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Diana -

No action on this
Presidential Note
per Bill Timmons

Neil

John Rhodes

① Berry Colquhoun

② Prior notice -
Nixon -
Amnesty -

3) Message
"foreign aid"
shorten - take
out. (refer)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1974

MEETING WITH REP. JOHN RHODES (R-ARIZ)

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. (30 min)

Tuesday, September 10, 1974

The Oval Office

From: William E. Timmons **BT**

I. PURPOSE

Meeting at Mr. Rhodes' request.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. Rhodes asked Timmons to arrange this meeting to cover several issues (unspecified).
2. John originally was going to explore the President's intentions regarding former President Nixon but that will not now be necessary.

B. Participants:

The President
Rep. John J. Rhodes
William E. Timmons

C. Press Plan:

Press Office to announce meeting as one to discuss legislative issues. No photograph required.

III. TALKING POINTS

In Tab A.

TALKING POINTS

- A. John, thanks for your public support for my decision to pardon Richard Nixon. While there is criticism, I felt it is the best course to follow.
- B. I want you to know some Congressional activities I have planned this week:
1. Republican Leaders on Wednesday to review the pre-summit inflation conferences and legislation for the fall term.
 2. Bipartisan Leaders on Thursday to discuss Foreign Aid and international developments.
 3. Wayne Hays on Thursday afternoon to talk about Campaign Reform.
 4. The leaders of the Joint Budget Committee -- you, Ullman, Muskie and Dominick -- on Friday with Roy Ash.
- C. John, I asked my staff to review with you the first draft of a Message to Congress which we will explore at tomorrow's GOP meeting. What were your general observations? (NOTE: his views are attached.) (Tab B)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 7, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL TIMMONS

FROM: GENE AINSWORTH

SUBJECT: Comments of Rep. John Rhodes on
Draft #3 of the Presidential Message
to Congress

In general, John suggests that the message be reduced in the number of specific pieces of legislation mentioned, the idea being that the President should in no way encourage the lame duck session of the 93rd Congress. By sending up a message containing a large number of non-critical legislative items, the President gives the Democrats ready made justification for a lame duck session. For our guidance, John offers these specific comments:

- (1) Page 9 - Foreign Policy - only mention Ex-Im Bank authorization. He is especially disturbed that emphasis is placed on defending an increased foreign aid assistance budget, while asking the taxpayers to tighten their belts and recommending cutbacks in domestic spending.
- (2) Page 10 - Completely omit any mention of Illegal Alien legislation.
- (3) Page 11 - Omit any reference to the three health authorizations that require extension this year. Also omit reference to the Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan.

Regarding the recently House-passed Federal Mass Transportation Act. John is unsure of what we mean be certain structural changes in that bill are necessary. John recommends that we be specific about the changes that are needed.

- (4) Page 12 - Hit Energy Research and Development Administration harder. Mention Project Independence and the need to ensure that energy costs are brought under control. Include reference to Deep Water Ports legislation in this section.

(5) Last Page - Omit any reference to the Federal District Judges Act.

Milt Friedman should not proceed under the assumption that we think these suggestions of John Rhodes are mandatory changes in the text of the message but are only offered for his consideration and guidance.

cc: Milt Friedman