

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Roger Porter

FROM: Roger Whyte *RW.*

SUBJECT: Regional Listening Sessions

There will be great pressure on the President to campaign for Republican candidates around the country contrary to the necessary Presidential image of bipartisanship in healing and pulling the country together. Moreover, this is the first President not elected by the people. He did not campaign nationally for the office he holds. Finally, the President has acquired his office suddenly and the people have a need to see him and to get to know him.

Conversely, he needs to get out and listen to the people and hear what they have to say. This purpose could be served by having a series of about five to ten regional listening sessions. After much thought and careful cooperation with the Republican National Committee, the President would go to a city--not necessarily the largest--representative of a region of the country and establish a working base for one to three days. This could include meetings with business, community, and labor leaders as well as support for the local GOP candidate. This would also give local television and radio coverage of the President throughout the region.

He would use this city as a base operation, having these officials come to see him as well as the President going to see them. He would make two or three side trips outside of the city to visit universities, industrial complexes, and war memorials. The President would never be out of the city more than half a day at a time so that he could return in the afternoon to meet with other top officials.

cc: Tom Whitehead