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CABINET MEETING

Wednesday, June 25, 1975

2:00 P. M.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

Outfalls 22,000

non in tents

Completion
4 to 5
months

release 42,000

other
counters 4,300

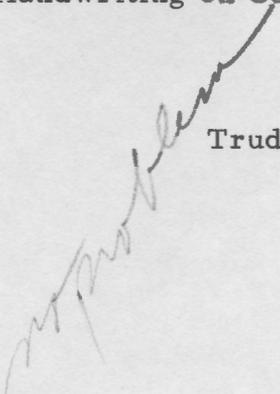
850

90,000

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim -

Any action on this Presidential
Handwriting on Cabinet Meeting?


Trudy

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 24, 1975

CABINET MEETING

Wednesday, June 25, 1975

2:00 p.m. (90 minutes)

The Cabinet Room

From: James E. Connor

I. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

1. Background:

You last met with the Cabinet on June 4th when the Cabinet received a report on your European trip from you and Secretary Kissinger.

2. Participants: Attached at Tab A

3. Press Plan: Press Photo at Beginning of Meeting, and David Kennerly Photo.

II. TALKING POINTS

1. This is the first Cabinet meeting for Stan Hathaway, and I would like to welcome him to the Cabinet. I know he will do the kind of job we all expect he can.
2. This is John Scali's last Cabinet meeting. I know I express the sentiments of all of you in thanking John for his service to the Nation. I would like to reserve a few minutes at the end of the meeting for John to make some remarks if he chooses to.
3. I want to introduce to you today Doug Bennett, who has replaced Bill Walker as Director of the Presidential Personnel Office. As you may know, since January Doug has served as liaison with the House of Representatives as my Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs.

Doug will be meeting with each of you in the near future, but I wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate to you the importance I place on personnel matters, the wide range of Doug's responsibilities, and the trust and confidence I have in Doug.

4. Over the weekend I was quite concerned to see news reports about the reported actions by Federal agencies which in my opinion are contrary to what we are really trying to do.

If these reports are true, it's not hard to understand why large numbers of people are disenchanted with what's going on in the government and the bureaucracy.

In one example it was reported that a hospital was required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to use plastic liners in wastebaskets to protect hospital workers, while at the same time HEW prohibited the use of wastebasket liners because of fire hazards.

I don't want to go into the merits of who's right and who's wrong on this. I am appalled, however, that two Federal agencies could have conflicting regulations on this. What I am absolutely aghast at is the way the problem was solved--to take the liners out of the baskets when the HEW inspectors were there and to put them back in when the OSHA inspectors were there--apparently with the tacit consent of the two agencies involved. Frankly, this is outrageous.

The other article concerned a report that HEW and the Labor Department were going to stop a research contract to George Washington University's Medical Center from the National Heart and Lung Institute for research on the relationship between cholesterol and heart attacks because of a rejection of the University's plan for hiring and promoting women. Because of the lateness of the fiscal year, the University will not have the normal 30 days to correct deficiencies, and as a result, will not receive the contract.

I asked Jim Cannon to review these reports with Cap Weinberger and John Dunlop. Jim, could you tell us what you found.

Note: Jim Cannon will call on Cap Weinberger and John Dunlop to respond also.

Look, I know that you all have problems in running agencies with the thousands of people that each of you have on your staffs. I really haven't singled out Cap or John for any special attention. Frankly, I've seen similar examples from every agency represented in this room. The point I want to make is this--I want the people of this country to know that the business of government is to assist, not interfere with their lives, their businesses, their occupations, their professions or their family life.

One thing I am going to insist on in the months ahead is that each of you do your utmost to insure that your departments are responsive to people's complaints and that all of your actions and the actions of your top staff are guided by the objective of, on the one hand, restoring people's confidence that the government can act effectively and, on the other hand, to get government off the backs of the people.

5. Last week we announced our Message on Crime. It is not an easy subject, and Ed Levi did a first-rate job in briefing the press on it. I would like Ed to brief the Cabinet Members on this subject because this is going to be one of the most important parts of our program in the next year. Ed,....
6. All of you are aware of the legislative clearance process managed by OMB. Jim Lynn has indicated to me that there have been some problems in our ability to respond effectively on legislative clearance matters. I have asked Jim to describe the problems he has been facing. Jim,....

The clearance process can work effectively only if you and other senior officials of your departments are determined to make it work well. That means several things:

- You should make sure that your key officials are familiar with the process and its importance.
- You should be sure that the central office in your department or agency that manages your participation in the process is adequately staffed and competently led.
- A spirit of reasonable accommodation to the views and interests of other agencies is essential.

- Timeliness is critical. You should emphasize to the people in your agencies the need to get to OMB your draft bills and proposed reports and testimony well in advance of the time they have to be submitted to the Congress. Sufficient time must be allowed to coordinate with other agencies, to identify and resolve problems, and to obtain my decisions when necessary. By the same token, each of your agencies should be as prompt as possible in responding to OMB's requests for views on bills and reports of other agencies.
 - When the clearance process works well through the cooperation of the agencies, executive branch officials can express views that they can be confident represent Administration policies and positions. This is clearly important to all of us.
 - Finally, the performance of the Departments and agencies on enrolled bills needs improvement. I have 10 days excluding Sundays, to act on enrolled bills. For me to have adequate time to consider bills and act wisely, it is essential that you respond within 48 hours when asked by OMB for views and recommendations. It is also essential that the agency or agencies principally concerned with the bill or a part of it provide a complete and careful analysis for OMB's and my use.
7. Today we are announcing that the refugee resettlement program is being transferred to HEW. I have asked Cap Weinberger to discuss the status of the refugee resettlement program with us. Cap,...

The transfer of responsibility for the refugee task force activity is consistent with the simple fact that the resettlement effort is now largely a domestic, rather than a foreign affairs effort. The successful accomplishment of this effort continues to be one of my highest priorities. This means that the people who have been working on this project from the various departments and agencies-- State, Defense, etc., --need to stay in place until the task force director is satisfied that the work has been done.

OMB has been working with the task force for the past ten days on a full management plan for the resettlement effort, including identification of added personnel that may be required. Should it be necessary to ask your departments and agencies to provide more people, I will expect you to respond promptly and fully.

8. The railroad situation has been much in evidence in the press in the last several weeks. I have asked Bill Coleman to bring us up to date on the issues in that area. Bill,...

9. In the last few minutes of our meeting, I would like to ask John Scali if there are any remarks he would like to make to us. John,...

Attendees for Cabinet Meeting
Wednesday, June 25, 1975
2:00 p.m.

The President

The Vice President

The Secretary of State, Henry A. Kissinger

The Secretary of the Treasury, William E. Simon

The Secretary of Defense, James R. Schlesinger

The Attorney General, Edward H. Levi

The Secretary of the Interior, Stanley K. Hathaway

The Secretary of Labor, John T. Dunlop

The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Caspar W. Weinberger

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Carla A. Hills

The Secretary of Transportation, William T. Coleman

The Under Secretary of Agriculture, J. Phil Campbell (for Secretary Butz,
who is out of the country)

The Under Secretary of Commerce, John K. Tabor (for Secretary Morton,
who is out of town)

The Counsel to the President, Philip W. Buchen

The Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, Frederick B. Dent

The Counsellor to the President, Robert T. Hartmann

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, James T. Lynn

The Counsellor to the President, Jack O. Marsh, Jr.

The Assistant to the President, Donald H. Rumsfeld

The U. S. Representative to the United Nations, John A. Scali

White House/Executive Office:

William Baroody, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison

James Cannon, Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs

Richard Cheney, Deputy Assistant to the President

James Connor, Secretary to the Cabinet

Max Friedersdorf, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers

Ronald Nessen, Press Secretary to the President

General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President

L. William Seidman, Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs

Douglas Bennett, Director, Presidential Personnel Office

Agencies:

Frank Zarb, Administrator, Federal Energy Agency

Other:

Mary Louise Smith, Chairman, Republican National Committee

(Note: Russell Train, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency,
is out of the country)