

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>
8	14	1/18/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	Copy of a memo from RN to Haldeman RE: long-range political planning, particularly that relating to the 1972 election. 3 pgs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 18, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like for you to have a discussion with Finch and Mitchell prior to the time that you, Dole, Mitchell and I meet after the State of the Union with regard to our long-range political activities.

Let us begin with the proposition that for the whole of 1971 I want to keep my own political activities to an absolute minimum. The tough question will come with regard to what we do in the primary states in 1972. For example, if we have to make a decision to enter the primaries, it will have to be made before the end of 1971 in order to handle the situation in New Hampshire. What I see ourselves being drawn into is a whole year of campaigning in 1972 in New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Oregon, Nebraska and California due to their laws which put candidates' names on the ballots whether they approve it or not. There will be a tendency for some of our people to want us to move in this direction in order to preempt the field. My own view is that if possible I ought to avoid getting involved in any of the primary states, including California, even if it meant that this might open up those states for someone else to get their votes at the Convention. Far more important than getting support in such primary states for the Convention is to allow me to conduct myself in 1972 for as long a time as possible in a way that will help us win the election.

In any event, I will under no circumstances agree to do any campaigning whatever in the primary states. What I am thinking of is going even further: avoiding becoming a candidate at all until shortly before the Convention. I am sure that you can see the great advantages of this approach. Talk this over with Finch and Mitchell and then at a later time we will talk it over in a broader group.

What led me to write this memorandum is the fact that several of those who attended the National Committee reception asked about coming in to see me about the political situation in their states. Greg Evens (sp. ?) for example said he'd like to come in to talk about the situation in South Carolina. Bill Fettridge said that he had written me a letter about Sam Witwer, and I assume that the letter dealt with either Witwer's being used in our campaign or perhaps for some other appointment. When Buz Lukens came in to see me, he talked about the situation in Ohio and his desire to work for us in Ohio.

Taking each of these individuals in order, I should under no circumstances have any discussions with Greg Evens (?) about the political situation in South Carolina and this should be a rule with regard to anybody during the year 1971. You, Mitchell and Finch should find a way, however, to follow up with a fellow like Evens (?) so that he feels that the message is getting through to me. Incidentally, in his case, you will have to determine whether or not Evens (?) and Dent get along. I am not sure that they do.

In the case of Witwer, the Illinois situation requires a very thorough examination of all the power units there. In any event, a fellow like Witwer should be used but it is important immediately as you can see that we have some one man in charge in Illinois so that when I get a question about somebody like Witwer, I will know where to refer it.

In the case of Lukens, as you know, this involves John Andrews, the Ohio political hierarchy and a lot of other wheels within wheels. My general impression of him is about what yours is but, on the other hand, he has a lot of drive, a lot of friends and could probably turn out to be quite useful to us provided it will work out in cooperation with Andrews and others in Ohio. I would like for you to see that all three of these are followed up so that they know that I have passed the information on. Lukens, incidentally, tells me that the County Chairman in Cuyahoga County, Hughes, was the real culprit in the 1970 elections and is bad news as far as we are concerned. My guess is that Andrews is our best contact in Ohio but again let's be sure that we just don't line up with one power faction against another. Lukens, incidentally, also wants to talk about political activities in other states where some of his PR people will be working. Just see that somebody responsible handles him in a proper way.

All of this, of course, points up the necessity at the earliest time possible of having our political situation put down state by state as far as the major states are concerned, in a way that we can use the people who will be helpful to us and keep them from getting me involved.