

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
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3	54	8/10/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Malek RE: the former's political advice on Massachusetts. 1 pg.
3	54	8/25/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to Malek RE: the proper political mobilization of Massachusetts for RN in the election. 2 pgs.

August 10, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: FRED MALEK
FROM: CHARLES COLSON
SUBJECT: Massachusetts Situation

I did not express my true feelings when you were explaining to Volpe and me what you had done in Massachusetts in terms of state chairman. Please see my memo of July 14 to Clark MacGregor, attached.

You will see from the attached that we have nothing but problems up there as a result of the appointment of Don Dwight. I have known Don for a long time, 20 years. He is a very nice guy but the wrong person for this job, which he will only use as a springboard for the Governorship. Someone had better get in and straighten it out in a hurry. Conte and Hecker would have been a perfect combination, but I guess it's too late now, but I damn well would see that they are actively and intimately involved in the campaign. Also, somebody has got to be sure that the staff is properly structured. It would be foolish to have Lloyd Waring as upset as he obviously is, especially since I am sure he is right. He has also been a great Nixon loyalist in good times and bad.

Without sounding conceited, I think I know more about Massachusetts politics than anyone around here and since my advice has been consistently disregarded to date, I should probably stop giving it, but I hate to throw away a state which I know we can win. Ed Brooke's advice has been similarly disregarded and he feels as I do that we are blowing a golden opportunity.

August 25, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: FRED MALEK
FROM: CHARLES COLSON
SUBJECT: Massachusetts Situation

Whoever wrote your memo of August 14 to me is a hell of a lot more concerned about building a file and a record than in getting the job done. It certainly doesn't sound like you, nor is it constructive to say that the points that Karalekas makes are factually wrong.

I don't think your office is in any better position to assess the facts than ours. Steve is from Boston and he does get frequent reports from a lot of the local politicians and whose facts are correct is really a lot less important than what people are saying and thinking. I think you will have to admit, regardless of whose interpretation is correct, or accurate, that there has been very unhappy feelings towards the situation in Massachusetts.

Incidentally, Ed Brooke called me yesterday and among other things that he wanted to discuss, was what he described as the "screwed up" situation in Massachusetts. He too, had been pushing the Heckler-Conte combination. He thinks that Dwight, while a lovely fellow, has already gotten things in a hell of a mess.

Of course, Ed has to be careful; he's a candidate for office and doesn't want to get into a disagreement with the Lt. Governor.

We have in the Democrats operation gotten John Collins to head our Democratic effort in Massachusetts. I have had letters and calls from old friends of mine saying that this will wrap up the state, that Collins is highly regarded and that he has a very substantial following among Massachusetts Democrats. One reported to me that he has been in a lunchroom in Boston frequented by Democratic pols and to a man they said they were going to work to support the President because of John Collins. He really has a lot of the old timers with him. The publicity up there from his announcement has been phenomenally good.

Believe me, from everything I hear in the state, there has never been a better shot at carrying it. The old white-Irish ethnic Democrats are jumping ship in the droves. All I can say is let's not blow it with a lot of little people quarreling over a lot of little things, or with you and I exchanging lengthy memos. Let's get a damn pro to go up there and talk to the people, get them all together, and get everyone working for us. This happens to be one state where I think there is enough enthusiasm that will be generated locally that if we just give them a little guidance and keep them from fighting with each other, they can do the job themselves. Collins, for example, wants to raise his own funds to run a Democrats advertising campaign. Let him go.

After the election somebody can pull your file copy out and do a detailed analysis of how your facts were more nearly correct than mine. But until that time, the hell with who's right or wrong. Let's get the thing going and not miss a hell of an opportunity.