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WASHINGTON

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 17, 1975

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

If the early days of the 94th Congress are indicative of things to come, then there will be ample opportunity for you to use the veto and for your supporters in the Senate to defend the Administration using the filibuster. In this regard, I would like to offer a few suggestions which I feel would work to our mutual benefit.

First, Republicans in the Senate can't be expected to support an endless string of vetoes unless they are in on the strategy decisions which prompt those vetoes. We are best able to help you, Mr. President, if we know in advance what the position of the White House is on the issue and the extent of its commitment to that position. We feel that we have much to offer from the perspective of the Senate and would like very much to help you devise these strategies as they come up.

Second, for a filibuster to be successful, we usually need to have the Administration publicly committed to our side. Such unity encourages the majority leadership to withdraw the pending bill from the calendar and could keep the Administration from having to veto one more measure. In this connection, I must also recall those instances where an Administration has changed its mind on an issue after a great effort has been exerted on the Hill in behalf of the original position. Such actions should only be taken after consultation with those of us in the Congress who are considered friends of the Ford

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
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Administration.

The Senate Steering Committee can be counted on to support you more often than not -- indeed, far more often. But cooperation is a two-way street and we sincerely hope that we will, as the expression goes, be in on the take-offs as well as the landings.

Sincerely,



James A. McClure
United States Senator

McC:kl

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

James A. McClure
U.S.S.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 21, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

JERRY H. JONES

The attached letter was returned in the President's outbox and is forwarded for your information and appropriate handling.

cc: Don Rumsfeld