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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DOUGLAS P. BENNETT

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

U. S. Representative to the Commemoration
of the 100th Anniversary of the Tongan
Constitution

Confirming phone call to your office, the President reviewed your memorandum of October 30th and approved the designation of Ambassador Armisted I. Selden and Richard E. Spelts as your representatives to the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Tongan Constitution.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DONALD RUMSFELD

FROM: DOUGLAS P. BENNETT ^{DPB}

SUBJECT: U.S. Representative to the
Commemoration of the 100th
Anniversary of the Tongan
Constitution

The Government of Tonga has invited two United States Government representatives to attend the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Tongan constitution to be held November 2 through 8.

I recommend that you designate the following as your representatives:

Ambassador Armisted I. Selden, (Resume, Tab A), who as our Ambassador to New Zealand and concurrently serving as Ambassador to Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa, is of the proper rank to represent you.

ACF

Approve

_____ Disapprove

Richard E. Spelts, (Resume, Tab B), a Republican from Grand Island, Nebraska. Mr. Spelts is a banker. He is a former State Republican Chairman and was Senator Carl Curtis' campaign manager in 1960 and 1972.

ACF

Approve

_____ Disapprove

ARMISTEAD I. SELDEN, JR.

Position for which considered: Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently as Ambassador to Fiji, Tonga, and Western Samoa

Present Position: Member of law firm of Lucas, Selden, Friedman and Mann

Office Address: 1028 Connecticut Avenue N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Born: February 20, 1921, Greensboro, Alabama

Legal Residence: Alabama

Marital Status: Married

Family: Wife: former Mary Jane Wright
Children: Martee Selden (Mrs. James H. Hewitt)
Armistead Selden III
Jack Wright Selden
Edith Cobbs Selden
Thomas Lawson Selden

Home Address: 6444 Lily Dhu Lane
Falls Church, Virginia

Education: B.A. 1942, University of the South
(Sewanee, Tennessee)
LL.B. 1948, University of Alabama

Language Ability: Not stated

Experience:

Military
1942-46 United States Navy

Non-Government
1948-53 Attorney (private law practice) in
Greensboro, Alabama

Government
1950-51 Member of the Alabama House of
Representatives
1953-69 United States Representative from the
State of Alabama (Member of House
Foreign Affairs Committee, 1955-69;
Chairman, Subcommittee on Inter-
American Affairs, 1959-69)

Non-Government
1969-70 Attorney (private law practice) in

Washington, D. C. and Tuscaloosa,
Alabama

Government
1970-72

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of
Defense for International Security
Affairs

1972-73

Consultant, Department of Defense

Non-Government
1973 to present

Member of law firm of Lucas, Selden,
Friedman and Mann (Washington, D. C.)

1969 to present

Also associated with law firm of Rosen,
Wright, Harwood and Selden (Tuscaloosa,
Alabama)

Awards:

Department of Defense Distinguished
Civilian Award, 1972

January 1974

B

January 15, 1974

RICHARD E. SPELTS, JR.

First National Bank Building
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801
308/382-5100 308/382-7222

BOFN January 1, 1919 (5th Nebraska Generation - 1869)
FAMILY Married (Dorothy Tipton) (2) daughters (Mrs. Gary
 (Connie) Brouillette and Mrs. James (Susan) Russell
EDUCATION BS Degree, University of Nebraska (1941)
AB Degree, Hastings College (Nebraska) (1942)
MILITARY Lt. (jg) U.S. Navy World War II
ORGANIZATIONS
 (Professional) American Society of Agricultural Engineers & The
 Newcomen Society in North America
 (Fraternal) Masons, Shrine, Elks, American Legion & Rotary

CURRENT BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITIES

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA
*First Grand Island Co.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
BANKSHARES OF NEBRASKA, INC., GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA
*First Savings Company of Grand Island

PRESIDENT
UNITED BANK SERVICES CO., GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

OFFICER & DIRECTOR
SPELTS OF NEBRASKA, INC., GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA
SPELTS-SCHULTZ LUMBER CO. OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA
MID-AMERICA CO., GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA
SPELTS LUMBER CO. OF KEARNEY, NEBRASKA
SPELTS-SWANSON IMPLEMENT CO., KEARNEY, NEBRASKA
SPELTS LUMBER CO. OF VALENTINE, NEBRASKA

DIRECTOR
 ALEXANDER HAMILTON LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF AMERICA, DETROIT, MICHIGAN
 HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION, DETROIT, MICHIGAN
 INVESTORS LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF NEBRASKA, OMAHA, NEBRASKA
 MEI CORPORATION, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
 *Minnesota Small Loan Company, Minneapolis
 *Pepsi-Cola Bottling Companies, Tulsa, Wichita, Lyons, Dodge City,
 Emporia, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Waterloo & Esterville
 *West Towns Bus Company, Oak Park, Illinois
 **Texas International Airlines, Huston, Texas
 *Subsidiaries **Investment
 NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE CO., HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA

CURRENT CIVIC ACTIVITIES

CHAIRMAN: Golden Age Village (Hall County Housing Authority)
PRESIDENT: Greater Grand Island Development Corporation
TRUSTEE: University of Nebraska Foundation
 Central Nebraska Technical Foundation
 Grand Island Industrial Foundation
 Grand Island Charitable Foundation
DIRECTOR: Nebraska Association of Commerce & Industry
 Overland Trails Council - Boy Scouts of America
 Grand Island Chamber of Commerce
 Grand Island United Way
MEMBER: National Council - Boy Scouts of America
 Advisory Council University of Nebraska
FIELD: Presbyterian Church
DIRECTOR: St. Francis Hospital

VOLUNTEER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

CHAIRMAN: NEBRASKA REPUBLICAN PARTY (1955-1959)
MEMBER: Republican National Committee (1955-1959)
Republican National Finance Committee (1963-1965)
DELEGATE AT LARGE: Republican National Convention (1960)
CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Senator Carl T. Curtis (1960), TREASURER (1966), MANAGER (1972)
ASSISTANT FLOOR LEADER: Republican National Convention (1964)
DIRECTOR: Republican National Committee "TRUTH SQUAD"
(1964 Presidential Campaign)

PAST CIVIC ACTIVITIES

UNITED NATIONS: U.S. PUBLIC DELEGATE - UNESCO CONFERENCE,
VENICE, ITALY (1970)
PRESIDENT: NEBRASKA STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (1962-1963)
Grand Island Chamber of Commerce (1964)
Rotary Club (1962-1963)
Overland Trails Boy Scout Council (1958-1959)
Hastings College Alumni Association (1955)
University of Nebraska Regional Alumni (1958)
CHAIRMAN: Grand Island City Planning Commission (1955-1960)
Grand Island Auditorium Commission (1960)
Boy Scout Board of Trustees (1958-1965)
Nebraska Cancer Crusade (1965)
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON DISRUPTIVE ACTIONS,
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA (1970)
TRUSTEE: Nebraska Tax Research Council, Inc. (1962-1963)
Nebraska Independent College Foundation (1965-1971)
MEMBER: United States Chamber of Commerce Arcàde (1967)
Nebraska "Little Hoover Commission" (1968-1969)
Nebraska Diplomats (1967-1970)
DIRECTOR: Grand Island United Fund
Hall County Crippled Children Society
Red Cross (Hall County)
Associated Industries of Nebraska
American Cancer Society, Inc.
NEBRASKA MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS STUDY COMMITTEE (1968)
Nebraskans For Public Television, Inc. (1972-1973)

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Outstanding Young Man Award of Grand Island (1952)
Alumni Service Award - University of Nebraska (1958)
Distinguished Service Award - Nebraska Republican Party (1959)
Silver Beaver Award - Boy Scouts of America (1962)
Mr. Grand Island Award (1963)
American Cancer Society Award (1965)
KMMJ Radio Community Service Award (1967)

LISTINGS

Who's Who in the Midwest
National Social Directory
Royal Blue Book
Dictionary of International Biography
The National Register of Prominent Americans
World Who's Who in Finance & Industry
Two Thousand Men of Achievement
International Who's Who in Community Service
American Biographical Institute - Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans

To:
Senator Carl T. Curtis

November 25, 1974

RICHARD E. SPELTS, JR.
304 First National Bank
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

- "Fields of Greatest Strengths"

FINANCE

I have been associated with the banking industry for 21 years, principally with First Nat'l Bank of Grand Island the 7th largest commercial bank in Nebr. For the past 8 years I have served as Chief Administrative Officer and have furnished hope, leadership that has brought the bank from a \$26 Million bank to a \$80 Million bank in a very competitive marketplace.

HOUSING - PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

I have spent my entire adult lifetime in the private home building industry and have spent the past 21 years as a member of, and Chairman of, the Hall County Housing Authority who have been successful pioneers in the field of public housing for the low income elderly.

HEALTH CARE

I served as Chairman and Executive Director on a volunteer basis in constructing the first modern nursing home in the State of Nebraska and currently serve on the Board of Directors of St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island, being charged

with the responsibility of developing plans for, finance for and ultimate construction of a new \$10 Million hospital facility.

INSURANCE - HEALTH AND LIFE

I have been active in the formation and the operation of an insurance company here in Nebraska dating back to 1962, and I currently serve on two Boards of Directors of life insurance companies operating in most of the states of the union and in Europe.

PRIVATE POWER

I serve as a Director of a private power company distributing electricity and gas to residents and industrial facilities in the states of South Dakota and Nebraska, and have knowledge in these fields especially in the area of construction of a coal fired power plant in So. Dakota that will be completed this spring.

ADMINISTRATION - REORGANIZATION

I have spent all of my adult life in administrative responsibilities and have been involved in many reorganizations toward a better and more economical way of accomplishing tasks, and these administrative and reorganizational responsibilities have covered a vast number of fields, from retail operations to major universities.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

This is an area in which I have spent considerable time over the last 20 years and my best reference in this area as to whether or not I have been effective would be Senator Carl T. Curtis, of Nebraska.

Did want to pass the above information on to you for what it is worth and, as you have said in your letter, occasionally people you have recommended whose background information has placed them in the computerized talent bank have been contacted for a meaningful post.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Spelts, Jr.

RESjr/mr