

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>
50	65		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Policy	Letter	From St. Johns to Rose Mary Woods RE: Watrgate and George Muphy. 4pgs.
50	65		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Policy	Letter	From St. Johns to Rose Mary Woods RE: RN and press. 4pgs.

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
N-1 [DOC 91]	letter	St. Johns to RMW re Watergate & George Murphy	n.d.	C (Nixon)
N-2 [DOC 92]	letter	St. Johns to RMW re RN & The Press	"Tuesday"	C (Nixon)

FILE GROUP TITLE

PPF

BOX NUMBER

40

FOLDER TITLE

S [1977]

RESTRICTION CODES

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| A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy. | E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information. |
| B. National security classified information. | F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes. |
| C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights. | G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material. |
| D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person. | H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material. |

Presidential Materials Review Board

Review on Contested Documents

Collection: President's Personal Files

Box Number: 40

Folder: S [1 of 7]

<u>Document</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
91	Return Private/Personal
92	Return Private/Personal

Free
Adela
Rogers
St John
must
talked

Dear Dear Rose;

I miss you. I wish we were somehow situated so that I saw you oftener. This is partly my thanks for all you did to make my grandson George's visit to Washington a success. It heartened and inspired him, and George can share it with his many young groups. Talking last week to a convention of hundreds of Sunday School superintendants and teachers from Florida, New York, Illinois etc etc. I stressed that I thought we ought to begin a better selling job on the adventure, joy, excitement and glory of the GOOD side of life. What our great statesmen, scientists and leaders in every field have believed and declared even if they had lapses. Something about G. Washington beside that smug dumb story about the Cherry Tree. To be in The White House, to speak with the President of the United States is a rock under their feet and I think it's good that it happens to a number of the younger men like George .

This week I spoke at the Ebell Club, biggest turnout they've had. Nobody present under 109, still they are all socially prominent and wealthy old ladies with prestige and influence. As I did at the Jewish Community Center in Kansas City recently I used the story of Dempsey's definition of a Champion. He said two things they all had and must have. To be able to do the big thing THEN, in Madison Square Garden at 10.15 that Tuesday evening, above all to be able to get up off the floor when you can't. I remind d them that Richard Nixon had been on the floor, had lost a championship fight. But we all saw him get up , have the guts to challenge again, train, work, believe and pray to win the next one-- which very few men have ever done in all history. I said this makes him

a real champion, and as the days get tougher and we are really faced with our own part in this battle it is great to remember that Nixon IS a champion and therefore can do it NOW at the required hour. In both instances I got standing ovations.

George was moved greatly by church at the White House--and that moves me to enclose a sermon by my own minister Dr. Fletcher Harding. Howard Strickling, for many years head of MGM public relations and a number of journalists etc go to Dr. Harding. He has the Community Church in Encino, San Fernando Valley, an independent church, which is growing as fast as many are going down hill--churches I mean. He packs two Sunday services and his Youth groups are outstanding. Much leadership which I use in my anti-drug fight. Thousands of copies of this particular sermon were sent out by request--and I never saw an audience or congregation more stirred and inspired. I thought it a sermon that could well be delivered in The White House. As you perhaps know, the Metaphysical Movement as it's sometimes called has millions of followers---The Unity Daily Word has an incredible subscription, Dr Ernest Wilson is the most popular minister in Kansas City. Dr. Harding is a fine speaker and has done a lot of TV and college work.

There is one political matter I'd like to mention---

You've got a real real tough one in George Murphy and he seems intent on making it tougher. "I don't propose to make a big issue of this" he says--when caught taking a yearly salary from a political leader to the very far right! Maybe he doesn't, but I assure you his enemies do. NOT on conflict of interests, but on as I say being paid a yearly salary by one of the best known far-right conservative active political bosses in the country. That's almost as stupid as remark as another they

are readying to repeat--"I can't withdraw I need the money" and this they seem to confirm--his saying it, I mean.

I've known George Murphy a good many years. Probably The President has feelings of loyalty for old friendship, BUT if I put down here how many of us it took to keep Murphy from fouling the whole thing up he might not feel so strongly.

His opponents are sharpening every knife, and I think they feel that maybe in young Tunney they have a real candidate in the Kennedy class. I feel strongly that I shouldn't be asked to vote for such lousy candidates as Max Rafferty and George Murphy---but I will swallow my pride and fear and stay with Murphy---but if he wants to get elected he had better come down off his high horse and get to his constituents. I know Reagan now thinks he can elect anybody to anything but I'm not sure. The 18 year old vote will kill even Reagan off--that's for sure. Anyhow what I really want to say is that somebody who knows ought to watch Murphy and his campaign closely so he doesn't do The President any harm. I will shut up and support Murphy because I judge the President would rather have him than any Democrat, but I do think Murphy is in serious trouble and need stronger tactics and leadership. He's got to get some of the liberal Republican vote--and even a few Democrats and the Frawley thing has hurt him in those areas very badly. As a Tunney man said to me this morning "Murphy wasn't being paid by Frawley to tell Technicolor what to do, he was being paid by Frawley so Frawley could tell Murphy what to do."

I am making a mid West week or so in April--a very fine schedule--be at the School of Journalism at Missouri for 2 days---and then I hope to settle

down to my new book. But maybe you'll get out here this summer--I'd love to see the San Clemente place--I used to ride horseback out of there . Do let me know anything I can do and meantime do let's all remember 1. Murphy is an actor. In the end---2. There is still a woman's vote--not what it used to be, but still there. I'm speaking to their big opening meeting--the Republican Women---in April and Sybil Brand is giving me a luncheon to speak---

I send my most affectionate regards and prayers to President Nixon and as always my love to you--

Adela

Tuesday

Dear Rose;

I'm sorry you feel as you do, but that of course is your decision. Even granting your misinterpretation and misunderstanding of what I said, for many years I have given Mr. Nixon loyalty, devotion, hard work, time and any knowledge I had of public relations and any press contacts I had. In defeat as well as victory. At a time when defeat had seemed final, if you will recall I spent a lot of time and thought on helping him to some profitable and constructive activity. I don't believe one mistake--again to give it your way of looking at it---should be held in such enormous proportion.

In the first place, it wasn't the fault of The Press that Mr. Anderson had a story to break. As far as I as a newspaperman am concerned, I feel that Mr. Nixon's whole operation connected with Watergate was a matter of bad judgment, of poor press relations, of lack of foresight, of what to me in that bracket seemed stupidity. He has not always been brilliant in his handling of matters for The Press and not even you can convince me that he has or that he has a genius about his relations to same. You blame The Press---but I continue you say that Freedom of The Press is the first of all freedoms, without it you have no others, and he gave me the Medal for 50 years devoted to the belief and work that without a truly free and informed Press a Democracy is impossible. I believe this. And my first responsibility always is to that Press.

If you will recall when he was vice-president I spent a lot of time trying to help him with his press relations. And I think I did.

You have forgotten or didn't notice that after the words which so bitterly offended you I did speak for some time of the fine inner conviction which

have often handicapped him in his relations to The Press. I do not for one moment believe what you said on the telephone--that The Press is out to get him etc.--BUT try as I believe he has, he has never been at ease with them nor made the friends he could have done had he been. It is not the desire of The Press to be at odds with The President. We were never at odds with Mr. Roosevelt, for instance. But he made us his friends. I have spent a great deal of my time in the past years defending Mr. Nixon from my friends in The Press. I have even in the past year gone around the country making talks on both TV and to clubs etc--and always I have made it a point to say something good about The President. On an overall basis I think I have done as much for him as he has for me. Over the years. You will do me the justice to recall that I was speaking as a reporter to a reporter on the show you saw. I was asked as a reporter what I thought of the Watergate occasion and whether or not I thought Jack Anderson had done the right thing. I did thing so---I still do. The Free Press is the guardian of the rights of the people. The Free Press means that Jack Anderson must do what he did---and as a reporter looking at it I would have had to judge exactly as I said. IF the President of the United States in his position to know and see had looked at this all this time then do nothing---either he was part of some of it or his people were, OR he is too stupid to see it. I'm sorry--I'm sorry that it's that way but that's the way it is.

Also, you might remember how long and how hard I--with others--worked to get rid of Haldeman! Beginning way back in San Francisco. Allen Drury speaks of that---we all do. Yet no attention was paid to us and the President got into a mess that shook the country's confidence and that hurts.

Dear Dear Rose, I know this last year must have resembled a long and terrible nightmare to you. And that you have been right in the midst of it. With at all times your true devotion to Richard Nixon, I know that since you trust him and believe in him many things must have seemed to you complete injustice which to others were subject for thought and investigation. I have said many times in many places that nothing could ever make me believe Richard Nixon would or could be dishonest about money. But---I have been forced to say this by what was going on. I always said it. But I was unhappy that it needed to be said.

I'm sorry, Rose. But in the matter of Watergate I think what I said on t at show. Either he had part in it--which I hotly denied I could think--or he was stupid, and I think he was stupid in handling it with The Press. I wrote to him from San Diego when I was down there speaking for the national Kiwanis meeting long before the papers got hot saying " Clear some time and tell everything you know about Watergate." Anyone could see what was coming--anyone in The Press. Any good press secretary such as Steve Early or Kenndy's four or five men--McCarthy, O'Donnell etc. Dave Powers with Sandy Vanocur and others--good working newspapermen--to back them up. Who has Presid nt Nixon had? People who hate The press, who think it is unjust etc. ^{Don't know} He also had Bobby, who was a true genius at handling The press. I wrote you the other day before our unhappy phone call asking who was handling The Press for The President--and this chiefly because I had had many newspaper and TV men ask me. WHY doesn't he have somebody we can work with? Even if as you assume they are antagonistic--they shou;d be even more carefully told the truth.

With things as they are he should have 3 or 4 GOOD first class press men around him. Watching--seeing ahead--- Mr. Roosevelt used to call us in and have long talks about what the Press reaction would be. So if you have read Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye you know Jack Kennedy did.

A press conference should have been called immediately about The Tapes. OFF THE RECORD which Roosevelt and Kennedy and Johnson used constantly-- The Press should have been told ALL about them. Even under the oath of OFF THE RECORD in The White House, some of them played. It was in the handling--so inept and absurd--that The Tapes became magnified.

Oh Rose--I love The President and have since he was a young congressman fighting Hiss. I suffer under the bad, stupid, utterly dangerous and unfair to himself and the public way of handling The Press which he has fallen into. Years ago when he was Vice President I wrote him " Make at least three or four close trustworthy friends in The Press to whom you can talk off the record about anything that comes up and get good sound press advice."

I am sorry Rose that you felt me disloyal. I think the disloyalty may have begun on the other side. Why weren't we trusted--consulted--and been able to advise The President of the United States on matters so dangerous as Watergate--

Whether it sounds like it or not--this is with my love always--

Adela