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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF  
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*  
SUBJECT: Rep. Chuck Mosher (R-Ohio)

The President has reviewed your memorandum of December 12th on the above subject and has made the following notation:

"I would like to call him also."

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*  
SUBJECT: Representative Chuck Mosher (R-OHIO)

Chuck Mosher will announce tomorrow his intention not to seek re-election in 1976.

A Presidential letter of regret is being prepared.

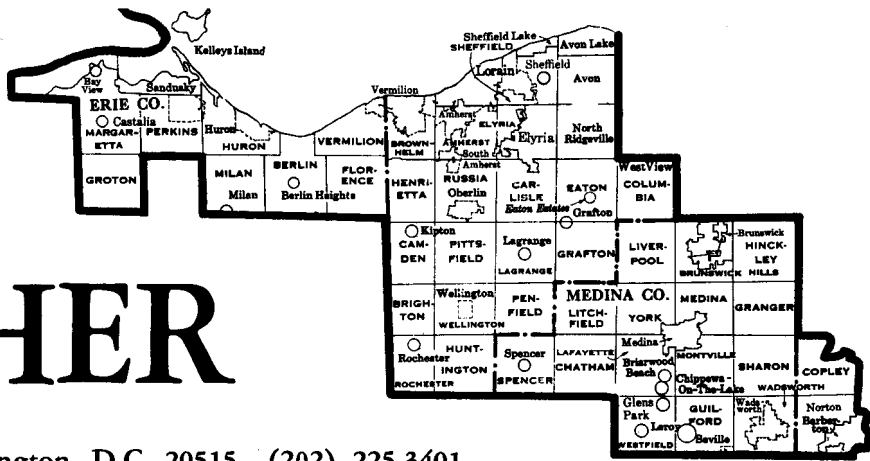
A copy of Mosher's statement is attached.

*I would like to call  
him also.*

Congressman

Charles A.

MOSHER



Rayburn Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3401

MEMO TO: Members of the News Media  
and Selected Individuals

FROM: Marc Rosenberg, Press Secretary  
to Congressman Charles A. Mosher

SUBJECT: MOSHER TAKES THE SHERMAN

**EMBARGO**

Please -- No public dissemination  
of this information before 10 a.m.  
Saturday, December 13, 1975.

Congressman Charles A. Mosher (R-Ohio) is "opting out." He will not seek reelection in 1976.

The Congressman announces this decision in a lengthy memo to his constituents, to be released for Saturday, December 13. A copy of that memo is attached here. Also enclosed is my memo giving further biographical facts, of possible interest to you.

During his 15 years in Congress, Mosher has developed a solid reputation as the Republican leader in the House of Representatives on policy issues involving science, technology development and oceanography.

He also has been closely identified with environmental and civil liberties legislation.

In January 1967 he became the first Republican in either the House or Senate to vote against funds for the war in Vietnam. (The vote came on a large supplementary appropriation to expand the war, requested by then President Johnson. Mosher's NO was the only negative Republican vote.) Mosher persisted in that position throughout the war.

Presently, Rep. Mosher holds key positions on the House Committees on Science and Technology, and Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and at the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

He is especially proud of his post as chairman of the "Wednesday Group," a weekly caucus of moderate Republicans in the House.

In explaining his decision, the Congressman from Oberlin cites "Mosher's Law," saying, "It's better to retire too soon than too late." Mosher says there are new activities he and his wife would like to move into and he cites their growing desire for the personal privacy that is denied them so long as he remains in elective office.

The Congressman urges his constituents to choose as his successor a man or woman who is "relatively young...surely under 50 years old." After giving that advice, he pledges, "For the next 12 months I will remain discreetly aloof from election year politics...I shall devote my time and energies as completely, competently and impartially as I can to the official duties" of office in the Congress.

CHARLES A. MOSHER  
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEES:  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT  
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MEMO: To the People of Ohio's 13th Congressional District  
FROM: Congressman Charles A. Mosher

SUMMARY: Being "the Congressman" is rigorous servitude, ceaseless enslavement to a peculiar mix of everyone else's needs, demands and whims, plus one's own sense of duty, ambition or vanity. It is that from which Mrs. Mosher and I now declare our personal independence, to seek our freedom, as of January 3, 1977.

I am opting out. I shall NOT be a candidate for reelection in 1976.

Until January 3, 1977, when this 94th Congress ends, I am your elected representative here and I intend to be fully responsible to that obligation. Then, after 31 years as a "public servant" (16 in the U.S. Congress, 10 in the Ohio Senate, 5 on the Oberlin Village Council) I will be done with elective office.

As yet, Mrs. Mosher and I have no specific plans for our way of life after 1976. I do not relish the thought of sudden do-nothing monotony, so I intend to look for some new way to be useful, probably parttime, but where or how is completely uncertain. I have been wonderfully lucky in experiencing variety, four distinctly different and interesting career periods in the past 45 years. I would welcome a fifth.

This decision to retire has been very difficult. Within myself I have struggled fiercely. I have identified and considered seven powerfully tempting reasons (listed below) by which I could justify seeking another term; and I do believe I could be reelected. But there are two other overriding reasons which convince me enough is enough, this IS the right moment to stand aside...first my age; and second, my increasing personal desire (strongly supported by Mrs. Mosher) to seek a more relaxed life, and privacy.

Later in this memo, I will discuss further those specific reasons I so carefully weighed, both for and against another election try. But first, because of the immediate urgency, I offer here some strong opinions...my personal advice to the voters of our 13th district, to the leaders of both political parties, and to the media pundits...concerning the selection of your next Congressman, my successor.

Choose YOUNG Candidates

PLEASE! My one all important plea is that you choose with great care the man or woman who shall be your next elected representative here in Washington. It is imperative that neither political party shall nominate a merely humdrum person. Our district deserves to choose between two top quality candidates, deserves and needs a very lively, really substantive election contest for Congress.

Especially, I urge the pragmatic necessity to choose candidates who are relatively young...surely under 50 years old.

I entered Congress at age 54 and on May 7 next year will be 70. Now, only after repeated elections have I...or can anyone...attain a place of really significant, effective personal leverage here as a ranking committee member, a small part of the leadership. I have reached that point, but also I am at the right age and in the right mood to retire.

That is the urgent lesson I emphasize here. Demand of both parties that they shall take positive initiatives to recruit genuinely able candidates who are young enough now to have the prospect of more years ahead in which to grow into a position of greater influence here...thus to the very real advantage of our 13th district.

Also, I suggest it is NOT imperative that a candidate shall have previous experience in elected office. For example, why not nominate a young man or woman of great intelligence, initiative, capacity for work, who may have demonstrated a genius for responsible

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leadership in some other form of community service? Let's broaden our sights as to whom might best be attracted to run for Congress.

THAT GRATUITOUS ADVICE may be resented by some of my good friends. But I have the gall to offer it, feel compelled to say it publicly, because of my own experience here, my awareness of today's changes in the Congress...this increasingly is a job that demands and deserves youthful brains, energy and growth potential. This is no place for old hat types.

And Now I Resign from "Political" Activity

Having ventured such urgent opinions above (and a few other political comments below), I now withdraw from any active involvement in the choice of your next Congressman. For the next 12 months I intend to be discreetly aloof from election-year politics. Seldom, if ever is it wise or actually feasible for an office holder to try to name his successor, or effectively to influence that choice. I shall not try! Yes, of course, if my Republican Party leadership asks my private advice, I will respond as helpfully as possible. But I shall refuse absolutely any public comment (if queried by reporters, for example) or political activity either for or against any potential aspirant for this seat in Congress.

That means precisely this, that I shall devote my time and energies as completely, competently and impartially as I can to the official duties to which you elected me here in Washington.

"MOSHER'S LAW"

It's Better to Retire Too Soon Than Too Late

AGE is the first of two decisive reasons for my decision to retire. I am convinced from observing the sad examples of others, it usually is a mistake for anyone in public office to seek reelection after age 70. Some critics will say, with considerable validity, that the wise quitting age should be before that. I determined many years ago definitely to consider retirement at 70.

It really is no favor to the public interest, nor to one's party, and least of all to oneself, to continue stubbornly in office as an oldster...even if physically fit, mentally alert and allegedly "powerful" in seniority; and even though well intentioned or flattering friends and political allies urge "hang in there!" Not one of us is really that essential. So, I believe it obligatory that we should quit cheerfully and voluntarily...earlier rather than later...to thus make room for the younger, fully capable and probably more attuned to the times candidates who surely can be identified and recruited and who deserve their opportunity to serve...undoubtedly including several excellent, potential winners who are not immediately visible.

If there are special exceptions to that quit-after-70 general rule (dub it "Mosher's Law" if you will), they should be very rare exceptions, and I am not one of them. I shall conform fully to that rule, rather than rationalize that I could in good conscience serve "just one more time".

PRIVACY - My second decisive reason for retirement...essentially a very personal and selfish reason, as distinguished from the above general principle...is that I am becoming hungry for privacy, for the opportunity to savor life at my own gait and choosing, hopefully to attain a bit of serenity.

Contrary to a stereotyped opinion popularly encouraged, the job of a Congressman is not all special advantages (of which there are many), it is in fact weighted heavily with DISadvantages...it requires an onerously demanding, hectic, fragmented schedule of seldom less than seven days per week and often many more than 12 working hours per day, constantly harried by call bells, phone bells, committee sessions (frequently shuttling between two or more meetings at the same time), and at every turn there are deserving people insistently crowding to capture your momentary attention...to confer, to report, to assist, to argue, to request, to demand or plead, to compliment, criticize, invite, etc., etc., staff people, bureaucrats, lobbyists, reporters, colleagues, a steady stream of valued constituents, and varied others. All that, plus the House debates, caucuses, briefings, working breakfasts, working lunches, receptions, dinners, homework study, and even midnight collect calls from drunks...you name it!

Catch a few minutes for concentrated desk work, there faces you a great pile of letters to read and answer, reports and analyses to absorb, a never ceasing flood of papers, periodicals, pamphlets:..propaganda or fact. And very importantly "case work" too, the daily dozens of urgent requests and demands from the district...from individuals, groups,

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local officials, businesses and every other conceivable interest...requiring assistance in their myriad of difficult, complex relationships with the federal agencies. Trips back to the district give no respite, those schedules also are intense, stressful; and even the official committee trips (those "junkets" so popularly scorned) should be and usually are genuinely substantive and demanding.

#### An Honor and Privilege to Serve You

Yes, I asked for this job, and I like the pay. Do not read into the above paragraphs any personal complaints from me. It is an amazingly fascinating experience to work in this beautiful, powerful capital city. I greatly cherish the honor, the privilege of having been elected to represent here one of this nation's most dynamic districts...our own Ohio 13th...an excitingly vibrant area and people of immense, diverse productivity, varied and churning attitudes and needs, bursting with further potential, richly cosmopolitan!

But there is SO little time or opportunity to study, to think and rethink to get above the battle and view it reflectively in the larger perspectives. There seldom is more than 15 minutes at any one time to concentrate on any single subject...then hop, skip, jump on to another, then another and another. And each one of them...each conversation, each meeting, each letter, each report, each vote...deals with a genuinely substantive significant problem or issue, often complicated, tensely controversial, requiring a responsible decision. Ours is a contentious regimen of decisions, decisions ad infinitum, each one impacting our fellow beings for good or ill, often with consequences vitally important to thousands upon thousands of people, and to the future course of human history.

#### The Meaning of "Public Servant"

Thus it is a Congressman's inescapable lot, his or her enslavement, to be never alone, never free from incessant buffeting by people, events, problems, decisions; and always the ubiquitous, skeptical newsmen and other critics are looking very closely over one's shoulder, intently watching, questioning, assessing every word or move...and that's the way it must be, it should be...that's what it means today to be a "public servant".

It is a gruelling experience, often frustrating, discouraging, sometimes very disillusioning. Any sense of personal satisfaction from individual, creative accomplishment is for most Congressmen rare and partial...small, infrequent victories...necessarily shared with many others. Constantly, the needs, the problems, the opportunities all seem so many, so varied, so immense, so complex, so inextricably twined and often contradictory, and our efforts so indecisive, so inadequate!

To put it simply, I sense in me a certain loss of zest for this kaleidoscopic life; the glamour of it palls, the guff intensifies. Do I have any right or obligation to seek another two years of this tremendous responsibility and opportunity, if I am losing zest for it? I think not.

#### The Seven Temptations to Run Again

Recent rumors that I might retire have prompted advice and requests from many whose judgment I respect, urging me to seek reelection for at least two more years. Those appeals are very pleasing, comforting, flattering. But I have noted the mistakes of other maturing politicians, how readily they accept such blandishments! And I treasure independence...so Mrs. Mosher and I have decided firmly to begin now our search for greater privacy, by resisting such tempting advice.

Early in this memo I said there are seven powerfully tempting "good reasons" I have carefully considered, by which I might justify reelection. They are these:

ONE - Trusted soothsayers (knowledgeable election forecasters in both parties, and the political reporters) assure me that I would be elected again in '76...and I believe them. But is that not exactly the right time for any "veteran" to step aside, while still a winner...not with a whimper but with a bang...proudly, ahead of the time when many friends whisper "how can we tell him gently he should quit?"

TWO - Republican party leaders have urged me to run again; and I certainly am indebted to my party for long, loyal support. I know well and greatly appreciate the fact that the more conservative members of our party sometimes have disagreed with my views and voting decisions, and yet they continued to support me. I feel very grateful for that most generous support. But I believe my retirement now can have a healthy impact on our

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party. We Republicans urgently need to attract new talent, new insights, fresh faces! If I monopolize the Congressional nomination, I am in effect a stopper that discourages bright new talent from trying. Any notion that I am an indispensable candidate is thus counterproductive error. It should be very healthy for our party to force it to recruit new blood. State Representatives Scrib Fauver and Bill Batchelder are shining examples for the top calibre, younger candidates the G.O.P. needs to attract; and I hope my quitting may afford the opportunity which will attract others of that calibre.

THREE - The increased Congressional salary (now \$44,600), plus expense allowances and other attractive perquisites, are difficult to give up. Continuing here, we could save substantially more for such good causes as helping our grandchildren go to college, and my own pension fund would be considerably larger. But that would be equally tempting two years from now; and we are not greedy. We wish my successor wisdom in the use of that income!

FOUR - Most tempting of all is the fact that in this 94th Congress, more than ever before, I believe I am performing a significant, substantive role in very important, fascinating areas of the legislative process. It is a demanding but encouraging role. It certainly is true that in the next two years...because of seniority, practical experience, and close working relationships of mutual respect on both sides of the aisle... I would have a genuine advantage over any newcomer here, to represent you effectively. But presumably that also would be true next time; an incumbent cannot use that argument forever.

FIVE - I greatly admire and enjoy, am inspired and stimulated by many of my colleagues in the Congress, as well as committee staffers and a host of other exceptionally able people serving throughout government. Capitol Hill, despite the disadvantages listed above, is still in so many respects a uniquely wonderful place to serve. Very reluctantly I opt for only one more year here; and in the years ahead, surely I will look back to this very nostalgically.

SIX - I owe a very special debt to the capable, hard working, loyal members of our 13th District Congressional staff, who serve you and me so efficiently and effectively. I hate to make problems for them. When I leave, obviously some of them must seek other employment. But I do urgently suggest that whoever succeeds me will be wise to consider keeping several of these experienced, professional staffers, to continue to provide our district with the benefit of their proved expertise, their exceptional understanding of the 13th district. There should be important value in such continuity.

SEVEN - My health is excellent. I never felt better! I hope my mind still seems reasonably clear (do your best friends ever tell you?). I am very fortunate to feel younger than my years! So, some say age alone is no excuse to quit. But I say, is not good health (knock on wood!) all the more reason why now is the best time to try new activities, new ways of life? I look forward to doing just that in 1977...God willing!

#### Appreciation and Thanks

Now is not yet the time for me to try to tell you of my profound appreciation for this opportunity, this honor, this great privilege to be your elected representative. A year from now, I will try to express that feeling, and my gratitude. But during this coming year, I still owe you my best efforts. That is what I intend.

- Charles A. Mosher