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FOR YOUR USE AND INFORMATION

March 5, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

AGRICULTURAL POLICY-MAKING REORGANIZATION

The President has announced a reorganization of the Administration's agricultural policy-making machinery.

A new Agricultural Policy Committee is being formed with Secretary Butz as Chairman. The Committee will include:

- . Secretary of Agriculture -- Chairman
- . Secretary of State
- . Secretary of the Treasury
- . Secretary of Commerce
- . Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
- . Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs
- . Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
- . Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- . Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- . Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs
- . Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy

This new Committee is being formed to consolidate agricultural policy making into one group which will report directly to the President and will advise him on the formulation, coordination and implementation of all agricultural policy. The scope of the Committee will include both domestic and international issues.

The new Committee replaces the International Food Review Group, chaired by the Department of State, and the EPB/NSC Food Committee, co-chaired by the Departments of State and the Treasury.

The EPB/NSC Food Committee was created on September 9, 1975, to develop negotiating strategy for American grain sales to the Soviet Union and to monitor those negotiations. This Committee has been chaired jointly by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury. Other members include:

- . Secretary of Agriculture
- . Secretary of Labor
- . Secretary of Commerce
- . Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- . Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
- . Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy
- . Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
- . Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

more

The International Food Review Group was established on November 12, 1974, to coordinate the follow-up to the World Food Conference. The IFRG has been chaired by the Secretary of State. Other members include:

- . Secretary of the Treasury
- . Secretary of Agriculture
- . Deputy Secretary of State
- . Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
- . Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
- . Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- . Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy
- . Special Representative for Trade Negotiations
- . Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

The Food Deputies Group, which currently provides staff level assistance to the Economic Policy Board in agricultural policy matters, will become the Agricultural Policy Working Group. This Working Group will provide the Agricultural Policy Committee with staff assistance by monitoring agricultural developments and preparing issue papers and other analyses.

The Food Deputies Group was created to monitor agricultural developments and to prepare materials on selected issues being considered by the Economic Policy Board. This group is chaired by a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers and includes representatives of the:

- . Department of Agriculture
- . Department of the Treasury
- . Department of State
- . Department of Commerce
- . Office of Management and Budget
- . Council on International Economic Policy
- . Domestic Council
- . National Security Council
- . Special Representative for Trade Negotiations
- . Council on Wage and Price Stability

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2/16/76

Jim -

Re Agricultural Policy Making Reorganization

Staffing completed except for Scowcroft -

Marsh -- recommends EPB's approach.

Morton -- recommends Alternative
approach on Page 3

Seidman --- Comments attached includes
Tresury (both recommend
EPB)

*P - went with
agric. option
Butz in charge*

3/5/76



MARCH 4, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

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STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY MAKING REORGANIZATION

The President met this afternoon with Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz to discuss the President's reorganization of the Administration's agricultural policy making machinery.

A new Agricultural Policy Committee is being formed with Secretary Butz as Chairman. Other members of the Committee will include:

- . Secretary of State
- . Secretary of the Treasury
- . Secretary of Commerce
- . Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
- . Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs
- . Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
- . Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- . Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- . Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs

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As a part of this reorganization, the International Food Review Group, chaired by the Department of State, and the EPB/NSC Food Committee, co-chaired by the Departments of State and the Treasury, will be disbanded. In addition, the Agricultural Policy Committee will assume all of the agricultural policy responsibilities of the Economic Policy Board.

The Food Deputies Group, which currently provides staff level assistance to the Economic Policy Board in agricultural policy matters, will become the Agricultural Policy Working Group. This Working Group will provide the Agricultural Policy Committee with staff assistance by monitoring agricultural developments and preparing issue papers and other analyses.

MARCH 4, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

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- . Secretary of State
- . Secretary of the Treasury
- . Secretary of Commerce
- . Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
- . Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs
- . Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
- . Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- . Director of the Office of Management and Budget
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THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID . . .

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 2, 1976

mf

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY
FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH
SUBJECT: Plans to Announce the President's
Decision on the Agricultural Policy
Committee

If the President decides to go with the new committee that has been proposed, we have the option of announcing it prior to the President's trip to Springfield on Friday or announcing it in Springfield when the President meets with the farmers.

I prefer announcing it prior to the trip. It's a story that will stand on its own in the agricultural community, yet the President can still benefit from it by talking about it during his Springfield appearance.

I suggest the following sequence of events:

1. Have Earl Butz over Wednesday or Thursday of this week for a brief meeting with the President. The meeting should be prior to Ron Nessen's morning press briefing, and we should do a photo opportunity.
2. Ron Nessen will then make an announcement at the morning briefing indicating the establishment of the committee, the membership of the committee (someone this morning suggested Virginia Knauer-- that's a great idea and she should be on it), and the purpose of the committee.

A draft statement for Ron's use is attached.

Attachment

STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY MAKING REORGANIZATION

The President met this morning with Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz to discuss the President's reorganization of the Administration's agricultural policy making machinery.

A new Agricultural Policy Committee is being formed with Secretary Butz as chairman. Other members of the Committee will include:

- Secretary of State
- Secretary of the Treasury
- Secretary of Commerce
- Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
- Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs
- Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
- Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget
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As a part of this reorganization, the International Food Review Group, chaired by the Department of State, and the EPB/NSC Food Committee, co-chaired by the Departments of State and the Treasury, will be disbanded. In addition, the Agricultural Policy Committee will assume all of the agricultural policy responsibilities of the Economic Policy Board.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1976

SUBJECT: Agricultural Policy
Making Reorganization

Current Situation

Four principal entities have been created by your Administration to coordinate and review agricultural policy:

1. The Economic Policy Board was created on September 30, 1974, to advise you on the formulation, coordination, and implementation of all economic policy --- including agricultural policy.
2. The Food Deputies Group was created to monitor agricultural developments and prepare materials on selected issues for consideration by the Economic Policy Board. It reports biweekly to the EPB Executive Committee. This group is chaired by CEA (Paul MacAvoy).
3. The International Food Review Group (IFRG) was established on November 12, 1974, to coordinate the follow-up to the World Food Conference. The IFRG working group is chaired by State (Joe Greenwald).
4. The EPB/NSC Food Committee was created by you on September 9, 1975, for the purpose of developing negotiating strategy for and monitoring the negotiations on grain sales to the Soviet Union. This Committee is chaired jointly by Treasury and State (Bill Simon and Henry Kissinger).

The Problem

The agricultural community is disturbed over the fact --- or the perception --- that USDA (i.e., Secretary Butz) is not in the leadership role in the development of agricultural policy.

EPB Proposed Solution

In a February 6 memorandum to the Executive Committee of EPB, Bill Seidman outlined a recommendation for agricultural policy making reorganization.

According to this proposal, the Economic Policy Board will continue to be responsible for the overall coordination of agricultural policy issues.

The EPB/NSC Food Committee will be modified as follows:

1. The Department of Agriculture will chair this Committee.
2. Membership on the Committee will be at the Assistant Secretary level or above.
3. The Committee will be renamed the EPB/NSC Agricultural Policy Committee.
4. The Committee will report to the Economic Policy Board Executive Committee periodically on policy issues with options and recommendations. The scope of the Committee will include both domestic and international issues and will include the international policy issues that previously were the responsibility of the International Food Review Group.

The Secretary of Agriculture and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs will continue to be invited to attend EPB Executive Committee meetings when agricultural policy issues are considered.

The Food Deputies Group will, as at present, be responsible for staffing and monitoring food related issues and reporting to the EPB Executive Committee on a biweekly basis.

Final recommendations to you on international agricultural issues will be submitted in a joint memorandum from the EPB and NSC.

Another Alternative

In order to achieve the full symbolic value from an agricultural policy making reorganization, it might be preferable to make the following change:

1. Establish an "Agricultural Policy Committee" which will submit final recommendations directly to you.
2. The Committee will include:
 - Secretary of Agriculture
 - Secretary of State
 - Secretary of the Treasury
 - Secretary of Commerce
 - Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs
 - Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs
 - Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers
 - Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
 - Director of the Office of Management and Budget
3. The Secretary of Agriculture will chair the Committee.
4. The scope of the Committee will include both domestic and international issues. It will advise you on the formulation, coordination and implementation of all agricultural policy.
5. The International Food Review Group and the EPB/NSC Food Committee will be disbanded and the Agricultural Policy Committee will assume all agricultural policy responsibilities of the EPB.
6. The Food Deputies Group will become the "Agricultural Policy Working Group" of the Agricultural Policy Committee.

Conclusion

The EPB proposal has the advantage of keeping agricultural policy within the current economic and international policy making frameworks. However, this solution probably would not be perceived as a full return of agricultural policy leadership to USDA and Secretary Butz.

The other alternative outlined above is designed to achieve maximum political and symbolic effect by putting Secretary Butz and USDA in the leadership role of a committee with direct access to the Oval office. However, this proposed change --- if adopted --- will remove domestic and international agricultural policy issues from the EPB and NSC frameworks and, as a consequence, may arouse bureaucratic resistance.



STAFFING



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: March 4, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:
BRENT SCOWCROFT
BILL SEIDMAN (for EPB)

cc (for information):

✓ JACK MARSH
✓ ROGERS MORTON
FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Wednesday, March 4

Time: 4 PM or earlier

SUBJECT:

Memorandum of 2/27/76 regarding Agricultural
Policy Making Reorganization

ACTION REQUESTED:

___ For Necessary Action

___ For Your Recommendations

___ Prepare Agenda and Brief

___ Draft Reply

___ For Your Comments

___ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

We must have by 4 o'clock today the option which you prefer on the attached subject - also any comments which you would like to make.

NSC is requested to obtain State comments as fast as possible.

EPB (Bill Gorog) you are requested to obtain from Treasury fast answers by four o'clock as well.

Morton - favors other approach on page 3 -- NOT NSC'S position.

Marsh - EPB's position



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James E. Connor
For the President

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT 
SUBJECT: Reorganization of Agriculture
Policy Making

Of the two proposals contained in the unsigned memorandum to the President on the reorganization of agriculture policy making, I strongly recommend the first. Because of the sensitivity of agriculture policy to our international relations, it should definitely not be formulated outside the EPB/NSC process. If possible, however, the first proposal should be modified to allow the International Food Review Group (IFRG) to continue with lead responsibility for matters related to the follow-up to the World Food Conference.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Simon + Seidman

March 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM F. GOROG *WFG*
SUBJECT: Agricultural Policy Making Reorganization

I urge that you adopt the EPB proposed recommendation for agricultural policy making reorganization designating Secretary Butz as Chairman of the EPB/NSC Food Committee.

Such action should clearly eliminate the perception that Secretary Butz is not in the leadership role in the development of agricultural policy without establishment of another independent committee to accomplish this objective.

The alternative of establishment of an independent committee is a step backward in our coordination process. The present EPB/NSC coordination route has become an established method of obtaining rapid coordination in such matters with principals regularly in attendance. Our recent grain decisions established the value of these procedures.

Establishment of a new Committee, without staff support, would have the effect of disabling the coordination process which has taken a great deal of time to "shake down." The original objective of our proposal was to remove a "cosmetic" problem and clearly show the public that we were not downgrading the position of the Secretary of Agriculture. In our attempt to solve this problem we should not disrupt our established procedures.

I have coordinated this position directly with Bill Seidman and Bill Simon. They concur in my recommendations, and Bill Simon requested that I convey to you his strong feelings that the second alternative would be very destructive to the present smooth working EPB/NSC relationship and coordination procedures.



Date: March 3, 1976

Time:

*du: 3/3
4:00 pm*

FOR ACTION:
BRENT SCOWCROFT
BILL SEIDMAN (for EPB)
JACK MARSH
ROGERS MORTON
FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

cc (for information):

DUE: Date: Wednesday, March 3 Time: 4 PM or earlier

SUBJECT:

Memorandum of 2/27/76 regarding Agricultural Policy Making Reorganization

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

We must have by 4 o'clock today the option which you prefer on the attached subject - also any comments which you would like to make.

NSC is requested to obtain State comments as fast as possible.

EPB (Bill Gorog) you are requested to obtain from Treasury fast answers by four o'clock as well.

Approve EPB proposal
JM



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If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James E. Connor
For the President