

The original documents are located in Box 9, folder “Congress - Proposed "Thursday Morning at the White House" Meetings” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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March 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: JACK MARSH

I mentioned to you the discussion I had with the President about trying to develop a new form for Congressional White House relations. This would borrow from two programs that we now have which are referred to sometimes as "Tuesday Morning at the White House" and "Wednesday Morning at the White House."

I am suggesting a "Monday" or "Tuesday Morning at the White House" which would be a program for 10-20 Members of Congress. It would be somewhat similar to the political coffee clatch, and I suggest it be conducted in the Theater between the Mansion and the East Wing. Some of the points to be considered are:

1. Participants:

- a. Number invited.
- b. Would it be partisan or bi-partisan? On some occasions it might be either.
- c. Would it be by selection from Committees?
- d. Would it be by selection from Congressional classes?
- e. Would it be by regional selection?
- f. Would the selection process be on a random basis, or alphabetical?

2. What will be the program:

- a. Format.
- b. Subject.
- c. Duration (I suggest a one-hour activity).



3. White House and Administration participation:
 - a. Representatives of the Legislative Affairs Office.
 - b. Selected members of the senior staff on a rotational basis.
 - c. Cabinet officers on a rotational and subject basis.
 - d. Special invitees, i. e., Frank Zarb, Russell Train, etc.
This would be for purposes of special subjects.

4. What would be the President's role? My suggestion would be that he not devote more than 10 minutes time to any one group, preferably at the beginning of the program. It might be that he may not be able to participate on every occasion, in which event an effort would be made to have the Vice President be the host.

5. Arrangements. This includes:
 - a. Reservation of space.
 - b. Selection and invitation of members.
 - c. Program development.
 - d. Handouts, if any.
 - e. Mess support for coffee and buns.

6. Congressional wives. A variation of this program would be that once every four sessions instead of members being invited, their wives would be invited.

Question: How would you handle the House and Senate? Would they be brought in separately, or would they be mixed on a ratio of approximately four to one?

Requirement: Please give this your attention and perhaps you would like to have a meeting of your own people or a group of us to discuss the matter further. In all events, if you could bring forward a program for the final approval of the President in order that it can be implemented after Easter if he desires to go forward.



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MAR 21 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M.G.*
SUBJECT: Thursday Morning at the White House

In response to your memorandum concerning suggestions for a "Thursday Morning at the White House," I would make the following recommendations:

1. Participants

I think these events should include from ten to thirty members depending upon the subject for the day. I believe that we should not limit them exclusively to bipartisan or partisan but should make that decision when we are organizing our next meeting. Our basic selection criteria would be from the committee but I believe that this should be varied from meeting to meeting depending upon our guest speaker. We also could bring down the freshmen Republicans in the House as a group on some occasions and other times we might want to vary the program invitees by region or states.

2. Program Selection

Our program subject should be timely and current and suited to activities on the hill. As the format I would suggest a one hour activity between 8:30 and 9:30 A.M. in the White House theater. Our guests should include speakers from the White House staff and Cabinet, plus other agency directors and administrators. Our office should be represented by one or more staff members selected on a rotation basis depending upon the subject matter for the day.

3. Presidential Role

The President should attend as often as possible but depending upon his schedule, of course. We could notify Rustand of pending meetings and make sure that the President knew what members were in the theater and, if possible, do a brief drop by. We also could notify the Vice President of these meetings and urge him to attend as often as possible.



Our office would handle the reservation of space on a regular basis and do the inviting of the members and the speakers. We also could provide handouts, if necessary, and we would also order coffee and rolls on a regular basis.

4. Congressional Wives

We could try an event early in the schedule to include the wives to see how it goes, but my reaction is that this would not be a good regular practice.

5. I would prefer not to mix the House and Senate but it may be more difficult to get a representative group of Senators at the meeting on a regular basis, so on days when we plan for Senators I would recommend that if the acceptance list is small we fill in with appropriate members of the House.

I have asked our staff to come up with a list of recommended subjects and these include the following:

ECONOMY

Subject

Speaker

Tax cut
Unemployment
Interest rates

Greenspan
Seidman
Simon
Dunlop
Burns

BUDGET

Lynn

ENERGY & ENERGY RESEARCH

O.C.S.
Coal
Solar
Geothermal
Oil Shale
Nuclear
Deregulation

Seamans
Zarb
Morton

TRANSPORTATION

Air Safety
Autos - Fuel & Emission
Standards
Deregulation
Railroads
Trucks
Airlines
Mass Transit

FAA Administrator
Train
Coleman



AGRICULTURE

Butz

Farm Economy
Food Production
Agriculture Exports

KEY DOMESTIC ISSUES

Housing
Health Insurance
Labor Negotiations
Revenue Sharing

Hills
Weinberger
Dunlop
Simon

DEFENSE & FOREIGN POLICY

Middle East
Cyprus
Turkey Aid
Foreign Trade
Economic Interdependence
Strategic balance
M.B.F.R.
NATO
Law of the Sea
SALT II
O.P.E.C.
Consuming Nations
Nuclear Proliferation
Arms Sales
SEA
Portugal

Kissinger
Schlesinger
Sisco
NSC

If these suggestions are acceptable, we will put them in the form of a recommendation to the President for final approval and hope to start the program on Thursday, April 10.