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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M.F.*

SUBJECT: Congressional Mail, June 2, 1975

You questioned the validity of an inquiry made by Congressman John Dent regarding a contract to design a coal gasification test facility. I am attaching a letter to Congressman Dent from ERDA explaining their rationale for signing this contract.

It would appear from the fourth paragraph of ERDA's letter that they do not believe that the Koppers plant is of sufficient size for ERDA's purposes.

M.F.



UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

Honorable John H. Dent
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Dent:

The present Fossil Energy program in coal gasification, involves the research and development of advanced processes for conversion of coal to low-Btu gas, and to high-Btu gas. In response to your request for information concerning the award of the contract to Combustion Engineering, the following comments are offered.

The coal gasification test facility to be designed by Combustion Engineering, falls into the low-Btu gasification program. Low-Btu gas has a heating value generally between 150 and 350 Btu per cubic foot of gas and may be used in a combined cycle for electric power generation. High-Btu gas has a heating value of about 1,000 Btu per cubic foot and may serve as a substitute for natural gas. The HYGAS Plant mentioned in your letter is a High-Btu Gasification Project. The essential criteria for all these second generation coal gasification processes are that they be technically feasible, economically sound, environmentally acceptable, and make a wise utilization of natural resources.

After laboratory work, process development unit experience, and engineering design indicate a readiness to do so, a pilot plant can be built. If pilot plant operation indicates technical feasibility and economic viability, a demonstration plant may be built and operated. Only after a process has proved itself at this level is it considered as a commercial possibility. The capital investment and risk is too great to do otherwise.

The Koppers-Totzek process for gasifying various types of coal is being used to produce low-Btu synthesis gas in several commercial synthetic ammonia and chemical plants. These and other coal gasifiers built in recent years are small units that have been designed for chemical plant feed and not for power generation. For power generation, it is necessary to develop a coal gasification system that

- can be built on large scale to match current and future power plant size and provide economy of scale,



- is designed to meet the operating flexibility of electric utility load requirements and provide the reliability to perform on-the-line as required,
- can use the total spectrum of American coals.

The small gasifier available today is not capable of scale-up, has not been designed and operated with gas clean-up systems to meet the EPA requirements for stack gas effluents and is not economical for large plants in multiple unit arrangements. Advanced gasifier design concepts under development address these problems and are aimed at the achievement of the power generation objectives by the early 1980's.

The Combustion Engineering coal gasification system is based on a process best suited to meet these electric utility performance and economic requirements. It is also one of the most probable to achieve development and scale-up to commercial size in the shortest time.

Combustion Engineering, Inc. has entered into a four-year cost-shared contract with the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to design, build, and operate a 5 ton-per-hour coal gasification process development unit. Two-thirds of the estimated \$20.6 million cost will be funded by ERDA, and one-third will be provided by Combustion Engineering.

This project is expected to demonstrate the capability and suitability of the process and equipment to produce, from coal, a low-Btu gas of the predicted composition, heat content, and cleanliness. As part of the three-phase program, the contractor will conduct powerplant cycle studies on various combinations of low-Btu gasification systems with electric power generation systems, and evaluate the combinations having the best potential.

Combustion Engineering will use the test and evaluation results to conduct engineering design studies for conceptual commercial scale plants and prepare investment and cost estimates for such plants.

I hope this has clarified the logic of supporting a project of this type. If you have further questions, Dr. Raymond Zahradnik, Acting Director, Division of Coal Conversion and Utilization, would be pleased to provide additional explanation and information.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) S. William Gouse

Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Fossil Energy

cc: Vernon C. Loen
Deputy Assistant to the President

✓ Charles Leppert, Jr.
Special Assistant for Legislative
Affairs - White House

JUN 20 1975

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *df.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *mf*

SUBJECT: Congressional Mail *mf*

For your information, I am attaching the log of Congressional mail received on June 2.

This mail is being handled routinely by my office.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

Senate

1. S Joseph Biden Conveys the interest of Mrs. Margaret K. Justice in being appointed to the White House Conference on Education, scheduled for 1977.
2. S Jacob Javits Recommends that George Klein be appointed to the Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations.
3. S Bob Griffin Hopes the President and the First Lady will accept invitation from the Flint Bicentennial Commission to attend a bicentennial event in Flint, Michigan, on June 27, 1975.
4. S Robert Byrd Writes to notify the President, before any individual is nominated as Administrator of FAA, that he will oppose the confirmation of any nominee who cannot meet the qualifications set forth in the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, and that he will oppose any special legislation to exempt a person from these stated qualifications. Believes that the U. S. aviation would best be served by a civilian appointment to this post.
5. S Dale Bumpers Encloses letters from members of the Northeast Arkansas N. A. A. C. P. Branch addressed to the President regarding conditions facing our nation re the Vietnamese refugees, etc.
6. S Warren Magnuson Recommends that Philip Hayasaka be appointed to the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.
7. S Clifford Hansen Recommends that Alice K. Helm be appointed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
8. S Howard Cannon Endorses Brian Hall for appointment to the Legal Services Board of Directors.

Senate - page 2

9.S Mike Mansfield

Says that the Committee on Foreign Relations reiterates its request for copies of all pertinent documents which concern any commitments to or understandings with South Vietnam relative to the 1973 Paris Cease-Fire Agreement.

House

1. Morris Udall
Refers to his and Patsy Mink's May 22 letter which requested that they be furnished by May 28 with copies of "any memoranda or other analysis dealing with the projected impacts of H. R. 25 cited as a justification for your disapproval of that bill in the veto message. We also requested that you make available for the Subcommittees' hearing scheduled for June 3, those individuals who developed these figures and projections." He is unhappy because he has not received the materials or the list of witnesses; list several people whom he understands were involved in the interpretation of the legislation or in the development of the projections. Says that it is imperative that his Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment be apprised of the availability of the requested witnesses.
2. Donald Fraser
Hopes the President will act as quickly as possible to rescind the 1971 Presidential Order, to issue a new order directing all federally provided medical services to conform to federal law, and to distribute through all appropriate official channels the new directive to prevent further confusion on abortion policy.
3. Mark Hannaford
Recommends that Richard C. Farrer be appointed as Assistant Secretary of HUD for Housing Production, Mortgage Credit and FHA.
4. John Dent
Understands that Combustion Engineers, Inc. has been awarded a contract to design a coal gasification test facility; says that Koppers has a plant which they have offered to the gov't, and there are other existing plants in Pennsylvania and other parts of the country; therefore, wonders why we must expend more than \$20 million for a "test" facility.
5. Larry Winn
Asks that consideration be given to enclosed letter from Thomas C. Hansen, Ex Dir of the Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Assoc., who raises questions about the Department of HEW's proposed Title IX regulations prohibiting sex discrimination by federally funded entities.

House - page 2

6. Wm Ketchum
Is pleased that the President recently released \$2 billion for highway improvements; hopes the Administration will release the remaining impounded funds so that improvement programs that the Congress has authorized may proceed. Also urges the Administration to speed up the Federal processing required for project environmental clearance and grant early approval to the Interstate "cost-to-complete" estimate for further apportionments.
7. Wm Dickinson
Recommends that Mrs. Elizabeth Parke Beamguard be appointed to the Advisory Committee on White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services.
8. Bill Archer
Asks that the President send a congratulatory message in commemoration of the St. Thomas High School 's 75th anniversary .
9. Robert Bauman
Invites the President to be the speaker at the annual "Bob Bauman Bull Roast" on August 23 , to be held at the Queen Anne's County Fairgrounds near Centreville, Maryland.
10. Patrick Leahy
Regrets that he cannot accept invitation to accompany the President to the West Point graduation exercises.
11. Carroll Hubbard
Asks that consideration be given to enclosed letter that he received from Mr. Jim Moore, Vice President of the Caldwell Lace Leather Company, stating that the leather and leather products industries have been devastated by the flood of shoes and other leather products that have been allowed, under subsidy of one form or another, to penetrate our markets.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 5, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
FROM: JERRY H. JONES
SUBJECT: Congressional Mail
June 2, 1975

Your memorandum to the President of June 3 on the above subject has been reviewed and the attached page is forwarded for your information.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld