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8	54	6/23/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal	Memo	Copy of a memo from John Dean to Haldeman and Woods RE: the suggested response to a letter from Katherine Timberlake. Handwritten response added by Haldeman on original. 2 pgs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 23, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:

H. R. HALDEMAN
ROSE MARY WOODS

FROM:

JOHN DEAN

SUBJECT:

Suggested Response to Letter
from Katherine Timberlake

On June 1, 1971, Katherine Timberlake, the granddaughter of Edith Milhous Timberlake, wrote the letter attached at Tab A. Prior to mailing the letter, copies were distributed to the press in California. To date limited press coverage has been given to the letter. Upon receipt of the letter here Frank DeMarco was contacted and asked to work with Ed Nixon in the handling of this situation. Ed Nixon indicated that he had no rapport with this side of the family and he knew nothing regarding the circumstances which may have led to the letter.

On Wednesday, June 16, DeMarco called Katherine's father, Dr. Philip Timberlake in Newport, California. He stated that "the less done the better." He felt Katherine sent the letter for publicity, and that she had set it up with the press beforehand. He stated, "no one in the family expects that the President either could or should do anything." He feels Katherine got the attention she was seeking. Dr. Timberlake stated he is willing to help Katherine, but she does not want his help. The State Department of Welfare has been in touch with Dr. Timberlake as a result of her welfare application. He is also receiving mail as a result of the publicity. DeMarco talked with Mrs. Timberlake on June 17, 1971. At that time she voiced her concern for her daughter and expressed a willingness to help if she could, but apparently also feels there is little she can do. She feels that a letter from the President would put the matter to rest.

DeMarco has also tried to telephone Katherine, but found that she does not have a telephone and can only be reached by leaving a message at a bar she sometimes visits. Also, DeMarco does not feel that he really has anything to say, if he should reach her. I told DeMarco to discontinue his telephone efforts until we resolved the question of responding to her letter.

I do not feel that we should leave the letter unanswered. The press is watching for and asking about a reply, and there is always the possibility of an attempted suicide. To date, the response to questions from the press regarding the letter has been that this is a "personal matter." If something were to happen to Katherine that relates to the general plight she describes in the letter, it would subject the President to criticism for his failure to at least answer her letter. It is anticipated that Katherine will release any reply to the press. Attached at Tab B for approval is a suggested response.

Ziegler and Price approve.

Approve OK by me - if Rose agrees.

Disapprove _____

Comment _____