

COPY

November 22, 1954

Mr. Carl Vrooman  
Union League Club of Chicago  
65 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 4, Illinois

Dear Mr. Vrooman:

As the Vice President was leaving Washington for a few days, he asked me to thank you for your letter of November 15 and for sending him a copy of your statement "The Washington Predicament."

He appreciated your interest in writing to him and your timely suggestions as well.

I know the Vice President would want me to extend his best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,

Rose Mary Woods  
Personal Secretary  
to the Vice President

RMW:pje

Vrooman, Mr. Carl

pje's

general

UNION LEAGUE CLUB OF CHICAGO  
65 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO 4, ILLINOIS

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#2 oph

Bloomington, Ill.  
November 15, 1954

Vice President Nixon  
The Capitol  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vice President:

George Washington faced a crisis as crucially important for the then infant nation as is the present one for America and the Free World. For him as for President Eisenhower it seemed imperative that in both the Legislative and Executive branches of the government a super-sectional and super-partizan unity of purpose be achieved. To this end he did not hesitate to form a Crisis Coalition Cabinet!

This stroke of executive genius worked a near-miracle. It saved the nation from the delays and dangers involved in political friction and rivalry and enabled government officials of both parties to focus their attention on our struggle for survival as a free people.

I believe that a similar action on the part of the President would achieve a similarly beneficent result. A more detailed discussion of this suggestion is contained in the enclosed statement entitled, "The Washington Predicament".

Very sincerely yours,

*Carl Vrooman*

Carl Vrooman

CV:bp  
Enclosure

## THE WASHINGTON PREDICAMENT

By Carl Vrooman

The post-election olive branch offered the Democrats by the President was a highly commendable gesture and an encouraging omen for the future. Happily it evoked an equally patriotic response from the "Loyal Opposition."

However, judging by the experience of other Presidents, who had to face hostile congressional majorities, this propitious start by no means precludes the possibility of future partizan disagreements, rivalries, jockeying for position and consequent dangerous delays of crucially needed emergency legislation. Conciliation, consultation and the best of intentions on both sides cannot guarantee America and the Free World against the perilous possibility of future partizan "fiddling while Rome burns". Indeed this danger presumably can be counted on steadily to increase as we approach the 1956 election--unless--the present feeling of super-partizan patriotism can be expressed not only by super-partizan legislative cooperation but also by its natural corollary a super-partizan Administrative personelle. To achieve this dual objective a community of interest, deeper and more potent than partizan differences, must be evoked and implemented by a major surgical readjustment of our normal administrative procedure.

Fortunately, President Eisenhower has a highly successful precedent on which to build. George Washington faced a crisis as crucially important for the infant nation as is the present one for America and the Free World. For him, as for President Eisenhower it was imperative that in both the Legislative and Executive branches of the government a super-sectional and super-partizan unity of purpose be achieved. To this end he did not hesitate to create a Crisis Coalition Cabinet. This stroke of executive genius worked a near miracle! It saved the nation from the perils of political friction and rivalry and enabled government officials of both parties to concentrate their efforts on defeating the enemy which threatened its very existence.

Since World War II, Coalition Governments have saved both France and Italy from Communist domination and have saved Western Germany from a fateful fellow traveller status of neutrality. British Coalition Governments twice enabled Great Britain to mobilize its material and human resources for defense, without the costly partizan wranglings which in America, during World War II, delayed for months the passage of the vitally important Lend Lease Act and other badly needed war legislation.

The parrot-like patter one occasionally hears to the effect that "a Coalition Cabinet would destroy our 'traditional two-party system'" has no basis in fact. Soon after each of her Crisis Coalitions Great Britain reverted to two-party "politics as usual". Similarly in California, where both major parties nominated and supported Chief Justice Warren for Governor, Coalition was temporary and the state since has reverted to our traditional two-party system.

Providentially we have as President a man who is respected and admired by Democrats as well as by Republicans. He is the first President since Washington to whom Americans truthfully could apply the historic phrase, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen". Under his leadership, both middle-of-the-road Republicans and Democrats could work together as harmoniously as the Allied Nations fought together in World War II and perhaps even more harmoniously than the rival factions in either political party work together at present.

It is sometimes mistakenly stated that Franklin Roosevelt created a Coalition Cabinet by including several Republicans in his official family. Those Republicans, by entering a Democratic Cabinet, lost much of their status and influence as Republicans. Had they constituted the Republican contingent of a Super-Partizan Coalition Cabinet, they would have retained and greatly augmented their influence as Republican leaders. A Coalition Administration is not an

ingenious piece of political patchwork, but a temporary readjustment of the Executive and Legislative branches of the government to meet the challenge of a dangerous national emergency.

We rank and file citizens have acquiesced in the decisions of recent Presidents to increase our national debt, to levy burdensome taxes for imperative military expenses, to draft into our fighting forces--workers from their jobs, students from their class rooms and husbands and even some fathers from their homes. We recognise that these temporary drafts on our lives and fortunes, are inevitable during the present "cold war" of merciless aggression.

However, we feel that we, in our turn, have the right to ask for a similarly patriotic and sacrificial response to the call of duty, on the part of the President and the Congress. In behalf of millions of patriotic laboring men, farmers, business and professional men and women, homemakers, parents and prospective veterans and victims of the next world war, may I respectfully inquire, if we, the rank and file of the nation's citizenry, supply the sinews of war, the fighting men and the men behind "the men behind the guns", what sacrifices are our leaders of both parties prepared to make?

Are a working majority of them willing to sacrifice partizanship and personal ambition, on the altar of country? Recognizing the basic fact that the divisions within both parties are deeper and wider than those between the safe and sane middle-of-the-road majorities of both parties, are our leaders ready to lay aside temporarily normal partizan procedures and act in accordance with the necessities of present abnormal conditions, by creating a Super-Partisan Crisis Coalition or National Defense Administration, composed of the best brains and character of both political parties? With the world trembling on the verge of an incalculably devastating possible atomic war, not to be willing to make such a sacrifice seems unthinkable!

When a nation's life and liberties are at stake, loyal Republicans and Democrats, both privates and top-brass, must not forget that they are not enemies but fellow citizens with a common enemy to defeat and a common country to defend. In the present unparalleled crisis, Coalition can and should be democracy's triumphant answer to the imperative demand for democratic efficiency vastly greater than the boasted efficiency of dictatorship!