

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR BOB HALDEMAN

FROM THE PRESIDENT



With further reference to the discussion I have had with you on Agnew's schedule, I think it is very intriguing to explore the possibility of his following McGovern, not in every appearance McGovern makes, but once or twice a week in major cities that McGovern may visit. As I have pointed out, Agnew is undoubtedly going to draw a bigger crowd and it would give him an opportunity to hit McGovern hard on points that he may have made that need to be corrected.

In addition, the reverse twist here is to schedule Agnew in the day before or two days before McGovern goes in. Here again, we can get a good crowd comparison and Agnew, using this tactic, could ask searching questions and say that he believes the people have a right to know what McGovern's answers are to those questions. In fact, this latter tactic may be preferable to the first, but both could be tried. The more we can get Agnew engaged in a debate with McGovern the better.

It is also very important to emphasize to Agnew again that he should ignore Shriver. I realize that when he has a Q & A there may be instances when he will have to respond to a question on Shriver, but he should brush it off as quickly as possible so that we do not have a national debate between Agnew and Shriver rather than a national debate between Agnew and McGovern.

With regard to Shriver, what should be developed is a truth squad operation in which some of our better speakers follow him in to the key areas that he goes into. As a matter of fact, you might sandwich him, having someone go in before and ask a few questions which they want him to answer and someone following him. The sandwich operation could also be used on McGovern with someone going in before and then Agnew going in afterwards, or vice versa.

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