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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>
7	37	9/22/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Policy	Memo	From George T. Bell to Colson RE: suggestion of a labor liaison. 2 pgs.

September 22, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHARLES W. COLSON

SUBJECT: Labor Liaison

I strongly urge that a man be appointed at the Republican National Committee and at the Citizens operation to be liaison with labor, largely at the state level, to identify and stimulate support of local labor leaders, and generate campaign activity among the rank and file. It is incongruous that we have someone for nationalities, senior citizens, youth, blacks, women, etc., but no one in this highly important area.

As you probably know, Bob Gornley did this at the RNC from 1956 through 1964, when it was discontinued because of lack of interest by the Goldwater organization. Bliss did not have the funds to start it again and, apparently, we have not thought of it. It would be timely to resurrect it now to supplement our work with the top leadership, in view of mounting evidence that there is a wellspring of support existing at the local level. This is particularly evident in Pennsylvania and New York, and there seems no reason it does not exist among the other key states. Yet, in my efforts to get names of local labor leaders, I find that we have none in 33 states, of which 5 are key states, and an appreciable number in only 4. This can and must be corrected, but it will require a man knowledgeable in local union affairs who can advise and assist the State Chairman in naming a State Republican Labor Committee and getting at the local leadership, an assignment which will require time and travel.

Gornley was able to get some labor union members named as delegates to the convention in 1956, and more named as alternates; some were included among the sergeants-at-arms, and a labor leader was one of the seconders of the Eisenhower nomination - waving his union card. Union types helped turn out the crowds, distribute literature and get voters to the polls.

We have resources to draw upon. Pat Juiliano, who was Under Secretary of Labor in Pennsylvania and also helped Bliss and Gormley nationally, is withering away as labor advisor to the Office of Civil Defense. Victor Dorella, Rockefeller's labor advisor, would be helpful. Bob Gormley is over at HUD, has a drinking problem, but still has know-how and contacts. Peter Turzik, who retired a few weeks ago as International Treasurer of the Carpenters union, is a Republican and is looking for something to do. I understand also that Dave Livingston, the General Secretary of the Carpenters union is a Republican and would help. Mike Danko is chaffing at the bit. There are many others.

There seems to be fear on the part of some about getting involved with labor or the President being exposed to labor. Actually, as you know, he relates to them tremendously and is incredibly effective. He has support among the Building Trades and I am convinced that local leadership and the members will respond if they are properly addressed. You will remember how much support we found for the President when we spent our evenings at the Hilton last spring, even at that inopportune time shortly after his Davis-Bacon action. Suffridge, Victor Dorella and Cliff Jones have emphasized that Neany does not speak for all the lower leadership anymore than he does for all the rank and file. I believe there is an opportunity for a real breakthrough.

George T. Bell