

GANN

TOD - What do you think? (2)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

16 April, 1973

EXECUTIVE

Lennon, John
Ono, Yoko

MEMORANDUM FOR: JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN
KEN COLE ✓
TOD HULLIN
CRAIG GOSDEN

FROM: FRANK GANNON *FG*

Could we bring a little benign neglect to bear on the Lennons?

As you will see from the attached, for better or worse, this is Page 1 news, and both on the merits of the case and on the principle that there is no point in gratuitously offending large segments of the youthful and educated populace, couldn't we just apply a soft pedal? Now, as you will see from the Wall Street Journal editorial, we are even exercising our Friends.

I had the Fellow at Justice look into this last summer, and the attached indicates the confusion surrounding it. The paranoids who think that the Lennons are being persecuted are wrong, but it does seem that the wheels of justice are grinding exceedingly small in this case. Now that things have quieted down again, couldn't we slip a word to someone?

Attachments

TODS REACTION - 1) Thinks it would be BAD to publicly support Lennons -
2) A subtle fisher
To Justice might NOT BE A BAD idea
3) TOD would like to think about it for "20-90" days

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APR 18 1973
CENTRAL FILES