

The original documents are located in Box 134, folder “Timmons, William” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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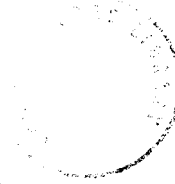
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ron --

This is in conjunction with what you
were talking about in staff meeting
today.

c g

File



September 26, 1974

Dear Bob:

This is just a note to let you know that your September 18 letter to the President concerning the possibility of his meeting with Black newspapers editors will be called to his attention without delay.

You may be assured that your proposal will be given careful consideration.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

William E. Timmons
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Robert P. Hanrahan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to Stan Scott for further action. We have been advised by Warren Rustand's office that you are holding this request for a schedule proposal at an appropriate date.
bcc: w/incoming to Warren Rustand for appropriate handling.
~~bcc: w/incoming to Ron Nessen - FYI~~

WET:EF:VO:vo

bcc: w/incoming to Shirley Jo Hays - FYI

ROBERT P. HANRAHAN
3rd DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
ROOM 1229
LONGWORTH OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
CODE 202: 225-5736
COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

EVERETT DIRKSEN BUILDING
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604
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5700 WEST 95TH STREET
OAK LAWN, ILLINOIS 60453
CODE 312: 425-5884
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333 EAST 162D STREET
SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS 60473
CODE 312: 596-1990

September 18, 1974

The Honorable Gerald Ford
President of the United States
White House
Washington, D. C. 20501

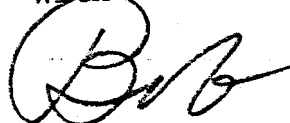
Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a letter that I received from one of my constituents, which was addressed to you.

As noted on the letterhead, Mr. Hayden represents the largest chain of black newspapers in the Chicago and South Suburban area and he makes a suggestion that you conduct a rap session at the White House for all the Black Newspaper Publishers and Presidents as did your predecessors -- Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would take under consideration Mr. Hayden's suggestion. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

With warmest regards,



ROBERT P. HANRAHAN
Member of Congress

RPH:pk

Enclosure

P.S. I'd be glad to sit in with you!

October 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL TIMMONS
FROM: RON NESSEN
SUBJECT: TV coverage of Rockefeller nomination

During a lunch meeting with executives of the three television networks, I casually brought up the question of why they had not covered the Rockefeller hearings live.

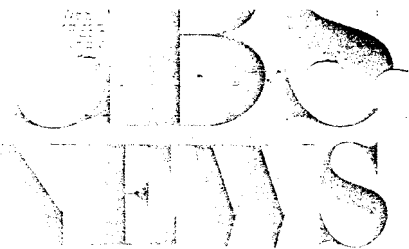
Their response was that the same historic circumstances did not prevail now that did when Jerry Ford's Vice Presidential confirmation hearings were carried live. Since it was after the fact anyhow, I did not press them too hard.

I am attaching a statement issued by CBS explaining why they did not cover the hearings.

Thank you for calling this to my attention, and please send along any further suggestions you have on media coverage of Administration activity.

RN/eg





September 25, 1974

SALANT STATEMENT ON COVERAGE OF ROCKEFELLER SENATE TESTIMONY

The following is a statement by Richard S. Salant, President of CBS News, in response to criticism of CBS News' decision not to provide live coverage of Vice President-designate Nelson Rockefeller's testimony before the Senate Rules Committee on Monday and Tuesday, September 23 and 24:

The judgment not to carry live the testimony of Nelson A. Rockefeller before the Senate Rules Committee was made solely by CBS News and solely on the basis of considerations of news value.

These considerations included the fact that Mr. Rockefeller had already made public much of the financial information about which he was to testify, and that no significant opposition to his appointment appeared to be developing.

It is also noteworthy that we had live capability, with cameras and personnel at the hearings, which could be utilized if the news warranted, and that we were videotaping the proceedings for coverage on the CBS EVENING NEWS and the CBS MORNING NEWS, both of which reported Mr. Rockefeller's testimony. And Sen. Howard W. Cannon, chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, appeared on CBS News' "Face the Nation" to discuss the committee proceedings the day before they opened, while Sen. Marlow Cook, a member of the committee, was interviewed at length on the CBS MORNING NEWS on Monday.

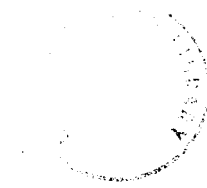
(More)

The charge that the decision was motivated by economic considerations is untrue. On those occasions when CBS News believes live coverage of an event is warranted from a news standpoint, it proposes such coverage and the preemption of regularly scheduled programs to senior CBS management, which invariably has followed these recommendations. In this instance, no such proposal was ever made by CBS News because of its judgment that live coverage was not warranted by the circumstances.

The decision to provide live coverage is dictated not only by the importance of a proceeding, but by its newsworthiness. It is interesting to note that our newspaper colleagues generally accorded other news developments on Monday the lead positions on their front pages the following morning.

Members of the Senate, like anyone else, have every right to disagree with our judgment. We, on the other hand, have an obligation to act solely on the basis of independent news judgment, and we did so in this case.

* * *



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 23, 1974

SEP 23 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *pd*
SUBJECT: Rockefeller Nomination

The television networks apparently decided not to carry the confirmation hearings of Nelson Rockefeller live.

As you know, similar Senate hearings on Gerald Ford's nomination were carried live.

Also, today the networks broadcast live (or at least delayed) Senator Kennedy's announcement he would not seek the Presidency in 1976.

To follow precedent (Ford) and in a sense of fair play (Kennedy), it seems the networks should really cover Rocky with more than brief news segments in the evening.

Is this something you might raise with broadcasters?
There's still time.

cc: Richard Burriss

cc: JH, LT, ID, LS, BR

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
October 14, 1974

copies given
to *10/15*
P

MEMORANDUM FOR: RONALD H. NESSEN
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *pot*
SUBJECT: Advance Texts for Joint Sessions

The Office of Legislative Affairs has followed a policy of not passing out advance texts of Presidential addresses before Joint Sessions of Congress because it has a bad appearance on national television for Members to be reading and turning pages of a text while the President is speaking. The fact that reporters are in the gallery with texts is a frequent source of complaint, especially among Administration supporters, who quite naturally take the position that they should have them if reporters do.

In view of the fact that this has been a source of irritation among Members, would it be possible for you to withhold distribution until after the delivery in the future?

Yes, we'll do this.

tpd for RN

*→ returned
original to
B Timmons
per JDC.
P.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date Oct 30, 1974

TO: Ron Nessen
FROM: William E. Timmons

Please Handle _____

For Your Information ✓

Other

14

10-30

JOHN E. MOSS
 3RD DISTRICT
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 JACK MATTESON

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
 TOM GREENE

*Reimbursement request
 10/1/74*



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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DISTRICT OFFICE:
 DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE
 JERRY WYMORE
 6058 FEDERAL BUILDING
 690 CAPITOL MALL
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 PHONE (916) 449-3543

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:
 RANKING MAJORITY MEMBER SUBCOMMITTEES ON
 FOREIGN OPERATIONS & GOVERNMENT INFORMATION
 CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE COMMITTEE:
 CHAIRMAN,
 COMMERCE & FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Oct
 September 26, 1974

BT

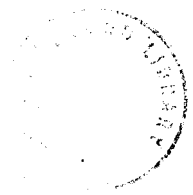
The President
 The White House
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As you recall, during our twenty-one years of service together in the House of Representatives, I spent many of those years working upon Federal information policy matters. You may also recall that I was the author on the House side of the Freedom of Information bill.

The initial issue which directed my attention to a study of information policies of the Federal government occurred during the first year of my service. At that time, there was a great outcry against so-called "security risks" in the Federal government.

Upon the election of a Democratic majority in the 84th Congress, I was selected as the Chairman of a Special Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations. This was the beginning of a sixteen-year assignment in the field of governmental information policies. As a consequence, I have carefully studied the law's subtle balancing of the interests of government in security against the legitimate interests of the public in access to information. The matter I now bring to your attention is done so after the most careful reflection



September 26, 1974

on this study and a full consideration of the very serious nature of the issues implicit in the views I will express.

It is my opinion that due to the circumstances which led to the resignation of your predecessor, Richard M. Nixon, and his subsequent acceptance of a pardon, that Mr. Nixon is guilty of illegal acts. In response to a press conference question, you indicated that Mr. Nixon's acceptance of a pardon could be construed as analagous to an admission of guilt. The question and your precise words were, "Throughout your Vice Presidency you said you **didn't** believe that former President Nixon had ever committed an impeachable offense. Is that still your belief, or do you believe that his acceptance of a pardon implies **his** guilt: Or is it an admission of guilt?" Your reply was "...the acceptance of a pardon I think can be construed by many, if not all, as an admission of guilt." The Honorable Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President Designate, echoed this view when in response to questions asked of him by the United States Senate Committee taking testimony preparatory to his confirmation by the Senate wherein he characterized the acceptance of a pardon as "tantamount to admitting guilt".

I submit that under these conditions that Richard M. Nixon would be judged under all pertinent criteria as a security risk and would be denied access to the material made available to him in secret briefings. If there is not to be a two tiered system of justice in this country, these briefings should be stopped. I submit that unlike his three predecessors who were routinely briefed, the Honorable Harry Truman, the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, that former President Nixon left office under conditions analagous to less than an honorable discharge of his responsibilities given him by the American electorate in the 1972 election. I question whether the briefing of Richard Nixon, who is no longer an employee of the government, does not in itself constitute a breach of rules, regulations or laws proscribing the publication of highly classified material.



The President

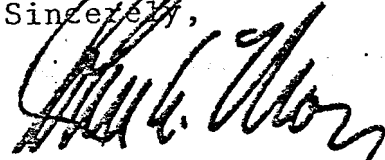
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September 26, 1974

Your own action in the issuance of a pardon implicitly carried with it the assurance that violations of law would be subsequently disclosed and that they would be of an extent and nature, if spread upon the public records, to clearly bar Richard Nixon from access to classified defense or national security information.

I respectfully suggest, therefore, that it is appropriate that these briefings be discontinued and that finally a recognition be made of the obvious fact that this unprecedented act of resignation was indeed brought about because of the personal misconduct of Richard Nixon.

Sincerely,



John E. Moss
Member of Congress

JEM:Mk



*Convin
from this?
J.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
November 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *WET*

SUBJECT: Autographed picture

I have received a request for your autographed
photo from:

Mr. Hugh R. Plunkett
Vidor, Texas

I do not know Mr. Plunkett personally, but he has
written to me because he is a fellow Mason.

Can do?

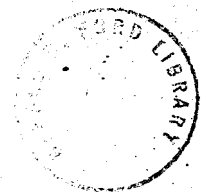


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Bill Timmons.

For appropriate.
handling.

C.H.N.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

RICHARD DUDMAN, CHIEF WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT 1701 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 550 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 202-298-6880

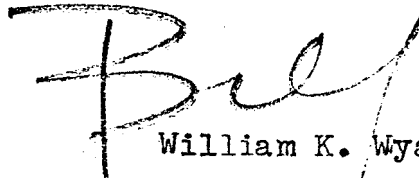
December 20, 1974

Dear Ron -

If the President signs the Eastern Wilderness Bill, suggest it might be appropriate to give a pen to Ernest Dickerman of The Wilderness Society, 1901 Pennsylvania avenue NW, Washington, D.C. - 20006.

Ernie has been working for the legislation for years and was apoplectic with joy when it finally got through.

With hearty good wishes for the holidays,



William K. Wyant



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Bill Timmons.

For appropriate
handling.

CHN.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

RICHARD DUDMAN, CHIEF WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT 1701 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 550 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 202-298-6880

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