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4/21/75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Paul O'Neil

Interesting.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PAUL O'NEILL


FROM:

JERRY H. JONES 

The attached article was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation to you:

-- Interesting.

cc: Don Rumsfeld



info

CETA 'Surplus' Is Bugging City

By Brian Malone

Federal money, about \$400,000, is available here to put 400 to 500 persons to work. But the city, which has the dole, might not use it.

The catch is, the money must be spent by June 30 (end of fiscal 1974-75), according to U.S. Department of Labor officials. And a further snag is that the city has not received assurances from the federal government that it will receive the same funding levels for fiscal '76, which begins July 1.

"We're in a dilemma," said City Manager Joseph Grassie. "We can bring people aboard for a few weeks, then perhaps be faced with having to lay them off if the same funding levels don't come through."

The dilemma appears to exemplify the uncertain future of the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) program.

Human Resources Director Jerry C. Bosworth, administrator of the \$1.8 million

job program, said "national politics" is to blame.

"Should we spend our time working to find job slots for those 400 to 500 people, or should we lobby in Washington for more CETA funding next fiscal year to handle the unemployment problem, especially since we're Grand Rapids?" Bosworth asked.

He said there are about six alternative pieces of legislation pending in Congress on CETA. "The economy is getting worse and next year is an election year," he said. "You'd think the time is ripe for more funds."

City officials don't appear to feel threatened by the Labor Department's directive that all unspent monies will be recalled. "The law states that any unspent dollars have to remain in the area," Bosworth said.

That means its use still would be under Bosworth and his department's control because that department is staff for the Grand Rapids Area Manpower Planning

Council, regional body receiving CETA funds.

Bosworth indicated it would take considerable effort to locate 400 to 500 jobs, but that it could be done.

But he said the city could defy the Labor Department, not spend all the money and use what's left to continue paying wages of the 300 persons already hired through CETA.

Meanwhile, city fathers cautiously approved 57 new slots for CETA employees.

"We have to realize," warned Commissioner C. Blair Mohnney, 2nd Ward, "that the day of reckoning is approaching when we won't have those funds available. We're going to have to be strong in that moment just as we're liberal in this moment. Some day we'll have to balance a budget without CETA."

Grassie indicated that a massive infusion of CETA money would be used to hire seasonal workers in the Parks Department this summer.