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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 1, 1975

GR7.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *m. 6*
SUBJECT: Oil Deferral Bill Veto

Soundings thus far with House and Senate Members regarding the possibility of a 60 day deferral of the second dollar on the oil import tariff indicate strong chance for sustaining veto in the Senate and increasing possibility for doing so in the House.

In the Senate we have commitments now from Senators Beall, Roth, Sparkman for sustaining the veto and the possibility of picking up Senators Stafford, Mathias, McClellan, Talmadge and Nunn.

Senator Javits is still waffling and says he wants to think about it.

Senators Eastland and Stennis have not budged and indicate they would first have to free themselves from a commitment to oil lobbists to vote to override.

Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska is upset because of a DOD announcement about the closing of the Alaskan Air Command and says he will vote to override because of this.

Senator Thurmond is still incensed about the Rule 22 fight and indicates he will vote to override.

Conversation with Senator Mansfield this morning indicates that he thinks the Senate should not vote on the veto if you defer the tariff for 60 days and he is exploring this with the Senate Parliamentarian.

However, Senator Mansfield cautions that he is speaking for himself personally and not for the entire Senate.

Senator Griffin and our staff are continuing contacts through the weekend and should have a better reading by the 8:00 A.M. Leadership Meeting on Monday morning.

In the House Congressmen Peyser, McEwen, Cohen and Lent all indicate they would probably vote to sustain if you defer.

Congressmen Bill Walsh, Matt Rinaldo, and Peggy Heckler still indicate they would vote to override.

Herm Schneebeli believes we would pick up 10 or 11 votes in his delegation by the deferral but he would prefer 30 days instead of 60 days. Gary Myers of Pennsylvania indicates he would switch his vote to sustain and Bill Goodling of Pennsylvania said he could possibly support your veto. ✓

Joe Waggoner said that it is his preliminary instinct that if you defer the veto could be upheld in the House.

Joe is in Louisiana and is going to make a series of calls today and Sunday and give me a report Sunday night after he touches base with a cross-section of the Southerners.

Joe suggested you might want to call Al Ullman over the weekend because of his opposition to the Democratic plan and the fact that this deferral bill came out of his committee.

John Rhodes indicated optimism about sustaining the veto and said today that he and Michel will be making calls over the weekend.

The Speaker, however, still is saying that he could not delay the bill being called up for a veto vote despite your action for a 60 day deferral. We believe this is a reaction to fear of a caucus.

Secretary Butz also reported that he has talked to Otto Passman and he would switch to sustain your veto.

Congressman Dave Satterfield, Chairman of the Democratic Research Organization indicated support for the 60 day delay. He commented that with the first dollar already in place your program is still under way and the 60 day delay will not be damaging because it will still require the Democratic leadership to focus on the issue by the end of the 60 days. Satterfield indicated that the Democratic proposal cannot stand scrutiny and believes that your veto can be sustained in the House if you defer for 60 days.

Addendum to the Senate Report

We have now talked to Senator Robert Byrd and he favors a delay of the veto override attempt by unanimous consent if you defer for 60 days.

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