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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 29, 1975

MEETING WITH MAYOR PETE WILSON (R), SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Tuesday, September 30, 1975

3:00 p.m. (15 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

The fulfill a request of the Mayor.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Backgouund

Mayor Pete Wilson has just been assured reelection by winning a primary on September 19 by 61.7 percent of the vote. Since he won by more than 50% of the vote, no run off election will be held.

He was first elected Mayor of San Diego in 1971 by 62% of the vote. Prior to serving as Mayor, he served 5 years in the California Legislature as a Republican Assemblyman from San Diego and served as Republican Whip.

The issue he is most likely to raise involves the location by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons of a federal youth center in San Diego. Such a project has been under consideration since 1971 and a site has been acquired which was a former military facility. At that time, the area was non-residential. As the years have passed, substantial private construction has occured in the area around the project location of the Federal youth center.

Mayor Wilson and County Supervisor Jack Walsh are both opposed to the construction and have talked with Dick Cheney and Jim Falk on several occasions about the project. Jerry Warren, formerly of the



staff and presently Editor of the San Diego Union, confirms this. Editorially, the paper has come out against this site for the facility.

The Mayor called a public hearing which was held a few days after his election and it produced an overwhelming negative response to the prison project.

In addition to this issue, Mayor Wilson has indicated a desire to talk with you about your Presidential campaign and his desire to be of assistance.

Lastly, NBC News will be featuring a profile on Pete Wilson as a part of its regular Sunday evening news coverage and the photographs to be taken at the beginning of the meeting will be included in their feature.

B. Participants

Mayor Pete Wilson (R), San Diego, California
Donald Rumsfeld or Dick Cheney •
Jim Cannon or Jim Falk

C. Press Plan

To be announced, pictures to be taken.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I understand NBC is going to do a profile on you for its Sunday evening news. I hope this meeting will help. Congratulations again on your election. Being reelected by 61-62% confirms the kind of job you have been doing.
2. On the prison issue, I know you have talked with members of my staff about it and I know you have held a public hearing which was strongly opposed to the project.

I want you to know that we are looking into it and are trying to help in a way consistent with our responsibilities and our desire to construct more modern prison facilities. My staff will continue to look into this and we will see what can be done.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECISION

September 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON *jac*
SUBJECT: San Diego Federal Youth Center

Pete Wilson is seeing you at 3 p.m. today about a Bureau of Prisons problem.

A few months ago when you were in San Diego, the Mayor mentioned to you his concern about the Bureau's plan to construct a Federal youth detention facility in the city of San Diego. Over the weekend he again raised this issue with Dick Cheney, Jim Cavanaugh, and Jim Falk. Dick Cheney suggested that we seek your guidance on our response to the Mayor's request that the Bureau of Prisons drop this project.

BACKGROUND

In 1970 the Federal Bureau of Prisons developed a long-range program designed to accomplish the following objectives: (a) To reduce the critical overcrowding in existing institutions; (b) to replace the most antiquated institutions; (c) to build or acquire smaller institutions with environments designed to facilitate correctional programs and meet human needs for privacy and dignity; and (d) to ensure maximum safety for both staff and inmates while pursuing the larger mission of protecting the community.

In 1971 San Diego was selected as a location for one of three Federal youth centers for the West Coast. The site was to be on a 200-acre Federally-owned tract which was formerly occupied by the Marine Corps as Camp Elliott. At that time, the area was nonresidential.

Site work began on the project in June 1973, but was halted from September 1973 until March 1975, due to litigation involving an environmental impact statement. In March the U.S. District Court in San Diego ruled that the Bureau of Prisons' environmental impact statement was satisfactory and construction activity was resumed.

CURRENT STATUS

In the years between selection of the site in 1971 and termination of the environmental impact litigation this year, a substantial amount of private home construction has occurred in the area, to the point where the location of the Federal youth center is now residential. Approximately 14,000 middle class people now reside in the area. As a result, Mayor Wilson and other community leaders have registered increasing levels of opposition to continued construction of the center.

At our request Norm Carlson, director of the Bureau of Prisons, appeared at a public hearing called by Mayor Wilson ten days ago to discuss this project. He also met with Mayor Wilson to discuss possible alternative sites in San Diego. To date, the Mayor has been unable to identify any alternatives.

The Mayor, as well as Jack Walsh, the county supervisor, has asked us to get the Bureau of Prisons to abandon its plan to proceed with construction of the youth center at the Camp Elliott site. They and many local residents believe that the Bureau of Prisons has been completely insensitive to the wishes of local residents, and our failure to "see it their way" will no doubt result in bad feelings and bad press for the Administration. Jerry Warren, now back at the San Diego Union, confirms this. Editorially the paper has come out against siting the youth facility at Camp Elliott.

The changing nature of the area immediately adjoining the project site could justify discontinuation of the project in favor of a less residential setting. Without our encouragement the Bureau of Prisons will not abandon the Camp Elliott site.

On the other hand, the Bureau of Prisons has already spent between \$1.5 and \$2 million (of an estimated \$6 million) on the project. Some amount of this may be recoverable if the Bureau abandons the site. Substantially greater costs would be incurred in finding a new site and putting the needed facility on line (OMB has estimated a cost escalation of between \$60,000 and \$80,000 for each month's delay).

Additionally, in your Crime Message you announced your support for the overall Bureau of Prisons' program to construct smaller, more modern and community-based facilities. A decision to terminate the San Diego Youth Center would seem to contradict the message.

The immediate timing problem is that the Bureau of Prisons has bids on the project which it must act on soon.

OPTIONS

1. Let the Bureau of Prisons proceed with their plan.

Pro: -- Keeps White House out of day-to-day agency decisions.

-- Provides fastest way to proceed with development of smaller community-based Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities.

-- Insures \$2 million committed to project will not be lost if it cannot be recovered.

Con: -- Will be viewed by local leaders and residents as another example of "unresponsive government."

-- Will appear that government cannot respond to changing conditions; i.e., site was undeveloped in 1971; now there is a residential area around it.

2. Ask the Attorney General to terminate this project and find another site.

Pro: -- Would be cheered by local residents and media.

-- Serves as an example of your desire to keep the Federal government from intruding into areas against the wishes of local residents.

Con: -- Contradicts your Crime Message on developing smaller community-based Bureau of Prisons facilities.

- White House intervention in the San Diego project could create expectations on the part of other communities for similar action where there is opposition to Federal projects.

DECISION

_____ Option 1. Let the Bureau of Prisons proceed with their plan.

Marsh.

Justice (Tyler) "would be disappointed if we can't."

_____ Option 2. Ask the Attorney General to terminate this project and find another site.

Hartmann: "Do what Pete Wilson wants."

Friedersdorf.

MEETING WITH MAYOR WILSON OF
SAN DIEGO

Tuesday, September 30, 1975
2:30 p.m.

Mr. Cannon's Office

Alternatives

1) K w/ state for
grants. \$ (210 years)
240 over 10,000

2) 240 of 2,400,000

- 3) Tell me to stop it
set em out, who's
put it up for birds
- 4) we won't decide it simple
- 5) NO local agency to present
this as a donation.

