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MEETING WITH MRS. FORD

Saturday, May 1, 1976

12:30 am

The Residence

From: The Staff

I. PURPOSE

To try to explain to Mrs. Ford the photograph which appeared on the front pages of papers over the country, showing you about to give an enthusiastic kiss to an attractive young lady member of the Longview Rangerettes.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Newspapers all over the country carried a photograph of you about to kiss an attractive Texas girl in Longview. In the photograph both of you appear to be looking forward to the kiss with great anticipation.

This has given you a great new status as the sex symbol of American politics, and undermined Jimmy Carter's claim to being the candidate of love.

Mrs. Ford has a few questions she would like to ask you.

B. Participants

The President
Mrs. Ford

C. Press Plan

To keep it as quiet as possible.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Yes dear.....
2. Yes dear.....
3. Yes dear.....



May 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is the Q & A briefing book for your Alabama interview on Saturday and your trip to Alabama on Monday.

It contains information on Alabama politics, issues of special interest in the State, and details of Revenue Sharing grants to Alabama.

I have not included any general domestic, foreign policy, or defense Q & A guidance because during the trip to Texas you appeared to be fully prepared to deal with both the substance and politics of these issues.

Attachments:

Briefing Book



May 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

We have updated the briefing book you used on your previous trip to Indiana. You may wish to look through it prior to your Indiana trip on Sunday.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



May 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is an article from a recent edition of the Los Angeles Times containing a really excellent article and photo layout on your son, Steve.

I think you will be pleased. In fact, as Jim Naughton might put it, Steve seems to be another "hidden asset" of the Ford family.

I have written a thank you letter in your behalf to the author.

Attachment:

Los Angeles Times article
on Steve Ford, dated May 1, 1976

RN/jb



May 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a briefing book for your trip to Nebraska and Missouri. Most of the Q & A guidance deals with farm problems and other matters of special interest in Nebraska and the surrounding region.

The final tab is a brief summary of some issues of interest in the Kansas City area, which could come up during your meeting with the editorial board of the Kansas City Star on Saturday.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



RN/jb

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

Connie G.

FROM

: RON NESSEN

Save this name.

*The photos and
sketches of the Ford
mural should be
returned to him
R.H.N.*



JACK HOGAN
EYEWITNESS NEWS DIRECTOR

BOX Z GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49501 (616) 364-9551

May 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

One of the Michigan broadcasters who was at the reception on Thursday night asked me to show you the attached photos. These photos represent a kind of progress report on the mural depicting your life which Paul Collins is painting in the Grand Rapids airport.

The first three photos show an overall view of part of the mural. The rest of the photos are sketches of various close-up details of the mural.

I'm supposed to return these photos after you and your family have had an opportunity to look at them.

RON NESSEN



Enclosures

RN/pp

May 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is a copy of the Tyler Junior College News containing extensive coverage and a lot of photographs of your recent visit to the College. Obviously, not enough Tyler Junior College students got out and voted for you in the primary!

Attachment:

Tyler Junior College News



RN/jb

May 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is the editorial in the Omaha World Herald on Sunday endorsing you in the primary election. Given the influence of the World Herald in Nebraska, this has got to be helpful.

I'm sorry about the poor quality of this copy. The fastest way we could get it here was by DEX machine to Senator Curtis' office.

Attachment:

Omaha World Herald Editorial •
May 9, 1976

RN/jb



May 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is your Q & A briefing book for Michigan. It should be useful to you on the trip Wednesday, the interviews on Thursday, and the many interviews during the Saturday and Sunday trip.

The book contains sections on issues of special interest in Michigan, issue memos from members of the Michigan Congressional delegation, specific Q & A's on Michigan issues, and a breakdown of Revenue Sharing grants to Michigan communities.

I will update the book as necessary between now and the weekend.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



RN/jb

May 13, 1976

Mr. President:

Here is a very brief compilation of guidance on issues of special importance in Tennessee and Ohio.

You might want to look through this before your interview at 11 am with the Scripps-Howard TV stations from Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Memphis.

Ron Nessen



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. RON NESSEN

FROM: TERRY O'DONNELL

SUBJECT: Anecdotes for Jack Anderson

1. When the President visited Grand Rapids Saturday evening and Sunday, May 15 and 16, he stayed in a residential neighborhood in the home of an old friend. Neighbors put up the staff members. Sunday morning he asked me who I was staying with and I told him I was staying with Mr. Fred Vogt. I added that Mr. Vogt could not come to greet the President as the other neighborhood members had because of physical ailments has him confined to his house. The President commented that he knew Fred quite well, that he must be getting on in years, but that he would like to personally say hello since he was unable to greet the President with the others. I said fine, and led the President across the yard and through a path that led to Fred Vogt's backyard. The President of the United States knocked at the screen door and shouted through the kitchen, "Fred, are you there?" The President walked through the kitchen and into the den where Mr. Vogt, who must be in his seventies, was seated. Fred was surprised by this spontaneous visit, but the President put him at ease and sat down to chat for a few minutes.

I was a little amazed by the entire incident. It was touching to me to see the President knocking on the back door and shouting through the kitchen as a neighbor might do anywhere else throughout the United States.

2. At an airport on a recent stop, we were leaving late in the evening. The departure was closed and the President got out of the limousine and shook hands with a few of the policemen who were standing next to his car. Then, preparing to ascend the ramp, he took a last look behind him, and about fifty yards back along-side the terminal, he spotted a girl in a wheelchair with a single escort.

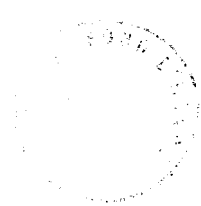
Although he was tired from a long day of campaigning and we were running late on the schedule, he turned around and proceeded to walk all the way across the ramp to her location to shake her hand and wish her well.

3. In Omaha, Nebraska, after another long day of campaigning, the President was preparing for his last event. He jested, "Don't you have two or three things more we can do after this speech?" I responded, "Well, I don't ^{think} so, Sir. I think we've done everything we can do. However, there is a community party in a farmhouse in Arlington, Nebraska, about 45 minutes by car, and they have invited you to come out and congratulate the honored guest -- Hans Jorgenson, a farmer who came from Denmark and became a citizen fifty years ago." Following the speech, and much to my surprise, the President said, "Let's call that Jorgenson get-together." The President spoke for about 5 minutes with the residents of that rural farm community who were all gathered together in a farm house to honor Jorgenson.

4. In North Carolina, the President's helicopter departed late in the afternoon bound for a location in the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina's western sector. After trying for half an hour to find a break in the dense fog, the pilot advised us that he must return to the airport -- there was no hope in flying to our destination. The President asked what the situation was at the destination. He was told that several thousand people had gathered on the mountain top field to greet the President. Several of us pointed out that it would require an hour and a half or a two-hour drive along small mountain roads through narrow passes to reach the site and suggested that we may want to cancel the event because of the weather and proceed by motorcade directly to the last

stop of the day. The President's reply was quite straightforward - "When I say I am going to do something, I am going to do it. P-E-R-I-O-D. - Those people are counting on us and we are not going to let them down." So, we drove for an hour and a half up through the mountains to meet with a small crowd, and motorcaded another hour and a half to our final event in the State.

5. A Staff Member discussing the loss in the North Carolina primary with the President commented that it was a disappointment but certainly we would bounce back in Wisconsin. The President agreed about Wisconsin but added, "We will continue to do what is right for America and her people regardless of short-term political ramifications -- you know, in the long run, there is no question about it -- that's the only way to go."



PRESIDENT FORD

1. In ROMBOULIETTE (sp?) - President Ford asked about how his accommodations compared to those given the other visiting heads of state. When advised that his were considerably more comfortable he said "Well I shouldn't have anyone in for talks or a drink."
2. ROMBOULIETTE. The President taking exercise and being as active as he is had little to do in the grand old chateau in which we were housed. At 11:30 pm one night he asked if it was possible to go for a walk in the little town. We did so and were having a quiet, pleasant walk when two carloads of French agents arrived - obviously ~~of~~ quite exercised. Rather than continuing the walk the President said, I think we're causing some people difficulty. Will go back to the Chateau.



3. The morning after the Yaw-Haungchui primary - I went upstairs to tell him about some pictures which would be taken en route to Oval Office. Congratulated him on this victory. He said, "Thanks. Another landslide!"

4. After speaking to DAR - President met group of Indian children who were going to sing for the DAR membership. ~~He~~ They all shook his hand. One was blind. The President asked "How will you know what I'm like?" The boy said, "If I can touch your face." The President said "Go ahead." The President was remarkably at ease as the boy's hands moved all over his face singling out every feature. The boy broke into a big grin. When he did so did the President.

5. Back when swimming pool was opened. ~~It~~ There was great interest by the press to see the President take his

first swim. Clearly embarrassed
at the idea of going out for a
swim and having all those people
present, he said, "~~I wish~~ I wish
I had a big rubber duck to carry.
It would make everyone realize
how foolish this is."

6. The military people working for
him love him. They have
great freedom in speaking to
him because of the confidence
in his steady and appreciative
treatment. Once in Atlanta
after a good day of activities,
the President stood waving
at the top of the ramp of
Air Force One a little longer
than usual. One of the ^{sergeants in the} crew
~~members~~ said, "OK that's it!
Get the hook!" The President
heard it and got on board
and said, "OK Private, that's
enough out of you."

7. On Louisville



May 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is a copy of a telegram I received from John McGoff, President of the Panax Newspapers in Michigan. As you see, the telegram announces that McGoff's 6 daily and 28 weekly newspapers in Michigan are endorsing you in a special front-page editorial today, on the eve of the Michigan primary.

The telegram then goes on to reprint the wording of the editorial endorsement.

This should be very helpful in tomorrow's primary, and indicates how influential a phone call, a lunch, and an editorial board meeting can be!

Attachment:

Telegram from John P. McGoff - Panax Corporation



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WHD001 156A EDT MAY 17 76 WAF002(0015)(2-000172E138)PD 05/17/76
ICS IPMBNGZ CSP
5176765189 NL TDBN MASON MI 452 05-17 0015A EST
PMS MR RONALD NESSEN PRESS SECRETARY, BACKDATE FILED MAY 16
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500
THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF A TELEGRAM SENT TO PRESIDENT GERALD FORD
DEAR PRESIDENT FORD, WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE 6 DAILY AND
23 WEEKLY PANAX NEWSPAPERS IN MICHIGAN ARE ENDORSING YOU IN
TUESDAY'S PRIMARY.
THE ENDORSEMENT WILL BE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF A SPECIAL PRIMARY
ELECTION ADDITION GOING TO OVER 400,000 HOMES IN MICHIGAN ON MONDAY
AFTERNOON.

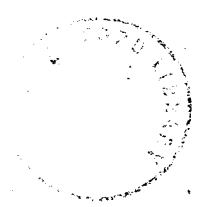
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OUR ENDORSEMENT READS AS FOLLOWS: "WHEN PRESIDENT GERALD FORD TOOK
OFFICE NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO THIS WAS A COUNTRY BITTERLY DIVIDED BY
THE ISSUES OF WATERGATE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AND RAVAGED BY THE TWIN
ECONOMIC ILLS OF INFLATION AND RECESSION.

IT WAS A ROUGH ASSIGNMENT ONE THAT MANY THOUGHT THAT WAS TOO MUCH
FOR HIM. HE HAD NO EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE, THE ARGUMENT WENT, AND AS
OUR FIRST APPOINTED PRESIDENT HE HAD NO ELECTORAL MANDATE TO POINT
TO.

BUT IN TWO SHORT YEARS WE HAVE SEEN A NEARLY MIRACULOUS TURNAROUND.
THE BITTERNESS AND HATRED WHICH TORE AT US SO MANY YEARS HAS FADED



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7 IN HIS TIME IN OFFICE HE HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY SURE-HANDED IN HIS
8 ACTIONS, WHETHER DEALING WITH CONGRESS OR WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HE
9 HAS HELPED CONTROL FEDERAL SPENDING WITH A SERIES OF VETOES. HE HAS
10 RECOGNIZED THE DANGEROUS SLIDE IN THE CAPABILITY OF OUR MILITARY
11 FORCES AND HAS PUSHED FOR MORE FUNDING FOR THEM. HE HAS MOVED TO
12 STOP ABUSES IN WELFARE PROGRAMS. HE HAS MOVED TO TRIM THE FEDERAL
13 PAYROLL.
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19 IT HASN'T BEEN AN EASY PRIMARY SEASON FOR MR FORD. RONALD REAGAN
20 HAS ASKED SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION SOME OF
21 WHICH WE AGREE WITH.
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25 BUT WE MUST REMEMBER IT IS MUCH EASIER TO BE ON THE OUTSIDE ASKING
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6 THE TOUGH QUESTIONS THAN ON THE INSIDE ACTUALLY PROVIDING ANSWERS.
7 PART OF OUR PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOR INSTANCE,
8 HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A POST-VIETNAM CONGRESS AT TIMES AFRAID TO MEET
9 OUR RESPONSIBILITIES. AND THE SIGHT OF BOTH NELSON ROCKEFELLER AND
10 BARRY GOLDWATER AGREEING ON MR FORD'S HANDLING OF THE PANAMA CANAL
11 SHOULD MAKE ANYONE THINK THAT MAYBE HE IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK THERE.
12 IT IS, IN SHORT, A LOT EASIER TO BE IN THE GRANDSTAND THAN OUT ON THE
13 PITCHERS MOUND.
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19 THERE IS AN OLD RULE IN BOXING THAT IN A CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH A
20 DECISION ALWAYS GOES TO THE CHAMPION UNLESS THE CHALLENGER IS
21 CLEARLY AND DECISIVELY BETTER. MR REAGAN HAS SCORED SOME POINTS IN
22 THIS CAMPAIGN AND WE HOPE MR FORD PAYS ATTENTION TO THEM.
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6 BUT THE OVERALL DECISION HAS TO GO IN FAVOR OF MR FORD. WE URGE A
7 VOTE FOR HIM ON TUESDAY."
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10 BEST WISHES AND GOOD LUCK ON TUESDAY.
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13 SINCERELY,
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15 JOHN P MCGOFF PRESIDENT PANAX CORPORATION
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS TV STATIONS

Tuesday, May 18, 1976

12 - 12:40 p.m.

The Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen

RHN

I. PURPOSE

To film three separate 10-minute interviews with three television stations in Little Rock, Arkansas.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

This is another in a series of interview requests you have accepted in states holding primary elections. (The Arkansas primary is May 25.) You will be interviewed separately by reporters from each of the three major television outlets in Little Rock. Each interview will last 10 minutes.

The interview will be broadcast on the station's regular evening newscast the same day.

The PFC recommended these interviews.

B. Participants

KTHV-TV (CBS) - Bob Lawrence, anchorman of the 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. newscasts

KATV-TV (ABC) - Fred DeBrine, anchorman of the nightly newscasts

KARK-TV (NBC) - Gary Long, News Director; formerly State Capitol reporter



C. Press Plan

A White House transcript will be made. A White House photographer will take photos which will be autographed and sent to the participants as mementos of the occasion.

III. TALKING POINTS

- A. Short briefing book on the issues of special interest in Arkansas and Little Rock will be given to you for review before the interviews.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR: Mr President

FROM : RON NESSEN

The latest
returns,

RHN

May 19

MICHIGAN - 96% of vote counted

The President:	65%	723,038
Reagan:	34%	345,541

MARYLAND - Final Talley

The President:	58%	94,784
Reagan:	42%	68,916

May 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Here is a briefing book containing guidance on issues of special interest in Kentucky for your news conference Thursday with representatives of Kentucky newspapers, television stations and radio stations.

Attachment:

Briefing Book

RN/jb



May 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

The newspapers you requested from Detroit, covering your Michigan primary victory, will arrive at the airport at 7 p.m. tonight. They will be brought in and delivered to the Usher in the residence. He has instructions to bring them to you when they arrive. You should be receiving them in your residence early this evening.


RN/jb



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR RON NESSEN

FROM: LARRY SPEAKES 
SUBJECT: DETROIT NEWSPAPERS

The Detroit newspapers will be in at National Airport at 7:07 p.m. We have arranged for a driver to pick them up and deliver them to the Usher's Office with instructions that they be given to the President this evening.

You might want to send a note to the President advising him of this arrangement.

May 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a briefing book on Tennessee containing guidance and Q & A's on issues of special interest in that State for use in preparation for your news conference with Tennessee newspapers, radio and television stations on Friday.

We can discuss in the morning before the news conference the latest developments and the best position to take on the busing issue.

Attachment:

Briefing Book

RN/jb



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PRESS CONFERENCE FOR KENTUCKY MEDIA

Thursday, May 20, 1976
10:30 a.m. (60 minutes)
The State Dining Room

From: Ron Nessen *RHN*
Margita White

I. PURPOSE

To take questions from representatives of Kentucky newspapers and television and radio stations.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Because your schedule did not permit extensive travel to Kentucky and the granting of press interviews there, we responded to the numerous interview invitations from Kentucky by inviting media from throughout the state to the White House. Invitations were extended to editors of all daily newspapers, three weekly news representatives recommended by the Kentucky Press Association and the news directors of all TV stations and radio stations in the larger markets.

Following the press conference with you and time for filing and individual luncheon plans, the Kentucky media will attend an afternoon briefing by Don Rumsfeld, Alan Greenspan and Jim Lynn.

B. Participants: The attendance list of 51 is attached at Tab A. It includes representatives from 17 newspapers, 9 television stations and 6 radio stations. Among the newspapers is the Kentucky Kernel, the University of Kentucky paper which is the fourth largest daily in the state.

Staff Participants: Ron Nessen, Margita White and Bob Mead.

- C. Press Plan: There will be open and full coverage for the participants, including television. A transcript will be made available later to the White House Press Corps. Photographs will be taken by the participants, the wire service photographers and the White House photographer.

III. TALKING POINTS

- A. The participants will be having coffee at the north end of the State Dining Room as you arrive to mingle informally for 5-10 minutes prior to the press conference.
- B. You will open the Q&A session by moving to the podium by the windows at 10:45 a.m.
- C. No opening statement is necessary. However, you may wish to say something along the following lines:

Welcome to the White House. I wish time might have permitted me to travel more extensively in Kentucky and to respond individually to each of the many interview requests for the Kentucky media. Since the responsibilities of the Presidency have required that I spend most of my time here in Washington and that I confine mostly to weekends my travel to the primary states (I have entered all 30, incidentally), I have not had the opportunity to travel extensively in Kentucky. Therefore, I am gratified that so many of you have taken the time and trouble to join me here today.

- D. The press conference will conclude when one of the newsmen says "Thank you Mr. President" at 11:30 a.m.
- E. A Kentucky briefing book has been prepared for you.



May 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

I thought you would like to see how the Holland Evening Sentinel covered your visit in it's Monday's edition. No wonder you won so big in Holland!

I have written a thank-you note to the editor.

Attachment:

Holland Evening Sentinel

RN/jb



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DICK CHENEY

FROM: RON NESSEN *RNA*

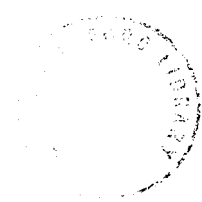
Attached are draft answers provided by Bob Goldwin to a series of questions from the National Journal concerning your views on the powers of the Presidency in the wake of Watergate and Vietnam.

As you see, the questions are similar to those submitted recently on the same subject by Phil Shabecoff of the New York Times. As you recall, Bob Goldwin also drafted answers to those questions, which you approved, and which the New York Times subsequently published.

When you have the time, I'd appreciate your reviewing these draft answers and revising them to reflect your views. I will then have them retyped and sent to the National Journal.

Attachment:

National Journal questions and responses



5/21

Goldwin

National Journal Questions

1. Q. Have the Presidency and the powers of the President been significantly altered in the post-Watergate period (as a result of Vietnam, the civil rights disturbances of the 1960s, the Watergate scandal and disclosures of other governmental improprieties and the Nixon resignation)?

A. There has been no substantial change in the basic powers of the Presidency. The powers to execute the laws and to make appointments are, for instance, largely unimpaired--and the veto power is obviously, still available for effective use. But there can be no doubt that Vietnam, Watergate, and the present two-to-one Democratic majority in Congress affect, at least temporarily, the influence of the presidency. The President is the only member of the government elected by all the people. Anyone--Gerald Ford or anyone else--who becomes President by a constitutional process, rather than by a nationwide election, must naturally expect to find some unusual obstacles placed in the way of his exercise of authority until he has been elected in his own right.

Since assuming office in August 1974, I have made significant progress in restoring trust in the Presidency. My Administration is more open, diverse, and consultative. There is increased access. Cabinet officers have more responsibility for formulating policy and for running their own Departments. And the Administration has tried to observe constitutional and legal restraints to the letter. We are, I am convinced, well on the way to restoring the full confidence of the American people in the Presidency.

2. Q. Assuming there have been changes, do you believe they are of a lasting or transitory nature?

A. Every President puts his own stamp on the Presidency. It is the most personal office in our government. The character and working style of the President strongly influence his conduct of his office. But most of the changes I have made will last as long as I am, or some future incumbent is responsive to the people and energetic in leadership,

capable of sustained thought and action, and aware of the place of the presidency in a balanced constitution--that is, considerate of the proper role of the Congress and the courts.

Congress has recently made some unwise changes in constitutional balance, which harm the nation by trying to limit presidential authority. These changes will not endure because the good sense of the American people, and of an increasing number of members of Congress, will soon swing the pendulum away from congressional curtailment of constitutional and essential Presidential powers.

3. Q. The conventional view is that Congress is bent on reasserting its authority; is it? And how?

A. After recent events, and more than forty years of fairly steady growth of executive power, some congressional self-assertion was to be expected. It is natural for Congress to attempt to assert influence over foreign and domestic policy. But Congress is not now simply reasserting lost authority. It is engaged in an unprecedented effort to direct, in detail, through prior restrictions and after-the-fact legislative "vetoes," the execution of our foreign policy. This is a confusion of executive and legislative roles which is harmful and dangerous while it lasts, but it will not last.

There is a built-in tension in our political system between the Congress and the Executive. Throughout our history the pendulum has swung back and forth, correcting the imbalance whenever excessive power develops in either branch. Sometimes, and the present situation is unfortunately an example, the pendulum swings too far the other way. In its recent efforts to correct Executive abuses, the Congress has made inroads on the executive power. But, as I have said, the good sense of the people and of many Members of Congress will correct this new imbalance.

4. Q. If it is, how has this affected your Presidency and the course of your proposed policies?

A. It is difficult to conduct a consistent foreign policy that serves the long-run interests of the nation when the Congress involves itself in the daily conduct of foreign affairs. Recent Congressional involvement


with assistance to Angola, sales to Turkey, Soviet emigration and trade, and legitimate foreign intelligence activities all worked out very badly and illustrate that everyone loses when Congress begins to encroach on executive powers and limits too narrowly executive discretion. Executive steadiness and flexibility are undermined. Partial interests influence policy at the expense of the public interest. And Congress is able to devote less attention to the many important matters for which it has primary responsibility.

5. Q. More specifically, do you think the War Powers Act and the establishment of the congressional budget committees inhibit or restrain presidential action or have any impact at all?

A. I have reservations about any effort to manage by detailed legislation, rather than by traditional political restraints, the relations of the President and the Congress in matters of war and peace. Clearly something had to be done to check Congress' propensity to spend without measuring one program against another, against an overall budget, or against revenues. The Budget Act has brought these considerations to the attention of the Congress. Will it help to give more coherence and restraint to the difficult budget decisions Congress will have to make later this year? Will the War Powers Act restrain Presidents from making ill-considered commitments which lack sustained public support as hoped, or will it, rather, cause our policy to be timid, hesitant, and erratic when it should be bold, decisive, and consistent? It is too soon to tell, in my opinion. The unintended and unforeseen consequences of legislation are often the most important.

6. Q. Can Congress realistically compete with the White House in the formulation and promotion of public policy?

A. When there is a strong public consensus for a new initiative, or when the nation is sharply divided over some clear public issue, the Congress can play a significant part in formulating or changing public policy. Most of the time, however, the Congress reacts to Presidential initiatives. Focused energy is at hand in the White House, under the Constitution, and this gives impetus and direction to our policy-making process.



7. Q. Do you think the anti-Washington theme underscored by some presidential candidates is a legitimate issue? If not, why not?

A. Experience is the best teacher--for people who are good learners. I try to benefit from experience, not become its prisoner. In the primary campaigns, the anti-Washington theme has been associated with the mistaken notion that experience and intimate knowledge of the Federal government are not assets for a President. This is nonsense. A President who does not know the workings of the machinery of government will be ineffective until he learns its intricacies.


When criticism of defects of government get transformed into anti-government talk, they go too far. Under our system of liberty, government exists to secure our most important rights. We shouldn't talk of it as something loathsome, but as one of our most valuable national treasures.

We know that government can be too strong for the liberties of the people. But liberty is also in danger when government has too little power. A government that is indecisive, flounders in bureaucratic confusion, and does not enforce its own laws, is too weak to protect the rights of citizens or to provide a strong defense against foreign dangers.

8. Q. How does it differ, if it does, from your criticism of "big government"?

A. There is no doubt that the Federal Government has grown too big in its reach and interferes in many things that are not its business. We need to restore the proper limits of government by reducing the inflated expectations of what can be accomplished by government spending and government regulation.

Rather than running against Washington, I have run in favor of positive policies designed to reduce the growth of government spending and regulation, and protect and enhance liberty at home and abroad. I have spoken of the specific abuses by the Federal Government which endanger liberty and have proposed realistic programs, such as deregulation, block grants, and budgetary restraint. You have a better chance of getting rid of abuses and strengthening the beneficial powers of government to protect our liberty if you know how the government works.



May 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a completely revised briefing book for the many Q & A sessions you will have on the trip to California.

It contains details of the Ford and Reagan campaigns in the State, extensive guidance on specific local issues, sections with general domestic and foreign policy questions and answers, and a breakdown of Revenue Sharing grants to California.

I will keep this book updated as you go through the California trip.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



RN/jb

May 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a briefing book on issues of special interest in Oregon, so that you may prepare for your numerous press Q & A sessions there.

In the back of the book is a brief section on Nevada, since there may be an opportunity for one brief television interview during your stop in Las Vegas.

An Ohio briefing book is being prepared. I will get it to you in time for you to study it before the stop in Columbus next Wednesday.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



RN/jb

May 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DICK CHENEY

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached are draft answers provided by Bob Goldwin to a series of questions from the National Journal concerning your views on the powers of the Presidency in the wake of Watergate and Vietnam.

As you see, the questions are similar to those submitted recently on the same subject by Phil Shabecoff of the New York Times. As you recall, Bob Goldwin also drafted answers to those questions, which you approved, and which the New York Times subsequently published.

When you have the time, I'd appreciate your reviewing these draft answers and revising them to reflect your views. I will then have them retyped and sent to the National Journal.

Attachment:

National Journal questions and responses

RN/jb



May 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

I thought you would be interested in these brochures which were produced and distributed by radio station KFIZ in Fond Du Lac depicting your campaign stop there.

It's quite a memorable production!

I have written a thank-you note to the station on your behalf.

Attachment:

President Ford brochures

RN/jb



May 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here are two short briefing books to help you prepare for your interviews on Friday with (1) Rhode Island newspapers and broadcasters; and (2) for the interview with the Newhouse Newspapers, whose major publications are in New Jersey and Ohio.

If there are any late developments, I will bring you up to date before the interviews.

Attachments:

Briefing Books



RN/jb

May 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is some late briefing material in preparation for your interview this afternoon with the Newhouse Newspapers. It includes:

- (1) Some detailed information on your campaign organization in New Jersey and the Reagan campaign organization. Tom Keen, the chairman of the PFC in New Jersey, indicates that Fred Hillman of the Newark Star-Ledger, one of the interviewers today, will ask about these subjects.**
- (2) Up-dated information concerning your decisions on the Portsmouth, Ohio uranium plant. Newhouse has newspapers serving both Portsmouth, Ohio and Delfhan, Alabama, the location of a proposed private uranium enrichment plant.**

Attachments:

Briefing papers



May 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a special primary election edition distributed in Michigan by John McGoff's Panax papers on the day before the primary.

It is a very impressive presentation and must have had an impact on the voting.

I have written a letter of thanks to John McGoff on your behalf.

Attachment:

Panax Paper



RN/jb

June 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a Q & A briefing book for your news conference Wednesday with a group of newspaper, radio and television reporters from New Jersey.

It is a very large group and consequently could cover quite a broad range of questions. For instance, we know for certain that the reporter from the Bergen Record will ask you about the PATH mass transit system and Route I-287. These questions and suggested answers are covered in this briefing book.

We have also learned that you will be asked questions about ethnic purity and the role of the Federal Government, if any, in opening the suburbs to blacks.

This briefing book does not contain any guidance on more general domestic and foreign policy questions, since you are well prepared for these because of your many recent interviews.

I will bring you up to date on any last minute developments before the New Jersey news conference.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



June 4, 1976

Mr. President:

Here is the remainder of the guidance for your "Face the Nation" taping tomorrow. Hopefully you will be able to meet with some of us in the morning for a brief discussion of the program before going to the taping.

I also am attaching for your possible interest:

1. Wire copy of the AP interview which will be published Sunday. (I'm sorry it's hard to read.)
2. A Lake Placid, New York newspaper containing two extensive stories about Mike Ford's recent mountain climbing mishap.

Finally, some good news: Tom Vail just phoned to say that the Cleveland Plain Dealer will endorse you in an editorial Sunday, the first time the paper has ever endorsed a candidate in a primary. I told him you would thank him in person on Sunday.

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

June 4, 1976

Mr. President:

Here is the remainder of the guidance for your "Face the Nation" taping tomorrow. Hopefully you will be able to meet with some of us in the morning for a brief discussion of the program before going to the taping.

I also am attaching for your possible interest:

1. Wire copy of the AP interview which will be published Sunday. (I'm sorry it's hard to read.)
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Finally, some good news: Tom Vail just phoned to say that the Cleveland Plain Dealer will endorse you in an editorial Sunday, the first time the paper has ever endorsed a candidate in a primary. I told him you would thank him in person on Sunday.

Ron Nessen



S W eevzyvayv

BC-Ford Interview, Adv 06, 7 takes, 480-2,820

\$Adv 06

For Release Sun, June 6

By FRANK C&

AND

WALTER R. MEARS

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON AP - President Ford says "guerrilla warfare would be almost inevitable" if the United States were to follow Ronald Reagan's Panama Canal policy.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Ford said Reagan's presidential challenge has not led the administration to slow negotiations with Panama on the future status of the canal.

Reagan has said that as President, he would not permit negotiations predicated on any yielding of U.S. sovereignty over the canal and its zone.

Nor, said Ford, has there been any campaign-inspired slowdown in strategic arms limitation talks, which also have stirred Reagan criticism.

However, the President said he could not forecast when there would be settlements with the Soviet Union on new arms limitations, or with Panama on the canal.

Ford said administration policy in dealing with the Soviet Union has not been altered by his repudiation of the word "detente." He said the effort to relax tensions is continuing and "we are making headway."

The President said he has said nothing in the campaign that would destroy the unity of the Republican party once a nominee is chosen. He said he expects to win the nomination, and therefore has not considered the possibility of campaigning for a Reagan ticket in the fall.

He also said he has not excluded any Republican, including Reagan, as a vice presidential possibility.

Here is a partial transcript of the interviews:

Q: Mr. President, last August I asked you if there was a danger that Ronald Reagan would push you to the right politically and cause you to have trouble with the Democratic nominee come the national election. Now your Vice President, Nelson Rockefeller, says he thinks you are at or near the point where you would have trouble reclaiming the middle of the road. I wonder how you feel about that.

A: Basically, I have not changed my policies. We have kept the Ford administration in the middle of the road. I have done it because I thought it was right and I believe that after Kansas City I will be able to appeal to the moderate Democrats, the independents as well as the Republicans. There has been no program change. There has been no philosophical change, and therefore, I think I am more electable on Nov. 2 than any other Republican.

Q: You don't feel you really budged at all?

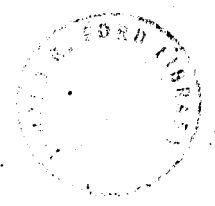
A: Not at all.

Q: In things like dropping the word detente?

A: The dropping of a word has not changed the process. The process is one of trying to relax tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States by negotiation rather than confrontation. The net result has been that we are making headway.

More

2117pED 06-08



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S W cevuivczc

BO-Ford Interview, Adv 06, 1st add, 470

\$Adv 06

For release Sun, June 6

WASHINGTON: making headway.

Q: Will the strategic arms limitation talks be going ahead with the usual momentum in spite of the election year?

A: We are persevering in the very technical issues that are unsolved. They are technical. They are important. But we are continuing to negotiate in Geneva. We are continuing to exchange views with the Soviet Union at the highest level in order to try and put a cap on the procurement and deployment of additional nuclear weapons. There has not been any slowdown in the process. It is just that the issues have become very complicated and very complex.

Q: Is there any hope that you could reach agreement before November?

A: It is a possibility, but I would not want to forecast that it would take place.

Q: What about the Panama negotiations? Are they proceeding? Have they been slowed by what is going on in the campaign?

A: I don't believe they have been slowed down at all. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker is continuing to negotiate. This has been a long, slow process. They began in 1965 so that it has been an 11-year negotiation so far, and I expect them to continue.

Q: . . . Is a settlement in sight?

A: There are still some very controversial issues unresolved.

Q: Do you think if Reagan's position on Panama were followed, there would be a war there?

A: As I understand his position, which is to break off negotiations, on the effect of breaking off negotiations, it could trigger some additional riots such as we had in 1964. When you have additional riots like the one in 1964, one can't forecast what might happen. I think this brings up a very fundamental point. The Ford administration has sought on every occasion to negotiate rather than to actually confront. We have not overreacted to situations such as Panama, such as in Rhodesia. It is my understanding that my comment has made some statements that I think overreact to a speculative situation. The Ford administration has consistently taken the position that we will negotiate. We will at all times of course use force to protect American lives and to protect American interests. We would use force as a last resort, and the net result is we have been able to avoid confrontation and the consequence is the United States is at peace today and our national interests have been protected at the same time.

More

2129pED 06-03

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s w eevulvzv

BC-Ford Interview, Adv 06, 2nd add, 470

\$Adv 06

For Release Sun, June 6

WASHINGTON: same time.

Q: On Panama, is there some danger that if Reagan's policies were followed, as you understand them, that we might not have a war but a guerrilla situation such as in Vietnam perhaps?

A: All of the experts tell me that if we were to break off negotiations, which is the implication of my opponent's policies, that guerrilla warfare would almost be inevitable.

Q: What about Governor Reagan's latest statements on Rhodesia? He seems to be suggesting that under some circumstances he might be willing to send a token military force over there to show the flag and prevent bloodshed. Would you give consideration to sending the military in?

A: I would not because it is not necessary. The United States' policies should not be one to intervene in that kind of a situation. As I was saying a moment ago, I will always, as President, protect the lives of Americans and protect our interests by the use of force, but that is the last resort. It is not something that we should speculate about prior to any problem arising. If you use diplomacy and use it wisely and effectively, you don't have to use force, as some people have indicated, when problems arise. I see no possibility of intervention of the United States with force in Southern Africa.

Reagan said Thursday the United States and Great Britain might consider offering to serve as mediators for an orderly transition to black majority rule in Rhodesia. He had said Wednesday that he might consider sending a token force of U.S. troops to Rhodesia if the government sought help to prevent bloodshed. He said Thursday "I made a mistake in trying to answer a hypothetical question with a .. hypothetical answer..."

Q: Reagan has said the Soviet Union is in a position to be more truculent and aggressive because U.S. military strength has declined

A: I see no evidence, other than in Angola where it could have been prevented, of the Soviet Union moving aggressively. They certainly have not done so in the Middle East. The United States, because of our strength and our diplomatic skill and the trust that we have with both the Israelis on the one hand and the Arabs on the other, has been a forceful element in bringing peace to the Middle East and moving ahead on a step-by-step basis for peace in that area of the world. The Soviet Union is really not involved. As a matter of fact, Sadat has severed his military and economic relations with the Soviet Union.

So we have the constructive force, the effective force in the Middle East, probably the most volatile area of the world, and the Soviet Union is very non-aggressive in that part of the world.

More

2128pED 06-03

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S W esvuvbyl

BC-Ford Interview, adv 06, 3rd add, 340

\$adv 06

For release Sun, June 8

WASHINGTON: the world.

Q: Did past congressional cuts put us in anything like the position Reagan talks about? Are we still the strongest military power?

A: Every military official that I depend on believes that the United States has the military capability to carry out any assigned mission. The cuts imposed by the Congress over the last ten years, if those cuts continue, would put us in somewhat of an equivocal situation, not this year but in the future years. That is why I submitted the two highest defense budgets last year and this year, and if the Congress goes along . . . we will have military capability to carry out our missions, protect our interests, and meet any challenges.

Q: You have just announced an economic summit meeting for June. Isn't that a pretty fortunate moment for that to happen politically?

A: The summit meeting was initiated, as far as we were concerned last March because the circumstances that we foresaw required that the major industrial nations get together to anticipate any crisis that might develop . . .

In other words, we don't want the recovery to develop any unhealthy aspects, and if we meet, resolve our differences, work together, I am convinced that we can keep the momentum moving ahead.

Now this is what we planned on when we were at Rambouillet, that we would meet periodically and we are meeting in June because we want to avoid any problems in the future.

Q: Reagan says our domestic economic recovery is suspect and in 1977 we are going to be facing or likely to face an increased inflation rate . . .

A: That allegation is political rhetoric. I have talked to a number of leading economists, the experts - and this included those across the political spectrum in this area - and all of them agree that our economy or economic recovery is healthy and that it is going to continue.

MORE

2144PED 06-03



BC-Ford Interview, Adv 06, 4th add, 440
Adv 06

For Release Sun, June 6
WASHINGTON: to continue.

Q: Mr. President, you mentioned back in New Hampshire that the administration was considering a welfare reform program that was based on the family assistance plan. Is that still a live project and when will there be a proposal?

A: We have continual studies going on in the various departments on how we can improve the welfare system. We have those that believe you can just tighten up the existing program and we have those that believe we ought to junk the present welfare program and come up with something comparable to the family assistance program. Those options will be presented to me early this fall and I will make a decision. We have to do something to eliminate the current welfare abuses. At the same time, we have to make certain and positive that those who are in need are taken care of. But one of two approaches will be recommended by me in 1977.

Q: The Reagan approach would be, he says, to shift the welfare program back to the states along with tax resources to pay for it. Is that an option that the administration will be considering?

A: The federal government can be the leader in achieving welfare reform. I think we have to be a participant. I don't think you can dump the entire welfare program back on the cities, counties and states. I have not seen any identification from his proposal as to what resources he would turn back to the states. It seems to me the federal government is in a better position to bring about national welfare reform than having 50 different welfare programs in 50 different states.

Q: Speaking of some options - closer in - the school busing legislation. I know you have made a final decision but would it be your hope that this legislation would be drafted in a way that it might pave the way for a reconsideration or revision of past court busing orders?

Q: That is an option that is being analyzed by the Department of Justice and will be submitted to me. No final decision has been made.

Q: You would not care to say whether you would like to see some mechanism for that . . .

A: I would hope that the cases of the past would have resolved the reasons for the initiation of the cases in the first place. That was the intent of the court action. At this point I don't believe it is wise for me to make any commitment one way or the other in that direction.

MORE
2154pED 06-08

a744

S W esvniuliv

BC-Ford Interview, Adv 06, 5th add, 390
\$adv 06

For release Sun, June 6

WASHINGTON: that direction.

Q: With the California primary coming up, a national committeeman out there who is supporting you has been telling people that Reagan is very much alive as a vice presidential prospect and certainly will be considered. Will he be?

A: I have not excluded anybody in the Republican party as a potential vice presidential running mate. We have a number of outstanding Republican potentials. That includes former governors, it includes present members of the Congress, it includes present governors in Republican ranks. Some people, by their words, have indicated they did not want to be considered, but as far as I am concerned, I exclude nobody.

Q: Would Reagan strengthen the Ford ticket?

A: I have heard individuals argue that it would. But I don't want to make any commitment at this point as to any individual.

Q: Are you excluding the incumbent vice president.

A: I said I excluded nobody.

Q: Mr. President, the Republican party has been a pretty traditional establishment in which an incumbent usually gets his nomination for the asking. Why do you think you are having so much of a fight on your hands this year to get the nomination?

A: My opponent is very articulate, he is a good campaigner. He has been able to campaign 100 per cent of the time. I have had to devote the major share of my time, obviously, to the job of being President. So, he has had the opportunity to travel extensively, speak extensively and to campaign 100 per cent. This is a handicap as far as I think in these primaries, where we have met head to head.

Q: What would be your role in the campaign should Reagan be the nominee?

A: I have said repeatedly that I have always supported the Republican candidate, the Republican nominee, and I would do so.

Q: Would you do so actively?

A: I have not thought about it because I don't think that is going to be the development that will take place in Kansas City.

Q: Do you think Reagan can win the election?

MORE

2205pED 06-03

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S W eevivwyf

BC-Ford Interview, Adv 06, 6th add, 230

Adv 6

For release Sun, June 6

WASHINGTON: the election?

A: I would put it affirmatively. I am positive that I am the best Republican candidate to win the election in 1976. I am the best Republican candidate to elect more House and Senate members to the Congress. I am the best candidate to help build the party by electing more state legislators and local officials. I am told in my many contacts with candidates around the country, including incumbent Republicans in the Congress, that my candidacy in the November election will be very helpful in their own re-election or election prospects.

Q: Reagan . . . used to talk about the eleventh commandment, that the Republicans should not say bad things about each other . . . in the primaries. I asked him whether this had now reached a point at which it was helping the Democrats, providing them with ammunition for the fall, to which his response was it was all your fault because you started talking about him.

A: I think the record will show that I have, to a very minimum degree, commented on his record or his programs. I have overwhelmingly talked affirmatively about what this administration has done. I don't think anything I have said would destroy the unity of the Republican party after the Kansas City convention.

End Adv for Sunday, June 6, Sent June 3
2209pED 06-03

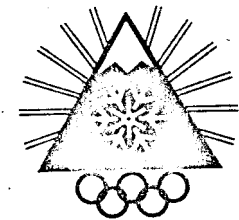


to 2011

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Rt. 1000 - ENG
30 ROCKY MOUNTAIN PLAZA
N.Y., N.Y. 10020

ilmington, Keene and Jay News

The Lake Placid News



Vol. LXXI No. 21

20¢

Thursday, May 27, 1976

Established in 1905

President's Son Finds Mountain No Easy Street

By GARY SPENCER

AT SIX O'CLOCK THURSDAY MORNING, they were informed by radio that communication officers would try to reach them. The two groups met on

aining

...Seminary, where Michael—who rarely is in the public
(Continued on page 9)

A Time for Testing

By MELISSA HALE

For the leader of the Gordon Cornwell Seminary expedition, President Ford's son Michael was just one of a group of Christian students leaving for a

experience in which each student stays alone in the woods.

The party was to leave Adirondak Loj, bushwack up and over Street Mountain, across

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thursday, June 3, 1976

12:30 p.m. (30 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen

RHN

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by two reporters from the Associated Press for publication in newspapers this coming Sunday.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

The Associated Press requested the opportunity to interview you this week for publication in newspapers all over the country this coming Sunday, two days before the important primaries in California, Ohio and New Jersey. The Associated Press plans to send to its newspapers a story based on the interview, as well as the full Q & A transcript for publication on Sunday. We judge this to be an excellent opportunity for you to explain your views on major issues just before the last three primaries.

The Associated Press has already interviewed Ronald Reagan and will send its newspapers a separate story and transcript on that interview, also to be published Sunday.

The interview with you will be conducted by Frank Cormier, long-time AP White House correspondent, and Walter Mears, AP's political reporter who also conducted the Reagan interview.

Obviously, the primary focus of attention will be on political issues. I also expect questions on major policy matters, such as busing and the Puerto Rican economic summit meeting.



B. Participants

The President
Frank Cormier
Walter Mears
Ron Nessen

C. Press Plan

The interview will be acknowledged. A White House transcript will be made for distribution when requested after publication. An Associated Press photographer will be present. A White House photographer will also take pictures to be autographed by the President and sent to the participants later as a memento of the occasion.

III. TALKING POINTS

You are well briefed as a result of your several recent interviews. I will bring you up to date on any last-minute developments before the interview.

The Associated Press plans to move the story and transcript of its Reagan interview on the wires tonight. I will give you a copy of the Reagan interview in time to read before your own interview.



ELECTION RESULTS - June 8 primaries

California

90% of the vote

Reagan	1,374,294	65%	167 delegates
President	727,005	35%	0 delegates

Ohio

90% of the vote

President	471,582	55%	91 delegates
Reagan	380,784	45%	6 delegates

New Jersey

90% of the vote

No preferential contest

President (uncommitted)	67 delegates
Reagan	0 delegates



June 9, 1976

June 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a briefing book for your filmed interview with the National Education Association on Friday.

The NEA is filming interviews with all the presidential candidates for showing at the Association's convention three weeks from now.

The NEA submitted its questions to the White House in advance. The answers in this book have been provided by your staff.

It is clear that your position on several major issues does not agree with the official policy of the NEA. It is suggested that you express sympathy and understanding for the NEA goals but point out that limitations of money and proper governmental roles preclude supporting every NEA request.

It is also suggested that you say as little as possible about busing. Since this tape will not be shown for three weeks, you may make some decisions on legislative proposals in the meanwhile which could outdate any taped comments in the interview.

NEA members prefer to be called "teachers" rather than "educators."

I have included at the back of this briefing book a copy of remarks you made to the NEA board on May 2, 1976.

Attachment



July 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a briefing book for your interview Friday with the Desert News of Salt Lake City.

There are several additional questions which we have learned will be included in the interview. We are in the process of preparing the answers, and I will send them in to you later today.

Attachment:

Briefing Book

RN/jb



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW BY GORDON E. WHITE

Friday, July 9, 1976
2:00 p.m. (20 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen **RHN**
Margita White

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by Gordon E. White, Washington Correspondent for the Salt Lake City Deseret News.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: The President Ford Committee recommended an interview with the Salt Lake City Deseret News prior to the Utah Republican Convention on July 16-17. The Deseret News is the Mormon daily in Salt Lake City and has an evening circulation of 71,000.

Gordon White, the Washington correspondent for the paper, requested the interview. He was informed by Senator Jake Garn's office that the Senator also proposed such an interview during his recent meeting with you.

- B. Participants: Gordon E. White, Ron Nessen and Margita White.
- C. Press Plan: White plans stories on the interview for the Saturday Deseret News (there is no Sunday paper and the following week's news will be the Democratic Convention). One of the wire photographers will take photos at the beginning of the interview. Official White House photos will be taken and an autographed photograph will be sent to White.



III. TALKING POINTS

Gordon White is expected to pursue questioning on the following subjects: Title IX and its application to Brigham Young University; the President's political strength in the western and mountain states vis-a-vis Reagan's; the Coal Mine Leasing legislation; the need for Federal payments to Utah in lieu of taxes for Federal lands; the Clean Air Act amendments; oil shale development; the diminishing emphasis in the Defense Budget on manpower; and the future of Minuteman production.

A briefing book has been prepared for you which includes material on these subjects and others.



July 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is your briefing book for your interview Tuesday with Robert Case of the Waterloo Courier. Case will concentrate on local and regional Iowa issues and so the briefing book concentrates on those questions.

This interview was recommended by Governor Ray of Iowa. You probably remember Case from his years on Capitol Hill as Administrative Assistant to Congressman H.R. Gross.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



July 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is your briefing book for your interview Tuesday with Robert Case of the Waterloo Courier. Case will concentrate on local and regional Iowa issues and so the briefing book concentrates on these questions.

This interview was recommended by Governor Ray of Iowa. You probably remember Case from his years on Capitol Hill as Administrative Assistant to Congressman H.R. Gross.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



July 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

I thought you might enjoy seeing the Plattsburgh, New York, Press-Republican coverage of your recent visit there to bid the Olympic team goodbye before it left for Canada.

I have written a thank-you letter in your behalf to the publisher of the newspaper.

Attachment:

Plattsburgh Press-Republican



RN/jb

July 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a briefing book for your interview tomorrow with the Reader's Digest. This interview was recommended and arranged by Melvin Laird.

The initial section of this briefing book contains the background paper on the publication plans and interviewers. Then, there are suggested answers to the 24 questions submitted in advance by Reader's Digest.

The final section of this book consists of Jimmy Carter's views on the same 24 issues, which will be published in the same issue of Reader's Digest as yours.

Attachment:

Briefing Book



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH THE READER'S DIGEST

Thursday, July 22, 1976

11:30 a.m. (60 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen

Margita White

RHA

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by a panel of four representatives of The Reader's Digest for an in-depth feature on the views of the Republican and Democratic Presidential nominees to appear in the October 1976 issue.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: The invitation to you to participate in this interview was extended by Editor-in-Chief Edward T. Thompson and endorsed by Melvin Laird. Invitations also were extended to Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan (the latter because the interviews will have been edited and readied for publication prior to the Republican Convention).

Identical questions on key domestic and foreign policy issues will be asked each candidate.

- B. Participants: Edward T. Thompson, Editor-in-Chief
Kenneth O. Gilmore, Managing Editor
William Schulz, Washington Editor
Jeremy Dole, Assistant Managing Editor

Staff Participant: Ron Nessen



- C. Press Plan: Your answers will be edited for space, with perhaps 15 major issues covered in the published interviews. Your answers will be returned to you prior to publication and you will be free to make changes should you feel The Reader's Digest has altered the context of your replies in editing.

White House photographs will be taken.

III. TALKING POINTS

A briefing book has been prepared for you which incorporates information from The Reader's Digest concerning the issues to be covered in the interview.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1976

COURTESY CALL BY MR. & MRS. BROKAW
Thursday, July 29, 1976
4:30 p.m. (5 minutes)
THE OVAL OFFICE

From: Ron Nessen

RHN

I. PURPOSE

To bid goodbye to Tom Brokaw, and his wife, Meredith, and to wish Tom well in his new assignment.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Tom Brokaw has been the White House Correspondent for NBC since June 1973. He is leaving his position here to become the host on the NBC Today Show.

B. Participants

Tom Brokaw - NBC White House Correspondent
Meredith Brokaw - wife of Correspondent
Ron Nessen - Press Secretary

C. Press Plan

White House photograph to be autographed and sent to Tom Brokaw.

III. TALKING POINTS

No formal remarks are required. You will just want to wish Tom well in his new endeavor.

(He will be moving away from the Washington area and will be living from now on in New York City.)

Tom has been traveling around the country a good deal covering politics. You might want to ask him some of his observations.