

August 22, 1974 - Meeting in Oval Office - 5 to 6:05 p.m. - personal meeting with the President following a political meeting (Brock, Michel, Burch, Hartman). We sat at the desk in the oval office. The President indicated that the decision on the VP had been very close. You should have been very complemented by the support. What do you want? Haig had indicated that the President had told me George can have anything he wants. I discussed the Cabinet, mentioning Commerce. I told him my great friend Dent was there. If the change was definite I would want that, but I would in no way want to elbow Dent aside, since he was a close friend and his wife was one of our favorite people. Ford made no comment on all of this. I am wondering if he hadn't something else totally in mind for Commerce. I urged the President to put his imprint on the Party, at the Cabinet, on the foreign policy. We had a good discussion about this.

I discussed my concern about the Rockefeller and Kissinger deal. Kissinger told the President "I can help you with Rocky." This was backwards and was my concern. I said I think it is a good appointment. I am strongly supporting it. I just don't want to have you against them when it comes to the crunch in foreign policy or anything else. I told him of Kissinger scheduling a Middle East trip without Nixon knowing about it. Ford said he felt Nelson Rockefeller would be supportive. I totally agreed. I told him I foresaw some party problems as a result of this Rockefeller appointment but that we could totally handle them. We discussed the successor. He told me that he would ask Anne Armstrong about this. I agreed she would be great. We then talked about Mary Louise Smith. He said if Anne did it, what would she do. We both agreed she could do a good job. He suggested sub-cabinet or I said she would be good in an embassy. The President talked about the need for access - running it differently

than it had been done, being careful however not to ever downgrade Nixon. We discussed my being ambassador to UK, maybe China. He asked if I had any languages. I said, "No". He said, "Just like me".(very nice touch) He told me that Haig, you and me are the only ones aware of this at all. Not even Henry Kissinger. We discussed Haig. He talked about a good ambassador's job or even Abrams' job. He said that Abrams was very sick.

Back to Anne Armstrong - he said that Anne's moving would solve some problems here. He discussed Hartman's and Marsh's role. We discussed my being chief of staff if there was some real substance. I brought it up. Ford seemed very interested in that. Ford just having said however that the chief of staff job was changed - he wanted to see more people than Nixon did. He wanted to deal more with them himself. I told him I could see a role where I would deal with the embassies, special interest groups, etc. but only if there was some stature or substance involved in this deal.

We went back and talked more about England. He wondered if it was substantive enough - so did I. We talked about the money. I told him I had lost a lot of money and didn't know if I could afford it. He indicated there were some outside ways of doing this. I told him I was aware of this from my UN days.

Ford said, "I will mention it to Kissinger. I see no problems there." We also touched on France and China. We talked about timing. Ford said, "You want to get through clearances before adjournment. This would mean before election because Congress is supposed to adjourn by the second week in October - I indicated to the President that I had been through Fulbright's committee once - feel I could go again especially if you call him.

We went back to China. I told him the UN vote conceivably could be against me although I got along with them once they were there. I told him that I was very interested in foreign affairs. I wanted to do more in foreign affairs in the future. I told him I kind of crossed the domestic politics bridge with this Vice Presidential message. I indicated that way down the line, maybe 1980, if I stayed involved in foreign affairs, I conceivably could qualify for Secretary of State. The President seemed to agree. He was very warm, very grateful, very friendly. I told him that if I was appointed to England the party people would think he was moving me over and out - or kicking me upstairs. I told him this was perfectly OK with me though because I thought it was a great challenge. I told him, "You don't owe me a thing." "I could very easily go back into private life." Indeed we discussed it. He said, "I don't want you to do that. I don't want to lose your talents."

We talked about problems with Ken Rush. I told him I thought Rush would like an embassy or just as soon go home. I told him ^{of} my dinner with Rush a few nights before where Rush indicated that he liked the diplomatic business better. I told him I didn't feel Rush was all that happy in this new job.