



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor

DATE: January 4, 1984

FROM: Gerry Thompson

SUBJECT: Meeting with Carol Whitney

*Gov as
chair of
Rep. Gov's Assn*

I took Carol to lunch today and talked to her as you and I had discussed. Following are the items we covered.

1. RGA meeting agenda. In a very stern way I tried to impress upon Carol that you do not like going into a meeting unprepared or worse yet, with last minute instructions. Using Chicago as an example I tried to point out where the meeting arrangements appeared to be in disarray.

Carol excused the disorganization by the fact that Governor Orr had decided to leave the meeting earlier than expected which then meant a transfer of the meeting load to your shoulders. I reminded Carol that we knew Governor Orr would be leaving earlier at least a week in advance of the conference, therefore her excuse was unacceptable.

She then excused the disorganization by the fact that Governor Orr had to approve the agenda and his staff just simply did not get around to it until they arrived in Chicago. This may or may not be valid, but I made it clear to Carol that that would be unacceptable to you as chairman and hereafter I expected a completed agenda with all backup material prior to your departure from Oregon for any RGA meeting.

Carol has assured me that in preparation for the RGA meeting in February at NGA as well as the RGA conference in the fall, all issues and suggested agenda items will first be reviewed by the staff liaison committee, then submitted to you well in advance for both approval, input, deletions and additions. In other words, you will take the lead and set the final agenda.

2. In preparation for the upcoming RGA meeting at NGA we need to decide quickly whether or not you would like the Senate leadership to meet with the Republican Governors.

3. I discussed with Carol your disappointment in being the point man for the RGA separation from RNC. I described it to her much in your same words as having made the proposal and then looking over your shoulder for followers and finding none. Carol assured me that the RGA executive committee had approved

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the separation. The executive committee was comprised of yourself, Governors, Orr duPont, Thompson and Treen with Governors Alexander and Olson sitting in. I asked Carol if that were the case, where were those Governors when the presentation was made. She insists that they all backed out the last minute on the basis of dollars. If RNC could provide money to RGA, it was their feeling that a separation should not occur at this time. If that were the case, I then asked Carol why appropriate staff work had not been done there at the last minute to make certain support was still in place. She insists that staff work was done and it all came as a surprise. She indicates that dePont apologized later for not having been at the RGA meeting to help you carry the ball. I strongly reiterated to Carol that if appropriate staff work had been done, the problem would not have existed.

I also described to Carol yours and our embarrassment in the private meeting with Fahrenkopf and Orr. Going into the meeting it had always been our belief that it was RNC's desire to separate RGA, but the private meeting proved otherwise, even to the point of Fahrenkopf openly denying any such move. Carol still insists it is RNC's desire, that it had been articulated to her time and time again, and Fahrenkopf still believes that in the next two years RGA should take steps to separate themselves.

Carol is now on notice that these types of embarrassments can no longer be afforded for not only you, but for any of the Governors.

4. We need to come to a conclusion on who should be chairman for the RGA Policy Committee. Two suggested names are Governors Sununu and Kean. Yesterday Carol indicated to you that Sununu could not serve as chairman of the policy committee because he is on the executive committee. Today she tells me he is not legally or technically prohibited, but it has never been the practice in the past. She suggests Kean.

5. Just as soon as Governor Orr's audit of the chairman's fund is completed the fund will be transferred to you. This is the expense account from which we pay your expenses for any efforts as RGA chairman as well as staff efforts, including Carol Whitney's staff. Apparently we administer the expense account exclusive of transportation costs and rental car costs for Carol and her staff. As soon as we receive that transfer, we will have to set up an account in Oregon and designate yourself as a signator and I would suggest Betty Maudlin as second signator.

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6. The Olson and Spellman letters requesting campaign funds is heating up and you can expect to be confronted by at least Paul Newman in the near future.

7. Governor Thornburgh is anxious to become heavily involved as vice chairman. He has indicated to Carol he wishes to be fully informed not only of financial activities, but of your activities as chairman. By practice I will keep him informed of any decisions or actions taken by you in your role as RGA chairman.

In general, the conversation with Carol was productive. It is always difficult to pin Carol down. She is one of those who has a tendency to point the finger elsewhere, but I have little doubt that she knows exactly what we expect and what your needs are. She is on notice that we expect tight coordination and complete staff work hereafter.