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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 31, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON  
FROM: JIM CONNOR *JEC*  
SUBJECT: Administration Position on Legislation  
Establishing a National Commission on  
Neighborhoods

Confirming telephone call to your office earlier today, the President reviewed your memorandum of August 27 and approved the following option:

Option 1 - Secretary Hills to support the legislation  
to establish a National Commission on  
Neighborhoods.

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

IMMEDIATE  
PRECEDENCE

UNCLAS  
CLASSIFICATION

FOR COMMCENTER USE ONLY

FROM: JAMES CONNOR

TO: DICK CHENEY

INFO:

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY  
FROM: JIM CONNOR  
SUBJECT: Administration Position on Legislation  
Established a National Commission on  
Neighborhoods

As requested yesterday the attached decision memorandum was prepared by Jim Cannon.

We have also attached the Conference Report on this bill which should be given to Jim Cavanaugh for his use.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON *Jimi*

SUBJECT:

Administration Position on Legislation  
Establishing a National Commission on  
Neighborhoods

Secretary Hills requests your decision on whether or not to support a proposal by Senators Proxmire and Garn, and Representative Ashley, to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods (Tab A).

The proposed two-year Commission would, to some extent, duplicate the review of Federal programs assigned to the President's Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization. The proposed Commission would also look into state and local policies, programs and laws, as well as investment patterns, local zoning, tax policies and many other matters affecting neighborhood growth.

BACKGROUND

When Secretary Hills brought the legislation up in the first meeting of the President's Committee on June 21, you indicated your opposition in general to national commissions and said you saw no need for this one in particular. As a result of this stand, Secretary Hills declined testimony before the Senate.

Shortly before the Republican Convention, Lud Ashley, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development, introduced legislation identical to the Proxmire-Garn bill. Hearings have been set for September 9, 1976.

Secretary Hills spoke to you on August 13, 1976 in your office and recommended you support the Congressional proposal for these reasons:

1. It is likely to be passed at this session;
2. Opposition would be contrary to the Administration's stated concern for urban neighborhoods; and
3. The Commission would complement many of the activities of the President's Committee.

Since your meeting with Secretary Hills, the Republican National Convention adopted a Platform calling for an expansion of your Committee to include representatives of state and local governments and the private sector -- which the proposed legislation specifically calls for.

#### CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION

Max Friedersdorf says that "neighborhood" is a motherhood issue in this election year, and the Proxmire-Garn-Ashley bill is quite likely to pass at this session of Congress. Passage will require a waiver of the budget act, but both the House and the Senate will probably do so since the amount is only \$2 million.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Secretary Hills recommends approval (Option 1). Max Friedersdorf and I concur.

Jim Lynn (holding his nose) also concurs.

RLH

Option 1: Secretary Hills to support the legislation to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

Option 2: Secretary Hills to oppose legislation to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

Option 3: Secretary Hills to avoid testifying before the House Committee on the bill.

TABA



1 public policy incentives to ignore the need to preserve the  
2 built environment can no longer be defended, either eco-  
3 nomically or socially, and must be replaced with explicit  
4 policy incentives encouraging conservation of existing neigh-  
5 borhoods. That objective will require a comprehensive review  
6 of existing laws, policies, and programs which affect neigh-  
7 borhoods, to assess their impact on neighborhoods, and to  
8 recommend modifications where necessary.

9 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION

10 SEC. 3. (a) There is hereby established a commission  
11 to be known as the National Commission on Neighborhoods  
12 (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

13 (b) The Commission shall be composed of twenty mem-  
14 bers, to be appointed as follows:

15 (1) two Members of the Senate appointed by the  
16 President of the Senate;

17 (2) two Members of the House of Representatives  
18 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representa-  
19 tives; and

20 (3) sixteen public members appointed by the  
21 President of the United States from among persons spe-  
22 cially qualified by experience and training to perform the  
23 duties of the Commission, at least five of whom shall be  
24 elected officers of recognized neighborhood organiza-  
25 tions engaged in development and revitalization pro-

1       grams, and at least five of whom shall be elected or ap-  
2       pointed officials of local governments involved in preser-  
3       vation programs. The remaining members shall be drawn  
4       from outstanding individuals with demonstrated experi-  
5       ence in neighborhood revitalization activities, from such  
6       fields as finance, business, philanthropic, civic, and edu-  
7       cational organizations.

8       The individuals appointed by the President of the United  
9       States shall be selected so as to provide representation to a  
10      broad cross section of racial, ethnic, and geographic groups.

11      The two members appointed pursuant to clause (1) may not  
12      be members of the same political party, nor may the two  
13      members appointed pursuant to clause (2) be members of  
14      the same political party. Not more than eight of the members  
15      appointed pursuant to clause (3) may be members of the  
16      same political party.

17      (c) The Chairman shall be appointed by the President,  
18      by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from  
19      among the public members.

20      (d) The executive director shall be appointed by the  
21      President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
22      from among individuals recommended by the Commission.

23

#### DUTIES

24      SEC. 4. (a) The Commission shall undertake a compre-  
25      hensive study and investigation of the factors contributing

1 to the decline of city neighborhoods and of the factors neces-  
2 sary to neighborhood survival and revitalization. Such study  
3 and investigation shall include, but not be limited to—

4 (1) an analysis of the impact of existing Federal,  
5 State, and local policies, programs, and laws on neigh-  
6 borhood survival and revitalization;

7 (2) an identification of the administrative, legal,  
8 and fiscal obstacles to the well-being of neighborhoods;

9 (3) an analysis of the patterns and trends of public  
10 and private investment in urban areas and the impact  
11 of such patterns and trends on the decline or revitaliza-  
12 tion of neighborhoods;

13 (4) an assessment of the existing mechanisms of  
14 neighborhood governance and of the influence exercised  
15 by neighborhoods on local government;

16 (5) an analysis of the impact of poverty and racial  
17 conflict on neighborhoods;

18 (6) an assessment of local and regional develop-  
19 ment plans and their impact on neighborhoods; and

20 (7) an evaluation of existing citizen-initiated neigh-  
21 borhood revitalization efforts and a determination of how  
22 public policy can best support such efforts.

23 (b) The Commission shall make recommendations for  
24 modifications in Federal, State, and local laws, policies, and  
25 programs necessary to facilitate neighborhood preservation

1 and revitalization. Such recommendations shall include, but  
2 not be limited to—

3 (1) new mechanisms to promote reinvestment in  
4 existing city neighborhoods;

5 (2) more effective means of community participa-  
6 tion in local governance;

7 (3) policies to encourage the survival of eco-  
8 nomically and socially diverse neighborhoods;

9 (4) policies to prevent such destructive practices  
10 as blockbusting, redlining, resegregation, speculation  
11 in reviving neighborhoods, and to promote homeowner-  
12 ship in urban communities;

13 (5) policies to encourage better maintenance and  
14 management of existing rental housing;

15 (6) policies to make maintenance and rehabilita-  
16 tion of existing structures at least as attractive from a  
17 tax viewpoint as demolition and development of new  
18 structures;

19 (7) modification in local zoning and tax policies  
20 to facilitate preservation and revitalization of existing  
21 neighborhoods; and

22 (8) reorientation of existing housing and commu-  
23 nity development programs and other tax and subsidy  
24 policies that affect neighborhoods, to better support  
25 neighborhood preservation efforts.

1 (c) Within two years after the date on which funds  
2 first become available to carry out this Act, the Commission  
3 shall submit to the Congress and the President a compre-  
4 hensive report on its study and investigation under this sub-  
5 section which shall include its findings, conclusions, and  
6 recommendations and such proposals for legislation and  
7 administrative action as may be necessary to carry out its  
8 recommendations.

#### 9 COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS

10 SEC. 5. (a) Members of the Commission who are Mem-  
11 bers of Congress or full-time officers or employees of the  
12 United States shall serve without additional compensation,  
13 but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other  
14 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the duties  
15 vested in the Commission.

16 (b) Members of the Commission, other than those re-  
17 ferred to in subsection (a), shall receive compensation at  
18 the rate of \$100 per day for each day they are engaged in  
19 the actual performance of the duties vested in the Commis-  
20 sion and shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel, sub-  
21 sistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the per-  
22 formance of such duties.

#### 23 ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

24 SEC. 6. (a) The Commission shall have the power to  
25 appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as it

1 deems advisable, without regard to the provisions of title 5,  
2 United States Code, governing appointments in the competi-  
3 tive service, and the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter  
4 III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and  
5 General Schedule pay rates, but at rates not in excess of a  
6 maximum rate for GS-18 of the General Schedule under  
7 section 5332 of such title.

8 (b) The Commission may procure, in accordance with  
9 the provisions of section 3109 of title 5, United States Code,  
10 the temporary or intermittent services of experts or con-  
11 sultants. Persons so employed shall receive compensation  
12 at a rate to be fixed by the Commission but not in excess of  
13 \$100 per day, including traveltime. While away from his  
14 or her home or regular place of business in the performance  
15 of services for the Commission, any such person may be al-  
16 lowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-  
17 sistence, as authorized by section 5703 (b) of title 5, United  
18 States Code, for persons in the Government service employed  
19 intermittently.

20 (c) Each department, agency, and instrumentality of  
21 the United States is authorized and directed to furnish to the  
22 Commission, upon request made by the Chairman or Vice  
23 Chairman, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, such sta-  
24 tistical data, reports, and other information as the Commis-  
25 sion deems necessary to carry out its functions under this

1 Act. The Chairman is further authorized to call upon the  
2 departments, agencies, and other offices of the several States  
3 to furnish, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, such statis-  
4 tical data, reports, and other information as the Commis-  
5 sion deems necessary to carry out its functions under this  
6 title.

7 (d) The Commission may award contracts and grants  
8 for the purposes of evaluating existing neighborhood revitali-  
9 zation programs and the impact of existing laws on neighbor-  
10 hoods. Awards under this section may be made to—

11 (1) representatives of legally chartered neighbor-  
12 hood organizations;

13 (2) public interest organizations which have a  
14 demonstrated capability in the area of concern;

15 (3) universities and other not-for-profit educational  
16 organizations.

17 (e) The Commission or, on the authorization of the  
18 Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may,  
19 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act;  
20 hold hearings, take testimony, and administer oaths or af-  
21 firmations to witnesses appearing before the Commission or  
22 any subcommittee or member thereof. Hearings by the Com-  
23 mission will be held in neighborhoods with testimony re-  
24 ceived from citizen leaders and public officials who are en-  
25 gaged in neighborhood revitalization programs.

## 1                    AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

2            SEC. 7. There are authorized to be appropriated not to  
3 exceed \$2,000,000 to carry out this title.

## 4                    EXPIRATION OF THE COMMISSION

5            SEC. 8. The Commission shall cease to exist thirty days  
6 after the submission of its report under section 4.

IMMEDIATE  
PRECEDENCE

UNCLAS  
CLASSIFICATION

FROM: JAMES CONNOR

TO: DICK CHENEY

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 27, 1976

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FROM: JIM CONNOR

SUBJECT: Administration Position on Legislation  
Established a National Commission on  
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As requested yesterday the attached decision memorandum was prepared by Jim Cannon.

We have also attached the Conference Report on this bill which should be given to Jim Cavanaugh for his use.

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Calendar No. 988

94TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S. 3554**

[Report No. 94-1052]

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11 (legislative day, JUNE 3), 1976

Mr. PROXMIRE (for himself and Mr. GARN) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing  
and Urban Affairs

JULY 28, 1976

Reported by Mr. PROXMIRE, without amendment

---

**A BILL**

To establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SHORT TITLE

4 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "National  
5 Neighborhood Policy Act".

6 FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

7 SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds and declares that exist-  
8 ing city neighborhoods are a national resource to be con-  
9 served and revitalized wherever possible, and that public  
10 policy should promote that objective.

11 (b) The Congress further finds that the tendency of

1 public policy incentives to ignore the need to preserve the  
 2 built environment can no longer be defended, either eco-  
 3 nomically or socially, and must be replaced with explicit  
 4 policy incentives encouraging conservation of existing neigh-  
 5 borhoods. That objective will require a comprehensive review  
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 8 recommend modifications where necessary.

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17 (2) two Members of the House of Representatives  
 18 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representa-  
 19 tives; and

20 (3) sixteen public members appointed by the  
 21 President of the United States from among persons spe-  
 22 cially qualified by experience and training to perform the  
 23 duties of the Commission, at least five of whom shall be  
 24 elected officers of recognized neighborhood organiza-  
 25 tions engaged in development and revitalization pro-

1 grams, and at least five of whom shall be elected or ap-  
 2 pointed officials of local governments involved in preser-  
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 6 fields as finance, business, philanthropic, civic, and edu-  
 7 cational organizations.

8 The individuals appointed by the President of the United  
 9 States shall be selected so as to provide representation to a  
 10 broad cross section of racial, ethnic, and geographic groups.

11 The two members appointed pursuant to clause (1) may not  
 12 be members of the same political party, nor may the two  
 13 members appointed pursuant to clause (2) be members of  
 14 the same political party. Not more than eight of the members  
 15 appointed pursuant to clause (3) may be members of the  
 16 same political party.

17 (c) The Chairman shall be appointed by the President,  
 18 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from  
 19 among the public members.

20 (d) The executive director shall be appointed by the  
 21 President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
 22 from among individuals recommended by the Commission.

#### 23 DUTIES

24 SEC. 4. (a) The Commission shall undertake a compre-  
 25 hensive study and investigation of the factors contributing

1 to the decline of city neighborhoods and of the factors neces-  
 2 sary to neighborhood survival and revitalization. Such study  
 3 and investigation shall include, but not be limited to—

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 10 and private investment in urban areas and the impact  
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13 (4) an assessment of the existing mechanisms of  
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19 (7) modification in local zoning and tax policies  
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 21 neighborhoods; and

22 (8) reorientation of existing housing and commu-  
 23 nity development programs and other tax and subsidy  
 24 policies that affect neighborhoods, to better support  
 25 neighborhood preservation efforts.

(c) Within two years after the date on which funds first become available to carry out this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Congress and the President a comprehensive report on its study and investigation under this subsection which shall include its findings, conclusions, and recommendations and such proposals for legislation and administrative action as may be necessary to carry out its recommendations.

#### COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS

SEC. 5. (a) Members of the Commission who are Members of Congress or full-time officers or employees of the United States shall serve without additional compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the duties vested in the Commission.

(b) Members of the Commission, other than those referred to in subsection (a), shall receive compensation at the rate of \$100 per day for each day they are engaged in the actual performance of the duties vested in the Commission and shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 6. (a) The Commission shall have the power to appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as it

deems advisable, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, but at rates not in excess of a maximum rate for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of such title.

(b) The Commission may procure, in accordance with the provisions of section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, the temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants. Persons so employed shall receive compensation at a rate to be fixed by the Commission but not in excess of \$100 per day, including traveltime. While away from his or her home or regular place of business in the performance of services for the Commission, any such person may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 (b) of title 5, United States Code, for persons in the Government service employed intermittently.

(c) Each department, agency, and instrumentality of the United States is authorized and directed to furnish to the Commission, upon request made by the Chairman or Vice Chairman, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, such statistical data, reports, and other information as the Commission deems necessary to carry out its functions under this

1 Act. The Chairman is further authorized to call upon the  
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 3 to furnish, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, such statis-  
 4 tical data, reports, and other information as the Commis-  
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 19 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act;  
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Calendar No. 988

94TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S. 3554**

[Report No. 94-1052]

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**A BILL**

To establish a National Commission on  
Neighborhoods.

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By Mr. PROXMIRE and Mr. GARN

JUNE 11 (legislative day, JUNE 3), 1976

Read twice and referred to the Committee on  
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

JULY 28, 1976

Reported without amendment