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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WARREN S. RUSTAND *WSR*
SUBJECT: Academic Excellence

I thought you might be interested in seeing the attached bit of historical information.

Frank

ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE 38th PRESIDENT

Gerald R. Ford has the distinction of being the first President or Vice-President to hold a graduate degree from an Ivy League University. His LLB from Yale constitutes a first.

Three of his four predecessors as Vice-President had held graduate degrees, but not from Ivy League Schools: Spiro Agnew, LLB Baltimore U.; Hubert Humphrey MA Louisiana State U., and Richard Nixon LLB Duke U.. Johnson and Kennedy had no graduate education, Truman only a high school education.

The two Roosevelts both started Columbia Law School but did not finish. Hoover had only a bachelor's degree in engineering. Harding and Coolidge had bachelor's degrees; Coolidge was our last National Officer to have read law in a lawyer's chambers rather than at a law school. William Howard Taft got his law degree from Cincinnati Law School. Rutherford B. Hayes did 1 1/2 years at Harvard Law School.

Wilson and Garfield rose to the Presidency out of academia. Wilson had his PhD from Johns Hopkins in Political Science and rose through the faculty to be president of Princeton. Garfield taught classical languages at Hiram College after getting his BA at Williams, rising to become president of Hiram.

Few presidential candidates have been products of Ivy League graduate schools. A notable exception was Charles Evans Hughes, LLB Cornell. Among those who have been suggested as potential presidential candidates in recent years or in the past quarter-century, there have been few with Ivy League graduate degrees. Stevenson had his LLB from Northwestern, the younger Kennedys from Virginia, for example.

Two men have been nominated but not elected to the Vice-Presidency who had Ivy League graduate degrees. It makes an instructive parlor game to ask people to guess who, among the candidates for national office in recent decades, had Ivy League graduate degrees. They rarely guess correctly.

The answer is Muskie, LLB Cornell, and Kefauver, LLB Yale. It is interesting to note the common public image of The Man from Grand Rapids, Down-Maine Ed Muskie, and the Keef with the coonskin cap, all anything but Ivy League. All three have a strong regional image in the public imagination. All three had that extra measure of wisdom to know that academic excellence is no excuse for pretentiousness.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 16, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: WARREN RUSTAND
FROM: JERRY H. JONES
SUBJECT: Academic Excellence

Your memorandum to the President of August 15 on the above subject has been reviewed and the following was noted:

--Thanks.

cc: Al Haig