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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is the NSC guidance for the questions Tom Brokaw and John Chancellor are expected to ask you during the Foreign Policy interview on Saturday.

Attachments:

Guidance

January 3, 1975

Mr. President:

Here is a briefing book containing background material for questions which you may be asked during your briefing for regional newspaper editors and publishers in St. Louis on Monday. As you see, there is one section on regional issues of special concern in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and southern Illinois.

Some of the briefing material on general domestic issues and foreign policy duplicates briefing material you have studied for your several recent interviews.

If there are any late developments on Monday, I will bring you up to date just before your Q & A session in St. Louis.

Ron Nessen



Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

As you requested, here are the major stories in Florida newspapers on your comments about Cuba from your news conference just before going to Vail.

In addition to the big play given in the Miami Herald and Tampa Tribune Times, shown here, the story was also run on page one of almost all major papers in Florida. However, we have not yet been able to obtain copies of the actual newspapers.

RHN
RON NESSEN

Enclosure



Clear

Clear and cool with highs in the 70s, Bay waters choppy. (Details, Page 2A.)

SATURDAY'S TEMPERATURES

7 a.m. 58	1 p.m. 71	7 p.m. 73
8 a.m. 64	2 p.m. 72	8 p.m. 73
9 a.m. 74	3 p.m. 73	9 p.m. 67

The Miami Herald

Sunday, December 21, 1975

Florida's Complete Newspaper

238 Pages

Two Latin American Editions Are Published Daily

Final Edition
50 Cents

66th Year — No. 21

Ford to Propose Tax Cut Into '77

From Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON — President Ford, claiming a "100 per cent" victory in his battle to make Congress link tax reductions to spending limits, said Saturday that he would recommend a tax cut of \$28 billion to begin July 1, when a six-month extension of the 1975 tax cut expires.

Ford said he would tie the cut to a \$395-billion budget he will propose for fiscal 1977, providing an equal cutback in growth of federal spending. He said he has "a fair chance" of getting Congress to operate under that ceiling.

Ford said he would sign a \$6.4-billion bill that Congress revived Friday to extend 1975 tax cuts for the first six months of next year.

But, he told reporters at a news conference, "I under no circum-

stances believe that I backed off the very fundamental principle, which was if you are going to have a tax reduction you have to have a corresponding limitation on the growth of federal spending.

"I WON on that issue 100 per cent, and if you tie that principle which the Congress has agreed to with the budget ceiling that I am going to submit of \$395 billion, it does mean that the Congress will have to respect their good-faith commitment and operate within the \$395-billion figure."

The House failed to override Ford's veto of an original bill extending the 1975 tax cuts. Congress then revived the bill and passed it Friday with some new, nonbinding language saying it would lower federal spending by the amount of any future tax cut. Ford promised to

sign the bill, probably Monday, and avert a Jan. 1 increase in taxes for Americans.

Ford said the compromise offer made by Democrats in Congress was for a "dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes and a dollar-for-dollar reduction in federal spending."

PRESS SECRETARY Ron Nessen said Saturday Ford would try to hold Congress to its pledge to lower federal spending by the amount of any future tax cut.

"For every dollar over \$395 billion that they go, they will be voting to reduce the additional tax cut that he will have proposed," Nessen said.

"So this issue isn't over — it is just beginning. This will be an issue every time a spending bill is voted in Congress. It's a whole new way of doing business."

The compromise on the six-month extension of current tax cuts came just before Congress adjourned and was worded in such a way that both sides could claim victory — Ford because he forced insertion of the vague promise to hold down spending and Congress because it did not have to agree to a specific ceiling.

ALTHOUGH the battle over the tax cut extension was settled, several major pieces of legislation were threatened with presidential vetoes. Among them was a measure to provide for a comprehensive new energy-conservation program, another to expand picketing rights in the construction industry and \$6.5 billion in aid for railroads primarily in the Northeast and Midwest.

Nessen said Saturday that Ford

Turn to Page 12A Col. 1

Ford: Cuba Ties Impossible

Says Action In Angola Is Reason

Soviets Imperil Detente, He Warns

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Ford declared Saturday that Cuban intervention in Angola had wrecked any chances of improved U.S.-Cuban relations.

He also said that the Soviet Union's role in sending military aid to a favored faction in that war-torn African nation had damaged detente policies and may have cooled the prospects for successful arms limitation talks.

"The action by the Cuban government in sending combat forces to Angola destroys any opportunity for improvement in U.S.-Cuban relations."

Ties With Cuba Now Impossible, Ford Says

▶ FROM PAGE 1

Henry Kissinger had vetoed a proposal for Cuban sports teams to visit the United States, indicating that it was a reaction to the Angolan situation.

The White House estimates that there are from 4,000 to 6,000 Cuban

African Unity since its founding 12 years ago and there is skepticism, both in Africa and the United States, that it can persuade the three Angolan factions to stop

fighting.

Ford declined to say in any specific fashion what he intends to do next in Angola now that the Senate has cut off further military aid.

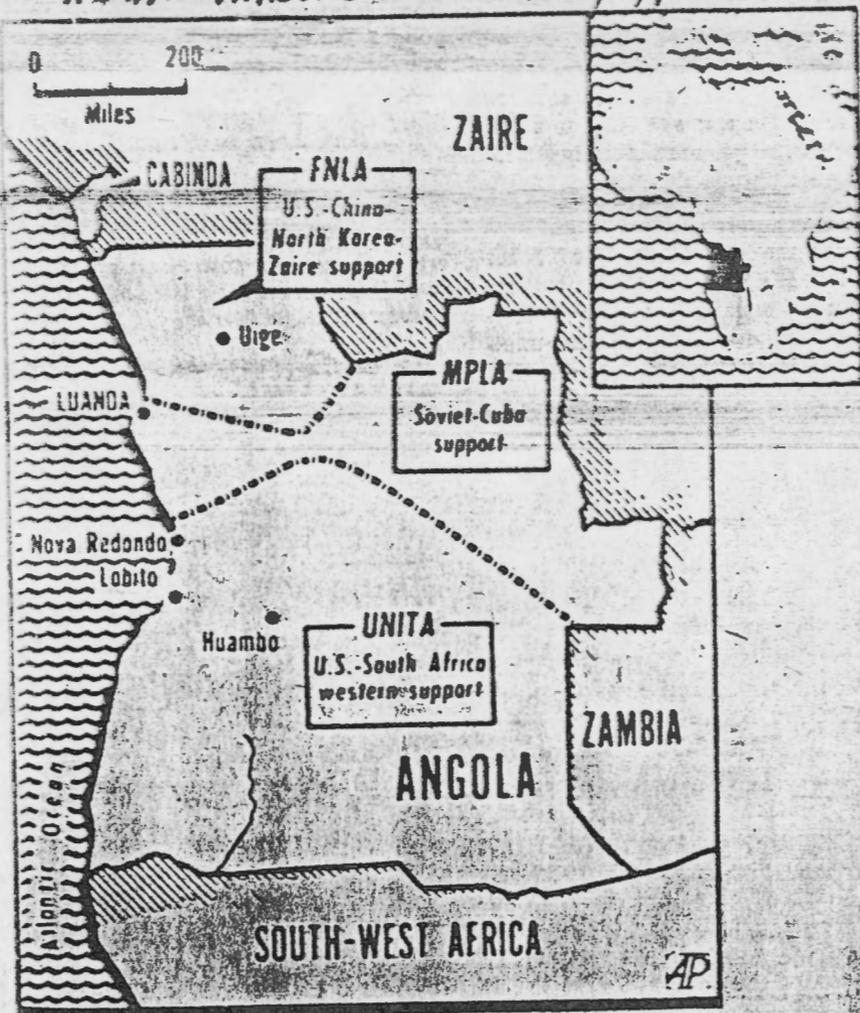
But the President did express a hope that the House would reverse the action. The Senate amendment prohibiting aid to Angola was added to a \$112.3-billion defense

bill that will not be acted upon until next year.

This will give the White House time to try to enlist House support to scrap the amendment. But it also

means there will be no military aid for Angola once \$5 million that is now "in the pipeline" and another \$3.2 million in a special emergency fund are spent.

TAMPA TRIBUNE TIMES 12/21/75



Map Locates Areas Controlled By Three Angola Factions
... boxes indicate international supporters of each—(AP)

Ford Says Makeup With Cuba Now Off

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

As you requested, here is the full text of the Scholastic Magazine poll of young people, showing their strong support for you.

These poll results have not yet been published in Junior Scholastic and Senior Scholastic magazines, although the results have been released to 130 newspapers which subscribe to the Scholastic Syndicate. These newspapers have a circulation of between 9 and 10 million and include the Gannett Newspapers, which has large circulation in New England.

The poll results will be published in Junior Scholastic and Senior Scholastic magazines next week and will be distributed to 1 1/2 million school children.

I have xeroxed a number of copies of the full poll results and will be happy to pass them out to members of your staff if you will indicate who you wish to have them.

RAW
RON NESSEN

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: JAMES B. SHUMAN
SUBJECT: SCHOLASTIC POLL

Here is a copy of the Scholastic Magazine Syndicate poll of young people, showing support for President Ford. It was dictated over the telephone.

The report has not as yet been published in any of the Scholastic Publishing Company's magazines. It will be released next week to Junior and Senior Scholastic magazines, which have a combined circulation of 1.5 million.

Although the poll question was asked of the magazine's readers, the results were distributed to the 130 newspapers which subscribe to the Scholastic Syndicate. These newspapers have a circulation of between nine and ten million, including the Gannett Newspapers, a chain heavy in New England.

Each newspaper is free to cut or edit the original copy.

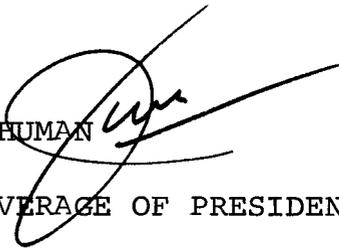
This original, therefore, is more complete and reliable than a version carried by any newspaper.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: JAMES B. SHUMAN 

SUBJECT: FLORIDA COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S CUBA
STATEMENT

Here are the clippings the President wanted from Florida newspapers on his Cuba statements in the December 20th news conference.

FYI, we subscribe only to the Miami Herald. The issue for that day has still not come in. A plus for the U.S. Postal Service.

We did, however, run a check with major Florida newspapers having offices in Washington, D.C. The major papers all used the story on page 1.

The Miami Herald, a copy of which is attached, gave the story the largest play.

The Miami News was unable to locate a copy in their office here.

The Tampa Tribune ran it on the lower right hand of the front page. A copy is attached.

The St. Petersburg Times carried the Washington Post story, also on page one, but no copy was available.

The Congressional Liaison office, whom we had asked to get clippings Christmas Eve, said there were no Florida Congressmen who could supply the articles.

Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1976

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RAC
RON NESSEN

Enclosure

Scholastic Youth Poll by the editors of Scholastic Magazine

Released weekend of January 3/4, 1976

A solid majority of teenagers recently surveyed by Scholastic Magazine believes Gerald Ford is doing a good job as President and an even better one as a father. In the survey of approximately 38,000 students 59% rate Mr. Ford's job performance as good or better. 31% say his performance is fair, and only 10% say it is poor. But the students are even more enthusiastic about Mr. Ford's activities as a man and a father. Here 40% rate him good, 27% say he is very good, and 10% say he is excellent. Only 18% rate him fair and only 5% give him a poor rating.

"To me Ford is letting things fall into place," says Randy Riekenberg, 17, of Dodge City, Kansas, referring to Mr. Ford's role as President. "He's letting Congress do all the work for him," he adds.

As far as Mr. Ford's personal qualities and private life, said Randy, "he's a normal red-blooded parent. He can relate to his kids. I'd feel comfortable around him."

This Scholastic poll tends to confirm the feeling among political pundits that Mr. Ford will appeal to young voters because he is the father of a teenage daughter and has sons in their early twenties.

The results are also significant because they show that compared with the recent Harris Survey, a greater percentage of teenagers than adults expressed confidence in Mr. Ford. In the Harris Survey, only 38% of adults rated his performance "excellent" or "good" while 59% rated his performance as "fair" or "poor."

Recently Scholastic polls asked: "How would you rate Gerald Ford on his performance as President so far?"

	<u>% Boys</u>	<u>% Girls</u>	<u>% Total</u>
A. Excellent	5	4	5
B. Very Good	16	19	17
C. Good	36	39	37
D. Fair	31	31	31
E. Poor	12	7	10

"He's really the man for the times," says 17 year old Cheryl Birch of Sacramento California. Although President Ford has been generally low-key and his administration has not come up with any bold new programs, says Cheryl, "right now the country doesn't need someone who makes super heavy decisions. People are split since Watergate. You need someone who puts things together again....Starts getting the trust of the people back in the Presidency."

"Considering he had to just take over and start up from scratch, I think he's doing great," says Mike Ebel, 17, of Bellwood, Nebraska. "It's good he made those changes in office, and I think he's going to beat Ronald Reagan because of his performance in foreign affairs." Mike feels Mr. Ford's trip to China and Europe have improved chances for global peace.

Yet some of the students are not quite as impressed. To 17-year-old Russell Colvin of Louisiana, Ford's swift action on the Mayaguez incident was impressive. But lately, says Russell, Ford's leadership has disappointed him. "He's a little bit weak in Congress, says Russell, he doesn't seem to be the leader LBJ (Lyndon Baines Johnson) was."

Sean McGee, a 14-year-old ninth grader from Rapid City, South Dakota, takes a slightly harder view. "He's okay to fill in until we get a good President. We should start looking closely at other candidates. There might be better people around."

Scholastic also asked: How would you rate President Ford looking at him as a man and as a father?

	<u>% Boys</u>	<u>% Girls</u>	<u>% Total</u>
A. Excellent	10	9	10
B. Very Good	27	28	27
C. Good	39	42	40
D. Fair	18	17	18
E. Poor	6	4	5

In the poll concerning Ford's "performance" as a father, the students give him even greater support. 76% of the respondents in the poll rank him as "good" or better.

Some of the young people say they admire President Ford because of his interest in sports and physical exercise or because they consider him a friendly man they wouldn't be nervous to meet.

"He's played football, been in a war, and he tries to keep in shape," says Ben Vonderhaar of Pennsylvania.

"He's an all-around kind of a guy," says Richard Morris of Oklahoma City. "That's the image we get from TV. I think I'd be more comfortable with Ford than I would be sitting down with Nixon."

Tom Stockton of Bellevue, Kentucky, thinks that Ford as a "nice sort of person, warm. Seems anyone can be comfortable talking to him."

But the students especially like his candor concerning problems and situations with which his children have or might be faced. Among these has been Jack Ford's admission that he has smoked marijuana. And Mrs. Ford's highly publicized statement that she wouldn't have been surprised if her daughter Susan, had an affair.

"I was really impressed by how open Mr. Ford was about his feelings, about kids smoking marijuana and Susan," says Ben Vonderhaar. "The Fords didn't cover it up. I like the way they answered everybody."

Randy Riekenberg said, "When Jack Ford said he tried dope, his father acted just like a parent. He stuck up for him. I like that."

Interestingly, other students, such as Mike Ebel, like what Ford is doing in office but aren't too sure about him as a person. Mr. Ford's openness about his son Jack's use of marijuana leads Mike to say: "Mr. Ford didn't even seem aware that Jack had tried it."

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New York, New York 10017

For further information contact: M. Arthur Neiman, Vice President,
Scholastic Magazine, Inc., Telephone: 212-867-7700, ext. 212.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: DICK CHENEY
FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is my proposed list of reporters to attend the conversation in the Oval Office Thursday, January 15, 1976 for a preview of the Budget and the State of the Union:

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Frank Cormier

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
Helen Thomas

WALL STREET JOURNAL
Dennis Farney

WASHINGTON STAR
Fred Barnes

BOSTON GLOBE
David Nyan

DETROIT NEWS
Dick Ryan

DES MOINES REGISTER
Clark Mollenhoff

JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA TIMES UNION
Jayne Brumbley

DALLAS TIMES HERALD
Margaret Mayer

MIAMI HERALD
John McDermott (Political Editor)

Page 2

COPLEY NEWSPAPERS
Jim Cary

COX NEWSPAPERS
Dave Kraslow

COLUMNIST
Marquis Childs

COLUMNIST
James J. Kilpatrick

COLUMNIST
Bill Anderson

ALTERNATES IN CASE ANY OF THE ABOVE CANNOT ATTEND:

SCRIPPS HOWARD
Ted Knapp

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
Peter Lisagor

BUFFALO NEWS
Lu Warren

COLUMNIST
Jerry terHorst

Please indicate additions, deletions, or approval as is.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Here is your briefing book for your meeting on Monday with the Time Magazine people on politics and the outlook for 1976.

The first section of the book gives you an overview of the meeting and the purposes you wish to achieve, and this is followed by some suggested opening remarks and then suggested answers to possible questions.

Attachment

January 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: DICK CHENEY
FROM: RON NESSEN

As you may have heard, Pearl Bailey will retire from her forty-year show business career following her current appearance in "Hello Dolly" at the Kennedy Center which closes Saturday, January 24.

Dr. Kissinger, I, and several others on the White House staff have been to see the show during its current run and she has been very gracious to all of us. She also has spoken quite emotionally of her impending retirement and her service with the American Delegation to the United Nations, to which she is looking forward.

Obviously, she would like you and/or Mrs. Ford to attend one of her performances on or before January 24. If this is not possible -- and I expect it is not -- you might want to consider a telephone call to Pearl and perhaps sending a bouquet of flowers on the occasion of her retirement.



RN/jb

January 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is the wire service copy on your speech and reaction to it.



January 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is **your Q & A** briefing book for the interview with **New Hampshire** editors. **Sorry it's so late, but we wanted to take extra care with it,**

It also contains an overview of the interview, with suggestions for the major points **you** probably want to make; an editorial from the Manchester Union Leader **rejecting** an invitation to attend the interview; and a collection of editorials from the **New Hampshire** newspapers showing the issues of concern in this period **before** the primary.

I understand there is ample time on your schedule in the morning for preparation conferences before **this** interview.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



RN/jb

January 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here are some clippings from Midwestern newspapers which resulted from your recent speech and editors' meeting in St. Louis.

You expressed an interest in seeing them.

Attachment:

Clippings



RN/jb

January 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is a sampling of stories, editorials and columns in New Hampshire newspapers resulting from your recent interview at the White House with New Hampshire editors.

I also have attached a sampling of recent New Hampshire coverage of the primary election unrelated to the interview.

Attachments



RN/jb

January 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a collection of additional items from New Hampshire newspapers on your recent interview with New Hampshire editors, and some more general articles and editorials on the primary.

Attachments:

Clippings



RN/jb

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN *RWN*

Attached find two proposed statements by the President in reaction to today's Supreme Court ruling on the Federal Election Commission.

Option 1, endorsed by Phil Buchen and Bo Calloway and others from the President Ford Committee, has you directing the PFC to voluntarily abide by the old spending ceiling and calling on Reagan and other candidates to do likewise.

Option 2, endorsed by Jerry Jones, Dave Gergen and Ron Nessen and Bryce Harlow, puts you in the position of wanting to study and receive expert opinions on the complex ruling and promises further action next week when you know the full impact of the decision.

All involved agree that some White House reaction is needed this afternoon in order to make the TV shows and morning papers along with the comments of other candidates.

PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

As a candidate for the Presidency, I will of course obey both the letter and the spirit of the Campaign Financing Law as interpreted today by the Supreme Court.

The Court's decision is very lengthy -- some 227 pages with 4 separate opinions -- and it addresses a highly complex subject.

It will take time to study and analyze the impact of this ruling. Under these circumstances, ^{have asked} ~~I have asked~~ the Attorney General ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~provide~~ ^{provide} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~opinion~~ ^{opinion} on the new status of campaign financing laws and what steps, ^(one on)

if any, should be taken ~~now~~ ^{anywhere} to ensure that our elections remain free from ~~undue influence~~ ^{undue influence}. I have also asked my Counsel and the General

Counsel of the President Ford Committee for their views. All of these views are to be delivered to me within the next five days.

Upon receiving these views, I will ask leaders of Congress to meet with me next week to discuss legislation to insure enforcement of the Federal Election Act as modified by the Supreme Court's decision.

Today's decision by the Supreme Court calls for quick action by political leaders of this country, as well as by candidates for high office, to insure that our elections remain free from the undue influence of excessive spending.

As President, I will ask leaders of Congress to meet with me ~~to discuss~~ ^{the need for} legislation to reconstitute the Commission or to assure by other mechanisms enforcement of the Federal Election Act as modified by ~~the~~ ^{insert} Supreme Court's decision.

(As a candidate for the Presidency, I am calling on others who seek this office to join with me in adhering to the spending limit that had been established under the 1974 law.

(I am directing The President Ford Committee to limit its expenditures to that level.

~~At the same time, I am directing my campaign chairman, Bo Callaway, to contact my Republican opponent and ask that he join me in taking similar action.~~

~~It is particularly important that our campaign committees work together to insure voluntary compliance to this principle during the interim period until new legislation is passed.~~

Recommended by President Ford Committee, Phil Buchen, Rogers Morton, Jim Connor.

Today's decision by the Supreme Court calls for quick action by political leaders of this country as well as by candidates for high office to insure that our elections remain free from the undue influence of excessive spending.

~~Upon receiving these views,~~
~~As President,~~ I will ask leaders of Congress to meet with me ~~Monday~~ ^{next week} to discuss legislation to insure enforcement of the Federal Election Act as modified by the Supreme Court's decision.

As a candidate for the Presidency, I am calling on others who seek this office to join with me in adhering to the spending limit that had been established under the 1974 law.

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It is particularly important that our campaign committees work together to insure voluntary compliance to this principle during the interim period until new legislation is passed.

As a candidate for the Presidency, I will of course obey both the letter and the spirit of the Campaign Financing Law as interpreted today by the Supreme Court.

The Court's decision is very lengthy -- some 227 pages with _____ separate opinions -- and it addresses a highly complex subject. *It will take time to study and analyze the impact of this ruling.* Under these circumstances, I have asked the Attorney General

for an advisory opinion on the new status of campaign financing laws and what steps, if any, should now be taken to ensure that our elections remain free from undue influence. I have also ~~asked~~ *directly asked* my Counsel and the General Counsel of The President Ford Committee for their views.

All of these views are to be delivered to me within five

~~Upon initial examination it would not appear that the decision~~

~~will have a major impact upon my own strategy.~~ Until I receive the views of counsel, I believe it would be inappropriate for me to comment further.

Insert here

next five days.