

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> |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| 6 | 74 | 12/3/1970 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Domestic Policy | Memo | From Timmons to Haldeman RE: new Republican National Committee Chairman.3 pgs. |

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 3, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR H. R. HALDEMAN

From: William E. Timmons *WT*
Subject: National GOP Chairman

I have contacted selected GOP Congressional leaders about the type person who should be the new GOP National Chairman. While I did not mention any possible candidates, many Members offered suggestions. However, the absence of a recommendation for any given individual should not be interpreted as opposition. (For example, Arends would back Harlow for "King", but it probably never crossed his mind that Bryce would consider the RNC chairmanship.)

I did not contact the three campaign chairmen -- Morton, Tower and Wilson -- but obviously they should be consulted on the chairmanship. Morton himself might make a recommendation for all three.

At an appropriate time, I believe it would be good Congressional relations to convene a special leadership meeting to discuss the Party chairmanship so leaders will feel part of the consultation process.

While opinions of the leaders obviously differed, the "consensus" of those contacted seem to show that the new Chairman --

1. Should not be a Congressman
2. Must **have** the complete confidence of the President
3. Must have full authority to run the Party
4. Should be a nuts and bolts organizer rather than news maker.
5. Bush and Harlow rate high.

Specifically, they said --

JERRY FORD - Said he and a number of other House Republicans are enthusiastic supporters of George Bush for the top Party post and he asked me to pass on the recommendation to the President.

LES ARENDS - Bob Dole would be good; George Bush would also be fine. Doesn't have to be Member of Congress although there is ample precedent.

JOHN RHODES - Should not be a sitting Member of Congress; must be one who has the confidence of the President; an organizer; "a personable Ray Bliss"; if Bryce Harlow would take it, he'd be ideal.

BOB GRIFFIN - Should be good campaign organizer, not necessarily TV personality; must have close personal relationship with the President. No specific candidate.

BOB TAFT - Need an organization "doer" rather than public speaker type; strong guy to take charge -- currently too many cooks in the political act. Reluctant to see Member of Congress do it. Bob Finch would be good Chairman for Taft. Bush may be okay; he's personable but question his ability to "talk through" all problems. Harlow covers all bases (consults) but is not the "public figure" that may be needed.

JOHN ANDERSON - Have to give it some thought. No firm views, but being in Congress is not a handicap to RNC Chairman.

RICHARD POFF - Should not be a Congressman; a technician is best type as opposed to media celebrity; geography is not consideration except should not be one with definite regional limitations, like Alabama. Harlow would be great but surely isn't interested. George Bush, also, idea choice and can perform both nuts and bolts as well as public speaker. However, President has far better judgement than any leader in Congress on this matter.

HUGH SCOTT - Should not be a Member of Congress; President dominates the scene so need an organizer-administrator; helpful to have attractive former Governor as co-chairman to make public appearances for RNC; rather not comment on specific possibilities because Scott doesn't have a personal candidate. Hugh recommends somebody touch base with some of the sitting GOP Governors, the Chairman of the State Chairmen's Association and a few of the National Committeemen from big states like California, Pennsylvania and New York so they cannot say they were not consulted.

GORDON ALLOTT - It should be no one from Congress. Needs an organizational minded man, practical. Should analyze proper role of RNC and then get best person that fits responsibilities. Also, RNC Chairman must be a planner and active thinker, not a responder. Has no specific recommendations for Chairman.

MARGARET SMITH - Should not be anyone from White House or the Hill; not a defeated candidate but one who has practical organizing experience, perhaps a successful businessman.

MILTON YOUNG - Not a Congressman; must have personal confidence of the President; no trouble of Presidential access; have ability to raise money. Heard rumors about Harlow and thinks Bryce would be good.