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TREATED AS HANDWRITING BLUE CARD MADE

E PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: VERN LOEN ✓
CHARLES LEPPERT
DOUG BENNETT

SUBJECT: Home District sentiment

AL QUIE - (R-Minn) - - -

Vietnam - Down the drain, along with Cambodia, Limit aid to humanitarian. No guilt feelings, blame it on Vietnamese army performance. Tremendous interest in rescuing Vietnamese children.

Tax Bill - Not one person in favor of tax cut; don't understand economics of it.

Farmers - Want farm bill; organizing to cut production 10% voluntarily in effort to drive up prices.

CARROLL HUBBARD - (D-Ky) - - - (President of Freshmen Democrats)

Vietnam - No further involvement except humanitarian assistance; dismay at South Vietnam army performance.

Tax Cut - Hope it is proper answer, fear it will just add to deficit.

Farmers - Tobacco farmers upset by Secretary Butz's plans to lift quotas.

Equal Rights Amendment - Getting much mail against it, urges Mrs. Ford to make no more comments in support.

Comments of Select Members with Respect to RVN,
Cambodia and General Issues of Concern

DERWINSKI - On IPU trip - will return on Wednesday

WAGGONER - On NATO trip - will return on Tuesday

LEE HAMILTON - On IPU trip - will return on Wednesday

MURTHA - Unable to reach this afternoon

L. H. FOUNTAIN - On NATO trip in Germany - however, offered the following comments:

- (1) With respect to Southeast Asia, his staff reported to him that the general attitude of the public is that they couldn't care less. Resented the capture of South Vietnamese weapons and ammunition by North Vietnamese, while they're sorry for the tragedy. The sentiment is against any form of military aid but probable support for humanitarian aid.
- (2) With respect to Southeast Asia, he suggested that the President not place the blame on the Congress.
- (3) The domestic issue of greatest concern is the state of the economy.

J. WILLIAM STANTON (R-Ohio)

Vietnam - People expressed great deal of compassion for Vietnam orphans but no desire for the U.S. to provide military aid. People were shocked, surprised and bitterly disappointed at Thieu's remarks that the U.S. let the Vietnam people down by not providing more military assistance.

Economy - The number one issue on the minds of the people. They seemed to display hopeful optimism that the economy will get better. A lot of people expressed the opinion that the President could have vetoed the tax cut bill which was amazing in a sense. The people seem to be understanding that the battle is going to come down on government spending and the people are beginning to feel that there is a need to hold down government spending.

BOB MICHEL (R-Ill)

Vietnam - Cambodia - Reaction of the people is a mixed reaction. Those who have always opposed U.S. involvement in Vietnam now argue that not one more dime be spent by the U.S. for military aid or assistance in Indochina. Those people who were on the fence over U.S. involvement are now more confused than ever. These people feel there is no hope for Cambodia and feel that what the American people need is to be convinced that the South Vietnamese will fight and want to fight before more military aid is given. The hawks, the hard-liners and military people who have been involved argue that U.S. should go in or provide the assistance required. Michel responded to the question of whether the loss of American lives in Vietnam and Cambodia was in vain by stating that the American lives lost in Indochina were not lost in vain because at that point in time it was the United States policy to fight a war in Indochina and those Americans were carrying out the policy of their country in a patriotic manner.

Tell the President that the Democrats as they get ready to go into the '76 convention cannot malign Ford for Vietnam and Cambodia. The Democrats are not in a position to criticize Ford for what has happened in Vietnam and Cambodia. If the President is going to propose a change in our foreign policy, the timing for such a speech could not be better. If that change in policy involves Vietnam, then this decision must be President Ford's and if its to be a clean break with Vietnam then its Ford's clean break. But the President should point out in his speech that in today's open society, when dealing in foreign affairs we cannot say that up to this point we will not fight, but beyond this point we will fight. The President should make the point

to the American people that notwithstanding today's open society and all the public talk about foreign affairs, when dealing on the international scene, there are many things that by the nature of international relations must remain uncertain and can not be tied down to a degree of certainty. This President does not have to feel any sense of guilt over Vietnam and Cambodia during his stewardship because he is in an altogether new ballgame since Nixon and Watergate.

Economy - - Otherwise the main issues on the minds of the people are the economy, taxes, and other domestic issues.

But the people discussing the economy want to know if those people down in Washington, D. C., know where they are going. On the tax cut bill Michel was out front on his position against the tax cut but received compliments for taking the position he did. In the rural areas the people want to know what the President is going to do on the farm bill. Farmers are asking whether they should cut back on production. Is there going to be a good farm market? Michel responded that if the farmers voluntarily cut back on production that would be their choice rather than the federal government making that choice. Michel encouraged full production because of the investment in machinery and equipment and the effect on allied industries. Michel encourages the President to keep export farm markets open.

Unemployment - - No serious unemployment problem in his District.

JACK WYDLER - Returns to Washington, D. C. on Tuesday, 4-8-75.

JOHN ANDERSON - Returns to Washington, D. C. on Tuesday, 4-8-75.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1975

Memorandum To Max Friedersdorf

From Bill Kendall

Subject: A Poll of Senators

Senator Tower: The major concern in his state is the economy. Also he has talked a great deal to party people and feels we are still in trouble with "the Right". Suggests we get a talking paper together on some points where President has agreed with conservatives. On S. E. Asia there seems to be only the extremes - no middle ground. In his opinion Congress is moving down in the public's mind and the President is moving up - but not fast enough to suit the Senator.

Senator McGee: All the talk in his State is about the nomination of Gov. Hathaway - and it is good. The cattlemen are concerned about their problems. They like Butz but do not like raising meat imports. His people are still concerned about the economy - apprehensive was the word he used. On energy, as producers they want people to use energy, not conserve it! His people have had it "up to their ears" on S. E. Asia. He caught Hell on his vote on Aid to Turkey - says he can't get a meal in a Greek restaurant.

Senator Nunn: His people are not that crazy about the Tax Bill. They think it's too little and too inflationary. Economy still number one issue and unemployment is a worry. They fear government will drive up interest rates again. Their feelings on S. E. Asia: isolation, anger, frustration. Thinks his people would be opposed to aid for S. E. Asia, the U. N. , Israel, etc.