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ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

Domestic Council Study of Federal Drug Abuse Program

I recommend that the Domestic Council undertake a study of the overall Federal effort in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse.

REASONS FOR STUDY

The Federal drug program is likely to cause political problems and embarrassment for the Administration in the near future. All indications point to a resurging heroin problem in spite of the high priority effort and massive funding increases by the Federal government during the past six years.

Complicating the picture is the fact that the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP) in the Executive Office of the President will terminate on June 30, 1975. Thus far, no coordination mechanism to replace SAODAP has been proposed, and Congress and the press are questioning the Administration's commitment to fighting the mounting drug problem.

In order to blunt mounting criticism of the Federal drug abuse prevention effort and to revitalize that effort, a strong signal of continuing White House interest is required soon. Moreover, a fresh look should be taken at Federal drug policies and programs to determine their cost and social effectiveness.

A priority review of the entire drug abuse program by the Domestic Council would be a good way to demonstrate high level interest and support; respond to legitimate Congressional and public concern; and assure the perpetuation and creation of appropriate and effective drug abuse prevention policies and strategies. It could also be an important component of a comprehensive program to combat crime.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study would be to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the effectiveness of the current Federal drug abuse prevention strategy; the impact of increased Federal funding on the national drug problem and the appropriatedness of current funding priorities; the effectiveness of existing organizational structures, including SAODAP, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the National Institute for Drug Abuse and the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control; and the continuing need for, and structure of, an Executive Office drug management/coordination mechanism.

ORGANIZATION

The review would be conducted through a Drug Review Task Force, chaired by the Executive Director of the Domestic Council, and consisting of high level representatives of the following Departments and Agencies:

> Treasury State Defense HEW Justice

Veterans Administration OMB

SAODAP CIA

The Task Force would also be authorized to consult with knowledgeable persons from outside of government, as appropriate.

TIMETABLE

The study would begin immediately and would initially focus on developing recommendations for providing post-SAODAP coordination of treatment activities -- a focus forced by the scheduled expiration of SAODAP and related Congressional interest. This phase should be completed within six weeks. At the same time, work would proceed on the broader issues identified above. This should be completed by September 1, 1975.

POSITION OF OTHERS

This idea has been discussed with Dr. Robert DuPont, Ambassador Sheldon Vance and John Bartels and they agree as to the need for this priority review.

The Vice President, Phil Buchen, OMB (Paul O'Neill) and NSC (Hal Horan) concur in this recommendation.

PRESIDENTIAL DECISION

Agree ___Disagree

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 24, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

JERRY H.

SUBJECT:

Domestic Council Study of Federal Drug Abuse Program

Your memorandum to the President of April 21 on the above subject has been reviewed and your recommendation -- that the Domestic Council undertake a study of the overall Federal effort in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse -- was approved.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld