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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 1, 1976

MEETING WITH THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 1, 1976
3:00 p.m. (30 minutes)
The Cabinet Room

From: Jim Connor

I. PURPOSE

To preside at the first meeting of the newly formed Agricultural Policy Committee and to inform the Committee of your desire to have Earl Butz in charge of agricultural policy.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: In Springfield, Illinois, on March 5, you announced in remarks to the Farm Forum that you were asking Earl Butz to assume a new and vital role in strengthening America's agricultural policy-making within the executive branch by serving as the chairman of the new Cabinet-level agricultural committee that you created.

On March 11 you sent a memorandum to certain members of the Cabinet and agency heads informing them of the new Agricultural Policy Committee and designating them as members (Tab A). This will be your first meeting with the newly created group.

B. Participants: Tab B.

Staff: Jim Connor.

C. Press Plan: To be announced. Photo opportunity.

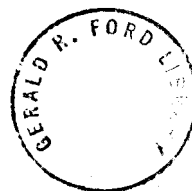
III. TALKING POINTS

1. Last month I announced my reorganization of agricultural policy making within the Administration and created our new Agricultural Policy Committee, on which each of you will serve. I have asked Earl Butz to serve as chairman of this group.



2. The purpose of this committee is to consolidate agricultural policy-making into one group within the Administration, which will advise me on the formulation, coordination, and implementation of our food and agricultural policy.
3. I want to make it clear that the scope of the committee includes both domestic and international food and agricultural issues.
4. I've had some concern about our ability to expedite rice and grain shipments under the P.L. 480 program. One thing I want the committee to do is to review our procedures under the 480 program to see if we can't cut back on unnecessary paper work in order to speed up purchase agreements under this program.
5. Earl, why don't you tell us about your ideas for the committee.

Food issue discussed.



April 1, 1976

AGRICULTURAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Meet at least every 2 mos

1. Membership

The Agricultural Policy Committee will include:

- * Secretary of Agriculture - Chairman
- * Secretary of State
- * Secretary of the Treasury
- * Secretary of Commerce
- * Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
- * Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs
- * Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
- * Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- * Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- * Special Representative for Trade Negotiations
- * Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs
- * Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy

2. Terms of Reference

The "Fact Sheet on Agricultural Policy-making Reorganization" states that:

This new Committee is being formed to consolidate agricultural policy making into one group which will report directly to the President and will advise him on the formulation, coordination and implementation of all agricultural policy. The scope of the Committee will include both domestic and international issues.

3. Executive Secretaries of Agricultural Policy Committee

There will be two Executive Secretaries of the Agricultural Policy Committee:

- ✓ * An Executive Secretary for Farm Policy and International Trade (Richard E. Bell, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs)
- ✓ * An Executive Secretary for Economics and Economic Development (Don Paarlberg, Director of Agricultural Economics)

4. Meetings

The Agricultural Policy Committee will meet regularly every two months and may have special meetings at the call of the Chairman. ~~_____~~



5. Agricultural Policy Working Group

An Agricultural Policy Working Group will provide the Agricultural Policy Committee with staff assistance by monitoring agricultural developments and preparing issue papers and other analyses. The Working Group will be chaired by the Executive Secretaries of the Agricultural Policy Committee and will include representatives of the:

- * Department of Agriculture
- * Department of the Treasury
- * Department of State
- * Department of Commerce
- * Office of Management and Budget
- * Council on International Economic Policy
- * Domestic Council
- * National Security Council
- * Special Representative for Trade Negotiations
- * Council on Wage and Price Stability
- * Council for Economic Advisers

The Working Group will meet regularly once a month and may have special meetings called by the Chairmen. It will meet at the Department of Agriculture, in Room 218-A of the Administrative Building.

6. Policy Issues for Consideration

Policy issues that may be considered by the Agricultural Policy Committee in the near future include such items as:

- (a) Administration's sugar policy
- (b) Administration's policy concerning palm oil imports
- (c) Level of grain sales to the Soviet Union
- (d) Administration's meat import policy
- (e) Administration's food-aid policy
- (f) Administration's policy toward commodity agreements in general (e.g., as it applies to UNCTAD and CIEC.)

