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August 26, 1980

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed Meese
FROM: Anthony Dolan
REGARDING: Taking the initiative

1. We need to go on the offensive immediately.
2. We have an issue that can immediately accomplish this. We should also plan an event for next week that will shock the Carter Administration and get widespread coverage.

ISSUE

I. This issue is waiting to happen — the media will be all over it — Senate hearings are coming up — it is a perfect Reagan vs. Carter opportunity — we can topple one of the highest cabinet members — it would cause either a crisis or a major embarrassment.

We've been talking about this for three weeks — it should have been done the week Carter accepted the nomination.

BEFORE CARTER REMOVES CIVILETTI — LET'S DEMAND WITH STATEMENTS BY GOVERNOR THOMPSON AND GOVERNOR THORNBROUGH HIS RESIGNATION. LET'S USE THE CARTER QUOTE WHICH SAYS IF ONE OF MY CABINET MEMBERS LIES TO YOU, HE'LL BE GONE THE NEXT DAY. IT IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF CARTER'S BROKEN PROMISES. LET US FOLLOW UP WITH A STATEMENT BY REAGAN CALLING FOR CARTER TO LIVE UP TO HIS PROMISE. THE NETWORKS WILL SIMPLY PLAY THE CLIP OF CIVILETTI LYING OVER AND OVER AGAIN. LET'S HAVE REAGAN CALL THOMPSON AND THORNBROUGH. LET'S GET THE STORY OUT THAT WE ARE MAKING A TV SPOT WITH THE CIVILETTI MATTER. LET'S GO. BEFORE CARTER WAKES UP.

EVENT

1. We now have evidence of the following illegal and highly suspicious acts:

(a) federal money used to pay for surrogate trips on campaign swings.

(b) federal facilities and personnel used to write, distribute and hold press conferences with blatantly political purposes.

(c) widespread transfers of department employees to the White House for special projects.

(d) public service ads which amount to nothing more than a Carter campaign ad. (I saw one this weekend here with Neil Goldschmidt praising the President by name).

2. Next Thursday the following events should take place:

(a) Jim Lynn holds press conference and announces injunction against further use of federal employees, travel funds, or federal facilities for campaign activities. Also asks halt to transfers to White House.

(b) announces subpoenas for telephone logs, memos regarding transfers to White House, and notices the depositions of Carter surrogates and press officers at various key departments.

(c) shortly before the press conference, Lynn and Williamson are shown surrounded by 20 lawyers for Reagan who, paired into teams much in the manner of the Operation Eagle of the Nixon/Agnew Campaign in 1968 in Chicago, fan out to various federal departments. They attempt to take statements from the following individuals:

(1) Patricia Harris and all the press staff who worked on her political speeches in Dallas and L.A. -- under the Information Act they demand accountings of how much time was spent on the speeches by federal employees. They also visit the official who authorized the expenditure of the funds for Harris' trip. We also demand notes from a press conference that Harris cancelled last week whose purpose -- largely political.

(2) Neil Goldschmidt -- armed with a transcript of his so-called public service ad, we visit the director of the ad campaign in the

Department of Transportation who approved the ad. We also visit the travel and press officers about Goldschmidt's speech on the 55 m.p.h. limit. We take statements from both. I believe such an act is illegal.

(3) We visit the Secretary of Labor who has in his possession the memos from George Moffet of the White House ordering the White House transfers. We attempt to take a statement and gain access to the memos.

(4) We visit Moffet at the White House and demand to know what a so-called foreign policy aide is doing transferring staff.

(5) At the Pentagon, we interview the travel and press officers about Brown's speeches —we also interview the Stealth bomber participants and asks if they were threatened or pressured to appear at press conference.

(6) We interview the press and travel officers at the State Department on Muskie trips.

(7) Another team visits Campbell in the White House office and asks if he knows it is illegal to use federal facilities for a press conference. (He called on right after Reagan's acceptance speech and denounced our hiring freeze idea).

(d) Lynn and top leadership then goes to the FEC and lodges the complaints. Questions their inaction.

(e) at the same time on the hill, Baker asks for a GAO accounting probe, a Senate governmental operations probe and Tower asks for an armed services probe into why the Stealth bomber was given away.

(f) campaign leadership announces next day a team of prosecutors who will monitor all the investigations. The team announces "Any federal employee who participates in Carter/Mondale political activity will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

(g) We prepare print ads on abuse of incumbency.

(h) TV crews follow our teams to all their resists.

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