

ALF M. LANDON

P.O. BOX 1280

April 12, 1973

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66601

Hon. Bob Dole
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510



Dear Bob:

Tuesday noon, I remarked to three of your good friends that the ramifications of the Watergate affair were going to be far-reaching. That I could testify that I knew from outside sources not close to you that, as National Chairman, you did not have the coordination with the Nixon campaign that a national chairman should have. Yet you would receive criticism that you did not deserve.

Jim Porter recalled your vigorous and forceful statement that all those who participated in Watergate in any way must be identified, which I confess I had forgotten.

That prompts this letter. Your forthright position is not sufficiently identified to be clear in the public mind so that it cannot be twisted effectively and unfairly misrepresented in the future. You need to repeat it from start to finish.

Tuesday afternoon, the Attorney General - before the Senate Committee - took in the whole waterfront on executive privilege communications.

In Wednesday morning's Capital in the short AP coverage of your Kansas City interview, there were two paragraphs quoting your objective discussion of the Watergate.

Wednesday afternoon's papers carried Senator Goldwater's blast in the Christian Science Monitor which really took the bark off on what President Nixon was doing to the Republican Party by his handling of the Watergate.

This morning, Representative John Anderson, Chairman of the House GOP Conference, appeared at a Senate hearing to express "in the strongest terms possible my utter shock and dismay," referring to the Attorney General's statement of Tuesday afternoon, saying that the Attorney General was "unnecessarily provocative and contemptuous of the Congress. If the Congress is to preserve even a semblance of integrity and independence, it must act immediately to nullify the sweeping claim of executive power asserted by the Attorney General." Mr. Kleindienst repeated his position at Detroit last night.

I think on every visit to Kansas, you should establish your position on this sensitive issue of "bugging," and the constitutional question precipitated by the Attorney General. You should arrange to be interviewed in person by different TV stations and radio stations in Kansas, as well as in the press.

I fully realize the position you occupy as the President's personal choice for National Chairman in his campaign for re-election. By reason of that position of leadership you occupied, you also have an obligation to the Republican Party and to our country. And, after all, your personal position in an historic affair.

Hon. Bob Dole
Washington, D. C.

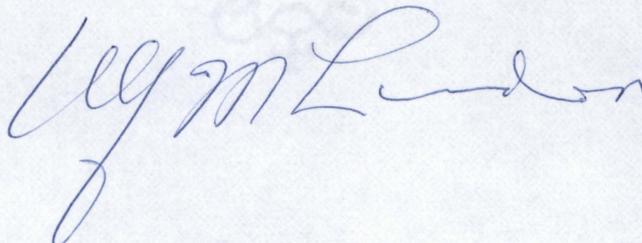
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Newsweek called Pearson late yesterday asking for a copy of my letter to the President, which I sent also to you and to Scott. He properly refused to give it to them. The Washington Post called me two weeks ago, as perhaps you noticed, asking if I had talked to the President on the Watergate. I answered no. Had I written him? I answered I was writing him. Would I send them a copy of it? I answered no. I have had no acknowledgment of that letter of March 30.

The Washington Post also asked me what I thought of a blue ribbon committee - suggesting Senators Cooper and Williams. I said that was the first I had heard their names mentioned. The public would have confidence in them.

Perhaps - now that the President must either back his Attorney General's new interpretation of the extent of constitutional executive privilege relating to the Congress, or back down - a so-called blue ribbon committee as a corollary of grand jury proceedings, agreed to by the Senate and the President, could leave the constitutional questions to the due process of judicial decisions while getting on with the immediate, complete and thorough answers to all the questions involved in the Watergate scandal.

Best, as ever -

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Legum London". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

AML:j

P. S. Shortly after I finished this, Washington requested WIBW to interview me for CBS. I take it it will be on the evening news.

April 24, 1973

Indur

Honorable Alf M. Landon
P. O. Box 1280
Topeka, Kansas 66601

Dear Alf:

I appreciate your letter of April 12, and as you might guess, I have made literally hundreds of statements on the Watergate since the event last June 17. I believe my statements have been consistent -- enclosed are a couple of them.

I have been advised Roy is now trying to implicate me in some way. In my opinion, this is a calculated risk, because as you have perhaps guessed, some of those now involved in the Watergate disaster are the same persons who caused me great difficulty while Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Will be in Topeka Friday and Saturday and hope to have the opportunity to visit with you -- if not in person, at least by telephone.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
U. S. Senate

BD:jc