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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ken Cole

What about

This?

Let me have some

info soon.

JRF

Original
Sept 15, 1974

Bob Michel

9/17/74

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN dg.

Proposal:

Recommend to President Ford a special initiative to strengthen educational programming and opportunity for handicapped children.

Rationale:

1. The President seems likely to want to launch some initiatives in the human services area and education for the seven million handicapped children is an uniquely attractive area in terms of wide public support; a special and timely urgency related to court ordered, or legislatively approved "Education for All" programs; identification of the issue by governors and state legislators as one of the top two current educational priorities (school finance is the other); the possibility of highly visible and effective federal assistance at relatively low budget levels; and finally, the likelihood of alternative Congressional action, both legislative and appropriation, perhaps before the new Congress.

2. Immediate action by the President, for example, in the supplemental appropriation for education which is anticipated, would provide a positive position for many Members in for this fall's campaign. There are 36 court suits completed or pending in 25 states, and 19 states face statutory deadlines for implementing full services to all handicapped children, either at present or by 1977. In Michigan, for example, the court set-aside the plaintiff's plea, pointing out that a new state law promised to provide the full services being sought. The court indicated, however, that it assumed good-faith

compliance with the new "mandatory" statute. Further, key sponsors of the provision of H.R. 69 which would be the basis for the new funding are in states where concern about this issue is very high, e.g., Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. Many Southern and Western states are increasingly feeling pressure, as the level of services there has generally been low.

3. Although there has been Congressional support for education for the handicapped, there has been no real Presidential leadership in the area. The FY 1974 budget requested just under 150 million for the basic Education for the Handicapped programs, with another 140 million coming from provisions of other legislation such as Title I of ESEA and Vocational Education Act. Grants to the states under the Education of the Handicapped Act are at the \$47.5 million level (\$200 previously authorized) and under the new bill this authorization would increase to \$630 million. A new Presidential initiative would stress the long term federal role as being what the Budget will call "capacity building" -- that is assistance designed to help strengthen states through such activities as support for training and retraining teachers, model and demonstration programs, providing special materials for the blind and deaf, research, and finally, at this point in our development, assistance to help the states establish the capacity to reach each handicapped child. This larger support for grants to the states would be seen as short term (4-5 years), designed to assure that no child continues to be turned away from an appropriate education.

Recommendation:

1. That the President announce a special initiative including at least \$250 million for grants to the states in the 75 supplemental and \$500 million for FY 76. If further predictions are desirable a top target of \$900 million at the end of four to five years would provide assistance of \$225 for each of 4 million children now judged to be deprived of effective programming.

2. Additional support of from 50 to 100 million be available in the 76-79 budget to support increases in "capacity building" activities which would be the continuing federal role as the states reach their full-service goals.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: KENNETH R. COLE, JR.
FROM: JERRY H. JONES

The attached was returned from the President's outbox with the following notation:

-- Ken Cole. What about this? Let me have some information soon.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

cc: Al Haig