

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Henry Cabot Lodge
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, April 21, 1975
5:30 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office



Lodge: I want to help in your campaign with people, etc. and I want to know who to talk to. You are so busy and I think you should make your thinking clear and you don't have time.

The President: Under the new law, you can't really run a campaign from the White House. Bob [Hartmann] and Jack [Marsh] handle day to day politics -- with Congress and the state and local party groups.

The group which runs the pre-campaign has to be outside the White House. I asked Rumsfeld to get with Mortin and the Vice President's people to get time and schedule options, organization options, etc. We will be ready for decisions in a couple of weeks. Scranton will help and will do exploratory work in Pennsylvania. Dick Herman is doing some in _____. There is some more in Colorado. Within two weeks we will have more things worked out. In the meantime, you can talk with Rumsfeld on the campaign and Hartmann on a day-to-day basis.

Lodge: What about questions like Democrats for Ford?

The President: That would be Don.

Lodge: Eisenhower always had a group who could answer the political questions which came up. If you have that, I am not needed.

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NSC MEMO, MAR 26, 1975, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 2/8/04
BY 1/11, NARA, DATE 5/14/04

The President: We do need it, but outside the White House. Under the law and the current situation, it makes it impossible.

Lodge: My assessment of the situation is your actions come through well, but your interest in the consumer and the unemployed come through. As with Eisenhower, we could have meetings with the unemployed to get the word out without publicity.

The President: We do have image problems.

Lodge: You could discuss our good public service law with some labor people.

The last point: Your visiting Europe. Can you have an audience with the Pope? This would be a good time because it's not close to any elections.

The President: We will look into it.

Lodge: Nixon got more Catholic votes than Eisenhower. My role has not caused any flak at all. My title is lower case and I get no salary. I have a Chancery, though, and a charge. One thing you could do is make my envoy titled an Ambassador. The other would be to make it a full-time job.

The President: My only concern would be that with the present situation working so well, do we want to jeopardize it by changes which might make controversy?

Lodge: You might make soundings.

The President: Has the Pope given any indications?

Lodge: No. Cardinal Wright has indicated they would be pleased.

The President: We will check on it.

Lodge: Brent could call when you need an input for me. Thank you for continuing me on as an envoy. I promised to handle the nasty letters. There have been three in five years.



The President: We will look into it.

That was a good meeting yesterday. They were very polite about their differences. Also the spread of ages and people from all parts of the States.

Lodge: Ed Brooke has really taken hold. He is head of the party in Massachusetts and he is taking it seriously.

The President: The reception in Lexington and Concord, despite the background, was warm and friendly. I don't know how you capitalize on that.

I would never expect McCormack to support me against a Democrat, but having him along gets a few good words for me.



P; Army Carot hodge

21 Apr 75

5:30

L I want to help in your campaign w/ people, etc + B
want to know who & talk to. You are so busy
and I think you shall make your strategy clear
+ you don't have time

P Under a new law, you can't really run a
campaign for a WH. Here how are things,
Bob/ Jack handle day to day politics - w/ cong +
c states + local party groups.
These groups which run a pre campaign has to
be outside a WH. I ask Rums. to get w/ Westin
+ VP people to get time + schedule options, register
options, etc. We will be ready for discussion in
a couple of weeks. Secretary will help + doing
+ planning work in Pa. Dick Hernandez doing
same in —, some more in Cal.
w/in 2 weeks we will have more things
worked out. Meanwhile, you can ^{talk} work w/ Rums
on Campaign + Hartman on day to day

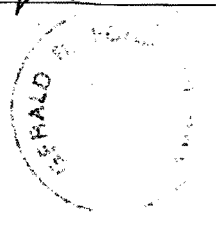
L Letter @ like Demos for Ford

P That would be Dan

L I'da change had ^{a group} ~~some~~ people who could answer
all of ^{potential} questions when it came up. If you have
~~the~~ that, I want it.

P We do need it, but outside WH, under court
constraint, makes it impossible

L My assessment of it is your actions come through
well, but your interest in a campaign + a
unemployed come through. As w/ Jhr, we could
have running strategy w/ unemployed + get



covered out the w/ that publicity

P We do have many pros.

L You could do it as a ^{good} public service loan w/ some other people.

Next point: You visiting E. We. Can you have Ambassador of Pope. This is a good time cause it is not due to election, ~~just will look into it.~~

P ←

L If you got more Catholic votes than the, they vote has not caused any flack at all. My title is lower case & I get no salary. I have a chancey tho & a change. One thing you could do is make my salary title an Ambassador. Other would be make it full time job.

P Any other concerns would be present sit working so well, & we want to jeopardize it by changes which might make embarrassing

L You might make soundings

P Has Pope given any indications

L No. Cardinal Wright has indicated they would be pleased

P We will check on it.

L Brent would call when you need an input for us.

Thank you for continuing me a ~~free~~ money.

I promised to ~~forward~~ ~~write~~ a variety letters. These books & in 5 yrs. we will

P We will talk into it

That was a good variety featuring. They were very polite about their dig - Also a spread of ages



and people from all parts of the state.

L Ed — has really taken hold. He is leading a party in Mass & he is taking it seriously.

P C Dwyer in Lax & Curran, despite a background, was ~~was~~ warm & friendly. Don't know how you capitalized on that.

I would never expect the Curran to support me against a democrat, but having him along gets a few good words for me.

Check w/ (Rennick
Hartman)

Marsh on Hill part
(Ambassador)

Visit to Vatican

