

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 5, 1960

MEMORANDUM TO: Mac Moos

As the time for the President's retirement draws near, I recommend to your re-reading the "Farewell Address" of George Washington. It is a beautifully wise and modest piece by a faithful public servant who loved his country.

I was struck by its relevance to our day: the call for Constitutional obedience; the warnings about sectionalism; the dangers of "overgrown military establishments" but the necessity of maintaining "a respectable defensive posture"; the realistic attitude toward "that love of power and proneness to abuse it which predominate in the human heart"; the unhappy tendency of mankind "to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual"; the necessity for an enlightened public opinion; the ^{un}generous habit of one generation to spend beyond its means and to throw "upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear"; the broad diplomatic advice. And much more.

This Address could furnish some fine ammunition over the year -- and perhaps serve as a guide for a final statement in January 1961?

Frederic ~~J~~ Fox

