

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

December 19, 1974

6:05 to 6:58 p.m.

Oval Office

Rumsfeld and the President

The President signed the Nixon Tapes Bill and I got it to Terry to get to Jones and to call Marsh.

He signed the Shuman nomination. I got it to Terry to get to Jones to get to the HILL.

Timmons came in and posed the question "is the President going to send back to the HILL strip mining and/or cargo preference?" That is not to say is he going to veto or sign, but rather is he going to send it back to the HILL in the next two days. He decided that he was not going to. That they are going through the staffing process and he has not made his judgment. Therefore, Byrd can assure the Senators that it will be well in the next week if he does veto it and therefore they should shut up tonight. NO action.

The President signed off on the Veterans Administration thing. But he said he was curious to know whether there had been any discussion with Roudy about these. And he said he would sign it but he wanted to know what Roudy's view was and if Roudy was strongly opposed, Walker should hold it and let me know.

I gave him the report on Paul Fannin .. Paul is concerned about strip mining. Timmons laughed and said that everyone up there had heard the President had reversed his position on strip mining and there were rumors that the President had met with Jackson today .. no.



He said that he told Rog Morton in the energy meeting that he wants Rog Morton to get a meeting with Abear and that whole group and they're going to get down here and before he does one darn thing on Ellkil, he's going to get an agreement. Everyone's been talking about it and nobody's been doing it and he wants it done. STAFF Secretary should follow up so a schedule proposal comes in at some point.

He signed off on the Powell memo on EEOC. But he said "Look. When that new Executive Director gets hired makes sure that Powell understands he can't fire him." I said well maybe under the statute he has the authority to fire him. He said "well he's already fired a couple. And he may have the authority under the statute to fire the executive director, but by god I can fire him." So someone should take care of that in whatever is the proper way.

I gave him his calendar for tomorrow.

He signed the Rhineheart memo.

I gave him a report that Frank Enunzio had called me. Told me that Mayor Daily wanted the President to know that the Illinois delegation would vote eight votes for Rocky. Shipley was absent and Yates was against. And he also wanted the President to know that he should keep in mind that the Democrats from Chicago want to do the right thing and if he really needs help he should call. They're not going to be voting with those kids that got elected on everything.



I told the President about Governor Dunn trying to get me and what it was about -- the Overton Park Expressway. And I said I would try to move him off towards Weinberger but if necessary maybe we could arrange a phone call. He said "Yes, let's arrange a phone call if necessary. But before a phone call, I need a piece of paper saying what it's all about. What it refers to is Senator Baker called me and told me Governor Dunn's frantic to get to see the President concerning the Overton Park Expressway. He wants to get it done before he leaves office and he is chairman of Republican Conference. Baker's recommendation is "don't see him. "

[REDACTED] Find out what he wants as if you don't know. Get a piece of paper from the Domestic Council. Suggest to Dunn if he has to see the President that instead we will arrange a phone call and get the paper to the President before the phone call goes through tomorrow.

We talked about the fact that the House will probably vote about 7:30 or 8:00 and the swearing in tonight will be about 8:30 to 9:30, maybe closer to 10:00.

I gave the President a letter from Scranton on strip mining and told him that Scranton felt very strongly that he should sign it .. that it was not inflationary .. that it is the best time in the world to do this because the companies are making money and everyone else is trying to get into the business. He (Scranton) is available on the phone if the President wants to talk about it.

The President approved the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia because Scott has blocked Stan Paris and that finishes it.



Marsh called and the President talked about his arrangements which I have since given to Terry. There's no action.

The President is going to go to the Press Reception and when Rocky comes up to the residence, the President will go up to the residence and then the President and Rocky will go up together and Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Rockefeller will go up together.

I gave the President a report that Bill Brock called and said he is very positive about the Levi nomination. He wants to make some remarks for the record if someone will put some together, he'd also be happy to make some phone calls and do some work on the nomination. He thinks it is an outstanding choice and that word should be passed to Jack Marsh .. without fail.

I gave the President the report on the election commission. that he had asked for . that there is no deadline for nominations .. that it's effective January 1 and until the New Members are sworn in the Clerk of the House , the Secretary of the Senate and the Comptroller General run it. Scott and Mansfield made their recommendations. Rhodes and Albert have not. And the pacing item is Hartmann talking to Hobart Taylor.

Kissinger called. The President said that Kissinger buys Brennan for Ireland. Then I said that means when you meet with Meany tomorrow you'll talk to him about it. He said "well I'm not sure how we should do it. Don't we have to check with Ireland first to see if they agree?" I said my feeling is that you ought to follow the Shultz suggestion.. that you take Meany into your confidence knowing that he will hold it and go ahead and get it moving with Meany. He said "well I think I had better ask Henry tomorrow morning." I don't think you have to wait for agreement on Brennan to talk to Meany. Maybe you had better draft a little



note to the President reminding him he wants to talk to Henry in the morning so that it does move along.. .about Ireland just say.

I gave the President the memo that Jerry Jones had worked up on the responsibility of the Vice President under Executive Orders and statutes. Pointed out that it was very thin .. said that there are other options ... Productivity Commission, the WIN thing, the economy, energy conservation. I said if he went with just what was statutory or already in Executive Orders that it would be really perceived as a real letdown. And that you'll really want to carefully craft this and we'll need something much more creative. I said if you want a creative idea why don't you make him Secretary of the Treasury, give him a Department to run .. Department of Transportation. I said I've always believed that the job was a non-job and that there is nothing wrong at all with ~~someone~~ having the Vice President run a Department. The only problem is, in the case of Rockefeller, he's got such wide financial interests .. there may be problems with one Department or another .. but it seems to me that it is at least a thought. I don't think it's demeaning for the Vice President to run a Department .. a guy who's energetic and ~~is~~ active, I think, would like it. You would probably have to reconfirm him and therefore the particular Department selected would make a difference. I feel that way, I said. I throw it out and I'm not .. I've not expressed that to anyone else but I throw it out just for your ~~own~~ consideration.



I gave the President the memo that Robson had given me on the State of the Union and just for .. like I've been feeding him things to keep .. them coming so he keeps thinking about the subject.

I gave him George Shultz' speech for the same thing.

I gave him the .. packet and the transcript of my press conference. And I said it was really quite important to me that he read that carefully, because it's the only way I can get guidance. Because everything I said in there I meant to say and it's exactly how this place is operating or at least we're trying to operate it. If there's something wrong, if there's a change in emphasis or a .. different guidance that he feels he should give me., there's the best opportunity for him to give it to him. Just make a check by there and we'll sit down and talk about it at Vail but I really wanted him to do it. I wanted to know that that's what he wanted.

The .. President said he talked to Mildred and she said she wouldn't have room for all of her people up there. He said "Look Mildred .. Everyone goes up there. If there's any overflow, they go in the EOB, nowhere else in the White House." He said he thinks she thinks there are five of them. I said well there's plenty of room for five people up there. You can put two in Ann Armstrong's office just like she's got down here. Two secretaries and then one in the little private office in the back. He said fine work it out.

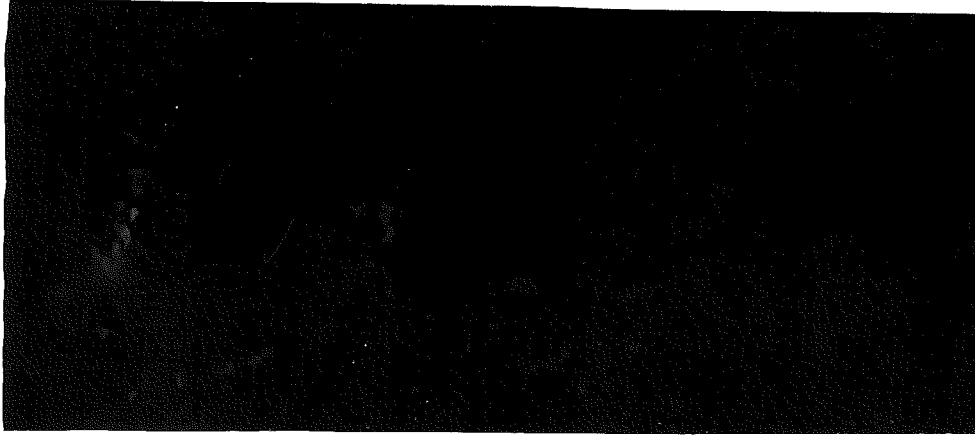
Rocky called.

The President agreed to see Web Hays and Bill Miller head of TEXTRON on an idea for a .. coalition government -- similar to Rhodes memo because Rhodes called requesting it .. before he goes to Vail. Figure out a fifteen minute time and work it through Rhodes and tell Rhodes if he wishes to come of course he's welcome.



I gave the President the Wolf memo and he okayed it.  
If he uses it, it's on that basis.

Rustand or somebody should contact him. I think I'd  
like to sit in on the meeting, DICK.



DICK, make sure I have a note to see the President about  
that memo when I go to Vail -- I do have to talk to him  
about it -- the Press Conference of mine, memo to  
Rumsfeld to take to Vail, be sure and talk to the Presi-  
dent about the transcript and the packet we handed out  
on the White House Organization.

The President said that he thought the news stories on  
the White House briefing were very good.

The President gave me the Max Friedersdorf Cargo  
Preference memo.

