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White House Memos - Incoming

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Return to him
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 4-26-73

TO:

GEORGE BUSH

FROM:

WILLIAM TIMMONS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION XXX

FOR YOUR COMMENTS _____

FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING _____

OTHER _____

*Tom Read
E. S. S. E.*

Of McGovern

'Truth' Team

8/5/75

D

By BOB HURT

Constitution Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. George McGovern has organized a team of investigators to try to dig up damaging background information on key members of the Nixon administration, a spokesman for the Democratic presidential nominee said Friday.

At least 15 volunteer investigators began background checks on major administration officials this week. The McGovern spokesman said the "truth squad" eventually would be expanded to 50 investigators.

About 100 Republicans have been targeted for the investigation, according to John Wagner, 31, an attorney and graduate student who heads the investigative project.

The investigations will be confined to the "business and political lives" of the Nixon men, Wagner told The Constitution.

"We're not looking for whether or not their wife is an alcoholic or that sort of thing," Wagner said. Nevertheless, Wagner added that any type of significant information uncovered by the researchers will be forwarded to McGovern, who will make the final decision on whether it will be used.

Subjects of the investigation include White House domestic affairs chief John D. Ehrlichman, special assistant H. R. Haldeman and special counsel Charles W. Colson.

"We want this to be a rundown on who's running the government and what influences they are subject to and what special interests they have," Wagner said.

Material gathered in the investigation will

See TRUTH, Page 16-A

Truth

UNRECORDED

either be released directly to the press by McGovern or leaked quietly to local Democrats for use as they choose in their home states, a McGovern spokesman said.

The McGovern research office said the project will be the most exhaustive of its type undertaken in a presidential campaign.

Such investigations on the backgrounds of politicians are not unusual. But detailed information about plans and the nature of such investigations are usually tightly kept political secrets.

The Democratic National Committee has files on only a handful of Republicans, but McGovern wants a report on virtually every major staff member in the White House and all other GOP leaders with jobs in the administration.

Ironically, it was the failure of the McGovern staff to investigate the background of Sen. Thomas Eagleton that led to the disclosure of Eagleton's past emotional problems and his resignation from the ticket as the vice presidential nominee.

Most of the McGovern investigators are college-age or in their mid-20's.

First results of the probe are expected to be released by the end of August.

Wagner said he is not yet able to evaluate the effectiveness of the project, but other sources say information has already been collected that shows the promise of the technique.

For example, a study has shown that a southern Republican appointee to a regulatory agency has cast votes that would be unpopular in his home state. The information will be distributed to McGovern workers here and in the South.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 17, 1972
CONTACT: MIKE BAROODY
(202) 484-6665

RNC-283

DOLE CHARGES McGOVERN HAS UNDERCOVER OPERATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Sen. Bob Dole, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, charged today in a speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate that Senator George McGovern has "an undercover operation of his own" charged with the responsibility "to dig up damaging background information on key members of the Nixon Administration," according to an August 5 article in the Atlanta Constitution.

A text of Senator Dole's remarks follows.

###

Mr. President:

For the last several days the Washington Post and some other elements of the national news media have been hawking rumors about the Republican party and the campaign to re-elect the President.

Lengthy front page stories are run under most misleading headlines which serve only to perpetuate hearsay. Unsubstantiated charges and outrageous allegations have been put forth with no proof whatsoever. The only evidence supplied is the alleged testimony of unnamed sources and information said to be gleaned from Justice Department files.

Yesterday I had occasion to comment on these charges and on the journalistic standards of newspapers which would stoop to printing them. This morning's Washington Post carries the anguished protest of one of its senior editors who asserts that time is on his side, and will bear him and his paper out in the long run.

I say that charges of so serious a nature as are currently being printed in the pages of the Post must be proven now when they are printed or they ought not to be printed at all.

Mr. Bradlee's confidence that time will bear him out, I am sure, is as ill-founded as the charges themselves. It is also worthy of note that Mr. Bradlee, some months ago, announced as policy for his paper that it would no longer print stories based on information from anonymous government sources. And yet that quite clearly is what his paper has done almost every day for the past week, in blatant contradiction of its own policy.

Further, I would note, Mr. President, my own suspicions that the timing of these stories is more than mere coincidence. It is no secret that a colleague of ours in this body is running a presidential campaign that continues to be devoid of credible, substantive issues. It is no coincidence that that candidate should seize upon the Post's allegations and employ them as flimsy evidence for his own desperate political assault based on rumors that the Post has printed as news.

Senator McGovern has charged that the Republicans "hired at least 50 people to conduct some of the shabbiest undercover operations in the history of American politics."

Mr. McGovern's cries of outrage strike me as, I am sure, they strike most who have heard them as a bit manufactured. The authenticity of his outrage is even further called into question by an article in the Atlanta Constitution of August 5, 1972. The article cites a McGovern campaign staffer who indicates that Senator McGovern has an undercover operation of his own with 50 investigators whose assignment and I quote is "to try to dig up damaging background information on key members of the Nixon Administration."

The information uncovered by the researchers according to the article would be forwarded directly to Senator McGovern who would himself make the decision on how it would be used. The material gathered in the investigation would either be released directly to the press by McGovern or leaked quietly to local Democrats according to a spokesman for the Senator.

Mr. President, this article purports to be based not on rumor and supposition but on the stated testimony of a member of the McGovern campaign staff who is named and quoted several times in the article.

By comparison the articles in the Post deserve no credibility whatsoever. As long as reporters feel free to attribute such charges to anonymous sources -- sources who will not reveal their names, then newspapers who print such stories will remain suspect, the Post has done no service to itself, to the public, or to the high standards of journalism adhered to by most American newspapers in printing these stories. It has, in fact, served the interests only of the McGovern campaign and that Mr. President, I am confident, was its intent.

So I call upon the Post to insert a little balance in its reporting and to give the same investigative effort to proven instances of political sabotage against the President's campaign such as happened last week at the Democrats for Nixon office in Washington and two weeks ago in California when the President's appearance there was disrupted by militant anti-war radicals who had the help of the McGovern campaign organization.

Republican
National
Committee.

stalen

Bob Dole, Chairman

October 28, 1972

Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Recent reports that the Democrat National Committee is attempting to liquidate its \$9 million in debts by settling with creditors for 25 cents on the dollar lead me to raise the following questions as to the legality of such an arrangement.

First, if creditors accept only 25 cents on the dollar repayment of debts owed by the Democrat National Committee, is not the balance that is forgiven considered a political contribution? Further, regarding those creditors which are corporations, would not such political contributions resulting from the debt forgiven, be expressly forbidden by the Federal Corrupt Practices Act?

I urge your office to undertake an investigation of these reports, and to determine the answers to the questions I raise above, and finally, to take prosecutive action if the results of that investigation hold warrant.

Sincerely,

Bob Dole
Chairman

News from the republican national committee

310 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 (202) 484-65

FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, A.M.
OCTOBER 30, 1972
CONTACT: MIKE BAROODY
(202) 484-6665

RNC-295

DOLE CITES APPARENT ILLEGALITY OF DEMO DEBT PAY-OFF

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Senator Bob Dole, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, citing a recent report that Democrat debts were being retired at 25 cents on the dollar, charged that such an arrangement would be a violation of the law on two counts. The unpaid balance owed to corporations would represent a possible violation of the Corrupt Practices Act prohibiting corporate contributions; and a possible abuse of the Internal Revenue Code would be involved should the corporation write off that balance as a bad debt.

"I was shocked by the recent report that the Democrat National Committee is attempting to liquidate its \$9 million in debts by settling with creditors for 25 cents on the dollar.

"The implications of this are quite apparent. On the one hand, if creditors accept only 25 cents on the dollar of every debt owed by the Democrat National Committee, the balance that they are forgiving is, of course, a political contribution. Since most of the creditors are corporations, such political contributions are expressly forbidden by the Federal Corrupt Practices Act. I have asked the Department of Justice to investigate whether in fact this practice on the part of the Democrat National Committee to settle debts at less than their face value would constitute an illegal contribution from a corporation. I have urged the Justice Department to investigate swiftly and to take prosecutive action if warranted.

"Obviously also, if corporations charge off as bad debts the unpaid

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balances owed them by the Democrat National Committee and deduct these amounts from their tax returns, then of course the taxpayers are sharing in the repayment of the debts of the Democrat National Committee. This would be a shocking and unconscionable abuse of the Internal Revenue Code.

"In short, the Democrat National Committee is apparently getting rid of its old debts by corporate contributions and by bilking the taxpayers.

"Senator McGovern is not one to pass up a good gimmick. On the assumption that one good turn deserves another, Senator McGovern has decided to finance his last minute high-powered expensive media campaign blitz in the same fashion. It is now disclosed that he has borrowed \$2 million in order to finance his desperate last minute TV and radio ads. Among the largest lenders in the recent fund disclosures were two privileged scions of the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical fortune. This huge loan of one half million dollars puts Mr. McGovern in direct obligation to massive drug interests. If some miracle were to happen, perish the thought, and McGovern were to be elected, he would immediately be beholden to the powerful drug lobby.

"How can George McGovern give his self-righteous sermon on the mount as he did Wednesday night calling for morality in the government at the same time that he puts himself in hock to big business interests? Not only were the Eli Lilly heirs among his large lenders but so was Stewart Mott, heir to a fortune in General Motors stock.

"I call upon Senator McGovern, who once boasted of all his small contributors, to explain how he will handle these huge loans. Will he attempt to write them off illegally as the Democrat National Committee is apparently doing with its 1968 debts or will he merely leave them as loans to be repaid in some way in the future and should he be elected President, would he repay them with governmental favors or with cash?"

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memo

This has to be done judiciously! How about a note
to Haldeman (personal) that you will ask for

THE WHITE HOUSE

This suggestion but only with care & thought and
not necessarily every Friday?

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH
FROM: DAVID N. PARKER
SUBJECT: Phone call recommendations

FILE

You are aware that we have an ongoing program to be constantly alert to opportunities to recommend and submit to the President recommendations for telephone calls to appropriate people for many different reasons.

The attached form is used in submitting these recommendations.

Since the beginning of the year, there has been a noticeable drop in the recommendations coming from the staff. Therefore, I have been asked to look into the phone call program and effect a realistic program that works. Accordingly, you are asked to submit four telephone call recommendations per week to the President.

Would you please submit these recommendations to me no later than Noon each Friday. The requirement that you submit four recommendations weekly is small but considering that there are many on the staff making these recommendations, it will be a significant program. However, don't feel that you are only limited to four recommendations weekly. Rather this is only given to you as a minimum.

You will be kept informed of the status and action of each of your recommendations.

Compliance and cheerful cooperation with this request will be appreciated, as the program will be constantly monitored with the utmost diligence.

Thanks in advance for your continuing cooperation.

April 30, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rose Woods

FROM: George Bush

Here are the names of five people in Texas I would like to have considered for invitations to events down the road.

Mr. Ed Palm
1102 Continental Life Building
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Mr. Bayard Friedman
Fort Worth National Bank
P. O. Box 2050
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

Mr. James A. Baker, III
2500 Exxon Building
Houston, Texas 77002

Mr. Fred Zeder
Hydrometals, Inc.
1400 Expressway Tower
Dallas, Texas 75208

Mr. Ed Haggar
Haggar Company
6113 Lemmon Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75209

Return to Chairman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1973

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Thanks in advance for your continuing cooperation.

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Name of person you recommend be called with brief identifying information only when you suspect name will be unfamiliar to the President.

RECOMMENDED BY: Your name and if recommendation has concurrence of another staff member, so state.

PURPOSE: Preferably one sentence; two at most.

BACKGROUND: Whatever background information you feel will be helpful to the President. Usually 3-4 short sentences will suffice to set the stage and give substance to talking points. Also, make sure that no letter has been sent by Correspondence for same purpose as the call and so indicate by stating this in the background.

TALKING POINTS:

- 1.
- 2.
3. (The specific points that you recommend be made during the conversation)
- 4.

NOTE: Original plus 4 copies are to be sent to Mr. Parker.

Date of submission

Action _____

Tom ACTION

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 28, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. BILL BAROODY
FROM: BRUCE KEHRLI *BK*
SUBJECT: Farmer-Consumer Battle

The February 27 News Summary contained the following note:

-- With 14 farm laws expiring in '73, a major farmer-consumer battle may be shaping up over future of subsidies, Arnold asserts, but a Hill strategist contends Dems and farm-state GOPs won't join RN. "It is unclear how much enactment of the RN plan would save consumers." Arnold writes, adding a Farm Bureau spokesman predicts the real significance may be political: "Now that the election is over, RN sees farmers are only 4% of the population. He's designing a program for the other 96%."

Referring to the above, especially the underlined portion, it was requested that you work with George Bush, Herb Stein and John Ehrlichman in getting together a strong statement on this and then get some support for it.

Please follow up and submit a report on actions taken to the Office of the Staff Secretary by March 7, 1973.

Thank you.

cc: George Bush ✓
Herb Stein
John Ehrlichman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 22, 1973

*Kehrli, Bruce
Pres. asked Eym Bus
Budget remarks
on CBS*

*TK
same*

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH

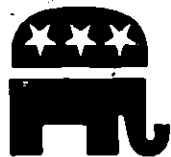
SUBJECT: Budget

The President was pleased with your remarks on CBS which appeared in the February 22 News Summary:

- Questioned about Hill protestors, Bush on CBS AM said there were 10,000 there, but millions in US who don't want to prop up programs that don't work. He doesn't question protestors' motives but added voters called for no more taxes. Bush maintained budget isn't against poor, but Admin. is trying to find better answers for '60s' programs. He predicts people will overwhelmingly support such a move, adding some Dems saw Admin.'s approach as innovative.

Bruce A. Kehrli
Bruce A. Kehrli
Staff Secretary

C



From the desk of
GEORGE BUSH

W.H. Staff

JK
save copy -
send to Kerli today

JK File

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: March 20, 1973

Time:

FOR ACTION: George Bush

cc (for information):

MAR 20 1973

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: March 21, 1973

Time: Close of business

SUBJECT:

Timmons memo, 3-19, House Campaign Committee

*Do not
send*

ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ For Necessary Action

☒ For Your Recommendations

☐ Prepare Agenda and Brief

☐ Draft Reply

☒ For Your Comments

☐ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

*1) I have recommended the President
see the winner - this has been agreed by the
President. (set for Thursday)*

*2) Recommendation - only that the President
call Bob Wilson or write him if he has
not done so.*

*Gay Bush
March 21*

*out dated
by events*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

BRUCE A. KEHRLI
Staff Secretary

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INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 19, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *WET*

SUBJECT: House Campaign Committee

On March 14 George Bush wrote you about the resignation of Bob Wilson and prospects for Bob Michel's election to the chairmanship. Bush enclosed Wilson's letter to you.

I agree with George that Michel will probably win the contest because:

- Bud Brown cannot count even on a solid Ohio delegation and there is some evidence Sam Devine is working against him.
- Dan Kuykendall is working for Michel, partly blaming Brown for aborting his own ambition for the post.
- Brown was earlier tagged the "White House candidate" against Wilson so the latter's friends are now supporting Michel.
- Michel is extremely popular among GOP Members.

Nevertheless, Bud Brown has made a good start as candidate recruitment chairman and has given me an impressive report on his activity. Brown feels Michel wants the chairmanship as a "feather in his cap," and does not plan to work at the job. He says Michel wants him to stay on and do the labor which Brown says he will not do should he lose the chairmanship. Also, it is reported that Michel--with his children now grown and away from home--wants to use the position so he and his wife can travel at committee expense.

Another source tells me that the current House campaign staff was instrumental in getting Michel into the race because they feared Brown would fire most of them and reorganize the committee whereas Michel would keep things as they are.

It may be that only a personal appeal by you will persuade Brown to remain as candidate recruitment chairman.