

Richard Nixon Presidential Library  
Contested Materials Collection  
Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>No Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
3	32	9/21/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Colson to George Shultz RE: Jim Suffridge and the attempt to win over prominent labor leaders. 2 pgs.
3	32	9/20/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From George T. Bell to Colson RE: Suffridge's advice on how to cultivate labor support for RN. 1 pg.

EYES ONLY

September 21, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:           GEORGE SHULTZ  
FROM:                       CHARLES COLSON  
SUBJECT:                   Jim Suffridge

Attached is the memo that I referred to during our 8:15 meeting this morning. Suffridge is a very level-headed fellow and that is what disturbs me most about the memo. Jim is usually very low key. According to George, he was very forthright and came on very strong.

I am not entirely satisfied that George has the right approach. I am completely satisfied, however, that we are not doing the job properly at the moment with respect to labor. I'm not talking now about substantive matters, I am talking strictly about political cultivation.

What is apparently most troublesome is that Suffridge had some very confidential discussion with us about the possibility of his coming on board. You will remember that you and I talked about this sometime ago. I was never able to get Hodgson or Usery to agree to it but apparently Usery let someone at the AFL-CIO Headquarters know that Suffridge was interested. This was the one thing Suffridge asked us not to do and I gather it has greatly hurt his effectiveness within the AFL-CIO Councils -- understandably so, particularly now.

As we head into the campaign we are going to need some people, either here or at 1701, who can really work extensively in the political cultivation of labor leaders. I don't think I have ever succeeded in getting Hodgson and Usery and understand that there is an important distinction between their substantive relationships with labor leaders and our political relationships. The

attached memo simply highlights the problem and it is one that I think you and I should discuss to see if we can't get it resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

I would prefer that you not send a copy of George's memo to anyone, especially to Labor in view of the comments about Hodgson. I might add, by the way, from the contacts I have had that Suffridge is in no way overstating the case with respect to Hodgson.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHARLES W. COLSON  
SUBJECT: Contact with Organized Labor

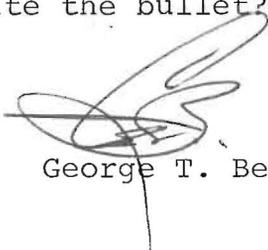
I talked to Jim Suffridge this morning about getting organized for the campaign, about which I will submit a separate memorandum. Jim immediately took off, however, on our situation with organized labor in a way which was uniquely forthright in contrast with his usual round-about approach, and made the following points:

1. Our relationship with labor leadership has steadily deteriorated and is now at an all-time low. Even Lee Minton who is not reluctant to stand up and be a Republican has taken off on the President very severely. Jim feels our communication with labor has been badly muffed.
2. There seems to be too many fingers in the pie, no coordination and no security. Jim said he had been burned up and embarrassed that our discussions regarding his coming aboard as liaison with labor had been thrown in his face from those at 16th Street, who apparently heard about it he thinks from Bill Usery.
3. Politically, the Secretary is totally lost to us with the leadership and can be of no help whatsoever. Bill Usery is a nice guy, wants to be friendly to everyone, but should not be utilized politically.
4. There must be continuous contact with top labor leaders from the White House, and the President should make more calls. Someone should be inviting every one of the leaders to lunch, visiting with them, and getting their views. They cannot be won over, but they become less violent and even neutralized.

5. He is very discouraged and feels we are headed for further unnecessary trouble.

I could be helpful by doing the same type of thing I have done with Fitzsimmons, if I were given in-house (no public) appointment, the mandate were recognized by the Labor Department, and we had an agreed-upon strategy. I, or no one else, can do it on a hit-and-miss basis and without overall mandate and coordination. Actually, this is a suggestion from Jim Suffridge, who feels Hodgson is irretrievable, Shultz has other duties, you are involved, but that I am (he thinks) unencumbered and could relate diplomatically with these people.

As you know, I have long felt we could do better in communicating with organized labor. I believe our need has come to a climax; so for the past days I have been exploring the matter and trying to put other things aside. This weekend I started formulating a plan whereby through the RNC and the 1701 operation we could start working directly with local leadership and the rank and file. I am turning in this direction, because I feel our program with the top leaders has come to something of a grinding halt. I will have the memo ready for you shortly regarding the local approach, but wanted to relay to you at once Suffridge's comments, which certainly jibe with my own feelings, in hope that we can tackle the national leadership problem and do something about it. Suffridge feels it will be much more difficult now than it would have been 6 months ago, but that we have not quite reached the point of no return. Can we bite the bullet?



George T. Bell