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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1975

MEETING WITH REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

Tuesday, June 17, 1975
8:00-9:30 a.m. (90 minutes)
The Cabinet Room

From: Max L. Friedersdorf *M.L.F.*

I. PURPOSE

To discuss and brief the leaders on the proposed Consumer Protection Agency, the Crime Message and the impending housing bill veto.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. The Senate has passed a Consumer Protection Agency Act and the House Government Operations Committee is starting hearings this week.
2. Representative John Erlenborn (R-Ill) will be our chief supporter in opposing the bill. He will attend today's meeting as will Representative Frank Horton (R-NY), ranking minority Member on the House Government Operation Committee, and a sponsor and leading advocate for a Consumer Protection Agency.
3. The Presidential Crime Message will be sent to the Hill soon (possibly this week), and the meeting will afford the President an opportunity to brief the leaders.
4. The Emergency Housing Act of 1975 (H.R. 4485) has passed Congress and is at the White House awaiting Presidential action prior to the Tuesday, June 24, deadline.
5. HUD, OMB and the Domestic Council are recommending the President veto the bill because of expensive (\$1 billion) and objectionable mortgage interest and foreclosure relief programs.
6. HUD Secretary Hills and Congressmen Garry Brown and Lud Ashley are urging the President to couple a veto with an announcement proposing an acceptable foreclosure plan as an alternative to the Congress' foreclosure approach, and expand activities under the Tandem Plan as an alternative to the Congressional interest subsidy program.

BACKGROUND (cont'd)

7. Representatives Ashley and Brown led a strong attack against the conference report which passed the House by a vote of 253-155, after passing the Senate, 60-24.
8. However, the National Association of Home Builders and AFL-CIO are gearing up for a major override attempt.

B. Participants:

See Tab A

C. Press Plan:

Announce as a regular Republican leadership meeting, Press and White House photographers.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Consumer Protection Agency - See Tab B
2. Crime Message - See Tab C
3. Housing Bill - See Tab D

IV. AGENDA

See Tab E

PARTICIPANTS

The President
The Vice President

SENATE

Hugh Scott
Bob Griffin
Carl Curtis
Bob Stafford
John Tower
Ted Stevens
Milt Young
Roman Hruska

HOUSE

John Rhodes
Bob Michel
John Anderson
Sam Devine
Jack Edwards
Jim Quillen
Guy Vander Jagt
Al Cederberg
Frank Horton
John Erlenborn
Tim Lee Carter
Ed Hutchinson
Garry Brown
Al Johnson

STAFF

Attorney General Levi
Secretary Hills
Don Rumsfeld
Bob Hartmann
Jack Marsh
Phil Buchen
Max Friedersdorf
Alan Greenspan
Bill Seidman
Jim Cannon
Ron Nessen
Bill Baroody
Dick Cheney
Frank Zarb
Vern Loen
Bill Kendall

REGRETS

Jim Lynn - speaking in Phoenix
for John Rhodes
Sen. Baker - in Texas
Rep. Conable - out of town
Rep. Frey - out of town

DRAFT TALKING POINTS ON CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION

1. One of my top legislative priorities is to see that any kind of Agency for Consumer Protection is not established.
2. As I have said before, we do not need -- and the American people do not want -- another Federal bureaucracy with broad powers to intervene, delay, and interfere in the efficient conduct of business and Government.
3. It is my conviction that consumers can best be served by improving our existing institutions of Government, not creating more Government.
4. I agree that our regulatory agencies too often are not doing the job they should. That is why I have proposed specific regulatory reforms and have made such reform proposals a top Administration priority.
5. We're going to need all of your cooperation if we're going to defeat this legislation. Hearings start in the House this week. The Senate has already passed a bill, 61-28.
6. One encouraging note to me from the Senate action was that many Senators looked closely at the bill and apparently realized the potential disruptive powers of a consumer agency.

The result was a number of floor amendments and a final bill that exempted from the agency's scrutiny the areas of labor negotiations, FCC license renewals, the Alaska pipeline, gun control, agriculture and raw fish products, and small business.

I say if a consumer agency could have a negative effect on all these matters, it can have a negative effect on all areas of concern to Americans and should not be enacted.

*Flowers - start this week
Report out in July, maybe
John Sulebson - Political
was sort then people want and
was all around*

Concept is based on 3 pillars

- 1) Comme
- 2) Brown Account
- 3) Grant is fallible

how from all agencies
gets - Final negotiations

Ridiculous note U.S. vs U.S.

Tower - can contain secrets

Rhode -

John Anderson - Constructing a rep
present on a rebuttal?

TALKING POINTS RE: CRIME MESSAGE

1. On Thursday, I will transmit to the Congress a special message on a subject that touches the lives of all Americans -- crime. Let me take this opportunity to briefly review for you the essential elements of that message.
2. 1974 saw the largest percentage increase in the rate of serious crime in this nation in almost 50 years. Tragically, the numbers of crimes involving the threat of physical violence or actual physical violence also increased. Violent crime in our streets and in our homes has made fear pervasive. It has caused us to rearrange our daily lives. It is time for all levels of government, Federal, State and local, to commit themselves to the goal of reducing crime.
3. In my Message, I addressed myself to what I believe the Federal government can and should be doing to combat crime. I note at the outset, however, that the Federal role is a limited one and that most of the burden of reducing crime, particularly violent crime, must fall on State and local governments.
4. There are three ways in which the Federal government can play an important role in combating crime:
 - i) It can provide leadership to State and local governments by improving the quality of Federal laws and the Federal criminal justice system.
 - ii) It can enact and vigorously enforce laws covering criminal conduct that cannot be adequately regulated at the State or local level.
 - iii) It can provide financial and technical assistance to State and local governments and law enforcement agencies, and thereby enhance their ability to enforce laws.
5. In terms of providing leadership to State and local governments:
 - a) I recommend the enactment by the 94th Congress of a comprehensive criminal code reform, such as that embodied in S. 1, the "Criminal Justice Reform Act of 1975."

- b) In enacting new Federal sentencing provisions, I recommend that incarceration be made mandatory for (1) offenders who commit violent offenses under Federal jurisdiction with a dangerous weapon -- such as a gun; (2) persons who commit such extraordinarily serious crimes as aircraft hijacking, kidnapping and trafficking in hard drugs; and (3) repeat offenders who commit Federal crimes -- with or without a dangerous weapon -- that cause or have a potential to cause personal injury. I make this recommendation because I am concerned about the rights of the law-abiding citizen and the innocent victim of crime. In my judgment, it is time for the law to concern itself more with the people it exists to protect. I also call upon State and local governments to enact similar mandatory sentencing systems.
 - c) I point out a number of improvements which can and are being made within the Federal criminal justice system, and I recommend that similar type programs be undertaken at the State and local levels.
6. In terms of enacting and vigorously enforcing laws covering criminal conduct which cannot be adequately regulated at the State and local level:
- a) I recommend additional Federal action to (1) tighten control over the sale of handguns; (2) strengthen enforcement of Federal firearms laws in metropolitan areas with a high incidence of handgun violence; and (3) prohibit the manufacture of handguns that have no apparent use other than against human beings. It is clear that handguns play a key role in the rise in violent crime in America. These recommendations are designed to go to the very heart of the problem of handgun abuse.
 - b) I also make specific recommendations for improvements in Federal law relating to organized crime, consumer frauds and the protection of constitutionally guaranteed civil rights.
7. In terms of providing financial and technical assistance to State and local governments, I am recommending continuation of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration through 1981. As part of the reauthorization bill, I propose to increase LEAA's annual funding authorization from \$1.25 billion to \$1.3 billion. The additional \$250 million over five years would be made available to the LEAA discretionary program so that additional emphasis can be placed on programs for cities and counties with high crime rates. The reauthorization bill will also emphasize the need for State and local governments to improve the operation of their court systems.

- [8. Finally, I also recommend that the Congress pass legislation designed to meet the uncompensated losses of victims of Federal crimes who suffer personal injury. The money to fund this program should come from a fund consisting of fines paid by convicted Federal offenders.]
9. I am confident that, if the Congress enacts the programs I am recommending in this Message, the seeds of an effective attack on crime will have been planted. I hasten to add, however, that only with the full cooperation of State and local governments and the support of the American people can we effectively reduce crime and restore to this nation the domestic tranquility pledged in the Constitution.

June 16, 1975

TALKING POINTS ON THE
EMERGENCY HOUSING ACT OF 1975

1. The Emergency Housing Act of 1975 (HR 4485), which reflects the desire of Congress to speed up recovery in new construction, is before me for action.
2. The legislation provides for a mortgage interest subsidy program, a foreclosure relief program and a number of undesirable changes in our housing and community development laws.
3. Unfortunately, this bill would not achieve its promised results and its price tag is excessive. This bill would
 - add over \$1,024 million to the 1976 budget deficit;
 - duplicate authority already on the books to subsidize mortgage interest rates;
 - provide excessively deep Federal subsidies to a limited number of families, many of whom earn more than median income with some making as much as \$27,000 a year;
 - saddle the rest of the Nation's taxpayers with the cost of these subsidies, which in some cases will continue for six years - long after the housing slump is over.
4. I think there are some things we can do but I cannot live with this bill.

AGENDA

- 8:00-8:15 a.m.
(15 minutes) The President opens the meeting and discusses opposition to the Consumer Protection Agency Act.
- 8:15-8:30 a.m.
(15 minutes) The President calls upon leaders and Congressman Erlenborn to assess the situation in the House regarding the CPA hearings and chances of passage. (Rep. Horton, a CPA sponsor and ranking minority Member on the House Government Operations Committee, will probably speak forcibly for the bill.)
- 8:30-8:45 a.m.
(15 minutes) The President briefs the leaders on contents of the Crime Message.
- 8:45-8:55 a.m.
(10 minutes) The President calls on Attorney General Levi for comments on the Crime Message.
- 8:55-9:05 a.m.
(10 minutes) The President invites the leaders to comment on the Crime Message.
- 9:05-9:10 a.m.
(5 minutes) The President discusses the housing bill
- 9:10-9:20 a.m.
(10 minutes) The President calls on Secretary Hills to explain objections to the Housing bill.
- 9:20-9:30 a.m.
(10 minutes) The President calls upon leaders for comments on the Housing bill. (Garry Brown is ranking minority Member on the Housing Subcommittee.)
- 9:30 a.m. The President concludes the meeting.

Rep workshop meeting

6/17/75

R. Jordan

6/17

* New Bill - evaluation
(Pam)

P. Crime -

1) strong position on mandatory
prison sentences -

comes up for what and
w/ use of dangerous weapons -

* NRA - who will
contact ?



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