

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 3, 1975

DR HAS SEEN

MEMORANDUM FOR

DON RUMSFELD

THRU

BILL BAROODY, JR. *BB*

FROM

TED MARRS *TM*

In my telephone survey of the veterans' and military oriented organizations there was a general favorable response except for VFW's standard negative. VFW feels this appointment is a concession to softness and detente. They are contacting other groups to join them in opposing. They have released a blast which I have not yet seen.

Other reaction pattern:

- desire for a meeting with the new Secretary.
- must commit himself to strong defense.
- Can't have a Navy bias.
- has good record.
- will support (the bottom line).

*Some specific comments follow:*

VFW - going to put out a statement supporting Schlinger (Cooper Holt).

American Legion - we will support the President's choice, if asked - hope this is not a signal of lessened national security (Bill Hauck).

Reserve Officers Association - emphasizes the need for a strong Guard and Reserve - hopes the new Secretary will support same. Will be supportive now. Will not support decreased readiness - active or reserve (General J. Milnor Roberts).

Air Force Association - appreciates the President's utterances to date in regard to strong national security and his visit to their meeting. Will support his selections - knows access will be better than with Schlesinger (John Gray).

Fleet Reserve Association - glad to get a Naval Reservist on board. The President has made a good selection. Hope it will be more open (Robert Nolan).

Navy League - glad to see it. Damned tough job. The new Secretary can't just go along with Kissinger all the time (Captain Vincent Thomas).

Naval Reserve Association - Good. That's fine. Hope he doesn't "let them reorganize the Department of Defense of Reserve." He should put a hold on that action. There will be questions on this at his hearings (Rear Adm. James Forrest).

NGAUS - nothing but good reports on Rumsfeld. Schlesinger was weapons system oriented - no people sensitivity. Will help with acceptance (General Greenlief).

AUSA - suggest the President hire Scoop instead of Ron if he really wants to get the word out. Hope for more attention to human interests (General Conklin).

AMVETS - will support. Hope he will be open with us - maybe a liaison appointee or an occasional meeting like the President does - like Roudebush does (Leon Sanchez).

Blinded Veterans Assn. - will support "if you say he's OK." (Jim Parker).

Catholic War Veterans - will have no problems with that nomination (Francis X. McBarron).

Disabled American Veterans - appreciate call and appreciate openness. Hope some "rubs off in DOD." (Mr. Gearhardt).

Jewish War Veterans - no objection. Will support (Irv Ziff).

NCO Association - we will support now - and later too if he will pay attention to the enlisted. We need a little stroking for our troops (Mack McKinney).

Retired Officers Assn. - can support anybody if we see whether or not he recognizes the human (Colonel Foster).

Paralyzed Veterans of America - hope he will keep in mind the possibility of cooperative use of facilities with VA (Philip Harper).

National Assn. of Concerned Veterans - good record - we'll go along with him (Charles Garefino).

Military Order of the Purple Heart - appreciate the call - good - can't say I'm sorry (Richard Golick).

Disabled Officers Association - he is a fine young man - we'll give him all the help we can (Maj. Walter Reilly).