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THE PRESIDENT WAS SEEN...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 16, 1976

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT

SUGGESTION FROM GOVERNOR RHODES

Governor Rhodes, who is going to Washington for part of today in an attempt to get a Japanese automaker to put up a plant in Ohio, asked me to convey this suggestion to you:

"If the convention should vote to require a Presidential candidate to name his Vice Presidential choice before the balloting, then President Ford should say: 'My choice is Reagan.' And stick with that, whatever Reagan says.

"If Reagan or his people say that Reagan doesn't want to be Vice President, then the President should have Morton announce that it is Reagan's duty to respond to the call of the party.

"If Reagan keeps saying he doesn't want it, it could hurt him with the uncommitted and some of his own supporters.

"On Wednesday night or Thursday morning, after President Ford has the nomination and is having his talk with Reagan, the President can decide whether to take Reagan at his word that he doesn't want to be Vice President."

cc: Dick Cheney