The original documents are located in Box 48, folder "1975/07/16 - President, Vice President, and Jim Lynn" of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT & JIM LYNN WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1975 3:30 p.m. The Oval Office

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HAZZ UP

DRAFT MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

In the budget that I submitted to the Congress in February,

I requested \$3.8 billion to finance the Food Stamp program for

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fiscal year 1976. Today, I am compelled to request an additional

\$3 billion, nearly doubling my estimate of just six months ago.

This increase stems in part from the recession. But that is only a part of the story. History has shown us that the fundamental structure of the program invites expansion.

ago, there were 400,000 persons participating in the program at a cost of \$36 million. Today we have 20 million participants at a projected annual cost of \$6.8 billion. If all of those who are eligible under current law were to sign up for the Food Stamp program it has been estimated that between 40 to 60 million people would be receiving stamps. Even with an improving economy, the prospects for continued rapid growth are great, if the law is not changed. What has evolved over the past decade is another massive, multi-billion dollar program, fully supported by Federal taxpayers.

There are those that would argue that the Food Stamp program is uncontrollable and that the escalating costs are inevitable.

I refuse to accept the proposition that this, or any public program is uncontrollable.

The Food Stamp Act was placed in the Statutes by the Congress of the United States and the Congress has the power and authority to amend the law.

I ask the Congress to join me in refusing to accept the label "uncontrollable."

To that end, I submitted a proposal earlier this year which would have required all participants to pay the same percentage of their income to purchase food stamps. This plan would have continued assistance to those in need and would have distributed benefits on an equitable basis. However, this reform, which would have saved \$1 billion in FY 1976 at the current rate of participation, was rejected by the Congress.

In submitting this revised budget request, I am asking again that the Congress work with me toward two goals:

In fairness to those truly in need; to focus the food stamp assistance on them;

In fairness to the taxpayers who must pay the bills; to tighten eligibility and participation requirements.

I am pleased to note that more than 70 Members of the Congress have joined together to support legislation which recognizes the need for changes in the Food Stamp Act; seeking to concentrate resources on assistance to low-income Americans. Those members have also identified the need to relate the Food Stamp program to other assistance programs directed toward these same families.

Their proposal introduces a number of positive objectives which should be supported by everyone who shares the dual goals of assisting those in need and controlling costs.

I strongly urge the Congress to initiate hearings on these proposals at the earliest possible time. Administration witnesses are ready to testify. If this program is to be contained, even within its current bounds, action must be taken now.

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 19, 1975

JMC:

Copies have been hand carried to:

Rumsfeld Cheney Friedersdorf Nessen Baroody

Marsh

Marsh

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19, 1975 12:30 a.m.

REVISED PLAN FOR HANDLING CRIME MESSAGE

1. Transmittal to Congress 3 p.m. Thursday, June 19

- -- Attorney General and President meet. President will sign Message - photo opportunity.
- -- President will then go to the briefing room at 3:30 p.m. accompanied by the Attorney General and make a brief statement on the Message.
- -- The President will then depart; the Attorney General will brief reporters on the Message and take questions.

2. Briefings

- a. The Congress
 - -- Republican leadership was briefed by the President and Attorney General on Tuesday, June 17.
 - -- Senate Judiciary Committee were briefed by Ken Lazarus on Wednesday, June 18.
 - -- House Judiciary Committee were briefed by Dick Parsons on Wednesday, June 18.

b. Media

-- Justice Department backgrounded--on Wednesday, June 18--(on an embargo basis) reporters who cover the Justice Department from the following papers and wire services:

> UPI, AP, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Newsweek and Time.

- -- Attorney General to appear on the Today Show.
- -- Jim Cannon and Dick Parsons to brief selected group of columnists put together by Bill Greener.

c. Public Interest Groups

- -- Jim Falk will brief by telephone key officials of the National Governors' Conference, including Governors Dan Evans, Bob Ray, and Cal Rampton.
- -- Jim Falk will brief John Gunther of US Conference of Mayors and provide him with text of Message which Gunther will dex to the mayors of the 150 largest cities.
- -- Jim Falk will brief Bernie Hildebrand of the National Association of Counties.
- -- Jim Falk will prepare Presidential letter to send to the 50 Governors with copies of the Message.

d. National Rifle Association

-- Jim Cannon and Mike Balzano covered this base on gun control.

e. Special Interests Groups

- -- Bill Baroody and Ted Marrs are putting together a list of outside groups to be invited to a Roosevelt Room briefing by the Attorney General, Jim Cannon, and Dick Parsons.
- -- Bill Baroody to do mailing of Message to the presidents of selected groups.

3. Legislation

LEAA - to be ready by June 25.

Gun Control - to be ready by June 25.

Mandatory Sentencing - to be ready by June 25.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

July 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR :

JERRY WARREN

FROM:

JIM CANNO

SUBJECT :

President Ford's First Year

Accomplishments

The most significant accomplishment of President Ford in his first year in my judgment, is this:

President Ford has, single-handedly, restored for most Americans the trust and credibility of the office. He has brought back the solid tradition that we can believe what the President of the United States says.

DRAFT - 2:00 p.m. July 15, 1975

Dear Hugh:

With the number of important legislative decisions that must be made by the Congress before the August recess, it is most important that a high priority be given by the Senate to the extension of the temporary provision of the Voting Rights Act.

These provisions expire August 6, 1975, and it is imperative that Congress continue this important Act.

My position is this: With time so short, and the Senate engaged in other responsibilities, it may be best as a practical matter to extend the Voting Rights Act as it is, or for the Senate to accept the House bill (H.R. 6219). In the interest of making certain that the Voting Rights Act is continued, I will support either approach.

However, the issue of broadening the Act further has arisen; and it is my view that it would now be appropriate to expand the protection of the Act to all citizens of the United States.

I strongly believe that the right to vote is the foundation of freedom, and that this right must be protected.

That is why when this issue was first being considered in 1965, I co-sponsored with Representative William McCulloch of Ohio a voting rights bill which would have effectively quaranteed voting rights to eligible citizens throughout the whole country.

After it became clear at that time that the McCulloch-Ford Bill would not pass, I voted for the most practical alternative, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1970, I supported extending the Act.

Last January, when this issue first came before me as President, I proposed that Congress again extend for five years the temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The House of Representatives, in H.R. 6219, has broadened this important law in this way: (1) The House bill would extend the temporary provisions of the Act for ten years, instead of five; and (2) the

House bill would extend the temporary provisions of the Act so as to include discrimination against language minorities, thereby extending application of the Act from the present seven States to eight additional States, in whole or in part.

In light of the House extension of the Voting Rights Act for ten years and to eight more States, I believe this is the appropriate time and opportunity to extend the Voting Rights Act nationwide.

This is one nation, and what is right for fifteen States is right for fifty States.

Numerous civil rights leaders have pointed out that substantial numbers of Black citizens have been denied the right to vote in many of our large cities in areas other than the seven Southern states where the present temporary provisions apply. Discrimination in voting in any part of this nation is equally undesirable.

As I said in 1965, when I introduced legislation on this subject, a responsible, comprehensive voting rights bill should "correct voting discrimination wherever it occurs throughout the length and breadth of this great land."

I urge the Senate to move promptly--first, to assure that the temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act do not lapse. As amendments are taken up, I commend for your consideration the approach which Representative McCulloch and I proposed in 1965 to extend the Voting Rights Act nationwide. Should the Senate extend the Act to American voters wherever they live, I am confident the House of Representatives would concur.

I shall be grateful if you will convey to the members of the Senate my views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

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4

Sincerely,

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM CANNON

FROM

ANDRE BUCKLES

SUBJECT

COYOTE PRESS PLAN

PURPOSE

This is to inform you of the current announcement plan for the President's decisions regarding the coyote problem.

BACKGROUND

Domestic Council staff met today with representatives from OMB, CEQ, EPA, USDA, DOI to discuss a coyote announcement plan. The group will meet again tomorrow. Upon completion of the Wednesday meeting, a memorandum summarizing the final plan will be sent to you. All efforts are being coordinated through the White House Congressional and press offices.

ANNOUNCEMENT PLAN

In general, there are four main groupings to which the announcement will be geared: Press, Congress, Environmentalists and the livestock industry.

PRESS BRIEFING PLAN

Action-forcing event: Nessen's announcement that the President has amended Executive Order 11643. The President could sign the amendment on Friday, July 18, which means we could announce Friday.

PROPOSAL

- (1) Nessen announce that the Executive Order has been amended Friday, July 18.
- (2) Nessen announce that there will be an additional press briefing on coyotes for interested press in 450 EOB at 2:30, 3:30 or 4:30 that afternoon.

(3) The 450 EOB press briefing will present a panel of staff level experts handling any questions from the press. Agencies represented will be CEQ, EPA, Agriculture and Interior.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING PLAN

Thursday, July 17: The White House Congressional Relations Office will set up a number of briefings for members of the House and Senate who have made their interests known to the President. Briefings probably will be conducted by Tod Hullin and Jim Mitchell on the day prior to announcement. Each agency involved will subsequently brief additional appropriate members and their staffs.

ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFING PLAN

Friday, July 18: Following the 10:30 White House announcement, Russ Peterson will convene a briefing session at CEQ for environmental interest groups including, but not limited to, the National Audubon Society, the Humane Society, the Izaak Walton League and the Sierra Club.

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY BRIEFING PLAN

Friday, July 18: Following the 10:30 White House announcement, Secretary Butz or his representative will convene a briefing session at USDA for industry groups including, but not limited to, the National Cattlemen's Association, American Sheep Producers Council, the National Wool Growers Association, the National Lamb Feeders Association.

[1/16/15]

AGENDA FOR 3 P.M. MEETING (Headliners)

- 1. Political
- 2. Capitol Hill Club
- 3. Water Quality Commission
- 4. Weekly Briefing Notes
- 5. Domestic Council
- 6. Bicentennial
- 7. Science and Technology
- 8. Follow-up
 - CIA
 - Murphy Commission

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1975

WEEKLY DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT

1. Domestic Council Staff Needs

Discussed in separate memorandum.

2. Voting Rights

We have a new draft letter for your review.

3. Crime Legislation

We now have cleared the LEAA extension, the mandatory sentencing legislation, and the gun control legislation, and it is ready for you to transmit to the Congress.

Max Friedersdorf and I will make one more attempt to get Senator Hruska with us on gun control.

4. Puerto Rico Ad Hoc Advisory Group

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group met for three days last week here in Washington, co-chaired by Marlow Cook and Jaime Benitez, acting for Munoz Marin.

The purpose was to discuss the Puerto Rican members' April 12 proposals for changes in the status of Puerto Rico. The next step is the final meeting of the Group July 31 - August 2, in Washington, to resolve the remaining differences. Then the Group will report to the President and to the Governor of Puerto Rico - probably in September.

Phil Burton made it known to members of the Group that he still wants the vacancy left by Tom Foley's resignation.

5. Food Stamps

We have a joint OMB-Domestic Council paper on this for your review.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

Domestic Council Staff

Background

Your February 13, 1975 memorandum outlining the responsibilities of the Domestic Council, and a February 20, 1975 memorandum from the Vice President to you assign the Domestic Council staff three major areas of responsibility:

- 1. Day-to-Day Operations. You directed that the Domestic Council staff continue its important day-to-day operational work for you.
- 2. Long-Range Policy. You directed that we identify major domestic problem areas and with your approval set up inter-departmental Review Groups to get the facts, assess them, and coordinate the development of policy options for Presidential decision.
- 3. Program Formulation. The Vice President proposed, and you agreed, that a major priority objective of the Council should be to develop options that will assist you in formulating the comprehensive, cohesive Ford Administration program for 1976.

Current Situation

After 4-1/2 months on the job, it is clear to me that we cannot meet all of these major responsibilities with the present Domestic Council staff of --

- 15 Professionals
- 15 Secretarial
- 30 Total

- 1. Day-to-Day Operations. To improve operational staff work, we reorganized the present staff by function rather than by Cabinet department (Tab A). This reorganization gave Dunham, Cavanaugh and me more direct control over the daily work of the professional staff, and has produced, in my judgment, staff work that is more thorough and more timely. But we are still missing too many deadlines.
- 2. Long-Range Policy. We now have four Review Groups: Social Assistance - Jack Veneman, Executive Director Regulatory Reform - Rod Hills, Executive Director Drug Abuse - Dick Parsons, Executive Director Environment

For lack of staff, we have not organized the Environmental Review Group or proposed other Review Groups.

3. Program Formulation. We should be preparing, staffing, and coordinating the formulation of options for your next State of the Union message and for your legislative program for the 1976 Congressional session. But we do not have the staff to do it.

Recommendation

When the Domestic Council was created in 1970, a staff of 52 was authorized. In anticipation of a Presidential election year, the Domestic Council staff was increased to 74 in FY 71 and to 75 in FY 72.

When the "Super Cabinet" counselor system was established in January of 1973, the Domestic Council staff was cut to 30 and has remained there since.

What we need right now are an additional 29 persons to assist in our work in these three important areas.

The Vice President and I recommend that the following increase in the Domestic Council staff be authorized:

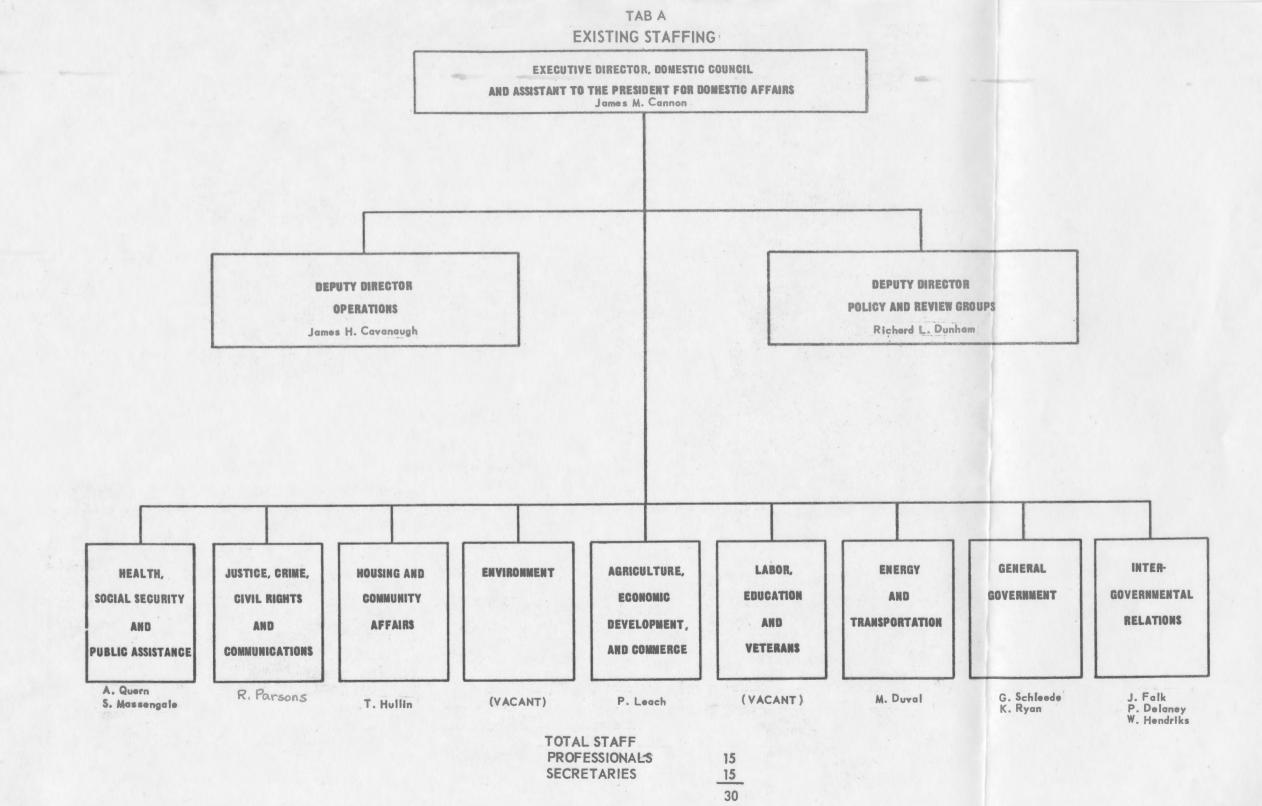
	Present	Additional	New Total
Professional	15	23	38
Clerical	_15_	6	_21_
Total	30	29	59

The total additional cost for FY 76 would be about \$1,000,000 (vs. \$1,320,000 in the present FY 76 budget).

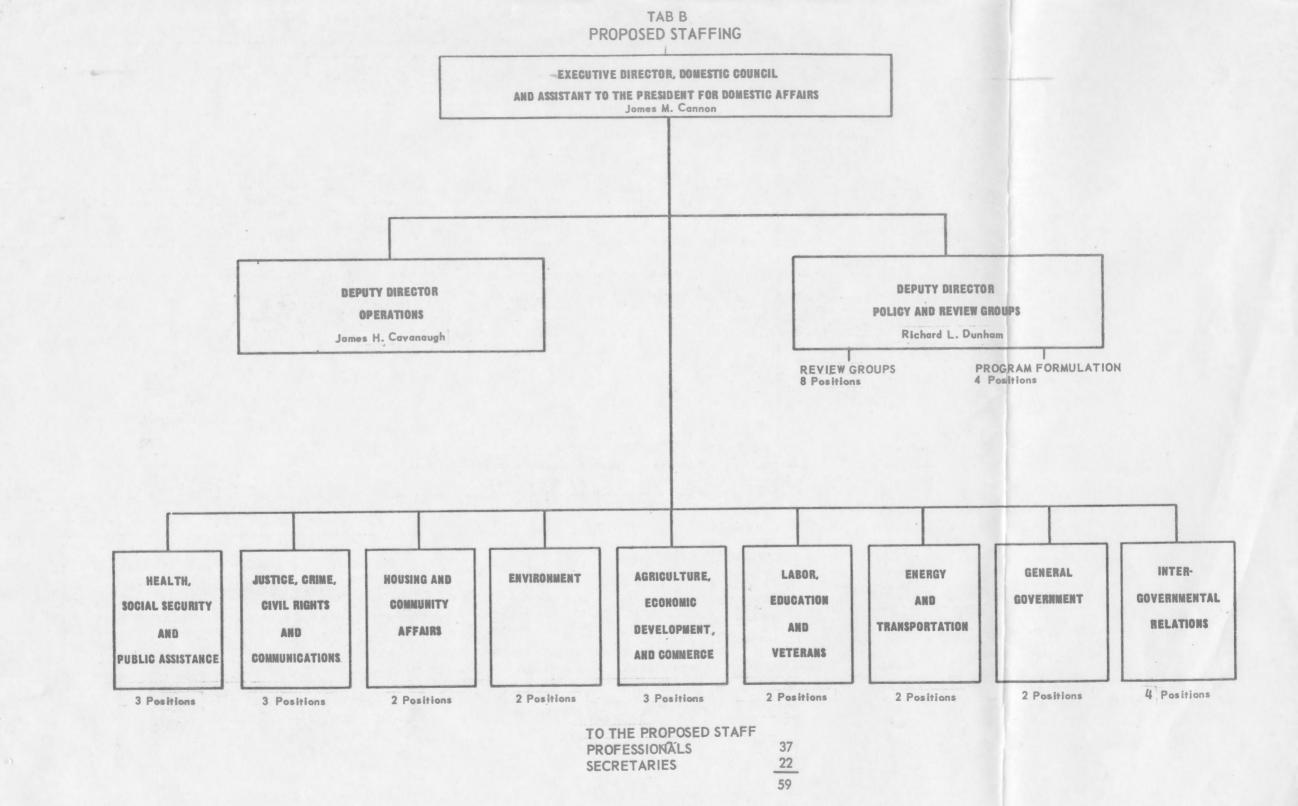
Dick Dunham and I have discussed this increase in staff with Jim Lynn and Paul O'Neill, and how it might be accomplished.

Decision

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July 16

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