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F08

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *h.f.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DKA

February 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*
SUBJECT: Viet Nam Trip

You phoned Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia last Monday in Parkersburg to ask if the leadership would sponsor a trip by Members of Congress to Viet Nam.

Senator Byrd called today in response to your call. He stated that he had spoken with Senator Mansfield about this and they indicated as the Senate Democratic leadership they will not sponsor such a trip. Senator Byrd commented that they believe they have enough facts regarding the situation and their support in a Viet Nam trip would be inadvisable.

Senator Byrd also said that if Senator Sparkman in his capacity as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee wished to participate, the Senate Democratic leadership has no objection.

Senator Hugh Scott has also been uncooperative and indicated his desire not to participate in the selection of the Senators invited for the trip.

On the House side John Rhodes has been critical of the trip and has avoided any participation.

The Speaker also has not been receptive and indicated a lack of interest.

Meanwhile the State Department has been active and invited a number of Senators and Congressmen who have accepted, including the following:

Senate

- Dewey Bartlett
- Bill Brock
- Clifford Case
- Dick Clark
- Jake Garn
- Paul Laxalt

House

- William Broomfield
- Paul McCloskey
- Elford Cederberg
- Bill Chappell
- Donald Fraser
- Jack Kemp
- Dante Fascell

The date of departure, as we discussed this morning, is becoming a factor because of impending Senate vote on the oil deferral bill and the possibility of veto votes after that.

Stan Kimmitt, with Senator Mansfield's office, advised us this morning that the Senate Majority Leader is concerned about Democrat Senators being absent with these important votes pending.