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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN... .

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975

TELEPHONE CALL TO MAYOR RICHARD LUGAR  
OF INDIANAPOLIS

Tuesday, December 16, 1975  
8:30 p.m.

From: Max L. Friedersdorf

*M.L.F.*



I. PURPOSE

To extend Presidential best wishes to Mayor Lugar who is completing his second term as Mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. Mayor Dick Lugar is being honored by a community-wide, non-partisan dinner. He has been Mayor for 8 years and will retire on December 31, 1975, to be succeeded by former Congressman William Hudnut (R-IND).
- B. The President's comments should be non-political as many Democrats will be in attendance and Lugar will seek the U.S. Senate nomination next year against at least two Republican opponents, including former Governor Ed Whitcomb.
- C. Mayor Lugar plans to join the faculty of Indiana Central University in Indianapolis and teach courses in political ethics and state and local government.
- D. Mayor Lugar is a former Rhodes Scholar; past president of the National League of Cities; and is a board member of the National Association of Counties and U.S. Conference of Mayors.
- E. Mayor Lugar worked closely with the President when he was Minority Leader to pass revenue sharing.
- F. Lugar has been involved in NATO affairs and hosted the first International Conference on Cities sponsored by NATO in 1971.
- G. As Mayor, he reorganized the city government of Indianapolis and brought about a unified city-county government (Uni-gov). The tax rate in Indianapolis today is smaller than it was 8 years ago when he took office, and Indianapolis has undergone a major renaissance in construction, employment and civic pride under Lugar.
- H. Lugar has involved many young people in his Administration,

and Mrs. Lugar (Charlene) has been very active with youth groups.

I. The Lugar's have 4 sons.

III. TALKING POINTS

To be provided by Paul Theis.

December 15, 1975

*Return Academic  
Indiana Central*

TALKING POINTS: FOR RICHARD LUGAR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION  
DECEMBER 16, 1975

Dick, it's a pleasure for me to join in this well-deserved  
tribute to you. In the last eight years as mayor of Indianapolis, you have  
demonstrated leadership qualities that place you in the first rank of  
public service.

Your administration has been characterized by tremendous  
growth and vitality. Reversing the trend of most major American  
cities, you have managed to broaden your tax base while reducing your  
tax rate. You have stimulated construction and business growth. In  
fact, the Indianapolis area boast<sup>s</sup>/of one of the lowest unemployment  
metropolitan  
rates in urban/America. These are accomplishments that any public  
official would view with considerable envy. You have every right to view  
them with pride.

By your example, and through your articulate advocacy of urban America, you have proven yourself an effective leader at both the local and national level. The nation's municipal leaders have expressed their confidence in you in the past by electing you president of the National League of Cities. You exerted tremendously important influence in the effort to enact revenue sharing legislation in the Congress, as I well remember from my days in the House of Representatives.

Your efforts to involve the viewpoints of young people, minorities, and a wide range of others in your Administration have paid off handsomely for Indianapolis. I commend you. I look forward to working with you in the future in other areas of public responsibility. <sup>Betty and I send</sup> ~~my~~ best wishes <sup>to Charlene and</sup> to you, Dick, <sup>to your family,</sup> and to all of those who are honoring you tonight.

# # #

December 9, 1975

Dear Dick:

For eight years, the citizens of the City of Indianapolis have been fortunate in having you as the Mayor of their great city.

You have met the challenges of inflation, economic instability, high unemployment and the many other problems with which all public officials have been faced during this difficult period. Your leadership has reflected courage, wisdom and a vision of the future of Indianapolis. Your legacy is a city with an assured future of sound growth and stability.

As a Congressman, as Vice President and as President, I have observed the depth of understanding with which you have presented the needs of our metropolitan areas to the Congress and to the Executive Branch. Your approach has not been parochial -- it has been one of a dedicated public servant cognizant of the needs of all our cities. I personally thank you for the leadership you have displayed in working with me on the urgent and vital decisions affecting the future of our cities and its citizens.

Mrs. Ford joins with me in saluting you and your lovely wife, Charlene, and we send our best wishes for future endeavors which I am confident will continue in the outstanding tradition you have established as Mayor of the City of Indianapolis.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
Mayor of the City of Indianapolis  
City-County Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

GRF:MLF:VO:kir