

MARVIN WATSON'S NOTES ON THE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND FORMER GOVERNOR FRANK MORRISON OF NEBRASKA.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1967
11:28 A.M.

Morrison says he feels that he is sitting on the sidelines and would like to be considered somewhere, perhaps the international food program.

Morrison said on politics, there is a new law, passed by the Republicans. Purpose is to take the Nebraska Presidential Primary out of the popularity contest. The Secretary of State shall place on the ballot all persons considered to be sincere candidates for President.

Delegates who file have options to 1. run undeclared or 2. declared. The Primary this year in Nebraska will be on the Republican side. It will be up to the Secretary of State to decide if McCarthy is a serious candidate for President. (The Primary will be held May 1968.)

P I think he (McCarthy) is a serious candidate. Suppose I do nothing?

M The Secretary of State will put your name on the ballot.

P You could say I am not a candidate as of this date.

M This Primary comes early and will have a lot of national attention.

P I have thought of letting him have several states because the President has to do many things such as 1. run the war; 2. the economic situation. Obvioulsy I cannot campaign in any Primary. It is true that in New Hampshire there is a group running in support of the President and if I decide to be a candidate, and they are successful in their Primary, they will support me.

M It is certainly best to have a group of party supporters and your friends on the ballot and in Nebraska, all the Democratic Party structure is for you and they will win.

P We will have to look to you. Your judgment is good. I believe we think a lot alike. Remember you may have both McCarthy and Bobby Kennedy on the ballot. I have asked Bailey and Criswell at DNC to talk to the State Chairman and National Committeeman and our friends and get their recommendations on these Primaries. I do not want to say I am or I am not a candidate. The DNC has had one area meeting and will have others. I talked to Attorney

P - cont:

General Lynch of California this morning and I understand he will head up a Johnson group. If I decide to run, they will support me, assuming they are elected. However, the papers say the Peace group in California is awfully strong.

M Do they have a peace plan?

P Not that I know of.

M Then as far as Nebraska is concerned, Bailey and Criswell are their contacts?

P Yes. You should take the lead as other Governors are doing -- Connally, Hughes of New Jersey and Ellington. It seems rather apparent that McCarthy and Bobby Kennedy do have an agreement.

M All Party supporters in Nebraska are for Johnson-Humphrey ticket assuming Humphrey is your choice.

P He is.

M There is an ad in the WORLD HERALD last Sunday where some 500 people who reportedly supported you in 1964 are now saying that unless you get out of Viet Nam, they will support someone else in 1968. In checking, we find 70% were either college students or professors. We need someone to work the campuses that have the facts. Your supporters need to be more aggressive.

P I can't do that.

M I know this but we (your friends) should do it. My son wants to help.

P Marvin, ask Criswell to call Governor Morrison's son and work with him.

M The papers are more against Kennedy than you, but they are still Republican. Sorensen is now in New York. His brother is in Iowa. I will outline a program and tell Bailey and Criswell.

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