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THAD COCHRAN  
4TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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August 13, 1974

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

Dear Mr. President:

I personally appreciate very much your giving me an opportunity to voice my opinion on the nomination of our next Vice President. My first preference is George Bush. Although he is not very well known in Mississippi, I think he would be acceptable to the people there and, more than that, I think he would be a valuable asset to you as Vice President.

My alternative recommendations are Governor Winfield Dunn of Tennessee and Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton.

I very much like the idea of having someone from the South as the next Vice President. Although it may be stretching the point, we will claim George Bush and Rogers Morton are from the South.

I am sure you will make a good choice in the best interests of our country, and I want you to know that I will support your nomination, whoever it may be.

Respectfully yours,

  
THAD COCHRAN

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Thad Cochran*

M.C.

Hand delivered to:

Honorable John J. Rhodes

Minority Leader

U. S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford

President of the United States

The White House

Washington, D. C. 20500

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

August 12, 1974

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. President:

Per your request as transmitted by Congressman Rhodes, I wish to recommend to you three possible candidates for the office of Vice President.

My first choice would be Elliot Richardson, who would bring to the office an unparalleled administrative background in government service, a broad knowledge of international affairs, a strong appeal to many groups -- such as young people and minorities -- that have not traditionally supported our party, and a combination of loyalty, intelligence and personal integrity that would unquestionably reflect credit on your Administration.

Former Governor Nelson Rockefeller possesses many of the attributes that I have just ascribed to Mr. Richardson, and I believe that he would also be a very sound choice.

George Bush, our national chairman, does not have quite the range of experience exemplified by Mr. Richardson and Governor Rockefeller, but I believe that he has support among all segments of our party and would be very well received by the country at large.

The two general characteristics which all three of these men share, in my opinion, are ability and rectitude, qualities which are essential in any Vice President, but which are particularly important for our nation in this difficult transitional period. Moreover, each man, in my judgment, is well qualified to be President if the need should arise.

I appreciate having this opportunity to pass on my recommendations to you.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,



William S. Cohen

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*William A. Den*  
M.C.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20515

HAROLD R. COLLIER  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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INTERNAL REVENUE TAXATION

August 12, 1974

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

My first choice for Vice President would be whom-  
ever you select and my second choice would be our good  
friend, Melvin R. Laird.

With warm personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,



Harold R. Collier

HRC:jkf

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Harold R. Collier*  
M.C.

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

JAMES M. COLLINS  
THIRD DISTRICT, TEXAS

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August 13, 1974

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House Office  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It was a great thrill to see you take the oath of office. I am looking forward to your State of the Union Message to Congress.

When that message is on the board, you face your first big challenge in selecting the Vice President.

The best decision that Richard M. Nixon ever made was the day he selected you.

You are going to receive thousands of suggestions. As a Texan, I will recommend George Bush, Anne Armstrong, and John Tower.

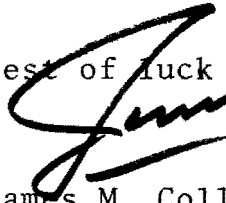
But I want to tell you why I think George Bush is the right selection. He is a man of dedicated character, completely honest, and a proved record of business success. He holds top rating in Congress with members of both sides of the aisle. As Ambassador to the United Nations, he became the most highly respected man, next to Kissinger, with the Foreign leaders.

But I am also keenly concerned with your being our Republican Presidential nominee in 1976. Therein, you will find no comparison with anyone who has the ability of George Bush. He knows every state chairman, every county chairman, and every Republican leader in the United States. He would not only stay in touch with them, but could motivate them and encourage them for an all-out victory effort in 1976.



You were loyal and did a great service in the field for Richard Nixon. George Bush is the only one I know who could do the same top field job for you as Vice President.

Best of luck to you,



James M. Collins, M.C.

JMC:pgb

*My Family in Texas said  
your TV message from the  
Congress last night - came  
through great - what people  
like most is your Sincerity.*

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*James M. Collins*  
M.C.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House Office  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

JOHN B. CONLAN  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
ARIZONA

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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August 13  
1974

Gerald R. Ford  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Jerry,

My attachment is the rationale for  
my nomination of Billy Graham for  
Vice President.

Cordially,

  
John B. Conlan  
Member of Congress

JBC:cb



P.S. If you want a V.P. to hit the banquet route  
as fund-raiser & troop motivator in the  
traditional style, then pick Reagan, not Rockefeller

I think the nomination of the internationally known and respected

Dr. William F. (Billy) Graham

for your Vice-President would be a master stroke for you

A. Your Needs

1. You need to rejuvenate the Country and your party by in effect creating a Government of National Unity now (1974).
2. You need an all-American guy who will help you broaden the party's base even beyond the silent majority vote of '72 into a permanent coalition-union in the Congress...as well as help you sweep your Presidential race in 1976.
3. You don't need someone from Washington and politics. You've got all your bases here covered now.
4. You need a Mr. Clean and Integrity, a new face and breath of fresh air; not another known politician of whom the voters are very tired.

B. Graham's Assets

1. He totally fits the Mr. Clean image your administration has to have to succeed in 1974. (He has recently been given a clean bill of health by IRS and has no skeletons or scandals in his closet).
2. He is an all-American guy who has nation-wide geographical and political appeal.
  - a. Graham is technically a southerner, which is a key area we Republicans in Congress would need to pull into camp permanently.
  - b. Graham is nominally a registered Democrat (but at heart a moderate-conservative Republican), which is beautiful for putting together a "Unity Government" and re-solidifying that "silent majority and more" behind you in the broadest political base ever seen in this century.

(B. Graham's Assets - continued)

- c. Graham is respected by everyone of decency, Protestant, Catholic and Jew alike -- even the atheist, left-wing element is hard put to attack him.
  - d. He is the only running mate possibility who can bring up to 50% of the black vote into the Republican column, as well as bring the middle and working class northern catholics and southern whites into the Ford-Republican camp on a permanent cross-over in 1976 (with a lot of it starting in '74 Congressional races).
3. William F. Graham is qualified by experience to preside over the Senate and act in your stead in chairing meetings of Governors, Cabinet officers, etc. He personally knows almost every Senator and most Governors and Congressmen. (With the exception of Bella Abzug, Ron Dellums, Don Edwards and Liz Holtzman, hardly any Congressman or Senator could dare vote against his confirmation).
  4. Graham is very knowledgeable on international affairs, having personally met and discussed world affairs with more heads of state through the years than probably any other American.
  5. Graham is a basically humble man of God who would not attempt to undercut you, upstage you, or be ambitious for himself, as other political men might ...once in the V.P. spot.
  6. William F. Graham is in his 50's, has an attractive, gracious wife and a lovely 5-children family.
  7. He is at the top of the Gallup poll's "most admired men in America"...and has been near the top for a decade. (He also has 6 million precinct/worker-supporters/contributors...on computer tape).

8. He is a man of God, a man of quiet prayer...a good man to have at your side.

- N.B.
1. I don't know if you could draft him for this spot. (But I do know that Billy has all the plans already laid out for the succession, etc. in his organization, if he were to die or resign at any time).
  2. Americans don't want more of the tired old politicians, the strivers for power like Rockefeller, et. al. -- they want a fresh, new all-American ticket!
  3. If you want a fuller briefing on the possibilities here, pro and con, call me...I used to work as his press aide, and probably know more of his operations and thinking than anyone on Capitol Hill.

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*John B. Conlan*  
M.C.

*Personal file*

*Vice-President Ford*

**SILVIO O. CONTE**  
FIRST DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

August 12, 1974

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The President  
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

At the request of Minority Leader John Rhodes, I am respectfully submitting for your consideration my recommendation for the nomination of a Vice President.

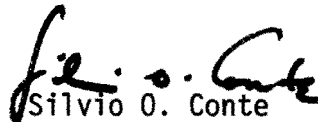
After careful consideration, I recommend the nomination of former New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller.

During the years that I was privileged to serve with you on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, I came to the realization that the Rockefeller name was well known and respected throughout the world, and especially in the developing nations of Central and South America. I am convinced that Nelson Rockefeller, serving as Vice President, could contribute immeasurably to the success of the foreign policy of your Administration.

It is also my opinion that a man who was elected four times to serve as Governor of New York State could and would be of great assistance in the area of domestic affairs. While there might otherwise be opposition within the Party toward the nomination of one who has unsuccessfully sought the Presidential nomination, I believe that Nelson Rockefeller's age and the political maturity he has recently demonstrated render him an acceptable candidate to all segments of the Party.

With sincere hope that this recommendation will be of assistance to you and with my prayers and best wishes for the success of your Administration, I am

Cordially yours,

  
Silvio O. Conte  
Member of Congress

SOC:jp



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Silvio O. Conte*  
M.C.

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

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**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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August 13, 1974

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

Dear Mr. President:

By letter of August 12, 1974, Minority Leader John Rhodes requested that we submit recommendations for your consideration in nominating an individual for the Office of Vice President.

In evaluating the many possible fine candidates, I have in mind the following criteria. First, the person should be capable of serving as President of the United States. Second, he or she should add breadth and depth to your administration. Third, he or she should be capable of confirmation by both Houses of the Congress.

On the basis of these criteria, listed in alphabetical and not in order of preference, I respectfully submit for your consideration three individuals who, I am convinced, could serve with distinction in the second highest public office in the Nation.

1. The Honorable George Bush, presently Chairman of the Republican National Committee and formerly United States Ambassador to the United Nations and United States Representative from Texas. George Bush has been an articulate spokesman for Republican principles. He has also, at a comparatively young age, had experience in both the domestic and foreign policy aspects of government. The respect which is accorded to George by officials of both parties indicates that he would be able to win confirmation by the Congress.

2. The Honorable Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller, former Governor of New York as well as former Assistant Secretary of State, Undersecretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and Special Assistant to the President. Governor Rockefeller is currently devoting himself to the Commission on Critical Choices for America, and his distinguished record in

both domestic and foreign affairs is well-known. I am certain his record and reputation would also assure him of confirmation by the Congress.

3. The Honorable William W. Scranton, former Governor of Pennsylvania and former United States Representative. Governor Scranton has served in numerous important capacities including assignments as Chairman, President's Commission on Campus Unrest; member, President's Advisory Commission on Disarmament Negotiations and Special Assistant to the Secretary of State. Recognized on a bi-partisan basis as an outstanding Chief Executive of Pennsylvania, Governor Scranton could serve as President with the full capabilities of fulfilling the exacting duties of the office. I am certain his reputation and record would assure him of confirmation by the Congress.

I hope that my suggestions will be helpful to you in arriving at your choice for a Vice Presidential nominee. While yours is a difficult decision, I know that your recommendation will be based upon which person, in your opinion, can best serve the Nation.

With best personal regards,

Respectfully,



LAWRENCE COUGHLIN

RLC/kek

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Lawrence Caughlin*  
M.C.

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

PHILIP M. CRANE  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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312/353-4138

August 13, 1974

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

My choices for your Vice President would be, in order:  
Goldwater, Reagan, and Bush. While I am at it, I might  
add that the following individuals would not enhance  
your Administration in my district: Richardson, Brooke,  
Percy and Rockefeller.

Kind personal regards.

Cordially,



Philip M. Crane, M. C.

PMC/ckr

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Philip M. Crane  
M.C.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Philip M. Crane*  
M.C.

Honorable John Rhodes  
Minority Leader



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

PAUL W. CRONIN  
FIFTH DISTRICT  
MASSACHUSETTS

August 13, 1974

President Gerald R. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I know that you have people with far more political expertise than I advising you on your choice for Vice President; however, I feel that two sons of Massachusetts should be obvious candidates: Senator Brooke and Elliott Richardson.

I also feel Nelson Rockefeller, because of his experience in state government, would be helpful in carrying out the New Federalism. However, I feel the candidate who could possibly do the most for you would be George Bush, since Bush would help to solidify the South, yet due to his academic and family background, would still be acceptable in the East.

I appreciate your taking the time to have Members provide you with their suggestions. Good luck.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul W. Cronin", written over a large, loopy oval flourish.

Paul W. Cronin  
Member of Congress



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

President Gerald R. Ford