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June 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GEORGE HUMPHREYS

FROM: RON NESSEN

The attached material on a weather warning system came up during a Q & A session the President had with Ohio radio reporters.

The President asked for more information on it, and wants to have it followed up.

Could you handle this, and keep me informed on the progress?

Thank you.

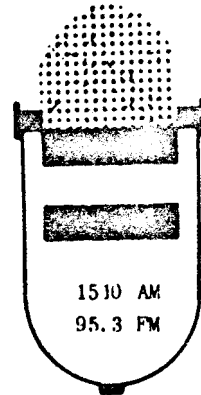
Attachment: Letter from James R. Westerhold of WLKR, Norwalk, Ohio and attachments to that letter

· RN/CG/cg



WLKR**RADIO STATION**

Phone: (419) 668-8151 P.O. Box 547 Norwalk, Ohio 44857

James R. Westerhold
STATION MANAGER

June 18, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nessen,

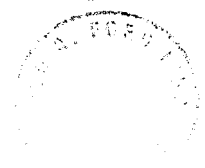
It has been a couple of weeks since we were in attendance at the White House when you asked for details regarding our weather bureau problem. The congressmen and senators have stacks of mail going back several years regarding our problem. However, I am enclosing two main clippings from May and June. Nothing has changed with the weather bureau to date, and I am enclosing background information.

Congressman Mosher, and his administrative assistant Betty Welch, Senator Taft and his assistant Mike Baker, along with Congressman John Ashbrook are involved with the situation, and are aware of the problems, although up until now, the weather bureau has not even acknowledged that there is a problem. I believe this is the biggest concern of all.

Speaking on behalf of the area radio stations, I feel that if you could arrange a meeting with a person from the Cleveland Weather Bureau, a person from the United States Weather Bureau who can set policies, and myself, that the three of us could iron out the problem, no news media, mayors or anyone else.

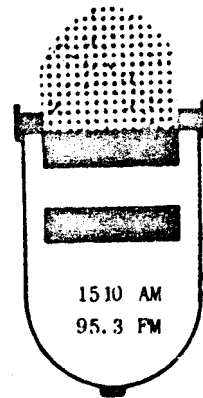
My recommendations would be as follows: A written policy that Columbus, Toledo and Detroit Weather Bureaus phone into Cleveland, any weather changes that are happening in their area, snow, rain, tornado, or whatever. In this way the Cleveland Weather Bureau could put on their weather radio that such a weather change is in the Columbus or Toledo area, and that possibly we could expect it here. As it is now, there is no direct communication between these weather services. By using this method, we would not be relying on any technical radio equipment, but merely sight observations of what is happening, especially since we do not have any radar covering our area at present.

We would also like for the weather bureaus and the Ohio Buckeye Sheriff's Association to work together in a relay type of information. For example:



WLKR RADIO STATION

Phone: (419) 668-8151 P.O. Box 547 Norwalk, Ohio 44857



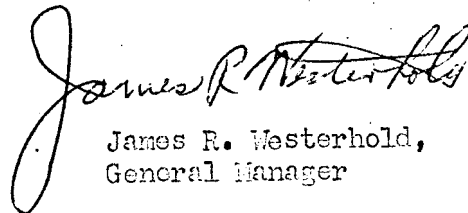
James R. Westerhold
STATION MANAGER

2.

As a storm approaches County X, the Sheriff of that County relays the information to County Y. When the storm reaches County Y, the Sheriff passes the information on to the Sheriff of County Z. The Sheriffs of each county also inform the weather bureau of the situation in their respective counties. I have spoken with a number of area sheriffs, and they are more than willing to cooperate. We could also link local police and State Highway Patrol. This set up could be carried throughout the state, as I have learned since the President's press conference, that all parts of the state are having difficulty getting weather information.

I feel that if there is a suggestion from the White House for a meeting, such as I suggested in the beginning of this letter, that we may get some help. As I have indicated, the first problem is for the weather bureau to admit there is a problem. I will be waiting to hear from you.

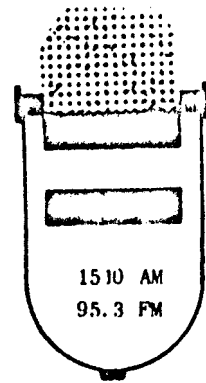
Sincerely,


James R. Westerhold,
General Manager



WLKR**RADIO STATION**

Phone: (419) 688-8151 P.O. Box 547 Norwalk, Ohio 44857

James R. Westerhold
STATION MANAGER

June 18, 1976

COPY

Mr. David L. Coveny
Acting Director Eastern Regional NWS
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Coveny,

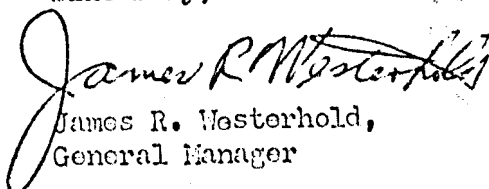
It has been almost a month since our May 22nd meeting. To date we have heard nothing about any changes to be made. Enclosed is a clipping of my recent trip to Washington. We also received press coverage in five or six other papers regarding possible White House help in securing weather information.

My plan, which I have given to the White House in writing, is as follows: I suggest a private meeting between a representative from the Cleveland Weather Bureau, someone in authority from the United States Weather Bureau, and myself. I recommend that a policy in writing be implemented whereby the Columbus, Toledo and Detroit weather bureaus telephone changes in weather, rain, snow, tornado or whatever, to the Cleveland Weather Bureau. In this way we would not have to rely on radar, which does not reach our area. The Cleveland Weather Bureau could then put it on their weather radio that changes in weather could possibly be expected in our area. It could be updated as the situation changed.

I would suggest also that a system be set up whereby every sheriff of every county would telephone weather changes to the sheriff of the next county, and would also have a number to call at the nearest weather bureau service. State police as well as local police could also be alerted. In this way, we would have a chain of weather observers notifying each other. In spite of what you say, there are no weather observers to the west of us, notifying anyone of the weather.

As I indicated to the White House, first the weather bureau must admit there is a problem. As you know, I am vitally interested in this matter, and am determined to get results. We are awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,


James R. Westerhold,
General Manager

cc: Don Worch, Cleveland Weather Bureau

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FROM THE DESK OF

JIM WESTERHOLD, WLKR

DATE _____ TIME _____ A. M.
P. M.

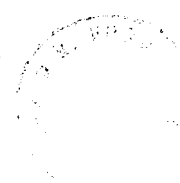
TO _____

CLIPPINGS ON

1976

MEETING

NOTHING YET



Huron, Erie Counties Notified After Storms Have Passed

Weather Warning System Rapped in Norwalk

By JEANNE FOGG
Staff Writer

weather, the storms have already passed the area in many instances. people.

Westerhold said he's already map-

Coveney said it's possible that a other people?"

NORWALK — "Why do we have to

TE R

Bad Weather Alert Problems Aired In Norwalk

By MARCELLA DAUGHERTY
Huron Co. Bureau Chief

City officials, however, said little progress has been made to correct problems.

On May 6, for example, Bellevue, Norwalk and Sandusky radio station representatives reported a tornado passed

was assigned responsibility last year to look into the problems and has been receptive to meetings in the area on the subject.

He claimed there were poor communications from the

is poor," he added, "but we will make a study."

Rep. Ashbrook said he thought the meeting was fruitful. He said if the problems are not resolved, he would approach the National Weather Service in Washington himself.

← Rep. John Ashbrook (R-17th) said here Fri-
L approach National Weather Service representatives

Wagon

Photo top

4/21/16

Top Weather Commercial News

A high official in the U.S. Department of the Interior has announced that the National Weather Service is to be reorganized.

The National Weather Service is to be reorganized, according to a report from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Weather until a storm has passed. James Weatherhead

other daily stations in the west and have been able to track storms approaching the U.S. station records.

You should guard your household budget. If you ever get into politics you can have my vote. I just hope



Cherokee sets deadline in weather alert fight

By LARRY IBERGER

CHEROKEE COUNTY SHERIFF LARRY IBERGER SAYS THE COUNTY IS SETTING A DEADLINE FOR WEATHER ALERTS TO BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF THE YEAR. IBERGER SAYS THE COUNTY IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE SITUATION AND WILL MAKE A DECISION SOON. HE SAYS THE COUNTY IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE SITUATION AND WILL MAKE A DECISION SOON. HE SAYS THE COUNTY IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE SITUATION AND WILL MAKE A DECISION SOON.

FROM THE DESK OF

JIM WESTERHOLD, WLKR

DATE _____ TIME _____ A. M.
P. M.

TO _____

CLIPPINGS ON
1975
MEETING

NO RESULTS





FRI., JUNE 13, 1975

PROBE PROMISED

Tardy Weather Warnings Laid To Communication

By MARCELLA DAUGHERTY

Iron County Bureau Chief

NORWALK

National Weather

he said. "About 30 minutes to an hour after a storm moves through, we'll get notice. We have to listen to other stations

tional weather service's system and how it functions.

He said the "King Pin" in the system

6/13/75

Federal Officials Grilled at Norwalk Hearing

Friday, June 13, 1975 The Journal, Lorain, Ohio 21

More Frequent Severe Weather Warnings Promised

Paul Canillo, city manager from Willard,

Cleveland Weather Station doesn't decide to

Her Alerts

By KEVIN TANZILLO

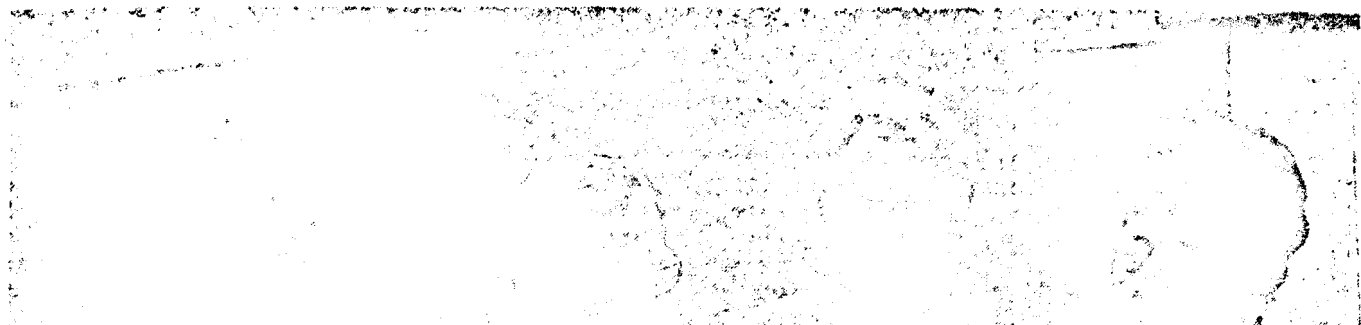
The National Weather Service Thursday promised to speed up severe weather warnings in Huron and Erie counties.

Harry Foltz, representing the director of the national weather service, told 40 persons in city hall Thursday that the Cleveland bureau will start putting out warnings

6/13/75

NORWACH

Promice FASTER WEAT



MEMO

FROM JIM WESTERHOLD, WLKR

SOME OTHER ODDS
Y ENDS MAYOR GAVE ME
TO MAIL YOU

LIAM B. SAXBE
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

WILLIAM HOILES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 5, 1972

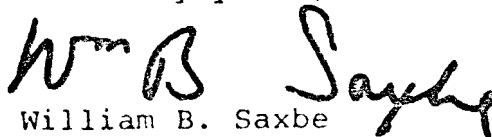
Mr. William W. Graw, Jr.
Director for Citizens Radio
Flyria Civil Defense
326 Cornell Avenue
Flyria, Ohio 44035

Dear Mr. Graw:

Enclosed please find the most recent correspondence I have received from the Department of Commerce in response to my letter of September 21, 1972.

In that letter I requested that I be advised as to the timing of the replacement of the Cleveland radar equipment. Unfortunately, Mr. Cressman is quite vague in his letter to me, but you may rest assured that when the next Appropriations Bill for the Department of Commerce is passed I shall exert every effort to assure that there is a line item in the budget for Cleveland to have the most effective, up-to-date radar equipment.

Sincerely yours,



William B. Saxbe
United States Senator

WBS:sg

Enclosure

172



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

NOV 10 1972

NOV 10 1972

Mr. Charles A. Mosher
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Mosher:

I have your letter of November 3, 1972, concerning the radar equipment at our Cleveland office. It is true that the present radar is in need of replacement. Our Fiscal Year 1974 plans include replacement radars, but in the meantime I am taking steps to see what possibly might be done as an interim measure for our Cleveland office.

I will be back in touch with you after I have had a chance to look into this matter further.

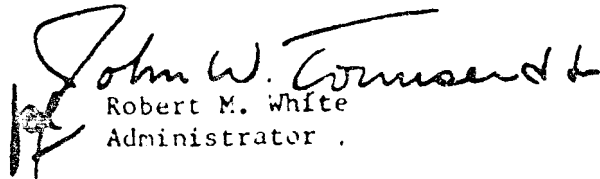
Sincerely,

Robert M. White
Administrator

3

I assure you that NOAA's National Weather Service will continue to take whatever steps are necessary to provide fully effective weather warning services.

Sincerely,


Robert M. White
Administrator

9-72

ROBERT TAFT, JR.
OHIO



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 10, 1975

Mr. George P. Cressman
Director
National Weather
NOAA
6010 Executive Blvd.
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Cressman:

Enclosed for your review and comment please find three (3) newspaper clippings forwarded to me from officials in Huron and Lorain counties.

It appears that problems still exist in providing early warning services to the residents of Huron, Lorain, and Erie Counties. Hopefully you and your staff are still doing everything possible to adequately protect the citizens of this area in regards to the recommendations made during the June 12 meeting at Norwalk, Ohio.

I would be grateful if response to this inquiry and any additional information could be sent to my Toledo office at the following address:

223 Federal Building
234 Summit Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Taft Jr.".

Robert Taft, Jr.
United States Senator

R. TAFT, JR.
OHIO



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

1972

August 13, 1972

Mr. William Graw
Director
Elyria Civil Defense
306 Cornell Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035

Dear Mr. Graw:

This is to advise you that I have contacted the appropriate National Weather Service officials in regard to the matter set forth in your letter of recent date.

I will be in touch with you upon receipt of a response.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft, Jr.

August 9, 1972

Senator Robert Taft Jr.
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Robert Taft Jr.

The National Weather Service at Cleveland, Ohio has A World War Two Radar which cannot detect Tornadoes which hit this area.

to get our Radar protection from Detroit, Michigan and Pittsburgh They have new and improved Radars. It would seem that Cleveland, Ohio should be big enough to have one.

X Vermilion, Ohio Lorain Co. has been hit by Two Tornadoes on July 23, 1972 and August 7, 1972.

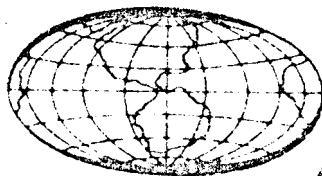
Newspaper articles are enclosed to support the claim that the Cleveland, Ohio Weather Bureau is unable to give proper warning.

Anything you can do to help us get a new Radar will be Appreciated.

Very truly yours,

William Graw
Director
Elyria, Civil Defense
326 Cornell Ave.
Elyria, Ohio 44035

The World
At Your Doorstep



SANDUSKY

SHOWERS

FOUNDED 1822 VOL 153

NO. 174

SANDUSKY OHIO

Tornado Alert System Fails

Warnings For Erie, Huron Counties Called 'Waste Of Time'

By MARIE MARTILOTTA
and
MARCELLA DAUGHERTY
Staff Writers

According to the Sandusky post of the Ohio Highway Patrol a tornado which leveled a house in Hancock County was cited at approximately 6:30 a.m. It resulted in a tornado warning for Huron, Erie and Lorain counties.

stations in both counties, and hospitals. The sheriff's department is then to notify local police stations and fire departments, which in turn contact school and government officials.

Weaver said he was never contacted by the (T)



Weather Warning Plan Not 'A Waste Of Time'

Richard Fay has a poten-

We have personally wit-

FROM THE DESK OF

JIM WESTERHOLD, WLCR

DATE: May 23 TIME _____ A. M.
P. M.

Before we had chance to mail out the letter dated 22nd, last evening we had another problem with the U S Weather Bureau in Cleveland. Their weather radio was not broadcasting until after 9pm—plus the list of events that my announcer has listed on the attached report.

Norwalk City officials are trying their best to help with this problem. If you can assist them or us, please contact at once.

Bellevue Radio Getting Toledo Storm Warnings

Not all of Huron County is without early warnings when severe weather comes.

The west side of the county can get warnings via

weather station usually gives this area an hour's warning of approaching storms.

For awhile last year, the Cleveland bureau was giving

officials say a new facility with new equipment will provide better service, but Norwalk Service Director Melvin St...

Of Approaching Bad Weather

Huron and Erie counties weren't notified of approaching severe weather Monday because the director of the National Weather Service in Cleveland didn't take time to make a telephone call.

Richard Fay, head of the weather bureau, is supposed to call the Red Cross when the weather bureau gets reports of tornado sightings. A tornado touched down and destroyed a house in Huron County southwest of

out" process. It was to be triggered by Fay's call to the Red Cross. The Red Cross in turn would call ~~merit's~~ departments who would call police departments ~~and~~ on

Weather Service Disregarded First Call

**Report of Tornado Sighting
Delayed 1 Hour in Mixup**

on a call to deputies from a

The Journal, Lorain, Ohio 41

Thursday, May 22, 1975

Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market headed lower today, continuing a

Storm loss is \$10 million, aid asked

By Joseph L. Wagner

Mayor Ralph J. Perk requested yesterday that Cleveland be declared a disaster

Also, the city would be reimbursed for damage to publicly owned facilities, such as sewers, buildings, streets, and the

Stokes. "It was the worst I've ever seen here and I've lived in Cleveland all my life."

prepare a thorough report to submit to Rhodes.