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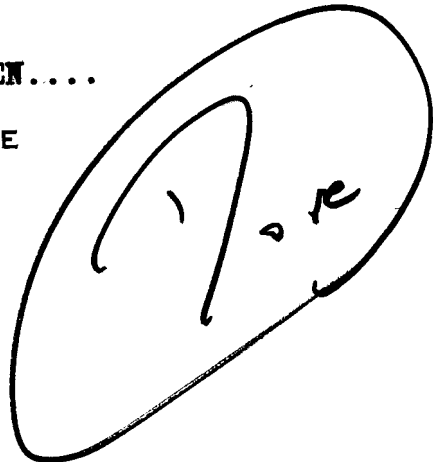
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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 27, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DONALD RUMSFELD

FROM: DOUGLAS P. BENNETT



SUBJECT: Federal Mediation Board

The Federal Mediation Board comprised of three members--two Republicans and one Democrat has traditionally rotated the Chairmanship each fiscal year. The current Republican Chairman, George Ives, is due to relinquish his position under normal rotation to David Stowe from Maryland. Secretary Dunlop and Special Assistant Usery have requested that the normal rotational procedures not be followed this year but that the Administration request that Ives remain as Chairman.

The arguments in favor of retaining Ives are:

- (1) Bill Usery works extremely well with Ives. He will not enjoy nearly the same relationship with Stowe.
- (2) At a time of delicate rail and air labor relationships, it is important that continuity on the Board be maintained.
- (3) Going into an election year, it would be advisable to extend the term of the incumbent Republican Chairman who enjoys good labor and management support.
- (4) During the past few months, Dunlop and Usery had been meeting with the Chairmen of the NLRB and the Federal Mediation Board (both Republicans) to conduct very open and candid discussions on sensitive labor issues. This practice would be disturbed by the Chairmanship of a Democrat.

Arguments against:

(1) Since the Chairman of the Board is not designated by the President, this would be a somewhat unprecedented move. (The Board was created in the 1920's.) However, there is some history of the incumbent Chairman succeeding himself, although it is unclear as to whether or not it was the President who has requested this.

(2) The Board will make a decision today and the potential for adverse publicity is significant.

Bill Usery advises me that "Stowe would work out O.K. as Chairman", but, in candor, Usery would not recommend the appointment of Stowe. The fact that two out of the three on the Board are Republicans would indicate that the Board could be fairly well-controlled.