

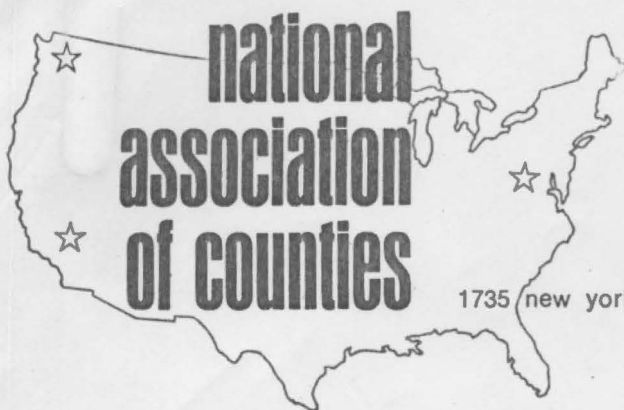
The original documents are located in Box 55, folder “1976/01/22 - Bernard Hildebrand” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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BERNARD HILDEBRAND, Delaney,
McConahey, et al
Thursday, January 22, 1976
9:15 a.m.

Mr. Cannon's Office



1735 new york avenue, n.w., washington, d.c. 20006

(202) 785-9577

January 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard B. Cheney, Assistant to the President

FROM: Bernard F. Hillenbrand, Executive Director, NACo

SUBJECT: Liaison with the Administration

Bernard F. Hillenbrand

This is confirmation of the commitment by Pat Delaney that I will have a meeting with you for the purpose of setting up a later meeting of NACo principals with President Ford.

We want you to know at the outset that we have excellent relations with Pat Delaney of the Domestic Council staff and we are convinced that he did the best he could to have counties participate in the January 20th briefing by President Ford with governors and mayors on the 1977 budget.

We have no interest whatsoever in any silly quarrel with the administration about protocol. Our only concern is that the nation's counties be full participants in discussions of all matters concerning county involvement in federal partnership programs.

Here is what I want to discuss with you. We want an early meeting with our President and Executive Committee (16 people) with President Ford with the following agenda:

1. Executive Order. Issuance of an executive order on county involvement in federal partnership programs along the lines of the enclosed November 27, 1974 letter to the President (with a first draft of such an order.)
2. Domestic Council. We would like to share with the President some ideas we have on the function of his Domestic Council and its staff with reference to county involvement.



3. Presidential Contact. We want the President to designate one single person in the Administration that has access to him who the NACo President can contact and be sure that the message reaches the President.

4. Presidential Speech. We have an acceptance by the White House of the President's participation in our annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 26-30, 1977 and we want to reconfirm this acceptance.

5. County Action. Finally, this has to be a two way street and in our first NACo requested with President Ford we pledged to help him in any way we could within the framework of our membership policies. We want to listen to what he wants from us!

November 27, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

We in the National Association of Counties have indicated to you on several occasions that we want to be just as helpful to you as President of the United States as we know how.

However, we have a problem and we have a specific suggestion for its solution.

I know that on first blush it will seem a small matter, but yesterday at the Mass Transit bill signing and on numerous previous occasions you have mentioned "governors and mayors." On other occasions we hear the phrase "states and cities." No where is there mention of county officials or county governments, despite the fact that they worked hard on the legislation and five county officials were invited to the signing.

This failure to recognize county government stings and smarts our 30,000 members of this Association. We are conscious of the fact that our 3,101 counties employ one and a half million workers, spend \$30 billion a year, and are a major partner with the federal government and the states in the delivery of partnership programs.

The omission is all the more galling because it fails to recognize that NACo has been a very strong supporter of most of the programs of the Administration during the past six years.¹

Now, Mr. President, the specific suggestion. This situation will not rectify itself unless you issue an Executive Order or a formal communication not just to the people on the White House staff, but to all the agencies of the Federal Government to insure that they are conscious of the fact that it is your intention to recognize the huge importance of county government in the United States. I hope you



November 27, 1974

won't think us presumptuous but we have drafted such a communication to give you an idea of what precisely we have in mind.

We are, of course, very delighted with the passage and your signing of the Mass Transit Bill.

Sincerely yours,



Bernard F. Hillenbrand
Executive Director



EXECUTIVE ORDER

This Administration hereby recognizes the essential role which county governments have in the American federal system, in partnership with cities and states. The Nation's 3101 County governments employ over one and one-half million persons and administer annual budgets totalling in excess of \$30 billion. Many of the services which counties provide result from partnership programs with the Federal government and the states.

Therefore, it is hereby declared to be the policy of this Administration, that all agencies of the Executive Branch are directed to take note of these facts and to insure that all formal communications, regulations and program pronouncements made by them directly and specifically refer to "counties" when referring to "cities and states," and directly and specifically refer to "elected county officials" when referring to "mayors and governors," in instances where there is county, city and state participation. In addition, whenever meetings are scheduled with a representative group of local government officials to ascertain their views, policies or impact, every effort should be made to ensure there is an equitable representation of county and city officials.



COUNTY STATISTICS

HOW MANY

There are 3101 local governmental units which administer functions traditionally performed by counties. Of this total: 3043 are county governments; 22 are city-county consolidations and 36 are independent cities.

WHO SERVED

Over 93% of total U.S. population is served by county government. There are 37 counties with populations over a million and budgets from \$3-4 million.

OTHER FACTS

- Most people in the nation don't live in big cities. Only 15 percent of the nation's population resides in cities of over 500,000 population; 20 percent lives in cities over 250 million, according to the 1970 Census. For the first time in 1970, the Census classified more people as living outside of central cities than inside central cities.

- Sixty million Americans live outside the Census Bureau's SMSA's and look to counties as the major providers of services. Rural areas have:

- 30% of population, but 24% of federal outlays
- 36% of poor; 47% of elderly poor; 30% of social security payments
- 23% federal medicaid outlays
- 60% of substandard housing, but less than 20% of federal housing subsidy

FINANCES

- 1972-73 aggregate general revenue (over 7 times the \$4 billion general revenue of county governments in 1953) \$28.4 billion
- Intergovernmental revenues (up 280% from 1963; includes general revenue sharing, which has about 5% impact on county budgets) \$13.3 billion
- General revenues, own sources (up 175% from 1963) \$15.1 billion
- Direct general expenditures (up 186% from 1963) \$24.6 billion
 - Education (up 217% from 1963; 15.4% of 72-73 county total) \$ 3.8 billion
 - Welfare (up 216% from 1963; 24.4% of 72-73 county total; represents 71% of all local welfare expenditures) \$ 6.0 billion
 - Health and hospital functions (up 218% from 1963. 14.2% of 72-73 county total) \$ 3.5 billion
 - Highways (up 69% from 1963; 10.9% of 72-73 county total) \$ 2.7 billion
 - All other (up 197% from 1963; 35.1% of 72-73 county total) \$ 8.6 billion
- Total outstanding county debt (up 169% from 1963; non-guaranteed element up 383%) \$15.6 billion

EMPLOYMENT

- October, 1973 (up 61% from 1963; over 13% of total state and local employment) \$ 1.3 million
- Annual payroll (up from \$3.5 billion in 1963) \$10.0 billion

Huller brand.

LEAA - not working -

no focus -

Why is

~~about~~

Paul - 1% tax - we grow up
on it?



The Administration of Welfare —

No. 7 — Eligibility of

