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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 19, 1975

LUNCHEON-SEMINAR

Saturday, November 22, 1975

11:15 am to 1:00 p.m. (lunch at 12:00)
The Solarium

FROM: Robert A. Goldwin



I. PURPOSE

A discussion of jobs and unemployment viewed from the social and economic perspectives, with two economists (one conservative and one liberal), three social scientists (of differing backgrounds and disciplines), and several members of the Administration.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: The five invited outside guests are all studying the problem of jobs and unemployment in new and valuable ways. Feldstein and Perry consider such economic aspects as whether unemployment insurance adds to unemployment and whether anything corrective can be done. Glazer, Sviridoff, and Hamilton consider attitudes of persons at the low end of the economic and social scale to see whether those attitudes contribute to unemployment and, if so, whether anything can be done to improve attitudes toward work and job-seeking.

B. Participants:

1. Secretary F. David Mathews
2. Richard Cheney
3. James Cannon
4. James Lynn
5. Alan Greenspan
6. Robert Goldwin
7. Martin Feldstein,* Professor of Economics,
Harvard University

8. George L. Perry,* Economist and Senior Fellow,
The Brookings Institution
9. Nathan Glazer,* Professor of Education and
Social Structure, Harvard University
10. Charles Hamilton,* Professor of Government,
Columbia University (on leave this year as
Director of the Metropolitan Applied Research
Center, Inc., of New York)
11. Mitchell Sviridoff,* Vice President, Division of
National Affairs, The Ford Foundation

*Biographical information attached

C. Press Plan: Meeting to be announced. White House
Photographer only.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. This is the sixth small gathering put together by Bob Goldwin as part of my effort to encourage a steady flow of fresh thinking from outside the White House. I appreciate your willingness to give up a Saturday morning to share your thoughts with me.
2. I understand that Martin Feldstein and George Perry disagree on the significance of unemployment insurance as a factor in unemployment, so perhaps we ought to start on that question.
3. I am also interested in analysis of the unemployment figures, what they reveal and what they conceal. Who gets unemployment benefits? Who pays? What is the extent of suffering? And similar questions.
4. I suppose this should lead us quite naturally to the social aspects, who the unemployed are at the lowest end, who might not even be getting unemployment benefits, and what might be done in a practical way to help them find jobs.
5. My concern is that any way one regards it, unemployment is too high, and even when we get it down to 5 per cent it will be too high. We can't devise a complete program today, but we can get a better understanding of what the true unemployment problem is.

MARTIN FELDSTEIN: Dr. Feldstein is Professor of Economics at Harvard University. He received his doctorate from the University of Oxford in 1967 and has taught at Harvard since then. He specializes in social security and tax matters. Among his numerous publications are a 1972 report to the Joint Economic Committee on "Lowering the Permanent Rate of Unemployment," and a 1975 article for the Harvard Business Review entitled "Unemployment Insurance: Time for Reform."

GEORGE L. PERRY: Dr. Perry is a Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, and is co-editor of Brookings Papers on Economic Activity. He specializes in inflation and labor market theory, economic policy and analysis of business conditions. He was Senior Economist, President's Council of Economic Advisers, 1961-63 and Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota, 1963-69. He received his Ph.D. in economics from MIT in 1961. Dr. Perry is the author of Unemployment, Money Wage Rates and Inflation and numerous professional articles. He is a director of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Association.

NATHAN GLAZER: Professor Glazer is Professor of Education and Social Structure, Harvard. His research has been wide-ranging in problems of society and education. He received his Ph.D. degree from Columbia, and taught at the University of California at Berkeley, Bennington College, and Smith College. He has been a close associate of Pat Moynihan's and is the author or co-author of numerous books and articles, including (with Moynihan) Beyond the Melting Pot 1963, and Ethnicity, 1975.

CHARLES V. HAMILTON: Professor Hamilton is the Walter S. Sayre Professor of Government, Columbia University, on leave of absence this year as a Guggenheim Fellow and as President of the Metropolitan Applied Research Center in New York City. He has a law degree and doctorate in political science from the University of Chicago. His many publications include a book on Black Power with Stokeley Carmichael as co-author. Professor Hamilton was Vice President of the American Political Science Association in 1972-73. He is also on the Board of Directors of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

MITCHELL SVIRIDOFF: Mr. Sviridoff is Vice President, Division of National Affairs, The Ford Foundation. He was Administrator of the Human Resources Administration in New York City from 1966-67. He has had extensive experience in trade union affairs as Director of the Connecticut United Auto Workers Union and President of the AFL-CIO in Connecticut from 1947-61. He was also President of the New Haven Board of Education from 1955-62, and he is currently a trustee of Wesleyan University.

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