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Date: November 29, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information): FYI-Bill Nicholson

Phil Buchen

Alan Greenspan

Jim Cannon

Jerry Jones

Max Friedersdorf

Ron Nessen

Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: COB Today

Time:

SUBJECT:

James T. Lynn memo, 11/29/76 re
Quadrennial Commission Report

ACTION REQUESTED:

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

REMARKS:

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.

Jim Connor
For the President



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

NOV 29 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: James T. Lynn
SUBJECT: Quadrennial Commission Report

The Quadrennial Commission on Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Salaries has been operating for several weeks, and it is clear that the members are doing a commendably thorough and conscientious job under the chairmanship of Peter Peterson. They have completed their public hearings and are now drafting their report. During this process, the Chairman will be touching base with key Congressmen and perhaps others. The Commission is planning to review a first draft within the next few days and is hoping to have its final meeting on November 30, with delivery of the printed report shortly thereafter.

If you concur, Chairman Peterson wants to release the formal report as soon as it has been delivered to you. He would like to be able to hold a press conference and commence, in earnest, a public education campaign concerning the desperate need to do something about executive and judicial compensation. For this purpose, he really will need to be free to use the Commission's report.

We believe it is in your best interests to let the report go public in advance of submitting your own executive salary recommendations in the budget. Mr. Peterson is willing, and it would seem preferable, to let the expected controversy focus on him for a month or more before you make your recommendations. Of course, if asked, you probably would want to indicate your continued support for some adjustment without committing yourself to anything very specific. This provides time for you to better gauge public and media reaction and to consult with the congressional leadership on your recommendations. Chairman Peterson would expect to do what he can to enlist understanding and support both prior to and after your decision and up to the point of congressional action on your recommendations.

The main argument for withholding a report such as this would be to give you time to review it and formulate a position before its release. In this case, there seem no compelling reasons for doing so. On the contrary, because of the great interest in the subject, there is strong likelihood of leaks or damaging speculation if the report is not released. We believe it best that the Commission's findings and rationale be made available, along with their actual recommendations. Otherwise, congressional and other opponents are likely to take advantage of the opportunity to begin criticizing the recommendations without the counter-balancing effect of the Commission's findings. In short, there are serious risks in delay, with little or nothing to be gained.

It would be appropriate and useful for you to receive the report personally from the Chairman and, perhaps the entire Quadrennial Commission of nine. This could be followed immediately by a meeting of the Chairman with the press in the White House. Pete Peterson or Ron Nessen could emphasize that you have not studied or committed yourself to the Commission's recommendations.

Since Peterson needs an answer by the Commission's next meeting on the 30th, I plan to inform him that I believe this general approach will be acceptable to you, unless you advise me otherwise before the 30th.