

For the Record . . . Post 8/30/72

A Memo to the White House Staff

Charles Colson, special counsel to the President, issued the following memorandum to the White House staff August 28:

There are 71 days left between now and the election. Every single one of these is a campaign day and for those of you who have not been reminded of this lately, every day has 24 hours.

I hope that it will be possible for each one of us to have some time during the campaign occasionally to recharge the batteries; an occasional Sunday afternoon may be possible but don't count on it.

There should be no necessity for this kind of a memo and in the case of most of you there is not. Just so there is no misunderstanding, however, I want to make it perfectly clear what the policy will be for the next 71 days. No one should plan any trips anywhere without my express approval. No one should ever be out of reach of the telephone. The White House switchboard must know at all times where everyone is; each individual member of the staff should insure that he or she can be reached at any time of the day or night either by phone or by pageboy. No speaking engagements should be accepted, no trips should be planned without my knowing and approving in advance.

Many of you have been through political campaigns before. For those who have not, a campaign is a 24-hour a day, 7-day a week job. Do not be lulled into a sense of false security by the polls which show the President well ahead at the moment. They will change. Make every day count. Think to yourself at the beginning of each day, "What am I going to do to help the President's re-election today?" and then at the end of each day think what you did in fact do to help the President's re-election.

I will be expecting maximum output from every member of the staff for whom I have any responsibility. I will be very intolerant of less than maximum output. I am totally unconcerned with anything other than getting the job done. If I bruise feelings or injure anyone's morale, I will be happy to make amends on the morning of November 8 assuming we have done our job and the results are evident.

I can well understand that any of you may have gotten the wrong impression of me since so many erroneous things have found their way into print lately. Just so you understand me, let me point out that the statement in last week's UPI story that I was once reported to have said that "I would walk over my grandmother if necessary" is absolutely accurate.