The original documents are located in Box 24, folder “Nixon, Richard - Assignment of Medical Corpsman” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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February 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSSE ROURKE
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH TOM LATIMER CONCERNING ASSIGNMENT OF CORPSMAN TO RMN

Another problem has arisen with regard to the assignment of medical corpsman to RMN (this is unrelated to the question of having the corpsman accompany RMN on his trips away from San Clemente. That question has been resolved, you will recall, through separate specific requests for that support by the Secret Service.)

As of February 9 DOD stated that they have no permanent personnel assigned to RMN. Bearing in mind DOD’s statement that they recognise their responsibility to provide “medical support for the former President”, it was contemplated that periodic sight by a corpsman from Camp Pendleton to take RMN’s blood pressure and give therapy treatments for his leg would not be stretching the “support” responsibility too far.

Latimer now advises that the Under Secretary of Navy has now determined that, as a practical matter, the corpsman serves no useful functions for the military over and above the services he is rendering to RMN. “Every day he spends in support of RMN, we will use one more man day”.

As I see it, we have two options:

1) Scrub the corpsman altogether, deny that type of medical support for RMN, and let him pay for his own medical assistance.

2) Advise GAO that the medical service being rendered RMN is more than the assistance previously contemplated; that the medical support commitment is still recognised and that President Ford wishes to provide the assistance of a corpsman on a continuing basis.
It has been suggested that, if this assistance is withdrawn by DOD, it is likely that RMN will telephone President Ford.

I would recommend Option 2.
MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE
SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF CORPSMAN TO RMN

Jack, Tom Latimer advises me that DOD has received a written formal request from Clinton Hill, Secret Service, concerning the continued assignment of a medical corpsman to RMN. In the view of the Secret Service, this assignment is both warranted and necessary.

The corpsman will remain on assignment until June 15, 1975, when Secret Service will again evaluate the situation, and make a subsequent recommendation.
Tom Latimer

Lincoln - Sam

Clement -

Clinton Hill, S. S.

June 15, 1875-

Need him -

Sent cloth -
March 16

Secret Service
is preparing a
memos request
are this. They
want to
lunagood (putting
it in external)
**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**

**Bill McIlvally**

**Date:** 3-3-75 **Time:** 3:11

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**TELEPHONED | PLEASE CALL | CALLED TO SEE YOU | WILL CALL AGAIN | WANT TO SEE YOU | URGENT | RETURNED YOUR CALL |

**Message:**

Bill honeymooned - send resume.
Kudish would call also.
I need return call, going to send this request in writing.

Operator
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Would mean he would have to go to.the horse 4x
or day -

Truman had 5 -

Johnson - Plenty -
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It has been suggested that, if this assistance is withdrawn by DOD, it is likely that RMN will telephone President Ford.

I would recommend Option 2.
I have discussed your memorandum and Dr. Lungren's letter with members of the White House Staff and it is generally agreed that the strong statement of Dr. Lungren requiring the services of Navy Chief Robert Dunn on a 24 hour basis certainly deserves most serious consideration. Since Secret Service agrees with this, the only problem presented is who will levy this requirement on the Department of Defense. In the past, at the request of the Secret Service, a navy medical officer was provided to former President Johnson upon his departure from office in January 1969 and so remained assigned until June 1975. Also in the last years of President Truman's life, at the request of Secret Service, navy medical corpsmen were assigned and at the time of his death a total number of six were performing duty in the support of the former President. Since this established a precedent, it would appear that Secret Service is the proper agency for requesting medical support as it would appear to be as vital to the life of the former President as your other protective measures that require the services of 18 agents.

Should you still feel that Secret Service should not be involved in requesting medical support, then I think a White House decision is necessary in assigning this responsibility to the proper office/agency as this will not only effect the medical support for former President Nixon but also future former Presidents.

Copy to:
Mr. Tom Latimer
Mr. John Marsh
Mr. Russ Roarke
Mr. Bill Casselman
MEMORANDUM FOR:  JACK MARSH
FROM:  RUSS ROURKE

Right now we are in a holding pattern until Gulley receives a response from Clint Hill. If, despite Gulley's rather compelling argument, Hill still rejects this request, we will then have to have a meeting to decide on one of the following options:

1. Drop the medical assistance to the former President.

2. Determine another appropriate requesting agency and attempt to convince that agency of the wisdom of requesting medical support for Richard Nixon.
R - Where are we now?
M
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: CLINTON J. HILL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
PROTECTIVE FORCES

FROM: WARREN L. GULLEY

SUBJECT: Medical Support for Former President Nixon

I have discussed your memorandum and Dr. Lungren's letter with members of the White House Staff and it is generally agreed that the strong statement of Dr. Lungren requiring the services of Navy Chief Robert Dunn on a 24 hour basis certainly deserves most serious consideration. Since Secret Service agrees with this, the only problem presented is who will levy this requirement on the Department of Defense. In the past, at the request of the Secret Service, a navy medical officer was provided to former President Johnson upon his departure from office in January 1969 and so remained assigned until June 1975. Also in the last years of President Truman's life, at the request of Secret Service, navy medical corpsmen were assigned and at the time of his death a total number of six were performing duty in the support of the former President. Since this established a precedent, it would appear that Secret Service is the proper agency for requesting medical support as it would appear to be as vital to the life of the former President as your other protective measures that require the services of 18 agents.

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Copy to:
Mr. Tom Latimer
Mr. John Marsh
Mr. Russ Roarke
Mr. Bill Caselman
O'Reilly will get back up Secret Service attempt to get them to request as 'only appropriate authority'.
Before Brady requests, want to know if you will back him up.
The White House
Washington

7 July 1975

To Russ Rourke
From Bill Gulley

Russ: Per our conversation, Dunn's orders expired on 30 June and I am presently keeping him there on a day to day basis with the concurrence of DOD. However, they are pushing me for a piece of paper authorizing his continued assignment.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Warren L. Gulley
   Liaison for Former Presidents
   Office of the Military Assistant to the President

From: Clinton J. Hill
   Assistant Director
   Protective Forces

Subject: Medical Support for Former President Nixon

July 2, 1975

Attached is a copy of a self-explanatory letter from Doctor John C. Lungren, personal physician to the former President.

The Secret Service has no argument with Dr. Lungren's professional opinion that Chief Dunn's presence is vital to the total protective health care needs of former President Nixon. However, we do not feel that the Secret Service is the proper agency to levy a continuing request of this nature on the Department of Defense.

Accordingly, this request is forwarded to you in conjunction with your duties as liaison for former Presidents.

Clinton J. Hill

Attachment - s/s

cc: Kenneth R. Bailey
    Colonel, USA
    Military Assistant
June 19, 1975

CLINTON J. HILL
Assistant Director Protective Forces
Department of the Treasury
United States Secret Service
Office of the Director
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Mr. Hill,

The recovery period of former President R. Nixon has proceeded on schedule. It is professionally impossible at this time to render a specific time frame required for the complete recovery of the total man. Accordingly, it is my medical judgment that during this vital period it is imperative that a competent, efficient para medic with experience in any and all emergency medical care procedures be available to the former President on a twenty four hour basis. It is my observation that Chief Dunn has carried out my medical assignments in regards to the former President's health care in a competent and efficient manner.

I feel that Chief Dunn's presence is vital to the total protective health care needs of the former President of the United States.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John C. Lungren M.D., F.A.C.C.