

**The original documents are located in Box 299, folder “Briefing Papers for President - Leaks” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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# ***Press Office Blamed in Leak, Nessen Boils Over***

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

# White House Aides Clash on Leak

In a circling exchange, White House aides contended, Neeson, in either. The beneficiaries of the bill accord

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR  
FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH  
SUBJECT: Distribution of the President's  
Briefing Papers

I recommend an immediate change in the format of the briefing papers for the President. Page 1 of the briefing paper should only include Roman numerals I and II. Under no circumstances should the talking points appear on the first page.

My second recommendation is that in the distribution of the briefing papers that the Press Office only receive the first page. Frankly, there is no reason why they need the additional information for most of the meetings that the President has.

I think the attached copy of my memorandum to Ron Nessen will provide more than enough background on why this procedure must be changed immediately.

Attachments

cc: Dick Cheney  
Ron Nessen



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RONALD NESSEN  
FROM: DAVID C. HOOPES *DS*  
SUBJECT: Change in Briefing Paper Format

Hereafter Briefing Papers will be prepared with only the following paragraphs on the FIRST PAGE:

I. PURPOSE

xxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxx.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: xxx xxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

B. Participants: xxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

C. Press Plan: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

On the SECOND PAGE will appear:

III. TALKING POINTS

1. xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

2. xx xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

If you or your staff have any questions on this new format, please call me.

Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH

SUBJECT: Press Office Distribution of Briefing  
Papers for the President

From time to time I have mentioned to you, to John Carlson, and other members of your staff my concern about finding copies of briefing papers for the President lying around the lower press office area. Obviously this practice still continues. Yesterday's Chicago Sun Times had an article quoting liberally from the President's briefing paper of September 7 on his meeting with Polish American leaders (Tab A).

I would appreciate receiving from you by c.o.b. Saturday your thoughts on how future occurrences like this can be prevented. I would also like to have the name of the person on your staff who you will hold accountable for the proper handling of these papers.

In the event of another occurrence, distribution of these papers to your office will be terminated, and you will be asked for recommendations on what disciplinary action should be considered for those involved in violating your new procedures.

Attachment

cc: Dick Cheney  
Jim Connor



CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, THURSDAY, Sept. 9, 1976

# Ford follows his script with U.S.-Polish

By David Murray

Sun-Times Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Ford met with a score of Pol-

# leaders



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 7, 1976

MEETING WITH POLISH AMERICAN LEADERS

Wednesday, September 8, 1976

2:00 p.m.

The Cabinet Room

From: Myron B. Kuropas  
William J. Baroody

I. PURPOSE

To respond to a request for such a meeting from Aloysius A. Mazewski, President, Polish American Congress

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: In anticipation of the Polish American Congress Convention scheduled for Philadelphia later this month, President Mazewski has requested a meeting to discuss present conditions in Poland, Affirmative Action programs, Polish jokes in the mass media and Polish participation in the Ford Administration.

At the request of the National Security Council, a foreign policy briefing will precede your arrival coupled with a briefing from the Office of Public Liaison. You need address only domestic policy issues.

B. Participants: (See attached list)

C. Press Plan: Full White House Press Corps coverage with TV prior to beginning of session.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to meet with you and to respond to your concerns.



2. Before we begin, Al, I just want you to know how pleased I am with the outstanding work Leonard Walentynowicz and Mitchell Kobelinski have been doing as members of my Administration. You and the Polish American community can be very proud of them.
3. Mitch, I especially enjoyed your interview in U. S. News and World Report. Congratulations.
4. I'm also pleased with the large number of meetings Polish American leaders have attended here in the White House during the past year. We need your in-put and we welcome it.
5. As you know, Al, I'm distressed by the manner in which some of our television stations are dealing with Polish Americans. We have no place in our society for ethnic slurs. I've asked Bill and Myron to meet with the Federal Communications Commissioner to see if we're doing all that we can to put an end to such tactics.
6. I'm also concerned with the way in which discrimination seems to linger in our society. Our nation's strength is based upon the concept of equal opportunity for all Americans. I am personally committed to the goal of eliminating discrimination on the basis of race, creed or national origin. I also believe, however, that the use of inflexible, mechanical means of achieving equality of opportunity -- such as quotas -- is inappropriate and, in the long run, detrimental to the overall effort.

Several months ago, I directed HEW Secretary Mathews and Labor Secretary Usery to review existing Federal affirmative action programs to insure that these programs were effectively carrying out their mandates -- to protect the rights of all Americans -- in a manner consistent with my overall philosophy. I expect to have the results of their review in the coming weeks.



Polish American Leadership

Mr. Joseph Bialasiewicz  
Editor  
POLONIA

Mr. Henry Dende  
President  
Polish Union of the United States

Congressman Edward Derwinski

Mr. Richard E. Jablonski  
President  
Union of Poles in America

Mr. Valentine Janicki  
President  
Polish Alma Mater

Mr. Daniel Kij  
Polish Union of America

Mr. Mitchell Kobelinski  
Administrator  
Small Business Administration

Mr. Zbigniew A. Konikowski  
President  
Polish Army Veterans Association

Mr. Stanley Krajewski  
Editor  
POLISH DAILY NEWS

Mr. Jan F. Krawiec  
Editor  
DZIENNIK ZWIAGKOWY

Mr. Robert Lewandowski  
Le Van Enterprises, Inc.

Mr. Aloysius A. Mazewski  
President  
Polish National Alliance of the USA



Mrs. Lillian J. Miciak  
Director  
Polish American Congress

Mr. Kazimerz Olejarczyk  
President  
Michigan Division of Polish American Congress

Mr. Joseph L. Osajda  
President  
Polish Roman Catholic Union

Dr. Walter Sikora

Mr. Dennis Voss  
Chairman of the Board  
Parkway Bank

Mr. Leonard Walentynowicz  
Administrator  
Bureau of Security & Consular Affairs  
Department of State

Mr. Boleslaw Wierzbianski  
Editor  
POLISH DAILY NEWS

Mrs. Elaine Wojcik  
Vice President  
Polish Womens Alliance

Staff

Mr. William J. Baroody  
Dr. Myron B. Kuropas



September 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR  
FROM: RON NESSEN  
SUBJECT: ATTACHED MEMO FROM ELEANOR CONNORS

Obviously, Jim, this memo from Eleanor is highly objectionable to me.

It follows a phone call from Eleanor in the same tone.

I am sure you agree this has already gone too far.

Attachment



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN  
FROM: Eleanor *E. Gohnors* Gohnors

I gather from your prominent mention of my name in your memorandum to Jim Connor of September 10, 1976, that since your office could not get its request for new carpeting for the lower Press Office approved, you apparently have decided to "walk all over me" instead. I just wanted to assure you that I have no objection whatever to this because it saves unnecessary expenditure of the taxpayers' money, a policy of the President's which I, for one, fully support.

I hope I can continue to be of service to your office.

cc: Dick Cheney  
Jim Cavanaugh  
Jim Connor



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR  
FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

1. Please instruct Eleanor Connors and Sara Emery of your staff to handle briefing papers delivered to the Press Office in a more secure way than has been their custom in the past. They routinely drop these often sensitive briefing papers on desks or in "in" boxes when a member of my staff is not present to make sure the briefing papers are kept private and out of sight of the press. The way Sara and Eleanor have left briefing papers untended in the Press Office could lead to reporters seeing these private documents.
2. If you censor briefing papers delivered to the Press Office, I will instruct my staff to tell reporters, in response to queries about Presidential meetings, that we have no way to answer their questions because we have been cut off by the Staff Secretary's office from access to the necessary information.

cc: Dick Cheney  
Jim Cavanaugh



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CAVANAUGH

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

I am totally baffled by your unfounded accusation that someone in the Press Office leaked or showed a copy of the President's briefing paper for his meeting with Polish-Americans to a reporter from the Chicago Sun Times.

Who else in the White House had this briefing paper? I suspect several dozen copies of the paper were in circulation. My experience has been that the staff of the White House Press Office is far more careful of sensitive documents around reporters than most other members of other offices.

This is the second time in recent weeks that you have accused a member of the White House Press Office staff of leaking information to the press. There was no evidence in either case. I resent this, Jim. I'm not going to allow you to disparage or unfairly accuse members of my staff. This is the hardest working, most loyal and dedicated and most trustworthy group of people I have ever worked with anywhere. I have seen no evidence that any other office in the White House has a staff more loyal and trustworthy than mine.

If you seriously suspect my staff of what you have accused them of twice, the answer is not to cut off the information we need to do our job for the President; the answer is to have the President fire me and the rest of my staff this afternoon and build a new Press Office that you trust.

Should the President decide not to fire the Press Office today, the answer to your question is: The person in the Press Office who can be held accountable in this and all other matters is named Ron Nessen.

cc: Dick Cheney  
Jim Connor

