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LF 1

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *AF*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JACK MARSH *Jack*

JMR

Background:

You are aware of the difficult situation which has arisen in the Senate over Rule 22. I should emphasize that there are some deep and bitter divisions in the Conservative ranks with old feuds coming to the surface involving the Vice President.

The principle charges are that he has tilted to the proponents of changing Rule 22 in two ways:

- (1) Parliamentary rulings.
- (2) Recognition on the Floor. (This has caused much personal anger.)

On behalf of the Vice President, he and key advisors point out that he has followed Senate rules and has tried to be even-handed in recognition practices.

In your meeting today with Senator Tower, it might be helpful to keep in mind:

- (1) As Chairman of the Policy Committee, he holds a major leadership post.
- (2) He has retained his objectivity insofar as the Vice President is concerned on Rule 22.
- (3) He has sought to be a peace-maker rather than a partisan.
- (4) He has defended the Vice President to other Members of the Senate by stating the situation that has occurred "is not all Rocky's fault."

- (5) Although not a member of the Wednesday Group, he has some close associations there and enjoys their respect. On the other hand, while he is philosophically attuned on major issues to the Steering Group, he is not a member of their Group either.
- (6) There is a desire to cool off the situation and seek a compromise acceptable to Liberals and Conservatives. This move is sponsored by Mansfield and Tower.
- (7) Because of his parliamentary skill, his broad background as well as respect both among Democrats and Republicans, Liberals and Conservatives, Senator Tower is probably our best chance of achieving a resolution on this matter.

In discussions with him, I would suggest emphasis on:

- (1) Your role in this matter and the limitations placed upon you as a member of the Executive Branch.
- (2) The efforts you have made to communicate your views on the subject to the extent you appropriately could.
- (3) The need to divorce Rule 22 from the other major legislative considerations before the Senate, i.e., energy bill; tax bill, etc.
- (4) To the extent you can your willingness to throw your support behind a bi-partisan, Tower-sponsored compromise.
- (5) Urge a resolution of the matter in such a way that we do as little damage as possible to:
 - (a) solid supporters in the Senate from both parties you need on your programs;
 - (b) the future effectiveness of the Vice President.

In summary you can expect him to ask you to convey your thoughts on this Rule 22 matter to the Vice President.