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6	3	11/21/1972	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Policy	Memo	From Higby to Haldeman RE: Bob Dole. 2 pgs.

November 20, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR : H. R. HALDEMAN
FROM : L. HIGBY
SUBJECT : Dole Situation

I talked to Dent, Harlow, and Timmons, on the Dole situation. I have not reached Colson yet. These three gentlemen will be getting together tomorrow afternoon to discuss this whole situation in more detail, but each one of them brought forth some interesting facts.

1. Timmons - Timmons agrees completely with the idea and will move toward instituting the plan. He will get to his contacts out in the field as well as try and work something with some of our closest people on the Hill. He indicates that the Senate Campaign Chairmanship is really no problem - that Brock is already moving in on this - that a conversation this morning with Brock indicated that he already had enough votes to secure the Chairmanship of the Senate Campaign Committee.

Timmons indicates that Wilson is planning on leaving the House Campaign Committee this term and that they are already working in this area. He did not have details, but will be getting them.

In addition, he'll have Cook and possibly one or two people on the Hill try and get out some stories on the Dole leadership and the House and Senate leadership.

2. Dent - Dent had a meeting yesterday with the 12 Republican Chairmen from the South. He indicated that when he raised the point of the need for a fulltime Chairman, that they all unanimously agreed. They are already looking for someone to fill this role. Dent indicated that the problems are as follows: We cannot have 1) a creep individual, or 2) an Administration individual. He feels that the best selection for the RNC slot, by far, is Bush. He feels that this needs to be done shortly before the 1st of the year, that the Chairmen across the country are eager to get going on '74 now.

3. Harlow - Harlow indicated that he agreed with the basic philosophy but did not feel that we should be kicking the Congress very hard - that they are very testie right now and any excuse that we use on them in terms of kicking them will have a strong rebound effect on us. He said that there is already a growing movement in the House that is being conducted very confidentially to replace Wilson - that Kuykendall, is, in fact, heading the movement, and that Harlow is going to be having breakfast with Kuykendall tomorrow morning.

This would present an interesting situation with two Tennesseans controlling the campaign committees.

During the meeting tomorrow between Dent, Harlow, and Timmons, additional strategy sill be discussed. Timmons and Dent felt that the easiest way to get rid of Dole is to have Harlow call him in - that Harlow is really the one who hired him, or made the deal at least, and that Harlow would be in a unique position to get rid of him. Bryce did not feel nearly as comfortable with this as did Timmons and Dent, but I'm sure will discuss it tomorrow with Bill.

LH:pm

November 21, 1972 ✓

MEMORANDUM FOR : H. R. HALDEMAN
FROM : L. HIGBY
SUBJECT : Bob Dole Situation

I had a long talk with Colson this morning about getting the ground work going on the outside with regard to Dole. He indicates that he's been trying to sell the basic fact that the RNC blew the election, but he said we are making a serious mistake to try and pin any sort of blame, or be calling for new leadership, with regard to Bob Dole. If we want Dole to leave, Colson feels strongly that the best way to do it is to simply call Dole in and talk to him and indicate that we think he's done a great job, but now is the time for a change. He says that building the ground swell on the outside will only force Dole to defend his position and be set in concrete on staying. Then, if we try to ask him to stay, he's not going to be able to.

Harlow agrees completely with this position. He said we should not try and build a ground swell on the outside, but should have Dole up for a long chat here at Camp David. He said there are some very persuasive arguments for Dole's departure now.

1. For Dole to stay as Chairman could easily ruin him in Kansas. The President is going into a new term and will be taking some positions that will be contrary to what Dole should take as a Senator from Kansas. The President cannot afford to have his National Chairman be against him, and Dole cannot afford to overlook his Kansas constituency.
2. The change should be made now as we are going into a new term. It's the season of change - we're going to be changing several other posts, and Dole certainly won't stand out.

(7) Harlow indicates the obvious problem is the President's pledge that Dole will stay on. He feels, however, that this can be handled fairly graciously by having a long conversation with Dole.

Colson feels you should be the one to have the conversation with Dole, but indicates that it could be done by Mitchell. Harlow thinks it should be the President.

LH:pm