

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
Contested Materials Collection
Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>No Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
3	17	10/2/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Clawson RE: a derogatory comment made by Mitchell directed at Katherine Graham, as well as McGovern's response. 1 pg.
3	17	6/28/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Clawson RE: finding a way to deny the popular theory that RN tends to win political races by narrow margins. 1 pg.
3	17	10/7/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Clawson RE: information from Bryce Harlow relating to McGovern volunteers and their exploitation of welfare. 2 pgs.
3	17	10/7/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Clawson on finding press figures to condemn McGovern. 1 pg.

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3	17	9/5/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Clawson RE: the use of an article written by Reichley to demonstrate how dangerous McGovern would be if elected. Handwritten note added by unknown. 1 pg.
3	17	9/4/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Clawson RE: selling a "McGovern vs. McGovern" idea to cartoonists friendly toward the White House. 1 pg.
3	17	8/15/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Clawson RE: using columnist Frank van der Linden to attack McGovern. 1 pg.
3	17	8/5/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	White House Staff	Memo	From Colson to Clawson RE: the use of a fundraising fiasco in Philadelphia. 1 pg.
3	17	6/13/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Clawson RE: boosting the conservative Republican image in the 1972 election year while condemning liberal Democrats. 1 pg.

October 2, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN CLAWSON
FROM: CHARLES COLSON

I thought you might be interested that the quote in the Washington Post attributed to John Mitchell, "if you print that crap, Katherine Graham will find herself in a wringer" was not exactly accurate. What Mitchell said was that she would find her tit in a wringer. Apparently McGovern was told about this story and the actual quote on the airplane this week and his response was "based on Katherine Graham's figure, there's no danger in that". I just thought you might like to pass this along to her at the appropriate time.

June 28, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN CLAWSON

FROM: CHARLES COLSON

It is terribly important that we knock down through some respectable columnist the thesis that Ted Kennedy and others in the media are now trying to build that Nixon always declines in campaigns and that he always barely manages to win despite early leads or in the case of '60 and '62, managed to blow leads and lose. This, of course, is psychologically very harmful but more importantly totally untrue factually. We are getting the poll data put together which blows this entire thesis. In '60 we started out way behind Kennedy and almost caught him. The President was ahead only once which was after the Republican Convention when he had massive exposure. This data is all in the "Six Crises". The '68 data is, of course, readily available. We didn't decline ever. We held our ground while Humphrey gained and Wallace declined. It is really important that this be hit head on.

HIGH PRIORITY

October 7, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

KEN CLAWSON

FROM:

CHARLES COLSON

You may recall that I told you sometime ago that one of George McGovern's staff offices was recruiting volunteer workers by giving them an indoctrination course on how to get on the welfare rolls and then come and work on the McGovern campaign. This, of course, would be a dynamite story if it were a wide spread practice. Evans and Novak could really blow it up; so could any number of other columnists I am sure.

The story originally came to me from Bryce Harlow. The incident happened during the Democratic Convention. Apparently at the Doral an office was set up whereby people were brought in and instructed on how to get on the welfare rolls, appear weekly to get their welfare checks, but then spend the rest of the week working at the McGovern headquarters. I have been trying desperately to get Bryce to give me some leads on this and he has now contacted one of the persons who was taken in and briefed on how to do this. That person is willing to talk if anonymity is guaranteed. Bryce Harlow can put any reporter in touch with the individual. They handed out an elaborate fact sheet explaining how to use a post office box and how to continue to qualify while working in the campaign.

Conceivably this was an isolated instance. Maybe on the other hand, it is a widespread technique. Particularly if there were briefing materials prepared, it would indicate that it was part of a policy decision in the McGovern camp.

If you will give me a reporter who would like to pursue this, I will give you a person who was briefed; the contact can be made through Bryce Harlow, but I will arrange it if you can find an interested reporter.

Even if we ultimately end up with only a Bob Allen, this is worth a try because if it appears in print anywhere and the practice is going on, we might find other people will come forth and talk about it. It's worth a shot, even if we have only a one in ten chance of having anything develop out of this. If it should develop, it would be an absolute bombshell.

Please give me some thoughts on this as quickly as possible.

October 7, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN CLAWSON

FROM: CHARLES COLSON

It is essential that we get some columns on the double standard of the press. Even though you feel that they are beginning to nail McGovern, a la the Greider piece this morning, he is getting nowhere near the press condemnation that he deserves. I can't believe that they would bury the President's single standard crack, but they have. No one has picked it up. Can't we even get a Kilpatrick or a Buckley to do a column or two? I am sure you realize that if Agnew had said anything 1/10th as severe as McGovern is saying daily, the New York Times would be running front page editorials, Seversid would be talking about it every night and you would think that the country was about to go into an open revolt. This guy is getting off scott-free practically.

Please put some real effort into this and ask Shumway to start calling people. One thing Van was good at was planting columns and I don't mean with just Bob Allen. Let's get the big ones like Bill White, Dick Wilson, John Roche, etc.

How about circulating to columnists and editors just a compendium of the worst unsupportable McGovernisms, the most McCarthy-type charges. If they were to come from Abrahams, I can't believe they would ignore it.

cc: Pat Buchanan

September 5, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN CLAWSON

FROM: CHARLES COLSON

It is essential that we get more play out of the marked portion of the attached Reichley article. See Page 118. Nothing demonstrates McGovern's naivete any more vividly than this. It is frightening to think that a man who thinks this way could possibly be President and people like Bill White, Kilpatrick, Wilson and Hempstone and others should be writing what a terrifying prospect it is that a man who thinks in these terms could be President.

Fortune (Apt)

September 4, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN CLAWSON

FROM: CHARLES COLSON

It is essential that you call some of our friendly political cartoonists to place with them the McGovern vs. McGovern idea. It is believed that you can sell this to our more friendly cartoonists like the New York Daily News, the Chicago Tribune, St. Louis Globe Democrat, etc. Maybe Schurz can help you on this but this must have very high priority.

August 15, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

KEN CLAWSON

FROM:

CHARLES COLSON

I know that Frank van der Linden is one of our captive columnists who pretty much puts out anything we would like. Since he is now apparently part of the United Features Syndicate he is probably getting a lot more coverage than he used to. I noticed for example, that he's been in the Washington Post several times in the last few weeks.

This brings me to the point that you should be cultivating him to try to get him picking up anti-McGovern material. We should be using him just the way you have used Evans and Novak on occasion, Bill White and others who will be receptive.

This morning's column in the Post, which you may not have seen and I am, therefore, enclosing a copy, is an unmitigated catastrophe in my opinion. It paints the President in precisely the wrong posture. There is a certain arrogant tone to it: the President can't spare the time to get into the campaign with George McGovern and, I quote, "let McGovern buy his own TV time if he can scare up the money for it. . . .". The column then goes on to tell about the evening on the Sequoia -- quite inaccurately I might point out. It ends up by discussing our campaign strategy which apparently someone has seen fit to show van der Linden -- again not very accurately, however -- and ends up with some total non sequitor ending of a nice little vignette from John Whitaker's memory book.

The column is not only not a plus, it is a negative and this is ridiculous to be feeding this kind of stuff to van der Linden k-- obviously someone has. What we should be feeding to him is material that we really want to get out, perhaps that will rattle McGovern, keep him off base or directly hatchet him. If we want to get out positive material on the President, that's fine, but let's be sure that it is useful stuff, not the kind of thing that is in this morning's column which is distinctly counter-productive. Please get control of this and fast.

August 5, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN CLAWSON

FROM: CHARLES COLSON

If no one is going to use the story on the Philadelphia fund-raising escapade, that is, if Novak has turned it down, please advise me at once. I think I can get it used. We're nuts not to have it used because the passage of time is beginning to make it a stale issue and it is too good to lose.

June 13, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: KEN CLAWSON
FROM: CHARLES COLSON

Note the attached memo that I have sent to Doug Hallett. What I thought I would do is have Doug try his hand at writing columns along these lines and see if you can place them with Thimmesch, William White, Kilpatrick, etc.

The most sophisticated but important point that needs to be made which needs to get into the election year dialogue is the point I made in the third paragraph of the memo attached. This is terribly important to understand. Conservatives, that is the Human Events crowd, do not really care about winning elections. They care about principle always. In fact, they are more comfortable when they are in a negativist role, that is, blocking the liberals. If you had worked with the Congress during the Sixties, you would know our Republican mossback friends loved being able to vote "no" on the Great Society programs. Generally most Republicans not in an elected office spend most of their time building up their personal fortunes, whereas Democrat left-wingers care only about the power of being in office and generally are disinterested in personal wealth. This is a point that people have to understand because the left wing will do anything to gain power including hiding ideological beliefs. The right wing will pursue to the end and almost have a kamikaze philosophy. They almost enjoy dying for their cause. Somehow we have got to get this point out and in discussions this year because it may tarnish credibility of the left and help give inspiration to the right. What we might want to do here is a thoughtful piece, perhaps in this case even a by-lined piece by Hallett, who I am sure understands this very well.