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1965-80

Folder Title: Memos – Harris Smear / Ku Klux Klan
[c.a. September 1980]

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ED MEESE

FROM: ANTHONY R. DOLAN

RE: HARRIS SMEAR

Lyn Nofziger feels it is essential that we respond to this incredible smear, as do I. It could be a turning point in Carter's misuse of the surrogates at government expense.

Furthermore, I think Jerry Ford would be ideal to give this and would be anxious to do so.

Quite by accident, at a party recently, I spent about two hours with Jody Powell. He kept saying how he hoped it would be a clean campaign. I suspected then that this group of down-home brawlers ~~were~~ ^{was} preparing to bite, gouge and kick. Clearly, we now have evidence of that.

Texas political speech of
The ~~recent attack~~ by Patricia Harris comparing the
~~Republican~~ ^{with} the platform of the Republican Party ~~and~~
that of the Ku Klux Klan is one of the most vicious smears
in recent political history.

This attack, which was worked on and ~~distributed~~
by federal employees ~~and~~ during a ~~trip~~ ^{political}
trip paid for by the taxpayers, is an indication of
the depths to which the Carter campaign will go to rescue
its sinking administration.

Comparing the Republican platform with that of
Ku Klux Klan is similar to comparing the Democratic
platform with that of the Communist Party -- it is an
attack on the fragile fabric of ^{the} political dialogue; ~~in this~~
~~nation~~ it is an assault on the decency of the American
people; ^{it is} ~~and~~ an affront to the members of the press and
media who were asked to report this lie.

Today I call on Jimmy Carter:

1. ^(personally) To disown Mrs. Harris' smear, ~~to~~ ^{to} issue his
personal apology to the American people and pledge to them
that he will not permit his staff to ~~engage~~ engage again
in this sort of smear.
2. To direct Mrs. Harris to apologize to the
country or resign her position.
3. To fire those members of his campaign staff who
directed this smear.
4. To pledge that no federal employees or federally
financed trips will be used again for ^{Jimmy Carter's} ~~personal~~ ~~political~~
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MEMO

To: Jim Baker

From : Tony Dolan

Re: Possible Ford speech.

The Carter surrogates are killing us and Patricia Harris' latest attack is the lowest.

^{Lyn} Ed Meese has given ^{their} approval to this statement and idea -- I was wondering what you think.

It would be powerful ~~for~~ if Ford gave it -- it would also be perfect for him since it would convey the role of elder statesman trying to ~~guard~~ ^{ward} the civil discourse.

I'll stop by later today and see you.

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To: Ed Meese

From: Anthony R. Dolan

Re: Ku Klux Klan remark.

1. This can easily be turned into a opportunity instead of a disadvantage.
2. It is important to stop any controversy before the nightly news about Ronald Reagan and start it about Carter.
3. Ronald REagan making the following statement will be perceived as the much bigger man -- the reaction of the American people, (we should trust them on this) will be Carter could never be that big towards REagan.
4. Turn it back on Carter -- by the end of the day let Carter be explaining Patricia Harris' smear.
5. Proposed statement:

"Yesterday I made an off-the-cuff remark that could be interepeted to mean something that was never intended.

~~Mr. Carter I am sure~~ Mr. Carter has no use for the

Ku Klux ~~Klan~~ Klan and I regret any ^{interpretation} ~~suggestion~~ that might be drawn from my remark that he does. I ~~hope~~

~~now that Mr. Carter~~ That having been said, it is my hope

that ^{we} ~~Mr. Carter~~ will ^{Keep} ~~spoile~~ the ~~ti~~ this camapign can

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"Yesterday, I made a ~~an off the cuff~~ remark that can be taken to mean something that was never intended and I want to apologize for that. None of the major candidates in this race has any use for the Ku Klux Klan and I regret any other interpretation of my remarks.

That having been said, it is my hope that we can get this campaign back to a high level. For that reason, I would hope that Mr. Carter will disavow Mrs. Harris' recent remarks and ask her to apologize for comparing my candidacy to "the specter of white sheets".

TVS combi 4

briefing pto

1) apologize

2) Davis and + rejoice
Guinness

3) visit soon

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~~That~~ ^{that} Having ~~been~~ ^{on the issues} said, it is my hope that we can ~~get~~ ^{set} this campaign ~~back to a high level~~ ^{certainly expect}. For that reason, I would hope ^{have the right to expect now} that Mr. Carter will disavow Mrs. Harris' recent remarks and ask her to apologize for comparing my candidacy to "the specter of white sheets".