

The original documents are located in Box 59, folder “Reorganization Plan Authority” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Reorganization

Monday 3/10/75

7:10 Warren Hendricks would like you to take a look at this memo dated 2/18 from Nichols to Jerry Jones re extension of Presidential Reorganization Plan authority.

I have attached a copy of Mr. Areeda's signoff of 2/21.

Apparently nothing has been done and he feels you may not be aware of this.



Monday 3/10/75

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*Called Warren on March 11
to withdraw my objections
T.*



Date: February 21, 1975

Time: 11:00 a.m.

FOR ACTION: Phil Buchen
Max Friedersdorf
Bill Walker
Paul Theiscc (for information): Warren Hendrik
Jerry Jones
Jack Marsh
Robert Hartman

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: February 24, 1975

Time: 1:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Extension of Presidential Reorganization Plan Authority

ACTION REQUESTED:

☐ For Necessary Action☒ For Your Recommendations☐ Prepare Agenda and Brief☐ Draft Reply☒ For Your Comments☐ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

- 1) No objection to legislation
- 2) 2 submission politically wise? Endowment seems most unlikely

P. Avela

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

February 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY H. JONES
FROM: WILLIAM M. *Bill Nichols* NICHOLS
SUBJECT: Extension of Presidential
Reorganization Plan Authority

We have prepared the draft legislation and transmittal letters for renewal of Presidential Reorganization Plan Authority as you requested in your January 17 memorandum to Paul O'Neill.

The Reorganization Act of 1949 (5 U.S.C., chapter 9) is currently in effect except that Section 905 provides that a reorganization plan may not take effect unless it was transmitted to Congress before April 1, 1973. Accordingly, the President's reorganization authority may be revived merely by an appropriate substitution for the 1973 date.

OMB transmitted this legislative proposal to Congress in September 1974. We did not press for its enactment, however, as we understood that Mr. Buchen had serious reservations about extending the Reorganization Act because of its one-House veto mechanism (Section 906). He apparently felt that the Administration should not put itself in the position of appearing to sanction that form of legislative encroachment.

We were informed last fall that Senator Percy was willing to hold hearings on his own reorganization authority bill. His version was less desirable than ours, but it would have constituted an acceptable compromise. Some form of compromise would probably be necessary in the 94th Congress since Congressman Jack Brooks, the new Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, is a long-time opponent of reorganization authority. It would take a major Administration effort to secure passage of this legislation in the House.

In view of the foregoing, I suggest that you coordinate this proposal with Phil Buchen and Max Friedersdorf.

Enclosures

cc:
Paul O'Neill



A B I L L

To reestablish the period within which the President may transmit to the Congress plans for the reorganization of agencies of the Executive Branch of the Government, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That
subsection (b) of section 905 of Title 5 of the United States
Code, as amended, is further amended by striking out "before
April 1, 1973" and inserting in lieu thereof "within four
years from the date of enactment of this Act."



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President: (Dear Mr. Speaker:)

Effective management of the Executive Branch requires adaptability to changing circumstances and problems. ~~The~~ organizational structure of the Executive Branch should foster both efficiency and flexibility. ~~One of the tools~~ on which my predecessors have relied to achieve these objectives is the reorganization plan authority. ~~But~~ ~~feel that~~ ^T This mechanism will be very useful in our efforts to meet the challenges we face ^{now} ~~today~~. Therefore, I am ~~herby~~ transmitting to you a draft bill entitled "To reestablish the period within which the President may transmit to the Congress plans for the reorganization of agencies of the Executive Branch of the Government, and for other purposes."

memo
U.S.C.
pg 901
The Reorganization Act of 1949 (5 U.S.C. Chapter 9) requires the President to "examine the organization of all agencies" and "determine what changes in such organization are necessary." However, specific authority under this ~~Act~~ to submit Reorganization Plans which define such necessary changes expired on April 1, 1973. Thus, this bill seeks to restore the authority necessary to fulfill my statutory obligation to study and propose Executive reorganizations.

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Historically, there has been bi-partisan support for extension of this authority. Since 1949, all Presidents have made use of this mechanism -- 93 Presidential plans have been submitted and 73 have been approved.

The original Reorganization Act of 1949 established the President's authority to submit plans for a four-year period. In view of the mutual interest of both Congress and the Executive Branch in efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs, I urge that this Reorganization Plan authority again be extended for a four-year period. Such an extension would facilitate the orderly development of a systematic plan of organization improvements.

We all recognize the benefits of sound organization of governmental agencies. Effective management, reduction of expenditures, increased efficiency, and elimination of overlapping and duplication of effort are goals sought by all three branches of the Federal Government.

The reorganization statute has ^{BEEN} ~~proved~~ instrumental in Executive Branch efforts to achieve these goals. Therefore, I urge



prompt action by the Congress to extend this authority and renew the usefulness of this statute as a tool of good government.

Sincerely,

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
President of the Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

(Honorable Carl B. Albert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515)

