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<td>White House Staff</td>
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FROM
John D. Ehrlichman

TO
Chapin

& thought
you'd
appreciate this.

Jd
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 28, 1969

To: John Ehrlichman
From: Jack Caulfield

Subject: Large opposition peace signs at political rallies attended by the President.

1. Arrival at the Roanoke Airport last night pointed up a constant problem with which we were confronted during campaign '68. Apparently just prior to touch down, with the friendly crowd solidly in place, a large sign enumerating the number of Vietnam war dead was unfurled up front in a manner to be both obvious and annoying. Chapin brought it to my attention and with some luck I had it removed prior to the President's brief remarks. However, because of the time element involved, it could have just as easily remained unfurled before we were able to get to it.

2. It seems to me that some professional oneupsmanship in this area might be considered for the future. I would like to suggest consideration of the manufacture of an instantaneous inflatable pro-Administration sign. Based on the "Mae West" inflatable jacket principle, such a sign might become part of an advance man's kit for emergencies of the type indicated above. Various models might be contemplated; for example, one large inflatable sign to obscure any large opposition sign and/or small inflatable signs to be erected amongst pockets of dissenters carrying anti-administration signs. The surprise aspects of such a device would go a long way towards minimizing organized opposition at political rallies and for a time, at least, we would have it our own way.

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