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Travel - Concerns

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Talking Points on Costs for Campaign Travel

All costs for travel by the President for a city in which he engages in any campaign activity, even if he spends most of his time in at official events, are borne by the Clinton/Gore'96 campaign. Under the FEC regulations, the campaign pays all the travel costs to a city with campaign activity regardless of how much time the President spends at official events in that city.

The FEC hypothetical formula requires the campaign to pay all travel costs from the point of origin (always Washington, D.C.) through each campaign-related stop and back to the point of origin.

Travel costs:

Round-trip First Class airfare to all cities with any campaign activity for every traveller who is travelling for political purposes (e.g., the President, staff members, etc.). Campaign also must bear the associated costs -- hotel, per diem, transportation.

The government must bear the costs for those travellers whose travel is required to perform official governmental functions (e.g., USSS agents, military personnel, doctor, personal aide, etc.) -- the government cannot cost shift to the campaign.

CT/TX/CA/TX Trip Swing:

Under the hypothetical formula, the trip is billed to the campaign as if the President travelled from Washington, D.C. to Dallas to Houston and back to Washington, D.C.

Actual Trip Leg breakdown:

Leg 1:	Washington to Connecticut (Government)
Leg 2:	Connecticut to Austin, Tx (Government)
RON (TX):	(Government)
Leg 3:	Austin, TX to Dallas, TX (replaced by a hypothetical leg from Washington to Dallas -- first class airfare for all unofficial travellers)
Leg 4:	Dallas, TX to California (Government)
RON (CA):	(Campaign) Generally, as a matter of White House policy, the RON between any two consecutive days of campaign travel is billed to the campaign
Leg 5:	California to San Antonio, TX (Government)
Leg 6:	San Antonio, TX to Houston, TX (replaced by a hypothetical leg from Dallas to Houston -- first class airfare for all unofficial travellers)
Leg 7:	Houston to Washington (Campaign)

If you have any questions, call Cheryl at 6-7900.

L.R.
PRESS
CHARTER

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

26-Jun-1995 03:16pm

TO: Evelyn S. Lieberman
TO: Evelyn S. Lieberman

FROM: Susan Hazard
White House Operations

CC: Jodie R. Torkelson

SUBJECT: Littlerock-San Francisco Press Charter

Chris called from San Francisco and advised of the situation concerning Greg McDonald of Houston Chronicle problem with our charter departure time from LittleRock Sunday night. Bottom line: Chris and Anne E. agreed to a charter company which did not have much time flexibility on the road as some might because of lower cost of \$14,000. Decision simply made based on cost vrs flexibility. It was impossible to change times to coincide with AF1 change in schedule. This kind of problem no doubt will be alleviated if we are able to implement the new proposed system of 6 month charter contracts.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

26-Jun-1995 11:09am

TO: Evelyn S. Lieberman
TO: Julie E. Mason

FROM: Anne M. Edwards
 Office of Communications

SUBJECT: Press Charter leaving Little Rock

As usual, the facts are more interesting than the call you received from the reporter would suggest.

Headline:

The press in Little Rock WERE ASKED by the Travel and Press Offices if it was worth the extra \$14,000 to bring the press charter back so the press could leave Little Rock as early as the President for San Francisco.

Press consensus: NOT worth it. THEY decided.

1. Press charter was scheduled, on a good guesstimate, to leave Little Rock at 8:30 PM CDT Sunday because we went on the trip with no decision from the President when he would leave on Sunday.

The President gave the indication on Saturday evening that he might leave Sunday at about 4:30 PM, Central time.

2. We KNEW we could get the press charter back if needed to Little Rock earlier, but it would cost money: 14-THOU.

3. Kris and Ginny did a check-around with the press on Saturday night as soon as they heard about the 4:30 POTUS departure.

The consensus was clear: For only a 3-4 hour difference, it was NOT worth \$14-K.

4. Kris tells me that only Greg McDonald protested. And he protested hard and came to the Press Office and was "in the Press' Office's face". They bit their lip and took it. Kris says he thinks Greg might not have been checked with, about voting on the extra money, but it would not have made a difference on consensus.

5. As a point of record, re Greg's "5 hours":

Air Force One left Lit Rock:	4:30 PM CDT
Press charter left:	8:00 PM CDT

The difference: 3 1/2 hrs.

They also got the press charter up a half hour earlier than scheduled. (That's good work.)

6. Footnote on procedural matters: Yeah, I should have been told all this was going on. I should have been told by the Trip Scheduler (who has apologized) and I should have heard from our Little Rock troops. I was certainly reachable. Spent hours on the phone with the Chicago team -- but didn't hear from the Rock after I'd checked in with them to see if all was well.

Anne E

HALIFAX
CUSTOMS

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

26-Jun-1995 09:56pm

TO: Evelyn S. Lieberman
FROM: Jodie R. Torkelson
Management and Administration
SUBJECT: Customs Incident

As I mentioned, this is the incident Sue Hazard emailed me on last week. Thought you should read.

US CUSTOMS PROTEST

Bob Jaxta, mgr Presidential Travel for U.S. Customs called me to lodge complaint. Does not require formal reply but wanted me to be aware of problem that occurred June 17 - return of Halifax press charter at Andrews.

Bottom line, it involved a heated discussion between Anne Edwards and customs official as to proper procedure for re-entry into the U.S. I reviewed the particular situation with Kris who witnessed it and I assured Mr. Jaxta that I would contact him personally prior to future international trips to ensure everyone understands custom compliance, but he wanted you (the higher powers) to know that he felt Ms. Edwards behavior was inappropriate and potentially law breaking. More later when I see you. It is a settled issue.

MEMORANDUM

To: Evelyn Lieberman
Kim Johnson

From: Janna Sidley 

Re: NY Telephone Costs

During the President's recent trip to New York - Sunday, April 30, 1995 - Kara McGuire, the press advance person, placed an unauthorized phone order. Without checking with me, she called our AT&T representatives and ordered 15 phones for the filing center at the Waldorf Astoria.

I was informed this morning by Dianne Lawson of AT&T, that the phone lines cost \$533.50 each or a total of \$8002.50.

The full White House press corps did not travel on this trip. Due to the high cost to charter a press plane and the accessibility of New York from Washington D.C., there was not enough interest among the press corps to warrant charting a press plane. This means that only the Air Force One pool consisting of 14 reporters are technically obligated to pay for cost incurred on the trip. Each person will be billed \$571.60 for the phones at the filing center.

Please advise how I should proceed with this matter.

CC: Isabelle Tapia
Jodie Torkelson
Billy Webster

A normal phone order in this situation would be 7-8 phones.



WESTWOOD ONE COMPANIES

MUTUAL
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TO:

Evelyn Lieberman
Deputy Press Sec.

FROM:

Barb Tessler
Vice Pres. News

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW:

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If you have any questions, or experience problems receiving this transmission, please call 703-413-8390.

THANK YOU.

DATE:

3/31/95

TIME:

WESTWOOD ONE COMPANIES

MUTUAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM
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WESTWOOD ONE RADIO NETWORKS

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BARTON J. TESSLER

Vice President
Network News
Mutual/NBC
(703) 413-8436

March 31, 1995

Mr. Steven E. Riewerts
Director, White House Travel Office
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Steve:

As we continue the review of White House travel policies and procedures, I wanted to reiterate some major concerns of Westwood One and ask for clarification on several issues.

When I left our meeting last week, I still was not clear on the current thinking regarding access to press rooms for a news organization not on the charter for that trip. We continue to believe the current policy of allowing such access is the best policy and is the most economically and legally sound. As indicated in my recent letter, Westwood One, as well as most of the traveling press corps, has bureaus in New York and Los Angeles, for example, with on-site reporters who may cover some trips. It's not in anyone's interest to force the use of an expensive charter when it is not necessary for coverage. At the same time, organizations participating on-site share phone, filing center, ground transportation and other charges, reducing the costs for everyone.

On a similar access issue, I appreciate the waiver of finance charges but remain concerned about the proposed 90-day cutoff. Our current, regular payment schedule for all vendors is 90 days. That's, at best, when we get paid by our clients. It's just too tight for a cut-off. First, there may very well be a delay between the invoice date and our receipt of the invoice. As indicated earlier, I have to get approval from corporate offices in New York for any payments. Then a check is cut and co-signed in New York and Los Angeles. This is not unusual, a lot of media face similar situations, and it takes time. I'm concerned you're going to be wasting a lot of time with organizations who are at 91 or 95 or 98 days. I'd be much more comfortable with a minimum of 120 days before cutoff and this will save you a lot of unnecessary aggravation and collection calls in that 30 day period.

There was some followup discussion during out last meeting about news organizations ordering press room phones directly from AT&T. This would relieve the travel office of having to play middle-man on phones and prevent it from getting caught in the middle of disputes. We deal directly with AT&T now for phones on foreign trips and some domestic trips and we'd like to see this procedure followed across the board.

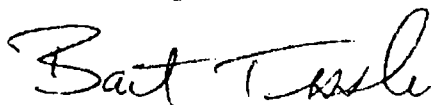
Regarding your service charge proposal, I still maintain that a one time only levy of maybe \$1000 per organization as an up front pre-payment is the way to go. That should be a cost of participating in this program. Any news organization that wants to travel would be assessed this "pre-payment" before its initial trip. This should build you a reasonable fund for required advance payments. The fund would continually be replenished when trips are billed out and the bookkeeping would be much easier for you under this proposal. An organization ending its travel coverage would then be reimbursed \$1000. This is, at least, equitable, unlike the current proposal which would assess some media for trips they don't take.

On the issue of media representation, working with pool reps, just like we do for coverage of the President and similar to our relationship with the Pentagon for the DOD media pool, is the way to go. Ask for one representative from TV, radio, wire services, newspapers, and magazines. I'd be happy to have this five member board represent us, and Westwood One would work through the radio representative to the travel office.

The White House Correspondents Association does not represent us and we cannot support any arrangement where WHCA or the television networks make decisions for radio networks. Please remember WHCA is strictly an advisory association and is not authorized to make any financial decisions on our behalf. I would be happy to have WHCA continue to consult with you on issues like seating on the plane, meal service, smoking, seat belts, and so forth.

Thank you for your efforts to facilitate media travel with the President. I look forward to our future discussions.

Sincerely,



Barton J. Tessler
VP, News

cc: Evelyn Lieberman
Deputy Press Secretary

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

15-Sep-1995 07:35pm

TO: Jodie R. Torkelson

FROM: Anne M. Edwards
 Office of Communications

SUBJECT: A quick explainer

That California helo for the pool? Just so you know, because we don't work together much, if I had actually needed to ask for it, I would have gone through Evelyn.

I only called your office to learn the process. California was very very tangled and I was running about eight options to untangle it. So I gave a long explanation to Mike Thursday night that it was a feeler to see if this might fit neatly as a request or not. And then he traveled away on Friday.

The helo was NEVER "Plan A". It was somewhere around Plan Q.

(You would have liked "Plan B": The Dallas-Class submarine for the pool, out of Long Beach right into the San Diego Navy Yard.)

The good news? My Plan "A" worked.

Thank you anyway. I just wanted you to know that I know where the food chain is and when it's a real request, that's from whence it shall come. I apologise if my exploration caused any concern.

Best,
Anne E.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

16-Sep-1995 12:17pm

TO: Anne M. Edwards

FROM: Jodie R. Torkelson
 Management and Administration

SUBJECT: RE: A quick explainer

Thank you for the explanation, but Mike was clearly under the impression that this was not simply a "process" question, but instead a question of whether or not I'd actually approve. In fact, prior to his departure he asked if a "decision" had been made yet on approving the helos and left me diagrams and other information to assist in that decisionmaking. Clearly there was some miscommunication.

The approval process for anything other than the standard, normal package accompanying the President is the same whether it is a helo or fixed wing request. Any such request would need to first be vetted through Evelyn to ensure that she and Mike were okay with the idea of government aircraft being used in this manner for the press. If the request was forwarded to me after a thorough vetting in the press office, both my office and counsel's office would discuss any legal and remaining resource issues. During that internal process, I would receive recommendations from WHMO and the Travel Office.

I'm pleased that other plans worked and that the issue has been put to bed.

From Sue Hazard
24 Oct 3:00

March Schwartz has called to complain again for the poor service of the travel office. You will recall he mailed a letter to the president complaining and I followed up. He is apparently a contributor.

I spoke to him numerous times in July and August and he categorically requested that I make him reservations on : Jackson-Honolulu-California charter and hotel room in Honolulu and the filing center. He even told me that he was going to visit Christie Brinkleys parents in Hawaii...etc.etc.

I followed up several time and babysat this because of the past and to see what occurs on trips he signs up for.

He no-showed. We billed him no-shows. He has left me a message that he has gotten the worst service from the travel office in 18 years of travelling with teh press, etc. etc. and he may tell the President.

I will call him back, however, he creates these problems . I will advise him that he must sign up like the rest of the press in writing . I believe he makes commitments and forgets them. He claims to be going on the next two International trips which are expensive.

Its hard to ignore him because last year, he apparently showed up in Moscow without a visa and was detained. It was an "incident".

I'll let you know the outcome of my conversation when I reach him but wanted you to be aware that his objections are groundless.

thanks