

WXPost

The Nixon White House Papers (II)

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The following memos were written by, or to: John Mitchell, former Attorney General who became director of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President; Jeb Stuart Magruder, who worked at the White House before becoming deputy director of CRP; Robert Odle, former director of administration of CRP; William Timmons, assistant to the President for legislative affairs; and Kenneth L. Khachigian, a speechwriter for the President. Timmons and Khachigian are still at the White House.

PJB (Buchanan)/Khachigian to Mitchell:

... Our idea of a typical first rate Truth Squad would be Hatchet Man (Sen. Robert) Dole with Good Guy (Donald) Rumsfeld; young, tough, aggressive, attractive—and willing to mix it up with the Democratic candidate.

Suggest establishment of a "Fair Coverage Committee" or "Equal Time Committee" which might be located in the RNC, which would "clock precisely the positive and negative coverage of presidential and vice presidential candidates on the networks. If we are getting anything more than "equal time," this committee can remain silent; if we get anything less than equal time, it should confirm same with Mort Allin's news monitors—and then send a memorandum to John Mitchell who should get on the horn to the network president and point this out, indicating that if it is not corrected, and equal time not provided—this will be made an issue in the campaign, and the subject of legislation in the coming Congress.

... On all the black radio stations in the swing states, we should run ads on Muskie's statement about no blacks for Vice President. "If he does not think the time has come for one of us to be even considered for Vice President, then the time has come for Black America to tell Ed Muskie we don't think it is time for him to be considered for President. Write in Shirley Chisholm."

The following are excerpts from 34 documents which received relatively little attention when they were released by the Watergate Committee some weeks ago in connection with the testimony of White House Special Consultant Patrick J. Buchanan. They were brought forcibly to our attention as the result of a controversy between columnist Tom Braden, who urged that they be given wider circulation, and Mr. Buchanan, who replied that Mr. Braden wasn't quoting from the right collection of papers. These samplings are from the "right collection" and we think they are worth reading in their original language for the insights they give into two particular characteristics of the Nixon White House: (1) its preoccupation with manipulating the appearance of things and (2) its boundless faith in the utility of contrivance and intimidation as effective political instruments.

Magruder to Mitchell:

Attached is a copy of an Evans and Novak column from the July 25 Washington Post which indicates the Democrats are setting up a '72 Sponsors Club similar to the President's Club of the LBJ era. For \$72 a month, there are a number of privileges accorded to those who contribute.

Pat Buchanan has suggested that we have someone we know, preferably a Democrat not connected with us, join this club. This could be arranged by having the individual write in explaining that he read about the club in the newspaper and is fed up with the administration's policies and wants to contribute his share and become a member of the club. This would give us many advantages in keeping track of Democratic contenders and their strategy.

Magruder to Haldeman:

Based on this morning's meeting we have begun moving on the following: Ten telegrams have been drafted by Buchanan. They will be sent to Time and Newsweek today by 20 names around the country from our letter writing system. Copies are attached... Letters to the editors of The Times, Post, Star, Chicago Daily News, St. Louis Post Dispatch are being prepared and sent.

Nofziger is having statements placed in the Congressional Record. Once they appear, they will be printed and distributed together with favorable columns to editors, publishers, business leaders, and other opinion leaders.

Nofziger has contacted Victor Lasky, who has agreed to run a column. Nofziger will also contact Lawrence, Kilpatrick and Paul Martin.

An attempt is being made to get a resolution from Sigma Delta Chi condemning the pre-press conference meeting by 25 commentators to set strategy to embarrass the President.

Odle to Timmons:

... Fourth Party Candidacies. Top-level consideration should be given to ways and means to promote, assist and fund a Fourth Party candidacy of the Left Democrats and/or the Black Democrats. There is nothing that can so advance the President's chances for re-election—not a trip to China, not four-and-a-half percent unemployment as a realistic black presidential campaign...

... The Black Vice President bumper stickers calling for black presidential and especially vice presidential candidates should be spread out in the ghettos of the country. Also, anti-Muskie stickers. We should do what is within our power to have a black nominated for Number Two at least at the Democratic National Convention...

Buchanan to the President:

Humphrey is struggling heroically to get well on this issue (Vietnam), to make himself, now, an acceptable alternative, to the party's left. The Prodigal Son, however, is not welcome back home—if the New Republic and I. F. Stone are to be believed. A little Machiavelli here might be of use. If the President, who is not revered on the Left, were to publicly express thanks to HHH for the quiet support he has given on Vietnam—HHH is likely to be astonished and stunned, and his left-wing courtship broken off on the spot. Perhaps (Sen. Robert) Dole or the Vice President even might compliment HHH on the "strong support" he has consistently provided for the war in Vietnam.

Buchanan to Mitchell:

... There is an interesting development shaping up. McGovern's ambitious children seem to be busy "stealing" Wallace delegates—and playing false, by "ripping off" the Wallace delegations in Tennessee and elsewhere, places like Michigan. This is excellent. We should hold back commenting upon the process, which Governor (Jimmie) Carter (D-Ga.) is raising hell about, until it is accomplished—and then accuse the Democratic Convention of shafting the legitimate popular winner, and stealing the delegates of a bed-ridden martyr.