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THE PRESIDENTIAL HANDWRITING FILE

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

310 FIRST STREET, S.E.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

MARY LOUISE SMITH
CHAIRMAN

January 13, 1977

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the establishment of a Republican Coordinating Committee. I deeply appreciate the interest and leadership which you have demonstrated in this matter.

During our meeting tomorrow, I will, of course, officially report the receipt of your letter and your recommendation that this proposal be given consideration by the entire National Committee. As we have discussed, I have also given this idea my strongest endorsement and to the best of my knowledge all the candidates for Chairman are responsive to the concept of a policy council in some form. The results of the preliminary work you have had done under the guidance of Dr. Art Peterson will be provided to the new Chairman and I shall take the opportunity to discuss in detail the results of the research and background work that we have had done here at the Committee as well.

Sincerely,

Mary Louise Smith

797-8476
797-8480
797-8486

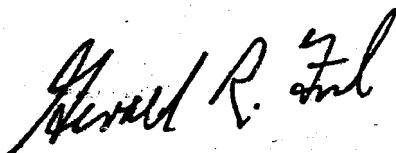
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1977

Dear Mary Louise:

I believe there is a need to institute a Republican Coordinating Committee (RCC) modeled, to a large extent, after the successful vehicle originated in 1965. Preliminary staff work and consultation with former Republican Coordinating Committee Staff Director Dr. Arthur Peterson has made it possible for me to enclose the proposal for consideration by the members of the Republican National Committee at your meetings this week.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Mary Louise Smith
Chairman
Republican National Committee
310 First Street, SE.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 8, 1977

PROPOSED 1977 REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RCC)

Purpose:

The Republican Coordinating Committee (RCC) should serve three major functions. First, it must be an inclusive mechanism which aids party unity through a process of consensus policy making. Second, it should focus staff work of substantive integrity to provide the party and its leaders with policy positions which are sound. Third, a unified party with sound, consensus positions will be able to challenge the new Administration and build for future elections.

Organization of the 1977 Republican Coordinating Committee

Membership: There should be thirty-five members, distributed among party ranks as follows: (See TAB A & B)

- National Party Leaders (6)
- The Republican Leadership of the Congress.
 - Senate (7)
 - House (9)
- The Republican Mayors Assn. (2)
- The Republican Governors Assn. (4)
- The Republican Legislators Assn. (1)
- The Republican National Committee (6)

Chairman: The presiding officer of the Committee is the Chairman of the Republican National Committee. He is also responsible for the overall direction of task force activities.

Task Forces: A shadow Cabinet should be established:
(See TAB C)

- State (Foreign Affairs)
- Treasury
- Defense
- Justice
- Commerce
- HEW
- Labor
- HUD
- Interior
- Transportation
- Budget
- Energy

(See TAB D; originally eight Task forces were established in 1965 and in addition, there were two special study groups)

Additional task forces and study groups would be added as appropriate. The purpose of such task forces would be to produce policy positions on important issues within their purview for consideration by the Republican Coordinating Committee (RCC).

Membership on each task force should come from across the party spectrum. Each coordinating committee member would submit personnel recommendations for task force membership with the Republican National Committee Chairman and the Republican Coordinating Committee (RCC) Staff Director, together, determining the final makeup of each task force.

Committee Meetings and Operations: The committee should meet for one day every two months. Principal agenda topics should include:

- Consideration and revision of task force reports.
- New issue assignments for the task forces.
- Consideration of immediate or late breaking political issues.

After consensus is reached on the issues under consideration, a major press conference should be held to set forth the positions.

Staff Support: Staff should be held to a minimum. There should be an executive director and a staff director plus a secretary for each task force:

Communications: Coupled with the Republican Coordinating Committee (RCC) there must be a total communications effort to supply print media with policy material; offer electronic media events with key spokesmen in topics of interest; communicate to general public the positions of the Republican Party which will broaden its base.

Funding: The Republican Coordinating Committee (RCC) should be funded by the Republican National Committee. The quality of the task force reports are central to the success of the committee. Adequate funds must be available to attract quality staff personnel; the 1965 effort suffered because of inadequate funding.

PROPOSED 1977 REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

THE REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

(Presiding Officer--Chairman, Republican National Committee)

Nat'l Party
Leaders

Pres. Ford
Vice Pres. Rockefeller
Governor Reagan
Governor Connally
Senator Goldwater
Senator Dole

The Republican Leadership
of the Congress

Senate (7); House (9)

Republican Mayors'
Association
(2)

The Republican
Governors' Assn.
(4)

The Republican
Legislators' Assn.
(1)

The Republican
National Comm.

Co-Chairman (1)
Vice Chairmen (4)

Special Study Groups
(Temporary)

as needed

Task Forces

State (Foreign Affairs)
Treasury
Defense
Justice
Commerce
HEW
Labor
HUD
Interior
Transportation
Budget
Energy

1965 MODEL

The Republican Coordinating Committee
(Presiding Officer—Chairman, Republican National Committee)

President Eisenhower
The four former Presidential
nominees (Gov. Landon, Gov.
Dewey, Vice President Nixon, and
Senator Goldwater)

The Republican Leadership of
the Congress
Senate (7); House (9)

The Republican Governors
Assn. (2)
The Republican Legislators'
Assn. (1)

The Republican National
Committee
Asst. Chairman (1)
Vice Chairmen (4)

Special Study Groups
(Temporary)
Federal Revenue Sharing
National Emergency Strikes

Task Forces
Fiscal and Monetary
Foreign Relations
Federal-State-Local
Job Opportunities
Human Rights
Senior Americans
National Defense
Crime and Delinquency

PROPOSED 1977 TASK FORCES OF THE

REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RCC)

- State (Foreign Affairs)
- Treasury
- Defense
- Justice
- Commerce
- HEW
- Labor
- HUD
- Interior
- Transportation
- Budget
- Energy

1965 MODEL

Task Forces:

- Fiscal and Monetary
- Foreign Relations
- Federal-State-Local
- Job Opportunities
- Human Rights
- Senior Americans
- National Defense
- Crime and Delinquency

Special Study Groups:

- Federal Revenue Sharing
- National Emergency Strikes