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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 10, 1974

MR. PRESIDENT:

I concur with the proposed  
Site for Economic Conference  
on Inflation, September 27-28.

  
Al Haig

Attachment

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The White but nothing  
to discuss  
AR 9.*

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *WJ*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

VIA: KENNETH RUSH *K.R.*  
GENERAL HAIG *GH*

FROM: L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN *LWS*

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Site for  
Economic Conference on  
Inflation, September 27-28

My recommendation for the site of the Economic Conference on Inflation is Constitution Hall, the DAR Auditorium at 18th Street between C and D Streets.

This site is favored over the only other location capable of accommodating the Conference and available on these dates - September 27 and 28 - the Washington Hilton Hotel. It is felt that it would be inappropriate for this crucial and historic meeting -- the first time a President has chaired an open meeting on critical national problems -- to be brought to the American people from a luxury commercial hotel.

Constitution Hall is a flexible auditorium, capable of accommodating up to 3,200 people -- or to look filled with less. Its "orchestra" floor has 1,276 numbered, fixed seats; they will accommodate, by assignment to a specific seat, the "delegates" from the sector meetings, plus nearly an equal number of guests of Members of Congress.

There are 260 box seats, which might be assigned to diplomatic observers, assigned by the State Department.

In the banked "tiers", there are 2,230 seats, more than enough to accommodate extra Congressional guests, department, agency and Congressional staff; press, and such members of the public we decide to admit.

Facilities for Television, Radio and Press are available and have been judged adequate.

There are disadvantages to Constitution Hall as compared to the Washington Hilton: transportation, feeding and parking. The Hilton can take care of these functions relatively easily; at Constitution Hall, we must provide buses from the Conference hotels (Washington Hilton, Statler Hilton, Mayflower); make arrangements for lunch at government cafeterias (Interior Dept., GSA, State Dept.), and simply inform delegates and observers that parking facilities are virtually non-existent.

An added disadvantage to selecting Constitution Hall over the Washington Hilton is cost: assuming the DAR doesn't choose to donate the Hall to this Conference, we will have to pay the minimum rental of \$1,100 per day.

All of the above may cause some confusion and a certain amount of inconvenience. On balance, however, I believe that our guests will accept the spirit of seriousness and austerity that characterizes this effort. The inconvenience, it seems to me, is more than balanced by the appropriateness of holding this conference in a setting that has the dignity and the quasi-governmental character of Constitution Hall.

The Secret Service has no objection to Constitution Hall.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 12, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN  
FROM: JERRY H. ~~SONEN~~  
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Site for  
Economic Conference on Inflation,  
September 27 - 28

Your memorandum to the President of September 5 on the above subject has been reviewed and the following notation was made:

-- I lean toward one of the hotels  
but willing to discuss.

cc: Al Haig  
Kenneth Rush