

HORACE BUSBY

January 15, 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HORACE BUSBY

The attached is a first draft of the section we discussed. I would like to offer these comments.

1. Approach

agree!
It is important, I believe, that if used, this section not attribute the decision to overly personal reasons -- e.g., "region," intra-party opposition, etc. Such would be taken as self-pitying and beneath the essential dignity and even nobility of such a dramatic statement.

very much agree
Likewise, I have omitted a particularized list of accomplishments since 1963 because there is no reference to such in the main body of the speech, where "record" properly belongs. I think it carries more force to let others say such (as they would) without submitting it as a personal claim.

2. Advisability

I agree, the forum and the occasion are the very best. Such a step, at this time, precludes any possibility that later events might be interpreted as the cause, as Truman's decision was partly attributed to Kefauver in New Hampshire.

I also agree with this course, generally.

also don't know
I have this doubt. In 1958, you had to go to the UN, et al, to keep the world from regarding Eisenhower as a lame-duck, impotent President. I think it possible that making yourself a "lame-duck" might have unforeseeable serious consequences abroad without offsetting gains at home.

I would not belabor that view, however, because on a decision like this, I earnestly believe every man -- including Presidents -- must step to his own drum. If you do what is right for your own self, it will be right in the history books. I think all who care about you know what is right for you to do now.

Busby