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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JACK MARSH 

As Floor action nears, pressures are increasing as to the Administration's position on the Export legislation particularly the Stevenson-Bingham Amendments. Some of these pressures are coming from American industry who are indicating the possibility that they can live with the Stevenson Amendment.

A group of your advisers met last evening including representatives of NSC, EPB, Counsel's Office and Legislative Affairs. It is our view that there are five possible approaches to this matter which are:

1. Active Administration support for a modified Ribicoff Amendment. (There is some question as to whether such an amendment can be drafted but it should be considered as a possibility.)
2. Non-opposition and quiet support of the Administration of a modified Ribicoff Amendment introduced by Congressional leaders.
3. Active Administration support for a modified Stevenson Amendment (there is drafted language for such an amendment).
4. Non-opposition and quiet support for a modified Stevenson amendment introduced by others.
5. No action by the Administration to actively or quietly support any amendment but maintain a position of opposition until the Conference.

As you are aware, the foreign policy implications of active support are significant and there are risks

involved for non-opposition and quiet support insofar as foreign policy questions are concerned.

It was the consensus of the group that at least through Wednesday, until we can see how the situation develops on the Hill and the action in the Rules Committee, that we should take no steps for either active or quiet support but maintain the current posture against all amendments. However, the view was expressed that we should not totally abandon the possibilities of approach, which is non-opposition to the modified Stevenson Amendment. The manner in which the Tax Bill was handled and the discussions involving the Ribicoff Amendment could influence ultimately any decision that you might wish to make.