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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *def*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DON RUMSFELD
JACK MARSH *an*

FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M.C.*

SUBJECT: M.C. Bill Chappell (D-FLA)

The attached memorandum from Charles Leppert contains interesting commentary on Vietnam from the House Appropriations Committee

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
THROUGH: VERN LOEN *VJ*
FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT *Cly.*
SUBJECT: Aid to South East Asia

On Tuesday, April 8, at 7:55 Spence Matthews, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Bill Chappell of Florida, called concerning a meeting of the Appropriations Committee in which aid to South East Asia was discussed. Matthews says that Rep. Chappell in committee stated that Congress must "paint or get off the ladder" with regard to aid to South East Asia. Chappell told the Chairman that he and others explained upon their return from Viet Nam that the real problem there is morale and that this "goddam country better do something about it." McFall then is alleged to have said, "Mr. Chairman, that's the same speech I made to you a few weeks ago." At this point Matthews indicated that Bob Sikes indicated support for the Chappell/McFall position. Matthews contends that Chappell, McFall and Sikes agree that there are sufficient votes to report some amount of aid out of the subcommittee.

Matthews says that Chappell does not want the President to be mealy mouthed about anything on Viet Nam in his speech to the Joint Session on Thursday night. Matthews says that Chappell believes that the President must have a good strong position on Viet Nam in that speech and come out strong for aid to South East Asia.

Matthews says that Chappell needs a two minute telephone conversation with the President sometime today to give him a first hand account of the discussion on this during the Appropriations meeting.