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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR MELDRIM THOMSON
(R-NEW HAMPSHIRE)

Wednesday, October 20, 1976

9:30 a.m. (5 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Jim Cannon *J. Cannon*

I. PURPOSE

To meet with Governor Thomson regarding your recent signing of H.R. 13585, the Federal Boat Safety Act Amendments, and to provide a photo opportunity for publicity.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

Governor Thomson has been deeply involved in the passage of H.R. 13585, the Federal Boat Safety Act Amendments, which (1) increases to 50% the maximum share of State boating safety programs, (2) limits to 5 years a manufacturer's duty to notify boat owners of safety defects, (3) suspends enforcement of the Federal boating laws on certain waters in New Hampshire until a court decision is reached and makes several other minor changes. He appealed to you and Secretary Coleman earlier on this issue and is delighted that you have approved it.

In particular, Governor Thomson urged your approval because of the suspension of enforcement of Federal boating laws. As a result of your action, certain waterways in New Hampshire, including Lake Winnisquam, Lake Winnepesaukee, portions of the Merrimack River, will not be subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard until a final judicial decision is made. In the case of Lake Winnepesaukee, this bill would prohibit the Coast Guard from imposing its standards for a bridge now being proposed for the area.



Governor Thomson views this matter as one of the most important issues in his campaign and for your own campaign in New Hampshire. He views the bill as a symbol against unnecessary Federal intervention into state operations and has spoken extensively around the state about it.

B. Participants:

Governor Meldrim Thomson (R-New Hampshire)

Staff: Jim Cannon
Steve McConahey

C. Press Plan:

Photo opportunity. The photograph taken today with the Governor will be distributed in a mailing by him along with his own press release to 400,000 people throughout New Hampshire.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Good to see you. I am sorry we could not work this out earlier.
2. How is the campaign going?
3. I think this bill is a good one, and is an example of preventing unwarranted Federal involvement in local matters.