

12 /6/73
RN FINANCES

TO PAT BUCHANAN

RN's initial reactions to 1st draft:

Shorten it.

Omit all references to misconduct, corruption, etc. Go instead with "questions have been raised", "charges have been leveled".

Haul up in front the fact that he is doing this because his integrity has been questioned and he wants to refute the charges. Important to show what his finances have been, even though he will be embarrassed (and he doesn't want to use the word).

Lead with ~~his~~ statement that he is making full, exhaustive disclosure. (Note: one idea to play off is the ending to his Nov. 7 TV address when he said he ~~wouldn't~~ wouldn't resign and that he would act to dispel public doubts. Disclosures on finances are part of that process.)

Don't sound overly pious. RN recognized that nitpickers may sock it to him. Simply make point that he has not been unjustly enriched. He has ~~proceed with~~ proceeded with his financial plans in way he thought prudent, nothing more.

Doing this because important to him personally and important to Presidency. Don't call for others to do the same and don't promise to release future returns (~~RN~~ RZ call). Perhaps this will help to set new standards.

RZ ~~has~~ notes say RN will bequeath San Clemente. Too precise, locks into will arrangement. Leave it fuzzy.

Dave Gergen