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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHY OF THE PRESIDENT

GERALD R. FORD, Republican 38th President of the United States, was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913; attended public schools, Grand Rapids, Michigan; B. A., University of Michigan, 1935; L. L. B., Yale University Law School, 1941; won all-city and all-state football honors in Grand Rapids during high school; member of University of Michigan's national championship football teams, 1932, 1933; Michigan's most valuable player, 1934; assistant varsity football coach at Yale while law student there; in 1942 entered the U. S. Navy, serving 47 months during World War II; participated in 3rd and 5th Fleet carrier operations aboard the aircraft carrier U. S. S. Monterey for two years; discharged 1946 and resumed practice of law; elected to U. S. House of Representatives in 1948 and reelected every two years through 1972, serving 25 years in House; named in November 1963 to the Presidential Commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; author (with John R. Stiles) of the book, "Portrait of the Assassin" (1965); permanent chairman of the 1968 and 1972 Republican National Conventions; visited The People's Republic of China in late June and early July 1972 on behalf of President Nixon; recipient of American Political Science Association's Distinguished Congressional Service Award, 1961; recipient of American Good Government Society's George Washington Award, 1966; recipient of American Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award as "giant of accomplishment," 1971; recipient of AMVETS Silver Helmet Award, 1971; recipient of honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, The Citadel, and numerous colleges; married Elizabeth Bloomer October 15, 1948; children: Michael Gerald, born March 14, 1950; John Gardner, March 16, 1952; Steven Meigs, May 19, 1956; and Susan Elizabeth, July 6, 1957; Chairman of the Republican Conference, 88th Congress; minority Leader, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd and 1st Session, 93rd Congresses; nominated Vice President on October 12, 1973, to succeed Spiro T. Agnew, who resigned, and confirmed December 6; succeeded to the Presidency August 9, 1974, following the resignation of Richard M. Nixon.

#



9/21/74

A footprint on the sands of time

Although no alumnus of the University has served as President of the United States (yet), it turned out this fall that Chicago left a lasting mark on the incumbent Chief Executive. President Ford, according to Don Kirkman of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, "has one visible scar—a small crease under his left eye, which he acquired while making a flying tackle in a Michigan game against the University of Chicago."



Jay Berwanger

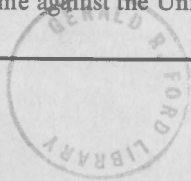
The year was 1934, the date October 13, and the game was one in which Chicago turned back the Wolverines 27 to 0. The player whom Mr. Ford, Michigan's center, attempted to bring down was Jay Berwanger, playing in his second year.

Reporting the game for this publication, that Midway sage, William V. Morgenstern (PhB'20, JD'22) wrote, Berwanger "averaged practically four yards on each of twenty-one plays from scrimmage; he punted for an average of 39.6 yards, placing his kicks as if he were shooting with a rifle... Berwanger has ferocious power in the open field—any tackler who gets in the way of his slashing knees is through for the day—and

he is just as deadly on defense." Berwanger (AB'36) told the *MAGAZINE* this fall that he had no recollection of the event ("If somebody tries to grab your spikes, you don't turn around to see who it was"), but he recalled that Mr. Ford (who obviously saw the play from a different angle) had attributed the scar to him when they met at a dinner a decade ago. It's hardly more than a footnote to history, but it's the closest any alum has come to the Presidency.



Gerald Ford



President
Personal

In the book -- Jerry Ford Up Close by ^{Bud} Vestal

it was mentioned that Jerry Ford played football with Willis Ward.



ask
Ruth if
they got it



Friday 5/24/74

11:55 Mr. Buchen:

Ruth called to say that when Mr. Seidman left to go to Michigan with the Vice President this morning, he said that you had learned of Dean Rostow's statement that Mr. Ford had graduated in the top third of his graduating class and that that class had more than 2/3 Phi Beta Kappas. Ruth has called Yale Law School and both Dean Rostow and his secretary are on vacation. The Registrar won't release the information without written authorization from the Vice President.

Evans and Novak had interviewed Mr. Ford and need the information today. Wanted to know if Mr. Buchen had seen this in a book or where he got the information.

Mr. Buchen suggested she call Yale Law School and get the phone number where Mr. Rostow can be reached. Said that in Mr. Buchen's presence, Mr. Ford told a reporter that Eugene Rostow had told him this informally.

Also, in the event Yale has no phone number, suggests calling the White House operators and they will probably be able to get the number.

Called and gave Ruth that info.



Pres.
Personal

September 18, 1974

Dear Earl:

It was indeed good to hear from the man who had the most influence in making me an Omicron Deke and so indirectly in leading me into friendship with alumnus Jerry. Without the occurrences in 1935, I cannot imagine I would be here today and certainly not in my present position.

Thank you very much for bringing me up to date on your life and for news of your family and of mutual friends. In your newspaper picture with Jerry you already exhibit the look of a dignified and trusted statesman. We now need only to find the role that will fit the look. In that connection, I suggest you write me concerning your special interests and how active you would be willing to be.

I warn you that taking a full time assignment, as I have done, imposes a tremendous burden, but there are, of course, commission or committee assignments that call for much less a commitment.

Warmest regards to a dear and respected friend of my college days.

Most sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Earl Townsend
Attorney at Law
603 Lake Street
Roscommon, Michigan 48653



EARL TOWNSEND

ATTORNEY AT LAW

603 Lake Street

Roscommon, Michigan 48653

Office 517-275-5733

Home 517-821-9114

August 20, 1974

Key Biscayne Phone
305-361-3542

Indianapolis Phones
317-637-1521
317-253-2230

Mr. Philip W. Buchen
White House Counsel
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Phil:

I am writing from my summer office. The fact that I list a Key Biscayne telephone number must not bother you. I never met Nixon or Rebozo.

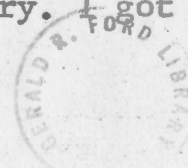
Knowing that the President is quite busy and that you are, too, I just want you to remind him that I am available to be Secretary of Agriculture, Attorney-General or Supreme Court Justice.

Like Earl Butz, I am from Indiana, but I do not regard your fair Grand Rapids as a country town and I have no thought that it will blow over into Canada. I have farmed with horse-drawn cultivator and mechanized equipment for half a century. Still operate 3 farms. In fact I operate the only palm tree farms on Key Biscayne.

I invite comparison of my qualifications as attorney-general with my fellow towns-man Bill Ruckelshaus, and any one else. E.G. see Martindale-Hubbell under Indianapolis and my firm of Townsend, Hovde & Townsend. By the way, Jake retired 5 years ago and the other Townsend is his son, John, Jr., who made Phi Beta Kappa at Michigan and took his law at Harvard. Hovde is a Michigan man. His father was President of Purdue for 25 years and one of Eisenhower's war aides.

I will willingly work for just half what the present cabinet members receive so The President will be able to introduce me as a classic example of economy in government.

Now, for the clincher. In the spring of 1935, my roommate, Gerald R. Ford, Jr., said to me, "Earl, you are the only junior I can depend upon to be rush-chairman. I want you to get the best pledge class since Angell." The rest is history. I got you! In



EARL TOWNSEND

ATTORNEY AT LAW

603 Lake Street

Roscommon, Michigan 48653

Office 517-275-5733

Home 517-821-9114

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Indianapolis Phones
317-637-1521
317-253-2230

order to accomplish Jerry's goal, I did not take time to attend classes the first three weeks but, as you will recall, I played varsity basketball and made straight A's.

A clipping from a local paper is enclosed. Chris Everhardus fishes near here and we visit often. Priscilla Abbot Stroud of Omena is proud of you, too. She called last week and said so. I have a little 11 year old boy who is hard of hearing and is in a summer camp for such children near Omena on Grand Traverse Bay. Have four other children from 25 on down. Earl III is 17 and an inch taller than his father.

I always have been a Republican and was Young Republican County Chairman at Indianapolis. I would deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve you and the President and would never let you down.

Most sincerely

Eare



*President
Ford*

Friday 9/27/74

11:30 Just received the attached letter from Dr. Foshee, who is asking for a wire or letter immediately to let him know whether the President was born in a hospital.

I have checked with Mildred Leonard's office and they advise the President was born at home in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913.

Do you want me to phone Dr. Foshee with this information?



Wednesday 10/2/74

Foshee Dr
JG
Ford file

7:45 Mr. Buchen:

I called Dr. Foshee and gave him the information that President Ford was born at home in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 14, 1913.

He was most appreciative of my calling ---- and said to be sure and give you his best regards.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

9/27/74

No answer



Friday 9/27/74

11:30

Just received the attached letter from Dr. Foshee, who is asking for a wire or letter immediately to let him know whether the President was born in a hospital.

(616) 676-2361

I have checked with Mildred Leonard's office and they advise the President was born at home in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913.

Do you want me to phone Dr. Foshee with this information?

Yes, please.



J. CLINTON FOSHEE, M.D., F.A.C.S.
BOX 131
ADA, MICHIGAN 49301

September 25, 1974

Mr. Phillip W. Buchen
Attorney At Law
The White House
President Ford's Staff
Washington, D. C.

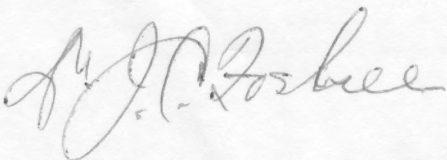
Dear Mr. Buchen:

I have a request from Dr. Amos Christie, a famous Professor of Vanderbilt University and an author, who is revising his book on "Our Presidents". He wishes for me to find out for him if President Ford was born in a hospital, and the town and state.

Dr. Christie has found and published that not one President of our country was born in a hospital, not even some of our younger asperants. I will appreciate if you would wire or write me immediately about President Ford.

Also, please give my very best wishes and personal regards to our dear President.

Very sincerely yours,



J. C. Foshee, M. D.

JCF:aks



October 30, 1974

Mr Philip W. Buchen

Dear Mr. Buchen:

A note similar to this has been sent to President Ford, realizing that one note probably could not be shared between you, but my thoughts were of each of you.

Yesterday at the Calder in Grand Rapids, President Ford pointed to where the Federal Building had been, and mentioned looking over the city from his office there. My thoughts went back one more step.

"Ford and Buchen" was the secretary greeting back in the fall of 1941, when the telephone did ring in the three-room law office in the Michigan Trust Building. That secretary, part-time for very good economic reasons, answered with great pride and enthusiasm, for she was working for Jerry Ford, who was then already a marked man with qualities for a great future, and she admired deeply the sound, quiet thinking and direction of Phil Buchen.

Pearl Harbor brought its effect on all people in that little office, but it was a beginning of something special.



2
As that former secretary, I have witnessed the growth and development of these two men into leaders in the community from local needs to state needs, and finally the national needs, each in his own way contributing himself, separately yet joined by the strong bond evidenced in that small office.

Now as the news of the enormous problems being faced and met by our Nation is heard and seen, I cannot help but feel the sureness and the soundness of this bond of leadership strength.

Again with great pride, admiration and enthusiasm for the future, my opening remark is still, "Ford and Buchen". May strength and courage be given to each of you for the meeting of each day's needs.

Sincerely,

Charlotte S. Jochems

Mrs. Richard B. Jochems
2940 Okemos St. E.
Grand Rapids, Mi.



Mrs. Richard B. Jochems
2940 Okemos S. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506



November 5, 1974

President
Personal
(see
Jochems)

Dear Charlotte:

What a warm and lovely letter you wrote!
No other has pleased me more.

It brought back fond memories of our early
days as fledgling lawyers and of the great
help you were to Ford and Buchen.

Very best regards and many thanks for
your encouraging words.

Sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. Richard B. Jochems
2940 Chemoa S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

PWB: ns



*President
Personal*

Tuesday 11/19/74

2:25 Eliska Hasek's office called and said they had a request for a letter endorsing DEKE fraternity. The letter was from Charles Carroll, Trustee of the DEKE Foundation and said the President has been an active member over the years. They asked if this might be true.

Checked with Mildred Leonard and she advises that he has been a member over the years.

So advised Hasek's office.



President
Personal

12/20/74

Mildred Leonard called to ask if Mr. Ford might know Russ Oliver (a University of Michigan graduate) and played on the football team. He had a stroke and they would like to get a letter to him from the President before he leaves for Colorado -- if he knows him.

Mr. Buchen said if he were in school between 1931-35, he would know the man.

Suggested we call the Athletic Dept. at the University of Michigan. (313) 663-2411
I called but there was no answer.

Advised Mildred, and she will call the person back and get more information.



*President
Personal*

January 6, 1975

To: Mildred

From: Eva

In answer to your question about whether
Mr. Buchen roomed with the President
and where -- at the University of Michigan ---

Mr. Buchen advises they were at the same
fraternity -- Deke House, 1912 Gettys,
Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the summer of 1939.

(Gave the above to Mildred over the phone.)



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 25, 1975

President
Personal

Dear Dan:

With the thought that your travels may be over and that you are back in Florida, I do want to acknowledge and thank you for delivering at the White House the framed copy of the Yale Banner of October 3, 1863, which includes the D. K. E. Coat-of-Arms and a list of the Yale Chapter's Membership at that early date in the fraternity's history; also the prints of the Shant in Ann Arbor and the copy of the old newspaper picture showing the President and Herm Everhardus in the game in 1933 when the University of Michigan played Michigan State.

The President has had a very busy schedule ever since you were here but I did get a chance to mention your visit and the materials you brought. He was delighted to hear that you had been here.

Very warmest regards to you and Beth and Lisa.

Sincerely,

Phil

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Daniel D. Dayton
P. O. Box 3008
Tequesta, Florida 33458

Dayton,
Daniel

Wednesday 7/23/75

Meeting
7/23/75
2:00 p.m.

11:15 I have cleared Daniel Dayton, Beth and Lisa to come
in this afternoon at 2 oclock.



10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 23

Mr. Daniel Dayton called from the area of Burning Tree to see if he and his wife and daughter could come in to see you for a few minutes today and to bring some pictures to you and the President.

We received the attached letter from him today.

469-9392

Mr. Daniel Dayton
Mrs. Beth Dayton
Ms. Lisa Dayton



Copy given
to
Ruth
Kilmer

returned 7/31
as items presented
for
recording after
8/8/74



Believes that the local sent. will acknowledge and keep the Bureau in the loop
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 23, 1975

NOTE FOR EVE DAUGHTREY

Eve -

Did this man get in touch with Mr. Buchen TODAY? Note he said he would be in Washington today and would hope that perhaps MR. Buchen could accept this Unfortunately, this just came to me in the Noon mail folder

Thanks.

Mary R
Mary R





Telephone (305) 746-4518 / 201 Lighthouse Plaza, Tequesta, Florida 33458

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July 18, 1975

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 3008
TEQUESTA, FLA. 33458

cc Mr. Phil Buchen

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

Dear Gerry:

Time does fly! I have owed you a letter since yours of May 17, 1974, when you were V.P. I heard from Milton Kemnitz, who reminded me that the original of the Shant was purchased when I was Alumni Advisor, and was lost in the first 1912.

I will be in Washington on the 23rd of July. If I cannot see you, I would like to deliver to the White House something that I believe should be yours. Please note the attached copy of a photograph. I was presented on September 7, 1963, on behalf of the D.K.E. Fraternity, a copy of The Yale Banner of October 3, 1863. This was at the 100th Anniversary Banquet of Chi Psi Fraternity.

This beautiful framed MEMORABILIA rested in the D.K.E. office of The Yale Club of New York. A few years later I discovered it in a closet at the D.K.E. Club of New York, and they moved to another location - this was when I found it in the closet. I brought it back to Florida in November 1974. It is so fragile that I decided it was best to deliver it to the White House by hand. You will note the D.K.E. Coat-of-Arms and a list of the Membership at that time on the front page. Is is most significant that you were a D.K.E. at the University of Michigan and a Yale law grad.

If you would not be in the White House on the occasion of my visit to Washington, possibly Phil Buchen will be there, and he could accept this Framed Beauty for you. I am giving Phil a copy of this letter.

I have some copies of the Shant for you and Phil also, an action picture of you and Herm Everhardus from an old newspaper clipping - UM versus Michigan State 1933. You will be amused by this.

If you are available for 5 minutes - in your busy schedule -

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Gerald R. Ford

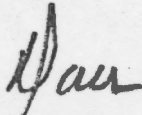
July 18, 1975

President of the United States of America

it would be a great pleasure to see you again.

I hope Bastille Day was a Happy Birthday for you. God bless you for helping all of us out of a terrible mess. If I can help in the '76 Campaign in Florida, call on me please.

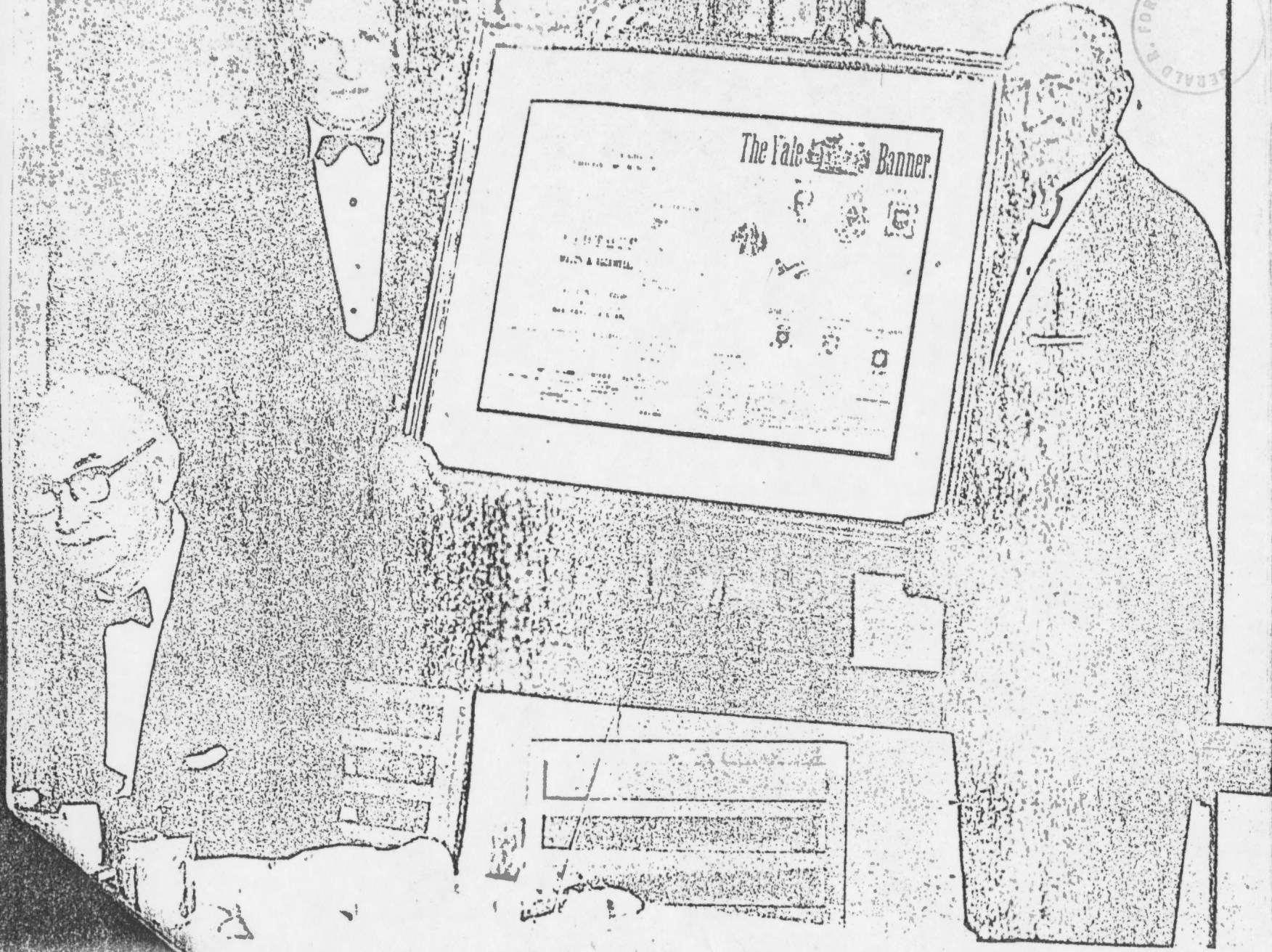
Always sincerely,



Daniel D. Dayton

DDD:mov





a copy of this letter.

I have some copies of the Shant for you and Phil also, an action picture of you and Herm Everhardus from an old newspaper.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Pres. -
Personal*

September 9, 1975

Dear Frank:

In response to your letter of August 26, I have had corrected the descriptive material about the President which you had prepared. I also enclose a current picture of the President.

It seemed good to hear from you after so many years and I send my very warmest regards to you and Fran.

Sincerely,

Phil

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Frank J. Mackey
Publications
332 South Michigan
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Enclosure





FRANK J. MACKEY
PUBLICATIONS

332 SOUTH MICHIGAN
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

August 26, 1975

Dear Phil:

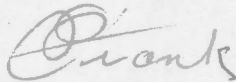
Here are the first pages of a booklet designed for the use of and distribution by Republican Precinct Workers.

We would be grateful if you would check and correct or alter any changes you believe should be made.

I have a good picture of Jerry made many years ago. I would appreciate having a more recent picture to be used in this booklet.

Fran, who is killing himself with all work and no play with his terrific law practice, sends regards to you, Jack Stiles and The President.

Most cordially,



Frank J. Mackey

FJM:bh
Enc.

Mr. Philip Buchen
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D.C. 20013



THE PRESIDENT'S BACKGROUND

Gerald Ford was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913. He enrolled at the University of Michigan in 1931. In the classroom, on the playing fields at Ann Arbor, in the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, he displayed a leadership that foretold a fine future. He was awarded letters in football in 1932-33-34. He ^{was} ~~was captain and~~ named the most valuable player of the 1934 team. He was graduated A.B. in 1935.

▲ Jerry Ford was offered a contract from the Green Bay Packards pro football group but elected to go to Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, as Assistant Football and Head Wrestling Coach. He enrolled in the Yale Law School from which he was graduated in the upper ^{bracket} ~~one-third~~ of his class with the degree of L.L.D. in 1941. He was admitted to the Michigan Bar Association in 1942 and joined Phil Buchen in a law firm in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

▲ Following the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Gerald Ford enlisted in the U.S. Navy in which he served, 1942-46, where he reached the rank of Lt. Commander. The Grand Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce gave Jerry a distinguished service award in 1948; in 1950, the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce gave Jerry its distinguished service award as one of ten outstanding young men in the United States. In 1959, Jerry received the Silver Anniversary All-American SPORTS ILLUSTRATED award. A distinguished Congressional Service award of the American ^{Political} Science Association was given to Jerry in 1961. ^{NAT'L FOOTBALL FOUNDATION + NAT'L FAME GOLD MEDAL} On October 15, 1948, Jerry and ¹⁹⁷² Betty Bloomer were married. They have four children: Michael, John, Steven and Susan. ^(Recent)

▲ Ford was a member of the 81st to 92nd U.S. Congress from the 5th District of Michigan. He served in Congress for 25 years, the last eight of which were as Republican Minority Leader. He was a delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Warsaw, Poland, '59; Belgium, '61; Bilderberg Group Conference, '62.

THE ROAD TO THE PRESIDENCY

After twenty-five years in the United States House of Representatives, eight of which were as MINORITY LEADER, Gerald Ford on October 12, 1973, was nominated for Vice President of the United States. After an intensive investigation of his life's activity, which no other candidate for political office had endured, the U.S. Senate on November 27, 1973, by a vote of 92 to 3 approved the appointment. The House of Representatives, December 6, 1973, followed suit by a vote of 387 to 35. Ford was sworn in as the Nation's 40th Vice President that same day. He was welcomed with the bipartisan good wishes of his fellow Members in both Houses of the Congress and by millions of Americans from coast to coast and border to border.

The Two Top Government Administrators Resign

For the only time in the history of America, the two top administrators in the U.S. Government resigned in less than one year. Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned October 12, 1973; President Richard Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974. On that same day, August 9, 1974, Vice President Ford was sworn in as the 38th President of the United States.

▲ American voters, fed up on political charisma, four foreign wars in one generation and the give-away records of the Liberals in control of Congress, looked for no miracles from their new President. The people wanted only honesty and hard work. That is just what they got; that is just what they want right now and want to keep through succeeding administrations.

▲ The people also got in Jerry Ford the best-known athlete of all the Nation's 38 Chief Executives. He is very active in swimming, in playing golf, tennis and skiing. Constant exercise keeps him in top physical condition. The ¹⁹⁵ ~~220~~ pounds he now carries is just a few pounds over what he weighed when his plays made the rafters ring in the Stadium in Ferry F

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 25, 1975

*Pres.
Perrott*

MEMORANDUM FOR: MARBA PERROTT

FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN *P.*

The President, while a practicing lawyer in Grand Rapids, did teach a course in Business Law at the University of Grand Rapids (since deceased) during the 1941-42 school year. If Evelyn Jack was a student in the school at the time, it may be that she took this particular course.



Monday 9/22/75

1:30 Marba Perrott said a letter has come in to them with a copy of a letter to the President attached -- in which they asked if he was a counselor for Evelyn Jack (which Marba indicates is a fine old family in Grand Rapids). Indicated she was taking a course in "Counselor of Law" at the University, and Marba seemed to remember that the President did teach a class or two on that subject.

Figured you'd be the only one to know.

????????????

Tell Marba
to send us the
a copy of the
letter.

9/25/75
Marba will
send a copy
it is a
child's
letter.

attached



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9-25-75

Dear Eva:

Enclosed is the young person's letter.
(Melanie Bundy, 412 W. Hudson, Madison
Heights, Michigan)

As we would like to respond factually,
thanx for your help on the question of
the President teaching a course.


marba



Dear Mr. President,

My name is Melanie
Bundy and I have a
question to ask you.

Were you a counselor
for Evelyn Jack? I wanted
to know, because she is
my Aunt. My Grandma
told me that you were
a counselor of law and
she was taking a course
of it.

I'm not trying to
get famous or anything,
but I just wanted
to know if it was true
rest on back



Could you please
write back? I wrote
three letters to the
White House, and all
I got back were cards.
I know you can't
answer every letter you
get, but this is very
important to me.

Signed,



Your 12-year-old
Friend Melanie.

P.S. I want to write
your wife a letter. I
sure hope she reads it
& writes back. Am her fan.

m

How are you? I am
fine. I still have every
article I can get of you,
for you're my best friend.

I watched that special
of you on "Sixty Minutes".
You were very open and
honest, just like I
thought you were.

How was Finland?
I know much about it
already for my Grandmother
was an immigrant from
the country. She came over
in 1909.

I have some Finnish
words for you. They
not on back.



sheet of paper.

I hope you write
back to me. I wrote
three letters before to
you, but all I got
back were cards. You
probably didn't ever
read them. Well I hope
you read them and
write back for proof
that you read them.
I know you can't write
back for every letter, but
this is so special to me

Signed

Your 12 year old
Friend Melanie



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 2, 1975

*Pres.
(personal)*

Dear Mr. Cheadle:

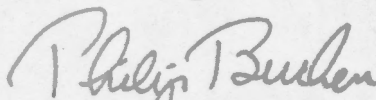
In answer to your inquiry of September 4, I can report as follows:

1. Because the President was not drafted but enlisted in the Navy for Officers' Training School, I do not recall the particular day when he said "good-bye." If I recall, he was able to get back to Grand Rapids a few times before his schooling was completed and he went on active duty.
2. The offices of Ford and Buchen were located in the Michigan Trust Building.

In answer to your other questions, I enclose a memorandum to me from Miss Mildred Leonard, the President's Confidential Secretary.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

1
Mr. A. Maurice Cheadle
20 Gilbraltar
Rockford, Michigan 49341

Enclosure



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 30, 1975

FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM: MILDRED LEONARD

SUBJECT: Request for information on President's Monterey Service
from Mr. A. Cheadle of Rockford, Michigan

Question #3: President was commissioned at Annapolis.

Questions #4 and 5: Copy of list of men who served with the President aboard Monterey attached. How many were officers is unknown.

More information, and possibly pictures, may be obtained from Mr. Charles A. Webb, 1001 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209. Mr. Webb was the Ship's Secretary in charge of the Captain's office.

Another source might be Mr. Gail K. Pinkstaff, 1775 North Sycamore, Los Angeles, California 90028



*President
Personal*

Thursday 11/6/75

4:10 There was a call from Chet Thalman, who lives in Saratoga Springs.

(518) 584-0531

He was calling from his attorney's office in Ballston Spa, where he will be until 5 o'clock and where he spends a good bit of his time.

(518) 885-5359

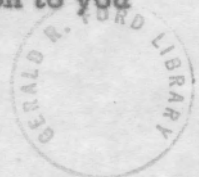
Mr. Thalman (pronounced tallman) said he was a year ahead of you at school -- while the President was there.

He wanted you to know of a strange call from John Hoganfield (sp. ??) of the New York Post. They seem to be planning or trying to do something that would embarrass the President relative to New York City. The situation goes back 35 years. They are trying to establish whether or not the President actually lived in New York City. Some way they found out that Mr. Thalman had an apartment in New York and the President came down and stayed with him. They asked if he simply came down to New York on weekends or whether he had an apartment in the city. They told him they had been calling all over the eastern seaboard to reach him. He tried to find out what it was all about. Says they've done their research!! Mentioned Harry Conover who knew the President in those days. Also mentioned Phyllis Brown that Mr. Thalman knew very well and who was a girl friend of the President's at the time. Phyllis is now married to Mr. Phillips. And they had mentioned a Mrs. Phillips who now lives in Reno -- and that is where she lives.

He indicated you, the President and he were all DEKES -- that the President was two years ahead of him and you were a year behind him in school. Also mentioned Joshua Logan (a film producer of South Pacific) for whom Mr. Thalman worked for many years. Mr. Thalman apparently also talked with Joe Curtis and (I think) he had been contacted also.

He said all he wanted to do was to get this information to you so you'd know what someone is digging into.

Said to give you his best.



AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:36 A.M. (Honolulu time)

DECEMBER 7, 1975

SUNDAY

HONOLULU, HAWAII

MR. NESSEN: We have had some questions, as I understand it, that people want answered. One has to do with where was the President on December 7, 1941. The answer is that the President went to church that morning with his parents in Grand Rapids. After that he went to his law office in Grand Rapids, getting there at about 1:30 and staying until 6:00 working on a brief. There was nobody else in the office, and he didn't have a radio.

He left the office about 6:00, went down to his car, turned on the radio in his car and that is when he found out about it.

Q You mean that many hours had passed?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Is that the office he shared with Buchen?

MR. NESSEN: The other question had to do with the President's reaction to the reports that Indonesia has sent troops to East Timore. As I understand it, one question was, did the President discuss this with Suharto. The answer is that General Suharto raised in very general terms the situation in East Timor and expressed his concern about the situation there, but did not inform the President of any specific action that Indonesia planned to take.

The President has received some preliminary reports on the situation. He is following the situation, and it would be fair to say that the United States is always concerned about the use of violence, and the President hopes that the situation can be resolved peacefully.

Q Which ship was he attached to December 7, 1941?

MR. NESSEN: The President was not in the Navy on December 7, 1941. He was in private law practice.

Q Did the President ever ask Suharto if he would send troops there?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, it came up in general terms, and President Suharto didn't say what he planned to do.

Q There were reports from Indonesian officials in Jakarta that the American Government had asked the Indonesians to hold off on the invasion of East Timor until President Ford left town. Is that true?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know where you heard that, Pierre, but that is not the indication I got from the President or at least the President did not participate in the conversation.

Q What did the President say to Suharto? What was his own response?

MR. NESSEN: As I understand it, it was Suharto who raised or carried on most of the discussion, and the President didn't participate in the way of a response other than to express the hope that it could be resolved peacefully.

Q How did the President hear of the situation in East Timor? Did he hear about it after he arrived here?

Q How does the President feel about his trip so far?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't we wait until he makes his speech. He is about to make a speech, Helen, in which he gives a report to the Nation on the trip and a report on his policy in the Pacific. I think the speech speaks for itself.

Q You don't know how he personally feels about the trip thus far?

MR. NESSEN: The speech reflects his personal feelings.

Q Is he tired, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Probably less so than everybody else on the trip.

Q What was the question?

MR. NESSEN: Walt asked whether he was tired and I said less so than most people on the trip. He has the only bed on the plane. (Laughter)

Q Why is the President not staying overnight in Hawaii?

MR. NESSEN: He has some quite important business back in Washington.

Q Like what?

MR. NESSEN: You know legislation is coming down from the Hill, Helen, and you know about the budget, State of the Union and legislative proposals, the economic report.

Q Ron, has he been able to spend three and four hours a day on domestic issues?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, at least that much.

Q Every day?

MR. NESSEN: Most every day.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 10:40 A.M. Honolulu time)