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Dear Dick:

I've tried for a few weeks to have another brief conversation with you concerning the Labor groups' desire to join us. Rose put me in touch with a splendid chap (Tom Evans) but it has never worked out. I understand this as I know how terribly busy you and Pat are—(and the girls too). You've all been magnificent. However, what I was working on was urgent or I would not have wanted to use even a minute of your valuable time.

I enclose a clipping from today's Post which sums up the picture. I can understand your not wanting to get too involved with labor but from the inside—"our dilatory tactics in finally getting to see their top men has lost us many votes and millions of dollars." In California we lost out with Labor completely because of the manner in which we (or rather John Mitchell) handled the original meetings. This was our first breakthrough with Labor on a large scale and I believe many thousands of them were aching to vote for you. I think that these votes are now lost. I have been at your side since Alger Hiss days and will remain there always but felt compelled to write this letter.

For better news—my spade work with Clare Luce during the summer and learning that young Hank Luce was against you (He was as rabid a Nixon fan in 1960 as I) has turned out quite happily. Clare flew down from Newport to spend the day with Hank at Fishers Island and came back feeling she had made great headway in getting him back on the track. When I reported this to Maury Stans, he suggested you call on Hank—provided you would not be rebuffed. Certainly your meeting with him was handled in a masterful way and I feel Life and Fortune coming out officialy has helped tremendously. As you know, Time never "comes out" However, they have predicted more than once that you will be the winner and, of course, that is important and is tantamount to endorsement from them. Clare wants the UNICEF post and I hope she'll get it. I should also like to see you with other suggestions, humbly made, after the great day!
I see wandering in and out of here some of the same old "dead beats" and as you know, I am well aware of many instances where the bones are buried -- Clare told me just a few minutes ago that she hoped you'd make a great pitch this week on what a marvelous team you'll bring into the White House. Naturally knowing your policies, you won't mention a name but simply make the statement.

Forgive me this direct approach but all other channels have failed. I return again to D. C. Tuesday afternoon and will be back here on Friday.

Ruth joins me in our ever affectionate greetings to you and your family.

Faithfully,

Wiley T. Buchanan

P.S. I think Billy Graham has been fabulous!!!!!