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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *def.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

AUG 13 1974

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ~~ROY J. ASH~~

SUBJECT: Possible Veto of the Bill Creating A New Federal Fire Administration

Final Senate and House vote on the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 recently reported out of Conference Committee is expected this Thursday. The bill would create a Fire Administration in the Department of Commerce and makes clear Congressional intent to assure construction of a Fire Academy facility by establishing the site selection and construction approval mechanism.

The bill has several undesirable features. It establishes a new categorical grant program to States for the development of master plan demonstration projects. It requires the Secretary of HEW to expand burn research efforts and to establish burn treatment centers at hospitals around the nation. It creates an additional Assistant Secretary at the Department of Commerce which already has seven. Finally, it authorizes \$26 million in FY 1975 and \$36 million in FY 1976. These figures exclude the Fire Academy facility which is likely to cost \$50 million or more and an additional \$15 million a year to operate.

The Administration requested a total of \$13 million in FY 1975 for a limited fire prevention program primarily to prevent the much larger program recommended by the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and to gain credit for the Administration with regard to a domestic program initiative.

Recommendation:

That you authorize a veto. Fire prevention and control is basically a local responsibility and the program proposed by the Congress is likely to be seven or eight times larger than that proposed by the Administration.

 Approve (Timmons)

DR 7 Disapprove (No signal from the President at this time; veto threat from Ash and Dent is sufficient and they should be instructed to intensify efforts to convince the Hill the budget is too high.) Cole recommends.)