

The original documents are located in Box 34, folder “Convention - Kansas City: Media Interview Requests” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ABC News 1124 Connecticut Avenue N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone 202 393-7700

May 13, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

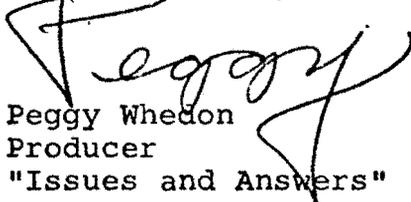
Dear Ron:

As you know, we have a one hour special "Issues and Answers" program on Sunday, August 15th, the Sunday before the Republican National Convention ... and we are holding it for President Ford. We would originate from wherever the President might prefer ... and would have our usual relaxed discussion with our two ABC Correspondents.

I do hope that we can confirm the date soon. I think it would be a terrific program at that time.

With warmest wishes, I am

Most sincerely,



Peggy Whedon
Producer
"Issues and Answers"

cc: Rogers C.B. Morton..Campaign Manager for President Ford
Tom Jarriel .. ABC News

CBS NEWS

A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

July 26, 1976

Honorable Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ron:

I am leaving on Wednesday for a week of filming in Florida, but if you can arrange the session for next week, I can be in Washington on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. It will be most helpful to us to have that chance to explore the President's thinking prior to the convention.

I appreciate your interest. My secretary in New York will know how to reach me at any time until something is established. (212) 975-6486.

With best regards,

Bill Moyers _{ek}

Bill Moyers

BM/ek

Signed in Mr. Moyers' absence.

July 27, 1976

Mr. Ronald H. Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ron,

ABC will present a special pre-convention program which will air August 15 from 7-8 PM, EDT, before the Republican Convention opens.

We would like to interview President Ford as close to the air date as possible, to use about a ten-minute portion in the special program. If this can be arranged, our normal White House personnel will be able to do the interview at your convenience.

Please confirm any arrangements as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Tom Jarriel

Tom Jarriel



THE KANSAS CITY STAR

The Kansas City Times

(THE Morning KANSAS CITY STAR)

Washington Bureau
1750 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W., Suite 306 • Washington, D. C. 20006 • [202] 298-7790

July 28, 1976

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. President:

As the host newspaper for the Republican National Convention, The Kansas City Star and Times will be read by the delegates, newsmen and convention visitors and our own readers. We would be honored to publish an interview with you during the time you are in Kansas City for the convention.

I have talked to Ron Nessen and explained that what I have in mind is an interview to be arranged at your convenience sometime during the convention week. It would be published on Thursday morning, August 19, after your nomination Wednesday night. The subject would be the future--your plans, the campaign, the nation, rather than still another dissection of the delegate count.

You have been most generous to all of us At The Star this year and we are grateful to you. I hope that you will grant this interview to me. I know our readers will be most interested in what you have to say.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Lastelic
Chief of the Washington Bureau

Chicago Tribune Press Service

1111 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE: (202) 298-5959

ALDO B. BECKMAN, CORRESPONDENT

July 29, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen
The White House
Washington D. C.

Dear Ron:

To follow up on our recent conversation, I want to remind you that we would like very much to interview President Ford, either en route to Kansas City or shortly after he arrives.

Because we are making elaborate plans to ship several thousand copies of The Tribune to Kansas City during the convention, we hope to be the most widely-read out-of-town paper that week. We're hoping to make certain that every delegate there has access to The Tribune.

If the president would grant us the interview, I would assume that Clayton Kirkpatrick, our editor; Jim Squires, the chief of our Washington bureau, and myself would be the interviewers. If you should decide to let us do it en route, and space on the plane is a problem, we would, of course, reduce the number by whatever is required.

Sincerely



August 4, 1976

Dear Mr. Midgley:

I'm sorry it's taken me so long to get back to you on your proposal for behind-the-scenes filming by CBS News at the Republican Convention in Kansas City. It simply took a while to consider your proposal and reach a conclusion.

I'm happy to say that we will be able to give your film crew special access to the President during his stay in Kansas City. At this time, I cannot say exactly which meetings and other events of the President your crew will be allowed to film. However, my plan is to assign someone from my staff to work with you in Kansas City and to usher you into and out of those events that seem appropriate for the special filming you propose.

If you will have someone in your office get in touch with me about 4 days before the President's arrival in Kansas City, I will give you the name of the contact in my office to make final arrangements.

I'm glad we were able to work this out. I believe it is a worthwhile project of CBS News to give your viewers a more intimate view of what goes on behind the scenes at a political convention.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Leslie Midgley
Executive Producer
CBS News
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10010

RN/jb

May 10, 1976

FOLLOW-UP FOR RN
IN MID-JUNE

Dear Mr. Midgley:

Your proposal for filming behind the scenes at the Republican Convention in Kansas City this August is an interesting one.

However, it is too soon to make a firm commitment. I'm not even sure the White House is the proper place to seek approval for filming behind the scenes at the Republican Convention.

I will explore the matter further and will be back in touch with you well before the Republican Convention.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Leslie Midgley
Executive Producer
CBS News
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10010

cc: Dave Kennerly
Sandy Socolow - CBS Washington

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

DAVE KENNERLY



Ron,

You received a letter from Leslie Midgley, dated April 20, 1976, concerning a project that CBS would like to shoot at the convention. It sounds like an exceptional idea and would be a good kick-off for the Ford Campaign after the convention. Also, Skip Brown would be doing the job and he is one of the best in the business, as you well know.

I hope you will approve the project.

Cheers!

RN

Dear Ron:

April 22, 1976

I enjoyed your appearance on NBC Saturday Night.

I am writing this note to endorse Les Midgley's proposal which is attached. I am sure you understand that properly done, the impact of a post convention documentary centered on the inside story of how the President spent that week is considerable.

To refresh your memory about Skip Brown, he is the cameraman hired through an advertising agency, to photograph the President's budget presentation. His film, I believe, was subsequently edited into political commercials.

I urge you to give this request positive consideration. I stand ready to discuss it further in detail, should you so desire. Les Midgley, who will produce the broadcast is similarly ready to come to Washington to discuss it with you in person should you desire. One week from today, I will telephone you on this matter to see where we stand.

Best regards,

SANDY

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

cc: Les Midgley

NEWS

A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Mr. Nessen:

As part of its continuing coverage of this political year, CBS News is planning one-hour wrapup Special Reports following each of the conventions. These broadcasts will appear on Sunday from 7 to 8 p.m., in the time slot currently occupied by 60 Minutes.

Part of the contents will, of course, be highlights of the convention itself, but we are anxious to go behind the scenes as much as possible and to show our viewers how and why things happened the way they did out there on the floor.

To get such coverage we want to assign a film camera crew to work inside the headquarters of the principal candidates, making a visual record of what goes on there. The crew will, of course, be instructed to be very discreet, make very little or no use of lights and turn off their equipment when it should be off.

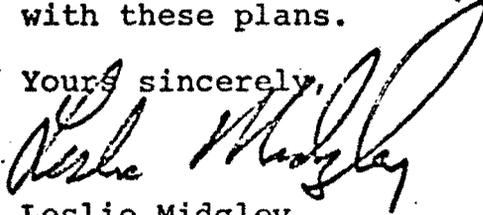
We had excellent cooperation from the McGovern headquarters people four years ago and the result was evident in what still stands up as an interesting hour. The only Republican cooperation we could get then was from Clark McGregor. We managed to follow and film him working the delegations, phones, etc., but the result was not as interesting or useful to the viewer as the McGovern hour.

This film will be strictly for use after the convention is over. None of it will be made available to the daily shows or to the continuing coverage of the convention.

We would like to assign Skip Brown, who has long and close ties with CBS News, as the cameraman to do this job. I understand that Skip already has done filming inside the White House and is familiar with your wishes and regulations.

I would greatly appreciate your reaction to this proposal and especially--of course--agreement that we can proceed with these plans.

Yours sincerely,



Leslie Midgley
Executive Producer

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

April 20, 1976

Date: August 4, 1976

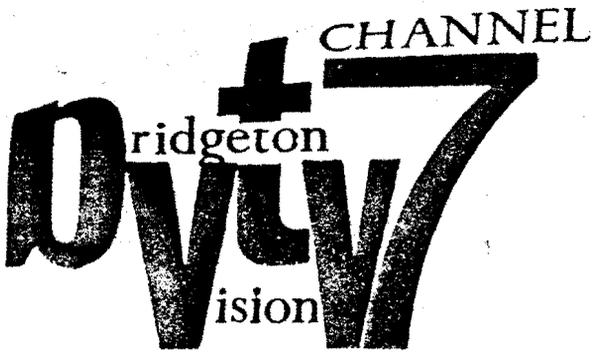
MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: WILLIAM W. NICHOLSON

SUBJECT: Robert Flug, Bridgeton Vision,
 re: interview while in Kansas City

The attached is for your appropriate handling.

Thank you.



Amulet.com
August

101 S. Giles St.
Bridgeton, N.J. 08302

President Gerald Ford
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

TIME
T/D
SCHEDULE DE
DATE RECEIVED
AUG 2 1976
MESSAGE
SPEAKERS BUREAU
OTHER <i>Ken Miller</i>
APPOINTMENT OFFICE

July 31, 1976

Dear President Ford,

As part of our coverage of the Republican National Convention, we will soon be videotaping a "preview" show with the Delegates from our area. We invite you to appear with them or separately as your schedule permits.

New Jersey as a whole and South Jersey in particular have had, up till now, virtually no indigenous Television coverage. New Jersey is one of the only States in the Union without a major broadcast TV station. One answer to that problem is our recently inaugurated process of sharing appropos programs among the various South Jersey Cable TV systems. We call it the South Jersey Cable TV Network and our Convention coverage as well as any interviews with you would accordingly be made available through it to Cable TV systems all over South Jersey.

While our studio facilities are here in South Jersey, the technology of Videotape would make it possible for us to interview you in Washington or other location convenient for you.

We shall also have Videotape crews in the Convention in Kansas City and would appreciate your consideration of meeting with us there.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

Robert Flug

Robert Flug
for
BridgetonVision

609-455-5124
609-455-2480

RF/me

August 4, 1976

Mr. Ronald Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ron,

The ABC-TV Evening News is interested in doing an interview with President Ford as soon after he wins the Republican nomination as possible. Correspondent Harry Reasoner would do the interview. We hope to arrange about a thirty-minute informal discussion which could be edited into a series of three or four-minute pieces which would then be played during successive nights on the ABC-TV Evening News. Mr. Reasoner would be glad to travel to Vail or Washington to handle the assignment. Please advise us if this can be arranged as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Jarriel", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Jarriel

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR: *Connie G.*
FROM : RON NESSEN

Told "No"
by phone,
RAW





NBC News

A Division of
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.

4001 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016 202-686-4200

August 6, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ron,

Naturally, we're quite disappointed that President Ford will not be available for an interview with David Brinkley for Nightly News during the week before the Republican National Convention. If there is any change in his plans which would permit the scheduling of the interview, even at the last minute, David is ready to fly to Washington to talk with the President.

Also, I wanted to reconfirm our interest in an interview with the President or with both Mr. and Mrs. Ford on Sunday, August 15 in Kansas City for our prime-time special on the eve of the Convention.

We know this is a busy and critical time for the President and his staff and will appreciate whatever can be done to accommodate our requests.

Sincerely,

Les Crystal
Les Crystal

LC/mw.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 11, 1976

NOTE FOR DICK CHENEY:

Here are the responses to the
questions asked by Time Magazine.

Dave Gergen

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

888 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

EDITORIAL OFFICES
202-293-4300

6 August 1976

Mr. Richard Cheney
The White House

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your time yesterday and for your willingness to see if the President would like to comment on some of the points we hope to raise in our cover story on the state of the Republican Party, a story scheduled to appear the week of the Convention.

As you suggested, I am submitting here a few questions to which we would be interested in the President's response.

1) Why did the President originally become a Republican? What set of principles characterized the Party then, and what attracted him to them?

2) How has the Party evolved since then? If the President were addressing a group of young voters who were trying to decide whether to affiliate themselves with a party, what arguments would he use to persuade them to become Republicans?

3) Today less than 20 percent of the electorate identifies itself as Republicans. Why, in the President's view, has there been this decline? What can be done to reverse it?

4) There are only 13 Republican governors, 31 Senators and 145 Representatives. Do these figures indicate a danger of the Republican Party withering away? Is the GOP faced with a crisis of survival?

5) What are the key philosophical and economic issues that distinguish Republicans from Democrats in 1976?

6) Does the President agree with Clifton White and other Republican strategists that the country as a whole is, in some ways, drifting to the right on the ideological spectrum? If so, how?

7) Who, in the President's view, are the great heroes of the Republican Party in history, and how would he describe their contribution?

Respectfully,


Strobe Talbott
White House Correspondent



WHY I BECAME A REPUBLICAN

- Q. Why did you originally become a Republican? What set of principles characterized the party then, and what attracted you to them?
- A. My devotion to the principles of the party has many different roots. I grew up in a Republican family and in a Republican community. As a young man, I had very mixed feelings about the Roosevelt years. Too many of his actions -- the Court packing of 1937, the decisions to seek a third and fourth terms, some of the social legislation -- struck me as unwise and unnecessary extensions of the powers of the central government.

By contrast, the Republican Party always placed needs and freedoms of the individual above those of the State; it stood for a strong, vigorous private enterprise system; and, as my friends and mentor from Michigan, Arthur Vandenberg, made very clear, the Party took a bipartisan, internationalist approach to foreign policy. All of those views made me a believer -- then and now.

DRG - 8/11/76

REPUBLICAN EVOLUTION

- Q. How has the Party evolved since then. If you were addressing a group of young voters who were trying to decide whether to affiliate themselves with a party, what argument would you use to persuade them to become Republicans?
- A. The Party's position on specific issues has, of course, evolved over the years to meet changing social, economic and international conditions.

But the principles of the party -- the devotion to individual freedom, the belief in self-reliance and self-initiative, the belief that people -- and not the central government -- can and should decide for themselves how they want to live, the commitment to strong American involvement and leadership in world affairs -- all remain virtually the same. And I believe that an increasing number of young people have come to adopt those views for their own.

Our job within the party is to do a better job of showing these young people that they have a natural home in our ranks, to open our doors more widely by convincing them that politics can be honorable and can make a very significant difference in the quality of American life.

GOP DECLINE

- Q. Today, less than 20 percent of the electorate identifies itself as Republicans. Why, in your view, has there been this decline? What can be done to reverse it?
- A. Both the Republican and Democratic parties have suffered a decline in terms of voter identification, and for many of the same reasons.

One reason is that political parties do not seem as relevant to people's daily concerns as they did in earlier years when it was the locally elected official -- a person usually tied to a political party -- rather than a faraway bureaucrat who made the decisions that affected people's lives. Government was more responsive then, and the political parties were more vocal.

Secondly, of course, the political parties have suffered because of widespread cynicism about the government and about politics itself.

We can definitely reverse the decline -- and we have to in order to maintain a strong political process -- but we will succeed only if we make government responsive and honest.

CRISIS OF SURVIVAL

Q. There are only 13 Republican governors, 31 Senators, and 145 Representatives. Do these figures indicate a danger of the Republican Party withering away? Is the GOP faced with a crisis of survival?

A. I do not think there is a danger of the Party withering away. It survived the 1930's, which was its low point. Even after 1964 the Party came back and in 1970 we occupied 32 of the State Houses. We did it before and we will do it again.

I do think we must do more to build up the Party, and I intend to do that because I think it is imperative for the functioning of our government to have a strong two party system.

AW/JBS - 8/11/76

PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES

- Q. What are the key philosophical and economic issues that distinguish Republicans from Democrats in 1976?
- A. Some people say the difference is that the Democrats are more compassionate and the Republicans are more efficient. I totally disagree, especially with the compassion point. Both parties are sincerely dedicated to serving the best interest of the American people -- creating more jobs, holding down inflation, etc. -- and the critical differences lie in the way they wish to achieve these goals.

Many Democrats believe that the way to solve our economic and social problems is through a large central government, remote from the people it governs, which will supervise and plan most of the important activities in the economy and the Nation. Based upon the experiences of mankind through the ages, Republicans believe in a more limited Federal government, with primary responsibility placed as close to the people as possible.

Economically, we believe in a private market economy with balanced Federal budgets and as little interference as possible to keep the private sector competitive. The Democrats approach inevitably leads to a heavy Federal hand in managing the economy.

DRIFT TO RIGHT

Q. Do you agree with Clifton White and other Republican strategists that the country as a whole is, in some way, drifting to the right on the ideological spectrum? If so, how?

A. I don't want to get into a semantic discussion of what is right, left, liberal or conservative. But I do see a change in public attitude toward government. More and more people are coming to realize that the Federal government cannot solve all our national problems, that the Federal government cannot spend and spend beyond its resources, and that individual freedom and self-reliance -- many of the old virtues -- must be preserved.

JBS - 8/11/76

REPUBLICAN HEROES

- Q. Who, in your view are the great heroes of the Republican Party in history, and how would you describe their contribution?
- A. Lincoln, of course, stands out as one of the greatest Republicans and greatest Americans in our history.

But there have been many other admirable men in this office. When I first came to the White House, I had the opportunity to hang the portraits of three different Presidents in the Cabinet Room. I chose Teddy Roosevelt, a robust, exciting President who led us onto the world stage in the 20th Century and made our economic system more competitive; Harry Truman, a fascinating, feisty man whose stature has grown enormously over the years; and Dwight Eisenhower, one of the most virtuous of all of our Presidents, whose years in office were marked by national harmony and a sense that we had a balanced, healthy society. I hold each of these men in great respect.

DRG - 8/11/76

Fon. Pres. Ford.

SUN 8/15/76

6 to 7 PM

Kansas City time

CBS booth —

w/ Walter Cronkite —

for convention

special:

R. Jones



One Pershing Road, Kansas City, Mo. 64108
(816) 474-4400, Cable "Westhotels"

Wednesday morning 18 August 1976

Re:

On behalf of Murray Gart, Chief of Correspondents of TIME, I would like, through you, to extend an invitation to the President to meet with a group of our top editors and correspondents tomorrow, Thursday, at a time and place that might be convenient to him.

As I mentioned to you earlier, our editor-in-chief Hedley Donovan and the editor of TIME Henry Grunwald are in Kansas City, along with a number of other top editors and executives.

We hope that the President, after his expected nomination tonight, might find it both appropriate and possible in terms of his schedule to talk with this group.

Strobe Talbott
746-4600

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Strobe" followed by a stylized flourish.

Ron Nessen

Press Secretary

White House

Washington, D.C.

Dear Ron:

As you know, NBC News is planning extensive coverage of the activities and developments leading up to the Republican National Convention. We believe fresh and exclusive interviews with the President--and then with the President and Mrs. Ford--will contribute significantly to this pre-convention coverage.

Toward this end, David Brinkley would like to interview the President on Thursday, August 12, or Friday, August 13, preferably in the morning, at the White House. This interview, for approximately six minutes, would be telecast on NBC Nightly News the same day the interview takes place.

Following the interview with the President, we would like Mrs. Ford to join the President for an additional Brinkley interview which would be an important element for our prime-time convention preview program on Sunday, August 15th, 10 to 11 P.M., EDT.

We realize the President's schedule is very tight, but hope he can find time to discuss the issues of the convention and the coming election campaign with David Brinkley for these programs.

I would appreciate your calling me with the White House reaction to this request--and with any questions or suggestions you might have. I can be reached at NBC News Convention Headquarters in Kansas City (Area 816 467-4154) or the Alameda Plaza Hotel (816-756-1500) at any time.

We will be grateful for anything you can do to advance this request with the President and Mrs. Ford.

Most cordially,



Les Crystal

Producer