



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

*File*

TO: Governor

DATE: September 25, 1984

FROM: Gerry Thompson

SUBJECT: Heckler Meeting

This is probably the most bizarre happening I have ever witnessed. We pushed and pushed for a private meeting with Secretary Heckler while she was in Oregon on September 18. Clyde Pearce of the Reagan Bush team was finally able to get the meeting for us. Both he and Diana Evans pushed every button they could. Late the evening before her arrival the meeting was confirmed.

Let's backtrack for a minute. I mentioned to you on the phone that the Reagan Bush team in Oregon had received very short notice of her visit. Wednesday evening the week prior to her arrival Diana Evans called me at home in tears because she was unable to enlist anybody herself to put together a function for Heckler's visit. She asked our help. The next morning in a staff meeting I asked staff for suggestions. Jeff Lewis and Ede Schmidt volunteered their assistance. Because of our need to meet with Heckler and our desire to not allow an embarrassment, we agreed to loan Schmidt and Lewis to the Reagan Bush team and put them on personal leave. Ede and Jeff single handed put together the evening fundraiser. Clyde Pearce and Heckler's office were fully aware of our efforts. Now back to Heckler's arrival.

I participated throughout the day, the first event being a luncheon for women. On your behalf I introduced Heckler, giving her many complimentary remarks and commenting on her personal friendship with you. At the same time, Lon was receiving signals from Heckler's staff that the meeting might not occur and if it did, it would only be for ten minutes. I instructed Lon to inform them we would be at Heckler's room at the appointed time, period.

Leo and I arrived at the room and no one was there. Later Heckler staff came and got us and told us there had been a mixup in rooms, that we would now have to meet in one of the rooms I had rented for Ede and Jeff to work from. Leo and I went to that room and finally the same staff member appeared and said the Secretary was too tired to meet with us and needed her rest, and would we mind meeting with a staff member.

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I said that if we had no other choice and if that was the best we could do, it would be your desire we follow through. A few minutes later Claire DeReal appeared. She is the Secretary for Communications (another Denny Miles) who patiently sat there and listened to Leo's story, taking hardly a note. I emphasized strongly that it was our desire to prevent any political embarrassment for the administration as well as our desire to save both the state and federal budget money and it was your strongest request that Secretary Heckler pay personal attention to both of our issues. End of meeting.

Later that evening Margaret Heckler purposely avoided us at the special dinner. But we received a strong signal the reason she didn't meet with us was she had decided to pay a visit to the OMA headquarters. The following day that was basically confirmed.

By now I was seething and was not quite sure how to handle the situation and made a conscious decision to let my temper subside before taking any other steps. You need to know I viewed this as an absolute personal slap in your face. Coincidentally, Clyde Pearce called to ask me how the meeting went. He opened the door a crack and I walked right in. I expounded on the shoddy treatment, your reasons for feeling Oregon was a stepchild of the administration and on the lack of courtesy from Heckler. He agreed with everything and became very angry. He too felt it was a slap in his face because he had been assured by the White House Heckler was instructed to meet with me on your behalf. He asked that I not do anything until he had time to make a couple of phone calls. Within a half hour he was back to me and suggested that I fly to Los Angeles and Heckler would meet with me there. I suggested to him I did not think it was appropriate for me to fly to LA when she had just been in Portland. He then suggested they fly Heckler's deputy out to meet with us. I then suggested that would not be appropriate, that I felt it had become a matter between the Governor and Heckler. He then asked for more time to make a few more phone calls.

Shortly thereafter Heckler's deputy, Mac Haddow, called full of apologies. He offered virtually anything to us to bring about the meeting. I suggested to him that Claire DeReal and I had reached agreement that I would be sending a letter to the Secretary confirming Leo's conversation. I felt we should still follow that agreement and suggested to him the best way to handle

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the situation would be for him to call the letter to the personal attention of Heckler and call our office and set a time for a personal conversation between her and you and then have Heckler pick up the phone and call at the appointed time. We have heard nothing since. Attached is a copy of the letter I sent to Margaret Heckler through Mac Haddow.

In the meantime Dick Ladd is in Washington, D.C. working with the congressional delegation. We just received word today that they believe they can amend an appropriations bill to extend all waivers. They are pursuing this course in order to buy some additional time. In the meantime, everything hinges on the conversation you might have with Secretary Heckler.

I am still very angry about the shoddy treatment we received. We have received no call or letter for the Governor's office or staff for their effort in putting together the function.

There is much more to tell you about this whole scenario including the turf battles going on between Diarmuid and Diana. The whole situation is embarrassing, shameful and wrong.