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April 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ROBERT GOLDWIN

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Thanks for sending me the interesting article by Ben Wattenberg.

I hope the President and his speechwriters are seeing this and other thought provoking articles.

As the President takes a firmer hold on the Presidency and especially as we move closer to opportunities offered by the bicentennial celebration, I believe it is important for him to think about and articulate new ideas on America, the world and the future.

RN/pp



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Ron Nessen

FROM: Robert A. Goldwin

Bob

COMMENTS: In case you missed it, I send you this article by Wattenberg. It is excellent on three counts: the useful information, the unusual argument, and the upbeat tone. It should be useful for speeches.

4/8/75

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.

Confessions of an Optimist in Time of Crisis

Ben Wattenberg believes . . .

It was 35 years ago that the world lived through a period that Winston Churchill later described as a "gathering storm." There are those today who see grave similarities between that cloudy era and our own. Major economic troubles, big-power rivalries, psychic malaise, an arms race.

Even I get nervous, which must sound like a strange report to those readers who know my writings. For by inclination and profession I am an optimist.

Are we optimists buckling under during these unsettling times? No. We have become nervous optimists, nervous at least on the outside, but, in my own instance, still with an inner faith.

It is that faith that probably ought to be explained. For if the classical optimistic faith can still be justified, it is a position that ought to be understood. Within it lay the seeds of a self-fulfilling prophecy: When people and governments believe that progress will continue, they will act in a manner which sharply increases the probabilities of such progress actually continuing.

What are the historical roots of this optimism? Two clichés have been used often to describe what has happened on this planet over the last 30 years. One is, "There is a revolution of rising expectations." The other is, "The gap between the rich nations and the poor nations has been growing wider."

One statement is misleading. The other is false.

There has indeed been a revolution of rising expectations. What is mis-

Ben J. Wattenberg, author of The Real America and other books, writes about political and demographic subjects.

leading is the word "expectations." There are rising expectations around the world, but they are keyed to realized expectations.

The folks around the world have seen something truly remarkable happen in the last three decades. In America, for example, they've seen the mass advent of single-family

suburban living, college educations, and month-long vacations in camper trailers. In Europe and Japan, cars have become commonplace. In Eastern Europe and Russia there has been a move away from the drudgery of manual and peasant agriculture.

And in the Third World? Are peoples' expectations being realized, or are they only rising?

This brings us to our second cliché: "The gap between the rich nations and the poor nations has been growing wider."

An examination of the social and

economic data from around the world does not really bear it out. What seems to have happened is something different. There have been two separate and quite different revolutions, one in the developed world and one in the Third World. Both raised the level of living substantially.

Our world got better. Their world got better. They still are different worlds.

• In the last three decades, life expectancy in the underdeveloped world increased from 30 years to 54 years — faster by far than in the modernized countries. The counter-

The Washington Star Comment

• Editorials • Travel • Obituaries

SECTION E

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1975



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Ron Nessen

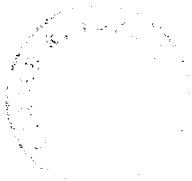
FROM: Robert A. Goldwin

Bob

COMMENTS: This is the mush-head position on crime that Wilson is combatting so persuasively.

The two pieces should be read in conjunction.

4/15/75



TRB

®

from Washington
April 12, 1975

Denying the Obvious

We guess that the rising crime rate will be an issue in the next presidential election and that after the voting is over whoever wins will appoint another crime commission. Then after a year or 18 months the new crime commission will bring in a solemn and eloquent report that will shortly thereafter be forgotten. It will be forgotten because it won't tell us what we want to hear. What we want to hear is that the disgraceful American crime rate, which jumped 17 percent in 1974 (highest since the FBI started collecting statistics 45 years ago) is caused by coddling criminals, parental permissiveness, the uppityness of nonwhites and abolishing the death penalty.

No, what the prospective crime com-

he said the Supreme Court and Attorney General Ramsey Clark were soft on crime, which flowed from "a generation-long experiment of leniency with criminals." (The Warren Court had ruled that it was unfair to beat up suspects in police stations and deprive them of lawyers.) "We cannot explain away crime in this country," he said, "charging it off to poverty." That was fine for the hustings because the more complex a problem is the more the listeners want a simple answer.

After the '68 election Nixon had the awkward task of showing that he had reduced crime when he ran again in 1972, and later on. "The 17-year rise in crime has been stopped," he told the nation incorrectly in January 1974. "We can confidently say today that we are finally beginning to win the war against crime." What nonsense; what audacity the man had. It would be impossible to interview the Nixon crime-fighters on this today; they are all in jail. He himself told the nation in 1973 that the only way to attack crime is "without mercy." He got pardoned.

There was the Wickersham crime commission in 1931; Katzenbach, 1967; Kerner, 1968; Milton Eisenhower, 1969, and half a dozen in between. They all said the same thing more or less. I would like the contract for the 1976-77 crime commission: I could compile it with scissors and paste. The Kerner commission ruefully noted the testimony of

and vowing that if he had his way he would make Washington's streets safe or bribe the troops. (Sitting there in a wheelchair it did not seem fair to ask him if he still opposed gun control.)

Is it astonishing that serious crime has jumped 17 percent in the US when unemployment has soared? They go up together. Unemployment is now 40 percent for black teenagers in the ghettos. We shall be lucky to escape turmoil this summer. The black community suffers from crime most, and perhaps half of it goes unreported, some investigators say.

The law-breaker is "likely to be a member of the lowest social and economic groups in the country, poorly educated and perhaps unemployed, unmarried, reared in a broken home, and to have a prior criminal record" (President's Commission on Law Enforcement).

Most of these commissions end with a burst of rhetoric, and one must always remember that simply because they are eloquent does not necessarily mean they are untrue. Hear, for example, what the Katzenbach report said: "Warring on poverty, inadequate housing and unemployment is warring on crime. A civil rights law is a law against crime. Money for schools is money against crime. Medical, psychiatric and family counseling services are services against crime. More broadly and most importantly every effort to improve life in America's 'inner cities' is an effort against crime."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Ron Nessen

FROM: Robert A. Goldwin

Bob

COMMENTS: This is the chapter out of Jim Wilson's new book, Thinking About Crime, on the subject of what happens to criminals after arrest.

4/15/75



Chapter 8

Courts and Corrections

MOST of the persons arrested for a serious crime have been arrested before. Indeed, one recent study estimates that over 87 per cent of those arrested will have been previously arrested—or, put a bit differently, the probability of being re-arrested is 0.87 chances in one, or close to a certainty.¹ The research by Marvin Wolfgang and his colleagues on ten thousand Philadelphia boys born in 1945 who lived in that city until they were at least eighteen years of age showed that, once a juvenile had been arrested three times, the chances of his being rearrested were over 70 per cent.² In their inquiry into New York City subway crimes, Jan M. Chaiken and his group at the Rand Institute conclude that, though there are hundreds of robberies on the subways each year, there could not be in the entire city of eight million more than *ten* persons who commit such robberies regularly and who have not been arrested at least once.³

Courts and Corrections

No doubt for some of us—the shame and are a powerful deterrent to others the mere fact of being arrested, persons, who may be arrested once again on bail, arraignment, to put it, “We open

As crime became more attention was given to the criminal justice system. The alerting of predators alerted us to the need for improvement, they showed the greater importance of the arrested and that the conditions they were in when they came. The correctional institutions

In theory, the system of innocence of persons with persons who are in the judiciary is organized so that its function is its own system, the rule of law for testimony. It is relatively few courts will act for most of the session concerning Manhattan. indicted before trial; almost sized, nonm

10
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: *Lon Nesser*

FROM: Robert A. Goldwin

COMMENTS: *F4I*

4/23/75

Change

THE MAGAZINE OF HIGHER LEARNING

VOLUME 7/ NUMBER 4/ MAY 1975

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB GOLDWIN

FROM: RON NESSEN

Could I have your thoughts on the attached?

Thank you.

Attachment: Letter from George Bonham, of Change Magazine asking President to attend luncheon honoring American leaders most influential in higher education

Change

MAGAZINE

April 18, 1975

Mr. Ronald Nessen
Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Nessen,

God knows you have enough on your hands to take on yet another chore, but I thought it best to do this through you.

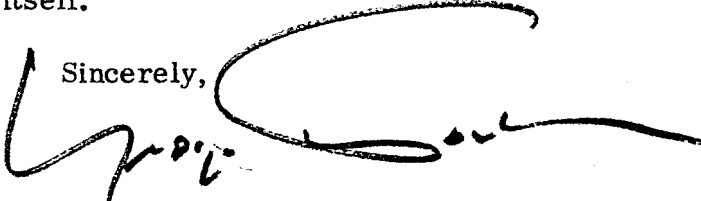
Change is the largest and (I'm told) most influential magazine for American academics. Last February, we published a poll of American leaders who were voted as the most influential on American higher education. The President was among them.

Next October 7th, these 44 leaders are being honored at a special luncheon at the Washington-Shoreham. Vice President Rockefeller will be the speaker. I would not expect the President to attend this sort of event. On the other hand, since the other 43 have already been invited, and have on the whole accepted, I would feel it awkward not to extend this same invitation to the President as well. (Incidentally, this affair is being funded by the Lilly Endowment of Indiana.)

The point of this note is simply to ask whether you wish to call the President's attention to this event. Opinion magazines rarely do this sort of thing, and there may be reasons, as I'll ultimately discover, why they don't.

I'm enclosing the original piece of our 44 leaders, as well as our current issue, which you may find of interest in itself.

Sincerely,


George W. Bonham
Editor-in-Chief

GWB:jls
Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE

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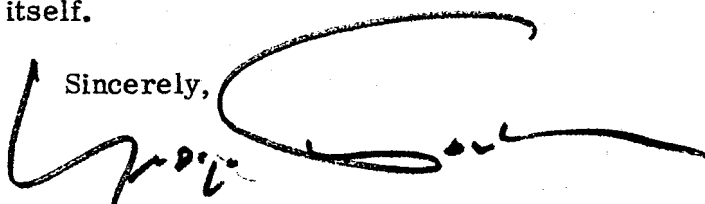
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Sincerely,


George W. Bonham
Editor-in-Chief

GWB:jl
Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. ROBERT A. GOLDWIN
FROM: RON NESSEN *RAN*
SUBJECT: Washington Post Article by William Raspberry

Yes, I did see the Raspberry column on the President's Yale speech, and in fact I was sending you a memo about it when your memo and the copy of the column arrived.

We should begin to think of how to take advantage of this receptiveness at the time the President sends his Crime Message to Congress.

What do you think of the idea of having Professor Wilson do a White House briefing on the concept of mandatory jail sentences and of removing violent criminals from society under the constitutional provisions for protecting domestic tranquility?

5/5/75
I think it's a good idea. Don mentioned a similar possibility to me today. Why not take it up with him?

RAN

May 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. ROBERT A. GOLDWIN
FROM: RON NESSEN
SUBJECT: Washington Post Article by William Raspberry

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Ron Nessen

FROM: Robert A. Goldwin



COMMENTS: This favorable comment on the crime speech seems to me to be a model of the kind of response we ought to be aiming for, approval not only of the content but also of the style and moderation of tone.

5/2/75

William Raspberry

THE WASHINGTON POST

Friday, May 2, 1975
... E2

Mr. Ford's Straight Talk on Crime

May 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BOB GOLDWIN

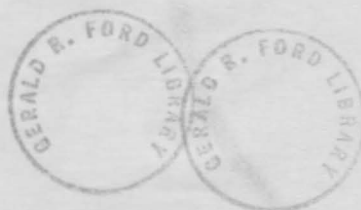
FROM:

RON NESSEN

Here is the reaction we gave to newsmen in response to the letter from 76 Senators concerning American assistance to Israel.

Attachment

RN/pp



May 22, 1975

LETTER FROM THE SENATORS ON ISRAEL

It is valuable to have a wide range of views. I have received the recommendations from the Senate and will consider them. We welcome all suggestions from all sources as we continue the process of reassessment. Of course, the United States is dedicated to the survival of a free and independent Israel, and we are working hard to maintain peace in the Middle East, which is after all the best long-term assurance for Israel, and the other states in the area.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1975

TO: Donald Rumsfeld
Richard Cheney
Robert Hartmann
John Marsh, Jr.
James Cannon
Ronald Nessen ✓
L. William Seidman

FROM: Robert Goldwin *RG*

COMMENT: This poll information is an
interesting supplement to the Kristol article on
"the new class."

Attachment

THE HARTFORD COURANT - Monday, May 19, 1975

Businessmen Held In Low Esteem By Many Students

By GEORGE GALLUP

PRINCETON, N.J. — A strong antibusiness mood is prevalent on the college campuses of Amer-

	Very high, High	Avrge.	Very low, Low	No Opin.
College teachers	70%	28%	2%	-
Medical doctors	66	28	5	1
Engineers	58	40	1	1
Psychiatrists	50	37	10	3
Journalists	49	43	8	-
Lawyers	40	42	18	-
Building contractors	21	56	23	-
Business executives	20	59	21	-
Labor union leaders	19	48	32	1
Political office-holders	9	38	53	-
Advertising practitioners	6	40	54	-

June 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BOB GOLDWIN

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Thank you for sharing with me the views of your friend, Robert Morris, about his impressions of the mood in the small towns he has recently visited.

His impressions confirm similar views expressed to me recently by friends who have been traveling around the country. I know the President has been told similar things.

Partially as a result of the apparent strong support for the President around the country and especially in small towns, (which is not always apparent in Washington), we are working on a new set of meetings between the President and local media executives so that the President can hear first-hand about public opinion in their cities and they can hear first-hand his views of the country and the world.

RN/pp



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Ronald Nessen

FROM: Robert A. Goldwin

Bob

COMMENTS: This letter was sent to me by Robert Morris, Associate Director, the National Humanities Faculty, from a hotel in Cut Bank, Montana, at the end of a week of visiting schools in very small Western towns.

I am not sure how sound his recommendations are, but his observations strike me as authentic and reliable.

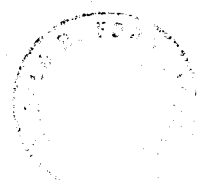
6/11/75

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29 May 75

Dear Bob:

I am about to conclude a week visiting schools "out West" and wanted to share a few impressions with you because they are fresh, and, because they may be of interest. In recent months, I have spent most of my time in cities. Last year, I spent a great deal of time in places like Bend (Oregon), Arlington (Nebraska), Waterloo (Illinois) and Hallsboro (NC). This current odyssey reminds me once again of the substance and complexity of "small town" people who seem to possess a sophistication almost never acknowledged in the "national media." I mention all this because President Ford-according to reports-will seek election next year. Despite criticism of him by certain presumably influential commentators, he probably realizes that he is held in high opinion, very high opinion, by the people I have been with this week who are so very much like the people in Holland (where I have also spent a lot of time) and the other communities referred to earlier.



Not once this week, during literally dozens of conversations, was there a single reference to former President Nixon. Not once did I hear a single negative comment about President Ford. On the contrary, people of all ages in small towns in Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana praised him for his decency, his integrity, his "horse sense", and his obvious desire to guide the nation through its current problems. For him, they seem to feel a personal identification. Members of Congress seem far away, remote, individually ineffective. Congress may have collective strength which has increased recently but, for the "silent majority" people I have been with (and not at all silent, if my experience is representative), Congress is an abstraction. For whatever reasons, these people distinguish between President Ford and the "federal government." It seems (to me) desirable for President Ford to cultivate an even more personal relationship with these people via television. Perhaps once or twice a month, for no more than 30 minutes (people depend more on TV than ever before for entertainment, given the cost of alternatives), he could speak to the American people about his travels, his conferences, his hopes and fears, his plans, his avocations, etc. The FDR "fireside chats" were immensely effective at a time when the

American people needed personal contact with their President. If President Ford were to go "one on one" with the American people, without a lectern or Walter Cronkite, he could more quickly eliminate the gap which Mr. Nixon created between the Presidency and the American people....

In short, via television, I propose that President Ford combine professional and personal considerations in a series of informal "chats" with the American people. He could approach them as he would if he were spending an evening with friends in Grand Rapids, sharing with them his thoughts, feelings, and experiences. (I met people last year in Holland who fondly recall several such evenings with then Representative Ford.) Having just re-read The Palace Guard, followed by a first reading of Breach of Faith, I feel even more deeply the need for even closer contact between President Ford and his fellow Americans.

Someday, I hope that you can accompany me on a series of visits to small town schools. It provides a succession of experiences which defy description. These experiences offer an excitement, a nourishment, a sense of involvement wholly unlike any others I

have ever encountered

The future seems so bright. I return home tomorrow, weary but indescribably encouraged. I draw great strength from people like those in Cut Bank and elsewhere.

See you soon.

Regards,

Bob