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MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT
Friday, July 9, 1976
10:30 a.m.
V.P.'s Office

Re: "Five Suggested Presidential
Initiatives"

Time some waste elsewhere -

Big job -
by Govt action at all levels
not

Concluded

Rodriguez fairly outstanding example.

Call Bryan all
America to join us
sent all undertaking
to improve. 207 C



~~Handwritten scribble~~

Chewy - announced it to
Political group.

Yellowstone - Sunday -

to Workington from
Yellowstone



Old Ranger Station -

~~Yellowstone~~



①

next weekend

campus - holiday

with leave

out of town - Sun

Notes:

Moment

major opp return to glass

that days

was from than his work

Hours & Frequency

Just NO stages to glass
sentimental return for 2 weeks



To ^{own interest} develop a ^{national} ~~national~~ ^{fund for national parks, recreation,}
to begin ^{middle classes of} ~~diversity of~~

~~the~~ ^{new} ~~land~~, ~~water~~
then ~~occurent~~,
~~work~~ ~~of~~ ~~sympathy~~

To ~~stop~~ ~~executed~~
~~facilities~~ ~~to~~ ~~increase~~
No. of ~~educated~~ ~~person~~
~~at~~ ~~Montky~~ ~~with~~
~~public~~

to ~~plan~~ ~~new~~ ~~two~~
~~in~~ ~~for~~ ~~urban~~ ~~parks~~.
to ~~begin~~ ~~development~~
~~of~~ ~~recreation~~

To ~~accelerate~~ ~~development~~
~~of~~ ~~parkland~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~urban~~ ~~areas~~
have ~~had~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~
~~delegated~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~urban~~ ~~areas~~



a I am therefore proposing

10 yr term to
double American history of

will send to Congress
tomorrow a
bilateral law history act
which includes a commitment
to 14 v B Army
next decade

* Monday ~~Thursday~~ - longin Double action



Speakers

Always taken place - 2 centers

These things that were changed

some intangible.

Political value -

Common Theme -

Commitment Concern -
our wilderness -

to 1 century
and some national

260 up to 1970s 7

I'm sure

Wonderful Bicentennial

Whenever our views

Can't we do more -
c c c c c more

Beclinton B'day Rec



family notebook - outline

our parts - lakes & woods of Michigan

with you -

please with notes

To those who

mean + Alan American -

wonders to you

But now

show - see - of Br 200 notes

400 July before exp

Tell the story

200

new man freedom, report

American vehicle operat



Spent \$5 to some
\$50 later -



1
Mr. President, the origin ^{and knowledge} of this Parks Proposal may be interesting to Members of the Cabinet.

2
1
In the first week of July the President and Vice President were discussing several initiatives that might be taken in relation to the Bicentennial.

3
During the Fourth of July ^{new}, the President has seen several of the national parks and got a fresh sense of how important this remarkable heritage is to the American people.

4
As a result of those conversations, the President directed the Domestic Council staff to work with OMB and Interior to find out where it was practical to double the national park and recreation system in the wildlife refuges and what ^{it costs} it costs.

5
1
We went to work on that in mid-July, presented the facts to the President and in late July he decided that he would propose the doubling of the national park and recreational system and ^{When Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon + Yellowstone,} that he would announce this in Yellowstone National Park, which is the prototype of national parks in this country and throughout the world, and where the President had once served as a park ranger.

7
(w)
Do so when in West
That is the background to the decision. Mr. President, you might want to ask Secretary Kleppe to outline exactly what your proposal does.



TALKING POINTS FOR CABINET MEETING

After a week in Kansas City and a few days at Vail, I thought it important that we get together for a progress report on a number of matters before us. Later in the week we will have another meeting, and I have asked Jim Baker, Bob Teeter, and others to review with you at that time where we are with the campaign.

1. Foreign Affairs--Secretary Kissinger.

Henry, why don't you lead off with a report on foreign affairs and the recent developments in North Korea.

2. The Economy--Alan Greenspan.

Alan, will you bring us up to date on the economy.

3. National Parks Proposal--Jim Cannon.

Jim, would you describe the National Parks proposal that we announced yesterday at Yellowstone.

[Jim Cannon will lead off and then call on Tom Kleppe.]

4. Congressional Report--Jack Marsh.

Jack, what do you see as the key issues facing us on the Hill in the next few weeks?

[You may wish to go around the table calling on each Cabinet member for any general comments.]

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

BICENTENNIAL LAND HERITAGE PROGRAM

The President is proposing to establish a 10-year program to double America's heritage of national parks, recreation areas, wildlife refuges, urban parks, and historic sites. This new commitment will be a Bicentennial gift that the American people will give to this and future generations of Americans.

BACKGROUND

Because of the vision of our forefathers, today's citizens have inherited vast and irreplaceable gifts of parks, historic sites, wildlife sanctuaries, and recreation areas. The National Park Service's 287 units comprise 31.0 million acres. The Wildlife Refuge System's 378 units comprise 32.2 million acres. Yet, with our Nation's growth, these resources are often overcrowded and overused. At the same time, many areas which would make superb parks, sanctuaries, or recreation areas are being lost forever because land values often make other uses more attractive in the short term.

The proposed initial commitment of \$1.5 billion over 10 years would be a sound investment in America's priceless natural resources and avoid loss forever of an American heritage that cannot be replaced. It would mark again this Nation's commitment to preserve the best of our vast and beautiful continent. It would expand permanently the natural treasures future generations of Americans will inherit before these resources are priced out of the public domain.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

An appropriation request will be submitted to establish a \$1.5 billion, 10-year program to:

- provide \$141 million to be used to acquire new parks, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas and historic sites through the Land and Water Conservation.
- provide \$700 million to develop new and existing parklands and refuges into recreation and conservation resources ready to serve the public.
- provide \$459 million for upgrading and increased staffing of current system of national parks and wildlife refuges.
- provide \$200 million of additional funds to the Community Development Bloc Grand Fund to be available to upgrade existing parks, particularly in urban areas.

A. PROGRAMS INCLUDED AND FUNDING

1. Acquisition of new parks, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and historic sites. (\$141 million immediate appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to remain available for 10 years.) Additions to the National Park System--\$110 million for parks, national rivers, recreation areas, and historic sites. Additions to the National Wildlife Refuge System--\$31 million for the preservation of natural areas and habitat for wildlife, including endangered species.

(MORE)



The National Park Service currently purchases approximately 60,000 acres annually, utilizing approximately \$77 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. At this time, 559,608 additional acres and \$449,631,713 are required to acquire lands in congressionally authorized park and recreation areas and historic sites of the National Park System. Such purchases would be made in future years to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Fish and Wildlife Service currently acquires approximately 85,000 acres annually, utilizing funds available from the Migratory Birds Conservation Account (\$19.5 million in 1976) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$9.4 million in 1976). The President's Bicentennial Land Heritage Program will initially more than double the nation's total acreage of parks, recreation areas, and wildlife refuges. Over the 10-year period, it will continue to add acreage by building upon a growing Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Bicentennial Land Heritage Program will over these 10 years be annually coordinated with the increases in the Fund so as to best supplement, support and develop acreage added by expansions in the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

2. Development of these new and existing parklands and refuges into recreation and conservation resources ready to serve the public. (\$700 million immediate appropriation to remain available for 10 years over and above existing development programs and funding for units already in the National Park and Wildlife Refuge Systems.)

Such funds are generally to be used to implement park and refuge master plans, which include visitor facilities, roads and trails, resource management tools, and such additional improvements as may be necessary for effective park and refuge management.

National park units -- \$500 million

National wildlife refuges -- \$200 million

3. Upgrading and increased staffing of current systems and national parks and wildlife refuges. (\$459 million, of which \$259 million immediate appropriation to remain available for ten years for upgrading, and \$200 million over ten years to be appropriated approximately \$20 million annually for increased staffing.)

Upgrading--\$259 million for rehabilitation of deteriorated facilities, with \$194.3 million for national parks and \$64.7 million for wildlife refuges, with emphasis to be given to those areas where public use opportunities are greatest.

Increased staffing--\$200 million and approximately 1,500 permanent positions, with 1,000 for national parks and 500 for wildlife refuges to bring the present field employment up to a level that will insure the protection of the natural resources and meet the increasing public demand. (\$20 million annually for ten years--\$13 million for the National Park Service and \$7 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service.)

4. Increased funding of cities and states to be available for parks and recreation areas.

The Community Development Bloc Grant Program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development makes available funds--on both a formula and discretionary basis to communities and states for community development purposes, including the development of parks and recreation areas. \$200 million will be added to the FY 1977 level of \$3.2 billion. Recipients will be urged to give high priority to upgrading existing parks, particularly in urban areas.

B. SPENDING REQUIREMENTS

While most of the program (all but \$180 million) would be appropriated in FY 1977, spending in terms of outlays in FY 1977 would be about \$185 million.



OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
OLD FAITHFUL LODGE

1:12 P.M. MDT

Tom Kleppe, Senator Hansen, representatives of the Department of Interior, Reverend Clergy, ladies and gentlemen:

Labor day, next weekend, marks the end of a glorious summer. It means one more carefree holiday before we all go back to school, back to work, back to the duties we must do to build a better life for ourselves, our children and our country.

For many, many families it means one last chance to get out of town, out into the sun, under the stars, close to nature's beauties and nature's creatures. For me, this is a moment that I have been looking forward to for a long, long time -- to return to Yellowstone where I spent one of the greatest summers of my life.

Being a seasonal Park Ranger -- we used to call them 90-day wonders, maybe they still do (Laughter) -- was one of the most challenging experiences, one of the greatest jobs I ever had following my graduation from the University of Michigan.

Now it seems more like fun than hard work, though we had plenty of both.

I have been telling my family about that summer ever since. Maybe I overdid those bedtime stories about my fire-fighting exploits and my heroic bouts with the bears. (Laughter)

At least that is what Mike, Jack, Steve and Susan keep on telling me. (Laughter)

MORE

So, this time, I brought some of the family along. Jack, as you know, and has been mentioned, is no stranger to Yellowstone. Two years ago this month, he was working as a ranger at a tower station -- actually he was out fishing -- when he got a sudden summons to come to Washington to see his old man get a new job.

So, today, it is a sentimental return to the scene of wonderful memories for two of the Fords and a new experience for Susan, who hopes to get some good Yellowstone photographs like she did last summer at Yosemite.

Family vacations -- especially among the majestic mountains of the West -- are a tradition of our family. My parents always took my brothers and myself to lakes and woods in my State of Michigan before I was big enough to go myself as a Boy Scout. There is something wonderful about the wide open spaces that is almost a necessity for Americans. Being alone with nature strengthens our love for one another and for our country.

For those who live close to the land, this is nothing new. But as more and more Americans live in cities, the lure of the mountains, the beaches, the lakes and the rivers, becomes more and more compelling. So, I have a serious, as well as a sentimental, reason for this visit today.

Our Bicentennial Fourth of July turned out to be a very profound experience for millions and millions of Americans. Amid the fireworks and parades, the Tall Ships and the trips to historic shrines in our joyous celebration of two hundred years of our Nation under God, we found new meaning for the words of freedom, equality and unity.

I always knew the Park Service was efficient and effective (Laughter), and they really proved it just a moment ago. (Laughter)

If I might say, with our Bicentennial Celebration, which was very meaningful, on the Fourth of July, we did find new meaning for the words freedom, equality and unity. Somehow, despite our difficulties and our differences -- perhaps because of them -- Americans recaptured the essential spirit and greatness that makes us a very special kind of people. We realized again what a wonderful thing it is just to be an American.

As I thought about the changes that have taken place in this great country -- not only in the last two years, but during the last two centuries -- I also thought about those things that must never change. Those unchanging things really make us Americans.

MORE

They are the things we must pass on to future generations. Some are intangible, invisible -- our deep religious and moral convictions, our bonds of family and community, our political values embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

But we have other common treasures that are material and visible, that can be damaged and destroyed by man. We must be equally committed to conserve and to cherish our incomparable natural heritage -- our wildlife, our air, our waters and our land, itself.

More than a century ago, we began to save our natural heritage for the enjoyment of future Americans, with the national park system, of which Yellowstone is the oldest and the largest. This year alone, we expect 260 million Americans to visit and enjoy our 287 national parks that spread from the Virgin Islands to Maine to Alaska and to Hawaii.

MORE

I am sure there are times when some of you thought that all 260 million were camping on your camp site.
(Laughter)

We have had a wonderful Bicentennial. We celebrated what our patriotic founders and our immigrant ancestors handed down to us. We renewed our vows to their vision of free Government and equality. But, I found myself saying we ought to do more. Can't we do something special, as our Bicentennial birthday presents to future generations, a gift that will be gratefully remembered 100 years from now. We can.

I, therefore, decided upon a ten-year national commitment to double America's heritage of national parks, recreation areas, wildlife sanctuaries, urban parks and historic sites.

I will send to the Congress Tuesday a Bicentennial Land Heritage Act, which calls for a pledge of \$1 billion 500 million during the next ten years. It will more than double our present acreage of land for national parks, recreation areas and wildlife sanctuaries; development of these new lands to make them accessible and enjoyable; improving facilities and increasing dedicated personnel at existing national parks; making available \$200 million for urban parks, bringing the benefits of nature to those who live in our cities; and accelerating the development of parklands and sanctuaries now delayed for lack of manpower and of money.

This national commitment means we may have to tighten our belts elsewhere a bit, but it is the soundest investment in the future of America that I can envision. We must act now to prevent the loss of treasures that can never be replaced for ourselves, our children and for future generations of Americans.

This is a big job, one that requires Government action at all levels. But, like most of the big jobs Americans undertake, it cannot be left to Government alone. In the past, the cause of land conservation has been advanced by many concerned citizens, companies and private organizations.

The Rockefeller family, represented here today by Mary and Laurence Rockefeller, is an outstanding example of this dedication. I thank them and all such far-sighted Americans for their generous contributions to our national park system and the preservation of our priceless natural heritage.

MORE

I call upon all Americans -- our Bicentennial generation which has enjoyed the blessings of liberty and the pursuit of happiness, ours for 200 years -- to join in a great new undertaking, to improve the quality of our lives and of our land.

I recall that snowy day in 1961 when President Kennedy was inaugurated. I can still see that great American poet, Robert Frost, standing on the steps of the United States Capitol, reciting these moving lines:

"The land was ours before we were the land's. She was our land more than 100 years before we were her people."

I remember as a ranger the first time I stood alone on Inspiration Point over at Canyon Station looking out over this beautiful land. I thought to myself of how lucky I was that my parent's and grandparent's generation had the vision and the determination to save it for us.

Now it is our turn to make our own gift outright to those who will come after us 15 years, 40 years, 100 years from now. I want to be as faithful to my grandchildren's generation as Old Faithful has been to ours. What better way can we add a new dimension to our third century of freedom?

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 11:26 A.M. MDT)