MEMORANDUM For Scout Project Personnel

Subject: Thanks

1. Since I don't make very good speeches I will have to express my appreciation of what I consider your very exceptional efforts in behalf of the Scout in writing. They have been exceptional efforts in many ways, from the extreme amount of overtime and lost vacation time you all have given, from the intense interest each has shown in his task, and from the outstanding success that these efforts and interests have succeeded in producing. I think that in the Scout you have a lot to be proud of and I hope that you feel, as I do, that your own efforts have been amply rewarded. (I mean here a filling of your souls and spirits - not your pocketbooks.)

2. I think you will find that the problems ahead, though at this point they seem different and perhaps not as much "fun" as the early "do it yourself" days, will call for just as much effort and personal involvement and produce equal satisfactions as those you already have experienced. I say this because I feel very strongly that the real proof of the Scout concept, that is, proof of its usefulness, lies in the results of this next year's firings. Success on each and every shot will not only insure the future of the Scout itself, but will be vital for the development of the real big ones of the future. The work will be different in some ways - it may, it probably will, call for more formal statements of responsibility, for more paper work, for more doing your work through others, and therefore for more consciousness of the personnel problems involved. It certainly will not call for any less ability or any less participation from any of you.

3. You may be curious as to how I feel leaving at a time like this - at a time when, as I have intimated above, "the real challenge lies just ahead". I may have told some of you the story I think best sums up the situation for me. It is attributed to Lincoln and concerns a man who had just been tarred and feathered and was being run out of town seated on a rail. One of the men in the crowd asked him how he liked it. The gentleman on the rail replied that all things considered, if it were not for the honor of the thing - he'd much rather walk. I would not have considered this move if at the time the decision was made I had felt that there was any chance of Langley continuing with the program. The decision being made, however, I am not at all concerned about any disastrous effects on the Scout Program. In fact,
just the opposite. I have spent considerable time with Mr. Ruyp over the past month and I feel certain that he is bringing to the program exactly the worldly wise experience it needs.

4. Thanks again.

William E. Stoney, Jr.
Former Head, Scout Project Group

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