

Richard Nixon Presidential Library  
Contested Materials Collection  
Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>No Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
7	14	9/13/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>		Memo	Copy of a memo from Colson to Haldeman RE: previous memorandum. Handwritten notes on original added by unknown. 3 pgs.
7	14	9/9/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Haldeman to Colson RE: responses to Democratic attacks. 1 pg.
7	14	9/16/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Policy	Memo	From Colson to Haldeman RE: column of journalist Kevin Phillips. Handwritten note added by unknown. 1 pg.

~~7/10~~ file ~~9/18~~  
Tolson

DETERMINED TO BE AN  
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING  
E.O. 12066, Section 6-102  
By 22, Date 1-26-82

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

September 13, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN  
FROM: CHARLES COLSON  
SUBJECT: RE Your Memo of September 9

In response to your memo of the 9th regarding a "crew of hatchet men" who will fire back automatically at our Democratic adversaries, I couldn't agree more that this is one of our major needs; it has been a serious deficiency for some time.

As for specific replies to Muskie and Humphrey on their Labor Day speeches, you should know that Dole did take them both on. We got a pretty good wire service story out of it although nothing appeared locally and there was no network coverage. In that specific instance his speech was good enough to have been covered more extensively than it was. Nofziger assured me that he would have the speech out by noon in order to give the networks time to interview Dole. In fact, the text was not delivered until 3:00 to the galleries which was too late to inspire much network interest. Moreover I don't think Nofziger really tried to get the networks interested in doing any interviews. (This is a separate problem. Nofziger understandably doesn't like to be told what to do but unfortunately even resists when we even suggest things to him.

Dole, Griffin, Brock, Taft, Goldwater and others were given speeches by us to use. All of them toned them down so completely that they got no news at all. One exception was Brock who left in some tough stuff and did make a little bit of wire service coverage. But again, nothing spectacular.

Clark MacGregor and I had a long talk about this problem on Friday. He agrees completely that we must do something about it and is proposing to organize a task force, which will meet regularly with Clark and me to program this kind of ready response when the Democrats attack. Clark said that he was waiting to hear from you about

Presidential participation in one of the first meetings, but I have urged him not to wait for that answer but to get going fast because the need is immediate. I hope we will have something off and running on this today.

A third problem is that we simply are not going to get equal coverage with the Democratic contenders by simply relying upon Dole or even our more articulate Senators or Congressmen. There is, as you well know, the media problem: when Humphrey and Muskie attack us, that's news. When our guys reply, it's back with the corset ads. Not only do we have the media bias to contend with but it is a fact that a Democratic Presidential candidate attacking the President is more news than a Republican Senator defending the President and attacking his colleagues.

This raises the broader policy/strategy question which I think we need to focus on very seriously. We can use Dole for the day to day attacks to the extent we can get him motivated and Nofziger to cooperate. We can also use the Senators and Congressmen but we shouldn't expect too much unless they are willing to do things professionally and even then it is tough.

This, therefore, raises the question as to the use of the Vice President and the Cabinet members occasionally for this kind of response to partisan attacks. For example, I would like very much to use Richardson to hit Muskie on his busing position. From time to time Stans, Hodgson, Connally and others could be programmed to take on the Democratic candidates and as a "big gun" from time to time the Vice President could do it very effectively.

Obviously, I don't want to proceed in attempting to line up these kinds of replies until we have really thought through the pros and cons and have decided as a matter of basic strategy that we want to do it. Clearly it is engaging the Administration early in a head-on contest with potential Democratic contenders; we will be accused of being partisan and we will be getting ourselves down to the level of the nit-pickers and snipers. On the other hand I favor doing it at key opportunities because it may be the most effective way for us to blunt the attacks and perhaps discourage them in the future. If the decision is we should do it, I will work on getting Cabinet members programmed for appropriate times. We should all agree it should be the party line and I will proceed then and see that it gets executed.

As a side note I think Clark MacGregor now agrees that Jim Hogue is really not up to the job of handling the Congressional reactions. We had another very disappointing performance on Friday when Hogue was simply not able to get the press secretaries to get releases out in time. Hogue is handicapped in that he does not deal with the principals. And I also don't think he is aggressive enough to really push when we need something. He also has on some occasions consulted with Nofziger and toned speeches down in advance before he even delivers them to the congressmen and senators. As I say, I think Clark is aware of this and told me that he planned to deal with the problem very quickly.

Please give me your guidance on whether Administration officials should start answering the critics directly, head on. Please also consider the need to schedule the session with Nofziger. As to the rest, Clark and I will continue to fight the good fight although as I have indicated we are going to have difficulty getting as much impact as we would like.

cc: Clark MacGregor

*OK*  
*Meets Act it up*

10/10/71

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

DATE: 10/10/71

SUBJECT:

10/10/71

We will have to do one more day of development. The  
usable crew will still be with the 1st day. We will  
when things come up. The 1st day is the 1st day of  
to Atlantic and completely. The 1st day is the 1st day  
we get Date and Distribution, and the 1st day is the 1st day  
and make up a rolling crew. The 1st day is the 1st day.

HRH:kb

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

EYES ONLY

EYES ONLY

September 16, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN  
FROM: CHARLES COLSON *CC*  
SUBJECT: Kevin Phillips Column

A very good friend of mine in the press corps has warned me that Kevin Phillips has a hatchet column that he has written about me. It is apparently very negative which will, of course, initiate me into the very select circle of White House staffers who have been bludgeoned by Phillips. Curiously, I have never met Phillips nor did he ever call me about the article.

Thus far it appears that his publisher will kill it (I do have one or two friends somewhere). I have been reliably told who fed him the information if you are ever interested. — *Mitchell Magruder*

What is more disturbing is that my friend has told me that Phillips had access to a secret memo that I wrote on April 6, 1970. It was either read to him or given to him. Fortunately, as you will see, it is (relatively speaking for me) a carefully written memo. What scares hell out of me is that there are a lot of other memos around here written by me, you and others that could blow us right out of the water. If someone is going to the lengths they obviously are to dredge up the old memo attached, who knows what else they might let out? It is possible, perhaps even probable that one of the addressees of this memo gave it to Phillips. Perhaps some sleuthing should be done although I am very concerned that it might cause Phillips to force his publisher to release the column.