

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 14, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT'S FILE
FROM: H. R. HALDEMAN *H*
RE: Meeting with Senator Dole,
Wednesday, April 14, 1971

This meeting was held at the Senator's request so that he could report briefly to the President on the activities of the National Committee and on his trips around the country.

The conversation centered primarily on the reaction to the Vietnam speech and a feeling that we definitely have the people going our way and that it's a matter now of continuing to stay on the offensive.

The Chairman reported that the moods of the audiences in all of his meetings seem to be more optimistic than it has been in the past, but there is an overwhelming sentiment, on all sides, to end the war as soon as we can.

The President gave the Chairman some suggested talking points on how to handle the war question and particularly the question of setting a specific date.

There was also some discussion of the Prisoner of War problem and the Chairman made the point that this is a tender-box that is about to explode as there is real danger of great numbers of POW wives reversing their support of the President. He suggested, therefore, a fairly major move for cosmetic purposes and the President asked that this possibility be explored.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the President, the Chairman and I walked cross West Executive to the West Lobby entrance and the President went on to the residence.

HRDLICKA
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H.R. Haldeman's "MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S FILE", summarizing the details of an April 14, 1971 White House meeting between Senator Dole and President Nixon, may not FAX well.

Relevant portions appear below:

"There was also some discussion of the Prisoner of War problem and the Chairman [Dole] made the point that this is a tender-box (sic) that is about to explode as there is a real danger of great numbers of POW wives reversing their support of the President. He suggested, therefore, a fairly major move for cosmetic purposes and the President asked that this possibility be explored."

Other White House documents and communications which cover the following three-week period detail further consideration and detailed planning of the "cosmetic" actions to keep the POW wives "on the reservation" as Senator Dole suggested. Those documents make it quite clear that moves being considered are solely for the purposes of "cosmetics."