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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DETERMINED TO BE AN
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E.O. 13065, Section 6-102
By EP NARS, Date 1-19-82

July 2, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL -- EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHUCK COLSON

FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *WT*

I know you have a pretty heavy schedule lined up for Jack Kemp to take on McCloskey. I just want to raise a little warning flag about Kemp.

Our information about Kemp is that he is not quite the war hawk you may think. This came out in the briefing sessions we had in the situation room prior to the Whalen/Nedzi vote. I know Dick Cook has already passed this on to some of your people, but I wish to re-emphasize that Kemp has some dovish tendencies and, because he is a freshman, is not as skillful in debate as some of the more experienced Congressmen.

A further point is that on Wednesday, Kemp made a floor speech which criticized the House Commerce Committee for its attempt to cite Frank Stanton. This is not in the best interest of the President.

Chuck, I know you have a real problem in finding good-looking, articulate spokesmen to take on McCloskey. But I might suggest that you trade off a little charisma in favor of a guy like Charlie Gubser who is a loyal supporter of the President's, knows all the facts, and is skilled in debate.

CONFIDENTIAL -- EYES ONLY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

July 12, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN
FROM: CHARLES COLSON *WR*
SUBJECT: Harris Polls

You have copies of the Harris polls on Kennedy for this week. Next week will be the Muskie trial heats, based on the same field survey of June 9-15. The figures are identical to May. In a 3-way race, the President trails Muskie, 42-40, Wallace gets 13, 5 undecided. But in a 2-way race, it's 46-46, 8 undecided. Harris intends to play this as "the President has closed the gap on Muskie's earlier lead" -- at least that's the way he's described it to me.

Harris points out that there is an enormous contrast between Muskie and Kennedy. The President still does well in the South, 40% to Wallace's 27 to Muskie's 26. But, in the West, Muskie beats us 51-43, in the Mid-West 49-41 and in the East 48-35.

Harris believes that the difference turns on the vote in suburbs and among independents. Interestingly, we do better against Muskie on the raw data than when the unlikely voters are eliminated (the opposite is true with Kennedy). This again illustrates that Muskie does best with high income, better educated suburbanites. In the \$15,000 per year and over category, the President beats Kennedy 52-36, but loses to Muskie 54-41. With the independent vote, however, the President beats Muskie 44-37 (on the last poll in May, Muskie won the independent vote 45-36 but he has offset this loss by increasing his lead in the suburbs).

Harris attributes Muskie's strength to the fact that he is bland, has a neutral image and does not really come across as a partisan Democrat. The lack of controversy with respect to Muskie is at this time his great strength, but will in due course tend to wear thin. The risk to him is that he will become boring and uninspiring.

Lou's close friend, Howard Stein, tells him that there is at least a 50/50 chance that McCarthy will enter the Presidential race as a fourth party candidate. As a result, Harris has done a 4-way poll showing the President at 37, Muskie 35, Wallace 12 and McCarthy 10.

By way of incidental intelligence, Lou says that the Kennedy people believe that Humphrey is absolutely dead as a result of the Kennedy/Johnson papers, that Muskie has been badly hurt but, that Kennedy has not been affected. I have to assume from this that they feel there is no ruboff from JFK to Teddy.

On the subject of the New York Times controversy, Harris believes we should layoff the issue as far as the press issue is concerned; as he puts it we have come out very well, that the real thrust has been against the Democrats and Kennedy and Johnson. He is in the field right now determining what the partisan fallout has been. Based on what he said I can pretty well surmise what he will come up with.

He advises that we should be careful not to appear to gloat over the Democrats' problems, especially LBJ, nor should we on the other hand appear overly concerned about the recent revelations. We should stay above the battle; he believes that the Pentagon Papers controversy will continue while the press issue fades and that our job is to keep the focus on the Democrats. Harris does not believe that the press issue is a gut issue, that it doesn't really affect people or motivate them. The feeling that they have been duped and deceived, however, is a strong emotional point that will endure.