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VICE PRESIDENT/CANNON
MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN
STEED, MILLER; Mr. Tex
Gunnels
MONDAY, JULY 21, 1975
2:00 p.m. - House Appropriations'
Office

of the OMB.

sends a

OMB - gets amended
one line

drop it in free
Committee tomorrow.

get full Committee
in Senate to
may this - then
can get against
in Congress



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1975

Dear Congressman Steed:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request the consideration of Congress for additional funds for the budget of the Domestic Council. On July 16, the President, the Vice President, the Director of OMB, and I discussed the needs for the staff of the Domestic Council; and the President authorized me to bring this matter to your attention, and to the attention of Senator Montoya and Senator Bellmon.

We are respectfully asking for an appropriation increase in the budget request for the Domestic Council in the Treasury, Post Office and General Government appropriation bill now before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

More specifically, we are asking for an increase in the President's original recommendation of \$1,320,000 to \$2,240,000, an increase of \$920,000. The purpose of this request is to permit a staff increase from the present level of 30 to a maximum of 59.

As you will recall, the President asked me to assume the responsibility for directing the work of the Domestic Council on February 13, 1975, and at the same time outlined the responsibilities that he asked the Domestic Council to undertake. The President's Executive Budget had by then been submitted to Congress and, of course, it was difficult for me until recently to evaluate the staff needs of the Domestic Council in the light of the tasks assigned to the Council by the President.

Essentially, there are three major areas of responsibility that the President has asked the Council to undertake, all of which are extremely important to him, and in my opinion, cannot be adequately and responsibly performed within existing staff levels.



These three major areas are:

1) Day to Day Operations

This responsibility consists of staff work for the President on domestic issues, such as on Presidential meetings, papers on subjects of a relatively short term nature which relate to two or more departments and agencies and which require coordination and resolution; reviewing and helping in the preparation of messages for the Congress, statements, speeches and public statements, etc.; consulting with the Members of Congress; public contacts and intergovernmental relations with the governors, mayors, county executives and other local officials.

2) Review Groups

This task involves setting up, participating in and supervising interdepartmental task forces on a variety of specific subjects of a longer term nature -- designed to get the facts, assess them, and coordinate the development of policy options for Presidential decision, and then to work with the Congress in advancing the resolution of important national issues.

The President has approved the establishment of four of these groups in the areas of Social Assistance Programs, Regulatory Reform, Drug Abuse, and Environmental Problems. We anticipate establishing additional review groups.

3) Program Formulation

In the domestic area, the President has asked the Council to prepare, staff and coordinate the formulation of options for his legislative messages and program.

After four and one half months on the job, it has become clear to me that we cannot meet these major responsibilities with the present staff level of 15 professional and 15 support staff.

You will recall also that when the Domestic Council was created in 1970, a staff of 52 was authorized and subsequently increased to 79 in FY 73.



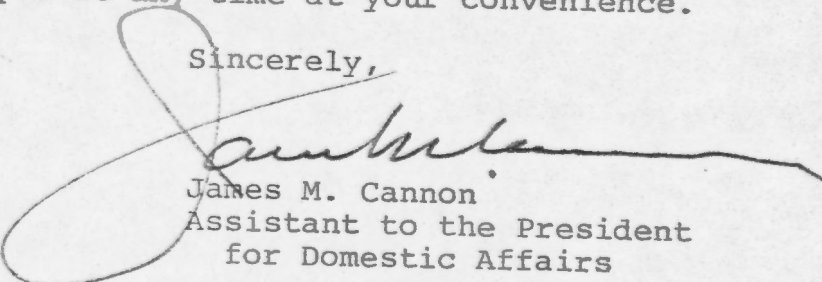
When the former President established the Counselor system, the Domestic Council staff was cut to 30 and the balance of its staff was assigned to the Counselors. When the Counselor system was abolished, the functions, largely operational, were returned to the Domestic Council staff; but the positions were abolished and Domestic Council staff levels were not increased.

It is for these reasons that we feel we need up to an additional 29 persons to assist in our work in the three important areas mentioned above.

Approval of the increase in funds of \$920,000 would permit the addition of sufficient staff to enable the Council to perform much more adequately and responsibly the tasks assigned to it by the President.

I urge your serious consideration of this request and, of course, my staff and I will be available to discuss this with you at any time at your convenience.

Sincerely,



James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

The Honorable Tom Steed
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



DOMESTIC COUNCIL
STAFFING FY 1976

I. Summary

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed Additions</u>	<u>New Total</u>
Professional	15	22	37
Support	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>22</u>
	30	29	59

II. Detail*

Executive Level III	1	0	1
Executive Level IV	1	0	1
Executive Level V	7	2	9
GS-16	2	2	4
GS-15	1	3	4
GS-14	0	2	2
GS-13	3	5	8
GS-12	1	5	6
GS-11	2	1	3
GS-10	3	2	5
GS-9	2	4	6
GS-8	3	1	4
GS-7	2	0	2
GS-6	1	1	2
GS-5	1	1	2

*The grades are approximate since the appointments are excepted.

