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MEMORANDUM

To: Dick Herman; Bill Timmons; Alvin Cooperman  Date: February 3, 1972
Jeb Magruder; Bob Planigan
From: Fred Rheinstein
Subject: Proposal to Networks

Below enumerated are the points that I propose we put to the networks at our meeting in New York on Monday, February 7th.

Before listing, I should like to publicly (well, not too publicly) admit that remarks I have made over the past weeks that may have implied any integrity to Leon Parma and his verbal commitments were in error and I do hereby apologize for them. Yesterday I attempted to deal with Parma on the subject of modular space, and within a period of two hours he gave four different versions of his own promises.

Suggested Arrangements Committee Statement to Networks

1. Networks' anchor booth positions are approved as requested – with NBC's modified to reduce number of blocked seats.

2. Work space allocation, as submitted by pool, approved.

3. Arrangements Committee to supply NBC, CBS and NPACT all of the modular complex space requested.

   Arrangements Committee to supply ABC with 8000 square feet of modular complex space. Arrangements Committee to make available to ABC additionally required 4000 square feet at cost.

   Arrangements Committee to supply CBS with 2500 square feet of office trailer space.

   Arrangements Committee to supply NBC with 6500 square feet of trailer space.

   Arrangements Committee to supply NPACT with 2500 square feet of office space.

   Arrangements Committee to supply Mutual with up to 1500 square feet of office trailer space.
MEMORANDUM

To: Date: February 3, 1972
From:
Subject:

Arrangements Committee to supply Pool with up to 3500 square feet of office trailer space for their use, plus EBU, PBS and outside Pool.

4. Networks will assume responsibility for their studio space and balance of their office space EXCEPT that should possible additional donated office trailer space become available, it will be offered to the broadcasters equally and without charge (or at cost).

5. Networks to pay for their own power requirements, with Arrangements Committee assuming that minor portion used by writing press, independents, etc.

6. Networks to assume cost of covering all 20 hall vomitories. In return, they will be permitted use of 6.

7. Broadcast Pool to assume full responsibility for lighting the Arena with the following conditions:
   a. Selection of contractor to be jointly approved by Arrangements Committee and Pool.
   b. President's lighting consultant and Convention TV Producer-Director will work in conjunction with the Pool lighting director in lighting podium.
   c. Cost of lighting shall be borne by networks, with $5,000-$10,000 contribution being made by Arrangements Committee.
   d. CONTROL OF LIGHTING DURING CONVENTION SESSIONS WILL REMAIN OPERATIONALLY WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE.

8. Arrangements Committee reaffirms that floor cameras and reporters will be permitted. Exact definition of ground rules will follow at a later date.

9. Arrangements Committee acknowledges the request of the broadcasters made in San Diego in January for peripheral camera drops. Hereby we request that these requests be reconsidered and resubmitted more realistically. At the same time, the Arrangements Committee acknowledges that peripheral drops will be allowed in some form.
To:

From:

Subject:

In the broadest, most informal and totally off the record fashion, I have run these proposals by the networks. After all the groaning was finished, I have reason to be very optimistic that they will accept these proposals. Believe it or not, ABC will be the hardest.

Explanatory Note: In paragraph #5, "power requirements" means paying for the construction of the transformers that would be placed in the parking lot to supply all of the current to the users. In all cases, the networks expect to pay for their own energy use by individual meters.

I have just gotten off the phone with architect John Groom who has spent the day examining the seat loss. If the booths go in as proposed, NBC would build over 150 seats and block the view of an additional 380; CBS would build over 20 seats; ABC would build over 60 seats and block the view of an additional 120. This totals 630 seats.

If we insist that the networks elevate the red seats behind their booths, Groom estimates that we can reduce the number of blocked seats to 140. We obviously still lose the 230 they build over, but reduce the total seat loss to 370.

It would be my recommendation that we give the networks their booths, conditional on their elevating these seats at their expense.

FR:es

cc: Lyn Nofziger
    Craig Maurer

bcc: Bill Carruthers
MEMORANDUM

To: Bill Timmons
From: Fred Rheinstein
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL

Date: February 12, 1972

The purpose of these notes is to attempt to bring you and Jeb up to date on the continuing Radio-TV Convention activities. I would preface the informal report noting that there are procedural and, perhaps, ideological, but not personal, differences between Dick Herman and myself. I remind you of this only because there is some implied disapproval in the modus operandi, but retained optimism over the final outcome.

The proposal described in my February 3rd memorandum to you all was the result of protracted talks between Dick Herman, the architects, Craig Maurer, Parma and various other interested parties.

Between the 3rd and the 7th Dick and I had continuing talks, and various portions of the proposal were modified by the changing availability of modular space, trailers, etc., and by a continuing contact with the networks, which was, I think, wisely suggested by Dick Herman. The purpose of this contact was to assure a basic agreement prior to going into the February 7th meeting with the networks in New York, avoiding open wrangling in front of 40 people.

The enclosed carefully considered (and carelessly typed) February 7th memorandum was a summary of what was agreed between Dick and myself and the networks and myself. It was never delivered to anyone but Mr. Herman.

Sunday night, February 6th, a large group met in New York to reconsider all of the details to be discussed with the networks the following morning. Considerable concern was expressed by some of those present over the number of seats that were to be taken by the networks' anchor booths, despite the basic agreement Dick and I had and the tentative approval received from the networks.

This input influenced Dick Herman to decide that he would make the presentation to the networks and would take a hard line. The group decided to limit the networks to 285 lost or blocked seats. (In the February 7th summary, you will note that we had already tentative approval from the networks to give them 360 seats.)
MEMORANDUM

To: Bill Timmons
From: Fred Rheinstein
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL

Date: February 12, 1972
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During the Sunday evening meeting it became apparent that architect John Groom was ill-prepared for the meeting with the networks. He had not performed the explicit requirements ordered by Dick Herman and later by Craig Maurer and myself. A discussion aimed at replacing him was begun.

During the Monday meeting Dick advised the networks that they had not performed in good faith in their proposals for booths - they had not lived up to his requirement articulated in San Diego that no more than 200 seats be lost. He then laid out the new 285 seat requirement, and at the same time told the networks that the Committee would now permit them to use the previously denied area over the main Arena ramp in the northeast quadrant. This was a whole new element. The meeting degenerated into some bickering which was not helped by John Groom's lack of preparation.

The networks have gone back to the drawing boards, mumbling. CBS, whose performance has been unquestionably the most professional of the networks, and NBC (whose has been the least) both told me after the meeting that they felt the Committee was now playing games with them and if their requested positions were disapproved, they would not use booth positions in the hall and would instead chromo-key from studio space in the parking lot.

Some of the unsettled areas: Dick advised the networks (for the first time) that they would be responsible for paying the San Diego Sports Arena for any seat sales lost during the construction of their booths. The negative reaction to this announcement was explosive. I must add, I was as surprised as the networks - I thought that one had gone away some time ago. It should be noted that Alvin Cooperman feels that the amount of money we're talking about is negligible and, in point of fact, be maybe zero.

There exists some friction on the subject of covering the vomitories. I think essentially because Dick regards this as a strategic gambit, and the networks are interested in how much it will cost. When they requested an estimate, the Golden Company gave them one of $15,000 for the whole job.
which, in answer to the networks' probing, turns out to be for permanent concrete coverings. The matter of concern here is not the $15,000, but the re-introduction of the protagonist, or "screwor" and "screwee" system, that I thought we were getting away from. More games.

The networks take umbrage at Dick's earlier insistence that all construction in or around the Sports Arena be done by the Golden Company. This is against all of their policies on taking bids. Dick backed off in the meeting to the extent that he said that they would not be required to use Golden, but he "urgently urged" that they do so.

Unfortunately, the subsequent replacement of John Groom, with whom the nets have been dealing for several months, with the Golden Company, who will now act as coordinator of all things — architectural and constructional — for the Committee, has not answered any, but has, indeed, raised a few questions in their minds.

I think, basically, the rest of the proposal was presented as laid out in the undelivered February 7th summary, and is probably essentially acceptable to the networks. Mainly because they were sternly sent back to the drawing boards, they have not responded on anything. Dick demanded an early answer from them. I feel I have prevailed on him to at least give them respite until after they get back from China.

The only other unfortunate jarring note in network relationships took place on Tuesday night when, at Dick Herman's request, we prevailed upon NBC to provide a screening room for Dick to view the 1968 Convention — in a complicated fashion so that he could see both the network and Pool tape at the same time. NBC rewired their viewing room for this, sent to New Jersey to their archives to pull 30 tapes and set aside three hours of screening time (at a cost, I would guess, of $2,500).

A large group came to the screening, but Dick Herman concentrated essentially on firing John Groom, spent most of his time standing in the hall conferring with various members of
the group, leaving the screening session ill-attended and
the senior NBC News Executive, who stayed to host the
screening, somewhat bemused. At the end of two hours and
fifteen minutes, without adieu, the group broke up and
left the Republican Radio-TV Producer, NBC crew and NBC
Executive to chat with each other embarrassedly.

Sending of Craig Maurer to San Diego to permanently super­
visive the operation down there is probably a very sound
move. Craig likes this sort of thing and does it well.
As I mentioned to you on the phone, however, Craig and
Dick Herman share and, indeed, tend to reinforce each
other's habit of making quick, loud, hip-shot decisions
that sometimes are not really necessary (vis a vis taking
a "hard line" with the networks over 75 seats).

I, therefore, submit to your consideration the suggestion
that the man you were planning to send to watch out for
your interests in San Diego be sent soon (Craig takes up
residence Monday, February 14th) and that he be integrated
right into the Bob Knowles-Craig Maurer-Dick Herman opera­
tion in San Diego. I submit that this ploy might better
enable you to get maximum usage of the considerable talents
of all concerned.

I don't want to close this off on a dreary note. The
frictions with the networks will ease - time and the China
trip are going to help. Personally, as you know, I like
Dick Herman and I feel that for a while I should maintain
a very low profile so that our conceptual and operational
differences don't reach a personal level.

We are going to have a successful August outing, win the
election and maybe have some fun doing it.

FR:es
February 21, 1972

Mr. Bill Carruthers
6777 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, California 90028

Dear Bill:

Enclosed please find some reading material. I would suggest you start with the February 7th memo, then read the 12th, then the 21st. I think you will get a pretty good idea of what's been going on.

I think that the key to all of these problems may really be inserting somebody who is obviously and genuinely in good communication with the White House and Jeb Magruder's activity into the Dick Herman operation in San Diego.

I think one of the terrific problems is that everytime Bill Timmons and Jeb Magruder have a meeting with Dick Herman, they get lots of agreeing from him. He concurs in everything they suggest, he responds that he's going to do what they ask, and then he just carries on and does it exactly his own way. Unfortunately, he has communicated the same spirit to Craig Maurer and Jim Gale, and where they're all going I really don't know.

The note of optimism at the end of the February 12th memo is not, however, false. All of this is going to come out in the wash.

I hope your murderous schedule has eased somewhat and maybe if you have a chance during the week we can get together for a chat.

Best,

Frederic Rheinstein
FRres
Encs.