

The original documents are located in Box C1, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 8/27/1974 (1)” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

File

Line alerted

BT by tel.

T.

Recommel
Meeting with
Timmons at
4:00 PM
today
J

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *leg.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
August 27, 1974

ACTION

Bill Timmons
I want a conference
on this with you,
why I should?
Content?
BR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: William E. Timmons *BR*
SUBJECT: Message to Congress

Attached in rough draft form is an outline of a Message you may wish to transmit to Congress upon its return, September 11, 1974.

If you approve the proposal, I recommend the following schedule:

1. The working draft be submitted to a coordinating committee of Domestic Council (Cole), OMB (Ash), NSC (Kissinger), Writers (Theis) and Legislative (Timmons) to put the paper in better form (this week).
2. The new draft be discussed at a Cabinet Meeting (next week).
3. The final product be rewritten by Counsellor Hartmann working directly with you.
4. The substance of the Message be coordinated with Republican leaders Hugh Scott and John Rhodes.
5. The Message be transmitted to Congress on September 11, 1974, along with Presidential letters to each chairman and ranking Republican who have responsibilities for legislation mentioned in the document.

NOTE: The concept of a Message has certain drawbacks which you should be aware of:

- It may appear you do not care about legislation omitted from the list.

- By necessity, you'll have to take positions on controversial legislation such as consumer protection, cargo preference, Rhodesian chrome, etc., for failing to mention them implies opposition.

- The quantity may frustrate Congress and force a lame duck session.

On balance, however, I think the concept of a special Message is necessary to keep the pressure on Congress.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

SEE ME _____

SUMMARY

I.	NOMINATIONS	70
	Current	43
	Expected	27
II.	APPROPRIATIONS	7
	Enacted	8
	Pending	6
	Supplemental	1
III.	LEGISLATION	27
	Trade Reform	H
	Ex-Im Bank	H
	Rhodesian Chrome	S
	Asian Bank	S
	State Authorization	H
	Foreign Assistance	
	Consumer Protection	H
	Defense Production	SHC
	Illegal Aliens	H
	Capital Punishment	S
	New Judges	
	Job Security Assistance	
	Health Insurance	
	Health Manpower	
	Health Services	H
	Health Resources	
	Unified Transportation Assistance	H
	Transportation Improvement	
	AMTRAK Authorization	HSC
	USIA Authorization	HSC
	ERDA	HSC
	Cargo Preference	H
	Gas Deregulation	
	Deepwater Ports	H
	Energy Taxes	
	Military Construction Authorization	H
	Export Administration Act	HSC

IV. DEFERRALS 11

Tax Reform	
OEO Transfer	H
No Fault Insurance	S
Surface Mining	HSC
DENR	
Freedom of Information	HSC
Railroad Retirements	
Toxic Substances	HSC
Safe Drinking Water	S
Clean Air Amendments	
Campaign Reform	HSC

CODE

- H - House passed
- S - Senate passed
- C - In Conference

MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

In a recent address before a Joint Session of Congress, I pledged "cooperation, conciliation and compromise" with Congress. I have been heartened by the response I have received from the bipartisan leaders and Members generally.

No effort has been made to override three measures that were necessary to veto -- Agriculture Appropriations, U. S. Marshal's pay and Veterinarians legislation -- and Congress quickly gave me the Council on Wage and Price Stability. I requested and promptly passed major legislation in the fields of Education, Housing and Pension Reform. For these, I am grateful.

Also, although there were serious objections on my part to the SBA loan legislation, Public Works Appropriations and D. C. Medical Schools, I signed them into law recognizing the compromises they represented. Additionally, although the Veterans Education bill -- recently passed by the House and now pending before the Senate -- substantially increases the Budget, I feel cost of living increases for our veterans in school are worthwhile, and I will sign that measure if it reaches my desk in the form now presented to the Senate.

?

While we have much work before us, I have discussed the congressional agenda with the bipartisan leaders and I feel the 93rd Congress can conclude its business by October 11, 1974 and adjourn in time to meet the voters before general elections. We can all agree there will be no need for a lame duck session if we all work together and work long hours during the five weeks in the fall term.

Of twenty-seven specific proposals I am singling out, five are in the conference stage, ten have passed the House, three have passed the Senate and nine have passed neither Body, but most have been the subject of hearings and some are in mark-up.

Much has been accomplished by this Congress and much more can be achieved.

NOMINATIONS

Of utmost importance for Congress in its fall term is the consideration of the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller to be Vice President of the United States. The Administration will assist the Congress in all appropriate ways to expedite this nomination.

There are forty-two other nominations before the Senate, some pending since January of this year. There are twenty-seven other candidates for federal office in varying stages of clearance. I expect to be able to submit them to the Senate within a few days. I would hope Congress could expedite action on all these candidates so that none will have to be held over to 1975.

APPROPRIATIONS

Eight of fourteen regular appropriations bills have been enacted. These measures in total represent a reduction from the Administration's Budget of \$532 million in budget authority and \$122 million in outlays for the current fiscal year.

The Agriculture money bill was vetoed; Defense appropriations is in conference and will slash over \$2 billion in outlays; State-Justice-Commerce is also in conference and undoubtedly will show a reduction in the Budget; Labor-HEW appropriations, however, appear to be moving in the direction of busting the Budget substantially.

Appropriations for Military Construction and Foreign Assistance have not yet passed the House of Representatives.

There is ample time to thoughtfully consider the remaining money bills before adjournment. In addition, I will be sending the First Supplemental for 1975 fiscal year in several days and trust that it will be considered as an urgent priority.

LEGISLATION

It is unnecessary to submit a laundry list of Administration legislative initiatives to Congress. Leaders and Members know them as well as I do. However, I am obligated to call your attention to a number of measures that require special attention;

Trade Reform has passed the House of Representatives and is pending before the Senate Finance Committee. Efforts are underway to find a reasonable and mutually acceptable compromise to restrictive language that would deny Most Favored Nation status and Export-Import credits to the Soviet Union. This legislation is so close to enactment it would be a tragedy if it were not passed.

In the area of foreign policy, we should also try to enact the Ex+Im Bank Authorization, Asian Development Bank, the State Department Authorization, the Foreign Assistance Act and repeal the Byrd Amendment on Rhodesian Chrome.

There are several significant problems in the State Department Authorization and I have instructed Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to work with appropriate leaders in an effort to resolve these differences.

 I know the most troublesome piece of legislation for me will be the Foreign Aid bill. I am disturbed over deep cuts in many worthwhile programs, as well as unacceptable restrictions placed on the Executive in this bill. While I plan to recommend significant changes in the concept and administration of foreign aid next year, I urge this Congress to continue the current program, unincumbered by harmful amendments.

I voted for the creation of a Consumer Protection Agency when I was in Congress several years ago. However, I find fault with both the current House and Senate bills. I would prefer legislation along the lines of the so-called "Brown Substitute" which was offered during the House deliberations.

Both bodies have passed an extension of the Defense Production Act. I hope the differing versions will be reconciled and sent to me for signature.

The Illegal Aliens legislation is necessary to establish clear guidelines regarding the law for aliens who work in this country. The House has already passed a bill, and I would hope the Senate could consider this measure during the fall term. Capital Punishment has passed the Senate and could be considered by the House before adjournment.

Court congestion impairs fair and speedy trials. The Administration supports legislation to create thirty new Federal District Court Judges. While this measure has been slow to move, I would hope Congress could expedite consideration in order to alleviate lengthy trials.

In May of 1973, the Administration requested enactment of the Job Security Assistance Act. Six months ago, another Message to Congress repeated the request and urged a new Title II, which was designed to meet the special problems of those who lose their jobs as a result of the energy shortage. This proposal is an essential part of our economic policy to assist in periods of rising unemployment. It modernizes the unemployment compensation system without violating the relationship between the states and the federal government.

I feel Congress should re-double its efforts to pass the Comprehensive Health Insurance Act which would offer every American an opportunity to obtain a balanced, comprehensive range of health insurance benefits through these major programs. I recognize this legislation is controversial and no clear consensus exists between supporters of different plans. Nevertheless, I would like to see a renewed effort to pass this landmark legislation this session.

There are several health authorities that require extension this year. They are the Health Manpower Act, Health Services Act and the Health Resources Planning Act. All are needed but, unfortunately, each currently has objectionable features in program provisions and excessive authorizations. I am instructing Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Weinberger to work closely with appropriate committees in an effort to enact reasonable legislation.

The House recently passed a version of the Administration's Unified Transportation Assistance Program and happily kept the funding levels to a figure I can support. I hope the Senate can move quickly on this multiple-year transit program.

The Transportation Improvement Act has passed neither House. However, the House Commerce Subcommittee has reported a bill basically supported by the Administration.

The AMTRAK Authorization legislation is now ready for conference and I trust will be cleared for my signature soon.

Deepwater Ports is a vital measure we should not let slip during the rush to adjournment. The House has already passed an acceptable bill and the Senate, I understand, is expected to consider this measure soon.

USIA Authorization has been passed by both Bodies and should be finally considered by a conference committee. The House version is preferred.

To promote more effective management of the government's approach to our national energy resources, the Administration recommended creation of a Energy Research and Development Administration. This key legislation has now passed both Houses and hopefully will soon be considered by a conference committee. In its consideration of this legislation, I recommend the provision calling for an Energy Policy Council be deleted and several provisions be corrected.

I cannot support Cargo Preference legislation in either the House-passed version or the measure awaiting Senate action. I do believe it is possible, however, to compromise this legislation in order to achieve the desired results. I am, therefore, asking Secretary of Commerce Frederick Dent to work with appropriate legislators to see if general agreement can be reached.

To increase the use of clean natural gas through competitive pricing of newly developed gas supplies, I urge the Congress to consider the Natural Gas Supply Act in its fall term. As we enter the winter months, our energy resources must be effectively utilized for the benefit of all Americans. Gas deregulation is an important part of the Administration's response to the crisis.

Of major importance to our national ability to provide the people with sufficient energy in the years ahead is a proposal for the federal government to grant permits for construction, licensing and operation of Deepwater Ports beyond the three-mile limit. The House has passed a good bill and hopefully the Senate will also move forward on this key measure.

While there are many energy-related bills before Congress, few are more important than the proposed Energy Tax Package. This

With m
Amatt
② H

measure imposes a windfall tax on the selling price of domestic crude oil with a forgiveness feature for investment; eliminates the percentage depletion deduction for U.S. taxes on foreign production of oil and gas and limits foreign tax credits available to U.S. oil and gas companies operating in foreign lands.

I assume the Senate will pass the Military Construction Authorization bill upon its return from the summer recess.

The Export Administration Act is ready for conference action and should be reported soon.

#