

Collection: Office of the Chief of Staff Files

Series: Hamilton Jordan's Confidential Files

Folder: Press – President, 1979

Container: 37

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Office of the Chief of Staff Files, Hamilton Jordan's Confidential Files,
Press – President, 1979, Container 37

Susan -
Directly to Hans
J

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER
FROM: HAMILTON JORDAN
RE: RICK SMITH

I spent several hours with Smith and made these points:

- That we were not preoccupied with other candidates. That we ran in 1976 against the field and never spent a minute worrying about who might or might not run.
- That I always assumed the worst in politics: that we would have trouble winning the nomination of our party and trouble getting re-elected.
- That as opposed to Ford in 1976, we were not going to spend all of this year worrying about what different persons might or might not do.
- That the best way to avoid a serious challenge is to prepare for one. This obviously would have to be on background.
- Campaign is in good shape, raised a couple of million dollars, staff of sixty persons and organizers at work in each of the early states.
- That it wasn't easy to get here and we never thought it would be easy to stay.
- Review portion of campaign notebook that demonstrates we are ahead of planning schedule and also contains some pertinent comments.

July 27, 1979

EYES ONLY

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER
FROM: HAMILTON JORDAN 719
RE: GERMOND AND WITCOVER

As requested, I talked with Jody about the hard time that Jack and Jules have been giving us. Jody says that he will continue to work on them, but suggests that the best way to get them off our back and convince them that you can and will win is to possibly have them in for an off-the-record session and talk politics with them.

I think it is a worthy idea.

Secondly, I will be away for the weekend but can be reached through the switchboard at all times.

It is my plan to complete by Wednesday of this week the personnel changes that need to be made at the White House - complete in the sense that I will have given the staff members involved target dates by which to complete these changes. In most instances, we will be talking about August 15th as the date for completion. Once these are underway, we will begin a full review of structure, office allocation, process and follow-up on Goals and Planning Unit.

We will set up regular meeting commencing Monday with First Lady, Pat, etc. I told Pat he should delay meeting he had advocated.