

The original documents are located in Box C46, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 8/6/1976 (1)” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

**THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH
UNCOMMITTED DELEGATES FROM
SOUTH CAROLINA**

Friday, August 6, 1976

4:15 PM (20 minutes)

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH FORD AND UNCOMMITTED DELEGATES

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, August 6, 1976
4:15 PM (20 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: Jim Field 

I. PURPOSE

To meet with leaning and uncommitted delegates from South Carolina.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: The current breakdown of the South Carolina delegation is:

<u>Ford</u>	<u>Reagan</u>	<u>Uncommitted</u>
7	23 (3 soft)	6 (3 leaning Ford)

The delegates in South Carolina have been under considerable pressure from Governor Edwards to commit and remain committed to Governor Reagan. However, since the Schweiker announcement, there has been some movement in the delegation. The breakthrough was the announcement of Ray Harris that he is now uncommitted. He is the former State Chairman and National Committeeman-elect. This has created a climate for other delegates to move.

The "uncommitted" delegate attending this meeting stresses the fact that he is moving to uncommitted and his language should be used.

B. Participants: Three committed Ford delegates; two leaning Ford; one moving to uncommitted; and two soft Reagan delegates. Jim Baker and Jim Mack from the President Ford Committee will also attend along with Dick Cheney.

C. Press Plan: White House Photo Only.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I want to express my appreciation to all of you for asking to come to Washington to meet with me.
2. I want to express particular appreciation to the committed delegates and would like the rest of you to support me.
3. I realize that all of you are under considerable pressure from Governor Edwards and understand your problem, and I will remember your support.
4. We are encouraged by the recent momentum in our delegate strength. I need your commitment now to insure my nomination in Kansas City.

1. Gay Suber (Ford) Gay
 - a. Strong Ford
 - b. Political Consultant
 - c. Director of S. C. Republican Party
 - d. Harry Dent's Deputy
 - e. S. C. PFC State Whip
 - f. Responsible for planning and coordinating this visit of S. C. Delegates

2. The Honorable John Bourne (Born) (Ford) John
 - a. Strong Ford
 - b. Mayor of North Charleston
 - c. PFC State Chairman
 - d. Is included in meeting to help buttress Suber's efforts

3. Mrs. Sherry Shealy Martschink (Leaning Ford)
 - a. Leaning Ford
 - b. Musician (Former State Legislator)
 - c. 26 years old
 - d. Very active locally
 - e. On Rules Committee
 - f. Attended Juan Carlos dinner and has talked with President
 - g. Has indicated privately for Ford. Will announce when she feels proper

4. Ray Sifly (Leaning Ford)
 - a. Leaning Ford
 - b. Attorney
 - c. Chairman - Orangeburg County Republican Party
 - d. Very close to Senator Thurmond - ran his 1972 campaign
 - e. Has indicated he may commit after meeting.

5. Lee Blackburn (Uncommitted) Lee
 - a. Reassessing his position
 - b. District Forecast Supervisor - Telephone Committee
 - c. Elected as Reagan delegate - Reassessing
 - d. Has talked to Secretary Butz
 - e. The atmosphere of the Oval Office will impress him

6. Beverly Ebner

Beverly

- a. Soft Reagan
- b. Associate Director, Department of Development - Baptist College of Charleston
- c. Very active in local Republican Party
- d. Would like to vote for the President but is very concerned that Governor Edwards will ostracize her if she does so

7. Dr. Neal Thigpen

Neal

- a. Soft Reagan
- b. Chairman of Political Science Department - Francis Marion College
- c. Active in Republican Party, state and local levels
- d. Has talked to Secretary Butz
- e. Has told Harry Dent that he will vote for the President, if his vote is needed

8. Bobby Shelton

- a. Ford
- b. Real Estate and Insurance
- c. Elected as uncommitted delegate, switched to Ford. Has talked to Secretary Richardson. On Wednesday, August 3, he told UPI that he was moving back to uncommitted until President Ford announced his Vice Presidential choice. On Thursday, August 4, Mr. Shelton told Harry Dent that he was back in the Ford Camp and that his August 3 statement was "inoperative." Nevertheless, Mr. Shelton is likely to bring up the Vice Presidential selection. Impressed by attention.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim Mack called

Martschink and Ebner will not be attending this afternoon's meeting. Since Dr. Eddings will not be going to the Convention, Harry Dent suggested Julius McKay the alternate who is strong for Ford and will add atmosphere to the group. The paper is on its way over now.

Jim Mack

*Tommy -
Please to the
change - Jim*

President Ford Committee

1828 L STREET, N.W., SUITE 250, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 457-6400

M E M O R A N D U M

August 6, 1976

TO: JIM FIELD

FROM: JIM BAKER

RE: REVISED BRIEFING for South Carolina Meeting with the President at 4:15 p.m., Friday, August 6th.

Harry Dent told Jim Mack late last evening that leaning Ford Delegate Sherry Shealy Martschink and soft Reagan Delegate Beverly Ebner have cancelled their trip to Washington to meet with the President.

However, Ford Alternate Julius W. (Jay) McKay is a 53-year-old attorney from Columbia and is Vice-Chairman of the Richland County Council. He is a former President (1970-71) of the South Carolina Bar Association and is very active in the Episcopal Church. Mr. McKay will replace Ford Delegate Inez Eddings, who will not be attending the convention. Harry Dent feels that Mr. McKay will be a strong addition to the chemistry of the meeting and will help convince the three uncommitted delegates to become publicly committed Ford Delegates.

In summary, then, the participants in the meeting will be:

- 1) Gay Suber - Ford Delegation Whip
- 2) John Bourne - South Carolina PFC Chairman
- 3) Jay McKay - Ford
- 4) Bobby Shelton - Ford
- 5) Raymond Sifly - Leans Ford
- 6) Lee Blackburn - "Moving to Uncommitted"
- 7) Dr. Neal Thigpen - Soft Reagan