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## GOP POW-WOW ARRANGEMENTS

Q. How as the meeting with Connally, Regan, and the Vice President arranged?

A. It was arranged at the President's initiative. He personally talked with telephone to Conally and Regan and he discussed it in a meeting with the Vice President. I am told this took place this ~~meeting~~ *wednesday*.

Q. Were there any preliminary discussions on a staff level?

A. Yes. I do not know the details.

From Bill Timmons

PLEASE CLEAR WITH THE PRESIDENT

Q) Ron, is the President interested in reported efforts among Congressional Republicans to replace

~~Hugh Scott and John Rhodes as leaders.~~

A) ~~However,~~ <sup>However</sup> the WH has taken hands off internal leadership decisions by House and Senate Republicans. Election of leaders is a matter exclusively for GOP Members of both bodies and the President will not - and should not - become involved. *I know De)*

~~Having said that, however, it would be unfair to the incumbent leaders if I didn't express the President's~~

*was.* warm personal and professional relations with Hugh Scott and John Rhodes.

I feel more like I do now than I did when wherever you go, here you are.



I have nothing

to add to what

I said yesterday,

# GOP Leaders Circulating Party Loyalty Statement

By Carl P. Leubsdorf  
Associated Press

In the wake of conservative third party talk, a broad array of Republican leaders have joined in a statement pledging loyalty to the party and President Ford, congressional sources reported yesterday.

The statement already has the support of the top GOP leaders in the House, Senate and governorships and is expected to be backed by a heavy majority of congressional Republicans, the sources said.

The principal draftsman was Rep. John Anderson of Illinois, chairman of the House GOP Conference, with Sen. Charles H. Percy of Illinois and Gov. William G. Milliken of Michigan also playing a role in it.

It has been endorsed by Gov. Christopher S. Bond of Missouri, chairman of the Republican Governors Association; Senate GOP Leader Hugh Scott and House GOP Leader John J. Rhodes.

In addition, Rhodes and other members of the House Republican leadership have sent a letter to all 45 House Republicans, seeking their backing.

Bond and Milliken have sent copies of it to their fellow GOP governors, and support from Republican state chairmen is being solicited by Chairman William McLaughlin of Michigan, John McDonald of Iowa, Carla Coray of Hawaii, Kenty McGough of Ohio and Richard Rosenbaum of New York.

In the Senate, support for the statement is being solicited by Percy, Charles McC. Mathias Jr. of Maryland and James McClure of Idaho, who recently attended a meeting of conservative leaders who agreed to keep the pressure on Mr. Ford for a more conservative course.

Entitled "A Republican Statement," the five-paragraph statement declares, in part:

"As Republicans, we reaffirm our dedication and loyalty to the party and its principles and pledge our efforts to rebuilding the party in the wake of our recent setbacks, and to broadening our political base. We rededicate our efforts to truly making our party the party of the open door and the open mind."

NOTE

Q Is the President happy that a loyalty petition is being circulated on his own behalf by his own party?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that I would call it a loyalty petition.

Q Solidarity, or whatever you want to call it.

MR. NESSEN: He is happy to have support.

Ron:

The only thing my notes show re this is that no one in the White House was aware that it was being circulated and that we shouldn't characterize it as a loyalty oath or as a vote of confidence. The President stated his views at the Republican National Committee dinner last Friday.

JWH

(WASHINGTON BRIEFS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SEN. HUBERT HUMPHREY, D-MINN., HAS ACCEPTED AN INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RULING AND WILL PAY BACK TAXES ON THE NEARLY \$200,000 HE DEDUCTED FOR GIVING AWAY HIS VICE PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS.

HUMPHREY ANNOUNCED THURSDAY HE WOULD NOT APPEAL AN IRS AUDITOR'S RULING THAT DISALLOWED THE DEDUCTIONS.

HE HAD DEDUCTED \$199,153 FROM HIS FEDERAL INCOME TAX FOR DONATING THE PAPERS TO THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO PAY TAXES ON THE DISALLOWED DEDUCTIONS -- TAKEN BETWEEN 1969 AND 1972 -- PLUS 6 PER CENT INTEREST PAYMENTS.

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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A LOYALTY PLEDGE APPROVED BY BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER IS BEING CIRCULATED AMONG REPUBLICANS IN A BID TO HEAD OFF A POSSIBLE CONSERVATIVE THIRD PARTY.

HOUSE GOP LEADER JOHN RHODES AND REP. JOHN ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE GOP CONFERENCE, TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THURSDAY 111 HOUSE MEMBERS AND AT LAST 20 OF THE SENATE'S 38 REPUBLICANS SIGNED THE "EXPRESSION OF APPROVAL" OF PRESIDENT FORD AND A PLEDGE "TO WORK WITHIN THE PARTY." IT WAS ALSO SENT TO GOP GOVERNORS AND STATE CHAIRMEN.

"I THINK A PARTY CAN BE A PARTY OF IDEOLOGY WITHOUT BEING A PARTY OF IDEOLOGUES," SAID ANDERSON. HE, SEN. CHARLES PERCY, R-ILL., AND GOV. WILLIAM MILLIKEN OF MICHIGAN WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN DRAFTING THE STATEMENT.

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