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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN
FROM: JERRY H. ~~JOHNS~~
SUBJECT: Honorary Memberships and Endorsements
for the President and his Family

Your memorandum to the President of October 31 on the above subject has been reviewed and the following decisions were made:

- I. General Policy to Decline Memberships and Endorsements
- II. Exceptions

All policies for the above were approved.
- III. Recommended Disposition of Offers and Requests

Responsible adviser was approved.

The following notations were made:

Tab B -- Possible Discretionary Approval

Grand Rapids Bar Association -- ok

Kent County Farm Bureau -- ok

Honorary Chairman of Doral Eastern Open for 1975 -- ok

University Club, Grand Rapids, Michigan -- ok; already a member for 30 years.

Grand Rapids Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police -- ok

Tab C -- Rejection Recommended

Royal Order of Jesters (Grand Rapids, Michigan) -- I am already a member
United States Ski Association -- Why not?
Vail Racquet Club -- Why not?

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN

SUBJECT: Honorary Memberships
and Endorsements for the
President and his Family

see notes

The President continuously receives offers of honorary memberships and requests to join this or that organization or endorse a cause. The policy adopted by the previous Administration after the first year of struggling with such decisions was to reject them all, with a few exceptions.

I. General Policy to Decline Memberships and Endorsements.

The principal hazards in accepting such offers are (1) the uneven extension of Presidential favors, creating an appearance of favoritism and proliferating even more such requests, and (2) linking the President's name to solicitation of funds and the like.

The reason for rejection stated in the answering correspondence is that "the President receives so many requests of this kind that the only fair course is to deny them all." The words "of this kind" provide a hedge for whatever exceptions are made.

Many offers of honorary memberships are accompanied by cards or certificates. These are kept, even though the membership is declined "as a token of your thoughtfulness" in making the offer. The rationale for retention is (1) to avoid a seeming slap in the face by return of the entire package, and (2) the human interest value in the accumulation of such tokens.

Fund raising and commercial offers have been rejected on principle as inappropriate for the President, except as noted below.

II. Exceptions

A. Public and Quasi Public Organizations

Presidents have traditionally consented to honorary titles and patronage of official and quasi official organizations. Examples include the American National Red Cross, the United Fund, the United Nations Association, the Boy Scouts of America, and the like. A tradition of membership by past Presidents may sometimes be regarded as conferring a quasi-public character on an organization. For such organizations as the Red Cross and Boy Scouts, which have both national and local organizations, Presidential participation has been limited to the national organization.

B. Other Exceptions

An occasional exception is made because of associations that are personal to the incumbent President, such as his own membership in a golf club, or civic or professional affiliations pre-dating his Presidency and not inconsistent with the office. There may also be some personal or political interest or hometown associations that are distinguishable and can be dealt with on a case by case basis.

It is recommended that the same policies be followed by the members of your family.

The above policies are

Approved MRJ

Disapproved _____

Comment _____

III. Recommended Disposition of Offers and Requests

We have accumulated offers received since you took office pending adoption of a general policy, except for a few that required immediate action. On the basis of the policies described above they have been divided into three general groups as follows:

- Tab A: Public and quasi-public organizations for which acceptance is recommended.
- Tab B: (1) Possible approvals as exceptions depending on guidance from you or a designated adviser.
- (2) For consideration on the same basis, all Masonic offers have been segregated under this tab.
- Tab C: (1) Proposed rejections under the general policy.
- (2) Proposed rejections subject to review in case an exception should be made for political reasons.

My recommendation would be that you authorize acceptance now for all organizations listed at Tab A. I believe the remainder should be reviewed by an adviser from a political standpoint under whatever general policy you direct in response to this memorandum. Any acceptance which may be thus recommended should be forwarded to the Counsel's office. Hereafter, I would propose that membership requests that cannot be handled by a routine letter of rejection be forwarded to the same person for political review, and then to the Counsel's office if acceptance is recommended.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Comment _____

Responsible adviser BA7

Tab A Approval Recommended

Gallaudet College

The National Foundation-March of Dimes

People-to-People International

The Navy Ball

Washington Performing Arts Society, Honorary Patrons for
Salute to U.S.A. (President and Mrs. Ford).

United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO)

National 4-H Service Committee

Big Brothers of America

Sister Cities International

United Nations Association

Army Relief Society

State Bar of Michigan

Partners of the Americas (Gov. Milliken request, inter-American
Governors group)

United States Capitol Historical Society (Suggests designating a member
of the President's family)

Sertoma Club of Indianapolis. Ordinarily we would recommend declining
but this was important to Hudnut and President Nixon accepted.
I therefore sent Hudnut a telegram that you intend to accept.

NOTE: The Counsel's Office has received framed certificates
from each of the following organizations, indicating
that the President has already accepted:

National Geographic Society, Life Membership

Michigan Retired Officers Association

Distributive Education Clubs of America, Brandywine Chapter,
Wilmington, Delaware

Tab B(1) Possible Discretionary Approval

Saginaw Club of Saginaw, Michigan
Boy Scouts of America (Denver Area Council)
Army Navy Country Club (Arlington, Virginia)
Army and Navy Club (Grand Rapids, Michigan)
The Forest Park South Suburban Cook County Illinois Council of
the Navy League of the United States
Recording for the Blind, Inc. (New York, N. Y.)
Distributive Education Clubs of America (Rootstown, Ohio)

Note: John Nidecker has already accepted
on the President's behalf an honorary
membership in the Brandywine Chapter
of Wilmington, Delaware.

People-to-People Sports Committee, Inc.
The New York Association for the Blind
USO (Los Angeles Area)
Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation

OK - Grand Rapids Bar Association

Colorado Couples for Carih (Childrens Asthma Research Institute and
Hospital) Note: Visit requested Nov. 2
A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans (Former President Nixon
declined, but the President served on the Board of Advisors
when Vice President. Mike Farrell is familiar with this one).

J.C. Alhambra Telethon for the Mentally Retarded, Westland, Michigan,
(Senator Griffin request)

OK - Kent County Farm Bureau (Honorary Life Membership; The President
has belonged for 24 years)

The New York Historical Society (Claims as honorary members all
Presidents since John Adams, with two unidentified exceptions).

Hellcatchers Club (President belonged as a member of Congress)
Honorary Chairman, United States Ski Association Fund Raising Benefit
(for the U.S. Olympic Ski Team. Rustand notes
invitation must be regretted, but honorary chairmanship
could be accepted. President approved choice of
Michigan as chairman).

OK - Honorary Chairman of Doral Eastern Open for 1975. (Prior acceptance
indicated)

The Americas Foundation (Former President said to have held
this honorary title)

OK - University Club, Grand Rapids, Michigan *already a member for 30 yrs*

OK - Grand Rapids Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police (Plaque received.
Already accepted?)

Tab B (2) Possible Discretionary Approval--Masonic

Zem Zem Pipes & Drums (Erie, Penna.)
National Sojourners, Inc. (Golden Gate Chapter No. 18, San Francisco, Calif.)
Topper Brothers Invertments (appointed by the Al Malaikak Temple of the
Los Angeles Jurisdiction to head drive to raise funds to erect building
for the Youth of DeMolay in the California Jurisdiction)
Sphinx Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. (Hartford, Connecticut)
Al Amin Temple (Corpus Christi, Texas)
High Noon Luncheon Club of Dallas
Wahabi Temple (Jackson, Mississippi)
High Twelve Club (San Mateo County, California)
Saladin (Northwest Shrine Club - Rapid City, Michigan)
Pioneer Lodge No. 70 F. & A. M. of Hackensack, N. J.
Anezeh Temple of Mexico and Guatemala
Sarasota Shrine Club (Sarasota, Florida)
El Jebel Temple (Denver, Colorado)
Jamil Temple U. D. (Columbia, S. C.)
Hollywood Shrine Club (Hollywood, Calif.)
Moslem Temple, Detroit, Michigan
Ararat Temple, Kansas City, Missouri
Woodlawn Chapter, Order of De Molay, Mother's Club
Quincy Lodge - No. 161 (Bicentennial theme)
Greuter Cincinnati Fire Department Masonic Club

Note: Framed Certificate indicates already accepted:

Crescent Temple of Trenton, Jew Jersey

Tab C(1) Rejection Recommended

Hopkins County Bi-Centennial Commission (Texas)
Alumnus of the University of San Francisco (Oregon chapter
of the Alumni extended the invitation)
Waxhaw-Shiloh Bible Society (Lancaster, S.C.)
Cruiser Olympia Association, Inc. (Phil., Penna.)
National Association of Pool Owners (Needham, Ma.)
Ron Hall's Health Club (Arlington, Texas)
The California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc.
Granada Hills Rotary Club (Grand Hills, Calif.)
The National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame (Monterey, Calif.)
Honorary Member of the United States Duffers Association (golf -
Birmingham, Mich.)
Veteran Boxers Association of Mercer County, Ring No. 5 -Farrell, Pa.
Young Men's Christian Association of Metropolitan Washington
International Hapkido-Karate Association (Canoga Park, Calif.)
Country Music Fan Club (Tacoma, Wa.)
San Mateo California Marlin Masters Swin Team
Royal Order of Jesters (Grand Rapids, Michigan) - *2 am already a member*
Washington Radio Patrol, Incorporated (Tacoma, Washington)
New York Yacht Club
Gruppo Spazio 4 (students of U.F.O. phenomena in Torino, Italy)
Walnut Creek Diving Team (Calif.)
Texas Artists Museum Society (Port Arthur, Texas)
United States Ski Association *Why not?*
WCSG (station membership - located on the campus of Grand Rapids
Baptist College and Seminary)
Starlit Fairways, Inc. (swimming - Fairfax, Va.)
Sun City California Swim Club
Fairbanks Golf and Country Club, Alaska
The Sherlock Holmes Society of Los Angeles
Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus
Peoria Ski Club
Sugar Bown Ski Club
The Golden Retriever Club of America, Inc.
World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation, Inc., (New York, N.Y.)
World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation, Inc., (Chicago, Illinois)

Tab C (1) Rejection Recommended (Continued)

Lincoln State Cat Club (They wrote separately to Susan)
Improved Order of Red Men
United Westside Citizens Committee
Boy Scout Troop 61, Grand Valley Council, Belding, Michigan
Golden Rule Marble Club of Pryor, Oklahoma
Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club
Western White House Citizens Band Radio Club
Columbus Day Celebration Committee, Inc.
Honorary Chairman of Annual Awards Dinner of the Queenshore
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Honorary Sponsor of the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital's
Second Gala Benefit

Sons of the American Revolution
North Shore Philatelic Society
The Wilshire Country Club, Los Angeles, California
Mr. Dick's Social Club
W. - Vail Racquet Club (Offers free use of facilities which could be
a gift/entertainment problem)
Washington Area Darts Association
The Lodge, Theta Chi Fraternity, Ann Arbor, Michigan
William C. Schletter offer of gift membership in National Geographic
Society. (The Society itself has already conferred membership)
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
Germantown Academy Aquatic Club (with gift of goggles)
Young Men's Christian Association of Metropolitan Washington
Tipper's International
United Consumers Club

Tab C(2) Rejection Recommended, Subject to Political Review

The Committee to End Colds and Flu (Bakersfield, Calif.)
Medical Profile Systems, Inc. (Atlanta, Ga.)
The American Legion (Department of California)
Lions Club of New York
United States Medical Academy (Franklin, Conn.)
International Lions Club (Sacramento, Calif.)
The Press Club of San Francisco
Kent County Conservation League, Inc. (Grand Rapids, Michigan)
National Eagle Scout Association (North Brunswick, N. J.)
Heidelberg International Ski Club (APO New York 09102 - Armed
Forces Personnel, United States and German civilians)
United Veterans U.S.A. and American Railroad Transportation Corps
(Scranton, Pa.)
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (Lincoln, Nebraska)
The American Red Cross (Fayette County Chapter -Uniontown, Pa.)
Society of Philatelic Americans (FDR was a member)
Prevent Alcohol Problems Association (PABA, Inc.), Greenville, S.C.
United States Deaf Skiers Association
Honorary Citizen, City of Starkville, Mississippi (Result of Vice
Presidential visit)
American Philatelic Society
Delaware, Ohio, Chapter #79 Disabled American Veterans
South Court Republican Forum, Irvine, Calif. (Honorary membership
as Vice President)
George Washington Convention Commission
Richard G. Lugar Fan Club
Connecticut State Society of the District of Columbia
Fraternal Order of Police, Nebraska State Lodge (Police orders
sometimes get Presidential acceptances that the Counsel's
office learns about when the President makes a speech
to such a group)
New York Veteran Police Association