

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>
49	40	4/28/1970	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Harry Dent to the President. RE: Political Notes. 4pgs.

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
N1 [67]	MEMO	From Ehrlichman to RN Re: Friedman's concern	4/3/70	C (NIXON)
N2 [68]	MEMO	From RN to Ehrlichman Re: Domestic Affairs...	4/21/70	C (NIXON)
N3 [69]	MEMO	From Dent to RN Re: Political Notes	4/28/70	C (NIXON)
N4	MEMO	From Ehrlichman to RN		
N4 [70]	MEMO	From Ehrlichman to the President Re: Dam Project W/D 7/29/74 from Restricted file filed with "B's" Alerevibel	4/29/70	

FILE GROUP TITLE

POF

BOX NUMBER

6

FOLDER TITLE

President's Handwriting April 1970

RESTRICTION CODES

- A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.
 B. National security classified information.
 C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.
 D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.

- E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.
 F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.
 G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.
 H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

Presidential Materials Review Board

Review on Contested Documents

Collection: President's Office Files
Box Number: 6

Folder: President's Handwriting April 1970

<u>Document</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
67	Retain Open
68	Retain Close Invasion of Privacy
69	Return Private/Political
70	Retain Close Invasion of Privacy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



April 28, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Political Notes

MARYLAND:

Stan Blair and I have been talking with Chairman Morton about the Maryland political situation. Morton continues to give a negative response to the suggestion that he join with Blair on a GOP ticket in Maryland. However, he has taken on some increased interest in the Maryland situation after Colson gave him some information on the vulnerability of the Senator. This could tip him.

NEW JERSEY:

Nelson Gross is now officially the nominee for the U.S. Senate. The filing deadline passed last week and the one person who had entered against him withdrew. This has been discussed with the Attorney General, and it has been agreed that he is to be treated as any other Senate candidate with the exception that neither the President nor the Attorney General will be committed to anything personally until we see how the campaign proceeds. Gross wants to see the President personally, but I am discouraging this. Governor Cahill feels the questions surrounding Gross have been largely clarified and that most of the newspapers in New Jersey have been on Gross' side. Both Gross and Cahill believe the information leaked on him was generated by Case. None of the leaked items seem to be indictable, but could put him on the defensive when raised by the incumbent, although the incumbent himself has many more such problems.

NEVADA:

Governor Laxalt has been spending considerable time trying to get a Senate candidate in Nevada. He wants to handle this alone until he gets a set of conditions laid down for him by one of his two leading prospects, Lt. Governor Fike, and one of the best state prosecutors in the country, Bill Raggio of Reno. A very recent poll showed that Cannon is vulnerable and rated no higher than 57% against any of the prospective candidates. What Laxalt has to do is convince Raggio to run for the Senate. Both want to run for Governor right now. The Governor has been told to get Raggio to give a commitment for the Senate and we can get him to visit with the President and get a special blessing if he is willing to say yes on the spot. It was explained that we could not have another turndown, particularly from Nevada. It was suggested he do this by the time of the Republican Governors meeting in New Mexico.

ARKANSAS:

It now appears that Governor Winthrop Rockefeller will run for re-election in Arkansas. He is getting some state legislators to switch over.

VERMONT:

Colson has just finished a trip to Vermont and is convinced we can win with Senator Prouty. He is developing some information on the opposition and is now convinced Prouty must be the candidate. The Senator has asked whether the President wants him to run, thinking that he might prefer to retire. Governor Davis wants a visit and help against the Lt. Governor, who is running close for the September primary.

NEW MEXICO:

Cargo is ahead in a close contest. The special arrangement won't come now until after the June 2 primary. Still on track, but both key men want to hold off for various reasons. Cargo wants to go now, and I'm pushing him to push them.

INDIANA:

Hartke's assistant privately admits they'd rather have Snyder than Roudebush. Chotiner is working on this through Pulliam.

WISCONSIN:

Knowles is working on Lovell, the astronaut. Lovell in a news account is reluctant, but doesn't rule it out.

He won't go

OHIO:

Primary May 5 with no runoff. Taft-Rhodes battle is very close. Rhodes is looking better in the TV debates and newspaper endorsements. Probably Rhodes. Metzenbaum could upset Glenn. In the Governor's race, State Auditor Cloud is shown ahead with Lukens third. Gilligan will be the Democrat nominee.

ALABAMA:

Primary May 5 and runoff June 2. Question seems to be whether Wallace gets in a runoff. All polls have shown Brewer leading with Wallace closing in. A third man, disfigured veteran, could force a runoff by attracting 100,000 votes. Or, a Negro group could do it by voting for one of the 5 lesser candidates to get a bargain with Brewer in the runoff. Wallace's hope is to show where the black and GOP votes went in the first race. The Postmaster General is very upset over the Finch and Allen statements indicating the President's statement on schools doesn't change anything. He thinks this is hurting. Attached is a Stewart Alsop column which shows the groups backing Brewer.

TEXAS:

Primary May 5. Bentsen is really pouring it on Yarborough, especially on the Supreme Court. It could be close, but at least sets Yarborough up for Bush and splits the Democrats again.

Preservation Copy

GOP GOVERNORS CONFERENCE:

Chotiner and I are getting gubernatorial nominees who are not incumbents to come to New Mexico and participate in the political session on May 9. This is their chance to see the President. Examples: Olson, Broderick, Watson.

RNC SALARIES:

Chairman Morton has been asked at least several times, judiciously and emphatically, for the salary and other information on the RNC. He is evidently stalling for the purpose of eliminating more staff members before submitting his report. He told me the other day that he had eliminated 28 in recent weeks. I am still pushing, but if this moves him to make more cutbacks, then perhaps we should let him continue under this pressure. He also has some ideas about changing the RNC, even the question of whether we should have two national committee members and a state chairman representing each state on the RNC. He wants to change the entire structure and is willing to cut back the staff even more. He says Elly Peterson will be leaving after November. In the meantime, she will be traveling back and forth to Michigan considerably. The Chairman wants to have a special session with the President before too long to discuss his ideas on the RNC and to get any further suggestions the President may have. The big contributors know the cutbacks are taking place at the RNC and are aware that the move has been generated from the White House.

SPECIAL SITUATION:

Reports are good. State Chairman is confident. Key people being prepared to endorse. Will be a national TV appearance soon. Also a four-week hospital stay for an operation not to affect health so as to become an issue. Shaping up as good campaigner. Will keep fully posted.


Harry S. Dent



WALLACE AND THE SHAPE OF POLITICS

WARRIOR, ALA.—The magnificent looniness of American politics is nicely illustrated here in Alabama. For an earless millionaire who is a minor candidate for governor here could quite conceivably change the whole course of American political history.

The earless millionaire is Charles Woods of Dothan, Ala., whose ears and much of whose face were shot away in the second world war. He has since made a lot of money, and is now spending a good deal of it in a hopeless television campaign for governor. Woods is a supernumerary, a minor actor in the drama. But he could determine the fates of the major actors in the drama—former Gov. George Wallace and the incumbent governor, Albert Brewer—and thus change the shape of American politics.

Brewer is given a serious chance of defeating George Wallace. If that happens, a great, grateful sigh of relief will go up from the White House, and President Nixon will predictably shift his political course several degrees to the liberal-left.

For the threat of a second Wallace Presidential candidacy is, of course, the central threat to all the President's fond hopes for making the Republican Party again the national majority party and, not incidentally, for re-electing Richard M. Nixon by a handsome majority. If Wallace runs again, a good guess is that eight out of ten of his votes—and he got about 10 million last time—will come right out of Mr. Nixon's hide.

COMPULSIVE CANDIDATE

If Wallace is defeated by Brewer, either in next week's primary or in a June 3 runoff, he will be politically dead—and to judge from the tone of his voice when asked what he will do if he is beaten, he knows it. He will no doubt run for President anyway—like Estes Kefauver or Harold Stassen, he has become a compulsive Presidential candidate. But he will be a mere fringe politician, lacking a political base, a curiosity relegated to the "Where Are They Now?" section.

Brewer, as Wallace's longtime protégé and political creation, is Goneril to Wallace's Lear ("How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child") and he has no real differences with Wallace on racial or other issues. But he has been a competent governor, his manner is soothing, and above all, he is not George Wallace.

Not being George Wallace is, among important groups here, a great political asset. Not being Wallace has helped to attract to Brewer the support of the following:

1. The Republicans. Wallace maintains that the state is being flooded with Nixon money, channeled in through Postmaster General Winton M. Blount, a longtime Wallace adversary.

2. The "loyalist" Democrats—those who stay with the national party in Presidential elections.

3. The Brewer precinct-level organization. Brewer, a methodical fellow, has built a much stronger organization than Wallace, who depended on charisma, ever had.

4. The young, who in all straw votes oppose Wallace overwhelmingly. There is, in fact, something very old-fashioned about Wallace, and the generation gap clearly exists in Alabama, too.

5. The Establishment. Every leading newspaper in the state opposes Wallace. So do the utilities and the banks, both of which Wallace attacks head-on in virtually every speech.

6. The new respectables. This is an amorphous category, but it may be the largest of all. Alabama has been shifting even more rapidly than the rest of the country from the rural and small-town society George Corley Wallace grew up in to an urban and suburban society, with a growing middle class which highly values security and respectability. These people much dislike the reputation for sweaty, cigar-chewing, red-neck politics that George Wallace brings to Alabama. It is these people Governor Brewer is addressing when he says, as he does all the time, that "I'll never embarrass you or do anything to make you ashamed."

7. The blacks, or most of them. The black vote is put at between 15 per cent and 20 per cent.

This is a formidable list. But this is where the earless millionaire enters the scenario. No one supposes that Charles Woods has a chance. But his television campaign, in which he presents himself as a sort of anti-politician, has been effective, and some good guessers put his vote next week at 100,000 or even more. Most of those votes would be Brewer votes in a two-man battle. So would most of the votes of ex-Gov. James Folsom (Kissin' Jim), another compulsive candidate, and a racial liberal by Alabama standards. Asa Carter, an arch-segregationist, may take a few

thousand votes from George Wallace, but the minor candidates hurt Brewer markedly more than Wallace.

Until recently, the polls showed Brewer ten points or more ahead of Wallace in a two-man race, but Wallace has been steadily closing the gap. Here in Alabama, he is given little chance of winning the required majority on May 5. But he is given a very good chance of forcing a runoff, with an assist from the earless millionaire.

Then Brewer may be in trouble. For time—time and George Wallace—are working for Wallace. There is not much doubt about the main thrust of his campaign in a runoff. He will charge that Brewer is the candidate of the blacks, and he will no doubt be able to use precinct returns in the May 5 primary to prove it. Indeed, this campaign line has already surfaced.

DARK SUSPICIONS

BLACKS BACK BREWER AGAINST WALLACE, read the headline of a Wallace ad in the Alabama papers on April 21. The same day, to Wallace's evident delight, some Negro youths in Brewer sweatshirts, heckled Wallace. The Brewer people had dark suspicions about the source of the sweatshirts.

This sort of thing is effective in Alabama—even among the new respectables. But more effective still is George Wallace's quite genuine star quality as a campaigner. Here in rural Warrior, for example, you could feel the electric current generated by a great demagogue pass through the crowd as Wallace denounced the banks and utilities, and the rich on Wall Street who don't pay their taxes, and his enemies who "drink tea at the country club with their little finger stubbed straight up, and never do a thing for the people."

Wallace is not only a brilliant campaigner. He is also a populist, an anti-Establishmentarian, and his attacks on the big newspapers, the banks, and the utilities account for that electric current in his shirt-sleeved crowds at least as much as the race issue. His opposition has never been more formidable. But little George Wallace, all the same, may get his chance to "keep my foot in Mr. Nixon's back" so that Mr. Nixon will "keep his promise to give your schools and your children back to you." The people of Warrior need no code book to understand what Wallace means. No code book is needed in the White House, either.