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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 4, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR *JEB*

SUBJECT:

Meeting with the EPB Executive
Committee - July 28, 1976

The President reviewed your memorandum of July 28 concerning issues discussed at the EPB Meeting held July 28 and made the following decisions:

U. S. Maritime Policy

Issue 1: Administration position on extension of the Jones Act to the Virgin Islands.

Option 3: Do nothing at this time. Withhold a decision until further Congressional action on S. 2422.

Issue 2: Should the Economic Policy Board evaluate and report to you on measures to assist the U. S. -flag merchant marine through changes in the administration of cargo preference?

Option 1: Evaluate and report on measures to assist the U. S. - flag merchant marine through changes in the administration of cargo preference.

Wage Settlements

Issue 1: What should be the Administration's policy regarding wage settlements?

Option 5: Maintain the present posture of post-settlement analysis by the Council on Wage and Price Stability. Continue to stress that collective bargaining is properly a private sector activity and that government should not attempt to effect the outcome.

Wage Settlements (Continued)

Issue 2: How should the Administration make public its policy regarding wage settlements?

Option2: Do not issue a statement or mildly cautionary cover letter on the teamsters and/or electrical workers settlements.

Tax Legislation

Issue 1: What actions should the President take with regard to the pending tax reform bill?

Option 3: Await completion of Senate action on the bill before commenting on it.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN *LWS*
SUBJECT: Meeting with the EPB Executive Committee
July 28, 1976

In the wake of our meeting this morning, I have prepared the following outline of the issues raised for your decision which I hope will be helpful in saving time from wading through the rather lengthy briefing paper.

U.S. Maritime Policy

Issue 1: Administration position on extension of the Jones Act to the Virgin Islands.

Option 1 _____ Announce Administration support for legislation extending the Jones Act to the Virgin Islands for the transportation of oil products (S. 2422).

Option 2 _____ Announce Administration opposition to legislation extending the Jones Act to the Virgin Islands for the transportation of oil products (S. 2422).

Option 3 *MC7* _____ Supported by: Treasury, CEA, State, Cannon
Do nothing at this time. Withhold a decision until further Congressional action on S. 2422.
Supported by: Commerce, Labor, OMB, Marsh Buchen, Friedersdorf

Issue 2: Should the Economic Policy Board evaluate and report to you on measures to assist the U.S.-flag merchant marine through changes in the administration of cargo preference?

- Option 1 NR7 Evaluate and report on measures to assist the U.S.-flag merchant marine through changes in the administration of cargo preference.
- Option 2 _____ Do not consider further.

Wage Settlements

Issue 1: What should be the Administration's policy regarding wage settlements?

- Option 1 _____ Announce an "incomes policy."
- Option 2 _____ Attempt to influence the outcome of upcoming settlements through jawboning.
- Option 3 _____ Emphasize in public statements the inflationary effect of wage settlements which consistently exceed productivity increases.
- Option 4 _____ Stress the need in public statements and speeches for overall economic policies which, by reducing inflation, reduce the incentives for large annual wage increases.
- Option 5 NR7 Maintain the present posture of post-settlement analysis by the Council on Wage and Price Stability. Continue to stress that collective bargaining is properly a private sector activity and that government should not attempt to effect the outcome.

Issue 2: How should the Administration make public its policy regarding wage settlements?

- Option 1 _____ Issue a statement or mildly cautionary cover letter on the teamsters and/or electrical workers settlements.
- Option 2 NR7 Do not issue a statement or mildly cautionary cover letter on the teamsters and/or electrical workers settlements.

Tax Legislation

Issue 1: What actions should the President take with regard to the pending tax reform bill?

- Option 1 _____ Comment at this time urging that the Congress complete action on the bill by September 1.
- Option 2 _____ Comment at this time and urge that the Congress split out the tax cuts and conclude them by September 1, leaving the rest of the bill for later action.
- Option 3 MR7 _____ Await completion of Senate action on the bill before commenting on it.
- Option 4 _____ Await completion of Congressional action on the bill before indicating that you will approve or veto it.