

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 1968

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH WOLFGANG
WEYENEN AND WOLFGANG NOLTER OF DEUTSCHE PRESSE
AGENTEUR OF GERMANY ON NOVEMBER 14, 1967

The President asked Weynen how things were going in Germany. Weynen said there was trouble, mostly financial. He said Chancellor Kiesinger is a charming man but he had many troubles. The President replied that all leaders have troubles.

Weynen asked how the President was able to hold up physically to the burdens of his office. The President replied that a big problem is uncertainty, that the biggest problem of the presidency is the constant awareness that you never hear everything on a particular question. When a decision is 50-50, this can be a real worry, he said.

Asked the purpose of the wire service tickers in his office, the President said it was a way to keep his mind open to every source of information.

The President said the daily problem of the President is to determine what is right. He said this country's relationships with Germany have been good, that Kiesinger "had a little affair" with de Gaulle but we let him run off awhile knowing that he would be back.

The President said a continuing problem is that 14 Senate leaders in his own party think the U.S. is overcommitted on its troops in Germany, and every shift in German or British troops makes it all the more difficult to keep American forces there.



George Christian

SERVICE SET

MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT WITH
KEN CRAWFORD OF NEWSWEEK

NOVEMBER 30, 1967

Mr. Crawford asked the President how McNamara's resignation would affect the war, politics, and Pentagon operations.

The President: "When I've had a fellow there for 7 years, it's too much to assume you aren't going to miss him. You have to break in a new man. But no one is indispensable. The Commander-In-Chief has to make decisions, the Cabinet has to carry them out. There are not many men in the world as capable as McNamara is to do that.

"I've spent 12 years in the House on Armed Services and in the Senate dealing with defense matters too. McNamara is the best we've ever had. He is my trusted advisor in every field.

"He had many lucrative offers over these seven years. He told me previously he intended to continue as long as the President needed him. Woods approached him in April. McNamara came to see me in August to tell me about his conversations with the World Bank, so I wouldn't think he was out looking for a job. We talked again in October and it went from there."

Crawford asked if this would be the beginning of a general exodus from the Cabinet. The President said he did not think so, although anyone was free to leave if he desired.

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NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH
RONNIE DUGGER

December 13, 1967

Dugger is writing a book on the President, and came to discuss the President's background. The President's reflections:

I knew my Grandmother Baines, but not by grandfather very well. His father served in the legislature in Arkansas and was President of Baylor in the Civil War. Grandfather had some literary background and minor political background.

Grandmother Baines was a Haupman, a German. The name was Anglicized to Huffman.

My first memory of my mother was when I was 3 or 4. Father was at the gin, and I can remember her crying at 9 or 10 o'clock at night. She was frightened. I told her I would protect her.

I went to school when I was 4. Grandfather Johnson liked to see me, to give me candy and apples. He had a loud laugh, and was gay and humorous. I had the impression he was popular. He died when I was 9. His house was down by my birthplace -- the Jordan House, across from the Lutheran Church. He was a Populist, ran for the Legislature against his own daughter's husband, Clarence Martin, who married my Aunt Frank. Martin was Charlie McDonald's law partner.

I spent some good summers with Uncle Clarence.

Grandmother was paralyzed. I had to move her wheelchair.

I didn't know much about my family until mother wrote her book, but I remember grandmother as a dainty woman. She didn't like rough boys. I was not her fondest boy. She divided her year among her three daughters.

J. M. B.

SERVICE SET

The Buntons came from Georgia. John Wheeler Bunton is supposed to be in the picture in the Santa Anna Surrender.

Grandpa Baines was a good lawyer, but he lost everything but his house in farm setbacks. He had to sell land. He died broke leaving two daughters and a son.

Grandpa Johnson was a cattle buyer. He had 2,000 or 3,000 acres. The place I have now is largely his land.

Father was a strict disciplinarian. We kids ran over mother, but we looked on him as king. When he married mother, he was renting 200 acres and buying cotton. He was fairly prosperous. We had more than a comfortable time when I was a child. I remember sitting on the porch and listening to my father giving political counsel to the neighbors.

In 1922 he went bust on cotton. He lost \$100,000 in 3 or 4 years. He died making \$150 a month as a bus inspector for the railroad commission.

Father was a liberal, almost radical Democrat. He hated the Ku Klux Klan. Albert Moursund was a bitter political enemy. Strangely enough, he was A. W. 's father and A. W. is my friend.

Father was a great civil libertarian. I can remember when he was in the Legislature and they tried to bar the German language from being taught in the schools and were burning German books during World War I. Father told the Legislature the story of Lt. Louis Jordan, the first Texas officer to be killed in France. Jordan's parents couldn't speak a word of English. That helped kill the bill against the German language.

Mother was highly religious. Her father was a lay preacher. She never missed church. My father didn't belong, but he went to the Christadelphians. Uncle Clarence preached a lot. I used to go to camp meetings where they had services at 11:00, 2:30 and 7:30. We would have dinner on the river after church.

After a while I got to believing I was going to hell if I didn't join the church, so I joined the Christian Church.

When my father was dying after I had been elected to Congress, he told me to go up there, support Roosevelt all the way, never shimmy, and give them hell. He was a great Roosevelt man.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 1968

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH MERRILL McCORD
OF
CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY
ON
DECEMBER 7, 1967

The President told McCord he thinks Congress will be finished by December 15. He said the batting average is not as high as he would like but "what we have is good." He especially noted the success on some of the consumer legislation and predicted several other bills would be passed in the second session.

The President said he wondered how many days had been lost by holidays and that he "bet" that it would be at least a hundred days.

The President asked if Morton would have an opponent. McCord said that it had been assumed that Governor Breathitt would run if Ward was elected governor but there was no later reading. He said Morton and Cooper were both strong.



George Christian

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