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May 30, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL RHATICAN

FROM: CHARLES COLSON

I have just had lunch with Cooper Holt and as I suspected he is feeling somewhat sensitive about not being involved in the campaign planning process. Cooper said he wanted to turn the whole VFW organization loose for the campaign and that they are solidly for Nixon. He has always felt shut out by Don Johnson and now really doesn't feel a part of it since Naylor is a Legion man and close to Johnson. Cooper is very sensitive this way.

This was the one reservation I had when I cleared Naylor's being hired by the Committee. I was concerned he would favor the Legion.

The only way to get this off to the right start is for you and I and Naylor to meet with Cooper so that I can make absolutely clear to Naylor that he is to work closely with Cooper. Cooper said none of their former National Commanders have been contacted yet which to me is ludicrous because many of them could be extremely helpful to the President. They are primarily Democrats and as we have found out many many times, the VFW is much more active in their support than the Legion.

Please have a discussion of this with Naylor and then set up such a meeting.