

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD (NIXON PROJECT)

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
1	Letter	Handwritten — RN to Norman Vincent Peale [Thank you note].	12/19/71	Q

FILE GROUP TITLE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL FILES	BOX NUMBER 14
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FOLDER TITLE PEALE, Norman Vincent
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RESTRICTION CODES

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Norman Vincent Peale

**Xerox copy of the President's hand-written letter of December 19, 1971
given to Bill Safire for use in his book**

September 6, 1973

RMWoods



Miss Rose Mary Woods
White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

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NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

1025 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028

Norman Vincent Peale
1025 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028

February 4, 1974

Dr. Billy Graham
Montreat
North Carolina 28757

Dear Billy:

It so happens that I speak to various trade associations and national business conventions throughout the country, and also have just returned from a speaking tour in South Africa.

Not infrequently reporters ask my opinion of Billy Graham and his work. Always I give them the sincere answer that I am a loyal friend of Billy Graham and indeed consider him the greatest religious leader in the world today. This I mean truly.

However, Billy, I have just got to tell you that I was saddened by your recent reported statements about President Nixon. It appeared that you were trying to get out from under and were not standing by the man for whom you have professed abiding friendship.

Perhaps you have not seen a letter to you from George E. Stringfellow, who sent me a copy (xerox copy herewith). Mr. Stringfellow is a distinguished business executive and community leader, a man of sound learning and judgment. While his statement may seem a bit direct, I must confess that it represents the views of many, myself included.

As for me, I am sticking with President Nixon one hundred percent, all the way. I believe in him absolutely and have been totally unaffected by the vicious attacks upon him.

Cordially yours,

Norman

NVP:ao

Dictated by Dr. Peale;
signed in his absence.

P.S. I enclose report of an interview with Akron "Beacon Journal" which defines my attitude. I'll stand by a friend any time, any where, under any circumstances.



George E Stringfellow

1600 SOUTH EADS STREET · ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202
P. O. BOX 2203

January 9, 1974

Rev. Billy Graham
Minneapolis, Minn.

Subject: President Nixon and Watergate

Sir:

In a recent Associated Press dispatch you were quoted as having said that President Nixon's judgment in the Watergate scandal "has been very poor" and that "until there is more proof to the contrary, I (Graham) have confidence in the President's integrity."

You are further quoted as having said that you do not know the full story of Watergate* and that you could not make a fair judgment on it.

Yet, you seem to hold the President responsible for Watergate. How can you intelligently make such judgment when you admit your ignorance of the full story?

You stated that the President had made mistakes "in the selection of certain people" as his advisers. If you will add one Billy Graham to that list, I agree with you.

In preaching at your Crusades you often shout, "The Bible says...." I would also remind you that the Bible says, "Judge not that ye be not judged."

What was the purpose of your recent explosion? Did you feel it was a sure way to get some needed publicity even though it was at the expense of your friend, the President? Since the President is presently under criticism--much of it unjust--did you hope to disassociate your name with his?

*I believe you.

Rev. Billy Graham
Minneapolis, Minn.

- 2 - January 9, 1974

In a subsequent television speech (which was more political than religious) you made the point of associating yourself with the late President Johnson. I suppose this was done to further disassociate yourself with President Nixon.

I attended a luncheon of businessmen the other day at which the subject of your blast at the President was discussed. One of those present remarked: "Nixon's ship is listing. When the water reaches the upper level the rats leave the ship." It was agreed that the ship will right itself by next June and if it serves your vanity at that time you will be headed up the gangplank again.

Very truly yours,

George E. Stringfellow,
George E. Stringfellow

cc: The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

✓ BLIND CC:

Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, D.D.

Norman Vincent Peale
1025 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028

February 4, 1974

*Letter for Mr. & Mrs. Nixon
to Langford*

Miss Rose Mary Woods
White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Rose Mary:

I was touched by your letter, and you may be sure I will keep you in my prayers. Have no fear; things are going to turn out all right.

Perhaps the President might be interested in my correspondence with Billy Graham, copy of which I enclose herewith.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

Norman Vincent Peale

Dictated by Dr. Peale;
signed in his absence.

NVP:ao

*Copy to R Elliott
2/26/74*

MR. PRESIDENT:

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale called to ask how you were standing up under all of this unfair criticism and to tell you that they are praying very hard for you and not to let all of this "get under your skin". He said, you have the same enemies you have always had and as usual they are like a pack of wolves who have a hound at bay.

He told me that Lowell Thomas has what he feels is an excellent plan and might do a lot of good. Dr. Peale has enough respect for Lowell Thomas' public relations judgment that he thinks it would be good if you talked with him. I suggested that because of the energy crisis and the other critical things taking your time that probably you would have General Haig call him. Lowell Thomas' number is 914/855-3500. If General Haig is not going to be able to call him, I hope someone will let me know so I can call him since I do know him -- however, I really feel that at this point Lowell Thomas would want to talk with someone a little higher up.

*Haig
note*

Dr. Peale also feels very strongly that you should get out and talk to the people over the heads of these terrible media and other types. He is not talking about formal television addresses -- he is talking about just letting people see you and talking off the cuff for a few minutes but not reading a speech -- he feels you need to let the people around the country see that you are the same great man you have always been.



RMWoods
11/5/73

Julie did talk to Lowell Thomas and while he was very pleasant he did not want to give the plan to her -- so possibly General Haig could give him a call.

*Haig
note*

copy to Haig 11/9/73