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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: JACK MARSH 

Congressman Steve Symms wants the President to see the attached.



RED TAG

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. *CLJ.*

SUBJECT:

Rep. Steve Symms (R-Idaho)

Rep. Steve Symms called following his conversation with former Governor Don Samuelson. Symms is requesting that the President be given the opportunity to see and read the handwritten letter of Samuelson to the President on his qualifications for appointment as Secretary of the Interior.

A copy of the Samuelson letter is attached.

Attachment

17
Direct
Audience
Pres. Commence

The Honorable Gerald Ford
President of the United States

ACTION
TID August 4, 1975
SCHEDULE ED.
DATE RECEIVED
AUG 4 1975
MESSAGE
SPEAKERS BUREAU
OTHER
APPOINTMENT OFFICE

Dear Mr President:

You are about to select someone to fill the Cabinet position of Secretary of Interior because of the forced resignation of my Good Friend Governor Hathaway - for health reasons.

All of us in the Western States were very pleased when you selected a man from the West with first-hand knowledge of Proper resource Management and Conservation.

We were also very disappointed when Stan's health forced him

to tender his resignation at the end of his first month on the job.

Mr. President I have been serving in my present position as Regional Representative of the Secretary of Transportation in Region 10 since I left the Idaho Governor's office in 1971. Region ten covers the four high Resource Oriented States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Transportation and Resource Management and development go hand in hand. I have been involved with Land Use Planning in Alaska and going back to the first Land

use hearings - I was one of the first
Governors to testify at the Congressional
hearings. Presently I am serving on
the Alaska, State/Federal Land use
Planning Executive Board. I have
been working on the Pipeline impact
and spend about a week a month
in Alaska and am very familiar
with their problems.

Mr. President - from my
observations and reading about
your philosophy of Resource Management
I sincerely believe that I can help
you and your Administration in an area
that is most important to the future of

this great Nation of ours.

I would appreciate the opportunity to talk to you personally and Confidentially about the direction the Department of Interior should take and if you believe that I can do the job --- I would appreciate your serious Consideration in the Appointment of the position as Secretary of Interior. I am Confident that with Gods help I can provide the leadership to bring the Department of Interior back on schedule, provide Proper Resource Management policy

Consistent with that of your
Administration and bring all
departments of Interior together
in a spirit of teamwork and
dedication toward the goals
that are important and essential
to the survival of this great
Nation of ours.

I would Love the Challenge.

Sincerely
Don Samuelson

Republican Governor of Idaho.
1967-1971

Biography Enclosed -



Don Samuelson was appointed Regional Representative for Region Ten on March 19, 1971, by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe. He had just finished a four-year term as Governor of Idaho. Prior to being Governor, Samuelson served six years in the Idaho State Senate. During his legislative career, using his business and leadership abilities on various committees, laws or statutes were strengthened, and new, sensible resource and environmental protection procedures were established.

Headquartered in Seattle, Governor Samuelson, as the Northwest Representative, serves as an integral part and extension of the Office of the Secretary for the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. His functions include those of being a coordinator, expediter, and ombudsman for private citizens and local, county and state governments who utilize the services and programs of the administrations of the Department of Transportation.

Seven operating administrations, with over 100,000 employees, are included in the Department: the Federal Aviation Administration; Federal Railroad Administration; Federal Highway Administration; Urban Mass Transportation Administration; United States Coast Guard; Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Department also provides support and services to the National Transportation Safety Board whose recommendations regarding safety are disseminated to the operating administrations through the Secretary's office.

An important facet of Governor Samuelson's position is that of serving as the Department of Transportation representative on the Northwest Federal Regional Council. In order to create a new sense of partnership among the various levels of government, as well as simplify the management of federal programs and speed delivery of federal services, President Nixon in 1969 directed that federal agencies be decentralized to the field for greater efficiency and coordination. The Northwest Federal Regional Council has been established to carry out these objectives of the President. It consists of the Regional Directors of the Departments of Health, Education and Welfare; Housing and Urban Development;

DON SAMUELSON

Regional Representative of Secretary of Transportation
Region X

Alaska	5079 Arcade Plaza Building
Idaho	1321 Second Avenue
Oregon	Seattle, Washington 98101
Washington	206 442-0590

Department of Labor; Office of Economic Opportunity; Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Transportation. These Regional Directors meet regularly to act on matters which are of common concern to their Departments. Each of the agencies has responsibility for the same four states within Region Ten.

Secretary Volpe stated when he appointed Samuelson to this position, "I have known Don Samuelson for many years and I am pleased to have a man of his integrity and ability as our representative in Seattle ... Don's extensive experience in state government assures us of a strong bridge between Washington and the people of the Northwest."

Don Samuelson was born on a farm in Woodhull, Illinois, on July 27, 1913. He graduated from Oneida High School in 1932 and attended Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. He is married to the former Ruby Mayo. They have two grown children, both married, a daughter Donna (Mrs. Douglas Foth) and a son, Stephen.

During World War II, Governor Samuelson served two years with the United States Navy as a Gunner's Mate, Instructor and Small Arms Gunsmith. He was stationed at Camp Farragut, Idaho.

After discharge from the Navy in 1946, Governor Samuelson lived in Iowa for a brief time, but returned to Idaho to start a sporting goods store in Sandpoint, the small town he became familiar with while stationed at nearby Camp Farragut. He was in private business in Idaho from 1946 through 1966 — the retail sporting goods business and general gunsmith for 14 years and then the construction equipment business covering the states of Idaho and Montana and ten counties in Eastern Washington.

Don Samuelson served as Governor of Idaho from January 1967 until January 1971. He served four years as Chairman of the Idaho State Land Board and four years as Chairman of the Board of Examiners for the State of Idaho. He was a member of the Executive



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