their character, ability, and outstanding qualifications.

1. Governor William Scranton

His education and Congressional background are well known. He was one of the most able and best loved Governors of Pennsylvania. His record of achievement for our State is unsurpassed -- a new Constitution, and reform and restructuring of the State government. I worked closely with him on policy and election committees and can attest to his charisma with the public and to his ability to bring all factions of the State together in unity of purpose. His ability to lead as well as to govern would make him an excellent Vice President and potential successor. I don't think Bill has an enemy in the world.

2. Donald Rumsfeld

His Congressional record, his leadership of OEO, and his superb job in the Cost of Living Council and now as our Ambassador at NATO certainly give him both domestic and foreign experience that would be valuable as Vice President. He is articulate, and projects a youthful image -- which would attract young voters in 1976. As a member of the Cost of Living Council I worked daily with Don and witnessed his great ability in difficult jobs.

3. George Bush

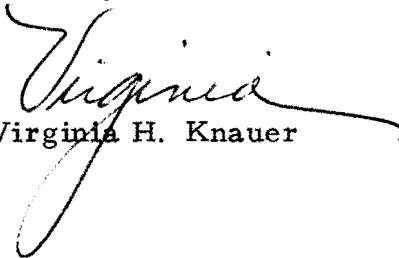
I admire his ability in the political arena where as Chairman of our National Republican Committee he has exhibited

great leadership. His background as a Congressman and as an Ambassador to an international body, the United Nations in this case, showed him as an eloquent representative of our Nation. He is a dynamic speaker and has the confidence, I believe, of our Party leaders.

May I add, Mr. President, that all three of "my candidates" are of an appropriate age and I feel would be acceptable to the Nation at large, as well as to the Republican workers who must ring the doorbells in 1974 and 1976.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,


Virginia H. Knauer

THE WHITE HOUSE

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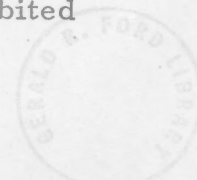
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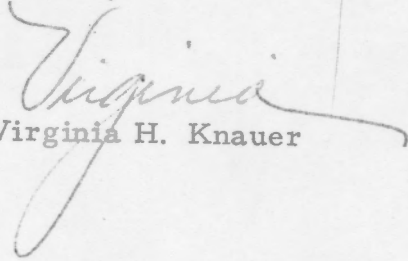
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Sincerely,


Virginia H. Knauer



Knauer
THE WHITE HOUSE

The President
The White House

EYES ONLY
(Suggestions for Vice President)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1974

CONSIDERATIONS

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

RE: THE VICE PRESIDENT

The names mentioned as possible Vice Presidents, all of them, Rockefeller, Bush, Goldwater, Baker, Richardson, Laird -- are men of capacity and experience. Thus, the President, I believe, should reflect upon other considerations, looking to the future of the party, his political philosophy and his own future.

1) If the President does not wish to run in 1976, he should then pick the man he believes would make his most qualified successor. Anoint him now.

2) If the President has not closed out this option, and I trust he has not, then he should pick a man who is not only able to be President, but who also adds strength to the President in policy and political terms -- and would enhance the ticket in 1976. He should also avoid, at all costs, I would think, the choice of any individual who would automatically fracture the unity the President now enjoys both in the party, and in the much broader Nixon constituency of 1972.

3) A terrible mistake would be made, in my estimation, for the President to choose one of those perceived as anti-Nixon or outside the conservative-moderate mainstream of the GOP. By that I mean a Percy, a Mathias, a Brooke or a Richardson.

If the President chose one of these, within six months there would be a Dump-Percy, a Dump-Brooke or a Dump-Richardson movement that would make the old Dump-Nixon Movement of 1956 a tea party. The President has tremendous unity today in the party, and in the broader coalition that re-elected Richard Nixon. His choice should strengthen it, or at the least not disrupt it.

4) Following the departure of President Ford, Nixon, Rockefeller, Reagan and Goldwater from the national scene, in the next half decade, there is today no clear successor -- within the Republican Party. The President should consider whether any of the younger men, the Brocks, Bakers, Buckleys, Bushes, etc., is so outstanding that, at this point in history, he should be given that enormous leap toward the Presidency, which the Vice Presidency would mean. Also, the President should consider whether he wants the inevitable jockeying and competition such an anointment would bring. My view is that none is so outstanding as to be favored; that the President should stand aloof from that struggle, as it would only be disadvantageous to him and surrender his future options. Ergo, the President should turn to the party heavies.

5) Goldwater, Rockefeller & Reagan. Here the President knows the personalities and capabilities. While I am politically on the other side of the fence from Nelson Rockefeller -- if we are speaking of the President's interest alone -- regrettably, Rockefeller is the one.

The choice of Governor Reagan or Senator Goldwater would, unquestionably, cause a mighty rupture in the liberal establishment and tear up the pea patch with the national press corps -- even though I personally would like to see the Arizona Senator cap his career with the office. Thus, Nelson Rockefeller emerges as a strong and a safe choice, an asset to the President in 1976, if he chooses to run, a figure whom the nation would feel comfortable with, if not excited about, a figure who has lost the old devil patina with the Right.

The interest of the nation would not be disserved, and the interests of the Party and the President might be well served in 1976 if Nelson Rockefeller put his energies and resources behind the ticket. Surely, while his domestic ideas are 1950s liberal, he has always been solid in defense and foreign policy, which remains where it's at.

If the President wishes to move to a younger, newer man in the Republican Party, then we could certainly do worse than George Bush.

Pat Buchanan

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: RICHARD A. MOORE *RAM*
SUBJECT: George Bush's Economic Credentials

In view of the overriding national concern with our economic problems, I strongly recommend that the person selected for Vice President have demonstrable background in business or finance. In the months ahead much will be asked of the leaders of the business and financial community, and the selection of a Vice President who enjoys their respect and understands their problems will be an important first step in winning their support and cooperation. Such a selection will also assure the country that the President's concern with the economy is deep and genuine.

On the above basis I recommend George Bush. His economic credentials are little known today but will be quickly recognized once the choice is announced:

1. George's father and grandfather were both highly respected investment bankers in New York.
2. George not only majored in economics at Yale but he won a Phi Beta Kappa Key in the process.
3. After college, George worked in the oil fields of Texas and California, and three years later, founded his own independent drilling business, Zapata Offshore, which is now a major company, listed on the New York Stock Exchange. He knows how to meet a payroll. (George divested himself of all his interest when he entered politics a decade ago.)
4. George's experience at the United Nations gives him special knowledge and standing in the field of international economics. Last night the President correctly said, "The economy of our country is critically dependent on how we interact with the economies of other countries."

I have known George and the Bush family for many years, and have watched George's career with great enthusiasm. Other points in his favor include:

1. He is the right age. A young and vigorous Vice President will reenforce the sense of forward movement which the country yearns for.
2. The Republican Party organization has long felt neglected. The selection of the GOP national chairman as Vice President will revitalize the party organization across the board making it more effective in November, 1974.

THE WHITE HOUSE


The President

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JOHN McLAUGHLIN 
SUBJECT: Vice President: Nelson Rockefeller

I recommend Nelson Rockefeller for Vice President.

In this selection, the controlling consideration, in my judgment, is to ease the trauma of the Nixon resignation and impeachment and Watergate. The Nation wants respite, peace and quiet, balm. The Governor would meet that need well: he is very good humored, warm, old-shoe, a familiar face. His economic, diplomatic, administrative and political skills would encourage popular trust and healing.

George Bush would also be a fine Vice President.

THE WHITE HOUSE

DW

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1974

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8/13*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: W. D. Eberle *W.D. Eberle*

SUBJECT: Considerations for Vice President

My recommendations to you for Vice President are based on the conviction that in addition to the normal qualities of integrity, loyalty, etc., that the country and your Administration needs an individual who is a proven problem-solver experienced and competent in dealing with the electorate who is beyond reproach and with the public image of the ability to succeed you in the event of a disaster.

Obviously, the chemistry of working with you is important. It seems to me the following individuals meet these standards:

1. Nelson Rockefeller
2. Melvin Laird
3. William Scranton



THE WHITE HOUSE

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& resealed
8/13*

President Gerald R. Ford

Attn: Robert Hartmann
Counsellor to the President
West Wing, White House

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Richard T. Burress

SUBJECT: Vice Presidential Nomination

I would like to recommend Senator Mark Hatfield for the Vice Presidential nomination.

I believe that he combines the greatest number of qualities that this very important post requires.

He has been elected and reelected to the Senate by the people of Oregon. As a Senator, he works well within that body and is respected by his colleagues.

Prior to his election to the Senate he served in the Oregon House of Representatives, the Oregon Senate, as Oregon Secretary of State, and for eight years he was Governor of that State. He knows State and local government. He would make an excellent point of contact between the Ford Administration and the State and local governments.

Prior to entering elective office he was a Professor and a Dean of Students at Willamette University. With his academic background and advanced degree from Stanford University, he has the confidence and respect of that segment of our society.

He is fifty-two years old, has a very attractive wife and family, and is a veteran of World War II. His relatively young age and family would be a definite asset.

It has been my observation that he is a team player and generally supportive of the Administration in the past. Where he has deviated,

it has been based on principle and for clearly stated reasons. His opposition to the Viet Nam war, for example, was early and consistent. As I recall, he was the only Governor to stand up to President Johnson and express his opposition.

His nomination would be a signal to one and all that the Republican Party is a broad based party -- not only geographically but ideologically as well.

Finally, I believe his personal loyalty would be absolute and unswerving. He is a practicing Christian who day-by-day, decision by decision, does his best to place in operation his deeply held religious beliefs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE PRESIDENT