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COMMITTEE FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

November 2, 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

THE HONORABLE CLARK MAC GREGOR
ROBERT M. TEETER
Rhode Island

In 1968 the President got 32% of the vote in Rhode Island, Humphrey 64%, and Wallace 4%. The President ran poorly in all areas of the state.

	<u>Nixon</u>	<u>Humphrey</u>	<u>Wallace</u>	<u>Margin</u>
Providence	28%	68%	4%	-40
Kent	37	59	4	-22
Newport	38	58	4	-20
Washington	43	52	5	-9
Bristol	38	59	2	-21

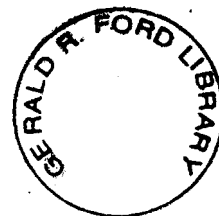
However, a private Becker Poll done for Chafee last weekend gives the President an 18% lead which appears comfortable.

Chafee's lead has continued to diminish to the point where his race is a virtual dead heat.

<u>Becker/Chafee</u>	<u>Nixon</u>	<u>McGovern</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Margin</u>
August	52%	23%	25%	+29
10/22	55	33	10	+22
10/29	53	35	10	+18

Determined to be an Administrative Marking

By RD NARA, Date 2/8/72



<u>Becker/Chafee</u>	<u>Chafee</u>	<u>Pell</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Margin</u>
August	45%	41%	14%	+ 4
10/29	45	44	11	+ 1

The Chafee problem appears to be Democrats returning to their party. The President should avoid an appeal for a Republican Senate and emphasize Chafee's superior ability and experience. Even though his lead has decreased Chafee's favorable ratings continue to be significantly higher than Pell's. Pell is seen as a bland faceless candidate who has nothing going for him except he is a Democrat.

The important issues are primarily economy, inflation, jobs, particularly as they relate to the defense plants. Bussing is an issue but does not effect as many families as elsewhere because of the large numbers who attend parochial schools. Vietnam has been and continues to be more important in Rhode Island than in most other areas of the country. There is more opposition to the bombing there than in other states except Massachusetts. The recent Vietnam peace negotiations should be helpful to both the President and Chafee in Rhode Island.

