

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
White House Special Files Collection
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January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: RMW

FROM: RN

I think you ought to send an invitation to Betty Palmer for the Inauguration.

And, also, I think it might be thoughtful to send one to Arnold Hutschnecker.

Also, along the same lines, Mr. and Mrs. Ab England should be invited to the Inauguration.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: RMW

FROM: RN

The next time you get a request for a favorite hymn, you might give them the name of one that is not well-known, but which I often played on the piano, with my own arrangement.

The title is, "He Will Hold Me Fast."

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roy Ash
FROM: RN
cc: Bob Haldeman

In reading one of the reorganization reports I note that a suggestion was made that we ought to set up a Cabinet Committee on wage-price stabilization. I know that a committee of this type is already in existence, and the question is whether it is worth continuing, should be disbanded, or whether something new should be set up in its place.

Perhaps this should be decided after discussion with McCracken, Kennedy, Stans and Shultz.

This, incidentally, is an area where I would not consult Moynihan since his concerns are solely in the urban affairs problems.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

In the general PR area it is vitally important that in the early days of the Administration, it become clear that we are initiating a new foreign policy, a new policy on government organization, and a new policy on law and order, as well as a new fiscal policy to stabilize the dollar. In addition, of course, we need to give definite indications of new directions as far as our urban problems are concerned.

I would like for you or someone under your direction to keep informed on what is developing in these various areas and to see what, if anything, we can do to create these impressions in the public mind in the next two or three months.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Rogers

FROM: RN

As I recall you had had some discussion with Lucius Clay with regard to the Chairman assignment.

I have no feeling as to whether he would fit in, but I wanted to be sure that you have followed up on the discussion so that he is not waiting for a call from me.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman/John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

The possibility of Gail Patrick Jackson for the Betty Furness job is intriguing.

I am inclined to think we are probably stuck with this job because if we don't fill it a great outcry will be raised that we don't care about the consumer. I don't know whether Gail would do it or not, but I would like some discussion to take place within the staff and a recommendation made to me.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman/John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

By the end of this week I think we ought to have made firm offers to Champion, Hill, Lodge, Murfin, Day, Coleman, Middendorf, Warner and Sandoval, Herb, and any others in the strictly political category where heat will otherwise fall on me.

Pete Flanigan is on top of the situation and probably will have some answers.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman/John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

I spoke to Pete Flanigan on a subject which I know he will be looking into but which presently probably is on the back burner because of more urgent matters under his jurisdiction. I think it is vitally important for us to get a list of the blue ribbon commissions which the President can appoint, involving part-time service and great prestige.

The Intelligence Board is one of this type. Here I am going to move off a lot of people who are either too old or who are not politically with us and appoint a number of others who have interest in this field.

For example, a fellow like Jim Copley might be appointed to the Intelligence Board or something similar in which he has an interest.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman/John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

One point that should be made to all Cabinet officials (I imagine that most of them have already taken this into consideration) is that they get the best possible evaluation of the career people in their departments.

All of the recommendations of our reorganization task force lean hard on this point. The tendency, naturally, is to think almost exclusively at this time of the appointees we will be naming, but the quality of the career people and where they are placed will make or break the Cabinet official.

Don't write a memorandum on this. I think that a telephone call to each Cabinet official, reminding them of this, might be in order.

It will not be necessary, incidentally, to call Rogers or Laird. I know both of them have already moved in this direction-

The other Cabinet officials, however, I think could well use this kind of a reminder.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman/John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

It is time to rough out my schedule for the first week after the Inauguration. I would like for you to discuss this in a meeting with Bryce, Kissinger and Moynihan on specific matters.

I thought that it might be helpful, for the morale of the departments generally, for me to try to make a personal visit to each Cabinet Department, of a half-hour each, on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th. We could probably do four each day. This would simply be a call at the Department and a brief talk to the 100 to 150 top officials in the Department.

At State and Defense, and possibly Justice, it might be well to make this a luncheon visit, and if we take four days for the exercise, Treasury might be added to that list or HEW for a luncheon visit.

Another possibility would be to schedule a drop-by at the Senate one day around noon, and a drop-by at the House. Harlow might advise as to the advisability of such a move. In each of these cases a lunch with the leadership would probably be in order.

An NSC meeting, an Urban Council meeting, and a Cabinet meeting should all be scheduled during the first week as well.

Social events should be limited to those I have already discussed with Ehrlichman.

By the end of this week, I would like to see a tentative schedule and recommendations for my approval.

In working on my schedule for the first week consideration should also be given as to when the first press conference should be held.

I am inclined, incidentally, not to make it a grandiose television spectacular such as Kennedy staged. I think it might be well for us to move in the other direction and while having it, of course, open to television, make it low-keyed. I, however, am open to suggestion on this subject and this is one which should be kicked around by the PR group.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roy Ash/ Bob Haldeman/ John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

At the present time I realize that we are having Bob Ellsworth doing a study of the independent agencies and giving him the responsibility of supervising it from the White House.

I have long thought that we should look at these agencies and see whether or not supervision in several instances could not be put under an appropriate Cabinet head. Only a few should be the responsibility of the White House.

Certainly the Small Business Administration should be under the general supervision of Commerce. The Federal Mediation Service, in my view, should be under the supervision of the Labor Department, although you are likely to get an argument from Stans on this -- one, incidentally, that I think is fallacious.

NASA cannot be put under Defense because that leaves out its non-military functions. Therefore, it would have to remain under general White House jurisdiction.

I think I would be interested in seeing Ash's recommendation as to what independent agencies can be put under Department heads for supervision. This becomes important because as we name the heads of these agencies if we believe they should be under a department head we tell the individual we appoint that that is the way it is going to be.

For example, I think that should definitely be the understanding with regard to USIA which should be under State.

AID, on the other hand, needs somewhat separate identity due to the fact that Defense and other agencies also have an interest.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Rogers
FROM: RN
cc: Henry Kissinger

At the beginning of a new Administration I believe that an analysis of the qualifications of all of our Ambassadors abroad, career as well as non-career, should be made. While the great majority of career men will probably be retained in their present posts, the beginning of a new Administration is a good time to move some of the dead wood out and to move some of the unqualified men from one post to a less sensitive one.

In my travels abroad I have, of course, seen the usual number of political appointees who weren't qualified for the job they held, but I have also seen a number of career men who were pretty inadequate and who should be replaced.

I think a very hard-head analysis should be made just as soon as we take over on January 20 so that any changes can be made within the first two or three months that we are in office. If we delay beyond that point we will be subject to the charge of being vindictive, personal or political. Changes at this time, of course, will be expected.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Henry Kissinger

FROM: RN

There is no hurry on this, but I would like to have for future reference the number of dictators who were in office in Latin America when Eisenhower left office in 1960, as compared to the number when we take over on January 20.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roy Ash

FROM: RN

I have the feeling that we are not getting enough of the bright, younger business executives in your age group, 40 to 50, who might bring some real imagination and drive to the Administration.

Would you give this some thought and try to see if we can enlist some of them in the days ahead.

cc: Bob Haldeman

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman/ John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

With further reference to RN schedule in the first week, I want to start a practice of about once each month of seeing the independent agency heads.

In the first instance they can all be brought in in a group because the message will be one involving morale, etc. After that, we will have to see them individually, and in groups only when the problems are common.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dwight Chapin

FROM: RN

My recollection is that I left some golf clothes at Limebrook.

I can't recall whether I left any golf clubs there or at Baldustrol.

I think I did leave some golf shoes or something else at Baldustrol.

Would you see that checks are made at both Clubs to gather up what, if anything, I left there so that they can be shipped to Washington.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

I note that we are beginning to receive invitations to do commencement speeches.

Hardin spoke to me about doing the commencement at Nebraska on its 100th anniversary on May 31. When I was in Chicago the President of Northwestern asked me to do their commencement in June.

I am not keen on doing any commencement addresses at this time. In any event, I do not think any decision with regard to commencement addresses should be made before approximately March 1. I think both of these invitations should be responded by telephone by you stating our situation and if they want to go forward with somebody else it is okay.

If I am unable to do them it is possible that they might want Agnew.

In any event, I would like advice from our PR group as to what, if any, commencement addresses I should do this year.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

I understand that CBS had a 15 or 20 minute film on the wedding, (I think it was CBS, it might have been NBC), which was carried broadly.

I wonder if you could check and see whether it would be possible for us to get a tape of this film for our library. We would like to see it at the White House if possible.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

When I was in South Carolina I told Jimmy Byrnes we would have him in the White House for his next birthday, which I believe will be his 90th.

Would you check this and put the date on for a lunch or dinner if it fits into our schedule.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Ehrlichman

FROM: RN

Would you give me a report by the end of the week as to what we are going to do about pictures for distribution to the government offices and also, what, if anything, we ought to do about autographed pictures for members of the Cabinet, sub-Cabinet, etc., as well as Ambassadors.

Perhaps you ought to check this with Johnson to see what he did and also with Goodpaster to see what the Eisenhower practice was.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman

FROM: RN

A reminder -- where are the thank you notes, which I asked for sometime ago from Herb Klein, to favorable press and television commentators?

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman
FROM: RN
RE: National Committee

It is imperative that we move on the Bliss matter this week. If we let it drag until the Inauguration he will just stay on because we do not have an alternative.

Also, I think it is vitally important to go forward on the new National Committee organization plan if we have one agreed upon.

In reading Sears' recommendations there are, of course, suggestions that simply cannot be put into effect at this time -- for example, getting rid of the Senate and House Campaign Committees. We may be able to reduce the flow of money to them but, on the other hand, with people like Tower in charge there isn't any way that we can get rid of them.

A strong National Chairman, however, might be able to coordinate their activities much more closely with those of the National Committee, particularly if we use our financial clout to bring them into line.

Give me a report on this general subject -- Bliss and the National Committee organization -- before the end of the week.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman

FROM: RN

Before the end of the week I would like a report on the correspondence and statement specialists you are trying to find for me.

I would like for you to also give me a report as to what we are going to do with regard to the staff secretary position which Goodpaster filled for Eisenhower and in which he sat in on National Security Council meetings, and also some meetings in the President's office and followed up on decisions that the President made. This is not something which you can undertake with your administrative responsibilities which will keep you too busy to handle a great amount of detail as well.

I want you to have a talk with Goodpaster, as I indicated in a previous memo, see what is needed, and then give me a recommendation as to the man (I believe he should be a military man) for the position.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman

FROM: RN

In reading the organization memos and in talking with Arthur Burns, what they really come up with is the recommendation that we need a "Sorensen" to handle our domestic programs.

This is clearly different from your responsibilities as the chief administrative official of the White House with all of the problems, personnel, etc. under your supervision.

With some trepidation I think we might take a new look at Ellsworth to see whether he might fit this role, at least in part.

One other very important conclusion that came out of our meeting with Burns is the need to drag Buchanan, Price and Safire into discussions on domestic matters so that they will not be doing their writing in a vacuum. Unless they participate in discussions with regard to the development of programs they are not going to be effective.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Haldeman

FROM: RN

As you read the attached memorandum which I have sent to Keogh, I would like for you to ask each Cabinet officer to assign one of their closest and most trusted associates within their Department to prepare a paper for each Department on what they inherited from the outgoing Administration.

The problem we are confronted with here is that unless we develop these facts now we will not have a yardstick to measure our own performance, and also will not be able to prepare the political comments which must inevitably be made as we go into 1970 and 1972.

I do not want you to send a memorandum on this. I think it can best be handled by a personal telephone call to each.

Memoranda should not be sent on political matters since one of them is undoubtedly likely to get out and appear in the newspaper. I want you to see to it that all of the members of the White House staff have the good judgment not to write memoranda on strictly political matters. Use the telephone or personal conversation.

Perhaps Ellsworth could make a study in this respect with regard to the independent agencies.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Keogh

FROM: RN

cc: Bob Haldeman

I would like to have the research team, under your direction, develop a paper for me which we may later decide can be made available to some of our political figures, on what we inherit as we take over from Johnson in terms of VietNam and other failures in foreign policy abroad, as well as problems at home.

Perhaps one way to get at this is to compare the situation today with what it was when Eisenhower left office in 1960.

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on Also, along the same lines, Mr. and Mrs. Ab England should be invited to the Inauguration.

January 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: RMW

FROM: RN

Dick Ogilvie wants a picture -- one of the larger ones for framing.

Would you send one in to me for an autograph.