

RESEARCH NOTE

Richard Nixon, Sportswriter: The President, His Historical All-Star Baseball Team, and the Election of 1972

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After Richard Nixon died in 1994, he was widely praised as a statesman. Eulogies and reminiscences recounted his accomplishments in the arena of foreign policy.¹ This concentration on world affairs and the praise that went along with it was a last triumph for Nixon. He had spent the years after his resignation from office emphasizing his foreign policy expertise in an effort to rebuild his reputation. The eulogies describing him as a great world statesman were the culmination of his efforts.² The acclaim and respect accorded the former president obscured the fact that he was a brilliant political campaigner. That Nixon and Franklin D. Roosevelt share the record for most major party nominations on a national ticket (five nominations) is testimony to this fact. Nixon's naming of a historical all-star baseball team in 1972 is another example of his campaigning skill. He cleverly used his love of sports and the nonpolitical, social, and cultural leadership position of the presidency—what Theodore Roosevelt called the “bully pulpit”—to garner positive press attention that had little to do with politics, and good PR is never a bad thing when you are running for office.

None of the president's biographers make mention of this little episode.³ Neither does Nixon in his memoirs.⁴ The motion picture *Nixon* is similarly silent on this matter.⁵ The television movie *Nixon and Kissinger* does mention this endeavor, but is factually incorrect and presents it in far too cynical a manner.⁶ The list is not in the *Public Papers of the Presidents* volume for 1972.⁷

The reasons for these omissions are simple. Understanding this event required extensive research in the sports sections (which are not indexed) of many newspapers around the country. Presidential scholars normally confine their research to the indexed news sections and editorial pages of *The New York Times*. In his retirement, Nixon was more interested in stressing foreign policy and other issues that would help rebuild his reputation than in elaborating on the skills and abilities of ballplayers.

It is also important to put this episode into the proper historical context. The memory of Watergate obscures the fact that Nixon achieved a decisive electoral landslide victory over Senator George McGovern of South Dakota in the 1972 presidential election. He won 60.7 percent of the vote and carried forty-nine of the fifty states, *including* McGovern's home state. His percentage of the vote was third best in American history up to that time. What makes his victory all the more impressive is the fact that he was a member of the minority party, and won even though the voters sent Democratic majorities to Congress. Kathleen Hall Jamieson in her history of presidential campaign advertising notes: "In 1972 Nixon would run not as a candidate but as The President." Nixon and his campaign staff saw this strategy as the best way to reach out to voters who normally voted for Democrats. The re-election campaign largely succeeded in its efforts to win these voters over. A deliberate effort was made to "humanize" the president, showing a side of Nixon that the public rarely saw. Campaign admen worked to make sure that advertising subtly presented his sense of humor, compassion, and other positive traits. As a result, attacks were left to either administration or campaign officials and were always launched against "McGovernites," not Democrats. A campaign organization called Democrats for Nixon ran more television ads than the Committee to Re-elect the President.⁸

Although it became part of the general effort to "humanize" Richard Nixon, the historical all-star team was not planned as such. Cliff Evans, a reporter for RKO General Broadcasting, started the idea for a presidential all-star team at the end of a press conference held in the Oval Office on June 22, 1972. Evans asked the president to name his favorite ballplayers. Nixon, a life-long sports fanatic, responded quickly. He named New York Yankee legend Lou Gehrig as his first baseman and put Jackie Robinson, the Brooklyn Dodgers hero, at second base. Then an idea flashed into his head, and he began to meander. Instead of naming his shortstop, he said, "You must include Mickey Mantle." Then he added Ted Williams, the Boston Red Sox outfielder, to the list, saying, "If not for the Korean War, his record would have been greater. He was the only one to hit .400 since Ty Cobb." The president also included Stan Musial of the St. Louis Cardinals. "If he had played in New York, he would have been the greatest," he commented. But there Nixon had a problem: Musial, like Gehrig, was a first baseman. The president quickly realized the difficulty inherent in picking and choosing between legendary players and stopped.⁹

Evans continued to press the issue. In a follow-up question, he asked, "Mr. President, as the nation's number-one baseball fan, would you be willing to name your all-time baseball team?" An honorary member of the Baseball Writers' Association, Nixon found the temptation too strong to pass up. "I readily replied, 'Yes,'" he wrote.¹⁰

The opportunity was too good for either the sports fan or the politician in Nixon to pass up. He would get to make a contribution to baseball, a pastime he loved, and the publicity associated with the sport would help "humanize" his image with the potential Nixon-voting Democrats. The president started making his selections that Sunday at Camp David, and called on his son-in-law David

Eisenhower, the namesake of the compound, for help. According to the makers of the movie *Nixon and Kissinger*, the president's old friend Bebe Rebozo helped him make these selections. White House daily logs, however, show that Rebozo had no contact with Nixon between the press conference and the public release of the finished roster.¹¹

David Eisenhower knew baseball. He had worked briefly for the Washington Senators, the National League franchise that had just relocated to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and renamed itself the Texas Rangers. "We sat down together and began to study the record books for the purpose of compiling a list of stars," Nixon wrote, "which would stand up under the scrutiny such a selection would receive from the sports writers and baseball fans throughout the country." White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman found Nixon quite excited about the project, noting in his diary: "The P [is] all cranked up about his baseball all-time great story."¹²

Nixon and Eisenhower did most of the work at Camp David, but the president continued to make revisions after returning to Washington. "The P got into quite a thing about his baseball piece," Haldeman recorded. "He's spending an incredible amount of time today on the whole thing. Working out all the little details. Kind of fascinating and not just a little amusing." After looking at the finished list, White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler told David and Julie Eisenhower, "I never cease to be amazed at the president's knowledge of both the color and detail of the sports world."¹³

As Nixon finished, Ziegler arranged to get maximum publicity for the selections. The list was distributed through the Associated Press on June 30 under the president's byline for publication in the Sunday papers on July 2. Nixon remembered who suggested the endeavor in the first place and insisted on doing a short, exclusive interview with Evans before the release. The president also gave him credit for the idea in the text that accompanied the selections.¹⁴

Instead of producing a single all-time, all-star team roster, Nixon decided to select a pre- and post-war team for each league. "I found it impossible to limit the team to nine men," he explained. He also decided to go no further back than 1925, the year he started following baseball. As a result, legendary players such as Ty Cobb, Cy Young, Grover Cleveland Alexander, and "Shoeless" Joe Jackson failed to appear on his roll. He stopped with the 1970 season, so he could have a little distance in evaluating the performances of various players. His selections were:

American League

PRE-WAR		POST-WAR	
1B	Lou Gehrig	1B	Harmon Killebrew
2B	Charlie Gehringer	2B	Nellie Fox
3B	Red Rolfe	3B	Brooks Robinson
SS	Joe Cronin	SS	Lou Boudreau
OF	Babe Ruth	OF	Ted Williams
OF	Joe DiMaggio	OF	Mickey Mantle

OF	Al Simmons	OF	Frank Robinson
C	Mickey Cochrane	C	Yogi Berra
C	Bill Dickey	C	Elston Howard
P	Satchel Paige	P	Bob Lemo
P	Herb Pennock	P	Bob Feller
P	Lefty Grove	P	Early Wynn
P	Red Ruffing	P	Whitey Ford
P	Bobo Newsom	P	Dave McNally
	Reserves		Reserves
IF	Jimmie Foxx	IF	Bobby Richardson
IF	Hank Greenberg	IF	Luis Aparicio
IF	Luke Appling	OF	Al Kaline
OF	Goose Goslin	OF	Carl Yastrzemski
OF	Harry Heilmann	OF	Tony Olivia
P	Johnny Murphy	P	Hoyt Wilhelm
Manager	Connie Mack	Manager	Casey Stengel

National League

PRE-WAR		POST-WAR	
1B	Bill Terry	1B	Stan Musial
2B	Rogers Hornsby	2B	Jackie Robinson
3B	Pie Traynor	3B	Eddie Mathews
SS	Arky Vaughan	SS	Ernie Banks
OF	Paul Waner	OF	Hank Aaron
OF	Mel Ott	OF	Willie Mays
OF	Hack Wilson	OF	Roberto Clemente
C	Ernie Lombardi	C	Roy Campanella
C	Gabby Hartnett	C	Johnny Bench
P	Carl Hubbell	P	Sandy Koufax
P	Dizzy Dean	P	Warren Spahn
P	Bucky Walters	P	Juan Marichal
P	Mort Cooper	P	Bob Gibson
P	Burleigh Grimes	P	Robin Roberts
	Reserves		Reserves
IF	Frankie Frisch	IF	Maury Wills
IF	Mary Marion	IF	Dick Groat
OF	Ducky Medwick	IF	Willie McCovey
OF	Chuck Klein	IF	Ken Boyer
OF	Edd Roush	OF	Duke Snider
P	Mace Brown	P	Roy Face

Manager Branch Rickey Manager Walter Alston¹⁵

Nixon also provided the Associated Press with seven pages of text, explaining and elaborating on his selections. His remarks included personal observations and experiences designed to show his first-hand knowledge and expertise in the sport. In one example, he wrote, “I was in Yankee Stadium for the first game of the World Series in 1963 when Sandy Koufax broke the World Series record when he struck out 15 Yankees. On that day no pitcher in baseball history could have surpassed him.”¹⁶

The president admitted that some of these experiences affected his selections. He included Arky Vaughan on his prewar National League team because they had gone to high school together. Dick Groat found his way onto the league’s post-war team because he had roomed with Nixon’s younger brother, Ed, at Duke University. In the American League, Bobo Newsom ended up on the pre-war team, and Harmon Killebrew was on the post-war team in part for sentimental reasons. Nixon, however, argued that both made important but under-appreciated contributions to their teams that merited their inclusion. Newsom spent most of his career playing for mediocre teams, which obscured his talent, and Killebrew’s strong hitting made up for his weak fielding skills.¹⁷

The “First Fan” added some personal observations of the greatest performances he had ever witnessed. Ted Williams was his best hitter. For glove work, he said Brooks Robinson was the best in the infield, while Joe DiMaggio “made all the difficult plays look easy” in the outfield. For base running and pitching, he named Maury Wills and Sandy Koufax respectively. He named Jackie Robinson as the “best all-round athlete” and Lou Gehrig as the “most courageous player,” calling him, in an interesting choice of words, “baseball’s Mr. Profile in Courage.”¹⁸

In making his choices, Nixon admitted that some sports fans might take exception with him for leaving one of their favorites off his list. He called picking and choosing between great players “one of the hardest assignments I have ever undertaken.” In his concluding sentence, he declared, “If some smart reporter asks me to name an all-star football team[,] the answer will be a flat—NO!”¹⁹

The all-star picks earned Nixon significant positive publicity, although there was quite a bit of variation in coverage among cities that had major league baseball teams. The president’s political hometown newspaper, the *Los Angeles Times*, ran the full article on the front page of the sports section below the fold, using the president’s byline. *The San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Kansas City Star*, and the *New York Times* also ran front-page sports section stories under Nixon’s byline. The New York paper added photos of nine selectees as well as an insert box of the all-star roster. Neither the *Chicago Sun-Times* nor the *Boston Globe* ran the story on the front page of their sports sections, but both committed major amounts of space to the article. The *Chicago Sun-Times* devoted a full page, while the *Globe* used roughly three-fourths of a page and illustrated the piece with photos of Nixon and Eisenhower, along with photos of Koufax, Wills, DiMaggio, and Robinson.²⁰

A number of other baseball city newspapers, many smaller in size, ran a condensed version of the story inside their sports sections. Most of these versions

attributed the story to the Associated Press, including the premier publication for baseball enthusiasts, *The Sporting News*.²¹ A few editors made some odd decisions. The *Detroit Free Press* and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* waited a day before running the story, while the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* ran the story twice.²² A few publications chose not to print any of Nixon's selections.²³ The most prominent was *Sports Illustrated*, which called the president's lists one of the "super alltime all-star publicity ploys."²⁴

The chosen players responded publicly and privately with gratitude, which gave Nixon even more publicity in this endeavor. "I'm tickled to death to be named with all those great players," Ted Williams said in an Associated Press story. "He knows more about baseball than some of the people in the game," Hank Aaron remarked. Aaron then added, "All I can say is that I'm quite honored." Harmon Killebrew, Henry Greenberg, and Robin Roberts wrote to the White House, thanking Nixon for their selections. "It is especially refreshing to a retired athlete to try to explain to his friends how this can be," Roberts commented. He then added a recollection of meeting Little Leaguer David Eisenhower and autographing his glove. Jackie Robinson's reaction was more mixed. "I'm honored that he thought of me that way," Robinson told reporters immediately after learning of his selection as "best all-round athlete." A week later, however, *Sports Illustrated* found a more cynical Robinson questioning the president's expertise, "I mean, how many games has Nixon actually seen?" Another Dodger, Walt Alston, selected as the post-war National League manager, simply said, "I'd be the last one in the world to argue with the president of the United States."²⁵

Many of the families of deceased players expressed their thanks to Nixon privately. The widow of Robert Rolfe called her husband's selection a "wonderful addition" to his baseball honors. The daughter of Herb Pennock thanked Nixon for including her father, and excluding her father-in-law, Hall of Famer Eddie Collins. The omission gave her an advantage in a continuing debate with her husband over the ability of their fathers. White House staff members made sure Nixon saw this letter. He playfully wrote back, and leveled the playing field in the Collins household, saying he made a mistake in leaving the elder Collins off his list. Joe Medwick wrote to thank the president not only for naming him, but also his former teammate Arky Vaughan, calling him "a great team man."²⁶

Nixon enjoyed these private correspondences and decided to build on them. He had the White House staff produce a special pamphlet, and sent a copy to every one of his selectees or their next-of-kin.²⁷

A number of people disagreed with Nixon's picks, but these criticisms only served to give the president more publicity, enhancing the stature of the endeavor. Objections fell into three groups. One collection of sportswriters criticized the merits of the endeavor. "It is impossible and a waste of time to compare players of one era with another in any sport," wrote the sports editor of New Hampshire's *Concord Monitor*. "As times change, so does the game or sport." A columnist for the *Boston Herald Traveler and Record American* agreed, saying the exercise was "frivolous." Another group of reporters focused their attention on the creation of four all-star teams, rather than one. "If a segment of the electorate has been

slighted, it's not much of a segment," the sports editor of Albany's *Knickerbocker News-Union Star* wryly observed. The final group chose to disagree with individual selections. These comments were inevitable. "Nobody can name all-stars who will be unanimous choices," Harold Kaese, a columnist for the *Boston Globe*, stated. With that in mind, Kaese went on to offer a number of alterations to the president's teams. Most of the objections focused on the selection of Nellie Fox, Bobo Newsom, Satchel Paige, and Hack Wilson over Joe Medwick, a fact which appears to have bothered sportswriters more than Medwick.²⁸

The criticisms of *New York Times* sports columnist Red Smith had the widest circulation. He attacked the president's writing as lousy, "cliché-ridden," and wordy. Then he offered two contradictory objections. First, he questioned the merit of the entire effort. Then he went on to challenge a number of Nixon's selections, implying that the endeavor was worthwhile after all. Smith's column appeared in a number of papers, under headlines like: "The President Strikes Out" or "Nixon Flunked Badly in Picking His Stars."²⁹

The president had his defenders in the press, though the sports editor of the *Birmingham News* remarked, "Richard Milhous Nixon finally convinced me Sunday he's a baseball fan." His picks were "excellent." Kaese of the *Boston Globe* and Arthur Daley of the *New York Times* offered more subdued praise. Both men differed with Nixon on some selections, but approved of his overall effort. The president's picks were "quite acceptable," Kaese observed, and Daley said he "did a reasonably good job." Sports columnist Bob Broeg of *The Sporting News* approved of his decision to go no further back than 1925. No one could or should try to pass judgment on players they never saw in action. All sportswriters, Broeg observed, should heed Nixon's example.³⁰

Another measure of the success the selections brought the president were the spin-offs and parodies that appeared in the press in various parts of the country. In Ohio, a reporter for the *Youngstown Vindicator* produced his list of the all-time greatest Polish players.³¹ Tom Dowling, a sports columnist for the *Washington Evening Star* satirized Nixon's all-stars with his own presidential all-star team, often adopting some of the language Nixon used. Abraham Lincoln appeared at first base, and other infielders included Harry "the Hat" Truman—"you need a scrappy little hustler on any all-star team"—and Ted "Boom Boom" Roosevelt. A weak hitter, Roosevelt made the team for his infield chatter. "Boom Boom psyched out the opposition. Deception is one of the keys to presidential greatness and Ted had that quality." His starting pitcher was "Big" Lyn Johnson. Dowling called that selection "the toughest challenge I have ever faced," because presidents "can pitch-fast balls, spit balls, bean balls, sinkers, sliders, curve balls, spit balls, bean balls, you name it. These guys can all move the stuff around pretty good." He picked Johnson because he "struck out the whole Senate in a single afternoon with his famous Gulf of Tonkin pitch."³² *The Post-Tribune* in Gary, Indiana, ran a similar spoof, with Nixon throwing to the first Roosevelt: "Possesses a great curve ball and has licked early control problems." The president enjoyed that parody.³³ Even ballplayers got into the act. Figuring turnabout was fair play, a reporter for the *Philadelphia Daily News* asked the Philadelphia Phillies to choose

the best president. "I've been in the game 15 years," one player replied, "and nobody's ever asked me that question." Some responses were smart and sassy: "Who's on the \$1,000 bill?" Others chose to be serious. "I've got to go with Nixon," another player responded. "He's getting us out of Vietnam." For whatever reason, Nixon and Lincoln tied at two votes apiece.³⁴

The parodies and even the criticisms of the president's selections worked to his advantage. Disagreements about the merits of one player over another were less divisive than other issues in the election, such as the Vietnam War. More importantly, continued attention on the presidential baseball team furthered the larger campaign goal of "humanizing" Nixon. Differences over player selections or even on the merits of the entire endeavor were unlikely to cost the re-election campaign many votes, and continued to present interests of the president with which the public could relate. There were, of course, many voters who were never going to vote for Nixon, and the all-star selections mattered little to them.³⁵

The White House staff saw the advantage Nixon gained from being associated with sports, and planned other more baseball-related events. Arrangements were made for Nixon to meet Babe Ruth's widow, former New York Giants great Bobby Thomson, and legendary Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Ralph Branca. The two players were tied together in baseball history when Thomson hit a home run off Branca in a famous 1951 game to win the National League championship. White House documents make it clear that the meeting was arranged because all three supported Nixon's re-election. The president agreed to the meeting, but wanted Lou Gehrig's widow, whose political views were unknown, added. Efforts to track her down were to no avail, and the meeting went ahead as scheduled with the original three.³⁶

In addition to being an election year, 1972 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the desegregation of major league baseball. Plans were under way to honor Jackie Robinson at the second game of the World Series, and the baseball commissioner's office contacted the White House, hoping the president would attend. There was real interest in this idea among White House staff members, and the NBC television network got a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission on equal time requirements for political candidates, so the event could be televised.³⁷

A long personal history between Nixon and Robinson complicated the planning for this appearance. The two met each other at the 1952 Republican convention in Chicago. A mutual admiration society developed between the two. Nixon admired Robinson's athletic talent, while the ballplayer appreciated the politician's strong stand on civil rights. In a column he wrote for the *New York Post* after his retirement from baseball, Robinson said he would support Nixon in the 1960 election. "I am certain you know what a favorable column on Richard Nixon does in the *New York Post*," he wrote the then-vice-president. "I haven't had so much mail since I left baseball." Robinson even took a leave of absence from the paper to work on the Nixon campaign. The baseball legend was bitterly disappointed when Nixon refused to make a phone call to a judge to demand bail for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. after the civil rights leader was given a

four-month jail sentence on some trumped-up charges. John F. Kennedy called Coretta Scott King, while his brother Robert called the judge. Robinson believed these events cost Nixon the election. A rift developed between Nixon and Robinson in the 1960s, and some have attributed this split to Nixon's inaction on the King arrest. While Robinson was disappointed, he continued to support Nixon. After Nixon lost the 1962 California governor's race and gave his "last press conference," Robinson wrote, "I hope that you will reconsider, Dick, because it is the great men people attack. You are good for politics, good for America." By 1966, however, the two had parted ways and Robinson became a supporter of New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller.³⁸

In 1972, the hurt between the two remained. Nixon decided against attending the ceremony honoring Robinson, saying his schedule was too busy. On October 15, the Oakland A's defeated the Cincinnati Reds in the second game of the World Series in Cincinnati. According to White House documents Nixon spent the day at Camp David, relaxing and watching professional football games.³⁹

In November 1972, Nixon won re-election in a landslide due in part to his skilled use of the presidency's informal social and cultural leadership position, as shown in exercises like the selection of a historic all-star baseball team. Sports fans are fond of arguing that a certain player is better than another, and often dream of seeing one legend play with or against another. When Nixon put together his all-star selections, he gave these fans a way to relate to him. This episode was one of many reasons for his landslide re-election.

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3. Stephen Ambrose, *Nixon*, vol. 2, *The Triumph of a Politician, 1962–1972*. (New York, 1989); Tom Wicker, *One of Us: Richard Nixon and the American Dream*. (New York, 1991); Jonathan Aitken, *Nixon: A Life*. (Washington, 1993); Herbert S. Parmet, *Richard Nixon and His America*. (Boston, 1990); Gerald S. Strober and Deborah Hart Strober, *Nixon: An Oral History of his Presidency*. (New York, 1994); Joan Hoff, *Nixon Reconsidered*. (New York, 1994).
4. Richard Nixon, *RN: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon*. (New York, 1978); Richard Nixon, *In the Arena: A Memoir of Victory, Defeat and Renewal*. (New York, 1990).
5. Eric Hamburg, ed., *Nixon: An Oliver Stone Film*. (New York, 1995).
6. *Nixon and Kissinger*. Turner Studios. 1995.
7. *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Richard Nixon, 1972* (Washington, 1973).
8. Capitalization in the original. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, *Packaging the Presidency: A History and Criticism of Presidential Campaign Advertising*. (New York, 1984), 277, 293–94, 300–02; Ambrose, *Nixon*, vol. 2, 651.
9. *Washington Post*, June 23, 1972; Ziegler to Nixon, June 29, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Presidential Project, National Archives, College Park, MD (hereafter referred to as Nixon Project).

10. *New York Times*, July 6, 1972; Nixon manuscript, June 27, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
11. June 23–July 2, 1972 daily presidential schedules H.R. Haldeman, *The Haldeman Diaries: Inside the Nixon White House—The Complete Multimedia Edition*. CD-ROM (Santa Monica, 1994).
12. Nixon manuscript, June 27, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project; June 26, 1972 entry, Haldeman, *The Haldeman Diaries*.
13. June 27, 1972 entry, Haldeman, *The Haldeman Diaries*, Ziegler to Eisenhower and Eisenhower, June 29, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
14. June 26, 1972 entry, *Haldeman Diaries*, Ziegler to Parker and Chapin, June 28, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
15. Nixon manuscript, June 27, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. *Los Angeles Times*, July 2, 1972; *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 2, 1972; *Baltimore Sun*, July 2, 1972; *Kansas City Star*, July 2, 1972; *New York Times*, July 2, 1972; *Chicago Sun-Times*, July 2, 1972; *Boston Globe*, July 2, 1972.
21. *Sporting News*, July 15, 1972; *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, July 2, 1972; *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 2, 1972; *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 2, 1972; *Milwaukee Journal*, July 2, 1972; *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, July 2, 1972.
22. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 3, 1972; *Detroit Free Press*, July 3, 1972; *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, July 2, July 3, 1972.
23. *Dallas Morning News*, July 2, 1972; *Houston Post*, July 2, 1972, *Houston Chronicle*, July 2, 1972; *San Diego Union*, July 2, 1972; *Chicago Tribune*, July 2, 1972.
24. *Sports Illustrated*, July 17, 1972.
25. Killebrew to Nixon, July 7, 1972; Greenberg to Nixon, October 18, 1972; Roberts to Nixon, July 3, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 3, 1972; *Sports Illustrated*, July 17, 1972.
26. Isabel Rolfe to Nixon, October 9, 1972; Jane Collins to Nixon, July 4, 1972, Roland Elliott to Rose Mary Woods, July 7, 1972, Nixon to Jane Collins, July 17, 1972, Medwick to Nixon, December 6, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
27. Nixon to Ruth, Gehrig, Mantle, etc. September 29, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
28. Washington Post, July 5, 1972; *New York Times*, July 3 and 6, 1972; *Boston Globe*, July 3, 1972.
29. *New York Times*, July 3, 1972; *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, July 3, 1972, *Detroit Free Press*, July 4, 1972; *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 4, 1972; *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 4, 1972.
30. *Washington Post*, July 5, 1972; *New York Times*, July 6, 1972; *Boston Globe*, July 3, 1972; *Sporting News*, July 22, 1972.
31. *Youngstown Vindicator*, July 9, 1972.

32. *Milwaukee Journal*, July 9, 1972.
33. *Post-Tribune*, July 11, 1972; Ken Clawson to John A. Mutka, August 4, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
34. *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, July 6, 1972.
35. Nixon's famous trip to the Lincoln Memorial at 4 a.m. on May 9, 1970, is one example when Nixon's efforts to reach out across political divisions failed. The president talked on a variety of topics with a number of students sleeping at the memorial prior to a scheduled anti-war rally the next day. He addressed their concerns about the Vietnam War, and expressed the hope that their opposition to the conflict would not disillusion them with the American system of government. He also offered some advice, recommending that they travel while they were young and had the opportunity. Despite the variety of topics addressed in the conversation, press accounts focused on a few comments he made about football, Ambrose, Nixon, vol. 2, 355–57.
36. Schedule Proposal from Henry Cashen, October 10, 1972; Cashen to Nixon, October 13, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
37. Joseph Reischler to Edward Blecksmith, Patrick O'Donnell to Charles Colson, Alvin Snyder to David Parker, October 10, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project.
38. *New York Post*, December 30, 1959, September 4, 1960, March 9, 1961; Robinson to Nixon, January 29, 1960, "Memo by Harrison McCall," January 3, 1959, Folder: Jackie Robinson (1 of 2); Robinson to Nixon, November 12, 1962, Folder: Jackie Robinson (2 of 2), box 649, Nixon Pre-Presidential Papers, National Archives-Los Angeles Branch, Liguna Niguel, California; Jules Tygiel, *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*. (New York, 1983), 340; *New York Times*, April 13, 1987; Wicker, *One of Us*, 240.
39. Alvin Snyder to David Parker, October 10, 1972, RE2 Baseball-Softball 1/1/71 Folder, Box 3, Subject Files—RE (Recreation-Sports), White House Central Files, Nixon Project, October 15, 1972 daily presidential schedule, Haldeman, *The Haldeman Diaries*.