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MEETING WITH DR. DENSEN-GERBER

April 23, 1975
2:00 p.m.

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Affairs
Executive Director of the Domestic
Council

From: Judianne Densen-Gerber, J.D., M.D.,
F.C.L.M.

Date: April 23, 1975

Subject: Proposed Special Counsel to the
President for the Concerns of
American Children

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum is intended to serve as a brief, preliminary sketch of an office of a Special Counsel to the President, preliminary to the creation of a Cabinet post, to be created either by Executive Order or by legislation. The Director of this Office will be reportable directly to the President and to a Special Joint Committee of the Congress. The mandate of the Office will be to identify the significant problems of American children and the availability of resources and services to meet their needs. Once sufficient data is collected and assembled, the Office will design and recommend policy and implementation of programs to effectively and efficiently coordinate and administer the resources and services on the federal, state, and local level.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1. Coordinate and direct a two-year survey of all existing resources and services, including but not limited to health, social service, legal, education, juvenile justice and child protection legislation, programs and systems on the federal, state, and local levels. This would include an evaluation and analysis of the legislation or implementing orders, the nature of services, the qualifications of service providers, eligibility requirements of recipients, quality of services and impact on the designated problem areas, as well as the coordination with similar programs or services from other sources, governmental or private.

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2. Design and develop model systems and programs based on findings of the research survey for implementation on national, regional, state or local level to provide comprehensive services to children. Emphasis should be placed on local or state responsibility, with coordination and supplementation from regional or federal resources where appropriate.

3. Hold public hearings periodically in each state with federal, state, and local officials, service administrators and providers, community leaders, and private citizens to receive maximum input on needed changes and to help monitor the progress of and public response to legislative and/or programmatic developments. Transcripts and findings would be submitted to the President and to the Special Joint Committee of Congress.

4. Conduct a public education and awareness campaign to create a general understanding of the significance of children as the leading national resource, and the numerous problems threatening the health, safety and development of children, individually and collectively. The campaign would present the public and its officials with facts and statistics which would facilitate and promote greater effectiveness and efficiency of the various components of the present system. Support will be sought for establishing the concerns of children as a priority of public services.

5. Organize and utilize an advisory board of citizens, private foundations, religious leaders, professional groups, and service providers to meet regularly with the Director and to make

recommendations on programs and policy matters.

6. Quarterly report to the Special Joint Committee by the Director on the activities, findings, recommendations, and problems of the Office. The Committee will be requested to take particular notice of any major issues raised which are of appropriate concern to the legislative sector.

7. Examples of coordination of resources and effort:

a. Law enforcement monies and mental health monies should be coordinated in services and programs to provide a comprehensive, effective effort at a reduced net cost to taxpayers.

b. Develop mechanisms for dissemination of information to the public of existing programs such as the WIC program.

c. Investigation of the problems of runaway children and abandoned children, and the coordination of resources allocated to their care and protection.

d. Promulgation of guidelines for educational materials and courses on parenting for use in public school curriculae.

e. Promote the development and use of materials and courses in public schools with which to acquaint children with American values and traditions, and to update American history courses to reflect the participation of women and racial and ethnic minorities in the shaping of the development of the United States' position of world prominence.

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James M. Cannon
April 23, 1975
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f. Promote educational and recreational activities
designed to foster constructive and positive competition
among children.

Estimated First Year Budget Requirements.....\$20 million

JDG/nhk

— Wed April 23
11AM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 14, 1975

*Special Counsel to Pres for
Concerns of Children*

MEMORANDUM TO: JIM CANNON
FROM: DICK DUNHAM *RD*
SUBJECT: Judy Densen Gerber

This morning I received a message that Dr. Densen Gerber had called saying that she had received a note from Mrs. Ford on Friday about her concern for children and suggesting that she meet with you. Judy has talked with me about the same subject so I suppose I should join in any meeting you arrange with her.

Her numbers are: 212 RE7-4313 *K*
NA8-4014

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1975

Dear Dr. Densen-Gerber,

Congressman Seymour Halpern has very graciously forwarded to Mrs. Ford your request to meet with her and to discuss a cabinet-level White House office for the Concerns of Children. Although Mrs. Ford's personal and official commitments will not permit her this opportunity, may I suggest that you be in direct communication with Mr. James Cannon, the new Chairman of the Domestic Council, here at the White House. I have also forwarded Congressman Halpern's letter to Mr. Cannon.

With gratitude for your concern and interest and warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter
Appointments Secretary
for Mrs. Ford

Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber
142 East End Avenue
New York, New York 10028

c: ✓ James Cannon

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SEYMOUR HALPERN
540 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

February 5, 1975

Dear Betty,

One of our country's great ladies, Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber, is most desirous of meeting you and would be most appreciative for the opportunity of lunching with your gracious self.

Judi is an unusual woman. She's a medical doctor, a lawyer, a psychiatrist, a law professor, an author, a wife and a mother of four (ages 2 to 15). Only just 40 years of age, she is the founder of Odyssey House and of the Odyssey Institute. Odyssey is the nation's most far-reaching drug addiction treatment program operating in 12 states (including a facility in Flint, Michigan as well as a mutual venture with Project Rehab in Grand Rapids). The Odyssey modality is based on a drug-free psychiatrically oriented principle and the success ratio is simply phenomenal.

The newly established Odyssey Institute's activities are nation-wide and go far beyond the treatment of addiction. It covers the broad range from child abuse and child neglect to prison programs for drug-related criminal offenders, as well as research projects to root out the causes of human indifference.

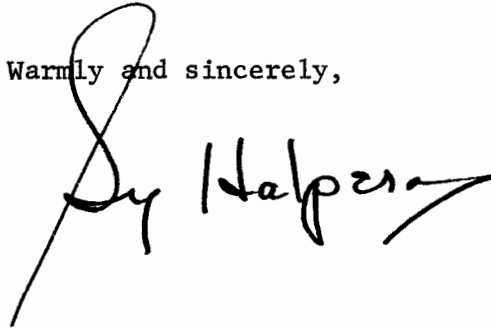
Judi has been advocating a cabinet-level White House office for the Concerns of Children, a post long overdue in the highest councils of our government. It seems to me to be a great idea, and one which would win wide acclaim for the Administration.

There is much, I am sure, you would have in common with Judi and I know you will feel greatly enriched in getting together with her. May I suggest that Judi follow up with your

secretary for a mutually agreeable appointment or would you wish
to make contact from your end. Her address is: Dr. Judianne
Densen-Gerber, 142 East End Avenue, New York, New York (212/
RE-7-1413). (212) 674-9160

Barbara joins me in wishing you the best of health
and every happiness always.

Warmly and sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sy Halperin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mrs. Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Mrs. Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Personal Please

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Mrs. Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Personal Please