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**MEETING WITH  
CONGRESSMEN R. E. JONES &  
WILLIAM HARSHA**

**Tuesday, March 16, 1976**

**11:45 A. M.**

**THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . . .**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1976

MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN ROBERT E. JONES (D-Ala.)  
AND WILLIAM HARSHA (R-Oh.)

March 16, 1976

11:45 a.m. (15 minutes)

From: Jack Mars



I. PURPOSE

To permit Representatives Jones and Harsha to discuss the vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority and to propose the appointment of their candidate, John Watson of Batavia, Ohio.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Rep. Bill Harsha represents the Sixth Congressional District of Ohio. He serves as the ranking minority member of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee.

Rep. Jones represents the Fifth Congressional District of Alabama, which borders the State of Tennessee and TVA area on the North. He presently serves as Chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee.

The TVA Directors are responsible for supervising the actions of the TVA which include operation of the river control system, investigation of the need for and feasibility of additional river control projects. Additionally, assistance is given to state and local governments to reduce local flood problems and aids in supplying power to industry and Federal installations.

Since James Hooper's nomination reached a stalemate, the Presidential Personnel Office has been searching for a candidate who would meet the demanding charac-

teristics required for this post. The Personnel Office has narrowed the choice down to several candidates, not including John Watson. The Personnel Office will be meeting with the President very shortly on this subject.

In view of the fact that no final decision has been made, it will not be necessary for the President at this meeting to totally rule out John Watson, the candidate supported by Representatives Jones and Harsha. Mr. Watson's resume and a letter from Bill Harsha to the President are attached at Tab A.

It is recommended, therefore, that the President listen to the views of Representatives Jones and Harsha and agree to consider their candidate.

- B. Participants: The President  
Congressman William Harsha  
Congressman Robert Jones  
Jack Marsh  
Max Friedersdorf  
Doug Bennett
- C. Press Plan: White House Photograph opportunity.

### III. TALKING POINTS

- A. I understand that you wanted this opportunity to speak with me in behalf of your candidate, John Watson, for appointment to the vacancy on the TVA Board of Directors.

I would be happy to listen to your thoughts and to have the benefit of your personal recommendation in John Watson's behalf.

### CAVEAT:

You should be aware John Rhodes has advised me that it is his view that appointments of incumbent Republicans to Federal posts which may mean the loss of the Republican seat in Congress should be discouraged. Therefore, he does not favor this proposal.



*Congress of the United States*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 2, 1976

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

During the past two years I have contacted you on a number of occasions to recommend persons I felt worthy of appointment to various positions of responsibility and trust. Never, however, have I done so with greater sincerity and confidence than I now recommend John L. Watson of Williamsburg, Ohio, for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

I have known John for many years and have tremendous confidence in his ability and integrity and the greatest affection for him as a person and a friend. After serving in the Army in World War II, John attended the College of Business at the University of Cincinnati and received his Bachelor of Laws degree from Cincinnati University's College of Law in 1950. Since then he has actively pursued his practice in the Southern Ohio area. During his many years of practice, he has developed a particular expertise in real estate matters and has also specialized in matters dealing with corporate practice, probate, and civil practice. In his legal capacity he has represented a number of communities in Clermont County.

John has been extremely active in community affairs and was a charter member and a member of the Board of Directors of the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce. He has served as a director of the First Milford Savings Association, as chairman of the fund raising drive in Clermont County for the Ohio Legal Center, as past commander of VFW and American Legion chapters, and in a number of other civic positions. He is highly regarded by the residents of his community and is widely recognized as one of Clermont County's outstanding citizens.

John is a Republican, and his political philosophy is similar to ours. He is an able, dedicated, hard-working, intelligent individual who would serve with distinction as a member of the TVA Board of Directors and reflect honor upon you and your Administration. I believe it is especially important

March 2, 1976

at this time to select as members of the Board individuals who not only have the knowledge and ability to perform their duties but also have a particular awareness of the problems facing our Nation and the sensitivity and dedication to work effectively toward a resolution of these problems. John is uniquely qualified in this regard.

In closing, I would like to stress that John has my unqualified recommendation. I shall personally appreciate your giving his selection your careful and, hopefully, your favorable consideration.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



William H. Harsha  
Representative to Congress

WHH:ja

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REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . Donor restriction

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FOLDER TITLE . . . . . ~~Tennessee Valley Authority~~ 3/16/76

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WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . LET



NAME: John L. Watson Tele. No. 513-724-7882

ADDRESS: (Home) 359 S. Fifth Street, Williamsburg, Ohio 45176  
(Office) 33 N. Market Street, Batavia, Ohio 45103

Partner in law firm of Watson & Burreson

PLACE OF BIRTH: Danbury, Connecticut

DATE OF BIRTH: June 13, 1924

(son of Edmund B. and Helen (Hughes) Watson)

MARITAL STATUS: Married to Eda Ceredo, August 2, 1945

CHILDREN: John Michael Watson (age 20 yrs.)  
Anthony Lewis Watson (age 17 yrs.)

EMPLOYMENT, MILITARY SERVICE & EDUCATION:

Graduated from Danbury High School, June, 1942.

August, 1942 to March, 1943, assigned to Committee on Military Affairs, Washington, D. C. as clerk; March 29, 1943 inducted into the Armed Forces and entered active service April 5, 1943; achieved rank of Corporal; assigned to 103 A. A. C. S. on detached service with Air Transport Command, 309 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. Believe cleared during this time for top secret information. Army Service number 31330919. June 9, 1945 received commission as Second Lieutenant in Cavalry graduating from Fort Knox Officers Candidate School. Served until July 5, 1946. Duties included Tank Platoon Commander and Battalion Adjutant. Assigned to European Theatre from December 5, 1945 through June 19, 1946. Discharged July 5, 1946. Officers Serial number 0101-9733. Following discharge on July 5, 1946, remained in the Reserves and on August 29, 1951 transferred from Armor-U. S. A. R. to Judge Adjutant General-U. S. A. R.; discharged from Judge Adjutant General's Corp April 28, 1954.

September, 1946 entered the University of Cincinnati, College of Business Administration completing between three and four years on accelerated program until September, 1948, at which time entered the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Received Bachelor of Laws degree September 28, 1950 (converted to degree of Juris Doctor). Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Ohio October 3, 1950 and entered the practice of law in Clermont County (east of and contiguous to Cincinnati) January 2, 1951, actively practicing in this area since that date. Admitted to practice before the District Court, Southern District of Ohio April 4, 1955; admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States of America April 4, 1966. Engaged in the general practice of law including real estate matters, corporate practice, probate and civil practice.

In addition to the practice of law, appointed Director of Board of Elections, Clermont County, Ohio, May, 1957, and have served in this capacity since that time, administering the elections and the election laws under the direction of the Secretary of State.

Obtained real estate broker's license November 24, 1970.

In a legal capacity, represent the Village of Williamsburg, Ohio being first appointed in 1951 and the Village of Moscow, Ohio, being first appointed in 1971.

Appointed Director of First Milford Savings Association, Milford, Ohio, May, 1972, and have served on said Board since that date.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND FRATERNITIES:

Member of Alpha Kappa Si honorary society, Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity; member of the Clermont County Bar Association (President 1957); member of Ohio State Bar Association; charter member and member of Board of Directors of Clermont County Chamber of Commerce; member of Clermont County Board of Realtors; past commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Legion.

In 1959 served as Chairman of the fund raising drive in Clermont County for the Ohio Legal Center under the direction of the Ohio State Bar Association.

In 1954 and 1955 served on the Committee for Ohio Schools to successfully obtain legislation providing certain mandatory subjects be taught in Ohio schools.

1962 appointed Chairman of the Overall Economic Development Committee and have served as Chairman of this committee since that time.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JOHN L. WAYSON