

The original documents are located in Box 132, folder “Roth, Barry” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DICK CHENEY
RON NESSEN ✓
JACK CALKINS
JIM CONNOR
PETER WALLISON

FROM:

BARRY ROTH *BR*

SUBJECT:

Letter to FEC on RNC Expenditures
for Support of the President and
Vice President

Attached is a draft letter from the RNC to the Federal Election Commission concerning RNC expenditures in support of the President and Vice President as heads of the party. May I please get any comments you might have by 5 P.M. today as this letter must be sent by the RNC tomorrow.

Thank you.

cc: Phil Buchen





DRIFT

Republican
National
Committee.

Mary Louise Smith
Chairman

September 10, 1975

Honorable Thomas B. Curtis
The Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Chairman Curtis:

As indicated by Philip W. Buchen, Counsel to the President, on August 7, 1975, the Republican National Committee (R.N.C.) has undertaken the payment of certain expenditures incurred by the President, Vice President and their aides when engaged in National, state or local political party promotional activities. He correctly observed that these R.N.C. expenditures are within the public domain, having been filed quarterly by the R.N.C. with the Federal Election Commission, the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate. This correspondence shall serve to further amplify those filings, to discuss the historical tradition associated with the President's role and obligation as head of the Republican Party, to consider alternative sources of payment for such expenditures, and, finally, to briefly categorize the items paid for by the Republican National Committee.

Mr. Buchen's letter of September 3, 1975, responded to F.E.C. Notice 1975-38 (F.R. 80202) wherein the Commission, "sought comments concerning a request from the Campaign Manager for Mr. Louis Wyman". Counsel's correspondence disclosed the method employed by the White House to allocate the cost of operating Government-owned aircraft on political and mixed official-political trips by the President, Vice President and their aides. Accordingly, this Memorandum will not address itself to the apportionment formula contained in Mr. Buchen's letter of September 3, 1975.

Honorable Thomas B. Curtis
Page 2
September 10, 1975

The question to be considered is:

"DOES THE FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN LAW OF 1974 HAVE APPLICATION TO THE HISTORICAL TRADITION OF A NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY'S PAYMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR AIDES WHILE ENGAGED IN NATIONAL, STATE, OR LOCAL PARTY PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES?"

The question of the Federal Election Campaign Law's application is restricted to expenses incurred for acts of the President, Vice President and their aides when engaged in Republican Party political activities and is not addressed to those expenses incurred by the President, Vice President and their aides when engaged politically on behalf of any individual political candidate, including the candidacy of the President and Vice President themselves.

National political parties in the United States arose in the late Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries. What had been largely legislative parties evolved into constituency-based parties when the states expanded male suffrage by eliminating property-owning and taxpaying qualifications for the voting franchise. Although not mentioned in the American Constitution, National political parties have historically served to effectuate, organize and promote the exercise of the franchise right by the electorate.

In the early days of the Republic, Federal candidates had no great need for funds to reach a vast popular electorate. The electorate was widely scattered, served by a primitive communication system and largely restricted in its size by racial, sexual and property holding qualifications. The typical campaign was waged, almost exclusively, in the newspapers and financed largely by the individual candidates themselves. With the abolition of voting right restrictions, a new electorate resulted. To service, to communicate and to persuade that new electorate, National political parties evolved.

Honorable Thomas B. Curtis
Page 3
September 10, 1975

The American President has traditionally served as the leader of his party. President John F. Kennedy viewed the presidents' partisan role in the following manner:

"No President, it seems to me, can escape politics. He has not only been chosen by the nation--he has been chosen by his party. . . if he neglects the party machinery and avoids his party's leadership--then he has not only weakened the political party. . . he has dealt a blow to the democratic process itself."^{1/}

In the minds of the public, the programs of the President are also the programs of his party; his personal success or failure becomes the party's success or failure. The Chief Executive is the embodiment of his party.

Thomas W. Madron and Carl P. Chelf, 1974 treatise titled Political Parties in the United States, commented on the President's role as head of the party:

"Frequently the party and the executive constitute a sort of mutual accommodation society. . . the executive uses the party as a channel for interacting with other elements in the political system, while on other occasions the executive will function as a vehicle for promoting party goals."^{2/}

But, who shall assume the cost incurred when the executive so functions?

^{1/} Quoted by Stuart G. Brown, The American Presidency: Leadership, Partisanship, and Popularity (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1966) Flyleaf.

^{2/} Mandron and Chelf, Political Parties in the United States, Holbrook Press, 1974, at page 286.

The Federal Election Campaign Law of 1974 reflects definitional distinctions between a "national committee" [2 U.S.C. 431(1)], a "state committee" [2 U.S.C. 431(1)], and a "political committee" [2 U.S.C. 431(d)]. These distinctions are indicative of Congress' recognition of the existence of general partisan activity conducted on an ongoing basis by National political parties when compared to those activities of a specific candidate's organization seeking election to a specific office within a specific geographical area. State and National party organizations engage in a day-to-day business which, among other things, includes maintaining offices, staffs, telephones, registration drives, speaker programs, publications, research, travel, fund raising, convention arrangements and voter education in both election and non-election years. The 1974 Act contains no limiting provision for contributions to and/or expenditures by a National or State political party for these functions. The Act does limit the amounts that National and State parties may contribute to individual candidates for office, but does not impose a maximum monetary budget for the conduct of ongoing party business.

Political campaign committees accept contributions and make expenditures that are identifiable with that committee's support of its particular candidate for a particular office. National political parties, conversely, are charged with the ongoing responsibility of creating voter recognition of party identity and ideology, without reference to an individual candidate or election. A large measure of this function is performed by the President, Vice President and their aides on behalf of their National and State parties. When these party functions are performed and costs result from same, the beneficiary of those functions, i.e., the National or State political parties, should and does assume the cost incurred.

Obviously, some slight personal political dividends may accrue to an incumbent President traveling and speaking on his National party's behalf simply by the Presidential exposure. Such incidentals, as name recognition and constituency exposure, are not specifically

Honorable Thomas B. Curtis
Page 5
September 10, 1975

prohibited by the Federal Election Campaign Law and are, in fact, reserved under the Act, itself, to incumbent United States Senators and Representatives seeking reelection by virtue of the Act's allowed continuing use of franked mail privileges after a declaration of candidacy [2 U.S.C. 439(b)]. The legislative body that enacted the Federal Election Campaign Law rightfully concluded that a declaration of candidacy should not prohibit a legislator from continuing to conduct his or her usual, routine ongoing business, and thereby allowed continued free mailing privileges even when seeking reelection. To postulate a different rule for an incumbent President seeking reelection, and thereby mandating an abdication by an incumbent President of his continuing to conduct routine ongoing National party obligations, would be manifestly unfair. He would be required, as President Kennedy suggested, to avoid the party's leadership role ~~he was chosen~~ to fulfill and thereby weakening his political party and dealing a blow to the democratic process itself.

Congress further recognized Congressional officeholders' needs for supportive funds during the period of their incumbency. Section 439(a) of the Act permits Congressional candidates to use political contributions received, in excess of expenditures incurred, to defray the "ordinary and necessary" expenses associated with the activities of a Federal officeholder, subject only to disclosure to the Federal Election Commission. The ordinary and necessary expenses associated with the activities of Federal legislative officeholders are not dissimilar to those activities undertaken by a Presidential party head in furtherance of his National party's goals.

Partisan political activity is a recognized and Federally codified facet of an incumbent President's ordinary business. The purpose of the Federal Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. 7321, et seq.) is to prohibit partisan political activities by employees of the Executive Branch of the Federal government. That prohibition excludes employees of the Office of the President. This statutory exclusion

is a Congressional recognition of the inherent partisan nature and duties of the Presidency. It does not necessarily follow that because Congress recognized the political role of the President of the United States as head of his party, and authorized his aides to assist him in fulfilling that role, that the expenses thereby incurred should be borne by the Treasury of the United States. As suggested earlier, the more feasible and practical alternative to the taxpayer bearing these costs is that payment of these obligations be assumed by the beneficiary of the acts, i.e., the President's National political party.

In 1975, the Republican National Committee allocated the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) to support the activities of the President, the Vice President and their aides when engaged in the role as head of the National party. This budgetary allotment is consistent with past years budgets, without regard to the year in question was an election or nonelection year. On September 1, 1975, the Republican National Committee had received and paid bills totaling Three Hundred Nine Thousand Dollars (\$309,000) toward the annual allotment. The Republican National Committee has filed quarterly reports reflecting its quarterly expenditures with the Federal Election Commission since the establishment of that agency. The Republican National Committee believes that it is the proper body to assume these expenditures, just as presumably, the Democratic National Committee believed it was the proper body to pay the expenses incurred by Democratic Presidents engaged in their National party affairs during the years 1960 through 1968.

When the President, Vice President and their aides are engaged in political activity on behalf of their National or State political parties, the R.N.C. assumes the cost of their travel and transportation, advance men expense, telephone and telegraph cost and the cost of receptions incidental to those activities. In addition, the Republican National Committee assumes the costs incurred for films and photographs taken during such Presidential

Honorable Thomas B. Curtis
Page 7
September 10, 1975

travel and the expense of Presidential and Vice Presidential gifts such as cuff links, tie bars and charm bracelets picturing the Presidential or Vice Presidential seal.

The Republican National Committee does not assume the expenses resulting from Presidential and Vice Presidential travel incurred when engaged in Presidential or Vice Presidential candidacy or travel associated with the candidacy of other individuals. In those instances, the candidate's committee is required to pay all cost, in accordance with the strictures of the Federal Election Campaign Law. With one notable exception, the R.N.C. does not pay any of the expense associated with Presidential official travel, i.e., travel occurring as an adjunct to the Chief Executive's role as President of the United States, having no political overtones. That exception is the expenditures incurred by advance men during Presidential official travel. These charges are incurred by individuals, most frequently not employed by the Government, and not engaged in any official Governmental business. Although the National Committee is not, per se, a beneficiary of official Presidential travel, it assumes the advance men cost on official trips in the belief that such an expenditure from the United States Treasury would be unjustified. All other expenditures incurred during the Presidential official travel are borne by the White House budget.

The differing roles of a Presidential candidate and a Presidential party leader are sometimes subtle, but nonetheless real and subject to dispassionate analysis. The past and present system of payments by National political parties for expenses incurred by the President, Vice President and their aides for party promotional activity has the virtue of fairness. The alternatives, full payment of Presidential party promotional expenses by the taxpayers or, in those years when applicable, by the incumbent President's campaign committee, are simply not practicable. The former would constitute an improper expenditure of

Honorable Thomas B. Curtis
Page 8
September 10, 1975

Government funds and the latter imposes an equitable disadvantage upon incumbent Presidents seeking re-election, requiring them to deplete a significant amount of their Ten Million Dollar (\$10,000,000) primary election limit for expenses unrelated to their primary campaign effort. Incumbency would then become a serious political liability to an American President.

The Republican National Committee plans to continue to implement the procedures outlined in this communication. We would appreciate very much any comments or suggestions that the Commission may think appropriate to make with respect to our treatment of the payment of expenses incurred by the President, the Vice President and their aides when engaged in party promotional activities.

Sincerely yours,

MARY LOUISE SMITH
Chairman

Rm - FYI -

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK HUSHEN ✓
DAVE HOOPES

FROM:

BARRY ROTH *BR*

SUBJECT:

Rose Woods' Papers

At the motion of the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press, Judge Robinson of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia has stayed, pending their appeal, his December 2, 1975, Order which would require the return of Miss Woods' personal papers now in our custody in the EOB. As a result, the papers cannot be returned to her today as you were advised last week, and it is impossible to predict how long they will remain here. Miss Woods' attorneys intend to seek an expedited hearing in the Court of Appeals on this matter.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BARRY ROTH

FROM: Connie Gerrard

Ron wanted me to check with the Legal Office to see if this looks acceptable. The letter says that the President's family have received these Bicentennial watches. If there is no problem, Ron would of course like to accept their generosity.

Could I have your comments and advice on this?

Thanks!

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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

Dear Budin.
I'm OK, then
Order me one
Red-white-blue
band! RHN





Abe Shapiro
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

IMPORTERS - DISTRIBUTORS
OF WATCHES AND NOVELTIES

112 W. 9th Street, Suite 812, Los Angeles, CA 90015 • (213) 627-8988

April 2, 1976

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Nessen,

We are the exclusive manufacturers of the Bicentennial Campaign "LOVE IS...Ford in '76" watch, a photograph of which appears below.

The President's family have received "LOVE IS" watches, and expressed their satisfaction with them. This watch has received the approval of the President Ford Committee, and we feel that it will appeal to you.

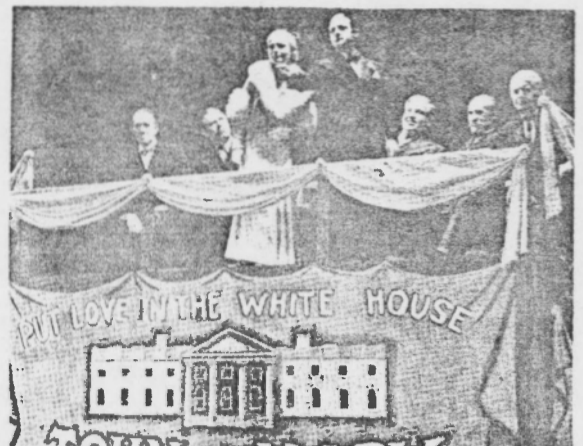
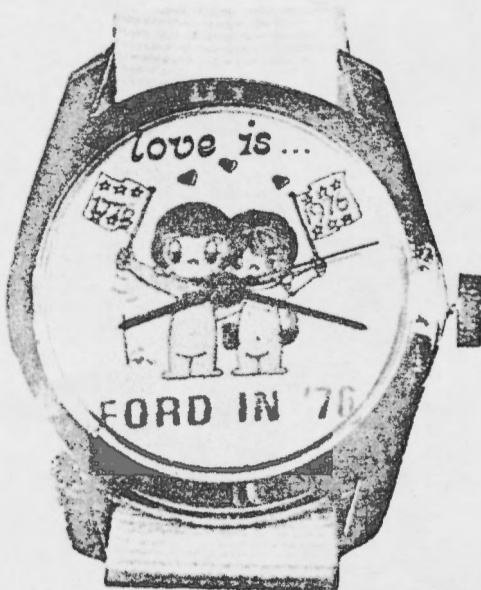
We would like to send you one of these watches with our compliments. It comes with a white, black, or red, white and blue nylon band. If you will let us know which band you desire, and the address to which you wish it sent, we will forward it immediately.

Timely yours,

Abe Shapiro & Associates, Inc.

Abe Shapiro
Abe Shapiro
President

AS:lb



SCENE FROM OF THE FORD IN 1976: PROCLAIMING THAT LOVE IS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: BARRY ROTH *BR*

SUBJECT: Demonstration by
 Members of NABET

Attached is a copy of an application by the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET), Local 31, to demonstrate in front of the White House this evening from 4:00 P.M. to Midnight. The picketing is in protest of NBC originating television feeds from the North lawn of the White House without using NABET members.

cc: Phil Buchen



96-445

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO CONDUCT A (DEMONSTRATION) (SPECIAL EVENT)

(Please indicate whether this activity is to be a "demonstration" or a "special event" (for definitions, see page 1).)

MAY 14, 1976
Date of this application

1. Individual sponsor(s) FRED RISHER, NABET LOCAL 31
LOCKOUT COORDINATOR

Address(es) 5034 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W.,

SUITE 202, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

Telephone Nos. Day 966-4078 Evening 244-1651

2. Sponsoring Organization(s) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCAST EMPLOYEES AND TECHNICIANS, LOCAL 31

Address(es) 5034 WISC. AVE., N.W., SUITE 202,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

3. Date(s) of proposed (demonstration) (special event)

From MAY 18, 1976 To MAY 18, 1976

Time: Begin 4:00 P.M. Terminate 12:00 MIDNIGHT

4. Location(s) of proposed (demonstration) (special event) SIDEWALK
EAST OF NORTHWEST GATE ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

5. Statement of the purpose of proposed (demonstration) (special event) PICKETING OF NBC ORIGINATING TELEVISION FEEDS
FROM POSITION ON NORTH LAWN

6. Maximum number of participants for which this application is filed.
(If more than one park area is to be utilized, list separately for each area.)

FIVE (5)

7. Person(s) in charge of (demonstration)(special event), and of coordination of sponsoring and/or participating groups. (One person must be listed as in charge of overall activities of the demonstration/special event. If different individuals are to be in charge of various activities at different locations, each must be so listed. Supplemental sheet(s) may be used for this purpose.)

Individual in Charge JAMES HARRIS

Address 5034 WISC. AVE., N.W., WASH., D.C.

Telephone Nos. Day 966-4078 Evening 244-1651

Prior experience relative to conducting demonstration(s)/~~special event(s)~~ _____

COORDINATING PICKETS AT NBC FACILITIES IN
WASHINGTON FOR PAST SIX WEEKS

8. Describe proposed activities to be conducted in this (demonstration)(~~special event~~). (Include a list of all principal speakers, the scheduling in terms of time, approximate duration, location, and nature of each separate activity. Include proposed route of (march)(parade), if any.)

NO ACTIVITY OTHER THAN PICKETING ON SIDEWALK.

9. Assembly area(s) AT PICKET SIGHT

10. a. List all equipment, props, stages, and other items to be provided by applicant/sponsor. (Include sound equipment, approximate number and size(s) of banners, placards, hand-held signs, size(s) of supports, standards, and handles, necessary medical and other similar items.)

2' X 3' PICKET PLACARDS

b. Provide detailed information as to any such items as boxes, crates, coffins, or other items of similar description, whether they are to be carried opened or closed, their proposed size, the materials of which they will be constructed, and their proposed contents and use. _____

NONE

11. Dispersal area(s) PICKET SIGHT

12. Explain plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed (demonstration)(special event). (Specifically include any and all plans which might affect the regular flow of city traffic.)

PICKETS WILL DISPERSE TO THEIR OWN

TRANSPORTATION

13. Marshals:

a. Will sponsor(s)/applicant(s) furnish marshals No
(Required for demonstration activities held simultaneously on White House Sidewalk* and in Lafayette Park.) If so, how many? _____

b. Person(s) responsible for supervision of marshals (for each location) if known:

Location(s) N/A

Name(s) _____

Address(es) _____

Telephone Nos. Day _____ Evening _____

c. Give detailed description of function sponsor/applicant expects marshals to fulfill. _____

N/A

* (South 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., sidewalk between East Executive Avenue and West Executive Avenue.)

14. Area Cleanup: (Area must be left in substantially the same condition as it was prior to the activities authorized, and all litter shall be placed in trash containers or otherwise removed from area.)

a. How many cleanup people will be provided? NONE N/A

b. How will they be identified? N/A

c. List all cleanup facilities the applicant/sponsor will furnish.

NONE N/A

15. a. Is there any reason to believe, or is there any information indicating that any individual, group, or organization might seek to disrupt the demonstration/special event for which this application is submitted:

NO ✓ YES

b. If YES, list each individual, group, or organization, with all information and relative details available as to each, including addresses and telephone numbers.

N/A

16. COMPLETE ITEMS 16 and 17 ONLY if the planned activity is a special event.

a. Give a detailed list of all equipment, props, stages, sound equipment, and any other items to be used in the proposed special event as well as an estimated set-up and take-down time (include medical and sanitary facilities to be provided by applicant(s)/sponsor(s)).

b. To what extent is it requested that National Capital Parks, National Park Service participate?

17. Give a detailed statement of the objectives and purpose of the proposed activity.

TO PROTEST NBC LOCKING OUT ITS NABET
EMPLOYEES AND USING OTHER PERSONS IN
PERFORMANCE OF TECHNICAL DUTIES.

Signature Witnessed By:

Edmund T. Brown
 Signature of Witness

Edmund T. Brown
 Typed or Printed Name of Witness

5034 Wisc. Ave. N.W. Wash. D.C.
 Address of Witness

Day 966-4078 Evening 244-1651
 Telephone Numbers of Witness

Signature of Person Filing Application

FRED W. RISHER
 Typed or Printed Name of Such Person

5034 Wisc. Ave. N.W. WASH. D.C.
 Address of Above

NABET LOCAL 31
LOCKOUT COORDINATOR

Position or Responsibility of Such
 Person Relative to Proposed
 Demonstration

Day 966-4078 Evening 244-1651
 Telephone Numbers of Person Filing

NOTE: Under 18 U.S.C. 1001, any person who knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false statements or representations, in respect of any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States, is liable to a fine in an amount up to \$10,000, and imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
THROUGH: ED SCHMULTS *ES*
FROM: BARRY ROTH *BR*
SUBJECT: Charges for Press Aboard
Air Force One on Official Trips

Bill Gulley has requested guidance on how he is to bill the press aboard Air Force One on official trips. Until last September when we implemented the pro rata formula for members of the press on political trips, the media has always been billed at the rate of first class airfare plus \$1.00. Either method of calculation is legally permissible. The pro rata method recoups for the Government the actual cost of the flight. The commercial airfare method bears no relationship to actual cost. As you are aware, when members of the First Family use military aircraft for other than official or political use, the President has reimbursed the Government for their travel on the basis of first class airfare.

In order to avoid using a different billing scheme for the press on official and political trips, use of the pro rata formula for the press on official trips may be preferable.

Decision: ☒ Option A -- Pro rata method
☐ Option B -- First class airfare method

cc: Phil Buchen

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

cys. to Gulley + hessen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CONNIE GERRARD

FROM:

BARRY ROTH *BR*

Referencing your inquiry, Milt Mitler's office has been accepting all bicentennial gifts sent to the President as public property to be included in a display of bicentennial gifts to the President at the Great Hall.

With reference to the watch for Ron, it does appear to be advertising or promotional in nature. The policy is that staff members can keep such items if they are of minimal value, generally less than \$10. If the value of the watch is ^{more} than that, it should be returned.

some what

Please call me if you have any questions.

July 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BARRY ROTH

FROM: Connie Gerrard

These two watches were given to Ron by a former employee of NBC who he knows personally, Maurice Benjeor. Benjeor is now in the business of Bicentennial watches, and he gave Ron these two -- one for Ron and one which he wants the President to have.

Ron asked me to find out from you if it is possible to accept these, or if they should be returned.

What's the verdict???

Thanks, Barry.



B W W
BICENTENNIAL WATCH WORKS

P. O. BOX 1008
ROCKVILLE, MD. 20850

MAURICE BENJOAR
(301) 279-0155

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
THROUGH: ED SCHMULTS
FROM: BARRY ROTH

You were recently asked at a press briefing whether the President or the PFC would pay the travel expenses of the President and the First Family to the Convention. Before a final answer is given to that question, you should be aware of the following:

(1) With respect to the President, the FEC has informally ruled that he may personally absorb travel and subsistence expenses up to \$500 during the pre-nomination period. Such expenditures are not required to be reported to the FEC and do not count against the PFC's spending ceiling for the primary period.

(2) With respect to the other members of the First Family, each member may also absorb up to \$500 for travel and subsistence expenses. In this regard, members of the First Family are in the same position as any other person who volunteers his personal services to a candidate. By definition, such payments are neither contributions nor expenditures and, therefore, are not required to be reported to the FEC and do not count against the PFC's primary spending ceiling. The key point in this regard is that each member of the First Family must personally pay for his own expenses. It is my understanding that the President provides support for all members of the family. As long as he does not give them money solely for the purpose of absorbing political travel, it does not matter that the money they use to pay for these expenses may have come from the President.

(3) It is entirely proper for the PFC to pay these expenses for the President and First Family. However, such payments then count against the PFC's primary spending ceiling.

cc: Jack Marsh

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

9/24

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR: *Barry Rott*

FROM: **RON NESSEN**

*How am I
suppose to
reply?*

R.H.N.



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

SEP 23 1976

David H. Rothman
805 South Pitt St.
Alexandria, Va. 22314
Telephone: 548-3174
Sept. 22, 1976

Mr. Ronald H. Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Nessen:

The National Enquirer has asked me to study White House parties. We are interested in costs as well as in guest lists.

We are seeking public information, and I trust you will give us excellent cooperation. However, for formality's sake, I am submitting questions in the form of a Freedom of Information request.

Under 5 U.S.C. 552, I hereby request access to documents answering these questions:

--How much did the White House spend on entertainment each year from 1965 on? I assume that those annual figures most likely would be available since an article in the Washington Post of March 29, 1970, Page H2, reports: "More than 50,000 people have been entertained by the Nixons at the White House during his first year and two months in office..." The article goes on to mention typical costs of state dinners and so on.

--Within the category of entertainment, what were the annual costs of the various types of functions--state dinners, etc.?

--Over the past ten years, how many guests attended (each year) each of the various types of functions?

--If the entertainment budget has increased or decreased, what was the reason (or reasons)?

--If the number of guests attending White House functions has increased or decreased, what have been the reasons?

--Exactly who has attended White House social functions since Mr. Ford assumed office? I would appreciate access to all public guest lists.

--What have been the items in the White House entertainment budget for the past year? Too, I would appreciate access to copies of all bills--all records of actual expenditures, including individual ones for purchases of specific items or services. I am also trying to determine how much money would be involved in the form of government salaries.

Please note that the above questions apply not only to entertaining by the President but also by Mrs. Ford.

I hope the questions are clear. If anything remains vague, please feel free to phone me at 548-3174.

If I do not receive a substantive response within ten working days, I shall

en Page 2

Consider this request denied and shall appeal. I trust, however, that that will be entirely unnecessary.

I am sending an identical letter to Mr. Richard Q. Vawter, director of public information for the General Services Administration, which may have responsibility for some of the material I have asked to see.

Sincerely yours,

David H Rothman

David H. Rothman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

BARRY ROLL

FROM

: RON NESSEN

How do I reply
to this letter from
a former reporter-
colleague in
Vietnam?

RON



Realty Multi-List, Inc.

Phone 322-41

2221 MARION STREET
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31906

September 20, 1976

Mr. Ronald H. Nessen
Press Secretary
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C., 20500

Dear Ron:

It has been awhile, but hell, I've been busy. No time for me to loll around the old office and gambol in the rose garden, like some formerly honest correspondents I know.

I'm moonlighting for the above named worthy organization; have married a 27-year old journalist, who is exactly the sort of woman life really owed me, and up to my knees in peanut butter otherwise.

Ron, I'll be in Washington October 12th and 13th at the Park Sheritan Hotel for the Association of U. S. Army Convention. It actually is held the 11th through the 14th, but I'm loose those two days a bit, and would sure enjoy wedging five minutes of your time, via telephone to the press room at your convenience.

Ron, I'm enclosing two documents. I absolutely am appalled at a good conservative Administration letting the Justice Department play kid games that they have on this one. I admit they have assisted me becoming constructively employed on a temporary basis, but other than that, I found this one particularly crappy.

This is the sum total of peddling I'll be doing with you; the call, I'll fully expect to hear from you, unless you want to throw me in the peanut file, will be strictly personal.

A note on this AUSA bit: Westmoreland cannot be deployed in a better AO. He undoubtedly intends to show, but he can make a real dent with this lot. They're from all over hell and gone, community leaders and defense oriented, and they're still coddling the belief that Westy may have known what he has doing in RVN.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Charlie

Charles Black, Contributing Editor
Columbus Enquirer
Columbus, Georgia, 31902

CB:bam
ENCL:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

Barry Roll

FROM

: RON NESSEN

How do I reply
to this letter from
a former reporter-
colleague in
Viet Nam?

RON

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB VISSER

FROM: BARRY ROTH *BR*

SUBJECT: Copyright Application for
"A Leader for a Change" and
"Come Aboard"

Are you familiar with the applications for copyright of the above-titled songs? We do not understand why this was sent to Ron Nessen and instead are forwarding it to you for appropriate handling.

cc: Ron Nessen ✓

To Ron Nessen

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

BARRY ROTH *BR*

SUBJECT:

Forcade v. Knight

For your information, the Solicitor General has approved the Secret Service's request to appeal the District Court's decision in the Forcade case. As you recall, plaintiffs Forcade and Sherrill were denied White House press credentials in the Johnson, Nixon and Ford Administrations on the basis of their security investigations. You have been substituted for Ron Ziegler as a defendant in this action.

*Couldn't happen to
a mean guy!*

[Signature]

cc: Ed Schmults✓

RT/br