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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 12/18/74

TO: The President

FROM: Paul A. Miltich

FYI X ACTION                     

OTHER :

Mr. President, I thought you would like to see this Hearst Papers column by Bob Considine, which you might not have seen elsewhere.

--P.A.M.

                      
*PM*

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HN- FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

ON THE LINE

(REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

BY BOB CONSIDINE

NEW YORK -- PEOPLE...PLACES...PERTINENCE...

ONE OF THE RAPS ON PRESIDENT FORD IS THAT HE WAS A GOOD ENOUGH BOY TO MAKE EAGLE SCOUT. DETRACTORS WHO EMPLOY THAT FACT AS IF IT WERE SOME KIND OF AN INDELIBLE BLIGHT ON THE GROWN MAN'S RECORD, LIKE STEALING A 1920 HUPMOBILE OR THROWING BUMPS IN THE DIRECTION OF FANNE FOXE, REGARD "EAGLE SCOUT" AS A COUPLE OF BAD WORDS, AS CONDEMNING AS "JUVENILE DELINQUENT" OR "CARD SHARK."

NEVER HAVING MADE ANY HIGHER JUVENILE POST THAN ALTAR BOY, I'D LIKE TO RAP THE RAPPERS OF THE PRESIDENT IN HIS OWN WORDS:

"I AM PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INVITATION TO BE HERE TONIGHT FOR A VERY PERSONAL REASON," HE SAID UPON RECEIVING THE SCOUTER OF THE YEAR AWARD IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS MONTH. "IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN SAID THAT I AM TOO MUCH OF A BOY SCOUT IN THE WAY I HAVE CONDUCTED MYSELF AS PRESIDENT, AND SO I HAVE REVIEWED THE BOY SCOUT LAWS AND OATH.

"THE RULES SAY THAT A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, HELPFUL, FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, KIND, OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL, THRIFTY, BRAVE, CLEAN, AND REVERENT. THAT'S NOT BAD TRAINING FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS A SCOUT 48 YEARS AGO.

"THE BOY SCOUT OATH IS 'ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW; TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES; TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.'

(MORE)

HN- SHEET TWO CONSIDINE XXX STRAIGHT.'

"IF THESE AREN'T THE WORDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AS TO WHAT THEY WANT THEIR PRESIDENT TO LIVE UP TO, I MUST DRAW THIS CONCLUSION: EITHER YOU HAVE THE WRONG MAN OR I HAVE THE WRONG COUNTRY. AND I DON'T BELIEVE EITHER IS SO."

THAT'S THE PRESIDENT'S STIRRING FIRST HURRAH.

(3 STARS)

WE STILL HAVE THE AGONY OF THE MORE THAN 1,000 AMERICAN FAMILIES WHOSE MEN REMAIN LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION, THIS LONG TIME AFTER THE WAR IN INDOCHINA. THE FAMILIES BELIEVE AND PROBABLY ALWAYS WILL BELIEVE THAT HENRY KISSINGER'S DAZZLING DIPLOMATIC WRAP-UP OF THAT WAR, WHICH WON HIM THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, CALLOUSLY IGNORED THE QUESTION OF THE MIA'S. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GROUPS HAVE FELT IT THEIR DUTY TO PICKET THE WHITE HOUSE AND PROTEST TO THE PENTAGON AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THEIR MEN -- IF ALIVE -- HAVE BEEN WRITTEN OFF.

ALAS, IT IS PROBABLY NOT THAT CRUEL. WHAT IS INDEED CRUEL, OF COURSE, IS THAT THE ENEMIES OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT HAVE NEVER REALLY COOPERATED IN LETTING IMPARTIAL OBSERVERS INTO THE PLACES WHERE SOME OF THE MIA'S WERE LAST SEEN ALIVE. MOREOVER, THE UN, TRADITIONALLY THE AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH SUCH HUMANITARIAN GROUPS OPERATE, JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE RUDIMENTARY GUTS TO INVOKE THE GENEVA CONVENTION.

(3 STARS)

MY HEART GOES OUT TO MY DICE-SHOOTING FRIENDS WHO GO TO LAS VEGAS PERIODICALLY, SOMEWHAT LIKE LEMMINGS TO THE SEA, TO CONTINUE A COMMENDABLE CRUSADE WHOSE ULTIMATE POINT IS THAT YOU CAN BEAT THE HOUSE ODDS AGAINST YOU IF YOU STAY AT IT LONG ENOUGH.

(MORE)

HN- SHEET THREE CONSIDINE XXX ENOUGH!

ONE OF THE BEST CHANCES OF PROVING THAT POINT WAS ALWAYS MOBILITY. IF YOUR LUCK WAS RUNNING BAD AT THE DESERT INN, LET'S SAY, YOU COULD ALWAYS MOSEY ON TO THE SANDS, OR FLAMINGO OR BELDON'S, OR JOE W'S PLACE DOWNTOWN WITH THE MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF \$10,000 BILLS FRAMED IN HIS ENTRANCE. ETC.

BUT LAS VEGAS BECAME SO POPULAR, LIKE WAIKIKI, THAT YOU CAN'T SEE THE STATUES OF BUGSEY SIEGAL OR WILBUR CLARKE ANY MORE -- JUST AS IT HAS BECOME HARD TO SEE DIAMONDHEAD FROM THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN. IN LAS VEGAS A LOSER COULDN'T GET ON TO WHAT HE FELT WOULD BE A WINNERS' JOINT, BECAUSE OF THE CLOGGED TRAFFIC ALONG THE STRIP AND IN BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN L.V. A PROGRESSIVE GROUP'S PROPOSAL THAT AN 11-MILE MONORAIL BE ERECTED FROM MCCARREN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DOWN THE STRIP, WITH PUSH-BUTTON STOPS TO THE GOLDEN NUGGET MAY BE ABANDONED BY THE CITY FATHERS BECAUSE IT WOULD COST \$150,000,000. A PITTANCE FOR L.V., NORMALLY, BUT MONEY IS TIGHT. IF THE PLAN IS WIPED OUT, PLAYERS BY AND LARGE WILL BE IMMOBILIZED AT THE TABLES OF THEIR FIRST CHOICES, UNABLE TO MOVE ON TO A LIKELIER PLACE THROUGH THE THICKETS OF THE WCTU CONVENTION BUSES.

( 3 STARS)

ARISTOTLE ONASSIS HAS PLAYED A ROTTEN TRICK ON THE NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT. HE HAS GIVEN IT BACK ITS NATIONAL AIRLINE, WHICH HE HAS BEEN SUPPORTING FOR YEARS. THAT'S BAD FOR GREECE AND THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE, TOO. NO MORE DANCING IN THE AISLES!

(HEARST HEADLINE SERVICE)

12/12/74TN