

**The original documents are located in Box 130, folder “Lukash, William” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RONALD NESSEN

SUBJECT: Medical Report on Mrs. Betty Ford

Mrs. Betty Ford has just completed five weeks of convalescence following surgery for breast cancer. During this period, special diagnostic studies and physical examinations have not identified any clinical evidence of residual cancer. Because two of the 30 lymph glands removed at surgery had revealed the presence of malignant cells, one cannot be entirely certain that undetected microscopic malignancy has not spread to other areas. For this reason, it has been decided that the First Lady will be treated with chemotherapy to insure more inclusive treatment against any possible remaining cancer. It is anticipated that this therapy will allow her to continue all normal activities as wife, mother and First Lady. Mrs. Ford's progress to date has been excellent and her outlook for prolonged good health is extremely favorable.

William M. Lukash, M.D.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RONALD NESSEN

SUBJECT: Press Announcement Regarding the President's  
Physical Examination

I am pleased to report to the American public that the President completed his annual physical examination this morning and is in excellent health. He has maintained both his tremendous physical capacity for hard work and the determined discipline demanded by this high office to confront enormous responsibilities. As a matter of fact, I have no new recommendations that he change any of his day-to-day living habits. The President has contained his weight around 195 pounds since our discussion last September regarding a proper diet and ideal weight. His early morning exercise program has been very effective and I will encourage him to play golf or tennis whenever his schedule will allow it. I am optimistic that the President will have a very productive and a most satisfying year in 1975 and God willing, both he and his family will continue to enjoy the blessings of good health.

William M. Lukash, M. D.  
Rear Admiral, MC, USN  
Physician to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

1/30

TO: DR. LUKASH

FR: RON NESSEN

May I have your recommendation on the  
attached? Thank you.





An Independent Newspaper for Physicians

January 27, 1975

FRANK M. BEST  
PUBLISHER

FRANK B. BERRY, M.D.  
CHAIRMAN,  
EDITORIAL  
ADVISORY BOARD

SHELDON B. SMITH  
EDITOR

Mr. Ron Nessen  
Presidential Press Secretary  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Nessen:

President Ford's knowledgability and interest in health matters has led us to hope that he might be inclined to grant an interview on these subjects to U.S. MEDICINE. Also, Doctor William Lukash has suggested that such an interview might be desirable in the near future, and might serve both the interests of the White House and those of our readers.

As you know, U.S. MEDICINE is an independent newspaper serving the needs of almost 30,000 physicians employed full-time by the Federal Government and other physicians employed by State and local governments. Accordingly, we would seek to discuss with him his plans and goals for health care in both the private and public sectors. Such an interview might touch on, inter alia, such areas as biomedical research, federal medical agencies and programs, current problems with malpractice and malpractice insurance and, of course, any topics of special interest to the President, himself.

This interview might be most appropriate after the appointment of successors to Doctors Charles Edwards and Robert Stone.

Any assistance you could give would be deeply appreciated by both U.S. MEDICINE and by myself. May I please hear from you soon?

Thank you,

*Nancy Puffenbarger*  
Nance Puffenbarger  
Managing Editor

March 10, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. WILLIAM LUKASH**  
**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**For what it's worth, Ray Stark, the movie producer and a friend of the Fords, suggested that I mention to you a new arthritis medicine called "Naproxinade" by Syntex. He said it is on sale publicly in England and he thinks it might be helpful to Mrs. Ford.**

**RN:jg**



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Ronald Nessen

The President had his six-month physical examination early this morning here in the White House. I have found the President to be physically fit and the results of the laboratory tests and examination were completely normal. The President has kept his weight between 195-200 pounds and he has continued to follow his daily exercise program. In addition, the completion of the new White House swimming pool will provide him with short intervals for relaxation that can easily be fitted into his busy schedule. I am confident that the President will maintain his good health and that he will continue to stride forward in carrying out his arduous day-to-day schedule.



William M. Lukash, M.D.  
Rear Admiral, MC, USN  
Physician to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 2, 1976

*Warren  
see me*

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD CHENEY

FROM: DR. WILLIAM M. LUKASH

SUBJ: President's Last Complete Physical Examination  
for Publication in Medical World News Article

Dick, I have included a Xerox copy of the President's last complete physical examination. I feel, however, that members of the White House press staff who have recommended to the President that this report be submitted have not fully evaluated the reputation and stature of the Medical World News. It would seem to me that the formal release of a President's complete physical evaluation should be released to a more substantial publication and thereby recognize more precisely the President's desire to be open with the American people in every way. If you so desire, I could arrange this with either Stuart Auerbach of The Washington Post or Lawrence Altman, the medical editor of The New York Times, both of whom are of unquestionable integrity and highly respected by the medical community.

In any event I have sent you the physical examination record requested by the President.

*Dick - please give me a call after you  
review this.*

*Bill*





MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 14, 1976

TO: All White House & EOB Staff

FROM: White House Medical Unit *Li*

SUBJ: Influenza Virus Vaccine

1. Bivalent Influenza vaccine containing A/New Jersey/8/76 (Swine flu) and A/Victoria/3/75 prototype strain will be available to All White House and EOB staff from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., Tuesday 19 October 1976 in Room 107, O.E.O.B.
2. The shots will be administered by the immunization "gun" method.
3. There will be no alternate or "make-up" date.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 15, 1976

TO: All White House & EOB Staff

FROM: White House Medical Unit *Lu*

SUBJ: Influenza Virus Vaccine

1. Bivalent Influenza vaccine containing A/New Jersey/8/76 (Swine flu) and A/Victoria/3/75 prototype strain will be available to All White House and EOB staff from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., Friday, 19 Nov 1976 in Room 107, O.E.O.B.

2. The shots will be administered by the immunization "gun" method.