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APPROVED

OCT 29 1974

16779

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

ACTION

Last Day: October 29

October 25, 1974

Statement issued 10/29/74

To Archivist 10/30

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM: KEN COLE *C*
SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1769
Fire Prevention and Control Act

BACKGROUND

Attached for your consideration is Senate bill S. 1769, sponsored by Senator Magnuson, which would establish in the Department of Commerce a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration. It provides for training and education programs, information systems, and a research and development program.

The bill also contains additional authorities not requested in the Administration bill. Most are innocuous but one would require HEW to establish under NIH an expanded burn program that the Secretary of HEW considers duplicatory and excessive.

The bill is strongly supported, however by the professional and volunteer fire fighting agencies in the nation. OMB, Treasury, Commerce and HUD approve of the bill because it would cut down on fire losses and primarily serves to supplement existing state and local efforts. HEW recommends disapproval because it feels the burn centers are unnecessary, expensive and duplicative and further he feels they should not be under NIH.

The bill would cost \$13.5 million for FY 75 and \$19 million for FY 76, excluding the price of the construction for the Fire Academy, which would be authorized up to \$9 million, and the cost of the burn centers which would be \$5 million in FY 75 and \$8 million in FY 76. The language of the bill would, however, allow the Administration to use existing facilities for the Fire Academy.



Last page, please file

The bill passed the Senate 62-7 and the House by voice vote.

Roy Ash provides you with additional background information in his enrolled bill report. (Tab A)

RECOMMENDATIONS - S. 1769

Bill Timmons, OMB, the Counsel's office (Chapman) and the Domestic Council all recommend approval and issuance of the Presidential signing statement (Tab C) which has been approved by Paul Theis.

Secretary Weinberger recommends the bill be vetoed but requests that should it be signed, the intention not to seek appropriations for the burn centers be set forth in a signing statement.

DECISION

_____ Sign S. 1769 (Tab B)
and approve signing
statement (Tab C)

_____ Veto S. 1769



APPROVED
OCT 29 1974

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OCT 22 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 1769 - Fire Prevention and Control
Sponsors - Sen. Magnuson (D) Washington and
20 others

Last Day for Action

October 29, 1974 - Tuesday

Purpose

To establish in the Department of Commerce a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration to coordinate, encourage, and facilitate programs in fire prevention and control.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval (Signing statement attached)
Department of the Treasury	Approval
Department of Commerce	Approval
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Approval (informally)
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	Disapproval

Discussion

In late 1973, the Administration proposed legislation to consolidate and expand current Federal fire prevention programs. The legislation was designed to focus on fire prevention, rather than fire fighting, and was to supplement existing State and local efforts. The proposed programs were to be limited to three key areas: a training and education program; a data and information system; and, a research and development program. The Administration's proposal grew out of the study report of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, which found that 12,000 people are killed annually in the United States by fire, and that inadequate attention is being given to fire prevention.



The enrolled bill would provide the authorities requested by the Administration and some additional ones outlined below. The bill, however, exceeds the Administration's request in one particularly undesirable respect. The bill would require the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish, under the National Institutes of Health jurisdiction, an expanded burn program. NIH would be required to fund the establishment of 25 burn research and treatment centers, 25 burn treatment units and 90 burn programs in general hospitals and to carry out an expanded program of burn research. The required program would be expensive, duplicative, and unnecessary. Moreover, the centers should not be under NIH, the specific number is unrealistic, and the bill is too specific to allow efficient use of existing facilities. Because of this provision, HEW recommends a veto of S. 1769.

The provisions of the enrolled bill would:

- provide for establishment of a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration and for appointment of an Administrator at Level IV and a Deputy Administrator at Level V.
- create a National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control to advance professional development of fire service personnel. The bill authorizes up to \$9 million to build a facility for this program and authorizes stipends for students in training programs and in academic degree programs in fire research or engineering. The Administration opposed a requirement for a separate academy facility. The language of the bill will give the Administration flexibility to use existing Federal, State or local facilities.
- require the Administrator to develop a National Fire Data Center to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on prevention, occurrence, control, and results of all types of fires. The Administration had requested similar authority.
- require the Administrator to develop, test, and evaluate fire equipment including such specific items as clothing, breathing apparatus, fire detectors, and in-place fire prevention systems. The Administration had requested authority respecting only fire prevention equipment. Notwithstanding the fact that this authority would also cover fire fighting equipment, the bill provides enough flexibility to accommodate a program focussed on fire prevention.



- authorize annual appropriations for the foregoing activities, except the Academy building, of \$10 million for fiscal year 1975 and \$15 million for fiscal year 1976. Appropriations for fiscal year 1975 have already been enacted at a level of \$6 million and the level for fiscal year 1976 represents a substantial reduction at the request of the Administration from a previous level of \$21 million.
- establish within the Department of Commerce a Fire Research Center to perform and support research on all aspects of fire and authorize appropriations of up to \$3.5 million for fiscal year 1975 and \$4 million for fiscal year 1976. The Secretary would be authorized to conduct the Center program directly or by contracts or grants. The Administration had requested such authority for an R&D effort.
- require establishment within NIH as discussed above of an expanded and undesirable burn program including the establishment of centers under NIH jurisdiction discussed above. The bill would authorize appropriation of up to \$5 million for this activity for fiscal year 1975 and up to \$8 million for fiscal year 1976. HEW recommends veto because of this provision.

The bill also would authorize or require several other activities for which authority was not requested by the Administration. Although these provisions are unnecessary, they are not highly objectionable. These additional provisions would:

- authorize and direct each agency to furnish the Administrator such services as he requests.
- require the Administrator to assist the Consumer Product Safety Commission as provided in the Consumer Product Safety Act.
- authorize but not require a public education program.
- authorize but not require the Administrator to encourage the development of master fire prevention and control plans by States and political subdivisions thereof and require him to report at the end of four years from the date of enactment on master planning activities including in the report a model master plan.



- provide for reimbursement, from unappropriated funds in the Treasury, to a fire service for expenses of fighting fires on Federal property. Reimbursement to the Treasury by the agency assisted is provided for.
- authorize but not require the Administrator to review and comment on public and private fire and building codes, to encourage owners and managers of residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation structures to prepare Fire Effectiveness Statements pursuant to standards developed by the Administrator, and to convene and finance an annual conference.

The bill includes the substance of all the authorities requested by the Administration, and its implementation should help reduce the Nation's losses from fire as well as permit a desirable consolidation of Federal fire prevention programs in one Federal agency. While the bill includes some provisions not requested by the Administration, the unrequested provisions are acceptable with the exception of the requirement that HEW establish a burn program.

We have prepared a signing statement (attached) for your consideration which reiterates the objections to the requirement that the HEW Secretary establish an expanded burn program, and states that you oppose appropriation of funds to implement this program.

Welfred H. Roumel

Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

OCT 11 1974

Honorable Roy L. Ash
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Ash:

This is in response to Mr. Rommel's request of October 11, 1974, for a report on S. 1769, an enrolled bill "To reduce losses of life and property through better fire prevention and control, and for other purposes."

Section 19 of the enrolled bill would require the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish an expanded program within the Department in relation to burns. In particular, the National Institutes of Health would be required to (1) sponsor the establishment of twenty-five burn centers, twenty-five burn units, and ninety burn programs, (2) carry out a program of burn research, and (3) undertake certain other activities.

We are strongly opposed to the enactment of the enrolled bill for the following reasons:

- (1) Section 19 would establish specific rigid and unrealistic requirements in relation to the burn program. The numerical requirements for burn centers, units, and programs are unnecessarily high, and impossible to carry out in the time frame of this legislation. Other requirements, such as the provision that burn units shall be "used only for burn victims" mandate wasteful and inefficient practices.
- (2) Section 19 would require the program to be carried out through the National Institutes of Health. But NIH is not the health agency responsible for sponsorship and encouragement of treatment, rehabilitation, health care delivery programs, or the training of emergency



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2. This report is prepared for the use of the recipient and is not to be distributed outside the recipient's organization.

3. This report is prepared for the use of the recipient and is not to be distributed outside the recipient's organization.

4. This report is prepared for the use of the recipient and is not to be distributed outside the recipient's organization.

5. This report is prepared for the use of the recipient and is not to be distributed outside the recipient's organization.

RECEIVED
MAY 1974

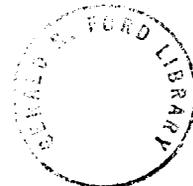
health care personnel. We feel that the assignment of such responsibilities to NIH would have deleterious effects on the important health research that is NIH's primary responsibility. Two other health agencies-- the Health Services Administration and the Health Resources Administration--are already actively supporting emergency medical care delivery and the training of clinical manpower.

- (3) Section 19 is unnecessary, as it duplicates existing statutory authority in respect to burns. NIH presently supports a program in burn research, primarily through the trauma program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. NIGMS's trauma research program supported research to improve the care given to burn victims and spent over one million dollars during fiscal year 1973 on burn research. In addition, the Health Services Administration and the Health Resources Administration actively support efforts by States and local authorities to improve emergency medical care delivery and the training of clinical manpower for improving the care of victims of fire and other medical traumata.

For these reasons, we strongly urge that the enrolled bill be returned to Congress without approval. In the event, however, that our advice in this matter is not followed, we urge that the President at least declare his intent to seek no appropriations to carry out section 19.

Sincerely,


Acting Secretary



STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today signing into law S. 1769, the "Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974."

While fire prevention and control is and will remain a State and local responsibility, I believe the Federal Government can make useful contributions. I endorse the intention of this act to supplement rather than supplant existing State and local government activities.

The program established by this act, which will be implemented by an agency within the Department of Commerce, will contribute to our knowledge of fire, and our ability to prevent it.

Federal assistance for research and development on fire problems will be consolidated and expanded to provide the scientific and technological base for the development of materials, equipment and systems to reduce the number and severity of fires.

The Fire Academy system will supplement existing education and training for fire prevention personnel across the Nation.

The research and development program will be closely tied to the education and training program, thereby insuring that research and development results are disseminated quickly to communities.



The data base of the National Fire Data Center will assist States and communities in setting priorities and in identifying possible solutions to problems. I will monitor the progress of the Nation in reducing fire losses.

The bill contains a provision that requires the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish 25 burn treatment centers, 90 burn programs and 25 centers for expanded research on burns. Since these centers would duplicate the burn research carried on through the trauma program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and would add 5 million to the FY 75 budget, I will not seek appropriations to implement this particular provision of the bill.





THE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

OCT 18 1974

Director, Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C. 20503

Attention: Assistant Director for Legislative
Reference

Sir:

Your office has requested the views of this Department on the enrolled enactment of S. 1769, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

The provisions of the enrolled enactment are not of primary interest to this Department and the Department has no recommendation to make with respect to its approval by the President. However, the Department has the following observations to make for consideration in connection with whatever final action is taken by the President on the measure.

As stated in our report dated August 29, 1973 on the bill to the Senate Committee on Commerce, which report was cleared by your office, the categorical grants that would be authorized would not appear to be consistent with the purposes of the Administration's revenue sharing program. In addition, section 11 of the enrolled enactment could in actual operation result in backdoor financing, thereby bypassing the usual appropriation process. This situation arises by virtue of the fact that section 11(c) would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay claims for expenses by fire services directly out of the general fund of the Treasury; thus, in effect, creating a continuing, indefinite appropriation (i.e., backdoor financing). While the section also provides that the payments are subject to reimbursement, there is a high probability that the Treasury will not be able to obtain reimbursement from Federal agencies because their appropriations are not available for that purpose and there would be no compelling reason for making any future appropriation so available.

Sincerely yours,


General Counsel





THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
 DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
 DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
 5708 SOUTH CAMPUS DRIVE
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

TO: [Name]
 FROM: [Name]
 SUBJECT: [Subject]

[Main body of the letter containing the primary message or report content.]

RECEIVED
 330
 1974



**GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**
Washington, D.C. 20230

OCT 18 1974

Honorable Roy L. Ash
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Ash:

This is in reply to your request for a review by the Department of Commerce on S. 1769, an enrolled enactment titled

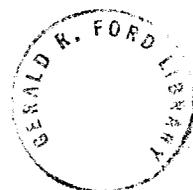
"Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974."

S. 1769 establishes within the Department of Commerce a National Fire Prevention and Control Administration. This new Administration is authorized to undertake programs to educate the public and to overcome public indifference concerning fire and fire prevention.

The bill directs the Secretary to establish a National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control for the purpose of advancing the professional development of fire service personnel and of other persons engaged in fire prevention and control activities.

The bill also directs the Administrator of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration to conduct a continuing program of development, testing, and evaluation of equipment for use by the National Fire Rescue and Civil Defense services for the purpose of making available improved suppression, protective, auxiliary and warning devices incorporating the latest technology.

The bill further directs the Administrator to operate directly or through contracts or grants and integrated, comprehensive "National Fire Data Center" for the selection, analysis, publication, and dissemination of information related to the prevention, occurrences, control, and results of fires of all types.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

RECEIVED
JUL 1 3 50
1974

The Administrator is authorized to encourage and assist states and subdivisions in the establishment of master plans for fire prevention and control.

Provision is made for each fire service that engages in the fighting of a fire on property which is under the jurisdiction of the United States to file a claim with the Administrator for the amount of direct expenses and direct losses incurred by such fire service as a result of fighting the fire.

The bill also establishes within the Department of Commerce a fire research center to conduct and support research on all aspects of fire for the purpose of providing scientific and technical knowledge applicable to the prevention and control of fires.

The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is directed to establish within the National Institute of Health and in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce an expanded program of research on burns, treatment of burn injuries, and rehabilitation of victims of fire.

In Section 21(a) each department, agency, and instrumentality of the Executive Branch and each independent, regulatory agency of the United States is authorized and directed to furnish to the Administrator upon written request such assistance as the Administrator deems necessary to carry out his functions and duties pursuant to this Act.

The bill makes further provisions for the review by the Administrator of State and local fire prevention codes, the conducting of an annual conference on fire prevention and control, the issuance of public safety awards in recognition of outstanding and distinguished service by public safety officers, and requires the Secretary of Commerce to report annually to the Congress and the President on all activities relating to fire prevention and control and upon all measures taken to implement and carry out this Act.

The bill, as now proposed for enactment, has been modified from the earlier Conference Report of August 12, 1974, as follows:

a. To remove the provision of the earlier version which provided for master plan grants,



b. To provide that the construction of an Academy shall not exceed \$9 million,

c. To delete the requirement in the earlier version that construction of the Academy be approved by both the House Committee on Science and Astronautics and the Senate Committee on Commerce, and

d. To reduce Fiscal Years 1975 and 1976 appropriations of \$15 and \$21 million in Section 17 of the earlier version to respectively \$10 and \$15 million.

We are pleased to note that the bill incorporates in large measure the three important functions which we believe necessary for a comprehensive National fire prevention program. These functions, which were included in the Administration's fire proposal, H. R. 10913, were a training and education program, including a public awareness effort, a National system of fire data information, and a research and development program.

We are concerned, however, from the standpoint of efficient, organization and management that the bill does not provide for a consolidation of research and development in the Administration as requested by this Department. Further, we are concerned that the position of the Administrator, which is a Level IV, creates an undesirable and unnecessary proliferation in those offices of the Department reporting directly to the Secretary.

Notwithstanding our concern for the diversification of research and development responsibility and the level of the Administrator, we strongly support the objectives of the bill. The reduction of human suffering and loss of property through the broad and aggressive programs authorized by this bill demand their prompt implementation. Towards this end we urge its enactment.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Commerce expenditures of \$10 million for FY 75 and \$15 million for FY 76 to carry out sections 1 through 16 and expenditures of \$3,500,00 for FY 75 and \$4 million for FY 76 to carry out the provisions of section 18. It authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare expenditures of \$5 million for FY 75 and \$8 million for FY 76 to carry out the provisions of section 19.



4

It should be noted that in the recently enacted Department of Commerce appropriations for FY 1975 only \$6 million is authorized for carrying out the functions of Sections 1 through 16 and Section 18. Requirements for FY 1976 funding have been submitted to you through the regular budget process.

Sincerely,

Karl E. Bekke

General Counsel



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 690

Date: October 22, 1974

Time: 6:30 p.m.

FOR ACTION: ✓ James Cavanaugh
 ✓ Geoff Shepard
 ✓ Phil Buchen
 ✓ Bill Timmons
 Paul Theis

cc (for information): Warren K. Hendriks
 Jerry Jones

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, October 25, 1974 Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1769 - Fire Prevention and Control

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action For Your Recommendations
 Prepare Agenda and Brief Draft Reply
 For Your Comments Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
 For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

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DUE: Date: Friday, October 25, 1974 Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1769 - Fire Prevention and Control

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
 - For Your Recommendations
 - Prepare Agenda and Brief
 - Draft Reply
 - For Your Comments
 - Draft Remarks
- 10/25/74*

REMARKS:

Approved 

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing



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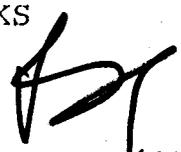
If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. WARREN HENDRIKS
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS 
SUBJECT: Action Memorandum - Log No. 690
Enrolled Bill S. 1769 - Fire Prevention and Control

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs in the attached proposal and has no additional recommendations.

Attachment



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

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Date: October 22, 1974

Time: 6:30 p.m.

FOR ACTION: James Cavanaugh
Geoff Shepard
Phil Buchen
Bill Timmons
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Warren K. Hendriks
Jerry Jones

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DUE: Date: Friday, October 25, 1974 Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1769 - Fire Prevention and Control

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing

*Stelle.
wants signing
ceremony very
badly +
if not, he
wants advance
notice of
signing.
mail*



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Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

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cc (for information): Warren K. Hendriks
Jerry Jones

1974 OCT 22 PM 7 05

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Friday, October 25, 1974 Time: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1769 - Fire Prevention and Control

PLEASE RETURN TO:
RESEARCH
ROOM 121 E.O.B.

ACTION REQUESTED:

_____ For Necessary Action

XX__ For Your Recommendations

_____ Prepare Agenda and Brief

_____ Draft Reply

_____ For Your Comments

_____ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Kathy Tindle - West Wing



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Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

(OMB/come)

PLEASE RETURN TO:
RESEARCH
ROOM 121 E. O. B.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure today that I am signing into law S. 1769, the "Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974."

OMB memo

~~The National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control provided a fine base for this legislation by documenting the waste by destructive fires of over \$11 billion and over 12,000 lives each year.~~

Hyplead

While fire prevention and control is and will remain a State and local responsibility, I believe the Federal Government can offer ^{like significant contributions} ~~significant leadership~~ in the area of fire prevention. ~~Leadership in the area of fire fighting should continue with State and local governments as this is a problem that is best handled at those levels of government.~~ I heartily endorse the intention of ^{this} ~~the~~ Act to supplement rather than supplant existing State and local government activities.

Hyplead 4634

~~In implementing this Act, we must make sure we direct the program to those areas where Federal leadership and assistance will be useful to States and communities, without preempting State and local responsibilities.~~ I believe that ^{the} ~~the~~ Act's focus on research and development, education and training, and data collection and analysis to improve the Nation's ability to prevent fires, will result in the ^{benefit} ~~greatest usefulness~~ to States and communities without interfering with their responsibilities.

The program to be implemented by a new agency within the Department of Commerce will contribute substantially to our knowledge of fire, and our ability to prevent it.

Federal assistance for research and development on fire problems will be consolidated and expanded to provide the scientific and technology base for the Nation to develop materials, equipment and systems to reduce the number and severity of fires.

OMB DC memo

OMB DC memo



The Fire Academy system will supplement existing education and training for fire prevention personnel across the Nation, ^{or} and ^{help to} it will help improve the existing State and local capabilities in education and training, ~~through the development of programs which will draw from the best capabilities and experiences in the country.~~ The research and development program will be closely tied to the education and training program, ^{thereby insuring} to assure ^{research and development} that the R&D results are disseminated quickly to the communities.

PC
OMB

~~We must collect more and better data on fire incidents to improve our understanding of the causes, ^{of loss and prevent} ~~and ways to prevent them,~~ ^{more effective ways to prevent them,}~~

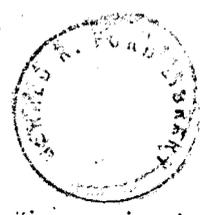
Finally,

The data base of the National Fire Data Center will assist States and communities in setting priorities and in identifying possible solutions to problems. It also will monitor the progress of the Nation in reducing fire losses.

OMB
memo

I do find one provision of the bill ~~to be~~ objectionable. The bill will require the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to establish 25 burn treatment centers, 90 burn programs and 25 centers for expanded research ^{on} ~~into the special~~ ~~problems of burns.~~ I feel that ^{these} ~~the~~ provisions are unnecessarily rigid and ^{do not fit} ~~not developed~~ within the framework of the Nation's overall health care needs. ^{Therefore,} ~~For these reasons~~ I will not seek appropriations to implement the provisions of the bill relating to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

OMB
memo



October 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

F. LYNN MAY

FROM:

DUDLEY CHAPMAN

Enrolled Bill S. 1769

Ken Lazarus and I favor OMB's recommendation to sign the bill and oppose the controversial appropriations. The signing statement might also point out the rather high level of funding for the whole bill and indicate that lower funding may later be requested as part of the fight on inflation.

bcc: Ken Lazarus



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 690

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FOR ACTION: James Cavanaugh
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If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendriks
For the President

10/25/74

5:30 p. m.

Dianna:

Re Enrolled Bill S. 1769 -- Fire Prevention and Control Act

We have been advised by Kathy Tindle, Domestic Council, that it is her understanding that this bill is going to signed in a ceremony on Tuesday, October 29 and that Paul This is working on the Presidential signing Statement.

Katie



STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today signing into law S. 1769, the "Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974."

While fire prevention and control is and will remain a State and local responsibility, I believe the Federal Government can make ^{useful} significant contributions. I endorse the intention of this act to supplement rather than supplant existing State and local government activities.

The program established by this act, which will be implemented by ^{CO} a ~~new~~ agency within the Department of Commerce, will contribute ~~substantially~~ to our knowledge of fire, and our ability to prevent it.

Federal assistance for research and development on fire problems will be consolidated and expanded to provide the scientific and technological base for the development of materials, equipment and systems to reduce the number and severity of fires.

The Fire Academy system will supplement existing education and training for fire prevention personnel across the Nation.

The research and development program will be closely tied to the education and training program, thereby insuring that research and development results are disseminated quickly to communities.

And the data base of the National Fire Data Center will assist States and communities in setting priorities and in identifying possible solutions to problems. I will ~~also~~ monitor the progress of the Nation in reducing fire losses.

The bill contains a provision that requires the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to establish 25 burn treatment centers, 90 burn programs and 25 centers for expanded research on burns. Since these centers would duplicate the burn research carried on through the trauma program of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and would add 5 million to the FY 75 budget, I will not seek appropriations to implement this particular provision of the bill.

DR



(OMB/Goyne)

Return to Research

October 25, 1974

Short Paper

dl/RT

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT, S. 1769

~~Today~~ ^{today} I am signing into law S. 1769, the "Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974."

While fire prevention and control is and will remain a State and local responsibility, I believe the Federal Government can make significant contributions. I endorse the intention of this act to supplement rather than supplant existing State and local government activities.

The program established by this Act, which will be implemented by a new agency within the Department of Commerce, will contribute substantially to our knowledge of fire, and our ability to prevent it.

Federal assistance for research and development on fire problems will be consolidated and expanded to provide the scientific and technological base for the development of materials, equipment and systems to reduce the number and severity of fires.

The Fire Academy system will supplement existing education and training for fire prevention personnel across the Nation.



The research and development program will be closely tied to the education and training program, thereby insuring that research and development results are disseminated quickly to communities.

And the data base of the National Fire Data Center will assist States and communities in setting priorities and in identifying possible solutions to problems. It will also monitor the progress of the Nation in reducing fire losses.

I do find one provision of the bill objectionable. The bill will require the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to establish 25 burn treatment centers, 90 burn programs and 25 centers for expanded research on burns. I feel that these provisions are unnecessarily rigid and do not fit within the framework of the Nation's overall health care needs. Therefore, I will not seek appropriations to implement the provisions of the bill relating to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure today that I am signing into law S. 1769, the "Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974."

The National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control provided a fine base for this legislation by documenting the waste by destructive fires of over \$11 billion and over 12,000 lives each year.

While fire prevention and control is and will remain a State and local responsibility, I believe the Federal Government can offer significant leadership in the area of fire prevention. Leadership in the area of fire fighting should continue with State and local governments as this is a problem that is best handled at those levels of government. I heartily endorse the intention of the Act to supplement rather than supplant existing State and local government activities.

In implementing this Act, we must make sure we direct the program to those areas where Federal leadership and assistance will be useful to States and communities, without preempting State and local responsibilities. I believe that a focus on research and development, education and training, and data collection and analysis to improve the Nation's ability to prevent fires, will result in the greatest usefulness to States and communities without interfering with their responsibilities.

The program to be implemented by a new agency within the Department of Commerce will contribute substantially to our knowledge of fire, and our ability to prevent it.

Federal assistance for research and development on fire problems will be consolidated and expanded to provide the scientific and technology base for the Nation to develop materials, equipment and systems to reduce the number and severity of fires.



The Fire Academy system will supplement existing education and training for fire prevention personnel across the Nation. It will help improve the existing State and local capabilities in education and training through the development of programs which will draw from the best capabilities and experiences in the country. The research and development program will be closely tied to the education and training program, to assure that the R&D results are disseminated quickly to the communities.

We must collect more and better data on fire incidents to improve our understanding of the causes, and ways to prevent them. The data base of the National Fire Data Center will assist States and communities in setting priorities and in identifying possible solutions to problems. It also will monitor the progress of the Nation in reducing fire losses.

I do find one provision of the bill to be objectionable. The bill will require the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to establish 25 burn treatment centers, 90 burn programs and 25 centers for expanded research into the special problems of burns. I feel that the provisions are unnecessarily rigid and not developed within the framework of the Nation's overall health care needs. For these reasons I will not seek appropriations to implement the provisions of the bill relating to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

