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MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AND
GOVERNOR ANDRUS
Friday, July 9, 1976
4:00 p.m.
Oval Office
30 minutes

[Handwritten scribbles]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEETING WITH GOVERNOR CECIL ANDRUS
(D-IDAHO)

Friday, July 9, 1976

Afternoon (Time to be Determined)

15 Minutes

The Oval Office

From: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

To meet with Governor Andrus as newly elected Chairman of the National Governors' Conference (NGC), and to discuss future activities with the Conference as well as specific items of interest to the Governor.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

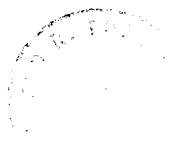
Governor Andrus last met with you in a working session this past December along with other Governors as part of the State of the States presentation, and the Governor and his wife were seated at your's and the First Lady's table at a White House dinner for the Governors and their spouses in February.

Governor Andrus is also the current Chairman of the Human Resources Committee of the Conference and worked extensively on the health and welfare reform recommendations considered at the recent meeting of the Governors in Hershey, at which time the Governors voted overwhelmingly in favor of a National Program of Income Maintenance.

There are a number of other issues the Governor might raise in his meeting with you:

o Relationship of Governors and the White House

As the new Chairman of the NGC, the Governor will likely express a desire to continue a positive working relationship with the White House and Cabinet on a variety of domestic issues. Steve McConahey met with the Governor while attending the NGC Conference this past week.



o Teton Dam

The Governor had devoted considerable attention to the Teton Dam disaster, and has been most appreciative of your responsiveness and other Federal agencies involved. However, your request for \$200 million on compensatory funds for the victims of the disaster has been included in H.R. 14236, a major public works bill involving water and power development and energy research. It is conceivable that you might consider recommendations to veto this bill which you have until July 12th to act upon. Nevertheless, it should be suggested to the Governor, even if you do veto H.R. 14236, that you will do whatever you can to see that the necessary legislation for settling victims claims is passed expeditiously and signed into law.

o Airport and Airway Development Act

In a recent letter the Governor urged you to sign into law the extension of the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970. A signing ceremony has been scheduled for Monday, July 12th at 11:00 a.m. in the Rose Garden.

o Federal Coal Leasing

I understand the Governor had strongly favored your signing the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1975 (S. 391) which was vetoed July 3rd. You might point out to the Governor that you are in total agreement that the Federal Government should provide assistance; however, the manner in which the legislation proposed Federal procedures was burdened with so many rigidities, complications and regulations, that it would have actually prohibited coal production on Federal lands; thereby, probably raising the prices for consumers and ultimately delaying our achievement of energy independence. So, accordingly, you have asked the Congress to work with you to help develop legislation that would meet your objectives and would also increase the state share of Federal leasing revenues.

B. Participants:

Governor Cecil Andrus (D-Idaho)

Staff: Jim Cannon
Steve McConahey

C. Press Plan

Photo opportunity.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Congratulation on your election as the Chairman of the National Governors' Conference. I personally feel the Governors made a fine choice.
2. I am glad we had this opportunity to meet to continue the fine relationship that we have with the National Governors' Conference.
3. I understand that the Governors had a very substantive meeting in Hershey and focused considerable attention on welfare reform and energy policy.

TETON DAM DISASTER APPROPRIATIONS

Q: Your request for \$200 million in compensation funds for the victims of the Teton Dam disaster has been included in H.R. 14236, a major public works bill, involving water and power development, and energy research. If you decide to veto this bill, how will you insure that the victims are compensated? Will you support the Church/McClure bill?

A: I have not yet reviewed the recommendations of my staff regarding H.R. 14236, which has many undesirable features. If I decide to veto H.R. 14236, however, I will press for Congressional action on a more reasonable bill which retains the full \$200 million originally proposed for compensating victims of the collapse of the Teton Dam.

BACKGROUND

No compensation, apart from reimbursable Federal disaster loans, can be granted to the victims until appropriations are passed by the Congress. Federal regulations are in readiness to implement the compensation program once the funding is available.

Senators Church and McClure have submitted somewhat different authorizing legislation for compensation of victims. This bill has been passed by the Senate and will probably be reported out of House Subcommittee during the week of July 19-23. The OMB Legislative Reference Division recommends, however, that the most expeditious way to obtain the necessary appropriations for the compensation of victims following a veto is to request quick passage of a new appropriations bill, minus the offending passages.

FLM
7/8/76

TETON DAM DISASTER

Q: What has your Administration done to aid the victims of the Teton Dam disaster, which occurred on June 5, 1976?

A: I declared the affected area to be eligible for regular Federal disaster assistance on June 6, 1976, which provides Federal aid for such activities as temporary housing, repair of public facilities, debris removal, disaster loans to individuals and businesses and so forth. I also submitted a request to the Congress for an appropriations of \$200 million to provide direct compensation to victims of the disaster and I indicated I would request additional funds to pay claims if necessary.

Recently, at my direction, Federal officials have begun to accept and process compensation claims to cut down delays when the funds become available. Actual payment of claims, however, cannot be made until the appropriations is signed into law.

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