

Kissinger

TO: Mr. Len Garment
Mr. Thomas Evans

FROM: Michael Saperstein

DATE: June 13, 1968

RE: Meeting with Henry Kissinger
on June 12, 1968, at 5:45 p.m.
at 50 Rockefeller Center

I first met Professor Kissinger on Monday, May 27, at PS 41, Sixth Avenue at Eleventh Street, where I represented Mr. Nixon as a speaker and Mr. Kissinger represented Mr. Rockefeller as a speaker before an audience known as the Inter-Block Council for Peace. Mr. Kissinger had suggested that we meet at a future date.

On June 13, Mr. Kissinger expressed concern about Mr. Nixon's ability as an administrator. He was fearful that Mr. Nixon would find it difficult to delegate power and would seek to control the administering of the important Government agencies as did President Johnson. He conceded that Mr. Nixon may have a greater intellect than Governor Rockefeller but expressed concern over Mr. Nixon's failure to arouse the enthusiasm and support of the intellectual community. He pointed out that this is essential for two reasons: 1) The image created by the support of the intellectual community would help to increase public support for Mr. Nixon's programs. 2) The failure to have the support of the intellectual community would result in their intolerance of any future errors. He gave as an example President Kennedy's Bay of Pigs fiasco and cited the sympathy and compassion expressed by the press and the intellectual community. He pointed out that his concern was not so much for the contribution that these people can provide as the grief that they can cause. He said that President Johnson's failure to communicate his ideas was partially a result of his having alienated

the intellectual community and, thereby, failing to benefit from their assistance in communicating his ideas.

Mr. Kissinger expressed concern over the fact that Mr. Nixon has not publicly identified himself with foreign policy advisors, although he admitted that he is essentially in agreement with Mr. Nixon's views on Viet Nam and conceded Mr. Nixon's knowledge in foreign affairs. He gave every assurance that he is anxious to have a Republican as our next President.

I have reason to believe that if Mr. Nixon were nominated, we would be able to gain Professor Kissinger's support.