

The original documents are located in Box C24, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 7/9/1975” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

- The President talked
to Albert and
O'Neill.

- He didn't try
Mahon.

T.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 9, 1975

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Speaker Albert
Majority Leader O'Neill
Chairman Mahon

FROM: Jerry H. Jones

SUBJECT: White House Authorization Bill (H.R. 6706)

BACKGROUND:

The White House Authorization bill (H.R. 6706) will be brought up on the House Floor for consideration this afternoon. As you remember, earlier this year you submitted legislation to the Congress for a White House authorization which would cure problems we have had in previous years on points of order questions. Previously many of our operating authorizations were contained only in the appropriations bill and had never been authorized.

Your bill was submitted in an effort to enact authorizing legislation which would maintain the status quo on White House operations by using the same language which had been used in our appropriations bills for many years. Chairman Henderson of the House Civil Service and Post Office Committee did not feel he could get your bill through his committee and offered a substitute of his own. After lengthy but friendly negotiations, his substitute bill, while more constricting than your original bill, can be lived with. However, Chairman Henderson's bill (H.R. 6706) limits total slots for the White House Office and Residence at 575; we requested a total of 586 for fiscal year 1976 (500 for the White House Office and 86 for the Residence).

Mo Udall attempted to amend Henderson's bill with some very constricting amendments during committee hearings. Udall was not successful but I understand that he or one of his cohorts, Harris of Virginia and Schroeder of Colorado, intend to offer 15 limiting amendments during the debate today.

—
—
—

Before
2:00 PM

RCY

Jim Jones intends to offer your original bill as an amendment to the Henderson bill and we are hopeful that we can get as many as 250 votes to pass his amendment. Henderson and Derwinski support the Jones strategy and will not fight us on the Floor.

Calls from you to the Speaker, Tip O'Neill and Chairman Mahon will be helpful in generating leadership support for the Jones amendment.

TALKING POINTS:

1. I understand that the White House authorization bill (H.R. 6706) is on the agenda for today. While I can live with most provisions of this bill which Chairman Henderson carefully drafted and got through his committee, I would still prefer that the bill which I originally sent forward for your consideration, be passed.
2. I believe Jim Jones will offer my original bill as an amendment to Chairman Henderson's bill and I hope you can support this amendment.
3. As I understand it, because of the pressure Mo Udall generated in committee, Dave did not feel that he could get my original recommendation on the Floor for consideration and felt that he had to bring forward his compromise bill.
4. I prefer my bill because: a) it gives me the necessary flexibility to reorganize my staff and pay them according to their worth without undue restrictions; b) all Presidents before me have had this flexibility through language in the White House Office appropriation; c) while there are many who feel the White House Staff is too large, the appropriate place to check the size of my staff is in the appropriations process rather than the authorization itself. I am sure Chairman Steed and Chairman Mahon are full capably of keeping inappropriate growth from occurring in the White House Office. As you know I

have proposed a cutback of some 40 slots this year and have been working hard to keep a lid on growth in the staff; and d) finally, it seems to me that the comity between the branches which has been the practice for so many years should be maintained. I hate to see this valuable principle be discarded in the hot flash of the Watergate period.

ACTION _____