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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 16, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HARRY S. DENT *HSD*
SUBJECT: Intentions of George Wallace

Wallace's campaign manager, Tom Turnipseed, recently quit and is returning to South Carolina to practice law. I am convinced he has given me an honest view of the Wallace camp and present intentions.

Wallace has been in bad trouble in Alabama since winning re-election. The campaign cost a terrific amount and for the first time since 1968 he went into debt. He is fighting with his former ally, the lieutenant governor, and has many other problems with the legislature and with the people, including a tax raise he promised not to advocate. Turnipseed says Wallace would have lost an election in Alabama a few weeks ago.

Turnipseed left because he said he was being undermined by all of the others around Wallace while out on the road trying to organize and set up fund raising dinners. They only wanted to line their pockets with money and they figured the best way to do this was to keep George in the governorship and not run for President again. Only Turnipseed and George wanted to run.

Turnipseed said Wallace has now seized on the busing issue as his best hope for restoring his popularity in Alabama, collecting money, winning national attention, and possibly launching another presidential bid. If the other aides are convinced this will make money, then they will change their advice against running.

Turnipseed says Wallace has no organization. The strategy has been to get on the ballot in every state and then next summer determine which states carried an electoral vote possibility for the Governor. The campaign would then center on those states with the line that Wallace would switch his electoral votes to whichever major party candidate would agree most with his position on questions he would pose on national television. This time he would insure that the successful Thurmond line of 1968--the fear of electing a Democrat by throwing the election into the House of Representatives--would not be permitted to permeate the minds of the voters.

Turnipseed says the one sure way to stop Wallace is to deflate him on the busing issue as soon as possible. One way he discussed was a Constitutional amendment against busing.

This information has been passed to the Attorney General.