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MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT
ON REVENUE SHARING
Tuesday, March 2, 1976
5:00 p.m.

Oval Office

JW

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DEX TO THE
VICE PRESIDENT

February 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON *J Cannon*
SUBJECT: Revenue Sharing


Here is a status report on revenue sharing.

As I indicated yesterday, the Democrats on Chairman Fountain's Subcommittee are talking but not acting.

I will make this available to Jack Veneman, and get a further report on Monday afternoon--to bring you up to date when we get together Tuesday morning at 11.

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:  JAMES M. CANNON

FROM: PAUL MYER

SUBJECT: General Revenue Sharing--House
Legislative Status

On Thursday, February 26, Democratic members of the House Subcommittee held a private caucus to discuss legislation to renew the General Revenue Sharing program. Committee Chairman Brooks also attended and played an active role in the meeting. The purpose of this session was to determine the interest and concerns of the majority and develop a course of action. It is their intention to seek a consensus on the content of a renewal bill. No date for formal, public mark-up meetings has been scheduled, and no such announcement is anticipated until the Democrats have concluded their private deliberations. Officially, Subcommittee Chairman Fountain noted that "substantial progress" is being made and that the Democrats will meet again on Monday, March 2, to continue their discussion.

Based on available information about the meeting, the following facts are known:

1. The Democrats are committed to reporting a bill by May 15; however, they want it to be a "Congressional" bill as opposed to the President's proposal.
2. Chairman Brooks wants the Subcommittee to draft a bill which recognizes his personal views and would enjoy his support.
3. The major issues they are seeking to resolve reflect opposition to key points in the President's proposal: length of program authorization; amount of funds to be made available and the manner in which such appropriations are made; modification of the existing formula in order to allocate more funds to jurisdictions of greater "need"; possible inclusion of a "countercyclical aid" provision; and stronger civil rights enforcement and citizen participation requirements.

Personal discussions with all members prior to and after this meeting, as well as the observations of others, indicate that the Democrats are under great pressure to move, but are uncertain as to how they can accommodate the competing and diversified demands now associated with this issue. According to one source, the Democrats are clearly "frightened" by the prospects confronting them. Strong Committee leadership is lacking, and staff support is weak. Few of these Democrats have any experience in dealing with legislation involving such political or substantial issues. Importantly, there is little confidence that whatever they do would be acceptable to a majority of their colleagues in the House.

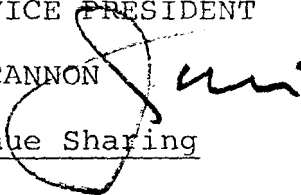
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REVENUE SHARING MEETING
AGENDA

Tuesday, March 2, 1976
5:00 p.m.
Oval Office

1. Briefing on situation in the Fountain Subcommittee today.

2. Discharge petition.

If they respond

(a) Procedure.

(b) Consult with Rhodes and Michel.

*Set all 4 in at
1:30 or 40*

*Horton / alone
Wyden*

3. Related problem of countercyclical.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR

JIM CANNON

FROM

PAUL MYER

SUBJECT:

House Rules Governing
the Discharge of Com-
mittees

Procedures to discharge a House committee from the consideration of a public bill or resolution are governed by Clause 4, Rule XXVII, of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

In outline form, the following steps are involved:

1. The filing of a motion to discharge.
2. Accumulation of 218 signatures.
3. A vote to approve the motion to discharge.
4. A vote to consider the bill should a motion to discharge be successful.
5. Consideration of the bill under the general rules of the House.

Attached for your information is a more detailed explanation of the discharge procedures.

As you know, a discharge motion is presently pending in the House. If a decision were made to take this approach, the existing motion would become the vehicle for this effort.

Attachment

RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO
MOTIONS TO DISCHARGE A COMMITTEE
(Clause 4, Rule XXVII)

Any Member may file a motion to discharge a committee from the consideration of a public bill or resolution which has been pending in a committee for at least thirty days. Only one such motion may be presented for each bill or resolution.

This motion shall be placed in the custody of the Clerk of the House and made available for Members to sign. (A Member may also remove his name.) When a majority of the total Membership of the House shall have signed the motion (218 Members), it is then placed on the House Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committees. No subsequent action may be taken for at least seven legislative days.

On the second and fourth Mondays of each month, any Member who signed the discharge motion may be recognized for the purpose of calling up the motion and the House shall proceed to its consideration without any intervening motions. Following 20 minutes of debate, the House proceeds to an immediate vote on the motion to discharge.

If the motion prevails, it shall then be in order for any Member who signed the motion to move that the House proceed to the immediate consideration of such bill or resolution. This motion is of high privilege and is not debatable. If this motion is decided in the affirmative, the bill shall be immediately considered under the general rules of the House. If the House should vote against immediate consideration, the bill is then referred to its proper calendar and be entitled to the same rights and privileges that it would have had if the committee to which it was referred had duly reported it to the House for consideration.

This rule would not apply to a bill that has been reported by a committee during the interval between the placing of the motion to discharge on the calendar and the day when such motion is called up for action in the House.