

**The original documents are located in Box 38, folder “Personnel - Conflict of Interest, S-Z” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DICK CHENEY

FROM:

PHILIP BUCHEN

*P.W.B.*

On April 14, you sent me an anonymous memo concerning Arthur Sampson, Administrator, General Services Administration.

The substantive allegations all appear to involve matters already publicized in the newspapers (see the attached articles).

In response to the Washington Post article of March 14, Art Sampson wrote a letter to the President with copies to Don, Ron and me and I attach a copy for your review.

After you have reviewed this material, if you feel some action ought to be considered, I suggest we meet to discuss the subject.

Attachments

*Sampson,  
Arthur*  
*Conflict of  
Interest*  
*(See GSA  
Sampson)*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1974

*Personal*  
*Conflict of*  
*Interest*  
*see GSA*

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Sampson:

This is to acknowledge your October 1 letter to the President setting forth your views with respect to a series of matters within the purview of the Civil Service Commission.

As the cases in question, I understand, are currently under active consideration by the Commission, or, as to some, by the Justice Department, I do not believe it would be appropriate to discuss them further at this time. On your more general concerns, I trust that all possible efforts will be made between you or your representatives and those of the Commission to resolve whatever differences remain.

Sincerely,

*Philip W. Buchen*  
Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Honorable Arthur F. Sampson  
Administrator  
General Services Administration  
Washington, D. C. 20405



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1974

FOR: PHIL BUCHEN  
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *KL*  
SUBJECT: Proposed letter to Arthur Sampson,  
GSA.

Attached is a copy of Arthur Sampson's letter of October 1, 1974, to the President regarding the current dispute between GSA and the Civil Service Commission, and a proposed response for your signature.

Attachments

cc: Phil Areeda  
Bill Casselman





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 4, 1974

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Sampson:

This is to acknowledge your October 1 letter to the President setting forth your views with respect to a series of matters within the purview of the Civil Service Commission.

As these matters are currently under active consideration by the Commission, I do not believe it would be appropriate to discuss them further. I trust you appreciate my concern in this regard.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Honorable Arthur F. Sampson  
Administrator  
General Services Administration  
Washington, D. C. 20405





UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20405

**STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

ADMINISTRATOR

October 1, 1974

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I sincerely applaud your September 20, 1974, memorandum praising Federal civil servants and endorsing the merit system. GSA is a success today because it adhered to these principles.

There has been some publicity recently which tends to portray GSA as a "haven for political hacks" and implies that we have some sort of all-pervasive political patronage system.

I assure you this is not the case!!

We have had some problems. (As I am sure everyone does from time to time.) In this regard there are two things you should be aware of:

1. When the problems came to my attention, swift and effective action was taken to solve the problems.

2. The problems were very minor in scope.

We seem to be in the position of the 2000-man police force that is being condemned publicly because of two or three corrupt policemen.

Here are the facts:

- Civil Service Commission investigators examined some 3600 files covering a four and one-half year period. (These files we maintained to followup on congressional and other personnel referrals.)



- From these 3600 files, CSC identified 37 (1 percent) cases which they alleged were questionable.
- During this four and one-half year period GSA processed some 300,000 applications for jobs and hired over 40,000 employees.

Currently there is a great difference of opinion between GSA and CSC. We disagree strongly with CSC's proposed penalties (dismiss four employees and suspend four others) as being greatly disproportionate to the charges.

I have written a letter to Bob Hampton today asking for a meeting to reconcile our differences.

One final point, adherence to merit principles is a sound policy. But we must be wary of overly strict adherence which results in an inflexibility that is detrimental to effective performance by Departments and Agencies.

I am afraid that we have already reached this state of inflexibility and I would like to discuss this with you, if you so desire.

Respectfully,

(Signed) A. F. Sampson

**ARTHUR F. SAMPSON**  
Administrator

cc: Honorable Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld  
Assistant to the President





NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 01531

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . Donor restriction

TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . Memo(s)

CREATOR'S NAME . . . . . Buchen, Philip

RECEIVER'S NAME . . . . . Bennett, Doug

DESCRIPTION . . . . . Turner Shelton

CREATION DATE . . . . . 12/30/1975

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 001900424

COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . Philip W. Buchen Files

BOX NUMBER . . . . . 38

FOLDER TITLE . . . . . Personnel - Conflict of Interest, G-Z

DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . 08/26/1988

WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . LET



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 01532

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . Donor restriction

TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . Letter(s)

CREATOR'S NAME . . . . . Sibal, Abner W.

RECEIVER'S NAME . . . . . Buchen, Philip

DESCRIPTION . . . . . Tax records.

CREATION DATE . . . . . 05/22/1975

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 001900424

COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . Philip W. Buchen Files

BOX NUMBER . . . . . 38

FOLDER TITLE . . . . . Personnel - Conflict of Interest, G-Z

DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . 08/26/1988

WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . LET



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 01533

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . Donor restriction

TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . Memo(s)

CREATOR'S NAME . . . . . Silberman, Laurence H.

RECEIVER'S NAME . . . . . Buzhardt, J. Fred

DESCRIPTION . . . . . Personal data statement. With  
attachment.

CREATION DATE . . . . . 01/29/1974

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 001900424

COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . Philip W. Buchen Files

BOX NUMBER . . . . . 38

FOLDER TITLE . . . . . Personnel - Conflict of Interest, G-Z

DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . 08/26/1988

WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . LET



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 01534

REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL . . . . Donor restriction

TYPE OF MATERIAL . . . . . Notes

CREATOR'S NAME . . . . . Daughtrey, Eva

RECEIVER'S NAME . . . . . Buchen, Philip

DESCRIPTION . . . . . Louis Wyman

CREATION DATE . . . . . 07/14/1976

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 001900424

COLLECTION TITLE . . . . . Philip W. Buchen Files

BOX NUMBER . . . . . 38

FOLDER TITLE . . . . . Personnel - Conflict of Interest, G-Z

DATE WITHDRAWN . . . . . 08/26/1988

WITHDRAWING ARCHIVIST . . . . LET



Staebler  
Neal

Monday 3/17/75

2:40 Bob Lewis of Booth Newspapers said he heard of the nomination of Neal Staebler to the Federal Elections Commission; wanted to know if we were aware of a 15 million dollar slander suit growing out of last year's Democrat primary in Michigan.

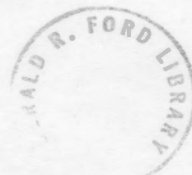
737-7770

Dawn checked the file and said on 2/28 Dudley sent a memo to Mr. Areeda concerning this matter, and Mr. Areeda sent it back for addition to the file.

Dawn said they haven't finished the security on him.

On March 7 you signed a waiver of clearance on him (see copy attached).

Will you want to return the call to Bob Lewis?





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1975

*Security  
Clearance  
Waivers*

MEMORANDUM FOR PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM: WILLIAM N. WALKER *W.N.W.*

SUBJECT: Waiver of Clearances for the Nomination  
of Federal Election Commissioners

The President has decided to nominate Thomas B. Curtis and Neal O. Staebler to the Federal Elections Commission. Announcement of these decisions was made on March 1, 1975. The House Administration Committee, chaired by Wayne Hays, has scheduled confirmation hearings for Monday, March 10. As neither the Senate nor House nominees are undergoing FBI clearances, it would be advisable to avoid further delay and to nominate the Presidential Commission members without full clearances. I recommend that you waive clearances.

Agree *P.W.B.* Disagree \_\_\_\_\_



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

STEVERS  
Guyford



OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR

July 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE PHILIP W. BUCHEN

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Dr. H. Guyford Stever as Director of  
the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Dr. Stever has asked me to forward to you drafts of letters he proposes to send to the three Senate Committees that are holding the joint hearing on his confirmation as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Tabs A and B are two versions of the customary letter indicating a willingness to testify before any duly constituted committee of the United States Senate. Tab A speaks only on the question of testimony that would be undertaken in the capacity of Director, OSTP. Tab B points out that should the Director also serve as science and technology adviser to the President, matters discussed between the President and the Director of OSTP, serving in the capacity as science and technology adviser, would at times be privileged.


- The advantage of Tab A is that it remains silent on an issue that might not come up in the confirmation hearing; there is no indication yet from committee staff that it would.
- On the other hand, Tab B reinforces the point of executive privilege which may be desirable. The July 21 press release, for example, which was issued by Senators Kennedy, Moss, and Tunney, announced that a hearing would be held on Dr. Stever's nomination "to be presidential science adviser", (see Tab C).

Dr. Stever would value your judgment on this matter.

Tab D is a letter of transmittal forwarding a financial report. It is our understanding that you recommend that Dr. Stever's holdings be put in a blind trust. The letter that has been drafted is in accordance with this recommendation.



Since the hearing has been scheduled for July 28, it would be desirable to transmit these letters and the accompanying financial statement to the Senate Committee no later than noon on Friday, July 23. I would appreciate it, therefore, if after examination of the letters, you could have someone on your staff give me a telephone call at 632-4394.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Philip M. Smith  
Special Assistant  
to the Director

cc: Mr. Douglas B. Bennett

1528 33rd Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Honorable Harrison A. Williams, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President recently transmitted my name to your Committee for confirmation as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy as provided in P.L. 94-282. If confirmed by the Senate, I will be willing to respond to any requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the United States Senate. I am honored that the President has considered me for this appointment.

Sincerely yours,

H. Guyford Stever

cc: Honorable Jacob Javits  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Paul Laxalt

Identical letters to:

Honorable Warren Magnuson  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce

with copies to: Honorable James Pearson  
Honorable John V. Tunney  
Honorable J. Glenn Beall

Honorable Frank E. Moss  
Chairman  
Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences

with copy to: Honorable Barry Goldwater



Honorable Harrison A. Williams, Jr.  
Page 2

with copies to: Honorable James Pearson  
Honorable John V. Tunney  
Honorable J. Glenn Beall

Honorable Frank E. Moss  
Chairman  
Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences

with copy to: Honorable Barry Goldwater



1528 33rd Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Honorable Harrison A. Williams, Jr.  
Chairman,  
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President recently transmitted my name to your Committee for confirmation as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy as provided in P.L. 94-282. If confirmed by the Senate, I will be willing to respond to any requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the United States Senate. I am honored that the President has considered me for this appointment.

As you know, the President has stated his intention to have the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy serve also as his Advisor on Science and Technology. In the event I am asked to serve in this role, I should note, matters discussed between the President and me would at times be privileged. I would, however, stand ready at all times to contribute to any hearings where my testimony as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy is sought.

Sincerely yours,

H. Guyford Stever

cc: Honorable Jacob Javits  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Paul Laxalt

Identical letters to:

Honorable Warren Magnuson  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 21, 1976

HEARING SET ON NOMINATION OF DR. STEVER TO BE  
PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISER

Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D. Massachusetts), Frank E. Moss (D-Utah) and John V. Tunney (D-California) announced today that a hearing on the nomination of Dr. H. Guyford Stever to be presidential science adviser will be held July 28. The hearing will begin at 11:00 a.m. in Room 318 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Dr. Stever currently is director of the National Science Foundation. The post of permanent presidential science adviser was created by a new law that took effect May 11.

Senators Moss, Kennedy and Tunney said they are very pleased that the President has nominated such a distinguished candidate for this important post. The nomination hearing will explore Dr. Stever's views on the role and functions of the science adviser.

The three Senators also said they would press for prompt action in their respective committees on Dr. Stever's nomination. Senator Moss is chairman of the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, Senator Kennedy chairman of the National Science Foundation Subcommittee of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, and Senator Tunney chairman of the Science, Technology, and Commerce Subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce. These three committees have jurisdiction over various aspects of science and technology, and Dr. Stever's nomination was referred jointly to all three.



1528 33rd Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
July 22, 1976

Honorable Harrison A. Williams  
Chairman, Committee on Labor  
and Public Welfare  
Washington, D.C. 20510

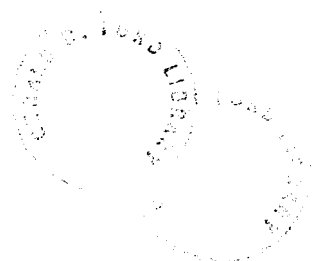
Dear Senator Williams:

In connection with my nomination by the President to serve as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, I am pleased to set forth below a record of all of my financial interests except my personal residences. If confirmed, I would establish a blind trust to manage my investments.

Sincerely yours,

H. Guyford Stever

Enclosure: Statement of Financial Interests  
of H. Guyford Stever





JULY 21, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Guyford Stever, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. This is a new position created by Public Law 94-282 of May 11, 1976. He has been Director of the National Science Foundation since January, 1972.

Born on October 24, 1916, in Corning, New York, Mr. Stever received his A.B. degree Phi Beta Kappa from Colgate University in 1938 and his Ph.D. from California Institute of Technology in 1941.

In 1942, Mr. Stever became Science Liaison Officer at the London Mission of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. He joined the faculty of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1945, and was Associate Dean of Engineering (1956-1959); Professor of Aeronautical Engineering (1956-1965); and head of the Departments of Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture, and Marine Engineering (1961-1965). He was President of Carnegie-Mellon University from February, 1965, until his appointment to NSF.

During 1955-1956, Mr. Stever served as Chief Scientist of the U.S. Air Force and was named to the Advisory Panel to the House of Representatives Committee on Science and Astronauts in 1959. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He is the author of many articles and papers on scientific, technical, educational, and science policy matters.

Mr. Stever is married to the former Louise Risley Floyd and they have four children.

# # #



HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL DELIVERED TO THE SENATE

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

-----

THE WHITE HOUSE

NOMINATIONS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 21, 1976:

Ignacio E. Lozano, Jr., of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to El Salvador.

Stanley E. Shirk, of Connecticut, to be Comptroller of the Currency, vice James E. Smith, resigned.

~~H.~~ Guyford Stever, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. (New Position)

Joseph R. Fogarty, of Rhode Island, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for the unexpired term of seven years from July 1, 1971, vice Charlotte T. Reid, resigned.

Patrick J. Delaney, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the term expiring June 5, 1981, vice A. A. Sommer, Jr.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1976

*H. Guyford  
Stever  
(conflict)*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

KEN LAZARUS

FROM:

PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

Attached is the reply to our request for Personal Data Statement information from H. Guyford Stever. In respect of Item 17, I have a huge volume of documents and have had various discussions with Guy Stever. I am in direct contact with the Personnel Office as to the problems posed by the issues briefly described in Item 17

Attachment



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1976

*H. Geyford  
Stever  
(Conflict)*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DOUGLAS BENNETT

FROM:

PHILIP BUCHEN *P.*

Attached is a copy of a letter hand delivered to me by Dr. Stever on June 24.

I would like to discuss with you the results of my conference with Dr. Stever at the time he delivered the letter.

Attachment



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550



OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR

June 24, 1976

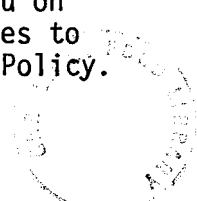
Honorable Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Phil:

From the discussion that has taken place in the last several weeks concerning the Office of Science and Technology Policy and my potential candidacy as Director, there are two indirect issues that have emerged as paramount considerations. These, I believe, have become overriding issues. They involve politics and personalities as contrasted with questions of science and technology policy and my suitability to assist the President with these matters. The fundamental questions for the President are, I believe, the following:

- My candidacy was based upon the concept that I would start the office and carry forward the operation until the beginning of the next Administration, a concept centered on the premise that there would be a nomination and a confirmation in June and July. The time may rapidly be approaching in which this concept is vitiated.
- Some opponents to my candidacy quite obviously see this question before the President as one which may be used to embarrass him by heavily identifying me with science education and the degree the Federal Government should intervene in state and local affairs; to these critics I am seen as an educator, not as a scientist and engineer. Their concern could strike directly at the heart of the Republican Party issues facing the President during July and August.

While we have talked in our meetings and telephone conversations about many of the points in your memorandum of June 3, I have not yet answered it formally. I enclose the specific data you have requested. With this information, the material I left with you at the time of my visit on June 10, and the record of my testimony which was forwarded to you on June 22, I believe that you have the relevant material that relates to my candidacy as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

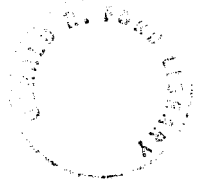


On June 22, the Vice President arranged for me to meet with Senators Curtis and Hansen. This discussion cleared away some of the questions that were addressed in the letter to the President on June 9. A more fundamental question remained and was discussed, namely, federal intervention in education at the state and local levels as exemplified by science curricula such as Man: A Course of Study (MACOS) and Individualized Science Instructional System (ISIS). Our record is substantial; the local school districts decide and they have overwhelmingly adopted NSF science courses at local institutions. Still opposition is strong, vocal, and sometimes vicious. I feel that this discussion would be contained in any Senate debate of such issues, as evidenced by the very strong reaction to the several senators' letter of June 9 to the President by Senators Javits and Kennedy and Representatives Mosher, Teague and Symington. They have all been strong supporters of the bill establishing the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Science Foundation, and of me as an individual. I am grateful for this support.

The process of confirmation would work itself out, but an eventual resolution of this question focuses on neither of the two questions I posed above that are the ones I believe the President must address.

It is desirable to go forward in the implementation of Public Law 94-282. It is an initiative for which the President can rightfully claim much responsibility. In this endeavor, and numerous others, the President has gained the support of the scientific and engineering communities. However, should he desire to do so, I believe it would be possible to defer the initiation of the Office of Science and Technology Policy until the beginning of the next Administration. NSF would continue to assist under the present mandate. The two Committees working under Drs. Baker and Ramo could continue in their work of framing the 10 or so key questions that might be addressed by the OSTP at the start of the next Administration. And, critical science and technology issues such as the development of an accelerated earthquake research program and other research and development issues that are part of the 1978 budget could receive continued attention. This can be done at NSF, or, through detail by assignment of some of my experts and others to the Executive Office.

Undoubtedly, there would be disappointment in many quarters if this alternative approach were adopted. However, I believe in the spirit of a bi-partisan approach to the OSTP and the starting of it without undue controversy, members of the Congress and scientific community could be persuaded to this view. I would help to try to persuade them. I offer this as an alternative for your consideration and the consideration of others who must help the President resolve the two questions





I believe to be most important as he considers the Office of Science and Technology Policy matter.

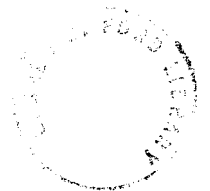
I will accept the President's final decision with understanding and will continue to support him in every way that I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Guyford Stever". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "H." and last name "Stever" clearly distinguishable.

H. Guyford Stever  
Director

Enclosure:  
Response to Memorandum of June 3.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Stone,  
J. Ralph  
EYES ONLY

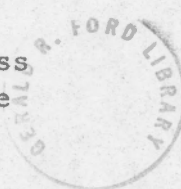
January 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DOUG BENNETT  
FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*  
SUBJECT: J. RALPH STONE  
Proposed Member and  
Chairman, FHLBB

We have today approved the security investigation for Mr. J. Ralph Stone. However, you should be aware of a problem that may be raised at his confirmation hearings in connection with the acquisition in 1968 by Great Western Financial Corporation of the Santa Rosa Savings and Loan of which Mr. Stone was then President. The Federal Home Loan Bank Board subsequently brought suit against Great Western, Santa Rosa and J. Ralph Stone alleging that the acquisition was in violation of the National Housing Act, as amended, for failure to receive the prior approval of the Board. The case was later settled with the defendants admitting that they had violated this Act, and the Board granting retroactive approval to the acquisition.

We have asked OLC to give us their opinion whether the legal position taken by Mr. Stone and the other defendants was a tenable one and whether it appeared that someone raising this argument could have acted on good faith. OLC advises that while the legal argument they made was not tenable, the defendants had been advised by outside counsel that there was a 50-50 chance that the Board would not object. Mr. Stone is not a lawyer and the evidence available suggests that he acted in good faith.

Prior to announcing this appointment, I believe we should discuss this matter further with Congressional Relations. In view of the Committee's rejection of the President's last nominee for this





position and the possibility that the Committee, for political reasons, would want to do so again, we should consider the impact of this matter prior to nomination.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1976

*Tavano  
Robert's conflict*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RUSS ROURKE

FROM:

PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

In response to your memorandum of March 12 regarding Robert J. Tavano, I see no objection to your writing a letter on your personal stationery to Mr. Tavano's probation officer.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Phil, Robert J. Tavano, the former Chairman of the City of Niagara Falls Republican Committee, was convicted last Tuesday on a felony charge involving the embezzlement of \$3-400,000 of county insurance funds.

Sentencing has been set for March 29. Tavano's probation officer has asked Tavano for character reference letters from a number of people. I have known Tavano for about ten years on a political and personal basis.

Unless you have a problem with this, I plan to submit my own personal letter on Tavano's behalf to the probation officer.

Guidance please?

cc: JMarsh

