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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The attached newspaper clipping was returned in the President's
outbox with the following notation:

"Please Note"

cc: Dick Cheney

Attachment -

Newspaper clipping from
The Grand Rapids Press - 2/13/76
entitled "Vander Veen Hails Youth
Emergence in Congress"

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jack Marsh

please note.

ought to enforce it. I view this as opening the door to a continuous nagging process, in which appealing employees may come to believe that if they stretch it out long enough, there will be a hole in the dike," Johnson said.

City Manager Joseph Grassie advised commissioners that a decision to grant

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

VanderVeen Hails Youth Emergence in Congress

By Maury DeJonge

Congressman Richard F. VanderVeen said Thursday night the seniority system "is on its last legs," and that "dynamic and very impressive young people" are beginning to make their presence known in Congress.

The Fifth District Democrat, speaking at a meeting of the Torch Club at the Hoffman House, said the number of older members announcing retirement "increases each year. The pace and the load—the responsibilities are too much for old age."

No longer are entire summers regarded as vacation. "Now the session never stops, because Congress is engaged not merely with routine domestic legislation, but with life and death problems of the nation and the world," VanderVeen said.

In his speech, the freshman congressman said he has been "favorably surprised and impressed" with the average caliber of persons in Congress.

"I was surprised because Congress as an institution has such bad press that one would think all members were incompetent."

VanderVeen said he could easily name several dozen members who could be the head of any enterprise they chose. "In fairness, I could also name several who are scoundrels, who do not know the

long it takes me to divorce my wife, he cracked in a bit of gallows humor. His family once lived in the house on Sherman St. but moved because it was too small.

"I need legal advice now. I'm fishing around," he added. "I have two problems: I'm not independently wealthy and F. Lee Bailey is busy."

meaning of 'conflict of interest,' who are far over age and should have retired years ago and who are merely mediocre, or less."

Asked after the speech to identify persons who fit in both categories, VanderVeen said he feels such fellow Democrats as Phil M. Landrum of Georgia, Joe D. Waggoner Jr. of Georgia and Robert L. F. Sikes of Florida "are in the hip pockets of special interest groups."

Democrats who earned high praise from VanderVeen are Reps. John F. Sieberling of Ohio, Lee Hamilton of Indiana, and Richardson Preyer of North Carolina.

VanderVeen said he is not aware of any Michigan representative who would fall into the "scoundrel" category.

He said the House is working hard at reform to reassert the role it permitted to "go by the boards during the past several presidencies."

If Congress hadn't proved itself equal to extreme challenges to its will and competence in 1974 and 1975, "our very system of government might not have survived."

If our governmental and economic systems are to survive, "the institution upon which the greatest weight falls; I believe, is Congress. Congress really is the people. It is, as Walt Whitman said, you and me."

Spring Furn

By Pete DeMaagd

Replacement fever continues in the furniture and home furnishings market.

Such is the consensus of manufacturers, home furnishings distributors, manufacturers' representatives and others exhibiting in the annual spring show of Associated Furniture Industries at George W. Welsh Civic Auditorium.

A record 52 firms filled both floors of the Civic as well as the Black & Silver Room with the newest in household offerings, and by noon of Thursday, more than 50 per cent of the floor samples had been sold "and a good amount of new orders written," according to Robert Duchene, spokesman for AFI.

"Spring housecleaning is just around the corner," he said. "Retailers are optimistic. They are buying because there are strong indications the consumer is going to be out in force, buying new furniture to replace old. The trend toward replacement got under way last fall and is continuing."

The two-day exhibit closed Thursday night and attracted at least as many Midwestern buyers as the fall show and many more than last spring's event. Weather was a big factor.

Said Duchene, "We lucked out having it this week. Think what the weather two weeks ago might have done to attendance." That's when snow and icy cold hit Grand Rapids.

One of the manufacturers, a major exhibitor in the show, now in its 11th year, sold his complete stock of floor samples the opening morning of the show, Duchene reported. "That's in addition to business he's written," he added.

Even though samples are sold, they

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