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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 5, 1974

MR. PRESIDENT:

Thought you may want to
read the attached prior to
tomorrow's trip to Philadelphia.


~~AL [unclear]~~

9/5/74

2 approval.

Proceed. [unclear]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

ACTION

SEP 4 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: ~~ROY L. ASH~~

FROM: PAUL H. O'NEILL



SUBJECT: Federal Bicentennial Commitments to
Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

In 1972, President Nixon made commitments of Federal funds to support locally developed Bicentennial projects in Philadelphia and the District of Columbia. They were for \$100 million and \$18 million respectively, and would not be "new" funds, but would come from existing budget totals. Projects which could meet all Federal grant criteria for funded programs would receive priority action. No such commitments were made to other localities.

Background

The Philadelphia commitment results from the 1972 decision to abandon an International Exposition there. This action came after the city failed to select a fair site and after potential Federal costs neared \$1 billion. Having been preceded by several years of Federal encouragement to proceed with the fair, the details of President Nixon's \$100 million commitment were worked out in December 1972 among Mayor Rizzo, Ken Cole, and myself. The Washington commitment was made as part of President Nixon's Bicentennial Message to the Congress, February 4, 1972. A National Capitol program was jointly developed by Federal and city officials, but the city's proposals lacked substantive input to match the Federal initiatives being announced. The \$18 million pledge was made to support projects to be developed by the fledgling citizen-run D.C. Bicentennial Commission and Assembly. Both commitments have been widely publicized and often reaffirmed by officials of the former Administration and by OMB.

Status

Assistant Secretary David Meeker (HUD) has been actively coordinating fulfillment of these commitments for the past year. By July 1974, Philadelphia had received grant approvals totalling \$24,908,000, and Washington \$1,093,000. Both totals are close to the FY 1974 targets projected by each city. While the process has been slowed by coordination difficulties between regular city and Bicentennial planners and by sluggish Federal agency responses to imperfect applications, the cities are preparing their project applications in anticipation of potential FY 1975 funding. Due to the transition, however, the cities are uncertain as to the priority which their Bicentennial planning will now receive, and the extent of the continuing commitment to this effort.

Recommendation

That you reaffirm these two commitments because:

- . they have a long and public history and have engendered considerable expectations;
- . they recognize the special historic significance attached to these cities; and
- . they will improve these nationally visible cities for millions of Bicentennial and later visitors.

If you reaffirm this policy, OMB will notify Assistant Secretary Meeker to continue his work in meeting the cities' expectations.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 6, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROY L. ASH
PAUL O'NEILL

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

SUBJECT: Federal Bicentennial Commitments
to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Your memorandum to the President of September 4 on the above subject has been reviewed and the following notation was made:

-- I approve. Proceed.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Al Haig