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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *af*

THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL *Ward*  
SUBJECT : Ford Administration Programs for 1976

In your State of the Union Message you point out that

"America needs a new direction which I have sought to chart here today -- a change of course which will:

- " -- put the employed back to work
- " -- increase real income and production;
- " -- restrain the growth of government spending;
- " -- achieve energy independence; and
- " -- advance the cause of world understanding.

"We have the ability. We have the know-how. In partnership with the American people, we will achieve these objectives.

"As our 200th anniversary approaches, we owe it to ourselves, and to posterity, to rebuild our political and economic strength. Let us make America, once again, and for centuries more to come, what it has so long been -- a stronghold and beacon-light of liberty for the world."

In carrying out the functions of the Domestic Council as stated in your memorandum of February 13, 1975, I suggest that a major priority objective of the Council be to develop options that will - when added up - assist you as you continue to formulate the comprehensive, cohesive Ford Administration program for 1976.

In order to best assist you, the first task of the Domestic Council should be to set forth:

An assessment of:

- A. national domestic needs and major policy problems and the alternative ways of meeting them.
- B. where we as a nation want to be 10 years from now and the specific steps that must be taken each year for the next 5 years in order to get there.

This approach will help in your developing and carrying out an overall program that will:

1. Deal with the critical needs of the present
2. Give clear direction and a sense of purpose and hope for the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS. As a first step in accomplishing this task, I recommend:

1. That you authorize me to issue a study directive to the Domestic Council requesting each member's
  - (A) assessment of major national needs and major policy problems in his area of jurisdiction, stated in order of priority.
  - (B) Identification of the alternative ways of handling these needs and problems.
  - (C) Identification of other Departments and Agencies which share a responsibility for dealing with specific areas.
2. That the Council Staff coordinate these assessments and submit them for your review. This would provide the basis for calling a meeting of the Council at which members could elaborate or answer any questions you might care to ask.

3. That this effort form the basis for your consideration and possible approval of the establishment of review groups to deal in depth with each issue and to provide coordinated alternative solutions.

In the meantime, the Executive Director and Deputy Director of the Council and I will visit each member of the Domestic Council. The purpose of these visits will be to gain a good mutual understanding of the purpose of this enterprise and to establish close working relationships with the members of the Council.

Presidential decision:

Proceed

Yes

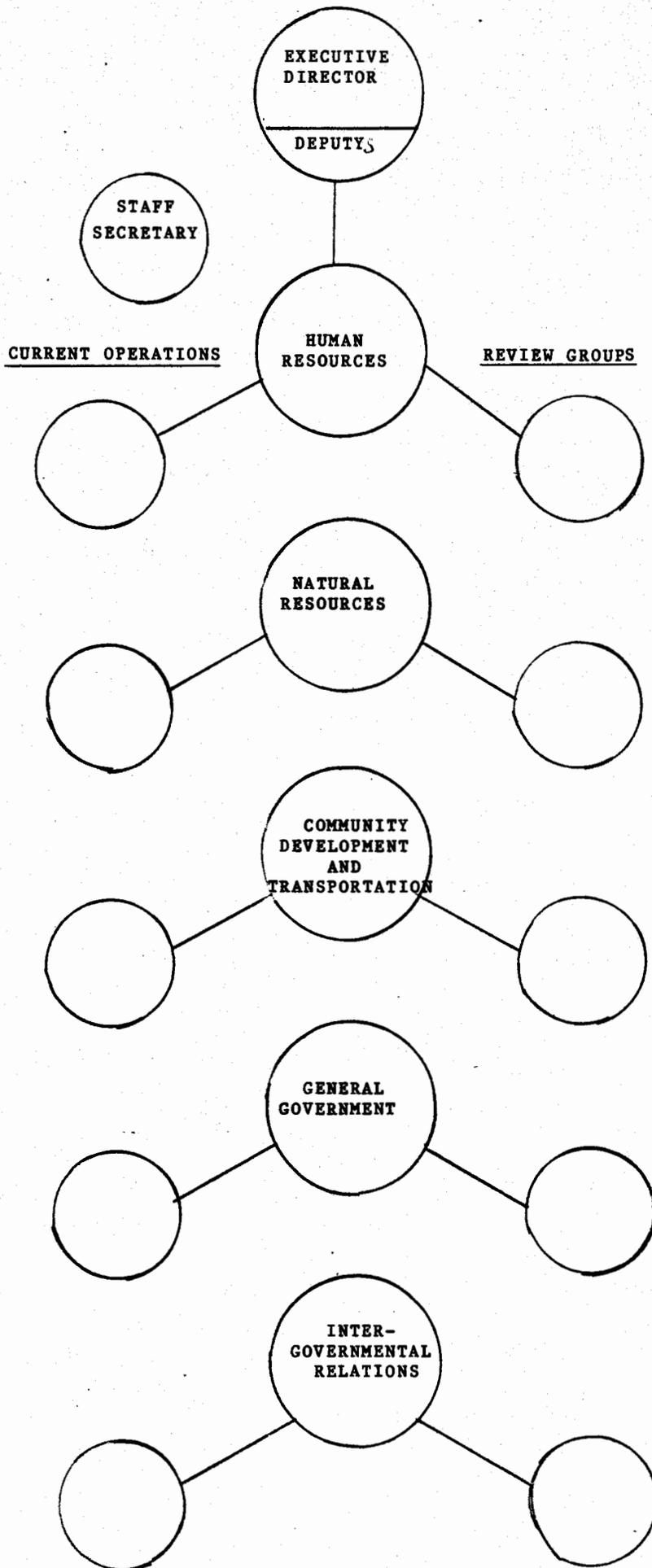
No

Other Action

ARJ

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 25, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Ford Administration Programs for 1976

Your memorandum to the President of February 20 on the above subject has been reviewed and the recommendations contained in the memorandum were approved.

  
Jerry H. Jones  
Staff Secretary

cc: Jim Cannon

bcc: Jim Cavanaugh