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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 2/22/75

DR

TO:

DON RUMSFELD

FROM:

JERRY H. JONES *JHJ*

Attached is a status report on the Brinegar memorandum regarding three potential transportation problems.

JHJ


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR JERRY JONES

FROM: MIKE DUVAL 

SUBJECT: STATUS OF SECRETARY BRINEGAR'S
DEPARTING MEMO TO THE PRESIDENT

The Secretary left a memorandum with the President on January 28, outlining three potential problem areas. Here are my comments:

Penn Central Railroad. Congress has acted on our proposed supplemental to help the Penn Central. There will be a need for additional funds and I agree with the former Secretary's assessment that Senators Hartke and Pearson will be the key players.

Amtrak. I concur with the Secretary's judgment that the biggest problem here is that Amtrak has become a political football. Obviously, we will have to consider the question of whether or not the President should veto the next appropriation when we actually get the bill. All the staff work which needs to be done to develop mechanisms which should result in Amtrak acting in a fiscally responsible manner, either has been completed or is underway.

Pan Am. Of course, the Iranian loan solution is well underway. This may well be followed up with serious merger negotiations between Pan Am and another U.S. carrier. Such an ultimate solution is a real possibility if the Iranian loan is ultimately approved. DOT and Bill Seidman for the White House are following up on this.

I will discuss all of the above thoughts with William Coleman once he is confirmed as Secretary.

In the meantime, no additional follow-up action is required.