

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

VIA: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

Some time ago I mentioned to you a request from Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the investigative reporters of the Washington Post who developed the Watergate story, to interview you off-the-record for their forthcoming book on the last days of the Nixon Administration. They have talked to many of the personalities involved in those last days totally off-the-record and not for quotation or attribution. They would very much like to talk to you on this same basis to learn of your memories of those days. In the book none of what you tell them would be attributed to you by name.

The initial decision you made on this was not to do it.

Woodward and Bernstein are coming in to see me on Saturday to informally give me a progress report, at their request, on what they have learned in their research. They have already indicated to me that they have learned nothing which casts any doubt on your role in those last days as it has already been publicly reported.

I am not urging you to reconsider your earlier decision not to talk to Woodward and Bernstein, but their visit to me on Saturday gives you an opportunity to review these options.

_____ I don't want to see Woodward and Bernstein.

_____ You can bring them in for a short courtesy call while they are here on Saturday, but no interview.

_____ *RHN* You can bring them in to see me when they are here Saturday and I will answer their questions off-the-record for 30 minutes.

_____ I will do an off-the-record interview with Woodward and Bernstein but at a later date, not this Saturday.