

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald R. Ford
Governor Linwood Holton, Assistant Secretary
of State for Congressional Relations

DATE AND TIME: Monday - December 2, 1974
12:42 - 12:55 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

President: It is good to see you.

Gov. Holton: Very nice to see you, Mr. President.

President: It's been a lousy two days.

Gov. Holton: Very bad. I have had a few days off. When Congress is out and Henry is away, there isn't much to do.

How is Mrs. Ford?

President: Fine. She's trying to do too much and it gives her setbacks.

What are they doing in Bill Wampler's district?

Gov. Holton: They will run someone against him but we don't anticipate any problems.

President: We did well in Virginia except around Washington.

Gov. Holton: I just wanted, in effect, to say good-bye, and I regret that.

President: I heard that. I didn't know why your're going. If you were unhappy.....

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

DECLASSIFIED
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NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, STATE DEPT. DATE 02/10/04
BY [signature], NARA, DATE 5/7/04

Gov. Holton: Not at all. If you wanted me in the Cabinet, I would stay, but otherwise I can't afford to lose the chance in private practice. You will lose a lot of people this way. My salary is only 40% of what I have been offered. I talked to Wayne Hays about this problem. He says it has to be done from here.

President: I want to talk to the Leadership. I have talked to Tip [O'Neill] about it. We agreed to talk to see if the political environment was such that we could work together. For either one of us to propose it and the other not to follow it up could be bad. The judiciary is in just as bad shape.

Gov. Holton: A medium lawyer in Roanoke is getting \$75-\$100,000. A lot of people are talking of retirement. They can take it and do something else.

Don't you think your best time is now?

President: Pragmatically, yes, but not from the public viewpoint. If action could be taken but deferred twelve months. . . . or a cost of living clause for everyone.

Gov. Holton: Hays offered to help if you wanted to move.

[They chatted briefly about local Virginia politics]

President: We have got to start rebuilding the Governors.

Gov. Holton: When I started, there were 32 of us. If we get too many on the far right, we'll get sacked.



P/ Holton

2 Dec 74



- P Good to see you
- H Very nice to see you too.
- P Having 2 days
- H Very bad. I have had a few days off. When I get out & R away, there isn't much to do.
How was F?
- P Fine. Trying to do too much & it gives her setbacks.
What are you doing in Bill Womper's district?
- H They will run someone against him but don't anticipate any probs.
- P We did call in Va except around Wash.
- H I just wanted in effect to say goodbye & I regret that.
- P I know I do. Didn't know why, if you were working.
- H Not at all. If you wanted me in a cabinet I would, but otherwise I can't afford to lose a chance in private practice. You will lose a lot of people this way. My salary only 40% what I been offered.
I talked to Womper about this prob. He says must be done from here.
- P I want to talk to leadership. Talked to Tip. We agreed to talk to see if pol. environment was such that could work together - for either to propose & - other not to feel any would be bad. The peddling is in just as bad shape.
- H A median lawyer in Kansas was getting 75-100,000. A lot of people talking of retirement. They can take it & do something else.
Don't you think your best time is now?
- P Pragmatically, yes, but not from public viewpoint. If action could be taken but deferred it would be a cost of living change for everyone.
- H He says offered to help if you wanted to move.



- (Some talk about ^(local) moral & justice)
- P. Got to start rebuilding - Games.
- A. When I started, there were 32. I was yet too
many on a fox right, well get sacked.

