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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES M. CANNON

FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT: Decision on Closing Government
Agencies and Departments
December 26, 1975

The President reviewed your memorandum of December 12th on the above subject and has made the following notation:

"Jim Cannon -- I have signed. I do not plan to do the same for the New Year period."

cc: Dick Cheney



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim Cannon

I have signed.

I do not plan to
do the same for the New
Year period.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECISION

December 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON 

SUBJECT:

Decision on Closing Government Agencies
and Departments December 26, 1975

BACKGROUND

Paul O'Neill has sent you a memorandum on excusing Federal employees from duty the day after Christmas (Tab A).

The Civil Service Commission has proposed that you excuse Federal employees from duty on Friday, December 26, 1975. If you decide to exempt Federal employees from duty that day, an executive order prepared and cleared for your signature is at Tab B.

The executive order would not apply to those agencies whose heads determine that they should remain open for reasons of national security or other vital government functions, such as the U.S. Postal Service.

DISCUSSION

The Civil Service Commission cites precedent over the last twenty years, wherein past Presidents have granted days off to Federal employees during similar situations at Christmas. OMB concurs with the Civil Service Commission's recommendation, pointing out that the cost (normally \$135 million a day) and productivity loss incurred in granting a day off is mitigated by the heavy leave-taking by Federal employees on the Friday after Christmas.

Max Friedersdorf strongly recommends disapproval. This is based on a letter to Jim Lynn from Congressman Derwinski indicating his great concern over the problem the Postal Service will be faced with December 26. In

preparing the proposed executive order, OMB has determined that the Postal Service does not plan to excuse its employees on December 26. Additionally, the Postmaster General will resist any demands by the postal unions for double-time pay as not being consistent with the current negotiated agreement between the Postal Service and the unions.

If you should decide to close government agencies on December 26, Max Friedersdorf will call Congressman Derwinski and explain the Postal Service situation to him, which Max feels will ease Derwinski's concern.

VIEWS

Counsel's Office	Approve.
Max Friedersdorf	Strongly recommends disapproval.
Marsh	Disapprove.
Bill Seidman	Approve.
CEA	No objection.
NSC	Approve.
Hartmann	Approve.
Theis	(No changes in the Executive Order)
OMB	Approve.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend you excuse Federal employees from duty the day after Christmas and that you sign the executive order at Tab B.