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FG 32

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *NY*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 5, 1974

JR 7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JOHN O. MARSH, JR.

FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M. G.*

SUBJECT: Meeting with Minority Leader John Rhodes

You are scheduled on Friday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. for a one hour meeting with Minority Leader Rhodes.

It is suggested that the first 20 minutes be a meeting between you and Representative Rhodes alone to discuss subjects of mutual concern and to solicit his views privately on matters you consider important.

It is suggested that the remaining 40 minutes include Counsellor Rumsfeld, Counsellor Marsh and myself, dealing with specific policy items regarding legislation.

We face an extremely critical week in the House and I suggest the following items be covered:

1. Rockefeller Nomination - The vote in the Judiciary on the Rockefeller nomination is now set for Wednesday and although our whip check in the committee looks good, we believe a full whip check of the minority might be useful. You could ask Rhodes his views on this.
2. Foreign Aid Authorization - This will be on the House floor next Tuesday. The Republican whip check was very disappointing, with much of the opposition concentrated among our Republican "lame ducks". The President could urge Mr. Rhodes to call a Republican conference on Monday or Tuesday with Secretary Kissinger to attend, if possible, to whip up support for the bill.
3. Strip Mining - This conference report will be called up under suspension on Monday and we have not yet announced our position. The President may wish to solicit the Minority Leaders views.

4. Surface Railroad Transportation - This legislation providing \$2 billion in loan guarantees to guard against future Penn Centrals, will be on the House floor Wednesday. The key vote will come on the rule and we should be against the rule which permits the Matsanaga amendment. This puts us in bed with the AFL-CIO on rules fight, but if Matsanaga is permitted to offer his amendment, it may sink the entire bill. The President could solicit the Minority Leader's support on the rules fight. This bill also contains some deregulation changes we want badly.

5. Sugar Act - The Sugar Act expires December 31 and Chairman Poage has cleared it with the Speaker to bring out a new bill before adjournment. We have been asked to support either a one year extension of the present law or the Committee bill of last year modified to an acceptable Administration position. It is believed that there is a majority in the House this session to pass the bill and the President may want to ask Mr. Rhodes his views.

6. At the conclusion of the meeting, the President may want to spend five or ten minutes discussing with Minority Leader Rhodes his views on personnel matters involving the Congressional Relations staff at the White House. Marsh and Friedersdorf have had preliminary discussions with Mr. Rhodes on this matter.