

The original documents are located in Box 38, folder “Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee (1)” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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America has always been drawing much of its strength from the bonds of family, community, church, and voluntary organizations. Yet, as the face of America has been changed over the years, there is a growing realization that some of our oldest traditions and some of our oldest institutions are now in jeopardy.

A sense of community has been eroded in some of our largest cities. A sense of neighborhood, a sense of belonging, of cultural identification, are threatened. I can appreciate your deep concern for the future of institutions which you worked so very hard to establish—the ethnic church, the school, the credit union, the fraternal lodge. Increasingly centralized Government in Washington, which has grown more and more powerful and very impersonal, is a big part of the problem.

It is time that we begin deemphasizing the bureaucracies in Washington and reemphasizing the community, the efforts that we can make to improve our American way of life. One way to do this is by extending the general revenue sharing program, which over the past 5 years has turned the flow of power away from Washington and towards your own cities and your own States.

Another way is through the vigorous enforcement of the anti-redlining bill, which discourages credit discrimination based on neighborhood location in mortgage and home improvement loans. I signed the law prohibiting that discrimination, and I intend to see it stopped.

By replacing the urban renewal program and many similar programs with a single Community Development Act, we have given local residents a much, much greater voice in rebuilding their own communities. Redtape has been cut enormously.

At my direction, Federal regulations for community development have been reduced from 2,600 pages to just 25 pages. Application forms have been reduced from 1,400 pages to only 50 pages. The whole process between application and approval for these projects has been reduced from an average of 2 years to less than 2 months.

We want to do more, and to do that we want to hear your views and to enlist your support and your cooperation. I have asked Bill Baroody and Myron Kuropas to give me a full report on your activities here today, and I hope each of you will let us know what you think needs to be done.

As we enter our third century, I believe that we can have a rebirth of individual freedom and that we can protect the diverse heritage which gives so much strength and so much richness to our society. Working together, we can achieve these goals, and I think today's conference is a very good start.

Thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:34 a.m. to the representatives who were attending the Conference on Ethnicity and Neighborhood Revitalization which was being held at the White House.

Meeting With Representatives of Ethnic Organizations

*The President's Remarks to the Ethnic Leaders in the
Rose Garden. May 5, 1976*

*Mayor Cianci, Mayor Perk, Monsignor Baroni, members
of the administration and guests:*

Obviously, it is a great pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the White House and the Rose Garden this morning. This conference has been called to give new insights into some very, very old questions: how to maintain, how to strengthen the ties of community and neighborhood within our society.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR

FROM: JIM CANNON *Jm*

SUBJECT: Proposed Domestic Council Committee
On Neighborhood Revitalization

At first glance, Bill Baroody's proposal is appealing. But I oppose his proposal to set up a Domestic Council committee on neighborhood revitalization or an inter-departmental Executive Branch Task Force on neighborhood revitalization for these reasons:

1. objectives are not clearly defined;
2. Federal involvement at the neighborhood level has not been successful;
3. President Ford has basically followed a policy of working with state and local elected officials; and
4. the creation of another strata of government below the city level would only compound the problems already confronting city governments.

The Domestic Council, with OMB, HUD and others, is now examining the overall urban problem. Neighborhood revitalization can be incorporated into this larger urban policy study.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECISION

June 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: LYNN MAY *Lynn May*

SUBJECT: Proposed Domestic Council Committee
on Neighborhood Revitalization

In the attached decision memo, Bill Baroody recommends that the President authorize the establishment of a Domestic Council Committee on neighborhoods and neighborhood revitalization. Baroody cites a recommendation for such a committee by the participants of the recent White House Conference on Ethnicity. He also indicates the desirability of announcing the establishment of this committee before Senator Proxmire introduces a bill establishing a Presidential study commission on this subject.

As a short-range, political gimmick, Baroody's recommendation makes some sense, but he does not specify what the Domestic Committee would attempt to do and of course he leaves it to us to organize and manage it. Moreover, I fail to see what good the recommendations of such a group would be unless they are tied to the larger overall urban question.

Essentially past Federal policy has limited itself to treating with elected political officials at the local level and has left it to the local political process to provide for the needs and views of the various components of an urban area. The meeting last week between the HUD staff and the Domestic Council on urban policy touched on this question. No one seemed to feel that Federal involvement at the neighborhood level was feasible, apart from insuring that public participation was incorporated into any additional Federal block grant programs.

It is not clear to me what a Federal neighborhood policy would mean. Elliot Richardson, addressing the White House conference cited some jargon summarized in Tab A, but he did not define what the Federal Government would do to revitalize neighborhoods. To my mind, we surely do not want to create another strata of pseudo-government below the city level. It would only compound the problems confronting city governments.

In summary, I fear that Baroody has pleased a powerful and significant interest group by holding the conference but has no idea on how to deal with its problems other than establishing a committee.

I recommend that you do not concur in Baroody's proposal as it now stands, citing its lack of clearly defined objectives. I further recommend that the issue of neighborhood revitalization be incorporated into our larger urban policy initiative. If, however, visibility is desired, I recommend that we submit legislation similar to that which Senator Proxmire intends to propose establishing a Presidential Commission to study the issue. I feel that a Cabinet Committees effort would deflect resources from a much needed review of the larger urban problem. The report of a Presidential Commission would be valuable material for the next Administration to make use of.

cc: Jim Cavanaugh
Art Quern

Date: May 31, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Jim Cannon

Max Friedersdorf

Jack Marsh

Jim Lynn

Bob Hartmann

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:

Thursday, June 3

Time:

2 P.M.

SUBJECT:

William J. Baroody, Jr. memo 5/28/76
Preserving the Neighborhood: An Issue for 1976

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR. 

SUBJECT: Preserving the Neighborhood: An Issue for 1976

On May 5, you addressed a group of ethnic leaders in the Rose Garden. The leaders were attending an all-day meeting in the White House to discuss neighborhood revitalization. During your remarks, you requested that I inform you of any and all recommendations. This memorandum responds to that request and raises some related issues.

BACKGROUND

For a large number of Americans, especially ethnic Americans, the neighborhood is at the heart of American life. It is in the neighborhood that those institutions which ethnic Americans worked so hard to establish -- the ethnic church, the fraternal lodge, the credit union and the school -- are located. More importantly, it is in the neighborhood that the remaining vitality of our cities is centered.

Neighborhood leaders -- ethnic, black and Hispanic American alike -- feel that no one in the Federal government cares about their special needs. Few government programs have been specifically directed at neighborhood revitalization. Some government programs have actually contributed to neighborhood decline.

Addressing neighborhood problems is very much in keeping with the Ford philosophy of returning the decision-making power to the people. We don't necessarily need more programs. We do need better coordination of programs which already exist and the elimination of programs which interfere with local neighborhood control.



We have now conducted a number of White House conferences on ethnicity. There has been a common thread running throughout them -- concern expressed by the ethnic American participants over preservation of their neighborhoods. They have formally recommended that you establish a commission to study this issue. I strongly urge that we now make their recommendation a reality, and thereby demonstrate our concern for and understanding of their problems.

It is my belief, based on the merits, that simultaneously with the announcement of Attorney General Levi's decision on busing you also announce the formation of either an interdepartmental task force or a Domestic Council Cabinet Committee on "neighborhoods and neighborhood revitalization." Such an announcement could help mollify civil rights supporters nervous about our busing position while at the same time pleasing our ethnic American constituency.

You should know that Senator Proxmire is expected to hold hearings on a bill to create a Commission on Urban Neighborhood Revitalization within the next week or so. (See Tab A.) Mayor Vincent Cianci (R-Providence, R.I.) is supporting this effort, as is Msgr. Geno Baroni, President of the Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. Msgr. Baroni co-sponsored the White House Conference on Neighborhood Revitalization which you addressed in the Rose Garden. Action by you on this issue would preempt Senator Proxmire and any other Democrats.

You should also be aware that a conference is scheduled for June 13, sponsored by the National People's Action Committee. They are expecting to attract 2000 representatives to that conference and, according to the Nicholas von Hoffman article (Tab B), a major focus of that conference will be on red lining.

The next White House Conference on Ethnicity will be on June 1, and if our announcement isn't tied to the busing decision, it could be announced then. In any event, it would clearly be desirable to make the announcement before the Proxmire bill is introduced and the People's conference held on June 13.

Attached at Tab C is some follow-up publicity from our recent ethnic meetings.



ACTION

I seek concurrences on the following:

- | | <u>Agree</u> | <u>Disagree</u> |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Announcement of a Domestic Council Committee on neighborhood revitalization, or alternatively, announcement of an interdepartmental Executive Branch task force on neighborhood revitalization. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. The above should be announced on | | |
| (a) a date pegged to the announcement of Attorney General Levi's busing decision, | _____ | _____ |
| (b) several days before the National People's Action Committee meeting on June 13, or | _____ | _____ |
| (c) during the June 1 White House Conference on Ethnicity. | _____ | _____ |



A BILL TO ENACT
A COMMISSION ON URBAN
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Arthur Naparstek
May 13, 1976



A comprehensive neighborhood impact policy is needed--a policy which takes into account the diversity of neighborhood needs, builds incentives through appropriate local and state public actions, and supports the upgrading of public service delivery systems on the local and state level. A means of achieving these ends is for Congress to establish by legislation a Presidential Commission on Urban Neighborhood Revitalization. The purposes of such a commission would be to: 1) evaluate the impact current and past federal programs and policies have on neighborhoods with particular emphasis on: a) the possible restructuring of financial systems with focus on developing subsidy and incentive programs, b) to determine more effective ways of melding of federal funds and programs with local conditions, and c) to review the role regulatory agencies play in dealing with neighborhood problems. 2) to evaluate the role of state government with emphasis on: investigating the ways states can support neighborhood revitalization through appropriate enabling legislation. 3) to evaluate and assess the most efficacious means of restructuring the procedures of governance through a mix of centralization and decentralization of services.

Section 2. Establishment of Commission

(a) There is hereby established a commission to be known as the Commission on Urban Neighborhood Revitalization (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

(b) The Commission shall be composed of twenty-four members appointed as follows:

1) two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;



2) two Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

3) twenty members appointed by the President of the United States from persons specially qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the Commission, no less than seven of whom shall be elected officers of legally chartered neighborhood organizations engaged in development and revitalization programs, no less than seven of whom shall be elected officials of local governments, and none of whom shall be officers of the executive branch of government.

The individuals so appointed shall be selected so as to provide representation to a broad cross-section of racial and ethnic groups, and at no time shall more than one of the members appointed under subparagraph 1), or more than one of the members appointed under subparagraph 2), or more than 10 members appointed under subparagraph 3) be members of the same political party.

(c) The President of the United States shall designate a Chairman and a Vice Chairman from among the members of the Commission.

(d) Thirteen members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(e) The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairman or at the call of the majority of the members thereof.

Section 3. Duties

(a) The Commission shall undertake a comprehensive study and investigation of the factors contributing to neighborhood decline and of the necessity for neighborhood development or stabilization. Such study and investigation shall include, but not be limited to--

1) an analysis of the efficacy of Federal, state, and local programs and policies relating to the stabilization and revitaliza-



tion of neighborhoods;

2) an identification of the administrative, legal, and fiscal obstacles to the adequate development and stabilization of neighborhoods;

3) an analysis of the patterns and trends of public and private investment in urban areas and the impact of such patterns and trends upon the decline and/or development of neighborhoods;

4) an assessment of existing mechanisms of neighborhood government;

5) an analysis of the impact of poverty and racial conflict upon the decline and/or development of neighborhoods;

6) an assessment of the performance of local and regional development plans and of their impact upon the decline and/or development of neighborhoods.

(b) Within two years after the date on which funds first become available to carry out this section, the Commission shall submit to the President and the Congress a comprehensive report on its study and investigation under this subsection which shall include its findings, conclusions, and recommendations and such proposals for legislation and administrative action as may be necessary to carry out its recommendations.

Section 4. Compensation of Members

(a) Members of the Commission who are Members of Congress or full-time officers or employees of the United States shall serve without ~~additional compensation and~~ shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the duties vested in the Commission.



(b) Members of the Commission other than those referred to in subsection (a), shall receive compensation at the rate of \$100 per day for each day they are engaged in the actual performance of the duties vested in the Commission and shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

Section 5. Power and Administrative Provisions

(a) The Commission shall have the power to appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as it deems advisable, without regard to the provisions of Title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and the provisions of Chapter 51 and Subchapter III of Chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, but at rates not in excess of a maximum rate for GS-18 of the General Schedule under Section 5332 of such title.

(b) The Commission may procure, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3109 of Title 5, United States Code, the temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants. Persons so employed shall receive compensation at a rate to be fixed by the Commission but not in excess of \$75 per day, including travel time. While away from his or her home or regular place of business in the performance of services for the Commission, any such person may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by Section 5703 (b) of Title 5, United States Code, for persons in the Government service employed intermittently.

(c) Each department, agency, and instrumentality of the United States is authorized and directed to furnish to the Commission, upon



request made by the Chariman or Vice Chairman, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, such statisfied data, reports, and other information as the Commission deems necessary to carry out its functions under this title. The Chairman is further authorized to call upon the departments, agencies and other offices of the several States to furnish, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, such statistical data, reports, and other information as the Commission deems necessary to carry out its functions under this title.

(d) The Commission will award contracts and grants for the purposes of evaluating existing neighborhood revitalization programs. These awards shall incude, but not be limited to--

- 1) representatives of legally chartered neighborhood organizations;
- 2) public interest organizations who have a demonstrated capability in the area of concern;
- 3) universities and other not-for-profit educational organizations.

(e) The Commission or, on the authorization of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this title, hold hearings, take testimony, and administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the Commission or any subcommittee or member thereof. Hearings by the Commission will be held in neighborhoods with testimony received from citizen leaders and public officials who are engaged in neighborhood revitalization programs.



Section 6. Authorization of Appropriations

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.

Section 7. Expiration of the Commission

The Commission shall cease to exist thirty days after the submission of its report under Section 3.



REPRODUCED FROM THE ARCHIVES

Silent Majority

is ready to roar



Nicholas
von Hoffman

WASHINGTON—Not everybody converging here this summer is coming to shoot candles in the air. The 2,000 representatives of National Peoples Action expected here June 13 apparently are intending to put their firecrackers under elected officials who won't have

market and force them to make bad loans.

There's certainly no need to force them to make bad loans. As the experience over the last 10 years with Real Estate Investment Trusts shows, the bankers are already superbly adept at

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

5/22/76

JEDNOTA

5/19/76

"White House and the Ethnics" -- A Catholic

recognizing each other's right in a pluralistic society to build a sense of community and ethnic pride."

A national neighborhood policy,

Monsignor Baroni said, would involve the "restructuring of financial resources" to aid neighborhoods, "The reorientation of federal programs, agencies and regulatory bodies" and "the provisions of technical assistance through model legislation."

More specifically, he said, such a policy would involve:

— Restructuring government procedures to include a mix of centralization and decen-

wire story that appeared in most diocesan parish newspapers throughout the country.

anti-reclining bill his Administration once gave lukewarm support, and examples of constructive work with urban ethnic and minority business by the Small Business Administration

By Jim Casella
The White House has covered ethnics.

And if it is still not thought to be meeting major ethnic needs, the Administration officials have shown they understand the problems of urban ethnic neighborhoods.

This became clear at a May 5 White House Conference on Ethnicity and Neighborhood Revitalization.

In a brief meeting during the conference, President Gerald R. Ford told some 70 ethnic leaders.



May 20, 1976 • Arlington Catholic HERALD

Neighborhood Life

By MICHAEL NOVAK

When Catholics began coming to America in great numbers about 100 years ago, they came

neighborhoods. It is as though the children of immigrants themselves became migrants, and moved out more or less together to similar suburbs.

One should make a sharp distinction between inner-

leave the cities. Jobs flee. Crime rises. Property falls. Not all of this is due to the northward migration of Blacks. But, though public rhetoric supports regeneration, few public policies or practices do.

Ford Sets Conference On Ethnic Problems

WASHINGTON — (CDN) — President Ford, focusing White House attention on the nation's ethnic population, has scheduled a May 5 conference on ethnic problems.

The President has indicated, according to William Baroody, his assistant for

among groups, rather than one of "exclusion."

He acknowledged the question is a sensitive one, especially when it involves changing neighborhood patterns, such as expanding central city black areas meeting the "boundaries" of the more Euro-

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, Friday, April 23, 1976



Ford views America as 'ethnic mosaic'

By Robert Gruenberg
Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Ford is focusing White House attention on the nation's ethnic

conference on ethnic problems.

THE THEME will be "Ethnic Unity and Neighborhood Revitalization," and the meeting is to be co-sponsored by Wash-

Asked if he believed the melting pot theory had failed, Barobdy replied, "I don't think it ever was viable." Studies, he well as the experiences of

lawyers are studying Tuesday's Supreme Court decision holding that U.S. officials guilty of co-operating with racially biased policies in urban hous-

housing goals in the Saturday would on the reasons for the decision, expect see what the Su

file

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 21, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
FROM: JIM CONNOR *JEC*
SUBJECT: Urban Development and Neighborhood
Revitalization

The President reviewed your memorandum of June 19 on the above subject and made the following decisions:

1. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization comprised of nine members:

Approved

2. Support legislation establishing a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

Disapproved

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Bill Baroody



*file
Housing*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECISION

June 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON

SUBJECT: Urban Development and
Neighborhood Revitalization

BACKGROUND

On June 11, 1976, in response to a memo prepared by Bill Baroody on Preserving the Neighborhood: An Issue for 1976 (Tab A), you indicated you liked the idea of "some visible action" and requested the Domestic Council to develop something within its structure.

Secretary Hills has developed a plan which essentially would implement Bill Baroody's proposal (Tab B). It would:

1. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization to:
 - a. review Federal programs which have an impact on neighborhood development,
 - b. serve as an Executive Branch liaison with the National Commission on Neighborhoods, and
 - c. assess the Federal role in urban Development.

Secretary Hills' proposal goes further than the Baroody plan in that she recommends that you support legislation introduced by Senators Proxmire and Garn to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.



OPTIONS

The following are a set of options based on the two proposals:

1. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization which would be comprised of the Secretaries of HUD (Chairman), Commerce, HEW, Transportation, Labor, Treasury, the Attorney General and the Directors of SBA and the Community Service Administration who are ethnics.

Pro -- would consist of a controllable study group of those agencies which have the chief policy and programmatic responsibility for urban and neighborhood issues as well as being heavily concerned with ethnic issues.

Con -- might not be perceived as strongly as if established by legislation.

2. Support legislation to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

Pro -- would establish a broadly based forum for analysis of neighborhood problems which could work closely with the Domestic Council Committee.

Con -- would create a new bureaucracy and would possibly create a forum for irresponsible lobbying. (Although a National Commission would be able to insure public input in the debates in the issue, Domestic Council hearings could have the same effect).

DECISIONS

1. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization comprised of:
 - a. Nine members. (Recommended by Carla Hills, Domestic Council,

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

2. Support legislation establishing a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

Recommend: Carla Hills

Opposed: OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Domestic Council, Bill Baroody

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Preserving the Neighborhood:
An Issue for 1976 _____

The President reviewed the memorandum of May 28, 1976 prepared by William J. Baroody, Jr. on the above subject and directed the following notation to you:

"I like the idea of some visible action.

Can't Domestic Council come up with something within its structure? "

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: William J. Baroody, Jr.
Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM:

LYNN MAY *Lynn May*

SUBJECT:

Urban Development/Neighborhood Revitalization

The Domestic Council Staff has been working with HUD to develop new approaches to urban policy questions. Secretary Hills touched on this when we met with her on the busing issue.

Bill Baroody's staff on the other hand, has been carrying on a series of conferences with ethnic and minority leaders on the question of neighborhood revitalization. Two weeks ago, Baroody submitted a decision memo to the President (Tab A) calling for the establishment of a Domestic Council Committee on Neighborhood Revitalization which was staffed by Jim Connor. Although OMB and the Domestic Council expressed reservations about such an entity, the President decided some visible action on the issue was necessary and asked the Domestic Council to develop it.

Secretary Hills developed an alternative proposal to Baroody's memo (Tab B) which Jim Connor has subsequently staffed. I have prepared a recommendation on it to the President for your signature (Tab C) that I believe will satisfy almost everyone's interest in this matter - the President for an interagency group to look at neighborhood policy, Carla Hills for the leadership role in the issue (which programmatically should be hers), and OMB which opposes the formation of a National Commission as proposed in legislation by Senators Proxmire and Garn. (Apparently, Secretary Hills supports the legislation in deference to Senator Proxmire.)

Essentially, my formulation is to combine our urban policy initiative with the proposed neighborhood revitalization proposal in one Domestic Council Committee that can review the issues comprehensively.

cc: Jim Cavanaugh
Art Quern
Steve McConahey
Allan Moore
Pat Delaney

A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR. 

SUBJECT:

Preserving the Neighborhood: An Issue for 1976

On May 5, you addressed a group of ethnic leaders in the Rose Garden. The leaders were attending an all-day meeting in the White House to discuss neighborhood revitalization. During your remarks, you requested that I inform you of any and all recommendations. This memorandum responds to that request and raises some related issues.

BACKGROUND

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Addressing neighborhood problems is very much in keeping with the Ford philosophy of returning the decision-making power to the people. We don't necessarily need more programs. We do need better coordination of programs which already exist and the elimination of programs which interfere with local neighborhood control.



We have now conducted a number of White House conferences on ethnicity. There has been a common thread running throughout them -- concern expressed by the ethnic American participants over preservation of their neighborhoods. They have formally recommended that you establish a commission to study this issue. I strongly urge that we now make their recommendation a reality, and thereby demonstrate our concern for and understanding of their problems.

It is my belief, based on the merits, that simultaneously with the announcement of Attorney General Levi's decision on busing you also announce the formation of either an interdepartmental task force or a Domestic Council Cabinet Committee on "neighborhoods and neighborhood revitalization." Such an announcement could help mollify civil rights supporters nervous about our busing position while at the same time pleasing our ethnic American constituency.

You should know that Senator Proxmire is expected to hold hearings on a bill to create a Commission on Urban Neighborhood Revitalization within the next week or so. (See Tab A.) Mayor Vincent Cianci (R-Providence, R.I.) is supporting this effort, as is Msgr. Geno Baroni, President of the Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. Msgr. Baroni co-sponsored the White House Conference on Neighborhood Revitalization which you addressed in the Rose Garden. Action by you on this issue would preempt Senator Proxmire and any other Democrats.

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Attached at Tab C is some follow-up publicity from our recent ethnic meetings.



ACTION

I seek concurrences on the following:

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
1. Announcement of a Domestic Council Committee on neighborhood revitalization, or alternatively, announcement of an interdepartmental Executive Branch task force on neighborhood revitalization.	_____	_____
2. The above should be announced on		
(a) a date pegged to the announcement of Attorney General Levi's busing decision,	_____	_____
(b) several days before the National People's Action Committee meeting on June 13, or	_____	_____
(c) during the June 1 White House Conference on Ethnicity.	_____	_____



B



THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.. 20410

June 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President
FROM: Carla A. Hills
SUBJECT: Urban Development and
Neighborhood Revitalization



On June 11, Senators Garn and Proxmire introduced S.3554 which would establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods,^{1/} to investigate "...the factors contributing to the decline of city neighborhoods and the factors necessary to neighborhood survival and revitalization." The Commission will recommend modifications in Federal, state, and local laws, policies, and programs to facilitate neighborhood preservation and revitalization.

This proposal is consistent with stated Administration policy to assist communities to conserve existing urban assets and to deal with neighborhood decline.

I recommend that the Administration support S.3554^{2/} and in addition establish immediately a seven member Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development: (1) to review in a comprehensive manner all Federal programs which have an impact on neighborhood development and stabilization; (2) to serve as an Executive Branch liaison with the National Commission on Neighborhoods after it is appointed; and (3) to assess the Federal role in urban development.

^{1/} The 20 member Commission is to be composed of 2 members of the Senate and 2 members of the House plus 16 members to be appointed by the President, including at least 5 elected officers of recognized neighborhood organizations engaged in development and revitalization programs, at least 5 elected or appointed officials of local governments involved in preservation programs and the remaining with demonstrated experience in neighborhood revitalization activities.

^{2/} We can expect the issue to be raised by Senators Proxmire and Garn at the oversight hearings to be held by the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs scheduled for Wednesday, June 23.



This recommendation envisions that HUD, pursuant to its statutory authority "to exercise leadership . . . in coordinating Federal activities affecting . . . urban development"^{3/} would chair an Executive Branch Committee composed of the Secretaries of Health, Education and Welfare, Transportation, Treasury, Commerce, Labor and the Attorney General.

DISCUSSION

1. The proposed National Commission would provide a broadly based forum for analyzing the problems of an economic cross-section of neighborhoods.

2. Because the proposed National Commission does not have Executive Branch membership, the Administration has an opportunity to make a constructive contribution by appointing a Domestic Council Committee to work as a liaison group. Such a liaison Committee also could enhance the potential for successful implementation of the Commission's recommendations, avoiding a problem which has plagued similar Commissions in the past.

3. The statutory mandate for formation of the proposed National Commission is preferable to the proposal pending within the White House to establish a twelve member Domestic Council Committee on Neighborhood Revitalization, which suffers from:

^{3/} Section 3(a) of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965.



(a) An all-Federal composition when the analysis requires local input.

(b) Omission of Treasury (tax policy), Labor (jobs).

(c) An unwieldy membership resulting from the inclusion of several agency directors, which inevitably will generate pressures to include other directors, further aggravating the size problem.

4. The recommendation contained herein to establish a seven member Domestic Council Committee would augment and improve the proposed National Commission by

(a) Building on, but not preempting the bipartisan congressional effort;

(b) Providing for coordinated activity by the seven Federal Departments which already have responsibilities that impact neighborhoods;

(c) Providing necessary Executive Branch input, liaison and coordination; and

(d) Expediting the work of the proposed National Commission by developing immediately a comprehensive review of all Federal programs impacting neighborhoods, which will be indispensable to the Commission's duties, as defined in the proposed statute.



c

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON

SUBJECT: Urban Development and
Neighborhood Revitalization

Carla Hills' counter-proposal to Bill Baroody's suggested Domestic Council Committee on Neighborhood Revitalization contains many improvements over the original. It would:

1. Support current legislation advocated by Senators Proxmire and Garn to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.
2. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development ~~to~~ *Carla Hills' Neighborhood Revitalization to:*
 - a. review Federal programs which have a impact on neighborhood development,
 - b. serve as an Executive Branch liaison with the National Commission on Neighborhoods, and
 - c. assess the Federal role in urban development.

I concur in Secretary Hills' recommendation for a seven member Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization, chaired by her, because it would:

1. Address the neighborhood revitalization issue, of great concern to ethnic and minority groups, as part of the larger questions of urban growth and fiscal solvency, which are of vital interest to State and local governments.
2. Assert Presidential leadership in a complex set of questions that must be dealt with comprehensively.



3. Provide an institutional framework for the coordination of Federal resources to deal with these issues.

I do not concur with the Secretary's recommendation for active support of legislation establishing a National Commission on Neighborhoods because of long start-up time and general unpredictability of such Commissions. If the legislation is passed I would not recommend veto, but I see no reason to advocate it. I think that the Secretary's concern for public input into the study of city and neighborhood problems could be obtained by well-thought-out hearings and public meetings conducted by the Domestic Council Committee. These meetings would establish your Administration's leadership in this area more effectively than support for a National Commission.



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE
MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT
AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

JUNE 29, 1976



TODAY WE ARE HOLDING THE FIRST MEETING OF A
NEWLY ESTABLISHED PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT
AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION.

I AM GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NATIONWIDE PROBLEM
OF URBAN DECAY AND NEIGHBORHOOD DECLINE.

THEREFORE, I HAVE ESTABLISHED THIS COMMITTEE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SECRETARY CARLA HILLS, TO DEVELOP POLICIES TO OVERCOME THOSE FORCES WHICH ARE THREATENING THE VIABILITY OF OUR CITIES AND THE NEIGHBORHOODS WHICH DO SO MUCH TO GIVE OUR CITIES THEIR VITALITY AND STABILITY.

OUR SOCIETY IS ONE OF CONSTANT CHANGE AND MOVEMENT.

THIS FACT HAS BOTH ITS POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS.

THE AREAS MOST LIKELY TO SUFFER FROM TECHNOLOGICAL, DEMOGRAPHIC,

AND SOCIAL CHANGE ARE OUR OLDER CITIES.

IN RECENT YEARS, RAPID CHANGES IN COMMUNICATIONS,
MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPORTATION, AND SOCIAL
EXPECTATIONS HAVE COMBINED TO CAUSE MIGRATION FROM OLDER
CITIES TO THE SUBURBS AND TO EXPANDING AREAS IN THE SOUTH
AND WEST.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE PRODUCED SEVERE STRAINS
ON OLDER CITIES, FORCING CITY GOVERNMENTS TO COPE WITH
THE POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING PRESSURES OF A STAGNANT OR
DECLINING ECONOMIC BASE COUPLED WITH A GROWING NEED FOR
SERVICES WHICH ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE EXPENSIVE.

ONE OF AMERICA'S OLDEST, PROUDEST, AND STRONGEST
TRADITIONS -- THE URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD -- IS BEING SEVERELY
THREATENED BY THESE FORCES. IN MANY WAYS, THE CITY IS
ITS NEIGHBORHOODS. THE CITY DRAWS ITS STRENGTH FROM THE
STABILITY AND COHESION THAT FAMILIES HAVE ESTABLISHED AND
NURTURED IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT AS OUR OLDER CITIES DECLINE, SO ALSO DO THE NEIGHBORHOODS IN THOSE CITIES.

FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS IS NOT A SIMPLE MATTER. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ALWAYS SUCCEEDED IN ITS WELL-INTENTIONED EFFORTS TO AID THE CITIES.

ONE MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE COMPLEX AND OVERLAPPING FEDERAL RULES WHICH OFTEN ACCOMPANY FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

IT IS MY PHILOSOPHY THAT DECISION-MAKING

RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD REMAIN AS CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE MOST ACCOUNTABLE TO LOCAL

CITIZENS AND CAN BEST REFLECT THEIR CONCERNS.

THEREFORE, I HAVE STRONGLY ADVOCATED GENERAL REVENUE SHARING
AND HAVE PROPOSED A SERIES OF OTHER GRANT CONSOLIDATION
PROPOSALS INTENDED TO MINIMIZE THE STRINGS ON FEDERAL AID
AND TO MAXIMIZE LOCAL CONTROL OVER HOW THE FUNDS ARE SPENT.

I INTEND TO PURSUE THIS COURSE VIGOROUSLY,
BUT IT CLEARLY IS NOT ENOUGH -- BY ITSELF -- TO SOLVE OUR
URBAN PROBLEMS. THEREFORE, I AM CHARGING THIS
COMMITTEE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT A
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF URBAN PROBLEMS AND OF THOSE FEDERAL
PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE CITIES.

IT IS CHARGED WITH MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHAT SHOULD BE DONE, AND, IN PARTICULAR, WHAT THE FEDERAL ROLE SHOULD BE, TO COUNTER THE FORCES LEADING TO URBAN DECLINE.

OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS A VERY BIG ASSIGNMENT.

BUT I HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF SECRETARY HILLS, THE OTHER CABINET MEMBERS, AND THE AGENCY HEADS WHO WILL SHARE IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

I KNOW YOU WILL DO A GOOD JOB. I WILL SUPPORT YOU IN
ANY WAY I CAN. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE SUCCESSFUL
COMPLETION OF YOUR EFFORTS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1976

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE
ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Tuesday, June 29, 1976

2:00 p.m.

The Cabinet Room

From: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

To preside at the first meeting of the President's Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

The Committee results from a convergence of two sets of recommendations regarding the problems and needs of our cities and neighborhoods. Your key Domestic policy advisors have pointed out the need for greater cooperation and coordination among Federal agencies administering programs which have an impact on cities and their neighborhoods. The increasing substitution of revenue sharing and of block grant programs for categorical programs offers urban centers the opportunity to formulate an overall strategy for their use of Federal resources. Also, the major recommendation of a May 5 meeting sponsored by the White House Office of Public Liaison and the National Center on Urban Ethnic Affairs was that the President establish a committee to study urban problems as they are perceived on the neighborhood level (Tab A).

On June 19, you approved the establishment of a Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization (Tab B).

B. Participants:

See Tab C.

Staff: Jim Cannon, William Baroody.

C. Press Plan:

At the beginning of the meeting, the press will be allowed in the Cabinet Room to listen to the President's statement and to take pictures. Secretary Hills will be available for questions and answers following the meeting.

III. TALKING POINTS

See attached speech at Tab D.

America has always been drawing much of its strength from the bonds of family, community, church, and voluntary organizations. Yet, as the face of America has been changed over the years, there is a growing realization that some of our oldest traditions and some of our oldest institutions are now in jeopardy.

A sense of community has been eroded in some of our largest cities. A sense of neighborhood, a sense of belonging, of cultural identification, are threatened. I can appreciate your deep concern for the future of institutions which you worked so very hard to establish—the ethnic church, the school, the credit union, the fraternal lodge. Increasingly centralized Government in Washington, which has grown more and more powerful and very impersonal, is a big part of the problem.

It is time that we begin deemphasizing the bureaucracies in Washington and reemphasizing the community, the efforts that we can make to improve our American way of life. One way to do this is by extending the general revenue sharing program, which over the past 5 years has turned the flow of power away from Washington and towards your own cities and your own States.

Another way is through the vigorous enforcement of the anti-redlining bill, which discourages credit discrimination based on neighborhood location in mortgage and home improvement loans. I signed the law prohibiting that discrimination, and I intend to see it stopped.

By replacing the urban renewal program and many similar programs with a single Community Development Act, we have given local residents a much, much greater voice in rebuilding their own communities. Redtape has been cut enormously.

At my direction, Federal regulations for community development have been reduced from 2,600 pages to just 25 pages. Application forms have been reduced from 1,400 pages to only 50 pages. The whole process between application and approval for these projects has been reduced from an average of 2 years to less than 2 months.

We want to do more, and to do that we want to hear your views and to enlist your support and your cooperation. I have asked Bill Baroody and Myron Kuropas to give me a full report on your activities here today, and I hope each of you will let us know what you think needs to be done.

As we enter our third century, I believe that we can have a rebirth of individual freedom and that we can protect the diverse heritage which gives so much strength and so much richness to our society. Working together, we can achieve these goals, and I think today's conference is a very good start.

Thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:34 a.m. to the representatives who were attending the Conference on Ethnicity and Neighborhood Revitalization which was being held at the White House.

Meeting With Representatives of Ethnic Organizations

*The President's Remarks to the Ethnic Leaders in the
Rose Garden. May 5, 1976*

*Mayor Cianci, Mayor Perk, Monsignor Baroni, members
of the administration and guests:*

Obviously, it is a great pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the White House and the Rose Garden this morning. This conference has been called to give new insights into some very, very old questions: how to maintain, how to strengthen the ties of community and neighborhood within our society.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECISION

June 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON

SUBJECT: Urban Development and
Neighborhood Revitalization

BACKGROUND

On June 11, 1976, in response to a memo prepared by Bill Baroody on Preserving the Neighborhood: An Issue for 1976 (Tab A), you indicated you liked the idea of "some visible action" and requested the Domestic Council to develop something within its structure.

Secretary Hills has developed a plan which essentially would implement Bill Baroody's proposal (Tab B). It would:

1. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization to:
 - a. review Federal programs which have an impact on neighborhood development,
 - b. serve as an Executive Branch liaison with the National Commission on Neighborhoods, and
 - c. assess the Federal role in urban Development.

Secretary Hills' proposal goes further than the Baroody plan in that she recommends that you support legislation introduced by Senators Proxmire and Garn to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.



OPTIONS

The following are a set of options based on the two proposals:

1. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization which would be comprised of the Secretaries of HUD (Chairman), Commerce, HEW, Transportation, Labor, Treasury, the Attorney General and the Directors of SBA and the Community Service Administration who are ethnics.

Pro -- would consist of a controllable study group of those agencies which have the chief policy and programmatic responsibility for urban and neighborhood issues as well as being heavily concerned with ethnic issues.

Con -- might not be perceived as strongly as if established by legislation.

2. Support legislation to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

Pro -- would establish a broadly based forum for analysis of neighborhood problems which could work closely with the Domestic Council Committee.

Con -- would create a new bureaucracy and would possibly create a forum for irresponsible lobbying. (Although a National Commission would be able to insure public input in the debates in the issue, Domestic Council hearings could have the same effect).

DECISIONS

1. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization comprised of:
 - a. Nine members. (Recommended by Carla Hills, Domestic Council,

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

2. Support legislation establishing a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

Recommend: Carla Hills

Opposed: OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Domestic Council, Bill Baroody

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Participants

Secretary Carla Hills (Chairman)

Jerry Thomas, Under Secretary, Department of Treasury, for
Secretary Simon

Ben Holman, Director, Community Relations Service,
Department of Justice for the Attorney General

Secretary Earl Butz

Richard Darman, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department
of Commerce, for Secretary Richardson

Michael Moskow, Under Secretary, Department of Labor, for
Secretary Usery

Marjorie Lynch, Under Secretary, Department of Health,
Education and Welfare for Secretary Mathews

Secretary William T. Coleman, Jr.

Mitchell P. Kobelinski, Administrator, Small Business
Administration

Willard H. Meinecke, Assistant Director, Administration and
Finance, ACTION for Director Balzano

Samuel Martinez, Director, Community Services Administration

Jim Cannon, Director, Domestic Council

Bill Baroody, Director, White House Office of Public Liaison

By invitation:

Chairman Arthur Burns and Governor Philip Jackson, Jr.,
Federal Reserve System

Chairman Garth Marston, Federal Home Loan Bank Board

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 29, 1976

Al
Urban
Committee
Dave
Many Thanks
Jim

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BILL BAROODY
JIM CANNON
MYRON KUROPAS
LYNN MAY
RON NESSEN

FROM:

DAVE GERGEN *DG*

SUBJECT:

President's Urban Committee

Upon request from Bill Baroody and Myron Kuropas Tuesday night, I have gone back to this afternoon's draft as a foundation for a Wednesday statement by the President.

My recommendation now is that Bill Baroody and Jim Cannon jointly agree upon a statement at the earliest moment. We can't continue down so many tracks much longer without going totally off the rails.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON *JC*

SUBJECT: President's Committee on Urban
Development and Neighborhood
Revitalization.

Attached is the proposed statement for release
announcing your appointment of your Committee on
Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization.
It has been approved by Hartmann, OMB (O'Neill),
Barody and myself.

Attachment

STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S URBAN COMMITTEE

The cities of this nation and the neighborhoods which are their backbone today face increasingly difficult problems of decay and decline.

Our society is one of constant change and movement. This fact has both its positive and negative effects. The areas most likely to suffer from technological, demographic, and social change are our older cities.

In recent years, rapid changes in communications, manufacturing, technology, transportation, and social expectation have combined to cause migration from older cities to the suburbs and to expanding areas in the South and West.

These developments have produced severe strains on older cities, forcing city governments to cope with the potentially devastating pressures of a stagnant or declining economic base coupled with a growing need for services which are becoming more and more expensive. For some time my Administration has been examining these problems, and I have proposed major program consolidations in health, education, and social services.

Some eight weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with representatives of many ethnic organizations that have been holding periodic gatherings here at the White House.

In my remarks that day, I asked those leaders if they would tell us what they think needs to be done to bring new life and vitality to our urban neighborhood.

Their number one recommendation, passed along to me by Bill Baroody of my staff, was that we should set up a task force within the Government to review all major Federal programs that have an impact upon urban and neighborhood life.

Today I am pleased to announce that I am appointing a Cabinet-level task force to carry out that mission. This new Presidential Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization will be chaired by Secretary Hills and its members will include Cabinet officers, several agency heads, and others.

Yesterday afternoon I met with Secretary Hills and other members of the committee and asked them to begin an immediate review of current Federal programs which have an impact upon cities and their neighborhoods.

They are to seek the perspectives of local officials and neighborhood groups on Federal programs which affect them and to develop recommendations for improvements in Federal policies and programs.

In setting up this committee, my premise is that many Federal programs now on the books are worthwhile and should be continued, especially those which encourage local initiative and local leadership. It is particularly urgent that the Congress act soon to re-enact the General Revenue Sharing program.

At the same time, it is clear that the Federal Government must find better ways to coordinate its many programs, that some programs should be consolidated and that still other programs should be phased out altogether. The commitment to serving our cities and urban neighborhoods need not require massive new funding programs; a great deal of Federal money is currently being spent. What is clearly required is that we make better use of resources that are already available.

In my discussions with ethnic leaders, I have also been impressed that the Federal Government can do more to encourage a greater sense of community, a sense of belonging within our urban centers. In this Bicentennial year, it is especially important that we seek to enhance the values of family, of community and of cultural diversity that have been the strength and richness of America for many years.

The Presidential Committee I have appointed will perform a great service for the country by helping to revitalize urban and neighborhood life in America.