

10-3-74

Meeting with the President

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4:35 to 5:40

Oval Office

Hartmann in for 10 min

The President called me to come in because he had received through his secretary, Dorothy Downton this letter from Butz. He said, "Why are these things coming in that." I asked Dorothy and she said because she got it in the mail and she asked Hartmann about it and Hartmann said it's from a Cabinet officer -- take it in -- -- -- So she walks through the side door -- through Hartmann's office -- and puts it in his in box. He asked (in front of Hartmann), "Well, how did it happen?" I said, "Well, I asked Dorothy and she said what I just said." And I said, "The problem is it's out of the system and he said now that you're here we ought to get it in." I said, "That's right. We've got to pretend that I've got a hold of the place." I said, "You and I know I don't because they're the same people underneath me for the most part but the only we'll find out if we can make it work is to use it and now is the time to engage it." I said, "I think the problem is probably this. That Dorothy Downton and Bob Hartmann's secretaries and the old Ford secretaries have never been briefed on what the system is and how it works. I think, therefore, Mr. President, I would propose that, maybe on Saturday, we have a briefing for the people on the Vice President's staff and for the people who have been transferred to the White House rolls who are either new or came over with the Vice President and get a briefing on the staff system and possibly on personnel." It's an option for me but I do think that Ford's secretary -- Mildred and those people (like Pagnotta) -- have got to have these things explained to them because we have got to engage the system.

Next Hartmann had a series of twenty questions from Landow who is writing an article and he had proposed answers which the President looked at and I looked at. We changed the last answer. The rest of them -- the President looked at and said all right.

There was a screwup on Haig and we had better find out what happened.

The President wants to get his haircut tomorrow at 1:45 p.m.
Schedule it.

We talked about the two advance things and the President signed off on them. I'm giving them to Dick. On the seventh he said YES on Mrs. Stafford. He said, "Why just her? Why not the wives of Aiken and Mallory?" You can invite them too if there's room." He made notes on it.



On the 9th the President said the same thing. He said yes to all the proposed members and then what about the wives? Is there room? And I said that's quite a mob. He said well if there's room fine but ~~ok~~ if there isn't, probably no wives. He said, "Now on ruffles and flourishes. Keep it to a minimum except where required on both of these trips." And I think he has that feeling generally. He said, "On staff time on the trip on the 7th, make sure that there's no cut in that 15 - minute staff time." ✓

We talked about how many people should go on the trips. He said he wants to keep it down. There's a tendency to take too many. He said it's a political trip. Burch should go. Hartmann should not go on ~~av~~ all the trips. He said maybe Bob or Paul and then maybe Milt, Friedenheim and then one of the other speech people or somebody else. He said it's nice to have two of those people but not all four. N ✓

He said Marsh can probably be helpful with political advice on trips to the South but some of the Vermont trips, not really very necessary. But in the South ~~ok~~ he can help with the political innuendos. He said I should get a proposal to him. He said we always take Terry -- he's the access to appointments on the trip and we always take one military aide. ✓

DICK THAT'S AN ACTION ITEM FOR YOU

Next I talked to him about the Piers Report. I told him I would like to get into it a little ~~ok~~ bit and why, explaining that BO had been in and this thing has not been released and the reason it wasn't was that Haig and Buzhardt had stopped it. I said if it is to be released the only time to do it is very soon in your Administration" I said I think I'll coordinate it with Scowcroft and Buchen. He said fine but he gave me the impression that he shys away from Buchen because he thinks he's tired. So maybe we ought to coordinate it with Areeda and Scowcroft. DICK, SEE ME AND I'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DO THAT. ✓

I gave him this article from the Daily news and he said he already had one so I took it back. ✓

Next I reported that Les Arends had gotten back to me and they thought Brascow wasn't in town. ✓

I showed him the cartoon and the note from Bryce. ✓

He okayed Speaker Albert for the airplane. ✓

I posed to him the issue that Timmons raised with me about nominations and the fact that Congress ~~is~~ goes out of session for 30 days and all the nominations lapse unless the Senate passes a Waiver resolution. I explained that if he wants the waiver, Timmons can get it, it's no problem. However, if he's looking for an opportunity to review all those nominations and have an excuse for dropping some under a nice blanket -- a cloud -- a cover, if you will -- that would be the way to do it. Let them lapse and not send them up again. We discussed it and he decided to ask for
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ask for the waiver. TIMMONS SHOULD BE TOLD. That means the President does not want them to lapse. He ~~has~~ debated it. I could have moved it the other way, but frankly we haven't got any way in the world to review all those in 30 days. ✓

I showed him the "Hoopes to Jones" memo on the number of people in San Clemente so he would be aware that they were close to 60 or 70. He was amazed. He said we're going to have to help them figure out that it's different -- that "he's" not still President and that something's got to be done about it. I told him, well don't worry about it. Marsh is on it and we're working the problem but you ought to be aware that this could burst up because the press office here in the White House has been using the figure "22" and I said that I personally felt that they were still running a Presidential operation and that it was excessive and that it would be seen as being excessive, that it was harmful to him (GF) and that it was ~~also~~ ~~also harmful for~~ also harmful for Richard Nixon and that someone ought to tell him. ✓

