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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

BRIEFING BOOK RETURNED

TO JIM SHUMAN

11/25/75

Question

Mr. President: Governor Thomson (R-New Hampshire) stated that he would withhold his support of you pending the campaign and until he sees how the issues develop in the campaign. What do you see as some of the major issues in New Hampshire?

Answer

While I have not heard that statement by Governor Thomson, I am convinced that two of the major issues of concern to the voters of New Hampshire are fiscal responsibility in government and the development of solutions to our energy problems.

I know that New Hampshire has no sales tax and no State income tax and that your State expects to achieve a surplus this year and projects surpluses for future years. This is commendable and is the kind of fiscal responsibility I am sure New Hampshire voters want from Presidential candidates. On the energy question the citizens of New Hampshire have been concerned about, the lack of alternatives to foreign imports and many in New Hampshire share with us a goal of developing as soon as possible and in a reasonable and responsible way the resources of the Outer Continental Shelf as well as our nuclear power generating capability.

My recommendations on this are clear and I think there is broad support in New Hampshire for the goals I have stated on numerous occasions.

*Less dependent
foreign oil.*

WHY CHINA?

Q. If you are so busy, why are you going to China at the end of this week?

A. I believe it is important for World peace that I go to China now.

China is the world's most populous country. For 25 years we had no relations with China at all. Now that those relations have begun again, it would be irresponsible of me not to keep up the dialogue.

I hope that by maintaining that dialogue, we can settle, in a peaceful way, any problems that may arise.

*Indonesia
Philippines*

CHARISMA

- Q. It has been said that you lack the charisma of some of your opponents -- the polished speaking ability and all that. Do you feel this supposed lack will hurt you in the campaign?
- A. Actually, I hadn't given it any thought. What I hope, though, is that the election will be fought on the issues, because that is what I believe most people are concerned with.

Opponent

FORD-REAGAN, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

- Q. What are the differences between you and Ronald Reagan?
- A. It is difficult to know what the differences are. My record is very clear. As President I have to take stands every day. But Mr. Reagan has not yet made more than a few of his positions known.

hard, specific,