

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
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Folder List

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54	28	08/28/1962	Memo	From Bob Haldeman to RN, re: Reports on phone calls to various people at Los Angeles Times re: Hughes loan. 1 page.
54	28	n.d.	Memo	Derogatory questions most often asked about Dick Nixon among democratic minority groups taken from 800 speeches in Southern California. 7 pages.
54	28	05/21/1962	Letter	From Bob Haldeman to J. D. Fair, re: Nixon smear. 9 pages with attachments and duplicates.

RN

8-28-62

*new folder
TIMES*

Bob Haldeman

Summary: reports on phone calls to various people at
Los Angeles Times re: Hughes loan.

Buff Chandler told my mother that "they" felt the Democrats planned to go all out on this attack, and therefore they felt it was better to get it over with now -- that it was much ado about nothing, there was no basis to the smear, so they decided to give it a big blast now and forget it.

(Incidentally, she also told mother that you had contributed to the Music Center earlier, and that in about ten days they are running a story quoting outstanding people who have supported the Center, and that it will feature you).

Otis Chandler told Steve Broidy that "this is what happens on Monday mornings when management isn't around to see what goes into the paper... we have problems with some of our reporters and their personal sympathies...we are going to make sure it never happens again." He went on to say he doesn't really have and never has had the true facts on the loan; he wants to get them, and said he would like to talk to you; he said "we should have had an editorial in the paper today, but we can't without the facts" and added that when they do have them, they would help get the answer out through editorials.

Jim Bassett in taking calls was very pleasant; did not commit himself, but indicated poor judgment on the part of the paper; said he had not seen the story until he came into the office; that he had been deluged with calls; promised a front page story for Tuesday, which ran.

Dick Bergholz told callers he had no comment on the story, but that they would give RN an equal chance to answer in a later edition.

Many of the callers were unable to reach anyone at the Times on the list we gave them (Chandler, Bergholz, McCulloch, Williams, Bassett).

I think we gave them something to worry about and that the flood of calls did have some effect.

I. DEROGATORY QUESTIONS MOST OFTEN ASKED ABOUT DICK NIXON
AMONG DEMOCRATIC AND MINORITY GROUPS TAKEN FROM 800
SPEECHES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(August, 1954 - June, 1959)

Q. (75%) Isn't Nixon an OPPORTUNIST who will step on anyone to advance his political career?

A. Nixon's rapid rise from a Congressman to the Vice Presidency, has given his opponents an excuse for hanging the opportunistic tag on him. Actually, the man's tremendous capabilities have been the key reason for this rapid advance. He was an outstanding Congressman, Senator and is now the most capable and thoroughly trained Vice President we have ever had. If Nixon had truly stepped on people during his career, you would have surely heard about it - not from his opponents, but from we Republicans - who seem to have a tendency of making such feelings public.

Q. (70%) Why do most people say they don't TRUST Nixon?

A. What you mean by "most people" is in reality part of a brutal propaganda attack started some years ago by the California Democratic hierarchy. Ask yourselves if anyone has ever presented you with any facts to back up this rumor. Even Nixon's bitterest foes have to admit that the man has never lied, has never made untrue statements of any kind, and has never made promises that he did not keep. Such a record is rare in public life today. A man's public record is certainly the only basis to judge his trustworthiness. I would only ask all of you to make your decisions on the basis of fact, and not on the basis of whispering campaigns.

Q. (60%) What about the Chotiner run Helen Gahagan Douglas campaign - wasn't that the dirtiest campaign ever?

A. Isn't it interesting that the same people who say Nixon smeared Douglas are the very people who have been working on a day to day basis over the past few years to smear the Nixon name. The Nixon-Douglas campaign was an extremely hard fought battle. Dick Nixon is a tremendous fighter, and he is always the first to admit it. Also, if you recall, the most severe attacks against Mrs. Douglas came during the primary campaign of that year and were made not by Mr. Nixon, but by Manchester Boddy, her Democratic opponent. In the general election that followed, Nixon confined his statements to matters that were strictly a part of the public record. And, contrary to the rumors that were spread, he never called Mrs. Douglas a communist. I might add, that Mrs. Douglas was a hard fighter herself in that very bitter campaign.

Q. (45%) I still think he is a phony. What about that Madison Avenue T.V. show where he hid behind his dog CHECKERS?

A. This particular charge says in effect "What's right for me is not right for you". When Dick Nixon went on television to truthfully explain the malicious charges that had been cast upon him, this was called Madison Avenue. When Adlai Stevenson took to television, in the need of a haircut, and with an encyclopedia look on his face, this was termed intellectualism. When Nixon appeared with his wife Pat and his dog Checkers, this was called a gimmick. However, when F.D.R. appeared in newsreels with Eleanor and his dog Fala, this was termed humanitarianism. And of course, as most music critics know, Harry Truman had no dog so he used a piano instead. In reality, any candidate's or office holder's attempt to show his family around him is really not a Madison Avenue technique. It is clearly, and very openly, a very important means of showing that these people have families, have pets and have problems just as you and I. To those of you who saw this particular Nixon telecast, regardless of how you voted, I think you will have to agree that Nixon talked from the heart, talked the truth, and, all alone, won his case before the American people.

Q. (35%) Isn't Nixon an ANTI-SEMITE?

A. Dick Nixon is not, and has never been anti-semitic. This again is part of the filthy smear that has been waged against him during the last few years. In the first place, as most of you know, Dick Nixon is a Quaker. And, as you also know, our country's history shows the Quakers to be more than friendly to the Jews of this country. Secondly, and what I am about to say is based on fact, not rumor; There is not one instance in Nixon's private or public life that shows him to be even partly anti-semitic. His college record, at Whittier, shows him having close personal friends made up of all religions and races. The friendships that he and Pat Nixon have had during their married life also show Jews to be well represented. His constant battle for decent civil rights legislation, his chairmanship of the first Governmental Committee which actively prohibits discrimination within corporations holding government contracts, and his constant work in trying to bring peace to the Mid-East, all are actions of a man who is looking out for the welfare of not only the Jewish people, but of all minorities. Instead of helping to spread these false rumors about Nixon, we should, instead, be very very grateful to him.

Q. (30%) I have proof that he is anti-semitic. He bought a house in Washington D.C. with a restrictive clause in its contract.

A. HERE ARE THE FACTS: When the Nixons acquired their home in that tract - in 1951 - the Supreme Court of the United States had already, three years before (in Shelly v. Kraemer, 334 U.S. 1 (1948)), declared restrictive covenants unconstitutional.

Further, this same accusation, was raised by irresponsible politicians in the 1952 election campaign. At that time Mr. Nixon issued the following statement:

"The whole idea of segregation and restrictive covenants is repugnant to the American concept of equality and freedom. The time has certainly come when such practices in the nation's capitol should be ended. I want to assure you that I shall devote my diligent efforts to achieve this end."

And at that time, in 1952, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith issued a statement wherein it decried the slander of Mr. Nixon.

It should be noted here, only for the sake of consistency and for the sake of expatiation on the subject, that Senator Estes Kefauver and his family purchased a home in the same tract, on January 4, 1949, and is living there NOW; and the Nixon children attend the same school with the Kefauver children.

As it is wrong to call a man a communist merely because of a past association, it is just as wrong to wave the term anti-semitic when proof for the charge is completely lacking. The leaders of the Nixon smear campaign do all Jews a great disfavor by trying to hang an anti-semitic label on this fine man. A true anti-semite is a vicious and vile person. Let's save the term for those who deserve it, and not misuse it by applying the term to those who happen to be on the other side of a given political fence.

Q. (287) All of what you say may be true but frankly I have to admit - I just don't like his LOOKS.

A. I am always a little amazed when liberals tell me that they will not vote for Nixon because they don't like his looks. How far would many of us be in life, if we had been judged solely on the basis of our looks. Those of us who daily fight and ask for more adequate civil rights procedures, certainly can't believe that a man is to be truly judged on the basis of physical characteristics that were given to him by God. Vice President Nixon, and the Republican Party, will freely admit to you that the man has a very long nose and an extremely heavy beard. We once had another man who was active in Republican affairs, and who also could not claim beauty as his trade mark. His name was Abraham Lincoln. So if you are to judge this man, judge him as we would any other - on the basis of fact, on the basis of performance, and on the basis of record. Surely, not on the basis of looks.

Q. (20%) I might agree with all that you said, but I still think Dick Nixon lacks a quality of greatness to adequately head the United States Government.

A. I think you will agree that age is a matter of experience and wisdom, rather than a proper accounting of birthdates. Due to many circumstances, Nixon has had the very valuable opportunity of understudying the Presidents of the United States. Not only from a theory aspect, but from day to day practical activities. This experience has been gained on the international scene as well as on the domestic front. No other Vice President in our history has had this same experience - an experience that was granted during some very critical times. Harry Truman has publicly admitted that he was not prepared to take over the Presidency when F.D.R. died. Such has not been the case with Dick Nixon. Because of the active role he has played in the President's cabinet and because of the world wide acclaim he has gained on his trips abroad, we have never been able to offer to this nation, or to the world, a better trained man for the job.

Q. (15%) You might call him a world statesman, but I think his trip to South America was a disgrace. It didn't do this country any good to have stones thrown at our Vice President.

A. The record shows that Nixon's South America trip did do this country a great deal of good. Nixon demonstrated to the South American communists that he, and the people of this country, have the guts and courage to stand up against them at any time and at any place. His actions in these countries clearly showed those, who believe in our type of government, that Americans refuse to bow down to the threats of communism. You will also be interested in knowing that the countries visited by the Vice President and his wife, have shown a marked decrease in communism during the year that followed this visitation. I believe that the bravery shown by the Vice President and his wife during that South American visit, showed the world the type of American spirit for which we were once famous.

Q. (10%) Nixon is really a McCarthy type Republican. He helped start the COMMUNIST HYSTERIA which says that all liberals are pink.

A. You are of course referring to the Alger Hiss case. However, time has shown that Alger Hiss was guilty, and that the charges made against him were all unfortunately true. We can now safely rest more comfortably knowing that our State Department has far less communist sympathizers that once held responsible positions. Nixon did play an important role in this, and I am very proud of him for it. Once again, the record shows that Nixon has never taken part in any action which would show guilt by association.

II SPECIFIC SALES POINTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO BE THE MOST SATISFACTORY BEFORE DEMOCRATIC AND MINORITY GROUPS.

(1) Richard Nixon is by far the Best Qualified, and Most highly Trained and Experienced candidate that either party has ever offered for the Office of President of the United States.

(2) Dick Nixon Understands the communists better than any candidate on the horizon. He will continue to be consistent in keeping the peace Without Relinquishing Vital Principals or Nations to the Communists.

(3) Richard Nixon has been a Constant Fighter for Civil Rights. His Governmental Committee, which fights discrimination in government contracts, has done an excellent job in making Civil Rights a matter of Action, instead of talk.

(4) Nixon is a Liberal when it comes to matters of International Affairs. He knows we must have the solid friendship of free thinking people throughout the entire world. While advocating practical foreign aid, he believes that Action Cements more Friendship than Money.

(5) No other candidate in America has the Proven Statesmanship Abilities of Richard Nixon. In his trips to South America, England and Russia, he has clearly demonstrated his fine ability to Represent the United States on any Foreign Soil.

(6) Richard Nixon does not believe in Cocktail Party, Long tail Diplomacy. Under his leadership, our State Department will work towards enhancing our American Reputation around the World - and not our Reputation at the Caviar table.

(7) Nixon will bring to the Presidency the same Zeal, Vigor and Dedication that has made him the most Active Vice President in the history of our country.

(8) Richard Nixon is an economic conservative who believes in Pay as you go Progress. A constant fighter against inflation and the inadequacies of our existing tax laws, Nixon believes in the Right of Everyone to save at least Some of the Money he Earns.

(9) Richard Nixon is a highly Religious man, a devoted Family man and a thoroughly Dedicated person. He has always fought for what he believed, and has never been guilty of the more popular fence riding procedures.

(10) Richard Nixon's record is one of Accomplishment and action. Our future desperately requires this type of Efficient and Dynamic Personal Leadership.

(11) Richard Nixon has withstood the vicious attacks of one of the most brutal smear campaigns ever waged in this country. Another, with less courage, would have quit a long time ago. From these malicious attacks, he has, instead, emerged as a Mature and Solid individual. One who will not be dissuaded from what he Believes. The Future Leadership of this Great Country Requires this type of Courage.

A. Isn't it interesting that the same people who say Nixon smeared Douglas are the very people who have been working on a day to day basis over the past few years to smear the Nixon name. The Nixon-Douglas campaign was an extremely hard fought battle. Dick Nixon is a tremendous fighter, and he is always the first to admit it. Also, if you recall, the most severe attacks against Mrs. Douglas came during the primary campaign of that year and were made not by Mr. Nixon, but by ~~her Democratic opponent~~? her Democratic opponent. In the general election that followed, Nixon confined his statements to matters that were strictly a part of the public record. And, contrary to the rumors that were spread, he never called Mrs. Douglas a communist. I might add, that Mrs. Douglas was a hard fighter herself in that very bitter campaign.

Manchester Beach

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May 21, 1962

Mr. J. D. Fair
779 Joaquin Avenue
Redding, California

Dear Mr. Fair:

Thank you very much for your
letter of May 16th.

As I am sure you know, it is Drew
Pearson's habit to attempt a Nixon smear in
the last few weeks preceding each election.

This particular charge regarding
the Howard Hughes loan was thoroughly aired
in the 1960 campaign and discredited at that
time. An indication of the political nature of
the attack is underscored by the fact that while
prior to the election a Congressional inquiry
was mentioned, no move of any kind was ever
undertaken by the Committee or any other agency
following the election. Nothing more was heard
of this matter until the present gubernatorial
campaign.

The present implication that any
further airing will be held up until after the
primary is in reference to a pending law suit in
which depositions were to be taken from a number of
witnesses, including Dick Nixon. At the time this
suit was widely publicized several months ago, Nixon
indicated his willingness to testify and his desire
to do so in open hearing, rather than in secret,
as had been suggested by one of the lawyers in the
case.

✓ File: Derogatory Questions - Corres. re:
x Fair, John D
x date

220
JCH

May 21, 1962

I can assure you there is no skeleton, and agree with you "it is a strange thing that the man who is perhaps the most dedicated and brilliant person in politics today should be so subject to every little thing he does."

I am sure you realize, however, that any man who has taken the forthright stands and positive actions that Richard Nixon has taken throughout his career, especially in the field of Anti-Communism, is liable to such attacks and baseless smears.

Thanks very much again for your inquiry, and keep up the good work.

WIN WITH NIXON!

H. R. Haldeman

J. D. Fair
779 Joaquin Ave.
Redding, Calif.
May 16, 1962

Mr. H. R. Haldeman
3908 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles 5, Calif.

Dear Mr. Haldeman:

I am referring to Drew Pearson's column of this date, in which he refers to the loan Howard Hughes allegedly made to Dick Nixon's brother. The implications of the column are clear enough and there is a statement that any airing will be held up until after the primary.

What I think of Drew Pearson is hardly printable. However, he does hit on the truth sometimes. In this case, if he has hit upon the truth, Nixon is dead. He is particularly dead if he waits until after the primary to air a skeleton.

Nixon owes it to the party and those who work for him the complete story before the primary. There are things which you and I can rationalize but the ordinary voter can do only so much of this.

It is a strange thing that the man who is perhaps the most dedicated and brilliant person in politics today should be so subject to every little thing he does but the term "Tricky Dick" caught on, if the case in point is not explainable without rationalizing, the term will catch fire.

My point is that it is imperative that Brown and Mosk be removed. If Dick is not perfectly clean, he jeopardizes the whole Republican slate. Let's have it straight.

Sincerely,


John Fair

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

N i x o n f o r G o v e r n o r

To: RHF
From: Bob Haldeman
Subject: John Fair letter
Distribution:

Date: 5-19-62

I must answer this fast - so please review quickly
and return.

Do you have anything specific and detailed that
could be appended or added?

draft of letter to John Fair

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This particular charge regarding the Howard Hughes loan was thoroughly aired in the 1960 campaign and discredited at that time. *Discredited* The present implication that any further airing will be held up until after the primary is in reference to a pending law suit in which depositions were to be taken from a number of witnesses, including Dick Nixon. At the time this suit was widely publicized several months ago, Nixon indicated his willingness to testify and his desire to do so in open hearing, rather than in secret, as had been suggested by one of the lawyers in the case.

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