The original documents are located in Box 11, folder “Drug Abuse - Trip to Miami, March 8, 1976” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon
FROM: Dick Parsons
SUBJECT: Agenda -- Miami Trip

Sunday, March 7, 1976
5:46 p.m. Lv. Washington National (Eastern #197)
8:14 p.m. Ar. Miami

(Dick Parsons, Customs Commissioner Mike Acree and DEA Deputy Administrator Jerry Jensen)

[Miami Lakes Inn and Country Club]

Monday, March 8, 1976
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. "AM Miami" WPLG-TV (10), a Post Newsweek Station 3900 Biscayne Boulevard Contact: Frank Lynn Telephone: 305/573-7111

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Discussion: Federal/State/Local Cooperation Chiefs of Police Garland Watkins -- Miami Rocky Pomerance -- Miami Beach Leo Callahan -- Fort Lauderdale Director of Public Safety E. Wilson Purdy -- Dade County

Robert W. Rust, United States Attorney, Miami Rear Admiral Austin D. Wagner, Commander, 7th Coast Guard District, Miami Albert F. Basemore, Regional Commissioner United States Customs Service John Lund, Regional Director DEA Miami Regional Office

11:30 - 12:00 Noon Informal Press Conference (both TV and Press) DEA Regional Headquarters Phoenix Building - Koger Executive Center 8400 Northwest 53rd Street Telephone: 305/820-4800

More
Telephone Interview
WIOD Radio
"Larry King Show"
Contact: Rawles Sansone
Telephone: 305/759-4311
(He will be expecting your call.)

Telephone Interview
WKAT Radio (CBS)
Contact: Joe Freed, News Director
Telephone: 305/531-8181
(This is an all-news station, and Mr. Freed will be expecting your call.)

Working Lunch with DEA. Briefing on recent major conspiracy case.

Inspect Customs Facility at Airport
(including demonstration of "Sniffer")

Lv. Miami (Eastern #176)

Ar. Washington National
Dear Frank:

This will confirm arrangements we discussed on the telephone today regarding the appearance on "AM Miami" of Mr. James Cannon, Assistant to the President, next Monday, March 8, 1976.

I have told Jim of your interest, and he is looking forward to seeing you at 8:30 a.m. on Monday. He will ask for you when he arrives at the studios.

Attached for your information is a copy of Jim's biographical sketch.

Thanks again for your interest. I know you will enjoy meeting Jim.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Randall L. Woods
Deputy Director of the
Office of Communications

[Address]

cc: Jim Cannon
Memorandum

TO: Mr. James Cannon
Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs

FROM: John A. Lund, Jr., Regional Director
DEA, Miami Regional Office

DATE: 3/5/76

SCHEDULE:

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
Miami Regional Office Conference Room - meet with local law enforcement authorities and DEA Region staff:

- Robert W. Rust
  U.S. Attorney S.D.Fla.
- E. Wilson Purdy
  Director, Public Safety Department
- Chief Garland Watkins
  Miami Police Department
- Chief Rocky Pomerance
  Miami Beach Police Dept.
- Albert P. Bazemore
  Regional Commissioner
  U.S. Customs Service
- Admiral Austin C. Wagner
  Commander, 7th Coast Guard District
- John A. Lund, Jr.
  Regional Director
- David W. Costa
  Deputy Regional Director
- Fred T. Diok
  Associate Regional Director
- Ivan Wurms
  Staff Assistant
- David J. Connolly
  Assistant Regional Director
- David L. Westrate
  Assistant Regional Director
- Irwin Weinstein
  Assistant Regional Director

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Press availability, Miami Regional Office Training Room

12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Region 5 briefing and lunch at Regional Office Conference Room
No formal training in Paris
Agent deputy work outside
Police work in Washington

Social space & community

Police work & citizens

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Constitution

Peace

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General Intelligence Overview
Airport Operations
Caribbean Operations
Compliance Programs
OSORNO Investigation

Special Agent Richard DuRant
Special Agent Charles Martinez
Group Supervisor Charles Walker
Supervisor Anthony Acri
Special Agent James Milford

2:00 P.M.
Visit U.S. Customs, Miami International Airport

4:40 P.M.
Return to Washington, D.C.

Lodging at: Miami Lakes Inn & Country Club
Telephone: 821-1150

Home telephone: 822-7625 John A. Lund, Jr.
Home telephone: 792-5118 David W. Costa
(Plantation, FL)

Office telephone - 24-Hour: 591-4870

Copies to: Mr. Dick Parsons
Mr. Vernon Acree
Mr. Jerry Jenson
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4) untrained
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon
FROM: Dick Parsons
SUBJECT: Miami Trip -- Briefing Materials

Herewith, the background and briefing materials I promised.

Tab A covers general and specific (i.e., related to the Miami area) background.

Tab B contains some suggested talking points for your TV appearance (take what you need).

Tab C covers past statements of the President.

Tab D gives additional background on marihuana. I am certain you will be "grilled" vigorously on this.

I hope this is helpful.
BACKGROUND CONCERNING ADMINISTRATION'S
DRUG PROGRAM

GENERAL

1. High priority has been given to the drug program over the past half
decade, with total Federal expenditures growing from less than $100
million to over three quarters of a billion dollars for a comprehensive
program of prevention and treatment, law enforcement, and international
control. Real progress was made, but by early 1975, it was clear that
conditions were worsening and that gains of prior years were being
eroded (actual "turn" was early 1974, but data lag delayed full
recognition). For example, "street" availability of heroin measured
by price and purity, was increasing. Waiting lists for treatment
existed again, after almost having disappeared. Drug related deaths
and drug related appearances in hospital emergency rooms were
increasing. Drug related crimes were on the upsurge.

2. Deeply concerned about the evidence of increasing availability and
use of drugs, in April, President Ford directed a high priority
review of the entire Federal effort in drug law enforcement, treatment
and prevention, and international control. He asked for a frank
assessment of the extent of the problem and for detailed recommendations
for making the Federal program more effective. The resulting White
Paper on Drug Abuse was released to the public in October and endorsed
by the President (following receipt of formal Cabinet appraisals) on
December 26.

3. The President's FY 1977 budget requests sufficient funds to implement
all of the White Paper's major recommendations. For example, in line
with White Paper recommendations, additional resources are provided for:

- the growing problem of amphetamine and barbiturate abuse. The White
  Paper concludes that chronic, intensive, and medically unsupervised
  use of amphetamines and barbiturates ranks just behind heroin abuse
  as a major social problem, affecting several hundred thousand
  Americans. To respond, the budget requests funds for treatment
demonstrations for abusers of these substances, and provides 20 new
positions within the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for
strengthened regulatory and compliance activities aimed at preventing
diversion of amphetamines and barbiturates from production;

- additional community treatment capacity. Funds are included for the
  National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to fund at least 7,000 new
  community treatment slots and to recover 1,000 lost to inflation,
  thus provided Federally-supported community-based capacity to treat
  102,000 individuals at one time. In addition, other managerial
  actions will ensure greater utilization of existing community mental
  health institutions for drug users, and the treatment capacity of the
  Bureau of Prisons, the Veterans Administration, and the Department of
  Defense for their specialized clientele will be maintained;
better targeting of law enforcement effort at high level traffickers. The Drug Enforcement Administration will add 82 positions for improved intelligence and laboratory analysis aimed at supporting the existing investigation and enforcement effort. In addition, research will be focused on improving our capability to monitor drug abuse trends, and on developing tools and techniques to improve the productivity of investigators and agents;

improve job opportunities for ex-addicts. Additional funds are provided for a joint HEW/Labor program to investigate ways to provide employment opportunities for persons in and completing treatment, so that the distressing situation of returning to the same conditions which led to drug use can be avoided. In addition, other managerial actions should ensure improved application of our vocational rehabilitation services to drug users.

4. These specific budget increases are relatively modest because it was the unanimous conclusion of the Task Force which prepared the White Paper that the most significant progress could be made in the drug program through (1) more selectivity and targeting in the use of the current $750 million budget; (2) better intra- and inter-agency management; and (3) more effective mobilization, utilization, and coordination of all the resources available in the Federal Government, State and local governments, the private community and from foreign governments engaged in the worldwide effort to combat drug trafficking. In line with White Paper recommendations, existing resources are being retargeted to focus law enforcement efforts on high level drug traffickers and to ensure that treatment is available to those individuals suffering most from drug abuse. Other actions underway should ensure increased interface between the treatment and criminal justice systems to assure that apprehended drug users are identified and provided opportunities for treatment. In the area of inter-agency coordination, officers of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the U.S. Customs Service and their respective cabinet departments have prepared and signed joint "Memoranda of Understanding" identifying operating guidelines which should improve cooperation among them.

5. In the international area, the President has spoken personally to Presidents Echeverria of Mexico and Lopez-Michelsen of Colombia and with Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey in an effort to strengthen cooperation among all nations involved in the fight against illicit drug traffic. Attorney General Levi has recently discussed mutual drug control problems with the Attorney General of Mexico, and the President has directed Secretary of State Kissinger to express to the Mexican government his personal concern that we explore opportunities for improved control.

6. The President has also:

- Directed the Domestic Council Drug Abuse Task Force which prepared the White Paper to reconvene and prepare recommendations for improving our ability to control drug trafficking along the southwest border.
Appointed Peter Bensinger to head the Drug Enforcement Administration. On February 23, the day Mr. Bensinger was sworn in, the President met with him to underscore the importance of his job, and said: "The appointment of Peter Bensinger as head of the Drug Enforcement Administration is one of the most important I have made as President, because of the critical mission of that agency. I believe we have found in Mr. Bensinger the right combination of proven experience, complete integrity and full commitment to public service."

Called on Congress to enact legislation which would impose mandatory prison sentences on those convicted of trafficking in hard drugs (December 26 and February 23).

Spoke forcefully about the drug abuse problem and his commitment to fighting it in Miami on February 14.

Answered questions in New Hampshire and Florida concerning marijuana decriminalization. He said that he opposes decriminalization as long as evidence on the health effects is controversial, but that he believes Federal efforts should be focused on traffickers.

MIAMI SPECIFIC

1. The Federal Government spends $9.1 million to provide drug abuse treatment capacity for 4,400 individuals at one time in Florida; $5.0 million and 2,200 treatment "slots" are in Miami.

2. The Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) program is a Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funded program which attempts to interrupt the cycle of drug use, crime and incarceration by identifying drug abusers in the criminal justice system and both referring them to treatment and tracking their progress. The Miami program, which began in November, 1973, is one of the finest of the 36 such programs funded nationally, and the President praised it in his February 14 speech. Miami TASC has processed over 3,200 persons with a re-arrest rate of approximately five percent for those persons while on the TASC treatment program. This is many times below the expected re-arrest rate for drug-involved offenders in the community.

3. The Miami Regional office of DEA has responsibility for the coastline from New Orleans to Charleston, South Carolina. It has ten district offices (5 in Florida) and there are 139 agents in the region. Most traffic is from South America and the Caribbean Islands, with cocaine and marijuana predominating.

4. A very significant case was completed on March 19, 40 pounds of cocaine and $15,000 in currency was seized, and five defendants were arrested.
1. I am delighted to have this opportunity to talk about the Federal drug abuse program, one which the President considers among the most important and which is one of his highest personal priorities.

2. Drug abuse is one of the most serious and tragic problems the country faces. Its cost to the nation is staggering:
   - Counting narcotics related crime, health care, drug program costs and addicts' lost productivity, estimates range upward of $17 billion a year.
   - In addition to these measurable costs, the nation bears an incalculable burden in terms of ruined lives, broken homes, and divided communities.
   - It is also a major contributor to our growing crime rate.

3. Commencing in 1969, the Federal Government launched a major commitment toward eliminating the drug abuse problem in America. Sufficient progress had been made by late 1973 that Administration spokesmen, including, the former President, began to make cautious statements about "turning the corner on drug abuse".

4. Sadly, we now know that the very real progress which led to this confidence was, in the main, temporary and regional. In fact, at that very time, the underlying trends had already begun to turn up after having declined steadily for almost two years.

5. Deeply concerned over evidence indicating an increase in the availability and use of illicit drugs, President Ford, in April, called for a thorough appraisal of the nature and extent of drug abuse in America today. The President directed the Domestic Council, under the leadership of the Vice President, to undertake a priority review of the overall Federal effort in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, to give him a frank assessment of our effectiveness, and to make recommendations concerning ways to make the Federal drug abuse program more effective in the future.

6. The resulting White Paper on Drug Abuse which was released in October, contained a frank assessment of where we are in these efforts, as well as a number of comprehensive recommendations to improve our response to this critical problem. It is an excellent document which addresses the problem squarely, and which avoids raising false hopes about this difficult area.
7. After receiving the formal recommendations of his Cabinet, the President endorsed the White Paper in December, and the budget he submitted to Congress requests funds to implement all of its major recommendations.

8. Since most drugs of abuse originate overseas, making international cooperation vital to reducing the availability of drugs here at home, the President has spoken with Presidents Echeverria of Mexico and Lopez-Michelsen of Colombia and with Prime Minister Demeril of Turkey in an effort to strengthen cooperation of those nations involved in the fight against illicit drug traffic.

9. He has also:

- directed the Domestic Council Drug Abuse Task Force which prepared the White Paper to reconvene and prepare recommendations for improving our ability to control drug trafficking along the southwest border.
- Appointed Peter Bensinger to head the Drug Enforcement Administration.
- Called on Congress to enact legislation which would impose mandatory prison sentences on those convicted of trafficking in hard drugs (December 26 and February 23).

10. So, as you can see, we are acting vigorously at the Federal level. But, as the White Paper said, we must more effectively mobilize and utilize all the resources available in the Federal Government, State and local governments, and the private community.

- Opportunities exist to more fully utilize the resources of the U.S. Customs Service and the FBI within an integrated Federal law enforcement program, and to utilize educational rehabilitation services available in the Department of Labor as part of a comprehensive demand reduction program.
- The Federal Government should take the lead in mobilizing the enormous potential resources available in State and local law enforcement agencies, and in State, local, and private prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services.

11. Only through full utilization of all available resources, and close cooperation among all involved agencies, can we hope to reduce the extent of drug abuse in America.
Drug abuse is one of the most serious and tragic problems in this country. Its cost to the nation in terms of ruined lives, broken homes and divided communities is staggering. In addition to this toll, it is a major cause of crime.

Combatting this problem is a major priority of my Administration.

The appointment of Peter Bensinger as head of the Drug Enforcement Administration is one of the most important I have made as President, because of the critical mission of that agency. I believe we have found in Mr. Bensinger the right combination of proven experience, complete integrity and full commitment to public service.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is the agency principally responsible for Federal drug law enforcement. It has the often thankless task of seeking out and apprehending some of the cruelest criminals in the world -- those who traffic in hard drugs. This is a complex and difficult task. However, if we are to win the war on drugs, these merchants of tragedy and death must be stopped.

I have recommended that the Congress enact legislation which would impose mandatory prison sentences on those convicted of trafficking in hard drugs. I have also met with the leaders of Mexico, Turkey and Colombia, and with members of the United States Congress, to assure them of my full commitment to curbing the illicit traffic in drugs. I want to take this opportunity to pledge to the American people an all-out Federal effort to combat the drug menace.
PAGE 7 (excerpt)

The increasing abuse of hard drugs contributes to the soaring crime rate. In this case, our Federal responsibility is very, very clear. I have directed all Federal law enforcement agencies -- in particular, the Drug Enforcement Administration -- to intensify the drive against major narcotic traffickers.

I am seeking legislation and cooperation with the Congress for mandatory prison sentences for convicted traffickers in hard drugs. These merchants of death deserve nothing less.

Because the drug problem also involves other nations, I have had an opportunity in the last year and one half to consult with leaders of Mexico, Colombia and Turkey to urge stronger action by them in cooperation with us to control the production and the shipment of hard drugs.

I have also recommended to the Congress to increase Federal funds to get drug addicts into treatment and out of crime. Your own program right here in Miami, known as the Treatment Alternative to Street Crime, funded by LEAA, I think is an excellent example of this concept at work.

Programs that I have outlined here tonight are part of a Federal effort to combat crime. As long as crime is a national or nationwide problem, the Administration is determined to provide leadership and assistance in fighting it within our jurisdiction.
"The sale of hard drugs is on the increase again. I have directed all agencies of the Federal Government to step up enforcement efforts against those who deal in drugs. In 1975, Federal agents seized substantially more heroin coming into our country than in 1974.

"As President, I have talked personally with the leaders of Mexico, Colombia and Turkey to urge greater efforts by their Governments to control effectively the production and shipment of hard drugs.

"I recommended months ago that the Congress enact mandatory fixed sentences for persons convicted of Federal crimes involving the sale of hard drugs. Hard drugs degrade the spirit as they destroy the body of their users."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 26, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Drug abuse is a tragic national problem which saps our Nation’s vitality. It is also a major contributor to our growing crime rate. All of us must redouble our efforts to combat this problem.

Earlier this week I met with Representative Charles B. Rangel and other members of the Congress to discuss the problem of drug abuse. The Congressmen reported the growing availability and use of illicit drugs and expressed their concern about the continuing flow of drugs across the Southwest border from Mexico and their continuing concern about a possible resurgence of heroin traffic from Turkey.

Aware of the worsening situation, last spring I directed a high-priority review of the entire Federal effort in drug law enforcement, treatment and prevention, and international control. The resulting White Paper on Drug Abuse contained a frank assessment of where we are in these efforts, as well as a number of comprehensive recommendations to improve our response to this critical problem. I endorse the White Paper and the budget I will submit in January will request sufficient funds to implement all of its major recommendations.

This Administration already has begun to take strong action to deal with the mounting threat, however. I have spoken with Presidents Echeverria of Mexico and Lopez-Michelsen of Colombia and with Prime Minister Demeril of Turkey in an effort to strengthen cooperation of other nations involved in the fight against illicit drug traffic. Because of my particular concern about the problem of Mexican heroin, I am directing Secretary of State Kissinger to express to the Mexican government my personal concern that we explore opportunities for improved control. I have also directed the Domestic Council Drug Abuse Task Force to present me with specific recommendations for improving our ability to control drug trafficking along the Southwest border.

I call upon the Congress to enact my proposal for mandatory minimum sentences for drug traffickers, so those who are spreading this evil throughout our communities will be put behind bars where they belong. And I urge the Congress to ratify the Convention of Psychotropic Substances, so we can fulfill our obligations to the other nations of the world to see that strong international controls exist for all drugs. In the weeks ahead I will send to the Congress a comprehensive message on drug abuse establishing a framework for a broad government response to the problem.
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MEMBERS OF THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL DRUG ABUSE TASK FORCE
FROM: Dick Parsons
SUBJECT: Marihuana

Ambassador Vance, Commissioner Acree and other members of the Task Force have made all of us aware of the desirability of having a clear Presidential policy statement concerning marihuana. This is even more the case in light of the recent publicity this matter has received.

Last Sunday, the President had occasion to address this issue. Herewith, for your information and guidance, is the President's view:

"QUESTION: Mr. President, I was wondering how you feel about the illegal possession of marihuana?

"THE PRESIDENT: There is a great controversy in the scientific world as to whether or not the use to a substantial degree of marihuana is good or bad for a person's health. Until there is a higher degree of unanimity among the scientific world that marihuana is not harmful to the individual, I do not think we should decriminalize marihuana.

"I think that we should do as the White House Domestic Council review recommended; that we should concentrate our effort at the Federal level on hard drugs, the trafficker and the others [e.g. financiers].

"But, I re-emphasize, I do not believe in the decriminalization of marihuana under the present circumstances."

The President's statement is significant both because he clearly states his opposition to decriminalization of marihuana given the current controversy about its effects and because he expressly endorses the recommendation of the Domestic Council Drug Abuse Task Force that priority in Federal antinarcotics efforts be directed at those drugs which have the highest costs to society and to the user.* Of course, giving "priority" to hard drugs

* See, White Paper on Drug Abuse, pp. 29-34.
does not mean totally abandoning our efforts aimed at other, less harmful drugs. To quote the White Paper:

"This ranking does not mean that all efforts should be devoted to the high priority drugs, and none to others. Drug use is much too complicated and our knowledge too imprecise for that. Some attention must continue to be given to all drugs both to keep them from exploding into major problems and because there are individuals suffering severe medical problems from even a low priority drug, such as marihuana.

"However, when resource constraints force a choice, the choice should be made in favor of the higher priority drugs."

White Paper on Drug Abuse
pp. 33-4

I hope this is helpful to you.
February 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Carlson
FROM: Dick Parsons
SUBJECT: Marihuana

You requested some additional guidance in terms of responding to press inquiries concerning the President's position on marihuana. Specifically, questions have been raised about the President's stand on decriminalization of marihuana in light of the recently released HEW report on Marihuana and Health.

As you know, the President has indicated that, until there is greater unanimity concerning the effects of marihuana on health, he will continue to oppose decriminalization of marihuana. In support of this position, I would cite the following facts:

Only since 1968 have we been able to synthesize the various chemical components of marihuana and make them available for study. In addition, finding appropriate human subjects on whom to study the effects of marihuana has been difficult. Lastly, the active ingredients in the marihuana plant per se are chemically complex and the reaction of the body's system is equally complex.

There are some things that we can definitively say about the acute effects of marihuana:

- Marihuana intoxication results in impaired memory, altered time sense and diminished ability to perform certain motor skills while intoxicated.
- This leads to the conclusion that both driving performance and learning are impaired by marihuana intoxication.
- The preponderance of use occurs with teenagers and young adults.
Given these facts, it is appropriate to protect young people from marihuana intoxication. I doubt that anyone would argue that it is desirable for teenagers to be chronically intoxicated.

In terms of more long-term effects of marihuana use, we do not have good evidence on the impact of use on adolescents either physiologically or psychologically. We do not have definitive knowledge regarding the effect of marihuana use on the immune response or on other functions related to cellular reproduction and metabolism. Thus, there is much to be learned about long-term effects of marihuana use.

Marihuana is often compared to alcohol and tobacco. In releasing the Fifth Annual Report to the Congress on Marihuana and Health on February 12, 1976, Dr. Robert L. DuPont, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, responded to a press question regarding the relative health menace of the three drugs by saying that both alcohol and tobacco presented a greater health problem. However, this is not the same as saying that there are no problems associated with marihuana use. On the contrary, in summarizing the findings of the report, Dr. DuPont stated: "The evidence of marihuana intoxication shows it to present a clear and present danger; even with small dosage levels of marihuana, psycho motor performance is impaired." Dr. DuPont warned that such intoxication "can have dangerous consequences in such areas as traffic safety and industrial performance." He also added that "intellectual performance, and in particular immediate memory, are also impaired while under the influence of marihuana." He concluded his press statement by saying: "This should cause us all to rethink the consequences of increased marihuana use."

In summary, the safety of marihuana has in no way been established. In fact, we are clear on the detrimental effects of marihuana intoxication but unclear as to the long-term effects of its use, especially with young people, who seem to be the most likely users. We would be irresponsible, therefore, if we were to promote any policy at the Federal level which tends to make the drug more readily available or condones or encourages its use. The President believes that decriminalization would do just that.

cc: Jim Cannon