

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AGENDA

February 18, 1969

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| 8:30 - 8:45 a. m. | I. Progress Report, Post Office Department |
| 8:45 - 9:00 a. m. | II. Restructuring of Office of Economic Opportunity |
| 9:00 - 9:20 a. m. | III. Upcoming Presidential Messages |
| 9:20 - 9:50 a. m. | IV. Consolidation of Departmental Field Regions |
| 9:50 - 10:00 a. m. | V. Bipartisan Meetings
February 18
March 5 |



DIARY OF WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP
MEETINGS -- 91st CONGRESS

February 18, 1969

RMN entered the Cabinet Room at 8:40 and presented the attached agenda. He introduced Blount as the man scheduled to attend the Republican Conference "barbecue" tomorrow.

Blount made a progress report on his proposal to take the Post Office out of politics. He said that the principal criticisms had concerned the failure to remove political appointees in the Regions, union complaints that the new system would discourage promotion of career employees to Postmaster and complaints concerning a number of Democrats already frozen into the system who would become the beneficiaries of a nonpolitical system.

Blount reported that there were 68 Schedule C posts and 30 Schedule A posts in the Department. All but 4 of the former are to be replaced. Hopefully, all but 2 of the latter will be replaced on the basis of voluntary resignation, retirement or attrition.

Under a proposed plan of reorganization, the 15 Regions would be converted into management regions. The directors currently have Civil Service protection. They will be asked to retire, resign, or step down to a lower post. In each of the 15 Regions, there will be a Management Selection Board for postmaster appointments. For the 400 postmasters in the Nation who hold a grade of GS 14 or above, appointments will be made by a National Management Selection Board. In connection with all postmaster appointments, career employees will be given preference. If there are none qualified, then the Boards will be privileged to invite candidates outside the postal service to take the Civil Service examinations, and the boards will make appointments from a 3-man register. Career employees will have similar preferences in rural carrier appointments. The Postmaster will make these appointments from the 5 best qualified senior postal workers serving the office



where the route originates. The Postmaster will be required to give written reasons for selecting the man he chooses and reasons for refusing the other candidates to a local review board. If there are no qualified career employee candidates, then the appointments will be made from a civil service register of 3 names. The Congressional Advisory System will be abolished insofar as in-service promotions beneath the level of Postmaster are concerned. Congressional liaison, currently conducted individually among the 15 Regions, will be centralized as a more responsible and responsive system. Members of Congress will be advised 24 hours in advance of appointments and contract awards.

Rhodes inquired if it would not be better to provide that career employees and public candidates be considered contemporaneously. Otherwise, he suggested that should it become necessary to select a candidate from outsiders, postal employee morale would be impaired. Blount said that he would consider this suggestion. Ford agreed. Cramer said that if employees knew they had potential competition from outside, they would do a better job in order to earn a promotion. Taft inquired what parts of the reorganization would require legislation. Blount said that only removal of Senate confirmation would require legislation. Taft said that Gross would offer a resolution to the Conference tomorrow, the central point of which is that since what can be accomplished by Executive Order can be undone by Executive Order, it is better to make whatever reorganization is accomplished by legislation. Blount said that he wants to avoid the unwise course of legislating piecemeal and withhold requests for further legislation until he is able to present a full reform package.

Ford said that the Gross resolution called upon Blount to suspend implementing his program pending legislative action. RMN says that he backs Blount in his determination to go ahead without further delay.



RMN introduced Moynihan to explain the OEO changes which will be announced tomorrow. Moynihan said that OEO will be made the initiator of ideas rather than the operator. Head Start has not been as effective as hoped and will be transferred to HEW. Job Corps will go to the Labor Department but will not disrupt operations now conducted by the Department of the Interior and Agriculture. Comprehensive Community Health Centers and Foster Grandparents programs will be transferred to HEW. Later in the spring, RMN will send a message to Congress announcing a longrange poverty program. CAP can be involved in the economic and business development effort. ("Black Capitalism" will be converted to "Minority Enterprise.") Young and Dirksen inquired what changes these transfers would require in the appropriations process. Moynihan said appropriations would continue to go to OEO and would be allocated by OEO to the agencies to which the programs have been delegated. Agnew said that the chief problem of the poverty program had always been in CAP, which has been used too often for political projects which favor one political party and that any change should encourage local control and more active supervision by governors. RMN said that he would welcome suggestions for a man to head OEO. He said it is difficult to find a man who is qualified in the field and still holds the credentials which make him acceptable to the intended beneficiaries of the program. He said we must be cautious about abolishing programs suddenly and outright. This creates a focal point for protest which is always led by those who have lost their jobs.

RMN said that he was meeting later today with 3 Democrats principally responsible for OEO legislative oversight. He anticipates that the position of the Democrats will be that the program should be left as it is. This is the only way they can prove that the program has been a success.

Young said that the program had been badly administered on Indian reservations.



Rhodes suggested that the black capitalism concept would work well with Indians. Someone suggested the slogan "Red Capitalism."

Wilson said that the chief defect of the poverty program was the proliferation of training programs making it possible for a trainee to go immediately from one program to another. He says he knows several people who can only properly be called "professional trainees."

RMN said that he would send to Congress messages on crime, the debt ceiling, Post Office legislation, OEO and Electoral College. With respect to OEO, the message will concern tax incentives in the poverty area.

With respect to Electoral College, he said that the message would call for reform, sketch in broad gauge the general objectives to be achieved and stop short of recommending any choice among the district, proportional or popular plans. He asked me if that was the best approach. I suggested that if the message is so worded as to give even implied endorsement to the popular vote plan, it would greatly influence the attitudes of Members of the Judiciary Committee in favor of the popular plan, that the popular plan cannot be ratified even if the 2/3 vote in each House can be achieved and that it would be better for the message to call for a Constitutional amendment which would "preserve the Federal concept and better reflect the popular will." RMN said that he liked this phrase and suggested to Mr. Harlow that this sentiment should be written into the message.

RMN said that a bipartisan leadership meeting would be held tomorrow and later the full Republican Leadership would be given the benefit of the briefing concerning the projected overseas trip.

Mr. Cramer inquired what figure would be requested in the debt ceiling message. Burns said that no figure had been decided upon. Rhodes suggested that the figure be made



high enough to reflect fairly the debt problems that have been created by the previous Administration and just now passed along to the Nixon Administration.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

RICHARD H. POFF



FEBRUARY 18, 1969

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESS CONFERENCE
OFSENATOR EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN
AND
CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD

AT 10:25 A.M. EST

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Generally speaking, this is what we discussed this morning:

Number one, sort of a restructuring in the Post Office. That deals with personnel and some other matters. I am not going to try to give you any details and in the interest of the economy of time you will save your questions, because you are going to hear about this later this afternoon and tomorrow when there will be a message and also a statement by the Postmaster General.

The second thing we discussed was the Office of Economic Opportunity. That is the Poverty Program. Generally speaking, we talked about the possibility of making it -- and I think this is important -- an initiatory agency instead of an operating agency. In other words, it is kind of an incubator, if you don't mind the term, where they can initiate programs and then in proportion, as they make them feasible, they can then farm them out to other agencies and departments of government.

That is about all the details I care to give you there, except to say there will be improved management of OEO and a community action aspect of OEO will be retained, those are the Community Action Programs. But, obviously, at both a regional, local and national level, they are going to have to be improved.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I might add this about the Post Office Department. The Postmaster General is coming up to meet with the Members of the House on the Republican side tomorrow morning to explore in greater detail and depth what these proposals are. And then, as I understand it, subsequently tomorrow he will have a full-blown press conference to explain to the press what he has in mind.

The point about the OEO: There are further consultations going on between the Executive Branch and Members of the House and Senate, both Democratic and Republican, but there is anticipated to be a message, probably tomorrow or the next day, outlining what the White House has in mind after this consultation.

Now, the messages this week; one will be on the debt ceiling; one will be on the OEO, the proposed changes after the consultation; there will be one on the Post Office Department, we hope, by the end of the week; and also one on the Electoral College Reform.

Those are contemplated this week from the White House to the Congress.

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(OVER)



Q What form will the Electoral College proposal take?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I wouldn't pre-empt what the President is going to say. But I think he will re-emphasize his great interest in Electoral College reform, pointing out that he believes that the Electoral College vote should more closely reflect the popular vote. But he does believe, basically, in the integrity of the Electoral College.

Q He talked, Mr. Ford, in terms of dividing each State's Electoral votes proportionate to the State's popular vote. How do you think that would go over in Congress?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: The House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary are currently holding hearings on the whole subject matter. I think it is more important, and I believe the Congress feels this way, to get reform than to have any specific plan at this point frozen in. We have got to avoid the possibility of a Constitutional crisis in 1972, which means we have to get a plan that will get two-thirds of the votes in the House, in the Senate, and three-quarters of the State legislatures to approve. Therefore, rather than tie ourselves down at this moment to a particular plan, we have got to give some broad recommendations and get the votes in the House and Senate and also the State legislatures.

Q Do you think there is enough objection to the President's thoughts on this where it would not be practical to assume that?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I am not sure that there has been any solidification of House and Senate views on this matter as yet. I think there is a high degree of unanimity that we must have reform. After the hearings, we will be in a better position to actually focus in on one plan that can get the necessary votes.

Q Mr. Ford, what is the thinking behind making OEO, what you call it, as an initiatory agency? What do you gain by that?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I think the public generally has the feeling that OEO has done a good job in bringing to the surface the problems in the area of poverty and coming up with some new ideas for the solution. But, at the same time, the operations under OEO have not been as satisfactory as the public expects them to be.

If there is to be any restructuring, transferring functions from OEO over to the old line agencies, it is hoped that a better management and improvement in efficiency and economy can be achieved.

Q Mr. Congressman, could the President do any of this transferring before the Executive Reorganization Act is extended?

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CONGRESSMAN FORD: Yes, it is possible for the President to delegate certain of the functions of OEO to some of the old line agencies.

On the other hand, you can't make a physical transfer under the law. So these exploratory meetings with House and Senate Committee Members is aimed at explaining what they intend to do on a temporary basis, the delegation with the long-range improvements coming by actual legislative action in the area of transfers.

Q Senator Dirksen, could you tell us, please, whether or not the visit of Ambassador Dobrynin came up and what was said and what the Republican Leadership said about it?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: No, it wasn't discussed.

Q Senator, what about the debt ceiling?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: We didn't get a figure this morning. But being on the Senate Finance Committee I did raise the question concerning whether or not it would be one of these temporarily temporary debt ceilings. But it is not going to be. We are going to put it in a package so that they don't have to come back to the Congress in the future.

Q Senator Dirksen, did you discuss the ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: No, the Treaty was not discussed.

Q How about tax reform?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Tax reform, only to the extent that there will be a message on tax incentives, particularly with reference to the poverty areas.

Q When might there be a message?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Probably within the next two or three weeks.

One other thing: There will be a bipartisan leadership meeting here tomorrow morning at 8:30. I can't give you details on it.

Q Is that concerning the President's trip?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Yes, it will have much to do with the trip.

Q Senator, do they plan to reclassify the national debt not to include securities?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: We didn't discuss it. But Arthur Burns has been working on it and is cooperating with the Treasury. I think they have been doing a good job in making some real progress in that field.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

AT 10:35 A.M. EST



THE WHITE HOUSE

① Post Office - ^{Press Conf} message Complete Reform
of Executive

② OEO - ^{consultation} Tomorrow (completed message)
delegations + transfer - now
comprehensive recommendations

Minority
Enterprise

Management Improvement

Messages - this week results.
③ { Debt Ceiling H message on tax incentives
Post Office H
Electoral Reform H federal system retained;
electoral vote reflect popular vote.
O.E.O. H
Tax Message - stimulate business investment
to executives.

This week



OEO -

Headstart - H.E.W.
delegate

Job - Inbox
delegate



Comprehensive Health Centers -
transfer (H.E.W.)

Fooder Brandgerinto -
transfer (H.E.W.)

FEBRUARY 19, 1969

Office of the White House Press Secretary
-----THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 309 of the Vocational Education Amendments of 1968 directed the President to make a special study of whether responsibility for administering the Head Start program should be left with the Office of Economic Opportunity, or whether it should be delegated or transferred to another agency. Congress asked that a report of this study be submitted by March 1, 1969.

I am submitting the report herewith.

This report has been prepared in consultation with the heads of the Executive departments and agencies concerned.

The study concludes that Head Start should be delegated to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It leaves for later determination the question of whether the program should eventually be transferred. As I have indicated in a message to Congress today, I will present a set of recommendations before the end of the current fiscal year on a permanent status and organizational structure for the Office of Economic Opportunity. At that time, I will make a recommendation on whether Head Start should be transferred, or whether it should remain a delegated program.

Section 308 of the same Vocational Education Amendments of 1968 directed the Commissioner of Education to make a special study of the means by which the existing Job Corps facilities and programs might, if determined feasible, be transferred to State or joint Federal-state operation. The Commissioner was directed to report his findings to Congress by March 1, 1969.

As my message today indicated, responsibility for administering the Job Corps will be delegated to the Department of Labor effective July 1. The question of State or joint Federal-state operation is a complex one which may well be affected by the over-all manpower-development proposals now being prepared by the Secretary of Labor. In light of these developments, and in order to comply with the intent of Congress, I have asked the Secretaries of Labor and of Health, Education and Welfare, along with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Manpower, and the Director of OEO, to work with the Acting Commissioner of Education in preparing a report responsive to the Congressional directive to be submitted at the earliest possible time. As directed by Congress, the Acting Commissioner will also consult with other Federal officials, with State officials and with concerned individuals.

In its request for these studies, I recognize the interest of Congress in a constant evaluation and review of the way in which new, experimental programs are being administered, and in the measurement of their results. I welcome that interest, I share it, and I will attempt to be responsive to it.

RICHARD NIXON

THE WHITE HOUSE,

February 19, 1969.



FEBRUARY 19, 1969

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Economic Opportunity Act

The blight of poverty requires priority attention. It engages our hearts and challenges our intelligence. It cannot and will not be treated lightly or indifferently, or without the most searching examination of how best to marshal the resources available to the Federal Government for combatting it.

At my direction, the Urban Affairs Council has been conducting an intensive study of the nation's anti-poverty programs, of the way the anti-poverty effort is organized and administered, and of ways in which it might be made more effective.

That study is continuing. However, I can now announce a number of steps I intend to take, as well as spelling out some of the considerations that will guide my future recommendations.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 is now scheduled to expire on June 30, 1970. The present authorization for appropriations for the Office of Economic Opportunity runs only until June 30, 1969. I will ask Congress that this authorization for appropriations be extended for another year. Prior to the end of the Fiscal Year, I will send Congress a comprehensive proposal for the future of the poverty program, including recommendations for revising and extending the Act itself beyond its scheduled 1970 expiration.

How the work begun by OEO can best be carried forward is a subject on which many views deserve to be heard -- both from within Congress, and among those many others who are interested or affected, including especially the poor themselves. By sending my proposals well before the Act's 1970 expiration, I intend to provide time for full debate and discussion.

In the maze of anti-poverty efforts, precedents are weak and knowledge uncertain. These past years of increasing Federal involvement have begun to make clear how vast is the range of what we do not yet know, and how fragile are projections based on partial understanding. But we have learned some lessons about what works and what does not. The changes I propose will be based on those lessons and those discoveries, and rooted in a determination to press ahead with anti-poverty efforts even though individual experiments have ended in disappointment.

From the experience of OEO, we have learned the value of having in the Federal Government an agency whose special concern is the poor. We have learned the need for flexibility, responsiveness, and continuing innovation. We have learned the need for management effectiveness. Even those most thoroughly committed to the goals of the anti-poverty effort recognize now that much that has been tried has not worked.

The OEO has been a valuable fount of ideas and enthusiasm, but it has suffered from a confusion of roles.

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OEO's greatest value is as an initiating agency -- devising new programs to help the poor, and serving as an "incubator" for these programs during their initial, experimental phases. One of my aims is to free OEO itself to perform these functions more effectively, by providing for a greater concentration of its energies on its innovative role.

Last year, Congress directed that special studies be made by the Executive Branch of whether Head Start and the Job Corps should continue to be administered directly by OEO, or whether responsibility should be otherwise assigned.

Section 309 of the Vocational Education Amendments of 1968 provides:

"The President shall make a special study of whether the responsibility for administering the Head Start program established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 should continue to be vested in the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, should be transferred to another agency of the Government, or should be delegated to another such agency pursuant to the provisions of section 602(d) of the aforementioned Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and shall submit the findings of this study to the Congress not later than March 1, 1969."

I have today submitted this study to the Congress. Meanwhile, under the Executive authority provided by the Economic Opportunity Act, I have directed that preparations be made for the delegation of Head Start to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Whether it should be actually transferred is a question I will take up in my later, comprehensive message, along with my proposals for a permanent status and organizational structure for OEO. Pending a final decision by the Secretary of HEW on where within the department responsibility for Head Start would be lodged, it will be located directly within the Office of the Secretary.

In order to provide for orderly preparation, and to ensure that there is no interruption of programs, I have directed that this delegation be made effective July 1, 1969. By then the summer programs for 1969 will all have been funded, and a new cycle will be beginning.

I see this delegation as an important element in a new national commitment to the crucial early years of life.

Head Start is still experimental. Its effects are simply not known -- save of course where medical care and similar services are involved. The results of a major national evaluation of the program will be available this Spring. It must be said, however, that preliminary reports on this study confirm what many have feared: the long term effect of Head Start appears to be extremely weak. This must not discourage us. To the contrary it only demonstrates the immense contribution the Head Start program has made simply by having raised to prominence on the national agenda the fact -- known for some time, but never widely recognized -- that the children of the poor mostly arrive at school age seriously deficient in the ability to profit from formal education, and already significantly behind their contemporaries. It also has been made abundantly clear that our schools as they now exist are unable to overcome this deficiency.

In this context, the Head Start Follow-Through Program already delegated to HEW by OEO, assumes an even greater importance.

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In recent years, enormous advances have been made in the understanding of human development. We have learned that intelligence is not fixed at birth, but is largely formed by the environmental influences of the early formative years. It develops rapidly at first, and then more slowly; as much of that development takes place in the first four years as in the next thirteen. We have learned further that environment has its greatest impact on the development of intelligence when that development is proceeding most rapidly -- that is, in those earliest years.

This means that many of the problems of poverty are traceable directly to early childhood experience -- and that if we are to make genuine, long-range progress, we must focus our efforts much more than heretofore on those few years which may determine how far, throughout his later life, the child can reach.

Recent scientific developments have shown that this process of early childhood development poses more difficult problems than had earlier been recognized -- but they also promise a real possibility of major breakthroughs soon in our understanding of this process. By placing Head Start in the Department of HEW, it will be possible to strengthen it by association with a wide range of other early development programs within the department, and also with the research programs of the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Much of our knowledge is new. But we are not on that ground absolved from the responsibility to respond to it. So crucial is the matter of early growth that we must make a national commitment to providing all American children an opportunity for healthful and stimulating development during the first five years of life. In delegating Head Start to the Department of HEW, I pledge myself to that commitment.

The Vocational Education Amendments of 1968 directed the Commissioner of Education to study the Job Corps in relation to state vocational education programs. I have directed the Secretaries of Labor and of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Manpower, to work with the Acting Commissioner of Education in preparing such a report for submission to Congress at the earliest opportunity.

One of the priority aims of the new Administration is the development by the Department of Labor of a comprehensive manpower program, designed to make centrally available to the unemployed and the under-employed a full range of Federal job training and placement services. Toward this end, it is essential that the many Federal manpower programs be integrated and coordinated.

Therefore, as a first step toward better program management, the Job Corps will be delegated to the Department of Labor.

For the Department, this will add another important manpower service component. For the Job Corpsmen, it will make available additional training and service opportunities. From the standpoint of program management, it makes it possible to coordinate the Job Corps with other manpower services, especially vocational education, at the point of delivery.

The Department of Labor already is deeply involved in the recruitment, counseling and placement of Job Corpsmen. It refers 80 percent of all male and 45 percent of all female enrollees; it provides job market information, and helps locate Job Corpsmen in the areas of greatest opportunity.

MORE



This delegation will also be made effective on July 1, 1969; and the Departments of Interior and Agriculture will continue to have operating responsibility for the Job Corps centers concerned primarily with conservation.

I have directed that preparations be made for the transfer of two other programs from OEC to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: Comprehensive Health Centers, which provide health service to the residents of poor neighborhoods, and Foster Grandparents program. In my judgment, these can be better administered at present, or in the near future, within the structure of the Department.

In making these changes, I recognize that innovation costs money -- and that if OEO is to continue its effectiveness as an innovating agency, adequate funds must be made available on a continuing basis. Moreover, it is my intent that Community Action Agencies can continue to be involved in the operation of programs such as Head Start at the local level, even though an agency other than OEO has received such programs, by delegation, at the national level. It also is my intent that the vital Community Action Programs will be pressed forward, and that in the area of economic development OEO will have an important role to play, in cooperation with other agencies, in fostering community-based business development.

One of the principal aims of the Administration's continuing study of the anti-poverty effort will be to improve its management effectiveness. When poverty-fund monies are stolen, those hurt most are the poor -- whom the monies were meant to help. When programs are inefficiently administered, those hurt most again are the poor. The public generally, and the poor especially, have a right to demand effective and efficient management. I intend to provide it.

I expect that important economies will result from the delegation of the Job Corps to the Department of Labor, and we shall continue to strive for greater efficiency, and especially for greater effectiveness in Head Start.

A Concentrated Management Improvement Program initiated in OEO will be intensified. Under this program selected Community Action Agencies will be required to take steps to devise improvements in such areas as organizational structure, financial and accounting systems, personnel training and work scheduling. Standards will be applied under the "management improvement program" to evaluate the operations of Community Action Agencies. We intend to monitor these programs actively in order to ensure that they are achieving high-level effectiveness and that they are being administered on an orderly basis.

In the past, problems have often arisen over the relationship of State, county and local governments to programs administered by OEO. This has particularly been the case where the State and local officials have wanted to assume greater responsibility for the implementation of the programs but for various reasons have been prevented from doing so.

I have assigned special responsibility for working out these problems to the newly-created Office of Intergovernmental Relations, under the supervision of the Vice President.

I have directed the Urban Affairs Council to keep the anti-poverty effort under constant review and evaluation, seeking new ways in which the various departments can help and better ways in which their efforts can be coordinated.

My comprehensive recommendations for the future of the poverty program will be made after the Urban Affairs Council's own initial study is completed, and after I have reviewed the Comptroller General's study of OEO ordered by Congress in 1967 and due for submission next month.



Meanwhile, I would stress this final thought: If we are to make the most of experimental programs, we must frankly recognize their experimental nature and frankly acknowledge whatever shortcomings they develop. To do so is not to belittle the experiment, but to advance its essential purpose: that of finding new ways, better ways, of making progress in areas still inadequately understood.

We often can learn more from a program that fails to achieve its purpose than from one that succeeds. If we apply those lessons, then even the "failure" will have made a significant contribution to our larger purposes.

I urge all those involved in these experimental programs to bear this in mind -- and to remember that one of the primary goals of this Administration is to expand our knowledge of how best to make real progress against those social ills that have so stubbornly defied solution. We do not pretend to have all the answers. We are determined to find as many as we can.

The men and women who will be valued most in this administration will be those who understand that not every experiment succeeds, who do not cover up failures but rather lay open problems, frankly and constructively, so that next time we will know how to do better.

In this spirit, I am confident that we can place our anti-poverty efforts on a secure footing -- and that as we continue to gain in understanding of how to master the difficulties, we can move forward at an accelerating pace.

RICHARD NIXON

THE WHITE HOUSE,

February 18, 1969.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Reform of the postal system is long overdue.

The postal service touches the lives of all Americans. Many of our citizens feel that today's service does not meet today's needs, much less the needs of tomorrow. I share this view.

In the months ahead, I expect to propose comprehensive legislation for postal reform.

If this long-range program is to succeed, I consider it essential, as a first step, that the Congress remove the last vestiges of political patronage in the Post Office Department.

Accordingly, I urge the Congress promptly to enact legislation that would:

- eliminate the present statutory requirement for Presidential appointment and Senatorial confirmation of postmasters of first, second, and third-class post offices;
- provide for appointment of all postmasters by the Postmaster General in the competitive civil service; and
- prohibit political considerations in the selection or promotion of postal employees.

Such legislation would make it possible for future postmasters to be chosen in the same way that career employees have long been chosen in the other executive departments. It would not, however, affect the status of postmasters now in office.

Adoption of this proposal by the Congress would assure all of the American people -- and particularly the more than 750,000 dedicated men and women who work in the postal service -- that future appointments and promotions in this important department are going to be made on the basis of merit and fitness for the job, and not on the basis of political affiliations or political influence.

The tradition of political patronage in the Post Office Department extends back to the earliest days of the Republic. In a sparsely populated country, where postal officials faced few of the management problems so familiar to modern postmasters, the patronage system may have been a defensible method of selecting jobholders. As the operation of the postal service has become more complex, however, the patronage system has become an increasingly costly luxury. It is a luxury that the nation can no longer afford.

In the past two decades, there has been increasing agreement that postmaster appointments should be made on a nonpolitical basis. Both the first and second Hoover Commissions emphasized the need for such

more



action. So did the recent President's Commission on Postal Organization, headed by Frederick R. Kappel. President Harry S. Truman and many members of Congress from both political parties have proposed legislation designed to take politics out of postal appointments. In the 90th Congress, the Senate, by a vote of 75 to 9, passed a bill containing a provision that would have placed postal appointments on a merit basis. Forty-two such bills were introduced in the House of Representatives during the 90th Congress.

The overwhelmingly favorable public comment that followed my recent announcement of our intention to disregard political consideration in selecting postmasters and rural carriers suggests that the American people are more than ready for legislative action on this matter. The time for such action is now at hand.

The benefits to be derived from such legislation are, I believe, twofold.

First, the change would expand opportunities for advancement on the part of our present postal employees. These are hard-working and loyal men and women. In the past, many of them have not received adequate recognition or well-deserved promotions for reasons which have had nothing to do with their fitness for higher position or the quality of their work. For reasons of both efficiency and morale, this situation must be changed.

Secondly, I believe that over a period of time the use of improved professional selection methods will improve the level of competence of those who take on these important postal responsibilities.

I would not request this legislation without also presenting a plan which insures that the new selection process will be affectively and impartially administered. The Postmaster General has such a plan.

He is creating a high level, impartial national board to assist him in the future selection of postmasters for the 400 largest post offices in the country. Regional boards, also made up of exceptionally well-qualified citizens, will perform a similar task in connection with the selection of other postmasters. First consideration will be given to the promotion, on a competitive basis, of present postal employees.

The Postmaster General has also initiated action to improve the criteria by which postmasters are selected. The revised criteria will emphasize managerial competence, human relations sensitivity, responsiveness to customer concerns, an understanding of labor relations, and other important qualities.

Proposals for additional legislation dealing with the selection process will be included in the broad program for postal reform that the Postmaster General is now preparing.

Some of the needs of the Post Office clearly require extensive study before detailed solutions can be proposed. Other problems can and should be dealt with now. One objective which can be met promptly is that of taking politics out of the Post Office and I strongly recommend the swift enactment of legislation that will allow us to achieve that goal. Such legislation will be an important first step "towards postal excellence."

RICHARD NIXON

THE WHITE HOUSE,

February 25, 1969.

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PERIOD - February 5 to February 17, 1969 (inclusive)

HOUSE ACTION

Wed. Feb. 5 - Lincoln Birthday Adjournment Resolution

The House passed H. Con. Res. 124 by roll call vote of 241 yeas to 125 nays.

Wed. Feb. 5 - Investigative Resolutions

The House also adopted by voice vote seven house resolutions relating to investigative authority for the following committees: Small Business, Judiciary, Armed Services, Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Insular Affairs, and District of Columbia.

Thurs. Feb. 6 - Boy Scouts

The House passed H. Con. Res. 133 commending the Boy Scouts of America.

Thurs. Feb. 6 - Supplemental Appropriation

The House passed by voice vote H. J. Res. 414 making 1969 supplemental appropriation, providing \$36 million for employment compensation of federal employees.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

The House passed by voice vote the following:

1. H. R. 4622 - To insure preservation of all disability compensation evaluations in effect for twenty or more years.
2. H. R. 3689 - To cede to the State of Montana concurrent jurisdiction with the United States over the Veterans' Administration Center, Fort Harrison, Montana.
3. H. R. 648 - To make certain technical corrections in Title 38, United States Code.

PROGRAM AHEAD

H. Res. 89 - To change the name of the Committee on Un-American Activities to Committee on Internal Security.



To: Minority Leader

From: Minority Clerk

PERIOD - July 14 to July 20 (inclusive)

HOUSE ACTION

Rivers & Harbors Authorization

The House passed by voice vote H.R. 7634 - Omnibus River & Harbor, Beach-erosion Control, and Flood-control Projects Authorization.

Conference Reports Adopted

D.C. Appropriations

The House adopted the conference report on H.R. 5676 - Dist. of Columbia Appropriations 1960 and sent it to the Senate.

Bank Reserves

The House adopted the conference report on S. 1120 - Reserves required by member banks of the Federal Reserve System, and sent it to the Senate.

Bankruptcy Act

The House agreed to Senate amendments to H.R. 4693 - Amending the Bankruptcy Act so as to consolidate referees' salary and expense funds, clearing it for Presidential action.

Government Employees' Pay Periods

The House agreed to Senate amendments with a House amendment to H.R. 6134 - Relative to allocating portions of fiscal yearend payroll periods to proper fiscal year accounts and returned it to the Senate.

MONDAY, July 20

The House passed by voice vote and under suspension of the Rules the following bills:

1. H.R. 968 - Vale Federal Reclamation Project, Oregon.
2. H.R. 804 - Spokane Valley Federal Reclamation Project.

~~3. H.R. 7125 - Providing for study of the President Adams Parkway.~~

*Gross demanded Roll call
will vote Wed July 22*

PROGRAM AHEAD

(See next page)

PROGRAM AHEAD

H.R. 8283 - Atomic Energy Commission Appropriation Bill
for 1960.

H.R. 3460 - TVA Financing Bill (agree to Senate amendments
if rule is reported).

H.R. 3216 - Writs of Habeas Corpus. Open rule, 1 hour.

H.J.Res.115 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Site.
Open rule, 1 hour.

*You objected
July 14 when
I was wanted to
adopt S. Amendment.*



To: Minority Leader

From: Minority Clerk

PERIOD - July 21 to July 27 (inclusive)

HOUSE ACTION

AEC Appropriations

The House passed by voice vote H.R. 8283 (without amendment) - Atomic Energy Commission Appropriations, fiscal 1960.

Total appropriations - \$2,629,114,000. This is \$50,186,000 less than budget request, and \$15,526,000 less than 1959 appropriations.

President Adams Memorial Highway

The House passed by voice vote, under suspension of the Rules, H.R. 7125 - Providing for study of feasibility of establishing the President Adams Memorial Highway.

Garnishment of Wages

The House agreed to Senate amendments to H.R. 836 - Modifying provisions of garnishment in District of Columbia, clearing bill for presidential consideration.

TVA Power Financing

The House by roll call vote of 244 yeas to 166 nays, adopted H. Res. 326, providing for House concurrence in Senate amendments to H.R. 3460 - Amending TVA Act of 1933 relative to financing its power program with proceeds from revenue bonds, clearing the bill for presidential consideration.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial

The House adopted by voice vote H.J. Res. 115 - Reserving site in D.C. for the erection of memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Conference Reports

Mutual Security Authorization

The House passed by roll call vote of 257 yeas to 13 nays H.R. 7500 - the Conference report relating to the Mutual Security Authorization for 1960.

Total authorized - \$3,556,200,000. This is \$352,200,000 less than President's request, and \$13,000,000 more than passed House.

(See next page for continuance Conference Reports)



Conference Reports (continued)

Independent Offices Appropriations 1960

The House adopted by voice vote Conference Report on H. R. 7040 - Independent Offices Appropriations fiscal 1960, and sent it to the Senate.

Total appropriated in Conference Report \$6,502,152,000.
This is \$44,444,400 more than passed by House.

MONDAY, JULY 27

The House passed by voice vote the following bills (3):

1. H. R. 8188 - Armed Forces, Amendments to Reserve Officer Personnel Act.
2. H. R. 8189 - Armed Forces, Promotion of Air Force Officers.
3. H. R. 7244 - Holding Company Control of Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

Inter-American Development Bank

The House passed by roll call vote of 230 yeas to 87 nays H. R. 7072 (without amendment) - Providing for participation of U.S. in the Inter-American Development Bank.

PROGRAM AGENDA

- H. R. 8385 - Mutual Security Appropriation Bill 1960.
- H. R. 3216 - Writs of Habeas Corpus. Open rule, one hour.



To: Minority Leader

From: Minority Clerk

PERIOD - July 28 to August 3 (inclusive)

HOUSE ACTION

Mutual Security Appropriations

The House passed by roll call vote of 279 yeas to 136 nays H.R. 8385 (amended) - Appropriations for Mutual Security and related agencies for fiscal 1960.

Total appropriated - \$3,191,782,000, of which \$3,186,500,000 is for Mutual Security and the remainder for civil functions of Army and Export-Import Bank. This is \$1,244,495,000 less than Budget request, and \$365,700,000 less than authorized in H.R. 7500 - Mutual Security Authorization conference report as passed by House July 22.

NOTE:

\$18,000,000 for Ryukyu generating plant was stricken from the appropriation on a point of order by Bow (Ohio).

The following amendments were adopted:

1. Deleted language that earmarked \$50 million defense support for Spain.
2. Barred transfer of funds for overseas projects that do not meet feasibility requirements of U.S. public works projects.
3. Withhold funds of agencies and departments that do not comply, within 20 days, with GAO requests for information.
4. Removed the limitation on use of funds for World Refugee Program.

Habeas Corpus

The House passed by voice vote H.R. 3216 (amended) - Amending U.S. Code relative to applications for writs of habeas corpus by persons in custody pursuant to judgment of a State court.

National Bank Laws Revision

The House passed by voice vote H.R. 8159 - Amending the national banking laws to clarify or eliminate ambiguities, and repealing obsolete laws.



National Banks

The House passed by voice vote H.R. 8160 - Amending lending and borrowing limitations applicable to national banks, and authorizing appointment of an additional Deputy Comptroller of the Currency.

Federal Credit Unions

The House passed by voice vote H.R. 8305 - Amending the Federal Credit Union Act.

Conference Reports

Military Construction Authorization

The House by voice vote adopted conference report on H.R. 5674 - Authorizing construction at military installations, and sent it to the Senate.

Labor-HEW Appropriations

The House adopted by voice vote conference report on H.R. 6769 - Appropriations for Departments of Labor, and Health, Education and Welfare and related agencies for fiscal 1960, and sent it to the Senate.

MONDAY - August 3, 1959

The House passed by voice vote and under suspension of the Rules the following (5) bills:

1. H.J.Res. 113 - Saint Ann's Churchyard, (New York).
2. H.R. 6940 - Alaska, Acreage Limitation, Mineral Leasing Act.
3. S. 1512 - Federal Land Banks.
4. H.R. 6861 - Agriculture, Feed, Seed and Roughage Programs.
5. S. 1289 - Agriculture, Milk Program, Extend.

Final action on H.R. 7740 - Agriculture, Acreage History and Allotments was put over to Wednesday after Cooley demanded a roll call vote.

PROGRAM AHEAD

Final vote on H.R. 7740.

H.R. 8342, - Labor Bill, and conference reports.



To: Minority Leader

From: Minority Clerk

PERIOD - August 11 to August 24, 1959 (inclusive)

HOUSE ACTION

(Day + Date) Labor Reform Legislation

The House passed . . . (342 amended) Landrum-Griffin Bill by roll call vote of 303 yeas to 125 nays instead of . . . 8400, the Committee Bill, then vacated H. . . 342 and in lieu passed S. 1455 and sent measure to conference.

ACTION PRIOR TO FINAL PASSAGE

Prior to passage of the Landrum-Griffin substitute the House, while in the Committee of the Whole DEPRIVED

1. the Shelley substitute, . . . 8490, by teller vote of 132 yeas to 245 nays.
2. the Howell amendment to prevent discrimination, by teller vote of 100 yeas to 215 nays.

AND ADOPTED

3. The Landrum-Griffin amendment (amended) by teller vote of 211 yeas to 200 nays.
4. When the Committee rose the House by roll call vote of 224 yeas to 201 nays substituted the Landrum-Griffin amendment (amended) for the Committee Bill H. . . 8400.

(A) By voice vote the following amendments were adopted to the Landrum-Griffin substitute:

1. Loser amendment - reduced penalty for deprivation of rights of Union members from \$10,000 and 2 years in prison to \$1,000 and 1 year in prison.
2. Mitener amendment prohibiting certain discipline by labor organizations.

Suspensions

Under suspension of the rules the House passed 8 bills:

The following (5) by voice vote:

1. H. R. 4499 - Extend Wheat Agreement Act of 1949.
2. H. R. 4537 - Equalization of Allotments, Agua Caliente (Fair Springs) Reservation in California.



- C. H.R. 5092 - Minute Man National Historical Park, Massachusetts.
- D. H.R. 5068 - Shipping Act, Foreign Flag Affiliations.
- E. H.R. 8238 - Providing for a Study of Motor Vehicles Exhausts.
- F. H.J.Res.283 - Parliamentary Conferences with Mexico.

And the following 2 by roll call vote:

- G. H.R. 6904 - Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, yeas 335 to 31 nays.
- H. H.Con.Res.369 - China, Sense of Congress Against Seating in the United Nations, yeas 368 to 2 nays.

Century 21 Exposition (Seattle, Wash.)

The House passed by voice vote H.R. 8374 - Clarifying P.L.85-880, and authorized funds (\$12,500,000) for Federal Government participation in the Century 21 Exposition in Seattle, Wash.1961.

Political Broadcasting

The House by voice vote passed H.R. 7985 - (S.2424) (amended) - Amending the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to equal time for candidates for public office.

~~Appropriations~~

Agricultural Surplus Commodities

The House passed by roll call vote of 305 yeas to 53 nays H.R. 8009 (amended) - Amending the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 - extending authorities of Title I and II and strengthening the program of disposals through barter.

NOTE:

Prior to final passage the House adopted by roll call vote of 232 yeas to 127 nays Sullivan (N.Y.) amendment authorizing initiation of a food stamp plan for distribution of surplus commodities to needy persons in the U.S.

Also adopted Hoveen amendments to delete language to expand barter program - and also the Laird amendment requiring provision of funds for programs by Appropriation Committee.



MONDAY, August 24

Depressed Domestic Mining Industry

The House passed by voice vote H.Con.Res. 177, stating it is the sense of Congress to encourage the maintenance and development of the domestic mining industry.

Safety Standards - Government Vehicles

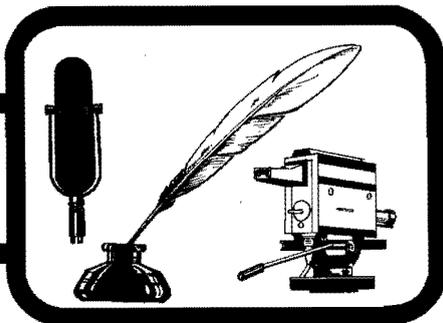
(Vote Wednesday on recommitment and final passage)

The House suspended further consideration of H.R. 1341 - Providing Safety Standards for passenger carrying Government motor vehicles when Bennett of Michigan objected to division vote on recommitment because quorum was not present.

PROGRAM AHEAD

- A. H.R. 2236 - Limiting Taxes and Bankruptcy. Open rule, 1 hour.
- B. H.R. 7242 - Bankruptcy Act, Statutory Liens. Open rule, 1 hour.
- C. H.R. 4421 - Assistance for Construction of Fishing Vessels.
Open rule, 2 hours.





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

February 25, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U. S. House of Representatives

I have long personally advocated making advancement in the postal system a matter of merit and opening the top job in each Post Office to career employees on that basis.

For that and other reasons I wholeheartedly support President Nixon's legislative proposals aimed at taking politics out of the Post Office Department.

Delivery of the mail is a government service which touches the lives of all Americans. It is a service which must be improved or it will break down under the steadily increasing weight of demands placed upon it.

Enactment of the President's recommendations for reform of the postal system will benefit the Nation. That is the clearest indication of their merit. In addition, conditions in the Post Office Department place a mark of greatest urgency on the actions proposed by the President.

I urge that the Congress approve the President's proposals as soon as possible after thorough examination of the legislation required to implement them.

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