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WILLIAM F. WALSH
33D DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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202 225-3333

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

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August 13, 1974

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am honored to have the privilege of submitting the following names for Vice President:

1. Nelson A. Rockefeller
2. Melvin L. Laird
3. George Bush
4. Governor Daniel Evans

I feel it is unnecessary for me to enumerate the qualifications each would bring to the office.

I have, of course, worked more closely with Governor Rockefeller than with any of the others and I have the greatest respect and admiration for his ability.

I think he could take a tremendous load off your shoulders either in the domestic field where he has had great administrative experience or in the foreign policy field where he has previously demonstrated his competence.

Any of the other three candidates would be equally acceptable. I am pleased that the Republican Party has men of this caliber who are capable of qualifying for this high office.

Every action you have taken thus far has been great. Keep up the good work. We're all behind you. You may rest assured that the prayers of the Walsh family will always be with you.

Sincerely,



William F. Walsh
Member of Congress

WFW:m

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

William F. Walsh

M.C.

Honorable John J. Rhodes
H-232, The Capitol

INSIDE MAIL

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

William F. Walsh
M.C.

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JOHN H. WARE
5TH DISTRICT
PENNSYLVANIA

August 13, 1974

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to your request, may I suggest that you consider Honorable George Bush for the Vice Presidency. I do not list my reasons since I realize you are well aware of his qualifications.

May I assure you that I will support your choice, whoever it may be.

You did an outstanding job last night when speaking to the Joint Session.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John H. Ware".

John H. Ware

wjr

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

CHARLES W. WHALEN, JR.
THIRD DISTRICT, OHIO

August 12, 1974

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

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your request, I am submitting the following Vice Presidential recommendations (in order of preference):

- 1) Former Governor Nelson Rockefeller
- 2) Mr. George Bush
- 3) Senator Robert Taft, Jr.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles W. Whalen, Jr.".

Charles W. Whalen, Jr.
Member of Congress

CWW:csb

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST
2ND DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE:
ARMED SERVICES

R. BURNETT THOMPSON
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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

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ROOM 428, PEMBROKE ONE
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(804) 499-1910

August 12, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Having been advised that you were interested in suggestions for a Vice President, I would like to take this opportunity to recommend George Bush. Last year, when President Nixon asked us to forward the names of those people we felt would be proper choices for Vice President and who could step into the Presidency if necessary, I recommended you and George Bush.

It is natural now that I should resubmit the name of George Bush. Certainly I need not recount his virtues to you. I'm sure that you know George far better than I, but I remember how much George impressed me during my first term in the 91st Congress, and I thought then that he, like you, had those special characteristics that qualify a man for the highest office if fate so designates.

There are many other eminent men and women available, but none of them impresses me so much as George.

Let me also take this opportunity to pledge to you my absolute support, and I would add that I expect to make the principal theme of my reelection campaign the need to be sent to the 94th Congress in order to sustain your programs.

Janie joins me in very best wishes to you and Mrs. Ford.

Sincerely,



G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST

GWW/jfw

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

F. William Whitehurst
M.C.

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Charles E. Wiggins

Member of Congress • 25th (New 39th) District of California

August 12, 1974

Committees:

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HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
STANDING COMMITTEES**

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PATRICK ROWLAND

District Representative

JOHN E. FOOTE

Legislative Assistant

JOHN E. MERCER

Washington Office

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ZIP 20515
202-225-4111**

District Office

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FULLERTON, CA. 92635
714-870-7266**

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

Dear Mr. President:

This letter is in response to your request for my view concerning an appropriate selection for Vice President. The question is an important one and I have considered the matter at some length.

All agree that the pre-eminent qualification for a Vice President is the ability to succeed, if necessary, to the Office of the President and to discharge the responsibilities of that office well.

On this basis alone, Governor Rockefeller is probably the best choice.

But there are other considerations which cannot be neglected.

Your intended use of the Vice President and his role in the Administration becomes an especially relevant consideration. Since the formulation and execution of foreign and domestic policy is uniquely the role of the President himself, and his cabinet advisors, I would doubt that you would wish to make your selection with the intent that your Vice President be engaged primarily in either of these specific functions. More probably, your Vice President would serve, consistent with recent precedents to relieve the President of many of his necessary and important political duties. If so, your Vice President must be able and willing to exhort the Party's faithful and to campaign for Congressional and Senatorial candidates -- in addition to articulating Administration policy -- while you devote your primary efforts to more traditional Executive functions.

On this basis alone, none is more effective than Governor Reagan.

President Ford
page 2

And yet, other factors must, inevitably, bear upon your selection.

Unless you opt for a caretaker Vice President only, your selection now should be your selection as a running mate in 1976 as well. I expect you to win in 1976 and all plans now should be made on that basis. Since you will be unable to succeed yourself in 1980, the Vice President selected now, and elected in 1976, will in all probability be the logical nominee of our Party in 1980.

On this basis alone, Governors Rockefeller and Reagan and Senator Goldwater lose their current appeal. All will be too old for the nomination in 1980 if a normal eight-year term is contemplated thereafter.

Although the short-range advantages of Governors Rockefeller and Reagan, of Senator Goldwater, are obvious, the long-range implications of your choice are overwhelming, in my opinion. You should select a younger man upon whom the investment of a term as Vice President will not be wasted.

I have concluded that the best balance in terms of ability to succeed the Presidency, attractiveness as a running mate in 1976, and growth potential to be our Party's nominee in the future, is Elliot Richardson.

He is not without disadvantages, of course, particularly if assigned a political role among traditional Republican groups. But that mission can be delegated to others. (Governor Reagan, for instance, as GOP National Chairman has a certain appeal.)

Elliot Richardson would be confirmed without difficulty and would be widely acclaimed, except, possibly, by a hard-core group who would, I believe, bow to your choice, grudgingly, out of respect for you personally. His ideological appeal in presenting a balanced ticket in 1976 is obvious.

I have given careful attention to several other possible names who have been prominently mentioned. George Bush, especially, is particularly attractive to me. But Elliot Richardson is the best of the lot as meeting the immediate as well as long-range criteria which I regard as relevant.

Your selection, I know, will be a wise one, and he (or she) shall receive my complete support during the nomination hearings.

President Ford
page 3

And, as you surely know, I am confident that you will be a great President. You can count on me to help to the utmost of my ability.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chuck", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

CHARLES E. WIGGINS
Member of Congress

CEW: jm

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Charles E. Higgins
M.C.

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

c/o Minority Leader
Room 2310 Rayburn



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

LAWRENCE G. WILLIAMS
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

August 12, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

I have been advised by Minority Leader John Rhodes that you are requesting from Republican Members of Congress, recommendations and comments with respect to your selection of a candidate for Vice President.

There are a number of able and good possibilities, including Nelson Rockefeller, George Bush, and Melvin Laird, but the most important thing, I feel, is that your selection be a man with whom you can be comfortable, and who will give you his complete and full support.

With best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence G. Williams".

Lawrence G. Williams
Member of Congress

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

President Gerald R. Ford

The White House

BOB WILSON
40TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
(SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

PAUL L. TSOMPANAS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
C

SAN DIEGO OFFICE
SUITE E285
123 CAMINO DE LA REINA
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92108
TEL: 714-299-2444

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
2307 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 13, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

I have been hoping to get a chance to talk with you in person about the political ramifications of your choice of Vice President. You and I have worked shoulder to shoulder on this matter on several occasions, as I recall and I want to make two points:

1. You should consider, in my opinion, the long-range and short-range aspects of this appointment. The long-range, of course, would include the very understandable factor of providing a good base for rebuilding the Party. The short-range would be more concerned with the basic economic problems which, of course, are serious too.

2. If you are to consider the long-range aspect, there is no question in my mind that George Bush would be the best choice in that he has international experience as Ambassador to the U.N., a Southern base which is important to our Party, an Eastern base because of his birth and education in Connecticut, and most importantly, a youthful, enthusiasm that our Party needs. He would help immeasurably in the Congressional elections this year and eventually would be a real leader for moderation in our Party.

On the other hand, Nelson Rockefeller might be best for the short haul. Although I think his appointment would be divisive at a time when the Party is in pretty low spirits anyway, he certainly has the best credentials from the standpoint of business experience, international background, etc. I do not believe we could count on much help from him in the Congressional elections this year but Bob Michel might be a better advisor to you on that particular matter.

2 - The Honorable Gerald R. Ford - August 13, 1974

These are the only two that I would consider as being eligible for your appointment.

We are tremendously proud of your auspicious start and wish you well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Wilson', with a large, sweeping initial 'B'.

Bob Wilson
Member of Congress

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

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Bob Wilson
M.C.

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

LARRY WINN, JR.
KANSAS

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SUBCOMMITTEES:
MANNED SPACE FLIGHT
SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE
AND SPACE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
AFRICA
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND MOVEMENTS

TASK FORCE ON
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

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

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
Room 434
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CODE 202-225-2865

DISTRICT OFFICE:
RICHARD L. BOND
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
204 FEDERAL BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101
TELEPHONE: MAYFAIR 1-0832

August 13, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

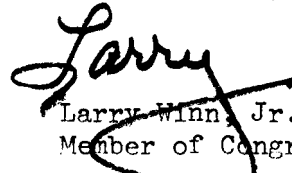
Dear Mr. President:

I would like to recommend for Vice President the following individuals in my order of preference:

1. George Bush
2. John Rhodes
3. Nelson Rockefeller

I hope these suggestions will prove helpful in your task.

Most sincerely,


Larry Winn, Jr.
Member of Congress

LW:nan

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Larry Winn Jr.
M.C.

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

WENDELL WYATT
FIRST DISTRICT
OREGON

APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

August 13, 1974

PERSONAL

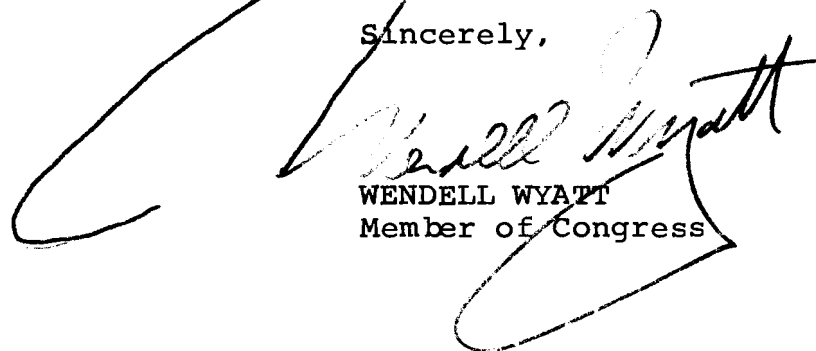
The Honorable John J. Rhodes
Congressman from Arizona
The Capitol
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear John:

My recommendations for appointment to the Vice Presidency are George Bush, Nelson Rockefeller and Howard Baker, in that order. There is no particular need of my discussing the pros and cons in connection with each name, since I am certain my thoughts would be consistent with those which have already been advanced both in the news media and otherwise.

I have very strong feelings that Elliot Richardson should be completely disqualified. I have virtually no respect for him either as to his ability or integrity, and I think it would be a disastrous mistake if he would be appointed.

Sincerely,



WENDELL WYATT
Member of Congress

WW.e

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



M.C.

PERSONAL

Honorable John J. Rhodes
The Capitol
Washington, D. C. 20515

INSIDE MAIL

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15TH DISTRICT, OHIO

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OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: 225-2015

DISTRICT OFFICE:
FEDERAL BUILDING
85 MARCONI BLVD.
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
TELEPHONE: 469-5614

JACK M. FOULK
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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

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MASS TRANSIT
BANK SUPERVISION AND INSURANCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS
EDUCATION AND TRAINING
HOSPITALS

August 13, 1974

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

Dear Mr. President:

This letter is written pursuant to one received from John Rhodes saying that you would appreciate receiving suggestions for the Office of Vice President.

This gives me an opportunity to say that I think you did extremely well last night with your address to Congress and to the nation. I thought the most important thing about your talk was not so much what you said but how you said it. You mentioned four C's necessary to get the job done. I told reporters your speech was candid, convincing, credible, and confidence instilling.

My three choices for Vice President are:

1. Nelson Rockefeller
2. Senator Howard Baker
3. Melvin Laird

Nelson Rockefeller has broad spectrum standing across the nation as a statesman. He has personal resources and prestige not found in any other potential candidate. Nelson Rockefeller could exemplify how diversified views are welcome within the Republican Party. Additionally, he has international contacts which I feel are very important right now.

Senator Howard Baker comes from a border state. He was most impressive during the Watergate hearings in the Senate. I think he, without question, emerged as the most responsible exponent of seeking the truth. He came across as being honest and forthright.

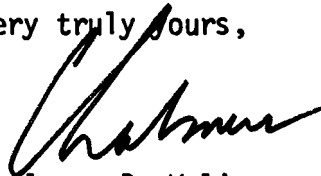
August 13, 1974

Senator Baker came to Columbus to speak at my fund-raising function this year, over the protests of some of my conservative supporters, because of his having served on the Senate Watergate Committee. These same detractors went away from the luncheon in praise of Senator Baker. He spoke on the need for a strong Republican Party. He gave a most articulate and eloquent performance.

Melvin Laird would make an outstanding Vice President, and I know could work with you as a friend. The one negative, or perhaps two, from the Melvin Laird standpoint, are the geography of his domicile and maybe the secret bombings of Cambodia. Having observed Melvin Laird in the House, I know he could do the job.

Thank you for granting me this privilege.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chalmers".

Chalmers P. Wylie
Representative to Congress

CPW:S

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Chabry
M.C.

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

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Chabry
M.C.

The Honorable John J. Rhodes
House Minority Leader
H-232, The Capitol



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

LOUIS C. WYMAN
NEW HAMPSHIRE

August 13, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

In response to your request, I respectfully submit the following names in order of suggested preference for nomination by you as Vice President:

1. Nelson Rockefeller
2. George Bush
3. Rogers C. B. Morton

Rightly or wrongly, the public impression is that your forte is primarily in domestic affairs. It seems to me that it would lend balance to the public impression of the Ford Administration to have a Vice President of acknowledged repute and experience in international affairs. Mr. Rockefeller has this, together with a reputation for personal integrity.

If you were to nominate him and he were to be confirmed and if you thereafter were to publicly assign to him certain specific responsibilities in connection with implementation of the goals in foreign affairs stated by you in your address to the Joint Session last night, it seems to me that this would be a net plus.

My other two recommendations speak for themselves. George is relatively young, but of substantial experience and qualification, and Rog Morton is of commanding presence, of unimpeachable integrity, and of substantial reputation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis C. Wyman".

LOUIS C. WYMAN
Member of Congress

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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