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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>
1	57	10/21/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Butterfield to MacGregor RE: McGovern's plans to visit a U.S. Naval Hospital on Veterans Day. 1 pg.

October 21, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. CLARK MacGREGOR

FROM: ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD

SUBJECT: Planned Visit by Senator McGovern to the U.S. Naval Hospital at Philadelphia

Senator McGovern's staff has just informed the Department of Defense that on Monday, Veterans Day, he (McGovern) will visit the U.S. Naval Hospital at Philadelphia ... "strictly as a U.S. Senator".

Without question, this is a violation of the rules of the game. True, he is a U.S. Senator and going to a large Department of Defense Hospital on Veterans Day is something Senators some times do, but there is just no way three weeks before the general election the principal challenger for the Office of the Presidency can be anything other than a politician seeking office. There is nothing he can do that isn't political.

I am not a strategist -- but my suggestion is that we let him go to the defense facility and do his thing (so long as he does not take with him an unreasonable entourage of reporters, photographers, etc.). Then, afterwards -- if the President and First Family members have not, during this campaign period, done the same thing -- we can hit him with both barrels for the gross impropriety.

I will leave the matter to you ... and get back to your office only if I hear of changes in the plan, or of significant developments, from the Department of Defense.