

The original documents are located in Box 68, folder “Fourth of July (1976) - July 2 Holiday” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Russ - 741

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OCT 30 1975

October 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
MAX FRIEDERSDORF
JIM CANNON
PAUL O'NEILL

FROM: JACK MARSH *Jack*

The Board of Directors of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA), on July 16, 1975, reacting to a resolution passed by the ARBA Advisory Council, has called upon the President, the Congress, and the Governors and Legislatures of the States and the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Territories that appropriate steps be taken to insure a four-day legal holiday for the weekend of July 2, 3, 4 and 5, 1976. ~~The four Congressional members of the ARBA Board, Senators Brooke (R-MA) and Montoya (D-NM) and Representatives Boggs (D-LA) and Butler (R-VA) have concurred in the resolution and have agreed to press for its passage in Congress.~~

We have been advised by ARBA that Representative Boggs intends to present the resolution to Congress on Thursday, October 30, 1975. She has asked if she can cite Administration support.

There has been no White House position requested on this previously. I do think this should be considered in context with various areas of impact among which are the extended four-day holiday and what effect it may have on travel, industry in terms of the need to pay double time to those who have to work and are covered in that manner by union contract, public reaction, as well as the fact that this is a one-time occasion.

Attached is a copy of Representative Boggs' resolution. I would appreciate your opinion as quickly as possible.

Attachment



CONGRESS
1st SESSION

H.R.

(Original signature of Member)

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Boggs introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on

A BILL

To declare July 2, 1976, a legal public holiday and to designate July 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1976, as "~~National~~ a period of Bicentennial Weekend", national Bicentennial Commemoration.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That (a) Congress finds that--

(1) July 2, 1976, is the 200th anniversary of the ratification by the Second Continental Congress of Richard Henry Lee's resolution that the United Colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States";



(2) this Nation was declared free and independent by the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and is now the longest continuing democratic republic on earth; and

(3) our grateful people, enjoying the legacy of the Founding Fathers, will now commemorate the Bicentennial of the Nation's birth.

(b) It is, therefore, the purpose of this Act to declare July 2, 1976, a legal public holiday and to establish a ^{period of} ~~National Bicentennial Weekend~~ ^{Commemoration} to encourage the people of this country to celebrate and commemorate the birth of our Nation.

Sec. 2. It is declared that July 2, 1976, is a legal public holiday.

Sec. 3. (a) The President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation designating the weekend of July 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1976, as ^{a period of} ~~National Bicentennial Weekend~~ ^{Commemoration} and calling for appropriate spiritual remembrances and observances, patriotic reflections and ceremonies, and family and community festivities.

(b) The President is requested to ask our Governors, mayors, and other ^{elected} ~~political~~ leaders, members of the judiciary, our citizens, and our friends from abroad to participate in the observances, ceremonies, and festivities that have been planned for this historic ^{period} ~~weekend~~.

ARBA DRAFT

RES.

IN THE _____ OF THE UNITED STATES

Declaring Friday, July 2, 1976, a legal holiday and requesting the President to issue a proclamation designating a four-day National Bicentennial holiday for the weekend of July 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1976.

JOINT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS this Nation was declared free and independent by the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1976;

WHEREAS these United States of America were conceived on that date and is now the longest continuing democratic republic on earth; and

WHEREAS our grateful people enjoying the legacy of the founding fathers will now commemorate the Bicentennial of the Nation's birth; and

WHEREAS July 2, 1976, is the 200th Anniversary of the ratification by the Second Continental Congress of Richard Henry Lee's resolution that the United Colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States;" and

WHEREAS July 4, 1976, the 200th Anniversary date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, falls on a Sunday;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That

Section 6103(a) of Title 5 of the U.S. Code is amended by the addition of the following:

"July 2, 1976"

Sec. 2. The President of the United States is hereby authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the weekend of July 2, 3, 4, and 5 a National Bicentennial holiday, and to call for appropriate spiritual remembrances and observances, patriotic reflections and ceremonies, and family and community festivities.

The President is requested to ask our Governors, Mayors, other political leaders, members of the judiciary, our citizens, and our friends from abroad to participate in the observances, ceremonies and festivities that have been planned for this historic weekend.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE *R*
SUBJECT: Legal Holiday/July 2, 1976

As per our discussion, Marrs/Mitler will communicate with John Warner . . . the July 2 legal holiday idea will be scrubbed. In its stead, Marrs/Mitler will advance the idea of a four day "celebration and observance."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *K.*
SUBJECT: Legal Holiday/July 2, 1976

I recommend against supporting legislation to make July 2, 1976 a holiday. However, I would recommend supporting a resolution, not having the force of law, which pointed to the historical significance of that date.



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

NOV 1 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jack Marsh
FROM: Paul O'Neill *O'Neill*
SUBJECT: Cost of Federal Holiday

The extra cost to the Federal Government for granting a day of leave is estimated to be \$50 million. This is a rough estimate of the premium paid when employees are required to work the holiday.

However, when Federal employees are granted an additional day of leave the press and the general public often use a daily payroll cost figure plus overtime as the basis for judging impact. We estimate the cost of basic pay for a day's leave to be about \$188 million. This figure, however, does not represent an added outlay. The cost, plus a fairly widespread belief that the Federal Government's payments to employees for time not worked is already more generous than private enterprise practice, usually results in negative public reaction.

We have no way of estimating the costs for other segments of the economy.

*Jack:
It is my own view
that we ought to "lay low"
on this proposal. If the
Congress wants to do it -- let them
go ahead on their own motion.*

PO

Pass - 74/1

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OCT 29 1975

October 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
MAX FRIEDERSDORF
JIM CANNON
PAUL O'NEILL

FROM: JACK MARS *JM*

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1st SESSION

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JM

Jack -

It looks as though
Jim Cannon talked
himself out of it,
then back into
supporting proposal.

As you know, we
have already scrubbed
this idea.

Russ

NOV 10 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR : JACK MARSH
FROM : JIM CANNON *JC*
SUBJECT : Four-day Legal Holiday for July 4, 1976

The Bicentennial is a most worthy occasion for a unique celebration. Yet, the request by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and Rep. Boggs for Administration support of a four-day legal holiday for the weekend of July 2,3,4, and 5, 1976 poses some problems.

According to the Civil Service Commission, a four-day legal holiday would be costly -- up to \$150 million for a paid non-productive day. Federal employees would stand to gain more from this holiday than those in the private sector, because they are assured an extra day off.

This only happens once in a hundred years. Let's support it.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 26, 1976

TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSSELL A. ROURKE *Rourke*

For Direct Reply

For Draft Response

For Your Information

Please advise

*Jack - I have sent
copies to Marr, Miller,
Kerger, Nicholson &
Connor.*

MAR 24 1976



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

March 24, 1976



MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: ALAN M. KRANOWITZ *Alan*
RE: July 4th Holiday

In response to your inquiry, neither the Civil Service Commission nor OMB is presently considering -- or ever has considered -- any proposal for an extended July 4th holiday.

S.J.Res. 151 (Eastland) would call upon the President to proclaim July 2 a holiday, thus creating a 4-day weekend, but it has not been reported out of Senate Judiciary.

The Bicentennial Commission mentioned such a proposal last June, but OMB has neither heard nor seen anything more than the attached article from the Star.

Relative to cost, while we know of no options paper concerning July 4th, OMB sent an options paper to the President last December concerning a long holiday weekend over Christmas. In that memo, we calculated the average daily cost of official holiday leave in the Executive Branch at approximately \$135 million. This amount was not an outlay, but rather an estimate of lost productivity. We also calculated an outlay of \$20 million for holiday pay to those employees whose jobs required them to work on official holidays. Finally, the memo recommended that Postal employees be excluded from the long Christmas holiday because, since they would be required to work, double time holiday pay for them would approach some \$25 million.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Attachments

cc: TMarrs, MMitler, DGergen, BNicholson, JConnor - FYI 3/26



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1976

TOP PRIORITY

CONGRESSIONAL MAIL	
TO: <i>Nichols</i>	
Prepare reply for: <i>Kranowitz</i>	
Log No:	Due Date:
9985	1 APR 1976
Copies to: Congressional Relations	

2263

MEMORANDUM TO: ALAN KRANOWITZ

FROM: JACK MARSH *Jack*

Please give me a short memo on the status of the five day July 4 holiday legislation.

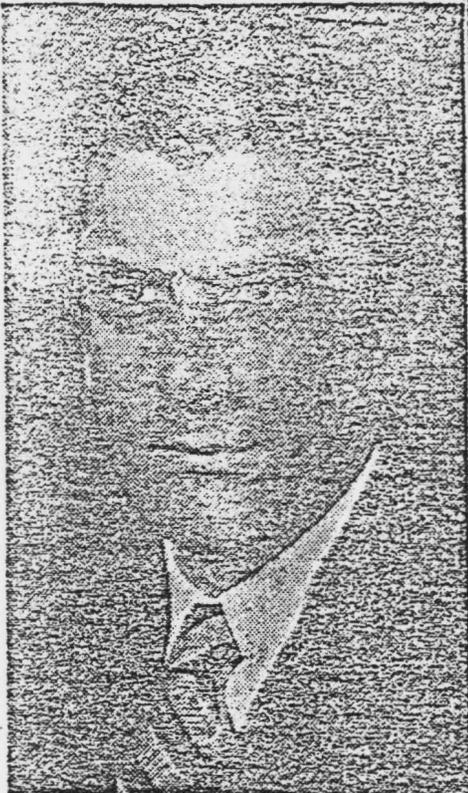
I believe an option paper was circulated on this some time ago. Cost was a heavy factor.

Many thanks.

SJ 418 181
7/4/2



ANNE ARMSTRONG
Heads advisory unit



JOHN W. WARNER
Receives suggestions

WUSA
Star
6/3/75

Four-Day National Holiday Urged for '76 July Fourth

By Betty James
Washington Star Staff Writer

A blue ribbon Bicentennial citizens advisory council wants President Ford and Congress to proclaim the weekend of the 4th of July in 1976 a four-day national holiday.

The Fourth of July falls on Sunday next year and the advisory council of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration recommended yesterday that Friday, July 2, through Monday, July 5, 1976, be declared a four-day legal holiday.

The council adopted nine recommendations for celebrating Independence Day next year, the nation's 200th anniversary.

ANNE ARMSTRONG, a citizen member who was a counselor to former President Nixon, headed the committee that developed the recommendations. Mrs. Armstrong said the long holiday would give lawmakers a chance to share in celebrations in Washington and their hometowns, too. "Any congressman worth his salt will be back on his own turf for the 4th of July," she said.

The 25-member council, which advises

John W. Warner, ARBA administrator, also includes Lady Bird Johnson and author James Michener, both of whom attended yesterday's meeting. Television executive David L. Wolper is the chairman.

AMONG OTHER recommendations to Warner were:

- That Sunday, July 4, be divided into 3 parts, with a religious observance throughout the country in the morning, afternoon ceremonies stressing how the past can help solve future problems, and an evening of festivals with fireworks, picnics, concerts and other events.
- That the Liberty Bell be rung in Philadelphia on July 4 at the same time that bells ring throughout the nation to unite all the people in the country in celebration at the same moment.
- That simultaneous flag-raising ceremonies and readings of the Declaration of Independence be held throughout the land.

The council, named by President Ford earlier this year, is struggling to develop its own declaration on the meaning of the Bicentennial celebration but has had no success so far.



May 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Jack, Ted is touching base with Paul O'Neill re July 2 situation.

I think our position should be a silent one at this point, i. e., if the Congress passes the legislation, the President should sign it. Warner might adopt the same tact, i. e., if the Congress in its wisdom passes the legislation, fine, but it would not be advisable for him to get out front on this.

Marrs will check back with me after he discusses the matter with O'Neill.

RAA:cb



APR 16 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: TED MARRS
MILT MITLER

Jack, we have just learned that Sen. Eastland's Joint Resolution (S.J. Res 151) was reported favorably out of Committee on March 31. The Resolution calls for the designation of Friday, July 2, 1976, as an official holiday.

Should the bill pass, which is quite likely, it will authorize and request the President to issue a Proclamation to that effect and will further call upon all States to encourage individuals to participate in Bicentennial celebrations organized for the weekend of July 4, 1976.

Obviously, there will be costs involved in terms of Holiday leave and overtime. Attached is the paper Alan Kranowitz sent you containing some estimates based on previous experience. However, it does not cover this one unique instance.

We think the President should enthusiastically issue the proclamation and enjoy the credit for extending the July 4th celebratory period this one time in two hundred years.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE:

Sandy Drake called on Friday, April 16 to explain that the attached memorandum was been signed just today, April 16. Evidently it has been in their office since April 1 when it was typed.

donna

APR 23 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

TED MARRS *Ted*

Jack, as you know, Senator Eastland has a bill in calling for Friday, July 2, 1976 to be declared a national holiday. I understand the bill has cleared the Committee and is now waiting for Senate action.

At one point, when the ARBA Board was considering a four day national holiday, we unofficially expressed concern to John Warner about the cost involved related to overtime alone. ARBA's Board dropped their plan and did go on record expressing concern about costs. The Congressional Joint Committee on the Bicentennial also believes that factor should be considered when the bill comes up, however, I have the indication that the Joint Committee believes the bill will pass.

Should the bill pass, despite our original concerns, I believe the President should sign it at a signing ceremony and enjoy some of the credit. As a matter of fact, the bill should be signed not with any degree of reluctance but in recognition that this is ~~somewhat~~ a one-time thing and Americans do deserve that extra benefit.

*After all, it's our birthday!
We have earned it &
can afford it!
No self-flagellation
needed!*

Ted



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Jack, please note attached Washington Star
article in reference to Ted's memo.



July 2 as a Bonus Holiday? Don't Base Your Trip on It

By Joseph Young
and Toni House

Washington Star Staff Writers

Attention all you workers who thought you'd get a headstart on this Bicentennial Fourth of July by starting your trip on Friday, the first day of an anticipated national four-day holiday:

Don't book the dog at the kennel or pack the picnic lunch yet. Friday, July the Second, may be destined for indistinction after all.

The bill needed to create the four-day weekend (July the Fourth falls on a Sunday, so, under law, Monday automatically becomes a holiday) began to founder this week when the White House, in an about-face, dropped its support for the proposed government holiday.

ITS WOES grew when the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, originator and big backer of the bill, went into "a neutral stance," in essence robbing the holiday of its second important endorsement.

The White House backed the bill originally on the recommendation of ARBA and the bill received Senate approval March 30.

Business groups, however, objected. They claimed the proposed Friday holiday would force them to close up at a financial loss. A Saturday-through-Monday holiday is sufficient, they argued.

The White House, yielding to their arguments, told ARBA it was withdrawing its support of the legislation.

ARBA originally proposed the four-day weekend at the suggestion of its citizens advisory committee. The idea at the time was to give Bicentennial celebrators another day for parades, picnics and pie-eating contests, as well as to give tourists who planned

to travel to an "impacted area" — like Philadelphia, St. Louis, Washington or New York — another day for the road.

ACCORDING TO ARBA'S Dan Buser, director of public information, they began to have second thoughts last December, when it became clear "people wanted to celebrate the Fourth of July on the Fourth of July." Few if any important events are scheduled for that Friday, July 2, he said.

ARBA people are still concerned about the possible crushes in spots like Washington, where tourists and workers might come to a bumper-to-bumper confrontation over street space. But, Buser said, they "have gone into a neutral stance," and will rely on findings of congressional hearings before deciding which way to jump.

The bill is now in the hands of the House Census and Population subcommittee, and sources there said the bill's sponsors in the House, Reps. Lindy Boggs, D-La., and Caldwell Butler, R-Va., have not sought hearings on the subject because of the administration's sudden change of heart.

MEANWHILE, administration officials scoffed at some union proposals to give Washington metropolitan area workers the entire Fourth of July week off in order to ease D.C. traffic jams created by a heavy influx of tourists coming here for Bicentennial events.

Officials said such a move would cost the government millions of dollars in premium and overtime pay to federal workers who hold essential jobs and cannot be given the week off.



April 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House

SUBJECT: July 2, 1976 -- National Holiday

I have been advised that Congresswoman Pat Schroeder will soon seek my views as Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) on S. J. Res. 151 (already passed by the Senate) to designate July 2, 1976, a national holiday. Mrs. Schroeder is Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Census and Statistics of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, which has this bill for its consideration.

As you will recall, the ARB Board and Council are both on record in support of an earlier proposal (H.R. 10436) for a four-day holiday over the July 4th weekend.

Viewing this issue from the perspective of the Nation's Bicentennial, I, as Administrator of ARBA, am in favor of the proposed legislation. However, as a member of the Executive Branch, I must defer to the position to be taken on the bill by the President which is based on all relevant factors. Accordingly, I request guidance on this matter as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Warner".

John W. Warner
Administrator

2 Attachments

1. S.J. Res. 151
2. H.R. 10436

S. J. RES. 151

[Report No. 94-725]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 15, 1975

Mr. EASTLAND introduced the following joint resolution: which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

MARCH 30, 1976

Reported by Mr. HRUSKA, without amendment

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating July 2, 1976, as an official holiday.

Whereas the year 1976 is the Bicentennial year in which many States are organizing programs to celebrate the American Revolution; and

Whereas many States are encouraging individuals to return to their families to celebrate the Bicentennial during the week-end of July 4, 1976: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That the President is authorized and requested to issue a
- 4 proclamation designating July 2, 1976, as an official holiday,
- 5 and calling upon all States to encourage individuals to par-
- 6 ticipate in Bicentennial celebrations organized for the week-
- 7 end of July 4, 1976.

DESIGNATING JULY 2, 1976, AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY

MARCH 30, 1976.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HRUSKA, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S.J. Res. 151]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the resolution (S.J. Res. 151), to authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating July 2, 1976, as an official holiday, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the resolution is to authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating July 2, 1976, as an official holiday. This would create a 4-day holiday for the Bicentennial Celebration.

STATEMENT

One of the goals of our Bicentennial Celebration is to bring families back together in all the 50 States for our Nation's 200th anniversary. If we are to succeed in this most important goal, it is imperative that the Fourth of July, 1976, be a 4-day holiday. As the Fourth comes on a Sunday, Monday automatically will be an official holiday. It is of crucial import that Friday, July 2, 1976, be declared an official holiday also in order to make for a 4-day holiday.

The committee is of the opinion that the resolution has a meritorious purpose and, accordingly, recommends that Senate Joint Resolution 151 be agreed to without amendment.

○

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 10436

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 30, 1975

Mrs. BOGGS (for herself and Mr. BUTLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

A BILL

To declare July 2, 1976, a legal public holiday and to designate July 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1976, as a period of commemoration of America's Bicentennial.

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

3 That (a) Congress finds that—

4 (1) July 2, 1976, is the two hundredieth anniver-
5 sary of the ratification by the Second Continental Con-
6 gress of the resolution of Richard Henry Lee of Virginia
7 that the United Colonies “are, and of right ought to be,
8 free and independent States”;

9 (2) this Nation was declared free and independent
10 by the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776,

1 and is now the longest continuing democratic republic
2 of Earth; and

3 (3) our grateful people, enjoying the legacy of the
4 Founding Fathers, will now commemorate the Bicentennial of the Nation's birth.

6 (b) It is, therefore, the purpose of this Act to declare
7 July 2, 1976, a legal public holiday and to establish a period of national Bicentennial commemoration to encourage
8 the people of this country to celebrate and commemorate the
9 birth of our Nation.

11 SEC. 2. It is declared that July 2, 1976, is a legal public
12 holiday.

13 SEC. 3. (a) The President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation designating the weekend of
14 July 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1976, as a period of commemoration of
15 America's Bicentennial and to call for appropriate spiritual
16 remembrances and observances, patriotic reflections and
17 ceremonies, and family and community festivities.

19 (b) The President is requested to ask our Governors,
20 mayors, and other political leaders, members of the judiciary, our citizens, and our friends from abroad to participate
21 in the observances, ceremonies, and festivities that have been
22 planned for this historic weekend.
23

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 4, 1976

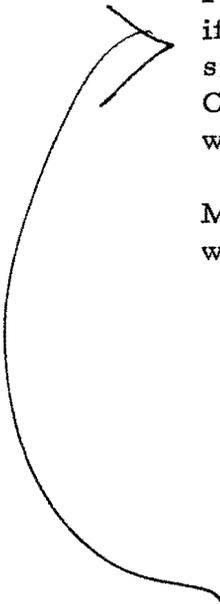
MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Jack, Ted is touching base with Paul O'Neill re July 2 situation.

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Marrs will check back with me after he discusses the matter with O'Neill.



Agree

100-107800-100

July 2
- holiday

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 5, 1976

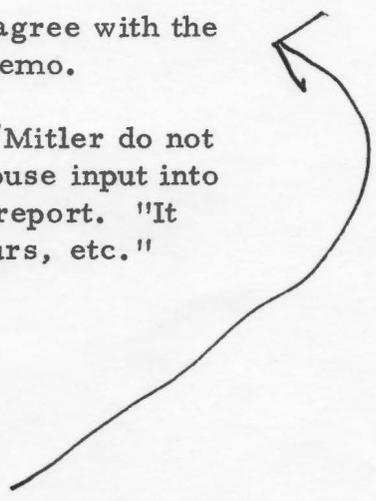
MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

Jack, both Ted and Milt agree with the position I stated in my memo.

On another matter ~~Marrs~~/Mitler do not recommend any White House input into ARBA's wrap-up annual report. "It is ARBA's report, not ours, etc."

Agree



met + Ted - 5/6/76



Mt. Jackson

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Hollbrook Miller -

Corps of Engineers -

(27 yrs. - still there -

→ is in Data Processing
area - has recent reorg.
each time a Maj. Gen. comes
in and when he leaves -

reorg. is done to

four individuals -

Has taken grievances thru

the system -

Has been in position
where reorg. will prevent
him from getting promotion
He deserves



May 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Jack, Ted is touching base with Paul O'Neill re July 2 situation.

I think our position should be a silent one at this point, i. e., if the Congress passes the legislation, the President should sign it. Warner might adopt the same tact, i. e., if the Congress in its wisdom passes the legislation, fine, but it would not be advisable for him to get out front on this.

Marrs will check back with me after he discusses the matter with O'Neill.

RAR:cb



May 6, 1976

July 2
(Holiday)

MEMORANDUM TO:

TED MARRS
MILT MITLER

FROM:

RUSS ROURKE

Please note Jack's comment on my memo.

Since we are all in agreement, please contact John Warner
and give him appropriate guidance.

Many thanks.

RAR:cb

