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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *08.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1974

MILDRED LEONARD:

This material is for the President's personal attention.

CHUCK LICHENSTEIN
(for Dean Burch)

curd

9/30/74

*Meeting held, per Jack
Atkins, and was successful.
JMR 7.*

UNIVERSAL FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.

3153 Three Mile Road, N.E. Grand Rapids, Mi. 49505 (616) 361-6651

September 23, 1974

Mr. Dean Burch
Campaign Liaison
White House Staff
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Burch:

Please pass the enclosed drafts on to the President.

Peter marches on.

Cordially,

Peter F. Secchia
Peter F. Secchia

PFS/jh
encl:

~~Handwritten~~
Send to
Dean Burch

September 16, 1974

Mr. Sal Guzzetta
Goebel Campaign Headquarters
300 "C" Waters Bldg.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Sal:

The attached is a draft of a letter I was going to send out.
I will hold it until I hear from you.

Cordially,

Peter F. Secchia

PFS/jh encl:

Send the following letter to:

Mr. Jack Stiles
Mr. Walter Russell
Mr. Charles Wiersma
Senator VanderLaan

Dear

Last week I had an opportunity to spend an evening with the First Family at the White House. Our discussion covered many topics, including the race for the Fifth District, which was discussed in depth.

The President suggested an attempt be made to get you and other selected persons, to meet in my office as soon as possible. As I will be out of town this week, I have asked Mr. Goebel's office to call you, and negotiate an agreed upon time.

Being an innocent bystander, and an inactive politician... the President felt I was well qualified to mediate a meeting between Messrs. Stiles, Russell, Goebel, Farr, Guzzetta, Vander Laan, Wiersma.

Cordially,

Peter F. Secchia

PFS/jh

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 1, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEAN BURCH

FROM: JERRY H. JONES 

The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following comment:

-- 9/30/74; Meeting held, per Jack Stiles,
and was successful.

Q Ron, while we are on the subject, may I ask what in a way may be a related question -- the question of Mr. Stiles' status on the White House staff. As I understand it, you are saying that he is not technically a member of the White House staff, and I am sure you are familiar with Booth Newspaper stories that say he pleaded guilty to a crime.

First of all, is it correct that it is your position that he is not legally a member of the White House staff and, secondly, what is your view or the President's view on Mr. Stiles serving as a consultant to the President when he pleaded guilty to apparently a charge of assault and battery in 1969?

MR. NESSEN: And what is the question?

Q What is your attitude toward having as a consultant to the President a man who pleaded just a few years ago to a crime?

MR. NESSEN: Jack Stiles, as I understand it, does work here from time to time as a consultant. He is not on the payroll.

Q Does he get paid?

MR. NESSEN: He gets paid for whatever days he works as a consultant.

Q How many days did he work and what kind of consultant work is he doing?

MR. NESSEN: He worked 57 days since October 1.

Q Is he setting up the President's Presidential campaign or is he involved in politics in any way?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, no.

Q What is he doing?

MR. NESSEN: What he has done from time to time is, among other things, the first thing he did around here was, at the time when some people were writing in and saying they wanted to contribute to a White House swimming pool -- I understand that at one point there were 250 letters piled up, some of them containing contributions, and nobody had bothered to acknowledge them or do anything with the contributions, so that was his first assignment as a consultant -- to answer those letters and look into the possibility of building a swimming pool from public contributions. That project has been put on the shelf, so he is not involved in that.

Q Why is it necessary to have a consultant do that work?

MR. NESSEN: It was just felt it was better than taking a White House staff member to deal with something like that.

Q What is the rate? What do you get for that kind of work?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, whatever days you work, the maximum allowed is \$125.

Q Did he get \$125?

MR. NESSEN: For whatever days he worked.

Q For 57 days he received \$125 a day, right?

MR. NESSEN: That is right. Then he also did some work in connection with the Bicentennial Commission. I think he spelled this out in an interview, if I am not mistaken. He also did a little consulting work in the area of the housing industry. He is, as some of you may know, a retired builder.

At that point, there were a number of letters and phone calls coming in here from members of the housing industry and, as I understand it, on some days Jack Stiles was assigned to meet with these people and hear their ideas and answer some of this mail.

Those are about the areas in which he acted as a consultant.

MORE

FROM: News Conference with Ron Nessen
at the White House, 1/23/75 (#130)

- 11 -

#130-1/23

*Hazel -
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Q Ron, does Mr. Stiles' appearance on the payroll as a consultant, in view of his previous record as having engineered many of Mr. Ford's Congressional campaigns, violate the spirit of Executive Order 11222?

MR. NESSEN: I do not know what the Executive Order is, Walt.

Q "It is just as important to avoid the appearance of a conflict or uneithical conduct as an actual one. Conduct may be short of a legal infraction, but if it leads the public to question the integrity of the government and its officials, harm is done. In such instances, even if there was no impropriety intended or practiced, the Administration or members of the staff may be required to spend an inordinate amount of time explaining or defending innocent actions rather than implementing the objectives of the President and a cloud may be cast over the merits of our decisions," and that was passed out by you people on the day Don Rumsfeld reorganized the White House.

MR. NESSEN: I do not know how it applies to Jack Stiles. I am told Stiles has absolutely nothing to do here with politics or campaigning or anything that could be considered a political activity.

Q Does the President plan to continue using him as a consultant?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that the fairly limited days that he has spent here as a consultant -- from time-to-time he may spend a couple of days doing something the President --

Q When was the last time he was here?

MR. NESSEN: He is back in Grand Rapids now, and he has been back for a while, so it has not been any time --

Q Ron, I don't think I got an answer to my question?

MR. NESSEN: What was it?

Q You gave a lengthy review of some of the things Mr. Stiles is working on. What I asked about was the propriety of having a man as consultant to the President who pleaded guilty to hitting a policeman.

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#130

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MR. NESSEN: Well, I, myself, am not very familiar with that allegation. Consultants, as I understand it, have a name check run on them and, then, if they continue, over a period to serve, as a consultant, the full FBI clearance procedure is followed. And if he does continue -- I understand that clearance process has been done on Jack Stiles, so anything along the lines that you suggest, if it took place, would show up in that FBI report.

Q On the assumption that this showed up in the FBI full field check, or whatever it was -- and we do assume that, I suppose -- then a decision was made by someone that this did not bar him from serving as a consultant, and if so, who made that decision?

MR. NESSEN: I think the President is an old friend of Jack Stiles and probably knows his personal background.

Q So then, your answer is, the President finds no impropriety in using as a consultant a man who pleaded guilty to hitting a policeman?

MR. NESSEN: I guess you will have to round it out yourself, Jim.

Q You do not dispute that interpretation?

MR. NESSEN: I am saying, the President is a friend of his and knows his background, and whatever there may be on his record, if anything, would certainly show up in the FBI report.

Q You seem to have a lot of information on the subject this morning, have you talked to the President about Jack Stiles today, or have you talked to him about Jack Stiles?

MR. NESSEN: I have talked to some staff people in the building in order to answer some of your anticipated questions.

Q Did the President or these staff people have anything specifically to say about these things that Jim was asking about?

MR. NESSEN: I think I have given you the answers I obtained from talking to the staff people.

Q Did you talk to the President, specifically, about Jack Stiles?

MR. NESSEN: I really don't think I ought to go into details of my conversations with the President.

Q Ron, is Jack Stiles' work requested and carried out at the specific direction of the President or some other staff member?

MR. NESSEN: No. He, in the organization, is assigned to Jack Marsh's operation, which deals with public liaison and miscellaneous events, so that is where he shows up in the organization chart. Things like the Bicentennial and swimming pool and housing industry contacts came out of Jack Marsh's office.

Q He does not work in direct contact with the President, does he?

MR. NESSEN: No, he does not.

MORE

Q Ron, we don't have access to the FBI checks. Can you confirm that in fact he did plead guilty to the charge of assault and battery?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think this is the right place to get into what a man may or may not have done.

Q This story, Ron, is being carried by the Booth Newspapers, and I assume you have seen it since you seem quite familiar with it. Are you denying the Booth Newspaper story?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know where to begin on the Booth Newspaper story, Jim. I prepared myself to answer what I thought would be some specific questions and I am prepared to do that. I don't know the need to go --

Q You do not deny the statements made in the Booth Newspaper story?

MR. NESSEN: I think I will just stick to answering whatever questions you care to ask about it.

Q Ron, has the President chosen Jack Stiles to run his campaign in 1976?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Will he?

MR. NESSEN: I have no way of knowing.

Q Will the White House continue to use Jack Stiles as a consultant?

MR. NESSEN: I told Phil I thought from time to time he might spend a day or so doing something.

Q Ron, isn't 57 days since October 1 almost full-time work?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so. What is it -- October, November, December, and most of January.

Q It is more than two-thirds of a five-day week.

MR. NESSEN: I did not figure it out.

Q Would you anticipate that same level of activity in the future?

MR. NESSEN: I have no way of knowing. It depends on if Marsh has anything for him to do.

Q Is Marsh the guy who assigns him to various duties?

MR. NESSEN: He is under Marsh in the organization, yes.

I gave a fairly detailed breakdown of how fuel would be saved under a rationing program. I was asked if I could not provide similar detail on how fuel would be saved under the President's program, and I have that for you now. This is based on the President's program being approved by Congress in all of its parts.

Gasoline--400,000 barrels or 40 percent of the million barrel a day cutback would be from gasoline. That amounts to 17 million gallons a day saving, giving it to you in barrels and gallons; a barrel saving of 400,000 a day, a gallon saving of 17 million a day.

Heating oil would make up 25 percent of the reduction or 250,000 barrels a day saved or reduced heating oil use through higher prices. That amounts to 10.5 million gallons a day.

Residual oil -- that is the type of oil used to run public utility generators for instance, and industrial machinery -- the saving expected in residual oil use through the higher prices would be 25 percent, amounting to another 250,000 barrels a day, another 10.5 million gallons a day.

The remaining 10 percent of the saving, equal to 100,000 barrels a day or 4.2 million gallons a day, would be saved. The higher prices would be expected to reduce that amount from jet fuel, petroleum products used in the chemical industry and so-called feed stock petroleum used in the making of plastics and so forth.

To run over these quickly again, gasoline would account for 40 percent of the reduction, 400,000 barrels a day, 17 million gallons a day; home heating oil, 25 percent or 250,000 barrels a day, or 10.5 million gallons a day; residual oil used by utilities and industries, 25 percent, 250,000 barrels, 10.5 million gallons; jet fuel, petroleum, for the chemical industry and feed stocks for plastics, 10 percent of the reduction equal to 100,000 barrels a day, or 4.2 million gallons.

To take this a bit further, the President's program would work if the higher prices persuaded drivers to save or to buy four or five gallons a month less. That is equal to about a gallon a week.

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