

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 20, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR KEN COLE

FROM:

ED HARPER *EH*

SUBJECT:

Major Presidential Event

This is to propose that the President take a vacation. The logic of it is that the President has worked hard for three years and never taken a vacation. Furthermore, he will have just worked hard preparing for and participating in the Moscow Summit and will have a very demanding campaign before him.

Everybody takes a vacation once in a while; why shouldn't the President?

The President's taking a vacation would serve some very important political purposes. First of all, it would identify him with the average American who takes a vacation trip with his family to see the great sights of America. Secondly, it provides the President with an opportunity to show his spontaneous concern about America and its people. Third, it would show dimensions to his personality that are not readily apparent in the White House setting.

A vacation trip would give him the opportunity to do the following things:

1. Casually meet many average Americans in different circumstances.
2. Go to a baseball game, perhaps in Chicago.
3. Eat out with the public at a restaurant.
4. "Stand in awe" of the Grand Canyon.
5. Visit some Chicanos in a small town in the Southwest.

6. Drive around some of America's inner cities.
7. Independence Hall, Philadelphia.
8. Table Rock, Missouri - School of the Ozarks - Silver Dollar City.
9. Wisconsin Dells.
10. Savannah, Georgia.
11. Disney World, Florida.
12. Yosemite National Park.
13. Sante Fe, New Mexico (Taos Pueblo).
14. Fort Ticondaroga.
15. Atlanta - Stone Mountain.
16. Museum of Science and Technology - Chicago.
17. Ottumwa, Iowa.
18. Leadville, Colorado.

The trip would not be as hard as it might sound logistically. To maintain the vacation format, the President would make no speeches, attend no formal events, and issue no prepared remarks. Thus, the President and Mrs. Nixon need be accompanied by no more than perhaps one staff member beyond Secret Service and servants. The small press pool could accompany him, but they would be given no advance warning as to where they were going to go, or what he would do. The President should scrupulously avoid meetings with any political types. Perhaps the trip could retrace an old vacation route of the Nixon family in previous years.

ELH:ppd