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U. S. HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REP. JOHN J. RHODES, (R.-ARIZ.) CHAIRMAN • 1616 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING • TELEPHONE 225-6168

10

91st Congress
First Session

February 25, 1969
Statement Number 2

EXTENSION OF EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION AUTHORITY

The House Republican Policy Committee urges the immediate extension of the President's authority to submit to the Congress plans to reorganize the Executive Branch.

The Reorganization Act of 1949 and subsequent legislation place upon the President the permanent responsibility of periodically re-examining all agencies of the Government. If he determines that changes are necessary, he shall submit to the Congress reorganization plans to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

1. To promote the better execution of the laws, the more effective management of the Executive Branch of the Government and of its agencies and functions, and the expeditious administration of the public business;
2. To reduce expenditures and promote economy to the fullest extent consistent with the efficient operation of the Government;
3. To increase the efficiency of the operations of the Government to the fullest extent practicable;
4. To group, coordinate, and consolidate agencies and functions of the Government, as nearly as may be, according to the major purposes;

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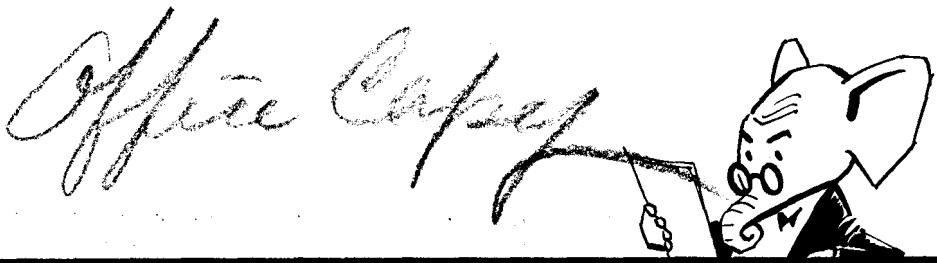
5. To reduce the number of agencies by consolidating those having similar functions under a single head, and to abolish such agencies or functions thereof as may not be necessary for the efficient conduct of the Government; and
6. To eliminate overlapping and duplication of effort.

The Act provides that reorganization plans generally take effect sixty days after receipt by the Congress, unless either House of the Congress during that period passes a resolution of disapproval.

Congress has repeatedly and consistently recognized the need to modernize the Federal Government, and that reorganization of the many and varied departments, agencies and bureaus of the Executive Branch must be made from time to time if government is to be made more efficient and economical. Authority for the President to submit reorganization plans to the Congress has been renewed periodically in various forms since the Economy Act of 1932. This authority to submit reorganization proposals has been available to every President since Herbert Hoover.

This procedure admittedly reverses the usual legislative process. This device, however, is particularly useful in Government reorganization, and the Congress has recognized this fact for more than three decades. Such cooperation between the Executive and Legislative Branches in Government with regard to reorganization has proven sensible and effective.

We urge that the Presidential authority contained in Chapter 9 of Title 5, of the United States Code be continued immediately.



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91st Congress
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March 4, 1969
Statement Number 3

CONGRESSIONAL REORGANIZATION

"Congress itself must be reorganized and modernized as a co-equal branch of government."

Republican Platform
August 7, 1968

"The awesome problems of today and the challenges of the 70's demand an efficient and effective Congress. Unless Congress is strengthened and new procedures and techniques developed, there is grave danger that the historic role of Congress as an essential check on the massive power of the Executive may be dangerously diluted. Legislation is needed to update and modernize Congress."

Republican Policy Committee
Statement, May 10, 1967

The Republican Members of the House of Representatives are determined to bring the rules and procedures of Congress into the 20th Century. Only by accomplishing legislative reorganization, only by equipping itself with the machinery fitted to the times, can Congress succeed in shaping laws that cope with the complex problems of modern society.

The bipartisan Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, established by unanimous vote of both the House and the Senate in the 89th Congress, has thoroughly studied the organization of the Legislative Branch. Its report sets forth numerous recommendations for improved structural changes and operational procedures of the Congress. In light of these recommendations, legislation has been introduced which proposes the following major improvements:

1. The establishment of a permanent Joint Committee on Congressional Operations with continuing authority to study the structure and procedures of Congress and to recommend additional reforms and changes.
2. The protection of the rights of the minority through the provision of additional committee staff, the right to file minority views in committee reports, the provision of equal time on conference reports, and the right

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to schedule witnesses during at least one day of committee hearings.

3. The authorization of measures designed to assist Members of Congress in the performance of their Congressional duties. Such measures would include enlarging committee staffs, strengthening and improving the Legislative Reference Service, and authorizing committees to employ consultants on an interim basis in order to take advantage of expertise in various fields of knowledge.
4. The implementation of fiscal controls and budgetary reforms that would include (1) a greater utilization of the General Accounting Office, (2) a multiple-year financial projection of programs, (3) the updating of the budget on June 1 of each year, and (4) the requirement that responsible Executive Department officials testify before the Appropriations Committee of each House within 30 days after the budget is presented to Congress.
5. The requirement that each standing committee upgrade its oversight function by the review and study, on a continuing basis, of the regulations, procedures, practices and policies of the Government, pertaining to the application, operation, administration and execution of the laws which are within the jurisdiction of the committee.
6. The more thorough supervision of lobbying activities.
7. The establishment of a Bill of Rights for committees that would require announcement of record votes, permit a majority to compel the filing of a report or a bill, prohibit the use of proxies, and require the printing of committee rules at the beginning of each session.

Republicans have long urged Congressional reform. Their dedication to the improvement of the legislative branch is reflected in: (1) the establishment of the Republican Task Force on Congressional Reform and Minority Staffing during the 89th and 90th Congresses, (2) the House Republican Policy Committee Statement of May 10, 1967, cited above, (3) the Policy Committee Statement of October 10, 1966, (4) the resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the House Republican Conference on October 11, 1967, and (5) the Congressional reform plank in the National Republican Platform of 1968.

The need for a modernized Congress has never been more urgent than today.

The House Republican Policy Committee reendorses the recommendations of its May 10, 1967 statement and urges the prompt enactment of legislation to modernize and improve the Legislative Branch of the Government.



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