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~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1976

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Secretary Mathews

DATE: Saturday, September 4, 1976

PURPOSE: To discuss swine flu and health block grant legislation with Secretary Mathews before his appearance on "Face the Nation" tomorrow.

BACKGROUND: You received a briefing on swine flu from Secretary Mathews and Assistant Secretary Ted Cooper last Thursday, September 2. Your health block grant legislative proposal, sent up in February, has relevance to the recent publicity on Medicaid fraud. If it had passed, states would have had sole responsibility (and a dollar ceiling) for managing their program and responsibility for fraud, and those could be pinpointed.

TALKING POINTS:

1. Have the manufacturers step up their efforts to speed up production and delivery.
2. Our health block grants legislation would have resulted in less fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program. I want you to remind the Congress that they should move this legislation.

PRESS PLAN: Secretary Mathews would mention your phone call during his appearance tomorrow.

Call made on 9/4/76

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Terry
I told Sec. Matthews
if he had to change
regulations he should.
He agreed.

THE WASHINGTON POST THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

Saturday, September 4, 1976

Ford Is Asked to Suspend Rule Banning All-Boy Choir in Conn.

United Press International

President Ford has been asked to suspend a federal regulation that is forcing the Wethersfield, Conn., sixth grade boys' choir to disband because only boys can participate.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has agreed to investigate the regulation, but Martin Gerry, director of its Office of Civil Rights, said it would take two months before the review could be completed.

Rep. William Cotter (D-Conn.) asked Mr. Ford to suspend the regulation while HEW is determining whether the sex-discrimination rule is proper.

The boys' choir, endangered because it meets in a public school building and is therefore subject to federal regulations, was begun to encourage participation in a music program ordinarily dominated by girls.

"Wethersfield students go back to school Sept. 8. Meanwhile their boys' choir can't meet while the HEW review is pending," Cotter said in a letter to Mr. Ford.

He said he also has asked the House Education and Labor Committee, which wrote the sex discrimination law under which the regulation was promulgated, if the rule is consistent with its intent.

"If the problem is the law, then the law should be changed," he said. "If the problem is simply how the federal government interpreted the law, then the interpretation should be changed."

"If you polled the members of Congress, I seriously doubt you would find a majority who said they wanted to outlaw boys' choirs when they passed the law," he said.