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<td>Letter</td>
<td>To: C. Edward Graves  From: H. R. Haldeman  Re: Letter written on February 27th regarding freeway routing. 2 Pages.</td>
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March 2, 1962

Mr. C. Edward Graves
Box SS
Carmel, California

Dear Mr. Graves:

Your letter of February 27th addressed to the Nixon-for-Governor Committee has been brought to my attention.

We very much appreciate your writing us your thoughts in connection with the freeway routing through Monterey and Carmel. Your letter is being referred to our Director of Research, Mr. H. L. Flournoy, who is also Chairman of the various Task Forces for study of issue material. He will appreciate having your views on this subject.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

H. R. Haldeman

cc: Hon. H. L. Flournoy

File: S & I - Highway Com.
- Research - Flournoy
- G
- chron.
Feb. 27, 1962

Nixon-for-Governor Committee
Los Angeles, Calif.

Gentlemen:

I should like to call to your attention a great vote-getting potential on the Monterey Peninsula. There may be a somewhat similar one in other parts of the state.

Governor Brown's State Highway Commission is presently planning to run a freeway through the middle of Monterey, splitting the city in two parts and completely changing its character. The plan is to continue the freeway to the Carmel River just south of Carmel. The section between the Carmel River and San Simeon was deleted from the State Freeway Master Plan in 1959 by action of the State Legislature. It seems ominous to local people that the freeway should be extended to the Carmel River and there meet the non-freeway corridor along the coast line.

The people of Monterey are overwhelmingly opposed to the present freeway plans. Public indignation meetings have often been held on the subject. They would be very happy if the Highway One Freeway were diverted at some point north of Monterey to join the 101 Freeway at or near Carmel.

I suggest that you investigate this situation and discover for yourselves the vote-getting potential in it.

Very sincerely,
February 19, 1962

Mr. Arthur E. Robinson  
1915 Vassar Avenue  
Fresno 3, California

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 13th, and for enclosing a copy of the editorial in the January 26th issue of the Fresno Bee.

Your letter and the editorial are being passed along to Hugh Flournoy who is heading up research and development of a program on this particular issue. He will, I know, appreciate as do I, your thoughtfulness in writing and the suggestions contained in your letter.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,

H. R. Haldeman

cc: Hon. Hugh Flournoy
Mr. Robert Haldeman,
3908 Wilshire Blvd,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Haldeman:

Enclosed you will find a copy of an editorial in the Jan. 26th issue of the Fresno Bee. This is of particular importance since the Bee is normally a Democratic paper and it ribbed Mr. Nixon terribly in his campaign against Kennedy.

I though Mr. Nixon could use it to some advantage in his campaign when it gets on the road and give our friend Gov. Brown something to think rather seriously. I have written the Governor and sent him a copy of the editorial and told him we just might have to build a little fire under him since he is so indifferent about what our Highway Commission has done and is on the verge of doing in several localities in the state. We on reads about the National Highway Scandal, we wonder if our state highway commission is not pretty well set-up to profit from Federal road money.

If I can be of further help in the coming campaign, please let me know. The citizens of this state have to alerted to what the Democrats have done and plan to do in this state and thoughtout the country.

Yours respectfully,

Arthur E. Robinson.
GOVERNOR SHOULD CALL SESSION ON HIGHWAYS

EDITORIAL IN THE PRESS- DEMOCRAT, JAN. 26, 1962

From a legal point of view the third district court of appeal decision that the state department of public works has the authority to route a freeway through a part of historic John Bidwell Park in Chico undoubtly is sound.

From a moral point of view - Chico's resistance to giving up a part of its beloved park for a freeway, its affection for the park and the name it bears, the grace and beauty the park lends to Chico - the ruling by the highway commission that the freeway through the park is unconceivable.

The controversy points up one thing, however - a factor Sacramento awakened up to in its fight against the routing of the Second-Third Streets Freeway. The factor the highway commission's decision in Chico, the phrase "sweeping, above and beyond the one which is being used by the legislature or the governor.

This is manifestly obvious in part of the court's decision, it states:

"The facts are these: the property is owned by the state and the property is being used by the commission for the purpose of improving the state's highways.

In other words, the authority to route on this property by the legislature is a moment of great legal importance, beyond appeal, it creates a road that is to be used throughout all the state, but is to be used to Chico, to the commission, to the state highway department, which would like to use it as a road for its purposes, and to Sacramento, if it shall ever be used for the state highway department purposes.

Governor Brown, in his current special call of the legislature, has already declared that the state highway department is to be the state highway commission, which is now called the state highway department, is the state highway department and not the state highway commission. All it now stands for, according to the governor of California, is the transportation of the state's highway department.

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California Highway Commission

Chooses, Monterey, Emerald Bays, Sacramento could be ravaged in that year?

Who is to say the commission, if it so willed, could not route an eight lane freeway through the heart of Capitol park in Sacramento, a commonly shared thing of beauty for all California, or bridge the Capitol dome itself with an iverpass? Or slam through picturesque Roeding Park in Fresno without so much as a by your leave? Its power is absolute.

This issue involves the land of our valleys and cities, the raw and fertile earth, the face of our state - our forests and parks and bays and rivers, Earth. Our country and our fiber. Rich and blessed land. The governor, as chief custodian of this treasure house, California, must call upon the legislature - this year - to reassess the absolute power of one commission over it, and reclaim the state for its people.

Both the governor and the legislature will be astonished to learn how strongly public support will go to their sides; and each might be just as astounded to learn how sever the public may be if they fail to devote their attention now - in 1962, not 1963 - to giving California back to the people.

Read: "What Has Happened to the American Dream" by Eleanor Roosevelt; April 1961 Atlantic, page 46

"Dirty Money in Boston" by Charles L. Chippie, in the March 1961 Atlantic page 41

"Poisoned Politics: The Real Tragedy of Massachusetts"; by Elliot L. Richardson, in Oct. Atlantic Page 77