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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 5, 1975

MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN L. H. FOUNTAIN,  
FRANK HORTON, and JOHN WYDLER

Thursday, November 6, 1975  
9:00 a.m. (30 minutes)  
The Cabinet Room

From: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

- A. To set forth your positive position on General Revenue Sharing renewal legislation.
- B. Discuss necessary action to gain House adoption of a good bill. Meeting will keep you identified with the issue and provide supporters with evidence of continued interest.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: These Congressmen from Government Operations Committee have the major role in enactment of your proposal to renew General Revenue Sharing. They are original sponsors of the bill. Committee Chairman Jack Brooks was invited but cannot attend. Brooks has expressed strong reservations about program's renewal. Hearings will conclude shortly and Subcommittee must consider mark-up timetable. Committee's Democratic membership represents diverse views. There is near unanimous GOP support. Fountain likes program and has given bill fair hearing. However, he is concerned about Committee and Floor acceptance of bill. Key issues likely to emerge are:

- 1) timing
- 2) combined authorization-appropriations
- 3) a formula "need" factor
- 4) civil rights enforcement, and
- 5) citizen participation.

You have not previously met with these Members on this matter.

B. Participants: See Tab A.

C. Press Plan: To be announced; press photo opportunity.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I am concerned about the General Revenue Sharing legislative situation. Frankly, I had hoped for renewal of this program during 1975 in order to avoid the fiscal consequences for State and local governments as a result of uncertainty and delayed Congressional action.
2. I have called for a continuation of the existing program with minor, but significant, improvements. In my opinion, this program, with its distribution formula, has been an extremely effective and equitable means of providing Federal assistance to State and local governments. I believe it is one of the most important Federal domestic programs we have today. For that reason, I want to see it continue.
3. I recognize that other changes, including some to substantially alter the program, have been proposed. Many would do violence to the revenue sharing concept and would therefore represent unacceptable revisions.
4. Your Committee is faced with a great challenge and responsibility. Given the divergent views and apparent controversy over revenue sharing renewal, your task is not an easy one. You know my position. I would like to hear your views on what steps must be taken to get timely House adoption of a good General Revenue Sharing renewal bill. I am prepared to work with you to gain enactment of this legislation.

Participants:

Representative Frank Horton (R-New York),  
Ranking Minority Member, House Committee  
on Government Operations

Representative L. H. Fountain (D-North Carolina),  
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Intergovernmental  
Relations and Human Resources

Representative John Wydler (R-New York),  
Ranking Minority Member, House Subcommittee  
on Intergovernmental Relations and Human  
Resources

Max Friedersdorf, Congressional Liaison

James Cannon, Domestic Council

Jack Marsh, Counsellor to the President

Edward Schmults, Deputy Counsel to the President

Staff: Jim Falk

Paul Myer

Secretary Simon (tentative)

John Carlson