

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD (NIXON PROJECT)

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
1	memo	BMCD to PMF, 2 pp. REINTEGRATED 7/1/2019 CB	9-13-72	D

FILE GROUP TITLE

WHSF: SMOF Peter Flanigan

BOX NUMBER

FOLDER TITLE

Ruth Farkas

RESTRICTION CODES

- A. Release would violate a Federal statute.
- B. National security classified information.
- C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.
- D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.

- E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.
- F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.
- G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.
- H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5232

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 14, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

I was asked by the White House Counsel to organize Peter Flanigan's files pertaining to appointments of ambassadors in such a manner as to make a review of them less complicated. All memoranda, attachments, notes, letters, newspaper clippings, etc. were kept in original form and in addition, all copies and original file folders were also retained.

On March 14, 1974 the original 10 folders, listed below, were consolidated into 5 divisions, also listed below, in chronological order.

Original Files

1. Ambassadors (PMF's writing) - mainly memos to President and notes of PMF discussions re possible candidates.
2. Amb. (name of Cdr. Lenz written on folder but did not pertain to any notes within the folder) - mostly scratch notes, handwritten by Bob McDermott, former AA to PMF.
3. Ambassadors - various memoranda to the President and memoranda re possible appointments.
4. Not Catalogued - containing most of the charts now included in Broad Memoranda file; some handwritten notes of Bob McDermott.
5. Anderson Approvals - mostly memoranda forwarded to PMF for his approval - in many cases career spots.
6. Broad Memoranda - memoranda covering various proposals for ambassadorships and memoranda for the President.
7. Turkeys - recommendations for ambassadorships which were very unlikely to be acted upon. Most of these memoranda now included in Ambassador-Miscellaneous file.

8. There was a blank folder that was within one of the above folders - I do not recall what, if anything, was in it.
9. Fyfe Symington - materials specifically on Mr. Symington.
10. C. V. Whitney - materials specifically on Mr. Whitney.

Revised Files

1. Ambassadors - Broad Memoranda (mainly from 1, 3 and 6 above)
2. Ambassadors - Miscellaneous (mainly from 5 and 7 above)
3. Duplicates (mainly from 1, 3, 4 and 6 above)
4. Individual Files on:
 - Ruth Farkas (mainly from 1, 3 and 6 above)
 - Fyfe Symington (was in original file system)
 - C. V. Whitney (was in original file system)
5. Ambassadors - Scratch Notes (mainly from 2 and 4 above)

Margaret McFadden

Margaret McFadden
Secretary to Peter M. Flanigan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 13, 1972

For Skans call

*orig given to
WHL counsel
3/21/74
in memo*

Determined to be an
Administrative Matter
E.O. 13526, Sec. 1.2
By G3 NARA Date 7/1/2019

~~ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: PMF

FROM: BMcD

SUBJECT: Ruth Farkas

*Don't do
details on
phone*

In 1969 Dr. Ruth Farkas was considered for an ambassadorial appointment, but her name was dropped at that time when it was learned that her husband, George Farkas, and his company, Alexanders Department Store, were under investigation regarding allegations that political contributions had been fraudulently claimed as corporate business expenses.

At issue was whether a \$10,000 payment by Alexanders to a printing company, which was deducted as a normal business expense, was in fact a political contribution to the 1965 mayoral campaign of democrat Abraham Beame. A number of other corporations and individuals were also under investigation on a similar basis. In October of 1969 the IRS referred the cases to the Department of Justice.

In October of 1971 a Grand Jury indictment was returned charging Judge Klieger of Brooklyn, who had been Beame's campaign coordinator, with conducting the fraudulent scheme described above. Alexanders was named as a co-conspirator; it was not indicted as a defendant. Mr. Farkas was not at that time indicted and was not named individually as a co-conspirator. Although the IRS subsequently advised that Mr. Farkas might still be named as a co-conspirator, John Dean's office has determined that this is no longer a possibility. Throughout the investigation there has been no evidence to link Ruth Farkas in any way to the alleged scheme.

It seems likely that the legal matters will be resolved short of trial by securing a plea from the named defendants. Even if the matter were to go to trial there is a good possibility Mr. Farkas would not be called as a witness. Were he to be called, some personal embarrassment would result, but the chances of this reflecting adversely on the appointment of Mrs. Farkas are slight.

Determined to be an
Administrative Matter
E.O. 13526, Sec. 1.2
By CB NARA Date 7/1/2019

- 2 -

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

There has been no movement on the case and no public interest for some time, and there is no reason to think this should change in the near future. In the event a question did arise during the confirmation hearings, we can say that Mr. Farkas has cooperated fully with the authorities; that the corporation was named as a co-conspirator not indicted as a defendant; that Mr. Farkas was not named individually as a defendant or as a co-conspirator; that in any event Mrs. Farkas was in no way involved in the alleged matter (note this was a contribution to a democratic campaign).

Dean's office is satisfied that the risks of sending Mrs. Farkas up, even in this political season, are sufficiently remote that it would be proper to appoint her at this time.

MEMORANDUM

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING

E.O. 12065, Section 6-102

By DA NARS Date 1-7-82

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*Orig to WH Counsel
3/21/74
mmt*

CONFIDENTIAL

EYES ONLY

June 16, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PETER FLANIGAN

FROM:

FRED MALEK *FM*

SUBJECT:

Mrs. Farkas

In a conversation with Maury Stans the other day, he mentioned the case of Mrs. Farkas. According to Maury, an enormously large contribution could be gained if Mrs. Farkas were appointed to an Embassy in the near term. Apparently, her recent contributions have been minimal, and, thus, we would not be subject to the same potential embarrassment in confirmation as others might be.

I personally feel that this is a sufficiently important case to justify an exception to the general rule of not appointing any more non-career Ambassadors. I would, therefore, recommend that you suggest an appropriate post for Mrs. Farkas to the President.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

LOUIS C. WYMAN
NEW HAMPSHIRE

May 4, 1972

*File
Amb.
(Farkus)*

3/21/74

*Orig to WH Counsel
m m c t*

PERSONAL

Mr. Peter Flanigan
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Peter:

The attached is self-explanatory and I think significant.
Have you had a chance to talk to Maury yet?

I would like to nail something down here for reasons
obvious and I don't see why it can't be done, especially in
view of the long background and State Department attitude.

I would sincerely appreciate an opportunity to be
able to be reasonably specific.

Warm regards,

LOUIS C. WYMAN
Member of Congress

LCW:seh

Attachment

The New York Times
April 24, 1972

**MRS. FARKAS INVITED
TO CHINA TRADE FAIR**

Alexander's, Inc., said yesterday that Francine Farkas, vice president in charge of fashion, had received an invitation from the Canton Trade Fair, China's largest foreign-trade event.

Mrs. Farkas will attend the fair as a vice president of the Sino-American Commerce Corporation and represent the interests of Alexander's as well as other members of the Sino-

American Commerce Council, a non-profit institution devoted to promoting goodwill and trade between China and the United States. The Alexander's vice president is believed to be the first American woman known to be invited to the Canton Fair. This is the first year that Americans have been invited to the event, which runs from April 15 to May 15. R. H. Macy & Co. is among the handful of other American concerns that have been invited to send a representative to the fair.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

LOUIS C. WYMAN
NEW HAMPSHIRE

March 1, 1972

PERSONAL

Dear Peter:

Should something open up with regard to Ruth Farkas, I hope you will give me a call. We're running out of time in more ways than one, as I'm sure you can understand.

I hate to see this situation evaporate.

Warmest best,

LOUIS C. WYMAN
Member of Congress

Mr. Peter Flanigan
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

*File
Ambl*

*3/21/74
Ocy to
W. J. Counsel
mmc7*

*Orig to
Wt removed
3/12/72
mm*

*File
Amb* ↑

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ZCZC020 DC PDF PALM BEACH FLO 3 1025A EST
HON PETER FLANIGAN
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

BT

IF ACTION COULD NOW BE TAKEN TO GET RUTH'S SITUATION
OFF DEAD CENTER WOULD APPRECIATE IT THIS IS OF REAL IMPORTANCE
IF IN SOME MANNER COSTA RICA COULD
BE REINSTATED WOULD BE OKAY REGARDS
LOUIS C WYMAN MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

NNNN(1040A EST)

FORM 9805 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U.S.A.

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3/21/74
Orig to
W.H. Counsel
mmt

File
Annot

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jerry Schiappa (Cong. Wyman's AA) called. Congressman is in all day meeting - til 6 PM and cannot be disturbed. Jerry just got a call from Ruth Farkas who said that she is leaving Monday on a trip to Europe and New Zealand which will take about 5-6 weeks. It will be difficult for her to break the plans once she starts on the trip - it is business and pleasure. She was wondering if anything might break on the appointment between now and ~~xxx~~ next week, if so she will not start on her trip as planned.

Jerry wondered if you had any information on this that he might pass to the Congressman in order that he can respond to Mrs. Farkas tonight.

Bob says
and says
OK status (over)
of this
w/State
chop! chop!

MRS. GEORGE (RUTH LEWIS) FARKAS

PERSONAL:

Born: New York City, Dec. 20, 1906
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lewis
Married: June 17, 1928
Children: Alexander, Robin, Bruce, Jonathan
Address: 76 Birchall Drive, Scarsdale, NY (home)
N. Y. U., Washington Square, NY (office)

1940-42	Psychol. tutor Jewish Bd. of Guardian
1945-50	Member of Bd. of Directors of Jewish Bd. of Guardian
1943-45	President, Central group Hadassah
1949-55	Instructor sociology, N. Y. U.
1956-57	Research member Jewish Family Service
1959	Received Founder's Day award, N. Y. U.

Sec. Robin Realty, Inc.
President, Birchall Realty Corp.
Member of Bd. of Directors, Jewish Family Services
Louise Wise Girls Services, Family Service Research
Project participant
Member of Executive Committee of Citizen Committee
on Careers in Social Work
Member of Women's Div. Albert Einstein Medical College
Member of Nat. Council Jewish Women, Pan-Am.
S. E. Asian Women's Association, U. S. A.
Alpha Kappa Delta, Phi Sigma Sigma
Clubs: Senior Citizen's (adv. bd.), Women's Faculty
of N. Y. U., Inventors, N. Y. U. Alumni (director)

RMD
 call ~~ask~~
 PM Wyman
 Com. him
 about PM

Out of Right Field

Henry (Scoop) Jackson, the Presidential candidate who's supposed to have no chance in liberal old New York, is doing quite well, thank you. He has been in and out to shake the money tree at little private parties hosted by such as Meshulam Riklis of the Rapid America conglomerate and Robin Farkas of Alexander's, and his steadfast pro-Israel record has helped produce townhouse bounties ranging from \$40,000 to \$110,000 a visit.

Jacksonians have been busy upstate and feel they have the largest organizations of the moment in many counties. When Jackson's New York campaign committee is announced it won't be loaded with heavy names, but it will have better geographical balance than most—the names will include former City Councilman Robert Low, who shared a Washington apartment with Jackson when both were bachelors; former Labor Commissioner James McFadden, former Representative Leo O'Brien of Albany, Rockland County District Attorney Robert Meehan,

11-23-71

New York Illustrated by Robert Grossman

FYI
 Ruth's son?

3/21/74
 Orig to
 WFF
 MMT

12/7
 PMF speaks to
 Wyman
 is son
 and Independent.

August 5, 1971

Woods
*ditto**3/21/74*
Ding
Woods
mm

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER FLANIGAN
FROM ROSE MARY WOODS

Rm

I would like to be informed what, if any, action is being taken on the request that Dr. Ruth Farkas of New York City be named to an Ambassadorship anywhere in Europe, the Australian area or South Africa.

Apparently you have this under consideration and a couple of people have spoken to me about it.

Thanks.

Confidential
Farkas to
Costa Rica.

(Gave message to
Mary Ack for
Rose Mary
8/6)

9/27
12:30

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Congressman Wyman said that Stans said to get in touch with you re Farkas.

Wyman says that Time Magazine article of October 2, page 14 shows the President doing very well across the country except he is down 13% with Jewish vote in nation. He believes that Farkas announcement would mean in New York City between 200,000 and 300,000 Jewish votes for President. Farkas is very well liked and respected in various Jewish organizations, hospitals, etc.

Re the timing - the Senate is going to recess sometime middle of this coming month. If the nomination were to be sent to the Senate a day or so before the Senate adjourns, there would be no opportunity for any investigation (about which concern has been mentioned). The ~~k~~ alternative would be a recess appointment, although that is unusual.

~~Wyx~~

Wyman understands there is a commitment on this post, but thinks it would help the President with Jewish votes in New York City to put the name up before the election - the last day or so before the Senate adjourns. If this could be done it could literally swing the New York City area.

Wyman said this is the message he wanted to get to you this morning. He said he has called Stans and Stans has told him to get in touch with you.

Served
to PMO
9/27