

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 22, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *BT*
SUBJECT: George Wallace

I had a long conversation with Rep. Jack Edwards (R-Mobile, Ala.) about Governor Wallace's 1972 plans. Jack is very close to the Democratic Speaker of the Alabama State House of Representatives, who, in turn, is a principal political confidant to George Wallace.

Edwards said he believes the Wallace forces want to help in your re-election and would like a signal if a Wallace candidacy would help or hurt in 1972. Jack said Wallace has been boasting privately that his '68 race actually won the election for you and that was his intention all along.

Edwards has briefly mentioned to the Attorney General the need for a "go" or "no go" signal soon.

The Congressman also reports that Wallace is picking up weight, losing his hearing and has difficulty reading. His new, young wife enjoys the country club circuit and is not eager to campaign at union halls, small towns, etc. Therefore, there is some question whether Wallace will run regardless of your desire.

This information may be of interest to you along with Edward's entree into the Wallace camp should you ever need to verify information from other sources.

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