

**The original documents are located in Box 126, folder “Buchen, Philip (1)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

*RAW*  
*3- DPM*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

1/27/75

RON

FYI - Phil Buchen is having lunch  
at the Hay Adams on Thursday with  
Bud Benjamin, the new head of CBS  
News, Walter Cronkite and Sandy  
Socolow.

Benjamin, it turns out, is an old  
friend of Buchen's, apparently  
from school. END FYI

JACK



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ron Nessen ✓  
Jerry Jones

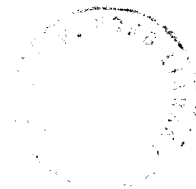
FROM: Phil Buchen P.W.B.

For the Presidential appointment of David Belin to be Executive Director of the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States, you may want to know about the attached correspondence.

If it is to be acknowledged, I assume it should be mentioned in a letter from the President appointing him or accompanying the instrument of appointment.

Attachment

cc: Don Rumsfeld



LAW OFFICES  
HERRICK, LANGDON, BELIN, HARRIS, LANGDON & HELMICK

2000 FINANCIAL CENTER  
SEVENTH AND WALNUT  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

ALLAN A. HERRICK  
HERSCHEL G. LANGDON  
DAVID W. BELIN  
CHARLES E. HARRIS  
RICHARD G. LANGDON  
ROBERT H. HELMICK  
PHILIP C. LOVRIEN  
JOEL D. NOVAK  
JEFFREY E. LAMSON  
EDGAR H. BITTLE  
FREDERICK C. BLACKLEDGE  
CURT L. SYTSMA

January 10, 1975

AREA CODE 515  
TELEPHONE  
244-1116

DWIGHT BROOKE  
COUNSEL

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a copy of my correspondence to the Vice President.  
I will do my best to discharge the responsibility in my  
position.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

  
David W. Belin

DWB/sgt



LAW OFFICES

HERRICK, LANGDON, BELIN, HARRIS, LANGDON & HELMICK

2000 FINANCIAL CENTER

SEVENTH AND WALNUT

DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

January 10, 1975

AREA CODE 515  
TELEPHONE  
244-1116

DWIGHT BROOKE  
COUNSEL

ALLAN A. HERRICK  
HERSCHEL G. LANGDON  
DAVID W. BELIN  
CHARLES E. HARRIS  
RICHARD G. LANGDON  
ROBERT H. HELMICK  
PHILIP C. LOVRIEN  
JOEL D. NOVAK  
JEFFREY E. LAMSON  
EDGAR H. BITTLE  
FREDERICK C. BLACKLEDGE  
CURT L. SYTSMA

The Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

This letter is to confirm our January 9 long distance telephone conference. I very much look forward to working with you and the other members of the Commission.

As I discussed with both you and Philip Buchen, there are two very important conditions with which I accept this responsibility: (1) We leave no stone unturned to find the truth and we let the chips fall where they may. (2) We immediately undertake to hire a highly competent staff to assist in the investigation. I was particularly pleased with your immediate response and the response of Philip Buchen that both you and the President also firmly believe that these two conditions are vital to the success of the Commission.

Sincerely,

David W. Belin

DWB/sgt

cc: The President of the United States  
Philip Buchen

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

David Belin

Republican

Will be paid out of a special  
allocation fund of 150,000.....

~~xxxxx~~ salary will be \$36,000..

IT MUST BE REALIZED THAT THE PRES.  
HAS NOT SIGNED THIS YET FOR SALARY ETC.

Belin will be with the Commission for  
three months.

The money for the Commission (150,000)  
is stated in the Exec. Order/ para. 4C

FYI: The money comes under such things  
as the President's unanticipated  
needs, goes thru OMB, who grants the  
money.....



*Thyler*

October 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN  
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS  
SUBJECT: Vetoes

During the 32-day recess, the President has elected to both pocket veto and return legislation to Congress with Messages, thereby creating some confusion on Capitol Hill as to how these vetoes are to be handled.

It occurs to me that it might be helpful and newsworthy to have some articles written around November 18th (when Congress returns) about the legal situation in which Congress finds itself. Can Congress override a "pocket veto" in the current circumstances? If it does, will the President acknowledge it as a valid law? Can suit be brought against the Congress? Against the President? Who has standing in court?

My objective is to serve notice on Congress that this whole area is legally very sticky and hope it will choose not to attempt an override on any of the vetoes.

What are your thoughts on this?

cc: Ron Nessen



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

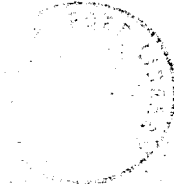
11/5

TO: PHIL BUCHEN

FR: RON NESSEN *RHN*

May I have your guidance  
in responding to the  
attached.

Thank you.





Jerry M. Landay  
Apt. 2  
2231 Bancroft Pl., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

30 October, 1974

Dear Ron:

As you probably know, I have resigned from ABC-News.

One of the projects I am contemplating, under the auspices of a leading American publisher, is a book dealing with the Nixon years.

In furtherance of this project, it would be essential to gain access for research purposes to the Nixon "boards". These, as you know, contain transcripts of the daily press briefings by Ron Ziegler and Gerald Warren, pool reports, the former president's daily public schedule, all press releases, all transcripts of news conferences in the press room by presidential aides, transcripts of presidential news conferences, prepared presidential speech texts and "as delivered" transcripts.

I understand these "boards" have been packed, and are physically located with the rest of the former president's papers.

Quite obviously, however, these "boards" comprise material released by the White House press office, and, as such, are part of the public record. They are thus markedly different in status from those memoranda, tapes, and other documents which may relate to investigations by the special prosecutor, or court proceedings, under the heading of "presidential papers".

Your assistance in gaining access to this so-called "board" material, to the total exclusion of the presidential papers now involved in the litigative process, would be deeply appreciated.

Should you wish to discuss this matter more fully, I would of course be delighted to meet with you. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Most Sincerely,

  
Jerry M. Landay

Ronald Nessen  
Press Secretary  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Ccs: Hon. Philip Buchen, Thomas P. Wolfe

(see Ron file)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 3, 1974

Dear Mr. Barrer:

This will respond to your letter to Ron Nessen of November 8 and your letter to me of the same date, requesting various types of published and unpublished materials in the possession of the White House which relate to the Watergate and Impeachment investigations, hearings and prosecutions.

Virtually all of the above-described materials currently in the custody of the White House are subject to the orders of Judge Richey entered in Nixon v. Sampson, et al., C. A. Nos. 74-1518, 1533, and 1551, United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Those orders enjoin me as a party defendant, from "disclosing, transferring, disposing, or otherwise making known to any person" any of the Presidential materials of the Nixon Administration. In view of these orders, I regret that it will be impossible for me to comply with your request. However, you may wish to direct further inquiries to attorneys for the former President.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Mr. Lester A. Barrer  
Today Publications & News Service, Inc.  
National Press Building  
Washington, D. C. 20004

FYI:  
bcc: Ron Nessen ✓



November 8, 1974

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

Dear Mr. Nessen:

We are currently compiling a book, the complete and comprehensive *Documentation Index to the Impeachment Proceedings Against Richard M. Nixon - Including 'Watergate' and Related Investigations, Hearings and Prosecutions* to be published in April, 1975.

This Index will completely identify all contents of the UNCLASSIFIED sources of information used in the Watergate and Impeachment investigations, hearings or prosecutions. These will be obtained from the various government agencies and private organizations involved.

This compilation is being prepared as a scholarly work and will be published in a format which will provide the legal, historical, and journalism professions with a comprehensive reference source of information — indexed in depth.

Today Publications & News Service, Inc. is both an accredited news service and a publishing company. Mrs. Myra E. Barrer and I are co-owners of the firm. Mrs. Barrer is accredited as a Congressional reporter and I am accredited to cover the White House, State Department, etc.

In the publishing area, we recently published a book entitled *Women's Organizations & Leaders — 1973 Directory* (December 1973), a major directory which was selected by the American Library Association as one of the "outstanding reference books of the year (1974)." The book was also recommended by the Wilson Library Bulletin with an "A" rating signifying that it is "Important even for a small basic reference collection..." The Association of College and Research Libraries gave special recognition to our book and stated that "... This source provides information... that is otherwise elusive. Recommended." Another review stated that "... this directory fills a gap... and should be a helpful addition to most libraries." The entire compilation, indexing, data processing, writing, editing, composition, and graphics of the 470-page book were done by us and our own staff. This directory is now an annual publication of our company. Another publication we prepare is *The Law & Women Series*.

We are interested in obtaining from you for the *Documentation Index* the following types of published or unpublished materials:

1—Lists of documents used by or submitted by your organization directly in the Watergate or Impeachment investigations, hearings, or prosecutions.

2—Lists of documents used by or submitted by your group as reference materials.

3—Lists of documents in your possession which are being or have been used by, or submitted by, other government agencies in the Watergate or Impeachment investigations, hearings, or prosecutions.



ember 8, 1974

4—Identification of specific units of government agencies, private organizations, or of individuals who may have documents of the nature just described. This is so that we may better assure a comprehensive coverage of all potential sources of these materials.

5—A copy of the index of materials you may have already submitted to the U.S. Archives or another document storage facility such as a federal records center or a library.

6—If you have not yet sent your materials to such a storage facility, we would like to obtain a list or index of these materials when they are sent.

Once we have obtained these lists, we will then be able to determine which items are in the possession of your organization and which ones we may need a copy of for our work. If a copy is not available for our retention, perhaps we could either borrow a copy for a short period of time or review a copy in your office or library. It would be most useful, however, if we could obtain a copy for our own use.

We would also like to make arrangements to be kept informed about documents that are produced in the future or are obtained by your organization which would pertain to our research. This could be done either by a periodic telephone call to a specific member of your staff or by placing us on your mailing list. It is important to note that we are interested in obtaining the preliminary documents as well as the final ones.

We have already made or are currently making similar arrangements with other government agencies. The Watergate Special Prosecution Force and others have already agreed to assist us in this important work.

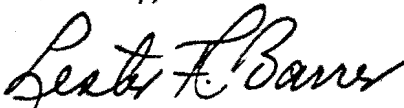
Having disclosed the scholastic and historical need for an index which will lead researchers, historians, students and the public to these important documents, may I make it clear that I am not in any way suggesting that my sole purpose in this undertaking is to obtain, for retention, documents from you or your files. I am asking to be allowed to use the documents which are in your possession. From these I need to copy only the title pages, tables of contents, indexes, and similar information which will explain to any reader what might be found within the context of the entire document. Our goal is indexing in depth.

Although we have not yet made the selection, Mrs. Barrer and I have decided to place the entire collection of those documents which we have obtained—when the *Documentation Index* is completed—in the Law Library of a major university or the Law Library of the U. S. Supreme Court.

On the attached pages you will find a copy of the draft Title Page, Table of Contents and a descriptive abstract prepared for librarian purposes.

We would be pleased to meet with you or a member of your staff to answer any further questions concerning this request and its fulfillment by you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Barrer

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: PHILIP W. BUCHEN *P.W.B.*

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Christmas Gifts

With the Christmas season at hand, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the restrictions imposed by statute and regulations upon you, as a member of the White House Staff, regarding the acceptance of Christmas gifts.

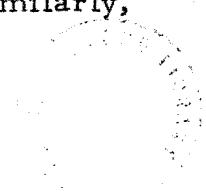
Gifts between Staff Members

Federal statutes prohibit the acceptance of gifts from fellow employees of a lesser pay status. The solicitation of contributions for a Christmas gift for an employee in a superior official position is also prohibited by statute, as is the giving of such a gift or donation. However, these laws have not been interpreted to preclude the traditional exchange of gifts of nominal value between co-workers within an office.

Acceptance of Other Gifts

As a member of the White House Staff you are expressly prohibited from soliciting or accepting gifts from corporations or persons (1) who have or are seeking contractual agreements with any Executive department or agency, (2) who engage in activities regulated by Executive departments or agencies, or (3) who have any interests which may be substantially affected by the performance of your job. This latter group includes federal employees as well as persons in the private sector.

The foregoing does not preclude your acceptance of unsolicited advertising or promotional items such as pens, note pads, calendars, etc., so long as they are of nominal value (\$10 or less). Similarly,



you are not prohibited from accepting reasonable gifts, promotional or otherwise, from close personal friends or relatives who have dealings with the government, when it is clear that the motivation for the gift is the personal relationship and acceptance would not give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Additionally, present law prohibits the acceptance of gifts in excess of \$50 (retail value in U. S.) from representatives of foreign governments except with the express consent of Congress. Any such gift which cannot appropriately be refused shall be submitted to the Counsel's office (Room 106, OEOB) for transmittal to the Department of State.

#### Procedures for Disposition of Prohibited Gifts

Any prohibited gift should be returned to the donor along with a letter, a copy of which should be retained for your files, stating the reasons for its return. If for any reason it is not possible to return the gift, please forward it to the Counsel's office (Room 106, OEOB) along with a letter of explanation. The gift will then be turned over to a public charity or charitable institution.

The rationale for the foregoing restrictions is two-fold. First, as between members of the Staff, they remove any appearance that a person is attempting to gain favor with a superior by the giving of a gift, and also resolve that no such gift is expected. Second, as to gifts that might be offered from those outside the White House, they protect you as a member of the Staff from being thrust into a position of conflict with your job, or more often, from being exposed to the appearance of such a conflict.



Ron --

Just a reminder that this tax assistance is available if you want it.

Do you want me to set up anything???

\_\_\_\_ YES

~~\_\_\_\_ NO~~  
c g



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 20, 1974

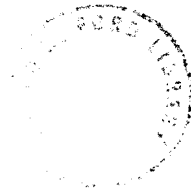
MEMORANDUM FOR ALL WHITE HOUSE PERSONNEL

FROM: PHILIP W. BUCHEN

SUBJECT: Tax Assistance

The Internal Revenue Service Taxpayer Assistance Service has been useful to White House employees in the past. I am attaching a schedule of the services available in this area and want to point out that the location of the closest IRS office for this purpose is 1201 E Street, N. W.

In other years, IRS representatives have visited our offices to help those requesting such service. Due to the low volume of inquiries, however, I have agreed that we can use the E Street office and we will no longer have special representatives visit the White House.





Hours of Service (Contd.)

Monday evenings (beginning January 27, 1975) -  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays (beginning February 1, 1975) - 9:00 a.m. -  
1:00 p.m.

Walk-In Assistance

If your tax questions are not resolved by telephone, the Internal Revenue Service has conveniently located personal contact facilities available as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1201 E Street, N.W. - Room 604  
Monday through Friday - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturdays (February 8 & 15 - April 5 & 12) -  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 15 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

WHEATON, MARYLAND

Wheaton Plaza - South  
Monday through Friday - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturdays (February 8 & 15 - April 5 & 12) - 9:00 a.m. -  
1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 15 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

BAILEYS CROSS ROADS

Skyline Center, 5205 Leesburg Pike - Room 600  
Monday through Friday - 8:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturdays (February 8 & 15 - April 5 & 12) - 9:00 a.m. -  
1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 15 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Two items to take up with Buchen:

1. Cheney says to check with Buchen on how much we can say about Kitchel's withdrawal and reasons therefor. (LETTERS ARE ATTACHED--NO PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE LETTER YET) ✓
2. Buchen agrees that we should do something coordinated about the CIA Panel Director, in view of the shoddy handling in the Star interview (one of Rocky's people leaked it). He can probably be convinced that we should announce it.

*Yours*



## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Don Rumsfeld

FROM:

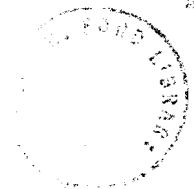
Phil Buchen *T.W.B.*

Attached are a letter from Denison Kitchel to the President asking that his name be withdrawn as nominee to the Legal Services Corporation Board and a note to me from Ed McCabe on the same subject.

Denny also called me and advised that he has called John Rhodes and the office of Barry Goldwater to inform them of this development. He also advises that John Osborne already has the story, as he learned to his surprise.

Attachments

*Tom Deakin*  
*check with Buchen*  
*on what you can say.*

*Phil*

HAMEL, PARK, MCCABE & SAUNDERS

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1975

Phil:

Denny Kitchel asked me to deliver to you this letter from him to the President.

Apparently Denny's doctors have convinced him he should not undertake the Chairmanship of the Legal Services Corporation -- or indeed the Chairmanship of anything else. He's had a hearing impairment for a long time and has used a hearing aid. From what he now tells me, there has been a severe and recent impairment in his hearing capacity. He still does very well on the telephone and in one-to-one conversations. As he tells me, though, his doctors now confirm that he is literally unable to follow what goes on in a general discussion with a number of people at the same time. I understand this was confirmed in a special examination with hearing specialists in California just before Christmas.

For some reason Denny thought it best not to spell out all this in his letter to the President. I have urged that he do so -- at least in a separate letter to you. He isn't reticent or embarrassed about the situation and would prefer that any announcement

- 2 -

of his withdrawing be keyed to the controlling reason of his loss of hearing capacity. I assume he is writing you such a letter.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Ed' or 'E.A. McCabe', written in a cursive style.

Edward A. McCabe



DENISON KITCHEL  
2912 EAST SHERRAN LANE  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85016

January 2, 1975

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

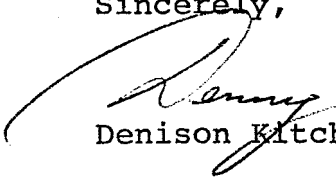
Dear Mr. President,

Personal circumstances that would make it impossible for me to serve effectively as a member of the board of directors of the Legal Services Corporation compel me to request that my name be withdrawn from further consideration for appointment to that position.

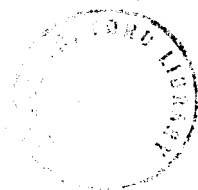
I feel greatly honored by your expression of confidence in me and regret more than I can tell you my inability to accept this challenging opportunity to be of service.

With every good wish and best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Denison Kitchel



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Ron Nessen:  
Thought you  
and Jack would  
like to see a  
copy of the  
sermon which the  
President mentioned  
in his interview  
with Hugh Sidey.  
It's good.

J. W. B.

# *The Pardon for President Nixon*



September 15, 1974

*Fountain Street Church*

Grand Rapids, Michigan





*Printed by*  
THE EXTENSION SERVICE OF  
FOUNTAIN STREET CHURCH

SINGLE COPIES .....25¢  
YEARLY MEMBERSHIP .....\$7.00

## *The Pardon for President Nixon*

The whole history of religion is one of conflict between idealism and realism. As Paul put it so succinctly, "between what I want to do and what I do, between what I profess and the way in which I really act." Religion is valid not so much because it has created a good society but because it holds up the ideal of a good society. It is good not only for the good people; it's good because it holds out hope for those who are not good and know they aren't. No matter how good we become, religion will still be valid because it will be casting further ideals toward which to aspire.

Abraham was early in the history of the Jewish people, 1500 B.C. at least. Remember the story of how Abraham taught God about forgiveness? For centuries after that the Jewish people were ruthless in wiping out their enemies, destroying children and old people and cattle, throwing salt in the fields of their defeated enemies . . . not much forgiveness. But I wonder what it would have been like without the ideals. So Abraham took God apart and God was going to destroy Sodom and Gormorrah. Abraham said, "Now, God, if there were fifty good people there, would you still destroy it?" And God said, "No, for the sake of fifty perhaps I wouldn't." And Abraham worked Him down until there were only ten there, and God growing in his wisdom and graciousness finally decided that for the sake of ten people He wouldn't destroy the city. Also recall how Jonah, many centuries later, was sent on a mission by God to destroy the city of Ninevah and he was relishing the destruction. They were a wicked, bad people and he could taste it

in his mouth, his joy and his pleasure at seeing God destroy these wicked, evil people. God caused a gourd to grow up to shade Jonah, lamenting and wailing in the heat of the desert, and then He had the gourd cut down and Jonah was very angry over the gourd's failing him, and in the end God said to Jonah, "You're angry over a little gourd. Do you not think I would be much more concerned for the people of Ninevah? Jonah, doest thou well to be angry."

I am going to read to you a few verses from the 20th Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, which puts something in story form for you to work on and for me to work on. It is one of those scandalous, foolish statements. Jesus is trying to describe the kingdom of heaven and hopefully the kingdom would be a little better than the society we have. Listen to the strange counsel and advice and consider what it might mean. "The kingdom of heaven is like this. There was once a landowner who went out early one morning to hire laborers for his vineyards, and after agreeing to them the usual day's wage, he sent them off to work. Going out three hours later he saw some more men standing idle in the market place. 'Go and join the others in the vineyard,' he said, 'and I will pay you a fair wage.' So off they went. At midday he went out again and at three in the afternoon and made the arrangements the same as before. And then an hour before sunset he went out and found another group standing there. So he said to them, 'Why are you standing about like this with nothing to do?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they replied. So he told them to go and join the others in the vineyard. When evening fell, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay beginning with those that came last and ending with the first.'" Those who had started work an hour before sunset came forward and were paid the full day's wage. When it was the turn of the men who had come first, they expected something extra but were paid the same amount as the others. As they took it, they grumbled at their employer, 'These late comers have done only one hour's work

and yet you have put them on a level with us who have sweated the whole day long in the blazing sun.' The owner turned to one of them and said, 'My friend, I am not being unfair to you. You agreed on the usual wage for the day, did you not? Take your pay and go home. I choose to pay the last man the same as you. Surely I am free to do what I like with my own money. Why be jealous because I am kind?'"

\* \* \* \* \*

Let it be our prayer that we will learn more the ways of justice, that we will learn better how to apply the rules we know and that we may enhance and redeem the quality and character of those who are bitter and hurt and inadequate. Let it be our prayer that we will continue to grow in our ability to handle the misdeeds of our children, our spouses, our friends, our neighbors, and all people. Let it be our prayer that we will grow, not only in our capacity for justice, but in our understanding and appreciation of our great needs, that we may learn not only to do justly but to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God and with our principles.

\* \* \* \* \*

I want first of all to state the prejudicial position from which I speak to you this morning. I have been a citizen of this country now for almost forty years, and because I adopted the country and came with eager anticipation, I have a very deep and abiding faith and satisfaction in the traditions and the glory of our history. I am so deeply appreciative of what kind of place this is and the freedom that it offers and the hope that it offers to the world. I am as idealistic about that now as I was as a child and as a youth. In all those forty years I have had three persons that I thought violated the ideals and the traditions and the hopes and the quality of this country as I understood them. That's my personal judgment and I have stated it a number of times. I hold no opinions that I sooner or later do not discuss publicly. So many of you have been aware for many, many years that I have considered Richard Nixon as a deep, basic enemy of the ideals and the hopes of America. I put him

along with Senator McCarthy and J. Edgar Hoover. I know this opinion was not shared with very many. Not until McCarthy had run his course, did the evil and wickedness of his approach and destructiveness become apparent. So I express my prejudice against the man Richard Nixon. It is longstanding. I didn't have to wait for Watergate . . . it was nothing that I really found difficult to believe. Perhaps that is why I am not quite as angry as some of you are.

Secondly, I want to say that I have been here in Grand Rapids all the years of Gerald Ford's public life. I have seldom ever agreed with any of his positions or votes. That too was clear to you. I am not prejudicially disposed in his favor. I have had to fight him over and over again. However, I do want to say that I am shocked and outraged by the terrible allegations and suspicions of motivations that have been raised in our own community this past week in ascription to his act in pardoning President Nixon. You may agree or disagree with his decision but I am horrified that we would, ministers and other good people, in the name of our worry over idealism and over qualitative living, attribute to him the very worst of motives, scandalously outrageous motives without any single bit of evidence. Now that may be all right, although it isn't, for persons in the country around to do. As decent, religious people we ought to at least accept a man's public declaration of why he is doing something. Until you find out better, isn't that the decent thing to do? Certainly it is the religious thing to do, but I have read preachers this week denouncing him for inculcating immorality while they spread doubt and lack of faith and ugliness with sheer, unadulterated gossip. When those people speak on behalf of morality and high idealism for a better nation — that kind of conversation and talk is destructive.

Gerald Ford lived in this community. We should know better. In all those years of my opposition to him I never once have had occasion to call into question his motivations, his integrity, his honor or his honesty. He moves in and out

of our homes. He is no stranger to us. We have had him under a microscope for thirty years. We ought to know that man. However bad his judgment, we ought to know he is a decent, honorable, honest person, as deeply devoted to the ideals of America and to the qualities of democracy as any one you will ever have met. This is not just hearsay; it's there on the record. There is no valid reason for impugning to President Ford a dishonest or dishonorable motivation. His whole life speaks against it. And we, we know. We ought to know.

One. I want to say that it is absurd to say that a pardon for President Nixon undermines our legal system or destroys our principle of equal treatment under the law. It is absurd to make such a claim. President Ford did not invent the pardon. The privilege and responsibility of clemency and pardon is built into the system of our law, on every level from the merest local district up to the federal. It is an important part of our law. It is a responsibility more often than it is a privilege. It is equivalent in effect to the veto which we attribute to the President. Congress writes laws but the President may veto them. Congress passes laws many, many times knowing that the President will veto them. Good men and women have voted for causes and issues and programs that they didn't want to support but did for the public effect, knowing that the President would veto them and they would not go through. Juries have convicted persons knowing that there would be clemency and pardon for them and that the penalty to be exacted was too great, but they knew there would be a pardon forthcoming. Juries have refused to convict persons obviously or seemingly most guilty because they knew that the penalties for such crimes were too harsh in the particular instance. They took justice into their own hands.

Pardons are a responsibility. They are a necessary part of our whole system of justice. Without them our justice would be much less. Criticize President Ford's judgment but his act is not a violation of the law. He was assuming his

responsibility and he felt in his own conscience that he had to do it and he had to do it in the way he did.

The second aspect of the fact that it is not a violation of the law for the president to do this, that it is not anti-system, that it is not anti-legal — the second aspect is the fact that while equal treatment in our system is one of the most important functions we have, the same offense does not always warrant the same treatment. Surely no principle is more basic than this to our justice. Equal treatment of all offenders, given a moment's consideration, must surely come through as a travesty of justice or of a legal system. There has always been unequal treatment and always the provision for unequal treatment, for equal treatment would be a horror and a nightmare.

Let me make some suggestions for consideration. We do not object to plea bargaining although the latest officially sanctioned commission to investigate criminal justice is suggesting that plea bargaining be dispensed with. Plea bargaining has always been a part of our system. We have used it from the lowest local prosecuting attorney up to and including the special attorneys appointed by the presidents. Under plea bargaining, if a person will plead guilty to a small offense, we will forgive him for the major offenses so that we can use him in the prosecution of further justice. This is not equal treatment, but it is a part of our system.

We have traditionally and continually given freedom and clemency and forgiveness and pardon to informers, those who will help us reach further to get more grievous law-breakers.

Justice has always been based upon the principle of motivation. We give three different formulas for punishment for murder based on the nature of motivation. There is a first degree and a third degree. We always want to inquire into what caused the person to do what he did. You wouldn't take the offense without investigating his frame of mind or his attitude.

Would you treat a first offender in the same way you would treat an habitual offender? Is that equal treatment — to take a person who has done something for the first time and give him the same punishment as someone else who has been doing the same thing over and over again?

Do we not always consider when we consider justice the capacity for rehabilitation of the offender? Do we not at least take into consideration his age, his social status, his history and tradition up to that time, his social record, his standing in the community, his honor, and would we not assume that a person who had lived for thirty or forty years in a community with honor and status should be treated somewhat differently from some one who has paid no attention to the community and used it only to ravage it? Surely there is a value for our previous life and our previous standards and for our relationships in the community.

I ask you also to raise in your mind the fact that in any kind of justice we must always consider the value of any punishment. Punishment is not the purpose of justice and punishment may not always serve justice. We are obviously aware of that on every possible level. If it is true for poor people, as one friend of mine said, wouldn't the same principle apply to the rich? If it is true and valid for the un-powerful, wouldn't it apply equally well to the powerful? Shouldn't we stop and consider whether or not punishment would really be of any value? There is a committee working in this County to secure special privilege for the good citizens here who fall into trouble and to help them avoid the bad record of a prison confinement or even a day in court. The basis is that these people who on investigation turn out to be good people are capable of rehabilitation and we don't want to punish them unnecessarily for punishment may only push them further down, degrade and hurt both them and our society. There are hundreds of illustrations that any one of you can pull up to your minds. Consider the neighbor you have known who has had trouble. Your understanding

and knowledge and conviction is that punishing that person would do no good, and you have worked, haven't you — I have, over and over again to get such people off. This was done not so they could avoid the justice system but so that justice could be served, so that they could grow in their qualities, so that they could be strengthened in their weakness to go on making a contribution to society. One little illustration. Congressman McCormick, Speaker of the House, left the House in disgrace, an old man, everyone knew. Would it have served justice and decency and honor and the welfare of Congress, Massachusetts, or America to have put McCormick in jail, at his age?

Two. I have already said it is absurd to say that the law is mocked or that equal treatment has been violated. The second point I make is that the due process of law for Presidents is not, I repeat *not*, the same as for an ordinary citizen. Our Constitution set it up that way. President Ford was not initiating some new procedure. He was following the Constitution. We had been following the Constitutional process. The President could not be tried in an ordinary court. That is why the impeachment procedure was set up. He was tried according to the law, according to our standards, to our precedents and traditions. He had to be duly charged in the House and then tried in the Senate. It was perfectly clear — the record is there in print, and there will be more of it — that he stood guilty and that is the reason for his resignation. He did not escape our law. He was not above the law. His resignation expressed that guilt. The penalty under the law for a President's wrongdoing was exacted. The President did not escape.

Three. The President of the United States is not just another person. There is some remarkable political wisdom involved in this. We do like to remember that President Ford is just Jerry, that we know him, that we have drunk with him, eaten with him, played with him, that he is just another guy. But not when he is President. He could say, "I hope my friends will not call me Mr. Vice President, that I'll still be

Jerry," but when he assumed the rank of Vice President, he was something more, and that is a minor office compared to the presidency. The presidency carries with it so much dignity, so much power, so much history, so much tradition that the man who occupies it is not just another citizen. He is king as well as ordinary citizen. This President carries the burden of acting like royalty even while he must remember, as we must remember, that he is just another ordinary citizen . . . but he is both. He is the President, and you address him "Mr. President." The simplest person and the sophisticated person as well stands in awe before that figure. The President is not to be treated as just an ordinary citizen. He is the office as well as the executive. He is the nation as well as a political and party leader. He is a symbol of our nation, our tradition, our history.

Do you think we have not been humiliated enough? Do you think there would be any real value in humiliating the presidency any more? I know the horror and I share it. Do you want more? Back in the early days of Watergate I remember particularly a cultured academic witness and lecturer being called in by the net works from Australia to discuss the case. He said, "Why is it that the Americans like to flagellate themselves? Why do they like to bring out all this and hang it in front of the world?" I have moved around enough to know that that's the way Canadians feel, too. And I have read, the British, the French, the Scandinavians and almost all of West Europe want to know why we do this. "Why do you do this to yourselves? Couldn't you meet the problem and handle it and get on about your business. Do you have to lay it out for the world to see and beat your breast in shame and degradation?" Well, we did bring it out. That is part of our nobility. It will be forever a stirring part of our tradition, that we were strong enough and courageous enough and honest enough to bring it all out. It isn't just Richard Nixon — it's the presidency that has been shamed, and I think we all know it. If that presidency is going to be something, there is no need to

drag it any further, it seems to me. We have taken our punishment. We are not escaping our guilt. We are not escaping a wrongdoing.

Do you really want more? Do you think that more shame would help us as a nation? Do you think that more shame would make the presidency more august and more significant and more important? Do you really think that more punishment would make us better?

I entitled this "The pardon for President Nixon." I used the term President advisedly, not Richard Nixon. Remember the pardon was for the President. It was for the office.

Four. The pardon was a symbolic act of mercy. It should be seen as an expression of our desire to be forgiving. I advocated that we forgive them all. But if we cannot forgive everyone because we are not yet that good, and I wish we could and I wish we were, surely we can forgive some one if for no other reason than to hold up the ideal of forgiveness.

The Jews didn't rise to the level of Abraham and God didn't rise to that level for centuries and centuries. The ideal is there. It must never be forgotten. The time to hold up the ideal is when you need it most, when you are most bitter, resentful, hateful. Hold up forgiveness. That's when you need it most. If you can't forgive all your friends, forgive some. If you can't forgive all the way, forgive part of the way. Help where you can if you can't help everywhere. Show mercy where you can, wherever you can, even if you can't show it all the way to everyone. Remember the story of the owner who paid all his employees equally, expressing an act of kindness. The others got what they bargained for. Was he unjust or is kindness the point of the story?

Five. Whatever the "world" may say, and I put world in quotes as I referred to those outside of our own community earlier, whatever the law may do, and whatever your critical judgment of guilt and innocence may be, a religious person should not be found in vain against forgiveness.

How many million times today will Christians say, "Forgive us our trespasses." Is it words only? Does it really express our desire? Is it really our belief? Then we had better start exercising it. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, for we need it and we will need it.

The most solemn event in Christianity is Jesus on the cross. Millions and millions who go to church at no other time go to lament and wonder and marvel at that man on the cross, and they refer invariably when they go to the fact that this man was able to forgive his enemies who were killing him. An innocent man he was, and they were killing him. On the cross he asked for forgiveness for them. Is this only words? Do we mean it? Then will we struggle a little in our religion to rise to it sometime, somewhere? Could we not then muster a little forgiveness for Richard Nixon, for one who has wronged us but one who has served us as well for many, many years and, according to millions of us, served us well whatever his faults of character and whatever his later misdeeds? If we claim the glory of an innocent man forgiving those who kill him, it doesn't seem so much that we rise to that level. What a mockery of our religion if we cannot.

Remember the woman taken in adultery. Jesus forgave her. There were no extenuating circumstances presented for that woman. It was a flagrant case. Hundreds and hundreds of Jewish women had been stoned to death for the same offense and would continue to be stoned to death for that offense, and this woman went free. Would you rather have had justice or did the mercy mean something? Jesus did not intend to abolish the law and its penalties when he succeeded in that act. It was a symbolic act of mercy and forgiveness that comes ringing down the centuries holding us to an ideal and holding up an ideal for us. Forgive when you can.

Mercy and forgiveness cannot be weighed and measured and balanced and counted. It must always be free and un-

earned and undeserved. It is the foolish nature of mercy.

In conclusion I want to ask why such an outpouring, unequalled in my life, of bitterness, resentment, outrage and hate? The reaction is too great to be justified by the occasion. It is something more. We have got to find an explanation. The wisdom of our race and of our religion gives us the explanation. We know. If you stop for a moment, I think you really know. We have been hurt. We have been shamed. We have been betrayed. We have been diminished. We have been frightened and we have been endangered. We have been exposed by what President Nixon and his people did to us. The emotions have been dammed up too long, swirling within us as a dark, muddy, unwholesome flood. We want to pour them out, pour them out on some person, some thing, some animal, anything so that we can get rid of them. The function of a scapegoat. From before history there were scapegoats. You poured out your guilt on some animal and then killed it, drove it out into the wilderness. This is a deep human, psychological trait and understanding. It's valid. It works. But I am praying that we understand what we are doing, and I pray that there is a better way than this primitive way of scapegoating, and if we can't rise to that better way, at least understand what we are doing. The way out is through understanding and forgiveness.

Remember Jonah and the people of Ninevah. God said, "Jonah, doest thou well to be angry." Have mercy.

We must find it in our hearts, for our own salvation and our children's and perhaps the world's, to forgive President Nixon and the people around him, President Ford, and me, and yourself and all of us. We cannot live without it.

*This sermon by Dr. Duncan E. Littlefair was delivered without manuscript on September 15, 1974, and is printed from a tape recording.*

**October 5, 1974**

**TO: PHIL BUCHEN**

**FR: RON NESSEN**

**Thank you very much for the copy of Dr. Littlefair's sermon. I appreciated seeing what the President was referring to in his chat with Hugh Sidey and have passed it on to Jack Hushen for his information.**

**I appreciate your thoughtfulness in bringing this to my attention.**

**cc: Jack Hushen**

**ppp**





MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 7, 1975

*file*

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

Gaylord Shaw, a fairly responsible reporter from the Associated Press, has filed a request for access to President Ford's tax returns. What answer shall I give?

Personally I don't think we need to give out these tax returns, and I hope you'll suggest an acceptable reason for not giving them out.

Ron -

I don't think we should make the tax return public.  
The simplest reason is Presidential privacy.

That the President would prefer to avoid setting a precedent for Presidents and other government officials might best be left unsaid because it sounds hypocritical.

*P.A.*

Phil Areeda



*Sold  
Gaylord  
2/11/75  
couldn't have  
tax return*

*Phil Buchen referred to  
Phil Buchen*

TO TALK TO ~~PRESIDENT~~ ABOUT:

Dick Middleton -- Central Telephone & Securities Co.

**RE:** CBS Inquiry on President's stock holdings with the above company.

Mr. Middleton wants to be careful in responding. He said they were contacted when Pres. was before Senate Comm. for confirmation as Vice Pres. -- The stock in question is in Mrs. Ford's name -- not the President's. Middleton wants to be sure that when the Pres. disclosed his financial statement -- the stock was listed in Mrs. Ford's name. CBS has again contacted them re: the stock and details about the holdings.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

10/2/74

(F)

To: Ron Nessen

From: Phil Buchen

P.W.B.





CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20415

SEP 27 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

In view of inquiries being made to the White House by a reporter from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch regarding job referrals made by President Ford (when he was a member of the House) and others, I thought the attached statement might be of interest to you.

It was issued by the Civil Service Commission to appropriate officials in departments and agencies in October 1973. It was also released to the press at that time.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Hampton  
Chairman

Enclosure



October 24, 1973

This statement explains how agencies can properly consider referrals of persons from various sources (including political sources).

#### Schedule C and Noncareer Executives

Appointments to key policy-determining jobs, or jobs having a close personal relationship to an agency head or his key officials, are excepted from the usual merit system requirements. These jobs (Schedule C and Noncareer Executives) are expected to be filled by the appointment of people who are clearly in close policy and political agreement with the appointing officials or have their personal confidence. Thus, political recommendations and advice on such appointments is normal practice and fully supportable. After all, it is these appointees who are responsible for public advocacy and defense of agency and administration policies and programs (or in close personal support of such people).

#### Career Jobs

More than 90% of all Federal jobs are required by law to be filled through open competition and solely on the basis of merit and fitness. In filling such jobs, the question of whether it is proper to consider persons referred from a variety of sources is frequently raised.

Anyone who knows of a person seeking employment generally has a right to bring that person to the attention of the Civil Service Commission or an official of any Government department or agency.

"Anyone" means just that. Employment referrals by Congressmen, officials of political parties or the White House, State Governors, Mayors, representatives of trade associations, labor organizations, civil rights groups, ethnic and racial groups, and other groups and individuals, are completely proper and legitimate. The major limitation in law\* is that of 5 U.S.C. 3303 which states:

"an individual concerned in examining an applicant for or appointing him in the competitive service may not receive or consider a recommendation of the applicant by a Senator or Representative, except as to the character or residence of the applicant."

This limitation is not a ban on referrals. It is rather a restriction on the examining or appointing official as to how he may consider this referral. Any candidate referred through political sources must be fully considered, but only in the same manner, and subject to the same requirements, as those which are applied to all other candidates. This can only be done by placing the applications of people received through such referrals into the regular system for receipt and consideration of all other candidates. Only in this way can equal consideration be given to those other citizens (usually including many highly qualified people) who express interest in Government employment through the usual channel of application in civil service examinations or directly to an agency in whose program they are interested, without reliance on referral from a third party.

---

\* There is another limitation (5 U.S.C. 3710) which deals with restrictions on recommendations for employment of relatives.

Thus, what is prohibited is not referrals, but the giving of special preferential or exclusive consideration to referrals from only one source. A merit appointment can be made only after the requirements of public notice, broad opportunity to apply, and common, realistic standards have been met. These must be met in fact and not just by lip service. There needs to be an active search for candidates from relevant sources; the final competition must occur among candidates recruited in such a manner; and the final selection must be made from among only the most highly qualified and solely on the basis of merit and fitness, as required by law.

In addition, pursuant to the Civil Service Act of 1883, Federal officials are bound by a Presidential order, initially promulgated by President Arthur in 1883, which without significant change in meaning is currently found in Rule 4.2 of Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The current Order explicitly prohibits officials, in connection with competitive service employment, from making "any inquiry concerning \* \* \* political affiliation." The Rule then states that all disclosures concerning such matters shall be ignored, and that no discrimination shall be exercised, threatened, or promised because of political affiliation.

#### Experts and Consultant Appointments

There are special provisions of law relating to the appointment of experts and consultants (5 U.S.C. 3109). It is particularly important that these provisions and the Commission's implementing instructions are followed carefully. The major need is to be sure that experts and consultant appointments are genuinely that; not a subterfuge to fill an operating job. Thus, the appointee must be a bona fide expert actually needed for short duration or intermittent assignment.

For Further Advice

The Director of Personnel of each Federal department or agency is available to advise in more detail on the requirements of law and regulation regarding appointments in that agency. He is fully committed to the furthering of his agency's mission and expert in the proper way to do that within the meaning and spirit of merit principles and civil service law.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:           RON NESSEN

FROM:                   PHIL BUCHEN *T.W.B.*

SUBJECT:               Drinan, et al. v. Ford, et al.

The above-captioned suit has been brought against the President, Secretaries Schlesinger, McLucas (Air Force) and Kissinger, Ambassador to Cambodia John Gunther Dean and William Colby, in an attempt to enjoin the carrying on by the United States of "military and paramilitary activities in, over, off the shores of and respecting Cambodia and from furnishing advice, support, training and intelligence to the military forces of the Lon Nol regime...." Congressional plaintiffs in this case are Robert Drinan, Michael Harrington, John Moakley, Bella Abzug, Herman Badillo, George Brown, Yvonne Burke, Bob Carr, Ronald Dellums, Don Edwards, Donald Fraser, Ken Hechler, Henry Helstoski, George Miller, Richard Ottinger, Frederick Richmond, Benjamin Rosenthal, Edward Roybal, John Seiberling, Fortney Stark, and Henry Waxman.

I have already referred this matter to the Department of Justice for handling and I suggest that as in the case of all matters in litigation, that any specific press inquiries be referred to the Department of Justice for appropriate comment. However, you may wish to make just a generalized statement that the President will fully carry out his constitutional responsibilities to insure that the law is faithfully executed.

cc: Jack Marsh  
Brent Scowcroft



February 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: RON NESSEN

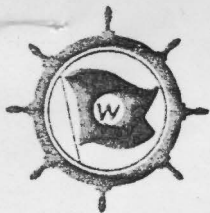
Could you give me your opinion on what I should do with this?

Is it all right to keep it, or should it be returned?

R<sub>n</sub>/cg

complimentary ticket to Wilson Line





## WILSON BOAT LINE

POTOMAC RIVER CRUISES

PIER 4 • 6TH & WATER STREETS, S.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024 • TEL. 393-8300

February 14, 1975

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

Dear Ron:


Spring is just around the corner and that means the Wilson Boat Line is ready for another big sailing season.

In addition to our current fleet, we've custom built and put in service, three all climate controlled, 400 passenger "Catamarans". These vessels are the world's largest passenger carrying "Catamarans".

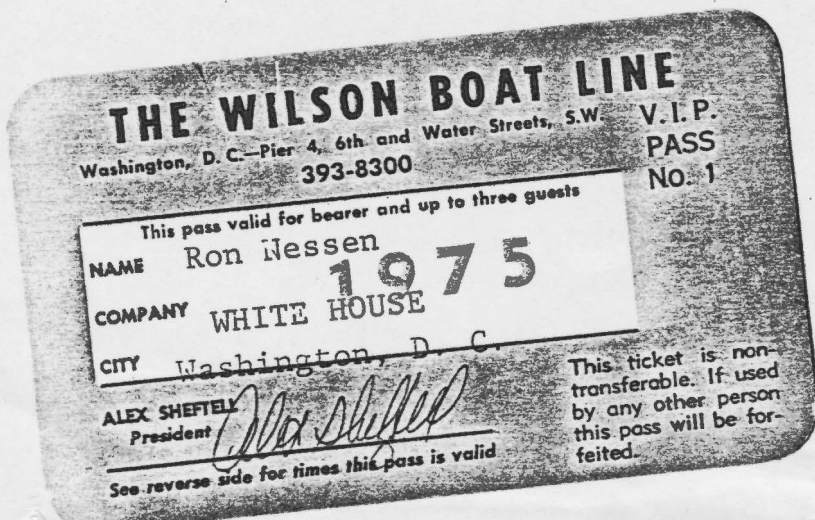
It's my pleasure to enclose a VIP SEASON PASS for you and up to three guests. Sail with us, as often as you like .

Again, welcome aboard. We look forward to greeting you in person very soon.

Cordially,

  
Alex Sheftell  
President

AS/fr  
Enc.



February 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: RON NESSEN

Some time ago I sent to Phil Areeda, and he passed on to you a package of clippings from the St. Louis Post Dispatch, involving an alleged scandal in the Civil Service Commission.

The St. Louis Post Dispatch asked at the time whether we had any comment on its series, and the newspaper is asking again whether we have any comment.

When could they expect an answer, if any?

RN/cg



Phone Jim Deakin (did)

Colo

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Ron Nessen

FROM:

Phil Buchen

*P.W.B.*

In response to your memorandum of January 27 to Phil Areeda, I recommend no comment, or a minimum of comment, on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch articles. The President's views regarding Civil Service are well known and were the subject of a memorandum last September to the heads of all departments and agencies. With respect to the allegations of wrong-doing by the Civil Service Commission, it might be noted that the Commission recently took action to prohibit any of its employees from making personal job referrals or other recommendations for Federal employment.

As to investigations by the Commission into the specific personnel practices of various agencies, any comment by the White House would be deemed inappropriate. The Commission completed the GSA and HUD investigations in 1973 and 1974, respectively. Investigations of other agencies are still reported to be underway.

As a result of the GSA and HUD investigations, certain employees of those agencies received administrative sanctions. Several of these cases are now being heard by the Commission and other cases have already been reviewed by the courts on jurisdictional grounds and remanded to the Commission for final rulings. In view of this pending litigation, any comment by the White House could seriously prejudice the rights of the individuals involved. Therefore, I would advise that you not comment on any Civil Service investigations or administrative or judicial hearings.

Enclosures



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

Some time ago I sent to Phil Areeda, and he passed on to you a package of clippings from the St. Louis Post Dispatch, involving an alleged scandal in the Civil Service Commission.

The St. Louis Post Dispatch asked at the time whether we had any comment on its series, and the newspaper is asking again whether we have any comment.

When could they expect an answer, if any?



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL AREEDA

FROM: RON NESSEN *RN*

Attached find a series of copies of newspaper articles which ran in the St. Louis Post Dispatch involving alleged wrong-doing by the Civil Service Commission.

Jim Deakin, the White House reporter for the St. Louis Post Dispatch, has asked me whether there is any White House comment on these articles or on this alleged wrong-doing by the Civil Service Commission.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Attached is a letter from Maxine Cheshire of the WASHINGTON POST, which was received March 4, 1975, by Larry Speakes of my staff, who handles inquiries from Mrs. Cheshire.

I would appreciate your advice before replying to this letter.





# The Washington Post

1150 15TH STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20071

(202) 223-6000

March 3, 1975

Mr. Larry Speakes  
Assistant Press Secretary  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Larry:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC, Section 552, I hereby request that you disclose to me for inspection and copying the following records:

1. A list of donors and amounts contributed to the Committee for the Preservation of the White House since its formation.
2. A list of expenditures by that Committee, along with the names and addresses of all persons to whom payment was made for any purchase or service.

As I have indicated earlier to you by phone, I would like this information as promptly as possible. In view of President Ford's policy on openness in such matters, I cannot imagine that he or anyone in his administration would feel that the public does not have a right to know who gives to this historic White House project and how the money is spent.

Sincerely,

*Mexine Cheshire*  
Mexine Cheshire



March 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT  
PHIL BUCHEN ✓

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Attached find a copy of a letter proposed by the Customs Service to be sent to all members of the press who made the Vladivostok trip. As you see, the Customs Service requests the journalists to return the whalebone souvenirs they were given by the Russians because they violate the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Customs Service raises the possibility of legal action if the whalebone is not returned.

Also attached is a draft re-write of the Customs Office proposal, written by my office, which somewhat softens the tone of the letter.

I would appreciate your guidance on 1) Would the Customs Service's position be considered an insult by the Soviet Union, who presented the whalebone to the reporters, and 2) Is it absolutely necessary, from a legal point of view, that the reporters be forced to return these souvenirs?

It seems to me the best option would be to find a way to let the reporters keep the gifts. The second best option would be to find a way to ask the reporters to return the gifts in a tone that would not bring complaints of harassment and stories about this episode.

May I have your advice on this?

Attachment

KKX

RN:jg



March 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK HUSHEN  
FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached find Buchen's response to our query concerning the Customs Service's request for the return of the whalebone souvenirs from Vladivostok. As you see, Phil feels there is no way to stop the Customs Service from making this request.

He does agree with us that the letter should be softened..

Please get back in touch with the Customs Service and tell them this is their responsibility to issue this re-call in their own name, but indicate to them strongly that the letter should be more courteously written.

Attachment

RN:jg



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*file*  
1402

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

April 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR RON NESSEN

FROM: Brent Scowcroft *B*  
SUBJECT: Soviet Souvenirs for Newsmen at Vladivostok

With regard to your memorandum of March 5 concerning the whalebone souvenirs which reporters were given at Vladivostok, we believe that Soviet officials will be understanding should the Customs Service require that the souvenirs be turned in to the Government.

I know Phil Buchen has sent a separate memorandum to you on this, and I concur that it should be left to the Customs Service to take the necessary action.

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL



March 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK HUSHEN

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Attached find Buchen's response to our query concerning the Customs Service's request for the return of the whalebone souvenirs from Vladivostok. As you see, Phil feels there is no way to stop the Customs Service from making this request.

He does agree with us that the letter should be softened..

Please get back in touch with the Customs Service and tell them it is their responsibility to issue this re-call in their own name, but indicate to them strongly that the letter should be more courteously written.

Attachment

RN:jg



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT  
PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Attached find a copy of a letter proposed by the Customs Service to be sent to all members of the press who made the Vladivostok trip. As you see, the Customs Service requests the journalists to return the whalebone souvenirs they were given by the Russians because they violate the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Customs Service raises the possibility of legal action if the whalebone is not returned.

Also attached is a draft re-write of the Customs Office proposal, written by my office, which somewhat softens the tone of the letter.

I would appreciate your guidance on 1) Would the Customs Service's position be considered an insult by the Soviet Union, who presented the whalebone to the reporters, and 2) Is it absolutely necessary, from a legal point of view, that the reporters be forced to return these souvenirs?

It seems to me the best option would be to find a way to let the reporters keep the gifts. The second best option would be to find a way to ask the reporters to return the gifts in a tone that would not bring complaints of harassment and stories about this episode.

May I have your advice on this?



## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR : MR. RON NESSEN  
FROM: RAY M. ZOOK *RZ*  
SUBJECT: WHALEBONE

Attached is a proposed letter the Customs Bureau is prepared to send to the Press and Press Staff who were given the whalebone souvenir while in Vladivostok.

I suggest we ask them to include the address and office hours where these items may be turned in and also that they will be given a receipt for their records.

Your comments and suggestions please.

cc: Jack Hushen

*Judy -  
Tell Ray that I  
have some proposed  
changes in the letter.  
I should like  
to hear about  
it.*



2-28-75

Mr. Zook:

Attached is a copy of a proposed letter which will go to all the newsmen who accompanied the President on his trip to Russia.

Will you please review the letter to see if it meets with your approval. We will wait on your say so before sending the letters out. If you find any problems with the letter call Mason Hirsh on 964-8482. If the letter can fly as is, call Jean Hendrick on 964-5871.

Thank you.

*Jean Hendrick*  
Jean Hendrick





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT  
PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Attached find a copy of a letter proposed by the Customs Service to be sent to all members of the press who made the Vladivostok trip. As you see, the Customs Service requests the journalists to return the whalebone souvenirs they were given by the Russians because they violate the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Customs Service raises the possibility of legal action if the whalebone is not returned.

Also attached is a draft re-write of the Customs Office proposal, written by my office, which somewhat softens the tone of the letter.

I would appreciate your guidance on 1) Would the Customs Service's position be considered an insult by the Soviet Union, who presented the whalebone to the reporters, and 2) Is it absolutely necessary, from a legal point of view, that the reporters be forced to return these souvenirs?

It seems to me the best option would be to find a way to let the reporters keep the gifts. The second best option would be to find a way to ask the reporters to return the gifts in a tone that would not bring complaints of harassment and stories about this episode.

May I have your advice on this?



Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that some members of the press who accompanied President Ford to Vladivostok, Russia in November 1974, returned from the trip with a souvenir made of whalebone which was illegal to bring into the United States because possession of it violates the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and The Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Enclosed is a picture of this souvenir to help you identify what we are talking about. The back or base of the plaque is a product of the Finback Whale called Baleen, a fibrous material found in the mouth of the whale used for filtering plankton, (upon which the whale feeds) from the sea water.

If you have a plaque, it should be turned in to the nearest office of either the U.S. Customs Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service. There will be no legal action taken against anyone who voluntarily turns in his or her whalebone plaque.

Please give this letter (or a copy) to the local Customs or Marine Fisheries office when you turn in the plaque.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



2-28-75

Mr. Zook:

Attached is a copy of a proposed letter which will go to all the newsmen who accompanied the President on his trip to Russia.

Will you please review the letter to see if it meets with your approval. We will wait on your say so before sending the letters out. If you find any problems with the letter call Mason Hirsh on 964-8482. If the letter can fly as is, call Jean Hendrick on 964-5871.

Thank you.

*Jean Hendrick*  
Jean Hendrick





DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE  
WASHINGTON



REFER TO

INV. 9-02 I:G:R  
Subject: Wildlife  
Violations

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that some members of the press who accompanied President Ford to Vladivostok, Russia in November 1974, returned from the trip with a souvenir which violates the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and The Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Enclosed is a picture of this souvenir to help you identify what we are talking about. The back or base of the plaque is a product of the Finback Whale called Baleen, a fibrous material found in the mouth of the whale used for filtering plankton, (upon which the whale feeds) from the sea water.

All whaling countries of the world except Japan and Russia have agreed upon a moratorium on the taking of the whale. We feel that there is a possibility that the importation of this plaque could cause an embarrassment to you, the President and the United States, should it become a public issue.

Therefore, it is imperative that you voluntarily give this plaque to the nearest office of either the U.S. Customs Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service. The plaques will then be turned over to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



If you make this voluntary donation, we are able to assure you of no legal repercussions as per proposed Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219.

Please give this letter (or a copy) to the local Customs or Marine Fisheries office when you turn in the plaque.

Thank you for your cooperation.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

RON NESSEN *R.N.*

Could you look at the attached letter and give me suggestions on its contents, if they should be changed?

The check addressed to me was in a Republican Finance Committee envelope with no correspondence of any kind. Apparently it had been sent, in addition to a check for them, and they passed it along.

I have no idea who Ralph L. Hill is, and of course want to return the check to him.

*Looks O.K.  
to me.  
P.W.B.*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

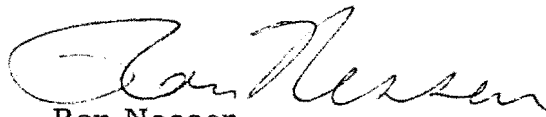
April 23, 1975

Dear Mr. Hill:

I am returning the check which the Republican National Finance Committee forwarded to me, made out in my name for \$50.

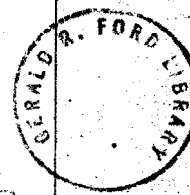
I presume this is a campaign contribution, and if so, it should be made out to the Republican National Committee and sent directly to them. I have nothing whatever to do with campaign donations for the Republican National Committee.

Sincerely,



Ron Nessen  
Press Secretary  
to the President

Mr. Ralph L. Hill  
4625 Oakwood Place  
Riverside, California 92506



RALPH L. HILL  
4625 OAKWOOD PL.  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92506

No. 1116

4-14-1975

90-124-1222

PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

*Ron Nessen, White House Press Secretary*

50

*Fifty & no/100*

DOLLARS

SECURITY PACIFIC NATIONAL BANK  
Riverside Main Office  
3773 Main St., Riverside, Ca. 92501

*Ralph L. Hill*

⑆ 122200 12413010074385 ⑈

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

Phil Buchen

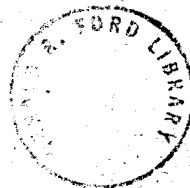
FROM

: RON NESSEN

I assume you  
will notify Mike  
Farrell that  
the Legal Counsel's  
office has made  
a firm ruling on  
no filming.

RHA.

[ca. 6/9/75]





MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BOB MEAD

FROM:

MIKE FARRELL *MF*

SUBJECT:

Use of the Residence, Gardens and  
Grounds for filming

Because of the increased interest on the part of various organizations in filming at the White House as the Bicentennial approaches, it would be helpful to establish a new procedure for handling requests. Before approving any requests which come from sources outside your regular contacts for filming official activities at the White House, please submit these requests in advance to the Office of Counsel for their consideration and approval. It would be helpful to provide as much information as possible including the purpose of the filming. Hopefully, this procedure will enable us to be fair and consistent in responding to the many requests which come in through many different members of the staff.

Thank you.

cc: Phillip Buchen  
Ron Nessen ✓  
William Casselman  
Jerry Jones  
Rex Scouten  
Sheila Weidenfeld  
Jerry Warren

